

## RosenWeld 2015 & 2016 Holiday Letter

It's been an eventful year for the RosenWeld family – two years, in fact, since we somehow skipped last year's letter... But we'll hit the high points in a bonus biannual edition. Let's start with last things first. We just returned from a splendid family trip to Morocco,



exploring the twisted medinas of Fez, Marrakesh and Meknes. These cities are incredible journeys back in time to medieval days, watching craftsmen hammer out copper pots or tan and dye animal hides using techniques unchanged for a thousand years. The highlight was spending Christmas eve camping in a Berber tent in the Sahara desert under incredible stars, waking before dawn, and watching the sunrise splash across the sand dunes in a dazzling display of rippled light.



The kids are growing up much too quickly! Leah is a senior in high school. She has spent much time researching colleges, enduring SAT and ACT testing, all while taking a heavy honors course load at Seattle Academy. Over the summer she did a six-week intensive art and design program at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), and this fall, she wrote essays and submitted college applications. And her efforts

were well rewarded! We just learned that she was accepted Early Decision to her first-choice school – a five year BS/BFA program at Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston! She's had some fun trips as well, including Paris & London (Harry Potter World!). The picture shows her under the foggy Deception Point bridge during a camping trip with Dan. Injuries have made gymnastic competition challenging, but Leah loves the workouts. She's also passionate about her dance team and Planned Parenthood, where she volunteers and teaches as part of their Teen Council.

Galen is halfway through his junior year at Cornell, where he's majoring in Computer Science. He got his EMT certificate over the 2015 summer and serves on the Cornell Emergency Medical Services (EMS) squad. Galen loves climbing, hiking, camping, skiing (!) and photography. Last summer he interned at the University of Washington, studying the security of mobile banking technology (funded by the Gates Foundation) and was excited to coauthor a paper published at an international conference this fall. This photo shows him exploring a natural bridge & pothole in a Utah slot canyon.



Much to Galen's delight, Adam transferred from Lehigh University to Cornell this Sept. While he misses his great friends in Pennsylvania, his first semester at Cornell convinced him that he made the right decision. Adam is majoring in Electrical & Computer Engineering (a different department than CS at Cornell) and he loves building cool electromechanical gadgets. Last summer Adam interned (in Oakland, CA) at Vantage Robotics helping to launch their manufacturing processes. For several years Adam has built quadcopter drones, and recently

he formed a startup, Hoverbot, with his friend Luca. Just last week, they launched their first product: a speedy, little quadcopter sporting a custom carbon fiber frame, brushless motors, and first-person video. Although it weighs only 1.4 oz and is safe to fly inside, it can hit 50 mph outdoors. The first week saw sales from three continents!



Check out their "Hooked on a Feeling" video demo at [hoverbot.io](http://hoverbot.io)



< This picture is from a 2015 family mountaineering trip to the Cordillera Blanca in Peru. Adam and Galen were excited to climb peaks over 20,000' altitude.

Margaret is not happy with the inevitability of empty nest-ship, but luckily her rewarding and busy career is mitigating the transition. She continues as a pediatric pulmonologist at Seattle Children's Hospital, with lots of travel (including this year to Jakarta to teach a research methods course). She continues to enjoy the wonderful hiking, cycling and running that the Northwest has to offer, sometimes accompanied by our Samoyed, Ellie.

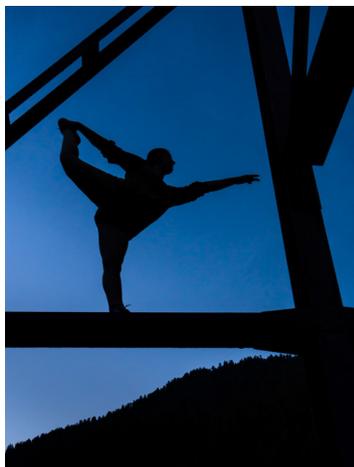


Dan is still happily teaching at UW and excited by the talented undergrad and graduate students in his research group, which investigates methods for human aware computing, interfaces to intelligent systems, and explainable machine learning. He's sad that the new 520 bridge (over Lake Washington) is almost complete, since it's been fun kayaking amid the construction, photographing the scene. Dan enjoyed several trips to Utah, exploring the Escalante and Robbers Roost areas. But his big achievement

was finishing climbing "The Bulger List" of the 100 highest mountains in Washington. It took him 28 years and led to adventures with many great climbing partners - especially friends Ben, Franz, Jeff, Marcel & Mike. Dan loved climbing at least one with each of the children, and gives special thanks to Galen (who helped him finish them off, climbing 32), David (who started him on the journey and climbed 39 great peaks together), and especially Margaret, who climbed to the top of 40/100, and supported him in so many other ways during the journey. The photo above shows Dan and Margaret with Eldorado (Dan's first of the 100) in the background, shortly after he first climbed it in 1988. The right-hand photo shows Galen below the summit spire of SE Mox peak (#99/100) - it's a lot bigger/farther away than it appears (took us 5 hours to reach the summit from here).



Besides Morocco, the family has had several great trips together. Christmas 2015 was spent in Bryce National Park in a beautiful (and cold!) blizzard. Each summer we return to the Adirondacks for a Weld family reunion on St. Regis Lake, a tranquil haven. And this past summer, we went to the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, camping in remote Northwestern Lagoon and kayaking through brash ice as glaciers calved directly into the fjord.



As the picture > shows, it was stunningly beautiful and the weather was unusually clear and sunny. We happily avoided close contact with any bears, but at dusk the mosquitos ate to their hearts content ☺



A few last photos: ^ Leah practices her gymnastic moves on the Skykomish bridge by moonlight during a father-daughter camping trip.

Springtime in Seattle >



Dan & Margaret w/ Glacier Peak, September 2015 v



Adam cranks some bouldering moves at 18000' in Peru. >



In closing, ... we were pretty shocked by events this fall, but are trying to keep a grasp on optimism. Our best wishes to you all in the coming year, and please come visit! Dan, Margaret, Adam, Galen & Leah