

Kevin graduates from SDSU



Saturday, May 17th was the big day, and the ceremonies started at 8:00 a.m. Following the initial program, the various department groups separated into various locations for department graduation, which included handing out diplomas. Grandpa and Grandma arrived at 9:30 for the departmental rites, and after some parking problems we found our way to the Political Science site. Unfortunately, Kevin was getting degrees in both Political Science and English, and we chose the wrong site. By the time we found that Kevin's name was not called it was too late to find the right site, so we went home. We did get to see Kevin at home, along with the rest of the family, and could at least congratulate Kevin on this important day in his life. Since the entire family was at home we got the following full family photo.



While we were at the Ed and Jan home we took the opportunity to get some additional pictures. First of all, we had a chance to examine Jan's impressive collection of highly decorated painted eggs. As you can see, it is very extensive and very interesting. The pictures do not really do it justice.



We also took this opportunity to get a picture of the family dog, shown with Ed. Since the dog is coal black it's hard to get a really good picture. It is sort of a stealth type dog.



Mother's Day celebrations

There were several celebrations on this special family day. First of all, Carol and Jeff picked us up at home, and we took off for the Five Points Sheraton Hotel. There, along with Jason, Dustin, Richard, and JJ we enjoyed the great buffet brunch. They serve just about every item you can think of, all done in style and grace. We took our time, and sampled just about everything in sight, and finally left filled up and then some! It was a great start, and we thank Jeff and Carol for this special treat.

(continued on page 2)

The Riel Family Newsletter

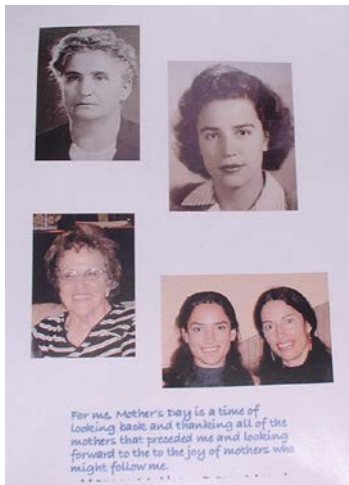
Catch the News

June, 2003



After we were really full , we took off to the condo. Jason never had seen the new place, so we gave him a tour. Then, we decided that we all needed some exercise, so we walked down the street to check out the swimming pool. Then we went back to the condo, and the Benesch family left.

After a brief rest Grandpa and Grandma took off for the Sorem home to enjoy some dessert and some more family members. Francie and Lyle had the table set with lots of ice cream plus a huge variety of embellishments. Various family members came and went, and all the moms were the center of attraction for the rest of the afternoon. Various presents were passed out, and much good conversation highlighted the day.



For me, Mother's Day is a time of looking back and thanking all of the mothers that preceded me and looking forward to the joy of mothers who might follow me.



The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

June, 2003

Some news from the Riel-Mehan family

Some time ago we received the following from Margaret.

Hi Dad,

Unfortunately, we will not be coming to Easter. We have to be at a conference on Monday morning so we are flying on Easter day. But we do have some news. Hopefully Megan will be sending you a note but incase she doesn't.

Megan has been invited to be a lifetime member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars which is based on outstanding achievement during the first two years of transition to college. It is a service organization that combines high scholarship with a commitment to help others.

Megan also has a new job for next year. She will be tutoring Chemistry students. She is in top 10% of her class of hundreds but to be a tutor, she had to create a lesson plan and go through a very competitive interview process. She just learned that she has been selected for this position. So she follows in the long line of Riel teachers.

Michael also has been in the news but only his work, not his name. Michael is working on his major in bioinformatics and is working with the genome project data. As part of his work, he has helped locate a common mutation in the DNA structure of people who suffer from schizophrenia and other bipolar disorders --an inversion of a large part of the DNA sequence on chromosome eight. The professor that he is working with Roel Ophoff, an assistant professor at UCLA, was featured recently for this work and which earned Dr.Ophoff a research grant to continue his work. While Dr. Ophoff mentioned Michael's contribution in the interview for the article, the article on the front page of the UCLA news did not, unfortunately, include Michael's name. But he has the satisfaction of knowing that he is a part of the discovery that may lead to breakthroughs in understanding the genetic causes of neurological disorders. And of course, he is only just beginning in a field where his years of computer experience in solving problems in games will now be applied solving biological riddles.

That is the news from the home front at the Riel-Mehan's.

Thanks, Margaret, for this account of what's going on in the family, and CONGRATULATIONS to Michael and Megan on these important achievements!!

More news from Jessica in Italy

Salve (Hello),



Hey everyone, I hope you are all well. Just thought I would write to let you know about a great weekend I had! I went to Rome with my two good friends, Reuben and Robyn this weekend. What an amazing city! We left Siena after school on Fri. and took the bus to Roma. It takes approximately 3 hours to get there, not a bad bus ride. We saw so much in 2 days! Friday evening, we went to the Spanish steps and wandered around that area, we also saw the Trevi fountain. What an incredible sculpture! That was my favorite thing to see in Rome. The sculptor, Bernini, has such an incredible way of making the marble and stone come alive. We saw a lot of his work, along with Michelangelo's and it was so amazing. I love seeing the clothing in the statues because it really looks as if the rock is flowing and moving. In Rome, every time you turn the corner there is another amazing fountain, or a group of statues or a huge significant building, or all of the above! There is so much in that city it is overwhelming. Anyway, we also saw the Vatican and the Vatican museum. Both were incredible. As if the Sistine Chapel is not enough, there are a ton of amazing pieces of art in the museum. I took an ancient Mediterranean art history class at Santa Cruz and it could have been completely out of this museum. (There were great exhibits on all of the four cultures we studied; Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman) Unfortunately, the Raphael rooms were closed, so I will have to visit them another time. I took a lot of digital pictures, but I still am trying to figure out how to get them onto computers here, because I can't hook my camera up. But as soon as I figure it out I will send you all some great pictures. We also saw the Coliseum, Roman Forum, Pantheon, Trajan's market and his column, etc. There was so much to see. It was all unbelievable. We stayed in two different youth hostels, called pensione here, which was also a unique experience (not in a good way), but you do meet a lot of people. We returned to Siena Sunday afternoon in time for dinner with our respective families. We were all pretty exhausted and our feet were hurting, but we had an amazing time, and our friendship grew a lot. Luckily the weather was beautiful over the weekend. It is cold and rainy now though. I accidentally left a big jacket at home, so I guess I will have to go shopping for a replacement . I hope everyone has a great week, and thank you to everyone who has emailed me, it is great to hear from you! Until next time...

buona settimana,

Jessy

Ahhhhhhh! It started snowing!!!

ciao,

a half-frozen Jess

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

June, 2003

Ciao,

Comé va? I hope everyone is doing well. I was sick for a while but thank goodness, I am better and back to enjoying the sun in Piazza del Campo (the main square in town). Things are going very well for me. Last night I went to a Passover Seder in the only Synagogue in Siena. It was very interesting. There were only about 20 locals there and 10 UC students. When the Seder wasn't in Hebrew, it was in Italian, so I didn't understand much. And the Hebrew was very strange because it was spoken with a very heavy Italian accent, naturally, so that was unfamiliar as well. But the food was good, and it was a nice experience. The synagogue was nothing special, just another door among a via of apartments and buildings. I didn't see the actual room where services are held. We ate in a very small side room. This weekend I am going to Positano, on the Amalfi coast. It is supposed to be an incredible city literally hanging off a cliff. I am going with friends, Reuben, his brother Aaron, and our friend Magic. We are taking a train into Naples and staying there one night and then going to Pompeii on our way to Positano. We are staying at the only hostel in Positano for 2 nights. I will send an email after the trip to let you guys know how it went. The weather is beautiful, so I expect to be spending at least a day in the beach, and we might also take a ferry to Capri (A small island off the coast) for a day. I guess that is all the news for now. Buona finesettimana!

a presto,

Jessica

P.S. Hey Jason, Reuben's brother Aaron was friends with you in high school. He said people called him Herzl. Reuben and I were also good friends in high school. I thought that was pretty funny. He was the year ahead of you and he was in the film class with you, anyway, he says hi.

Buon 25 di Aprile!

Today is Italian Independence Day. It is fun. There was a little parade in Siena and all the streets are very crowded. It couldn't be a nicer Friday. We didn't have school because it is a National holiday and the sun is shining, I even think I am a little sunburn. I finally got my pictures onto a CD so you can see my adventures! (Sorry I can only attach 3 at a time) Last weekend my friends Magic, Reuben, Aaron and I went to southern Italy. We took a train into Napoli, stayed there for one night then continued onto the small town of Positano. It was so beautiful! On the way to Positano, we spent half a day in Pompei, also an amazing place. Here are some pictures of my friends and the trip. The first is at the train station where we ran into some other friends and played cards while waiting. Magic is on the right of me, and the other two girls are Brittany and Jo. The next picture is Aaron, Reuben and I on the streets of Pompei. And the third is me in front of one of the first stages ever. Cool huh!

Thanks much, Jessica, for this continuing account of you adventures in Italy. I am sorry we are not getting any of the pictures, but we can look forward to seeing them when you get home.



Listy trains for Rock and Roll marathon

Yes, it's time for another big race in San Diego, and in preparation Listy, helped by Bob Riel and Listy's running partner, ran from the Gillingham home to Cirrus Street recently. As you can see in the picture, they finished in style, and Listy is ready to rock on June 1st! Since the race course includes Friars Road, we hope to take up a position near the condo where we can see her go by. We will have the full story in the next RFNL.

Mystery photo of the month??? Who are these people, anyway? See the next RFNL for a clue.

