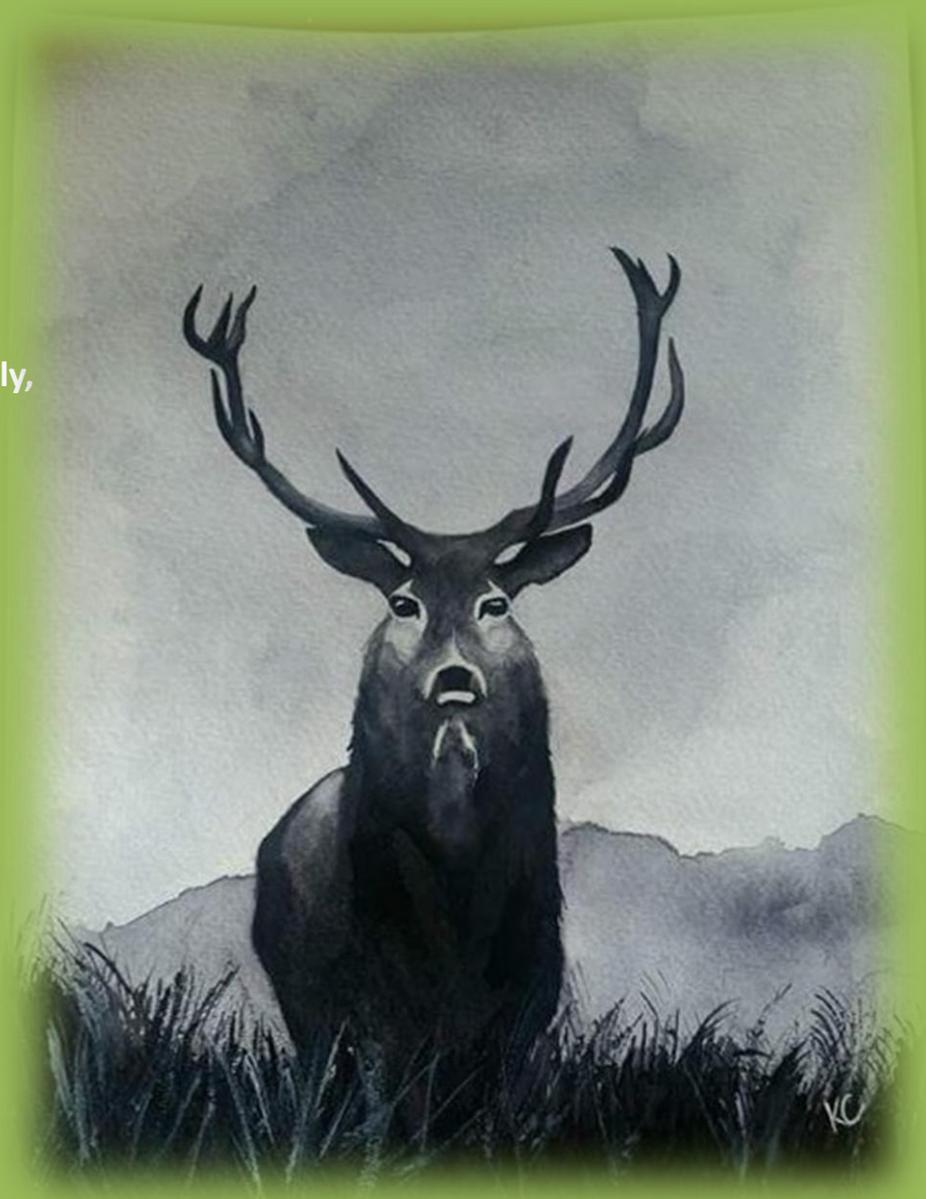


From: Kayla C. · Subject: Happy New Year · From Kayla · Date: January 14, 2017 at 12:21:20 PM  
To: Pat Neel (and others)

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season. I started my Spring Semester classes Thursday and wanted to take a few minutes to thank you again for your generous support.

After a lot of internal debate, I decided not to take a Winter Session class. I was so glad I made this decision. I needed the break. I was able to work some extra hours, but most importantly, I spent some much-needed time relaxing, painting, reading, and enjoying my family.



This was our first Christmas without my Great Grandpa Elam and that was bittersweet. He passed away a few days after graduation last May. For as long as I can remember, we have had a party Christmas Eve afternoon to celebrate Christmas and their wedding anniversary. It was very different not having him there as the "life of the party." It would have been their 69th wedding anniversary.



I left early from the party to work a few hours. I had hoped to pick up more jobs in Tucson, but I have become very attached to a sweet client here in Green Valley. I was able to spend part of the evening with her before going to visit my Father's parents at their home.

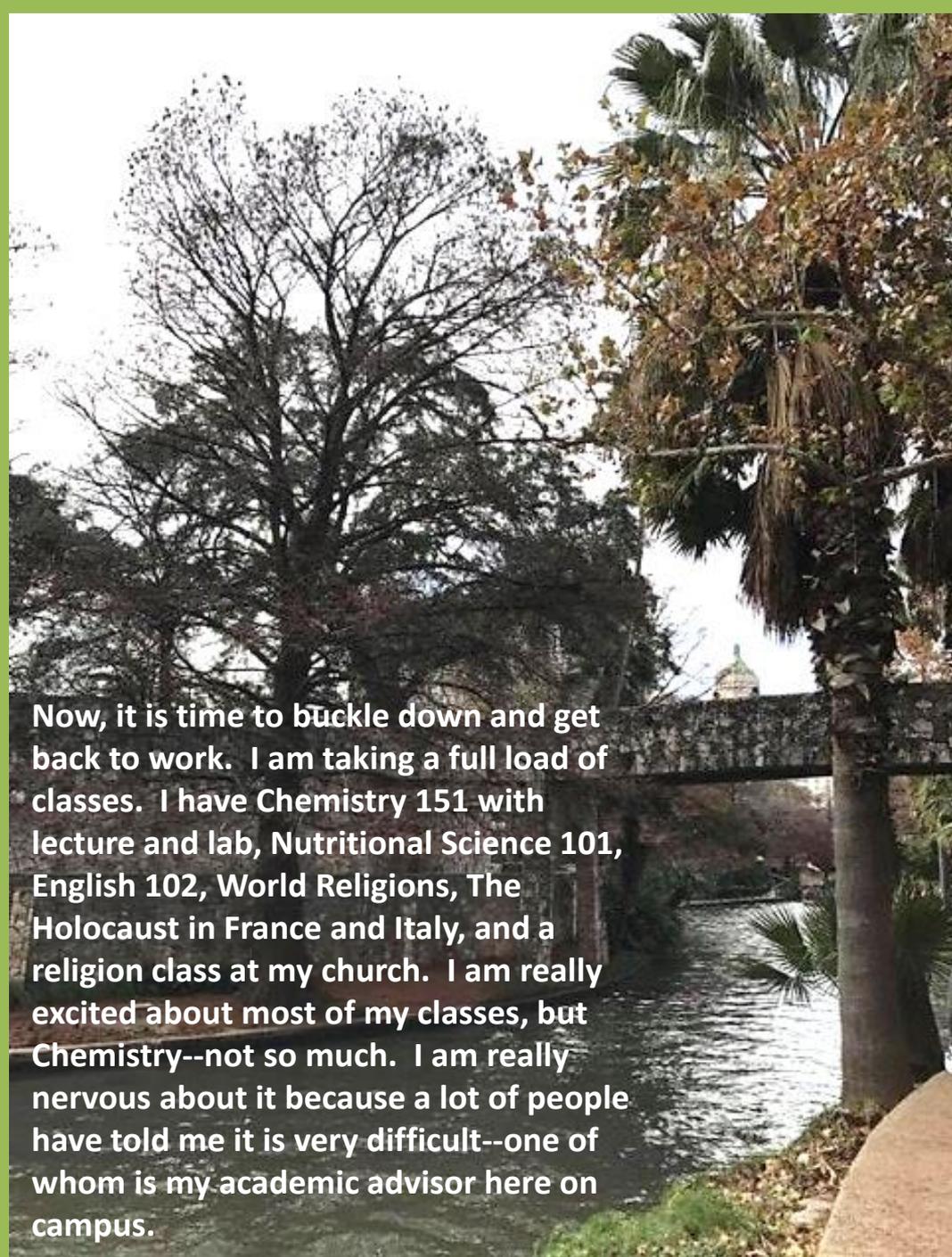
Christmas Day was spent with my Mom's family. I had a wonderful time with all of my cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. My Great Grandma Grace, who broke her hip last fall, was there for the day and I had a great chance to visit with her. Her hip has healed amazingly well, but unfortunately, her mind has become very fragile so I treasure every minute I have with her.



A few days after Christmas, my family and I went to San Antonio. One of my best friends from High School graduated from Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base.



Aside from the long drive, it was a wonderful experience to be there to support him, as well as visiting a new city. We were able to see the Alamo, the Cathedral of San Fernando and take a boat ride down the legendary River Walk. We had a wonderful front row view of the New Years fireworks and the chance to go to a San Antonio Spurs basketball game.



Now, it is time to buckle down and get back to work. I am taking a full load of classes. I have Chemistry 151 with lecture and lab, Nutritional Science 101, English 102, World Religions, The Holocaust in France and Italy, and a religion class at my church. I am really excited about most of my classes, but Chemistry--not so much. I am really nervous about it because a lot of people have told me it is very difficult--one of whom is my academic advisor here on campus.



I am looking into a volunteer opportunity at Diamond Children's Medical Center. I was able to get my fingerprint clearance card and TB test done over the break. I am waiting to get more information about their program and the time commitment involved.

Please let me know if you need anything from me for your records. I can request official transcripts if you need them, or I can scan and email you a copy of the one I have. If you need a detailed list of my current schedule, I am happy to provide that as well.

Thank you, again, for your support and encouragement. I wish you the very best in 2017.

Respectfully,  
Kayla C.