

Season's greetings friends and family! Haley here - this year I'm tying my family updates to some of the places we ventured in 2018. Though not exhaustive, I hope you enjoy some highlights:



**Schenectady, NY** - Since I'm the one writing this letter, I'm starting with me and my life. This year I moved to upstate NY after six wonderful months in Greenville, SC. In my third rotation with GE's DTLP program I'm developing emerging technologies for manufacturing and while this role could not be more fun, I don't hate that I will be moving to Atlanta for my final 6 months early in the new year.

**Budapest, Copenhagen, and Split** - Ha! Bet you thought I was done talking about myself! Alas, I am not. This summer I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Hungary for work training and managed to squeeze in some play on either side with some of my best friends from high school and work. Could literally talk about this trip for hours - please feel free to ping me offline and I'll give you specifics and show you more pictures than was reasonable for one human to take.

**Cusco, Lima, and Machu Picchu, Peru** - Our resident ~granola gang adventure couple~ headed on down to South America this summer because they heard I needed to hit more continents with this card. Carrie and Matthew enjoyed climbing all the things and eating what they've described as the single best meal of their entire lives. I hear their 2nd Christmas card as a married couple will feature pictures from said trip so stay tuned!

**Salt Lake City, Utah** - Upon their return in September, the Buses ran off to the other side of the country because they apparently hate us all. This is all I will say on the subject.

Just kidding! When Carrie's not performing supply chain analysis for Walker Edison and Matthew's not engineering systems for a clean energy startup the two of them can be found hurtling down the nearest mountain (which I hear is only 15 minutes from their apartment!) and are generally thrilled with their decision to move to SLC. They promise they'll come back home eventually and we're all stoked to go visit!

**Azores Islands, Portugal** - As for Evan, in addition to travels to the Azores in the spring because she found a great Travel Zoo deal (seriously that girl is a professional) memories from this year include Cuban rum (more about that later), the Canadian Rockies and a brief stint as a (read: my) landlord. She graciously yielded the rest of her allotted space in the letter so I could talk more about myself.

**Paris, France** - And not to be outdone, young Benjamin would like to announce that while he mostly stayed put this year he's packing his bags for a semester abroad in 2019! In the second half of his Junior year at USC he'll be taking some courses towards his business degree but also "History of Paris" so obviously it'll be a big sacrifice for him. He's now accepting weekend trip recommendations.

**West Ashley, SC** - Mama's big travel this year was across town to her new job with Roper St. Francis hospital! She started this spring as the Director of Mission for the hospital system and is absolutely loving it.

**Havana, Cuba** - But perhaps the greatest adventure of the year was one we took as a family in celebration of Dad's big 6-0! The family cruised south by way of Key West (see attached picture) towards the promise of classic cars and mojitos. When we arrived in Havana, we encountered plenty of both. It was absolutely a blast and I'm still daydreaming of matching shirts and way too loud singing (very on-brand for our family). Highlights included Dad purchasing cigars "wholesale" (direct from the factory!) and getting a henna tattoo of his army insignia. We'll see if he makes good on his promise to get a real one in 2019. Of course, this was after a few of the aforementioned mojitos ...

Thanks for following along with our year! One of the very best parts of traveling, though, is having such wonderful people and places to call home. We're so grateful for each and every one of you and wish you a Christmas filled with love and family and a New Year of adventures!

Love, *Haley* (on behalf of the Cottingham Family)