

B THE BRYANT REPORT

2018

A Very Busy Year



*Ned, Jack, Madeleine, and Heidi Bryant
January 18, 2018 - Uxmal Mayan Ruins*

Heidi

Work really picked up this year, somewhat unexpectedly. In addition to continued work for River Arts Alliance, the Sonnet Contest, and other regular projects, I got back into textbook composition with two 400 page books. This was the beginning of what should be a three year project of six books in a series. My work is now spread throughout the year with seasonal jobs that keep me very busy.

After years of attending the Frozen River Film Festival (FRFF), I became significantly more involved this year by designing the printed program along with other print pieces. Redesigning the program was a very satisfying and successful project and the results look great! Becoming part of this team also sent me on my first business trip in quite some time, to Telluride, Colorado to screen films for FRFF 2019. The new program is well underway and should go to the printer before Christmas – fingers crossed!

With my increased income, we decided to invest in a new instrument – which Ned dubbed my “Forever Flute.” Shopping was fun, getting to try multiple instruments and find the one that really “fit” me. To maximize the investment, I am studying with an excellent teacher now and working really hard. My progress is obvious and helps me bring a lot more to my participation in Flutistry.



The 2018 FRFF Program.

Sunny's Fan Mail

Sunny continues to be the social butterfly of the neighborhood, with plenty of students knowing him by name. This was really brought home last May, on student move out day, when a couple of students wrote us a letter thanking us for letting him roam and saying how much they enjoyed his frequent visits.

Even non-cat people like Rob enjoy cuddling with Sunny Boy.



NED BRYANT

GC Hike The hiking continued this year with another loop in the central GC, hiking from Lava rapid to Parashant canyon, almost . . . We did accept a float from Whitmore to Parashant in order to preserve our schedule. But the real crux part was a day long bypass of the large basalt block at river mile 183. This was quite the challenge in such a remote area. This is a very unusual area because it was dotted with small volcanoes and covered with lava not all that long ago. One result is spectacular columnar jointing that is really incredible to view. With so much going on we had to postpone our September hike, but we will going on a short, 5 day hike immediately after Maddy's graduation.

Dad's 90th Dad passed a major milestone this year, turning 90 on May 26th. Jack was already living there, because of his summer intern job, but I flew down for a surprise visit to take Dad, Jane and Jack out for a birthday dinner. And thanks to Jane for helping with the planning that made this surprise so successful!

William's Wedding We had a rare event occur over Labor Day weekend. All of the grandparents, children, and grandchildren got together in one place . . . Wilmington, NC. The occasion was the wedding of my nephew, William, to his fiancée Melissa (welcome Melissa!). We realized that this hadn't happened in 10 years. It was really great to see everyone in one place and get a chance to reconnect.



Cousins getting together for the first time as adults.

Three generations of Bryant men celebrating a milestone.



Jack

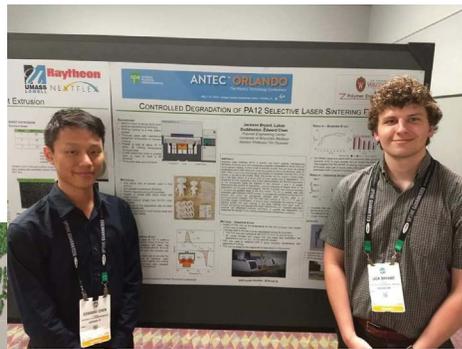
Graduation Four years flew by and, in May, Jack graduated with a degree in Materials Science & Engineering from UW-Madison

Summer in Georgia Jack found an excellent job over the summer with Imerys in . . . Johns Creek, GA! This meant that he could spend the summer with his grandparents before going off to graduate school.

Grad School And with that introduction, we are very proud to announce that Jack began a PhD program, complete with tuition waiver and research assistantship, in Macromolecular Science and Engineering, at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA.



Jack's years of Science Fair experience helped him win a cash prize for his student poster project at ANTEC.



This was also a year when Jack's chosen studies intersected with Ned's career path. They were able to meet each other at NPE (National Plastics Exposition) in Orlando, FL.

Madeleine

Carlos Poor Carlos had a tough year. Back in February he had an accident and broke his back leg. After additional problems, caused by his hatred of his cone, he is now all healed up, but he has a bit of a limp. His positive attitude is of course still 100% intact.

House Drama A tough lesson in home ownership was learned this year at Maddy's house. The house suffered a small water leak that had been going on for quite some time and led to a major mold problem. That in turn led to a big repair and her living in Airbnbs for 7 weeks. Everything is fixed now and she is back in the house, but this was one long, rolling headache. On the plus side, her insurance company really stepped up to the plate and took care of things.

Graduation Even with all the stress from Carlos' injury, a severe drought that closed her research area, the moldy house repair, and a strange eye thing that is now finally healed, Maddy is going to graduate this December with a Master of Science degree in Applied Geospatial Sciences from Northern Arizona University. (No one is more ready for 2019 than Maddy is!)



After recovering from a broken leg —and staying in too many Airbnbs — Carlos is still a happy puppy!



James and Maddy in their happy place. We enjoyed James' first visit to Winona in May for Jack's graduation.

Odds and Ends

Rome For our 30th anniversary (yes, 30th!), we went on a vacation to Rome, Italy. We had a great time seeing all the big sites: the Coliseum, Roman Forum, Borghese Gallery, St Peter's Basilica, and Trevi Fountain were among our favorites . . . along with the nice brewpub right next to the fountain! The sights were complimented by delicious food in friendly restaurants every night. And Rome even made it feel like home by snowing, for the first time in 10 years, while we were there.



Cruise We started off the year doing something a little different: a family vacation on a cruise ship. We got everyone to New Orleans, and after a free day there, watching the Vikings beat the Saints, we all boarded our ship.

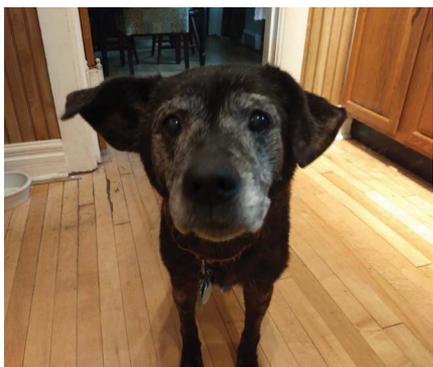
While the whole trip was lots of fun, the highlight was Jack's 22nd birthday, complete with custom tie-dye shirts (see front page) from Maddy, of course!



Having a beer at Colorado River Mile 182.6, GCNP.



Bathroom Remodel - After living with a pink tub for 12 years, Ned finally demolished the upstairs bathroom. We're very pleased with the end result!



Thelma

After three states, 12 Minnesota winters, and 14 wonderful years, we are sad to report that Thelma reached the end of her life this fall. We can still vividly remember the day we picked her up from the shelter in Brighton, CO.

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is published fairly regularly by

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