

THE CAMPEN FAMILY

Christmas 2017

In the Spotlight

Family vacations

Cruising

In January, Dave, Marci, Hannah and Amira went on a Disney cruise. We were able to swim with the dolphins in Grand Cayman. The weather was great and the boat was awesome!

New York City

In June, all 5 of us headed to New York City for a family vacation. We saw many sights -The Statue of Liberty, Times Square, Rockefeller Plaza, Lincoln Center, the Met, 911 Memorial, and more! We saw The Lion King on Broadway, which was an amazing show - the production was very entertaining and the singing was incredible! We sampled many food fares in New York and we loved them all!

Chicago

In July, the five of us and Gary (Marci's dad) were able to sneak in a quick trip to Chicago to see Marci's brother Dennis. A highlight for Jacob and Hannah was seeing the musical Hamilton.

Disney World

For Thanksgiving this year, the five of us headed to Disney World to spend 5 days to enjoy time together since Jacob had the Thanksgiving week off from college. Beautiful decorations, fun rides, and great experiences were had by all!



2017 in review

Time flies as we sit here writing another Christmas letter. This year has been full of mostly everyday moments, which we won't bore you with but instead will tell you our highlight reel. We all love to travel and were able to find some great deals which allowed us to stretch our travel budget and take an above average number of trips this year as you see in our spotlight column.

Hannah turned 16 this past February and got her driver's license! Hannah enjoys her new found freedom and we are enjoying less chauffeuring! At the end of March I accepted a job at a new company (Insite Software). I now work downtown Minneapolis and rely on the light rail or bus to get to and from work. So as a family, we have had to adjust to slightly later hours and a bit less flexibility in my commute. We continue to adjust to Jacob being away at college more than he is home. We are thankful Iowa State continues to be the right school for him and that he is so happy there. Technology makes the absence less drastic as it is easy to stay connected through phone calls, face time and quick texts. It is just over 3 hours to drive there so we were able to go down for a couple visits including Jacob's spring choir concert. Hannah continues to be very involved in music and theater at school and church. We have many enjoyable concerts/ performances to attend to see her using her talents doing something she loves. Amira is involved outside of school with dance and new this year she is on the Riptide swim team (practices 3 nights a week!). We continue to chauffeur her around watching her dance and swim. We sometimes wonder if she has too many nights of planned activities but she loves it so much, it is the right thing for her at this time. This summer, both Jacob and Hannah worked at HyVee which kept them busy throughout the summer. Amira attended overnight camp for the first time at Covenant Pines (the camp Marci grew up attending) and loved it!

A big highlight for Marci & I was in October as we were able to visit Italy for a week. This was my first visit to Europe. We stayed in the country about half way between Rome and Florence. It was hard to imagine that this land was traveled by many people for more than 2000 years. We visited many small towns and walked the sights including Assisi, which has a huge double decker church (really there are 2 sanctuaries stacked on top off each other both with ceilings over 30 feet!) and many narrow and hilly roads, and saw Europe's tallest waterfall (man made). Our hotel for the week was a converted castle - a very unique and peaceful place to relax and rest after a full day of touring. I was thankful for our GPS and my co-pilot Marci to navigate the terrain. I even managed not to scrape the VW Golf rental car on any of the narrow roads! The food was excellent as I expected...who knew wild boar would be so popular and delicious? Of course we had our share of gelato too.



Jacob's Jottings

Hello! Currently, I am a sophomore at Iowa State University, still studying Electrical Engineering. I am really enjoying school and my on-campus apartment. I'm still singing while I can as well. As far as extra curricular activities, I'm involved in PrISUm, Iowa State's solar car team, and The Engineering Ambassador and Mentor program, which gives weekly tours of the Engineering college. I'm enjoying that I am starting to have the opportunity to get more in-depth with my major. Our trip to New York this summer was really fun, and seeing The Lion King on Broadway and a taping of The Tonight Show were my highlights. Spending Thanksgiving break with the family in Walt Disney World was a fun way to spend the holiday in the warmth of Florida and the magic of Disney. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Hannah

Hello everyone and Happy Holidays! I'm 16 years old and now a junior at Rosemount High School. I'm still involved in the theatre program and love performing in musicals and productions outside of school as well. I'm also in two extra curricular choirs; Women's Ensemble and Chamber Singers. So, I guess you could say I have a pretty full schedule! One cool thing our family did this summer was go on a trip to New York City. One of my favorite things was seeing The Lion King, which was absolutely amazing! Dad, Jacob, and I also went to the Jimmy Fallon Show, where I hugged Jimmy... so that was awesome too! I hope everyone has a fantastic rest of the year!

Hannah's Happenings



Amira

I am 7 years old and in 2nd grade! My favorite specialist is computers. My favorite subject is math. I am on a swim team and my favorite stroke is back. I like to draw unicorns. I like to make perler beads to give as presents. Fun fact about me is that I have a car collection. My favorite memory of the year is DISNEY WORLD!

Amira's Anecdotes



I am thankful I am still able to work as the chief operating officer of our household. The responsibilities are endless, the pay is awful, but thankfully the bonuses are plentiful. I continue to be involved in a book club, a women's Bible study, a Life Group (which is a group of 5 families where we get together for fellowship, support and Bible study- the kids get to connect as well!), and volunteering at church and in Amira's classroom.

Marci's Musings

In March, I said goodbyes to my great colleagues at Ties (after 12.5 years) and started a new adventure. I am now the Senior Data Engineer at Insite Software (www.insitesoft.com). The job transition has gone well. This change has allowed me to branch out and grow in a different industry. I truly enjoy this work as it regularly exercises my problem solving skills. It amazes me that I have noticed the same needs/issues in regards to data needs across industries. I have been enjoying singing with the worship team at church.

Dave's Declarations

We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy, and peaceful New Year!!!

Dave & Marci