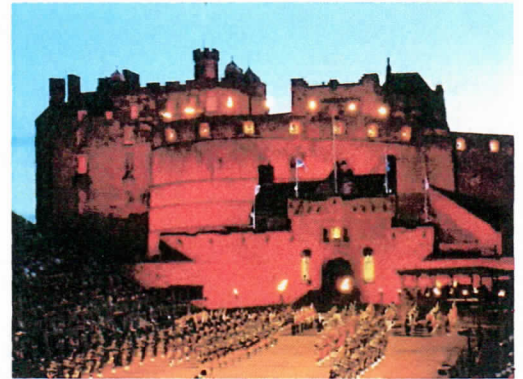


Happy Holidays!

Holiday greetings from the Hollimans!! 2018 has gone by quickly for us, filled with many adventures and changes. We hope the year has been good “in your neck of the woods” as well!

Among our favorite adventures this year were several visits to Scotland to visit Mark and Gila and “the world’s cutest grandkids” (totally unbiased opinion of course).

In February Karen enjoyed a week babysitting as Maya was home for the school’s winter break. Activities included making valentines, decorating and baking – a favorite of Maya’s. Liam got in the act, especially eating many of our creations and assisting with coloring. Mark and Gila even got some “me” time. Jim was able to come out in March, and we both came out in August and finally were able to experience the “Tattoo”. It was a most impressive experience of music including Drum and Pipers all at the Edinburgh Castle. We also enjoyed several great visits in Pittsburgh to see Jennifer. A highlight for Jim was getting tickets for all of us for the Duke-Pitt football game (unfortunately Duke lost 54-45). Duke football was also on the venue for our visit to see Karen’s brother, Dave, and Kathy in Durham this Thanksgiving. We haven’t enjoyed a holiday weekend with them in years (an old tradition when our kids were younger we used to alternate Thanksgiving and Easter between our homes). The game was very wet (pouring rain) and cold and Duke lost to boot (59-7); but the weekend was a great success with great company, food, shopping and enjoying a brewery tour of the area. Jim enjoyed revisiting his old college haunts and enjoying the first Thanksgiving he has had off the entire holiday weekend in 30 years. Despite these losses Duke made it into a bowl game (? jinx -do we dare let him watch?). We also enjoyed a nostalgic visit to the Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort, NC in July for an alumni reunion.



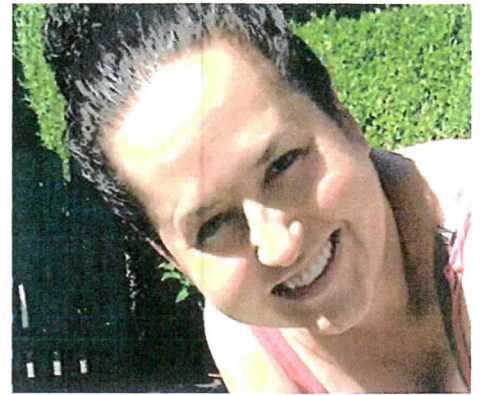
The big news for Jim this year was his retirement from clinical practice at the end of September after over 35 years of full time clinical practice. He has also “passed the baton” for the Medical Director of the city of Reading EMS and the national drag race at Maple Grove Raceway. However “retirement” for Jim seems more in name than in practice. He enjoyed serving again as senior Faculty for Operation Bushmaster in October and providing training in Changsha, China in November. Other highlights included renewal of his position as professor of Military and Emergency Medicine with the Uniformed Services University and being named an Emeritus Professor of Emergency Medicine and Public Health Sciences at Penn State University. And for a final year Jim served as faculty for one of the Penn State Homeland Security courses.

Earlier this year Jim enjoyed several international teaching trips. In Israel (accompanied by Karen and his cousin Glenn) we enjoyed meeting up with our dear friend, Ken Shostack. Lithuania was particularly special as Jim spoke at the first international conference in Lithuania and we enjoyed a tour of Karen’s paternal homeland villages arranged by the host physician, Dr. Dinas Vaitkaitis. Conferences in Mexico City, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Changsha, China rounded out the year. Several U.S. conferences included Indianapolis, New York City and San Diego (ACEP’s 50th anniversary of emergency medicine in the U.S.).

Karen has been busy being “Chief Household Engineer” and travel agent. A major project included getting our back deck refinished, updating some of our landscaping and attempting to plant/harvest a limited garden. This year was plagued by the second rainiest year on record; and since it’s still raining outside for the third straight day it may yet become the rainiest :/. The weeds loved it - not so much the tomatoes, peppers, ... She has also kept busy taking several online courses, a watercolor class and hosting several dinners for Jim’s medical students and residents. Travel this year also included several months traveling to St. Louis for a week to 10 days to help care for her mother, rotating with her two sisters (several trips Karen drove out, so an additional bonus was staying with Jennifer several times enroute – “girl time”). Doris had a knee replacement this spring with several complications including an ankle fracture over her recovery time. Help from Kirk (Karen’s brother) and Rob (her sister Mari’s husband) was also stupendous as they set up the dining room as a temporary bedroom and built a ramp off the back door. With several smaller modifications Mom is well on her way to full recovery! Dad even survived all of us all descending upon the household for longest time since we were in high school! We’re looking forward to spending Christmas in St. Louis this year visiting family (and Jim continuing to enjoy not having to work over the holidays).



Jenn continues to enjoy living in Pittsburgh and remains active in her local community. She recently changed positions and now works for Pittsburgh United, another local nonprofit agency, as operations manager. She is enjoying the new position and is learning several new challenging skills. We were able to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary with her this last February and enjoyed a great new restaurant. We were all saddened this year with the passing of her dear dog, Abby, who was much a part of our family. On the bright side, Jenn recently has adopted a rescue pooch named Effie, who is adapting to her new home.



Mark and Gila are continuing to enjoy living “across the pond” in Scotland. Both are doing well in their jobs and entertain us with all the events they enjoy and pics of the grandkids adventures. Both grandkids are growing like proverbial weeds. Maya is now 6! She is doing well in school and is not only in ballet another year, but also tap and jazz. Liam is now 2 and remains a very busy toddler. He is fascinated by anything with wheels and becomes quite upset if he can’t climb on/in vehicles he passes, especially tractors (a future farmer or engineer?)



Now that Jim is retired, we are looking forward to taking some “real” vacation trips – i.e. not associated with medical conferences! So far, the first lined up is a cruise in September to the western Caribbean and Mexico - Jim is presenting some lectures, but otherwise we are free to enjoy the cruise! This will be his first holiday cruise since Mark graduated from high school. If all goes well we’re hoping to cruise the Baltic in the future!

We hope 2018 has been an enjoyable year for you and yours and we wish you all the best in 2019!!

Remember you have an open invitation to visit us here in Hershey – Jim wants everyone to know the town has added four new brewpubs this past year and they even have good food! And there is always Chocolate !!

Happy New Year!!

Karen and Jim Holliman

