



*With this
ring...*

*Michelle and David
October 8, 2011*



Welcome Home Michelle and Annie!

Listy and Bob Gillingham hosted an impromptu party on Friday night, September 30th, in honor of Michelle for finalizing her PhD degree in Philosophy – in the field of Microbiology. She had just arrived into town for her wedding. They also were welcoming home, Annie, from Spain. She traveled all this way to attend, what else, Michelle’s wedding.



The party started off with friends and family who gathered at the Gillingham house around 6:30 that evening. As it turned out, they all were treated with a preview of the new patio Bob had been working on all summer. While it’s still not complete (the outdoor kitchen is still

under construction) the patio provided a wonderful spot for the party. Bob has done his usual outstanding job and we were all very impressed with the project. Also Bruce got to show off his new truck. A manly, 4-door pickup, big enough to haul just about anything that needs hauling.

The party got started with lots of good conversations, hugs, drinks, dips and chips. Both Michelle and Annie were happy to see all the family and friends that were able to attend.

In the spirit of Oktoberfest, Bob grilled a variety of sausages and kielbasas which were served with sauerkraut, grilled veggies, beans, rolls and an assortment of condiments. Of course there was plenty of beer with many different brands and styles to sample.

After all the toasts and welcome homes, a light dessert was served. It was made by dipping fruit in chocolate and then adding light sugar decorations. Everyone enjoyed the taste. Of course it’s hard to go wrong with chocolate seeing how it is a major food group in the Riel family.

It was really wonderful to have both of them back in town and everyone really had a great time. Bob and Listy did a great job in providing the party and it served as the perfect “kickoff” to what was a week long series of events that culminated with Michelle and David’s wedding. But that’s a different story...



Getting Ready...

For those of you who are, as I am, “unschooled” to the rituals that the Riel female of the species uses to get ready for a wedding, this will be very informative reading (especially for you fathers-of-brides-to-be someday).

Now granted I only saw and/or heard about a small fraction of what really went on but I saw enough to know that the term bridal party is extremely accurate! In fact it’s a nonstop “Party,” interrupted by a wedding ceremony, for the whole day! It starts in the morning with the Bride, bride’s maids, bride’s mother and aunts, bride’s friends and just about any female that is going to be a part of the wedding going someplace to have their hair and makeup done.

In Michelle’s case it was Aunt Francie’s hair salon the “Final Cut.” It was all scheduled to start at 8:00 on the morning of the wedding. But it’s not like you show up when it’s your turn in the chair, no, everyone is there, and well... it’s a party! Little gifts are exchanged, pictures taken, and there is lots of food and drink to be had. The wedding dress was on display as well as the shoes that Michelle would wear that afternoon. After all, as it was explained to me, you have to make sure your hair and makeup match not only your gown, but your shoes! Being a Riel male, I had no idea how shoes (or even a dress) could match a hairdo, but being outnumbered I decided to just keep quiet and nod my head a lot like I understood.

All kidding aside, Francie and her staff worked very hard and are to be commended on a GREAT JOB! I know Michelle was very thankful to have such a wonderful place to just “take over” and to Francie for all her help.

Next it’s off to a hotel room to get dressed (Disclaimer: pictures are by Birdy. I was not there). Again unlike the male of the species, getting dressed is a social event (another phrase for Party) with the girls. I really had no idea that one of the functions of the bridesmaids was to help the bride get dressed in her wedding gown. Which I understand was handled brilliantly by the group. In fact they did such a good job that the entire “Bridal Party” (there is that word again) arrived at the wedding site even before the flowers did. But that’s another story...



The Wedding



breeze. Chairs were set up starting about 2:00 p.m. and by 2:30 the guest (and even some members of the Bridal Party) started to arrive.

Everything seemed to be going as planned except for one small detail, the flowers. Somehow the flowers didn't show up until 5 minutes before the 3:00 start time. Fortunately, weddings never start on time and this was a Riel event. We Riels can overcome any crisis just by our sheer numbers alone. It was all hands on deck when the flowers rolled in with everyone grabbing a bunch and placing them in their

music playing, it was time to get this show on the road. Uncle Bob Gillingham who had the honor of joining the Bride



If you had to select one word that would describe the wedding it would most defiantly be Beautiful! Beautiful Bride, Beautiful Location, Beautiful day, the list could go on and on.

The wedding was held in Balboa Park at the Administration Gardens located next



and Groom was standing up front with the groom and best men as the procession of bride's maids began. The only one with a bigger smile on their face then the Bride, was Bruce as he escorted Michelle to her husband-to-be, David.

Bob, being an old pro at officiating weddings, performed a beautiful ceremony and there wasn't a dry eye in the house when Michelle and David exchanged their vows. Then those fateful words were finally spoken, "I now pronounce you Doctor and MR. Lane. Followed by the even better words, "you may now kiss the bride!" The new couple was greeted with many smiles and congratulations as they took their first walk as a married couple.

to the Navy hospital. It was a wonderful spot with plenty of archways and a large fountain. The day was a sunny, very comfortable, 78 degrees with a nice cool

proper spot. Family friends, Holly and Rex did a masterful job in getting everyone together to make sure Michelle never even knew (until now) there was an issue.

Flowers set, family and friends seated,

Next it was time for the pictures. How difficult can that be you might ask? A few pictures with the bridal party and





family members, then off to the real PARTY! Well not so fast! Just trying to assemble the entire families took some time. Then there was getting all the different combination of family member shots that would be required. To keep things going and to make sure no photo opportunity was missed, Listy had a checklist of all the dif-



ferent shots that needed to be taken. OK maybe it was a book rather than a list but still it all got handled very efficiently.

When the time came to have all the Riel family in one photo, everyone assembled next to the fountain where all the other pictures had been taken. The photographer, who had been distracted with her camera, finally looked up to see the assembled group she was to photograph and said... "Oh My God, you're kidding right?" She quickly recovered and repositioned us over to the lawn and then got her wide angle lens out.



With the group photos done all that was left was a few photos of the bridal party set within the lovely arches and gardens of the park. This of course gave time for the rest of the family to hit the road and drive to La Jolla where the real party was about to start. But... (you guessed it) that's another story.



Party Time



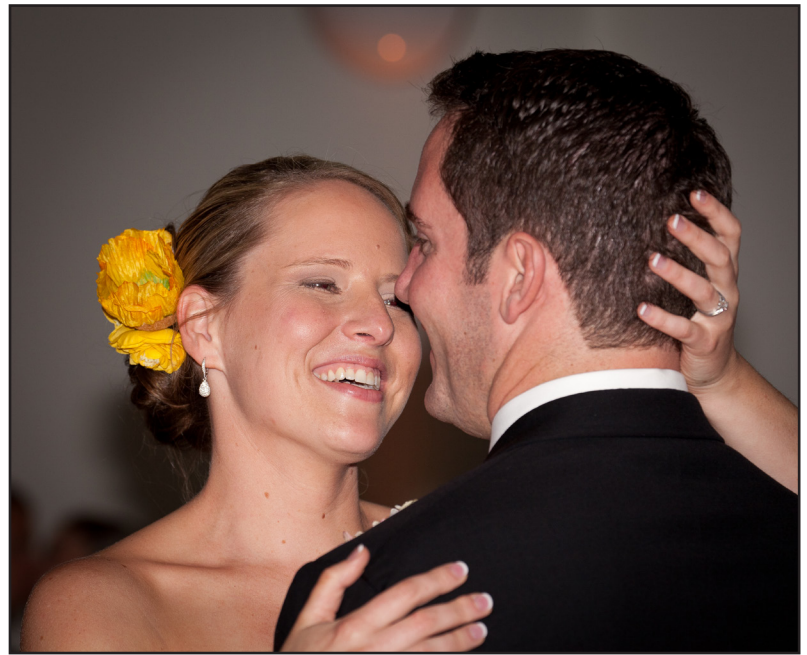
Michelle and David's reception was held at the Cuvier Club located in La Jolla. As friends and family arrived they were greeted in the foyer by smiling faces and an open bar. There was a table decorated with flower shaped tags, each with a name of the guest and the table number they would be sitting at.

Soon the doors opened up to the main room and the group moved into the open space. The setup of the room had earlier been supervised by long-time family friends Kym and Audrey Farkas and looked beautiful. Tables were set up around the perimeter of the dance floor with the Bride and Groom positioned at a single table up front.



Music was playing and the guests were clapping as the Bride and Groom made their grand entrance. Soon it was time for the traditional dances: Bride and Groom, Bride with Father, Groom with Mother and all the rest. Matthew and Corbin were even out on the floor showing everyone their moves.

Soon it was time for the start of dinner but unfortunately for Michelle and David they had to rush through their meals so they could sneak out and have



their pictures taken on the beach at sunset. So while the guest enjoyed a wonderful menu of stuffed bell peppers, tacos, enchiladas and black beans, the newly wedded couple was down getting sand between their toes.

After everyone finished their meals and Michelle and David made it back from the beach, it was time to "Cut the Cake." Then it was time to dance! Michelle and David showed the rest of the group how to really party. Soon just about everyone was on the floor dancing to the beat.

It was a beautiful day and we all wish Michelle and David a long and happy life together. Weddings are a joyous occasion filled with love, happiness, tears and congratulations. However, in the big picture of life, it's just the starting line for a long and

wonderful journey, one with many paths to choose from, some, more difficult than others. But here's the real point, no matter what path you're on, you will always have each other...

And that IS the story!





Lyle and Francie hit the vacation trail again for two weeks for a trip around the world (almost). Since it was quite a whirlwind tour trying to keep up with all the travels will be difficult so fasten your seat belts, hold on and here we go!

First it was off on a plane trip to San Antonio, Texas, where Lyle attended a business conference. Next they jumped on a plane to Madrid then a connecting flight to Malaga.

Once in Malaga they rented a car and drove to the Costa del Sol, to visit the cities of Ronda and Gibraltar. It seems that Gibraltar has a large population of small apes (although they look like monkeys with no tails) that are all over the place and have no fear of humans. They will jump right on you if you're not careful, kind of creepy.



We then drove back to Malaga and took the train back to Madrid. We had hoped to be able to visit with Annie but she was in school until 5 and we had to leave at 7, darn but

we will see her in a few weeks at Michelle's wedding. So we boarded the hotel train to France, and did the "tourist thing" for a couple of hours until it was time to get on the Eurostar high speed train to go under the English channel (chunnel) to



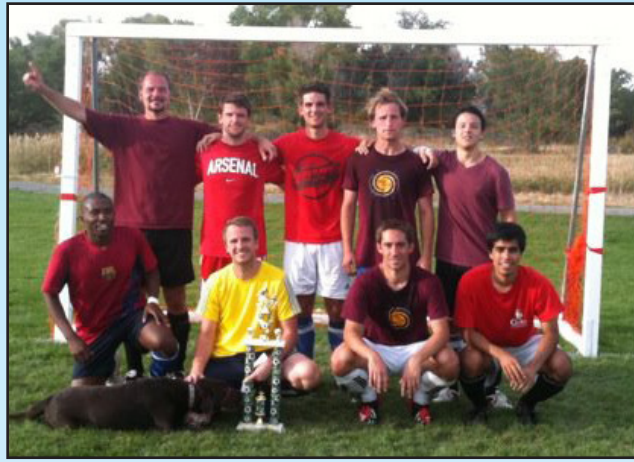
London.

We then got on another train for the trip from London to Scotland. There we spent 4 fabulous days with my other favorite brother Ed, Jan, Nathan, Chris, Tim, Margaret, Bud, Carlene, Allison, Heidi, Fred, Carol, Wayne and Shannon. Then back on a plane for the long (really long) trip home.





Karla's Niece, Holly, came out for a visit from Kansas City last September. They used the occasion to visit Disneyland along with Karla's nephew Robbie, Brother David and Sister-In-Law Brenda who all live in the Hemet, California area.



Michael's soccer team recently won 1st place. It's nice to know he can still "kick it" with the best of them!



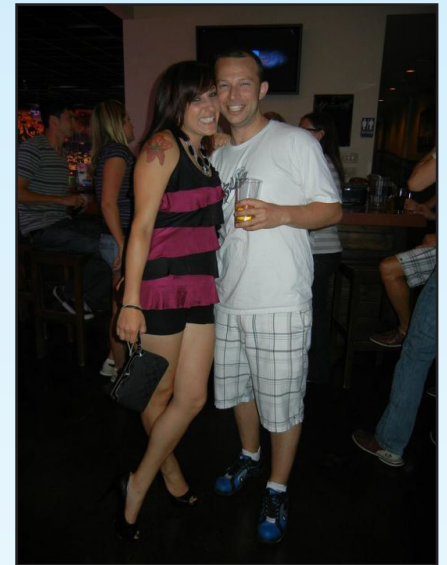
Richard celebrated his 64th birthday last month by becoming the 4th member of the Riel bald headed club. Actually he and Liz spent the day at Disneyland being kids again. Who's next? Any volunteers?

FAMILY SHORTS



Gillingham Family Enjoys Riel Bowl XX White Elephant Gift Dine Out Certificate

Because Annie has been traveling all over Europe for the past nine months, the above dinner party had been delayed. Finally, she came home for the Michelle/David wedding and as planned, and we promptly made arrangements to go to the Outback Steak House restaurant. We chose that site because Grandpa luckily had won a \$25 gift card for that restaurant at the same Riel Bowl. We were even luckier in that the entire Gillingham family was there, (including baby Liam) plus Megan, David's girlfriend. Megan and Annie were college roommates, and it was Annie who introduced David to Megan. We all were excited to meet, for the first time, Liam Keith, the new great grandchild, and were much amused to see how lively he reacted to being passed around from one family member to another. He seemed to have more fun than anyone else in the party. We all were pleased with the food and service at the Outback, and agreed that we should make it a regular family dining place.



Chavva, held a 30th birthday party for Jason at a local bowling alley. The night was filled with friends and family all wishing the latest member of the "over 30 club" well.



Family Saturday Lunch Group Enjoys Seeing Michelle and Annie



On October 1st the more or less regular members, Ed and the Twins were joined by two irregulars, Michelle from New England plus Annie from almost anywhere in Europe, mostly Spain. We dined at one of our favorites, El Torito, and as usual enjoyed good Mexican food. We were especially pleased to welcome Ed back from his vacation with Jan and the boys to Scotland. Ed reported on a golf game at the famous St Andrews Golf Course. He said that the fairways are like the greens, but the rough is so deep that an errant shot is a lost ball. All in all, it was a great trip.



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

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September 6, 2011

Curtis James Hartman
The Catholic University of America

Dear Curtis,

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that you have been awarded a Hattie M. Strong Foundation scholarship. You will receive a \$5000 scholarship award. You will be invited to the university awards ceremony and will be included in Hattie M. Strong Foundation events.

You have been judged by the faculty to have demonstrated that you are committed to the teaching profession. This award is an important recognition of your progress to become a teacher. We in the Department of Education are very proud of you receiving this award.

I believe that it would be appropriate for you to send a letter of thanks to:

Robin Tanner, Executive Director and
Board Members of the Hattie M. Strong Foundation
6551 Loisdale Court, Suite 160
Springfield, VA 22150-1820

Keep up the good work and congratulations!

Sincerely,

Merylann "Mimi" Schuttloffel, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Education

cc: Agnes Cave, Director of Teacher Education
Joan Thompson, Coordinator of Secondary Education

Curtis Wins Hattie M. Strong Foundation Scholarship

Recently, Curtis submitted his resume and a 350 word essay to The Catholic University of America. He was competing for a scholarship dedicated to helping prospective teachers achieve their goal. Curtis said the really hard part was keeping the essay to only 350 words because he is "terrible at brevity."

At the beginning of September, Curtis received word that he had indeed won the award. He tells us that he is very thankful and would like to acknowledge the support of Dr. Thompson, the head of the Secondary Ed Program where Curtis is studying, and the faculty who were all pulling very strongly for his application.



Michelle, sent the following to Birdy about defending her thesis:

*Tomorrow's the big day.
Wednesday September 7th
11am- 2:30pm (or so)... Big
not just for me, but for you
all as well... for everything
you've contributed to my life
that has shaped me to who
I have become. I hope I will
make you proud.*

Love,
Michelle

*Here's the important excerpt
without any crazy scientific
words...*



Dr. Michelle Hartman PhD
September 7th, 2011

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to everyone who has taken the time to invest in adopted kids everywhere. We were not born into the best circumstances, but you changed that. You offered us loving homes to grow up in, taught us to make better choices than our predecessors, and gave us a life full of opportunities we would have never had otherwise. You make the world a better place.

For Bruce & Birdy Hartman who adopted me, and the Riel and Hartman families who gave me lots of love throughout my life.