

Happy Holidays!

2011 Wood Family Newsletter



Welcome to our sixth annual newsletter! 2011 turned out to be a real adventure for **Andy**, filled with international travel and intellectual growth. Highlights included a return to China (and a first-time visit to Taiwan). Andy visited China to produce a documentary about SJSU's Global Technology Initiative, while co-leading a student study tour where engineers visited historical and cultural sites, high tech factories, and a nuclear power plant.

He also returned to Europe - twice! In July he attended the Salzburg Global Seminar again, this time to gather footage and interviews for *another* documentary. He returned home for a few days, only to fly back to the continent with Jenny for their long-awaited Grand Tour. On that trip Andy was able to fulfill his lifelong desire to visit Scotland, tracing some of his Frazier family roots. [Check out Jenny's section of our newsletter to learn more about the Wood Family's European travels.]

Andy also joined SJSU's Humanities Honors Program as a faculty member this year [he now splits his time between that department and Communication Studies]. Since he's always held that Humanities Honors group in such high esteem, Andy was more than a little intimidated at the prospect of joining their ranks. But he plunged into his new work, presenting seven lectures on topics ranging from the historiography of Olaudah Equiano to the rhetoric of Enlightenment-era feminists. He also leads a seminar group that meets twice a week. Adding another new course prep, Andy taught his first graduate student seminar focused solely on writing (he's still deciding whether he will tackle *that* particular challenge again!).

When he was home, Andy was always grading papers, researching lectures, or working on his documentaries. At least he found time to organize another Halloween porch this year! [Seriously, we all were so busy in 2011 that the Wood family nearly voted to cancel that event and just hand out candy.] For this Halloween we revived a classic theme: a Corpse Wedding. Andy and Jenny played a zombie bride and groom, and Vienna



was a creepy flower girl. Considering how little time we spent preparing for this year's Halloween, we were amazed to pull it off. Andy survived the most complex and exhausting year he can remember. But don't feel too bad for him. Andy begins a semester-long sabbatical this spring!

Jenny's year was challenging and fun, with trips, moves and new ventures. Overarching and affecting most everything else in her life was her company's move from Scotts Valley (where we live) to Cupertino, a 20-plus mile commute that adds at least an hour and a half to each work day, restructuring her life while offering new opportunities. Jenny now takes the shuttle bus, which actually gives her more time to accomplish personal goals. Vowing to put that time to good use, she has written letters, grants and blog posts, enriching her life and others'. Though she dreaded the change, it's become a way for her to do a lot of good.



The thread that has woven itself into the tapestry of our lives is Jenny's cat fostering. We adopted our foster cat, Coco, who is a beautiful and fun addition to our family. We have also kept Jasmine and Jasper in our home, awaiting their forever family for almost a year now. They are amazing to watch, play with, and love as they frolic with each other, pester the other cats, and expect love and attention first thing in the morning.

Early in the year, Jenny completed some courses in grant writing. Since then, she has assisted the local education foundation with writing six grant proposals. She is hoping that some will turn into funding for important projects in the district for counseling, playgrounds, and gardens. She continues to look for ways to serve while also launching new business ventures.

Jenny has done some exciting things this year with Andy, and she loved all of them. Our Europe trip together was the best vacation ever! We saw and did so many wonderful things that filled us with joy: the crisp blue skies and white architecture of Santorini, a bagpiper at a castle on Loch Ness, traditional trumpeters marking each hour from the towers of Prague, and even the Moulin Rouge in Paris. We just can't wait to go back and see all the stuff we missed on our last trip [Relieve the trip with us: <http://tinyurl.com/87srmg4>]. Jenny also had a blast with Andy and Vienna at Bryce Canyon in Utah [<http://tinyurl.com/7fd775g>]. What a gorgeous place and fun family time! It's been a great year, and Jenny looks forward to more adventures in 2012.





Vienna had a terrific and eventful 2011! To begin with, she dove headfirst into her psychology major in some exciting ways. She started out as a research assistant in a cognitive psychology lab at UC Santa Cruz, helping conduct new and exciting experiments. She then served as an instructional assistant in an Intro to Psychology class, helping freshmen understand the basics while gaining invaluable teaching experience.

Next, she started her own psychology blog, entitled *Sanity's Madness*

[<http://sanitysmadness.blogspot.com>], in which she had the opportunity to apply her coursework to subjects of personal interest, such as optimism and depression, with the intent of gaining a deeper understanding of why we are the way we are. Finally, she made her biggest professional leap yet, becoming an intern at a residential care center for the mentally ill, where she got the opportunity to work one-on-one with people suffering from severe mental disorders.

Apart from her professional pursuits, Vienna has had a fun time planning her upcoming 2012 wedding with her fiancé, Michael. During their free time, though, they found the chance to go to Disneyland, Lake Tahoe, and Great America, which was a tremendous experience because nothing quite compares to vacationing with one's fiancé. All in all, they have had a wonderful year together and couldn't be more excited to exchange vows next October - their six-year anniversary.

Finally, in one of her most exciting achievements yet, Vienna competed in the annual National Novel Writing Month challenge, in which she (along with thousands of others across the country) successfully wrote 50,000 words of a novel during the month of November. It was a grueling journey, but she made it, and she is overjoyed to have made such strides towards one of her lifelong goals.

Vienna has high hopes for the coming year and anticipates completing the manuscript for her novel, graduating with her Bachelor's Degree in Intensive Psychology, and, of course, getting married to a wonderful man, Michael Beck!



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



Vienna Wood is super excited to be an IA for Intro Psych!! If you thought I was bad about talking psychology before, just wait until I've spent 10 weeks teaching it to freshmen.

January 4 at 2:11pm · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood Is, after almost 3 years, finally closing on that darn MS house tomorrow. Boy I wish I were more excited.

January 13 at 1:50pm via Mobile · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Watching a revolution in Egypt... Who knows how this will turn?

January 28 at 11:08am · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood We lost our beloved rat Pericles last night. He was such a sweetie and we miss him already!

February 3 at 2:06pm · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood Great weekend. Dead Kennedys concert on Saturday. Super Bowl with the family on Sunday. Now ready for a busy week!

February 7 at 3:39pm · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood JUST FINISHED WORK ON HER FIRST GRANT APP!!! WOOT!!!

February 23 at 3:55pm · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood Please check out my new psychology blog... and comment on anything that interests you; I want to start some dialogues! sanityismadness.blogspot.com

June 25 at 4:29pm · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood We're in France, the last leg of our whirlwind tour of Europe. Spending a day in Nice on the cote d'azur. Tomorrow we're off to Paris where there will be strolling along the Seine, can-can dancing at the Moulin Rouge (not by us, fortunately), and getting an eyeful of some Tower I've been reading about!

10 August at 9:33am · Like · Comment



Jenny Boyer Wood just got a promotion and raise at work! Yay!

September 6 at 9:20am · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood Is leaving tomorrow to see the Tahoe snow, and to celebrate her 5-year anniversary with Mr. Michael Beck!!

October 5 at 9:08pm · Like · Comment



Andrew Wood "Oh Monsters, Why Did I Create You?"

October 6 at 10:22pm · Like · Comment



Vienna Wood Coolest thing I've done in a while... Amass an enormous amount of free yarn to teach knitting to the mentally ill. =)

October 22 at 11:02pm · Like · Comment

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