

# Brown's 2006 Newsletter

December, 2006

## Adele's Year in Review

### You may be a Northwesterner if you...

- Consider it a good day when "sun breaks" are predicted.
- Know the difference when the weather report says: "occasional showers," "scattered showers," "light rain," or "rainy periods."
- Complain about your garden drying out after five days of sunshine.
- Go to the beach to watch storms.
- Look in the pocket of your suit to see which wedding or funeral you wore it to last.
- Know which US city has the most breweries.
- Can tell the difference between Torrefazione, Coffee People, Java Man, and Starbucks.
- Own at least one garment made of Goretex.
- Get nervous when the sun is shining too brightly.
- Can't find your snow shovel.
- Don't worry too much when a local volcano goes through an "eruptive" phase.
- Tell lots of weather jokes even though our climate is beautiful because it keeps people from moving here.

2006 was a good year for me. I sat and watched our older daughter graduate from Whitman College. William and I celebrated our 25th anniversary. I became a prolific watercolor artist. I got to go on three cruises.

There is not much more rewarding than watching your children graduate and knowing you've done something right. Elizabeth has since then landed a job with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Regarding our anniversary, twenty five years is a long time but we've made it and he still makes me breakfast every morning. To celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> we took a cruise from Ft. Lauderdale

to Montreal. The cruise was great but the best part was seeing my sister at our Connecticut stop.

In March we took the girls on a week-long cruise from San Diego. We find cruises a good way to spend quality time with them. The cruise was wonderful.

To top it all off, we recently finished our cruise to Africa and South America. The best parts of that cruise were breakfasts in the room and unlimited laundry and ironing service. Concerning my watercolors, I try to paint every day and on the last cruise I painted fourteen paintings – a new record.



**Adele has always liked older men!**

## Elizabeth Graduates!

After spending four years in glamorous Walla Walla, Washington (actually only three of them were in Walla Walla), Elizabeth graduated from Whitman College *cum laude* with a BA degree in Asian Studies. Her college career was highlighted with a year spent studying overseas in Sri Lanka and in Japan. In her senior year, she was the Resident Advisor at the Japanese Interest House on campus.

This is the second time this century Elizabeth has graduated from a school!

Mommy and Daddy are very proud of her – but that is nothing new.



## 2006 Travel Report

We scaled back our trips this year for two reasons: the air travel required to get to where we wanted to go was just too miserable; and we wanted to spend more time at the floating home during the summer months.

However, we did manage to squeeze in two memorable cruises.

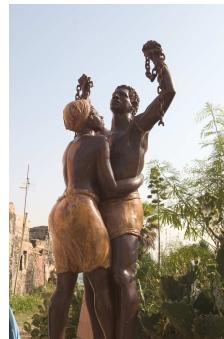
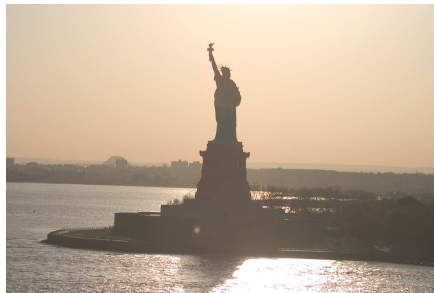
In May, we took a two-week cruise from Ft. Lauderdale up the Eastern seaboard to Montreal. The cruise was preceded by a visit to Adele's sister in Florida and a couple of days at Disney World. The visit with Elaine was great, but we have reluctantly decided that we may be a little too old to really enjoy the Magic Kingdom.

In October, we took a **long** cruise (46 days) which covered 17,323 miles and four continents – Europe, Africa, South America, and North America. The African and South American stops were the most interesting.

I won't list all the countries we saw in Africa, but there were ten of them (see [www.brownransomfamily.com](http://www.brownransomfamily.com) for more details and pictures). Many countries were very poor and made us happier than ever to be Americans. However, Adele managed to find unique shopping experiences and good deals almost everywhere. By the time we got to Cape Town (the last African stop), we were glad to see modern facilities and prosperity.

The Brazil leg featured a 700-plus mile cruise up the Amazon with several stops along the way. We could not believe how huge the Amazon River is. Although it was the low water season, the river was always several miles wide and over 100 feet deep. The Columbia River would not even be a respectable tributary!

Although the 46 days began to seem like an eternity by the end, the long trip did give us a chance to cement new friendships better than shorter cruise would have.



(clockwise from top left)  
 Colonial Williamsburg, Ship's-eye  
 view of Lady Liberty, Slave Market  
 at Ile de Goree (Senegal), small  
 Brazilian feather merchant, bathtime  
 on the Amazon, Village on stilts in  
 Benin, Adele & the Drs. Reavey in  
 Namibia, Voodoo Market in Gambia  
 (Bill's favorite), Adele & Jim Wilkie  
 in Namibia, Folk Dancers in Ghana,  
 Mommy & Mamma in Gambia



## Liz's Year in Review

The activities of 2006 began in cold Walla Walla for more Resident Assistant training and continued work on my senior thesis "Giri in gift-giving in Japan." Ask later. I finished the paper and was ready to graduate by April, but the day didn't arrive until late May. After graduation I ran around Barcelona for 5 days trying to see everything, I was exhausted and succeeded to the best of my abilities. The Gaudí was my favorite! Following Spain, I headed to Stanford Graduate School for a Summer Institute of Business. I don't think I've ever learned so much in such a short period of time, everything from finance to human resources to marketing and back to economics.

To bring my summer to a close, I attended my first wedding and spent a few days touring around Vancouver, B.C. I don't know how I made it to 23 without ever attending one. And to

top my fantastic summer off, I started my grand job hunt! I began with a plan: intern with an alfalfa exporter (Japan, Korea, and Taiwan), work on the weekend as a cruise ship greeter, and volunteer at the Children's Museum. Then the government threw a wrench in that perfect plan...they offered me a paid human resources internship in Seattle and subsequently sent me to Arizona for six months.

It is hard to get in the holiday spirit when it is sunny with a high of 75 everyday, though I did purchase my first Christmas tree. A sturdy 6'5", with the lights pre-strung. Arizona has gorgeous weather everyday; I can swim, hike, and tan (?). So, here I am, learning about job analysis, recruitment, union negotiation, etc. I do miss the Pacific Northwest though. We have already had one snowstorm and hurricane force winds. There might have been one cloud in the sky here the other day, but no precipitation made it to us.



**Classy Business Lady**

## Mary's Year in Review

Not much has happened in the past year, I am just trying to finish up school and decide what I am doing next year. I am still working at Victoria's Secret to get some spending money. In March I went on a cruise with my family to Mexico, just some fun in the sun; we got a chance to go to Cabo, Mazatlan, etc..

I also turned twenty-one this year, and we all know how that story goes. I also got a chance to go to Florida with my parents, my aunt and my cousin, which was a great break from school. I spent most of this summer working up

in Seattle, but got a chance to go visit my parents multiple times. At the end of the summer Liz came up to Seattle to stay with me for a bit while training for her job, but she moved down to Arizona.

Finally my parents got back from their two-month long vacation and I am excited to spend some time with them over break. I hope next year I will have more to say and hopefully have a job.



**Beauty & the Beast**

## Scrabble Box Scores

**Dec. 20, 2006**

Player	Won	Pct.	Average	Highest
Adele	138.5	48.9%	333.55	452
Bill	144.5	51.1%	337.73	475

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We're on the Web!  
[www.brownransomfamily.com](http://www.brownransomfamily.com)

The girls try to see  
around the big guy!



## Bill's Year in Review

Aside from our trips, this has been a quiet year for me. The only thing of note was a (very) minor stroke that sidelined me for a few unpleasant days in the hospital. All symptoms have gone away and I am back to normal – though with a bit of warning to take care of myself and another pill to take. There is no truth to the rumor that I had the stroke because I was about to lose a game of Scrabble to my wife.

My big project for the year is putting together a family web site. I have so much material and could not figure a way to share it with those who might have an interest. If you have an interest, the web address is [www.brownransomfamily.com](http://www.brownransomfamily.com). It has lots of pictures and is very much a work in progress, as you will see. The tools for building a site are great and

it is a lot of fun for an aging computer guy.

We spent time at the floating home (of course) during the summer and are gradually getting to know more

people. There is a great social life there and our neighbors are really nice. We also had some great family get-togethers. The place seems made for such functions.

Bill with  
a buddy  
in  
Banjul,  
Gambia

