



Christmas 2019

Duelm Family Newsletter

Merry Christmas!

We hope this festive season finds you healthy, happy, and looking forward to the year ahead. We also hope you enjoy our family tradition of pictures and stories from the past twelve months.

Unto Us a Grandchild is Given

As foretold in our 2018 newsletter and announced by the prophet Facebook, Eleanor Elizabeth Duelm arrived on February 11 to proud parents Katie and Tony. Nora, as she likes to be called, was a healthy 6 lbs, 12 oz, 18.5 inches. No truer words have been spoken as the quote *"A grandchild fills a space in your heart that you never knew was empty."* JuJu and PawPaw are smitten with this girl whose spunk and devilish smirk make every minute with her pure joy.



Eleanor Elizabeth Duelm, Katie and Tony

As if having as a child was not enough excitement, Tony and Katie also purchased their first home a month later and moved from Houston to College Station. Katie returned to her role as Managing Editor

of Texas A&M University Press. Tony accepted a new role as Senior Accountant at Sexing Technologies. Yes, you read that right, and before you console us on our son's foray into the adult film industry, be it known that ST Genetics (the preferred company name) is the world leader in sexed semen and embryo production for the beef and dairy industry. Tony has thrived there and was recently named Assistant Controller.

Adventures with Brock and Gina

We shared last year that Brock moved to Baltimore to join partner Gina Wadas, who is a Communications Specialist at Johns Hopkins. Brock continues to work for S. J. Martenet, a historic surveying firm. We've since learned that a church steeple from the 1700's can actually serve as a reference point for surveying the city. Lord help us, literally.

We've been blessed that Brian had several work trips to Maryland this year, and we've grown to love the city of Baltimore. In addition, there are so many great sights within a day trip, so the four of us have taken long weekends to explore Niagara Falls, beautiful Letchworth State Park the "Grand Canyon of the East," and New York City where we took out a second mortgage to see the musical Hamilton on Broadway. Our Airbnb in NYC happened to be above a Chinese grocery store. We can share that no amount of air fresheners can overcome the scent of dried seafood.



Enjoying Niagara Falls with Brock and Gina

Speaking of China

Our motto of “do as much as you can while you can” led us to select China for our big trip this year. We spent time in Beijing, Xi'an which is home to the Terracotta Army, and Shanghai. It was a cultural experience like no other. One highlight of our trip was to use a FOUR-STAR rated toilet. Julie later pointed out that it must be a 10-star rating system.



Watch your step ladies

Of course, no trip to China is complete without ascending the Great Wall. Upon arrival at the base, our guide gave us two options, the “hard way,” and “the harder way.” Clearly we had picked the wrong tour, because we thought two Sherpa would carry us up the billion uneven steps required to reach the top. A Chinese elementary school group joined us up the stairs and practiced their English with phrases like “You look hot” and “You look tired.” We also found that many Chinese tourists would gawk and take pictures with the blond-hair, blue-eyed Julie. Let’s just say that she is probably tagged in a thousand photos on the Chinese equivalent of Facebook.



Before the climb. You don't want to see (or smell) us after

The Rest of the Story

Brian continues to work for McKesson, facilitating leadership and team development programs for medical practices in The US Oncology Network. As he sees many friends begin retirement, Brian is blessed to think of his role as “retired in place” because he loves the work which impacts cancer patients. Julie continues to volunteer, and is happy to grandbabysit whenever called upon.

Contact Us At...

We're still at 227 South Crimson Clover Circle in The Woodlands, Texas 77381. Our email address is jbduehm@gmail.com, and home phone number is 281-292-0791. Julie's cell phone number is 713-306-2145. Brian's cell number is 713-417-2852.



The many faces of Nora



A Christmas tradition continues



Yes PawPaw, you can eat twice-chewed pancakes