

1/24/19

Family,

Hi everyone! Hope everything is well and everyone had a wonderful holiday season! Matthew and I are quite excited about these revamped family letters, so I hope you all enjoy.

It was a busy 2018 for me as I graduated high school and started college at ISU. I graduated in June and spent the summer working before moving to school in August. Mid-June, the Samman's took a trip down to Florida for a few days. We went to the beach a few times, Orlando's Sea World, the Kennedy Space Center (AMAZING), and, the highlight of the trip, a day at Universal Studios The Wizarding World of Harry Potter which was absolutely magical :)! It was quite the fun trip despite a jellyfish sting I got on the last night there #injury prone.

I spent Christmas and the New Year down in Rochester and was home for a month which was super nice. My first semester at Iowa State was wonderful! I moved into my dorm mid-August. My roommate is from Alton, Iowa which is a super small town near Orange City in NW Iowa. She is in the graphic design program and we get along well. I live in Helser Hall, which is one of the oldest resident halls but is super close to campus! I took lots of generals as I was an undecided open option major till October when I declared a major in Kinesiology. I currently plan on going pre-physical therapy or occupational therapy, but I am also looking into a few of the other paths in the Kinesiology department. I also got to see lots of family! I went to Norwalk twice to see the Tuggle's, and Hannah was able to go with me both times! I also saw some cousins over Halloween and Rhonda and David a few times for brunch. I took many trips over to Lyles and Phebe's and am so grateful to have them in town and get to hang with Sophia and Ben. My semester finished on December 13th and I was quite grateful to be done with finals. I went home that night but went back to Ames/Marshalltown the next day for Dr. Metz's graduation. I also was converted into a dog person that week as, if you haven't seen, Allison and Tanners dog Gracie is the cutest dog alive.

The weekend before Christmas Hannah, Matthew, Sarah, and I went to Chanhassen's Dinner Theater (in Chanhassen, MN), and saw the Christmas concert performance *The Three Tenors*. It. Was. Awesome. The tickets were a bit pricey, but worth it because the theater is beautiful and they feed you a fancy meal before. We all felt a bit out of our league, haha. Sarah ordered a vegetable lasagna and after taking 2 bites declared it disgusting and transitioned to eating the onion rings we ordered as a side. In her defense, the vegetable lasagna wasn't that great. I would definitely stick with the lasagna you eat at home! The performance was fantastic. We were the youngest ones in the theater, but we enjoyed every second of the concert. We stopped by Blake and Dan's new apartment afterwards to see their cats and we left about 100 sticky notes throughout the apartment for them to find since neither were home! #cousinpoints

Hannah got some time off work and was able to be home for almost 2 weeks around Christmas and New Year's. Matthew also came over for Christmas Eve and Day since he

couldn't make it back to Norwalk because of work. I got Hannah and Sarah 2 Harry Potter puzzles for Christmas and I unleashed a beast puzzler in my older sister. We have since completed like 15 puzzles. I would say that I am the worst puzzler of the Samman girls. Hannah and Sarah always seem to turn it into a race by the end and I sort of dip out, haha! We did a bunch of 500 piece puzzles, and plan on challenging ourselves with 1000 next time we are all together. Other than puzzling, we spent lots of time together on the couch watching Grey's Anatomy and Harry Potter. I am now on season 9 of Grey's, if anyone is wondering :).

I worked lots over break at my job at home. I've been working at the same McDonald's near my house for almost 4 years now. I also started a new job up at Iowa State as a swim school instructor. I am excited to be working again during the semester. It was really weird to not work during last semester. I also have started classes in my major this semester! I am taking an english course, psychology, a health studies class, and 2 kinesiology intro classes. I am also taking biology which has been my hardest class so far. I have the lab scheduled once a week for 3 hours, though luckily it usually only lasts about 2 hours! Last semester I had a class from 3-4 on Friday afternoons, and this semester I only have class on Friday's till noon, which is a big improvement! Most of my classes are on East campus this semester so a bit of walk from Helser (which is on West campus). It has been a cold walk every day and I have definitely been taking the bus more.

There hasn't been a ton of snow in Ames, but it has been very cold and icy. Being the very uncoordinated person I am it should be considered a miracle that I haven't fallen over on campus yet, haha!

Hope everyone is well! Happy belated birthday to: Greg, Lyle, and Nathan Tuggle and Happy Birthday to MatthewTreeTuggle, Hayley, and 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Ben!

And.... Happy 66th wedding anniversary to Grandma and Grandpa 2 weeks ago!

Much love to everyone,  
Emily Samman

Next up in family letters: Hannah Samman



Selfie with  
Dumbledore  
at Harry  
Potter World

/15/18

My jellyfish sting from Florida. It  
later inspired my Halloween  
costume.





Move in day at ISU.



Chanhassen Dinner Theater.  
Super fun day!





Christmas Eve family pic!



Some of our completed puzzles!



Some of the cousins at Tanners graduation celebration



Tanner and Allison's dog Grace. I have recently decided I am a dog person 😊!