



Reasons Greetings

From sunny Florida!



We've had a busy year this year, but Debi is insisting I keep this short. I'm not going to listen to her, but my attempt at compromise resulted in this list:

- flights we took – Ryan – 10, Debi – 14 (even though this includes each leg, we are pretty certain our 13 month old nephew, Ethan, beat us on number of flights for the year)
- nights spent in hotels ~ 18
- houses bought – 1
- condos sold (finally!) – 1
- new jobs – 2
- applications sent out between the two of us ~ 70
- average temperature in Tampa during December – 77 °F



Here's the longer, short version (you may also visit our website: www.ryananddebi.com for more exciting details). We danced in the New Year at the Copacabanna, a pleasant start to an eventful year...



Knowing that we may not be in Cincinnati much longer I froze my fingertips off documenting the freezing rain/snow in February. If we ever have a kid we'll need evidence that winter can be brutal. In case you can't tell from the picture, Debi's antenna is coated in nearly an inch of solid ice. Powdery snow – awesome! Freezing rain... *&#^\$!

Perhaps we fixated on the freezing rain, but when it came time for me to make a job decision, warm weather was sounding awfully appealing. I had begun applying for tenure track positions in August. After sending out roughly 50 job applications, interviews started trickling in. My very first phone interview was with the University of Tampa, and I thought I botched it (I asked one person about her research into religion, but it turns out it was a typo on her website – she's never studied religion).

I had several other phone interviews and a couple other on-site interview offers, but the first I took was at the University of Tampa (UT). When I saw the campus and met my potential future colleagues, I knew I could dig this place. I accepted the offer.

Ryan's office is located in this historic building



But accepting the offer was just the beginning. One of the biggest concerns was Debi's future. As a pro-gender equality feminist, I didn't want Debi's career to be side tracked. We knew compromises were necessary, but we didn't want either of us to suffer. Debi started flooding the Tampa area with applications while we planned our move.

We drove to Tampa in March to scope out houses. We made a smart choice right away by welcoming a new member to our family – GARMIN (a GPS navigational device). Not quite a baby, but less expensive and more practical. Garmin, who now generally sleeps in our glovebox, substantially improved our house hunting experience (and may have saved our marriage in the process). We ultimately settled on a house we really liked only to find out that it was the



Our new home 1738 W Ferris Ave, Tampa FL 33603



Interior of our new home

I defended my dissertation in June. Brent and Jeanne, my parents, came out for the graduation. Emblematic of our condo, they turned off the water without notice the morning of graduation, so we all attended graduation unbathed. How many people can say that of their hooding ceremony?

home of the faculty member I was going to replace. I kid you not! We had no idea she was the owner when we first saw it, but figured it out once we started negotiating. The fact that she left under not so good terms was a little scary, but it all worked out in the end. It's a good thing we don't believe in the supernatural or we might be worried about bad karma.



Ryan with his advisor, Rhys Williams

As soon as graduation was over, I headed to Tampa to occupy our new home and get it cleaned up for Debi. Debi stayed in Cincinnati working through the end of July. A couple of marathon car trips and flights made the separation a little less painful, but it still wasn't fun being separated. Two of the trips were job interviews for Debi. The second interview was for a visiting professor job at the University of Tampa teaching genetics and biology. Debi was eventually offered

The mailman beat us to the top



both jobs. The other job paid more, had better benefits, and probably would have meant working half the hours she has been, but it would not have been as challenging or as exciting. So, she took the job at the University of Tampa. You can email her to let her know how insane that decision was!

Once Cincinnati Children's Hospital finally kicked Debi out at the end of July (she is a workaholic), she drove down to Tampa to her new home. But before getting a chance to settle in we took our one real vacation of the year – to Los Angeles. Debi's younger brother, Scott, and his wife, Shalynn, had a baby boy, Anderson, in June. We went to LA to visit them, meet up with Debi's family, and see my extended family, Stan and Karen Winston and my cousins.

We hiked to the Hollywood sign (though found out later you can drive there). We went to the Griffith Observatory and the Hollywood Bowl, both of which we highly recommend. We also had dinner in Malibu with my aunt and uncle and cousins.

I left Debi for an overnight trip to Flagstaff to climb Humphrey's Peak with my hiking buddies, Tom and Mark. Unfortunately Tom's gastrointestinal system wasn't interested in climbing a mountain, so he slept through the hike in our hotel room. Mark and I carried on the tradition, though, and brushed our teeth on top of Humphrey's Peak before the day was through.

Ryan on the top of Humphrey's Peak



We stopped by the La Brea tar pits, which I had always wanted to see and didn't realize are basically in downtown LA (I had a saber tooth cat toy as a kid). Our last day there we went to my Uncle Stan's studio where we were given a personalized tour by my cousin Matt; you can't pay for nicer relatives than the Winstons!

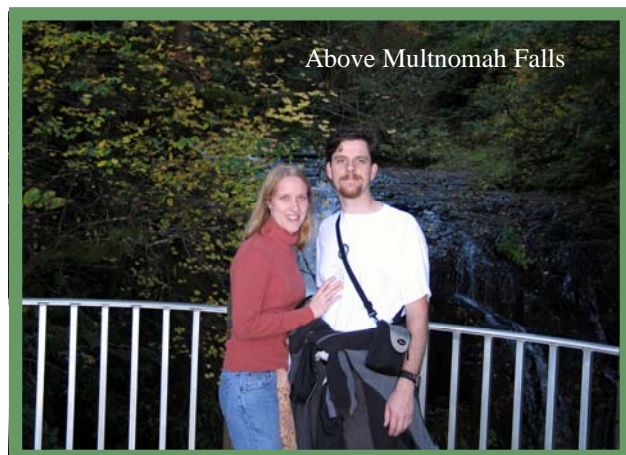


Before he was the Governator at Stan Winston Studiio



Back in Tampa we swung by a Mitt Romney rally where we were the only ones who booed him (seriously, the guy wants to take from the poor and give to the rich). We also went to a Tampa Bay Buccaneers' game. You're probably asking yourself right now, "Are Ryan and Debi football fans?" The answer, of course, is no. A colleague won four tickets (each worth \$250) and invited us. We live a mile away and figured we should see what it's like. What is it like? Crowded and entertaining, but ridiculously over-priced.

October came with an unexpected surprise – we co-wrote a paper that was accepted at a conference on religion, genetics, and ethics in Portland. We made the best of it and turned the conference into an extended weekend. The conference ended Saturday but we didn't fly out until Sunday night, so we spent Sunday sightseeing, visiting Multnomah Falls and Mt. Hood. We also stopped by a couple of amazing vegetarian restaurants.



November and the first part of December were a blur with classes and finals. But we did finally take a break on the 23rd of December to do what we've been hoping to do for quite a while – visit the beach. We didn't actually go swimming but we did drive along the barrier islands of Clearwater and St. Petersburg. There are miles and miles of gorgeous white sand beaches, all less than 30 minutes from our house. We ate lunch overlooking the beach in our shorts. Note to readers: We have a spare bedroom, a spare bathroom, and even a spare car (since we typically carpool to work).



We still aren't sure it's Christmas, but we aren't complaining. Until next year, keep up with us at www.ryananddebi.com