

Dear Family and Friends,



Knowing us as well as you do, it probably won't shock you to hear that we've had a busy 2016. Still, this year might have been our busiest yet because... we're expecting! If you haven't heard yet, young Isaac Staehling Truchelut, eponymous with hurricanes, scientists, and prophets of old, is forecast to make landfall in north Florida in early February 2017. Isaac's current interests include hiccuping, nighttime wiggling, and the right side of Erica's uterus. Everyone is happy and healthy as we attempt to prepare for the un-prepare-for-able.

The other big news this year is that we've co-founded a business, WeatherTiger. WeatherTiger is a seasonal forecasting and weather consulting company that helps businesses plan for the meteorological challenges they face. It's been a crazy year for us getting the company up and running, including co-authoring a scientific paper (slipping the **Climatic Hurricane Landfall Odds Estimator** past peer review, in homage to our lovable hound), presenting our research at conferences in Puerto Rico and Colorado, joining up with Tallahassee's bustling start-up incubator community, and even writing an article that was published in the Washington Post. We are currently pushing ahead with a lot of very exciting research and development, and look forward to continuing to grow WeatherTiger in 2017.



Those two beginnings have dominated our year, but as usual, plenty of other stuff happened. We celebrated Erica's 30th birthday in **February** with a trip to the desert Southwest, where we froze camping at White Sands National Monument as temperatures dropped to a brisk 12°F, before bagging our 22nd state highpoint at Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas. Guadalupe was our highest climb yet, and also the most remote by far, as the "No Gas Next 130 Miles" signs attest.

After sharing the glad tiding of Isaac with our overjoyed parents (soon to be grandparents!) in the summer, we visited the mid-Atlantic in **August**.



Erica's mom and aunts organized a wonderful baby shower in Maryland that was well-attended by friends and family, and we also had time to visit friends and to be DC tourist bums for a few days.

WeatherTiger's seasonal forecast for elevated hurricane landfall risks along the eastern Gulf Coast became all too real in **September**, as Hurricane Hermine slammed us with 65mph winds. Fortunately, we had no major damage, only a four-day power outage. Excitingly, we felt Isaac move for the first time as the storm approached, which seems about right.



We kept active in the fall, with an annual metric century (100km) organized bike ride in Albany, GA with Erica's dad, and a Turkey Trot well-trotted in **November**, in which Erica crushed her pregnant competition in the 5k and Ryan tolerated a 15k to earn some of the road race Grand Prix points that would propel him to a 4th place overall series finish. (Don't worry, he also defended his 7th-consecutive summer track title.)

In **December**, Erica wrapped up a post-Ph.D. "cooldown" master's degree in Physics Education, which she has been working on through her job at Florida State University since 2014. Finally, we headed down to Orlando just before Christmas to enjoy a baby shower hosted by Ryan's parents.

All in all, 2016 was another packed year. But as the wee baby Isaac's kicks remind us, not as packed as they're going to be! From all four of us (counting Chloe), here's wishing you and your family a **Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year**!

Ryan & Erica

