The photograph accompanying this story sums up many aspects of Brigid Heid’s life. She is holding an oil painting of an aspen grove which she painted from a digital photograph taken by her husband of 18 years, Kurt, on a fall hiking trip to Colorado. Even though she and her husband only took up oil painting as a hobby four years ago, Brigid laughs that she is already an “award-winning” artist because one of her paintings placed second in a juried art show in Sidney, Ohio. Brigid’s paintings have also been displayed at a local restaurant and at the McConnell Arts Center where she and Kurt take classes with instructor Steven Walker.

Brigid and Kurt also enjoy playing golf and were looking for an activity to do together between January and April – the non-golf season. Before attending programs at the MAC, they took classes through Upper Arlington’s Lifelong Learning program.

Since Kurt enjoys digital photography, a hobby he indulges on their semi-annual mountain hiking trips out west, his photos have now become the basis of their own landscape paintings. Brigid’s realistic paintings are in contrast, she says, to Kurt’s, which are more of a Van Gogh-impressionistic style. Each oil painting often takes Brigid anywhere from six to 12 hours to finish, depending on the complexity of the scene. She enjoys the analysis of recreating the vision in the photograph onto the canvas, beginning with the sky, then the middle ground, followed by the foreground. The easier part for her is creating the shape and form, but she sometimes struggles mixing the paint colors to obtain the right hue.

Even as a youth, Brigid showed her artistic talent. While art teachers encouraged her to develop her burgeoning skills, she found she also loved math and science. She devoted her studies to the latter as a double-Buckeye, graduating summa cum laude with a degree in chemistry and initially planning to focus her career in patent law. However, after graduating from law school in 1990, she discovered that civil litigation, with an emphasis on employment law, was more to her liking as a young lawyer at Luper, Neidenthal & Logan. In 2008, Brigid joined Carlile Patchen & Murphy as a partner in their employment law group and hasn’t looked back.

Brigid and her husband, a mechanical engineer, both grew up in Fremont, Ohio and share a love of the West which was nurtured by their families. While Brigid’s family took summer vacations touring the national parks, Kurt’s family spent the summers prospecting for silver and gold in the mountains of Colorado. Their parents were friends; one summer the families spent part of their summer vacation together in Dillon, Colo. and panned for gold but only found iron pyrite that day.

In addition to mountain hiking, golfing and painting together, Brigid and Kurt are raising their second rescue dog, Mesa, a Belgian shepherd mix, who shows promise of being an agility dog. As a result, she thinks they may have a new pastime to share.

This busy attorney is a past president of the Women Lawyers of Franklin County and will serve as president of the Columbus Bar Association beginning June 2016. Brigid is an avid golfer, playing at The Ohio State University Golf Club and with the Executive Women’s Golf Association, of which she is also a past president.

Brigid says painting is part of her future retirement plan. “I realized that one day, when I am no longer physically able to hike in the mountains, I will still be able to paint them and Kurt will still be able to photograph them.”

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