

## Greetings Family and Friends!

Well, 2010 has come and gone. The year started out with a second major blizzard hitting the east coast. The two storms dumped a combined 72" of snow on the DC area in just about a month. We have since purchased a snow throwing machine, which should ward off any significant snowfalls for the foreseeable future ☺.

Snow was not the last of bad weather for 2010. In early May, we got hit with a bad hail storm that damaged three of our cars and our house. The cars were repaired right away, but the house took all summer. In the end the house got a new roof, vinyl siding, and gutters. Finally, we don't worry about losing shingles every time the wind blows over 30 mph.

The house also finally got some badly needed repairs and upgrades. We had our patio and driveway demolished and replaced with pavers (see <http://photos.scherzinger.org>), reinforced and relayed the front tiered landscaping walls, and had the front stoop and walkway done with flagstone. Nice!

### Eileen

Eileen continues to work for AIHA and finished her first year with them in August. She is constantly challenged by her new responsibilities and finding ways to make her contribution to the process more efficient. Her efforts culminated in their annual conference held this past year in Denver, CO. The conference was a huge success but a long and grueling week for Eileen. Not to worry, Bruce flew out and joined her to spend a balmy Memorial Day weekend enjoying the local scenery, cuisine (Eileen had her first "Rocky Mountain Oysters"), culture and holiday festivities in the downtown area.



Eileen in Golden, CO, overlooking Coors brewery

For Valentine's Day, Eileen surprised Bruce by registering for monthly wine tastings at a local wine shop. We have enjoyed many evenings out and have learned a lot about different wines and regions, not to mention spent a lot of money on wines we'd never have picked up in a store otherwise. We continue to participate in these classes and look forward to this monthly night out.

In early August Eileen suffered a traumatic bicycling accident, losing control of her bike and landing face first into the pavement on a busy Reston road. Fortunately, several kind, quick-thinking cyclists stopped to assist her by directing traffic and calling 911. Meanwhile, Bruce passed the accident scene not immediately realizing Eileen was the injured cyclist lying in the street. But it hit him a few hundred yards down the road and he doubled back. The impact caused multiple broken teeth and 14 lip

stitches, injuries Eileen will be dealing with repairing for months to come. She has gone bicycling several times since the accident.

### Bruce

For Bruce, 2010 was the end of a 27-year wait to return to motorcycling. It was after he discovered several friends had bikes that he decided he had waited long enough. In late January, he got his VA learner's permit and he and Eileen went shopping, settling on a 2004 Yamaha Road Star. In mid-March, Bruce and his friend Ken went for their first ride of the year. Bruce aced the MSF course in April at which time riding and "gearing up" became his new obsessions. He joined the Southern Cruisers Riding Club, Loudoun Chapter, and did group rides nearly every weekend through late autumn. He also rode solo 1200 miles to Indiana, making the usual stops in Ohio to visit family.



Eileen and Bruce try their "new" 2004 Yamaha Road Star on for size at Loudoun Motor Sports, Leesburg VA

Bruce now chairs the Northern Virginia Joomla! User Group, which held the first-ever Joomla! Day DC at Microsoft's facility in Chevy Chase, MD. The event was a huge success and established DC as the only mid-Atlantic hub for Joomla! interest. You can visit the group's website at <http://novajoomla.com>.

Bruce continued as a Systems Engineer on the COTS program in December at Orbital.

### David

David returned to college and is now attending George Mason University in Fairfax (about 15 minutes away), achieving a 3.9 GPA in his first semester there. He also has been dating Morgan, a high school friend of his, since early summer. He is playing bass guitar in a band named "Piecycles" (check them out on Facebook). We are pleased and relieved to see him doing so well after a rough couple of years.



David and Morgan decked out to celebrate her birthday dinner

### Rachel

Rachel turned 19 in May and continues to do very well at St. Mary's in Norfolk. In July she rode on a ferry across Norfolk harbor for a lunch meeting with St. Mary's staff at the Bier Garten in Portsmouth. She wasn't crazy about the food, and a thunderstorm hit just as we left the restaurant. Overall we believe she enjoyed just getting out.



Rachel rides the ferry across Norfolk Harbor to Portsmouth

In December, Rachel had to be taken to the hospital due to respiratory distress. It is believed she aspirated during a seizure resulting in aspiration pneumonia. She was in intensive care for a few days and on oxygen for about a

week. Although she became very weak, her strength allowed her to recover rapidly and she was breathing and eating normally after about two weeks.

This year we began considering living arrangements for Rachel when she turns 21, at which time St. Mary's current policy would be to release her. We'll let you know more on this as things develop.

We continue to visit with Rachel by webcam twice each week.

**Andrew**

Andrew is now a senior at SLHS and continues in the IB program concentrating on high level mathematics and sciences. He received an academic letter for having a 3.8 GPA or better for 3 years straight. He is also pit leader of the percussion section of the marching band and plays in the wind and jazz ensembles.

Andrew also started a Best Buddies chapter after attending a summer workshop in Indianapolis. His endeavor made the local news (<http://reston.patch.com/articles/family-experience-inspires-slhs-student-to-lead-best-buddies-program>). As a result of his efforts with Best Buddies, he was selected as the recipient of the 2011 Northern Virginia "Student Peace Award", presented to a student who has made a substantial contribution to understanding, peacemaking, and/or conflict resolution.



Andrew poses in his Best Buddies T-shirt for a Reston Patch journalist

Andrew also officially became a driver this year, so watch out! We're really looking forward to higher insurance premiums.

College applications are in the works for Andrew now and he has already been admitted to Rose Hulman Institute of Technology and the George Mason University Honors Program. He will be seeking his undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering while continuing his music interest.

Be sure to visit our website at <http://scherzinger.org> where there is a lot more detail about the 14 years of our lives, as well as lots of photos. Best wishes for you and yours in 2011!



**Happy New Year!**

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