



Joyeux Noël, Merry Christmas, Buon Natale, Happy New Year, 恭賀新禧, 新年快樂!

For those of us who have worked at Stanford long enough, we know there is an insatiable desire on this campus to develop acronyms to describe things and places. We are pleased to introduce a new Stanford acronym to you as we close out 2004.

SUSE (Stanford University School of Education)...After more than six years as a major gifts officer for Southern CA, Rebecca decided to make a change. A fantastic opportunity developed in late fall, and she emerged as a lead candidate around Thanksgiving. Eventually, she accepted the job offer and will become the new Associate Dean for External Relations at SUSE, overseeing development, alumni affairs, public and media relations for the No. 1 school of education in America*. Dean Deborah Stipek wrote in her announcement: *"(I got) to know her over the past month or so, and quickly appreciated the wonderful qualities that I was told to expect. Rebecca is an experienced, creative, and committed fundraiser, and a lovely person. I'm confident that she will help us find support for the important work you all do."* Rebecca is excited about her new job, but will take a brief break in January before starting at SUSE after Tom's birthday. She wishes to thank those friends and family who helped her consider this next step.

OSP, PEK, PRC... Tom is in his seventh year with SOAR (Stanford Office of Asian Relations) and continues to enjoy his work and travel. This year's highlights include two trips to Mainland China. He went to Beijing for the first time in February, and returned in May accompanying Stanford's President and Mrs. John Hennessy. Surrounded by the immense red walls of the Forbidden City, Tom felt a visceral connection to China's imperial past. Equally impressive were the ever-changing skylines of Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, as new skyscrapers continue to rise.



USPS, OLN, TdF... "6" is Tom's lucky number, and evidently it was good for Lance Armstrong, too. For 23 days in July, we were treated to epic battles among the top contenders in the 91st running of *le Tour de France*, thanks to the live TV coverage on Outdoor Life Network (OLN). The American cancer survivor once again led a superbly trained and prepared team, and successfully defended his title, becoming the first ever to win six – make that six consecutive – Tours. We were in Paris on the final day of the Tour (*merci mille fois*, Kim the Dude Girl, for the VIP viewing tickets!). When Lance's team, nicknamed "*le Train*

Bleu," rode onto the Champs-Élysées clad in the commemorative blue-and-yellow jerseys, in a single file with Lance Armstrong in tow and ahead of the rest of the pro cyclists, the sight gave us all goose bumps.

Other happenings... Tom's brother, Ben, took a new job with the police department of Federal Way, WA, in January and moved with Mom and Dad to downtown Seattle. Nieces Samantha and Amy spent a week with us over the July 4th weekend. One nephew and two other nieces became college freshmen in the fall: Peter at Georgetown, Rachel at Florida Southern College, and Kristen at the University of Georgia.

As always, we are thankful for our health, our jobs, and time with our loved ones and dear friends near and far. So please stay in touch with us by phone, email, letters, or in person, in 2005.

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*According to the latest ranking by the U.S. News and World Report, on "America's Best Graduate Schools 2005."

What is **Dude Girl**? Tom had the pleasure and privilege of witnessing the birth of this outdoor adventure start-up when he shared a Berthillon ice cream with Stanford alumna Kim McElhinney at a café on Ile-St-Louis in Paris last summer. Kim took her first group of clients to the French Alps during this year's Tour de France. If you dream of riding like a domestique for Lance Armstrong, check out Dude Girl's 2005 TDF trips at <http://www.dudegirl.com/>