



David loves to show up unannounced. He traveled 11 hours by bus and train to surprise Grace as she walked off the podium with her diploma. But she stewed for a week before that, thinking he wasn't coming, so we could have done without the surprise factor.



GRACE'S GRADUATION!



Very proud that in addition to graduating from Haverford with Honors in Geology, Grace won the award for greatest contribution to the performing arts. That's our well-rounded girl!



Derby Day

Above left, David's traps for his Bio 31 caddisfly project and a creature (wood frog, I think) discovered during his spring semester job. He continued to work in the Bio lab, finally getting out into the field and away from purely computer-based tasks, which had been frustrating: long hours staring at a screen, measuring how fast tadpoles were swimming — on film. I'm not making that up. The software failed frequently and he would lose hours of work. Both kids have learned the dark underside of science: Grace has dropped a tray of test tubes containing her entire thesis research (but managed to break only a few); burned herself on the autoclave; and accidentally dry-iced water samples that should not have been frozen, while not freezing the ones that needed it (but she managed to salvage both sets of samples that had been painstakingly obtained on a field trip to Northwest Pennsylvania). Science sucks! But they are undaunted. Grace can't wait to get back in the lab and field, and is homing in on exactly what she wants to research in graduate school — definitely water-related. And David called me breathlessly one day to report on all the species he had captured, observed and released on a beautiful spring day in New Hampshire. He still has the wonder and delight of his five-year old self. Science rules!



ZAGREB, CROATIA

GRACE AND DANA'S ADVENTURE



PLITVICE NATIONAL PARK, CROATIA

The ink had barely dried on Grace's diploma when she and I set off on a little adventure. Months earlier I'd gotten the best text message ever: "Mom: Amanda bailed on traveling with me after graduation. What would you think about doing a trip together?" Needless to say, I thought doing a trip together was an excellent idea. But I couldn't take months to do a grand tour and, as it turned out, neither could Grace because her job started June 1. So we took a whirlwind trip to Croatia, Montenegro and Greece in 11 days. We had some challenges: bad weather (not shown here but it poured, I swear); absolutely everything about the rental car (driving it, parking it, backing it into a post); losing each other for a scary spell in Dubrovnik; leaving Grace's phone on a plane from Athens to Santorini, then miraculously getting it back hours later through the efforts of a Pakistani-Greek boy; and a possible concussion. . . but we only had one really bad fight, and overall it was a great success. Please read about it!

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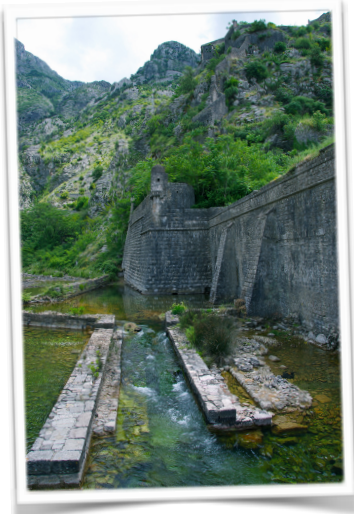
Eating seafood while driving down the Dalmatian Coast, with me lamenting the fact that Millennials can't drive stick shifts. I learned that they also can't navigate without Google Maps: My highly educated daughter could not find the country of Croatia on our paper map.



DUBROVNIK



Left, getting a tour of the Agora in Athens from Jim Wright, Grace's former Archaeology professor and now head of the archaeology school that excavates the Agora.



MONTENEGRO



Santorini, Greece, where all the money we saved traveling on the cheap in Croatia was blown in the first 24 hours.



DAVE's 35th REUNION in June (clustered with the '80s and '81s): An added bonus was that David was there, getting ready to start his sophomore summer term, a Dartmouth requirement – but not exactly a hardship. What's not to love about summer in New Hampshire? I liked sophomore summer so much that I stayed junior summer too.



LOBSTER DINNER AT OCCOM POND



David during his June break between classes: "I'm really looking forward to getting back to Hanover." Me: "You just left Hanover 3 days ago." Guess he kind of likes college.

The defining event of David's sophomore summer was "The Fifty" — a 28-hour hike of 54 miles and plenty of elevation, from the campus to Moosilauke Ravine Lodge. Every 10 miles or so they were greeted by other students at a "support stop." Above left, fairly early in the hike, they were all smiles at the Skiway support stop. They hiked throughout the night and all the next day, delirious with sleep deprivation, until the final climb of Mt. Moosilauke (above right). Only three of his original team of four made it. Adult trait demonstrated: Perseverance.



He did some relaxing too (above, David "leading" a kayaking trip; right, brunch at the house and an overnight on Gilman Island).



July was a good month. Our nephew Jim had finished a year of treatment and was free of leukemia, and we were happy to have his parents Pete and Denise be able to relax at the beach a bit. Great to entertain old friends like Peter and Jennifer Weiss as well, and Grace came up from DC for several weekends.



Tree and apple (as in "doesn't fall far from")



Below, Grace in her new apartment in Arlington VA, settling into being a Washingtonian.



David - the same kid who skipped his high school junior prom and had to be bribed to go to his senior prom so that his mother would have photo ops - is now a regular at fraternity and sorority formals. He even served as his fraternity's Formal Chair one semester. A mystifying turn of events. By the way, purple is one of his fraternity's colors, which explains some of his questionable wardrobe choices (at least partially).