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Dear Friends,

Well once again Christmas and New Years Day have flown by and yet no greetings arrived in the mail from Jay and Julie. Today is a different day and so I am trying to get the Christmas cards out here in the middle of January...tacky yes...but a gesture that I don't want the season to pass without a word from us! Anyhow, this has been a busy year in Kentucky. Last year Julie applied to and got accepted into the Occupational Therapy (OT) graduate program at Eastern Kentucky University. She has been taking OT classes since June and seems to be enjoying it a lot. Julie has done her usual excellent academic work along with continued employment at the ECU chemistry department working as a teaching assistant for introductory chemistry labs. OT has given Julie a lot of work as well as a lot of new friends. Julie was awarded a scholarship this year which pays her tuition in exchange for a commitment to work in Eastern Kentucky upon graduation for a period of a couple years (shouldn't be a problem if Jay stays on at Berea).

Jay has continued his many hours of teaching at Berea with courses such as Physical Chemistry and General Chemistry (as usual). In addition, Jay has recently been awarded a research grant from the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund. He has continued to work on studying phosphate glasses using nuclear magnetic resonance, collaborating with a graduate school colleague at Ohio State University in Columbus. Speaking of Columbus, we have made a number of trips up there in the last few months. As you may or may not know, Jay's little brother is growing up into a Medical Doctor (pediatrician to be exact) and is finishing up his residency at Children's in about a year and a half. In addition, he was engaged this year so we always have plenty to see and do with Rick and Jane (and Sarah, her 3 year old daughter), including a few late night four person Rail Baron games.... As per the usual for the last few years, we were up in Columbus for Thanksgiving as well as Easter last year and had a wonderful time on all occasions. Back home in Berea we are now a two dog household with both Indy and Toby happily living here (the two dogs Jay co-owned as a graduate student in California). We did finally get back to California this Christmas which was quite nice. We traveled via Columbus and Las Vegas, so it was a rather long trip, but a lot of fun! It was nice to see all of Julie's family there (we were last there the summer of 1995 when Jay worked at Stanford for a month).

Other comings and goings include visits to Kentucky by Julie's father in June and her brother and sister-in-law in August. Our best friends in Berea, Mike and Mary Crescimanno had a baby boy (Nicholas) who was born in April of last year who we baby sit for on a rather regular basis. Julie has also embarked on a rather massive aerobics program with her new friend, Jennie Klein, the new art historian at Berea from San Diego! Jay continues to play basketball with the other faculty members at lunch and is slowly extending his shooting accuracy out past lay-up distance. In addition Jay ran a roto-baseball league at Berea, which provided a lot of fun for him following virtually every AL ballgame last year, culminating with his favorite Yankees winning the world series. The year was basically a very good one for us and we look forward to many more like it. I suppose I should say more but for now this is it. I hope to see you all or talk to you all over the next few months and hope you had a great holiday season as well.