

CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS



P.O. Box 22038 ♦ Lexington, KY 40522-2038

www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae/index.php ♦ alumnae@windstream.net

Get Your Crestridge Tervis Tumblers!



Order yours at www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae. Click on "Store."

We're excited to announce that our 16-ounce **Tervis Tumblers** are in and ready to be shipped out! What's a Tervis Tumbler, you ask? We're sure you've seen them – those clear, insulated beverage glasses that keep hot drinks hot and cold drinks cold — without condensation! Check out ours, with an embroidered Crestridge logo between the layers, and lids and straws. The best part is, they are virtually indestructible, and the Tervis company offers a lifetime guarantee. The only place to get these is through our website (www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae; click on "Store") or at camp closings during the summer. While you're there, check out our other merchandise. Might as well get several things at once!

The emblem is a beautiful embroidered rendition of the Crestridge stained-glass seal. What gorgeous colors!

Don't miss **MAINTAIN THE MEMORIES** this year! Come to the mountains on **Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30**, and join us as we clean up and beautify camp before the staff arrives. It's a great family activity! For more information, contact Karen Stitt at stittkaren@yahoo.com or 770-381-5711. An informational flyer will be sent soon.

Maintain the Memories 2011!
Maintain the Memories 2011!

Johnnie Armstrong, *ex officio*
 Paulette May Basham
 Susan Cheatham
 Anja Aloia Cleveland
 Kara Belcher Cooley
 Ana Quattlebaum Gibbs
 Whitney Lemarr

Alumnae Board

Susan McFerrin Nielsen, *vice president*
 Melinda Jay Norman
 Kappi Brown Pierce
 Cara Pollard, *secretary*
 Marva Rawlings, *ex officio*

Ramey Driggers Schutz
 Rhonda Smith
 Karen Stitt
 Dara Trotter
 Lisa Rudolph Turner, *president*
 Susan Bridger Waggener, *treasurer*,
ex officio

Camp Updates

by Sharon Aylestock, Assistant Director

Compared to the last two summers, camp is pretty quiet right now. As you know, over the last two years we've added five new cabins and a new Bear Trap and renovated the twenty existing cabins. Nonetheless, we are busy in the office getting ready for the summer. First thing to report on is enrollment. God continues to bless our numbers despite the falling economy. For the past few years, more and more kids have come to camp. If we keep going at this rate, this will be another record-breaking summer! We have been praying for God to fill

every bed in camp, not just so we can say that we are full, but we want to be able to tell all those kids about Jesus. That's why we exist! Please join us in praying that every bed would be filled this summer!

We are currently hiring staff for the upcoming summer. Our two interns, Hunter Barnhardt and Kayla Dulhagen, have traveled to Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, South Carolina, and Virginia to visit colleges and former staff. They have been doing a great job preparing for the summer.

In the fall, Maintenance Manager Marty Quinn built a roof to cover the Crafts Building porch. We need all the covered space we can get when it rains! We have a few new ideas we're looking to do this summer but they are still in the works so we can't give any specifics.

Thanks for all your love and generosity for Crestridge. We would not be where we are without your support!

Fall Board Meeting

by Susan McFerrin Nielsen

The CCAF Fall Board Meeting was held Oct. 1-3 at The Summit in Fort Payne, Alabama. Board members came from Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, and North and South Carolina. We welcomed two new board members, Melinda Jay Norman and Rhonda Smith.

The board met with Crestridge and Lifeway leaders on Friday evening. Ron Springs shared that Crestridge had a record enrollment for the summer of 2010. Do you remember the days when early enrollment meant signing up for camp by December 31st? Now enrollment for the next summer starts a few weeks after camp ends! Sharon Aylestock, Crestridge

Assistant Director, shared that staff surveys had been reviewed. The staff listed Crestridge's top strength as being a Christ-centered place to build relationships. Janie Belue thanked the many CCAF members who volunteered at camp during the summer. Crestridge alumnae families were around on opening days to direct parents, work the registration tables, and do luggage runs around the hills. Byron Hill from Lifeway shared that Ridgecrest Summer Camps are the shining star of Lifeway!

Committee reports followed from the Endowment Fund, Merchandise, Ways and Means, Membership, and Maintain the Memories Work Weekend committees. Our

meeting continued on Saturday morning with discussion of the new Store and Museum Building. The Board members worked in committees and put together the annual dues mailing during the afternoon.

Amid all of the work for camp, there was time to relax. Several of us spent time sitting on the patio around the pool. We shared camp stories from years past and tested the strength of the porch swing. The evening concluded with camp songs around the piano and games led by Johnnie. We look forward to being together again for Maintain the Memories Weekend in May.

MEMORY CORNER

By Kappi Brown Pierce

After nearly 12 years away from Camp Crestridge, I was given the opportunity to spend two weeks as a “Lodge Lady” in 2010. Having spent summers in the 1980s and 1990s with titles including camper, JET, counselor, village director, and waterfront director, I wasn’t sure what I would find waiting for me as a Lodge Lady. This article is not necessarily about being a Lodge Lady, although I can assure you that the title comes with lots of hard work and plenty of laughs. This particular Memory Corner is about something else. It is about what it is like to have all of your old memories of summers at Crestridge mix in with new memories. It is about what it is like to arrive with your honor bands and every pair of shorts you own in a place where everything is different and yet still so much the same. It is about change and constants and singing and that overwhelming sense of a place where God’s love is reflected from every surface, in every song, and from every face.

So many things are different about Camp Crestridge from the way I remember them. Some of these are small things and others are huge. There are new buildings: a new crafts lodge, a new Bear Trap, and new cabins. There are more campers – lots more. The old Dining Hall porch has been turned into eating space with a new porch now overlooking the

lake. Central staff no longer fit in the chapel. The numbers on the cabins are different. There are new skills: geocaching, cooking, mountain biking, knitting, photography, and more. Opening day was a complete revelation. Instead of meandering in all day long, parents and campers line up in their cars before daylight to be the first ones through the gate and first to claim the best bunk. If you are ever in the area on an opening day, you should try to make it by to witness the opening of the gate and the arrival of the campers at the top of the hill. The absolute joy of the girls arriving at the Bear Trap to greet friends and unpack their luggage literally made my hair stand on end. I knew right then that I was in for a treat.

One of my most vivid memories from my first year at camp as a Chippewa in 1980 was sitting down to dinner and suddenly everyone around me jumping up to sing and sing – and sing. No one had warned me about this – and I loved it. I also loved Singspiration. As a Chippewa and Chickasaw, that was probably my favorite activity at camp. So when I went back last summer, I was looking forward to the singing – in the dining hall, in the chapel, at campfire, everywhere. I wasn’t disappointed. The campers of 2010 sang with just as much happiness as we did. And now they dance, too. One of my favorite new memories from this

past summer was a Tuesday night when cookout got rained out and every cabin was gathered in the dining hall waiting for their dinner. Even though it was wet and I’m sure everyone was hungry, no one looked unhappy. Instead, campers and counselors were singing at the top of their lungs and dancing and smiling.

Being back at Crestridge truly was a blessing. In the face of so many changes, I was ecstatic to see that the heart and soul of Crestridge is the same as I remember. It is still a place where everyone feels accepted for who she is. It is still a place where children see daily examples of how wonderful it is to be a child of God. It is still a place where you hear bells telling you to wake up or go to lunch. It is still a place where you can sing in the middle of dinner. It is still a place where you are likely to make lifelong friends. And, most important, it is still a place where God speaks out loud to girls, young women, and not-so-young women (and maybe a handful of guys, too) about how very much He loves them..

Have a Crestridge memory you’d like to share? Email it to calumnae@windstream.net. We’ll let you know if we can use it in a newsletter.

Scholarship Endowment and Annual Scholarship Fund Updates

by Susan McFerrin Nielsen

Alumnae and Friends continue to support camp and its campers with \$12,000 in scholarship donations each summer. One source of this yearly donation is the interest from the Scholarship Endowment Fund. Our Scholarship Endowment Fund continues to grow, with three fully-funded named scholarships and two more open for donations.

The Scholarship Endowment Fund was established in 2007. Cumulative donations totaling \$10,000 enable the naming of a scholarship for one or two indi-

viduals. If you would like to start a named scholarship or donate to an existing one, just earmark your donation to the Endowment Fund with the individual's name.

Named scholarships have been given in memory of long-time staffer Judy MacMillan, in memory of camper Maggie Lee Henson, and in honor of Sallie Garvin Driggers and Willa Stevenson McGimsey, who became life-long friends at camp. Scholarships have also been started and await donations in memory of Julie Parkerson and in honor of

camp friends Ramey Driggers Schutz and Kara Belcher Cooley.

Currently, our annual scholarship fund contains \$4,763. Since our goal for the year is \$12,000, we lack \$7,237. Contributions to the Arvine Bell Scholarship Fund can be made anytime by sending a check to CCAF, PO Box 22038, Lexington KY 40522-2038, or donating on PayPal through our website (www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae).

Imagine... A New Camp Store and Museum

by Lisa Rudolph Turner

For years now camp has had to make do with a failing store building that is too small, showing a great deal of wear, and not set up to serve the numbers of campers and family coming through each summer. At the same time, camp's heirlooms, treasures and archives – items that cannot be replaced – have been housed in a cramped, non-air conditioned/heated space in the lodge. And third, there has been a shortage of space to house recreational equipment used on the green.

Several years ago, the CCAF board voted to begin fundraising aimed at building a new space where the current store stands to fit all three of those needs. To date, we have raised

about \$90,000 toward this important project. We need at least \$130,000 to break ground and begin laying the foundation for a space that will meet camp's needs for generations to come. We are so close, yet it seems so far from making this dream a reality.

Plans for the site include areas for the store, post office and restrooms on the main level, heated and cooled museum and archive space on the second level, and storage for recreational equipment in the basement. The building will have a similar look to the new Bear Trap.

Some of the funds raised to date have come from donations. Others have been raised through the sale of stepping

stones that we are placing outside the chapel in honor or in memory of loved ones or friends.* Either way, you can make a difference in the lives of young girls for decades to come. With God's help we'll stop dreaming and start digging!

**To order a stepping stone, send in the order form in this newsletter or click on "Store" on our website, www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae.*

THE GRAPEVINE

by Anja Aloia Cleveland

I'm sad to say that our GRAPEVINE is withering away. Thank you to those who shared about themselves since our last newsletter. Let us hear about YOU! If you don't share, how will we know? Yes, I am fully aware that Facebook has taken over snail mail, and I am all for it – to a degree. But as long as we continue to print and mail our newsletters, I will continue to ask for info about YOU!! Email your info to calumnae@windstream.net.

Carson Coleman

Walker reports: Crestridge was the last thing I saw before heading off into the Peace Corps my last summer as Choctaw 2 counselor, 2001. I still remember Marva telling me that no matter where in the world we were; we were all under the same stars and the same God. That always gave me comfort. I met my husband in

the Peace Corps and now have my beautiful baby girl!

Former Crestridgers **Julie Davis Hopkins**, **Berrylin Martin** and **Amanda McGeehee Jackson** were bridesmaids in **Nan Ellen Nelson Dixon's** wedding in July. They enjoyed being together for the special weekend and talking about many camp memories.

Sara Davis Osborne, Rusty and their three children (Sophie, 4; Eleanor, 2; and Moses, 4 mo.) moved to Kansas City in July. Rusty is pursuing a Ph.D. at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary while working as a research assistant for the seminary president and teaching online courses. Sara has her hands full with three very active kids!

Erin Waggener Hobbs, husband Brad, Brooke (6), and Bridger (3) welcomed Eleanor Rose to their

family on September 11, 2010. They call her Ellie and are very happy to have another future Crestridger!

Eddie Cole (Kitchen Boy, 1963-1969) writes: After 32 years coaching at E.D. White Catholic High School, I am in my third year coaching girls' Cross Country and Track at Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge. My girls' cross country team won their second consecutive AA State Championship and my 2009 Track Team won the State AA Track Championship. It was my 19th State Championship in Track or Cross Country. Last year I was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Louisiana Track and Field Coaches' Association. I think it's relevant since my first coaching experience was as the Camper Basketball Coach at Crestridge, where my teams were regularly "thrashed" by **Johnnie Armstrong** and her

Congratulations to **Jan Fulgham Silvious**, winner of \$50 worth of CCAF merchandise for paying her 2011 dues before January 31st! Jan's name was drawn from among 131 dues-paying members. If you haven't yet sent in your \$20 annual dues, it's not too late. You can mail them to PO Box 22038, Lexington KY 40522-2038, or use PayPal through our website. Many thanks to those who have paid; you keep us going and support our projects!

Got Pictures?

Seeing old camp snapshots that Crestridgers have posted on Facebook gave us an idea. We'd like to share some through this newsletter. Send a couple of favorites digitally to calumnae@windstream.net, and be sure to tell us when they were taken, who's in them and something about the activities. We'll print a few in each issue.

Camp Crestridge Stepping Stone Path

"... and each must make, ere life has flown, a stumbling block or a stepping stone."

If you would like to order a stepping stone, please fill out the form below and return it with your check to CCAF, PO Box 22038, Lexington KY 40522-2038.

Purchaser's name _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Check stone size:	_____ Small (8x10")	1 line of text	\$100
	_____ Medium (11-12")	2 lines of text	\$125
	_____ Large (13-14")	3 lines of text	\$150

Text to be inscribed on stone (please PRINT legibly):
(size of font varies by length of line)

First line: _____

Second line: _____

Third line: _____

Stones may also be ordered online through our website:

www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae (click on "Store")



Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends

P.O. Box 22038

Lexington, KY 40522-2038

Please let us know at alumnae@windstream.net if you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail. Also, please let us know if you want to be removed from our mailing list.



With my feet on the ground and my heart attuned, I shall reach for the stars.