

Christmas Greetings and Felicitations!

2001 has been another banner year for the Carl & Carolyn Wenning family. Teresa had a special time with her Dad when they both took off for a 3-day fishing camp experience in April. She started attending public school in late August as a 5th grade student. According to her teacher, Teresa has made an excellent transition from home schooling. On her first school report card, she earned A's in all her academic subjects, much to the delight of Mom and Dad.

Rebecca is presently a junior in high school and was named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students*. During 2001 Rebecca served as Heart of Illinois Honey Princess and made numerous beekeeping presentations to school and social groups. In early November, she was named **Young Beekeeper of the Year** by the Indiana Beekeepers Association. She received a \$500 prize in recognition of the fact that she helped start an annual beekeeping course in 1998, gave some 60 presentations about honey bees, and got Governor George Ryan to proclaim September Illinois Honey Month. During August, an exchange student, Fanny Lobry, arrived from France and stayed with us until just before Thanksgiving. Rebecca is looking forward to a return trip to France. She departs in January to stay with Fanny in Dijon, Burgundy, for 3 months. Rebecca had been studying French with a private tutor for about a year prior to Fanny's arrival. Rebecca is now fluent in Spanish, and her skills in French undoubtedly will be improved by her stay in France. She indicates a strong inclination toward a career in international relations. Over Christmas, she will be in Mexico City spending 9 days with family friends.

After 11 years, Carolyn is no longer considered a home schooling mom and is planning to find a job soon. She gives assistance to Teresa with her school homework. Teresa's teacher commended Carolyn for her home schooling efforts. During the year, Carolyn was kept busy with regular household duties as well as family activities such as vacations, hosting a Japanese and French student, 4-H, Girl Scouts, garage sales, selling and bottling honey, beekeeping presentations, and teaching Natural Family Planning classes with Carl. Along with Teresa, she was, again, a Children's Miracle Network Telethon volunteer. During the year, Carolyn transported Rebecca and Teresa to all their activities. Soon, Rebecca will receive her driver's license and can help with family transportation.

On June 30, Carl stepped down as director of the Illinois State University Planetarium after completing nearly 23 years of service. He is now full-time coordinator of the Physics Teacher Education sequence at ISU, a role that he has been playing since 1994. During this past spring, the ISU Physics Teacher Education program was selected as a national model for a 5-year, \$6 million dollar Federal grant. During August, Carl hosted a Rural PTRA (Physics Teaching Resource Agent) prototype workshop at ISU. This program, the first of its kind and sponsored by the American Association of Physics Teachers in Washington, DC, is designed to make inservice high school physics teachers experts at teaching selected topics in the curriculum. Carl also received a state grant to support teaching Modeling Method of Physics Instruction workshops during the autumn. He continues to write monthly for *American Bee Journal*, having his 30th feature article published this month.

The Wenning family took two vacations during 2001. The first vacation was during March when everyone traveled to Georgia and South Carolina for 10 days to visit friends and family. In Savannah, we visited with Janet DiClaudio, a former faculty member at Illinois State University; in Charleston we visited with Jared and Patricia Seay, family friends and former ISU students; and in Liberty (SC), with Carl's Uncle Norb and Aunt Wilma. Carl, Carolyn, and Teresa traveled to Michigan in July where they spent four days camping, canoeing, visiting a Lake Huron beech, and a Japanese teahouse among other things, with Charlie, Doris, and Amy Goettemoeller, family friends and Carl's classmates from high school. In July, we also enjoyed a visit from Carolyn's sister, Pam, and her son Gary from Washington State. The whole family, along with Fanny, traveled to Branson, Missouri, during early October. There we visited Silver Dollar City and spent time watching Branson's *50's Show*.

Catarina and Phyllis, the family cats, really love the attention that our family lavishes on them. They have been wonderful companions for everyone who visits our home.

That about does it for 2001 at the Wenning household. We are sending you our Christmas greetings and wishes for the best of the New Year in 2002.