

Merry Christmas 2017!! ...Did we say 2017?? 'Can't believe how fast this year has flown by! We hope this Christmas finds you and your family well! 2017 has been filled with memorable events for the McKinley family...

This year brought Rebecca to an adventurous new second home...Walt Disney World!! Her dream to work at Disney became a reality shortly after graduating CSU Fullerton with Honors last December! Rebecca was offered a 7 month college internship as a Park Greeter working mostly at the Epcot Park. With an affinity for the international setting and tirelessly sharing a million smiles Epcot was a perfect Park for her! The opportunity also served to answer the ever popular post-graduation question, "What do I do now??" It provided a graduation gift larger than life, and beyond what Santa could give her. While Rebecca earned her Disney ears, and became a technical guru 3000 miles away, Kelly and Lisa experienced undeniable parental growing pains.

Our reunion with Rebecca in August unfolded into an incredible Rebecca'nized Disney World adventure!! Her Disney magic and technical finesse made us feel like VIPs! On return home, she began work as the San Luis Obispo Opera Management Assistant helping with production needs and housing for out of town artists, singing with them on occasion. She also took a seasonal Bath and Body Works job..the best smelling job around! She loves following amusement park bloggers, singing, and is starting her own Disney College Program Blogg. Her preparation to sing Carnegie Hall, NY, in February is underway. She's pondering a Master's Degree or returning to Disney!

In May we celebrated Ryan's 21st birthday with a special unveiling of his birthday surprise! Check out our home-movie on a Youtube link (<https://youtu.be/fjEAKvXY2cY>)to get in on the fun!! The initiation into his 21st year also came with the inevitable wisdom tooth extraction and a new understanding of what 'staying on top of the pain curve' means. Ryan continues to work and expand his welding and fabrication skills while earning his degree in Welding Technology. His new plans include a Business degree. He is a man of many talents, interests, and abilities like his dad and stays incredibly involved with several communities! He coordinates paintball, airsoft, and RC car events, and recently added RC planes to the mix. It may be replacing his rocketry...(We still have yet to return to Fresno to rescue his rocket lost on a supersonic flight last year!) He's been performing and recording bluegrass and country, playing at Parkfield Festival last June and the Pozo stampede with JD Hardy. He'd love to plan a trip back east again to jam and join up again with Jug Tucker - Mark and Sherri Criminger, special friends who continue to offer Ryan "a second home" in North Carolina. On the quieter side of life Ryan has a renewed joy for golf and fishing. This guy knows how to balance work and play!

Crazy weather early on this year brought several massive trees down around our home including a 70' pine tree crashing down across our yard at night and falling within feet of our house. Another storm brought the uprooting of a Eucalyptus touting a 15' diameter root-ball just on the other side of our fence. Lisa just happened to capture the fall of this land giant on video. Her footage was shown on KSBY that night. Check the McKinley Family Website links! After 27 years at Allan Hancock counseling department Lisa is wondering about the prospect of videography in the future, haha! Beyond all the storm excitement and yard re-work, she enjoys working out and Spin classes, cooking, running with Elsa, house projects, painting, and mostly, keeping up with the musical family events. The gym keeps her in shape for the 'roadie' work!

Kelly continues to maintain over 700 bridges in California for Cal Trans. In addition to the normal contract load he is responsible for delivering, he designed, and oversaw the construction of an ambitious floating slab structure to solve an historic flooding problem evident for over 45 years in Santa Barbara. His expertise, ingenuity and 'all-nighters' proved a success and a solution to a life threatening, complicated and busy intersection. His strategic course of action resulted in media coverage and happy commuters! Aside from ensuring safer travel for multitudes, he loves his guitar and bass playing opportunities, and the time he gigs with Dusty Shoes Bluegrass Gospel Band and the McKinley Boys! On a more nostalgic venture, Kelly graciously said yes to roller-skate with Lisa and friends in March. Long story short, he's had to wait several months for the needed 'post-skating fall' shoulder surgery! It's a good thing he's ambidextrous!! Christmas this year brings good cheer with physical therapy for months in the New Year!!

Elsa dog and Boo cat continue to bless the family with unconditional love and unexpected humor. Elsa is a riot!!...and never fails to put a reason to laugh into every single day!!

We hope and pray your Christmas season is very special and that 2018 brings new adventure for you and your family!!
Love,

The McKinleys



