

Esteemed friends and Dearest family,

It's time for the annual (three years in the making) Cottingham Christmas letter which has become the most important thing I do all year. I had a longer, cooler intro but cut it for the sake of keeping this baby on one page:

We'll start with our fearless eldest, Elizabeth Evans. Evan achieved her Manufacturing Quality Black Belt Certification (coooooo!), started a new job (still with GE Power), traveled to Ireland, Bali and Vietnam and then bought a house just to round it all out and show us all up. Honestly at a certain point it just gets old.

Onto the Buses: Matt's highlights were submitted as following in chronological order: "Tigers won the Natty 2. Bought my first BMW 3. Married my dream girl 4. Enjoyed having said wife and car for the remainder of the year" He neglected, however, to acknowledge both being inducted into the family GroupMe *and* his debut on the Christmas card per Lisa's "Spouses Only" rule. The inclusion of a Clemson win is unprecedented in this letter although to be fair Ev's been a loyal tiger for like at least 6 years. Feels bold on his first one out the gate but... ok.

From Carrie: "Worked as a foreman over a fast -paced industrial assembly line while my mom planned my wedding. Attended/participated in said incredible wedding. Married the best dude on the market. Went to St. Lucia. Finished my rotational program and accepted a job with Textron Specialized Vehicles as "Master Scheduler for Fabrication" Moved to a new (rented) home in North Augusta, SC. Planted a nice garden. Ran a half marathon. Beat my crossword puzzle record. Umm.... Learned to cook more than just sweet potatoes and kale. Hosted my first Thanksgiving with all my fun new registry items."

Young Benjamin is halfway through his second semester at the Flagship University of this state. This year, Ben joined the business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi and was also selected to be a University Ambassador (Ask him what the oldest building on USC's campus is)! He also lead said business fraternity's intermural football team to victory in what will probably go down as their most impressive season until a broken wrist sidelined him. We're not really sure when he finds time to go to class but he swears he does so we stopped asking questions.

In May, I pomp'd and circumstanced my way into the #realWorld leaving Furman with a degree in Computer Science and a one way ticket to Milwaukee, WI for my first rotation as part of GE's Digital Technology Leadership Program<sup>1</sup>. In my six month stint as a Brilliant Factory Project Manager I got to play middleman between manufacturing and technology while spending my off time immersed in a culture of cheese and Midwestern professional sports. In February I'm moving back to Greenville for Rotation 2 where I'll be living with my sister in the aforementioned new house and working as a software engineer! Thoughts and prayers that I survive (both) are welcome.

Dad had a very sports-centric year cheering his beloved Gamecocks to the Final Four and attending the semi finals with my mom in Phoenix. They chose hiking in Sedona over attending the actual final because that game is overrated anyway. He also increased the number of professional sporting events I've attended by 300% escorting me to NFL, NBA and MLB games during my time in The Good Land. Finally, he counts surviving the wedding of his daughter as a major accomplishment of 2017, as well. Great job Dad!

Mama's 2017 highlights also included Carrie and Matthew's wedding where "it was so wonderful to have so many people we love in the same room." She's enjoying her early (and perhaps temporary) retirement but never stays still for long. Stay tuned for her next big moves.

Further affiant sayeth naught<sup>2</sup>. Wishing you a wonderful 2018, stay blessed, stay woke<sup>3</sup>.

*Haley*

[Signed via my trackpad  
so it kind of looks like a 4  
year old did it]

<sup>1</sup> For info on my two week "I graduated college so now I'm going to Europe!!" adventure in the interim, check out @roamincatholichgc on Instagram.

<sup>2</sup> This is centuries old English lawyer talk that Dad felt need to be included this year.

<sup>3</sup> This is more recently termed English that I felt needed to be included this year.