

Happy New Year Everyone!

2006 was an exciting year for our family, especially for David and Andrew.

Cedar Point

Over the years, both David and Andrew have become roller coaster enthusiasts just like their father. We've been promising them a trip to Cedar Point, which having 16 of them is the roller coaster capital of the world. The trip was in July, before David went off to college and Andrew started back to school. We spent two days at the park riding almost nothing but roller coasters, although there were a few other rides we found enjoyable as well. Bruce's childhood friend, Gary, drove up to meet us there and joined us for both days at the park. Dave Vogel (Bruce's half brother) came up with his boys on the last day for dinner. Eileen opted out due to "the high testosterone level" of the outing, not to mention that she had just returned from managing a two-week workshop in Wisconsin.

**Cozumel**

Our family has vacationed in Cancun twice over the past three years. In 2006, Bruce and Eileen decided to celebrate their 23rd wedding anniversary somewhere different without kids in tow, and Cozumel was the choice. Cozumel is a small island that is east of the port at Playa del Carmen on the Yucatan peninsula. Both Cancun and Cozumel suffered tremendous damage from hurricane Wilma in 2005, and the shop owners on Cozumel openly shared their experiences about the devastation and rebuilding their businesses. Rebuilding is still in progress in both places, but the only real evidence on Cozumel was the shrunken coral reefs and shredded palm trees along the south end of the island.

We still enjoy visiting ancient ruins and have seen Chichen Itza and Tulum on previous visits. This time we traveled to Coba, where the largest known ruins in the Yucatan are located. You can still climb the pyramids there so of course we did, proving yet again that we are incurable tourists and gluttons for physical punishment.

Family Update

As we reported in last year's newsletter, **David** was accepted into Georgia Tech late in the year. In fact, he was accepted by all five schools to which he applied. Although Carnegie Mellon was his first choice, we all agreed it was too costly. However, having been awarded a National Merit Scholarship as well as Orbital's Fred C. Alcorn scholarship, David has agreed to help with financing his degree at GA Tech. David also plans to enter their excellent co-op program. Although this could mean a five-year degree, we all believe it offers the best education opportunity in addition to real world work experience. But having entered with 37 college credits already completed, perhaps it can still be done in four years.



The whole family drove down to see David off and spent a week in Atlanta. GA Tech holds a significant orientation event, both for the students and the families. During the week we got to do neat stuff such as shopping for dorm room accessories and food, getting the room all setup, paying for the first semester of tuition, room and board, touring Atlanta museums and other sites, and dining at some interesting restaurants. It was a great experience, but not relaxing like a vacation.

David finished his first semester at GA Tech a couple weeks ago with good grades and is now home for winter break. He returns the second week in January.

Rachel is doing fine at St. Mary's, although with the year being as busy as it has we have not gotten to visit her as much as in prior years. We knew this was coming, so Bruce began planning to install a webcam at St. Mary's as soon as he learned the new facility would be fully networked. The webcam was finally installed in January, so now we can have "virtual visits" with Rachel every week. This has worked out wonderfully. Now our Sunday morning calls include being able to see Rachel while we talk to her over a speakerphone. It's not as good as being there, but it really helps to see her every week to keep tabs on her weight, alertness, and to see her respond when she hears our voices. The staff at St. Mary's are incredible and bend over backwards to support our weekly ritual.

In early October, Rachel underwent another pacemaker replacement surgery. Although surgery is always cause for concern with Rachel, the procedure went flawlessly and there were only very minor issues afterwards.

Andrew joined "The Man Club" on May 13, when he became a bar mitzvah. Of course, a good number of Goldstein family members made the trek from all over the country to be a part of the celebration. We were especially honored that Christina, our au pair at the time of David's bar mitzvah, kept her promise to return for Andrew's.

In addition, Rachel came home for the entire week, joined by one of her best friends from St. Mary's, Ashley, who took care of Rachel's demanding needs. It was great having everyone together, and Rachel was very obviously happy to be home.

Andrew got his wish last Chanukah when we gave him a set of drums. Our neighbors called us everything from "brave" to "nuts", but Bruce knew what to expect having been a fledgling drummer for the better part of his childhood. During the summer Andrew attended rock and roll "camp" at All Things Rock, which provides all sorts of music lessons with a focus on rock and roll and having fun playing music.



The objective of the camp is to split-up the students into bands, who write their own songs, record a CD, and ultimately perform live at a local club. The performance was incredible and was the pinnacle of the summer for Andrew, who had a blast with the whole experience.

He continues to take weekly drumming lessons at ATR and is starting to enjoy playing (but still not nearly as much as he enjoys the Playstation).

This fall Andrew decided to apply to Thomas Jefferson High School, where David attended. The process is ongoing and rigorous with the final decisions announced in early April. We're keeping our fingers crossed.

Andrew got involved in theater at school this year, taking a drama course and working on the tech crew (lights and sound). He's also attending "Hebrew Chai" and is involved in the synagogue youth group, which among other things

held a progressive dinner complete with SUV stretch limousine ride.

Andrew is currently on a team that will compete in the First Vex Challenge, a robotics competition held annually across the country. The competition for this team will be in late January in Delaware. They've got a lot of work yet to do and the next few weeks will be intense. But the event should be fun and interesting. To get an idea of how this works, go to <http://team3271.scherzinger.org> and click on the title of the article "Videos of..." on the front page.

Bruce completed the first half of his master's degree and received his systems engineering certification. Relevant opportunities that look promising are already opening up at work. Look for possible big news in next year's edition.

Bruce has become obsessed with open source software development and building websites with a content management system called "Joomla". He has built a total of eight Joomla websites so far, including completely revamping our family website (scherzinger.org).

Eileen keeps getting more responsibility thrust upon her by her job at NCA. It seems that now there is a need for several candy workshops annually at the University of Wisconsin and in Chicago. Heck, maybe we should just move to Milwaukee. In addition to her responsibilities as Manager of Technical Programs, she is also now managing a confectionery career center. How she does this on a part-time basis continues to elude most of us.

In her spare time this past year, Eileen planned a bar mitzvah and a high school graduation party, was on the committee for the TJ All-Night Grad Party, continued her volunteer responsibilities at both boys' schools, all the while constantly nagging David (and Bruce) through the college application process and keeping the house running smoothly. Oy!

In 2007, David will finish his freshman year and start as a sophomore at GA Tech and Andrew will begin high school. Other than the assumed continuing increase in Eileen's work schedule, 2007 is poised to be a pretty quiet year (compared to 2006). Nah, that'll never happen!

Please visit our family website at <http://scherzinger.org> if where there is a lot more detail about the past year as well as a lot of photos. We hope you have an incredible 2007!

Happy New Year!

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