

# ABGN #20

## Adam's Bimonthly Grad Newsletter

### Yellowstone

One last summer hurrah: a weeklong car trip to Yellowstone National Park. We stayed in Ashton, ID to do a *little* work, but for the most part this was a scenic and relaxing vacation. Darcy, David (housemates), and Ronaldo (a Physics friend since first year) joined me for the twelve-hour drive.

We saw too many elk and bison, and one limelight-seeking grizzly bear. It's surprising how much the crowds thin if you set sights for hikes adjacent to the major attractions. The group's overall favorite was probably the trip to Artist Point along the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone; thrill-wise, my favorite was my trek with David up and down Mount Everts. Following the transient dirt path to the summit, the landscape undulated between grassy plain and moderate forest. We finally found people-fearing elk, and possibly bear scat. As the sun set, we had to find down the endless sheer cliff.

At the end of our week, back to Davis for Fall Quarter!



*Darcy near the North Gate; looking over the Yellowstone Grand Canyon's lip; David's summiting of Mount Everts; Mammoth Springs; the Grand Prismatic; Yellowstone River overlook on the way to Artist Point; some lakes viewable from the hike to Amphitheatre Lake in Grand Teton National Park.*

### Melee Update

With many UCD students learning from home, Davis Melee's taken a hit during 'rona. Even so, with the new online platform, we've been able to keep in touch from afar. I also organized an attendance-capped, socially-distanced tournament series.

'Rona silver lining: I played a set vs. S2J!



*The backyard melee setup. At night, we have millennial lights! We use the glass door for match reporting.*

### Brandon in SoCal

On October 15, I bought two gallons of milk and placed them next to the one already in our fridge. The next day, Brandon arrived, ready to drain them over the next week.

We forced him to overcome jetlag and carve a pumpkin. Next, we threw him into the back of a Prius and hauled him to Los Angeles. After a few days of palling around in Topanga and the surrounding attractions (no Hollywood sign?), I slingshotted him to North Lake Tahoe on a day trip. Our fish count was zero, but our pic count? Hundreds.



*Top: Punkin carve results 2020. Can you guess which is mine? Brandon's? BL: Brandon near Muscle Beach. BM: Driving home from LA. A chair and bike accompanied Brandon in the back. BR: Lake Tahoe fishing trip.*

I feel that I'm in sort of a lull in the PhD. More on that next time!

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