

15 December 2009

Dear Friends and Family,

We hope the season finds you happy and healthy! We apologize for the missing Christmas letter of last year. The hustle and bustle of the season got the better of us. However, these last two years have been very exciting for our family!

In 2008, Candace graduated Summa Cum Laude from Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. Over that summer, she continued her Society of American Fight Directors stage combat training. She is now certified in Rapier/Dagger, Small Sword, Knife, Unarmed, Broadsword, and Sword/Shield. Continuing her education, Candace became a graduate student at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL. She is working towards her Master of Fine Arts, a terminal degree equivalent to a doctorate, in Acting. Because she is teaching undergraduate stage combat classes, she received a graduate assistantship, so the school waives her tuition and pays her a small stipend.

In 2009, Candace traveled to the International Stunt School in Seattle, WA and completed three intensive weeks of training in film stunts. As she puts it, she did things “not generally considered a good idea” like 40 foot high falls, precision driving, and setting herself on fire. Her overall goal is to finish graduate school in the next year and begin her career as an actor/stuntwoman in both film and theatre. In May 2010, Candace will be done with graduate classes and she is looking to work in exciting places like Los Angeles, Seattle, and Boston. When she began acting at the young age of 11, we never imagined it would take her the places she has been and the places she is going to go. Check out her website at: www.cmhackett.net

Ron and Debi have pretty much adapted to their empty nest. Throughout her undergraduate work, Candace was only an hour and a half from home, so she came home often. Now they have to cope with their little girl being several states away. Debi still has her side business of costuming (www.isleofrose.com) but now also works for News America Marketing, a company that supplies grocery retailers with advertisement material. She is enjoying the job and enjoying the extra money. Ron is still developing and selling software for ManTech International. Several companies have bought his software Document Detective and much of his time is spent training the new owners. Now that Candace is on her own, Ron and Debi hope to do more traveling together. They’ve taken a few longer trips to the New England area and celebrated their October birthdays with a trip to Nashville.

Ron and Debi also visit Florida quite frequently. Besides Candace living there now, Ron’s parents still live active lives in central Florida, staying busy tending the farm, playing tennis and golf, fishing, and enjoying each other. They are often busier than before they retired. Ron’s sister, Donna, still works for the Marion County Sheriff’s Department, helping numerous people.

Our son Aaron and his wife Christina welcomed their second son, Evan, into the world on February 27, 2009. They had the great joy of meeting him just a few short weeks after he was born. Their first child, Hunter, turned five years old this past August. Aaron and his family are doing well, and hopefully there will be more visits with the grandkids in the future.

We hope that 2009 has been a good year for you, and that 2010 will bring you immense joy and happiness. If you ever come around Fayetteville, Tennessee, please stop by and say hello!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Hackett Family
Ron, Debi, and Candace