

Our eldest, Shane Thomas Austin, was born on March 9, 1993 in Rochester, MN. He was 5 years old when I met him and 6 years old when Tom and I got married. He has always been full of life, very personable, and 110% boy. He always has a way of turning most situations into something where we are all splitting a gut laughing.

Shane was 10 years old when we bought our land and moved out to start building our home. The adjustment for him wasn't too bad but I don't think he ever enjoyed all of the work we had to do when we first moved out to the farm ☺ Although he sure could clip fence well! When you remind him of that, he just groans, lol. It was hard work, and there was a lot of it to do!

We kept him at the school in Rochester that he had been attending for that first year we moved out here. The next year after that, he started at the school in Lanesboro and stayed there until he graduated. As a parent, you always worry about how the decisions you make are going to affect your children and we worried about switching schools for Shane. He had no problems at all. Within no time he had a band of new friends and lifelong pals. Everybody loves him and enjoys his company. He loved sports in school and did very well at them, especially football. He was All Conference every year, even as a freshmen, which was quite an honor and speaks to his natural ability. During his senior year the Lanesboro football team even played in the State Championship. Although they came up just a hair short in that final game it was a great experience for all of us and an absolute blast to watch, and he loved every minute of it! He also loved acting and was in several plays, through church and school. I must say his funny personality really came out in the plays. So much so, that he usually had us practically rolling on the floor laughing. He worked as a prep cook at Pedal Pushers Café in Lanesboro which I think enhanced the gift of cooking that he got from his dad. We usually send him back to college with a load of meat, and I am amazed at what he cooks up in the kitchen. Actually he has it pretty good right now because his roomies love to cook, so he tells them that they can use any of the meat as long as they cook for him too!

His college dream school has always been Ohio State. Even as a grade schooler he loved to cheer for the buckeyes. Needless to say he was thrilled when he was accepted into the Mechanical Engineering Program at The Ohio State University. TOSU offered him enough academic scholarships to cover his tuition and books and he was able to work and scrape enough money together that he could pull off his dream! Then to cap off this experience, during the fall of his sophomore year, he walked onto the football team. He was able to be a part of the football team the first year that Urban Meyer coached and was a member of that team that had a perfect 12-0 season. Talk about a dream come true and a total Cloud 9 experience!! We have made many trips to Columbus and the whole family has fallen in love with the university, and we truly appreciate all the opportunities that have come Shane's way from being an Ohio State Engineering student. While in college, Shane has had internships with GE Aviation in Boston, General Motors in St. Louis, and General Mills in Minneapolis ~ something about those Generals ☺ He will graduate this May with honors and a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Three days after graduation he is off on a 45 day trip to Europe, which he has worked very hard to save for. Then just a few days after his return from Europe he will head to Milwaukee to begin his career with General Mills.

As parents we couldn't be more proud of our eldest! He is our fun loving, personable, sports fanatic boy who has grown up to be a responsible, caring man. In all that he sets his mind to do, he succeeds. He has been blessed with engineering brains but a tremendous fun loving gregarious personality. It has been a pleasure to watch him grow and mature into a fine young man.