

August 2015 – Update on Gerard’s family by Barbara Yu

**Jason** is now 28 years old and has just transitioned from working at StreamLink Software, a local software startup company in Cleveland, Ohio, to starting his own company called Chief Wireless Officer. While he has played a critical part in the companies growth over the last year working as a “senior public sector representative”, developing public sector relationships at the state and county levels to integrate grant management software into their processes, he has decided it was time for something new. He is enjoying his new company as Vice President and is working hard trying to keep up with the rapid growth of the company. As far as interests and hobbies goes he is still pursuing his love for music and continues to participate in a band as the drummer and sometimes dabbles in guitar and piano. He still loves snowboarding and has traveled to a couple different places this winter including a family trip out to Salt Lake City, Utah. He has just recently completed the insanity workout program and continues to work on cooking healthier and trying new recipes. Jason frequently returns home to help out with projects around the house and to help cheer on whichever Cleveland sports team is losing at the time! He hopes to continue to play an integral role in the future of Chief Wireless Officer and looks forward to its expansion.

**Ashley** is now 26 years old and working as a Registered Nurse at the Cleveland Clinic. She works in the Neurological progressive intensive care unit on night shift. She is planning to attend school for her Nurse Practitioner in the fall and hopes to pursue a career in the family medicine area. Ashley just recently got engaged to her boyfriend from college, Andrew, who attends Medical School in Pennsylvania at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and is pursuing a career in Family Medicine/Oncology. Ashley and Andrew have traveled to the Dominican Republic the past couple years on a medical missions trip and are planning to continue this tradition in years to come. She is currently working on her Spanish and studying with Rosetta Stone in hopes to achieve some fluency before traveling back next summer. Ashley continues to enjoy soccer at a fun and relaxed level on an indoor co-ed team and much like Gerard, she loves cooking and hosting parties on a semi regular basis. Ashley is still living at home and hopes to one day be able to take over the house that Gerard designed.

**Nicole** is 25 years young. While the division of Novartis she previously worked for has been sold to GlaxoSmithsKline and CSL, Nicole has stayed with Novartis and will be supporting the transition of the business. She has recently accepted a short-term international assignment in which she will be splitting her time between Cambridge, MA and Basel, Switzerland. She’s excited about getting some international experience and also getting the chance to travel around Europe a bit more over the next 7 months. Nicole would love to move so she can buy a puppy and has been speaking with the swiss immigration officials about when and where she can acquire her customary Swiss Mountain dog puppy! If there is one thing that hasn’t changed over time it is just that- the kids desire to get a puppy. Nicole too still plays soccer and has been trying to live a healthy lifestyle while still enjoying chipotle at least once a week. In her free time she likes to visit the animal shelters, cook, ski (hopefully in the swiss alps this year!), and pretend to cheer on the bruins/Celtics/patriots/red sox (not too many Cleveland sports

fans in Boston)! Over the next few months Nicole will start her transition to Basel but first will make a pit stop in Munich for Oktoberfest! She's excited about helping plan Ashley's wedding and spending more time at home in Cleveland this year!

**Cheryl** is now 23 years old. She graduated in May of last year from Miami University with two degrees- a Bachelor of Science in Speech Language Pathology, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish. She and her roommates celebrated their graduation by taking a 12-day road trip across the country where they visited 16 different states on their journey to the California coast and back. Tom Chang was kind enough to give them a bed for one of the nights they had passed through Santa Rosa- which was welcomed as they had spent a few nights in the car! Cheryl has since moved back home. She is now starting her second year at Case Western Reserve University--working towards her masters in Speech Language Pathology. In her 'spare' time she worked as an assistant coach to the junior varsity and varsity women's basketball teams at her al ma mater Walsh Jesuit high school. She is very busy, but if you ask her, she wouldn't have it any other way.

**Sandra** is 20 years old and a sophomore at the University of Notre Dame. She attends the school on a full ride scholarship for soccer. Her major is science business, with the intent of either attending medical school or perhaps pursuing a career in physical therapy (who knows, maybe even podiatry). Balancing school and soccer has been a difficult task but she is grateful to have an incredible support system through family and friends. Unfortunately she spent the first year of school injured with a torn ACL and was not able to play. Luckily, she rehabbed completely and was able to play this past season, during which her team made it to the sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament, but unfortunately fell short and lost to Texas A&M 2-1. She has recently picked up a job, naturally related to soccer, and she will be working with little children ages 3-6 and teaching them the basics of soccer for a program called Soccer Shots. This past summer she had the opportunity to travel to South Africa with other athletes from Notre dame on a study abroad trip. Class time was spent learning about the history of South Africa, how they became a democracy as well as negative attitude and stereotypes. Outside of class they spent time volunteering in townships through programs such as hoops for hope and grassroots soccer, which are two organizations that help education and raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. She also had the opportunity to go on a safari and see all wildlife that South Africa has to offer.

I have been keeping busy volunteering at the church and helping at the local meals on wheels program. I have my hands full fixing up the house and getting everything "updated" as my children call it. I am blessed to have two of the five home right now to help out with different projects around the house and to shovel the way through this past winter and mow the lawn this summer. I've spent the last year getting further involved with tennis and taking lessons and playing in more matches. Soon i will be busy helping my oldest daughter Ashley plan her wedding. This has been quite the busy year and their engagement was a great time to bring the family back together in Ohio for a nice celebration. I know that Gerard would be proud of his children and the young adults they have become. I thank all of you for remembering Gerard and his family with your love,

support and prayers during the years. Our family has been able to grow and fulfill Gerard's dreams for his children because of all your wonderful acts of kindness and generosity. For this I am truly grateful.

As Gerard would say..."May life be gentle to you and your family always."

With love and gratitude,

Barbara, Jason, Ashley, Nicole, Cheryl, Sandra Yu (Riley too!)

