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Yes indeed, it's Julie and Jay,

So in one year, our lives have become slightly more complicated. The first big news is Julie is pregnant (with a due date of June 18th). This event of course has us a little more than fired up! Julie is also finishing up her level II fieldwork in occupational therapy. She spent 12 weeks this summer working at Welborn Hospital in Evansville, IN and then 12 weeks this fall at Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, OH. Needless to say, our cars have gotten a lot of miles this past year. Julie will be continuing with more classes to finish up the master's degree this spring and next fall. This summer, she will not be working or taking classes and will mostly be hanging around home taking catnaps between feeding the baby!

Jay has also been busy (other than his contribution to the baby) with school. Jay is finishing up another semester with the usual courses (general chemistry and physical chemistry). This year he has tried to increase the number of students involved in and time spent doing undergraduate research. In addition, he finished up a departmental proposal to NSF for a \$200,000 piece of equipment. Jay gave a couple talks at the University of Cincinnati and the University of North Dakota (just before his father retired and the town was flooded). Also Jay went down to Florida for the annual Experimental NMR Conference, presenting a poster on chain length distribution in phosphate glasses. It looks like Jay will be spending his summer helping with the baby and doing a little research at Berea (no travel plans this summer).

As far as major travel, we are going to be going to Europe this year for Christmas (and then some). We will be gone from 12/22 to 1/10 and will visit Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Nice, Florence and Venice. Should be a wonderful and busy time. We never have been on a really big trip together like this, and anticipate it with excitement.

On other fronts, we were involved in the wedding of my little brother Rick to Jane Cook. The wedding was in Columbus, OH and the whole family was pretty much out in force. It looks like Rick and Jane will be moving out of Gahanna up to Granville, so the drive might be a little longer, but still they will remain close. Their daughter Sarah continues to grow and be amazing and both Julie and Jay enjoy spending time with the family. On other fronts, it was sad to hear of the flooding of Grand Forks, where Jay grew up. It seems many friends and family (Jay's parents) were soaked by the waters, but it appears that all have survived. Julie's mother and grandmother also came out to visit us back in September for about 3 weeks.

Around us the usual sorts of events seem to be unfolding. Our friends Mike and Mary had baby number two (Peter) and other Berea friends are also either due or have delivered babies (Jennie & Jay Klein, Victoria & Dwayne Smith among others). We seem to be about that age when the number of children around us is just exploding! In the roto-baseball this year, Jay went from first to last, but was moderately pleased with some elements of the season. Jay was disappointed by the poor Yankee playoff performance, but the exciting world series partially made up for this. Jay continues to play basketball regularly and Julie does her aerobics when she can (with fieldwork, time is not always abundant). We have started thinking about buying a home, but it seems that this is not too likely for another year or so. We will probably wait for Jay to hear about tenure next year before doing anything. Our two dogs (Indy and Toby) continue to be well. We think they will do pretty well once the baby arrives, and if not, then Jay's dad seems interested in watching them (though his mom isn't convinced yet...) There is probably more to be said, but we think we have covered the bases pretty well. I hope you all have a merry Christmas and a happy new year. If you want to read the letter we failed to send out last year (to anyone), then it appears below, otherwise, we look forward to seeing you in 1998 or whenever.