

Southern Appalachian Young Friends Epistle Asheville October, 2009

This weekend was amazing. Everything from the maze to the tacos and the dancing was great. I hadn't really heard of the Jerk until now but its really fun, even though I can barely do it yet. I got more sleep this retreat than most which is good and I wish we could all just stay here and not go back to school. I missed the last one so this time I got to see a lot of 2bies who had come to the last one. Jacob and Xavier's dancing was great lol,=) I had fun talking with Heather and Chantal is really awesome. Anyway, I hope the November one is just as good and everyone and more comes.

~ Emanuel Huber Feely

SAYF was fun this weekend. For me it was a relaxing weekend compared to my first retreat. This is my second and I feel like you all are like family to me. Although I was betrayed four times by a certain someone and once by another certain someone I forgive them. But watch your backs next time I come here. I will have revenge! I love you guys. You take me away from the real world and put me in a world where everyone's happy and always having fun. To Chrissy I love you and thanks for allowing me to tag along again. To Santha thanks for my neck-a-lace. To Katie thanks for hugs. And to everyone else thanks for accepting me. I still cannot write passive aggressive haikus but I wrote a pretty beastly poem. I'm going to miss you guys. Until you see me again peace out girl scouts and I Love You!!

♥ Chantal

PS Bear was fun. Jacob needs to come upstairs during it.

PPS Emily we really need to make a band together with one guitar.

PPPS Alise thanks for the pillow forte (did I spell that right?) It was amazingly interesting and fun. And thanks for the "WATER" hint hint hint.....

PPPPS Michael thanks for the John Mayer sings, they were beasting!!

I think this weekend was really cool! I can't wait for the next one. So, I think my favorite thing was doing the jerk a bunch on the porch. I'm so glad Xavier and Jacob taught me all of the cool dance moves too. The corn maze was really fun too. My group got gum because we finished the whole thing. Of ya also the only bad thing that happened is my legs hurt from jerking and dancing so much. But it's all good I had a lot of fun!

- Nick

PS SHOUTOUTS!

Xavier Hi daddy! You a jerk. I know.

Heather WOW! You gonna be a movie writer someday.

Autumn Of my gosh! I'm sorry my phone was like the only one that was being stupid and not cooperating.

Ansley Thank you for teaching all of us how to play Grave robbers from Outer Space.

Braden You keep socking that crown of yours!

Christina Hey, SBFF (sista, best friend forever)!

Samantha Hi Mommy! Can't wait to see you at the next retreat!

This Sayf was small yet still great and cold.

Zombie girl and the Joker will get you. JERKIN.

~ Emma

This retreat was innaresting. It's my 2 year anniversary of SAYFing and it seems like far too long and way too short at the same time. It's very beautiful to see people around you growing and changing as the time passes. It also scares the living hell out of me. But hey. Sometimes that's just how it goes. It wasn't at all like I expected it would be, and that was not easy to deal with. It was however "character building". The very best parts of the retreat were:

- songs wif Emily
- Delaney Gibbs
- seeing Annie
- JERKIN. Never in my life have I been so cool.

There is much uncharted spirituality to be found in this cuh-razy cool type of dancing. Ima chart me some. I love you guys.

- Lekey

This retreat was very cold, but lovely. The corn maze was kinda confusing. Left is not always the right way to go. and I am stating that our hitch-hikers (you know who you are) are highly illegal. Creativity time was a lot of fun. I taught a few people how to make bracelets. ok. so wink. Chris is a BEAST at holding people back. lame. ok so I really want to do shoutouts because I've been in SAYF 5 years & have never done them.

Emma – BS + Jokers=slightly irritated Miyoshi.

Xavier& Joseph – you both win.

Joseph – no scissors for you. ever.

Jacob – you know mine & Stinas dance moves are better than yours. We rock that bus!

Lekey – I owe you one more back massage.

Xavier – I didn't fall. * wink *

Christina (Stina) – can't touch this dan na na na nah nah!.... (pause) Peanut butta jelly! peanut butter jelly! peanut butter jelly! peanut butter jelly! peanut butter jelly with a baseball bat! Wow....we are ridonkuious.

Nick – me + Stina are definitely moving up here with you! SO be prepared!

Terra & Xavier – hiding in a closet during Bear thinking if we are loud enough Jacob may hear us....fail!

Well I'm done.

Until November,

Samantha Lauren

pee-es Madeline & Jenna both say hello and they wish they were here.

Jacob - you fall among corn haha!

Alise – I just love you. yum cupcakes!

Michael wtf! tickle fight!

Jacob – Xavier's bro Terra My sis. Stina – daughter Nick- son Xavier- husband best family ever!

I really enjoyed coming to this retreat. The corn maze was fun. Turning only left was the way to go. Sliding on mud....not fun. Falling in little corn mazeonly I could do that. Then doing creative arts....cake decorating – fun. Dancing outside – cold yet amazing and the art where you make stuff – fun. Bear-Fun, but Jacob never went into the room where almost half the people were hiding....Then wink – painful, but fun. Now I guess after all these Ah-mazing things, it's time for us to say goodbye until next month. I love you all so much!!

~ Kaitlynn Tippin

Wins for the retreat:

Emily for the best face ever.

Willamae, Ian and Ellen, for most missed.

Joseph (and sort of me), for best bear escape.

Last night for comfiest-longest SAYF sleep.

Emily, Michael and me for best picture.

Asheville Meeting house for being so lovely.

Alise, for the coolest person, possibly ever.

Therese and George for being really nice and bringing us here.

All the FAPs (and FAPits!) for being really nice and bringing us here

Bethany, for the best rapper.

Xavie & Jacob – for best dancers

Lekey for the other best face EVER.

Annie and me, for most sneaky.

Jacob & Michael for best bear capture

ALL OF YOU for being so lovely.

Chris for best bracelet

I won't be at the November retreat because I have to brush my teeth on stage. It's really very important. So, until January.

Love you all,

DeLaney

PS Joseph - I'm really sorry if I stretched out your pants.

*I'm writing in a notebook that has "stuffy McEpistle pants" written on the cover. SAYF kids are so rad. This weekend was beautiful, and was just the retreat I needed. The North Carolina mountains are where I feel closest to God, and though I didn't spend much time outside due to the extremely cold weather, Friends (with a capital "F") are the people amongst whom I feel closest to God. Thank you for wink. It allowed us SAYF graduates to indulge in our nostalgia. Thanks to the planning committee for a weekend of creative fun. Thanks to Young Friends for being who you are. Thank you, thank you, thank you. All my sweet, sweet Quaka lovin,
Nicole*

I'm really glad that I came to this retreat. it was really fun even though Nashville wasn't here ☺ I really liked the corn maze, Xavy & Jacob had a corn fight (the corn didn't seem to mind) and one corn hit me in the arm and hurt really bad! and then Jacob fell & knocked down at least 15 corn stalks. There was TONS of jerkin....and I decided I don't like surprises anymore!!! Also Jacob & Joseph were really mean to me, but Kama got Jacob back. cause Emily sung a cute little song about him :D speaking of Jacob – bear was fun, but somebody stepped on my head (which hurt). I can't wait for the next retreat, it's so nice to get away from home for awhile.

♥ Bethany

PS don't get me wrong – I luvh these hoes!

So this weekend was exactly what I needed after my crummy week a couple of weeks ago. So the corn maze was amazing, even though I kept sliding in the mud and my group kept abandoning me :P Also yesterday I got married to Ansley and Miyoshi, bringing my wife count up to 8, and my husband total is 1: Braden. ☺

Shoutouts:

Emanuel: I'm glad you came. I really missed you last retreat.

Miyoshi& Ansley: I ♥ my new wives!!!

Nick: You're cool even though your phone is retarded and hates me :P

Nashville peoples: You need to come back!

Zan: I heard about your hair. It made me cry.

Xavier: I will see you later this week. ^^

Well, I guess I'm done for now. Hopefully. I'll see you all at the next retreat.

Love,

Autumn

PS Who all wishes Ian hadn't had his play this weekend? I know I do.

PPS Apparently people like to accidentally hit my head with their elbows, hands, or van trunk doors and some people like accidentally sitting on my face. my catch phrase for the weekend:

"Hey! That's my face/head!"

Things I learned at this SAYF:

- that being married is amazing (Heather, Autumn, Elise, Miyoshi, I love you my lovely wives)
- that when armed with duct tape and pipe cleaners you can make anything
- that icing tastes better when purple
- that you're not truly comfortable until you have at least two people draped over you in strange and unusual, and somehow non-sexual positions
- how to play Bear (which for me involved sitting in a dark room whispering then getting bored and walking down the steps only to run right back up them and hide again).
- Ansley

Thomas Kelly wrote about the Blessed Community, one where people love one another and work together to help one another out. But where it is the Love that binds them together in the Spirit and with a strong bond.

This weekend several YAFs joined us and they really enjoyed themselves & the current SAYFers. It is an indication of how blessed this community is. I hope all the SAYFers see how much the YAFs appreciated being included. This community of Love is what we're after. Next month, Nov 6-8, we'll meet in W Knoxville with a theme of A Community Within a Community. We will continue to grow as a community & learn more about trusting and supporting one another. I hope you all can be there.

Chuck

Gosh Nashville, why'd you have to be not....nice again? First yo missed epistles from the last retreat because you left, and then you don't show up. Is it really because Zan got a Mohawk? I bet it is. Somebody's a little self-conscious. Oh yeah, Ellen, that college visit never existed. You were here the entire time, and you missed Bonnie (awesomeness in a college freshman). Love you! ♥ This retreat turned out awesome actually. Heather and Miyoshi were total geniuses while cake baking * wink * We also had fun playing Grave Robbers from Outer Space! BEST GAME EVER! In the Can what? SO I'm slightly disappointed that Phorest wasn't here to make up a new inside joke so that we can go back home and annoy the heck out of people.

Um..... the wall is pretty and so is Alise, and Chantal and Chrissy, and Samantha and Emily, and Delaney and Lekey and Xavier (WHAT!?!). Oh yeah, everybody's beautiful because us SAYFers are gorgeous.

I miss Jesus under AFM.

Emmanuel got a haircut (man, what is it with haircuts? especially like right now)? Asheville Meetinghouse is cool. So is Tim's hair (which smells nice). Emma, you rock! Ansley, if there is no home game that I have to play at on January 15, you better bring the awesomeness of the grave robbers to Atlanta!

Man what is it with me and long epistles? We should get married. Apparently Mat had the power to do so. He did with Kofi and the cheese balls. Huh.

So shoutouts to everybody. 3 more weeks. It's not that long. I'll survive. I'll have the anticipation of report cards and Halloween to keep me busy. Man, that was an awesome maze. With my amazing map reading skills, and my hole punching skills, and my getting-lost-and-having-to-backtrack skills. Yeah. Good Times!

Pease out, that one guy.

PS I wasn't much of a slut at wink this time, but there's still Knoxville * wink *.

PPS Nick Wells!

Well the end has come and this was a pretty good retreat. I liked how we played that horror movie game. Yes, I know, its not Quakerly but at least it was inclusive. Anyway I loved the crafts e did and that maize maze was pretty fun. I got hopelessly lost several times and jumping over those haystacks was really cool and also having a corn fight with Chris, Jacob and Xavier was fun. Bear was cool though I wish that Jacob had come upstairs. Wink was a little disappointing as I was constantly losing my partner. sniff. The cakes were delicious. Nice job Heather and Miyoshi.

Hymns were cool.

Shoutouts:

Delaney – You really do look like a nice fairy.

Jacob – You made an awesome bear.

Christina – It's horrible that this is your last year because you're so nice.

Kofi – You're pretty cool. Sorry you hurt your foot.

Aneisa (is that spelling right?) Thank you for showing that cool game Grave Robbers From Outer Space. Booboes Boobies.

Jacob, Kofi, Xavier etc Nice moves on the dance floor.

I wish that Quakers where polygamists so I could marry all of you beautiful girls but anyway I love you all. I'll see ya next retreat Wot Wot.

Tally Ho,

Ze Pwat

PS How can Lincoln still be a bally Twelve?

Auf Weidersin

Once again I did not get to say goodbye to Bonnie. Other than that, this retreat was pretty great. The bus ride here was super fun. Santha & I were spaz dancing! Jacob kept giving us goofy looks. Then we jump in the back with Chris and make our own soundtrack to the Dark Knight. Funi stuff ...lala...we are here....We have loads of fun.

BTW...little people in wink (Emma and Nick) are strong! Never underestimate! lol. Oh! Nick and I are BBFF (Brother/Best Friends forever). Ah. I love our family. hmmm.... it's pretty quiet in here, minus beeping camera. Of wow! I was about to forget about Bear! So, a group of us were in a room...through some doors, hiding there forever. So I get bored & go downstairs, Jacob catches me. Emily is singing sings, then you hear "No Jacob, NO!" & see Santha getting drug down to the jail. hah. That was great. Then I almost died running up the stairs, cause Jacob scared the crackers outta me! Fun. Well.... I'm done. See you all soon!

♥ Stay beautiful,

Chrissy

* Chris is snoring! ahahaha!

PS Corn Maze. Alise, Emily, Joseph, Chanty, Nicole & maybe more? & I walked around it just trying to get lost. It didn't work. But it was fun.

* UGH Michael! No tickle fight. Grrr!

Xavier – LOL smiley face!

Alise – cat breasts? lol. Thanks for the cupcakes Pumpkin Britches! You're a doll!

Wifey – (Emily) I love you lots! You da best. We should go to "da sto!"

This retreat was pretty even though a lot of people weren't here. The corn maze was fun. Wink & Bear was fun. Jacob is a good bear.

Chris

PS Go left in the maze to get out.

PPS That maze was Ah-maze-ing....hoho...that was corny.

I am quite certain by now that everyone is well aware of the fact that my life consists of very few things. SAYF is one of these very few things. This is my 5th & final year of SAYF! I've mentioned this multiple times before but I just sort of realized it for myself this past month. To say that SAYF is important to me is an understatement at the least. For the past four some odd years my life has almost entirely consisted of SAYF. To say it changed my life is also an understatement.

I needed convincing before I agreed to attend the SAYMA of 2005. (This of course came in the form of Samantha babbling to me about how 'awesome' it was). Sometimes I find myself wondering how much I would have reacted beforehand had I known how "awesome" SAYF would really be. Sometimes I also find myself wondering who I would be today had I not agreed to come. Time is a very strange thing to me. I often feel as though I am the exact same girl who walked into SAYMA those years ago. Of course I know this is entirely untrue. Knowing this is my final year, I find myself clinging to what I already know. This is probably because I'm afraid of losing anymore than I already know will come next June.

This epistle is meant to be an apology or an explanation or maybe an excuse as to why I probably seem closed off lately. I am sorry. I love you all more than you will ever know.

Yours,

Alise

PS Epistles are not exactly my forte and my thoughts are all jumbled. So I apologize if that sounded weird.