

Why Did I Wait?

Because if anyone but Karen saw this the Mos wouldn't have been a surprise! And our Thanksgiving meal didn't depend on my completion of our news. Now you all know the Mos are a result of Kaitlin and Kristin building each by hand, painting and going into the kiln under Kaitlin's careful monitoring. She is the kiln master and general manager of the pottery studio



Mos after first firing



Mos in kiln

at the Univ of MD and loves the job as she frequently gets paid to do art - what could be better? She was sad to see her Mos leave the house but is pleased you all enjoy them. She said if you ever give them up she wants them back as they are her babies.

Kaitlin and Kristin are juniors at UMD and living in an apartment for the first time. They enjoy visiting the weekly farmers market on campus to get bread and fancy popcorn.

Kristin makes her own delicious bread and baked goodies and we get to enjoy all her creations. While Kristin is a French Horn

major (and Math) she has paid gigs on campus but plays the clarinet in the University Band (for the most part, non-music majors). Kaitlin continues to play flute and piccolo and auditioned on oboe and English Horn and was offered a spot in the wind ensemble (WE).

So it is flute/picc in U Band and soon oboe/E. horn in WE.

Both girls also enjoy going to the campus wood shop, making beautiful cutting boards and learning how to use all the power tools.

Kaitlin who is majoring in Mechanical Engineering, also enjoys lots of artistic endeavors and has a water color painting on exhibit at the student art gallery.

The girls met the former UMD student who was a gold medalist at the Olympics, Thea LaFond a track and field star. Kristin still competes in Rubik cube competitions and had a personal best on the 3 x 3 in under 8 seconds solved, which in the cube world is a significant milestone. With



Kristin playing clarinet in University Band



Kaitlin pointing to her painting at student art gallery (UMD).



Kristin, Thea LaFond (triple jump Olympian gold medalist)

this time she continues to be a ranked solver.

Both girls have picked up doing picture puzzles as a hobby and Kristin has quite a line up to solve over their winter break. One of them is as large as our kitchen table.

Ravensburger brand is a favorite because of the luscious snap and lock of the pieces.

Over the summer the girls went to Colorado to visit cousins and had some fun adventures. One highlight was a visit to Dinosaur Ridge Natural Landmark. This location has rare and

some of the oldest dino foot prints in North America.

Since the fourth grade, when Kristin started on the Fr. Horn, she has been stalking, IE following closely the professional accomplishments of a particular horn player with the Berliner Philharmonic (home city is Berlin, Germany). Making a rare US visit and performance at the Kennedy Center, Kristin HAD to go hear them...so we made it a family outing. It was the best, the very best sounding orchestra we have ever heard, what a treat to close your eyes and just listen to the glorious sound.



Kristin and Kaitlin at Dinosaur Ridge Natural Landmark

Ellen still does a lot of sewing and has made a gillion fleece hats to donate to Operation Christmas Child. Our family had the opportunity to work at the processing center and help audit shoe boxes that are going to children around the world. We are so blessed and the kids who get the boxes are so thankful for such a small gesture. I also go to the senior center and the group I volunteer with made over 300 of each cards, gift tags and book markers to be handed out to meals on wheels recipients.

Harry continues his chauffeuring services to the girls - think of it as their private uber driver. He is always there and always on-time. In addition to driving the girls, Harry is a man of many trades, hunter and gather of the groceries, lawn care, auto mechanic just to name a few. Harry still does Tai-Chi a few times a week and has advanced to the fan form. He is the non-official leader of the practice sessions but doesn't want to admit to his role. He still plays indoor and outdoor volleyball a few times a week. Refereeing vb is

still a way to keep up with the folks who play and knowledge of any rule changes that come about.

The girls would be terribly upset if I didn't mention our cats, Suki and Sabi who are now six years old and continue to rule the house. They think this is Burger King and can have it their way and only their way every day. However, Kaitlin and Kristin are happy to let the cats rule and give into their every demand.



Suki and Sabi

Enjoy your holidays and hug your family,
Harry, Ellen, Kristin and Kaitlin Dan



Kaitlin's cactus painting chosen to be displayed at Student Art Gallery.