

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2011 was chockfull of interesting times for us and for our children, although it's a bit unnerving to feel both sentimental and proud as our kids launch themselves as young adults. Still, we also see the advantages of our new freedom and are pursuing some avenues of our own.

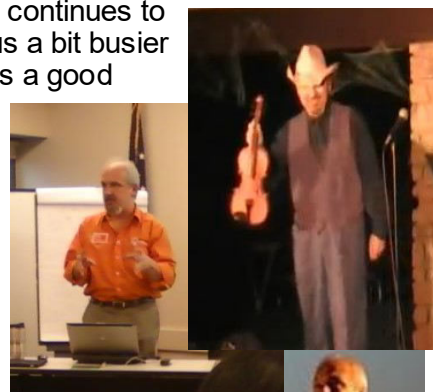
James, now in his second year out in Los Angeles, is busily finding his place in the film industry. He worked for the Travel Channel during the beginning of the year which led to his current job as Production Assistant with Wondros filming pro-social media messages. This fall James traveled to Haiti, India, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Philippines and South Africa learning more about the industry and about what's being done to help folks in those countries.



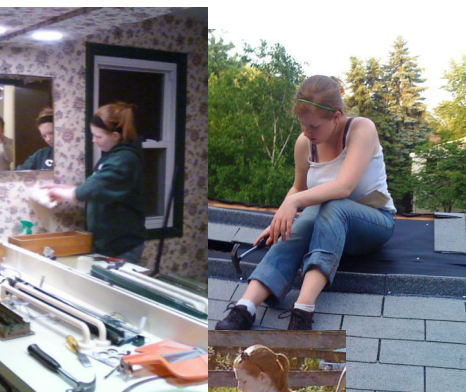
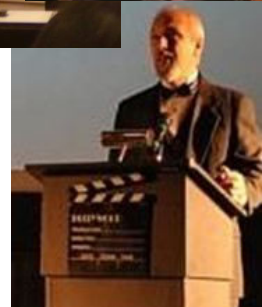
Don spent the summer taking his social media classes on the road from Colorado to Pennsylvania. He also fed his inner thespian by performing regularly with Those Thrilling Days of Yesteryear radio troupe, telling Ghost Stories in the Park...In the Dark, emcee-

ing the Naperville Independent Film Fest, and doing some voice-over work as well.

Sprocket Websites, formed in 2010 with friends Jim and Susan, continues to grow. It keeps us a bit busier than we'd like, but that's a good problem to have these days!



We flew to California a couple of times this year for clients which also gave us a chance to see James in LA, a great perk. In fact we were with him when the Chicago blizzard hit in February. An extra day in California was fine, but digging IN to our house once we got home was a challenge!



Emma is in her senior year at Knox working toward her degree in Literature and Music. Over the summer she built websites for some literary agents and she continues to accompany voice and instrument lessons

during the school term.

Emma also helped Dad roof the garage in June, is remodeling the bathroom over winter break and worked with Mom at an archeological dig this summer. Very different

work from piano-playing! And speaking of jobs, any advice or help after graduation will be very welcome, so please keep her in mind!

We're enjoying Emma's company as much as possible while she finishes her last year of college and we look forward to having James "home" for the holidays. Our family is definitely evolving, and while we are sad to see the chicks leave the nest, it's also exciting to watch them fly so high. Who knows, maybe Don and Kate will be doing a little flying in 2012, too!



So here's to happiness, health and success for all of us in 2012!

Kate published an activity companion book to "Ruth by Lake and Prairie" in January and continues to give history presentations. Speaking at the Chicago Maritime Festival was a highlight this year. Also fun was working the Internet and Facebook to rally grade school friends for the school's 100th anniversary celebration in October. Her class had the best attendance and was a great experience for both schoolmates and teachers.



**Kate and Don  
James and Emma**