

December 1998

Season's Greetings from the Moore's

It's been couple of years since we sent a Christmas letter and, although some things haven't changed much for us in that time, there was one major change this year: our address! This past summer we pulled up our stakes in Pocatello and moved 90 miles south to Logan, Utah, where Kevin took a position in the electrical and computer engineering department at Utah State. We were happy in Pocatello, but the new job was a great professional opportunity.

For the most part we have adjusted to the move. The kids are at an age where it is difficult to get into a new group at school. This is especially true in Logan, where the population is maybe 90% active LDS (and we're not, which seems to make more of a difference than we would have believed - it's interesting being a minority!). Logan has a middle school system for grades six to eight, so the kids both go to the same school. This was a little disappointing for Joshua, who was in junior high with ninth graders last year and feels like he's surrounded by little kids. Julia was also disappointed in not getting to finish the last year at Washington elementary school with her "pack" of friends in Pocatello. But the educational opportunities here are better than in Pocatello (Julia was able to take pre-algebra as a sixth-grader) and they are starting to meet some other kids. They also keep busy with extracurricular activities. Julia is still studying classical piano, in USU's Youth Conservatory. Joshua has moved from classical guitar to rock and blues. They both spend a lot of time with computers. They have been going to a local company once a week to beta-test a software product that will be sold by Lego as an add-on to the Mindstorm robotic system product line. They also enjoy playing online against other people on the Internet with games like StarCraft and WarCraft. It's not all fun and games, though. Joshua has taught himself HTML, is learning Java, and has just wiped Windows95 off our old computer and loaded the Linux operating system (take that, Bill Gates!). When not doing computers, music, Nintendo, or homework (there seems to be more here than in Pocatello), Julia enjoys playing basketball and reading Marion Zimmer Bradley novels while Joshua enjoys the company of his CDs, painting Warhammer miniatures, and reading anything ever written by Orson Scott Card or Stephen King. Julia also does origami and Joshua and Kevin are just finishing a scuba class.

Tammy has been busy getting us settled and comfortable in our new environment. But, her work there is nearly done and she is planning to get a job next spring. She finished her social work degree in May and is now licensed in both Idaho and Utah. Tammy hopes to get a job working with the elderly. She continues to volunteer for hospice here in Logan and finds this very rewarding. As for Kevin, he still teaches and does research in the area of control systems. He was named an ISU Outstanding Researcher of the Year in 1997. At USU he serves as director of the Center for Self-Organizing and Intelligent Systems. He is also active with editorial and other professional activities, but when not at work, he still tries to find time to play guitar and ride his mountain bike.

Especially during the holiday season, we recall with fond memories the friends we have known in the past and think of the family we don't see as often as we would like. Please accept our best wishes for the future and our warmest regards to you and the ones you love.

Merry Christmas -- Kevin, Tammy, Joshua, and Julia