As we plan activities and prepare for summer at GAC, we always keep in mind our goals for our campers. Our counselors know these goals well and are trained to specifically address each one. Campers hear about the goals at Camper Orientation on the first night of each session, but parents may not be as familiar with them. Our goals are for our campers to have fun, make friends, and grow during their stay with us at GAC. How do we reach our goals?

Camp is all about fun, so having fun comes naturally. But we don’t just let fun happen. We are intentional about creating opportunities for kids to relax and get involved in fun activities that don’t happen in the “real” world (as we refer to it while we’re at camp). Examples of fun are the games and special events that get campers

Continued on Pg. 5
**ENGAGEMENTS**

Congratulations to GAC counselor Kristi “Mango” Stricker who is engaged to be married. J.B. Tanner proposed to her at her family’s lake house in South Carolina. They are getting married on June 6th in the mountains of North Carolina, where she grew up. Both Mango and J.B. will be graduating from UNC this spring. Mango plans to start teaching middle school science or social studies in the fall, and J.B. is looking to find a job coaching college basketball. We wish them the best of luck!

**WEDDINGS**

On February 22, 2009, Camp Registrar, Amy “Glitter” Goodsoozian was married to Donald “Shrek” Bolton. The wedding was attended by several current and former GAC staff members including Bean, Soy, Zippy, Tiki and the Mon-ke Family. The Boltons will continue to live in Fresno, CA, where Glitter works in the camp office and Shrek coaches high school baseball.

The founder of Gold Arrow Camp, Manny Vezie, was a graduate of Notre Dame University. During his days on the football team with Coach Knute Rockne, players would receive a blanket as recognition for their dedication to the team. When Manny started Gold Arrow Camp years later, he wanted long-time campers to have a special keepsake they could keep after their camp days were over. This summer, over 70 campers will receive their 5-year blanket, in the same green and gold colors as Manny’s Notre Dame blanket. Here is the list of of 5-year campers for 2009:

- Austin Acks
- Ayron Amstock
- Evan Anderson
- Tomo Andry
- Yuji Andry
- Ali Angel
- Casey Aregan
- Kate Arling
- R.J. Arling
- Sara Baronsky
- Christina Buchanan
- Connor Burke
- Reed Burke
- Hayley Caddes
- Charlie Campbell
- Isabelle Campbell
- Spencer Colburn
- Nathaniel Dodge
- Leah Doornink
- Thomas Edgington
- Maggie Eichler
- Gabriel Esmailian
- Tess Evans
- Jamie Fine
- Emily Fobes
- Joani Gillam
- Claire Goldsmith
- Gal Goldstein
- Kyle Goodnight
- Stevie Goodrich
- Catherine Grey
- Jenna Gross
- Tyler Hague
- Caroline Harvey
- Summer Higgins
- Maddy Holder
- Kiki House
- Parker House
- Sam Hummel
- Jack Iaffaldano
- Giselle Kampefner
- Emma Kaye
- Frederick Kiaie
- Nick Lewis
- Caitlin Lohman
- Peter Manfredonia
- Grace Memmo
- Jason Mitchell
- Kyle Moran
- Leah Morris
- Daniel Platt
- Sydney Shonefeld
- Lea Sears
- Zach Serber
- Sophie Smith
- Gabrielle Smotrich
- Morgan Stosic
- Emily Sun
- Stephanie Sun
- Kelsie Swift
- Abby Van Horn
- Hannah Van Horn
- Alison Wexler
- Jackson White
- Elizabeth Williamson
- Hughes Williamson
- Shelby Williamson
- Megan Wride
- Christopher Zaro
- Fiona Zeier
- Sophia Zeier
- Troy Zeier

www.goldarrowcamp.com
Runners report

On March 22, the Gold Arrow Camp Runners sprinted through the wet streets of Newport Beach in the 26th annual Spirit Run. The Spirit Run consists of a series of running events for all ages and benefits the Newport Beach schools. Although the weather was cold, windy, and rainy, the spirit of the GAC Runners wasn’t dampened at all!

Over twenty Gold Arrow Camp Runners participated in the event. Award winners include Daffy, who came in first place in his age group (70-75) in the 10K. Campers who ran for GAC included Annabelle Lee, Ryan, Nick, Quinn Rizco, Jennifer VonSeggern, Hannah Callas, Macy Rowe, Charlotte Weiss, and Gretchen, Meredith, Charlotte, and Owen Monke. GAC Staff who strapped on their running shoes for the race included Piglet, TQOE, Lilo, Chelster, Daisy, Sunshine, and Monkey. Congratulations to all the GAC Runners for a great showing at a fun event that helped raise money for Newport Beach schools!

The Gold Arrow Camp Runners is a club with the goal of having campers and their families develop an interest in running, maintain fitness, and promote a great summer camp, Gold Arrow Camp! Join the team by logging on to the Camper section of our website and clicking on “GAC Runners” in the menu. We’ll send you a free, moisture-wicking GAC Runners shirt to wear at your race. After your event, send us a picture of yourself participating in the race, and we’ll post it on our website.

Camper profile: Morgan Stosic

For five-year camper Morgan Stosic, Gold Arrow Camp is a family tradition that started with Morgan’s grandparents. Her grandfather, Bob Kroger, attended GAC when it was an all-boys camp, while her grandmother, Jo Kroger, attended Huntington Lake Camp for Girls. Current campers visiting our Camp Store can see a letter Bob wrote to his parents when he was a camper in the 1940s. Morgan’s mom, Camie Stosic, attended GAC from 1967-1970. Her uncle, Jim Kroger, also attended, and his children (Morgan’s cousins) Katie and Elizabeth are campers now. Rounding out the group of nine family members of Morgan’s who have been campers are: Wendy Sanders (aunt) 1966-1968, cousins James (1997-2001) and Brooke (2001-2005), and of course, Morgan’s brother Tucker, who has been a camper since 2003. Morgan is one of a growing group of third generation campers who keep the GAC tradition going in their families.

Even though it’s a long way for Morgan to travel each summer from her home in Reno, Nevada, to get to GAC, her mom says “I want my kids to experience one of the fondest memories of my childhood.”

When asked about Morgan’s first summer at GAC, her mom replied, “Morgan’s first year at camp was amazing in every way. When we picked Morgan up her first year, she said, ‘I can’t wait to come back next year and can I stay longer?’”

Other special memories Morgan has from GAC include meeting her friend Christina during her first summer at GAC. They have been together in the same cabin for all of the past four summers. Although they are attending different sessions this year, Morgan will be thinking about her good friend Christina when she gets wrapped in her Five Year Blanket this summer.

Morgan loves sailing, rock climbing, kneeboarding, and Choco Tacos. She also appreciates the small things that make camp special. One of Morgan’s favorite memories was when her whole cabin jumped off the pontoon boat to watch the beautiful sunset from the water. Morgan loves the outdoors and is athletic and creative. At home, in addition to skiing and playing competitive soccer, she finds time to practice aerial stunts from ropes hanging from a tree. Morgan loves animals and broke (trained) a pony by herself. When Morgan grows up, she wants to be a marine biologist, a writer, a wildlife photographer, and of course a GAC counselor!
It’s not as fun as being at camp, but the GAC website does have some great information to help you get ready for summer. If you haven’t visited us in cyberspace lately, come stop by!

For campers, our “Campers’ Corner” is a great place to post questions and get to know other campers and staff who will be at GAC this summer. Returning campers can help new campers by giving the inside scoop about life at GAC. Visit “Meet Our Staff” to find out about our amazing 2009 counselors! Have a question for our friendly camp chipmunk? Send an email to chipmunk@goldarrowcamp.com and your question and the Chipmunk’s answer will be posted on the GAC website in our all-new “Dear Chipmunk” section.

For parents who are new to GAC or still thinking about signing up for camp, join Camp Director Audrey “Sunshine” Monke for a live, interactive online presentation. Upcoming presentations are scheduled for:

- **Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 pm**
- **Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 pm**
- **Monday, May 4 at 11:00 am**

For the complete schedule and instructions on how to join the session, please visit our website and go to “About GAC.” In the menu, click on “GAC Chats.”

Also for parents, new this year is the chance to fill out your camp forms online. Be sure to logon in to your account and get your camper’s forms completed at least one month prior to their session. Travel information and payment need to be completed by May 1.

For First-Year Camp Families, gather around your computer for an interactive online session to help you prepare for your first camp adventure. First-Year Family Sessions are currently scheduled for:

- **Sunday, May 17 at 7:00 pm**
- **Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 pm**
- **Thursday, May 28 at 7:00 pm**
- **Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00 pm**

We will email all first-year families information about how to attend. If you’re on Facebook, become a fan of the new official “Gold Arrow Camp” page!

In our efforts to be green, we communicate a lot of important information via email. Please make sure that mail@goldarrowcamp.com is an approved sender in all of your email programs. We don’t want important camp information getting spammed out.

See you online!

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**HAiku CONTEST**

**Continued from Pg. 1**

**Rainbow Trout Awards:**

**Excellence in Effort**

Riffery and Boats
Jet Skis and
Wakeboarding, Too
At Gold Arrow Camp
**Benjamin Goldsmith**

Zoom zoom through the lake
Turn behind to see the wake
Water splash my face
**Cate Steigerwald**

Balancing cookies
We sing a song about camp
Go-go dancers sway
**Emily**

Loving Gold Arrow
So many activities
I can’t even choose
**Daphne**

Shaver Island, great
Water skiing, amusing
Roasting marshmallows
**Paige Bartell**

Gold Arrow Camp rocks!
We do things that I love
Can’t wait to go back!
**Kate Van Donge**

Boxy and Shiloh
Haikus in the morningtime
Laughing all day long
**Claire**

Swimming in the lake,
Roasting tasty marshmallows,
Sleeping by the stars.
**Rebecca Muhlheim**

I come on the bus
I can’t wait what to expect
Camp is the very best!!!
**Emma Weithas**

Here at G-A-C
We hike, sail and waterski
Have fun just like me
**Charlotte Monke**

Many acts and songs
Appreciation Campfire
Smiles, traditions
**Sarah Selzer**

Pontooning is fun
Jump off the top of the boat
Eek! It is so cold!
**Claire O’Brien**

I love summer camp
Waterskiing and fun times
GAC is awesome, yeah!
**Sunshine**

And as a special treat for you, presenting “Big Swing” by Head Judge, Shiloh

Eyes closed. Time to drop.
Excuse me for a second.
WOOO!! AHHHH!! WOOO!
AHH! EEE!

Thank you to all of you who entered the contest. If you submitted a Haiku and it wasn’t selected for this newsletter, bring it to camp this summer and read it in front of hundreds at Big Campfire! Until next time, keep writing!
to dress up, get on stage, get goofy, and basically do things they would NEVER do at home. All aspects of camp are created to promote fun for our campers. And our counselors are excellent at role modeling FUN!

Making friends is a learned skill. For most people, it doesn’t come naturally, except for a few gifted individuals. At camp, we give kids the opportunity to learn to live with and get along with a group of people. Living in community, under the guidance of skilled counselors, campers improve their friend-making skills and learn to get along with kids who are different from them. Counselors use games, camp-fires, meals, and casual conversations to promote the building of relationships, and offer one-on-one assistance to kids who are struggling to make friends. Even our shyest campers come out of their shells and make new friends during their stay at camp. At the end of the session, we ask kids if they made any new friends at GAC. Last summer, 100% responded with a resounding “YES!

Growth at GAC occurs in many different ways. With younger campers, much of the growth occurs simply from the experience of being away from home and learning to live and work with others. Skills like independence, teamwork, and communication grow quickly at camp. For older campers, counselors work with them to set specific goals to challenge themselves over the session. For some kids, their goal is to try to improve at a specific activity or overcome a fear. Through the process of achieving goals, campers learn the life skills such as the importance of perseverance, even when a skill doesn’t come easily to them. A few of the life skills campers reported learning at camp last summer include: goal setting, teamwork, leadership, communication, perseverance, optimism, and responsibility.

Gold Arrow Camp is introducing a new specialty camp for 2009. This one-week camp will focus on building skills in the areas of rock climbing, canyoneering, backpacking, outdoor cooking, orienteering, fishing, and survival skills. Two days of in-camp training will prepare the group for a three-night journey into one of the beautiful wilderness areas that surround us in the Sierra National Forest. The camp is for participants ages 10-15 and takes place August 23-29, 2009. Space in the program is limited. Please visit www.goldarrowcamp.com to register.
GAC CHATS 2009

Thank you to the returning camp families who opened up their homes for GAC Chats this year. Campers and parents had a great time sharing camp stories and finding out about this summer. Free camp water bottles and exciting raffles made for a fun night for all participants. New camp families had the chance to meet returning families and get over some of the first-year nerves.

For your hospitality and great GAC support, a big thank you goes out to the following campers and their parents: Cobi & Bryan Baker (Rancho Santa Fe); Sarah & Chase Groux (Newport Coast); Alek & Lukas Berg (Los Angeles); Katie & Preston Ortiz (Manhattan Beach); Lauren, Evie, & Danny Blackburn (Carlsbad); Henry, Louisa, & Nathaniel Dodge (Newport Beach); Will, Brady, and Charlie Jameson (Pasadena); Annie, George, and John Kingsland (San Francisco); Sandra Driscoll (Fresno); Catherine Gotz (Mill Valley); and Ryan & Austion Acks (Las Vegas).

We are grateful to the many families who offered their homes to us this year for our camp events. We had so much support that we were unable to visit all of you. If you would like to host an event next year (December, 2009 – March, 2010), please send Sunshine an email at sunshine@goldarrowcamp.com. She will contact you in November to schedule your event!

LONG TIME GAC CO-OWNER CELEBRATES HER 96TH BIRTHDAY!

Jeanie Vezie, who along with her husband Manny owned and directed Gold Arrow Camp for thirty years, just celebrated her 96th birthday with friends. Mark Zacovic, also a GAC alumnus, and his wife Anne, dear friends of Jeanie, hosted the event honoring Jeanie. A lot of love was shared with friends, which was fitting for a party held on Valentine’s Day! Those in attendance were friends from recent years to those who have known Jeanie for several decades. Many stories were shared from GAC alumni reminiscing about their days with Jeanie at Gold Arrow Camp. In camp spirit, a guest played the guitar while everyone sang, “Happy Birthday.” It was a great afternoon celebrating life, friends, and wisdom that come with 96 years of experiences.
Panda

Panda’s fourth summer at GAC is sure to bring more fun and laughter to GAC’s Morning Assemblies! When Panda’s not at camp, she is teaching with the Teach For America program in New York. She says her third grade special education class is having a blast learning about life cycles: caterpillars to butterflies, praying mantis egg to praying mantis, egg to frog, and seed to plant. With a class of eleven boys and three girls, Panda says they have a lot of fun and learn a lot! When she’s not teaching, Panda’s studying improv and participating with two improv teams. Musical improv class is her favorite!

When asked “Why are you excited to return to GAC this summer?” she answers. “I can’t wait to get back to camp and see new and familiar faces. I am most excited for morning assemblies (get ready for some new games and such!), bringing improv back to GAC, and hanging out at cabin campfires. Oh, and the fresh air will be a nice change from New York City air.” Panda will be providing our head counselors great support this summer and, of course, having lots of fun with campers at morning assembly!

Slick

“Push the tiller toward the sail.” That’s the line you’ll hear again from Slick who will be GAC’s Sailing Lead Instructor this summer. You’ll also see the many faces and accents of Slick on stage at Morning Assembly and other spirit events. Living in New York City, Slick is busy with Studio 42, a not for profit theatre company that she and one of her classmates from grad school re-launched in 2007. She is currently the Business Manager and an Artistic Associate, which means she handles everything that has to do with numbers and money, and also helps to make decisions about the artistic work.

Slick holds a B.A. and M.F.A. from Harvard in Theatre performance, so she also busies herself with performing and auditioning. When her theatre company travels to the Hamptons for an upcoming week retreat, she’s promised to teach the director how to sail! With her love of the theatre and performing, she hopes to someday be able to teach her passion to others.

New York living has provided Slick an opportunity to make many interesting and amazing friends, enjoy the music of live bands, and host visits from a long list of GAC staff. When asked why she’s excited to return to GAC this summer, she replies, “Although NYC has so many wonderful things to do and see, I miss the outdoors! I miss the trees and the mountains and of course the lake. Being on the water, teaching sailing in weird accents, hiking the face, trying to get some air on a wakeboard and of course the dances are just some of the things that I really look forward to this summer. I cannot wait to rock out on the dance floor with everyone, so I hope that you are all practicing your moves!”

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN YOUR HOUSE?

Do you know a doctor who would like an opportunity to work at camp? We have a one-week opening available this summer. A cabin near a creek and nightly campfires are included with the position. To learn more about the responsibilities of the Camp Doctor, please call our office or email sunshine@goldarrowcamp.com.
Dear Chipmunk,
Last summer I had trouble finding my things at camp. I couldn’t find my towel when it was time for showers. I also didn’t know where my long pants were. Help!
Lost in Cabin 10

Dear Lost,
Don’t worry. Your problem is easily solved! What I’ve learned (from my many years watching campers from my pine tree branch) is that it will be better this summer if you do your own packing. Here’s what to do:
(1) Print the suggested packing list (on the website in the Campers’ section under “Clothing & Equipment” or use the one on the back of the Parent Survival Guide).
(2) Lay out all the clothing and other items you are going to bring to camp, checking off on the list as you go.
(3) Check with your parents for any items that are on the list that you don’t have.
(4) Label everything with your name.
(5) Put all items in your camp luggage (usually two pieces of luggage – one larger one like a trunk or suitcase plus a duffle bag).
If your mom or dad insist on being included in the packing (because they can’t help themselves), have them check your items and help with the labeling, but make sure that you put everything in the bags yourself. That way, you’ll know where everything is!
Happy Packing,
Chipmunk

P.S. I hope to see you on opening day again this summer!

Have a question for Chipmunk? Email your question to chipmunk@goldarrowcamp.com.