



Ohio-West Virginia YMCA

HI-Y Opens Career Possibilities

HI-Y's new Alumni Program is connecting alumni with our programs. Alumni expertise, support and commitment will help new generations of youth benefit from all HI-Y programs. This initial roster is just a brief indication of career paths HI-Y has helped open for thousands of youth.

November 20, 2011

Arts

Freddie Ciampi (Hinton, Horseshoe camper and counselor) combined his love of dance with his entrepreneurial spirit to start his own successful Social Graces (dance instruction) Studio in Berryville, VA.

What I gained from Horseshoe is it is the journey that is important. At Horseshoe I realized I was making strong relationships with people quickly and I did not know why. Then I realized a pattern, hard physical work that was then followed by a group mental and social change. This recipe helped people bond. How could simply working together build relationships? There is something about hard physical work (getting your hands dirty) that opens a person up. Then the team building afterward creates a more intimate bond between participants.

At my dance studio I try to create this same pattern. If a project needs to be completed, I ask my students to help. It offers me labor plus it offers them a chance to bond. This creates core group of people who keep the studio going. Each social dance offers the same bonding experience just on a much smaller scale.

We need more people applying this recipe to their groups. Relationships will be built. Then the greater community can be rebuilt by starting with one group of people who initially do not realize they are about to have the experience of a life time.

I always tell my dance students "Dance cannot be won, only played. Focus on the journey, not the end result, to gain the rewards of the journey."

Michael Clifton (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y) is a partner in the Clifton Benevento Gallery in the Soho neighborhood of New York City.

Rob Harris (Williamson HI-Y, 1982 WV Youth Governor) is a songwriter for Identical Entertainment in Nashville.

Kelley Jones Luberecki (Richwood HI-Y, Horseshoe and 1991 WVYG Governor) works for Social Security Administration in Nashville while also pursuing her music.

Rob Leach (Weirton HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe and Horseshoe counselor) is Technical Director of New Victory Theater in New York City. Before that he was with the NYC Ballet.

I have a lot to say about HI-Y. From the pure logistics of being involved with the organization, the fact that I was able to get out of my city and meet different people from places I didn't know existed. That was great. It is difficult to get a perspective on the world or perspective into a group when you are sitting in the same school with the same people every day. I absolutely loved Horseshoe; there is something magical about that place. There is such a community and sense of camaraderie about the place that I remember more than any other event, including road-tripping with my friends about the state. going back as a counselor for the Youth Opportunity Camps not only showed me that I could help people immediately, by just being available, by just playing and talking, but it also showed me how the small efforts of many monetary donations, gifts of food and clothing, community assistance and volunteers can have an incredible positive effect on people who are in need.

Brandon O'Dell (Summersville HI-Y, WV Youth in Government, Horseshoe camper and counselor) has finished his career as a dancer with the Scapinon Ballet in Rotterdam. He began his studies at Oxford this fall.

As a teenager in a small town in WV, there were few opportunities to connect with the outside world. The programs offered through HI-Y not only connected me to my fellow classmates through civic activities and hardy debates but allowed me to meet other students from around the state. I attended Model UN, Youth in Government, and Camp Horseshoe, where I later worked for two summers as a counselor. HI-Y was a learning experience that helped me in my high school as well as prepared me for the future.

I am a ballet dancer with an international career. I have been based in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, for nine years. After graduating from Nicholas County High, I attended Shepherd College, graduating Summa Cum Laude, with a BA in History. Then I moved to DC to follow my passion for dance. I worked for a couple of years in Washington before moving to NYC for a year. Throughout my studies and career, the confidence and self-understanding I gained from HI-Y have been a support.

Understanding government and international relations first-hand was helpful when I began studying history at university. It gave me a 3D approach to seeing world issues. One may wonder how an experience in state government or the United Nations may contribute to a dance career. Dance, as in most careers, is not only about learning steps. Life and work are about understanding how to get along with others and how to challenge one's self. HI-Y is a great place to practice these skills.

One of my best experiences during high school was being chosen for Leadership Camp at Horseshoe. During that week, I met many students from across WV and OH with similar interests and goals. It was an almost magical experience for most of us. It built our confidence and allowed us to share ideas about community, personal responsibility, and, of course, leadership. The experience was so rewarding I later returned to Camp Horseshoe as a counselor to help promote the mission.

Looking back, HI-Y was an integral part of my education. I hope that young people continue to have the opportunity to experience the magic.

Joe Wack (Horseshoe Leadership camper from Wheeling) lives in California where for the past 16 years he has been drawing for the Simpsons.

Banking and Finance

Chris Drennen (Nicholas County HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) works in London with BNP Paribas, one of the largest banking groups in the world.

Mike Miller (McClain HI-Y, Ohio YG, Horseshoe) is Senior Financial Services Representative/Sales Supervisor for First Investors in Columbus, Ohio.

Hogan Swisher (HI-Y, WVYG) is now Regional Vice President (eastern seaboard) for The Hartford.

Business

Rebecca Colebank Duckworth (Elkins TRI-HI-Y, Horseshoe and **1st WV Youth Governor in 1958**) has a successful career in real estate in Springfield, VA. *The lasting impact on my life was to become an educated voter and informed citizen.*

Rachel Welch de Iga (Spencer HI-Y, Model UN, Horseshoe) is Sr. Training specialist with Dominion Resources.

Jarod King – (Morgantown HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) is Executive Support for Google in San Mateo, CA.

Lucas Tatham (Preston HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) graduated from Shepherd, served two years in the Peace Corps and has returned to Preston County to join his family's business, Tatham's *growing ideas* garden and landscape design. He also teaches at Alderson Broaddus College in Philippi. Lucas has opened a café at their Reedsville, WV, business location at Rt. 92 near the corner of Rt. 7.

Dr. Cynthia Phillips Kolsun (Grants Manager, The Clay Center and West Virginia Symphony Orchestra)

Tri-Hi-Y gave me the opportunity to become leader of a district organization. As a student at Elkins HS, WV, I became President of District Tri-Hi-Y. Two of my best friends were also district officers. Since then I've used my leadership skills to serve as State President of Business and Professional Women, and I've served of superintendent of two WV county school systems. In both counties, I was the leader of the largest employers in the county. It also encouraged me to help others. I've served as advisor to Quill and Scroll, Drama Club, Yearbook, Newspaper, News Magazine, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and 4-H. I am now a 4-H All star. I recognize that Tri-Hi-Y and 4-H really did influence my life. Tri-Hi-Y gave me the courage to speak in front of people I didn't know as well as the ability to start thinking through what I believed a leader should be. Mr. Jacoby was my advisor, and he was awesome.

Current Horseshoe Campers

Deysen Lasure (New Cumberland, WV) 10 year old YOC Camper in foster care
Dear Camp Horseshoe,

You changed everything. You were there for me when I got jumped. And you always stuck up for me. I hope I see you next year. You helped me know the meaning in life. and you helped me know who I am.

I hope to see you guys somewhere around. It would be the best thing ever. You guys are like my family but better. It hurt me to leave camp. But you got to do what you got to do. I showed you what I can do and you showed me what you can do too. You showed me respect so I show you respect back.

You guys showed me I can be a kid. I was always boring. I want to come back. I met a lot of nice kids and a lot of nice people. I will miss all of you.

A mother writes the Rotary Club who sponsored her daughter to Horseshoe's 2010 Leadership Camp –

Dear Lois,

Tessa absolutely LOVED Camp Horseshoe! When we picked her up she said, "Mom, this is the first camp that I don't want to leave ever!" She had an amazing time and really appreciates the Rotary Club sponsoring her. She intends on joining H(-Y when school starts and she most definitely wants to attend camp next year. She said to me, "Do you think rotary will sponsor me again next year?" She said the whole experience was amazing from counselors to other campers, everyone was nice and helpful. Whether they were on a hike or competing in a game, everyone helped each other.

Thank you so much for sponsoring Tessa and allowing her to have such an amazing experience! she made some wonderful friends and cannot wait to go back next year!

Educators

Geoffrey Andrews (HI-Y, OHYG, Horseshoe) has left his position as Superintendent of Schools in Oberlin, OH, to work in China. Before leaving for China, he succeeded in getting HI-Y re-started in Oberlin HS.

Don Bruce, PhD (Wirt HI-Y, 1990 WVYG Youth Governor, Horseshoe) is Professor of Economics at the University of Tennessee. His undergraduate work is at Duke. His Masters and PhD are from Syracuse.

HI-Y and Youth-in-Government were among my most important and valuable activities in high school. They provided a wonderful alternative to the usual menu of classes, sports, and other clubs. In HI-Y, we focused on doing important community service while learning more about the world in which we lived. It was rare in those years to place so much emphasis on what was going on outside of Wirt County! From the monthly meetings to service activities, summer camp experiences, and especially Youth in Government, HI-Y was a truly transformative experience for me.

Above all else, HI-Y programs focus on leadership and awareness of the world around us. In my opinion, these two things are absolutely critical for the future of our state and nation. We suffer from a serious deficit of leadership and social awareness and must seize every opportunity to cultivate them in our youth. HI-Y knows that kids can and should have fun while becoming better leaders and learning more about their world and their expansive array of programs is set up with this in mind.

YG was especially important to me. Perhaps the most important lesson from YG is that the laws of West Virginia are our own. They are not imposed on us by others. We create them and have the power—indeed, the responsibility—to work to make them better. Our democratic process provides a venue through which we as citizens can make a difference. And YG is far and away the very best way for young people to learn more about that process. What better way to learn the ins and outs of state government than to actively participate in the legislative or judicial process? YG gave us the opportunity to research an issue, craft a piece of legislation on a topic of our choice, and then take it to Charleston to see it through the entire process from committee introduction and debate to further discussion on the actual floor of the House or Senate. The best bills were even signed by the Youth Governor. On the judicial side, student participants got to argue cases before Youth Supreme Court Justices. Students ran the show in YG, perhaps starting as pages in the legislature, then serving as legislators, committee chairs, and possibly even elected or appointed officials.

HI-Y and YG shaped my life in several important ways. More than any other class or activity, HI-Y sparked a deep interest in matters of public policy and the various functions of government at all levels. YG taught me the value of high-quality policy research, which eventually led me to pursue a Ph.D. in economics. In my work as an economist at the University of Tennessee, I actually get paid to study policy issues for various federal, state, and local agencies. I am motivated by the possibility that my research might inform policy debates and, in the end, actually be used to improve policies. Thanks to the interest cultivated by HI-Y and YG, I have had the opportunity to present my work before state Governors, Commissioners of state agencies, U.S. Senate Committees, and even the President's Task Force on Fundamental Tax Reform.

Perhaps most importantly, HI-Y and YG gave me valuable leadership experiences at a very important time in my life. For the first time, I was placed in a position where I had to make critical decisions while considering the lives and viewpoints of those around me. Deliberation, discussion, compromise—these became very important concepts to me as a result of HI-Y and YG. Wouldn't we all be much better off if more of our youth could have the opportunity to develop leadership, social awareness, and policy interest through HI-Y and YG?

William Cottrill (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y) is Principal of Point Pleasant Junior Senior High School.

Rachelle Davis (Tucker County HI-Y, Horseshoe) is Enrollment Coordinator for Garrett College in Maryland.

David Dilly (Tucker County, a four year Horseshoe camper) is now assistant Superintendent for Upshur County Schools in WV.

John David "J. D." Drake (Tucker County HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) is the Criminal Justice instructor at Braxton County High School. He is starting HI-Y at Braxton County HS.

Terry Fouch (McClain HI-Y President) is Superintendent of Greenfield Exempted Village Schools in Ohio.

Lynda Thompson Gates (Horseshoe counselor) is Director of Student Life for Collin College in Plano, Texas.

Robert George, PhD (Horseshoe camper and summer program director) is professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton.

Priscilla Haden (Morgantown Horseshoe camper) is a member of the West Virginia State Board of Education, a member of the WV HI-Y Youth in Government Committee and the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA Board.

HI-Y is a practical approach that connects classroom lessons to life. Students learn by doing as they organize and govern their own HI-Y group, identify ways to improve their schools and community and then take action. Just one example is the new state-wide Main Street Alive initiative launched in Point Pleasant by Hi-Y teens from Mason, Jackson, Tyler and Wirt counties. Today, perhaps more than ever, our young people must have these experiences to become the kind of citizens we need to renew family, civic and economic life in all our communities.

Jay Hamric (Roane County HI-Y, WVYG, UN, Horseshoe) is principal of Tucker County High School.

Corey Hamrick (Tyler Consolidated HI-Y) is Band Director at Hedgesville High School.

Crystal Carhart Hendricks (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y) is Choir director at Wahama High School in Mason County.

Marie Miller Hoover (Horseshoe summer camp counselor 1961, 1962 and originally from Elkins) is a "semi-retired" mathematics professor at the University of Toledo.

Steve Iseman, PhD (McClain HI-Y) is professor of Communication Arts/Public Relations at Ohio Northern University as well as director of the Public Relations Program. He was awarded the Public Relations Society of America 2009 Outstanding Educator of the Year award at the PRSA 2009 International Conference in San Diego.

Robin Harold Lance (Roane County HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) is an English and Literature instructor at Ravenswood High School.

Kerri (Brown) Lewis (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) is Dean of Students and Athletic Director at Pt. Pleasant High School.

Robin Harman Owens (Keyser, WV, Horseshoe counselor) is Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher in Winchester, VA.

Regina Phillips (Parsons, WV HI-Y and Horseshoe) is Principal of Martinsburg High School in Martinsburg, WV.

Chuck Scatterday (Wheeling, Horseshoe camp counselor) is Adjunct Professor Communications at West Liberty University.

Deborah Stiles, PhD (Tucker County HI-Y, 1979 WV YG Governor, Horseshoe) is a tenured professor at Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

Two memories of Youth in Government are related to process and the happier life-affirming task of planning for the future. I counsel today's participants to listen and then to participate even if your heart is pounding because you've never spoken in front of so many people. You will learn so much by actively participating.

Chris Goosman (WV Youth Governor, 1986; Horseshoe Counselor, 1986-1990)

Thought you might enjoy this...at this very moment, in my Intro to Theater class, I am having my students do One-on-One. I don't know if that activity is still part of the leadership camp programs, but I have found it extremely useful with my Advisory groups (we are with them all 4 years through high school), and with the theater kids. I didn't start them off with it this year. However, with the personalities that are in this class, I decided we needed to stop, take a moment to re-acquaint ourselves with the people we think we know, but don't really know. Our student population is very high risk not just economically, but...well, let's just say that is amazing that some of these kids actually make it to school daily, given the challenges of their home situations. There are a lot of "dramas" and social dysfunctions that our district has to address before we even get to the academics. I guess I'd just say that participating in the YMCA's programs, and working with the summer camp programs and school year programs really gave me the tools to be much more effective, and reason to be hopeful for successive generations.

Engineering

Terry Barone (Weir HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) is a test engineer for Northrop Gruman in California.

Bill Brady (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) earned his BS in Chemical Engineering from WVU and his MS in Chemical Engineering from Auburn in 1987. He is production Management for Bayer Material Science in Baytown, Texas.

Jeremy Greathouse

Since HI-Y, I'd say its been very hectic for me. I was part of the WV HI-Y club, and after graduating high school in 2002, I attended Ohio University where I graduated with two bachelors degrees in engineering (Industrial Technology and Industrial Systems Engineering). After graduating in the fall of 2007, I've worked for a company called Itron in northern KY as an Application Engineer with several product lines in our Marketing Dept.

This is definitely a role in which HI-Y helped, as I give lots of technical training classes to our end customers (I believe last year I did about 10-15 days of training) as well as being in front of our customers akin to a company/product spokesperson. Public speaking is a large part of my job. I am still with Itron at present, but am looking to actually go to law school starting in the fall of 2010. Final plans are not 100% yet, but I am moving in the direction of attending law school in Columbus, OH at Capital Law.

Foundation Leadership

Sylvia Mathews Burwell (Summers County TRI-HI-Y, WVYG, HI-Y camper at Horseshoe) is completing her work at the Gates Foundation and will become Director of the Walmart Foundation in January, 2012. H

Government

Billy Wayne Bailey (HI-Y, WVYG) served in the West Virginia Senate. He is now restoring the Itmann Company Store (Wyoming County, WV) as a bed and breakfast and small business center. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Richard Celeste who lost the election for Clerk of Ohio Youth in Government went on to become a two term Governor of Ohio, U. S. Ambassador to India and head of the Peace Corps.

Senator Walt Helmick (Pocahontas County, WV) is Chair of the West Virginia Senate Finance Committee.

A local service club sponsored me to Leadership Camp when I was in high school. It was a wonderful experience for me! I learned a lot and met so many wonderful people. I support all Horseshoe does for our young people.

Cheryl Miller (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y) is a Mason County Magistrate.

Senator Sarah Minear (Parsons HI-Y) has just completed two terms as President of the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA. Sarah was named WV Philanthropist of the Year by the WV Grantmaker's Association on October 5, 2010.

HI-Y gave me and continues to give teenagers tremendous opportunities. Youth in Government, Camp Horseshoe, Model UN and our local HI-Y all are a tremendous resource for our communities and states. We must make sure that every young person has these opportunities to grow, to learn and to be involved.

Senator Mike Oliverio (Morgantown HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) served as a member of the West Virginia Senate.

I was in HI-Y, Youth in Government and Horseshoe. These programs gave me so much. I urge every young person to get involved. You really discover your potential, find ways to make a difference and besides becoming a better person make your community and state better too.

Rick Staton (Mullens, WV HI-Y, WV Youth in Government, Horseshoe) served in the West Virginia House of Delegates and is now Wyoming County Prosecutor.

There is no doubt, my HI-Y and Youth in Government experience led me to public service as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates and now as Wyoming County Prosecutor.

Health

Andrew Fourney, PhD (Ravenswood, Horseshoe camp counselor) is an Evaluation Specialist with the Public Health Institute in Sacramento.

Anne McGhee (Mullens Hi-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) is Public Health Analyst with the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Hospitality

Toni Baisi (Philippi, Horseshoe) is Sodexo Dining Services General Manager at Alderson Broaddus College in Philippi.

I probably couldn't tell you everything we did or learned at Horseshoe, but being an adult now, I see in myself on often occasion how I retained so much more than I ever would have guessed. The things we learned, discussed, participated in, all functioning as small teams in competition but always feeling the love of the entire camp. All of the aspects of team work, respecting others, learning from, leaning on and listening to everyone. The positive themes that were impressed on us, the reflections we would have at night, the songs . . . Oh, the songs – I still sing many of them today.

I have many fond memories of my five priceless weeks at Horseshoe and I also have a positive outlook on life, respect for my fellow citizens, great leadership ability, global views, and several good qualities that were all greatly enriched through my experiences at Horseshoe.

Andre Barnabei (Weirton HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) is Director of Human Resources at The Rivers in Pittsburgh.

Sally Johnson Navarini (Hedgesville TRI-HI-Y, WVYG) is CEO/Manager of Potomac Valley Properties and The Woods in Hedgesville, WV.

Law Enforcement

Brian Greenlee (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y) is with the West Virginia State Police in Charleston, WV.

Paul March (Wirt County HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe camper) is with the Ohio Highway Patrol stationed in Ashtabula, Ohio.

Legal

Laurel Lackey Basil (Summersville HI-Y, WVYG Governor, Horseshoe) is an attorney with Martin & Seibert in Martinsburg. She serves on the WV Youth in Government Committee and the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA Board.



Stephanie Pearce Burke (McClain HI-Y, OYG, OYG Lt. Governor) is an attorney in Jefferson County Kentucky. She has served as prosecutor, district attorney, an advocate for children and abused women and a

family lawyer since she moved to Louisville in 1994. She was recognized by Louisville magazine as one of "Louisville's Top Trial Attorneys under 40" in 2005. A 1987 McClain graduate, Stephanie, was been successful in her run for a position on the Kentucky 30th Judicial District, Division 14 court. Stephanie is the daughter of Steve and Charlene Pearce and is married to Dennis C. Burke, also an attorney. The new Honorable Judge Burke won with almost 63% of the vote in the November, 2010 election.

Joe Caltrider (Wirt HI-Y, WVYG Governor, Horseshoe) is an attorney with Bowles, Rice McDavid, Graff & Love in Martinsburg, WV.

Courtney Kirtley (Summersville, WV) just completed a term as President of the WV Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar. Courtney is a volunteer member of the WV HI-Y Youth in Government Committee and the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA Board.

Karen Lovitch (Williamson HI-Y, 1987 WVYG, Horseshoe) is an attorney with Mintz-Levin in Washington DC.

At an early age I had a valuable opportunity to learn about the legislative process first hand. That experience encouraged me to study law, to develop an interest in current events and to question the legislative process when necessary. In addition, I had an equally important opportunity to meet people from all over the state.

Learning "hands on" has a more lasting effect that information gleaned from a text book. Furthermore, an opportunity to develop social skills just prior to college is important especially for people like me who come from small towns where they have known everyone since birth.

Thomas Moyer (Sandusky HI-Y and Ohio YG), Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, died in April, 2010. The Chief Justice was a member of the Ohio HI-Y Youth in Government Committee and the HI-Y Cave Lake Leadership Team.

My association with the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA began when in high school and included participation in Ohio Youth in Government. I am now pleased to serve as co-chair of the program. The Youth in Government program has served as a valuable hands-on education program for hundreds of Ohio's youth. We all have a responsibility to pay forward. Effective leadership is needed more than ever in all institutions, organizations, and levels of government.

Charles Rogers (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y, WV Youth in Government, Horseshoe) is an attorney with the United States Department of Labor in New Orleans.

Meredith Swisher (HI-Y, WVYG, Fall Conference, Horseshoe camper and counselor) has been named a partner with Bernkopf Goodman in Boston, Massachusetts. At the firm, she specializes in complex business and real estate litigation.



Marketing

Sid McFadden (McClain HI-Y, OYG, Fall Conference, Horseshoe) is the Senior Manager, Marketing and Customer Operations, for AmerisourceBergen.

Some students find their niche in sports or band, I found mine in HI-Y. I discovered service to the community and fun/friendship while helping others. Through State Youth in Government, I got my eyes opened to current issues facing society and a way to forge a path forward. Camp Horseshoe combined fun, fellowship, nature and reflection to enhance both my high school and college experiences. In short, I am very thankful for the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA for providing these venues to me during such a critical time in my life and bringing together like-minded peers to share such positive experiences with.

Media and Public Relations

Molly Line (Tucker County HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) is a national correspondent for Fox News.

Diana Sole (Weir Tri-HI-Y, WVYG)

My very first trip to Charleston was as a delegate to Youth in Government when I was a junior at Weir High School. My parents were both active in my community and politics was a frequent subject at the dinner table. My father, in fact, headed the county Young Republicans group and had run for the House of Delegates. So when I had the opportunity to participate in Youth in Government, I signed up immediately and began working with a local attorney, who was a friend of our family, to draft a bill. I also called his former law partner, who had been appointed to an unexpired term on the State Supreme Court, and asked if I could meet with him when I came to Charleston for our April session.

Justice Edwin Flowers was kind enough to say yes, and offered to take me to lunch and show me a little of the city.

I learned so much leading up to our session and certainly, during it. I also made lifelong friends. To sit in the actual chambers, at the desks where "real" legislation was enacted, left me in awe. To be honest, the entire event was overwhelming and thrilling. I was probably the first one to sign up to come back during my senior year. My second Youth in Government session was just as stirring.

Years later, I would return to Charleston to start my own business, Motion Masters. I am active in legislative affairs and have worked on numerable campaigns, most notably serving as the first female spokesperson for a statewide candidate, in Gov. Cecil Underwood's 1996 campaign. As I was doing my research about his remarkable political career, so that I could be fully briefed, I learned that he had been instrumental in the creation of the Youth in Government program during his first administration. We had an interesting discussion about how the program that he had championed and that had fueled my interests and passions, would interweave.

The magnificent capital building that stole my breath at first sight? A couple of years ago, my firm completed the first historical documentary about its history and the architect who designed it. It premiered at the Culture Center, a structure I toured on that very first trip to Charleston.

Hi-Y and Youth in Government represent the best of youth programming. That's why I continue to give back to an organization that gave me far more.

John Wickline (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y, WV Youth in Government, Horseshoe) is a reporter for the Elkins Inter-Mountain.

Medical

Jean-Pierre Bonasso (Bridgeport High School, Horseshoe camper and then camp counselor) graduated from Wheeling Jesuit in Nuclear Medicine technology. He works with Philips as an Imaging Specialist in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Raymond Dala (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y, WVYG Governor, Horseshoe) is a pathologist in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Dr. David Hinkle (Tucker County HI-Y, WGYG, Horseshoe) received his MD from WVU and his PhD in Ocular Immunology and Uveitis from Harvard in 2007. He is on the staff of the Massachusetts Eye Research and Surgery Institution in Cambridge, MA.

Dr. Jadollah Jabbarpour (Pt. Pleasant HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) is an Adult & Child M.D. in Roanoke.

Dr. Dale McKinney (Mullens HI-Y, 1960 WVYG Governor) has served as President of the WV Urological Society and as Clinical Associate Professor of Urology at WVU Medical School.

I learned that I was an effective leader. It gave me the confidence to take on many and varied tasks and to accomplish them later in life. Youth in Government was the single most worthwhile educational event in my 12 years in WV public schools.

Dr. Autumn Whitlock-Morales (Richwood HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe camper and counselor) completed the Marshall University school of Medicine and a double residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in 2002. She returned home to work at Richwood Area Community Hospital – *a great place to work* until it unexpectedly closed in 2008. She now lives and practices in Calhoun County.

I have so many good Horseshoe memories. I remember a Youth Opportunity Camp camper I had my first year as a counselor. Her mom was pregnant and if the baby was a girl this little girl would get to pick out the name. The next summer she was back and she named her little sister 'Autumn.' That one still makes me tear up. My best re-encounter from Horseshoe is that I am now the pediatrician for a previous YOC camper's children. This mother remembered me and that felt special. It is so nice to see what a good job she is doing with her own children.

Dr. Tony P. Selitti (Weirton HI-Y) was recognized as a Worldwide Fellow by the American College of Surgeons.

Military

Peter Halverson (Findlay HI-Y, Ohio YG, Horseshoe, and YOC volunteer) graduated from the United States Naval Academy and now works for the Secretary of the Navy in the Pentagon.

Participation in HI-Y's Model United Nations and Youth in Government led me to develop a strong commitment to service and to an initial interest in foreign policy and government. These qualities remain as foundation principles in my life and took me to the Naval Academy and a commission as a Surface Warfare Officer in the United States Navy. The road that began in the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA has wound through duty stations in four states, the Pentagon in Washington D. C., travel to more than 25 nations, and deployments to Afghanistan and Bahrain. Throughout, it has been a wonderful journey.

Nancy Stallard Richards (Williamson HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) served as Chief of Military Justice for the 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Recognitions include the Kuhfeld Outstanding Judge Advocate for 1994 and the South Carolina Air Force Association Outstanding Air Force Person for the Year.

Bo Wriston (Wirt County HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) has moved to Bridgeport, WV. He serves as a volunteer photographer for HI-Y.

Ministry

Fr. Chris Kulig (Brecksville HI-Y, Ohio YG, Horseshoe camper and YOC volunteer) now serves as Pastor to the St. Joseph parish in Leavenworth, Kansas.

Camp Horseshoe changed my life! I suspect many alumni would attest to being changed by going to Camp Horseshoe. But how? Horseshoe was my first powerful experience of the "discernment of spirits." I know this is a strange spiritual phrase, but is the most concise way to describe it. When I went to Horseshoe I was so enthralled with the Spirit there that I changed my summer plans to return as a volunteer for 3 weeks of the 1984 Governor's Youth Opportunity Camp. I had committed to play in the All-Ohio state Fair Band – something I truly loved. But I upended my summer plans for Horseshoe. The end result, I believed, called me to my vocation today.

I am a catholic priest, a member of the Carmelite Order, an eight century old semi-monastic group of men who live out and share their hunger for God in the world. So, in a nutshell, the spiritual discernment that first led me to Horseshoe as a volunteer is deeper than this. I firmly believe that my decision to change otherwise good plans in 1984 put into place other decisions – by attending WVU and then going to Rice University for graduate school as my favorite WVU professor was a Rice graduate – all led me to meet the Carmelites in Houston.

So, in a very real sense, Horseshoe not only taught me how to follow the Spirit of God, but it put me on the trajectory of my life's calling and leading me to the vocation I have today. And, for this gift, no amount of thank you can ever suffice.

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich (Nicholas County HI-Y, UN, YG, Horseshoe) is Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Lumberton, NC.

Rev. Dr. Matt McClung (Nicholas County HI-Y, YG, Horseshoe) is pastor of Chapel United Methodist Church in Madison, Ohio.

Susan McGhee Mullens HI-Y, YG, Horseshoe) is the Presbyterian for Common Life – Presbytery of the Ohio Valley in Bloomington, Indiana.

As I think about things that formed me, HI-Y every bit as much as my church days have made me the person I am today. My service as a Christian pastor is a continuation of my service as Youth in Government Chaplain of the Senate.

William Ford Price (Huntington HI-Y, 1975 WVYG) is pastor at Kenova United Methodist Church.

Frank Palcic (Weir HI-Y, WVYG, Horseshoe) uses his Masters in Divinity and Art in Christian camping for youth in Colorado.

I remember the encouragement I got from HI-Y and HI-Y Camp at Horseshoe.

Not-for-Profit

Chris Groves (Tyler Co. HI-Y, WVYG and 1995 WV YG Governor, Horseshoe) is with the Central Ohio United Way. Chris has made a DVD of Ohio and WV's Youth in Governments to help recruit new school and student participation.

Stephanie Mathews O'Keefe (Hinton HI-Y, WVYG) is Senior Vice President for External Affairs of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. The New York based LISC is the nation's largest non-profit community development intermediary.

Deon Plaatjies (South Africa – Horseshoe camp counselor) Youth Service Project Manager in the Western Cape

My years at the HI-Y Center and Camp Horseshoe provide me with a sense of purpose and direction.

Amy Hamric Weintraub (Roane County Hi-Y, WVYG, UN, Horseshoe) has been the director of Covenant House for several years now in Charleston, WV. Recently she passed the torch to spend more time with her growing family. This fall she has helped students at Horace Mann Middle School in Charleston start a new HI-Y.

Pharmacy

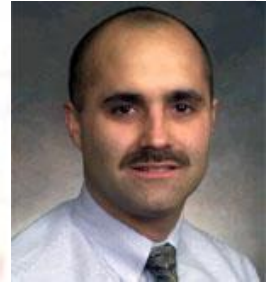
T. D. Pollard (McClain HI-Y, OYG and 1989 Ohio YG Governor, Horseshoe) is a pharmacist in Columbus.

Science

Paul Harris (Weirton HI-Y, WVYG) was elected to the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and awarded the prestigious Kapitsa Gold Medal of Honor for his outstanding contributions to geological sciences.

Rob Klepadlo (Weirton HI-Y, 1981 WVYG Governor, Horseshoe) is an Environmental Chemist for Laidlaw in California.

Dale Watring, PhD drove 14 hours from New Orleans for the next day's October 14, 2009, first meeting of HI-Y's Leadership Team led by Steve Evans and Doug White. Dale grew up in Leadmine, WV, near YMCA Camp Horseshoe. A brief summary of Dale's comments -



When Dave asked me to come up here at first I knew my schedule would not let me. Then I read your Cave Lake materials and remembered I am where I am today because of you – because of this YMCA and Camp Horseshoe. I knew I had to get here because what you do is so important. You must make Cave Lake happen. Our kids and our future need it! When my meeting was over yesterday I got in the truck and drove 14 hours to get here in time. Here's why I'm here today.

I grew up in the mountains in an area where there is just not much opportunity for young people and that's the way it is for so many children and teens everywhere it seems whether it is the country or even many of our cities.

The one thing that I did have was Camp Horseshoe. I was just a kid with no real goals in life other than getting out of high school and finding a job. When I graduated from high school I got a Governor's Summer Jobs Program position at Horseshoe. Kids without much money could get one of those jobs. I think David and the camp's maintenance person, Walt Kines, had conspired. They had me digging stumps. I think their idea was if they made me do that then I would go to college. I had no intention of going to college. I was done with school. David had a way about quietly saying "Dale, have you thought about college. You would do good." Then in a day or so he would say something like that again. Walt would too. One day David asked me to help with some children. Horseshoe has the Governor's Youth Opportunity Camps for low income boys and girls. These kids have nothing. They come to camp for the food, to get away and because at Horseshoe they can become somebody. Well, I liked helping the kids and it put me around the camp counselors who were college students. I think David put me around the counselors because he thought it would be good for me. It was. I heard about college from them. They were all studying interesting things. I liked it so much I was a camp counselor the next two summers.

Well, that first summer camp ended and the Governor's program did too. Here I was in August and sure did not want to dig stumps all my life. I decided to go to college except it was too late and no one would let me in. Finally, I called Fairmont and they gave me a chance. I went there 2 or 3 semesters and then transferred to WVU.

I did OK at WVU and then got this notice I had to pick a major. I wanted to do mechanical engineering. The dean would not let me in the program. I left his office and the secretary knew something was wrong. She was always nice to me and we had often talked. She asked what was wrong and I told her I was just going home to get a job. No use to stay in school because the dean would not let me in the engineering program. Her name was Barbara.

Barbara said, "Dale, don't quit. Give it a couple days and something will work out."

I got called back to the dean's office in a day or so. He didn't say a word to me. He had the waiver paper and signed it. He handed me the paper letting me in the program and said, "Now, you get the hell out of here. I never want to see you again." I left his office and asked Barbara what happened. Barbara said, "I've worked for that man for 25 years. I gave him two choices. He either let you in that program or I quit."

I don't remember the dean's name. I do remember Barbara. Life is all about people helping people. That's what Horseshoe does . . . David and Walt got me to go to college. Barbara got me into mechanical engineering.

I finished WVU and because one of my professors encouraged me I ended up at MIT where I earned my Masters and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering. Now, remember, I'm just the kid from Leadmine, a Governor's Summer Jobs kid who did not even want to go to college in the first place. Look what happened because people nudged me along, encouraged me and believed in me.

I had a 13 year career with NASA. I rose to the top and was even considered for the astronaut corps. Out of 10,000 applicants for my class, I got as far as the final 100 considered. My protocols for rocket launches are still being used. My NASA experience includes serving as Deputy Chief, Microgravity Sciences and Applications Division where I was responsible for supervising scientists performing original research in materials processing, high temperature furnace design, protein crystal growth, biotechnology, microgravity physics and the development of scientific instrumentation for space applications.

My wife and I started our own tech business, Watring Technologies in Huntsville. We want to come home to West Virginia and bring the business with us. We want to help West Virginia and now with Cave Lake help Ohio and the region too.

You've got to do this. Your programs let kids change their lives. You get kids to focus on achievement and being good people. Now you have Horseshoe and this great property. There is so much you can do here. I will connect scientists to this place. Scientists can have trainings, conferences and do work here. They can help you with the kids. Just think with what you already do – and you're not talking about what you could do . . . you already do it – adding the science component you have in your program vision – this place will do wonders.

I will help. I will join your group and I'll serve on your board. I'll help you get this done!

Volunteer Impact

Alan March (Horseshoe Counselor, 1975) - as an adult, I was a Cub Scout leader and trainer of other Scout leaders for 15 years. Looking at those Camp Horseshoe photos on your website shows that my interest in working with kids was sparked, developed, and formed by my brief time there. Thanks for being part of a great tradition and program.

YMCA

Tony Ganger (McClain HI-Y Greenfield, OH, Ohio YG, Horseshoe staff) is serving as Director Foundation Relations for the YMCA of the USA in Chicago. Tony's career also included service on the Hamilton Ohio YMCA and Ohio-West Virginia YMCA.

I grew up in a small town in southern Ohio. Aside from school activities there weren't many programs or opportunities for young people. We did, however, have HI-Y in high school. We did not have a physical YMCA building in our community. HI-Y is a program of the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA for communities without their own YMCA and for local YMCAs too. I joined HI-Y and developed leaderships and learned the responsibility I had to make my community a better place for everyone. I participated in Ohio Youth in Government and learned first-hand about the legislative and judicial process. Because of my involvement with HI-Y, I took a job at YMCA Camp Horseshoe in the summer. I was just 14 years old and spent one of the best summers of my life washing dishes in the camp's kitchen. Little did I know at the time, but that summer job launched a career with the YMCA. After graduating from Miami University I worked for the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA to help expand HI-Y into new communities. Since that first YMCA staff position, I worked in many different roles in YMCAs in Ohio and California as well as nine years at the YMCA's national headquarters in Chicago. HI-Y opened the world for me.

I believe every teenager needs a HI-Y experience. Learning becomes real, understanding and appreciating people from different backgrounds and places happens. One's eyes and heart open to possibilities never dreamed of before. HI-Y challenges each person to become all they can be for not only a successful life but also to always reach out to help others achieve their potential and to always help the community become all it can be.

Lois Hanger Nelson (Summers County TRI-HI-Y, Youth in Government, Fall Conference, Horseshoe camper and staff, full time Ohio-West Virginia YMCA staff) became the new Executive Director of the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA on July 1, 2011



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