

THE BRYANT REPORT

2015

Empty(ish) Nest Edition



*Ned, Jack, and Madeleine Bryant
Grand Canyon - June 2015*

Heidi and Volunteer Mania

Our dedicated readers are accustomed to reading about our kids in this (somewhat) annual review of the Bryant household. Now that we are empty nesters – and I have become ridiculously busy – you'll just have to bear with us as we transition.

I had the great opportunity to get involved with several community arts projects in 2015. One of four members of the movie team, we presented our first draft of Taff Roberts' "Attempting the Northwest Passage" at the Frozen River Film Festival. The final film will be completed in time for 2016's festival.

Most of the year was dominated by the Winona Municipal Band's Centennial Celebration. As a member of the committee, I helped with a lot of the planning and strategizing along with building the website, designing the print pieces, leading the fundraising, and acting as treasurer – not to mention performing in the concerts. The celebration was an overwhelming success! It started with the presentation of a silent movie from 1913, with music composed by the band's founding director. It will close in early spring of 2016 with a presentation of our documentary.

Continuing work with the Winona Symphony Orchestra, I officially was named the "Orchestra Manager" with funding from a SEMAC grant (my Minnesota friends know what that means). My duties have expanded to include donation tracking and fundraising along with the graphics and web work I've been doing for a couple of years.

In November, the River Arts Alliance asked for my help with their website then they invited me to join their board. And just this week, I met with the Sonnet Contest guys and will be helping them shape their website in early 2016. I was foolish to think that things would slow down once the band season ended!

Flutistry continues to actively practice and perform. The highlight of our year was premiering a computer composed, 12 tone piece for 3 flutes, piccolo and alto flute at the New Music Festival in La Crosse, WI.

A perk of being part of Winona's arts community is the chance to work with amazing artists like Julie Johnston, who created this incredible pastel of Madeleine. See more of her work at: juliejohnstonart.com.



Jack - UW Madison Sophomore

Jack survived his Freshman year at UW Madison and has just finished his Sophomore fall semester exams. This was a tough term, filled with physics, thermodynamics, differential equations, and engineering courses. He started a new band named “Thirsty Puppy” – we haven’t heard them yet, but he says they are an improv jazz group for the most part.

This summer Jack had his first industry job when he was hired as part of RTP’s Student Intern Program. In that role he spent most of his time producing small color matched samples and then molding sample plaques to either give to customers or to enter into a larger database of colored plastic products. This job also allowed him to save money by living at home, and for him to commute to work with his Dad.

Off to Germany As you read this Jack may very well be in the air on his way to Frankfurt Germany and his girlfriend Casey.



All Jack needs is a good book and a short nap.

Travel

A very busy summer with the centennial concerts and both guys working made summer travel difficult. In the spring and fall, adventures away from home included trips to Arizona, California, Georgia, and three business trips to Asia for Ned.

Hiking in the GC On our September visit to Arizona, Heidi and Ned went to the Grand Canyon. This was Heidi’s third trip, the first being when we were pregnant with Maddy, the second when Jack was young. This time she went hiking down the Bright Angel Trail. Not all that far down the trail mind you, but now everyone in the family has been hiking in the GC.

Lassen Volcanic National Park A conference in Reno presented the opportunity for Ned and Heidi to go a few days early and make our way out to the most remote National Park in the US. It was well worth the hassle to get there. And Heidi did some actual hiking, believe it or not!

A Collage of Bryant Family Hikes





NED BRYANT

GC Hike with JACK! In early June, Jack went on his second GC hike ever, the Kanab/Deer Creek/Cranberry loop. Maddy of course came along, as well as my good friend Bruce. We even had Chris Forsyth with us for a few days. Even with the heat we all enjoyed this classic hike that came off without a hitch.

2nd GC Hike Then the first week of November, Maddy and I were back, this time with Scott Marley hiking a very remote section of Western GC between Parashant and Indian canyons. This was a tough hike where, between the frequent rain and generally low temperatures, the weather simply did not cooperate. Just the same, lots of fun was had by all. However, the most exciting part was probably midway through day one when I fell awkwardly and dislocated my left shoulder. Within a few minutes we had it back in place, and after several Ibuprofen I didn't see any reason not to continue, so on we went. While my shoulder was sore for the rest of the hike, it never was a handicap to me. This was also a great hike because every step of the trail was brand new to all three of us.

The Nederator™ This summer we finally acted on a project we had been planning for several years, converting the kegerator into the Nederator™. This represents a substantial upgrade from our previous beater fridge; we now have 2 taps, a sink with running water, and a nice looking butcher block table top to boot – all on the first floor.

My New favorite number, 9,136,036

“Injection Moldable, Thermoplastic Composite Materials” – was issued September 15th of 2015. Patents are hard to come by so it's always great when they are finally closed out as a patented case.

Ned's Folks

An extra highlight of the summer was a visit from my parents, Howard and Jane Bryant. We did our best to give them the full Winona treatment by visiting the Blue Heron, MMAM, the Eagle Center, Garvin Heights Overlook, and Ed's, of course. We also enjoyed an evening of Chocolate, Champagne and Shakespeare.



The already fabled Nederator™.

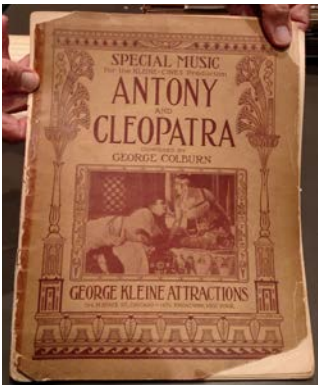
Madeleine

Maddy has quite easily made the transition to the Flagstaff lifestyle. She continues to enjoy her work as a Sales Manager at their new REI store. She also began graduate studies at NAU in Geographical Information Systems. Continuing to work full-time and go to school part-time keeps her extremely busy, but she still finds time to go for a hike at every opportunity.

Two years ago, a group of hikers resurrected the Grand Canyon Hikers and Backpackers Association (GCHBA). At the time Ned became a board member and last March Maddy, following in his footsteps, was also elected to the board. It's safe to say that both of them are looking forward to being able to protect the GC and shape Park policy through the education of fellow hikers.



Breakfast at Martanne's in Flagstaff. Very smart.



*Find out what this is at:
winonamunicipalband.org*



Phoenix in September. Not so smart.

The Menagerie

There has been a bit of a shake up among our furry family members. Clark disappeared in October. We think he was mad at us for taking back-to-back vacations. Our efforts to find him have failed thus far.



While we were looking, a little guy named Sunny stole our hearts so we brought him home. He aggravates TR something awful, but he's a sweet, cuddly, curious, and crazy little kitty. Not to mention quite a beauty. You have to be careful at our house, though, because his buff coat blends very well into our maple floors!

Thelma (11) and TR (15) are definitely starting to show their age. TR is very gimpy now and doesn't realize that eating less and exercising more would relieve a lot of that pain. We've tried to explain it to him!

Thelma seems to be almost completely deaf. It's a lot less noisy around here when the doorbell rings. She still runs around like a puppy, though, and keeps finding ways to escape our yard to wander the neighborhood. She usually returns before we come home and it takes us a while to figure out that she's at it again after the umpteenth fence patch!

THE BRYANT REPORT

is published not so annually by

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