



# Brown's 2013 Newsletter

December, 2013

## Mary's Year in Review

What an eventful year this has been! I started out 2013 with a visit to Washington DC to see Nelson, Scott and Liz as well as go to the Inauguration. For anyone wondering about the inauguration experience, here is the wrap-up: two hours to get to the Mall; six hours standing in freezing temperatures; thirty minutes of speeches with no view of the podium; and a seven mile walk home. I would only recommend this if you are mentally and physically prepared. After four days in the cold, I traveled down to Florida to get a taste of the retired life, which after a brief stay, I now believe I could take on as a full time career.

Spring and summer were full of races, triathlons and good times with friends enjoying the Portland sunshine (and yes, we do get sunshine in Portland).

In September and October my life had some great ups and a lot of changes. On September 13th, the love of my life proposed to me on a pier in Port Angeles before we boarded a

ferry for a weekend getaway to Victoria, BC. It was more romantic than I ever dreamed, and I'm thrilled to make him my husband. In October, I moved to Portland to live with Jared in our new home on the Portland Waterfront. Things are going great in our small home with our black lab Blixen and overabundance of furniture. At the end of October, I started a new job at *Gateway to College National Network*, an organization dedicated to helping students at risk of dropping out or have dropped out to obtain their high school diploma and get college credit at the same time.

Over the next year, I will be doing quite a bit of travelling with my



The Happy Couple

new job as well as planning a wedding and buying a house. Every year I keep getting better and better, I can't wait to share with you my new awesomeness next year!

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## Bill & Adele's Year in Review

Despite a few health problems, we managed to get in some trips this year. We made two trips to DC to visit Elizabeth, Scott, and our adorable grandson Nelson (actually, we went just to visit Nelson, but his parents also happened to be there). Nelson also flew out here in May for a week's visit with us and brought his parents with him. Adele's sister and her husband came out for a visit in July. It was great having them, and they got away from the Florida summer! In December, we are planning a trip to Florida to visit them. Turnabout is fair play and we will be happy to get out of the rain for a bit. We were able to end the summer with our first cruise (to Alaska) in a couple of years. It was nice to get back on a ship again, even for a short trip.

We bid farewell to our floating home this year. We hadn't been using it all that much and sold it to someone who plans to live on the river full-time.

Of course, the big news for 2013 is the engagement of our daughter, Mary. Her fiancé, Jared Weiner, is a great guy and we look forward to having him in the family. (There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that Bill paid Jared to take Mary off his hands!)

We're still playing Scrabble every evening. After 8+ years, the current box score is: Adele – 759; Bill – 1196; for a total of 1955 games played. Number 2000, here we come!

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Scrabble Time!  
Adele thinks she's going to win. Bill knows he's going to win.



### Liz & Scott's Year in Review

2013 has been a year of preparations for our impending move to Honduras in February 2014. Having finished my one year working on Human Rights in the Middle East, I immediately transferred over to the State Department's "college" language school, lovingly called FSI. I have been studying Spanish all day every day since then. (I need to be deemed professionally fluent in order to take my position in Tegucigalpa.) Scott decided to take a break from the bundle of energy, Nelson, and took an 8-week fast introduction to Spanish. Nelson loved his time at daycare...too bad it wasn't more reasonably

priced. Shopping is the costly, other major component of our preparation.

Nelson has turned into an active toddler, running amok all day long! He is quite the climber and everyday he seems to find a new way to trouble his parents. Just the other



day he learned to pull out a chair from the dining room table, climb on the chair, and onto the top of the table to reach his goal of the laptop keyboard. So far he only has a few words and signs on his resume, his favorite of which is the sign for "uvas," grapes in Spanish. He is still our happy little guy, flashing his 12 teeth with his adorable smile!

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