

Happy Holidays!

2010 Wood Family Newsletter



Vienna and Mike are engaged!

Welcome to our fifth annual newsletter! Let's begin with a red-letter day: October 7, 2010. That's when **Vienna's** boyfriend of four years, **Michael**, asked for our daughter's hand in marriage (after checking with Mom and Dad). They plan to get married after graduation, and Vienna is already figuring out how to organize a romantic wedding that somehow stays on budget. She reports being "absolutely over the moon" with her impending nuptials.

Always hard at work on one project or another, Vienna has also decided to spend more time with one of her favorite activities: singing. This fall she took a beginning voice class at a nearby community college and is helping her church choir prepare for its annual Christmas concert. She also performed an ambitious medley of songs from *Wicked*, joining her mom in a talent show that rocked the house. Vienna is thrilled that singing has become such a big part of her life.

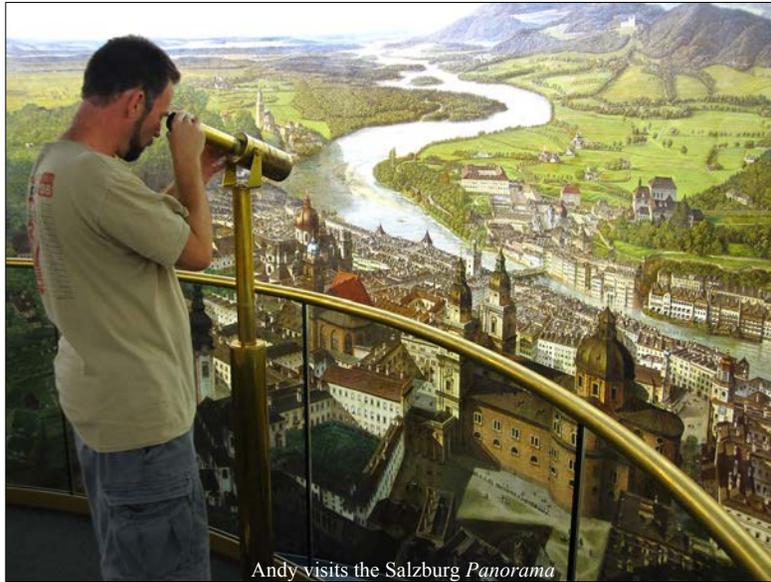
Vienna also continued to enjoy what she terms the "increasingly expensive" hobby of knitting, taking on big commissions from friends and distant acquaintances. She made some money selling her handicrafts but ultimately decided that the payoff is not worth the hours it takes to produce each piece. Having completed her last commission, she's decided to knit (mostly) for pleasure.

Amid a busy schedule of work and socializing, Vienna is progressing toward her undergraduate degree at UC-Santa Cruz. Now in her junior year, Vienna recently launched a challenging course-load of psychology classes (after plowing through plenty of lower division and general education work) – and she has begun to explore potential grad school options. She even got picked to join a faculty member's research project as an assistant – and was invited to work as a TA for Psych 1. Her next goal: select an area of specialization.

Looking back on 2010, Vienna is justly proud of her accomplishments. Her mom and dad are too, and we can't wait to see what the next year holds for our daughter and her fiancé.



Jenny and Vienna after their *Wicked* performance



What was **Andy's** biggest adventure in 2010? He thinks the highlight was a family trip to China and Thailand, visiting the Shanghai Expo, sailing Hangzhou's West Lake, exploring temples in Bangkok, riding elephants in Chiang Mai, and relaxing on a tropical island paradise near Phuket.

Andy also accepted an invitation to attend the International Studies Program in Salzburg, Austria where he participated in conversations about globalization at the *Schloss Leopoldskron* (the palace featured in *The Sound of Music*). Afterward Andy took

the train to the city of Vienna where, in the tradition of Sigmund Freud and Leon Trotsky, he spent hours in Café Central, writing and sipping melange. Best of all, he's going back to Europe next summer to help produce a documentary about the Salzburg program.

Campus life was, as always, busy and productive. Andy returned to the classroom after completing three years of service as Peer Mentor Program director. His PMs sent him off with a lovely graduation ceremony in May. It wasn't long before Andy started to prepare his fall classes, including a new one that focuses on world's fairs. A number of his students found the whole experience a little strange, especially those who'd never heard of the topic. But they got the idea once our governor announced a bid to host the 2020 world's fair right here in Silicon Valley. Andy loves teaching and is happy to be back where he belongs.

At home, Andy continued a family tradition of directing our annual Halloween porch show. At first he struggled to pick a theme. But then we all decided to recreate a classic: *Alien Autopsy*. Even so, Andy couldn't keep it simple, insisting that we build a stainless steel UFO that would be rigged to appear as if it had crashed through our porch! Days (and lots of money) went into the ship's design and construction, but when the creepy green lights began to glow we agreed that the results were worth the hassle. Hundreds of children (and even a few of Andy's students) climbed the spooky stairs to see our best Halloween display yet. Now our resident theatrical designer is dreaming of an even bigger show next year...

Andy is also anticipating next year's travels and opportunities. In spring he's traveling to Berry College (his alma mater) to give a talk, and in summer he's returning to China and Europe for work and fun. Then in fall he's beginning a new teaching adventure by joining the campus Humanities Honors Program.

It's been a great year for Andy, and he's so very grateful to his friends and family for helping make it all happen.



Andy conducts an Alien Autopsy for Halloween



Andy and Jenny in Miami

With all these activities, Jenny also managed to finish some of her projects. Most meaningfully, she completed her leadership role as her church ward's Relief Society President after two years. She loved that calling and already misses her chance to help others through that service. She also finished eight years of work with the Parent Teacher Association, an organization for which she became a district president.

Jenny is still working for Seagate's tax department, happy to be part of a great team. And she is growing her real estate empire, which is now composed of five properties throughout the southern United States. Her newest acquisition: a house in Mississippi. As you know, the real estate market has suffered plenty of ups and downs this year (mostly downs) but Jenny believes that her properties will pay off eventually.

To top it all off, this year Jenny took the biggest plunge of all: *skydiving*. She and Andy have talked about it for years but had never made any definite plans. Then one day – ever the diligent coupon-er – Jenny found a good deal with a local company. She called Andy, he agreed, and a few weeks later they jumped from an airplane, first hurtling and then floating 15,000 feet to earth. Jenny screamed all the way down but can't remember a time when she felt so exhilarated. She hopes to try it again one day, and she's looking forward to an amazing new year. *2011, here we come!*

Jenny had an active year, tackling a full slate of traveling and service. Jenny enjoyed China and Thailand and loved seeing dear friends while visiting Texas and Florida. While in the Sunshine State, she joined Andy at Miami's Delano Hotel for a splurge. Other travels took her to Phoenix, to see Saguaro Cacti; southern California, to commune with Joshua Tees; and *back* to Florida for a family reunion.

Jenny added new hobbies to her life this year too. She became a dedicated coupon-collector, saving money for the family while enjoying the hunt for bargains. She also inspired us to start providing foster care for cats, filling our home with more love than we can handle sometimes. She and Vienna started a stitch group ("Stitch and Enrich") with friends, both in and outside of the church, who meet to knit, crochet, stitch and uplift each other through conversation. Jenny has also begun some online courses to learn about grant writing. Of course, Jenny's photography continues to produce amazing images. Only now she's added new subjects that include night shots, overpasses, desert flora, and old buildings.



Jenny in Shanghai's Yu Yuan Garden

PS: Here's the Wood Family's Year in Facebook Status Update form!



Jenny Boyer Wood just watched one of her favorite romantic comedies, French Kiss, with the love of her life!

November 27 at 4:58 pm · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood is doing a happy dance, because she just got accepted as a research assistant for Winter Quarter!! :D

November 15 at 1:46 pm · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Jenny and I cancelled each other out on a couple important votes. Otherwise we were surprisingly similar in our choices!

November 2 at 8:15 am via Elections · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood Is visiting her friend in Martinez. Today is a good day.

October 16 at 9:35 pm · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood IS ENGAGED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

October 14 at 1:08 pm · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Just noticed that I see fewer and fewer people walking around with Bluetooth phones hanging from their ears. That's a good thing.

October 3 at 5:14 pm · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood FLEW!!!!

October 9 at 7:38 pm · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Yesterday's SF trip was awesome. Touring de Young's impressionist exhibit, visiting Green Apple book store, and enjoying a delightful meal at Chapeau (where the chef greeted us all with a handshake and sent us off into the night by kissing the ladies on both cheeks). A great day!

June 27 at 11:56 am · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood Is heading to Lake Oroville tomorrow with friends!!! This is the perfect remedy to help me regain my sanity.

April 29 at 5:52 pm · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood is heading out to catch the red-eye to Florida. Going to honor my beloved Uncle Carl, one of the smartest and gentlest men I've known.

March 5 at 10:42 pm · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Cool! Playing around with Chatroulette tonight and I just enjoyed a non-creepy, non-disturbing, non-crazy chat with some dude in Massachusetts who wants to become a vet. I had to log off right away to not ruin the good vibe...

February 18 at 11:55 pm · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood is having a really relaxing evening with Mike, reading up on Hollywood musicals, watching the kitten tear around the house, and listening to the rain. :-)

January 25 at 10:44 pm · Like · Comment

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year!