

15 Days in the Desert

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By

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Sensei

Jeff Meyer- Please and Thank You.



Jeff is the nicest instructor I have met at SBCC! Some of the girls on the trip commented that he is like a second dad to them. He is so genuine and cares about everyone. I have never seen him get angry or lose patience with a student which is easy to do on a two week trip. I can't say enough good things about Jeff. He is a great teacher and a good person. He even created a chart of the general stratigraphy of the Colorado Plateau!



Jan Schultz- No Bananas!!!

Everyone has their quarks and for Jan it's the smell of bananas. She can't stand them! She is very detail oriented which is helpful when planning a trip like this. I can't even imagine how much work goes into organizing these trips. Fortunately, she has a great sense of humor and loves geology jokes! She was so excited to share the wrap up geology of the Colorado Plateau with us that she almost tripped on herself. Jan is awesome!

Kevin McNichol- From Wheeze to Dark Angel.



Kevin's laugh is great! His laugh alone will make you laugh. He is also so open and welcoming to students. Every day in his van he starts by saying "this is a friendly van open to all questions, so don't hesitate to ask me something." He calls on every student to point out strat in the van so if you don't know your strat, you will by the end of the day when riding in Kevin's van! Kevin is stat-tastic but if he were to talk about alluvial fans then he would also be fantastic! GEOLOGY JOKES!!!

Rob Meyer- Dr. Death.



Rob has two faces- stoic and happy. He also has a very deep voice and is a heavy rock n' roller. 'Highway to Hell' is the best song ever! He helped me with my presentation and during reviews at the end of the day. Thanks Rob. His quizzes were long and he enjoyed every second of our groans hence Dr. Death. Rock on Rob! GEOLOGY JOKE!!!

Wow, I'm on a roll. ANOTHER GEOLOGY JOKE!!!

The Crew

Jane Fairchild- A Ballerina in Disguise.



Jane is sweet and was always helpful during the trip. She had to deal with some grueling winds during students' presentations because she was one of two tutors who had to hold the poster board against the tripod in extreme gusts of wind. She did it with grace even when standing on the edge of a cliff at the Grand Canyon on a really windy day. She and one of the Wooley Crew staff met last year on this trip and have been together ever since. This trip, in a way, is their anniversary.

Brandon Cassidy- Buster of Crust.



Brandon is a really nice guy. I don't think I have ever heard him complain once about the trip. He has trouble with the morning quizzes, but he is doing his best. Brandon also has the most energy than anyone else in the group which can lead him to making mistakes. However, he befriends everyone he meets and is genuinely interested in what you have to say. That speaks louder than the small mistakes he makes. I don't like calling him 'Party Fowl.' But seriously Brandon, DON'T BUST THE CRUST!

Robert Emmens & Sarah Benner- Public Spankers.



Toe-shoe wearing, red headed Robert was cursed with stinky shoes on this trip-- as long as it wasn't me! Robert enjoys competition and admires those who are bold. Sarah is easy to talk with and makes you feel welcomed. He and Sarah are a beautiful couple. They occasionally argue but their communication with each other is very effective and positive. They like to publically spank each other throughout the day. The only way to describe them in one word is real. Together, they fit like a puzzle.

Laurel Huston- A Cup of Chamomile Tea.



Laurel is overwhelmingly approachable, so much so that you want to walk up to her and give her a big hug (I did). She seems very centered and at peace. Of course, she is away from her young kids which can be a contributing factor, but there is something about her that calms you. She must be a wonderful mother! It seems like she has had a lot of time for personal growth and enjoys conversations that challenge you to be more understanding and aware of the perspectives of others. She is the female Buddha .

J.C.' Corliss- The Twang in Country.



JC has seen it all! His pride of being a countryman is highly contagious. One may find themselves speaking with a slight twang when around JC. He is also very generous. He loaned Crystal one of his blankets on cold nights and help other set up their tents (like me) on windy days. JC is a meat eating, Rock n' Roll listening, hardcore fighting, soft interior countryman.

Jessie Ekeland-Asakawa- The Honey of the Hive.



Jessie is my favorite person on this trip and not surprisingly the favorite of many others in the group. I'm sure she is used to being described as sweet, but even 'sweet' can't encompass her kindness. If Jessie isn't smiling, she's about to. Paper and pen won't do her justice, nor will a picture, in describing what an amazing person she is. The feeling she leaves with you will always make you smile. What makes her so amazing is not her kindness towards others but her genuine love for everyone. She is a great friend and a good person and her flower is pretty kick ass.

Zack Nelson- The Odd Photographer.



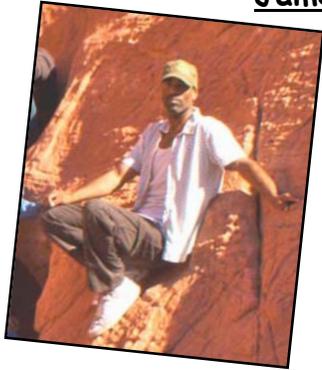
Zack took pictures of the strangest things on the trip. Perhaps he sees the world slightly different than most, or he is just a weird photographer. Haha, just kidding Zack. He and Jessie were tied to the hip throughout the trip. I thought they were a couple for the longest time. He was slightly quiet with me for awhile, but when something was funny, he did not hesitate to laugh. I sometimes wondered what he was thinking about when he was clearly lost in his own train of thought during the van rides.

Connor Mellon- A Melody of Memories.



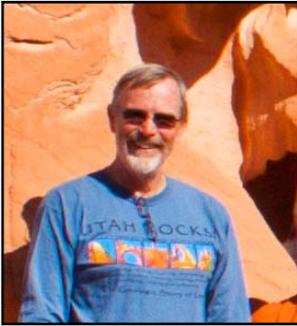
Connor surprised everyone with his voice. I had no idea he could sing. He and Brett played their guitars around the campfire many nights. It was a perfect way to end the day! Playing his guitar at night really united people and brought everyone closer together. He enjoyed the trip and smiled a lot. I started to call him Chuck because his laugh is like a drawn out chuckle. He and Brett gave us many Kumbia moments around the campfire that I will never forget.

James Miranda- Lemons to Lemonade.



James is a studying paleontologist. He is someone who pushes through the muck and successfully found new techniques to study and remember new information we were learning every day on the trip, something that he struggled with before. Way to go James! He videotaped every lecture and enjoyed exploring the new places we visited. I heard that he found the largest piece of petrified wood during our collecting!

Bill Beasley- Ready, Set, Action!



Bill is the man! He had a bad knee but pushed through and hiked every trail with us. Aliyah was really taken by him. Bill shared stories with us of past movies he directed and famous actors he worked with. He and Shannon mingled more with the staff but he was always approachable and fun to talk with. This trip is another journey he can add to his long and exciting list of adventures.

Shane McKinney & Caitlin Gemetti- The Astronomer and the Star.



Caitlin and Shane complement each other and have been together for five years. I started calling Caitlin 'Pumpkin' because she wore an orange Utah sweatshirt for most of the trip. She is an absolute sweetheart and seems to be very grounded! Shane brought his star laser and telescope with him to point out constellations on clear nights. That was really awesome of him and I got to see Saturn! I wonder if he will be the next Erin O'Connor.



Marlee Gluck- The Alley Cat.

Someone compared Marlee to an old TV series, Darla... but with a more positive personality. She has a very unique style (totally choy) that compliments her personality. Marlee is funny and her innocence makes us all smile, especially when she asked why Sean is nicknamed 'Peaches.' For such innocence, her dreams are certainly demented though! She once dreamed that Robert was a zombie and she killed him.

Shannon Rochester- St. Bernard of the Desert.



Shannon may have saved the trip on day 11. When we needed a medic, she really pulled through for us. She is a trained Registered Nurse and I was so impressed with how cool and collected she was during the whirlpool incident. She was more nervous of her presentation than anything else but she did great. Go Shannon, Go Shannon!

Christie Fuderich- Woman of the Amazon.



Christie is someone you can trust has your back. She was nice enough to drive Jessie and me to Rusty's the day we returned to SBCC and we later learned she is a part of a kayak team. I definitely see her as a team player and really enjoyed getting to know her. She is a really fun person to hang out with. She also seems older than her age... an old soul perhaps.

Sara Beroff- Loud and Proud.



Sara is a theatre arts major who is dedicated to the mission of spreading joy. She's not afraid of acting silly and she loves to sing. Sara is quite a performer with a laugh that can be heard a mile away. Aside from her acting talents, she is also a very kind person. At the end of the trip, she took the time to write everyone a personal note and handed them out on the last day.

Seth Fox- Always wearing a beanie.



Seth has got the greatest smile and although I didn't get to hang out with him much, he seems pretty choy. He and I both loaded the luggage bags in the Wooley with a few other guys many mornings during the trip. After everyone collected their rocks and stored them with their camping gear, I was definitely glad Seth was there to help load the trailers.

Dana Johnson- Have a Danish for Breakfast.



For the longest time I kept thinking 'Danish' instead of Dana. Dana was fine with me calling him a pastry but I finally got it straight. He can kick ass on the volleyball field, unlike myself, but he always made an effort to high five everyone no matter how much they sucked. Right on, dude! I think he also joined our dance rave with the strobe light that same night.

Ian Hogan- Pull My Finger.



One of the funniest moments on the trip was on the last day at a rest stop/playground. Ian was lying on the grass belly up and Crystal walks over and steps on his stomach. Unexpectedly, as Crystal steps on his stomach,

Ian farts! What made it even funnier was that Crystal did it again and Ian farted again!! Thanks Ian for giving me something to laugh about and remember FOR-EV-ER.

Crystal Bennett- Vote for Red.



If you ever need an energy boost, see Crystal. I owe this entire trip to her. Without her efforts in organizing scholarships for this trip, I would not have been able to come. Crystal, I can't thank you enough. Aside from her enormous heart, she is also a proud sponsor of redheads united. There were an unusual amount of redheads on this trip, so we dominated with ginger pride!

Aliyah Schneider- Laughing Mouse.



Aliyah has the most distinctive laugh I have ever heard. She first starts out with a giggle that quickly turns into a laugh that goes up in pitch to a high squeak. I love it! She was adopted into the group as the little sister. She has an edge to her and enjoys teasing. Laurel compared her to a Chihuahua because she is small but feisty. I nicknamed her 'laughing Mouse.' Be warned that Aliyah does not like to be referred to as little. She is ok with small but not little.

Robert Salazar- Death to the Brontosaurus.



Robert will be a great paleontologist one day, but right now he is mastering the art of origami. He is also the 'baby' in the group but handled a very scary situation like a pro and better than most. I heard a lot of people describe Robert as being extremely intelligent but without being condescending. He has a photogenic

memory which means if you do something embarrassing, he will remember it FOR-EV-ER. He is also great at teaching and helped Brandon review many nights on the trip. Above all, he LOVES dinosaurs.

Meagan Oakes- Stratigraphic.



Megan knows her strat! While in Canyonlands, she talked us through the entire strat and did a great job. If you remember, there were many formations to cover and she didn't leave until everyone got it. Thanks Megan! She and Paige stuck together on the trip. They both are really nice. She really enjoyed the campfires and Connor and Brett's guitar playing.

Brittany Rodgers & Jonathan Rodgers- The Rodgers!



What a great couple the Rodgers are. Brittany does incredibly funny impressions and Jonathan is so helpful and nice. They are the best and so much fun to be around. During Hurricane Entrada, their tent got hit the hardest but they made up for it later with an air mattress from Moab. They are each other's rock—haha, geology joke!
I love the Rodgers!

Anna Murowicz- Petroglyphic Success.



Anna reminds me of Tinkerbelle. She had one of the coolest presentations of the group- Petroglyphs in the Moab Area. She is definitely one of the happiest people I've ever met and I love that about her. She is also very sweet and tried to include everyone in her presentation by having the group make their own petroglyphs.

Anna is adorable!

Andrew Saunders- Peaceful Planter.



Andrew is a very calm and grounded person. He's the studying botanist in the group but you can talk to him about anything. I had a conversation with him regarding special relativity, the Big Bang, and alternate universes on the last night of the trip. This free spirit loves adventure and reminds me of a well educated hippie. Andrew's green thumb will plant great gardens in the future.

Lindsey Reed- A Bending Tree.



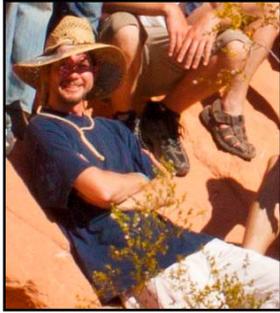
An old fable tells of the story of two trees. One tree challenges the other to prove who is the strongest. A heavy wind blows and the first tree holds its ground but eventually the tree snaps in half. The other tree bends with the wind and in doing so, survived the strong gust of wind. Lindsey goes with the flow of things and is the cool big sister who everyone wants to hang with.

Jordan Collins- Good Karma.



Jordan is a great friend. He stayed up pretty late to help Brett with his presentation one night during the trip. The next day, he had a hard time staying awake in the vans but Kevin didn't wake him. Jordan even slept through the Van singing the song 'Ghost Rider' as Kevin blasted it through the speakers. He must have been really tired because I wouldn't have been able to sleep through that.

Jeremy Steketee- Duct Tape and Stray Hats.



Jeremy, our second tutor, had issues with straw hats like so many others on the trip. He duct taped his hat together and it worked for a little while. He has one of the deepest singing voices I've ever heard, similar to the guy who won American Idol. He was unusually energetic and silly the last couple of days before we drove back to SBCC. I can't decide if he was happy to get rid of us or just excited to go home.

Paige Comaduran- A White Daisy.



The daisy is not a single flower but rather a gathering of many smaller flowers collected in the center. Paige is a really nice person who is kind of quite but there is so much more to her. I remember her greeting people in the mornings. She is welcoming and very smart. Her talk was great and the poster she bought of creatures of the Mesozoic Seas was awesome.

Matt McClellan- And the Award Goes To...



What can I say about Matt? Matt is all kinds of awesome. He definitely was one of the funniest people on the trip. When he joined forces with JC, there was no stopping the country madness. He also swooshed the toosh the night of the strobe light and the waterfall was also very memorable. Thanks to Jessie and her camera, we might be able to put a calendar together to help fundraise next year's trip.

Brett Stormoen- Sombrero Boy.



Brett's choice of sun protection was the sombrero. He and Aliyah are good friends and I

had some great times with them in the vans. Brett is also an accomplished guitarist and provided us with many great nights of song around the campfire. I think he was also the person who would play the guitar in the mornings which I loved. Thank you Brett for giving us a soundtrack of our trip.

Trevor Mearce- Free laughs for All.



Trevor has the ability to be absolutely hilarious and yet completely stoic at the same time. One of the funniest moments on the trip was when Trevor shared his personalized petroglyph. It was a simple concept of a guy repeatedly setting up his tent and taking it down again, but Trevor was completely serious while the rest of us could barely breathe from laughing so hard. He also has the lightest blue eyes that I've ever seen. Plus, any white dude who can rock an afro is pretty choy in my book.

Joey Duimovich- The Choy-est of the Choy.



Joey is the Choy God but we also refer to him as Jesus. He started the word 'Choy' that now has become our group slogan. He is a really nice guy and very funny but I have never seen someone eat so much junk food and stay so skinny. Damn you Joey! He told us that by the end of the trip he spent \$100 on sugar and chips. I don't get it but when you are as choy as Joey, you can do anything.

Sean Harrison- The Peaches in the Cream.



Sean was nicknamed 'Peaches' because... well, Marlee is still trying to figure that out. All I can say

about Sean is that he can shuffle! During the strobe light rave, Sean was quite literally feeling the music. I never knew a guy could move his hips like Shakira. If you ever need a dance partner, Sean is the guy to see. Sean is the dancing King.

Buzi'- The Renaissance Man.

Buzi' is one of those people you rarely see in life that has truly lived life to the fullest. I could sit with him and listen to his adventures for hours. He should be the spokesperson for the beer commercial as the most interesting man in the world. What makes him great his not just his stories but his interest in your stories as well. He genuinely cared about everyone on this trip. I love Buzi'!!!

... and then there is me.

Remi Bordelon- Don't Bust the Crust just Bust a Move.



After being described as shy, ballsy, gangster, funny and sweet, I figure I've covered ever possible adjective in the book to be classified as the 'Wildcard' in the group. Aside from my inability to smell, love for old school rap and obsession with snow, I'm pretty normal. As you know, I love to make people laugh and so I have dubbed thee 'One Liner Remi.' Not only can I crack a joke but I definitely can bust a move.

The best part of this trip for me was the relationships that developed with everyone. I have never seen such a large group of people, who did not know each other originally, leave the trip like a family. The amount of support and kindness from everyone was unbelievable. I want to thank all of you for such an incredible experience and one that I will remember FOR-EV-ER!

I miss you already.