

A Slightly Belated New Year's Note.....

We four Southern Californians have truly become New Yorkers, all living within a short subway ride of each another in Manhattan. Dan is in his final year studying business management and history at Brooklyn College. He still very much enjoys the cultural and culinary life of the city, and has been working at encouraging his Dad to broaden his cocktail horizons beyond the narrow confines of the Manhattan. Elizabeth has decided to increase her chances of being able to earn a living over what the theater can provide, and is now a third of the way through a pastry chef program at the French Culinary Institute here in Manhattan. But she's still keeping a toe in the entertainment waters, and recently finished her first voice-over assignment. Jan's done a fair bit of traveling and I've sometimes gotten to carry her bags – I skipped San Antonio, but did come with her on a trip to Australia in March. It wasn't difficult to convince Elizabeth to join us, and we got to introduce her to the city life of Sydney and Melbourne, the countryside and the wildlife along the Hume Highway, and to many of our Ozzie friends. She's added Melbourne to the list of places where she wants to live and work, but hopes to first polish her pastry skills in Paris.

As for me, I may be officially retired but my UCI teaching continues, at least for the time being. I returned to Irvine last fall, and had the luxury of being able to focus on teaching my immunology course without committee meetings and the other distractions of administration. I got back to New York just in time for Thanksgiving, and helped meet the challenge of entertaining 19 people and preparing a 23-pound turkey in our small West 72nd Street apartment –everyone fit just fine.

Our year ended with a short holiday on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia where the four of us, together with Elizabeth's boyfriend André, had a wonderful time snorkling, sailing, hiking and gourmandizing. The enclosed photo shows us in the Millet Bird Sanctuary, dodging cloudbursts in the island's central rain forest. Despite the weather, and with the help of our guide Aloysius, we saw quite a number of native birds, including three of the four species endemic to St. Lucia. And, on our return to New York, Jan and I celebrated our thirtieth wedding anniversary! And so we've begun the new year back at work and back at school – if you'd like to see some of what this retired professor has been working on here New York, have a look at the family stories and images posted at:

<http://www.gutmanfamily.org>

Greetings and warmest wishes from all of us for a wonderful New Year!

Jan, George, Dan and Elizabeth

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