

# • CAMP KAWANHEE FOR BOYS •

VOL. 5 No. 1



## Kawanhee's New Resident Director: *A Familiar Face at Kawanhee*

We are proud and delighted to introduce Antonio “JP” Rullan as Kawanhee’s Resident Director in 2019! JP served as Assistant Director in 2018 and in many leadership roles prior to that, including Director of Activities, Leadership Training Director, Director of the Junior Maine Guide Program and Campcraft and lodge counselor for many years. JP was a camper from 2001 to 2007. According to Rullan, “As the summer approaches I feel two major emotions. The first is a stoic, nuanced and dutiful responsibility to uphold and improve cherished traditions passed down for generations while guaranteeing the safety of the children and staff. The second, a butterfly-in-the-stomach sensation akin to my first anticipated seasons, where I dream, hope and laugh out-loud ruminating over the joyous community that forms on the shores of the Webb.”

A proud resident of Puerto Rico, he helped found Camp Tabonuco, an overnight camp in the mountains of Jayuya, aimed at inspiring Puerto Rican youth and teaching them about sustainability and agriculture. A student of horticulture at UPR in Utuado, JP has worked for over a decade as an educator and in his spare time you will find him either baking bread, hiking off the beaten path, or working on his farm in Utuado.

Currently, he is studying to be an electrician to help empower rural communities with off-grid power. More recently and in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, JP was involved in the rebuilding of the island through various projects, including work for the Park Service in El Yunque National Forest and was instrumental in projects in his hometown of Utuado.

*2019 marks JP's 17th summer at Kawanhee. He brings tremendous knowledge and energy to this very important position of Resident Director. This summer, JP will be accompanied by his wife Cristina and their 4 year old daughter, Amaya. •*

### *What is Your Kawanhee Story?*

Over the years, many members of the Kawanhee Community (alumni, family members, current and former staff members) have shared their Kawanhee story.

#### *What is yours?*

We are collecting stories to commemorate the Centennial and add to our Kawanhee stories and oral histories in the Kawanhee History Museum (which you can access at <http://kawanheehistory.com/wordpress1/oral-histories/>).

Send your story to [alumni@kawanhee.com](mailto:alumni@kawanhee.com).

### Save the Date:

## Camp Kawanhee Centennial Celebration!

**Tuesday, August 11 -  
Sunday, August 16.**

We are expecting a record-breaking crowd for the Centennial Celebration, so keep an eye on the website and the Facebook page for information about this exciting anniversary celebration. Details are still in the early stages, but programming on Tuesday and Wednesday will likely focus on out-of-camp opportunities for hiking, fishing, canoeing, etc. On those days, there will be minimal creature comforts at Camp other than lodging and plumbing. Food and a range of on-site offerings will swing into gear on Thursday, August 13 through Sunday, August 16. We can't wait to see you!

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### Centennial Anticipation

*by Nate Stein*

As the 99th Camp Season approaches, I cannot help but think of what lies ahead. That's right fellow Kawanhees, we are just over a year away from the 100th anniversary of Camp Kawanhee. When I arrived at Camp in 2010, I certainly did not anticipate that I was starting a life-long relationship with Camp Kawanhee and making deep-rooted friendships. Nor did I imagine that I was joining a community where such long-standing relationships are the norm. Although it has been three years since I left Kawanhee, my Camp friends are never far from my mind—and I know that is equally true for alumni whose last year at Kawanhee is measured in decades. I know many of you have friendships that also date back to your first years of Camp and there's no better place to catch up with everyone than the upcoming Centennial celebration. I had the opportunity to attend the 95th

reunion and remember how incredible it was to see so many Kawanhees of different ages, nationalities, and professions gather together to celebrate our beloved boys camp on Lake Webb. The 95th was an absolute blast, and I cannot help but think that it was a sort of training run for the 100th. The Centennial will be a singular event for most of us, as very few of us will ever live to see a Kawanhee milestone like this again. I am beyond excited to get together with so many of my friends next summer to celebrate the lifelong bonds that we have made, while commemorating a century of existence of the Camp that has been, for so many of us, a transformative experience. I hope all of you have a wonderful year until then, and very much look forward to seeing you in Weld next summer. •

*photo: Juan Ruspoli, Juan Nieto-Ellis, Nate Stein, Ruth Diaz-Rivera, and Alejandro Passi at a recent get-together in Madrid*



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**FROM THE ARCHIVES**  
For more, go to [kawanheehistory.com](http://kawanheehistory.com).

*Above: Mike Altmaier and Gary Hutchins, Counselors in Deer Lodge (circa 1980s).  
Can you identify others in the photo? Email us at... [alumni@kawanhee.com](mailto:alumni@kawanhee.com)*

*Lower Left: A counselor demonstrates proper kicking technique  
in a photo that includes Kawanhee's early diving platform (circa 1925)*

*Lower Right: Campers pose with the paddles, bows and boats  
that they've made in woodshop (circa 1933).*



***Have photos you want to share?***

Email them to us at...  
[alumni@kawanhee.com](mailto:alumni@kawanhee.com)





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*Kawanhee alums posed for a photo at Sean Duncan and Katherine Crotty's wedding in December 2018.*

*First row from left: Graham Marvin, Lorenzo Baker, Simon Doolittle.*

*Second row from left: Chris Duncan, Mike Duncan, Matt Duncan, Ryan Duncan, Sean Duncan, Katherine Crotty, Jock Duncan, Tim Duncan, John Duncan, Dan Osar, Conor Branch, Jamie Strawbridge, Adam Bowman, Dan Alexander.*

### **Alumni Profile – Sean Duncan**

At the ropes course in the summer of 2001, I remember telling Kris Simanek that I was going to start a school built to support character development and leadership in an environment where young people could flourish. Sound familiar? It should. This school, I thought, would end up being much more like Camp than other traditional schools where the most important time of day was when the bell rang to leave, and the most important day of the year was in June when we would break for summer. Thinking aloud, I thought my school would still need academic classes and teachers, but they would be different...more meaningful. I didn't quite yet know how this would look, but I knew that the most lasting and impactful learning always came when I was interested and engaged in activities and projects, had goals that I could work towards, and was supported and inspired by thoughtful, caring adults.

Unfortunately, most of my schooling was devoid of these characteristics, which is why Camp became so vital in my own education and growth as a young man. Kawanhee was a place where I learned how to be a good kid, develop better habits, set and pursue goals, and understand my own moral compass. Of course there were (many) missteps, but Camp was the place where I matured. I thought, "why can't our schools be more like Camp?" which prompted my somewhat naïve and grandiose vision for a school on the ropes course that summer day.

But a seed was set, and Camp, along with my two year stint at Gould Academy (which was run by Lorenzo Baker, himself a famous Kawanheean) inspired me to pursue a career in education where I could support young people like myself find themselves and their way as they grew into confident, capable, and caring adults.

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It's been a wild ride, and an imperfect one, but I've been fortunate to find fulfillment and success as a counselor, teacher, coach, and academic dean.

I'm also especially grateful for the opportunity to realize my dream of starting a school. Last fall, as Founding Head of School and with a team of eight dedicated faculty members, we opened The Winchendon School/Brooklyn with 25 boisterous students looking for an academic experience that captured the spirit and inspiration of Camp. Winchendon is dedicated to supporting talented, aspirational, and often "late-blooming" teenagers, a mission that overlaps with Kawanhee's own history of character development among boys.

The team and I are almost a year in now, and are actively "Learning By Doing" – an attitude that we work to live and aim to instill and inspire among our students. And while it's been a long time since I've left Camp, I am still guided by the principles and values that Kawanhee has set within me, and know that if I can work to steward that thoughtful school community I had dreamt of, I can help to develop those important principles, values, and habits among many more young people who might not have the chance to go to camp.

As simple as phrases like "remember the big R" and "take advantage of your opportunity" are, these maxims and calls to actions have helped to center and direct my philosophical approach to education and my work with adolescents. They inspire how I aim to build school and community culture. And they reflect the lived values and skills that I work to further develop in myself and cultivate among the faculty, staff, and professional team. As far as a set of values, I suspect these timeless lessons have application in near every professional sector and personal walks of life, which is why I think they are so critical to develop in our young people and should center many more of our schools, camps, and learning institutions.

The word that comes to mind at the end of writing this is gratitude, and I'm so incredibly grateful for my time on Lake Webb where lessons learned continue to ground me in my life and work. So here's to Camp, here's to schools, here's to learning by doing, and may there always be a Kawanhee. •

## 19 THINGS WE CAN'T WAIT FOR IN K-WAN 2019

1. Hiding in the woods to get a jailbreak during Capture the Flag
2. The lobster bake cookout
3. That first morning of Polar Bear, when it's unusually cold
4. Being convinced you know the answer to Mike Altmaier's trivia
5. Cheering until you're hoarse at the Sea Dog's game
6. Temple of Hoop mural going up on the shop wall
7. Sean Minear's chicken patties
8. Grey/Maroon tug-of-wars and the earth-shattering cheers that follow
9. Taking a dip in Crater Lake at the top of Tumbledown
10. The return of step challenges at campfire, as led by a healed Brian Bishop
11. Egg tossing at Weld Heritage Day
12. Debbie's doughnuts – always and forever!
13. After-dinner free swims on hot days
14. The return of Scarlett and the introduction of Eddie Trayner's new pup, Lanie
15. BA's introduction at campfires, and the suspense of the score announcement that follows
16. Getting hot chocolate at first bell
17. Telling stories around the fire, under the stars at Skooks
18. The thrill and rush of that moment you pull into Camp for the first time of the season
19. Being reunited with your second family!



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### **The Bass Rock Walk**

*by Dylan Germain*

Hi, my name is Dylan Germain and I'm a six-year Kawanheean. This past winter, my father and I took the 7-hour drive from New York City to Weld in order to walk to Bass Rock. This lined up with one of my school breaks, and we planned a ski trip afterwards so I was really excited. We had very little snow in New York this past winter, so when we arrived in Maine and saw six-foot banks of snow on the side of the road, I was thrilled.

I honestly didn't know what to expect for the weekend, but when we arrived Saturday night I immediately felt at home when we met everyone at Calzolaio's for dinner. The next morning we drove over to Camp. It was a beautiful sunny day. I was debating whether to wear snow pants, and for anyone considering this for next year, wear them! When everyone arrived we started the long trudge to the rock. The more we walked, the further the rock seemed.

The snow shoe-ers stomped down the snow for the rest of us, otherwise we'd be fighting against two feet of snow on the lake's frozen surface. After a long hour and a half we finally reached Bass Rock. It felt like a big accomplishment to get there because of the work it took!

We climbed on top of the rock and took a bunch of photos. There's no sight quite like Webb Lake in the winter. The view was incredible. The snow was untouched, you could see the end of the lake clearly, dotted with ice fishing huts. After all of us were fully satisfied, we started the long walk back. It was strange to be walking back to Camp this way. I have swum in the Lake, boated on the lake, water-skied, but never walked on the Lake! Towards the end of the walk, I got excited about finally getting my white K, and I started dreaming of taking off my heavy boots and tasting the Skoolhouse's famous vegetarian chili. It turned out to be the perfect way to end the Bass Rock weekend--good food, and the company of everyone from Kawanhee. •

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## Donors to the George & Raymond Frank Foundation

**Thank you** to those individuals who made gifts during the last fiscal year (November 1, 2017-October 31, 2018)  
and this fiscal year to-date (November 1, 2018-April 15, 2019).

**Your support helps to ensure that there always will be a Kawanhee.**

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## Ways to Stay Connected and Give Back

*\*Follow us on Facebook and Instagram\**

There are so many ways to stay connected and to give back to Kawanhee to help ensure that the experience will be there for the next generation of campers. Kawanhee's website ([www.kawanhee.com](http://www.kawanhee.com)) and our Facebook page are the two primary ways to keep abreast of all that is happening. Other ways to help:

**Refer a camper.** A successful season at Kawanhee depends on having a full complement of campers.

### Host a recruitment event in your community.

Helping to spread the word about Kawanhee and talking with potential campers and their families will help keep the Kawanhee community growing! Our active recruitment season runs from September to April. Please contact Liz Standen ([liz@kawanhee.com](mailto:liz@kawanhee.com)) if you would like to host an event.

**Looking for an excuse to spend time at Kawanhee?** Join the growing group of Kawanhee Community members who join us for the annual **Bass Rock Walk**. Held every year on the Sunday immediately preceding President's Day in February. If a snowy walk isn't your thing, consider helping us get ready for the next camp season by attending the upcoming **Memorial Day Work Weekend**. Work gets underway on the Saturday morning of Memorial Day Weekend. FMI for either event, contact Liz Standen at [liz@kawanhee.com](mailto:liz@kawanhee.com).

### Make a Gift!

We are constantly reminded that Kawanhee has endured because of the timelessness of its mission and because of the loyalty and devotion of the broad Kawanhee community. Many of our alumni attended Camp when it was privately owned—first by the Franks and then the Estabrook Family. In 1998, Kawanhee's owners created the George and Raymond Frank Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation that owns and operates Camp Kawanhee as a 501(c)(3) corporation. That means that we all have the opportunity—and the responsibility—for ensuring Kawanhee's continued success.

Gifts to the Frank Foundation help support the Kawanhee experience for today's generation of campers. Your gift will...

- help keep Kawanhee's tuition affordable and provide scholarships to campers whose families would otherwise not be able to afford it;
- ensure that Kawanhee can continue to hire dedicated counselors and other staff members;
- support the maintenance of Camp's iconic buildings;
- provide Kawanhee with the flexibility to respond to opportunities to enrich the Camp experience—such as adding trips to the Tripping schedule when the demand is unexpectedly high or hiring a History Museum intern to organize the growing collection and make portions of it available online—a particularly exciting project in advance of Kawanhee's Centennial in 2020.

You can make a gift using the enclosed envelope or give online ([kawanhee.com/give](http://kawanhee.com/give)).

***Thank you!***