

The Taylor Gazette

Volume 12

Winter 2006-2007

Greetings!

Another year has flown by way too fast! Seems like yesterday that we wrote last year's letter. We hope this finds you in good health and spirit. And now, for tales of the Taylor's

Jim's 2006 highlight is his second hip replaced in October...on Friday the 13th. Isn't it so typical that newsletters of the aging include medical news? He feels great and now and is pain free. Last August, he also embarked on the Jenny Craig weight loss program and is half way to his target weight goal. Jim continues with Kramer Electronics for nearly 6 years and loves it.

Debbie's biggest news is her acceptance of a position with the Stratford Public schools as a grant writer. She managed to receive \$65,000 for the first grant she wrote – funding for a H.S. math program which includes in-school and after school tutorial components and about \$30,000 worth of technology to outfit four classrooms. At least her job is assured for a year! She continues volunteering at Sterling House Community Center and for the Bunnell H.S. Marching band as well as trying to establish a directory of local artists. Her passion is in the arts so she keeps her hand in it whenever possible. Debbie took a playwriting class, writing several short plays. She may enter them in contests when she gets a chance. She also tried jewelry making, but found this not to her liking. Debbie continues her fiber crafts, making knitted and crocheted handbags. She plans to offer them for sale when she has a large enough collection.

David started high school, so both boys are in the same school for one year. He seemed to make an easy adjustment since he knew many kids already. He joined the marching band, playing various percussion instruments in the "pit" (the group that plays electronics and percussion in stationary position). He has started taking his drums more seriously and plays them quite a bit under Jared's bedroom. He sounds great, but it is LOUD! We will need to look into soundproof ceiling tiles! The theme this year was the circus, so the pit was the "freak show" You will want to see the photos to truly appreciate it!

Because David is now too old to attend the camp at Sterling House, he spent the summer as a Counselor in Training. It kept him engaged in activities and it was so much better than sitting in front of a computer screen or TV. David eats us out of house and home as most 14 year olds do. He has grown only a little this year after major growth spurts and has one more coming according to the doctor.

Jared has had the most exciting year to report. In his second year as a Bunnell H.S. Drum Major (conductor), Jared had the privilege of leading the band in their best year ever. They broke the school's record at the National Championships at Annapolis, MD. This experience has been one of tremendous growth for Jared and an activity he has truly cherished. He continues to serve the community through the many activities, clubs and deeds. Jared gave blood the day after his 17th birthday, after volunteering at drives in the past. He served on the H.S. Principal selection committee, the SUDS committee (Stop Underage Drinking in Stratford), and the Usher's Guild. He used his film talents to help with the school Faculty and theatre group fundrais-



The first Annual Stratford Film Festival, the Stratford Theatre



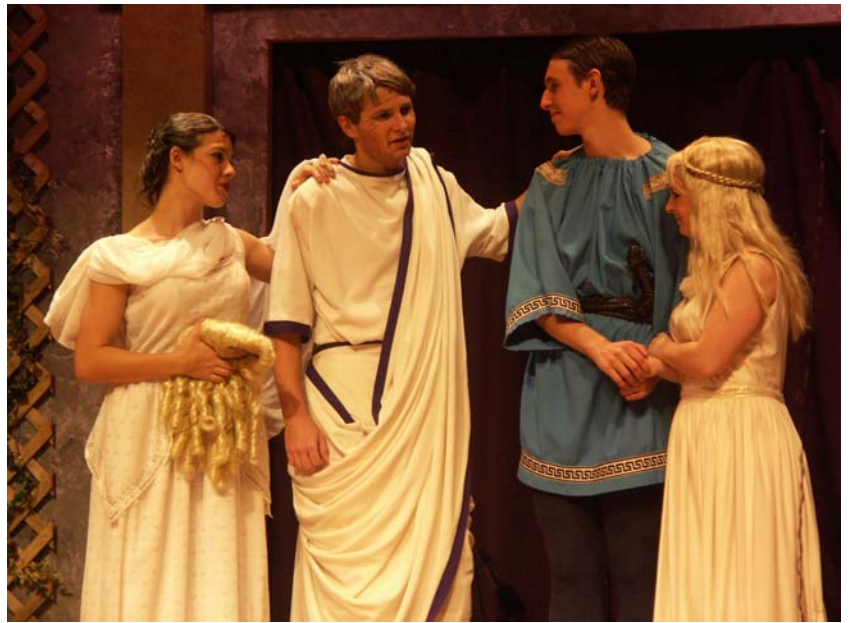
**The Bunnell H.S.
Marching Band
National
Championships
Annapolis, MD**

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Band leaving field
2. Jared conducting
3. David before makeup
4. David with makeup
5. Jared salutes judges
6. Drum majors lead the band onto the field



A Funny Thing



Happened on the Way to the Forum



December
2006

ers and produced both the Bunnell H.S. School Film Festival and the Stratford Youth Film Festival. Jared was inducted into the National Honor Society and participated in the Model UN program at Yale. Another first is acting! Jared received a scholarship to the Center for Creative Youth, a five week summer program at Wesleyan University. It was here he solidified his desire to study film and make it his career. He produced a professional grade short scene which came in handy for his college application portfolio. It also introduced him to many other art forms, including musical theatre, which he embraced fully! He promptly joined his school's theatre group (Bunnell S.T.A.G.E.) this fall and landed the role of Senex in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." WOW! We had never even heard Jared sing before, and here he was, acting, singing and dancing! It was great fun (see the photos).

The year was also filled with SATs, college scouting trips to Boston and Philadelphia, applications, honors and advanced placement (college level) classes and exams. We don't know how he found the time for it all! The most recent and exciting news is that Jared was accepted to Emerson College in Boston, which is the only place he wants to go. We have yet to see what "package" he will be offered, so the decision isn't final on our end, though Jared said he will do *whatever it takes* to go there! That would of course include employment (lots of it) and he has yet to find enough time to work, with all his activities!

We spent our vacation once again at the Tunk Lake cabin (www.taylorcamp.com), sharing it with a number of good friends and Jim's mom Peggy. The extended family remains in stable health, which at this point in our lives, we can all be grateful for.

We want to acknowledge with tremendous sadness, the loss of an amazing family; the Martin's, who we visited with most summers over the past years. They were killed when their single engine plane went down on their way to celebrating Christmas in Maine. They were an adventurous family, who did everything together, including world travel, diving sea wrecks, making wine, running multiple businesses, raising turkeys, restoring an historic home, and so many more things. They were based in Texas but spent as much time as they could in their Searsmont, Maine home, embraced by the local people as one of their own - no small feat in a small Maine town. Our sadness is only slightly mitigated by the fact that they are still together, wherever it is we go after death.

We hope you and all your loved ones have a healthy and fulfilling year.

Jim Debbie
Jared Dave

CONTACT INFO:

Debbie: dgilberttaylor@optonline.net

Jim: jbtaylor@jbtaylor.com

Home phone: (203) 377-1770



David at Acadia National Park, Summer 2006



Jared's yearbook graduation photo, August 2006

Williamson County family killed in plane crash

Family loved adventure, traveling

By [Katie Humphrey](#), Joshunda Sanders

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF Tues, December 19, 2006

The Martins didn't hesitate to embark on adventures. From scuba diving in Key West and rebuilding a historic barn in Maine to traveling through Europe and participating in archaeological digs in Crete, the family of four from Williamson County had done it all.

The Martins were traveling as usual Sunday evening, headed to the family farm in Searsmont, Maine, for Christmas after spending the weekend with relatives in Oklahoma, when their single-engine plane crashed in an Ohio field about 7:10 p.m. Paul Martin, 49; his wife, Lillian Martin, 45; and their children, 11-year-old Shawn and 10-year-old Kitanna, were killed on impact, said Lt. Tony Bradshaw of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board inspected the wreckage about 60 miles north of Columbus on Monday but did not know what caused the crash, NTSB Regional Director Carl Dinwiddie said. The National Weather Service in Cleveland reported light rain and overcast skies at the time of the crash. It was unclear whether the family was trying to make an emergency landing at a small airport in Bucyrus, Ohio, Bradshaw said. After the plane hit the ground, some debris struck an apartment complex, but no one on the ground was injured, he said.

"The wreckage was strewn out across a large area of a field," Bradshaw said. "The body of the plane pretty much blew apart." Officials did not know Monday who had been flying the plane, but friends and family said Paul Martin had his pilot's license and routinely flew the family on trips around the country.

Federal Aviation Administration records show that Paul Martin was part-owner of the plane, a Piper PA-24 Comanche manufactured in 1966. He was an experienced pilot and had logged hundreds of hours flying the plane, said Steve Benz, another of the plane's owners. The plane was housed in a hangar at the Taylor Municipal Airport and did not have a history of mechanical problems, Benz said.

The Martin family had taken the plane to Key West, Fla., during the Thanksgiving holiday to go scuba diving, he said.



Shawn & Kitanna, siblings and best friends

Kitanna, Lillian, Shawn & Paul Martin traveling this summer through the Italian Alps, Brussels, Holland and Greece



IN MEMORIAM

"Of all the people I've met, (Paul Martin) was one of the people I admired a lot because he had done so much," Benz said.

Paul Martin was the owner of TFCinfo LLC, a company that conducts market research for manufacturers in the multimedia industry. He was intelligent, quick with computers and passionate about flying, said Neil Haverlah, a former classmate of Paul Martin's in the executive MBA program at the University of Texas. Lillian Martin, a marine archaeologist who helped explore the Uluburun shipwreck off the coast of Turkey in the 1980s and 1990s, was the author of the book "The Art and Archaeology of Venetian Ships and Boats." More recently, the entire family traveled to Crete last summer so she could participate in an underwater archaeological dig there.

In their Christmas letter e-mailed to family and friends Friday, the Martins wrote about the archaeological excavation in Crete, Shawn and Kitanna's forays into ancient Minoan pottery, scuba lessons and swimming in the sea. "Those kids probably traveled more and saw more than most grown-ups see in a lifetime because of the things they were involved in," Haverlah said. Shawn Martin was a sixth-grader at Cedar Valley Middle School in Round Rock. Kitanna was in the fifth grade at Great Oaks Elementary. News of the crash prompted preparations for emotional counseling at the school campuses, said JoyLynn Occhiuzzi, spokeswoman for the district. "This is a terrible loss for us, and the principals are very distraught," Occhiuzzi said Monday. She said principals at Great Oaks and Cedar Valley were composing e-mails that will be sent to families who have children at the schools. Letters will also be posted on campus Web sites, available through the district's Web site, www.roundrockisd.org.

"We will make counselors available to anyone, especially students, who feel the need for counseling when they come back from the holidays on January 4," Occhiuzzi said.

The family flew to Oklahoma on Friday to visit relatives and were continuing on to a family farm about 15 miles from the Maine coast on Sunday, said Sandra Martin, Paul Martin's sister-in-law. Sandra Martin last saw the family at Thanksgiving, when they went to Key West together. Shawn and Kitanna were especially excited about the trip after taking scuba lessons and being certified as scuba divers in the fall, she said. "It was the first time we'd been together with them for a while," she said. "It's kind of a relief to have that memory."