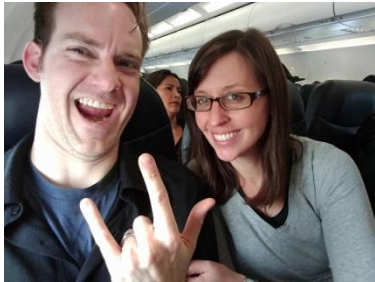


January 2016 Camp Echo Alumni News



Jessica and Nate Baumgart: (Camper 80s, Staff 00s & 10s) have quite their jobs, sold their possessions, and set off on a yearlong, around the world adventure as young newlyweds. Follow their travels at [#rtwcouple](https://twitter.com/rtwcouple)



Rayna Ben-Zeev: (Camper 00s, Staff 00s & 10s) is currently on a Fulbright Project in Singapore studying Mangrove Forests.



Tim Dose: (Camper 90s, Staff 90s & 00s) and his wife Aileen Quigley Dose welcomed their second child, a daughter, Amelia Rachel Dose, on December 22, 2015. Amelia's big brother is Charlie. The Dose family lives in New York City.



Laura Haberer: (Camper 90s, Staff 00s & 10s) recently sent this email: Hello Echo Alum Community! My name is Laura Haberer and I went to Echo for many years as a camper as well as worked at Echo as a counselor in the summers from '07 to '10. Of course I know that all Echo alums are some of the best people around. Currently I'm serving in the Peace Corps in South Africa. Without a doubt, my time at Echo molded me into the person I am today and led me to where I am today. My main job is to teach English at my primary school, Khofi Primary School in Kwa-Zulu Natal. But I also work on other projects such as after school programs to promote girl empowerment and HIV prevention.

One project I'm also working on is to establish a library. A reading culture in my community is severely lacking. The interest is there and many of my learners love to read but access is a problem. This past June, working in tandem with other volunteers, we got 8,000 books donated to four of our schools. So my school received 2,000 books. However, we do not have a classroom that we can dedicate to a library. However, my principal took it upon himself to appeal to our impoverished community to make any donations they could give so we could build a library. In this manner, we've been able to put up four walls, windows and the door. However, at this point my community has reached their limit. What we need now is the materials for the roof, paint, shelves and furnishings.

My community and myself would be so appreciative of any donations you might be able to make. If you'd like to donate, you can do so here: <https://donate.peacecorps.gov/donate/>

Once there, scroll to Projects and Funds and click Explore and Give. Then you can search by Volunteer and can find my name listed alphabetically by last name. It's under Haberer, L.

Any small amount would be greatly appreciated! If you'd like to contact me to ask any questions about the project or even Peace Corps in general, I'm happy to speak with you! My email is lmhaberer@gmail.com.

Also, do let me know if you've donated and an address where we can send a thank you letter from one of my learners! My kids are eager to thank you! I hope everyone had a Happy Holidays!

Embrace the mind, body and spirit,

Laura



Val Hansen: (Staff 80s, Family Camper 00s) recently sent this note: Thanks for the alumni news. I always look forward to it. Here is one of my camp memories that, when it happened, made me laugh so hard I couldn't breathe and it still makes me smile tonight.

It involves **Felipe Largent** (Camper 70s, Staff 80s). I don't know who started it, perhaps Jeff Campbell, but if a staff member left a personal item in an area or somewhere on camp they had to sing in the dining hall at a meal in front of everyone to get it back. Well, Felipe left a towel or something at swimming and it was presented at lunch time announcements and all the kids started cheering for him to sing. Felipe swore he was framed but no one really cared. It was Felipe and we all wanted see him sing.

Well, at the same time as this was unfolding in the dining hall ----- Echo Director Fred Brown was showing Executive Director of the McGaw YMCA Bob Sharpe around Camp Echo and telling him what a great staff he had and what a wholesome place this was for young girls and boys to spend their summer. He had just brought Bob into the dining hall to see the kids eating a nutritious meal and sing camp songs.

Felipe after much protesting had been helped up onto a chair to sing. Everyone was waiting to see what he would do. Fred began to look nervous. Bob Sharpe looked confused. Now Felipe didn't know his boss and his boss's boss were there. Felipe was a character with a capital C and he started to grin because he had just decided what to sing.....and he started belting it out!! And he knew all the words!

*She was a fast machine,
She kept her motor clean
She was the best damn woman that I've ever seen
Had the sightless eyes
Tellin' me no lies
Knockin' me out with those American thighs
Takin' more than her share,
Had me fightin' for air
She told me to come, but I was already there
And the walls start shakin', the earth was quakin'
My mind was achin'
And we were makin' it and
[Chorus:]
You shook me all night long
Yeah honey you shook me all night long*



Janine Hamilton: (Staff 00's) became engaged to Adnan Chudary on December 25, 2015. Janine and Adnan are living in Belfast, UK.



Patrick "Colin" Monahan (Camper 90s, Staff 00s) announced his engagement to Elisabeth Davies on January 1, 2016. The couple currently resides in Chicago



Sarah Pfander (Camper 90s & 00s, Staff 00s & 10s) recently sent this note:

Hello East Side Single Ladies and all Camp Echo friends!

If I learned anything from all of my summers at Camp Echo, it's that A) I will always want to eat fruit gushers while I backpack, even though they are the least nutritious and most nonsensical snack, B) I will always want to taste the forbidden fruit of skiing on the lake after the wake law takes effect, C) I will always want to sing and dance as I clean up my breakfast, and D) I will always

want to do cool things around this country and around the world, especially if those cool things help others.

Fulfilling at least one of those four lessons (two if I'm lucky), I'm hoping to go to Cambodia at the end of February to build houses on a Habitat for Humanity Global Village Trip (PS. if any of you can get a week off from work and raise \$1,660 and get a flight to Siem Reap, you should totally join us! I'm pretty sure there are still spots left.) I worked for Habitat in Denver last year and the direct impact you can have on a family and a community by building new homes is unparalleled, at least in my service experience. Also, shout out to Rob Johnston and a session on maintenance for inspiring me to pursue my carpenter dreams!

Much appreciation, even if you only consider giving and then forget to do it, which is absolutely something I would do. Any little amount that you can contribute will go a long way. And will also totally obligate me to contribute to your next, save-the-world project. If you do choose to donate, you can do so at the link at the bottom of this email.

Camp Echo love,

Sarah