

May this year find you and yours in good spirits and health!

Sarah, now 22, graduated the University of Virginia this May with honors as a double major in history and environmental sciences. She came home for about three days and then she was off again to Petersham, Ma. where she started her graduate studies at the Harvard Forest as she completes her thesis in a Master's Degree in Forestry. She hopes, through hard work and persistence, to complete her degree program in one year rather than the normal two years. She and her beau, Andy, whom she met last year in Nepal, alternate visiting each other in Madison, Ws. where he's a first year medical student at the University of Wisconsin. This fall Daria and Jeff traveled to St. Paul/Minneapolis to cheer Sarah and Andy as they ran in the Twin Cities Marathon, Sarah's first marathon. They both finished with smiles on their faces!



Adam, now 25, made several changes in his life. He and Karla, his significant other, decided to buy a townhouse together. They found a resale unit and moved into a townhouse in Reston, Va. not more than five miles from our house. While this was underway, Adam left TRW where had been working for almost three years and started a new position in public relations at Nextel, a wireless communications company. Adam and Karla bravely hosted both sides of the family for a wonderful Thanksgiving feast. For the first time in a decade, Jeff and Daria celebrated Thanksgiving at a house other than

their own.

This summer, Daria's father Stanley, at age 88, passed away after a sudden heart attack. From 1993 when he had moved to Northern Virginia to 2000, he'd been living in an assisted-living facility until a series of strokes forced him to move to the nursing section of the same facility. We feel extremely lucky that both Adam and Sarah had the opportunity to become close with their Grandpa over the last nine years. For almost a decade he became a full-fledged member of our immediate family. Jeff and he would drive to the local transfer station (dump) and do the Costco run together. His funeral took place at his hometown of Hartford, Ct. in August.

Jeff's mom, Marion, who moved down to Virginia in 1999, was doing well until September, when, after attending Stanley's funeral she was hospitalized twice. During her second stay she was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and pneumonia. This time the doctors determined that the pneumonia wasn't being caused by infection as previously thought, but by Marion's inability to swallow. Food going down the wrong tube was causing the reoccurring bouts of pneumonia. In addition, while she was at the hospital her renal functions completely failed and she started on dialysis. Sarah flew down from Harvard as the family was concerned that Marion might not make it out of the hospital. But Marion slowly recovered and was with the family at Thanksgiving. She gets extremely tired and is becoming more forgetful but is very determined to attend at least one more family wedding!



Working at Northrop Grumman Information Technology, Jeff switched projects, basically moving from one building to another in the Skyline complex near Bailey's Crossroads. He now supports the Defense Department's Anti-Drug Network, working as the only Northrop Grumman employee in the prime

contractor's office. Jeff continues his other activities, including serving as his community's web master and chair of his county's local district land use and transportation committee, and finally purchasing a wedge and sledge hammer to split his own firewood. He has lost momentum on house repairs as the "newly" tiled bathrooms from last year stand unfinished...Daria prods him periodically as she dreams of shades of sea green paint for the walls.

Daria completed her second year in good health, and takes pleasure in her job as assistant branch manager and with her family. Her desire to vacation at the beach was partially satiated this year with a trip to Cape Cod, including trips to Nantucket and Provincetown. She even got to see a whale! With the death of her father, Daria is trying to come to terms with the passing of both of her parents. She misses them both very much, especially at this time of the year.



As the New Year beckons, let's hope for all the blessings of the season and peace and good will for the coming year!