

THE BRYANT REPORT

2014

Triple Graduation Edition



*Madeleine, Heidi, Jack, and Ned Bryant
High School Graduation 2014*

First, an apology

It's been five years since we last published our "Bryant Report" and we feel terrible about it! Looking back, 2010 ended with Maddy in a car accident (she's fine) and 2011 ended with Heidi quitting her job – two downer years got us out of the habit.

But 2014 has been a banner year, so we're trying again. Please forgive our human fallibility and we'll do our best to bring you up to date!

Triple Graduation!

After heading off to college with a strong jump-start, Madeleine figured out a way to graduate in a short two years. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies in May of 2011 – a few months shy of her 20th birthday!

A year later, Ned completed work on his Master's Degree in Project Management/ Operations Research from the Florida Institute of Technology. (He also recently earned his Six Sigma Black Belt.)

And then Jack graduated from high school!



Madeleine

The only thing that Madeleine was sure about when she graduated was that she did NOT want to return to the frigid north! She sweet talked her very generous grandparents (Howard and Jane Bryant) into letting her live with them in Alpharetta until she figured things out. It didn't take long for her to find a job with a company that she has loved for a long time: REI. After working her way through the different departments and learning everything she could, Madeleine set her sights on getting a management job at the brand new REI store in Flagstaff, Arizona (yes - we said Flagstaff!).

A year ago, she was offered a position as one of the Sales Managers for the new store. Then REI moved Madeleine (and her faithful companion Maggie Cat) from Georgia to Arizona in January. After helping to hire the new staff and set up the store, she is now in charge of clothing, shoes, visual presence, and banking for the store. Last summer, she flew to Seattle for a week for management training and got to see her godmother, Lynnett Stucky-Mack while she was there.

Madeleine loves her new job and especially the opportunity to live in Flagstaff. She has hiked and river rafted in the Grand Canyon, including a September hike with her dad. She also has participated in a few service projects, including leading an Arizona Trail clean up project.

Jack - High School

The high school years were filled with adventures and achievements for Jack. He continued to shine at the regional Science Fairs. With the ultimate goal of competing at the International Science and Engineering Fair, he earned the alternate spot his sophomore year then won a trip to compete in the fair during his junior year. He spent a week in Phoenix meeting science kids from all over the world and got to see a lot of amazing projects.

Jack followed in his sister's footsteps and spent his junior and senior high school years at Winona State University. Not only did he get the opportunity to earn college credit, he also was able to take some fun college music classes and perform with a jazz combo and the jazz big band.

Music became more than a pastime for Jack during high school. He lives, breaths, and dreams in music. From bass and guitar in the high school jazz band to French horn in band and orchestra, Jack spent all of his free time making music.

He worked with his friends to create some very innovative rock-fusion music. His band "Steve, the Brodom" performed for several large local events including a spot

in the 2014 Midwest Music Fest. The trio of guitar (Jack), bass and drums performed all original jams.

Jack also worked with an excellent horn teacher, Shawn Kennedy-Lee, who helped him pass the audition and be selected for 2013-14 Minnesota All-State Orchestra. And if that wasn't enough, he was also chosen as the principal horn and soloist for the three movements of Gustav Holst's "Planets" that they performed. Jack performed with the orchestra a second time in Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis (you know, that little hall where the world renowned Minnesota Orchestra plays).

Spring semester of Jack's senior year found him performing over 25 times with at least 10 different ensembles on 5 different instruments, not including high scores at Solo and Ensemble performing Hindemith on the horn!



*Performing at Midwest Music Fest
April 2014*

Jack - College Bound

The big question is: what did Jack do after graduation? He decided to become a UW-Madison Badger! He chose a school with an excellent engineering program that would also have plenty of ways for him to continue making music. He is adjusting (slowly but surely) to being away from home and really loves living in Madison. He is pursuing a degree in Materials Science and Engineering.



Jack Goes to Europe

To celebrate Jack's graduation, we took a family trip to Europe last spring. Unfortunately, Madeleine was unable to join us due to her new job. We visited the Cologne Cathedral, Dusseldorf, Amsterdam, Brussels, and then spent three days in Paris before driving back to Cologne to fly home.

We visited the Van Gogh Museum, Anne Frank House, the Musical Instrument Museum in Brussels, the Catacombs of Paris, the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay, Notre Dame, Montmartre, and more. By the third day in Paris, Jack was filled to the brim with culture and cathedrals.

Achieving his primary goal of recreating the photo on his favorite Tame Impala t-shirt at Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris.



A Big Anniversary

Ned and Heidi celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in style by going on our first cruise! The beauty of the Caribbean Sea was incredible. After petting a few stingrays, Ned realized that there are great vacation options that don't include cacti!



On a sandbar off of Grand Cayman Island.

Heidi

In somewhat of a role-reversal, my life has been in an almost constant state of change since our last report. In late 2011, I left my job with a renewable energy company and decided to work as a freelance graphic designer again. Not long after making that decision, I was asked to help the Great River Shakespeare Festival (GRSF) update their website. This led to a seasonal contract followed by a year round position as their Graphic Designer and Finance Associate. Small, non-profit theaters apparently have a high turnover rate and I decided to leave after my second season due to staffing changes that redefined my position there.

I have found a niche working with arts organizations and artists in Winona as a web and graphic designer and marketing liaison. In 2013, I helped coordinate a city-wide celebration of the centennial of artist Rockwell Kent's time in Winona. This year I have worked closely with the Winona Symphony Orchestra to revamp their website and rebrand their image. I have also worked with a poet, an artist, a local theater, and more. Next year is the centennial of the Winona Municipal Band, so of course I signed on to build their website and help plan the celebration.

Musically, I became a founding member of "Flutistry" a few years ago and I perform in the summer Municipal Band concerts. Definitely keeping busy around here!



NED BRYANT

Since the last Report work continues to go well at RTP, including travel to a new country (India) and a new U.S. Patent (#8,003,014). But beyond that, I've earned an MS in Project Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, the maple syrup continues to flow, and there have been 5 Grand Canyon hikes, all to new areas of the park.

Empty Nest

In August, Ned and Heidi officially became empty nesters. After having kids in the house for 23 years, it was a bit of an adjustment. But we decided to make the most of it. In early September, Heidi joined Ned in Tucson for a conference (at a resort) then we spent the weekend with Madeleine in Flagstaff. At the end of the month, Heidi took an "Empty Nest Trip" to New York City. While there, she and Joyce got to see Audra McDonald in "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill" then we drove up to Vermont to see our friend Irene in "Into the Woods". We also had a great time catching up with high school friend Bob Thurmond and meeting his fiancé Bill.

The house is pretty quiet these days, but will fill back up with music over the Christmas break. We are ready for more Jack time, but are also thrilled that he is happy at school. Life goes on.

The usual suspects, 2011.



Travel

In the past five years, we have done quite a bit of traveling. We were very lucky to be able to bring Madeleine along with us on two big trips:

In 2010, we were inspired by the Winter Olympics to fly to Vancouver, BC. After exploring the city, we reconnected with Madeleine's godmother Lynnett Stucky-Mack and her partner, Anne Nikon.

In 2011, we accompanied Ned to a conference in L.A. followed by visits to Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks. We also met cousins Howard and Addie Hitchcock and were treated to a private showing of his incredible artwork.

Ned's work continues to keep him on the road (or in the air) quite a bit. Heidi tries to join him when it's feasible, including a weekend trip to Paris and multiple trips to Arizona. We also Travelzoo-ed our way to an all-inclusive resort in Playa del Carmen, Mexico in October 2013.

Pictures of all of these trips and Ned's Grand Canyon hikes are on our Facebook pages. If we're not friends yet, please look us up! Search for Ned Bryant and Heidi Hitchcock Bryant.

Jack joined the family tradition in 2010. Don't hold your breath - Heidi is not likely to jump on this particular bandwagon! (She prefers hers to have a musical component.)



The Menagerie

The furry members of our family continue to live the good life. Clark joined us in 2010 and has proven to be a very entertaining, though not very cuddly, kitty. He lives with us on his own terms and we have adapted to his policies. Thelma is a bit grayer and T.R. a bit slower, but they all still know how to tell us when it's dinner time.



THE BRYANT REPORT

is published not so annually by

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