

Happy Holidays!

2012 Wood Family Newsletter



Welcome to our seventh annual newsletter! This year has been dominated by great travel, cats, and new adventures for **Jenny**. At the top of her list of happenings was her trip to Salzburg, Austria for the Global Seminar with Andy and about 20 San José State students. This was truly a life-changing experience for Jenny, deepening her love of Europe but mostly sparking her new interest in world affairs and globalization.

She has learned that because we are all connected, she needs to be more aware of issues and events in the world. She also discovered a love of a culture that she hasn't experienced much in her life, highlighted by classical music, historical places, and people of other countries. She hopes to travel and learn more in the future. Other trips this year included Wisconsin to visit dear friends, Yosemite early in the year, and a two-day Disneyland California Adventure trip after Thanksgiving.

Cats have been a daily uplifting part of Jenny's life this year. Along with our three cats, she has fostered several others, many of them with special needs. The more she cares for them, the more she enjoys them and the happiness they bring into our home. She has helped get almost 10 cats adopted to permanent homes this year and looks forward to more kitties next year!



Jenny also continued her grant-writing for local non-profits. After two years of hard work at this, she finally got one funded in November. This is a great milestone and hopefully the first of many. Also, for the first time ever, she got the interior of our house painted, and it has brought such color into our lives. In church, she has been called to the Relief Society (women's organization) presidency. At work, she got her first raise in three years and a couple of much appreciated bonuses.

Finally, Jenny has discovered a new love of Broadway musicals and got us a subscription to a San Francisco company that hosts touring shows. This year, she has seen *Les Miserables* (a new favorite), *The Lion King*, and *The Book of Mormon*. She's excited to soon see *Anything Goes*, *Jersey Boys*, and her all-time favorite, *Wicked*! It's been a great year for Jenny, even if it's gone far too fast.



This year **Vienna** reached the end of her undergraduate career at UC Santa Cruz. It hit a couple of snags along the way, the end result being an unanticipated extra quarter of classes. But now, standing on the other side of what originally looked like a giant fiasco, it's easy to look back and be grateful for the time spent at a wonderful school. Vienna finally completed her degree in Intensive Psychology as a Candidate for University Honors, Candidate for Honors in the Major and Nominee for Phi Beta Kappa. She is now in the beginning stages of preparing applications for graduate school, where she intends to get a Master's in Clinical Psychology before moving on to pursue a Ph.D from there.

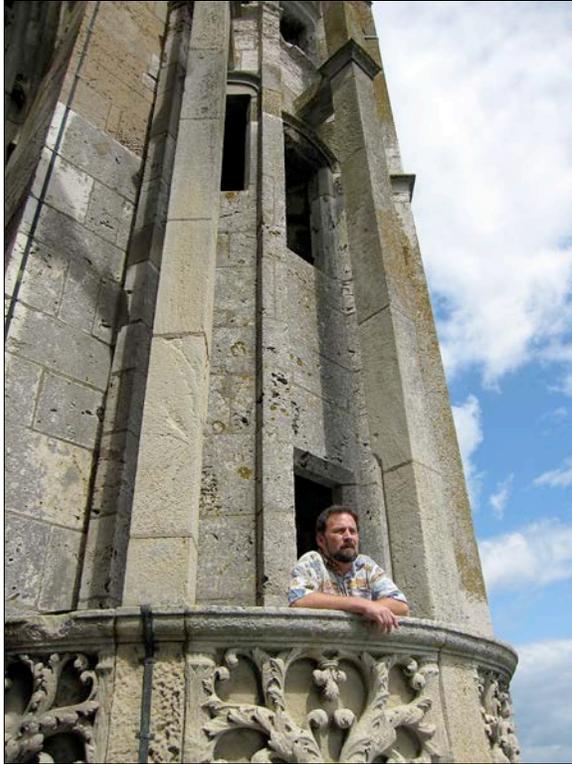


Vienna also kept busy with non-academic pursuits in 2012, continuing her internship at a residential care facility for the mentally ill. This unpaid position transitioned smoothly into a paid part-time job, which has given her the opportunity to work at multiple different facilities at all hours of the day, meeting scores of interesting people, and learning firsthand what it's like to engage in the mental health system. She couldn't be more grateful for a steady job in these difficult times, in an area of relevance to her long-term goals.

Vienna and her fiancé, Michael, continue to plan for their wedding, but have postponed the actual big day to allow time for them to settle more or less permanently, a difficult task given the astronomical prices in beautiful Santa Cruz. But beyond that, they continued having a splendid time together, working part-time, finishing up school, and finding time to be lovebirds.

2013 will be a period of transition for Vienna as she attempts to move up at her job, get new experience from new and

diverse places, and educate herself on the process of getting into the right graduate school. Along the way, she has committed to getting into shape, as well as pursuing artwork more seriously, and if there's time, learning Japanese. Though it will be a "year off" in some respects, in others, it promises to be a busy and abundant year!



Looking back over 2012, **Andy** is especially grateful for a sabbatical that freed up time for research and travel. In March and April, he drove 7,400 miles from California to Georgia to Chicago before commencing on a Route 66 journey that brought him back home. Along the way he visited friends from his high school, Navy, and college years. That meant hanging out with Jeff Sockwell and his family in Phoenix, Jay and Andrea Cotham in San Antonio, Sue VerHoef in Atlanta, Chip and Jana Hall in Jefferson, TN – and dropping by Monford, AL to see his father for the first time in 32 years. During that visit he met Geni and Johanna, his stepmother and half-sister, and he's so happy he did.

A few weeks later Andy was in Europe. He'd been invited to Germany to lecture about his omnitopia research, and ended up agreeing to co-author a book about urban life (a book to be published in German!). From there he traveled to Austria to mentor a group of SJSU students attending the Salzburg Global Seminar International Studies Program.

Jenny met him there, since she'd kindly agreed to escort the students overseas. Once they saw the SJSU students off, Andy and Jenny remained in Europe for another week to celebrate their 24th anniversary in Paris.

Andy was back in the U.S. for a week before heading overseas again, this time to teach a three-week course in Beijing. Of course this was much more than a traditional class. Andy and his students often ate together, toured city landmarks together, and once hunted for street art in a crumbling apartment building. He returned to the States to share a brief road trip with Vienna before traveling *back* to China to launch a weeklong trip to North Korea! Fall meant returning to the classroom, working on projects with departmental pals, and hoping for a less crazily scheduled year to come. Andy's take on 2012? "I can't believe we got through it all!"



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



Jenny Boyer Wood is eating the yogurt she made herself!! Thanks to Mary and the great book she gave me for Christmas on making your own Dairy products!

Monday, January 9 · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Teamwork. Jenny and I managed to repair and reinstall our chimney cap - WITHOUT falling off our roof!

Saturday, January 28 · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood One of my favorite professors has just committed to writing me a letter of recommendation for grad school!! One down, two to go...

Monday, February 27 · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Screw the itinerary. If Andy Williams were playing tonight in Branson I would totally go see him. Oh well. I've still got Tulsa to look forward to...

Saturday, March 31 · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood My first day at Opal Cliff Residential Center... An eight-hour shift BY MYSELF... So far, all things considered, I'd say it's going swimmingly. :)

Saturday, March 31 · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood I am sitting in the catacombs (basically a CAVE) listening to an amazing classical pianist playing beautiful pieces of music I can't identify...

Friday, June 22 · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Where ELSE can you see high-kicking soldiers, dancing apples, and a children's handgun mosaic - 100,000 performers altogether - but in Pyongyang?

Monday, August 13 · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood I have a beautiful new niece named Scarlett Justice and I love her already!! I can't wait to knit her lots of amazing little things!! XD

Wednesday, August 15 · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood My latest blog post... How does God's plan answer the questions of politics? See what I think and then tell me what you think.

Friday, October 5 · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Wanna have some fun? Watch the election returns on FOX - JUST as Ohio results come in. :-)

Tuesday, November 6 · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood I am thrilled to be teaching myself anatomy, so I can finally feel like a legitimate artist.

Wednesday, November 14 · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood WooHooooo!!!!!! After two years of trying, I finally got a grant funded! \$500 from the Bernice Barbour foundation for Animal Shelter Relief!

Thursday, November 29 · Like · Comment

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!