

Oh SAYMA SAYMA SAYMA. My first and my last as a SAYFer. Kind of sad really. I hope I can take away from this weekend as many memories as wink-endured bruises....
I feel like I've gotten started in this community, and now it's time to leave. I wasn't done! I wanted to meet more people, have more love and be closer to everyone here. I guess it's my fault I didn't – kind of closed myself off from people. Even in beautiful places it seems the painfully shy awkward me is still just that. I stand by what I said in my first epistle (not too long ago...) that this is the place I feel most accepted, if not one of the only places. And yet, having received all the benefit allowed to me from it, I have nothing but regret that I didn't get more. Though I try every retreat, it's still hard for me to say how much you all mean to me. how much I need this. that kind of seriousness just isn't my nature. I want to throw a joke over it, just in case, and make it not mean anything. But if I learned anything from you all, it's that I don't have to. I don't need all my defense mechanisms here, though I still end up using them frequently. I feel bad about that. This is getting sort of meandering and depressing. I'll tie it up with a poem. A haiku, though I'm no where near the master that Fish and George is.

dead bugs everywhere
cicadas may expire
but my love will not.

You guys are awesome.

♥ Lilli

PS I know this is a SHaker hymn, but it's been speaking to me since my first retreat

'tis a gift to be simple

'tis a gift to be free

'tis a gift to find out where you want to be

and when you find yourself in the place just right
you'll be in the valley of love and delight.

PPS I watched a lot of Thomas the Tank Engine growing up. It kind of shows.

PPPS. I'm done with the postscripts now. Just thought I'd say that.

*Oh my dear, dear, darling immaculate Friends. I refuse to believe that this is good-bye.
Plus, goodbye is too good a word babe, so I'll just say fare thee well.*

♥ Bonnie

PS I am not satisfied with a mediocre worship journal. So here goes. It breaks my hea-a-a-rt that this is the last time for awhile that Austin will be laying his glowing head on my tearstained lap. I cannot believe I will no longer be able to reprimand George for writing messages about poop all over my skin & throwing my pen across the room. Conrad smirks at me & somewhere in those giggling feline eyes I am sure we will grow old together. Thank da lawd for the next generation. So so many wonderful newbies. Obviously, my favorite, Lincoln. You are such a smartie, sweetie, and cutie mc cutie muffin. Cannot wait to have more fun with you little bro. Wren, I hope your voice did not suffer too much this weekend. I will be sending some light your way. Therese, you give wonderful hugs. I love you all. Alright, now I'll fare thee well.

I leave the River

Nourished in its loving stream

Going out to Sea.

- Austin

I hear in my mind
All of these voices.
I hear in my mind
All of these words.
I hear in my mind
All this muuuusic
+
It breaks my
HEART.

This is my first time at SAYMA and I have had lots of fun. We played games and had workshops and stuff. Me and Emanuel got our hair straightened with a lot of other people. The girls made fun of my Southern accent. But I will miss everyone and will try to be at every SAYF retreat in the future.

- Josh

PS I got a Myspace and if you want me to add you just tell me because I don't know my URI.

Lydie says Hi to everybody and wishes she was here!

Wow another retreat that we have to say goodbye. I feel as if this year flew by so fast. First it was when I first started sayf and I met most of the seniors today and they were some of my first friends here, and I sit through graduation after graduation, and now they are all leaving. Each one of these seniors have taught me something over the years, especially George. I never thought this day would come when I have to say goodbye to each one of the people I have hung out with over the years I've been here. okay, so I'm gonna stop before I cry....again. This retreat was really fun and I enjoyed it a lot. I've seen people I haven't seen in a while and that put a smile on my face. So I've figured out that most of the people here have little sisters joining, just like me. The newbies are great, and extremely colorful (Paula & Micala). I don't know why, but I have nothing more to say, so I shall pull this to a close.

♥ I love you all,
Samantha

ps - this is the shortest epistle I have written in a long time.....

This years graduation was the hardest. I cried my eyes out! I really am gonna miss all of you. I hope you have a great time as a YAF and in college! Samantha and Rachel nice speech you wrote for Sam fisher when we went in the meeting room!

I ♥ U guys! I WILL MISS YOU!

♥Kaitlynn Tippin

PS Seniors You better come back!

It's not until graduation night, when I realized how strange it is that all these SAYFers are going away and how much they mean to me. Most of you were at my first couple of retreats, and since then have helped make me who I am today. So, I start with Will:

Will: I'm going to miss you when we all leave, but there's something of you that I've missed for a while....and that is Your Hair, come on man, what happened? If you ask me.....You look stupid with your new look. Next time I see you I want to see you compulsively running your hand through it.

Max: You are one of my favorite first memories at SAYF. At my first retreat, in Knoxville, I was sitting in a circle with the only people I knew, and we were just sitting there talking, when I glance over to you and Alise sitting in a corner, and just then Alise jumps up with a very surprised scream, and as she runs away I notice that Alise had a huge nasty slimy hicky on her neck, and you have a huge, nasty, slimy grin on your face. The End.

Conrad: Sorry to say it but I have no long stories with you. But the first thought that pooped into my mind and out of my mouth when I saw you was "Damn that chick is hot", so Doug says "Yeah....his name is Conrad" and I about puked. But you are an awesome person, and whenever I think sayf, Conrad is the first thing that comes to mind. So good bye Mr. SAYF.

Eli: I think I first met you at my second or third retreat in Atlanta. And when I first thought "Oh look, there's an Ompa-loompa playing wall ball".

This next one is for Austin and Dr. Z:

1. Damn it, We don't hang out any more!
2. When I first met you guys I could never tell who was who.
3. Austin, you smile all the time, you were born smiling. your smiling now, you smile in your sleep, you're going to smile when you are dead, and I don't think all that smiling is good for your face.
4. Z, there I shortened your name again.

Carmen: I think that we have talked more on this retreat than ever before.

Carmen: "Phorest, what time is it?"

Phorest: "9:30"

Carmen: "What!?!"

Philip: Where the heck do you think you're going? You just got here! We need to do the time warp one last time.

When I first met Philip

It was a hot, funny sayma morning and I was waking up...with Philip on top of me. "Who are you" I exclaimed with a tired stupid voice. "I'm yo daddy, Philip" I sayd 'Oh OK, Wanna do the time warp" "Yes" "Let's go".

Lilli: I met you like I met Philip. (Sorry I wish I could write more but, you know, Philip wouldn't like to hear it).

Molly: Ooops! We never hung out!

George: I hope that one day, we can get married in Canada and learn our kids to play hockey and hunt for moose.

Did I miss anyone?

OK.

I will

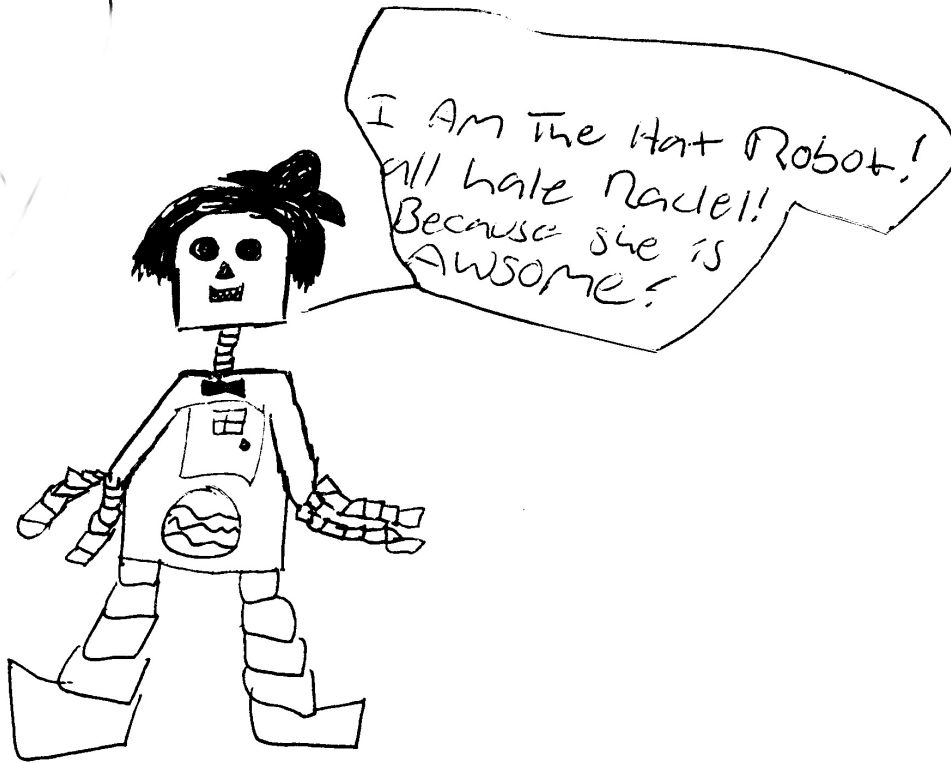
see

yall

Later.

- Phorest (with a ph)

PS Wait. Hold Everything! I forgot Rachel! OMG I've got so much to say about Rachel, but I just wrote 4 pages of this stuff so here's a picture:



Wow, It's been a while. It has been over a year since I have been at a retreat. So many things have changed. There are many new faces, new "values" and countless other things that have made things so different. It is amazing to see so clearly how this community has evolved. I always have such great times at these retreats and I am sorry that I have done such a terrible job at coming to retreats. I really do love you guys.

love.

Tristin

My writing hand is starting to scream at me, as are voices telling us it is time for lunch, but I must write a few brief words. Although I've written individual messages in their journals, I'd also like to say to the senior (plus Conrad) class: you all will be so so so missed & I wish you all the best of luck in whatever & wherever life takes you.

♥ Madeline

Bonnie, I leave complete discretion as to who will take over my football authority to the most beautiful wretched wench. Ayyy!

Elise:

Thanks for all the wonderful flowers. I have enough to start my Hat Garden now!

XXOOX Aaron

So this was my third SAYMA and me graduation, which is weird. I definitely feel like I was sort of distant crabby this whole retreat and I'd like to take a minute to explain myself. I've been in SAYF for two years and over that time my life has changed immensely but SAYF was always there. So leaving SAYF is a difficult for thing for me to grasp. To cope with that, I spent a lot of my time being alone in silent contemplation. As a result of all that alone time I was distant and as a result of all the contemplation I was crabby. This next part is going to sound kind of whiny and self-centered, but I really think that I will kick myself if I just don't get it out there and at the very least I'll be all grumpy on the ride home if I don't say it. I feel like I was sort of glossed over at graduation. So many of the graduates got this barrage of heart-felt memories thrown at them and such and I just felt weird sitting up there expecting something like that to happen to me and it didn't. I do appreciate, very much in fact, the things said about me. I dunno, it was just so much of a let down to see how few people I had affected in any serious way over the two years I was part of this community. I would like to say though, that graduation as a whole was good, it went smoothly, there were fewer candle and wax-related issues than ever, and many of the other graduates got what it was that I was looking forward to most about graduation. I am happy for all of them and wish them all the best of luck and I sincerely hope SAYF continues to grow and be a haven for people who find it hard to connect or love or trust.

- I'm Philip Jurov from Chapel Hill

In many ways this feels more like my first retreat than my last. I wish I had stayed actively in SAYF over the past few years, although upon returning I realize just how much SAYF had affected me and how I interact. It has been amazing to have people reaching out to & welcoming me that I remember being newbies. it gives me faith in the growth of this community and a reminder of how much it can help people blossom.

Take care of each other, it is easy to take things for granted and find fault, but don't downplay the effects your actions have on others, SAYF is what you make it.

Last night I was thinking on graduations past, dipping my fingers in the wax, watching it melt and cool and melt again, thinking it strange that I had cried at every graduation but my own. I think it is important to feel the depth and fullness of silence as much if not more can be felt and shared in silence. I am not sure how I feel right now, but I think it has something to do with love, memories, and Beatle songs.

FAPs thank you for everything. I feel boundless love and support from all of you and am very moved by your commitment to this community.

I am overwhelmed by an urge to express so many specific radiant memories and thanks, but don't know where to begin, so I will try to hold all of you in as much light as I can muster.

Molly

This year was my first SAYF retreat and I really enjoyed it. I made a lot of new friends and enjoyed old friends as well. I really enjoyed the quiet time before we did different things, it was really relaxing. I love SAYF soooooo much and can't wait till the next retreat. I wish I could have gotten to know the seniors a little better but even still they all seem very nice. Everyone in SAYF is completely different too, so its fun to meet everyone. And everyone has cool sunglasses. – Elise Askonas

Toes are toes, but when you tickle them they are much more. Feet are only feet, but when you feel the earth beneath them they are so much more. Legs stay and continue to be legs, but when you walk 1000 miles or even to somewhere special they are so much more. Chests are chests and shoulders are shoulders, but using them to convey emotion through a sigh or a shake makes them so much more. My hand is a hand, but when it is in your hand then it is more. A heart is a pump – allowing our life force to be rejuvenated and replenished, but when we learn to love through our heart it becomes so much more.

SAYF is like my body. Simple and understandable, but when applied it becomes greater. We are just a group of teens, but when we sit in silence I can feel spirit, and that my friends is so much more.

I really value everything SAYF has given me, and I am really excited about sharing the plentiful gifts with the world.

Now for some shout outs!

Max – Even though we’ve had our differences, I can only see light in your eyes.

Molly – Our babies would be cute. We should taxidermy.

Sam F – your words, your heart, My fav.

Will – I wish good byes did not break my heart like they do today.

Micala & Paola – Too cool! Be my friends!

Lamont & Aisha – Wait. You all are cool too. You be my friends!

Ellen – Du nilfst mir, weil ich dich liebe.

Delaney – Ahhhh!

Rachel – I will always try to embrace the love you emanate.

Winona & Julie – You two too beautiful.

Phorest – I look forward to seeing you all grown!

Lauren – Please keep liking me even though I don’t respond sometimes!

Alise – You know what I feel.

Madeline – I’m sorry this is short: I love you!

Bonnie – If there was one person in the world left, and I could choose who I wanted it to be.....That would be too hard, but you would really be considered. I am so in love with you, and I’m so glad our paths cross, and I cannot wait to spend our lives around each other. And if we don’t then I cannot wait for the spontaneous meetings and catching up and reminiscing. You are a light in my world, and I hope you never go out!

Lekey – I cannot wait to visit and see you when you’re a fabulous nurturer.

Austin – I don’t know where your journal is. However, look at the bottom of your bag for a giant note I wrote you. You are so much light in my life.

Sam M - * sniff sniff* Oh wait, my nose is stuffed too!

You all mean so much to me, and I will remember all of you for as long as I can. I will carry your hearts with me.

Love,

Conrad

So, these kids were talking about this “magical glove” they found. “It’s so weird! I mean, it didn’t have spaces for fingers or anything! Why would they make that? What a stupid invention.”

This actually happened too..... 0_0

This is frustrating. So much to say but so little to write. It's almost as bad as having a sneeze get stuck ☹

I'll just say that this weekend was very – insert tyrannosaurus rex/ nymph noise here -. I had so much fun and I'm so sad to see it go. EPHIPHANY! Philip should start going by Philly. that way it would be Philly & Lilli ☺

You're all very special people which I mean in a nice way, not the Willamae way. Seniors – its so terrible to see you go but I know you're all going to do great things with your life because you're all very talented people. Newbies – You're all supa-dupa cool (and special) and I can't wait to get to know you better. I was considering writing little personal notes to all of oyu but that might get obnoxious so I won't.

I love you all and you're all cute enough for me to want to squeeze you until your eyeballs pop. That's creepy. So I won't do that either.

Love,

Delaney

PS Let me know if you haven't been nymphaphied yet and I will aid you in becoming a sprightly woodland creature.

PPS RIP Flossy.

PPPS Ellen! Zombie hug! * bites shoulder *

PPPPS ew I'm starting to do personalized notes which I already said I wouldn't do. I'll stop.

I have to be honest with you, this retreat hasn't been my favorite. I think the groups kinda made us form cliques. Even at free time we'd still be hanging out with our "group" pretty much. Other than that, this retreat was ok. I got to meet a lot of wonderful newbies like Angelina and Ruth etc. I'm gonna miss you all so much. Especially the seniors though ☹.

I'll even miss the Berea people! I won't see them for a month and a half or so, and I'm used to seeing them at least once a week....

On a lighter note, I just remembered how amazing the talent show was. Bonnie and Sophie, your voices are so beautiful and stunning, I almost cried hearing you perform! Anyway, I think I am done. I have to use the bathroom. I love you ALL!

Love,

Beth

This was actually my first retreat (* pokes Sam/Jeremy *). I think it was a GREAT success. I shall be going to a crapload of retreats en fallzorz, and George, You are an **AMAZING** guitarist. Same to you Tristin! Of yeah, Ph1, that song you were singing on Saturday night about "Pizza hutis GAY!!!" was so hilarious. And MAX!!! I will forever love your pants!!

Lincoln

PS I lost my favorite sock!

This is my first SAYF retreat. I did not come last year because I was afraid of people that were 16 or older. I came this year because I didn't have anything I was doing. When I got here, I hung out with armchairs and walls because I didn't want to hang out with people, because I was afraid they might bite me or something. I didn't stay that way because sooner or later someone came and basically said if you are new, I'll be your friend. Slowly I became more comfortable at SAYF or very quickly, I made new friends and spoke my mind in discussions about SAYF.

I had a lot of fun at SAYF, doing workshops, activities, socializing and eating food. The people in general are very friendly and the atmosphere reminds me of my school and I want it to start again.

I'll miss all the seniors who are graduating. Especially Will, who I knew from JYM, and everyone in general. I don't know what to write anymore. I Love You all so much!

Lots of love.

I do believe that this is the first graduation that has really meant something to me personally. I have been to two graduations prior to this one. the first one I went to was in that big building where contra-dancing usually is and I was really young and totally freaked out by SAYF. I left early b/c I was tired and didn't know anybody and felt silly being there. The second graduation was last year. I still didn't really know anyone, the seniors I did know, I had only met once. And then this year so many good friends are leaving. poo. I should have said this last night. Okay on to other less depressing topics → on the opposite end of the spectrum there are tons of marvelous newbies like taro and Lincoln and Emma and Elise and Ruth. Anyways, this retreat was pretty great, what with Wink, the cat, the seeing-everybody-that-I-haven't-seen-in-months. I'm gonna miss y'all.

Love,
Ellen

I know that everyone writes this, but it really does feel weird to be graduating, and leaving the sayf community. I've known a lot of you for a long time and some of you for a little time, but I'm going to miss all of you and the community you create. While I say I will miss you all, I hope and feel confident that I will see many of you again. I also know it's sad that so many seniors are leaving in one graduation, but this community will manage and continue to grow and produce more amazing seniors. I've had a wonderful time in this community and am sad to be leaving it. I love you all.

Eli H.

This was my first retreat but I had a really awesome time. All the seniors are such an awesome people. It's really sad that they're leaving even though I just met them. The food is really good here.

Jeremy
PS Thanks for bringing me, Gill.

Well, it's been a year since my first retreat, and all I can say is, SAYF rules! It doesn't seem like I've been to 6 retreats already!

Welcome newbies, I love you all. I remember my first retreat and how I felt. Comparing that to how I feel now, all I can say is: stick with it. SAYF will become your home-away-from-home. I love newbies!♥

Goodbye, graduates, I love you guys too. SAYF honestly won't be the same without you. I guess it's like you're taking away some of SAYF with you. I love you! ♥

Let's see. Emma, thanks for saving cicadas with me. They are so dumb! And, they often lose their butts. We found at least 3 buttless cicadas that were still alive!

Elise, you have some serious flower-making skills. Thanks!

Angelina, you rock. I've known you since JYM. Remember the fairy houses?

Micala, you look good in a garbage bag too. Especially love the duct tape.

Ruth, your hair is awesome. It's just awesome.

To all my fellow Bereans: I miss y'all already! I can't believe we live in the same town and I still won't see you for a month! It's insane!

Okay, now the part were I talk about what happened this retreat. I got here at like 3 o'clock. So I went to the free store. When they finally opened the SAYF dorm, we found a room BUT IT WAS LOCKED! So, someone got the keys and we put our stuff up. Then we went off in our little groups & played some games (including the aristashah game Conrad taught us in September). Then opening circle. I looove opening circle. Maybe it's the candle.

Friday as fun. Ron McDonald did some activities with us. I liked the blind person game. It's too bad we couldn't go swimming.

The workshop with Aaron yesterday was really fun. I like balloons for more than decorating now! The piano pieces were really Beautiful. I wanted to dance to them. ☺

And of course, graduation. Words cannot express my feelings on this, so I won't try. * runs out of paper * Okay, I gots to stop.

I love you all,

Taylor

Amazing SAYF, how sweet the sound.....

Ok, I need some work on the rest of the verses. Amazing that it has been 3 years already since I first got roped in, really - to FAPPING. Amazing how attached you can get in such a short time (to me) - to diverse young persons with all kinds of personalities, special gifts, and little annoyances - various mixes of angel and devil. I get to love you, and then you graduate. So soon! I look forward to seeing many of you again, probably somewhere in the wide wild world of Quakerdom.

I look forward to seeing you move into adulthood, relationships, careers, new leadings for service, and into families of all sorts. It is also amazing to me that, after I have missed a few retreats, I wonder if our connections are still there - "will they remember me?" Bingo! As soon as I return, someone calls out my name; someone sends a warm smile; and then I am gifted with the sharing of hugs. Why did I ever doubt?

Now I am found, now I see!

Love ya all, Gary

Hm. Well that was interesting. I've been thinking the whole weekend about what in the world I'm going to put in this epistle. I can not express how much you all mean to me and all you have done for me, so I shall simply give a few short thanks. I would have done this at graduation, but there was no time.

I have made a list of cute people. There are specific reasons for each, but believe me, they are all absolutely adorable.

Julie, Lilli, Delaney, Emma and Bonnie. there are definitely more, but these are the ones I noted during the retreat. That isn't really a thanks, is it? Well, here's one. First, a brief explanation. For years, I have always had so much trouble knowing who my best friends were. I haven't had a birthday party since 9th grade, because I've never been able to decide who to invite. And because my birthday is smack dab in the middle of the summer, but never mind about that. Here, somehow, it is different. Despite that I only see you once a month and have very limited communication between retreats, Winnie and Julie, you are no doubt my best friends. I can't compare you to any of my friends at school, because our relationship is so different. I am awful at communicating, and I truly can talk to you about anything. Winona, I can wake you up in the middle of the night, three quarters asleep, and say I need help finding the grey room because I've decided in my sleep I have a meeting there, and you will get up and go with me without hesitation. Words cannot describe how much you mean to me.

Speaking of sleeping problems, has anybody else been having issues with that this weekend? I have sleep walked 3 times so far. The worst one was last night when I went completely out of my dorm and wake up without my glasses on outside. What was worse was I went through the backdoor and for a little while was completely sure I had somehow sleep walked to the YAF dorm. So if I seem tired, that's why.:)

I feel as though I have written too much, so I will wrap it up. Newbies and threebies who I have befriended, I feel slightly guilty now. I've come to love you all so much, and now I am leaving you. I will come and visit though, and if you come to SAYMA you will most definitely see me. So so so much love and many hugs,

Rachel

ps Is it strange to sit on the lap of someone 6 years younger than you? It feels strange to me.

I really like the direction SAYF is going in due to supa cool people like Ellen, Delaney, Lekey....It's so comforting to know that people like these will still be here when I graduate. You cool cats. This makes graduations like these less sad.

You graduates are really impressive when you sit in a little circle in the middle of a pavilion. I thought the room would implode into your greatness, and then Warren Wilson would have another collapsed building on their hands. I love all of you. You give me faith in humanity.

Love,

Sophie

Hey Jeremy, for the last time I am not your friend. My mom made me bring you. You're really dumb. LOL JK! ROFL Dude, seriously, you're like the funniest dude and you smell great. We still on for that scrubs marathon Saturday?

awesome LOL.

-Gill

PS Jeremy sux lol

Molly: On Thursday night you just walked up to me and gave me a hug after I told you my name. It wasn't that big of a deal, but it made me feel very welcome and special and loved. Thank you. Why you were walking around drinking what appeared to be coffee at 1 in the morning, I have no clue. I will always remember that and I am sorry that we didn't get to know each other better.

Will: You have the best answers to queries that I have ever heard, and I hope that you get your job at the Rite Aid. Thanks for talking to me when I was sitting awkwardly in the corner.

George: You are the craziest person that I have ever met. I'm glad that I did meet you though and I'm so glad that you didn't set anyone on fire last night.

Winona: I don't know exactly how to put this into words, but you have like all of these good emotions that you spread to people just by being around them. It's like that dude that turned everything he touched into gold, except you do it with happiness and joy and stuff.

Phorest: It was really fun hanging out with you, and you officially are the best song writer/singer ever. It was fun playing ping pong together, but when the games last for like 60 rounds, it gets really annoying and funny at the same time. I hope that we get to know each other better in the future.

Michael, Lauren, and Emily: It was a lot of fun playing that game with those kids, even though it was extremely tiring and 5 of them kept "hugging" me at the same time.

Bethany: I love your hair. Just had to say that.

Willimae and Alise: You two have the weirdest conversations ever; going from puppies with hearts to a 40 year old male communist singer guy. It was funny though and Willimae, you totally owned at wink.

I love you all, mentioned or not; but my hand is getting tired. Sorry to whoever is reading this for my handwriting and spelling errors.

- Sam

This is my first year in SAYF and I have been looking forward to it since I left JYM last year. On April 15 I started counting the days till now. I have 8 friends here already and can not wait till the first retreat that I think is in September. I had 3 friends that I made last year because my brother is in SAYF. I made lots of friends that live in lots of different places and one reason why SAYMA is so special to me is because it is the one place so far where I have a lot of friends together. In JYM I saw my friends once a year and I didn't like that. Here I can see them a lot more.

When graduation happened I was sad because there was all these really nice people who I barely knew but were already moving on. My best friends are here and that means a lot to me. When we are here people seem a lot nicer than they normally do where I live. Nobody tries to be someone else, they are all themselves because they know that nobody will make fun of them. So far I love sayf and like the people (and food). I am already counting the days till I see everybody again.

- A New Person

Oh, Sayf. Sayf Sayf Sayf Sayf Sayf. You bring out the best and the strangest in me, beloved Quaker gathering. I can't believe how much I've changed in these past months, almost all of it happened here. I owe you all the world and all I can give you is my love and thanks. Luckily that's a big part of the sayf world.

To the seniors (yes, I am still not over you guys leaving): So many of you I wish I'd gotten to know better. The few I felt I did know okay, I'll miss you as much as you'll miss sayf. (Unless you're Will, who is like "See ya SUCKahs!). Sorry Willyum, don't worry. You've got the 4 HOUR car ride back with Delaney and I still. But you can get me back then.

A few people get an extra mention:

Samantha: We didn't hang out enough before this retreat, thank God we've made up for lost time by being joined at the hip. I love you. Oh and: grpe. Just use your imagination. ☺.

George: My-oo-sic. You are the King of it. At my 1st retreat you guys played incredible music. Of course I was too awkward to come sit by you all, but this retreat was different. Even though I have zero musical talent I was in the middle of a semi-music fest yesterday. it is one of my favorite memories of Sayf. Lurv.

Ellen: Darling. I will teach you all I know. It will take about 10 minutes if I try hard. You are sweet and caring and genuine. I love you so much. Might I go as far as saying you're a future (and present) Rachel? Yes, I would.

Rachel: Words cannot say how much I'll miss you. Read my shout-out to Ellen, and it might give you a vague idea of how much I respect and love you. Since words aren't an option, lets try a hug? It's worked before.

So much more to say. So little time. I love you.

Love, (no seriously, all of it)

Lekey like Becky

This SAYF retreat was as great as ever. This is probably one of my favorite ones because of the food, the campus and the free store. This year the free store had a wheel chair and a scooter. The scooter wheels were tiny. I also brought my bike ad at the end of the retreat I had a flat tire, broken front brakes, a bent rim, a cracked pedal, and I'm sure lots of other things.

Josh and me got our hair straightened and it looked awesome and we found out that Josh is as ticklish as Terra. Nia found this great BMX track by the place we played Ultimate Frisbee.

Everyone should bring their bike next year if we can go on it even though it was overgrown with weeds. I can't wait till next retreat.

Emmanuel

Hi guys, I just though I'd say I felt really included and nurtured this retreat even though I didn't talk to anyone but Jeremy and Gil a little bit. I think my handwriting is a lot like yours Jeremy. "I CAN HAZ CHEESEBURGERS?". Lol that was hilarious. Gil, you're so talented and funny, but I just found out you have 2 L's in your name. haha. OK, anyway, I'll see you guys at SAYF even though you never see me.

- Ron

PS F my Life.

PPS Gamer tag! Psycho One 2 him. AIM: Gore Boy 7

SAYF/SAYMA has once again fulfilled it's purpose: to make people smile, laugh, and have vast amounts of fun. Despite the fact I only got a total of about 4 ½ hours sleep this weekend, I had fun. I got to see some older friends like Delaney, Will, Rachel, Conrad Josh and Emmanuel, and I got to become friends with new SAYFers Kaitlyn, Angelina and Taro. I'm glad I was able to come because it has made me feel happy & hopeful once again. From strange conversations about guys, video games, and "man-liner" (supposed to be guy-liner), to hugging people & then watching them act like total idiots, SAYF is the best thing ever. I'm really sad that the seniors had to graduate this year, since I knew them better than the ones last year. I love you all and hope I'll run into you at some point in the near or distant future.

Will – You're an awesome guy & amazing friend. Hopefully when you go to school in New York you'll get stories a little more impressive than being able to reach a cicada on the outside of a building.

Philip – I remember when I first met you in 2007 at the Nashville retreat. I thought you were really creepy because you said, "We don't shake hands at SAYF, we hug" and I had been really anti-social at the time which made it seem worse to me. But then I realized that you were an awesome guy, with really awesome socks that I was (and still am) jealous of.

Rachel – Knowing you has helped me out a lot since I came. You're always so sweet to everyone & never seem to be really sad, and you give awesome hugs and can always cheer me up. I will miss seeing you at SAYF & hope to see you in the not too distant future. I hope that we can keep in touch somehow.

I wish I didn't have to leave & be stuck in a van for 12- 14 hours. I will miss all of you so so much and can't wait to see most of you at the Knoxville retreat.

Love always,

Autumn Trayham

*So I'm gonna start with the car ride up here. It was Alise, Katie, Santha and I stuck in the back playing bring car ride games. It got interesting tho. lol. So we get here and there is hardly anyone here and Colin and Kama keep texting me telling me how sorry they were that they couldn't make it. (so by the way, they love you all and miss you and told me to give the seniors hugs bye. So * hugs *). Yup. Then I hung out with a few people and greeted more. * sleep *. Next day we did a morning SAYF activity then lunch. We go to our small groups and out group was arguing on which popsicles were better. Finally we go to the blues thing (thnx to peer pressure from Michael) and it was pretty fun! I'm gonna skip stuff now. hmm....GEORGE! A huge surprise when I saw you! I'm so glad you made it!! Oh, and during lunch another HUGE surprise happened. TRISTAN! OMG, if I wasn't eating, I would have jumped on you! It's nice to see you again! I still can't believe you would choose Frisbee over us awesome SAYFers! 4 real man! But again, very nice to see you again and I hope that you come to more retreats! Oh! the Piano man was extremely amazing (as usual) but the walk up there was funny. So it was Santha, Tristan, me, Emily, Micheal, and Bonnie walking in a chain type thing and then Bonnie decides that not only will we walk in the grass, but we will ALSO climb over the sign. That was hard and a lil weird, but fun! Another thing was that george and I were going to ultimate Frisbee and uh...played, but the best part was going back. The YAFs decided that we should take a STEEP short cut. Tristan helps me down the hill and then Alise, but then Buffie threw her shoes down and one slid & hit Alise's ankle, she falls & thank God Phorest was there to catch her! lol. It was great. So...I'm babbling on and on. So I'm gonna come to a closure. to the lovely seniors, I will miss you all dearly and you will always have a place in my heart! Take care! To everyone else, I'll see you all soon!*

** love always *, Stay beautiful,*

Chrissy.

PS Guess what?!? I'm kinda a nurturer now. Cool beans. bye. ☺

Oddly enough at this SAYMA retreat I felt tired and alone. I found that for some odd reason or another there were very few people I wanted to talk to and even then I was afraid to be near them when I was feeling bad as to cause them to worry. So for the longest time I felt I was gonna let the retreat go to waste and I would've if it hadn't have been for Lekey and Taylor. They were the only people who were really there when I needed them and Taylor was always there to comfort me. If I had to name my favorite parts they would be 1) My little walk in the woods 2) Games with the little ones 3) Graduation circle 4) sleeping. I'm so sorry to the people I pushed away which I guess included everyone at some point. I love all you guys and I hope to make up for it at the next retreat. thank you Chrissy for letting me use your brush. Much love. Thank you Phorest for providing me with your number. I really enjoyed being able to call you and see yo angry expression. Thank you Angelina for your somewhat discouraging comments on my straightened hair. Thank you Lekey for hanging with me and insulting me because I know for a fact deep down in your heart you love me. Thank you Taylor for hanging with me and dealing with my stubbornness. I truly appreciate it and I love you so much. Mighty FAP Aaron I am jealous of your overwhelming ability to laugh and find joy in things. For all the people I missed I'm sorry but you all know I love you anyway. Sadly enough that's all I have to say but I'm surprised I stretched this out a Hell of a lot longer than I thought I would.

Love, Yo friend

Tim

PS If you have ATT call 859-582-1226

I am the silent and discreet witness
of your spirit. Writing, all in jokes and rhymes.
the intense fragility of my love for this place.

Bye George.

Bye Will.

Bye Carmen.

Bye Eli.

Bye Conrad.

Bye Austin.

Bye Doctah Z.

Bye Phillip.

Bye Max.

Bye Lilli.

Bye Molly.

I knew all of you and I'm thankful for that. I cried the first and the best cry in years last night for you all. I love you. - Sam Fisher

PS The riva' dun took my little quakes away.

PPS Gill, it was nice to meet you and you've got a sweet name. Keep up the guitar playing and the Borat imitation. You do both pretty well. And tell your friend to come back, but not before he shaves his ridiculous pre-mature side-burns, no really. Y'all are some great noobies.

Rock Turtle



Caricatures! By: George Pettis



Julie



Me



Sam