

Spring Greetings!



*Susan with baby Nicolai
and 3-yr-old Parker*

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It's great to hear the birds singing, promising that spring is just around the corner. Dennis & I went to Texas to visit his family over spring break, and the temperatures there weren't much warmer than the gorgeous weather that had just begun in Bloomington. So it seems a good time to try to write the letter I never got composed in December.

Since my last letter, the big change in our family is that Debbie and Dre's son Nicolai Mateo Nuñez was born July 14, 2009. I was able to spend most of the month of July with them, and be with them at the hospital. Sarah & Parker came out soon after, and Dennis joined us a bit later. Debbie took a little time off from teaching and research at the University of the Pacific, but is now back at that, and Dre continues his Ph.D. work there. Much of Dre's family is nearby, and they've found good child-care arrangements, so things seem to be going well for them.



Sarah continues working 3 days a week in her same practice, which gives her lots of time to spend with Parker. Parker attends pre-school at a local synagogue, and enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities like her moms.

Dennis is still a manager at UITs, and I still teach math at Jackson Creek Middle School. A sure way to get me fired up is to ask me about all the cuts our school corporation is making. The state of Indiana has made devastating changes in how local schools are funded, and the economic downturn hasn't helped. But the way our school board is dealing with it makes things even worse – instead of cutting everything proportionately, they're dismantling entire programs and taking disproportionate chunks from middle schools.

A huge pre-occupation for Dennis & me for much of the year was trying to figure out why he was excessively tired and was having bad headaches, nausea, and balance problems. In November, he had a surgery to put in a ventriculo-peritoneal shunt to drain excess cerebral fluid building up in his brain. Since then, he's made a great recovery, and is working out regularly to build back some of the strength and muscle tone he lost.





In 2009, the entire Schooler-Rodgers clan was together for the holidays again, this time in D.C. There were so many of us that we were spread out among a number of houses. It was great to re-connect with everyone again, and to see all the cousins together, from ages 12 to 35 in one generation, and ages 1/2 to 3 in the next.

Dennis' daughter Laura and her husband Paul and kids Liya & Eli are still living in London. They've been making the most of their time there by taking short jaunts to all kinds of neat places in England and on the continent. They're hoping to come to the states late this summer, so we're looking forward to connecting again then.

We really appreciate hearing from all of you, whether by email or holiday letter. It's great when our travels or yours give us a chance to get together. Be sure to let us know if you're ever this way.

Love,

Susan & Dennis

