

THE Long Beach CORAL YOUTH INSTITUTE

A WEEK TO REMEMBER

By: Prumsodun Ok, Class of 2003



It was a week to remember. From August 28th to September 3rd, staff and alumni from the Youth Institute taught digital media to middle school students at Camp Oakes. The camp itself proved to be ground-breaking because it was the first digital arts camp held by any YMCA in the whole nation.

To make the camp possible, the Youth Institute took laptops, digital video and still cameras, projectors, and other accessories to set up a digital arts lab. The middle school students

were enthusiastic after seeing the laptops equipped with the latest software and cameras such as the Canon GL-1.

The teaching process went smoothly and proved to be a precious experience for both alumni and students. "Dealing with the kids showed me how the alumni had to deal with us this summer," says Ashley Luna, a recent graduate of the Youth Institute. The alumni also had a chance to meet staff from around the world. Counselors came from Australia, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and many other places. It was an invaluable exchange of culture, knowledge, and ideas between middle school students, international counselors, and Youth Institute alumni and staff. Besides digital arts, alumni and middle school students got a chance to participate in archery, a climbing wall, low-ropes courses, and many other various activities.

The Digital Arts Academy at Camp Oakes was more than a camp. It was an opportunity for individuals to come together and create an environment for young aspiring artists to grow and learn. Bob Cabeza, Executive Director of the YMCA Community Development Branch, rates the camp one of the top-ten camps he has been to.



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Inside this Issue

A Week To Remember

Welcome Sean Daniels!

The Power of Reason

A New Life in College

Quick Quotes from Camp

Attention Alumni!

Editors

Prum Ok, Class of 2003

Ben Falesilli, Class of 2003

James Jimenez, Class of 2003

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CORAL is a project of the YMCA of Greater Long Beach.
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Welcome Sean Daniels!

By: James Jimenez and Ben Falealili, Class of 2003



Who would have known that our new film instructor would be found on a typical morning at Starbucks! He was asked to join Bob Cabeza, Les Peters, Julia Martin, and Oscar Menjivar as staff at the CORAL Youth Institute. Sean Daniels is his name and like all other staff, Sean has a specialty. He specializes in Final Cut Pro, an industry-level editing program designed for Macs.

Sean is 25 years old and attended California State University of Long Beach. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Film and Video Production. He took the opportunity that Bob gave him to work with high school kids so that he can practice and improve his skill in editing. He wants to pass on his editing skills and techniques down to teens that are willing to learn. Sean hopes to learn just as much from us, as we will learn from him.

He first began to have an interest in editing in high school, when he discovered that he had the talent to be successful in the field. Our new film instructor says, "The ability to create a film allows you to step out of the realms of reality." I guess that is why Sean enjoys film production so much. He is really looking forward to working next summer with the CORAL Youth Institute Class of 2005.

But Sean is not all about technology; we have heard that he knows a thing or two about basketball. He had a former career in high school basketball, but decided to turn his career path towards the direction of film production. On his free time he enjoys watching movies and reading books. He listens to many genres of music. R&B is one of his favorites, but he is particularly a jazz fan.

This new staff member is quiet and intense, seems very committed and is in for the ride of his life. For all alumni who do not know Sean, come on in and introduce yourselves. He is a great person, just like the rest of the staff. We are very glad to have him be a part of YMCA. And we are looking forward to all of the fun adventures that will come our way. Welcome Sean!

The Power of Reason

By: Earl Dove, Class of 2003



Reason is one of the best music building programs. You can create all different genres of music like hip-hop, R&B, techno, and even country. Music has always been a part of my life and I am glad that YMCA/CORAL has given me a chance to pursue it. Now, I am able to improve my skills as a composer in the lab.

I love music because of the way it sounds. My favorite types are jazz, hip-hop, and R&B. My first inspiration to make music came from my brother. I listened to some pieces he had created and I decided that I also wanted to make my own music. Before learning how to use Reason, I had basic skills in piano. I play by ear since I am unable to read music notes. After learning how to use Reason, I used my experience to help others create soundtracks for their movies. I also composed music for video games. My friend Isaiah and I have a production team called White Glacier, in which we create movies, video games, flash movies, comics, and last, but not least, music.

I plan to do lots of things with Reason. I will make music for my production crew, and hopefully come out with some records later on. I will still be teaching other people Reason so everyone can learn how to create music. Once again, I am thankful that YMCA/CORAL has allowed me to pursue my interests.

A NEW LIFE in College

By: James Jimenez, Class of 2003



All by himself, Leonard Salcido from the class of 2002 has worked his way up to San Francisco State University to major in Film/Video production. He quickly figured out that it wasn't easy being on your own. Letting go of friends from home and having to make new friends has been hard, especially the challenge of parting from his family has been painful.

Leonard is going to San Francisco to pursue his passion: film and video production. Leonard admits that it is hard being a freshman. He must start all over at the bottom of the college social ladder, plus he is in a new city far from home.

However, Leonard is not alone. Numerous CORAL alumni have chosen to pursue their interests in college. CORAL graduates are going to school at LBCC, Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and Brenau (just to name a few).

Congratulations college students and good luck in your college career! CORAL knows that you will make us proud!

Quick Quotes from Camp Oakes



"Camp Oakes was a great experience. Teaching children younger than me and getting to meet new people from different parts of the world was cool."
- Joseph Gaines, Class of 2004



"Fun is an understatement!"
- Oscar Menjivar, Staff



"It was a nice learning experience for both students and alumni."
- Ben Falealili, Class of 2003



"It was a nice to meet staff from around the world."
- John Sanders, Class of 2003



CALENDAR

Sep. 16, 2004	Thurs.	Meeting For Upcoming Events	4:00 PM
Sep. 20, 2004	Mon.	1st District Youth Commission Meeting	5:30 PM
Oct. 23, 2004	Sat.	CORAL-Wide Picnic	8:00 AM
Oct. 25-30, 2004	Mon.-Sat.	CORAL Haunted House	5:00 PM
Nov. 11-14, 2004	Thurs.-Sun.	San Francisco Trip	TBD
Dec. 17, 2004	Fri.	Holiday Party	4:30 PM

Attention Youth Institute Alumni

Want to get away? Here's your chance! Youth Institute staff are holding fifty spots for alumni to go to San Francisco. Sorry procrastinators...first come, first serve! With almost 200 alumni, the fifty spots fill up quickly!

Don't think this is just an easy sign-up for any alumni because it's not! Like all good things in life, you have to earn it. This trip is for the dedicated, "hardcore" alumni. In order to be able to go on the trip, you must participate in the annual CORAL-wide picnic and the YMCA Haunted House. If you do not participate in these events, you can go ahead and say goodbye to San Francisco!

You must attend the meeting on Thursday, September 16th from 4 - 6 p.m for more information. The meeting will be held in the CORAL Youth Room. Food will be available. A variety of topics will be discussed such as 2004/2005 community service and a mystery trip! So get ready, and mark your calendars for Thursday, September 16th!



Don't Miss Out On These Opportunities



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