

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year: 1999



Hello to all our friends and family from our warm house in Buffalo! This has been a year of new beginnings for our family and business, with next year promising big changes in our house and further changes in our lives. This past year was a great chance for us to reconnect with our many friends that we have lost touch with the past two years during a busy time for our families. We hope this finds you happy and healthy and looking forward!



This past year saw good health for Claire and Joseph. Claire continued at School 84, the Erie County Health Center for Children and Joseph began his new life as a student at School 54 Early Childhood Center. Joseph's first day of Kindergarten was a big event, especially for Mom and Grandma Anne. Joseph revels in his day, which begins at the bus stop with Mohammed, Ismail and Daniel and then on to Mrs. Reo's and Mrs. MacKinnon's class, where he has homework to do each night. Joseph then busses to Gloria Parks Community Center, his old day care, for After School. He's doing great! Claire continues in Mrs. Sajecki's class, studying math, reading, spelling (only five misspelled words all term and an A in Math!). She's doing well academically and physically. Claire began Horseback riding for therapy on Friday nights in August, continuing through November. That's been a lot of fun for all of us, as we travel to Lothlorian Stables in East Aurora each Friday. We look forward to continuing that in the spring.

We had many family visitors this year, which Claire and Joseph love. Grandma Bert, Aunt Sandy and cousins Tim and Lisa came at different times from Pittsburgh. Joe's mom visited this summer and fall, and spent one of her vacations with us, more on that below.

We did some interesting travel this year. In March Joe was honored to be appointed to an review team for the Zettlemoyer Center for Surface Science at Lehigh University, one of the oldest research centers of its type in the US, and the site of Joe's first professional conference as a graduate student. In June, Joe visited Poland for the first time, staying in Poznan in Western Poland, a beautiful city and speaking at the 5th International Conference on Frontiers of Polymers and Advanced Materials, organized by our colleague Professor Paras Prasad. This was quite an event in many ways, as Dean Kerry Grant of UB, a keynote speaker at the meeting, advised Joe that his appointment as Associate Dean for External Affairs in UB's College of Arts and Sciences, had been approved. Joe began his work in August, and this heralds a large change in much of our life.

In July, Carol made a trip to Albany on MCEER business, but also got to take a visit to Cooperstown. In August, we had the distinct pleasure of combining a trip to Scottsdale Arizona, to the Scottsdale Princess Resort, for the 9th Surfaces in Biomaterials Meeting, where Joe chaired a session and spoke. The whole family attended, and Joe and Carol enjoyed their 16th Wedding Anniversary in Scottsdale. Grandma Anne also traveled with us. We rented a large van for Claire, and the kids enjoyed the trip to the Desert. Denise Carney from our group also attended. In Scottsdale, we were able to join Larry Salvati, Paul Valint and Dr. Dr. Bob Valentini at the meeting. We look forward to attending next year in Scottsdale again! This will be the tenth meeting of the series, which began in Minneapolis under Larry Salvati's and George Grobe's direction, with Joe as the Program Chairman!

In late August, Joe served as Best Man for Frank Bright's wedding to Bonnie Estes in Buffalo. What a great time, with tuxedo'ed Analytical Chemists Joe, Luis Colón and Troy Wood accompanying the Groom down the aisle, hats and all! We were so honored to be a part of this joyous event.

In September, we all traveled to Washington DC for the Abilities Expo to look at new vans and technology for our house. Joseph spent the day with Choo Choo Man (Cousin Gary) visiting trains, while we shopped at the Chantilly,

VA conference center. We had a nice dinner with the Camerons in Silver Spring. In October, Carol traveled to Boston for the Jimmy Fund ½ Marathon Walk with Theresa Laffey and enjoyed a vigorous walk along the Boston Marathon route. We also visited Pittsburgh for Pete and Bert's Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary! We hope to achieve that someday! What an accomplishment. Joe also made short trips to Kansas for a dual lecture visit to Kansas State University, and Peter and Gillian Sherwood and the University of Kansas, and Cindy Larive. Joe also visited Jiaying Chen and Jeff Koberstein in Connecticut for a lecture.

In November, we tried to visit Cousin Lisa and Cindy Burkhardt-Coolbaugh in Radford, VA, but were waylaid by Claire's illness, only making halfway to Pittsburgh. For thanksgiving, we went to St. Clair Michigan for our family visit (check out the website for a picture!). We had a wonderful chance to visit with Nick and Kathy Lomako on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

For Joe, besides the appointment to Associate Dean, professionally, it was a an interesting year. Two more Ph.D's finished this year, Drs. Wen Yan Yan and Daniel Ammon, Jr., both of whom were and are gainfully employed at Bausch and Lomb's Surface Science group (a part of the Gardella Group Rochester Section!!). Dr. Ilario Losito returned to Bari, Italy in March and Dr. Maurizio Toselli to Bologna in the summer. Dr. Won Ki Lee returned to Korea in September and then took a position at RIKEN, in Japan. We sorely miss these three excellent collaborators in our midst. Our group is getting smaller, for reasons discussed below, and we had such a wonderful time with a vigorous and large group in the past two years, the big change to a smaller (kinder?) group will be a big adjustment. Yuanxue Hou and George Tulevski have joined our research group in the past year.

News from former and continuing colleagues is quite exciting. Dan and Michelle Hook, after settling, we thought, in Minneapolis, heard the siren call from George Grobe at Bausch and Lomb, and have moved to Rochester to join the B&L UB Connection. We await word on their first child! Dr. Terrence Vargo no longer startles the business world with the development of his company; the marketing of Fluorogrip™ contact adhesive continues apace, and now Integument Technologies, Inc. (www.integument.com) gainfully employees seven people, with subsidiary companies on the west coast. Dr. Rich Nowak, who has labored mightily as a professional staff member of the Materials Research Instrument Facility, a collection of facilities on the North Campus, directed by Joe, married Kathy Medved this year, in a ceremony on the beach in Texas. Clara (Lo) Aiken was married to Joseph Aiken in October, we were surprised to learn! Dr. Yuezhong Du completed a postdoc in Arizona, and joined the KLA Tencor Corp., in Milpitas, CA, where he was reunited with his brother. Congratulations to Yuezhong. Dr. Jiaying Chen took a position at University of Connecticut Institute of Materials Science, with Professor Jeff Koberstein. Dr. Norma Hernandez de Gatica was awarded a full tenure track position at Cuyahoga Community College, where she had been teaching part time for several years. We tried to visit Dr. Cindy Burkhardt-Coolbaugh in November, but illness cut short our visit. Our niece, Lisa McClelland, attends Radford University and has Cindy as her Chemistry professor. Jin Zhao and Xinran Wang welcomed a baby boy to the family this year!

Finally, the appointment of Joe to Associate Dean means a new set of responsibilities to help UB's College of Arts and Sciences work better in collaboration with the community, with Industry and with local government. For the family, this means that Carol will retire as of January 31st, from the Earthquake Center, and take on the management of the reconstruction of our house. That will be a very big task and we hope it goes well. We hope it is large enough for you to visit this year and stay with us.

Please visit our website (www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~gardella/family.html) for the latest pictures of our family. Keep in touch by email if you can and we will make every effort this year to reconnect with our many friends who we have lost touch with because of family business the last three years! Please have a wonderful Y2K! All our Love from Buffalo!