

Happy Holidays!

2008 Wood Family Newsletter



Vienna at Graduation

Vienna had an exciting year. In the spring, she starred in *Seussical the Musical* and did a brilliant job playing Judge Yertle (the Turtle) and the Sour Kangaroo (in the understudy show). The show was awesome, the best one she's done yet! It was a very upbeat play with lots of singing and dancing and a great message, too.

In June, she graduated from Scotts Valley High and from the International Baccalaureate program, which challenged her in many ways and prepared her for her next adventure: college. Vienna has started her freshman year at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. It is a small liberal arts college on a gorgeous campus that has a rigorous academic curriculum and a quirky student body - just right for Vienna.

She will be majoring in Psychology and, so far, she loves her psych class more than any of the others. Reed professors do their own research, and she is learning cutting-edge stuff. She's also taking the all-important Humanities 110 class required of all freshmen. She has also begun to explore ancient Greece and is most recently focusing on Socrates and Plato. *(Continued on page 3)*

Jenny has also been busy this year. She has started her real estate business by buying two more properties, and one more is on the way. We now own rental houses in Florida, Texas, North Carolina, and Kansas. The one in Mississippi should be built within the next few months. Jenny is now beginning to learn a new real estate skill: wholesaling. She hopes to get this up and running sometime in 2009 in the hopes to be able to quit her job in the next few years.

Along with this, Jenny is still working at Seagate and still enjoys the people and the work; she even got a bonus earlier this year. Church service also fills her time. She is the Secretary of the Stake Relief Society, a teacher, and she conducts the music each Sunday. This work and the church really fill her with peace and joy. Finally, she is still active in PTA, though on a more behind-the-scenes way. Jenny even found time to serve as zip code coordinator for the Proposition 8 campaign in September and October. *(Continued on page 3)*



Jenny with friend in Visalia, CA



Andy, Vienna, and Jenny at Grand Canyon

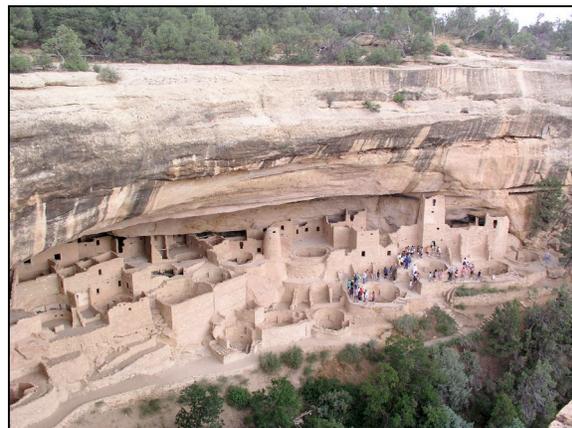
Andy finished his book, *City Ubiquitous: Place, Communication, and the Rise of Omnitopia* and shipped it off to the publishers. He's told to expect the book to hit shelves in January or February. Andy's been working on this project for years, developing the initial idea more than a decade ago in grad school, and he's delighted to see this book come to fruition.

He also submitted his dossier for promotion to full professor. That process began in fall and will continue through to mid-2009 when he'll be given the news on the *last possible day* of the spring semester. While working on that project, Andy has continued growing in his present position as SJSU Peer Mentor Program director, helping a group of bright and dedicated students serve as navigators for their colleagues struggling to make sense of university life.

A highlight of Andy's year was his March Route 66 trip, which involved our resident road-scholar flying to Chicago and driving cross country back to California along the "Mother Road." Naturally he produced a website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/wooda/66in08/> and even wrote an article about his trip. Andy also spent time with his family this summer as they toured national parks in the West, including Yellowstone, Mesa Verde, and the Grand Canyon. Again, he couldn't help but produce a website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/wooda/greatwestern/>



Andy on Route 66



Mesa Verde, CO

(Vienna Continued from page 1)



Vienna at Reed College

The rest of her schedule consists of biology and a dance class. She is getting a top-notch education and experiencing dorm life. She has made many new friends and has even saw snow (This is a pretty big deal because Portland is generally known for an endlessly wet winter, with very little occasion for the white stuff). Vienna fills up the rest of her time babysitting a few times a week to earn extra money, along with studying, knitting, and shopping whenever she can with her friends. She really loves it in Portland.

In other news, Vienna is still dating Mike Beck after two years and though they are still adjusting to being apart, they are quite happy together. Happily, Vienna makes it back to see us pretty frequently. We at home miss her greatly but are very proud of her and how well she's doing at school.

(Jenny Continued from page 1)

Jenny has also enjoyed spending lots of time with Andy and Vienna and getting back in touch with old friends on Facebook. The transition of having her only child leave for college has been challenging for her, but she's managing better than she had hoped. While Jenny misses Vienna greatly, the thought of her daughter having fun and being challenged in her learning makes it a lot easier for her.



Jenny at Yellowstone

20 Happy Years!

Andy and Jenny celebrated their 20th anniversary in '08 with a special night at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo and a baseball game in Oakland.

Here's hoping for 20 more wonderful years!