

Season Greetings

For us, 2008 has been a year for reflection on family, politics, economics and global issues. Personally, we lost Jon's mother, Emile, on October 22th at the age of 77 after a brief battle with cancer. We were fortunate to gather the family in Lake Lure, North Carolina for a memorial service and to spend time together. Jon's dad is doing well. He spent Thanksgiving in North Carolina with friends and will spend Christmas with my sister Amy's family in Dayton, OH.

Much of our year was consumed with work and travel. We began the New Year with a long weekend in Big Sur at Post Ranch to relax (10 mile hike?) and mentally prepare for the upcoming months. Immediately thereafter, Jon travelled to Morocco, then China and Korea for work. Prior to attending a course at the University of Chicago in February, Jon accepted from friends, Nick and Cynthia, an invitation for he and Care to spend a long weekend with them in Chicago. Although cold and snowy, we enjoyed fine wine, rousing debates and great company in the windy city.



In these times, we are fortunate that Care continues to work at Donahue Gallagher while Jon is busy at Autodesk working on a variety of initiatives including corporate strategy and education. Jon was recruited to teach a course in the spring of '09 at the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley. He is spending the holidays preparing his course in *Design as a Competitive Strategy*. He finds it to be a lot of

fun assembling a course that brings together a number of his professional interests.

Over the summer, we took our third sabbatical to Southeast Asia. Our itinerary originally included Tibet but political unrest made this impossible. At the last minute, we avoided China and the pre-Olympic chaos while turning our attention to Japan, specifically Kyoto, Thailand's Golden Triangle as well as Laos. We continued our trip through Nepal, India, and Bali. Here are a few memorable moments from a month long odyssey of experiences:



In Thailand's Golden Triangle, we stayed in the Four Season's Tented Camp. The camp hosts a herd of elephants who are now unemployed due to the cessation of teak harvesting in the area. Guests are trained by the local Mahouts (elephant wranglers) to ride and care for the elephants. We both became neophyte mahouts and rode elephants bare-back through the jungle and into the river. Care attended a second day for the finer points of elephant training including bathing them in their local watering hole. She now has acquired new skills should she decide a law career is no longer her forte.

In Luang Prabang, Laos in mid-July at dawn, we positioned ourselves to see the Buddhist monks file along the streets with food bowls to be filled by the local people with rice and other assorted goodies. While watching, we were confronted by a middle aged Laotian woman inquiring as to our US citizenship and our political position toward Hillary Clinton. It is interesting how US and world politics engage those in other countries.

Instead of hiking in Nepal, we took a four-day trek in the Himalayas from Ladakh, India. Prior to our hike, we spent several days in Leh acclimating to the 10,000' altitude and visiting the major Buddhist monasteries in this high desert. Our trek took us up over a pass at 16,000'. Due to the thin air at the highest altitudes, we struggled to catch our breath. We were accompanied by a guide, cook, cook's helper and a pony boy as well as 8 donkeys to carry our supplies. They did not seem to have any trouble maneuvering at 16,000'. The scenery was spectacular and well worth the discomfort.

At the end of our trip we relaxed for a week in Bali. At an Ubud mountain resort, we stayed in a private bungalow at the edge of the property. Jon was quite excited to learn from the staff that he was sleeping in Cindy Crawford's bed, a favorite get-away spot for her.

We remain in good health and continue to enjoy living in Marin County. Our huskies run us every morning and hike us on the weekends. Both of us play a fair amount of tennis. Jon flies whenever he can, although flying hours are down this year due to all of our other activities.



Our holidays will be spent close to home. We expect a bit of down time (and class preparation time). Also, we look forward to hearing from you. We hope that the New Year will bring stability and peace to the turmoil of our world.

**JON, Care,
ASIA & TAsT**

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