

The Lettini Newsletter

Christmas 2005

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Highlights

Kim and Todd
have a baby



Kara graduates
from Law School



Inge and Michael
are grandparents



Jocelyn at one month

What a fantastic year. Kim and Todd had a baby girl ... possibly the cutest baby in the world. Kara graduates from Law school. Inge gets back in the groove with volunteering. Michael's Viper wins many awards.

On October 22 at 4:50 PM Jocelyn Nicole Dawson was born. She weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces and was 22 inches tall (wow - that's 1/3 of Kim's height already). This means that I am a grandpa (woops - I mean a **YOUNG** grandpa).

The doctor said that this was a perfect pregnancy - Kim was fanatical about doing everything right ... all the right foods, no alcohol, talking to the baby and reading stories to her in the womb. The results were a perfect baby and a perfect pregnancy. She is so cute. Go to my web site, (<http://www.mlettini.com/>) to see more pictures.

Kara graduated from the Sturm College of Law in Denver with a Juris Doctorate. She takes every opportunity to remind us to call her Doctor. She plans on taking the Washington Bar exam in the Winter of 2006 - when she has more time to party ... woops, I mean study. She finished her school career with a bang - by throwing a graduation party with six of her friends and their families. I was the official photographer and took about a thousand digital pictures. The party was at the 'Bull & Bush' - a Pub behind Kara's apartment where she and friends spent many a snowy night sampling the brews.

We all went to Denver for Kara's graduation ... and attended the graduation ceremony. The trip was filled with parties, tours, parties, meals, parties, naps and - you guessed it parties. Not sure how they ever got to study ... but after meeting her friends we found out that they are some very smart people and 51% of the graduating class were female. Times-are-a-changing. She will miss her friends and extended family in Denver but plans to visit soon to take advantage of the recent snowfall - she cultivated her hobby of

snowboarding there, by going to the mountains every chance she got ... err ... between parties that is.

She stayed with us after graduation until she moved into her Condo with her friend Maggie. We noticed that she takes two or three showers a day ... goes to parties almost every night, changes clothes about every two hours and leaves glasses of water all around the house. A very strange behavior, to say the least.

Inge is volunteering at Prospect Pre-School three days a week and also taking care of an elderly lady across the street from us. And as usual she had another great garden this year ... here it is the end of November and she is still harvesting tomatoes. Her health is good ... she seems to be over her heart problem. She and her friends of many years get together every so often for partying and gossip. And every Wednesday evening she goes for acupuncture treatment and then out to party afterwards.

I have taken over the Washington Viper Club web site (<http://www.wavca.org/>) and am active in club activities as an officer of the club. My Viper won numerous awards this year - best of show, most horsepower, most photographed, etc - and I took second place in the Mopar Car show (the largest in the Country - and with TV coverage). I also participated in several car parades. We won first prize in the Renton River Days parade. I also did a track day at Bremerton Raceways. The g-forces are so great in the Viper, in curves, that I tend to get motion sickness. There were some tricky turns there ... one false move and you could total your car and the race-track walls.

Kim is busy taking care of Jocelyn, but plans to go back to work in December, Inge and I will baby sit her three days a week. So far Jocelyn and I get along great - feeding, diaper changes and just holding her are wonderful experiences. I will do Wednesdays and Inge Thursdays - both of us will do Fridays. Kim has

Kara at Graduation



Getting back to Kim – the ‘intel’ on her is that she talks in her sleep and carries on full conversations ... but no one knows with whom. Are there ghosts or spirits in that house ... Hummm ... Must be some kind of post-partum reaction – or maybe contact with aliens.

More on Inge – she is still into Marketing. She knows where every Farmers Market is within a thousand mile radius – and she goes to every one of them – bringing home some very strange looking veggies. And now she has found ‘World Foods’ in Bellevue ... she goes there on weekends and brings home more strange foods and strange drinking water. I think it might be radioactive water.

I almost forgot about Inge’s injury. Her friend, Marylee, broke Inge’s big toe on her right foot. Actually, Inge was helping Marylee move a bookcase and all the shelves fell out ... one of which hit her big toe and foot. Her foot was black for three weeks and hurt like ‘H*L’. It was not a pretty sight. It happened in February and it is still bothersome to her. She got to wear three different types of orthopedic boots to help the toe heal. It was a little weird seeing her with two different shoes on for several months.

Kim is becoming a super mother ... she really takes good care of Jocelyn and when she is away from her misses her very much. She is still the Director of Parkview Group home. She took time off to have the baby – they didn’t want her to leave and wanted her back ASAP. So, in December she is going back – sooner that she originally thought. She had a Doula (a non-medical assistant) help her during birth and afterwards with caring for the baby. She was a bit nervous at first – but as she said - she soon learned that she couldn’t harm the baby ... “baby’s are pretty resilient”. She is feeding Jocelyn with breast milk and formula – and wow is she growing fast. Kim is already nearly down to her pre pregnant weight and size.

I’m still looking for ET, running SETI at Home on several computers. There are many millions of people participating all over the world. We get data packets from the Aerico Radio Telescope in Puerto Rico - the University of California at Berkeley sends them to us ... analyze them and send the data back – all automatically. I’m in the top 3% in the world with results. I also am a volunteer for the Planetary Society (a SETI sponsor) – but our local leader isn’t very involved – so we haven’t done too much yet.

One more Inge item – she has been helping her friends raise money, food, cash, etc for families they adopted from the Katrina hurricane.

Finally ... a big thanks to Kim for getting Cable for the Baby Sitters ... it’s about time ... rabbit ears just didn’t do it.

Happy Holidays to all !!!

Happy Holidays

Lets be thankful for what we have



We hope that everyone has a Great Holiday Season and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year



Happy Holidays to ALL!!!

been able to take the baby out a few times ... to Tully’s, to Kara’s Condo and our house for Thanksgiving.

We are into remodeling our house ... had new plumbing put in – replacing all the corroded galvanized pipes ... you can now actually drink the water without filtering it. I tore out the carpeting in the Living room and replaced it with Pergo type wood flooring ... looks real nice. Next are new windows and doors and maybe a new couch and blinds.

Kara has a new boyfriend, Darin. He works for Comcast (no he can’t do anything about the price of cable) as an Account Manager for Ad sales. He gets to attend sports events with clients all the time. Things are going well between them.

Todd is busy 24/7 ... he has so many projects going that it is hard to keep track of them. His company (Encompass Construction) is developing new housing in Richland WA and remodeling/reconstructing houses in the Puget Sound area and investing in Real Estate. His big problem is hiring competent and reliable people – except for Kara. Todd winds up doing a lot of the work himself – when he’s not schmoozing with prospective clients and business associates.

Kara now works for Todd as his Chief Operating Officer. She began working for him last summer as an intern and took on full time employment after graduation. She found the business a great office/warehouse in Bellevue in order to get out of Todd’s house and make room for the baby. If you ask her what she does for Todd - she’ll say ‘all the stuff’. Not sure what that means – must be her secret to success.

I renewed my acquaintance with Mark Quam ... we were drinking buddies pre marriages. We have visited the Electricity Museum in Bellingham and have gone hiking on several occasions (Rattle Snake Lake, Twin Falls and Mt. Rainer). At Mt. Rainer we did the Sunrise loop (about seven miles). The first half-mile or so was a very steep climb at about 8,000 feet ... I thought I might die. But I got my second wind and we made it around the loop.

Speaking of Mt. Rainer ... Inge’s cousin Rainer and his wife Doris came to the US from Spain ... they come almost every year - rent an RV and travel throughout the USA and Canada. Inge and I met them at the White River Camp Grounds (just west of Sunrise) for a picnic. Inge brought chicken, veggies and fruit. Rainer supplied the wine. It was a very enjoyable visit – but Inge wouldn’t let me drive the Viper there. Sigh.