

*Merry Christmas!* from the McKinley Family to yours! Enjoy the McKinley family Year in Review 2015.

A picture is worth a 1000 words. We're sure your family, like ours, takes close to a million family photos a year. Each celebrating a special time, a significant moment or just something to tickle the funny bone. With at least 4000 pictures lost in the digital shuffle of short term storage in the family box-home computer we have compiled a few favorites. It was arranged with love and laughs, and helps us again to share stories of another year of the life we cherish; life that's truly a gift. It's a remembrance that through thick and thin we are loved with an everlasting love, reflected in the promise and celebration of Christmas. We are blessed with each other. We are gifts to each other. Embrace your time this season with special moments with those around you; loved ones and special friends. Make the most of your moments. That's truly life at its best!

It is amazing to think that Rebecca has been attending CSU Fullerton since August 2014. She has just a few more semesters before graduating with a degree in Communications and a Minor in Music. This year has been marked by pure academic endurance during a lengthy season of challenge for her. It's been laced with personal growth and raw determination. We are very proud of her. Though uncertainty colors the perspective of many college seniors, Rebecca sees the light at the end of this collegiate tunnel. Time spent singing with the Fullerton choir and opera is an oasis for her soul, (as well as her Disneyland pass!) For us, the richness of her God-given voice, magnifies the goodness of life. We miss her as does our dog Elsa, and kitty, 'Boo. Texting often, sometimes several times a day, sending pictures and visiting her down south provides a deep connection as we move forward with her in the wake of her schooling.

High School graduation this year for Ryan was superseded by a tremendous achievement. We knew Ryan had a knack for Computer Tech, specifically 3D Animation, but before we could blink, Ryan won the Skills USA California State Championship. It was off to Kentucky this summer for the National Competition. Kelly and Lisa joined Ryan and added a two week road trip through Tennessee meeting and jamming with musicians in Nashville, playing Frisbee golf in the Tennessee summer rain, exploring Huntsville Rocket and Space Center, celebrating a wild and fun July 4<sup>th</sup> in Alabama with friends 'Possum Joe and Nanny Cormican & sightseeing with a fellow Camarillo HS Marching Band alum Richard Stickler in Chattanooga! Ryan met new paintball peeps, performed impromptu with the Country Hams (See the McKinley Boy Facebook page for the rare video!), hiked a part of the Appalachian trail, saved mom from a rattlesnake, and met with Engineering Department staff at three universities. It was a whirlwind trip marked by fireworks, new places, new people, and Duck Dynasty re-runs at midnight in our little Air BnB east of Nashville. Ryan will be performing at the Spring 2016 Parkfield Bluegrass Festival in California with the North Carolina Jug Tucker Bluegrass band. Check it out!!

While in his first semester at Cuesta, Ryan initiated an Amateur Rocket Club soon to take off', and performed at a Bluegrass Festival in North Carolina over a weekend framed by red-eye flights (as to minimize college classes absences). Crazy, yes ...but he's young! With any spare time he has he organizes Airsoft games, works on RC cars, plays and travels with a Division 4/5 Paintball Team, assists and works in a friend's Welding shop, and performs with the 'McKinley Boys at local restaurants. (Yes, that's him in the Paintball ad)

Kelly is finishing his 27th year at Cal Trans. He continues as a Structures Preservation Engineer overseeing 730 bridges in California. He plays Ultimate Frisbee, works out, and performs on the Bass Violin and guitar with the Dusty Shoes Bluegrass Gospel Band and the McKinley Boys Band with Ryan. If that's not enough, he fills in as a bass player for other Bluegrass bands in the area. In his spare time, he works on the family cars, his Datsun 510 wagon, house reconstruction projects, the computers and everything else a home owner does. Needless to say he savors his time playing his new Martin Guitar!

Lisa's birthday this year represented 25 years as a Counselor at Allan Hancock College. She is on several collegiate Committees and continues to serve as an executive board member of the Part-time faculty union to bring institutional movement toward equity. This semester she took on two college courses. One was a group centered Positive Psychology class. These learning communities have brought a renewed sense of involvement to her life. Power classes at the gym, running Elsa our 90 lb, goofy Black Retriever/shepherd puppy, and periodic Ultimate Frisbee games keep her on the move. She has enjoyed a renewed interest in Nutritional Science, writing, and cooking.

Speaking of cooking we hope you and your kin are cooking up some wonderful savory plans for Christmas!! Be with those you love. Love those you are with. Blessings to your family from ours. *Kelly, Lisa Rebecca & Ryan*