

# CARROLL.

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# 2010



by **KEVIN and MARTHA CARROLL**

We count our blessings every day, but at the end of the year we like to reflect and share. We hope this newsletter finds you well and that the year ahead brings you great joy and adventure.



# TRAVEL & LEISURE

From camping to cruising to collegiate and professional sports, we certainly were very fortunate to enjoy as many travel and leisure activities as we did this year. We even became patrons of the theatre.

## CAMPING

We ditched our plans to drive the camper to Alaska. Yes, we were hoping to visit some of the northern national parks on our way across the continental US and then head north to Alaska. I honestly didn't realize just how far that was – over 5000 miles one way. Even with 8 hours of driving per day, we would have spent two of our four weeks on the road and approximately ten hours of setting up and packing up the popup. That didn't seem like much of a vacation so we decided to save that trip for retirement.

Still, we managed to get the camper out a couple of times this year. Our first trip was to Richland Center, Wisconsin for Martha's annual OWU friends' reunion. After two weeks in Alaska, we drove home from the airport, repacked, and drove 10 hours to our

destination. We had a great time, even if we were camping in David May's driveway. We can't wait to join up with them again in 2011 a little closer to home – Hocking Hills in Logan, Ohio – for Matt and Lindsey's wedding.

Our second camping trip was to Deer Creek State Park in November. This year my family celebrated 20 straight years of Thanksgiving feasts at the lodge. Since 24 hours or more of cold rain was expected beginning early in the morning of our arrival, I convinced Martha at the last minute to ride up with me the night before. At 2am, I was setting up the camper during the one break in the rain while she slept peacefully in the car. So my plan paid off. Despite overnight lows around 20°F, we were able to stay relatively warm and had a great time.

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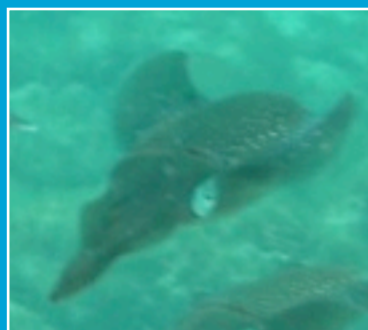
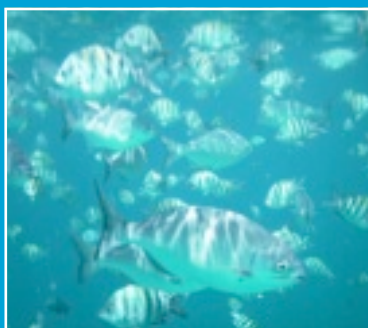
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# CARIBBEAN



Underwater life is always a thrill when diving the Caribbean!

## CRUISING (AND RVING)

This year we again took TWO cruises – one in March and one in August. The March cruise was our 4th annual Spring Break Cruise and our 6th overall to the Caribbean. This year, our friends Heather and Emil joined us on the Celebrity Millennium for our first TEN day cruise. Once again we settled for an oceanview stateroom, but were blown away when we learned we were upgraded to a balcony (and so were the Starks). The trip was amazing! Some of the highlights include kayaking a bioluminescent bay in Puerto Rico, scuba diving in St. Maarten and Curacao, snorkeling in Barbados and Aruba, zip-lining in St. Lucia, and relaxing on the beach in Grenada.

With the economy weighing heavily on the travel industry, this was definitely a good year to do an Alaskan cruise and visit Martha's brother Jake while he was working in Denali. So in August, we took advantage. We spent the first of two weeks in an RV in Denali National Park with Jerry and June and their friend Sharon. Some of the highlights include cheering for Jake and Anna at their softball game, enjoying two dinners at Cabin Nite (where Jake serves, acts, and sings), visiting two Husky camps, taking a bus tour (saw caribou, moose, sheep, bears, and a lynx), and even experiencing a rare Mt. McKinley sighting! Our second week in Alaska was spent aboard the Diamond Princess, traveling from Whittier to













Vancouver via the Inside Passage. Our oceanview staterooms were half the cost of our Spring Break cruise and about 1/3 to 1/2 the cost of cruising Alaska in 2009. Unfortunately our upgrade streak ended here. Our arrival two hours after the start of boarding probably didn't help. But it didn't spoil our cruise by any means. Highlights of week two included mountains, glaciers, Bald Eagles, and whales! Be sure to check out our web site for many great photos from both trips!

[KevinAndMartha.com/Cruise2010](http://KevinAndMartha.com/Cruise2010)

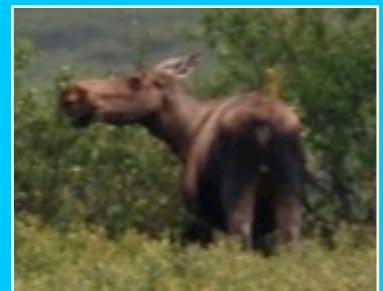
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## SPORTS

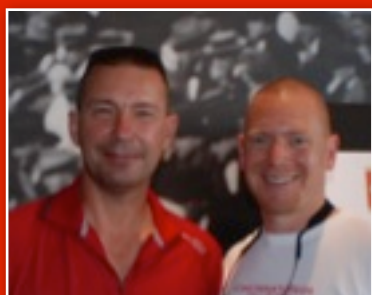
Bearcat football wasn't what it was last year, but it was still fun to go to a couple of games. My friends and I enjoyed an exciting UC vs. #8 Oklahoma football game at Paul Brown Stadium. Oklahoma edged the Bearcats 31-29, but it was close and looked like UC might turn things back around. Unfortunately that didn't happen. Jason and I saw one of the few Bearcat wins on the season when we saw them defeat Miami 45-3. They finished the season a disappointing 4-8. UC basketball is off to a great start though at 14-0. I can't wait to see what they do this year.



## ALASKAN WILD



# BASEBALL.



Still, my spectator sport of choice is baseball. After attending a personal record 13 games in 2009, including Opening Day and the inaugural Civil Rights Game, I decided to buy a season ticket package for 2010. Despite donating 16 tickets to Big Brother Big Sister and 28 tickets to the Reds' Most Valuable Kids program, we attended another 13 games in 2010, including the Civil Rights Game and Game 3 of the National League Division Series! I attended two more games to get the promotional item, staying only for batting practice. At one of those games, I caught my first foul ball!

Between the Reds Hall of Fame events, a Season Ticket Holder Luncheon, and Redsfest 2010, I also added over 40 player autographs to my collection and had my picture taken with over 20 current and former Reds greats, including Joe Oliver, Barry Larkin, and Chris Sabo. Martha and I even got to shake the giant hand of legendary catcher Johnny Bench!

Martha and I also visited four more ballparks this year, bringing our combined total to 11. The first three were on our trip to Baltimore for Martha's National Art Educator's Convention. While we were there, we went to Oriole Park, we drove to Philadelphia to see the Phillies play at Citizens Bank Park, and we caught a game at Nationals Park in DC before catching our flight home to Cincinnati. In August, we stopped in Chicago on our way back from Wisconsin and saw the Cubs play at Wrigley Field. Suffice it to say that 2010 was a little bit of baseball heaven for me!



## ARTS, ETC.

This year we also spent a lot of time at the theatre. Martha went in with her Mom on season tickets for Broadway Across America. It was a great season and I saw all five shows with her – Spring Awakening, The 39 Steps, Mary Poppins, Legally Blonde, and Dreamgirls. Mary Poppins was my favorite, even though I was seeing it for the second time. The first time was in New York in 2008, where UC grad Ashley Brown mesmerized the audience with her voice.

We also went to the Playhouse to see The Second City does Cincinnati: Pride and Porkopolis. They nearly brought down the house. It was a lot fun. And speaking of bringing down the house, when "Kent" from So You Think You Can Dance returned home to perform with the cast in Columbus, the sellout crowd definitely showed him the love.

Finally, six trips to the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens is probably also worthy of mention, even if it falls more into the "etc." category. Four of those were for "A Toast To The Wild", a Tasting Series fundraiser benefiting the Zoo's Lindner Center for the Conservation & Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW). The series is comprised of five early evening events - Zootini, Wild About Wine (three events) and Zoo Brew.



These events provide an opportunity to introduce guests to the Zoo and their ongoing efforts in the conservation and preservation of all types of endangered species. We sold our tickets to Zoo Brew (I may be the only Irishman who doesn't drink beer), but took our friends Luke and Morganna to the zoo in June and I participated in the Cheetah Run 5K in September.

## LOVE

After ten weddings in the last two years cupid slowed up a bit, but we did get to celebrate the happy day with our friends Joe & Hersha Morris in May and Beth & Jim Simpson in October. The stork on the other hand was much busier. We joined our friends in celebrating the births of Shalin Baird (Jun), Chase Hollo (Jul), Anna Shattuck (Aug - see photo at bottom right), Ariana Lloyd (Oct), Anjali Patel (Oct), and Lillian Holdt (Dec). Congratulations again!

We have been lucky to share so many joyous occasions with family & friends, but we also shared in their sorrow this year when Martha's grandma Joan passed unexpectedly on July 31. She was such a huge fan of Martha's and she embodied the very spirit of love. We miss her very much and treasure the memories she gave us.



## RECREATION

### RUNNING

This year I ran ~550 miles, including three 5K races (the Hunger Walk/5K, the Redlegs 5K, and the Cheetah Run 5k at the Cincinnati Zoo) and the Flying Pig Half Marathon. I hadn't really run since high school and swore I wouldn't ever again, but I have found I can eat what I want for the most part as long as I keep up with my running. It's also a great way to get out and about in other cities and even in Cincinnati. My target for 2011 is to complete a full marathon.

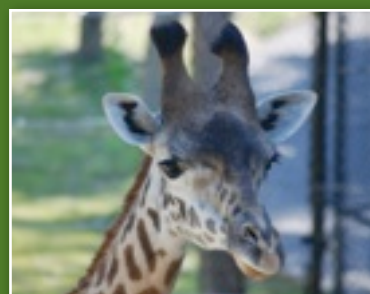
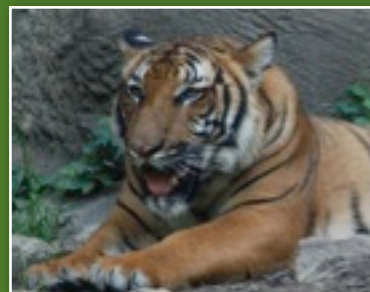
### SOFTBALL

Softball was a lot of fun again this year. I played ~35 games and spent more time in the outfield since my shoulder has been healthier, but I still prefer to pitch. My team in the P&G spring co-rec league had its best year yet, winning both the regular season AND the tournament for the first time. We finished 11-2 overall. We also won a championship in one of my other co-rec leagues. We had a lot of fun!

### VOLLEYBALL

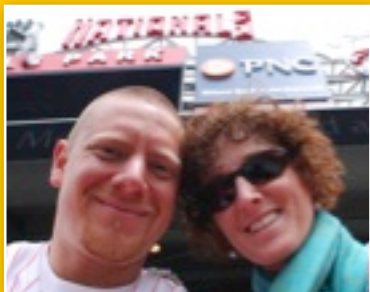
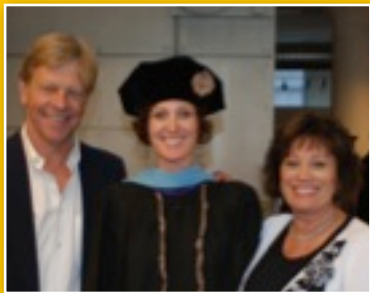
Martha continues to play sand volleyball and let me sub on her team again. We have decided we CAN play nice together. She has also picked up yoga again and has found it to be a great stress-reliever. But her favorite way to pass the time is relaxing with a good book. Good thing she doesn't have my metabolism.

## ZOOFARI





# LIVELIHOOD



# CAREER

## MARTHA'S CAREER

Martha had another great year of teaching at Montgomery Elementary. Her classes have been great and the administration continues to support her professional development. In March, we traveled to Baltimore, MD so she could attend the National Art Education Association's annual national conference. We decided to make a mini-vacation out of it again this year and visited three MLB ballparks during the trip (see Sports section). Martha really enjoyed the convention, as usual, and we both LOVED staying in Baltimore's beautiful marina district!

In May, Martha celebrated the completion of her Master's Degree by participating in the Art Academy's commencement ceremony. She felt lucky to be able to share the day with her Grandma Joan & Grandpa Howard, her Dad & Sharon, her mom & Jerry, my parents Bonnie & Chuck, and her friend Stacey. And me of course.

The parent helpers continue to support Martha as well. In 2010, they photographed and loaded over 1000 pieces of artwork into Artsonia! See for yourself at [MarthaCarroll.net/Artsonia](http://MarthaCarroll.net/Artsonia). And while you're at it, go to Facebook to see the pictures of the project Martha funded with proceeds from Artsonia. The 4th graders created Species Identification Tiles for the Discovery Garden to help students

learn about the fruits, vegetables, annuals, perennials, insects, trees, and shrubs in the garden. The project was completed in cooperation with the 4th grade science curriculum. When Martha presented the results to the Board of Education, they were very complementary.

## KEVIN'S CAREER

Work hasn't changed much this year for me once again (yet). My official role is still North America Subject Matter Expert on Customer Portal. In that capacity I continue to design solutions to major business opportunities especially as they relate to presenting product and order information to customers. Much of my expertise is critical to a multi-year project that is due to wrap up in 2011. In fact, a new opportunity presented itself sooner than I anticipated.

Beginning in December 2010, I began to transition to a new role as Team Leader to a group of six employees, some of whom have as much as three times my years of experience. This is a huge opportunity for me to practice and grow my leadership skills. There is no doubt I will draw on the skills I continue to teach in Situational Self Leadership, a course designed by the Ken Blanchard Company. We teach employees how to be self-leaders by recognizing and pursuing the direction and support they need to be successful.

My new assignment requires more time in the office, so I'm excited to be buying monthly bus passes again. Not only are they convenient, but every trip I make cuts down on

transportation and parking costs, gets me a couple hours of my day back (sometimes I work on my laptop, sometimes I listen to an audio book, sometimes I sleep), saves me the stress of rush hour traffic, and it's great for the environment. I highly encourage you to try public transportation if it's available in your area. Even if you never do it again, at least you can say you gave it a try. Worried about needing to get somewhere fast in case you need to leave work due to an emergency, illness or unexpected overtime? As a member of Metro's Guaranteed Ride Home program you can be reimbursed for up to 80% of travel costs.

Philanthropy continues to be a priority for me. After three years on the leadership board of the YWCPS – P&G's philanthropic group for new hires (0-10 years), I became an alumnus and began to seek out other leadership opportunities. In addition to reengaging with the Boy Scouts through the local Eagle Scout Association, I also took a position on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Greater Cincinnati through the Emerging Leaders Society's Board

Intern Program. Participating with CEOs, Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and other leadership from some of Cincinnati's largest companies and universities gave me the opportunity to see and participate in change at a whole new level. The UWGC is truly making progress to sustainably improve lives in the greater Cincinnati area. It really is quite inspiring!

## CHIEF & KOLDER

We've spent more time with our 10-year old Siberian Huskies than ever before. Chief and Kolder come camping with us, stay by my side in my home office, and even jog with me two or three times a month. At their age, you might think they would be slowing down. But they seem to be able to handle whatever I throw at them. I tried to wear them down for the holiday travels with a couple of three mile runs. It worked for about a day or two and then they were ready for more. Anyway, I will treasure the time I have with them because...

**Life is short. Live it to the fullest.**



Visit us at <http://www.KevinAndMartha.com>