

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Buffalo, 2007-2008

Dear Friends and Family:

Again, I write this letter on New Year's Day, 2008, after a long year of transitions and family efforts. This year, Christmas and New Years were wonderful times with our family at home in Buffalo, and a chance for a nice party. For many of you, you'll see the 2006-2007 letter included with this one, and I apologize that many of you are receiving this by email, rather than traditional mail. As the previous letter notes, Carol's dad Peter Kizis passed away last Christmas Day, 2006, which made for a quiet and difficult holiday for all of us. Soon after, Carol's mom, Bertha Kizis, passed away, in early February. Just to the right is one of our favorite pictures of them, in 1944, just before my father in law shipped out to Europe. They were wonderful people, deeply loving grandparents to Claire and Joseph (and Tim and Lisa too). They lived in their house in Pittsburgh until they passed, and after 68 years of marriage and knowing each other for 84 years, it was hard to imagine them apart. We miss them.



Soon after the first part of the year, Claire underwent the first of three planned surgeries, the final one in August, implanting a pump to control release of one of her medications. These surgeries went well, with few difficulties, and Claire is working next to me as I type. Aside from her surgeries, Claire actually had a good year meeting her musical and TV icons. Below is a great picture of Claire with two actors from Star Trek Enterprise, Connor Trinneer and Dominic Keating, whom she had met before, but never together. However, at a great convention in Detroit, she got to meet both, and pose with them.



They, like all the other actors Claire has met, are so generous and always remember her. Claire also got to meet Drake Bell, a singer/TV actor in February and then, just one week after her last surgery, got to meet, face to face, her two favorite Backstreet Boys, Brian Littrell and Nick Carter (aka Frick and Frack). We also got to see them at a concert in December. The Backstreet Boys are touring this summer, and we hope to see them again.

Claire continues at School 84, and is in transition from academic planning to thoughts of her vocational future. She wishes to transfer to a school with a focus/magnet program in culinary

arts, given her interests in writing and cooking, we hope to work on that over the next few years. Joseph continues at City Honors, where he is 13 and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade! With basketball, Tae Kwon Do, Boy Scouts, and his other interests in technology, gaming and music (he has a new state of the art IPOD), he's busy. He's got a good interest in science and math, and loves his history and reading.

As a family, besides many trips to Pittsburgh for Carol's family, we had a great trip to Detroit in May, and a family trip to New York City in October over Columbus Day weekend. We stayed in New Jersey, at our friend's Dr. Yangsun Kim's house, with her son Paul (who lived in Buffalo in 1991!). On Saturday, we visited Ellis Island (shown on the next page). On Sunday, we visited the Empire State Building and shopped in Time Square, riding the buses through Manhattan. The highlight was a chance to visit the Hayden Planetarium

...and On Earth, Peace, Good Will Toward Men



and Museum of Natural History, with a chance to meet and visit with Dr. Janet Asimov, who graciously toured us through the Planetarium. This was very exciting for our family, and a great chance for the kids to really see much of New York City on a bright and sunny weekend.

Professionally, Joe had some interesting trips, to Iowa to work on a book, where he got to visit with Dr. Norbert Pienta, and tour through Iowa City. Joe also visited Busan Korea for a short trip, to see our friends Professors Chansik Ha and Won Ki Lee, Drs. Euh Duck Jeong, Sinhye Jung and Sung Hun Kwon and their daughter, Kwon. This was just a short visit on the way to Kanazawa, Japan for the 16<sup>th</sup> SIMS conference. At the conference it was

announced that Joe would serve as conference chair for the next meeting, in Toronto in 2009. Kanazawa is a sister city to Buffalo, and a very beautiful city of peace, never having been struck by war for over 400 years. The trip included two great students, Sarah Burns and Jennifer Appawu, and also allowed us to cross paths



with Dr. Alan Piwowar, who graduated this past year with his Ph.D., and is now in Manchester on a postdoc. We got to catch up with Mike Clark, who visited the lab for a day to work, we'd love to gather everyone together that we can for the conference in 2009. Join us! Within the lab, a big event was the delivery and set up of our new Time of Flight SIMS! We are happy to have our first million dollar baby and it is stimulating a great deal of exciting science.



Finally, our year ended with some sadness as Joe's beloved Uncle Al, in Minneapolis, passed away and the family again gathered together for a funeral of a greatly loved one. Uncle Al and Aunt Joan had a loving 40 year marriage (Joe was the ring boy at the wedding). We gathered with Joan, her family, and her sons, Al and Mike and their families. The love in their family is an inspiration to all of us. It's been a long year of transition, with these family losses allowing us to celebrate warm memories, but missing the

guidance and love. 2007 marked 30 years since Joe left Detroit (evidently for good!), and 2008 will mark 25 years of Joe and Carol's marriage. Surely we will celebrate! We look forward to a year of great time with family and friends and hope you'll be part of it. Check out the redesigned website ([www.buffalo.edu/~gardella](http://www.buffalo.edu/~gardella)), including pictures of the 2006 visit to Korea and all the previous holiday letters....

All our love..... Joe, Carol, Claire and Joseph