

common ground

Issue 1, 2015

SHARE.
CELEBRATE.
LAUGH.
GROW.



LET'S FACE(BOOK) IT!

Everybody loves
awkward photos

page 6

I'M SO FANCY

Chad LaFauci
telling it like it is
page 12

MMM, TACO TUESDAY

Be a bit envious,
Waltham
page 14

BEEKEEPER? RABBIT FARMER?

Greg Carlson is
Commonwealth's
most interesting man
page 32

THE WEST IS THE BEST

At least when it
comes to watching
sports on TV
page 36



COMMONWEALTH



As you're about to discover, this issue is all about finding your tribe—the people with whom you have something in common. Maybe it's a good chuckle over experimenting with Sun-In as a teen (here's lookin' at you, Mary Creagh) or finding the time to train for a race (in Brendan Daly's case, a 100-mile supermarathon) or maybe you, too, are planning a big trip with your significant other (talk to Jim Adelman about his anniversary safari).

As you're flipping through these pages, use this space to jot down the names of the people with whom you have a common bond—whether it's big or small, serious or not so much. Then, once you've found yourself some new tribe members, go chat it up. Say yourselves a "hey" (That's an official tribal greeting.) and watch your world grow.

Name

Our common ground is ...



ISSUE 2, 2015

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Holly Sivec

DESIGNERS

Natalie Olivier

Michelle Johnson

Ben Hughes

CONSULTANT

Amit Chogle

COMMUNITY EDITORS

Jon Cooper

Mary Creagh

Mike Triana

Heather Zack

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Mike Davis

Ann Whiteman

PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeremie Doucette

Your family and friends

ILLUSTRATOR

Mike Howland

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Questions, comments, suggestions? Drop us a line!

commonground@commonwealth.com

COMMONground is an in-house publication that captures and celebrates our employees' stories and milestones.

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FIND YOUR TRIBE

BY HOLLY SIVEC

"Outlander? Nope, never heard of it. But sure, we'll join you for a photo. One, two, three, yarrrrr!"

A STARZ ORIGINAL SERIES

OUTLANDER

When I was in high school, I loved making mix tapes. My style was mostly alt-rock stuff like Morrissey and the Pixies that I taped off the local college radio station, with classics like Bowie or the Beatles thrown in for breadth. On the way to and from school, my classmates and I would swap mix tapes on the bus, cueing up a specific song on our Walkmans, sharing headphones so that we could listen together. Even if we didn't love the other person's tune of choice, there was still a thrill in hearing something for the first time. These people—the music aficionados—were a part of my tribe.

Fast-forward to my first visit to the San Diego office last summer. That mid-July week, the city was teeming with a tribe of its own: thousands upon thousands of Comic-Con attendees. Harry Potters, Lara Crofts, Elsas, and then some. Amy Pagano took me on a stroll around the Gaslamp Quarter and the enthusiasm was palpable—even if, like me, you didn't know your Dr. Who from your Dr. Spock from your Star Trek Spock. The cosplay crew had *most definitely* found its tribe.

And while in San Diego office, I added to my tribe. My colleagues—the names

and faces that I had gotten to know via e-mail over the years—became more real. They signed up for my writing classes, and we connected over communication styles and grammar gaffes. They recommended local yoga studios, introduced me to happy hours, and welcomed me aboard the private catamaran they had rented out for their five-year anniversary party.

never used an ice scraper—and the people who'd never be without one in their car. New parents, newlyweds, pet parents, and first-time homeowners. The San Diegans who've seen the Shake Weight wrestler guy in person—and those who've only seen Jon Cooper dressed in his likeness. Do you see a bit of yourself in here? Where can you jump in? How can you connect?

. . . it was the conversations we had about shared and individual interests (info that's readily available on PeopleLink and in issues of *COMMONground*) that helped us to really connect.

Commonwealth was the conduit—but it was the conversations we had about shared and individual interests (info that's readily available on PeopleLink and in issues of *COMMONground*) that helped us to really connect.

This issue is brimming with artifacts from the Commonwealth tribe. The taco enthusiasts, the holiday tradition devotees, the sleepy-eyed sports fans on the East Coast, the people who have

"Bloom where you're planted" is one of those adages dispensed to folks who might feel a bit out of their element. Whether you've been at Commonwealth for two days or 20 years, the opportunities to cultivate some roots and add to your tribe are plentiful. The world has a way of widening and brightening when you open yourself up to possibility.



STYLE AND OFFICE

LET'S FACE(BOOK) IT!

Photos from Our Early Days on Social Media

BY MARY CREAGH AND MIKE DAVIS

Everybody loves looking at old photos, right?

We sure do—and we're guessing you do, too. So we asked folks around the company to root around in their Facebook photo archive and share with us an oldie but a goodie, complete with a caption.

AND THEN—ALL IN GOOD SPIRIT, OF COURSE—MIKE DAVIS WROTE HIS OWN CAPTIONS.



AMY PAGANO

Growing up, my parents were very involved and enjoyed family time to the fullest. So they'd strap all four of us kids onto the tandem bike and happily pedal us all over town.

MIKE DAVIS

After the first rain storm, Amy's family decided that maybe a family car was better than a family bike.



SEAN GIRARD

Keep calm and CFN on.

MIKE DAVIS

In the '90s, this picture hung in every Supercuts in North America to show people what the "good guy" haircut looked like.



RYAN REYNOLDS

Here I am taking the plunge at Copper Canyon in Lake Havasu, California.

MIKE DAVIS

What you don't see is that Ryan is jumping into a 300-gallon vat of chocolate pudding. Pudding diving was banned by the infamous court case, the California School of Diving v. Jell-O Pudding.



CHRISSE GANNON

There's nothing I enjoy more than watching my younger brother squirm, which is exactly what this 2007 Christmas card was intended to do. I had to agree to join him in his tinsel doom—well worth his face when he realized our mother grabbed a picture.

MIKE DAVIS

Flashing gang signs in a photo increases your street cred. Garland wrapped around your head and body in that same photo decreases street cred.



BRENDAN DALY

Having a little fun in the trees at Bridger Bowl, Montana.

MIKE DAVIS

It looks like Brendan is cutting it up on a black diamond trail; however, the truth is this was taken in his backyard next to the shed.



SHAUN DEWITT

New Year's 2010. Our theme was Las Vegas. My best friend and I dressed up as Siegfried and Roy.

MIKE DAVIS

This was business casual at Shaun's last job. Don't even ask what industry he was part of back then.



LISA PLANTE

So, I was a little late to the whole Facebook world, as I joined in September 2009. I had been at Commonwealth a total of three years before I cracked and decided to join to see what all the fuss was about. I wanted to choose a profile picture that showed me, but also showed I wasn't going to take this whole Facebook thing too seriously.

MIKE DAVIS

The words "sexy" and "Wilford Brimley" clearly don't mix.

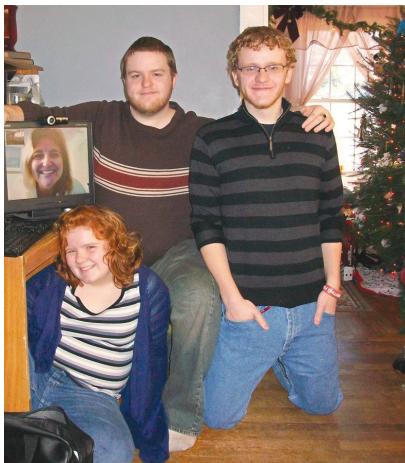


CORIE NEW

21 in Vegas! Woo!

MIKE DAVIS

Corie thought her camo hoodie would keep her under the radar in Vegas on her 21st birthday. Sadly, she found out nothing is "under the radar" in Vegas or on your 21st birthday.



DEBBIE GALIANO

When you can't be home for Christmas, Skype is just like being there—except for the fact that you can't reach the chips and dip. Here is a family portrait of my niece and nephews with their favorite aunt: me!

MIKE DAVIS

Every time you Skype on Christmas Day, an angel gets its wings.



BRIAN AND KERI DONAHUE

Family trip to Napa when James was eight months old.

MIKE DAVIS

It's a very special family that plans a vacation around an alcohol production center. Good for you, Donahues!



A FIELD TRIP FOR CROSS-COAST COLLEAGUES

BY JON COOPER

On a sunny Tuesday in San Diego (equally as sunny as the remaining 364 days in the year), Karen Donahue, Melissa Quinn, Ryan Reynolds, and I took a walk to Little Italy's token Mexican restaurant, El Camino. Seeing as Taco Tuesday is somewhat of a religion out here, it only seemed appropriate to take advantage of the day and enjoy some Mexican food and drinks.

HAPPY HOUR!

Happy hour presents a welcome opportunity to unwind with friends or coworkers after a long day—and also the chance to sample a restaurant's appetizers at a discounted price.



AN ECLECTIC MIX OF TENURES AND LOCATIONS.

OUR GROUP



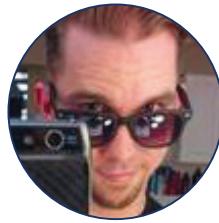
KAREN DONAHUE

aka KD—is a 14-year Commonwealth veteran who has always worked out of the Waltham office—and in New Accounts.



MELISSA QUINN

got her Commonwealth start in Waltham as an intern back in 2006. This past September, she made the leap to San Diego.



RYAN REYNOLDS

the newbie of the group, has been with Commonwealth for more than two years now. San Diego—and New Accounts—has always been his home base.



JON COOPER

(that's me) aka Coop—joined Commonwealth in 2011 and spent two years in Waltham before heading west.



As we walked into the interestingly decorated El Camino, we asked to be seated out on the patio. We took our seats and immediately began discussing the differences and questions that usually arise when you have Waltham people and San Diego people mixed together.



Ryan started by asking, "Is there any good Mexican food in the Boston area? I mean goooood Mexican food?" The rest of us explained that there is some, but for late-night eating after a night out, you will most likely be having pizza or subs instead. The conversation then got into how **Boston doesn't have happy hour**. I, personally, never really fathomed how amazing happy hour is until I moved to San Diego. Everyone seemed to agree that happy hour is a pretty good thing and we discussed that, in Massachusetts, it is a new thing to even be able to buy alcohol on Sunday. This tidbit of

information is always fun for people who have never visited Massachusetts before to hear.

As we kept talking, we continued to list all of the things that are different between the coasts. **Traffic**—how in Massachusetts, 30 miles does not mean a 30-minute commute. **Weather**—miserable winters in Massachusetts, while San Diegans are "suffering" in 60-degree temperatures. **Geography**—how you can travel through five states in New England in a few hours, but in a five-hour drive from San Diego, you will still be in the state (or Mexico, if

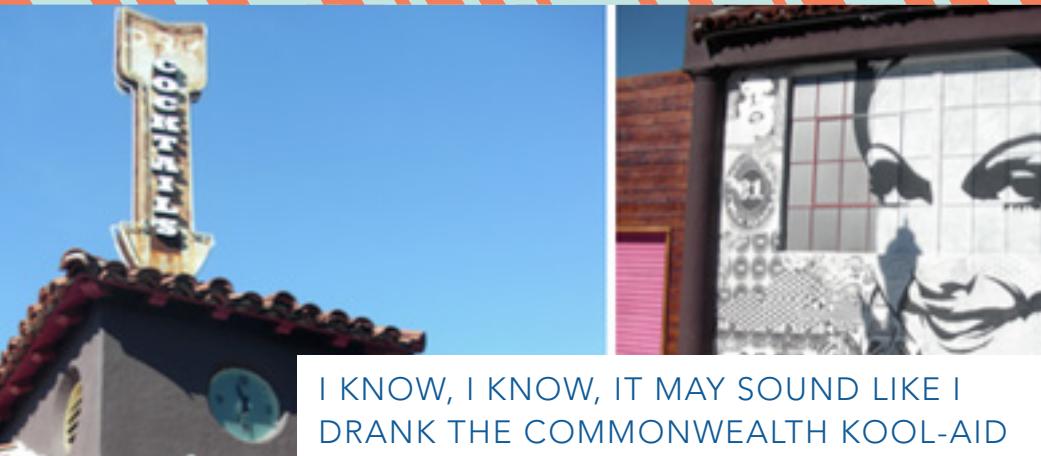
you're headed south). **Bugs**—there are many more bugs (and bigger ones) in San Diego than in Boston. As we continued our discussion, we realized how the coasts are so different.

Of course, sitting outside, we were interrupted numerous times—not by bugs, but by planes flying overhead. "This is how you know you are in San Diego," Karen quipped. (So, maybe the planes do fly a little too close.) But at that point, we came to one major conclusion: although there may be numerous differences between the coasts, we have all of the

What's the big deal with OYSTERS?

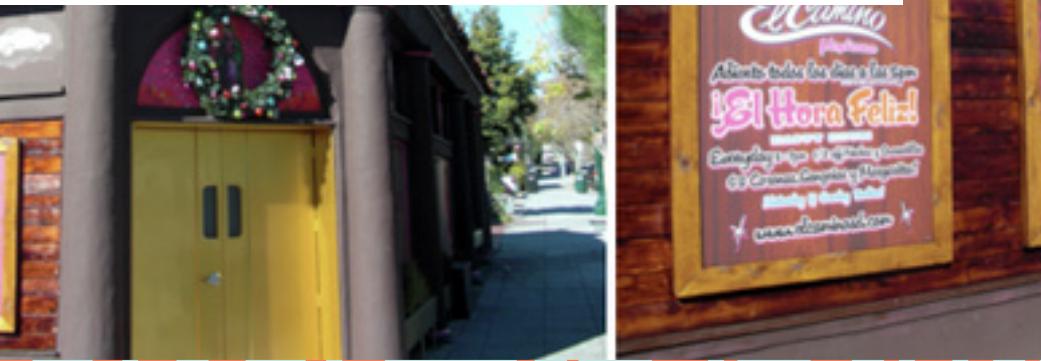
Happy hour has taken Boston by storm, and with no boozy versions to compete with, it might be one of the most popular happy hour deals in the city. And guess what?





I KNOW, I KNOW, IT MAY SOUND LIKE I DRANK THE COMMONWEALTH KOOL-AID

BUT IT'S TRUE. THE COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY JUST GETS IT RIGHT.



same things we have to deal with and generally dislike. For instance, no one likes traffic, winters are tough, bugs are not fun, if you have experienced the seasons you miss them when they are no longer around, happy hour is pretty cool, and we all want and look for good food.

No matter which coast you call home, no matter whether you pronounce your Rs or not, we found out that **we all understand and appreciate good customer service.** You can call anyone in the company—East or West—and you will get someone willing to help, willing to find the answer for you,

and willing to be nice about it. So, after some delicious Mexican food (and possibly some adult beverages), I realized what else we have in common: we work with great coworkers, enjoy many different hobbies, and are always willing to go the extra mile for one another. I know, I know, it may sound like I drank the Commonwealth Kool-Aid (or, maybe in El Camino's case, the Corona), but it's true. The Commonwealth community just gets it right.

If you love oysters enough, along with getting them for a dollar a pop, you can slurp your way through dollar oyster deals around the city every day of the week.



RANDOM FACTS ABOUT US:

- **KD:** With a name like "Donahue," you'd think she's Irish—but she's not. (The Donahue comes from her mother's second marriage.) Karen's actually half Italian, half Scottish.
- **Melissa:** Once upon a time, Melissa used to dance at Boston Ballet.
- **Ryan:** This guy has a few good ones: he has been to Comic-Con for the last 14 years straight, he's an ordained minister and has officiated two weddings, and he's the youngest of the 11 children in his family.
- **Coop:** I once hand-sewed a purse. True story.



AND IF EACH OF US COULD ONLY EAT ONE FOOD FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES, WE'D CHOOSE:

- Chicken parm ([KD](#))
- Ice cream ([Melissa](#))
- California burritos ([Ryan](#))
- Pasta ([Coop](#))

TALES FROM THE TENURED: CHAD LAFauci

If you could eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?

It sounds very "bougie" but sushi/sashimi. Whenever my wife and I go out, we are heading to a sushi restaurant. The only negative is that it's an expensive habit.

Where is your favorite vacation spot?

Cabo tops the list. I don't think I've ever seen a cloud in Cabo. It's a pure vacation spot that never disappoints. Also, when visiting Cabo, I get a chance to break out my Spanish skills, which tend to improve as the night goes on.

Tell us one thing you love about working in the San Diego office?

It's fun being in a growth environment. When I started out in San Diego, there were 12 people in the office. Now we're more than 100! It's fun being a part of that change and working with all the new people. It has also been cool to watch the city of San Diego grow up around the office. The city still has a ways to go, but now that I'm used to that "urban smell," I think it's a pretty cool place.

What was your most unusual job?

I'd have to say my current job. I mean, c'mon—no one knows what "real assets" actually means. I spend my days researching and talking to people about the shadowy worlds of real estate, infrastructure, and commodities. There are all types of characters in these areas, and some of the stuff we come by is pretty bizarre.

What is your favorite local restaurant?

I haven't been there in a while, but I always enjoy South Beach. Great fish tacos, great view, and until recently, they only accepted cash. It's shocking that the IRS never shut them down.

Which Giving Back event in San Diego has meant the most to you?

The Junior Achievement BizTown day is something worth doing. It's a program for 8–10-year-olds. The host property is built out as a mock city with a bank, stores, utility company, doctors, and such, and the kids learn how to budget, balance books, pay bills, buy goods, and so on. I think [stepping onto my soapbox] it is a program that every kid should have a chance to go through *multiple times* to increase financial literacy [steps off soapbox].

What was the first concert you attended?

Pearl Jam on their Vs. tour at the Boston Garden. Eddie Vedder came out wearing a Celtics shirt and the old green and white Converse high-tops that Larry Bird used to wear. The crowd loved it. The concert was unreal—but it may have set the bar a bit too high for future shows.

What sports did you play in school?

I played soccer in high school and college. I also wrestled in high school. I was actually one of the captains of the team. I mentioned this at a lunch with the rest of the San Diego Wealth Management team, and Susan Kobara burst out laughing and almost fell over. I guess I don't look like much of a wrestler anymore!

Your favorite song?

"Fancy" by Iggy Azalea. No doubt about it. I'm pretty sure I heard it about 100 times when I was in Vegas. I now know every word. I'm not sure it's possible to create a better song. Such meaning!

What did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was little, it was a dump-truck driver. Not sure how I got stuck on that profession, but I was adamant for a long time that driving a dump truck was my goal in life.

If you could have any special superhero ability, what would it be?

I wish I was one of those people who didn't need to sleep. How cool would that be?! I used to love sleeping, but now I could do without. I'm probably just getting old, but there seem to be a lot of cool things to try or do that I don't have the time for.

What is one attribute that has contributed to your success at Commonwealth?

I'm not sure I would call myself "successful," but one thing I do enjoy that has helped in my career is my interest in understanding how things work. Call it what you will (I believe they called this type of person a nerd in high school.), but I think it is interesting to read about and try to comprehend the intersection of the markets, the economy, the regulators, and politics and work to help advisors and investors navigate this unique time in history.

What is one of the best pieces of advice you have ever received?

"The loudest guy in the room is usually wrong." It seems to hold a decent amount of truth, especially in the investing world.

**What did I want
to be when I
grew up?**

When I was little,
it was a dump-truck
driver. Not sure
how I got stuck on
that profession. . . .



As director of real assets, Chad is responsible for analysis, approval, and ongoing monitoring of all products with real assets as the underlying investments (e.g., real estate and natural resources).

He joined Commonwealth's Waltham office in February 2000 and moved to our San Diego office in 2001.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE VISITING

SAN DIEGO

- you look out the window from the Service Center and see the bottom letters of Commonwealth proudly displayed on the building.
- you look out the window from the Service Center and see the inmates on break.
- you are wearing shorts in March.
- there's a beer tasting with a local brewery in the Point Loma Lounge on Friday.
- you can bring your dogs to a baseball game.
- you battle for hours to try to win the beer pong championship belt.
- you crash from exhaustion on Wednesday due to the time zone change.
- the afterwork spot (where everybody knows your name) to go for an ice-cold pint of beer with coworkers is Downtown Johnny Brown's rather than Joe Sent Me.
- you're wide awake at 4:00 A.M. in your hotel waiting for the office to open.
- you can walk to Little Italy for lunch and still get back within your hour.
- you're in a meeting in the Balboa Board Room and need to sit with your back to the windows so you don't get distracted watching the planes land a stone's throw away from you.
- you get in the elevator and there are no buttons.



THE OTHER OFFICE WHEN . . .

BY HEATHER ZACK

WALTHAM

- ... you step in the elevator and forget to push the button.
- ... you run into Shaun DeWitt.
- ... you say how much you like the "Wal-thum" office, and immediately 50 people chime in with "It's 'Wal-tham'!"
- ... you're standing outside of every door waiting for someone to let you in because you really didn't think you really needed that little white badge.
- ... the best view in the building is of the courtyard.
- ... taking the elevator is slower than the stairs.
- ... a short commute is under 30 minutes.
- ... you go for drinks with coworkers after work, and when you ask the bartender, "What are the happy-hour specials?" he replies with, "What's happy hour?"
- ... the blue button-down shirt everyone has on isn't mandatory—just encouraged.
- ... you can park your car in the lot for free.
- ... you're standing in line at the convenience store on South Street buying a Diet Coke behind three people buying rolls of scratch tickets.
- ... you need a bread-crumb trail to get back to your desk. The office is HUGE!



HOLD NOTHING BACK

COMMON CONNECTIONS: DEFINING MOMENTS

BY MIKE TRIANA

“**W**E ARE NOT DEFINED BY OUR JOB TITLE, THE CAR WE DRIVE, OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR PASTS. WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL—ANYTHING BUT COMMON, EVEN—are the CHOICES WE MAKE AND THE LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCES IN OUR LIVES.

THERE IS MORE TO US—ALL OF US—THAN MEETS THE EYE. ON THE SURFACE, OUR STORIES MAY ALL SEEM SO DIFFERENT, BUT IT'S OUR WILLINGNESS TO SHARE THAT PAVES THE WAY FOR MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS. THAT'S WHAT THIS COLLECTION IS ALL ABOUT.”

Brittany Finch:

My dad was diagnosed with stage-four lung and bone cancer in 2011. At the time, I was working toward my college degree and working full-time here at Commonwealth. When the news of the diagnosis came, I had to sit down and reprioritize every aspect of my life. I made multiple trips a month to see my dad in Indiana while working and

keeping my grades up at school. Sadly, my dad passed away in February 2012. It was the most hectic and horrific seven months of my life, and looking back on it, I can't believe I made it through. Now when things get tough, I have the mind-set of "If I can get through that, I can get through anything!" Sometimes, the most difficult times make us the strongest.



Ryan Reynolds:

I had just learned how to surf when my older brother Eric, who had been surfing for decades, invited me to go surfing with him in Cardiff. The currents and waves on this specific morning were not for beginners (or the faint of heart). Just getting out to the waves was a huge challenge. Every wall of whitewash that pushed me back felt like a tidal wave. But every time I got

knocked back, my brother would be there yelling, "Keep going!" and "Don't give up!" By what seemed like sheer force of will, I made it out to the waves and found in myself that "never give up" attitude, which I have kept with me throughout my life. No matter how hard something seems, you can always make it through with some encouragement from those you love.

**Cameron Smith:**

My life changed dramatically when my younger brother joined the Marines right out of high school. My family and I went to his boot camp graduation, and it was the coolest thing I had ever seen. Everyone was dressed in their dark-green uniforms as they marched in time standing straight and tall. Not too long after that, I joined the Marines. I left for boot camp on September 17, 2001, six days after 9/11, and it changed my life forever. I was part of the initial invasion into Iraq in March 2003 and the battle for Fallujah in 2004 and was deployed a total of three times in my four-year Marine Corps career.

**Susan Kobara:**

It was the '70s. I had just earned my sociology degree but had no job prospects or even a clue of what to do. A friend in the airline industry asked, "Why don't you interview for flight attendant school?" I said, "Do I look like the flight attendant type?" He looked at my long unkempt hair, makeup-free face, and American flag-emblazoned shirt with no bra underneath and said, "Well, if you clean yourself up, they might hire you." One week later, wearing makeup, nail polish, heels, a dress, and foundation garments, I was hired to fly the friendly international skies. And off I went . . .

**Debbie Wappler:**

My defining moment was seeing the light at the end of the tunnel on my journey toward earning my master's degree. At the age of 39, I had become a single parent raising two teenagers. I decided to go back to school for my teaching credentials. There were many times when I wanted to throw in the towel, but I wanted to set a good example for my kids. My path seemed so long and dark until I took my Portfolio class.

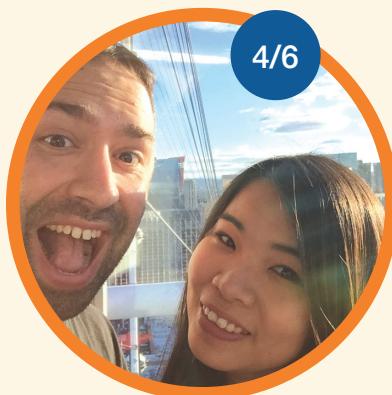


A segment of this class was to write about the journey that had gotten me to this point and what the future looked like. After writing about my path and the mountain I was climbing, I realized that I was almost to the top. I was able to look back and see what I had accomplished so far and see how close I was to accomplishing my goals. I was proud to be a positive example for my children and show them that perseverance pays off.

APR

Flashback

FASHIONABLY LATE,
BUT TOO GOOD
NOT TO INCLUDE . . .



1 2 3 4 5 6

Jon Cooper married Por Saingam.



Charlotte Eastman bought a house.

NATIONAL

6/4
Donut Day

JUN

COMMONWEALTH Community MILESTONES



7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16



6/12
Peanut-Butter
Cookie Day

6/15
Smile Power
Day



Vicki Smith welcomed her third grandson, going from being a grandparent of one to a grandparent of three—in less than a year. All boys, too!

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Heather Doherty gave birth to her son, Joseph Lucas Doherty, who weighed 7 lb. 5 oz.!



Tori Ahmed gave birth to Aiden Tariq Ahmed. Aiden was born on June 25, 2014, at 4:27 P.M., weighing 6 lb. 3 oz. and measuring 19½ inches long. He brings so much joy and lights up the room with his big eyes and smile. Being the first grandchild on both sides, Aiden gets lots of attention when around his grandmothers and many aunts and uncles. By three months old, he has already traveled to three states and taken his first plane ride!

6/20
Flip-Flop Day

6/22
Onion Rings
Day

6/26
Chocolate
Pudding Day

JUL



7/3

Steve Kochis and his wife welcomed their daughter, Maeve Frances Kochis, at 11:15 A.M., weighing 8 lb. 6 oz.



7/11

The Development team is all about building solutions to help others. So, when they heard that the Waltham Boys & Girls Club needed help feeding their 600 kids, the team got to work and built two raised garden beds to support the Summer to Lunch garden program.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17



7/4

Charlotte Eastman got engaged to George Allen. Their wedding date is set for August 23, 2015.



NATIONAL

7/6
Fried Chicken Day

7/10
Piña Colada Day

7/13
French Fry Day

7/11



Erin Rainwater and her husband welcomed their first child, Owen James Rainwater. He was born at 11:46 A.M. weighing in at 5 lb. 9 oz. and measuring 19 inches long. Here he is at 8 months old.

7/25



18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

7/24



Comic-Con descends upon the streets of San Diego for three days straight. Even the home office got in on the cosplay action for a day.

7/29



Kristen Johnson gave birth to her daughter, Madison Malone Johnson. Madison was born at 7:05 A.M. weighing 7 lb. 5 oz. and measuring 19 inches long. Madison is a vibrant baby—constantly moving around, engaging everyone with her adorable smiles and taking in the world around her. She loves reading books and going for walks with Mom and Dad and, of course, being awake, especially at bedtime!

7/19
Ice Cream Day

7/21
Crème Brûlée Day

7/23
Hot Dog Day

7/26
Bagelfest Day

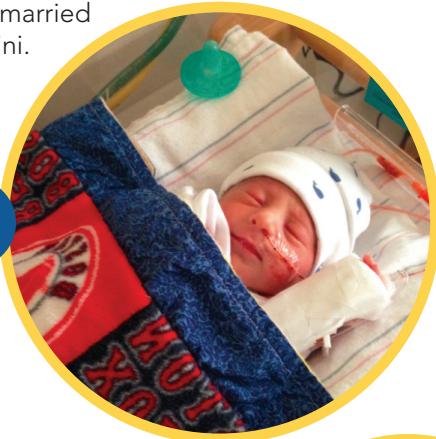
7/28
Milk Chocolate Day

AUG



Jessica Warner got married to Charles Marchesini.

8/4



Nancy (Dusseault) and Anthony DiBattista welcomed a baby boy, Dominic Carmine DiBattista. He was born at 10:24 A.M. weighing in at 5 lb. and measuring 18 inches.



Charles Thornton got engaged to Vanessa Supple.



Joseph Carothers bought a new house.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 .3 14 15 16 17



Joe Mayo got engaged to Diana Leroux. The two met in 2009 on their Spring Break cruise during their senior year of college and have been together ever since. The wedding will be in August 2015.



Jennifer Cray married Karl Meyer at the Red Barn at Hampshire College.



Heather Napoleone went to Belize to celebrate her 10th wedding anniversary and swam with sharks!



NATIONAL

8/2
Friendship Day

8/6
Root Beer
Float Day

8/9
Book Lovers Day

8/12
Middle Child
Day

8/15
Relaxation Day



8/23

Lauren Alvernaz finished her first Tough Mudder challenge—and the beer she got at the finish line!



8/23

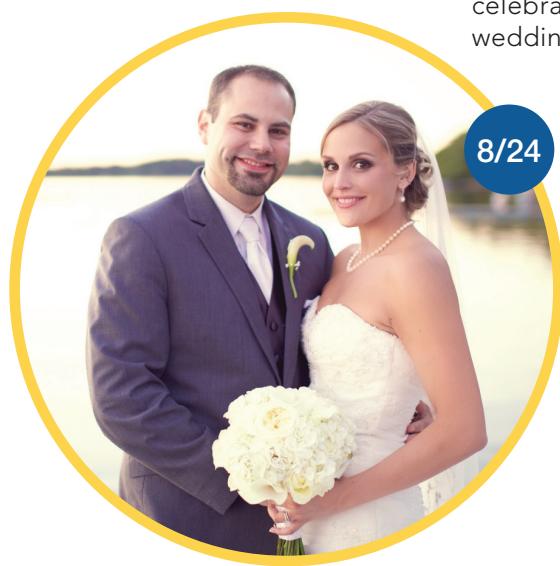
Justin Joseph married his wife, Jenita.



8/29

Chris Monsour and his wife welcomed a baby girl, Mila, into their world!

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



8/24

Lisa Plante and her husband celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary!



8/30

Michela Giordano and Lou Glantz got engaged! Lou and Michela met at Commonwealth in 2011. They got engaged on Labor Day Weekend during a mini-vacation on Martha's Vineyard. Just as the sun was setting, they went for a walk down the beach, and he proposed. The Vineyard is a very special place to Michela and her family, so she couldn't have imagined a more perfect place to get engaged! They are planning an April 2016 wedding.

8/19
Aviation Day

8/22
Tooth Fairy
Day

8/24
Waffle Day

8/26
Women's
Equality Day

SEPT



9/3

Jim Adelman and his wife went on a safari in Tanzania to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.

Peter Essele traveled to Cartagena de Indias, a city on Colombia's Caribbean coast. One of Spain's largest colonial forts, the Castillo San Felipe de Barajas, can be found here. Much of the gold and silver extracted from the mines in South America were loaded in Cartagena, hence the forts.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16



9/6

Corie New got married to Mike Knowlton at the New Children's Museum in San Diego.

9/8



NATIONAL

9/4
Macadamia Nut Day

9/10
Swap Ideas Day

9/13
Pet Memorial Day

9/16
Cinnamon Raisin Bread Day



9/20

Jon Cooper, Tim Badertscher, and John Rooney organized and hosted the first-ever San Diego Commonwealth Golf Tournament at Steele Canyon Golf Club.

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



9/20

Sarah Andreozzi got married to Nick Littlefield in Freeport, Maine, at the Mallet Barn, Wolfe's Neck Farm.

9/27



Adam Blackwood got married!



1998

Kelsey Roy finally upgraded her car! For the past nine years, she had been driving a 1998 Honda Accord. When it turned 16 years old, she decided it was time to join the 21st century. She is now rocking and rolling in a 2013 Subaru Impreza and loving it.

9/27



2014

9/19
Butterscotch Pudding Day

9/21
Pecan Cookie Day

9/24
Cherries Jubilee Day

9/27
Corned Beef Hash Day

OCT

For the first time, our turkey fry event included dessert. Delicious fried dessert. Frank Capuano had the brilliant idea to mix up some batter and deep-fry three packages of Oreos. They were a big hit and are bound to make a reappearance on the menu.



10/16

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17



10/1

Sharon Haley and her husband spent a 10-day journey island-hopping in Hawaii. From the sunrise atop Haleakala at 10,000 feet, to a helicopter tour of the Big Island with an ex-Navy pilot, to a visit to Pearl Harbor, this was a trip full of memories to last a lifetime.



NATIONAL

10/4
Taco Day

10/8
Fluffernutter Day

10/11
Angel Food
Cake Day

10/15
I Love Lucy Day



10/19

Andrew Mills started getting back into photography this year. He promised himself to edit and post one photo per day on the social media accounts that he created specifically for his photos. A week or two in, he was published on a photography magazine's Facebook feed, and then a week later, again on its blog.

www.flickr.com/photos/dollamillsyall

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



10/25

Brendan Daly tackled the Ghost Train Rail Trail Race supermarathon and ran 100 miles in just under 28 hours!

Team "Too Scary Fore You" (Kelsey Conklin, Andrew Mills, Greg Carlson, and Mike Legacy) won the San Diego office's 2014 Solo Cup Mini-Golf tournament by a single stroke.



10/31

10/18
Chocolate
Cupcake Day

10/20
Branded
Fruit Day

10/23
Boston Cream
Pie Day

10/25
Mother-in-Law
Day

10/27
American
Beer Day

NOV-DEC



11/2

Tracy (Paulo) Davey and her husband Sean were married at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Sean's alma mater. It was a "small" wedding by Paulo family standards, but they still topped off at 250 guests. After the ceremony, a great time was had celebrating at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton. Tracy and Sean did, however, get a bit of grief over it being a Sunday wedding—and the Patriots were playing the late-afternoon game. Tracy tried to move it, she swears.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

11/15



NATIONAL

11/2
Deviled Egg Day

11/8
Cappuccino Day

11/11
Sundae Day

11/14
Spicy Guacamole Day

Natalie Olivier got engaged to Ascer Barlatier on Christmas morning. Their wedding date is set for August 16, 2015.



Rich Lynch won the 2014 Ugly (and Awesome) Holiday Sweater contest. His prize? A tchotchke, of course.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

12/2



Sean Lawrence and his wife welcomed Aubrey Carol into their world. Here she is at five months old with her big sister Gwen. Two cuties!

12/14



Jason Lui and his wife are overcome with joy for their baby girl, Annabelle Jade, born at 3:14 A.M. and weighing 6 lb. 6 oz. She loves to laugh, smile, and be hyper—especially right before her bedtime. Having already had her first taste of a Boston championship with the Pats' 2015 Super Bowl win, the Luis look forward to watching many other championships with her.

12/25



When Bob LoPorto's son was three years old, Bob told him he could get a dog when he was 10. Well, wouldn't you know it—his son remembered! Bob surprised his two kids with a dog this Christmas. Her name is Georgia, after their favorite state from a family road trip.

12/19
Oatmeal
Muffin Day

12/21
French-Fried
Shrimp Day

12/24
Eggnog Day

12/27
Fruitcake Day

SANDIE

From chilly November hikes and cooking elaborate family meals from scratch—to golfing, surfing, and visiting favorite beach spots—our diverse San Diego staff sure covers a lot of ground during our holiday celebrations! We've asked our West Coast team to share with us their favorite family holiday traditions!



I come from a large, Italian family, and we have traditions for almost every holiday. For Christmas, we all gather at my aunt's house the day before to prepare homemade ravioli and sauce for Christmas dinner. Every person has an assigned task that he or she has been doing for years. Certain people are assigned to make the dough, others are responsible for filling the ravioli, and so on. We even created a special job of counting the ravioli for my younger nieces and nephews so they can participate as well!

— Kelsey Conklin



I have always gotten Christmas PJs for the family, which they can open on Christmas Eve. This year was fun trying to find some cute ones for the three grandchildren! Also, we try to get over to the Hotel Del each year and have a family picture taken in front of the enormous tree in its lobby.

— Vicki Smith



Every year on Thanksgiving, my family and I go on a hike through the woods. Close family, distant relatives, friends, and neighbors all get together at 10:00 A.M. to hike through Lithia Springs Reservoir in South Hadley, Massachusetts. This includes people and pets of all ages—everyone from grandparents to young children to dogs. No matter the weather, we always go. It allows us to appreciate nature and give thanks for all of our loved ones. It also gives us some time to walk off the ridiculous amount of food we're about to eat!

We end the hike at someone's house close by—usually my parent's house—to enjoy some drinks, appetizers, and good company before parting ways and going to our Thanksgiving dinners. It's my favorite holiday tradition. Until moving to San Diego, I never missed a Thanksgiving hike. Unfortunately, I haven't been home to attend it in the past four years, but it's guaranteed that I'll receive a call or text from a family member while they're hiking.

— PJ Gagne



A few years after our son was born, we decided to create our own Christmas tradition with just our immediate family. Each Christmas, we rent a cabin in Idyllwild—a quaint mountain town 2.5 hours outside San Diego. We secretly bring all our Christmas gifts already wrapped and set up a makeshift tree on Christmas Eve. My son is pleasantly surprised each year that Santa knows where to find us.

It's a lovely tradition because it's the one time of the year that we can be together with no distractions and no scheduled plans. We take time to just chill out and unplug for a few days. Usually, there is snow on the ground, which really gives it that cozy holiday feel.

— Amy Pagano

GO FAMILY HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Steeped in Tradition: FAMILY HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

BY MARY CREAGH



I once asked an advisor if he had any fun traditions with his kids when they were growing up. He told me that they would go to a different city every year for New Year's Eve. My family and I thought this was such a great idea to memorialize the passing of each year that we decided to do it, too.

While islands and ski resorts can get crazy expensive on those dates, everyday cities are great alternatives and have good availability. So far, we've spent 2011 at Joe's place in Las Vegas, 2012 in New York/New Jersey, 2013 in Minneapolis, and 2014 in Washington, DC. Now when we think back on our family vacations, we can easily remember the dates!

— John Rooney



Growing up in Vermont, our dad's wish was to leave the New England winters for the warmth of the California sunshine. To this day, this is something that not only he, but our whole family, is thankful for. Over the last few years, our family

tradition is to play a round of golf on Christmas Eve to really appreciate the warm December weather and then send pictures to our relatives back East who are usually knee-deep in snow. The pictures usually consist of us in shorts basking in the sun, as well as pictures of the current temperature. Fortunately, our relatives take everything in stride, and we all have a great laugh.

— Liz, Mike, and Jennifer Legacy



Family gatherings at Thanksgiving have always been a special time for me. My daughter's in-laws live up near Sacramento, so coordinating holidays with the whole family can be tricky. The last few years, however, have been a little different.

My daughter and her husband own a trailer that sits in a campground near Bodega Bay (where they filmed *The Birds* and *The Goonies*). The rest of our family had been wanting to visit the area, so two years ago, we made the trip for Thanksgiving. We visited the Armstrong Redwoods, fished, played campfire games, and ate clam chowder on the docks. We had such a great time and have been doing it ever since. We started a new Thanksgiving tradition that I hope continues for years to come.

— Debbie Wapler



My three kids are "hapa," which means they are half Japanese-American. To honor my husband's heritage, Christmas Eve is spent eating tons of sushi and sashimi. Occasionally, they force me to drink a sake bomb. To honor my family's heritage, I cook a homestyle Italian dinner on Christmas Day. It could be eggplant parmigiana, ossobuco, or lasagna with a nice Chianti (No one has to force me to drink the Chianti).

After all the feasting, we spend hours on the phone catching up with family members scattered around the globe. Since the kids moved out, Christmas is so special because it is one of the few times that all five of us can come together and celebrate our roots.

— Susan Kobara

For more than 10 years now, a couple of friends and I have made our own tradition of waking up early on Christmas day and surfing Trestles Beach in San Clemente. I want to say it started when I was a freshman or sophomore in high school and I got a new surfboard for Christmas. It's a fun, uncommon holiday tradition.

— Ed Ciuffo

MEET GREG CARLSON

COMMONWEALTH'S MOST INTERESTING MAN

Every so often you hear stories about really interesting people—like the man who wrestled great whites and won or the lady who biked across the U.S. with only a dollar in her pocket. Stories that almost sound too crazily good to be true.

Well, we have one of those people among us here at Commonwealth: the one and only Greg Carlson.

BY JON COOPER

A photograph of a group of approximately eight young children of African descent, mostly shirtless, gathered around a man in the center. The man has light-colored hair and is wearing sunglasses on his head, a grey t-shirt with 'PATRIOTS' and a New England Patriots logo, and yellow shorts. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. One child in the foreground on the right is holding a large, ripe orange fruit, possibly a mango. The background shows a stone wall and some greenery.

Even the most interesting man knows which team to root for while in St. Vincent.

MEET GREG CARLSON CONTINUED

Just to give you some idea of what I am talking about, he has:

- Traveled to 25 countries
- Lived in St. Lucia, Chile, and Cambodia
- Twice left and returned to Commonwealth—in the midst of which he helped Jeremy Krol get his job here (yeah, Krol—who has been here for 11+ years)

Greg first found his way to Commonwealth through an internship while earning his undergrad degree from Bentley. Then, after college, he joined the Peace Corps. Once he was stateside again, Greg rejoined Commonwealth in 2009 as a transition specialist on the HelpDesk. But soon enough he was off again—this time to earn his MBA at Notre Dame. (Follow all that?)

You ask, "What did this guy do after the MBA?" Oh, no big deal. He just went to work for IBM. But like I said, he has twice returned to Commonwealth. Even the way he found himself back at Commonwealth the second time around is interesting. He moved out to San Diego on a whim with his brother and friends. Lucky for Greg—and Commonwealth—we have this West Coast office for him to call home.

I could go on and on (Beekeeping! Rabbit farming! A limousine!), but let's have the pictures tell you the rest of this most interesting story . . .



2004 – Laborie, St. Lucia

While I was hammering away on my Commodore 64, Greg was teaching computers to kids in St. Lucia. In case you can't tell, kids love him!



2011 – Siem Reap, Cambodia

Greg was here conducting rabbit-farming economics research. You can't be the most interesting man without some hard work mixed in. Greg was in Cambodia for three months working for a nonprofit organization researching business activities that could be adopted by rural community schools to help bridge the funding gap.



2005 – St. Lucia

Greg taught beekeeping—yes, beekeeping—to the locals as a trade for them to make a living.



2011 – Siem Reap, Cambodia

How many of us can say we have a picture like this? I am lucky if my mother will take a picture with me, never mind four international women of mystery.



2015 – San Diego, California

Well, since he can already go wherever he wants on land, Greg and his friends took to the sea and bought a boat. Oh, and look—they're taking to air travel, too . . .

San Diego



TIME ZONES AND TRIBULA

BY MIKE TRIANA

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MIKE HOWLAND

When you think about the differences between the San Diego and Waltham offices, the first thing that probably comes to mind is the weather—which is perfectly valid. For example, people in our Waltham office experience a variety of weather conditions such as blizzards, hurricanes, and high humidity, while folks in our San Diego office . . . don't.

Weather aside, you might not realize just how many small differences exist between the two coasts. Differences—some work-related and some not—that affect our daily lives. That's why—for you—I have done my best to depict two simultaneous "day in the life" scenarios of a Waltham and a San Diego employee.

Please note: While some of these situations are exaggerated for effect, some are based on true events. I'll let you figure out which is which.

SAN DIEGO

**3:00 A.M.**

Sound asleep in my San Diego Chargers pajamas.

6:15 A.M.

Still asleep. My alarm went off at 6:00 A.M., but since I live so close to the office I can hit snooze four or five times.

8:15 A.M.

I just turned on my computer. I have 97 unread e-mail messages, two voicemails from advisors who were looking for a call back an hour ago, and I have a meeting in 15 minutes with a Waltham team member. Is 8:15 too early for a Red Bull?

**10:00 A.M.**

Just got done with my meeting. Still have 52 e-mails left to read and one more advisor to call back.

2:00 P.M.

Taking a late lunch. Normally, I would go out because the weather is 75 degrees and sunny, but today there's an unusual moisture in the air, like drops of water will fall from the sky or something. One of my Waltham colleagues suggested I should just have a fluffernutter, but I'm not really sure what that is. I will live dangerously and drive, but for safety, I won't go any faster than 15 miles per hour.

5:00 P.M.

It's been a long day. Clippers-Celtics game tonight. Game starts in 2½ hours. Gives me some time to head to the bar down the street for an hour or so for some food and a couple of adult beverages. They have the best happy hour. \$2 drafts until 7:00 P.M.

**6:30 P.M.**

Just remembered the season finale of *Game of Thrones* is on tonight, too. I will record it so I can watch the Clippers game. Just have to remember to turn my phone off so I do not accidentally see any spoiler Facebook posts or tweets from my Waltham counterparts.

9:00 P.M.

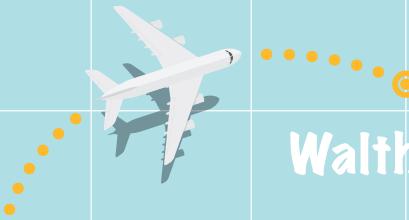
Great game! The score is tied at half-time. After the fourth quarter, I will catch up on *Game of Thrones* and be in bed by midnight.

**3:00 A.M.**

(the next morning)

Sound asleep again. This time in my San Diego Padres pajamas.

TIONS



Waltham

WALTHAM

6:00 A.M.

My alarm just went off. I get up, fist bump the life-size cutout of Tom Brady next to my bed, and start getting ready for work.

9:15 A.M.

I am caught up on my own pending work for today, but I am busy responding to e-mails and phone calls for my San Diego colleagues who are still in bed.

11:15 A.M.

I am all caught up with my cases. I have a meeting with one of my San Diego team members, and then it is lunch time.



1:00 P.M.

It's lunch time. I really want to go out somewhere, but I don't want to take up 30 minutes of my lunch digging my car out of the snow. I have some peanut butter and Fluff in my desk, so I will just do that instead.

5:00 P.M.

Almost time to head home. Looking forward to the Celtics-Clippers game tonight. Oh wait—Celts are on the road. Too bad the game won't start for another 5½ hours.



8:00 P.M.

Still waiting for the Celts game to start. Seeing as happy hour is illegal in Massachusetts, I just came straight home.



9:30 P.M.

Game still hasn't started.



12:00 A.M.

Great game. The score is tied at half-time. Although, if I want to be even remotely productive at work tomorrow, I better get to bed.

6:00 A.M.

(the next morning)

Just woke up and checked my phone to see that the Celtics won on a buzzer beater with one second left. It's okay though; I know you still love me, Tom Brady. *fist bump*

BEYOND THE FLIGHT



JET LAG PREVENTION PLAN

1

Adjust your sleeping pattern.

2

Rest during the flight.

3

Adjust your watch to the new time zone.

4

Eat light meals.

5

Take regular walks during your flight.

6

Keep hydrated.

7

If needed, take jet lag treatment.

8

Avoid drinking alcohol.

9

Avoid junk food/heavy meals.

10

Avoid fizzy drinks.

11

Avoid coffee.

info from healthexpress.co.uk

2014 Entertainment Wrap-Up

We polled Commonwealth employees about this year's entertainment, and here's what you had to say:

What show were you saddest to hear was coming to an end?

- Parks and Recreation: 31%
- Sons of Anarchy: 30%
- Mad Men: 16%
- True Blood: 12%
- Boardwalk Empire: 9%
- Glee: 1%

What was the most enjoyable championship game to watch in 2014?

- Super Bowl: Seattle Seahawks Vs. Denver Broncos: 36%
- World Cup: Germany Vs. Argentina: 28%
- Stanley Cup: Los Angeles Kings Vs. New York Rangers: 14%
- World Series: San Francisco Giants Vs. Kansas City Royals: 11%
- Ryder Cup: Europe Vs. U.S.: 7%
- NBA Finals: San Antonio Spurs Vs. Miami Heat: 5%

What is the most overplayed song of 2014?

- "Happy" – Pharrell Williams: 44%
- "Fancy" – Iggy Azalea: 19%
- "Rude" – Magic!: 12%
- "Shake It Off" – Taylor Swift: 10%
- "Timber" – Pitbull: 10%
- "Problem" – Ariana Grande: 5%

What was your favorite movie in 2014?

- The Lego Movie: 22%
- Gone Girl: 21%
- The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1: 20%
- Interstellar: 16%
- 22 Jump Street: 14%
- The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: 7%

What movie are you most excited about in 2015?

- Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens: 37%
- The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2: 23%
- Jurassic World: 16%
- Entourage: 12%
- Fifty Shades of Grey: 7%
- Spectre: 5%

BY ANN WHITEMAN

Here's what the critics thought was the "cream of the crop" in 2014:

GRAMMY WINNER FOR ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Daft Punk,
Random Access Memories

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER FOR BEST PICTURE

12 Years a Slave

EMMY WINNER FOR BEST DRAMA SERIES

Breaking Bad

EMMY WINNER FOR BEST COMEDY SERIES

Modern Family



Meanwhile, in the Twittersphere, Ellen posted the most retweeted photo of the year.



MEET THE TEAM

Hindsight. Foresight. Ah, if only . . .

We asked this issue's **COMMONground** crew to wax poetic (and prophetic) to its younger selves. Here's what they've got to say.

JON COOPER'S ADVICE TO HIS 30-YEAR-OLD SELF:



Go back in time and give my younger self some advice? Is the technology really ready for this? What are the complications? Can I actually meet myself in the past? I thought the Doc made it clear this was a no-no when he discussed it with Marty. But I digress. Who am I to question such things?

Let's get to it:

- **Do some push-ups**, maybe a sit-up or two. You are going to realize real fast that a man can look pregnant.
- **Stop using any hair products**. You will look foolish if you go bald, and it is happening . . .
- **Go back to school**. If you did this back when, then you wouldn't be taking classes for your master's now. You need to enjoy the outdoors before you go back to the winters in Massachusetts.
- **Move to San Diego**. You will meet a great group of friends and coworkers and really get to grow with the company.
- **Pay extra money to your mortgage**. Even though everyone says the real estate market is coming back, guess what? Your town house is not included in that market. Blame the big mortgage companies and the man.
- **Play the following lottery numbers on February 2015**: 11, 13, 25, 39, 54, and 19 for the Powerball. You are welcome.

MARY CREAGH'S ADVICE TO HER 17-YEAR-OLD SELF:



Some life-changing advice to 17-year-old Mary—oh, where do I start! What stands out at the top of my list and on the tip of my tongue is this:

- **Have confidence in who you are**. Don't compare yourself to others so much, and be proud of you—strengths, interests, quirks, and all. It's a difficult thing for young adults to learn in this day and age.
- **Avoid using Sun-In**. At all costs.

- **Don't sweat the small stuff**. I can still hear my dad telling me this time after time growing up . . . and he was so right.
- **Take those opportunities to travel and explore!** Whether it be going abroad for a semester, with family/friends on a camping adventure, or even a quick trip with friends, just go! Work and social obligations will always be there waiting for you. Take the opportunity to have those amazing experiences!

MIKE TRIANA'S ADVICE TO HIS 21-YEAR-OLD SELF:



- You cannot pull off a mustache. Trust me.
- If you have the opportunity to **travel somewhere you haven't been to before**, do it.
- No matter what your friends say, **tequila is never a good idea**.
- There's a company going public this year that you should check out and **consider buying some stock**. It's called Google.
- If you want to improve, you have to **be okay with looking stupid every once in a while**.
- Treat yo'self.

HEATHER ZACK'S ADVICE TO HER 26-YEAR-OLD SELF:



Hey you! Yeah, you! You are about to move across the country to take on the hardest thing you have ever done.

Between now and then, you will get broken up with, and **you will think your life is ruined**—trust me, it isn't. You will feel completely alone for a couple of months, but by the time you leave San Diego, you will have a group of friends that have

become family (most of them from Commonwealth!). Law school is going to be a brutal, sometimes soul-crushing experience, but it will be worth it. **Study more**, eh? And during 1L year, refrain from celebrating finishing your brief until a nonwork night—you will sleep in your car, and it will be a very tough day at work (sorry, Tara Grutek!). It will be a tough few years, but enjoy every minute of it because it will be over before you know it. And, finally, and perhaps most important, **don't get bangs**. They are not a good look for you. Just trust me.

Geographically speaking

Originally from the East Coast: **28**



Born and raised in San Diego County: **12**

Originally from Massachusetts: **15**

How we get around

Average length of commute (in minutes): **24**

Drive to work and park in the garage: **34**

Drive to work and park elsewhere: **16**

Walk to work: **6**



Bike to work: **2**

Take public transportation: **2**

That So-Cal life

Surfers: **13**



Own a beach cruiser: **12**

Pairs of flip-flops: **223**

SAN DIEGO

BY THE NUMBERS

Over the course of a month

California burritos eaten: **71**

Tacos consumed: **240**

Happy hours attended: **158**

Visits to the beach: **220**



Good to know

Dog owners: **25**



Favorite football team is the Chargers: **18**

Favorite football team is the Pats: **16**



COMMONWEALTH