

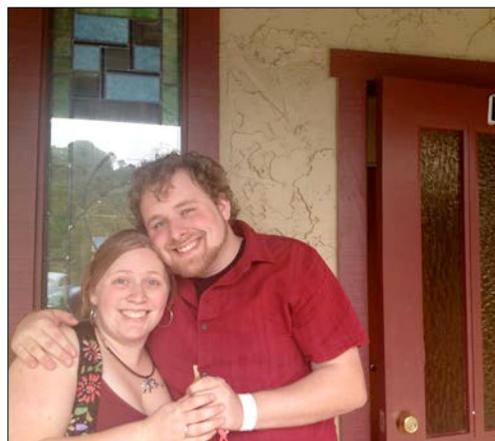
Happy Holidays!

2013 Wood Family Newsletter

Welcome to our eighth annual newsletter! 2013 was a big year for Vienna. It began at the end of her undergraduate career, with her earning a Bachelor's Degree in Intensive Psychology. She then had to adjust to a non-academic life for the first time in many years, which was somewhat disorienting. She worked full-time as a residential caregiver at a mental health facility, working the graveyard shift. Her exposure to the mental health system has served as great experience to prepare her for graduate school, which she hopes to begin in Fall 2014. She is aiming for either a Ph.D program in Clinical Psychology or a Master's program in Counseling Psychology.

However, her big news began in July with her and her then-fiancé Michael finally finding a suitable place to live on their own for the first time! They moved into a great apartment with their cat, meeting new neighbors and learning how to fend for themselves. They soon discovered that Michael was to be in charge of the cooking – being notably more talented and enthusiastic for it – and Vienna would manage the bulk of the cleaning. They bought lots of new board games and set up their massive closet as a walk-in library, so the days spent there are never dull.

Weeks after moving in, they decided to bring their long engagement to a close—and have their wedding on October 7, their seven-year anniversary! It was a lovely, intimate wedding with their closest friends and family in attendance, excepting those who understandably could not make it on such short notice. They celebrated their commitment with sushi and karaoke, closing the beautiful day with a group rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody. Two weeks later Vienna and Michael Beck, with the financial help of their wonderfully generous loved ones, were able to have their honeymoon in Southern California, at Disneyland, California Adventure, Sea World, and Universal Studios. They had a blast.



Returning to their cozy home and cat, Vienna and Michael were able to settle down and begin to enjoy married life. Where they will find themselves in 2014 is somewhat hazy, depending on where Vienna is accepted into grad school, but the newlyweds are excited to continue their lives together no matter what the future brings.



Walking down the aisle with his daughter, getting caught up in the Istanbul uprising, and writing new lectures for the humanities honors program: **Andy** remembers 2013 as exciting, tiring, and sometimes just a bit overwhelming. Of course the year's highlight was the chance to celebrate Vienna and Mike's wedding in October – if only so Andy could stop making origami flower petals every night prior to the ceremony. Jenny and Vienna did the real work of wedding planning, but dad found a way to fret about all sorts of wedding-related questions and details anyway.

At last the big day came, bringing a typical assortment of hassles and hiccups (there are worse times for a flat tire, but one hour before a wedding?). But once Andy saw his daughter taking the hand of her new husband, nothing else mattered. Dad even enjoyed the reception, which included a joyously awful family karaoke rendition of “Love Shack.” A couple weeks later, the Woods visited the Becks for dinner and Andy couldn't help but smile.

When he wasn't writing a steady stream of new humanities lectures (the rhetoric of Pliny the Younger, *The Tale of Genji*, *Marbury v. Madison*, and a dozen other assorted topics), Andy tackled some interesting projects – including devoting a full eight days to organize his office and library – and a little bit of travel. He spent about a week in Texas, catching up with friends and enjoying a few days of solo driving. Then in summer (after delivering a lecture in Salzburg), Andy and Jenny celebrated their anniversary in Turkey, touring the relics of Ephesus, floating over Cappadocia by balloon, and racing headlong into teargas clouds in Istanbul (proof, to Jenny's chagrin, that Andy has not quite rid himself of his “Roy Neary” quality). In fall, Andy and Jenny visited Washington D.C. and reconnected with friends from their Berry days.

The final months of 2013 raced by, producing a blur of Halloween preparations, paper grading, and essay revisions. Now at last the happy cacophony of projects and deadlines seems to fade into the background. The year draws to a close and Andy looks forward to whatever comes next.



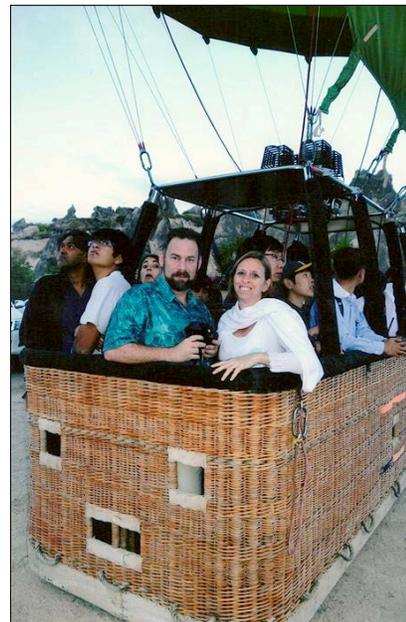
Jenny's highlight of the year was also Vienna's wedding. Not only was the day in her top five best days ever, she had a wonderful month of planning and executing it. She loved creating the origami decorations, coordinating and arranging all the details (and a few surprises for the day), and gaining Mike as her son-in-law, which is the best part of the whole thing.



Also among the best of 2013 was her trip with Andy to Istanbul. Turkey is gorgeous, and she enjoyed many new and amazing things there. Among those was the call to prayer that you can hear several times a day. Even when it wakes you up in the night, it's a beautiful sound and reminder of what a spiritual people live there. Flying over Cappadocia in a hot-air balloon is her favorite memory of the trip. That region is beautiful and the peace and tranquility that you feel in the air makes up for the freezing cold of morning. She ate new foods, met great people and experienced things she's never encountered before.

Two other trips helped make 2013 awesome. In August she and Andy took a weekend road trip to North California where they relaxed in a lazy stream at a friend's cabin near Redding and went to a local state park where they saw waterfalls, hiked trails, and relaxed at a lake. What a lovely time! In November, Jenny accompanied Andy to his annual National Communication Association conference. It was held in Washington D.C., and Jenny couldn't resist seeing the nation's capital again. But the best part of that trip was time with old and dear friends from Berry College where she and Andy graduated in 1994.

In her personal pursuits, Jenny was successful at getting five grants funded this year. These are her first and hopefully not her last as she continues to learn and grow in this endeavor. She was Frankenstein's monster for the family's annual Halloween extravaganza. Finally, she sang the beloved work of Handel's Messiah in her church choir earlier this month, which highlighted the season and helped her have a wonderful holiday spirit. Jenny's looking forward to more good things in 2014!



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



Andrew Wood Survived a delightful one-two punch of pneumonia and stomach flu. X-rays no longer look like I'm storing a rancid milk sack in my lungs.

Wednesday, January 2 · Like · Comment



Vienna Beck A long phone conversation with Michael in the middle of a 12-hr shift is just what the doctor ordered. I love little reminders of why I'm marrying this guy.

Monday, March 24 · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood I got another grant funded! This time, \$7,500 for the Scotts Valley Ed Foundation for science equipment in the high school! WooooHoo!!

Friday, April 5 · Like · Comment



Vienna Beck I had such a fabulous night!! Fleetwood Mac was incredible – and we capped it off with staying up all night playing Magic at Denny's with a good friend. Life is pretty sweet right now.

Thursday, May 23 · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Preparing to deliver my lecture on utopianism and globalization at the Salzburg Global Seminar. So looking forward to getting a decent night sleep afterward!

Monday, May 27 · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood Last night in Istanbul. I will miss this beautiful city – the mosques, the food, the calls to prayer and tonight I saw an actual Whirling Dervish.

Wednesday, June 11 · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood Even when I'm stupid, the Lord takes care of me! Last night my wallet/keys fell out of my bag as I rode my bike home. But He sent an angel in the form of an honest young man to find them and, with his mom, take them to the police station who promptly called me JUST as I was about to call to cancel my cards. I was so close to the station at the time that I made it there in time to thank that young man and even give him a small reward. Thank you young man, and thank you Lord for always being there for me!

Friday, August 1 · Like · Comment



Vienna Beck Pre-Wedding Brunch at Denny's, complete with pajamas! – with **Michael Beck**.

Monday, October 7 · Like · Comment



Vienna Beck I officially have begun completing applications to four different PhD programs in Clinical Psychology. *commence panic attack at looming adulthood*

Monday, November 18 · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood "To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others" - Nelson Mandela

Thursday, December 5 · Like · Comment

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