



Holiday Letter 2008

Marianne & Dimitrios

Hello Everybody!

We hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones well. This has been such a wonderful, whirlwind of a year that we hate to see it go! Both of us have been enjoying good health, a year filled with merriment with loved ones, travel adventures, and professional challenges and accomplishments.

Merriment with loved ones...



The year started out with the engagement of our niece Dominique to Steve. Between an engagement party, bridal shower, bridal dress fittings, and the wedding itself, we got to see Cathie and Norman multiple times this year. The wedding, held at the nearby Cairnwood Mansion, was beautiful and great fun. In August, Cathie and I threw our mother an amazing 85th birthday party: a pajama party with her two daughters (probably the first time in over 10 years that she's had us all to herself). We watched videos and ate birthday cake while lounging around in matching PJs. Great-nieces Caterina turned 2 and Olivia turned 1. Nephew Yanni, 9 years old, started learning English in school, Skypes with us in *two* languages, and is hooked on Dr. Seuss.

And then there were all those pool parties. This year, we did themed parties with coordinated food and beverages: Hawaiian Luau, All-American BBQ, Dog Days Cuban Party, and an Olympics Pool party complete with prizes (books from International authors) and gold medals.

January of this year found us in Tampa, Florida, then it was Chicago in February and Montreal, Quebec City and Stowe Vermont in June. Somehow we managed to have a lot of fun in between attending (and presenting at!) conferences in these cities. Then home by the pool for July and August (and our Annual Academic Summer Camp), fall getaways to Ocean City, New Jersey and Lancaster, PA.

Professional Challenges... and Accomplishments

As you know from last year's letter Dimitrios was in the middle of writing a book with 4 graduate student co-authors. After months of labor (and proof-reading not to mention proof-writing) the book will be coming out in the Spring. You can order your copy of *A Toolbox for Economic Design* (Palgrave-Macmillan) now on Amazon!

Marianne has become quite the expert on technology in teaching, especially the use of Wikis, and has been presenting on her work at conferences all over the place. Her online resource for teachers of personality psychology, *PersonalityPedagogy.Arcadia.edu* caught the eye of a senior editor at Pearson Prentice-Hall. They have made her an offer, so after years of complaining about the "boring" text books out there in personality psychology, she will have the chance to truly have an impact on the field. Another book? Oh, no, here we go again!



Good Health

Marianne continues to do well, and got what she most wanted this Christmas: the removal of the chest port that was used for the chemo. This is a huge vote of confidence from her oncologist, the legendary Dr. Hanjani. He is definitely getting a hand-knitted scarf this Christmas! Dimitrios continues singing with Suzanne and gave a spirited rendition of *Non piu andrai* at a recital over the summer. Marianne still dabbles with art when she can, and presented a piece at an art exhibit at the Wellness Community of Philadelphia this past fall. She continues to dance in both dance groups and her group was on TV in October for the Philadelphia Pulaski Parade.

Whew! Told you it was quite a year. We wish you peace and joy this holiday season and more good things to come in 2009!

