

Paul and Melanie's Holiday Newsletter 2006



To start off, Melanie and I would like to wish you all Happy Holidays -- Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Festivus, Chrismukah, and anything else we may have missed for the year.

A quick summary on what's been going on with our lives. Melanie and I have now been married for 4 years (yes, time does fly). Melanie is still working for Stanford and I'm actually unemployed, but will have a job starting the New Year. We've added two additions to the family, Parker and Tobi. Parker (the black mini schnauzer) we adopted this year, he's 7 years old and Tobi (the salt and pepper schnauzer) we've had since a puppy and he's 3 years old. We also purchased our second home in January 2006, prior to that we were living in a town home, both located in Santa Clara, CA.

So that was quick synopsis, now for the details...

About Paul...

Well it's been a rough year for me with my jobs. Centrifly, the company I've been working for just over a year laid me off in September, it's was a total blindside and a very shocking day for me. Fortunately I've made some good friends from past companies and my close friend Steve Schalkhauser managed to get me a contracting job at FilmLoop, Inc. within a week and a half. Very cool company and I had fun working there, but all I can say is the company is going through some rough times and my former boss from Roxio, Eric Matson, got a hold of me a couple about a month ago about a job opening at his current company Zazzle.com and I'm happy to say I will be starting my new job with Zazzle in January, hopefully this one will last more than 2 years, but that's what I thought about Centrifly. It's rough being a QA engineer, but fortunately there's still a demand for QA engineers.

On the side I've got two small businesses running, Siphon Systems (www.siphon.net) and Expediter Systems. I started Siphon Systems 3 years ago with my close friend Brian Moyle. The company keeps growing every year and we have 9 customers. My other business something that I've started with 4 friends, is developing a restaurant ordering system, with our first customer being my friend Jason Driver (1 of the 4 friends) who owns 2 restaurants in Boise, Idaho called Asiagos (www.asiagos.com). Currently we're trying to target summer time 2007 to have the beta software in Jason's restaurants.

About Melanie....

Lots of big changes and "ongoings" this past year! In fact, I'm looking forward to a new year. Fortunately, the job thing hasn't been as rough for me as it was for Paul. However, I

did transfer to a different department this last quarter – from psychiatry to oncology at Stanford, managing clinical trials on lung cancer and chest malignancies.

I'm really happy that we adopted Parker. Although he eats a big bag of Hawaiian bread rolls he steals from the kitchen counter, goes through trash, and intelligently attempts to reinvent the production process of confetti from holiday gift wrapping paper. Tobi's affect has changed quite a bit since Parker has been with us. Tobi is no longer lethargic, and has been more playful since he has his Parker to run around and chase squirrels with.

About Both of Us....

We moved! In 2002 we purchased our first home -- a town home in Santa Clara. Near the end of 2005 we decided to look for a detached home and something we would be happy with for a quite a while. We found a home in Mountain View near the end of 2005, but lost the bid on it. In January 2006 we found another house to bid on in Santa Clara and we were fortunate enough win the offer and purchase it. We've been here for almost a year now and we truly love our new place. If you want to see pictures, take a look at our pictures web site which is located in our "Contact Information" section below.

Since we still don't have kids Melanie and I like to travel somewhere every year, last year we spent 18 days in Europe visiting Italy, Switzerland, and France. This past year, since I was going to Hong Kong and China (ShenZhen) for business, we spent a week there. Over the Thanksgiving break we went to British Columbia, Canada for several days and stayed at Whistler. Besides traveling we've spent a lot of time working on the new place and trying all the local restaurants, since we both love dining out. Melanie and I did manage to loose some weight this past year, we joined Weight Watchers last November and it's helped us a lot. Unfortunately, since Thanksgiving this year we haven't been watching our diet, but we'll start again the New Year.

Our Contact information... (Removed for the web version)

For those of you who don't have our current contact information, we're including it below. Feel free to pass this newsletter on to any friends we may have missed. Happy Holiday's and we hope 2007 will be a great year for everyone.

- Paul and Melanie