

Dear Family and Friends,

Wow. What can be said about 2011? It was truly an epic year in which we embraced our destiny as “real adults” in matters including matrimony, home ownership, and Christmas newsletter writing. If you haven’t checked in with us lately, have we got a crash course in Erica/Ryan 101 to share!



**January** was one of many high points for the year... namely, in that Ryan proposed to Erica at the highest point in Florida. For those of you who don’t know, one of our life goals is to climb all 50 state highpoints together, so proposing there had a little more resonance than on your average gentle slope overlooking a cow pasture. After making his case with a collage of inside jokes, Erica accepted on the terms that Ryan stop crying like a girl.

In addition to a frenzy of wedding planning and house hunting, **April** marked a time of professional transitions. Ryan received a master’s degree in meteorology from Florida State, started on a PhD, and began putting more time into forecasting for an agricultural consulting firm. Throughout the spring, Erica continued to settle



into her faculty job as the director of “Science on the Move” at Florida State, where she shares her passion for and knowledge

of physics with the sometimes-unruly youth of North Florida. We were married in Baltimore in **August**, on the auspicious date 8-7-11. After a traditional ceremony at Erica’s childhood church, we rented out a local bowling alley and had a grand time feasting on BBQ, bowling,



and dancing the night away with our family and friends! The next day, we left for our honeymoon on the Mayan Riviera in Mexico, where we enjoyed the luxuries of 24-hour room service, excellent guacamole, and not having to do anything for a few days.



After visiting over 50 houses, in **October** our lengthy search came to an end and we moved into a beautiful home on a half-acre of land in east Tallahassee. Since then, we’ve been busy making the house our own with a little elbow grease and a lot of paint (some of it Florida State garnet and gold). It’s hard to describe just how much we love our new home—you’ll just have to come see it for yourself!



So, yes, one might say it was a rather eventful year. As the holiday season rolls around, we’re ready to take some much-needed time to relax and enjoy each other’s company (not to mention that of our loveable hound, Chloe) as we prepare for a hopefully not-quite-as-eventful new year.

Warmest Wishes for a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**!

Ryan and Erica

