

Happy Holidays! 2001-2002

We're delighted to announce that we're still in Tallahassee and will probably be staying on here for some time. Both of us started the year with new jobs, which look very good for the long term. So good, in fact, that we just refinanced our house. Last January, Kathleen started a new job with the Florida Park Service. Jim took over teaching calculus-based physics at Tallahassee Community College when one of the physics faculty unexpectedly decided to take early retirement.

The opening in the physics faculty at TCC could not have come at a better time for Jim, who had been teaching some math classes already as an adjunct instructor. The spring found him teaching two physics classes and applying for the permanent job, a job he got, starting this past fall. Jim could not be happier than he is now at TCC, and not just because he is back doing the teaching he has always loved. TCC is one of the best community colleges in the state (TCC students do better as transfers to the state universities than students who started at a university as freshmen), and has an excellent faculty committed to teaching.

The students who take physics and make it through the first semester are as good as those at any state university (which can be a surprise to the ones who flunk out of FSU and think the classes at TCC will be easier). The college gets students from all over the state and country who intend to transfer to FSU, as well as local students who want to go to other universities in the state but need to save money their first two years.

Kathleen is enjoying her new job. It's an excellent blend of the things she's interested in, namely computers and nature. She produces various publications – such as the park guide, information brochures, and the monthly employee newsletter – and provides information and photos for the media. She also writes articles for magazines on behalf of the park service.



Kathleen's new Honda Insight.

In other news, Kathleen was thrilled to get a special new car last March – a Honda Insight, currently the most fuel-efficient car on the planet, averaging 60 mpg and better. We've gotten up to 73 mpg on some trips and averaged 60.3 mpg at 75+ mph on a 2200 mile round trip to Michigan for the high school graduation of Jim's niece, Jenny. Around town with the air conditioning running, it's getting 55-65 mpg.

In November, Kathleen formalized her Buddhist practice, participating in the Buddhist equivalent of a confirmation ceremony. She's been practicing at weekly sitting meditations with a local Zen Buddhist group (affiliated with the Kwan Um School of Zen) since 1994 and has attended a number of retreats over the years.

All our best wishes to you and yours as we all continue to heal from the 9/11 tragedy; and our hopes for a more peaceful world in 2002.

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or visit us at: www.nettally.com/kcarr/ where an expanded version of this letter is available in PDF format.



Three of us (front row), ages ranging from 19 to 84, formalized our Buddhist vows at a ceremony in November, held at one group member's house. Our guiding teacher (gray & red robe, back row) is a construction worker from Lawrence, Kansas. And, yes, the walls really are a bright saffron yellow.