

## Season's Greetings!



Hello! We hope this card finds you all healthy and happy. We've had a wonderful 2007, and we'll tell you a little about it in this letter.

Our year did start off pretty badly, to be honest. While we were enjoying our status as

newlyweds (our wedding was December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – so we just last week celebrated our first anniversary!), we received some news in January that was very difficult and totally unexpected. A few days after we returned from our honeymoon, Julie's dad, Burt, informed us that he had been diagnosed with lung cancer. In the ensuing months, we as a family learned a lot about his disease, endured with him his surgery and chemotherapy, and finally enjoyed hearing the doctor's news that the latest CAT scans (in October) showed "no sign of disease." For the surgery in January, during which part of Burt's lung was removed, many family members came to give their support. We're so relieved that Burt's treatment is working and we're so grateful to our friends and family, all of whom having been so loving, optimistic, and supportive.

We did welcome many friends and family members to Albuquerque for events that were much more joyful. In May, we hosted our (delayed!) wedding reception at the Hotel Albuquerque. We were so happy to have so many people who we love join us to celebrate our marriage. In addition to the guests we had in May, we also had additional visitors throughout the year – and we, as usual, traveled a lot! Between the two of us, for work and/or pleasure, we've been to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit, the California coast (which Eric cycled), Montana (to visit Julie's mom's family), and Chicago.

Ah, yes . . . Chicago. Julie was in Chicago for a month over the summer, for a fellowship she was awarded to do research at the Newberry Library. Six days into her fellowship, she fell while walking down the street one morning and broke her fifth metatarsal of her left foot. This occasioned a trip by Eric the very next day, so he could help her get her bearings on crutches and visit the specialist. It turned out that Julie's broken foot was the story of Julie's summer. She was in a cast from early June through much of August. During Eric's visit to Chicago, he got to enjoy the city while Julie researched away in the library, with her foot up on her library carrel. All in all, we both enjoyed Chicago, despite the matter of the broken foot.

When Julie's Fall semester began in September, both of us entered new professional positions. Julie is now officially a tenure-track assistant professor at New Mexico Tech. After several job offers in the Spring — and many campus visits (one back to Michigan, during which Julie was besieged by the flu on her interview day) — we chose to stay in New Mexico, as it is the state we love, where we live in a house we love and have family and friends nearby. So, Julie travels by commuter van the 70 miles (each way!) to Socorro on the days she teaches her darling "techie" students. Eric, however, commutes about 15 seconds down the hallway every morning, from the bedroom to his home office. He is now working — and working unbelievably long hours, we might add — as a programmer for Wells Fargo, for a group based in San Francisco. So, Eric is a tele-commuter. His basic job description is that he does "software metrics," meaning that he writes software that evaluates how well Wells Fargo's software is working. This has proven to be a challenging but very satisfying job for Eric. He is happy to be working again in software!

We are very excited about all of the babies that were born, to family and friends, this year. First, we have a new nephew; Greg and Renée had a baby boy in October, who is just as cute as can be. Among our friends, at least five babies were born in the second half of the year. As for us, we did welcome a baby into our lives this year — in the form of a Bedlington Terrier puppy! His name is Kirby, and he came from a breeder in Ontario, California (and was hand-delivered to us by our good friend Sara, who lives in L.A. and flew with the puppy out to Albuquerque). Kirby is growing up to be a very handsome and good little dog — although his recent problems have been digging in the yard and still a little bit of chewing.

So, that's the basic summary of our 2007!

We're heading off to Mexico for a week of rest and relaxation, and we'll return to Albuquerque just before Christmas. In January, we'll head to Atlanta to visit Eric's brother, sister-in-law, and their kids, and Eric's mom. And then, classes resume for Julie and Eric's work continues. We anticipate another busy year, a year we hope holds happiness and good health for us and all of those we love. If you ever want to see what's new with us, please visit our website, where we keep recent photos and information about the two of us and details about Burt's treatment: [juliannenewmark.com/ericandjulie.html](http://juliannenewmark.com/ericandjulie.html)

Lots of love to all of you. We wish you an excellent 2008!