

DUSTIN & LAUREN'S ENGAGEMENT PARTY

The Engagement Garden Party was one of the RIEL family's Social Event of the Summer.

On August 8, 2008 Carol and Jeff with generous help from Francie and Lyle threw a spectacular engagement party to celebrate the upcoming marriage of Dustin Benesch and Lauren Bradley. Francie's backyard garden was transformed into an elegant romantic site with flowers, lanterns and twinkling lights everywhere. The party food and signature drinks added to the fun.



The blending of two families and many friends made this a very special night for everyone. Jeff and Carol were formally dressed for the night and played the role of proud parents perfectly. Jeff came



dressed semi-formal... formal on top, semi on the bottom (: Lauren's mother Alix, and brother Phillip and came from the SF while sister Sarah made the trek all the way from Georgia to meet the Riel clan. Frank and Edith and most of the Riels were there. And there were other special guests including Dustin's Grandma Audrey and Aunt Debbie Benesch from Thousand Oaks. Of special note, Dustin's first grade teacher, Laura Edwards and second grade, teacher Ruth Rapp were in attendance.



When it came time to toast Dustin and Lauren, Carol

began by recognizing two angels, Jessica and Francie who worked so hard to prepare all of the food, and to everyone in the family that helped in all of the different ways that makes this family so special. Jason then roasted and toasted his little brother. He shared stories from their childhood and had everyone laughing. However, when he told Dustin how thrilled he was to be the best man at his wedding, he was caught by the emotions and it was clear to everyone what a close and meaningful relationship is shared by these two brothers.





Sports news

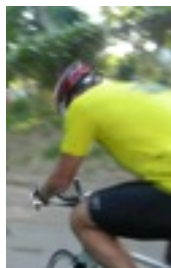


Congratulations to Bob, Seamus, and Kristy for completing 70.3 miles of swimming, biking, and running while competing in the [Vineman Triathlon Half Ironman](#) race in Sonoma California on July 19, 2009! The

competition between our family members was very close and if it weren't for a few technical difficulties that Kristy encountered on the bike, the race would have been much closer for all of them. Bob came on top overall, finishing in 5 hours and 52 min. He was hard to beat on the bike although Kristy and Seamus each challenged him with their swimming (Kristy was the fastest of the three) and running (Seamus came in a hair quicker as he trained with Listy and Doug's running club). Here is a breakdown of each of their events and times:

| Athlete | Swim | Bike | Run | Overall Time | Place | Division |
|---------|-------|------|------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Bob | 46:21 | 2:51 | 2:08 | 5:52 | 782/2286 | 32/109 |
| Seamus | 47:32 | 3:15 | 2:07 | 6:15 | 1072/2286 | 96/142 |
| Kristy | 45:30 | 4:49 | 2:35 | 8:22 | 1847/2286 | 107/124 |

Kristy had the toughest time because during the bike race, she was held up by a tree that actually fell on top of two bikers (causing serious injury for them)



during the early part of the race causing her to wait 15 minutes and lose the head start she had as she was in the first wave

of swimmers. Her next misfortune came with a flat tire....again losing her edge as she had to wait for her true blue husband to ride up and save the day by changing her flat tire. Just as Seamus finished helping Kristy, Bob caught up to them (he was in a later wave of swimmers). And, as luck would have it....Kristy got a second flat tire and would have probably given up, if it weren't for the SAG wagon (sponsored by the race) who gave her aid once again. She lost about an hour in terms of sitting and waiting for support, so her true race time for the bike or the overall race doesn't really reflect her effort. In addition, because of the delay...she got the top of the heat of the day...finishing in 95 degree weather! They all



finished with smiles on their faces proud to have accomplished a HUGE goal that *many people think about doing yet never actually get* around to doing it. David, Listy, and Annie were all very proud of their efforts and cheered them on throughout the entire race.
Congratulations to our 70.3 Ironman winners!

Carol and Jeff celebrate anniversary at Mission Bay

Carol and Jeff kicked off their Anniversary month in grand fashion, with a week in Hawaii, and then a week at Pacific Beach. First things first, our dash to the Islands. Francie and Lyle had generously offered their time share in Poipu Beach Kauai. One only had to get there. With our family airline connections, we thought we might get standby tickets to and from Kauai on Hawaiian Airlines. Getting the passes at half off the regular fare was no problem, getting seats on a plane was the challenge. Carol's last day teaching was Monday, June 15. There is only one plane each day on Hawaiian from San Diego, and we were determined to get on Tuesday's 8:30 AM flight to Honolulu. It was a large jet, and we were the last people to board, Carol in row 11; Jeff in row 46. But we were going to Hawaii, so how bad could it be?

Arriving in Honolulu, we got a flight to Li hue and were in Kauai by 2 PM. Francie Taxi picked us up at the airport, where, our luggage was a no show. Hawaiian Air promised it on the next plane, delivered and delivery to condo in Poipu. So, wearing borrowed suits from Francie and Lyle we hit the beach. And Carol hit the chaise lounge. We joined Lyle, Francie and good friends Boone and Cindy Hellman, and quickly adapted to the Island lifestyle.

Our days and nights were filled with BBQs, snorkeling, swimming with large green turtles and thousands of tropical fish, long romantic walks, visits to tropical gardens, and vigorous daily exercises to properties several miles away. We frequently went to the neighboring Grand Hyatt Poipu Resort, the most beautiful hotel, from a landscaping perspective anyway,;
<http://kauai.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>

One of the highlights of our Kauai stay was a zip line treetop adventure, 80' high in the Norfolk pines of a nearby ranch. Not for the acrophobic, our views from the heights were the same as the movie Jurassic Park. Strapped in securely in a diaper-like harness, we walked on fragile cable bridges from one tree to another, and then slid at high speeds on 7 or 8 long zip runs to a neighboring group of trees. The last 800' run took seemingly forever, but by then we were old pros. After the first nervous step off the platform, our energy was spent trying to keep balanced and centered while screaming our heads off. Carol even took movies while zip-lining.

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Other highlights were our trip to the Western end of the island to view the Napaali coast from a mile-high lookout, but it was fogged in. Since this is where Francie and Lyle exchanged their vows 6 years before, there was great sentimental value in seeing that spot again. And the views into Waimea Canyon, the Grand Canyon of Hawaii were spectacular. Another day took us to the [National Tropical Botanical Garden](#) Tour of the world famous Allerton Gardens. Three hours and hundreds of picture later, Carol and Jeff enjoyed the pictures later, Francie, Carol and Jeff enjoyed the great estate of the Allerton Family of Chicago, who took a Royal Hawaiian Homestead and turned it into one of the great tropical estates of the world. Now a museum, arboretum, nature preserve, and endangered plant laboratory, Allerton, and the neighboring McBryde gardens are the equivalent of the San Diego Zoo in their quest to research and preserve the flora of the Hawaiian Islands. We learned, however, that many of the beautiful flowering plants we associate with the Islands are actually imports over the centuries from other tropical forests in Asia, Australia, Africa and even South America. But the thousands of flowering and towering Plumeria, Hibiscus, Aloes, Bromeliads, Gingers, Heliconia, bamboo and palm trees were a sight to behold.

Lastly, our highlight agenda was a visit with Rocket Roz Reiner, an old flame of Jeff's whom he hadn't seen in 41 years. Roz is a retired flight attendant, SDSU grad, (was a PSA hot pants wearing stewardess back in the 70's and 80's), who now resides on the Western end of Kauai. Roz's passion is astronomy, and teaching all who visit about the beauty and wonders of the clear night skies of Kauai. She was gracious enough to come to Poipu for a great BBQ meal of chicken and burgers, and do a night sky presentation. We learned how the ancient Polynesians navigated the thousands of miles of the Pacific Ocean in crude canoes and rafts and came to populate the Hawaiian Islands.

After 5 days of sharing beds and bathrooms, many memorable meals, restful hours at the beach or in the jacuzzi, we parted ways with the other 4 and flew back to Oahu. We spent 2 days with Jeff's high school buddy Gary Quinn and his gracious wife Cyndy as they hosted us again at their Bed and Breakfast on Pipeline beach on the North Shore. We hated to leave, but more stand-by adventures awaited us.

Some family news

A note from Robert - Katy spent 3 days in the hospital recently. She had an infection in her foot that couldn't be controlled without intravenous application of antibiotics. We are glad to report that she is now home but still has her I.V. and will need to continue on her drugs for another week.

And more from Robert - Now for some Brian news, as many of you know he has moved to Tucson AZ and is living with some of his friends there. Later this month he will rent a U-haul and move all his stuff to his apartment that he is sharing with best friend Petey and some other friends. He will be working and going to school out there in the heat. Meanwhile, back home Karla has eyes on his old room and will be making it into a new sewing room.

And football is coming soon - On a closing note don't forget that the Charger season is just around the corner and Karla and I will be there with our RV for every game. This is an open invite to anyone going to the game (or just wants to party) to come visit us before the game; We have plenty of food and drinks. The parties with Bret and Brice are legendary, especially with "Big Al" and Francie joining in.

Robert and Karla tour USA

Karla, Brian and I just returned from our 6,000+ mile trip to the mid and north western parts of the United States. We had a great time spending 3 weeks on the open road. Below are some pictures from the road and if anyone would like a better accounting of the trip just visit our [Google map page](#):



There are two pages of maps and if you click on the points of interest shown you will see pictures and comments from us on the road. Brian helped with this map and he has links to

some video he took as well.

Thanks, Robert, Karla, and Brian for putting together this report on a tour of the USA. We have had many reports from all over the world, and it is nice to hear about some of the many wonders in our own country. We hope you all will open and read the additional details available through the above site.



Michael visits Greece

When One Thing Leads to Another. Michael was invited to present his work at the 7th International Conference on Pathways, Networks, and Systems Medicine, June 6-11, 2009 in Corfu, Greece. In the audience while he presented his paper, *"An integrative modular approach to systematically predict gene-phenotype associations,"* was Larry Gold, President and CEO of SomaLogic a pharmacological research firm in Boulder Colorado. Michael was told later by another person in the audience that he overheard Gold say "I'm going to hire that guy." Dr Gold talked with Michael about his work over coffee at the conference, and invited him for a "job talk" at his research center in Boulder, CO.



Michael reports that the company treated him extremely well on his 4-day visit to Boulder. In addition to the expected job talk and brief conferences with scientists at the firm, Michael was treated to parties, a tour of the area, and numerous e-mails encouraging him to join the firm. Upon his return to LA, a week or so later Michael was offered a position at SomaLogic as a Bioinformatics Scientist. After also considering a similar position at UCLA and a post-doctoral position at the Cornell Downstate Medical Center in New York City (one of two other offers of positions that emerged from his talk in Greece), Michael has accepted the position in Boulder, starting in late September. Ashley and Michael will probably rent an apartment in Boulder for a few months before they decide to buy.

Just in case you think the life of a fledgling bioinformatics scientist is all grind and hard work do keep in mind that the conference that led to Michael's job WAS in Corfu Greece, one of the most beautiful places on the

planet. Michael DID have time to be a tourist on the island, and in Athens, before returning home to



finish his PhD thesis in anticipation of defending it August 21. And, Michael and Ashley are spending a week in Hawaii this month as well. Bud and Margaret are planning a party to celebrate Michael's PhD and his new job in early September (Sept 12 is under serious consideration). Watch for an evite from Bud and Margaret.

Annie visits Argentina—Ann Gillingham

Here are the highlights from my ten-day trip to Argentina: My friend Rachel and I decided to take a trip to Argentina as one last hoorah before "real life" began. We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to stay with an Argentine family because Rachel studied abroad in Argentina a year ago. It was great to get to experience the lifestyle first hand of an Argentine family, and the food was great! Overall, my favorite was definitely the steaks! And it was so cheap! While in Buenos Aires, we saw the cemetery where Eva Peron was buried as well as a museum about her. We also saw some authentic tango by professional dancers; it was amazing! We made one trip outside of Buenos Aires to a beautiful city called Rosario, only an hour away. This city is the home of Che Guevara. Also, it has the national flag monument right on the river, which was so pretty! I liked Rosario a little more than BA because it was smaller and peaceful. Buenos Aires is hands down the most insane, busy, crowded place I have ever visited. Never in my life have I been more scared of walking, especially crossing the street. They definitely don't have our concept of yielding to the pedestrians. In fact, I'm fairly certain if you were hit by a bus they would blame it on you. I loved visiting BA, however, because it gave me an interesting perspective about Latin American cities. I suddenly became aware of how European BA was, especially how white it was (I was later informed that Argentina was actually a British colony, not Spanish which I would have before assumed). Overall, it was a fun and educational adventure and I can't wait for the next one!



This is the national flag monument in Rosario, Argentina. The river is right behind it and there is a perpetual flame lit in the middle that commemorates the raising of the flag.

Thanks, Annie, for your interesting comments on life in two South American cities. You always do a great reporting job on the many far-away places you have visited. We certainly hope you will enjoy many more trips to many more countries