

2011 came and went way too quickly... So quickly that somehow we were extremely bad staying in touch with many of you...

• We moved back to Richmond, Virginia on January 4, 2011, thus concluding our three-year European adventure. We are thrilled to be back in our old house:

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• Eric returned to a full time position as a Senior Consultant with his old company Data Directions. He complains about having to shower and get dressed to go to work every day. ©

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• Sam is now an Associate Professor and the Director of Nuclear Engineering Programs at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is enjoying the opportunity to contribute to the development of a brand new nuclear engineering program in Virginia, and she loves teaching and interacting with the students... although she is even busier than she was in Vienna...

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- Although he really enjoyed travelling all over Europe, Jake is happy to be back at home in Richmond, where he has access to a large backyard in which he can resume his civil engineering pursuits. Also, he sleeps a lot. ©
- 2011 was a little rough for Sam's family... Sam's dad had a very serious electrical accident in April and scared the heck out of everybody. Luckily he is now 99.9% recovered and has not suffered any lasting consequences. In the summer, there was a fire at Sam's sister's business and it caused major damage and large losses in their inventory of costumes. Although they have insurance, some of the lost costumes were unique pieces. Sam's mom had surgery in November to remove the screws and plates in her ankle, after last year's accident. She is also recovering very fast and walking again almost completely normally.
- For about 6 months, we fostered Bridget, a very cute foxhound. She had several health issues, and she needed a lot of TLC while she underwent rather intense medical treatments. We are happy to report that she is now fully recovered and has found a wonderful forever home in which she is having fun with her two foxhound brothers.
- Although we took a few trips this year, it just feels like all we did was work on the house... Thanks to our friend Brian, the house was well maintained while we were away in Austria, but we still decided to pursue some needed upgrades/repairs upon our return... you can see some of them on the photos... We are now looking forward to many years NOT doing any more work on the house and getting back to travelling the world and enjoying our families and friends.

We wish you and yours all the very best for 2012. Let's stay in touch!!

Eric, Sam and Jake.