

Lake of the Woods Staff - 2010



We are excited to welcome back **JENNIFER BANDER** from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Jennifer is a junior at Michigan State University where she is studying Elementary Education. She has been involved in performing arts for years and has performed in musicals, participated in a community theater, and was a student director at a middle school. Jen return to the LWC stage as one of our drama instructors!

26-year-old **CORALEE BEACH** will be coming all the way from Auckland, New Zealand as one of our climbing instructors. Coralee has been working at Go Vertical, a New Zealand company that provides rock climbing and trampoline bungee equipment. On top of her experience at Go Vertical, Coralee has also done traditional belaying through Outdoor Education where she completed a unit and assessment on rock climbing. In her spare time, Coralee loves to make jewelry, bake, and cook. Coralee participated in an overseas exchange program where she studied in England for 10 months. We are so fortunate to have Coralee joining us at Lake of the Woods this summer.



26-year-old **BIANCA BELL** will be joining us for her first summer at LWC from Australia. Bianca attended the University of Tasmania where she received her Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Teaching. She has been teaching for the past few years as well as coaching a variety of sports teams. Bianca has been sailing for her whole life and has experience in a variety of sailing dinghy's. She has also sailed in state and national championships in Tasmania, Australia. We are lucky to have Bianca at camp teaching all of our campers how to sail!

26-year-old **ALEXANDRIA "ALEX" BREAKWELL** will be coming to camp for her first summer from Shropshire, England. Alex holds a degree in Gym Instruction and is currently working toward a degree in Personal Training, Diet and Nutrition. Alex will be joining us this summer as one of our riflery instructors. Alex has been rifle shooting for over 15 years and is very skilled in both target practice and gun safety. She has even had lessons with Joe Kitson who represented Great Britain in the Olympics. Alex enjoys Pilates, spinning, running and surfing! We are thrilled to welcome Alex to camp.



Joining us for her first summer from Scotland is 21-year-old **NIKKI CONLAN**. Nikki is currently completing a degree in Design Technology as well as studying education. She has taken Shotokan Karate for over 15 years and has competed in world championships in both Australia and Japan! Nikki has been a gymnast for many years and has a lot of experience coaching children between the ages of 3 to 17. Nikki has coached all levels from beginners to national competition level gymnasts. As a competitor, her team won several Scottish Schools titles. Nikki has a UKCC Level 1 Womens Artistic Gymnastics qualification and cannot wait to teach our campers how to perform tricks on the bar, beam, and vault!

We are thrilled to welcome **ERIN DOLAN** from Chicago, Illinois. Erin is originally from Hinsdale. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in Mathematics Education and is a math teacher at Glenbrook North High School. Erin was on the Hinsdale Central State Championship tennis team all four years of high school and was a co-captain her senior year. Erin teaches private tennis lessons and spent the past few summers teaching tennis at different country clubs. We are so lucky that Erin will be taking a break from the classroom and will be joining us to teach our campers how to perfect their serves and backswings!



Returning to LWC for her third summer is 21-year-old **KIMMY EHLKE** from Wixom, Michigan. Kimmy is currently attending Central Michigan University where she is studying business and dance. Kimmy has so many talents and will be using all of them to teach a variety of activities including poms, dance, and riflery. Kim has been dancing for 16 years and is trained in ballet, hip-hop, jazz, tap, lyrical, modern, contemporary, and musical theater! Kimmy will also be planning fun events for our staff throughout the summer and helping our new staff with life at camp as our staff liaison. We are so happy to have her back again!

Twenty-one year old **MOLLY FRICK** from Minnesota returns for her second summer to Lake of the Woods! Last year Molly was at the waterfront teaching all of our campers how to ski, kneeboard, and wakeboard. This summer, she will be back at the docks as our water-ski director. Molly is studying at the University of Kansas and is excited to spend her summer break back in Decatur.



Welcome back former camper, CIT, counselor, and swim instructor **KATIE GERTLER** for her tenth summer at LWC. Katie is from Chicago, Illinois and is currently attending Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Katie will be back at the lake this summer teaching swimming lessons. We are so happy to have her back on our waterfront.

LAUREN "JACK" GIACALONE from Addison, Illinois return to our ski staff for her 10th summer! In addition to her time at the dock, Lauren will be spending time with our Counselors-In-Training (CIT) as the CIT Director. Having grown up at camp, Lauren has worked her way up from ranks from camper to CIT to counselor. She is excited to help many of our graduated campers make the transition from camper to counselor. Lauren is a student at the University of Kansas and is roommates with Molly Frick...so





EMMA GOODSSELL will be joining us at camp as one of our horseback-riding instructors. Emma is twenty- one years old and from the United Kingdom. Amy Latulippe and Dana Cohn were lucky enough to meet Emma at a camp fair when they were in England and offer her a position to work at camp! Emma has a lot of experience working with children including becoming a Student Ambassador when she was in college as well as assisting in two different elementary schools. Emma will be starting a Business Studies and Spanish degree in the fall. Horseback riding has always been a hobby of Emma’s and she cannot wait until she is at camp helping out at the stables.

JERI HART return to us for 9th summer! Jeri is from Deerfield, Illinois and is currently attending the University of Illinois in Champaign. She is coming back again as one of our drama instructors. Jeri has been involved in many productions as either a performer or student director. She just starred in Guys and Dolls at the University of Illinois! We are so excited that Jeri will spend her summer break with us teaching all of our campers how to be stars!



GRACE HERATY from La Grange, Illinois will be joining our staff this summer as a fine arts and ceramic instructor! Grace is currently studying painting at Syracuse University in New York. She is a teaching assistant for a foundation arts class and helps many other students who are in the art program at Syracuse. Last summer, Grace worked at an art camp teaching children different crafts skills. Grace has completed many cool art projects including making paper! She is looking forward to her first summer at Lake of the Woods and we are excited for her to help all of our campers make some wonderful crafts!

We are excited to welcome 21-year-old **KATE HEWSON** to LWC for her first summer. Kate is currently studying Spanish Education and English as a Second Language at Central Michigan University. She also recently studied abroad in Spain! Kate has been a gymnast since she was three years old and has competed all over the United States. She has also been cheerleading for over seven years. Kate has competed throughout the state of Michigan and received several awards. She has also coached cheerleading at an elementary school. We are so lucky to have Kate at camp where she will be instructing cheerleading, poms, and gymnastics!



21-year-old **PANAYIOTA “PANI” JOANNOU** joins us for her first summer from London. Pani graduated with a degree in Criminology and is currently studying for her Masters. She will be taking a break from school to instruct painting and set design this summer. Pani has an Art GCSE and has a lot of experience with different art themes including surrealism, abstract, realism, pop art, and optical illusion. She also helped paint the backdrop for two different school productions. Pani loves to use alternative instruments to make painting fun and cannot wait to show our campers how to incorporate newspapers, sponges, and plastic into painting!

JESSIE KERR joins LWC for her first summer all the way from Perth, Australia. Jessie attended Murdoch University where she received her Bachelor of Education. She is currently a teacher at an elementary school, but will be taking a break from teaching to join us as a swim instructor this summer! Jessie has her bronze medallion and is also AUSTSWIM certified. She has been teaching swimming for the past five years to people of all ages from toddlers to adults. We cannot wait for Jessie to join our staff this summer!



A big welcome back to former camper, CIT, JC and counselor **MELISSA KOPIN**! Mel is from Deerfield, Illinois and currently studying Elementary Education and Special Education at Indiana University. She is involved with the Special Olympics of Monroe County and has volunteered at Girls Inc., an after school program. Mel grew up going to Lake of the Woods and will be returning for her 11th summer as a sailing instructor. Mel has been teaching sailing for 4 summers and we are thrilled to have her back teaching all of our campers how to “come about” and “rig their masts and sails”

Indiana University student, **EMILY LEVIN**, is so excited to be a counselor at Lake of the Woods this summer. Born and raised in Dyer, Indiana, Emily is currently studying Biochemistry at IU and plans to go into pre-med so she can become a pediatrician. Emily has been involved in sports and other outdoor activities for her entire life. She has played softball for over ten years and volleyball for almost nine years. Emily has assisted in many different volleyball summer camps, coached intramural teams, and continued to improve her own volleyball skills. She is involved in many extracurricular activities including German Club, National Honor Society, Student Global AIDS Campaign, and is the Vice President of her Chemistry fraternity’s pledge class. Emily will be coming to camp this summer as a volleyball and softball instructor. She will be teaching our campers many skills, organizing different games, and showing campers how to “bump,” “set,” and “spike!” We’re delighted that Emily will be an addition to our camp staff this summer!



24-year-old **NICOLE “NIKKI” MEIER** will be coming to camp for her first summer all the way from Australia. Nikki grew up on a farm where her family owned 15 horses! Nikki has been horseback riding since she was six years old. She was a participant in her local pony club for four years and was awarded many medals and ribbons. Aside from horseback riding, Nikki also likes to hike, swim, and canoe. She has been working for a real estate company for the past three years and we are so excited that she will be taking a break from real estate to teach horseback riding to our campers this summer!



Joining us for her first summer from Ireland is **NIAMH MITCHELL**! Niahm is currently attending the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin where she is studying to be a doctor, more specifically a surgeon. As a child, Niahm learned how to windsurf and has been doing so every since. She has windsurfed all over Ireland and Turkey, too! We are excited for Niamh to join our staff this summer as a counselor and windsurfing





We are excited to welcome 21-year-old **LAURA PARKER** to camp for her first summer. Laura is from Scotland and is attending Glasgow School of Art where she is pursuing a degree in Fine Art Photography. She is currently part of a technical team where her main role is cameraman, but she is also trained in video editing and live streaming. At school, she is on the Design and Promotions Team where she is in charge of planning different exhibitions and organizing promotional material. She is also a member of a photography team. Laura is so elated to be coming to camp and using her knowledge and experience to be one of our two camp photographers! Laura is looking forward to this summer and hopes all of our campers are ready to say, "CHEESE!"

Former camper, CIT, and Junior Counselor, **RACHEL RIFKIN**, will be returning to camp for her 10th summer. Rachel is from Indiana, and will be heading off to New York in the fall where she will be attending Syracuse University. Rachel is involved in many different extracurricular activities including a local dance team, Spartan Mentor Program, Honors Society and much more! She is also a certified lifeguard and has been a member of her school's swim team. This summer at camp, Rachel will be instructing canoeing and swimming! Welcome back Rachel!



We are so excited to have **MARY SHULLENBERGER** join us at Lake of the Woods for her first summer. Mary is currently studying Psychology at Miami of Ohio University. She is a member of Choraliers and is involved in Unified 4 UNIFAT, an organization that raises money to support a school in Uganda. Mary has been taking dance lessons and theater classes her entire life and has recently also become involved in Pilates and yoga. Mary will be using her many talents to teach a variety of activities at camp including Pilates, yoga, and fitness. We hope all of our campers are excited to stay fit with Mary this summer!

A big welcome to **RACHEL SIVAK** who will be joining us for her first summer. Rachel is from Pennsylvania, but is currently living in Denver where she is attending the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design and studying Interior Design with a concentration in Green Design. Over the years Rachel has been involved in many different activities including dance, volleyball, and cheerleading. She was also a peer advisor for new college students. Rachel has been doing arts and crafts for her entire life and has been making jewelry for over 13 years! Rachel uses many different materials in her projects including clay, hemp, glass, wire, copper, leather and much more. Rachel is also very passionate about recycling so she finds ways to incorporate different recyclable materials in her jewelry projects. We are so excited for Rachel to share all of her jewelry making knowledge with our campers this summer!



Joining us for her 10th summer is counselor extraordinaire **RACHEL SLOTKY!** Rachel is currently a senior at New Trier High School and will be attending Syracuse next year as a Theater major. Rachel has been waterskiing since she was nine years old and has experience with two skis, kneeboarding, slaloming, wakeboarding, barefooting, and trick skis. Rachel is so happy to join us for another summer before heading off to college in the fall. We are so excited for Rachel to share her passion for camp and waterskiing with our campers this summer.

We are thrilled to have **HANNAH WAGNER** join us for her first summer from Gardner, Massachusetts. Hannah will be graduating in May from Colby College with a degree in English/Creative Writing and Art. She has been studying art for many years and loves painting. She has also been a contributing writer to the Colby Echo, her college's weekly newspaper. Hannah is currently studying abroad in Morocco and cannot wait to come back and join us as a painting and newspaper instructor this summer.



Former camper, CIT, and Junior Counselor **AMY WERNER** returns to camp for her 8th summer from Lincolnshire, Illinois. Amy is a senior at Lake Forest Academy and will be back with us a horseback riding instructor before heading off to college in the fall. Amy has been riding for over 10 years and has competed in many shows. She owns her own horse and has been teaching others how to ride for years. She is such an asset to our riding program and we are so lucky to have her back!

KATHERINE "KATE" WILSON will be coming to LWC this summer as one of our canoeing instructors. Kate is from England and attends the University of Lincoln. She will be graduating this fall with a dual degree in English and History! Kate has been canoeing for over 10 years and was even given a One Star Paddler Award from the British Canoe Union. She is also a rower with the Lincoln Boat Club and the Lincoln University Club. In her spare time, Kate is a voluntary leader with a local rainbows group. We are looking forward to Kate joining our staff for her first summer!



LOWRI DAVIES from South Wales will be joining us for her first summer at LWC. Lowri is currently studying Computer Sciences and Business at Cardiff University. She enjoys web design and has built multiple websites for different companies and agencies. Lowri is also very skilled with digital photography and has won first place prizes for her photographs in a variety of competitions. Over the summer she will be using all of her different talents to teach our campers useful skills in computers and digital photography. When Lowri isn't busy taking pictures and designing websites, she likes to travel and has been to many cool places including Iceland, Estonia, and France. We can't wait for Lowri to add Decatur, Michigan to the list of places she has visited!

Joining our staff for her first summer is **CLARE FLORIDA-JAMES**. Clare lives in England and is currently attending the University of Derby where she is working toward her Bachelor of Education. Clare has a lot of experience working with kids and was even a ceramics instructor and counselor in Texas a couple of summers ago. This summer, we are fortunate that Clare will be joining our LWC staff and teaching all of our campers how to make many different projects in ceramics!





Coming all the way from Ireland to join our staff is 21-year-old **ERIN GREEN**! Erin is currently attending Queen's University Belfast where she is studying Finance. This summer, she will be joining us as a climbing instructor. Erin has a lot of experience climbing and in her spare time also enjoys swimming, running, and acting! She has also volunteered in a school working with a variety of children. We are excited for Erin to join our staff and teach all of our campers many things at our climbing tower!

We are excited to welcome 22-year-old **LEAH HOWDEN** from New Zealand to Lake of the Woods this summer. Leah studied business and tourism and her plan is to go back to school and study property development. She has been camping for over 15 years and has camped all over New Zealand. Leah has also been part of a program called Blue Light which involves working with the police force and youth in her community. This summer, Leah will be joining us as one of our outdoor living skills instructors! We cannot wait for her to join of our staff.



22-year-old **KERRI SMITH** will be joining us for her first summer at LWC. Kerri is from North Carolina but has been living in Florida for the past few years. She graduated last year from Eckerd College with a double major in Environmental Biology and Political Science and a minor in Biology. Kerri is currently a member of the National Association of Environmental Professionals. Last summer she worked at Girl Scout camp in Alaska where she led many overnight trips. She was also a sea kayaking guide in Australia. Kerri started camping at the age of six and has loved it ever since. We are so excited to welcome Kerri to camp as one of our OLS instructors and trip leaders!