

Christmas Letter 2005



Kristine and Louis Gray

Happy Holidays Everyone!

2005 sure did seem busy, with trips to and fro, always on the go, with demands in the classroom, at church and at home never seeming to take time off. Yet, we also learned that serious devotion to East Bay sports can be quite time-consuming.

Kristine has long been considered a master of her craft - dominating middle and high school social studies curriculums for more than a decade up and down the Bay Area. Now in her fourth year teaching at the nationally-acclaimed Monta Vista High School in Cupertino, Kristine has not only continued teaching world history, government and economics to the next generation of our nation's leaders, but she took the first steps toward an eventual master's degree in history from San Jose State University this fall, taking in a course dedicated to the social and intellectual history of eighteenth century Europe. Though she swears she's had just about enough of French philosophers for a while, she'll continue the process, taking on 20th century Europe this Spring.

For the 2005-2006 school year, Kristine has held the role of Senior Class advisor at Monta Vista, home taught a student requiring one on one care, and is set to take a seminar on East Asian History at Stanford in coming months. On Sundays, Kristine has taken her skills to a higher plane, teaching religious courses to women at church once a month. This too has presented its own challenges and required much study and preparation.

Louis continues in his role at BlueArc, now in his fifth year, holding the position of Sr. Manager of Corporate Marketing. In that role, he manages the company's press and analyst relations - and both external and internal communications, of all kinds.

He feels spoiled by the opportunity at times - getting to work in a fast-moving industry with intelligent colleagues and customers alike. In his role, he has enjoyed gaining first-hand feedback from customers and finding strategic angles to gain the company positive coverage. *(continued on Page 2...)*

Molly the Beagle Update



Molly, now nearly 16, isn't dreaming of a getting her driver's license, but does remain very mobile - especially when it comes to searching for and discovering food-related items. Like any pampered house beagle, eating and sleeping are her two favorite past-times. Unlike in 2004, which saw Molly spend quality time at the vet, she avoided surgery this year and remained in good health throughout. Here she's seen with a blanket on the couch. Rough life, indeed...

(from page 1...) As with previous years, the demands didn't stop on Friday at 5 p.m. On Sunday, Louis retained his spot in the church's primary program, teaching 4 and 5 year olds the basics - and trying to communicate with children often in their own world, more preoccupied with one another than anything he had to say. With 2006 fast approaching, it appears that trend will continue, though his streak of demotions will have stopped - as it sounds like he will have the same age group in the upcoming year.

A Year of Travels



2005 was a record year for frequent flier miles in the Gray household. Louis's business trips promoting BlueArc at trade shows, and meetings with press and analysts, saw stops in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, New York City, Phoenix, Orlando and Seattle. He flew to Orlando hours after Hurricane Wilma, and on another trip, missed a connecting flight from Chicago to Baltimore, so befuddling him that he lost his iPod on the next day's flight - which was never recovered. That said, when not spending time on the show floor promoting some of the best technology on the planet, he found time to enjoy the sights most important - *the ballparks* - seeing both historic Fenway Park and Wrigley Field in a two-week stint this May.

A Year of Sports

Kristine is a true convert to the Cal faith. A proponent of the UC system since her graduation from UC Santa Barbara, a school now lacking a football team, she has adopted the blue and gold warriors with incredible fervor, enjoying Cal Golden Bears football with season tickets for the second straight season. For the third year in a row, Cal was bowl eligible, but the team let her down with home losses against Oregon State and USC - after going undefeated the previous year at Memorial Stadium. The Grays also frequently supported their Oakland A's, donning the green and gold, and voicing support for Chavy, Crosby, Kotsay, Blanton, Harden and Zito. (more on that below...)

The ANtics



One of the more fun developments in 2005 was a new way for Louis to creatively waste his time. A long-time die-hard Oakland A's fan, he took it to new heights this year, due in part to help from a new Web log dedicated to the team - Athletics Nation. The site, which brings together A's fans worldwide for commentary and live in-game discussion, featured a weekly series of comics highlighting the team's players all summer. In fact, the first episode of "The ANtics" was shown on Bay Area television the following week during the A's game. Needless to say, that's archived on TiVo. (<http://www.athleticsnation.com/>)