

Megan graduates from college

In the June RFNL we printed a brief note announcing Megan's graduation, along with Brett and Kristy. Since there was a party in the works for Megan at that time we printed only a brief notice. We now have the complete story, as provided by reporter Bud, plus some the party pictures

Megan Riel-Mehan graduated with a BA in Art from UC Berkeley on Friday May 19 at the Berkeley Museum of Art. Megan, and 83 other Art majors braved a rainstorm at the outdoor ceremony--the "only 2 hours it rained all weekend!" exclaimed Margaret. Visitors were treated to an indoor reception after the ceremony, in which Senior Projects were displayed. Pictures of Megan's project, Portraits of Bald Men, in oils on canvas, appear below.



Megan's BA in Art is one of two degrees she will receive from Berkeley. After completing one or two remaining courses in summer school and fall semester, Megan will receive a BS in Chemistry in December--thereby

demonstrating that talent can jump generations.

Neither Bud nor Margaret is as strong in the natural sciences as Grand Dad!

In addition to taking courses to complete her Chemistry major this summer, Megan will serve as a Teaching Assistant for undergraduate Organic Chemistry courses.



Congratulations, Megan, and good luck!! News from Curtis in Korea

Birdy sent us the following news item a few days ago. He (Curtis) has earned his 6th coin. He got another one from his commanding officer for setting up the new computer system that accesses the military secret internet for their division. Apparently, no one over there knows much about DHCP, Gateways, IP addresses and the like. So Curtis came off looking like a star. He was also given a captain's pin off of the hat of a Korean Captain that he was meeting with. Apparently the captain was quite impressed with Curtis as a military intelligence agent and presented him with his pin. And the other good news was that Curtis' commander put in for Curtis to come back to Ft. Huachuca, Arizona to attend a month long class on Strategic Debriefing. This is a skill identifier for the army, so it adds more initials to the end of his title and looks good for future promotions. He will attend the class on Oct. 5 through Nov. 7th. That means he will be in Arizona again, which is a short jump to San Diego. We are very

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

July 2006

excited about this news. He is hoping also to take some leave after this class so that he does not have to pay for a big ticket to and from Korea. Regardless, we will definitely get to see him sometime in Oct and Nov. And the good news does not stop. His captain is putting in a waiver so that he can be promoted from an E3 to an E4 next month. For Curtis, that is more money in his pay check. And then in 4 months he can be promoted again to an E5. Curtis also reported that he will be promoted to Special Agent in Charge of his office by September. We were so excited about all of this news and I couldn't wait to give you an update! Go honoree Captain Curtis!

This certainly is lots of good news! We congratulate Curtis on the various awards he has received, and we look forward to seeing him in October.

Dustin's UCSB Lacrosse team competes in National Championship Tournament

We have the following story from RFNL reporter Jeff.

For the 7th consecutive year, Dustin's UCSB Gaucho Lacrosse Team played in the National Championship Tournament, this time in Plano (Dallas), Texas. Since the Gauchos had won the tournament the previous 2 years (Dusty's only years with the team), one would think they were the odds-on favorite for this year's title, but such was not the case. Because of some close losses to league rivals late in the season, and the loss of 14 seniors from the previous squad, UCSB went into the tourney seeded 10th among 16 teams. That means they would have to beat 3 higher rated teams just to get to the final game. And they almost pulled it off.

Dusty flew into Dallas with his teammates on Sunday, May 7th and they had a couple of days to acclimate to the time change and the weather (hot, hot and hot). Did I mention it was warm? And humid? I was able to use my newly acquired status as a Continental Airlines Dad and fly standby through Houston on Monday afternoon. I experienced no delays or "bumps" which often happen to the freeloading parents of airline employees, but that was just getting TO Texas. Getting home was a different story.

My hotel, with most of the other team parents, was a very nice Hilton Suites, with big rooms and kitchenettes, and a large working desk area, which was a good thing since this was a working vacation. Dusty stayed with his team in another suites motel across Plano, about 15 minutes away. We both had free breakfasts every morning which I took full advantage of, even snagging a spare yogurt and piece of fruit for later snacking.

Our first game was Tuesday afternoon, the hottest day of the entire tourney, against UCSD, a squad which had beaten us twice previously. They were the 7th seeded team, and the good money was on the Tritons to make it 3 straight over the defending champs. In 90+ degree weather, and a hot wind, the Gauchos really played a great team game and completely dominated their La Jolla brethren, 9-5. Dustin played a great game at midfield, playing tough defense throughout, and scoring an early goal to tie the game at 2. Completely muzzling the Tritons potent attack, the Gauchos scored 6 straight goals to take a commanding lead and coasted home, able to rest some of their starters for the Wednesday game against arch-rival, and second seeded, Sonoma State. Tuesday night, we had an all family spaghetti feed at a local place, enjoyed the meal, and right afterwards, a spectacular Texas thunderstorm in the near distance that spawned several destructive tornadoes overnight.

Wednesday was thankfully much cooler, and the two squads were at each other early and often. The score, and the lead, went back and forth several times, until UCSB took a 5-4 advantage late in the game. With

just under 5 minutes left, Sonoma tied it again, with a spectacular goal. As the clock wound down, it looked like overtime was approaching for the 2 exhausted squads. Dustin got the ball with 15 seconds left deep in the defensive end of the field. He ran through a couple of Sonoma forwards, lost the ball temporarily, grabbed it out of the air, and finally fed his team mate, Nick Schooler at the top of the key. Schooler shot the



game winner with just 4 seconds left on the clock. Dustin was credited with the assist. Their hard earned victory put UCSB into the semi-finals for a Friday game and meant that Carol would once again be flying out for the final two games.

Wednesday night, a UCSB family hosted a wonderful BBQ dinner at their North Dallas home and all the parents and boys enjoyed a great meal of hamburgers, salads, fruits and desserts. It was quite an evening of celebration and all the coaches and boys introduced themselves to the whole group. We had surprisingly made the Final Four again and had a day off to rest the tired legs and heal the bumps and bruises of the 2 upset victories.

Carol took off for the airport right after school on Thursday (Jessica was in town and was chauffeur) and discovered she left her purse in Encanto. No ID, no getting past security. So a good friend, fellow teacher Mike, grabbed her purse and made a beeline for the airport. Carol ended up making the gate in time for her flight to Texas. Unfortunately, a cancellation from the previous day had filled up this plane and the next. There would be no getting to Dallas on Thursday. Dusty and I spent the time visiting the 6th floor museum and Delaney Plaza, the site of the Kennedy Assassination and Conspiracy. We had authentic Texas BBQ that night, brisket, ribs, and chicken. Great stuff.

Jessica and Carol went back to the airport very early Friday AM and Carol made another standby attempt to get to Dallas. Strike two. She finally got a seat on a flight to Houston that left her scant time to make the connection to Love Field in Dallas. After a series of unfortunate incidents, including a gate attendant giving her the wrong gate for the next flight, poor Carol was running all over the Houston airport to try to get to Dallas in time for Dusty's game. I was already at Love Field waiting for her at 2 PM. At one point, Carol heard her name being called for a flight, and ran past security (on the gate side) to get to the gate. She was stopped by a TSA agent because her backpack was open. She was forced to go entirely through security again, heard her name called one last time, and missed that flight as well. She finally made it to Love Field at 4:30 PM, and we drove as fast as we could out to Plano, some 25 miles to the North. Imagine trying to get up to Oceanside on a Friday afternoon. That is what we were faced with, and it took us 90 minutes to get to the game. We missed the first half, but were there to support the Gauchos for the second. The opponent was the 3rd seeded Colorado Buffaloes, a team we

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

July 2006

had beaten handily earlier in the year, but this was a different time and place, and a much different Colorado team. When we arrived, the UCSB guys were trailing by one goal, 4-3, in yet another back and forth game. In the third quarter, Colorado scored again to go up by two. The Gauchos pulled close, but when Colorado scored a 6th goal with 7 minutes left, it proved to be the game winner. We pulled within one, 6-5 late in the game, and had the tying goal within our grasp a couple of times, but the Buffaloes played tough defense and won the match, and with it, the right to face Colorado State in the Championship Game Saturday night. The Gauchos' season was finally over.

Carol and I decided to make it back to San Diego on Saturday, so as to be able to spend Father's day with the family. We returned our rental car, and made it to the gate in plenty of time for our 7 AM flight to Houston. Except we were wearing shorts. And they wouldn't let us on the plane dressed in anything but long pants. (Standby rules for relatives). Sue Renrau was the gate agent's name, a totally despicable human being. They pulled our luggage off the plane, and we were forced to change our clothes, go get another set of tickets for the 8 AM flight, and recheck our baggage. Of course, we also had to go through security again. We did get on this flight, and that meant we barely made our connecting flight to San Diego. We were the last ones on the plane. At least we got to sit together. Moral of the story, never be in a hurry to travel anywhere if you are flying stand-by. And always wear long pants and keep your backpacks zipped up.

By the way, Dustin has been selected as one of the team captains for next season, and will be the Club President as well. Go Gauchos! Proud Dad, Jeff

Some 4th of July celebrations

Francie/Lyle and Birdy/Bruce both hosted Independence Day celebrations on the 4th. There was lots of food and drinks at both locations, and Lyle and Bruce showed off their grilling skill with steaks, hamburgers, and sausages. Family and friends at both locations enjoyed the holiday. We are especially appreciative of Jeff and Carol, who kindly provided us with transportation to and from the two party



locations. Also, of course, we thank Francie, Lyle, Bruce and Birdy for allowing us to share with them this special day. It was lots of fun. We have pictures, of course.



Some new wheels

Francie and Lyle stopped by recently to show off their new car, a Honda Acura. It has all the latest and greatest gadgets, including voice activated commands. You have all heard about the new RV Bob and Karla have. We now have a



picture, and as you can see, it is some vehicle. We have



some other shots, which we will print when space is available. Bob and Karla are now on a tour of the Midwest, so Karla can visit her father and attend a family

reunion. We hope to get a full report when they return.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

July 2006

February 9, 2006

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

I hope you're enjoying the New Year. First of all thank you for delivering the RFNL every month. I always enjoy catching up with the family's news.

Speaking of family news, I may have an event you could include in the next issue. Starting on June 15th, I will set off from Portsmouth, New Hampshire on a cross-country fundraising bike trip to benefit affordable housing efforts.

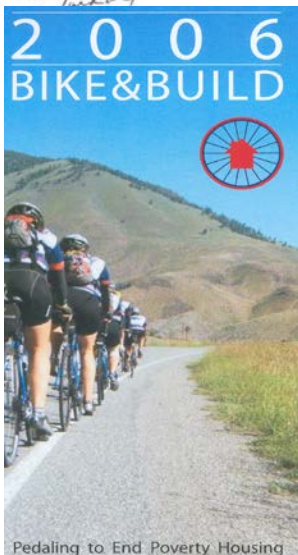
The trip, called Bike and Build will bring me and 29 other enthusiastic and energetic students together on a 4,000 mile bicycle journey from Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Vancouver, Canada to raise money to build affordable housing efforts for low income families. While on the road we will meet with members of the communities we pass through, inform them about our trip and the affordable housing issue, and help them become involved in efforts to alleviate the problem. There will also be several days when we'll take a break from riding and help in the actual construction of affordable homes with Habitat for Humanity affiliates and other local housing organizations.

In order to participate in Bike and Build, each cyclist must raise \$4,000. The proceeds from my trip will be distributed to affordable housing groups (like Habitat For Humanity) throughout the United States to finance projects executed by young adults. Prior to our trip, Bike and Build will solicit grant proposals from housing organizations. During the course of the trip, we as riders will evaluate and discuss the applications, and - as a group - decide which proposals to fund. I am writing to ask for your support in sponsoring me by making a tax-deductible contribution. Your donation, together with the contribution from hundreds of other concerned citizens, will have serious impact on the affordable housing landscape throughout the country. Please take a look at our website, www.bikeandbuild.org, for more information.

As part of my commitment to Bike and Build, I will be working with them until the start of our trip, learning about the affordable housing issue, and - of course - helping to build homes. I have enclosed some material that I hope will give you a better sense of what Bike and Build is about. There are two easy ways to make a donation. Fill out the enclosed form and send it in, using the enclosed envelope. Also, you can go to the website, and click the "Make A Donation" link, and via PayPal, donate there. Be sure and put my name, in the "Payment For" field on the PayPal page.

It's exciting for me to have the opportunity to see the U.S in such an interesting way, as well as finding myself in the service of a great cause. I hope that you will consider making this donation, and thank you in advance for your support.

Love,



Pedaling to End Poverty Housing

Thanks, Tim, for this description of your biking trip across the country. We are sure it will be a great adventure, as well as a chance to do good things for people who need better housing.

New mailing addresses

In case you haven't heard, Michelle and Megan have new addresses.

Megan 2005 Hearst Apt 2
Berkley, CA 94709

Michelle 458 Plantation Street Worcester, MA 01605

Father's Day lunch celebration

On Saturday, June 17th Grandpa was surprised when several family members unexpectedly showed up around noon. He soon realized that this was a planned visit, to celebrate Father's Day one day early. We all took off to Applebees restaurant at Hazard Center, and enjoyed lunch and a special present. The following plaque will be mounted at the WWII War Memorial Park on Mt. Soledad. The entire family paid the fee, and Robert



made the necessary arrangements. In order to qualify, each person's service record had to be verified with documentation proving his service. Fortunately, Grandpa had retained his entire military file, with all the various official documents defining his various assignments, from July, 1941 until his discharge after the war was over. Robert reported that the person in charge at the park was amazed and delighted to see such a complete service record. Grandpa thanks everyone!!!

