

# THE TALLAHASSEE MASCAGNIS

December 25, 2010

Dear Family and Friends:

The last year has been a good one for us, and we hope it was for you and yours as well. Let's start with the boys. Well, Alex is now 20 and is a junior at the University of North Florida (UNF) in Jacksonville. Marcus is now a sophomore at Leon High School and is 15. Evan is a 6-year old first grader at Gilchrist Elementary School.

It's hard to believe that Alex is a junior now at UNF, and he has been a declared Computer Science (CS) major for over a year. That means he is now taking more CS classes and less of the general courses he had been taking lots of. He was a little nervous about CS as a major as it has a reputation for its difficulty, but he also realizes his own skill with computers and the great demand there is for people solidly trained in computer science with programming skills. This was his second year in the brand new dorm on campus with a pool and a lazy river just for people that dorm. The dorms are built around suites, and he is in a single in such a suite. Last year he was in a double in such a suite, but he is happy to be by himself. He is still driving my mom's old 1987 Honda Accord. He likes the car, but he has had to put some money in it. Last Christmas we replaced a banged up body component, and paid for fixing his AC. It's hard to live in Florida during most months without working AC!!

Besides taking classes at UNF last year both semesters, he came home from the summer and took Physics I (with Calculus) at FSU. As you know, the job market has gotten real tough, and the engineering firm that he had worked for had no work for him. However, students in Florida need to take a certain number of courses in the summer if you they are enrolled at a state university, so he took advantage of the free room and board. I expect he will take Physics II this coming summer at FSU, and that may be a bit awkward as I have lunch with that instructor almost every day!!

Marcus is a sophomore at Leon High School, and this Fall he was again on the Leon High School swim team. He has started swimming year round now, and is really a good swimmer. He had a great swim season, and many of the parents and coaches who knew him commented on how much he has matured and developed. In fact, he won the "2010 Most Improved Boy Swimmer" award. At Leon High School Marcus is working hard and making good grades, being on the Honor Roll every term. He is taking many challenging classes, and is also on the "Brain Bowl" team. With swimming and scouts, Marcus is pretty busy.

This was a big year for Marcus in scouts, he was again on staff at the council summer camp, Wallwood. He worked at the shooting sports center and ran archery. Later in the summer Marcus went to Centennial BSA Jamboree, and his troop was Troop 2010!! He had a lot of fun with that. Perhaps most important is that he made a good contact with the City of Tallahassee Storm Water people. He did his Eagle project placing advisory stickers on all the storm water drains in a 20-25 square block area of downtown on the Saturday before Christmas, and he became an Eagle Scout on Mardi Gras, Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup>. He is the 118<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout in Troop 118, and Alex was Eagle #100. Pretty neat BSA numerology!!

Evan is now 6 in first grade at Gilchrist Elementary School, where Marcus and Alex went. He really likes his school, and he gets a lot out of it. He can take the school bus to and from school, and he really likes that!! He loves cars, trains, planes, and his violin. He has been taking violin lessons for about 30 months now, and he is using the same quarter-sized violin that Alex started out on. He is catching on at school fast, and he is all of a sudden really started progressing on the violin.

Becky has been busy running the show for the family. However, unlike last year, the two boys here at home have rides to and from school. So she is back to volunteering at Gilchrist and has started a new hobby: crocheting. She joined a local crochet group. Besides the monthly meetings, she has produced a lot of items that were donated to the less fortunate, and she went down to FSU to teach students how to crochet.

Michael is busy at work, and is still active in his community orchestra, and as a scout leader and has a string quartet that practices at the house occasionally. He is still on the board of the Big Bend Community Orchestra as well as the board The Artist Series. In addition, he has joined the Big Bend Model Railroad Association as he has increased his activities in collecting European railroad models.

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We all look forward to a great new year with inevitable changes, and wish you and yours the best this holiday season. Also, if you come to Florida or otherwise pass close to Tallahassee please drop by. Some guy named Mickey lives close by!!

With the warmest holiday wishes,

*Micicle & Bucky*

The Tallahassee Mascagni's

