

Merry Christmas Family and Friends,

DISCLOSURE: We Photo-shopped two photos together to create the photo on the Christmas Card. See www.kimberry.com/xmas2008/ for the originals and other links.

After only four years Stephanie will graduate with a dual BS/MS in Architectural/Structural Engineering in May 2009 from USC. Then she'll face "the worst job market since 1929." Stephen is a sophomore at Cal Poly SLO in Computer Engineering. Last summer he did an internship at Prestwood Software - where Kim had worked for four years. He did the ASP.NET makeover of www.reporemarketing.com, among other projects.

Stephanie and Stephen are also the key plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Homeland Security's extension of the student OPT visa from 12 to 29 months, allowing foreign students to remain in the U.S. and work, without any prevailing wage or requirements that Americans be given hiring preference. As students about to enter the job market, they have the most standing. (We are barred from discussing the case.)

In May Mike Prestwood invited us to spend a day riding around town in a limo solving clues. (We didn't know we'd be competing with over 40 other teams, all in their own limos - it was crazy.) Also in May, Kim and Tess participated in Skips Music "Weekend Warriors," getting paired with strangers, picking some songs, and after four weeks performing them in at Harlow's nightclub. Kim did it again in June.

We didn't travel far this year, but still we had a good time. In July we stayed with Kim's sister Ingrid at the house they rented in Carmel. It was the same house where Clint Eastwood had filmed "Play Misty For Me" 37 years ago. We watched the movie in the same room that Evelyn trashed, and took some photos that matched the movie.

We spent Father's Day at Scandia, riding go-carts, batting cage, bumper boats, and the screamer. Another time we drove high-performance go carts at RPM in Rancho Cordova. In August we went to the State Fair at Cal Expo, and met up with Kim's coworker Dirk and his wife Maria - who is from the same home town as Tess.

In September, the day before Stephen returned school, we went to Six Flags Vallejo, and with the lower "schools open" attendance and our "fast track" cut pass, we took many coaster rides with minimal waiting in line.



STEPHANIE USC GRADUATION PHOTO



PRETTY-BIRD INVENTORYING THE WINE CELLAR

We nearly lost another parakeet when White-bird got the best of Sky-blue one day. For a week we'd return from work not knowing if Sky-blue would make it. But she recovered so we still have the same three, including Green-bird. And our Amazon Parrot "Pretty Bird" has been with us for over a year now. See the YouTube of Pretty-Bird at the xmas webpage.

Kim again got a lot a press coverage advocating that Americans should have preference for U.S. jobs, and that Congress should stop condoning the offshoring of our tech infrastructure. But they just don't listen, and look at the trade deficit pickle we are in now.

We wish everyone the best in 2009 - specifically may we all hold on to our jobs!