



2004 was another busy year, with travel, work and school taking center stage – literally. In the winter Steve and Dani took an evening class in bronze casting where Dani created a spectacular wolf head sculpture. During February Steve judged wines again at the International Wine Competition. Then, as Dani's early 13<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, we set sail aboard the Disney Wonder with two of Dani's friends for a Bahamas cruise.



In March Linda was busy working on Stitch, a new attraction at the Magic Kingdom, so Steve and Dani headed for Punta Gorda with the Windermere Prep 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades for an "American Adventure." The highlight was a marine biology outing to an uninhabited island where the kids found lots of interesting sea creatures. They arrived back in time for a quiet dinner at home and some caviar to celebrate our 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



Alcorn McBride continues to thrive, and Steve added a record five new employees this year who have really helped make the company run smoothly.

In May Dani graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For her "Turning the Page" presentation she took advantage of her fascination with all things Star Trek and delivered an Archeological report on early 21<sup>st</sup> century education as a 24<sup>th</sup> century scientist. At the annual Windermere Prep awards ceremony she was thrilled to receive the Veritas Award, recognizing her constant quest for knowledge.



With the end of school we all headed to Europe for our longest vacation ever – a whole month. We began with a week in Paris, visiting our friends Henry and Marjolaine, who run Alcorn McBride's European subsidiary. Then we were off to Rome for a few days on our own. Dani was sidelined for a few days with a cold, but having been to Rome before didn't mind spending the time with Dan Brown books and room service while Steve and Linda explored some fascinating excavations with an archeological guide. We then connected with a tour group for a few days exploring lovely Umbria before boarding the Star Princess in Venice. Our twelve day cruise took us to Athens, Turkey, back to Italy and finally to Spain, where we spent the Fourth of July in wonderful Barcelona.



Back in the USA it seemed the summer had rushed past and it was already nearing time for Dani to start high school. This year she is going to Trinity Preparatory School. To get acclimated she decided to take a three-week summer drama class, performing Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. She loved it, forming close attachments with many students in the drama department.



In August Hurricane Charley visited, delaying the start of school. Then Dani headed to North Carolina with her new classmates for a "high rocks" bonding trip. She arrived back in time for Hurricane Frances. Steve began an evening figure drawing class, but the 90-minute morning drive to Trinity followed by a 90-minute evening drive back to the class was a bit much. By the time Hurricane Jeanne arrived we were really getting tired of wind and rain and the lack of air conditioning. During each of the three storms our power was out for two days, and Jeanne finally managed to bring down our screen room, a feat the other two hadn't managed.



In November Linda opened Stitch at the Magic Kingdom. It was well received, and the pesky title character even TP'ed Cinderella's Castle to commemorate the occasion. She attended the Walt Disney Imagineering Service Awards dinner and received a Tinkerbell statue to commemorate her 25 years with the company.

Our friend Pamela visited from Australia for three weeks, and was here to see Dani's performance in Julius Caesar, which was terrific – way beyond ordinary high school theater. Steve is creating a second online class, this one about mystery writing. His Dad is joining us for Thanksgiving through Christmas. We hope the season gives you time to enjoy friends and family and the new year finds you healthy, happy and prosperous.

— Steve, Linda and Dani Alcorn

