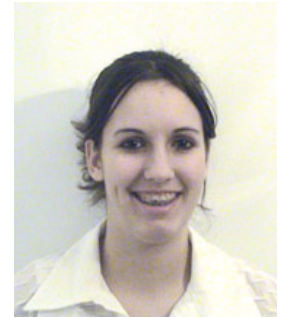


Christmas 2004

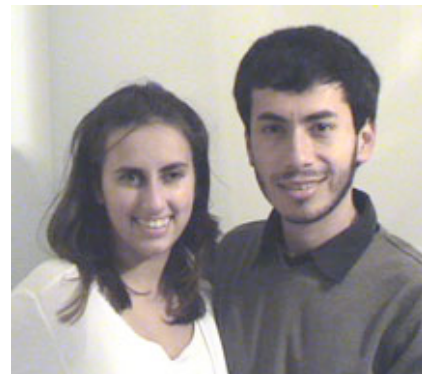
Merry Christmas from the Carl & Carolyn Wenning family of Normal, Illinois! The past twelve months have turned into another great year for us. We thank God for His many wonderful blessings, and pray that you and yours have been blessed in similar fashion. There is much to report, and hopefully you'll enjoy this little update. Living out here in Illinois, far from many of our family members and friends, it's only once a year that we get word out to many of you. We want to use this family "newsletter" to let you know what we've been up to since last we communicated.

Teresa is now 13 years old, and is enrolled in eighth grade at Chiddix Junior High School. She's maintaining a nearly perfect grade point average, and continues to be actively involved. She is on Student Council, and participates in the Clarinet Choir, Drama Club, and French Club. During March, Teresa and Carl spent five days in Ohio visiting with family and friends. Teresa traveled with Rebecca and Grandma Wenning to Canada for 8 days during May. Her other big time-consuming activity is Civil Air Patrol. Earlier in the year she was featured in a state capitol TV spot in relation to activities conducted in that area, and she advanced in grade. She is now a Senior Airman. During April she attended a two-weekend encampment at Great Lakes Naval Air Station north of Chicago; during the autumn she went to Wisconsin to participate in a week-long CAP encampment at Volk Field. She started playing the sport of paintball with CAP colleagues during late spring; it allows her to get her aggression out using military tactics. From June 6 - 11 she spent time at Camp Ondessonk in the rugged hill country of southern Illinois. This was just for fun; it's a



church-related summer camp that includes hiking, fishing, canoeing, swimming, and all such manner of outdoor activities. During October she was one of seven music students selected to represent her school in the Illinois Music Educators Association autumn concert. Also during October, she adopted a black kitty, Mystique. Carl likes to call the cat "squirmy wormy" which he feels characterizes her disposition so very well. Others call Mystique "Miss Stinky" for some of the unmentionable things that she does. ☺ Teresa received the sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Daniel Jenky at Peoria's St. Mary's Cathedral during October. Shortly thereafter Teresa was one of a handful of students selected to have a watercolor painting displayed at Normal Public Library. Teresa is at home right now, but she's planning a 5-day trip to Las Vegas with family friends shortly after Christmas.

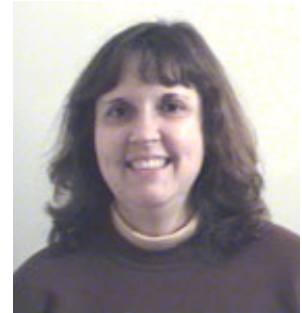
Rebecca is now 19 years old and is enrolled in her second year at Illinois State University (ISU) as a physics teacher education major. She won second place in an ISU writing competition "Realizing the Democratic Ideal" with her *Letter from Abraham Lincoln to a Young Teacher*. She received an award of \$500 for her work. During March Rebecca returned to Acámbaro, Mexico, for 10 days to continue working at the Julsrud Anthropological Museum along with her boyfriend Chrystian Vieyra. April was a red-letter month for Rebecca. She took third place in a national writing competition sponsored by the American Beekeeping Federation, took second place in the Student Research Symposium sponsored by the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), won ISU's Freshman Student Involvement Award, was officially recognized with the Girl Scouts' Gold Award (GSA's highest award similar to the Eagle Award in the Boy Scouts), and had her first paid freelance article, "Swarming Throughout History," published by *American Bee Journal*. June was a close second as another red-letter month for Rebecca. She was named a National Science Foundation Scholar and now participates in the PRISM Project in which she is one of only five ISU undergraduates chosen to participate in science education outreach. Her involvement with this project provides her with \$5,000 in support during the school year. Also in June, Rebecca won the Legacy of Leadership Award from 4-H. She was one of four to receive the \$1,000 scholarship out of 90 nominees statewide. She was personally and warmly congratulated in August by the State's first lady, Mrs. Blagojevich. Rebecca's second freelance article, "Honey Bees in Symbolism," was published in the *American Bee Journal's* October edition. On October 27th Carl and Rebecca gave an invited



talk, "Our Amazing Moon," at the Challenger Learning Center of Central Illinois. This was the night of the total lunar eclipse. Rebecca gave several talks for the Twin City Amateur Astronomers throughout the year. During November Rebecca flew to Seattle, WA, to give a PRISM talk at the National Science Teachers Association conference, and to visit with her aunt Pam and both Garys on Whidbey Island. Just for fun she took a series of pottery classes during the autumn. During November Rebecca was nominated by the ISU Physics Department to receive the Barabara Lotze Scholarship for physics teacher candidates from the AAPT. She continues to be actively involved with physics research within the ISU Physics Department.

During late November Chrystian Vieyra, Rebecca's boyfriend, arrived once again from Mexico. He'll be staying through early January. Chrystian is spending some of his time playing chess. Chrystian is the chess champion of the State of Guanajuato in Mexico. He recently battled to a draw one of the best chess players in Illinois after about two hours of play. He and Rebecca are spending some of their time together taking short day trips and volunteering at the Humane Society. As you read this Carl, Rebecca, and Chrystian are either in or on their way to New York City for five days of sightseeing.

Carolyn bought a new car during April, a Dodge Intrepid. On May 31st Carolyn and Rebecca traveled to Mexico to visit with Chrystian and his family, as well as the family of a young girl, Maria del Rosario, sponsored through the Christian Children's Fund. Carolyn returned June 8th, but Rebecca remained until July 28th. Carolyn works 10-12 hours per day at the U.S. Post Office in Bloomington where she sorts mail for about 200 towns. She has been working third shift for over two years now. In July, Carolyn's sister and son, Pam and Gary, came to visit from the state of Washington. Carolyn enjoys taking care of the family cats – Catarina, Phyllis, and Mystique – as well as the two fire-belly toads and two anoles. She does her best to arrange her sleep schedule around her family schedule.



Carl was named to *Who's Who in American Higher Education* during January. Carl's physics teacher education program continues to receive accolades. It is probably the largest and most innovative such program in the nation, and recently was called the "TOP physics teacher education program in the United States" by a nationally-famous physicist at the University of Arizona. During May Carl received an original oil on canvas painting from the family of a beekeeping friend that Carl had helped get started; unfortunately, Carl has decided to call it quits as both beekeeper and apicultural author after eight years of beekeeping, and writing more than 50 freelance beekeeping articles for magazines worldwide. From September 9-12 Carl went with his mother, Agnes, to attend the 398th Heavy Bombardment Group reunion in the Washington, DC, area. Carl wanted to find out more about his father's military career as a B17 radar mechanic. They had the pleasure of speaking with flight crews from Ed's time in Nuthampstead, England during 1944-45. You might recall that the whole family visited that site in England last year. During the autumn

Carl headed a statewide commission on physics teacher recruitment, preparation, and retention, and wrote the committee's Full Report. He recently has had several articles published in the *Journal of Physics Teacher Education Online*, and is continuing to build a national reputation for his work in physics teacher preparation. He gave an invited talk at the AAPT meeting in Sacramento, CA, during August. During the summer he taught a graduate-level physics teacher education course, and managed a rural physics teacher institute for the AAPT. He has since that time been supervising Alternative Certification teachers in Chicago inner city schools and elsewhere. During December Carl was nominated by the ISU Physics Department to receive Illinois State University's Distinguished Service Award for 2005 in recognition of his 26 years of public service and community outreach. Carl is looking forward to semi-retirement in 2007; he plans to work part time and travel with the family thereafter.

Well, that about wraps up another year in the Wenning household. Christmas of 2004 marks the 12th consecutive year that we have been writing these little updates. They serve as a wonderful memento and informative family history, and encourage you to consider doing the same. We'd love to hear in detail from each and every one of you. May your Christmas be merry, and your New Year filled with the joy of Christ, our newborn king!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!