

**Happy New Year!**

2013 was a year of mostly successes and very few disappointments. Not quite a rollercoaster, but a year to remember for sure.

Bruce and Eileen celebrated their 30-year anniversary (October) but kept it going for most of the year, using it as a reason for frequent toasts and many opportunities to celebrate. The big highlight of the year was our trip to Greece. Hard to believe but this was the first time in Europe for



The Parthenon

either of us, so it was quite exciting. We stayed 3 nights in Athens and then took a small cruise to visit several islands, Mykonos, Crete, and Santorini, as well as Kusadasi and Ephesus, Turkey. We visited a lot of ruins for sure, but the best thing about the trip was the incredible food we ate and people we met. We were there at the end of July, during a heat wave so it was very hot (100 degrees F) and dry.



The Louis Olympia



Bruce and Eileen in Santorini

While in Athens, we had a rare opportunity to attend the opera *Madame Butterfly* at the ancient Odeon of Herodes Atticus amphitheater. It was truly a spectacular event to experienced.

In January, Bruce, Eileen, and Andrew went to Florida to celebrate her brother, Lee's marriage to Kirsi Kiviranta. We had a chance to visit with all of her family and we hope to get down there again early in 2014.

**Eileen**

After 4 years at the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIA), Eileen was ready for a change and in late October, started a new position with the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers (afpm.org) association as their Manager of Regional Safety Networks, primarily addressing process safety initiatives in oil, gas and petrochemical companies. She now commutes to Washington D.C. and in about another month or so, the metro's new silver line will have a station less than 5 minutes from our house. With her new job, she will be traveling 15+ times a year to chair various industry safety

meetings around the country. So far she's been to Louisiana and Texas and will go back to San Antonio in January. From there she'll fly up to DFW where she and Bruce will visit his sister and mom for a few days. They haven't seen each other since 2009. Future destinations include North Dakota, Colorado, Ohio, NY and CA. Who knows, maybe even Alaska - she's lobbying for that one ;-).

After Eileen's annual AIHA conference, which was held in Montreal last spring, Bruce was scheduled to fly up for a long weekend. Due to a series of unfortunate events with the airlines, he did not make it there. Instead, Eileen was treated to a solo weekend decompressing and enjoying her upgraded presidential suite at the hotel where she was staying. She took the opportunity to explore Montreal and experience a walking food tour, museums and a great deal of history. Guess we will have to make a return trip with Bruce in the future so he can see what he missed!

**Bruce**

Bruce has had a somewhat busy year, which included two long motorcycle trips. One trip was his annual loop through Ohio and Indiana. But earlier in June he went with a couple friends from SCRC to New Hampshire to attend Laconia Bike Week. That trip took him through the Adirondacks, across Lake Champlain, over Green Mountain in Vermont, and down the entire east coast of New Hampshire. It rained a good bit of that week, but the scenery and camaraderie made it worth dealing with.

Bruce's employer, Orbital Sciences, finally launched its first Antares rocket in April and its first (demo) cargo resupply mission in September. A second cargo resupply mission was scheduled for December, but due to the failure of a cooling system on the International Space Station, that launch had to be postponed until January 2014. In March, Bruce celebrated 10 years as an Orbital employee. He had worked for Orbital prior to that as an independent consultant from June 1999-March 2003.

On July 4 Bruce and Eileen bought a new motorcycle. This one is a 2013 Victory Cross Country Tour and yes, it's made in the good old U.S.A. The 2005 Yamaha Venture was sold to Bruce's niece Amber's fiancé, Ryan Bass. The new bike is a more modern design and has a V-twin engine, but is just as smooth as the V-4 the Venture has. There is more cargo space and the bike has more horsepower, ABS brakes, and a heated seat and hand grips. It's a better bike in a lot of ways for the way and times Bruce rides, but the Venture also had some things he will miss.

Bruce hopes to attend his high school



Our new 2013 Victory Cross Country Tour

class' 40-year reunion in July. But his schedule is pretty tight that time of year and it is looking iffy right now.

**David**

David is still working for the local contracting firm, IDT, and still living in Fairfax. He enjoys the technical aspects



David and Andrew before a *Call for Fire* performance at "A Taste of Vienna" food festival

of the job, but he is discovering that being a professional has its ups and downs.

In mid-summer, David was involved in a car accident and suffered neck and shoulder injuries. As a result, he had to give up playing the bass guitar until all that heals. Prior to that, he had been playing in the band *Call for Fire* after *Daughter of Stars* disbanded due to internal (a.k.a. "rock star ego") conflicts.

Also as a result of the accident, which totaled the 1999 Chrysler 300M we had given him, David ended up buying a 2012 Hyundai Elantra, which he loves.

**Rachel**

Rachel is now a 22-yr-old young lady. She is still at St. Mary's, but is finally scheduled to move into the new



Rachel smiling for Daddy

Albero House adult facility on February 25, where she will have a private room. We are still working with decorators to get the room looking good before then.

Bruce and Eileen are finally initiating the process of becoming Rachel's legal guardians. This may seem like an unnecessary thing to most people, but in the eyes of the law, Rachel is just like anyone else and is assumed to be able to make her own decisions regarding her life. She obviously cannot do that, and to avoid any difficulties down the road, this process is

necessary. It should be completed by the end of January.

**Andrew**

Andrew is no longer a student at George Mason. He is now taking classes at the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) Arlington branch. He has also changed his major from chemistry to math, but that may be changing again. He is seriously interested in teaching STEM classes which is truly suited to his caring and engaging personality. Andrew has switched jobs twice since last year's newsletter and is now working as a server at a local Ledo's pizzeria. He is still very interested in music as a hobby (runs in the family) and occasionally picks up playing his drums and the bongos.



Andrew with David and Rachel at St. Mary's

**In Closing...**

Rachel's holiday wish was to see her brothers, so on Christmas day, all four of us went to Norfolk to visit Rachel. This was the first time in over a year that we were all together. She was in a great mood the entire visit and thrilled to see her brothers. We bought pizza for the entire St. Mary's staff to thank them for all their hard work during the year.

Bruce has not faithfully been maintaining our family website at <http://scherzinger.org> for a couple years, but the site is still there and it still has lots of photos and all our past newsletters, including this one. We are also on Facebook and have enjoyed keeping up with many of you over the years.



**Happy New Year!**

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