

Happy Holidays!!!

It's been another crazy year around the Dettloff household. You'd think things would settle down with Scott and Holly off at college but somehow your time always gets filled. My color printer is messed up right now and I don't have time to get artsy fartsy so it's just a plain old B&W letter and photo we took of the kids last week. One of these years I'll create my own website.



Scott is a Junior at NC State. He was a zoology major and went on two "educational" trips this summer. One was a three week trip to Montana to study pronghorn antelope. They were supposed to tag and weigh fawns but unfortunately the weather had been so bad that year that very few fawns were born and many of those were coming later than expected. They only found about 20 the entire time. Next trip was a 10 day field study course in Trinidad and Tobago. He got SCUBA certified before leaving so he could do that during the coral reef portion of the trip. They also went to a sea turtle nesting site and got to hold baby sea turtles. While on the trip, he met a high school science teacher and came home with a new major- science education. Look out! Naturally, the credit for the course in Trinidad won't go toward his major

because he already had enough biology courses. He'll have to go an additional semester to do his student teaching because he can't do that during swim season and it carries over both semesters. Luckily, his scholarship is for 5 years anyway but we were hoping that could go toward his Masters Degree. Oh yeah, Scott turned TWENTY ONE last week!!! Yikes, I'm getting old.

Holly is loving life as a Freshman at University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. It is a small Liberal Arts school. She's studying Biology and Theater- an unusual combo. She was supposed to be swimming for them but somehow she got a longitudinal tear in the bicep tendon. She could have surgery but there are no guarantees with that and she'd only need it to swim so she's going to do PT and see if she can swim next year. She's had the typical roommate problems but loves all the activities right there on campus. She has a best friend that she is going to room with next year. They are so alike it's scary.

Michelle is a Freshman in high school and is totally enjoying being an only child. She stays busy with swimming and school work. She starts the classroom portion of driver's ed during Christmas break. I can't wait for another round of white knuckle driving experiences. Much to her chagrin she STILL has braces.

Wayne is working for Rambus now. They bought the company that laid him off a couple of years ago. He really liked what he was doing at MCNC but it wasn't cutting edge technology and they were burning through their funding pretty quickly. He was afraid he'd be laid off again and didn't want to be approaching 50 (ouch!), unemployed and out of the technology loop for so long. He left under very good terms and his new boss let him contract back to MCNC to help them train his replacement. He had received two big contracts right before this other job came up and he was the only one there that could do the work.

My practice is hanging in there. I've gone through some nightmare employees this past year but have a good one now. Employees and insurance companies are the biggest PITA! If I didn't enjoy the patients so much (well..most of them anyway) I'd retire.

Last Spring we went to NYC for vacation. On the way out, Holly checked out UMW and we spent a day in Philadelphia. Then off to NYC where we toured non-stop for 5 days. We saw The Boy From Oz, Thoroughly Modern Millie and De La Guarda (very weird) two plays and one off Broadway show and wore out a pair of shoes walking all over the place: Brooklyn, Bridge, Statute of Liberty, NYC Public Library, Empire State Building, Central Park Zoo, Guggenheim Art Museum (also very weird), tours of NBC Studios, Radio City Music Hall, yada, yada, yada. We had to come home to rest. Oh yes, and Wayne was slashed by some nutcase at Lincoln Center. He was looking at a picture while waiting for our tour and some crazed woman came up to him with a box cutter and slashed him across his chest and just walked away. It cut through the jacket and his Pillsbury Doughboy T-shirt and cut him a little. Luckily he had his heavy winter jacket on. He told the nearby security guy and he got on the radio and they had about 6-7 guards there in a few minutes. They caught the lady in the parking garage and when Wayne said that was her, she lunged at him again! They took us to a room and the head security guy at Lincoln Center and all the cops kept apologizing to us and telling us not to think poorly of NYC. We were having fun, joking around and taking pictures of everybody. They called an ambulance which took 45 minutes to arrive. Then the guy looks at Wayne and says, "oh is that all it is, they said it was a laceration. Good thing it wasn't. He would have bled to death by then! We just wanted to get out in time for the next tour. The DA called us at 11:00 that night and asked Wayne to testify at the Grand Jury the next day so they could charge her. She ended up pleading guilty so he didn't have to go back for the trial.

That's about it here. As always, Happy Holidays and have a wonderful New Year!

Marcia, Wayne, Scott, Holly and Michelle Dettloff (don't forget to email me at mdod@bellsouth.net)

Congrats on the retirement!