

# **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** *From the Fairfax Jewells!*

**The major news story this year from the Northeast U.S. branch of the Jewell family was the engagement of son Andrew and Anna Corfield. In romantic fashion, Andrew popped the question one October evening on a bridge over the River Seine in Paris. We had already considered Anna a member of the family so are delighted that Andrew made it official. Wedding plans not yet known. Since Anna spent a year studying in mainland China (Nanjing) and another two years in Taiwan, when she and Rebekah get together they can chat in Mandarin!**

**On this trip to France the newly engaged couple visited old friends of Andrew's in Besançon, Annecy, and Paris. Earlier, in May, they toured the ancient Inca city of Machu Picchu near Cuzco, Peru.**

**As in the previous year, both Andrew and Anna traveled extensively on official business for the U.S. Treasury Department. Andrew attended Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings in Thailand in July and September. Anna participated in a Brussels conference on Afghanistan in March, and in September she again met President Karzai in Kabul and attended World Bank and IMF meetings in Dubai.**

**Christopher, too, was a busy international traveler this year. Representing his company, Active Matter, Chris spent three weeks in March in New Delhi, India, training the contract Web developers of a local software development firm. In the four plus years he has been with his company, Chris has climbed the ranks from Web Developer to Technical Lead to his current position as Development Manager.**

**While in India, Chris made a one-week trip to Hong Kong to see his girlfriend, Janice Lai. She herself covered thousands of miles by air this year visiting Chris here during both the spring and summer breaks from her high school teaching position. In August, Chris and Janice traveled by automobile to Montreal and Quebec City. Early next year, Chris will be back in Hong Kong to celebrate Chinese New Year with Janice and her family.**

**Faithful to his favorite mode of transportation, Chris bought a new motorcycle this year, the fourth he has owned. Together with other aficionados, he makes weekend trips around the local area.**

**Chris, Andrew, and Anna, living nearby, have joined us for Sunday dinners most of this year. Regrettably, we have seen very little of our older children and their offspring. Cameron made several short visits from Key West on business in the Northeast, but Gerri and Erica were last here a year ago. The latter is also true for Colin and Trevor in California. Gillian's two children spent a week with us here in August, but we stayed only one day with the**

**family in North Carolina. We are hoping that Dick's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday next March will be the occasion for a big family reunion.**

**For Rebekah, this year has been an exceptionally busy one. In addition to her weekly activities at the local Senior Center, plus the adult Chinese cooking classes she teaches some evenings, she has devoted hours of research, experimentation, and writing in preparing a Chinese cookbook that she hopes to publish next spring.**

**In September, the Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Adult and Community Education (ACE) presented Rebekah with an Outstanding Instructor Award "in recognition of your passionate culinary instruction coupled with invaluable acts of goodwill on behalf of ACE." The nominating memorandum described Rebekah as a "Goodwill Ambassador" and "a jewel in the community."**

**For Dick, this has been the Year of the Medical Tests. Virtually every part of his corpus underwent some form of examination, including three procedures in which he swallowed a pill-size camera that photographed his nether region. And after all that probing he remains in reasonably good physical shape, with a mind only slightly hampered by the usual old-age forgetfulness.**

**We were saddened by two events that occurred toward the end of this year. On November 11, Joel Brooks, old friend and FBIS colleague, died of cancer while on holiday in Spain with his wife Esperanza. That same month we learned that Dick's brother-in-law, Hamish MacRae, who lives in Miami, had been diagnosed with lung cancer. He is now undergoing treatment.**

**The Fairfax Jewells hope that your holiday season will be bright and merry and that the New Year will bring you nothing but good things!**

