

Hi!

Well, it has certainly been a busy year. We wanted to wish you a Merry Christmas and share our experiences with you.

The winter semester was very busy for me, as I was teaching two upper-level computer science classes for the first time. Teaching juniors, seniors, and grad students proved to be quite a fun and interesting challenge.



Lee was also promoted at work and is now a senior software engineer at NCR. In July, I began work as a postdoc at USC. I am now the system administrator for a web-based biological database. This database, currently under construction, will provide scientists all over the world with information about research which have been done on a type of deer mouse (peromyscus). The goal of the PeroBase project is to establish a comprehensive database of information on the biology of Peromyscus accessible to both researchers and laypersons via the World Wide Web. The disciplinary scope of PeroBase will be broad, including genetics, systematics, evolution, ecology, behavior, anatomy, physiology, reproduction, and development. So far, I'm really enjoying it! A mock-up of the page can be seen at: <http://www.cs.sc.edu/research/perobase/perobase.htm>



Also, as you may know, I have found a wonderful group of friends on the Internet who also quill. It's so great to see other's work, as well as share hints, tips, and techniques. Most of the newlist members thought they were alone in the world of quilling; however, I have learned of the American, English, and Australian quilling guilds, several companies which



have supplies, conventions, etc. The list is about 170 strong and growing each month. I've been working on a web page for the group. You can view it at:
<http://www.freeyellow.com/members6/quill/>

Through the list, I learned of the AGM, an Annual General Meeting, taking place in Kentucky this past May. Lee and I went and had so much fun! We stayed at a huge hotel called the Draw Bridge Estates. We got to meet several of the on-line folks, as well as many that were not on-line. The quilting was beautiful, and we shared many helpful techniques. After the meeting, we all went on a riverboat ride for dinner and relaxation. It was so much fun. Bruce, who also is the monitor of our list, arranged it. He did a really great job and everyone had a wonderful time.



I had my own table there, where I showed the chess set I had made for Lee for our first anniversary and several other pieces of my work.



While there, I introduced a pattern book which I had written and (with Lee's editing help and pictures taken by Keith Jones) published at home. It's called "Noah's Ark" and includes 26 patterns (12 different animal pairs and Mr. and Mrs. Noah). It is now being sold through Quill-It as well as straight from me. One of the patterns (for sheep) was

featured in the new British publication "Simply Quilling," who's web address is <http://www.zyworld.com/Laurie~Drake/HomeSimplyQuilling.htm>. I've sold many copies and hope to sell many more, as well as write another book when I get the time.



This past Spring, Lee and I went with his mom to see the annual Iris Festival in Sumter, SC. I had never been and the flowers were beautiful. It



takes place at Swan Lake and the Swans were definitely looking for their handouts! There was a parade with floats sponsored by local businesses and schools. Our old high school alma maters were represented and we had a really good time.

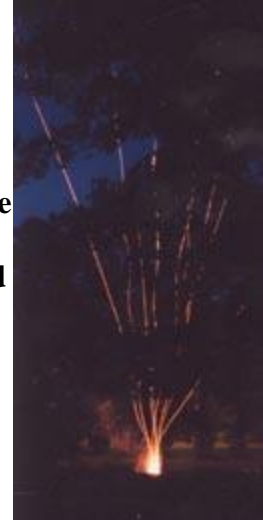




On July 3, my parents, Lee, and I hosted a Fourth of July party. We've been hosting a small event the last few years, but this year we had a much larger turnout that usual. The age ranges of guests were from one to ninety-three, so we had a big variety! There was lots of food

and we had picked up some fireworks at Jim Casey's. In addition to them, my Aunt Jodie also brought lots of fireworks. Lee and my dad shot them off while we watched from the deck. There were really some beautiful fountains as well as some rather large fireworks. Poor Morgan hid in the house until the noise was over, but was back

begging for food as the guests came back inside!



Also, about May, Lee and I decided that Columbia would be our home for a while, so we began discussing houses. We started actively looking in July and found our home the first part of August. We closed on the house September 30th and move in October 16th. So, this year, for our anniversary, we were making sure the heating/cooling letter, termite letter, and house inspection went well!

Our house has four bedrooms, two baths, a living room, dining room, den, kitchen, two-car garage, and a fenced backyard for Morgan. It's an older brick home, about 21 years of age, in the Coldstream subdivision of the

Columbia/Irmo area. We told our realtor (Kay Johnston of Russell and Jeffcoat) what we wanted and she worked very hard to find it for us.

We've been very busy with the house, painting, updating appliances, and doing some other "fix-up" things to make it ours. Our phone number is the same (803-749-1647), and the new address is:

**312 Goldstone Dr.
Columbia, SC 29212**

PC, Buttercup, and Samuel have a window in the corner of the den, and Morgan loves the room the house gives him, so our little family is quite happy and content.



In October, Lee and I traveled North to see his cousin Becky Harvey get married to John Gonyer. It was a lot of fun and a beautiful wedding -- we also got to see a lot of family and visit and catch up.





In November, Lee and I joined two friends, Darrin and Michelle, for a camping trip. It was my first time camping, and I really loved it. We went to a campsite near Table Rock and had roasted marshmallows, hot dogs, and a delicious banana/chocolate/marshmallow dessert. We also hiked half way up to



Table Rock. The views were breath taking, as was the climb! It felt as if it was straight up, and we rested a good bit going up. We decided we would have to go back and try it again, soon!





We celebrated Thanksgiving with our parents, going to Camden for the mid-day meal and Sumter for the evening meal. Then, Saturday, November 27th, Lee and I traveled to Greenville, NC, to see our friends, Suzanne Brewer and Alan Harmon, get married. It was a beautiful wedding. We even got to see a few mutual friends from both Furman and USC.

My own research is going well, but as you know (I think?) my advisor left USC last January to work in CA for NASA. I recently discovered he is returning to SC on business in February, so I have postponed my defense so that he can attend. I am very much looking forward to finishing my Ph.D.

Well, I believe that's about our year. It's certainly been a busy one. We look forward to the new millenium and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!

You can get in touch with us via email: huggins@cs.sc.edu or lee.meeker@acm.org and our web sites are: <http://www.cs.sc.edu/~huggins> and <http://www.cs.sc.edu/~huggins/meeker>

You can also see a color copy of this letter at:
<http://www.cs.sc.edu/~huggins/CHRISTMAS99/Christmas99.html>



**Merry
Christmas!**



Lee and Paige,



Morgan,



PC,



Buttercup and Samuel