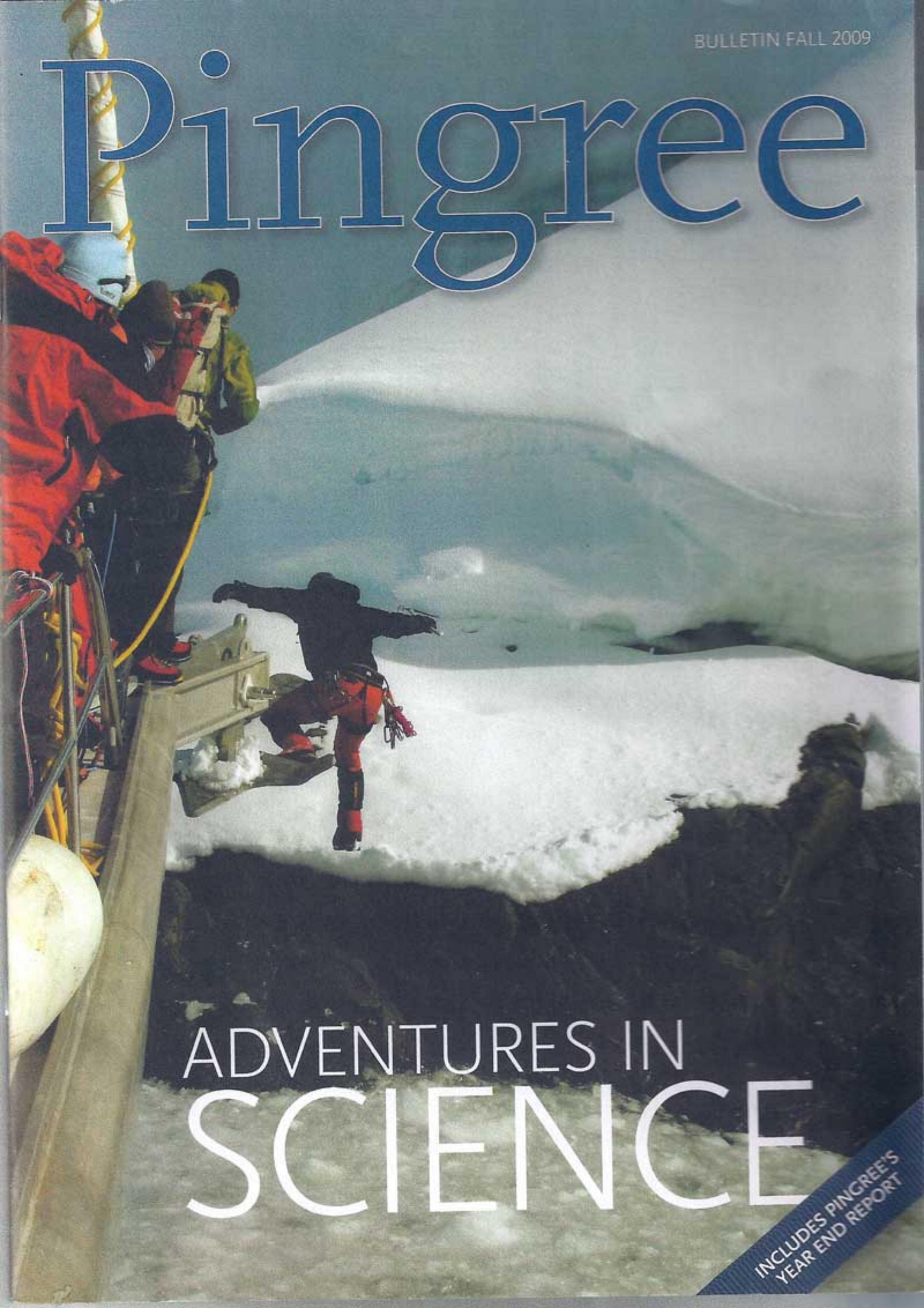


BULLETIN FALL 2009

Pingree



ADVENTURES IN
SCIENCE

INCLUDES PINGREE'S
YEAR END REPORT

When **Henry Stanislaw '08** graduated from Pingree, he did not take the typical route to a four-year college as did so many of his peers. Instead, Henry headed to the penguin colonies and thermal hot springs on islands off the coast of Antarctica. Ever the outdoorsman, Henry was looking for an adventure of a lifetime during his gap year before attending St. Andrews University in Scotland. Enter Mike Horn and the Young Explorers Program.

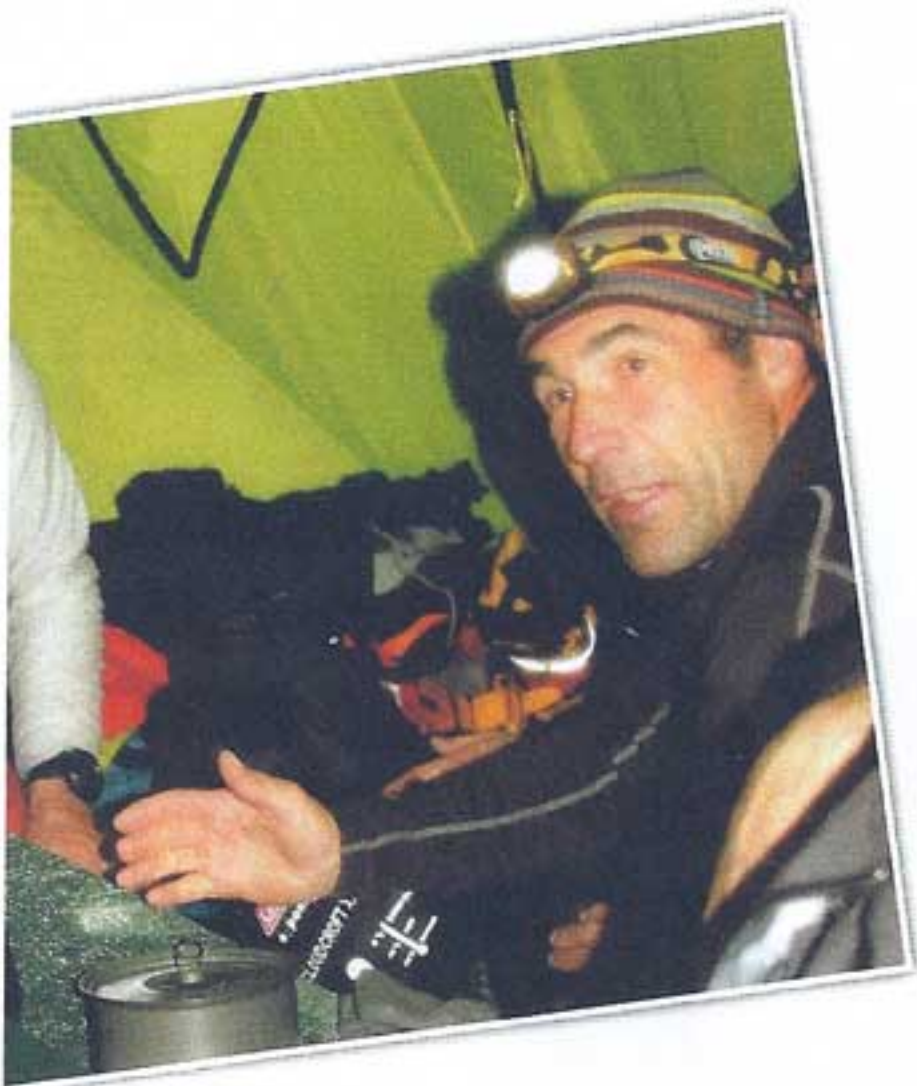
EXPEDITION ANTAR



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You tend to find your true self when you put



INTERVIEW BY
SAMANTHA DRISLANE MARKOWSKI '93

Mike Horn, South African born, member of the Special Forces, and one of the world's greatest modern adventurer-explorers, is committed to raising awareness of the issues that affect the environment. His personal charge is "to take young explorers on expeditions so that they will be able to see first hand the damage that has been caused in these regions with the hope that they will share their experiences with family, friends and peers, and become ambassadors to protect our fragile and endangered environment." His organization, officially named YOUNG EXPLORERS PROGRAM — PANGAEA (a Pan Global Adventure for Environmental Action), sails a boat, *Pangaea*, around the world on expeditions. "*Pangaea* is used as the platform from which young adults can experience and explore the natural world, learn about the challenges we face and the possible solutions, and most importantly act to change things for the better," says Horn.

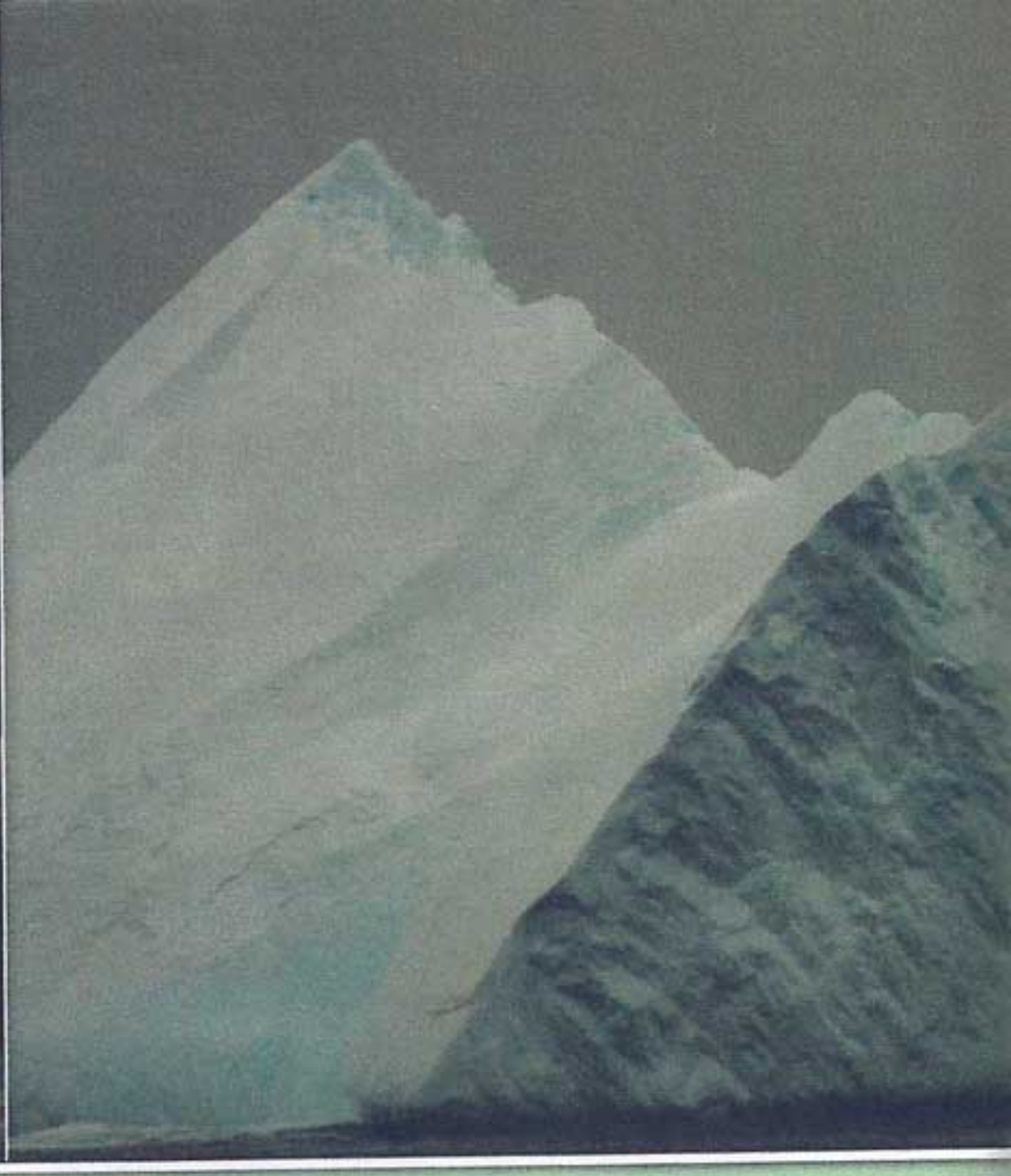
Intrigued by the man who has vowed to walk



yourself in new and challenging situations.”

every continent and sail the oceans in between over the next four years, Henry decided to fill out the online application to become one of a very select group of young adventurers across the globe to be accepted into Horn's Young Explorers Program. Henry was happy to be selected to attend the 10-day training camp in Switzerland at the Mike Horn Expedition Center, but knew that not all those selected into the training camp are asked to join Mike on one of his expeditions. Henry recalls meeting Horn for the first time in Switzerland. "He's not that well known in the U.S., but in Europe, he's like a superstar. He had the strongest handshake of anyone I have ever met." The training camp entailed physical and mental challenges. Doctors from the Mayo Clinic conducted physicals on all the students. Participants then embarked on helicopter, cable and glacier training, concluding with a 30-hour endurance test of continuous movement that included biking, hiking, kayaking and running.

Eco-friendly corporate sponsors of Horn's programs spoke to the students every night, educating them on the importance of their research and how it inspires continued investment in the programs. Participants were also followed by photographers and videographers at all times over the 10-day training period to get the students used to dealing with the press. At the end of the training camp, after several hours of deliberation, six of the 12 students were selected to join Mike on his Antarctica expedition. Henry was among the six, and he was given three weeks to pack for the 10-day excursion. The day before they set sail, Henry and five other young explorers from four other countries met in Ushuaia, Argentina where they participated in a formal press conference to announce the official start of the PANGAEA expedition. All of the young explorers also had the opportunity to introduce themselves during the press conference and to say what it meant for them to be there. The next day, on the 18th of October,



It was only when I was staring at a 3,000 foot

the expedition party set sail crossing the Drake Passage towards Trinity Island. It took two-and-a-half days to reach the island, which gave the students some time to get acquainted with each other and their boat. The *Pangaea* is a 35-metre sailing vessel that sleeps 30 people and features the latest communication technology and conference facilities. It also includes BlueTec engines, solar panels, recyclable aluminum hull and trawling nets for bottles and a number of other eco-friendly sustainable features. *Pangaea* was built in an environmentally-friendly way and produces energy with the lowest possible emission and pollution. By the time they came into the harbor at Trinity Island, penguins and icebergs were clearly visible. Stuck on a rock shelf 24 hours to wait for the tide to come back in to get *Pangaea* afloat, the students experienced their first contact with the arctic environment. The young explorers learned how to take snow and ice measurements with Professor

Roswitha Stolz from the University of Munich and studied the behavior of the local penguin colony. "We were unfortunately located downwind of the penguin colony which smells really awful," Henry recalls vividly. Students also conducted water salinity tests by studying the krill population.

The next day, the team headed for Charcot Bay. Accompanied by three experienced mountain guides, the young Explorers hiked up a snow peak and summited what was thereafter named *Pangaea Peak*! Henry remembers this as a "Very cool moment. We were able to name our first summit, as this specific peak had not yet been given a name, at least not one that showed up on any map!" On the summit, more snow samples were taken and the young explorers engaged in collecting more research data.

The following morning the crew sailed on to Deception Island. Because of the volcanic activity on



glacier, that I fully understood its enormity.”

the island, there are hot springs at certain spots along the shoreline. The team dug into the volcanic beach and soon were sitting in their own thermal hot springs. “An amazing experience,” recalls Henry.

After sailing on to King George Island, the crew ended their expedition, and made their individual journeys home, but their work does not stop. Horn and his team will be in constant contact with them to follow up, oversee the satellite projects they will engage in, and to assure sustainability of their efforts. Henry plans to conduct snow studies for Horn in Colorado, Montana and Wyoming over the next few years.

Clearly, the Pangaea experience has forever changed Henry. “There is nothing that compares to Young Explorers Program (YEP). It was the most eye-opening trip I have and may ever be on. People tell you there is a lot of ice, but it’s beyond

imagination how much there is. It was only when I was staring at a 3,000 foot glacier, that I fully understood its enormity.”

“A gap year gave me time to learn more about who I am,” Henry says. He credits history teacher Ms. Paczkowska and English teacher Mr. Kloman for supporting him in his decision, as well as Associate Head of School Mr. Blackman for encouraging him to continue his outdoor adventures. “You tend to find your true self when you put yourself in new and challenging situations. It’s a great time in your life to get out there and push your limits,” he believes.

In college, Henry plans to major in International Relations with minors in Geography and German. He foresees a career in sustainable development.

For more information about Mike Horn and his expeditions visit www.mikehorn.com