

Christmas, 1998
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We began 1998 by sending Marie (21) off to Athens, Greece, where she spent a memorable semester traveling around the Aegean and visiting Crete, Istanbul, and Troy. Tom was so jealous of her expedition that he organized a student trip to Athens for late May, right after graduation at Monmouth College, and had a great time reacquainting himself with a country he had not seen in 24 years. Marie, still a Classics major, is now—*mirabile dictu*—a senior at Bowdoin College and is applying to library school for next year, although her long-term plans still include a veterinary degree.

Julia (18) had a very satisfactory first year at Mt. Holyoke College, which seems to suit her quite well. She, too, went to Greece in May, where she visited Delphi and Mycenae with her father and sister. Julia is an art history major and hopes, eventually, to become an architect. In the meanwhile she is planning her junior year abroad, either in her beloved Italy or perhaps in Greece.

Richard (16) did not go to Greece with his sisters. Now a junior, he has expanded his musical talents by switching to trumpet in the high school marching band. However, he still keeps up his horn in concert band season and in the College Wind Ensemble. He has also started to play the organ, but has had little time for any keyboard this fall since he landed a major part in the fall play, "Terror by Gaslight," in which he played Dr. Cyrus Norton, an eminent surgeon in 19th-century Philadelphia, who trafficked with grave-diggers and got himself stabbed in the back in the next-to-last scene. Richard did an impressive job on the stage, if his parents are fair judges. He drives them crazy, however, by spending every spare moment playing interactive games on the computer.

Anne didn't go to Greece either. She was too busy at the United Way, where she continues to serve as administrative assistant. She has learned a lot about bookkeeping and office management in the last year and a half, finds her work satisfactory, but certainly misses the opportunity to teach and work in an academic environment. Western Illinois simply does not offer well-educated people a wide variety of employment options.

Meanwhile, life goes on for Tom at Monmouth College. He is thrilled to be teaching a good group in elementary Greek this year and reminds himself that such courses are what brought him to Monmouth in the first place. He has also taken on responsibility for off-campus programs at the college and will be traveling to Paris for a few days in January to consider an international business program for Monmouth students. He is also still working on the editing of *A World Dictionary of Foreign Expressions*, a project which he inherited from his late colleague Gabriel Adeleye and which should see print later in the spring. He also hopes to lead another student trip in May, this time from Istanbul south

along the Turkish coast to the island of Samos and then on to Athens.

As usual our summer activities focused on the East Coast. Tom and Richard were there for eight weeks, but Anne could only get away for three. In June Tom, Richard, and Julia were in New Jersey helping Tom's sisters MaryBeth and Toni pack for major moves. M.B. has relocated to Durham, North Carolina, where her husband Billy has finally found a job more related to his field. Their children Tracy (12) and Roy (10) seem to be adapting well to their new schools and home (a 30-acre farm with eight horse stalls which they plan to fill). In late June Toni married her long-time friend Gary Barlettano and moved to Pleasant Valley, California (near San Francisco), where she is now looking for employment. Her daughters Chris (16) and Theresa (15) have decided they prefer New Jersey to sunny California and are now living with their father.

Tom and Richard spent the 4th of July in the Washington, D.C. area where Richard's Junior Ecumenical Choir performed at Arlington Cemetery, the Naval Monument on Pennsylvania Ave., and the Catholic cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. Tom's Aunt Frances and Julia joined them in D.C. to watch the fireworks on the mall. But the highlight of the trip was probably a visit to the new FDR Memorial, which we highly recommend as a powerful and moving experience.

Anne joined the family in Maine where we hosted some of Julia's Italian friends. We used their visit as an excuse to take an excursion out to Monhegan Island, which we had never visited before and enjoyed immensely. While in Maine we also attended a memorial service on North Haven for Anne's Gramma Kath who died in May after a long illness. She had a long and good life but it was still difficult to say good-bye. Anne's father spends a lot of time in his woodlot and his garden. Her mother is recuperating from a series of physical problems. Brothers Carl and Jack (and his family) continue about the same. Jack's younger son Nick (9) received his first communion in May and his older son Tim (11) has turned into a budding actor. We were privileged to see Tim in performance during the summer but missed his big part as a squid in the spring.

Probably the most dramatic event of the year was a major windstorm which brought 90 mph. winds through Monmouth in late June, blew in our steel garage door (!), and took down half of the big hackberry tree in our backyard while Anne covered in the basement with the animals. We were fortunate that the tree fell into Tom's garden rather than onto a neighbor's house or garage. It has taken us several months to clean up the mess. Tom is now planning an extension of his garden in the space vacated by the tree (where he has already planted several fruit trees and a bucketful of daffodils). We used the storm damage as an excuse to put up a 6-ft. stockade fence for privacy's sake and to add a major extension to our deck. Now we are looking forward to enjoying our new outdoor environment next spring.

We trust that the last year of the millennium brings all of you great satisfaction and contentment.