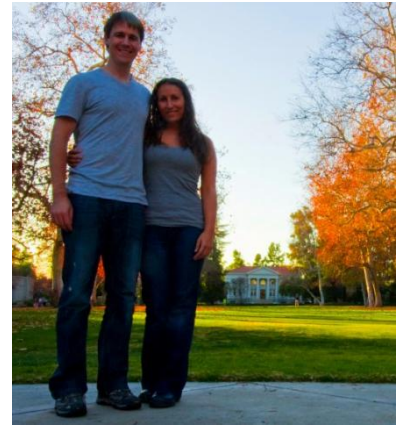


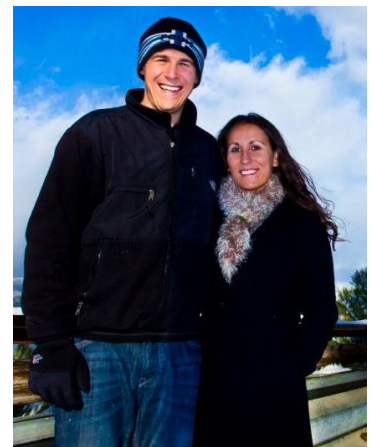
Jon & Sharon - 2012 - Year in Review



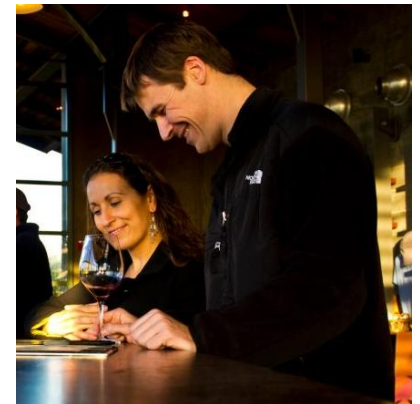
2012 started with a kiss in Pasadena during a game of moonlight bowling with Mike & Emily before enjoying Universal Studios, the Rose Parade and ultimately watching Wisconsin succumb to Oregon at the Rose Bowl. We got to see Sharon's friends & former co-workers at the Pasadena Humane Society & meet up with David, Natalie, Nick and Wes in Pasadena before heading to Claremont to visit Purnima & Dexter as well as Sharon's alma mater, Pomona College. The only thing missing was a trip to The Huntington Gardens.....



In January, we enjoyed wine tasting in Lodi before laughing so hard at Gabriel Iglesias's comedy show that our cheeks were sore the following day. We ventured to San Jose for a Cirque du Soleil performance and a dinner of a lifetime, and we also had game nights with friends Steph, Gray, Maggie & Kate. We reminisced about our first [five-day] date while vacationing in South Lake Tahoe for our anniversary, enjoying snowfall in a steamy outdoor hot tub along with wine tasting, bowling, and dining at a restaurant we ate at on that extensive first date.



In February, we enjoyed a festive dinner party at Kate's with Steph, Gray & Maggie, and we witnessed New York dominate over Green Bay (our relationship survived) before winning the Super Bowl. Kali had dental surgery, which spiraled her into 5 months of health problems that she spontaneously recovered from in July while we were on vacation. A new holiday, dubbed Annual Gorgonzola Risotto Day, was created on February 11th after Sharon asked Jon to make the most amazing risotto she's ever had out of the blue, without knowing that it was exactly one year after he first made it for her. Jon continued to flex his culinary muscles, preparing a four-course gourmet meal on Valentine's Day to surprise Sharon upon her return home after a long day at school. Wine tasting continued during a trip to wine country to scope out a venue for a wedding Sharon was hired to photograph. And, of course, there was skiing!





In March, Jon made the mistake of bringing home lilies for Sharon. They were beautiful but enjoyed at a distance to keep the cats safe. Sharon's family visited from New York, and a special St. Patty's Day game night was enjoyed with friends. A spring break vacation planned completely by Jon to The Big Island in Hawaii started out rocky with an unexpected trip to urgent care for Sharon upon arriving, but we ended up being a lovely time!



We enjoyed skiing on Easter in April and participating in a demonstration of a horse helicopter airlift with the Veterinary Emergency Response Team. Sharon photographed a wedding at Kunde Estate in wine country with Jon assisting her and enjoyed every minute of it.

The end of April brought Jon's post-doc at UC Davis to an end, and he started a new post-doc at the Energy

Biosciences Institute at UC Berkeley in May, for which he commutes over 3 hours a day by train. We managed to get a glimpse of the solar eclipse and a photograph as proof! Sharon earned numerous scholarships for her work in shelter medicine at the UC Davis Awards Ceremony and met Jon out for a surprise date night to see the Avengers despite having no idea who the characters were. (More than half way through, Jon clued her in to the fact that the Hulk isn't always a big ugly green dude!)



The month of May ended with a weekend down in Pasadena, California for a final get-away before Sharon's 4th Year Clinical Rotations began. A day spent showing Jon around Sharon's beloved and favorite spot – The Huntington Gardens – ended



with an engagement proposal in front of the turtle pond that was caught on film by Sharon's friend and fellow photographer Mark, who Jon flew in from



Washington for the occasion. After securing a "Yes!" from Sharon, Jon explained that he had reserved the gardens for them to have a private engagement photo shoot with Mark, which was a dream come true as there are few places as beautiful and picturesque as The Huntington.



To cap off a perfect day and add yet another surprise to the mix, Jon had Sharon's parents surprise them at Bistro 45 for a celebratory dinner with the 1994 Silver Oak Cabernet that Sharon gave Jon for Christmas in 2011. Needless to say Sharon was in shock by the events of the day but was so happy to be able to celebrate with her family!



Caribbean to plan their wedding. After falling in love with the island, we traveled to Wisconsin to visit Jon's mother and then

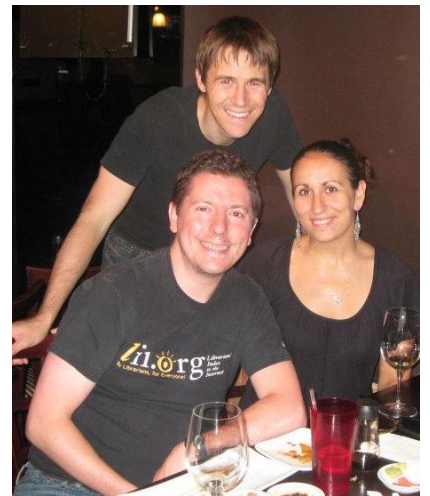
As the weeks wound down before Sharon started clinics, we flew to New York for Christina & Matt's wedding during Sharon's finals week and then went white water rafting on the most beautiful Class IV rapids ever! On June 18th, Sharon began her 4th year clinical rotation at the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis with a grueling 3-weeks of Internal Medicine. During that rotation, Sharon barely noticed her birthday as she worked a 16-hour day but returned to find a Finding Nemo ice cream cake at home to celebrate the day with Jon. Following that rotation, Sharon & Jon utilized Sharon's precious 2-week vacation to travel to Turks & Caicos in the



parted ways as Jon returned to California for work while Sharon traveled on to New York to visit her parents and go wedding dress shopping. To everyone's surprise, it was at Kleinfeld with her mother's & father's support that Sharon found her dress and promptly returned to California to continue her clinical rotations.



Working at the hospital as little as 50 to over 100 hours per week severely limited Sharon's free time. However, during the bustle of clinics, Jon & Sharon managed to escape to San Francisco for Susan & Stu's long-overdue housewarming party in August, and we also met up with Eric for sushi as he passed through town. As if she wasn't busy enough, Sharon turned her veterinary blog into a career coaching business and has been enjoying working with her clients in their pursuit of becoming veterinarians. Sharon also became the first and only student from the UC Davis Vet School to be involved as a mentor for incoming students' orientation for 3 years in a row.



In September, Sharon's parents visited Davis along with Susan & Stu, and together, we all celebrated Jon's 30th birthday (for the third time) with a lovely summer evening dinner outside at Osteria Fasulo. Upon their departure, Sharon slowly began preparing for the National Veterinary Board Examination, which is what consumed the majority of her free time through early December. Studying was time-consuming but Sharon's strong morals resulted in us taking in our first foster kitty, a cat that Sharon spayed at UC Davis after arriving from a shelter that



had no intention of finding her a home. After caring for her for 3 weeks and allowing her to heal from her surgery, we found her a loving home with a 1st year vet student. We rounded out October by successfully navigating the world's largest corn maze in the dark with Steph and Gray and by purchasing flights for our wedding in Turks & Caicos!



In November, Sharon worked on improving her surgery skills at spay & neuter clinics and has managed to get down to 12 spays in 5 hours! Again, Sharon managed to escape the hospital to head to



Berkeley with Jon and attend the Clark Lab Post-Halloween Party with Jon's co-workers. And,

despite Sharon working anesthesia over Thanksgiving and Jon spending the day in lab, we managed to put together a fabulous Thanksgiving Day feast, although we subsequently missed Sharon's 10-year high school reunion back in New York (though it doesn't look like much has changed). Perhaps we'll make it next time!



With December came the long-awaited National Board Exam for Sharon and the end of a 5-week long stint on another Internal Medicine rotation, both of which were humbling to say the least and hopefully will not have to be repeated. Sharon's parents were here to celebrate and informed us that GREEN was the color of 2013 (we agree!). We survived the apocalypse with a bottle of wine, celebrating Jon's papers published in [PLOS ONE](#) and [Biochemistry](#), while reminiscing about the year in preparation for this letter. We had a Kuchmann



Christmas in Jon's hometown in Wisconsin with the

Kuchenreuthers & the Ostermanns and enjoyed the long-awaited theatrical release of Les Miserables together. We also got to spend a day in Illinois with Kathleen, Caleb, Kooki, Steve and Grandma Stoker, a family Sharon has been close with since she was very little. And though both of Jon's alma maters are scheduled to face off in the 2013 Rose Bowl, we chose to forego a trip to Southern California for the New Year so as to save our pennies for our upcoming wedding on 3.13.13.

For details on the wedding and the entire proposal story,

please go to: <http://kuchmann.ssophotography.com> and register!

Love Always,

Jon, Sharon, Kali & Priya