

December 2003

Season's Greetings! We last sent a holiday letter in December 2000. As is surely the case for everyone, the ensuring three years have been full of all the things life brings – joy and disappointment, happiness and sorrow, growth and uncertainty, and most of all, change. In three years,

...we have seen three new cars (at least, new to us!), having had to retire our trusty 1983 Subaru and having seen both the kids grow into excellent, albeit needy, drivers (as in, Dad, I *need* the car).

...we have seen Joshua finish a tumultuous career at Logan High and return to Pocatello, moving into a house he and a friend are renting while they attend Idaho State. He is taking classes in philosophy, English, and psychology. He has also been learning to cook and maintains an amazingly healthy lifestyle for a college student. Though it is strange without him around the house, we are proud to see him in his new life.

...we have seen Julia change from a middle-schooler who would wear only jeans and tee-shirts to a beautiful, self-assured young woman. Julia was on track to graduate in May 2004, a year early, and could still do so, but recently changed her mind and will stay in high school another year, to take more AP classes and to graduate with her friends. Currently, Julia's long-term leanings are towards the study of genomics, but she has also become quite a good artist and has developed a passion for German, even to the extent of talking about taking a year off between high school and college in order to live in Germany for a year.

...we have seen our family recently lose Joey, our dog of thirteen years, and gain Chloe, a year-and-a-half old lab retriever that Tammy and her vet rescued from an abusive home. Our "outside" cat, Barrette, and our inside cat, Soxy, both continue to rule their respective domains.

...we have seen a few aches and pains, including three broken ribs for Tammy and a ruptured disc in his lower back for Kevin (both the week of a 100-year record, two-foot snowfall in Logan), a recent operation for Joshua to repair damage from a dislocated shoulder, and stitches on the top of the head for Julia after a skiing accident.

...we have seen Tammy move to within one semester of finishing an MSW degree at the University of Utah. She will have completed 64 credits in three years while working full-time! Also, after over two years as a case manager at the local Area Agency on Aging, Tammy became the administrator of Williamsburg, a large retirement home in Logan. This is proving to be a challenging, but rewarding position.

...we have seen Kevin begin to make some career moves, changing to half-time with the university this coming January and working the rest of the time with a company that is commercializing some of the robots developed in his research center over the past few years. Some of Kevin's robots will be used for security applications in Iraq in the coming months. While he continues to enjoy teaching and carrying out academic research, Kevin will likely move more into industry or into academic administration in the next few years.

...we have seen many good times traveling all over, from 8800 miles by car all over the U.S. to see family, friends, and college campuses this past summer, to a romantic week in Barcelona for Kevin and Tammy in 2002, to a five-week, five-thousand mile trip by car all over Europe for Kevin and the kids in 2001.

Well, this list could go on, but even so it would be a poor substitute as a description of our lives over the last three years. It cannot really tell who we are – of our doubts, of our challenges, of our victories. As everyone knows, life has both ups and downs and so have we. But, as Tammy and Kevin approach their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary this summer, we think back to the friends, families, and experiences we have known and it is clear we have had good fortune through it all and for that we are grateful. We hope that this Holiday Season also finds you and the ones you love enjoying good fortune in life and all that it brings.

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