

Hello again from Sunny Silicon Valley! After several years of drought, we are looking forward to a lot of predicted rain this year. Perhaps then we can take guilt-free full showers again! Meanwhile, here are our updates.

As usual, Dachywan still works late at Oracle on a daily basis, and now doesn't golf as often as he did. Elizabeth is still busy in her practice, but hopefully things will calm down a bit with adding an afterhours nurse advice line and with changing the group of doctors who covers for her when the office isn't open. Stephen has decided that computer programming is the field he wants to work in, and is currently studying at a boot camp that will end in January. Upon completion, the camp will help him find a job. Alyssa is in her last year at UC Irvine and is busy doing research in environmental studies and applying to graduate school in Architecture. She will graduate in June, and our whole family is looking forward to flying to Irvine to attend her commencement. And Conrad is now in 6th grade where all his teachers are very supportive of his fencing and all the traveling & absences it involves. In October, he won his first medal at a tournament: a silver medal, and it was at a regional tournament!

Unlike usual, we did a lot of family traveling this past year. At the end of 2015, we went to Mt. Shasta near the Oregon border. It was a nice, mellow, family get together. We stayed in a very comfortable cabin just off the golf course, played family games, and took small hikes, and rode a dog sled! And we were just continually impressed by that beautiful white dormant volcano that you could see WHEREVER you were.

In May, we (except Alyssa who was busy with finals) spent about a week in Taiwan as an extended stopover before continuing on to Bali for niece Lydia's wedding. It was a beautiful wedding on a very tropical island where we stayed at The Mulia Resort, the best resort I've ever been to (even besting the Grand Wailea in Maui!). The included breakfast buffet was AMAZING, with 8 different stations offering different international cuisines. And the resort's beach was PRISTINE because there were 3 ladies sweeping the debris that washed up and 1 guy in the water with a basket skimming as much debris as he could! We were only there for 3 nights, so with the wedding, we didn't do much sightseeing, but just relaxing on our veranda, or soaking in the beautiful tub that had a gorgeous view of the ocean, was very pleasant.

In August, we went to Switzerland! Alyssa had gone to Denmark in June to attend a summer architecture program, and after it ended, we met up with her at Judy's house near Zurich. Judy was an AMAZING tour guide, so in the one week that we were there, we got to experience the Treetop Ropes course that was a LOT of fun but challenging; a farm full of fun things to do, like a maze of apple trees, real chicken slinging (think Angry Birds) and seed spitting competitions; hike up an emerald hill to see the view – just like in Sound of Music - see several highlights of Zurich inc. a gorgeous church that was built by Charlemagne as well as 2 other churches, the University of Zurich with its incredible views and really fun natural history museum, the street with the old buildings that are hundreds of years old, ride the ferry in Lake Zurich that brought us to a beautiful urban park (think Central Park in NY); visit a real medieval castle with a pet dragon; tour the Frey chocolate factory where we could eat as much chocolate as we wanted (surprisingly that didn't turn out to be much – you weren't offered anything to drink while sampling the chocolate...smart!), visit the Zurich Zoo with their new and AMAZING elephant enclosure, and go shopping in an impressive mall that looked like an office building from the outside. And we ate so many things but totally fell in love with the BREAD!!!

As mentioned, fencing has caused Conrad and Elizabeth to do a lot of traveling. Just since August when the current season started, they have traveled to Houston, Denver, San Diego, and Niagara Falls! This was Conrad's first time there, and he & Elizabeth enjoyed getting sopping wet riding the Maid of the Mist to get the close up view.

Hope you and yours have had a wonderful 2015, and are looking forward to an exciting 2016!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Wu Family

