



Christmas 2009

Duelm Family Newsletter

from Julie, Brian, Tony, and Brock in The Woodlands, Texas

Happy Holidays!

We hope this festive season finds you healthy and happy, with excitement for the year to come. We also hope you enjoy our family tradition of pictures and stories from the past twelve months.

Cha-Ching, Cha-Camel

We joined Tony and his Texas A&M roommates for Spring Break in Santa Fe. The first two days of skiing were great, but on day three Julie and Brian bowed out and decided to “tour” the Camel Rock Casino. The gambling Grinch was out to lunch and Brian hit his first jackpot shortly after we arrived. Yes, we said “first.” As the day waned (as did his winnings), Brian hit his second. And, with her last \$20 in quarters, Julie hit our third. For the rest of the trip, we spent the booty on good food and souvenirs, with a chant after each purchase, “Courtesy of the Camel Rock Casino!”



Matt, Tony, Trevor in Roswell



Brock personal best vault

Bending the Rules

For parents, watching the sport of pole vaulting is a combination of terror and awe, usually in that order. Brock continued to hone his pole vaulting skills this year, but in one especially terrifying vault, he planted the pole and began a great take-off, at which point the pole bent completely into a “U” shape and Brock fell, almost missing the mat. The judge quickly realized the issue and we learned that Brock had borrowed a lighter pole. That won’t happen again. Brock went on to 1st place finishes at district and his high school’s invitational, including a personal best.

Frankenstein-ette

It’s been three decades since Julie was in the car accident that left her in a coma with severe injuries. She recovered in time, but the damage was done, and hastened spine issues that usually come much later in life. This was the year to replace pain medications with surgery, and she underwent a successful four-level cervical fusion in June. Never one to be too serious, she drifted under anesthesia by giving Brian a

one-finger salute (with each hand no less). Revenge is sweet, so when she awoke in recovery and asked how the incision looked, Brian kindly said “Honey, have you ever seen the movie Frankenstein?” Her recovery has been amazing and she returned to playing volleyball in October.

Big Problem, Mon!

Jamaica is one of our favorite getaways, and while there we visited Mystic Mountain near Ocho Rios. We tested the newly installed bobsled coaster that winds down the side of the mountain. The only brake you have is the handle you hold, and it’s optional. Brian quickly learned how little fear Julie has, and how much she trusts Jamaican engineering. Notice her smile? What you don’t see are Brian’s white knuckles.



Boys Prefer Greek

It’s hard to believe that Tony turned 19 this year. For his birthday, he and several buddies decided that Greek food sounded best. Little did we know (or did they?) that Saturday night features belly dancing. As the dancer bounced (literally) past Tony, we snapped this image of pure joy. Needless to say, our group of teenagers thoroughly enjoyed the evening!



Brock on Memorial Day with Scouts

In Other News...

After recovering from surgery, Julie returned to work on her street corner. She picked up right where she left off (notice we didn’t say “she got picked up”), and continues in her role as crossing guard for the local school district. Brian is still with HP although he changed roles this year and now leads HR Operations, where he manages various HR initiatives for the Information Technology organization.



Have a Very Merry Christmas!

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