

Dear Family and Friends,



Hope this letter finds you at the end of a healthy and full year—it certainly was for us! Mayans may have reached the limits of their abilities to count in 2012, but Erica hasn't, tallying interactions with 7,228 students and teachers this year as director of FSU's Science on the Move program. Ryan's forecasting job proceeded apace, and he had the opportunity to present his ongoing PhD research at a conference in Bermuda. Chloe continued enjoying soft surfaces and remains, as of press time, loveable and exuberant.

Otherwise, we kept busy. Early in the year, we embarked with Erica's dad on highpointing trip #1 and claimed the summits of PA, MD, and WV. The Staehling family visited Tallahassee in **February** for Erica and her grandmother's shared birthday. We had a great time celebrating, and Erica's grandmother's skills at both traveling and UpWords continue to be highly impressive at age 96.



In **May**, we took the scenic route to Erica's 5th Reunion at Bucknell (in Lewisburg, PA for the handful of non-Bison fans out there), checking the TN, VA, and KY peaks off our life lists. Highpointing trip #2 was a success, despite Ryan's navigational error of taking a trail leading directly away from the VA summit. The reunion itself was a fun opportunity for Erica to catch up with her college friends and for Ryan to experience the beauty of Bucknell for the first time.

In the spring and summer, our hard work on our yard bore fruit. Some of this was literal fruit, and some of it was the figurative fruit of having a nice place to entertain friends and family outdoors. Giving our new grill a workout,



we hosted a 4th of **July** cookout in our backyard, which included a drive-in style screening of *Independence Day*. Ryan hopes the neighbors enjoyed his enthusiastic quoting of key dialogue.



Fall brought an array of highly-anticipated annual events. Among these were two organized metric century (100 kilometer) bike rides around south Georgia and north Florida, and the fifth and wildest-yet iteration of the "Shrimptober" eating contest that marks Ryan's birthday. We hosted a Thanksgiving (and early Christmas) celebration in our home again this **November** and the Staehling family made a second trip down to Tallahassee to join in the festivities.

Finally, the rumors are true: Ryan was selected to be a contestant on *Jeopardy!* After three weeks of intense preparation, including the



construction of a fake studio in our living room, he set out for the taping in Los Angeles. As the results of unaired games are a matter of national security, Ryan is legally unable to reveal what happened. However, he can disclose that the episode will air on March 27, 2013, and that Alex Trebek is shorter than he appears on television.

Well, that's what we've been up to over the past twelve months. If you're ever in the Tallahassee region, we'd love to see you and there is a guest room with your name on it.

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

Erica & Ryan

