

# THE CARROLL TIMES

Kevin & Martha Carroll

December 2007

*This is a variation of The ARTicle, a publication that Martha sends to the families of her students to keep them up to date on what's going on in her classroom. In the same way, this summarizes what has been going on in our lives over the past year.*

## Career Happenings



Martha and I both began new multi-year endeavors in 2007. After seven years with my old group, I took a new 3-year assignment at P&G. I am now a project manager on Customer Portal, a web site where P&G's medium-sized customers can obtain product information and track their orders.

I am still involved with recruiting, but I have refocused my efforts in my new organization and am the new Recruiting Coordinator for my department. I oversee the recruiting, interviewing, and hiring of co-ops, interns, and full-time hires to our 100-person department.

I have also stepped up my leadership in a group called the YWCPS - P&G's philanthropic group for new hires (0-10 years). We had a very successful year. While I have been chair of the Volunteer Committee, we have increased our volunteer hours by 16% to over 1000 hours.

In addition to my recruiting and philanthropic leadership, I also continue to teach a quarterly one-day course called Situational Self Leadership. We teach employees how to get the direction and support they need to be successful.

Martha obviously has a leg up on me when it comes to teaching. She is in her third year now at [Montgomery Elementary](#) and she has really settled in. She says she has realized the cliché that the third year makes all the difference. She has also been a lot healthier. She has only had to use one sick day so far this year.

Martha's multi-year endeavor is a Master of Arts in Art Education, which she began pursuing over the summer at the Art Academy of Cincinnati. She chose this program for its focus on contemporary art and its philosophy of art educator as artist first.

Another benefit is the individualized attention that is inherent in a class of 6 (and that's equal to the past two classes combined). This class apparently has so much spirit that they have created class officer positions. Martha was deemed the "PR Superstar". They are obviously a creative bunch, but if you haven't seen Martha's [sculptures](#) of recycled

materials, check them out. I've never seen anything like them.

Just two more summers and Martha will be a Master of Arts - she'll complete her degree in August 2009 and she'll "walk" in May 2010.

## Travel & Leisure



Although we didn't have as many SkyMiles saved up this year, we earned quite a few and spent what we had.

In March, we flew to Ft. Lauderdale to join my friend Holly on a 7-day cruise to the [Eastern Caribbean](#). In Grand Turk, we tried snuba for the first time. It didn't work out so well for Martha. She never made it under the water. I didn't like the restriction of the equipment, so we probably won't try it again. I think we'll stick to snorkeling. The Baths in Virgin Gorda and Trunk Bay in St. John were great snorkel destinations. At Half Moon Cay, we finally relaxed and just hung out on the beach. Overall, this was one of our favorite vacations. I think we're officially cruise addicts now.

June was our biggest travel month. We flew to Europe at the beginning of the month for an 8-day tour of [London & Paris](#) with Martha's family. Together, the

eleven of us dominated the 40-person tour group.

Museums were the primary attraction of choice. In London, we visited Windsor Castle, the Tower of London, the Tate Modern, and the British Museum. In Paris, it was Versailles, the Musée du Louvre, and the Musée d'Orsay.

We toured almost as many religious sites - Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral, and Notre Dame.

After all the museums and religious sites, perhaps it was the uniqueness that caused the London Eye, Wicked, and Stonehenge to stand out in our memories.

I picked up a few more SkyMiles when I traveled for work. Shortly after returning from Europe, I headed to Dallas for a work-related conference. A week later, I headed to [Toronto](#) on business. This time Martha joined me and we made a mini-vacation out of it.

We saw *We Will Rock You* (Queen music) at the Canon Theatre and went to a Toronto Blue Jays baseball game. We went to the CN Tower and had lunch in the café, over 1000 ft off the ground. We took a stroll through the Harbourfront Centre and visited the Power Plant's contemporary art exhibit.

Our final vacation of the year earned us no SkyMiles, but may have been the most relaxing. We took the dogs camping at Caesar

Creek State Park in our new camper in August. The dogs waited patiently in the car while we kayaked in the cool morning hours, but they did get to join us on hikes and even for a movie under the stars in the campground's amphitheatre.



## Sports & Activities

My spring softball team in the P&G co-rec league had another great year (8-2). For the first time in team history, the Swiffers of Swat won the league. I also joined another team in the summer that won their regular season. Between that, subbing, and the overlap of fall ball, I was playing a couple of nights a week again. We didn't have quite the same success in fall ball, but I had a lot of fun and managed to stay healthy.

Another sports-related highlight for me was attending Redsfest. Unfortunately, I wasn't one of the 200 that lucked out and ended up in Ken Griffey Jr.'s line when the event kicked off Friday afternoon. I did, however, get autographs from Reds Hall of Famers Tommy Helms, Cesar Geronimo, and Eric Davis. I also got autographs from the new manager, Dusty Baker, and 11 other former and current Reds.

Martha played sand volleyball again over the summer, but her spare time continues to be filled primarily with dance and theatre. She directed Sycamore's 2<sup>nd</sup> Improv Comedy Show last

winter, called the *Aviation Improvisation's Battle of Wits*. She got a bit busier again this past fall when she choreographed *Copacabana*, the fall musical at Oak Hills and taught a musical theatre dance class at Sycamore. Somehow she has also managed to find time to take up crocheting. She is using plastic bags instead of yarn and will probably use this as the basis for her Masters work next summer.



## Celebrations

The first celebration of the year was my 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, which Martha immortalized with 30 Jones soda bottles bearing my face. We kicked it off with Spiderman 3 on Friday night, went to a Reds game with about 16 of our closest friends on Saturday, and had dinner at a hibachi grill on Sunday with all of our parents. It was a great time.

We also had a few more friends get married this year. Our friends Kevin & Nichole got married in June, Jeff & Lindsey got married in July, Katie & Joe in October, and Holly & Scott in December.

One unexpected, but fantastic announcement in December was the engagement of my brother Keith to his girlfriend Melissa, adding to the queue of upcoming weddings - though theirs won't be until 2009.

**We hope you enjoyed the update and we wish you the best in 2008!**

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