

Words to the Y's



FALL 2011

YMCA
of the
ROCKIES



The Staff Alumni Association Magazine is a publication of the YMCA of the Rockies

YMCA of the Rockies
Staff Alumni Association



2012 Staff Alumni Reunion

SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH
ESTES PARK CENTER
CAMP CHIEF OURAY

Mark your calendars! The Staff Alumni Reunion will be held June 16-19, 2012. Staff from all three centers - Snow Mountain Ranch, Estes Park Center and Camp Chief Ouray - will be joining together in Estes Park for one incredible weekend of fun, friendship and fellowship!

For those of you who worked at SMR and CCO, we will be planning a day trip to Snow Mountain for a tour of the facilities. If you didn't work there what an opportunity to see what your missing.

Please take a moment to [go online and register](#) for the reunion. Don't forget to make your lodging reservations. Consistent with our mission, we would like the reunion to be available to all. If cost is an issue, please contact the Alumni Coordinator.

Don't forget to bring your pictures. We'll have a scanner available at the reunion. It would be very helpful if you are able to identify the people in your pictures. We will be placing these pictures on our website and in our alumni room at the museum so identifying people is crucial to our Y history. There will also be an opportunity to have a new photo taken as well.



The Y's Got Talent

What would a YMCA Staff Reunion be without a talent show? Start practicing your moves, tuning your instrument and warming your vocal cords. Get the gang together and show us what you got. While we fine tune the schedule you can fine tune your talent. So start calling your friends and get organized!

STAY IN TOUCH

For up to date details check our website
@ www.ymcarockiesalumni.org

Join us on Facebook @ YMCA of the Rockies Alumni.
Good old fashioned phone calls also work, call (970) 586-3341 x6014 or (877) 686-6968

Don't forget to share this information with your Alumni friends, spread the word!



SPIRIT SOCIETY

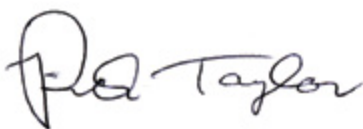
Seeks Those Who Love the YMCA of the Rockies

I first came to the YMCA of the Rockies in 1974 as a seasonal employee for two summers and a winter. Even after going away to start a career and a family, I never quite left the place. Like many others, my family and I returned almost every year to vacation at the Y. During her college years my daughter, Susan, worked on the staff. Then 35 years later my wife, Janet, and I returned to work as volunteers.

My job as "planned giving director" is simply to discover folks who love the Y of the Rockies and might consider including the Y in their will or estate plan. Currently there are 67 families who have told the Y that they have already done that as a way of helping to insure the Y's presence for future generations. Collectively, we are known as the Spirit Society for the YMCA of the Rockies.

Two of the simplest ways to join the Spirit Society are to include the Y in your will or as a partial beneficiary to an IRA or other retirement plan. Another possibility is to purchase a "charitable gift annuity" which has immediate benefits for you in terms of a guaranteed income for life. There are others as well. In some cases there may be tax advantages to you or your heirs, depending on the type of gift you choose to make.

Janet and I have joined the Spirit Society because the Y of the Rockies has been an important part of our lives for nearly 40 years. It's an honor for me to serve as the custodian for the Spirit Society and I'd be happy to visit with you about your own involvement. Often it's as simple as telling me that you have already included the Y in your estate plan. Feel free to call me at (970) 586-3341, x 6041 or email me at ricktaylor@ymcarockies.org.



Rick Taylor
Planned Giving Director



RUESCH/ GARRIS SCHOLARSHIP 2011 RECIPIENTS

The Ruesch/Garris Scholarship Committee had many applications this year, making it very difficult to choose from a long list of qualified applicants.

After careful consideration, the Scholarship Committee proudly announces the recipients of the 2011 Ruesch/Garris Scholarship. \$500.00 Scholarships have been sent to the school in which these students are presently enrolled in good standing:

SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH

Alicia Davids
Josh Hackett
Shelby Hayes
Sheryl Hosler
Zach Stephens

ESTES PARK CENTER

Kathryn Bell
Nicole Coontz
Sarah Norton
Michael Smith
KathrynTally-Foos
Lauren Tomasik

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Alyssa Davis

CHILDREN OF FULL TIME STAFF

Sheena Crowfoot
Courtney Frazier
Hannah Huelsing



CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH RECIPIENT!

Scholarships have been awarded to staff members and children of full time staff members since 1986.

**Your generous donations towards the Ruesch/Garris Scholarship allow us
to continue this valuable program.**

For information on how to contribute, contact Jinetta Zentmire at jzentmire@ymcarockies.com or (970) 586-3341 x 6014 or (877) 686-6968.

THE IMPACT OF A GIFT

August 7, 2011

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I just wanted to take a few minutes to tell you what an honor it was to be chosen as a 2011 Ruesch Garris Scholarship recipient. The YMCA has given me so much throughout my life and this scholarship is just one item on a long list. I have spent my entire life as a member of my hometown YMCA and was thrilled when I got the opportunity to work for the YMCA of the Rockies.

The past three months have been life changing for me. I have learned so much that can be applied to future jobs and I have grown to respect the organization much more in that time. The YMCA of the Rockies will always have a place in my heart, and it means a lot to me that they are helping me finish my degree.

In a couple of weeks I will be returning to Wichita State University as a senior majoring in Integrated Marketing Communication. Though the YMCA of the Rockies will be far away, my time here will not be forgotten. While I balance classes, work, church, friends and studying, I will be dreaming of the mountains.

In the future I hope to give the YMCA as much as they have given me. If I cannot be in the mountains at the YMCA of the Rockies then I hope to be a member and volunteer at my local YMCA. No matter what capacity my involvement, I know that the YMCA's core values will be reflected in my life. After graduation, the YMCA will be the first place I look for a job. I cannot imagine a better place to start a career.

Thank you again for this great gift.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Davis

Alyssa Davis



STAFF ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Joining the Staff Alumni Association is FREE!

Return this form to share stories with friends, stay updated on what is going on now and learn how we are preserving the Y for future generations!

Center Employed

Name (Maiden)

Department

Street City State Zip

Year(s) Employed

Phone Email

RUESCH/GARRIS SCHOLARSHIP

YES, I want to support YMCA staff in their educational pursuits

Are you a YMCA of the Rockies Staff Alumni?

Yes No

Total Amount Enclosed _____

My check is enclosed (made out to YMCA of the Rockies)

Please send to: YMCA of the Rockies PO Box 20800
Estes Park, CO 80511 (877) 686-6968

VISA Master Card

Discover American Express

Credit Card Number Exp. Date

Name

Address

City State Zip

Signature (required for credit card)

Levels of Giving

- Caring \$1,500+
- Honesty \$800-\$1,499
- Respect \$550-\$799
- Responsibility \$100-\$549
- Faith \$50-\$99
- Giving \$ _____



Join/Donate
online at
ymcarockiesalumni.org

STAFF ALUMNI UPDATES

Introducing our Staff Alumni Updates section. This is a great opportunity for Staff Alumni to share updates on what's happening in your corner of the world. Did you get married? Have a baby? What about a job promotion? Start a business? Win an award? This is your opportunity to keep in touch and share with your fellow Alumni!

Send your updates to alumni@ymcarockies.org



BIRTHS

Michelle Lerew (EPC 98-Present) & Adam Johnson, a daughter, Isabella Nicole Johnson, on April 4, 2011. Coming in at 7 lbs. /12 oz. and 20 inches long, Isabella joins big sisters, Meagan Sumner and Lexi Lerew.

Sue (Ludeman) Hunt, (EPC 1975) & Nicolas Hunt welcomed their first grandchild, Willa Marie, on June 23, 2011. Proud parents are Liz and Joska Reid from New Hampshire. Willa weighed a whopping 8lbs./13oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



Isabella
Nicole
Johnson



Willa
Marie
Hunt

Entering the world on August 2, 2011 at a mighty 7.53 pounds and 20.5 inches: meet Joshua William Ziegler. Proud parents are **Kimberly Ann (Huth)** and Michael Ziegler along with his trusted protector Baylor (Australian Shepherd). Proud grandparents are Sara and **Rev. Bill Huth (EPC 93-Present)**.

Joshua William
Ziegler



Tristan Cada (EPC & SMR 2007-Present) and Paul Cada welcomed Lilly Louise on June 9, 2011. Weighing 6 lbs./4 oz. and 21 inches, Lilly loves to swim in the pools her mommy manages.



Noah
Dykstra

long. Parents **Bradi (CCO 09-10)** and Ben Dykstra are enjoying their new lifestyle raising Noah in Texas.



Lilly
Louise
Cada



WEDDINGS

This has been a busy summer for **Sue (Ludeman) Hunt, (EPC 1975)** and Nicolas Hunt. On Labor Day weekend their youngest daughter, Carolyn, was married to her long-time boyfriend Scott. The wedding took place in Atlantic, IA.

Tyler Shields, (EPC 2007, 2009) and **Emily Wishall, (EPC 2009)** were married on June 19, 2011. They wed at sunrise at the Mountainside Chapel, YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO. They now reside in Columbus, Missouri.

IN MEMORY OF...

YMCA of the Rockies extends its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of **Jerry Suchman**, of Manchester, MO passed away on June 17, 2011. He was on staff at **(EPC 2003-2007)**. He is survived by his wife, Susan.

NEWSWORTHY



Steve Friesen, (EPC 72-74), was recently featured on the front page of the Denver Post. Steve is the Director of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, high atop Lookout Mountain in Golden, CO. When you get a chance see the article published on 8/27/11 @ www.denverpost.com

Continued on next page...

STAFF ALUMNI UPDATES

Continued

NEWSWORTHY



Snow Mountain Ranch put YMCA of the Rockies in the headlines recently. An article appeared in the August 29, 2011, edition of "People" magazine (pages 94-100). The story highlights Project Sanctuary, a free, therapeutic retreat for military families. Project Sanctuary signed an agreement with YMCA of the Rockies to raise money collaboratively for a permanent Project Sanctuary facility at Snow Mountain Ranch. With similar missions focused on families, it is a natural fit!



Betsy (Wilhoit) Moore, (EPC 74, SMR 80), Alumni Council Member 2009-Present, joins the Board of Directors for the YMCA of the Rockies.

Heather (Williams) Henz, (SMR 85, 89, 90, 92-95) joins the Staff Alumni Council. Heather first came to the YMCA of the Rockies the summer of 1972. Her family came out from Illinois to camp in the campgrounds at SMR. In 1985, two days after graduating high school, she came to work at SMR in housekeeping. She had a memorable summer filled with long lasting friendships.



In 1989, Heather returned to SMR as a day camp counselor. Once again returning in 1990 as Staff Coordinator, referring to it as the best job she ever had! After a brief time teaching in Iowa, she returned to the YMCA of the Rockies in 1992 as a year round employee in the Program Department as the Assistant Program Director/Child Care Director. She was able to build a preschool program for the community of Grand County, run an amazing summer day camp and be the host to several Elderhostels. In 1994, her dear friend **Julie Watkins** introduced her to Mark Henz. They married in 1995. They now reside in Highlands Ranch, CO, where Mark works for the U.S. Food Service and Heather is a preschool teacher at Our Father Lutheran in Centennial, CO. They have two children Hollyn and Hogan.

Angie (Schaefer) Geisler joins the Staff Alumni Council. Angie worked at **EPC from 1986-90 (summers) and SMR 1986-90 (winters) and summer of 1991**. She worked mop crew, Rustic room, Jellison (2 summers), staff counselor (2 summers) and front desk (winters). She went to Illinois State University for undergraduate and then Queens University in Charlotte for graduate school. She taught middle school math in Charlotte North Carolina and recently moved back to her hometown in Charleston, Ill. She has three children, Alex (12), Ben (10), and Abby (9). Since 1986, her entire family visits SMR every other Christmas and EPC most summers.

Rick Taylor, (EPC 74-75, EXO volunteer 2005-Present), Received the James R. Bellatti Award. The James R. Bellatti Award is the YMCA of the Rockies' most prestigious honor, which is bestowed periodically to a volunteer who through a committed and sustained relationship to the YMCA of the Rockies has provided exceptional leadership, demonstrated inspirational qualities and promoted the Mission of the YMCA of the Rockies.



Trueman Hoffmeister, (CCO 1997-2003), has accepted the position of Center Director for Snow Mountain Ranch. Trueman previously worked at Camp Chief Ouray as the Director. He replaces **Julie Watkins (SMR 1987-2011, EXO 2011)** who will assume her new position with the YMCA of the Rockies as Vice-President for Association Advancement.

STAFF ALUMNI UPDATES

Continued

NEWSWORTHY



Kari (Kimberling) Romoser, (SMR 84, 88), joins the Staff Alumni Council. Kari and her family started going to **SMR in 1976**. It became their "home away from home" and has been since. She now lives in Tulsa, OK with her husband Mark and their four children, Jake (17), Zach (15), Luke (12), and Lexi (10).

Jeni (Fuqua) Ellis, (SMR 1990-2007), is returning to the YMCA of the Rockies as Camp Chief Ouray's new Registrar. Jeni previously worked at SMR as Assistant Human Resources Director, Human Resources Director, and Buildings & Grounds Office Manager. She replaces Bradi Dykstra, who relocated to Texas this past June.

Holly (Troxell) Collingwood, (EPC 1996, EXO 2004-2011), from the Marketing department has moved on to full time motherhood and has relocated to Fort Collins, Colorado. She is enjoying her time with husband, **Andy (EPC 1996)** and their three beautiful children, Teresa, Alan and Sean.



Charity Navigator has awarded **YMCA of the Rockies** a 4-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that our organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way.



Tera Henrich joins the Financial Development team as the Annual Giving Director. She previously worked at the YMCA of Greater Omaha for eight years as a Program Director overseeing Teens & Corporate Memberships. Through her years at the YMCA she had the opportunity to watch kids, teens and families grow through the support of the YMCA staff and quality programs. Through fundraising she will be able to help provide opportunities to individuals that otherwise would not be able to afford the YMCA. She is excited to move to our beautiful state of Colorado and help impact the lives at the YMCA of the Rockies.

Please submit your news and optional photo to:

alumni@ymcarockies.org
or call with your updates
(970) 586-3341 x 6014
(877) 686-6968



YMCA of the Rockies
Staff Alumni Association

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION VISION

The YMCA of the Rockies Alumni Association honors the passion and dedication of staff and volunteers who continue to deliver our Mission.

OUR MISSION

YMCA of the Rockies puts Christian Principles into practice through programs, staff and facilities in an environment that builds healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

We will accomplish this by serving conferences of a religious, educational, or recreational nature; providing unifying experiences for families; offering traditional summer camping experiences for boys and girls; and serving our staff with leadership opportunities and productive work experiences.

ymcarockiesalumni.org



Jinetta Zentmire

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