

It's been two years since we have sent a holiday letter. And since our website (www.funfolks.net) is woefully outdated, we thought we should write to update our friends and family rather than to leave them back in 2001 or 2004! 😊 (Randy promises that he'll eventually get more pages up there on the web, but first he has to finish work on the two martial arts books he's committed to producing for UCMAP – another edition of the UCMAP Monograph, and a first ever English Manual for Yongmudo)

We had a great time ringing in 2005 with *Grapefruit Ed* at the Oakland Metro with a bunch of friends. In mid-January, we returned to Florida for the 5th Annual Monkey Ball with the *New Orleans Radiators!* Fun, sun, and lots of friends! All help make life wonderful! At the end of February, we went to Colorado for a week of skiing (Randy – barely three months after breaking his ankle during a sparring workout!) and snowboarding (Ting) at Beaver Creek and Vail with our chum Harsha Krishnan. *The Radiators* were in CO at the same time (we don't know how that always seem to happen but we think they might be following us around), so we caught a pair of shows in Boulder and Winter Park. From skiing legs to dancing legs, it was a fun-filled week! Ting was Master of Ceremonies at the 36th Annual UC Open Taekwondo Championship in early March and again in mid-April when UC Martial Arts hosted the 30th National Collegiate Taekwondo Championships. She is becoming the resident MC at UC Martial Arts and loves it! To think that this was a shy little girl that would have died from embarrassment getting up in front of a room full of people in her tender years!

In May, we went on the biannual UCMAP Martial Arts trip to Korea. We spent the first week at Yongin University, where we trained in Taekwondo, Yongmudo (aka Hapkido/Hankido), Kumdo, and Ssirim (Korean wrestling). The next stop was Woosuk University, where we were treated like royalty with TV cameras following us around. Apparently, a visit by UC Martial Arts, the US National Collegiate Taekwondo Champions, is big news in Woosuk. The down side is that they spent so much time entertaining and touring us that we hardly got any training in – just three training sessions in the three days we were there. The final stop was Chosun University, where we were treated normally again with a three-sessions-a-day training schedule. Randy and Ting, being “seniors” among this collegiate group, were allowed to home-stay with the host at Chosun, Professor Wie. We were truly honored! And in case you might be wondering, Michelle Wie of golfing fame is Professor Wie's niece. Randy's favorite part of the Chosun visit was getting instruction from and sparring with a Korean Judo champion, even if it costed him some big bruises!

Mom and Pop Tse came back out to visit for 6 weeks in July and August (Hooray! Ting and Randy love having Mom and Pop Tse visit!). Ting's sister and her family came out to visit for a week at the same time. With Mom and Pop, sister, brother-in-law, and three nephews all under the same roof, the house was bursting at the seams! It was a wonderful family reunion if a bit hectic at the same time! Ting is thankful that her parents are such undemanding folks that they put up with working around her work schedule for 6 weeks! With a 24x7 operations center to manage, that's no easy request!

The Radiators were back in town in September. This was the first time since Hurricane Katrina that we saw them. Most of the crew and the band were badly affected by the hurricane. However, it is a tribute to the spirit of New Orleaners that they continue to remain optimistic and have fun despite the trampling of Fate and crappy government.

In October, IronPort sent Ting to Dublin, Ireland for a Virus Bulletin Conference. Randy tagged along to make sure the Irishmen didn't mistreat her 😊. While Ting slaved away at the conference, Randy enjoyed hiking along the Irish coastline. Ting scheduled a couple of extra days before and after the conference to do some sight-seeing too, including a memorable visit to Trinity College, which still houses some of the original written work of many of Science and Literature's most prestigious figures, including Sir Issac Newton, James Maxwell, Niels Bohr, and Lord Byron! The college, which boasts 32 Nobel Prize winners among its graduates, also hosts and displays the famous Book of Kells, which contains some of the most beautifully ornate illustrations and minutely exact calligraphy to survive from the Middle Ages! Way cool!!

Later in October, UC Martial Arts hosted the first EVER Yongmudo Tournament and Martial Arts Expo, where Ting was MC. The Yongin Yongmudo Demonstration Team came from Korea for the Martial Arts Expo, which featured demonstrations in Yongmudo, Taekwondo, and Kumdo. Randy competed in his first martial arts tournament and walked away with a gold medal.

Through the rest of the fall, we went to lots more shows and lots more workouts. Randy was busier than usual with his YMD practice, training hard in order to be ready for his 2nd~Degree Black~Belt Test at the start of December. With that task accomplished, he then spent the rest of the month slaving away on a grant application for the U.S. Department of Education, trying to explain why they should fund charter school development efforts.

Christmas time brought more family visits, with the Tofts electing to return to San Francisco for a week this year. We rang out 2005 and rang in 2006 with *Phil Lesh and Friends* at the Bill Graham Civic. This was Ting's 69th music show in 2005 (with Randy logging quite a few more, as Ting tends to skip out on the classical and quiet jazz shows). Between work, music and martial arts, we definitely kept busy!

In January, 2006, Ting started a new job at San Francisco State University as their Director of Network and Communications. She is happy to be back in IT again after a year in operations! And now that she works for the government, she has a pension, lots of vacation, and a life to boot! No more calls by the Graveyard Shift and no more electronic leashes while on vacation! Weekends are now spent having fun instead of working (two trips to Tahoe for snow sports this month!)! Hooray!! More fun is always better! Randy still works hard on business consulting and financial analysis for Charter Schools, so now we both work in education. Ting thinks academia is much better than the cut-throat world of high-tech, even through the slow pace can be frustrating!



Grapefruit Ed



Ting and Harsha



MC Ting on the Job!



Randy's Ham (after Judo)



Happy Tses



Dave and Bob



James Joyce and Randy



Yongin Flyer



Showing Knife Defense



Nicole, Ting and Fiona



Uncle Randy the Hug Monster



the Funfolks on NYE



NYE Balloon Drop



At Heavenly



Los Lobos, January 15



Ida and Ting



Happy Fishheads



In Costume



Last Show of the Cruise



Having Fun at Keystone



Girls at the Reunion



Grandma Barbara, Aunt Pat and Phil



With Dr. Golub



Randy and Pop



Super-Randy



Funfolks-in-3D



Ting in LOVE



Irish Mum

In February, we went on a Caribbean cruise with *The Radiators* and about 250 other “fish-heads” on the beautiful Norwegian Sun. The first day aboard we ran into a steward who asked us if we had been to Bali. After a brief exchange, we realized we were talking to Ida Bagus Sanjaya, who we had met 11 years ago! Wow! What a small world! That day in 1995, we were walking back to our hotel alongside Lake Bratan because we ran out of cash to take a cab, and the money exchanger (our reason for traveling out in the first place) was closed for a holiday. Ida came along on his bicycle and asked if he could practice English with us. He invited us to his home where we met his girlfriend and were treated to drinks and food. A year later, we received a letter from Ida that he was working on a cruise ship in Boston and that it was cold. We sent him a down jacket, but hadn’t heard from him again until now! His girlfriend is now his wife and he has a couple of kids. Needless to say, it was a happy start to the vacation! More info about the cruise? Well, *the Radiators* played every other night until the wee wee hours. With us staying up till 4AM on some nights, we made it mostly to the afternoon excursions: a long bus trip across the Yucatan peninsula to visit the Kohunlich Mayan Ruins after disembarking in Puerto Costa Maya, a hiking/swimming tour of waterfalls in Santo Tomas de Castilla, Guatemala, and free-form excursions in Belize and Cozumel. The best part of the cruise was getting to spend more time getting to know friends that we only see at shows and never have enough time to really talk to! After the cruise ended, we spent the day in Miami with our friend Lee Bank, who gave us a waterfront tour of Miami in his boat, showing us the Miami Boat Show (the biggest water-sports convention in the world) and views of multi-million dollar homes of stars and entrepreneurs that line the bay.

At the end of February, Randy flew to Colorado for another ski week with Harsha; Ting couldn’t go since she only started at her new job and had already taken a vacation at the beginning of the month. 😊 Oh well, sometimes the boys need to have fun by themselves! Randy continued to make ski-day getaways throughout March and April, getting up to Tahoe just as often as work and other obligations would permit a day or two’s escape. In April, Ting MC’d at the 37th UC Open Taekwondo Championships (and again at the 2nd Yongmudo Championship in October). Among the many shows we saw that month, the double-bill of Mavis Staples and Taj Mahal stands out for sheer musical soul. MMMN-GOOD!

In May, we went back to Boston for Ting’s 25th high school reunion. It is interesting that people age so differently. The big news at the reunion was that one of Ting’s classmates underwent a sex change. Of more interest is that she stayed with the woman he married before he became a she. No worries, we were confused too! We had a fun time getting to know her and getting re-acquainted with other classmates. While we were in Boston, we made a trip out to the cape to visit Randy’s Grandma Barbara, and we also visited with Dr. Golub, for whom Ting worked when she interned at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in 1981. Dr. Golub treated us to lunch at the classic and plush Harvard Faculty Club, and then got us VIP admission to one of the campus art museums. We were thrilled and thankful for the meal and the experience! We saw Dr. Golub and his wife Anne again in Golden Gate Park when they came out to celebrate the graduation of Anne’s son Manuel from Stanford at the start of June.

One day earlier, Ting underwent arthroscopic surgery on her left knee after hurting it during YMD training. Her doctor also advised that if she wants to continue to do flying kicks, she needs to fix her ankles. She started with arthroscopic surgery on her right ankle in early December. The great thing about arthroscopic surgery is that you can be back on your feet in a couple of days! In the case of her ankle, she was walking around the next day! Ah, the wonders of modern medicine!

Randy’s grant application had been approved in late May, and after two months finagling with petty details over bureaucratic registration issues, he finally got down to work on it at the end of June, with the project running on through the middle of December. Mom and Pop Tse came back out to visit for a couple of weeks at the end of the month, overlapping their visit to the Bay Area with that of friends from Hong Kong who they have known for more than 40 years!

We started August with a brief vacation trip to take Mom and Pop Tse up to Lake Tahoe. Without the usual goal of arriving slope side ASAP, it was fun to drive there and back along older, smaller and more rural roads, stopping here and there as the whim occurred or need arose. A week after they left it was time for the annual San Jose Jazz Festival, along with a few hundred thousand other music lovers, we spent ~12 hours listening to various jazz acts performing free in Downtown SJ.

Labor Day weekend brought us to the Sausalito Art Festival one day (ho gwai!) and the Oakland Art and Soul Festival the next: both were fun, sun and music-filled events! The end of the month was also capped by a day of perfect weather, this time blessing us with sun for the Point Reyes Traverse, a traditional YMD club event spiced up this year by an energetic game of beach soccer.

October saw *the Radiators* back in SF for a few more shows, while mid-month found both Randy and Ting competing in the 2nd Annual YMD Tournament. This time around Randy edged out one of his seniors in traditional four-round *kyukkido* sparring, but faced with a strapping 20-something, had to be content with a tie after a two-round *yongmudo* match. Took about two weeks to recover from that event! At the end of October, we flew to Las Vegas to see *Phil and Trey’s* late night Vegoose festival gig and Circus de Soleil’s newest production, *Love*, a Beatles Tribute. Both shows were spectacular and definitely worth suffering the cigarette smoke-filled atmosphere! 😊

Randy was super-duper busy with work all through November and into the middle of December, trying to wrap things up on his grant project while working simultaneously with several demanding clients! Sleep is indeed a gift to be treasured! For 2006, Ting would log even more shows than last year... Music is the language of the Heavenly Spheres after all!

We are still living high in the beautiful Oakland Hills. If you are in the neighborhood, give us a call at 510-339-8966 so we can get together! Have a wonderful holiday season and the best of New Year’s! Don’t forget to put your HEART AND SOUL into everything you do and NEVER FORGET TO HAVE FUN! 😊

With lots of Love,

Ting & Randy