



At BYU, Stacia attended a ward luau. It was fun to get dressed up, although it left her feeling a little homesick.



Stacia carved her first pumpkin this year.



Akiko's Birthday Party while Doris was here.

Don and Lois Colton Family Newsletter Christmas 2005 Edition



*Merry Christmas
May His Light Shine Upon You
With Love, The Coltons*



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
to
you and yours
from
the Hawaii Coltons

Year in Review

It was a great year. They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, so we decided to show you the good stuff and you can write the words.



Hollie and Briyanna sure enjoy and love each other.

Left - Michael getting to know Mika

Ben is such a strong uncle. Here you can see him enjoying his nieces and nephew.



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Isaac



When I grow up I want to be a Computer Programmer or a Computer Science Professor (Just like dad) or a Math Teacher. I haven't really decided which, but once I make it to the age where I need to figure it out then I will be able to choose one pretty quickly and without so much pain. In the future I hope I will be able to make some

games, like computer games, that will be cool. I hope that day comes soon. Oh well, I guess I will just have to wait it out. For math, I am considering trying to figure out an easy way to see if it's a multiple of 7. Maybe someday I will figure that out and be able to get tons of money. Or I will be able to teach children good ways to figure out math, or to figure out Computer Science. Then it would be cool. My goal in High School is being able to choose my own classes so that my future career will be best served, but there isn't much chance of that. Oh well.



Speech Contest Room Assignments

Favorites

- Swimming
- Final Fantasy 8
- Final Fantasy 10
- Computer Games: Warcraft Three, E T
- Books Raymond E Feist books
- Foods: Pie! Egg Nog! MMM!
- Movies: Bear-berlon 5 (babylon) Stargate SG-1
- Friends: Isaac, Poi, L J, Johnny

Stacia

Bonjour! I have enjoyed the college experience, especially having roommates and exercising my independence. This year I spent switching between Utah and Hawaii. It's hard to leave my parents and home behind permanently by living only in Utah until I finish school, but I don't know if I can handle packing up every four months and getting rid of stuff each time. I spent Winter in Utah, Summer in Hawaii, Fall in Utah, then came home for Winter to dodge the Utah snow.



Favorites: Pizza, Disney Movies, Apples to Apples, Collared Shirts, My iPod, Sudoku, Cheesy LDS Romance Novels, BYU, Sunrises & Sunsets, Water, Aunt Cindy's Homemade Lasagna, Cleaning, My Nieces & Nephews, Music, The Sims 2, Big Fluffy House Slippers, Photography, Journal Writing...

I've recently decided to major in French and minor in Political Science. It sounds like a useful combination, quite different from anyone else in my family (all computer related). After all, someone has to show that Coltons can excel in other areas. French is such a beautiful language. It's exciting to learn, too.

It's always interesting to meet new people. One of those people this year was Juli Lambrechtsen. I saw her in my classes last year and we became good friends. When I invited her to come to Hawaii with me this summer, she accepted. She lived with us for 3 months. She even worked in the Cafeteria with me. I enjoyed having a friend as a roommate, like having a sister my own age.

Juli got to visit the Polynesian Cultural Center during her stay.



Life. It's exciting.
Avec l'amour, *Stacia*
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Here are a couple pictures of our biggest flood since we've lived here. It's not as bad as the flood in 1991 or 1992. If you look carefully at the cement blocks you can see the 1992 color change about two blocks up from the bottom. This year's flood was enough for us. It totally covered all the storage rooms and lanai downstairs. After the water went down there were lines of dirt and skum about three inches above the floor in all the rooms.



Hollie and family went to the zoo. Here she met a new friend. Wow, What a tongue!!! I wonder if he's hungry?

Lois enjoyed doing a "check point" for the AVA 10K walk. Complete with snacks and water.



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Don



I think 2005 was my year of the stretch. I have stretch marks from becoming chairman of the Information Systems department at BYU Hawaii. Formerly I was chairman of the Computer Science department, so I knew most of the ropes, but IS is a bigger and tougher job. It's a stretch. I took on the job of ISEC-ON Chairman for 2005. Stretch. After Katrina we relocated our conference from New Orleans to Columbus. Stretch. I got called as Sunday School President, no counselors or secretary. Stretch. But I have also been a survivor, so it's all good.

I was fortunate and blessed to make a really good new hire. I count on God to provide the people we need, because finding them myself is just too difficult. So I advertise to the left and they show up on the right. The new guy has been excellent. Now we are on a hunt for yet another new guy. We have two or three good prospects. We may end up with a really good department if we don't collapse from burnout first (smile).

Six months ago I started designing a bathroom renovation, and we started saving money for it. We plan to convert the middle of three 12x12 bedrooms into three bathrooms. The outer bedrooms would each get one 6x6 bath, and the hallway would get a 6x12 bath and laundry. To get the building permit, I have been learning AutoCAD's architectural product. I have been making my drawing, but I have not figured out how to print it the way I want. Stretch. Then we started looking at our decrepid deck and railing, and we are getting a bid on refurbishing or replacing it. Then we started thinking about the back deck we have long wanted. Then we started thinking about where we might put a second house on the property someday. Fortunately thinking is cheap (smile).

A year ago I could hardly get up from bed because my back hurt so much. I would stick one leg up in the air and swing it back and forth til I got enough momentum to sit up. Pretty sad. In desperation I went online and found a great exercise DVD called "Say Goodbye to Back Pain" at CollageVideo.com. For the past 12.5 months I have spent a half hour or so daily running through their scientifically-designed regimen. I feel tons better. A few weeks ago I did a somersault. Lame, but still a somersault. I guess that's also a stretch.

At least it's not the year of boredom.
Love, Don

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Daniel



It has been an amazing year, yet it seemed to all have slipped past me as I look in retrospect. Somewhere during this past year I realized I have been home from Germany for over a year. This got me to thinking, "What have I done with my life since I got back? Do I still have a goal?" Both good questions.

Currently I am enrolled at Brigham Young University Hawaii where I am studying Information Systems. I am a sophomore and plan on graduating after the fall semester 2007. My goals with an information systems degree are to become a retail companies Database Administrator and Point of Sales guy (I don't know what they call those). To help me gain practical experience I work at the Bookstore here on campus. I have worked my way into such a position as allows me to use and manipulate the stores database (granted I am far from the only person with this power). Yet somehow I can't get my hands on the point of sale system. I am left to assume student employees are simply not allowed to be in charge of such things (we could get audited right? And when they say, "Oh, he was in charge of that." Then it's big trouble :)

One thing I have done a lot of this year is read. It started around summer time. I decided I didn't want to spend all my time doing only work and computer games, so I decided to spice things up by rereading some of the books that I read in 8th and 9th grade. It has been interesting because some of the books that I previously adored have turned out to be books that actually are not well written, while others that I also previously adored have enthralled me all the more because of their superb style.

Another thing that has been a great diversion this year has been making new friends. It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of "returned missionary" status must be in want of a wife. As you can well imagine I have been trying to meet new friends for some time now and I have finally made such an acquaintance. Her name is Ann Evangelista and she is a very special girl. We met in our Accounting class and I managed somehow to impress upon her that I am 'smart' and so she asked me to form a study group. She got more than she bargained for, we both did.

Indeed life has been good to me. In this Christmas Season I believe that is one thing we should all be aware of, and that is our blessings. I wish you all a great Christmas season.

Ben

As I'm writing this Year's Review from Iraq, I'm first reminded of what I've done for my country within the last year. At the beginning of the year I had completed my Basic Training, and Advanced Individual Training, but In January I was going to college. I've finished most of my specialty classes but I have a long way on my General Education classes. I wasn't able to take classes in Spring because I had my annual training for the military.



In summer I took some History classes, but in the middle of the term I received a letter in the mail with my orders to switch to a different unit because I was going to war. This makes 24 months that I've been in the army, and more than half of that time I've been away from home with training. I just look at it like, this is the time in my life when I acquire the skills that I will need for the rest of my life. Whether it's training for the army or completing college. All in all, this was a good year for me. The major downside being that it was another year being single.

*One of the fun things I did this year was being employed as a model. I didn't think I would have tried anything like that unless I was physically in shape because of the army physical training. I was hoping to remain a model for the whole year but there are other jobs that I had to do also. Some other jobs I've had this year are being a tutor for computer programming and a runner for food services at the BYUH cafeteria. Finally I took first place in BYUH's Chess Tournament.
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Lois

Having a family is really great. I hope anyone that wasn't blessed with a family has figured out how to associate with someone else's. There are so many people that need and want a family. I really like being a grandma. The children are so fun to watch. It's also fun to watch my kids being parents.



I watched Shannon, Latia, and Michael two days a week, 6-8 hours a day, for most of the year. It was sure a busy time. I only wish I could also watch Hollie, Briyanna, and Caleb some of the time. I think I'm an okay grandma long-distance, but I want to learn how to do it better.

August 1st our sixth grandchild and second grandson was born. I sure love to hear the little ones saying "granpa, or grandma, or some other version of the name." I like how you can hold out your arms and they'll climb onto your lap and snuggle. This is great stuff.

During the first three months of the year my mother was with me. She likes to go on 10K walks. She wanted one in Laie, so Don and I made one up. There was a Jubilee event walk in November to introduce it.

With three children, one daughter-in-law, and one son-in-law in college this year, it sure has been a year of higher education. 2006 we hope for one graduation, and in 2007 we're hoping for most of the rest. It will take Ben longer since he's in Iraq this year and next.

I expect next year will be interesting as everyone gets closer to finding their own family, and getting closer to graduations. Meanwhile Isaac is in High School, so I keep plenty busy. I do admit though that I'm tired of trying to make sure kids get homework done. Hopefully that will change also. :-)

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Lots of Love,
Lois

Larissa & Sam Workman



This past year was very interesting. We welcomed Caleb Samuel Workman into our family on August 1st.

Sam started the year getting some experience as an employment specialist or "headhunter" for a few months and then he moved on to work for a company called Omega Auto Glass. He has spent 6 months going door-to-door, setting people up to have their cracked windshields replaced. In February, we anticipate that he will begin his new job (for the same company) as the Human Resources Department. He is excited for that position and is anxiously waiting for it to be ready for him to begin. Sam is still working towards his Marketing degree and should finish around the end of October next year. We are glad to be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. :-)

Larissa has become a full-time mommy, finally getting to quit her work-from-home job last June. She loves spending time with her kids and being able to get closer to caught up on her scrapbooking. In September she was called to be the Relief Society Secretary and she has loved every minute of it. Her latest project has been getting pictures of all 130+ sisters so that we can put together a picture directory. It has helped her to learn all of the sisters' names.

Hollie is 3 years and 3 months and is just about to master potty training. She is very smart. She loves to read, color, write, paint, watch Dora, play dress-up (as a princess of course), play computer games (all educational), and play outside. She loves to hold her kitty Kalli and our little dwarf hamsters. She is working towards learning to read by herself. She is close, but just needs to figure out that when she sounds out a word, it actually sounds like a word she knows.

Briyanna is 18 months old. She is still very clingy, but is starting to realize how fun it can be when Mommy is not around. Her vocabulary has exploded in the last 3 months and she is talking up a storm. She is getting easier to understand every day. She loves to follow Hollie around and try to do anything Hollie does. She enjoys pushing around shopping carts or toy strollers. She has recently decided that Elmo is about the coolest thing there is, along with Diego.

Caleb is 4 months old. He is such a loving baby. He is very content most of the time. He loves to look at things. He is very visual. He smiles for us occasionally, but he is very reserved with his smiles. He does coo a lot more than either girl did at this age though. He has rolled over a few times, but not consistently yet. It will be so fun to see him grow up this next year.

Well, that is about it from us. We love you all and hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Love, the Workman family

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Joseph & Akiko Colton



This has been an exciting year for all of us. All of us have picked up and developed new skills and have grown in many ways. It has been a time of change for everyone.

Joseph learned before this year that in the IT world, certifications are valuable. This year he picked up certifications in computer networking (CCNA) and the Linux operating system (RHCE, RHCX). He played with and became addicted to the Python programming language. He also received an unsolicited email from a Google recruiter that had him taking a trip to Mountain View, CA. He was not offered a job, and believes he needs more work on his programming skills. Akiko tells him it is because she needs to finish her degree first. Recently he has been reading the rest of The Book of Mormon again. He has discovered it teaches about lessons in life he had not really run into the last time he read the book.

Akiko had a busy school year. She really enjoyed her nice Summer vacation because she was able to spend a lot of time with her friends and do a lot of baking. She also started taking hula lessons in Kaneohe and has been doing that for a while. Since she often drives there, her driving has really improved. In school, her teachers really enjoy having her in class and she is really enjoying learning and getting much better at the Hawaiian language. This year she also started scrap booking and created a lot of family pages. Like Joseph, she is also finishing up the Book of Mormon again.

Shannon was able to overcome her fear of the water after she started swimming lessons at BYUH. Later, she decided that she wants to become a mermaid when she is older. She has been working on her piano playing and was able to put on a concert where she played a song called "Choucho" which translates to "Butterfly" in English. She has started dancing hula and performed at a Christmas concert in the BYUH Auditorium. She started Primary this year and even gave her testimony in sacrament meeting.

Latia has been learning how to communicate this year. She started with some scattered and mixed words that rarely formed understandable sentences. She has since overcome that to become another family multilingual polyglot. Latia likes princesses and wants to be Snow White, but seems to think that Tinkerbell is also acceptable. Latia is learning how to be a good sister and to share with her little brother.

Michael worked his way into being called a gecko. His army crawl would have put drill sergeants and all of their men to shame. He was fast too. Later he developed into something more like a puppy. He followed his parents and liked to cuddle with them. He likes to help his parents and regularly helps Papa carry the trash out to the dumpster. He loves his family and they all love him.

It has been a time of change for us and I imagine it has been a time of change for all of you as well. We hope that all who read this will have also grown in many ways. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and an exciting and Happy New Year.

明けましておめでとうございます。

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