



FROM HOLLY AND MATT

December 2018

It's that time again. Whatever your holiday of choice -- Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa/Winter Solstice/Festivus -- we send our greetings. Here is the news from our neck of the woods.

HOLLY STILL LOVES RETIREMENT

Holly's New Year's resolution was "Do Something Creative Every Day," which was way more fun than "Lose Ten Pounds." She finally solved the mysterious problem with her sewing machine and has been whipping up quilts, as well as making jewelry and cards, writing, and repainting furniture. Since absolutely nothing in the store fits anymore, she even made herself a dress. She organized a group quilt for a beloved teacher who was moving to Sweden. The final product looked great, but she vowed never to organize another group project in this incarnation.

Holly continues to attend two writing groups and took a couple of writing classes and workshops this year. She

volunteers occasionally with a local charity.

MATT CONFUSED ABOUT RETIREMENT

Matt learned early this year that the funds to pay him at UT Austin would soon run out. Then some more funds arrived. Then some more. Now it looks like he'll retire from UT in the spring. But who knows? At first, the news was shocking and a bit depressing, but then Matt came to his senses and realized that not working is better than working! But he plans to continue his work on the ACL2 theorem prover (so he's not really retiring, just reducing his hours to some consulting), which he likes to do (except maybe when it requires too much thinking). He also enjoyed co-chairing the ACL2 Workshop this year.

Matt's retirement goal is to get bored and then get interested in something new. But a shorter-term goal is to start playing racquet sports again. To that end, he hired a personal trainer and did some physical therapy, to try to get more limber. Good luck with that;

nothing much seemed to help. So he's just going to stretch some and proceed anyhow – *soon*.... Retirement will undoubtedly continue to include reading, something Matt has returned to the last few years (he's a big fan of the Kindle and free downloads from the public library).

ESCAPING THE HEAT

In April we visited Matt's stepsister and her husband in Greenville SC. An added bonus: we saw one of our favorite bands, The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain.

In our annual quest to get out of 100+ degree heat in Austin, Matt once again organized some work in cooler climes this summer. We spent July in Menlo Park, California while he worked with colleagues at Kestrel. In August, we spent two weeks in Vancouver, BC. Matt worked two days at the University of British Columbia in his capacity as a Ph.D. committee member, and we spent the rest of the time sightseeing in this lovely city.



Mugging with Statues in Vancouver

POLITICS

We were more involved politically than usual this year: writing to Congress, going to protests, donating, and writing hundreds of postcards to get out the vote. Holly also registered voters. We were disappointed, but not surprised, with statewide election results, because we live in Texas and our expectations are always low.

ETC.

Life is good. We are still enjoying our remodeled house, in particular, our new kitchen. We have done more entertaining because it is no longer life threatening. Encouraged, this fall we tackled a landscaping project in our sadly neglected backyard.

We've found several entertaining TV shows as we await the final episodes of *Game of Thrones*. Reading in bed at the end of the day is one of our favorite activities. We take daily walks. In general, our health is good; just the occasional aches and pains. We are blessed with good friends, congenial family, and interesting things to do.

WISHING YOU THE VERY
BEST IN 2019!