



## Happy 2010 Holiday Greetings!

We have been very fortunate that 2010 was a pretty normal year for us. The saddest part is still getting used to not having "everyone" around, with Stephen still at college, niece Tina in Korea then Taiwan, niece Lydia still in Taiwan, sister Wen-Ling mostly in Taiwan now that the daughters have flown the coup, and sister Judy & her family still in Switzerland. But we did get to visit, or get visited by, some of these relatives, so that was very nice.

For instance, we were able to spend 2009 Xmas holidays with Stephen. We went skiing at Mt Rose (Reno) and spend a good deal of time sledding, too. Stephen perfected his snowboarding technique while Alyssa took her first snowboarding lessons, and Conrad took his first ski lessons. They all did very well. Also during those holidays, Elizabeth took the 3 kids to Las Vegas for our 1st juggling convention. Stephen & Alyssa could juggle with each other by the end, and they learned several new tricks. Then, this summer, we (except Stephen) returned to Taipei to visit Dachywan's family and were able to see Lydia. And Dachywan's brother, Ta-Chun brought us & his family to Yingge, a town near Taipei, where we had a blast making clay pots on a pottery wheel. We rode the Taiwanese bullet train for the 1<sup>st</sup> time and had a nice few days in Tainan, visiting the temples and the famous, jam-packed Tainan Night Market. Then in October, Elizabeth went with her mom & Conrad to Chicago for a reunion of her OB/GYN residents and to visit old friends there, followed by a visit to Stephen at school where he graciously made us delicious chocolate-raspberry cupcakes and a scrumptious fruit tart! And he even had time to have several meals with us, including an early morning breakfast! Throughout the year, Elizabeth's mom has untiringly made the hour long drive to visit Elizabeth & family at least once a week. And finally, we are eagerly looking forward to this winter holiday when our complete family, including Stephen & his longtime girlfriend, Minerva, will be visiting Florida's Disneyworld for a week. And hopefully in the next year or two, we'll be able to go to Switzerland to visit Judy.

Stephen is now a junior @ Case Western, majoring in chemistry with a minor in arts (photography). He has discovered a passion for taking pictures and can do lovely things with his camera. He is on schedule for graduating in 4 yrs in 2012, but is still undecided regarding the next step. He is planning to do a course in the spring that will give him an EMT certificate (emergency medical technician, the people who often drive ambulances) since medicine is still high on his list, and this certification and working as an EMT at school will give him some hands-on experience in medicine. But he is also thinking of other options: a smart idea considering medicine in the US is undergoing upheavals at this time.

Alyssa is now a junior at Saratoga High, and surprisingly is finding this year easier to manage than last year. She is very focused at school, but has also had time to pursue her two passions: juggling and cake decorating. She is working hard at juggling: practicing almost every day, can now juggle 6 balls and do some 5 ball tricks, and is hoping to compete at a juggling convention next summer. She also attended a juggling convention in Reno this summer where she was able to rub shoulders with some of the most famous jugglers in the world and learn new tricks. And she has made some beautiful cakes and cupcakes recently both for Conrad and for special events at her school. Conrad recently confided, after having eaten cupcakes for several different classmates' birthdays, that his cupcakes were still the best of all that he'd seen! She is starting to look into different colleges in preparation for visiting & applying to them next year.

Conrad has now returned to our public school system (after a difficult Kindergarten year at Challenger, a private school) and is absolutely LOVING school again! He says his teacher is the nicest, he loves all the different animals he has in his classroom, and he has made several very nice friends. He has also discovered he really likes Chess, so he now attends a Chess class. And now that he's adjusted well to 1<sup>st</sup> grade, he has just taken up piano and tennis lessons while still continuing art and Chinese class. Then perhaps in the spring or summer, he'll restart swimming classes.

Dachywan continues to work at Oracle, although he's changed campuses so he's geographically closer to home. Golf has become less of a religion, but he's still playing about once a week. And Elizabeth's practice has remained busy, fortunately. The biggest news there is she's transitioning the office to electronic medical records. That has been, and continues to be, a REALLY BIG challenge, but it will probably be worth it in the end (esp. since the software is free!!!).

Hope this past year has been as rewarding for you, if not more so, and that 2011 will continue to bring you much happiness, good health, and prosperity.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
From  
The Wu Family

