

# Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964

## *After the Middle Ages Comes the Renaissance!*

### Special Topics

#### **Big Island in Hawaii**

In November 2006 we went to the Big Island in Hawaii and rented a vacation home for three months. Lots of visits from friends and family but as we prepared to return home we realized we weren't quite through with Hawaii. We leased a condo in Hilo on the rainy side of the Big Island and spent a year moving between our mile high, arid home in Albuquerque and our sea level, damp condo in Hilo.

Dwayne and I are enthusiastic birdwatchers and that has inspired most of our travels. In 2008 we went to India for birds and tigers. We saw four tigers - three of them from elephant-back - as well as innumerable birds, the Taj Mahal and an amazingly colorful country.

For the last three years we have spent two or three weeks in Brazil for birds and jaguars. We traveled in the Southern Amazon and the Pantanal. The Pantanal is an amazing wetland roughly the size of France that floods during the rainy season and teems with wildlife as the receding water concentrates them during the dry season.

Last year we went to Africa for the first time; Tanzania, more specifically, to experience the wildebeest migration in the Serengeti. Truly an amazing experience! We stayed in a Serengeti tented camp in May right in the middle of hundreds of thousands of wildebeests along with their accompanying zebras and predators. One morning I was awakened at 3AM by the sound of wildebeests right outside the tent - so close I could hear them pulling up grass and chewing.

This year the big trip is Panama - again for birds but we have added butterflies and photography to our quests. Dwayne has started a photo card business which allows him to share his photographs in about 8 local outlets including our natural food co-op and the Nature Store at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

Br: Marj Long Longenbaugh

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