

Merry
Christmas!

iFeliz
Navidad!

Myers Christmas 2008

Happy
Holidays!

Fröhliche
Weihnachten!



2008 had been good to us and we are grateful for so many things this holiday season. Erika is a senior this year and we have been doing the college visit and application adventure. We have visited schools in New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. She is looking for a doctorate in pharmacy program. The competition is as tough as the program of studies is difficult. It is hard to believe that next year at this time we will be empty nesters. Many of you are there, or have been there, done that and know what we mean.

Spring of 2008 was HUGE in Mary's life as she prepared for retirement after 31 years in the classroom as a German and Spanish teacher. Mary and her longtime colleague, Claudia Bennett, (34 years of teaching Span-



Claudia Bennett and Mary Myers Retire!

ish) enjoyed celebrating the "lasts" of the teaching schedule - writing college letters of recommendations, grades, parent-teacher conferences, final exams and the other rituals of a school year. Mary's colleagues planned a

wonderful farewell party for her and Claudia. The tributes were



Michelle, Sunia, Claudia, Grace, & Mary

touching, the food delicious, the setting gracious and the guests who came to celebrate the highlight. Grace Errigo and Sunia Smith who organized and carried out the planning will always be a special part of the wonderful memories.



Celia and Joanne

On the last day in the building, June 26, Tom and the Bennetts rented a party bus to take 20 or so special people to The Woodcliff



On way to last day lunch at Wood Cliff

for a special luncheon. Mary's mom and Erika came along. Tom was the only male in the bus and was declared to be the "bus butler". He poured champagne and helped pass the munchies on the way to the restaurant. Our guests from school were dear colleagues,



The ladies awaiting their lunch.

friends and also represented were former students who then taught with us. Both Claudia and I are proud to have students who became teaching professionals. It is the ultimate tribute.



Jessica and Mary

Two teachers are selected and sent there to teach this recertification seminar. Mary was invited and chosen to do it this year. It is a time called White Nights when the sun does not set for very long and the days are mostly day-

light or dusk or dawn. The other teacher was also from Rochester and the collaboration between, Jessica Bruckman, a new teacher and Mary, retired, was fun and they



Wedding cake church.

thought fruitful for the 30 Russian English teachers in the seminar. Mary's host, Natasha (Natalia) Zhogina was gracious and accommodating. She prepared a fabulous outing for Jessica and Mary to Valdai, a monastery and a dacha. The dacha belonged to a friend of Natalia's and was extraordinary. After two weeks in Novgorod Jessica and Mary spent several days in St Petersburg before heading back home. It was a special way to start retirement!



Jessica, Mary and Natalia in the Kremlin in Novgorod



German 4/5, Exchange Students, Seminarians and friends decorate the Myers 2007 Christmas tree.

Christmas 2007 featured the last group of German 4/5 students from Greece Arcadia High School to decorate our Christmas Tree. This was the 28th tree decorated by Mary's students. It was a tradition that Mary started the second year she taught and has taken place in five of her homes over the years. The 2007 crew was joined by Carlos, Pedro and Celso, 3 visiting Brazillian seminarians, Elli, the Churchville-Chili German exchange student, and Jenny one of Erika's friends.

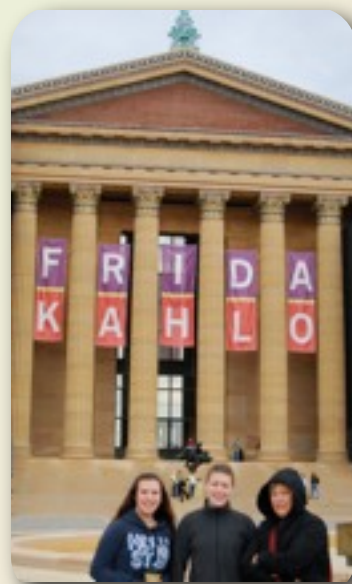


Heading off to NYSPHAA Championships (States!)

Erika continues to play sports. Last winter it was basketball and softball in the spring, but the swim season that just ended in November was a great way to end her high school swimming career. Her 200 freestyle relay team qualified for States. It was the first relay team to ever do so from her high school. The State Meet was in Buffalo and grandmothers Carol and Christine came along to watch Erika swim. While her team did not make

the finals, Erika swam the fastest 50 in her career (25.26). It was quite a highlight and she was honored as a Scholar Athlete.

We enjoyed Easter vacation in Philadelphia and Virginia Beach. Erika's friend, Jess Barta, who moved from the Philadelphia area in September 2006 traveled with us. We saw a Frieda Kahlo art exhibit in Philadelphia and headed for the ocean over the



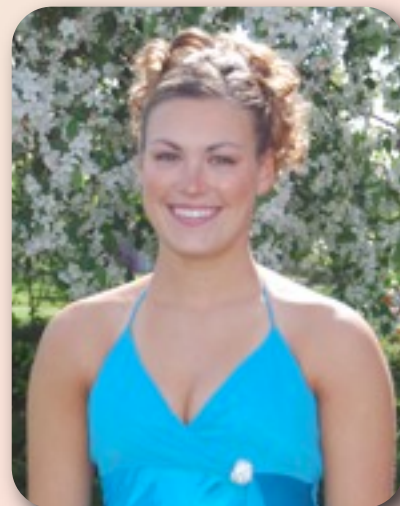
Philadelphia Art Museum



Erika and Jess in Virginia Beach

Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. We stayed right on the beach, had wonderful walks on the boardwalk and watched the surfers. We took a great side trip to the Norfolk Naval Base where we toured the USS Missouri and took a guided boat ride to see the ships at dock.

We did some shopping on the trip and Erika fell in love with a dress from Nordstroms. With the Junior Prom coming up in May it was a match made in Heaven.



In prom dress



Erika with her roommates for Europe Trip.

In July Erika participated in a school trip to Europe. She and about 50 of her schoolmates toured Madrid, Toledo, Barcelona and Pamplona, Spain, Biarritz, the Loire Valley and



Pamplona, Plaza de Toros



Guess where.

Paris, France and London, England. She found the Spanish people to be very welcoming and would love to go back and visit Spain



Montmartre France

sometime. Seeing where the running of the bulls takes place in Pamplona, Spain was really neat. There are holes in the street where they put the fence posts to protect the spectators who are not running.

France was beautiful, with great scenery and of course the French were very “French”. A special highlight was being on the Eiffel Tower at night with the lights.

Last stop was London where among other local sights, they saw the changing of the guard, the palaces and castles and of course Big Ben.



London, England

In August Tom and Mary went to Arnprior Canada in the Ottawa area to celebrate Gus Meyer’s 50th anniversary of immigration from Hamburg, Germany to Canada. We saw our very dear friend, Jürgen Krüger from Hamburg, Germany at the celebration. Gus and Carol had interesting guests at their beautiful new lake home.



Jürgen and Gus on the deck

Erika was a lifeguard at Lake Ontario Beach and found it is the perfect summer job. The beach has a historic park that has been a popular destination since the 19th century in

the area. There is a carousel and summer concerts along with a outdoor film night. There is even a 4th of July touch football game between a neighboring house and the life-guards that has a 45 plus year tradition. Naturally they play before the beach opens and the family treats them to breakfast.



Erika intercepts pass and runs for touchdown.

The visits to Niagara Falls are always fun and this year we took Reiner (Bamberg, Germany) and Mitzi (Philadelphia). They were in a German band that played in Rochester for the German Fest in August. Labor Day Taras (Lvov, Ukraine) traveled to the Falls. He is a seminarian who was doing



Reiner and Mitzi



August Vidpost 2008

Christine, a family friend, Kay Fedoryshyn and Mary drove to Sloatsburg, NY for the annual pilgrimage held by the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate. The Sisters taught at St Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church during Mary's elementary school years there and much longer. The Brazilian seminarians who visit our church for the holidays were there and the Christine and Kay visited with a former pastor, Father Eddie. Mary always has a nice visit with Sister Clare Holak, her former grade 8 teacher. It is always a lovely weekend - very holy too.



Taras at Cave of the Winds

graduate work in Rochester. Grit came to visit at the end of October. She is a teacher



Gri at Horseshoe Falls

from former East Germany and was with us to visit American schools and live with an American family.



Erika first day of School

In her last year of school Erika is continuing to take tough courses including Spanish, AP Physics and AP Psychology. As of this writing she has been accepted at Wilkes, St John Fischer and Northeastern University. We

haven't heard from University at Buffalo yet.

At last year's Eastman House Oscars Party, we bid on a "Plane ride over Niagara Falls" and won! In October we met the donor/pilot



Flight from Brockport, over Niagara Falls and back again.

at Brockport airport where we boarded a small 4 seater plane and took our trip. Our pilot was wonderful. He asked what we wanted to fly over between here and Niagara Falls. So not only did we fly over the Falls, we also flew over Tom's elementary school, Letchworth State Park, Ontario Beach Park, Irondequoit Bay, and SUNY Brockport. He also let Erika fly the plane a bit, treated us

for lunch at the Niagara Falls airport then taking us over Letchworth State then Ontario State parks then back to Brockport.



Celebrating Tom's Mom and Dad 59th Anniversary

The family celebrated Tom's parents 59th Anniversary in September at the our house. Erika's boyfriend Jeffrey joined us along with Mary's mom and the Star family.



Cutting the cake

We went to Boston to visit Northeastern University. Many of the schools we have visited are places where the parents would be very happy to live too! Boston was certainly one of them. After doing the University visit we took a Duck Boat ride around the city and into the river. We highly recommend the ride. They give a good tour of the city. All the historic sites drew us and we even stayed in the old city jail now called the Liberty Hotel.



Boston Duck Boats!

The bar there was complete with Celtics on Friday night. Mary especially enjoyed visiting Harvard Yard with Tom and Erika and taking them to her dorm from the summer semester of 1985. That was also the year that Tom and Mary met.



Boston Commons Frog Pond

“Anna J. Ziebarth, 96, of Elma, quietly joined her Lord on Nov 11.” “She treasured her St. John’s Elma church family, her nephews and grandnieces of Elma and Rochester. Anna’s memorial service and interment will be Sunday May 24 during the 10:30 worship service at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Elma.” “Heaven is now a shinier place because Anna is probably the head housekeeper!”



Kate’s 15th Birthday Celebration

Also in October we had a lovely Myers’ Family moment to celebrate our cousin’s and niece’s birthday. Mary K’s oldest, Kate, is now 15 years old and wanted a family gathering to be a part of her birthday celebration.

Sadly in November we lost our dear Aunt Anna. Here are some excerpts written by her daughter Norma that we would like to share.



Aunt Anna and Uncle Norm about 1996



Thanksgiving at the Stars.

Mary K and Jim also hosted the family gathering for Thanksgiving. The food and company were great! We had two big turkeys so everyone got to take home leftovers.

Grit was here during Halloween night and helped us hand out the candy. She was like a little kid checking out all the different costumes. She even had some of the trick-or-treaters pose for pictures. To gain school spirit points Jess and Erika wore their costumes to school.



Jess and Erika on Halloween!



Liz, Alex, Ashley and Erika receiving all county award

In December Erika had her swimming banquet where we found that each member of the 200 free relay team has been selected for first team all county in swimming. It was a challenge to recognize all the girls as they all had hair and were so dressed up. (We are used to seeing them in their swimsuits and swim caps). The swim team had 14 graduating seniors this year.



Seniors on the swim team.

*We wish you a wonderful
Holiday Season and the
peace and joy of new
beginnings in 2009.*



Sandie Christmas 1956
Rejoice!

tommyers@itainc.com (AIM:tommyers@mac.com)

erikamyers@itainc.com (AIM: myers222222)

marymyers@itainc.com (AIM: FrauMCM)

585-889-5693

Family Tree: www.itainc.com/myersfamily