

# THE BRYANT REPORT

2009

*Graduation Edition*



*Jack, Heidi, Madeleine, and Ned Bryant  
Graduation 2009*

## Madeleine Goes to College

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*Our glamorous ballerina . . .*

*. . . is also an earthy-crunchy  
throwback to '70s style*

A graduation hit the Bryant family this year – and with graduation comes COLLEGE! Madeleine was offered academic scholarships at several schools, but Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia also offered a dance scholarship and the opportunity to earn a BFA in Dance. An invitation to dance with the Gainesville Ballet Company sealed the deal. Heidi recently went to Georgia to see their “Nutcracker” performances, featuring Madeleine in two demi-soloist roles and in the corps of Spanish. Madeleine is also practicing her French because in May she will travel to Paris as part of her Dance History course. While there, she will study with the Académie Américaine de Danse de Paris. To say that she can’t wait would be a significant understatement.

Like most college students, Madeleine is second guessing her choices and wonders if she would rather become a secondary math teacher. Of course if none of these options work out, she can become a professional tie-dye artist.





*Madeleine's last few minutes with her family before becoming a college kid*

## **Heidi's Full Time Job**

The more things change, the more they change. This June the renewable energy company mentioned in last year's Bryant Report asked Heidi to join the staff full-time as their Business Manager. Heidi still has the opportunity to do a lot of graphics projects, while also spending her time in accounting, sales support, marketing, human resources, and just about anything else that needs to be done. After setting up a shopping cart website ([www.offgridoptions.com](http://www.offgridoptions.com)), she is looking forward to revamping the company website in 2010 ([www.aprsworld.com](http://www.aprsworld.com)).

## **Bryants Survive Downturn**

2009 brought some financial stress and memories of past setbacks to the Bryant household. In addition to a rash of layoffs, RTP imposed a 20% pay reduction for about half of the year. With tightened belts and more hours for Heidi, the Bryants survived the year. RTP's sales have rebounded and 2010 is looking like a much better year!





## NED BRYANT

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### Grand Canyon

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Well the Grand Canyon called once again, and this time we answered with the largest group ever—a total of six people went for a walk in the park this year (Maddy included, of course). This was Maddy's 4th hike in a row and definitely the most difficult yet. The hike involved 9 full days in the backcountry, climbing over difficult saddles and down slot canyons full of rushing water, a good bit of luck at finding pools of salt free water, and finally hiking through a true white out snow storm on the last day.



*Are we having fun yet?*

One of the more exciting nights involved us ending up sleeping in the trail on a steep hillside and melting snow, yes snow, for water! But this was a big hike, as big as they get in the Grand Canyon, so any other hike will be easier. A full write up be found at <http://www.design-on-call.com/GC.html>.

*Yes, those ARE pink Crocs*

*Maddy is coming up "The Trail"*



There was also a first this year for me and the GC. At the end of a business trip last October I went on a three-day solo hike. The main purpose of the hike was to verify the existence of some springs but also just to hike a bit. Solo hiking is quite a bit different from group hiking; now that I've done both I definitely prefer hiking with company. Again, a full write up is available at <http://www.design-on-call.com/GC.html>.

Going forward to 2010 Jack will be coming along on his first hike. We have a great hike planned—the permit is already in hand, and Jack and I are both looking forward to hiking together next spring.



*Sunset on the final night*

## Recapturing History

2009 also saw the completion of a long awaited project. Being a huge fan of digital photography, Ned decided to recapture all of our families' slides and negatives by using a slide scanner to digitize them. It took several months, but here are a couple of classics:

*Heidi, Hilary, Dell, Nelson, and Rick Hitchcock - Surfside Beach, c. 1981*



*Kinsey, Ned and Sue  
New York City, c. 1966*



## **Murphy**

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The Bryant family said goodbye to an important family member this year. Murphy was born in 1992 and was a baby with Maddy. After moving cross country four times, Murphy was a pro at adapting to new homes and environments. He had a special gift for humiliating his apprentice, T.R., who would imitate his habits such as sink napping. There's only one red headed man in the house now, and Murphy - you are missed.

*Murphy at his best*



## **The Thelmanator**

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It's hard to believe that this sweet face would ever do anyone harm, but mention the word "squirrel" and she's out the door! Ned and Jack have been slowly and deliberately trimming the maple tree branches away from the side fence a little bit at a time so that maybe next spring one will miss the jump, fall into her yard, and allow Thelma to fulfill her life's ambition.



*Thelma the Dog*



## Jack the Teenager

Jack continues to change dramatically – both in physical appearance and maturity. His science project earned him a trip to the Minnesota State Science Fair – his first overnight school trip. He also fell hard for the six-string guitar. Although he continues to take piano lessons, plays bass guitar in the Jazz Band, and stepped up to a double French horn, Jack always seems to have a guitar in his hands. Lucky for Jack, guitar choices are abundant in the Bryant household so he's had a lot of fun exploring classical, steel string, and electric guitars.



*Tennis in the Summer*



*Fun on the Mississippi*

*Jack playing guitar  
in the park*



## Joyce's Birthday

Aunt Joyce spent her 70th Birthday in Chicago with her sister Helen and Heidi and Jack drove over to surprise her. We had a great visit with our Aunts along with Uncle Ed, Cousin Lisa, Kevin, and Nathan Christensen. To top it off, Jack got to have Chicago style pizza before heading back home.



*Joyce Hitchcock, Helen Rode, Jack Bryant, and Lisa Christensen*

# THE BRYANT REPORT

is published pretty much annually by

**Ned, Heidi, Madeleine, & Jack Bryant**

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