

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

GREETINGS FROM MATT AND HOLLY . . .

It's time for overeating, making resolutions we'll never keep, and saying hi to our far-flung friends and family! So, here's what news there is:

FORGET PRE-TIREMENT

Holly is now a full-time leisure animal. While she considered starting a consulting practice after she left UT in January, the idea vanished after two months of not being on someone else's schedule. Instead, she cleaned parts of the house that haven't seen a vacuum in years, and has been quilting, writing, making art, and dancing. Her friend Barri got her involved in a wonderfully wacky art project with the local women's shelter, creating an art installation of flowers made out of recycled plastic bottles. Below is a picture of some of the flowers:



Recycled Art

The highlight of Holly's year has been a class she took this fall on writing creative non-fiction, a great corrective to years of [boring] academic writing. She is also taking an exercise/dance class 2-3 days/week.

After years of avoiding working with children, Holly decided to try something different and volunteered at an after-school art program with third graders. While she is no doubt a bad influence, the kids are really funny and sweet and she likes the teacher with whom she works.

She also took two trips to Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to soak in the mineral springs and catch up with girlfriends Marion and Freida, and enjoyed the three-week annual migration to Cambridge, England with Matt.

STEADY ON, MATT

Matt continues to work at the University of Texas. He still works primarily on improving the ACL2 theorem prover. This summer he gave five talks during a single week at conferences in Vienna (one of which was for a colleague). For you non-academic types, this is the equivalent of running the 440 and triathlon in the Olympics (or perhaps of giving someone both Lunesta and Ambien).

Matt is back to playing music again – this time with colleague, Ben. They mess around with a variety of tunes, from Grateful Dead to bluegrass, punctuated by discussions of music theory (about which Ben knows a LOT).

SURPRISES IN VIENNA

While Matt attended the conferences, Holly sampled Vienna's excellent coffee, ate pastries, read novels, and avoided museums (so much history, so little interest), with one major exception: together we visited the Hundertwasser House, a wild exception to Vienna's otherwise staid imperial architecture. The buildings are painted in bold colors with no 90-degree angles: walls, floors, and windows are all uneven. Trees grow from *inside* the apartments. Fun!



Matt at Hundertwasser House

THE highlight for Matt was running into a friendly colleague from his days doing math (30 years ago!) at the conference banquet. He invited Matt to spend two months in Sweden next summer working on logic with him. So Matt is now trying to get back up to speed on models of Peano arithmetic

and set theory, and Holly is trying to learn some Swedish.



Holly Meets Trotsky at Café Central

LIFE IS GOOD

We're both working less. With the extra time, we're walking together almost daily, reading novels, watching TV (mostly good stuff that we actually want to watch – our channel-flipping days are, happily, about over!), and doing other things mentioned above.

As 2014 winds down, we are grateful for good health, interesting things to do, and the people we love.



WISHING YOU A LOVELY
HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL
THE BEST IN 2015!