



Meet the Dagestani version of Gahjee (gah-JEE), our mascot



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HEY, MOM, DAD, SISTER, BROTHER, GRANDMA, GRANDPA, PET CAT/DOG/* - WE'RE HERE! *YOU FILL IN THE BLANK





Gahjee, Russian Ram of mystery

By Caleb Zimmerman

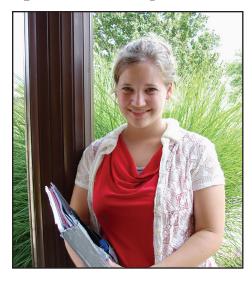
I had the amazing privilege of introducing *Gahjee*, the new Choral Camp mascot, to campers, counselors, and parents today. Gahjee is hard to define, as there are many rumors about who he is and how he got a bellybutton. The second question is simple:

Debbie welcomes you, campers!

As I walked into the dark and quiet choir room this morning, I imagined what it would be like with all of you in there, singing, praising and celebrating...I love what you do for a quiet room!

You are what makes Choral Camp come alive. You are the notes in a beautiful song of praise to God. I'm excited to welcome you to Choral Camp today and hope that you enjoy your week—make it a singing, praising, celebrating week!

Debbie Hochstedler Choral Camp Coordinator



Gahjee has a bellybutton because campers (and even some parents, at least the ones who were nice) spent most of the morning shaking his leg in exchange for permission to poke his belly. Very nice d people who hugged Gahjee even got to jab him twice, while some people here

> at Choral Camp hugged him a total of sixteen times! Because of this, Gahjee's bellybutton emerged quite nicely.

The first question, about who Gahjee actually is, is not as easy to answer. I was originally told that he is Russian, presumably from the Republic of Dagestan (Deborah Showalter will teach you about that in Culture Class). However, Simeon Moore speculated that his mother may be Irish, and the collision of cultures may explain Gahjee's horrible temper and tendency to buck people in the chest with his squishy horns.

Gahjee has three amazing talents. He can serve a ping-pong ball with his mouth, catch the return volley in his bellybutton, and is even rumored to have made a basketball layup. He also had a golf ball stuck in his mouth for much of the morning, complicating his speech function. When placed in a soccer goal, *See Gahjee, ram of mystery, page 2*

Meet Deborah Showalter: traveler, teacher, culture girl



By Ellen Moore and Andrew Sharp

Under a spreading old tree behind the cafeteria, we sat down with Deborah Showalter to discuss her first year teaching the Music & Culture class at Choral Camp. Deborah and her husband Chad traveled from Columbus. Ohio, with their children, Rachel and Jonathan, to join us at Choral Camp.

Deborah grew up in Ohio and has three brothers and two sisters. She is the oldest. Around the time she graduated from high school, her family moved to Dagestan, and she lived there for a year until she came back for college.

When it's time to relax, Deborah likes to hang out with her family. She enjoys cooking, thrift store shopping, and having people over to their house. Her favorite color is blue. She is studying music at Ohio State and would like to teach music either here in the United States or in another country.

Her favorite thing about Choral Camp is "having a break from city life and getting to be at Rosedale with kids who are excited about music." She has been very busy, but is having a good time. "I really get excited about learning about other cultures," she said, adding that she loves the chance to combine two of her favorite things, music and culture. She also enjoys it when students get really interested in what they are learning and are eager to know more.

Her advice to all campers to make sure their Choral Camp experience is the best it can be is to fully participate in all the activities, make new friends, and take risks (like tackling that roller blade course!).

Gahjee, ram of mystery, from page 1 Gahjee showed little interest in blocking shots, so he was quickly removed.

Gahjee has been touched, however, by the amazing graciousness of the campers this week. Despite some friendly punches early in the morning from some male campers, handshakes and hugs increased dramatically when campers were tempted by the prospect of poking Gahjee's bellybutton. Hugs left him speechless, and he is definitely looking forward to a week of flabbergastation as he meets you all again at my TAP station (Bingo!). Thank you to all for your support in making Gahjee's move to America a positive, if strenuous, transition.



Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, bacon, toast, cereal, milk, juice.

Lunch: Beef tacos, corn, applesauce, jello cake, punch.

Supper: Pizza, green beans, Mandarin oranges, ice cream sandwich, punch.

Our chef, Robin Troyer, says menus are subject to change as the need arises.

Hayride! Camp Cream! Choral Camp Café!

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|--------------------|-------|--|
| | 7:30 | Wake Up |
| | 8:00 | Breakfast |
| \mathbf{A} | 9:00 | Choir – library |
| \mathbf{f} | 9:30 | Chapel |
| | 10:00 | Session V: |
| - | | Yellow, Orange, Red – Class – library |
| $\dot{\leftarrow}$ | • | Green, Blue, Black – Choose-a-Spot |
| K _ | 11:00 | Session VI: |
| Z | | Yellow, Orange, Red – Choose-a-Spot |
| \sim | | Green, Blue, Black – Class – library |
| Nes | 12:00 | Lunch |
| 2 | 1:00 | CLAP Classes |
| - | 1:30 | Session VII: |
| | | Yellow, Orange, Red – Class |
| M. | | Green, Blue, Black – Choral Camp Cream |
| | 2:30 | Dressing Break – All Groups |
| 1 | 2:45 | Session VIII: |
| | | Yellow, Orange, Red – Camp Cream |
| | | Green, Blue, Black – Class – library |
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| 3:45 | Session IX: |
|-------|--|
| | Y.O.R. – Class – library |
| | G.B.B. – Choose-a-Spot |
| 4:45 | Choir – library |
| 5:15 | Dinner |
| 6:15 | CLAP Classes |
| 6:45 | Session X: |
| | Y.O.R. –Hayride |
| | G.B.B. – Class – library |
| 7:45 | G.B.B. –Hayride |
| | Y.O.R. – Choose-a-Spot |
| 8:45 | Y.O.R. – Choral Camp Café |
| | G.B.B. –Running Games |
| 9:15 | Y.O.R. – Dorm Time |
| | G.B.B. – Choral Camp Café |
| 9:30 | G.B.B. – Campfire |
| | Y.O.R. – Quiet Time |
| 10:00 | Y.O.R. – Lights Out; G.B.B – Dorm Time |
| 10:30 | G.B.B. – Lights Out |