

YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly Staff Alumni Newsletter Spring 2005

Join us for the
Blue Ridge Staff
Alumni Association Reunion
June 24-27, 2005!

We will be enjoying a day
at the lake with a movie under
the stars on Saturday!

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets,
& outdoor games and join us for
fun and inflatables!

See the schedule of events elsewhere
in the newsletter!

Keeping Up

Carl Paulson - Just changed jobs January 1. Plattsburgh is in New York State's North Country, about 23 miles from Canada. Address: Adult Services Librarian, Plattsburgh Public Library, 19 Oak Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Dave Smith (80-83) I have lived in the Baltimore/Washington area and have worked as a programmer for the past 20 years. I am married and have three children: a son, 12, and twin girls who are 10. I would love to hear from anyone who worked with me during those summers.
happysmiths@ureach.com

Thomas L. Stringfellow, (1953) Wish I could join you this year...but business keeps me at the grindstone. Hopefully next year. My best to all!!! Particularly the 1953 summer workers; I don't feel a year older. I do miss you, Barbara.....so many years.....so many good memories. Is it wrong to say, I love you all, for all I learned at Blue Ridge? Address: 850 SW 60 Ave., Plantation, Florida 33317.

Jon Long - Tell everyone hello for me. I am still doing well here in England. I am now back working inpatient on the medical/surgical floor. I have been able to do quite a bit of traveling around Europe. I hope to be able get there next year.

Jill Cagle - (1986) - I graduated from ASU in Boone in 1990. I worked for Crossnore Children's Home after graduation where I met my husband Bill Cagle of Columbia, Mississippi. He had just returned from serving in Desert Storm with the North Carolina National Guard. We were married in August of 1992. We live in Carson, Mississippi with our five children 10,9,5,3, and 18 mos. Bill runs a Christian Retreat Center with the name Harvest Ministries. He retired with 20 years in the guard this past year. His local guard unit left for Iraq five months later. I am thankful he is retired. I home school our children and enjoy a quiet country life..well as quiet as we can be with five children. I look forward to hearing about other alumni. I was particularly wondering about Stella Owen, Richard Parris and Lynn Cantley.

Jason May- mayjason@hotmail.com Currently resides Huntsville, Alabama. and works for Three Springs Inc., which is one of the largest providers of youth mental health services in the southeast. Address:4611 Governors House Dr. Apt 502, Huntsville, AL 35805.

Jeff Mathis - jeffbc@charter.net New Address: 201 North West Street, North Wilkesboro, NC 28697; New Job: Minister of Youth and Young Adults, First Baptist Church North Wilkesboro; Married Rebecca Crumpler of Waynesville, NC on July 10, 2004.

Bill Wooten - We now have a high school graduate in the family. Zach graduated in May 2004 and will be going to Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minnesota to prepare for a career in the performing arts and music. He and Susan just returned from attending the school's summer orientation program. As a junior in high school, Nathaniel has already begun looking at colleges that have a strong curriculum in architecture and civil engineering.

Tom Bentley(1961) - It was a wonderful experience that I always look back fondly on. I became know as "Tarzan" for my midnight chin-ups on the ailing sprinkler system between Martha and

George Washington. Yes it failed and yes it did wake everyone when the alarm went off. That was my look point that summer. Games of hearts, I still have that well worn deck of cards, copper heads, a class in philosophy, neat students from all over, trips to Asheville in Ed Mendenhalls car, earning admission to the Barn theater by helping park cars, it goes on. My daughter Paige Bentley-Greaseon was a staffer as well in, mmm... 1988.

Megan Hamby Patterson changed jobs in April 2004. She no longer works for the State in Child Support Enforcement. She is now the Child Care Director with the Florence Family YMCA. They have a full day, year round program for preschool 3&4 year olds and a 5K-6th grade have after school program during the school year and a full-day summer program during the summer. mpatterson@florenceymca.org.

Karen Dethloff - Karenhdethloff2@yahoo.com - President and CEO K. Dethloff and Associates, Ph.D. Student International Development, University of Southern Mississippi, College of Business and Economic Development. I worked at Blue Ridge during summer of 1980. I'm in the dissertation stage of my Ph.D. in International Development.

Laura Reeves Withers - I was on staff in 1989, 1991, and 1992, and those were some of the best summers I ever had.. I have been married five years (June 19, 1999) to Yates Withers, and we have a daughter, Elsa Isabelle, who is 17 months old. I am a Media Specialist at Screven County High School in Sylvania, Georgia. I have coached Cross Country, but now I spend my time after school with Elsa. I will probably coach again once she (any any siblings if we are so blessed) are a little older. I have been back a few times to the mountain, and it has changed a lot, but it is still a magical place to

Ashley McGahey Morrison (1989-90) - Boy, BRA days were years ago and a lot has happened. I worked there in 1988 and 1989. I graduated from UNC-CH in 1992 w/a BA in Spanish and International Studies. I spent my junior year in Sevilla, Spain. While in Spain, I was able to have several visits in Zaragoza with a BRA friend ('89), Carmen Sierra. She worked at BRA in 1989. I got married in 1997 to Brad Morrison. I worked for Burlington Industries in Burlington, NC in Export Customer Service for several years handling all Latin American accounts. I also worked in production (weaving and finishing of fabric) planning for the last few years. I chose to quit when I had Reagan last September (9/29/03). What a blessing he is to our lives! I am happy to be a stay-at-home wife and mother.

Krissy Walther Wilkins married Randy Wilkins in August 2004, kriswilkins73@yahoo.com.

Patrick Enfinger -. We're down in Wellington, FL (outside of West Palm Beach) now. Mary Margaret is a 6th grade geography teacher and I'm with Scholastic. No kids yet. For a few years, I've been collecting Blue Ridge post cards. I've finally finished a website of Blue Ridge post cards. They are at www.mmpe.net. There's a lot of cards and a few other things of interest. I've been loosely keeping up with the new news through friends and family that go up there for different conferences. I keep waiting for an assignment in the Asheville area to stop by and see BR (I travel with Scholastic). email: mmpe1433@dsli.com
Dick and Virginia Garner - ginnymarie42@sbcglobal.net

Todd Griffin lives in Raleigh, NC with his wife Stephannie and three children, Connor (age 5), Alaina (age 3) and Bryant (age 18 months). Todd and Stephannie own and operate an Eyecare Center in North Raleigh.

Kathy (Bradley) Shannon (86, 87, 89, 90) married Rob Shannon about 6 years ago, completed her masters degree about 4 years ago, moved to Washington State, and then to Georgia, working for the VA, no kids, no plans to acquire any.

Shannon & Chandra Parker moved to Kernersville, NC. Shannon took a sales job working at PIP Printing/Document Services. He is still very involved with his Christmas Tree business in Wake Forest, NC. He and his wife Chandra will celebrated 10 years of marriage on Oct. 15, 2004. They have 3 small children, Harrison, Brooks, and Christine Grace.

Laura (Vernon) King (88 - 93) - I'm currently stationed aboard the United States Coast Guard Cutter HEALY as the Assistant Engineer Officer. I'm in the Arctic Ocean from June to November and in Seattle, WA the other months. My husband (David) and our two girls, Britney (3 yrs) and Sarah(18 m) live in Texas when I'm gone and in Seattle with me when I back. Just wanted to say thanks to those who were at the winter reunion this year. My Mum and Dad had a great time. My Mum passed away several weeks after the reunion. My Dad (Glenn L. Vernon, 59 - 61) has been spending time with us in Seattle and with my sister (Elizabeth Vernon, 92) in Mobile since then. I'm headed back out to sea on 01 June. My work email is lking@healy.uscg.mil. Dad's email is Glennlv@zebra.net and Elizabeth's email is ElizaV30@bellsouth.net



Simon Drane & new wife



Ray, Katherine, Brandon, & Luke Nightingale

Kay Bates & Leslie Dennis



Alumni Finances

The Staff Alumni Association has three funds. One is the Collegiate Work-Study Endowment. It provides for the summer staff's Program Director, Chaplain, College Course, and trips. We established this endowment about 15 years ago with a goal of raising \$100,000. We met that goal, and the endowment now stands at about \$150,200. We then established the Staff Alumni Association Endowment with a goal of \$30,000 to support the operations of the Association. It now stands at about \$18,700 and further contributions are encouraged. The third fund is the Staff Alumni Operating Fund for our mailing and reunion expenses, and gifts to the summer staff. It presently has about \$500, from the endowment. When making contributions to Blue Ridge, make the check payable to YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly and then put its intended use on the memo line, as for example: Staff Alumni Association Endowment.

Centennial Celebration Alumni Reunion 2006!

**The dates for the Centennial Celebration Alumni Reunion
have been set for June 30-July 2, 2006.**

The theme will be "Relive the Vision!"

**Plan now to join us as we "relive" Dr. Weatherford's vision and
"relive" the first time we drove up the mountain
for that awesome summer experience!**

There will be a drawing for a free reunion weekend among early registrants.

So watch the early registration info and deadline coming early in 2006!

**We also have already booked a Game Show Mania Event, which will be
tailored to our alumni group! Be thinking of any Blue Ridge Alumni Trivia**

**Questions (with answers) and submit them to Leslie Dennis for possible
inclusion in the game! Email them to richardleslieplusfour@charter.net or
mail them to 1856 Seasons Drive, Prattville, AL 36066**

**(You might think about unique things that happened during your summer
experience. Be sure to include your year(s) on staff.)**

2004 Summer Reunion

Meeting Minutes—6/26/04, 9:30 am, Founders Room

14 Alumni and Roger Hibbard and Elaine Godfrey were present.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sarah Halterman | 2. Candy Sabato |
| 3. Carl Paulson | 4. Bea Hogan |
| 5. Richard Dennis | 6. Jennifer Canipe |
| 7. Elaine Smotek | 8. Mary Ellen Faucet |
| 9. Tim Godfrey | 10. Ted McCoy |
| 11. Leslie Dennis | 12. Ian Luck |
| 13. Megan Patterson | 14. Ann Weeks |

Rogers Update:

Over the course of 4 FCA camps we are down 200 delegates this time last year and 200 in one week of values. Leader's School had 260 new leaders this year. January to May we were at 5% ahead of last year. FCA "1" had 200 more delegates this year than last year. FCA coach's conference has been closed since March. National Affairs looks good. Big focus now is to paint buildings and enhance BRA for centennial. Mural in the large dining room has transformed the large dining room. BRA is bringing more pictures out of archives as done on the 2 doors hung in BRC. Goal by end of this year will also be to have a door hung with pictures from the 30's and 40's. Next year to work on 50', 60's, and 70's and finish the following year. BRA is also looking at borrowing historic pictures from conferences to be hung by BRA for 2006. History book is coming along well. We have learned that Dr. Weatherford has 5 principles instead of 4. We have taken part of an interview with Dr. Weatherford along with an excerpt from a birthday party for him and have put together a CD with Dr. Weatherford talking in his own words.

The CD made has been very popular and there will probably be more made. We are hoping alumni will do a commemorative event of its own for 2006—commemorative clothing, games, etc. . . BRA will also be profiling 7 staff such as 1. Herb Sanders, 2. The Hogans, 3. Paul Grist, 4. Weatherford, all people who have been instrumental to BRA. The new family lodge is across from the amphitheatre. Family lodge was first used the 1st weekend of March. 70% are new groups. 20-25% of groups are still taking meals with BRA despite having a full kitchen in the lodge. It has 16 bedrooms and 9 baths, porch with rocking chairs, added some new pictures of Blue Ridge. It has been well received and we hope to work on a 2nd lodge after repertory to the board.

Elaine's Report:

81 collegiate and International on grounds and 15 staff live locally. Staff breaks down to 42 international staff and 39 American staff. Our US staff are coming from States including but not limited to-- Alaska, Nebraska, TN, NC, SC, VA, WV, and NY. The international staff are from 14 different countries including Zimbabwe and Japan. Staff went to Washington DC in March. Other staff programs have included: staff swims, putt-putt, soccer with leader's school, dinner and a movie. This summer we will have 9 students from Tokyo YMCA as we did not have any last summer. All staff is being offered YMCA membership to the Asheville YMCA, the Corpening Memorial YMCA in Marion & the Reuter YMCA. Ceiling fans from the alumni

were installed in Weatherford before the summer and have been a great help. We have 4 ambassadors this year → 2) Brazil, 1) Sweden, and 1) in England. Some ambassadors have been sparse due to travel concerns and leadership turnovers in other Y's.

Finance Report:

- 1) Collegiate work study endowment fund. Goal is \$100,000. Current balance is \$149,000+.
- 2) Staff/alumni endowment. Goal is to be \$30,000 and self-supporting. Current balance is \$17,500.
- 3) Operating fund-after staff gift; postcards/ mailing. Current balance is \$88.54. Tonight's program is still to come out of this account.

Newsletter/Website:

We have only gotten a few postcards returned with bad addresses, so far. Discussion was brought forth about whether we should go back to mailing hard copies. Several comments were made to try the postcard and website again, but include on the postcard that if you do not have access to a computer, that you can call and request a copy to be mailed to you. Website is not live yet-working on names, years worked, and email addresses. Leslie said she will get with Davis on where we are with it.

2005 Date:

Summer: June 24-27 (3 nights) or July 1-3 (2 nights, Friday-Sunday)

Winter: February 18-20th

The vote brought forth was for the **three night option** so that those coming from far off can have time to enjoy the mountain.

2006:

Mary Ann McCarty contacted Leslie to find out for the centennial, names of staff that have met here at BRA and gotten married. Please let Leslie know if you can think of anyone to be added to the list.

Any ideas for the reunion for next year—let Leslie know. Leslie is going to contact the magician to see when he might be available.

2006 Dates:

Only one option available –only 2 nights available

June 30-July 2, cottages are currently available as of today

2006 Ideas:

- 1) Talent shows and including old Blue Ridge Singers groups. We will also look at having people contact past alumni for 2006 to come to the centennial.
- 2) Family picnic with games such as egg toss, sack races, etc...

Meeting adjourned.

Winter 2005 Planning Meeting

Present:

Glenn Vernon, Elaine Godfrey, Leslie Dennis, Richard Dennis, Ted McCoy, Tim McCoy, Ian Luck, Megan Patterson, Amy Gill, Elaine Godfrey

Meeting was called to order by Ian Luck.

Finance Report was given by Ted McCoy. We have three funds. 1) Collegiate Work Study Endowment- This fund is currently at \$150,230.21- This fund is used for summer director, chaplain, and our college course. 2) Staff alumni endowment fund- \$2050.00 has been received in donations. Our current balance is \$18,696.54. 3) Operating fund- Our current balance is \$660.19. We spent \$355.28 last March for fans in Weatherford and recent mailings. Leslie Dennis brought up a question about whether money from the summer reunion fees were included in our balance. Ted noted that on the report it does show \$190.00 was credited on 6/30/04.

Elaine Godfrey gave the summer staff update. Elaine said that recruiting is under-way. BRA plans to hire 88 staff. Elaine has been very busy visiting several colleges for recruitment. BRA is working hard to keep 40% International staff and 60% American staff. This year there will be four ambassadors. One person is going to Brazil, 1 to Jerusalem, and two to the Sioux Indian Reservation this year. International ambassadorships have been opened to the Americans and the Sioux Indian Reservation ambassadorships have been opened to the International staff since there was not much from the American staff. Nineteen staff took the summer course last year, with five having dropped out. Wireless internet connections are being finished in Younts. Leslie asked why Younts and Elaine stated that they are doing Younts because it is a year round staff residence.

Leslie Dennis addressed Summer Dates. The **dates for 2005 are 6/24-6/27**. Those coming this summer have the option of staying two or three nights. Leslie stated that we need to decide what programming we want for this summer. Leslie brought up that Elaine talked about doing a staff climb again this year and has been talking with the programming staff. Ian asked Elaine if the alumni paid for an inflatable this year would BRA purchase an inflatable for the evening as well. Elaine said she would have to look into it. Ian said Western NC has use of an inflatable obstacle course and he will see about reserving it for us. Discussion was brought up about what activities we could do that evening. There was a discussion about having an evening at the lake- set up board games, inflatables, possibly kayaks (if we can borrow them from the Asheville Y), hula hoops, Frisbee, dodge ball, and after dinner have a movie at the lake and maybe even a campfire and smores. Another suggestion was also brought up to do ice cream at the lake after the movie. Leslie brought up to have more tables and chairs down at the lake this year as we have not had enough in the past for everyone to sit. Proposed agenda for the summer is: 1-4:30pm- Staff Climb, 4-8pm- Inflatables, 5:30-6:30pm-Dinner, 8:00pm- Campfire & Smores, 9-9:30- Start Movie.

Ian Luck addressed the 2005 Staff Alumni Gift. Ted questioned what about doing a wireless connection in Weatherford. Questions arose about money and cost in doing so. Weatherford

girls will be able to come to BRC (wireless connection is currently in the works for BRC lobby) lobby or Younts. Elaine did say that the staff needed a camcorder. Alumni has bought two in the past, but they are worn out. Richard also suggested air hockey or a fuse ball table. Ian said that he would look into camcorder prices.

Elaine Godfrey talked about the Centennial preparations for 2006. Display cases are going up. Centennial book is being done- which will be available for purchase. There will be a dinner at Ann Weatherford's house this July for the Board Meeting- they will have an ice cream social and dressing from the turn of the century. Pictures from the decades are being put up in the mezzanine, BRC lobby, and dining room.

Leslie Dennis discussed the 2006 celebration for alumni. Leslie stated that our options for staying during the summer of 2006 are: 6/9-6/12, 6/30-7/2, or 7/14-7/16. We only had one two night option. Leslie said that from the feedback that she received was that the 6/9-6/12 dates would be too early due to schools just getting out. Leslie said that she felt like the other two dates were evenly split amongst those who emailed her back. Leslie stated that a decision needed to be made so that we could get put on the books with BRA. In addition to the rooms needing to be reserved we need to go ahead and book the magician for that year if that is what we are planning on doing. Leslie said that Bill Grimsley (the magician) now also does a game show and offered that as an option. The magic show would be \$450.00 and the game show would be \$650.00. Group discussion was held and Leslie is going to shoot for the **6/30-7/2 dates for 2006** and Leslie will also look at booking Bill Grimsley for the game show for 2006. Leslie mentioned that Jennifer Kanipe talked about doing a poster to hang in SE Y's that help fund BRA to announce/propose the centennial for 2006. Jennifer also suggested to Leslie to have an early registration (maybe offer an incentive-such as a free weekend for the summer reunion). Suggestion was also made by Jennifer to not do a formal meeting Saturday AM and do more of a social gathering maybe with even awards such as- who drove the farthest, etc... More discussion was brought up about the free weekend. Leslie requested that a decision be made so that if approved that we could go ahead and advertise it. The go ahead was given by the group that all alumni that entered by an early registration deadline would be entered for a free 2-night weekend.

Ian Luck closed in asking if there was any other business that needed to be discussed. Discussion was brought forth about doing an alumni centennial 2006 link on the website or even a hyper-link from the BRA centennial site to the alumni site. Other business included, Ted McCoy suggested on the mailing that is sent out to offer that if someone does not have internet access to please call and we will mail a copy to them. Ted has volunteered to print and mail copies out to those who want them. Elaine said that she would look into the cost increase to get postcards returned for those alumni that can not be reached so that we would know when someone is not reached. Tim suggested not doing returns on postcards but every 3 years.

Meeting adjourned

2005 Alumni Reunion
June 24-27
(2 or 3 night option)

FRIDAY

Registration: BRC Lobby, 3-5 PM (Once checked in, congregate on Lee Hall Porch)

Dinner on your own (Local menus will be available to plan your dining.)

SATURDAY

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:30 AM Alumni Business Meeting

11:30 AM Alumni Picture (this includes all family and friends!)

12:30 PM Lunch

1:30-4:30 PM Indoor Rock Climbing Wall/50's group will gather on Lee Hall porch for a rocking session

4-8 PM Inflatable Obstacle Course & Giant Slide + outdoor games at lake (Bring your games, cameras, lawn chairs, and blankets!)

5:30-6:30 PM Cookout at lake

8:00 PM Campfire & S'Mores at lake

9-ish PM Movies under the stars (at the lake)

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Breakfast/ Goodbyes to those leaving on Sunday

The rest of the day is for adventures on your own. Some area attractions are listed with websites & phone numbers to find information and pricing:

-Southern Waterways (Float trips down the French Broad River)

Make plans early; they stay booked! Phone: 828-232-1970.

-Nantahala Outdoor Center (Whitewater Rafting) www.noc.com or call 1-800-232-7238

-Linville Caverns www.linvillecaverns.com or call 1-800-419-0540

-Chimney Rock www.chimneyrockpark.com or call 828-625-9611

-Biltmore Estate www.biltmore.com or call 1-800-543-2961

-Tweetsie Railroad (Great for little ones!) www.tweetsie.com or call 1-800-526-5740

-Grandfather Mountain www.grandfather.com or call 1-800-468-7325

-Grove Arcade (This is a public market in Asheville) www.grovearcade.com or call 828-252-7799

MONDAY

8:00 AM Breakfast & Goodbyes

Staff Alumni Association 2005 Reunion Weekend Registration Form

Friday, June 24 – Sunday, June 26, 2005

Or

Friday, June 24 – Monday, June 27, 2005

Arrival Date: Friday, June 24th
Check-In Time: 3:00 pm
Departure Date: Sunday, June 26 or Monday, June 27
Check-Out Time: 10:00 am

* 2 night packages include Breakfast, Saturday – Breakfast, Sunday. (4 meals)
Note: Ages 2 & under are free, Ages 3-12 are considered children

* 3 night packages include all meals on Saturday, plus breakfast & lunch on Sunday. (5 meals)

Participants may purchase individual meal tickets for Friday or Sunday suppers and Monday breakfast, if they so desire.

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Step 1: Please print the information requested below

Name: _____ **Spouse:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

What years were you employed on the Blue Ridge Staff? _____

Accommodations Requested (see prices below):

Asheville Hall _____ **Blue Ridge Center** _____

Lee Hall w/bath _____

Total Number in party _____ **Names and ages of children:**

1) _____ 3) _____
2) _____ 4) _____

BLUE RIDGE CENTER & ASHEVILLE HALL 3 Night Packages, includes 5 Meals	Totals Per Person
Single Rate/Per Person	\$150.00
Double Rate/Per Person	\$ 99.00
Extra Adult (3rd or 4th person)	\$ 66.00
Extra Child (3rd or 4th person)	\$ 37.00
BLUE RIDGE CENTER & ASHEVILLE HALL 2 Night Packages, includes 4 Meals	
Single Rate/Per Person	\$108.00
Double Rate/Per Person	\$ 74.00
Extra Adult (3rd or 4th person)	\$ 52.00
Extra Child (3rd or 4th person)	\$ 27.00
ROBERT E. LEE HALL 3 Night Package, includes 5 meals	
Single Rate/Per Person	\$126.00
Double Rate/Per Person	\$ 87.00
ROBERT E. LEE HALL 2 Night Package, includes 4 meals	
Single Rate/Per Person	\$ 92.00
Double Rate/Per Person	\$ 66.00

Please include any other pertinent information below. For example, if you have a roommate preference, if you have special physical needs or if you would like adjoining rooms, please indicate that below.

**Return to Leslie Dennis
1856 Seasons Drive
Prattville, AL 36066**

Email questions to Leslie @ richardleslieplusfour@charter.net

The Blue Ridge Board of Directors is seeking the names of individuals who met at Blue Ridge and then married. If you are one of these people or you know of someone who fits this category, please email or call Leslie Dennis.

Email: richardleslieplusfour@charter.net

Phone: 334-365-7294

Ashley McGahey Morrison and son, Reagan



