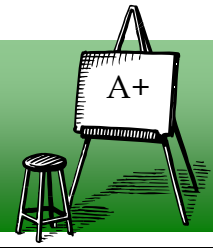


# The ARTicle



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Greetings family and friends! Kevin and I wanted to give you a quick update on what's been going on with us since we last wrote in early 2003. This edition of The ARTicle is a variation of the publication that I send out to the families of my students.



## Career Happenings

Our biggest news this year would definitely have to be my new job.<sup>1</sup> After graduating summa cum laude from Mount St. Joseph in May with a BA in Art Education and a BFA in Drawing, I got a job teaching Art at Montgomery Elementary (grades K - 4) in the Sycamore school district - one of the best districts in Cincinnati.

Although it is *old* news by now, Kevin also had career news. Shortly after transitioning to a new assignment at P&G, he was promoted from Systems Analyst to Systems Manager (June 2004). His job responsibilities haven't really changed, but he has taken a great interest in leadership. He also finished his MBA degree (December 2004) with a triple concentration in Marketing, Management, and International Business.



## Travel & Leisure

Part of the reason Kevin took some extra MBA classes was to take advantage of an opportunity to go on an international trip to China. In September 2004, he joined some faculty and fellow

students on lectures at local universities, corporate tours, and sightseeing trips in Beijing, Guangzhou, and Chengdu. He came back with over 800 pictures and a 20 page journal.<sup>2</sup>

Kevin had not taken another vacation until this month, when we went on our first cruise. We spent 5 nights in the western Caribbean on Royal Caribbean's *Grandeur of the Seas*. We visited Cozumel and Grand Cayman, where we spent most of our time snorkeling, including one excursion where we got to swim with stingrays.<sup>3</sup> The rest of our trip consisted mostly of eating and relaxing.



## Sports & Activities

Volleyball kept me busy for a few months. I played two sessions of sand and two of indoor. My favorite extracurricular activity, however, is choreographing high school musicals. I was the choreographer for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Oak Hills High School in the spring and the assistant director and choreographer for *Working* at Sycamore High School just this autumn.

Kevin still gets in an occasional rollerblading session with the dogs. They pull him down the street at about 20 miles per hour. He insists it is the only way to get them the exercise they need. Softball doesn't seem to be much safer. After a few too many

heaves from the center field, shoulder trouble convinced him to give pitching a try. Somehow he thought that licensed him to play as many as three times a week instead of one. In addition to his continued coordination of and participation in P&G's co-ed softball league, he joined two other teams this year - a men's team and another co-ed team.



## House & Home

With all of the summer fun, the big projects seem to all get started late in the year. In late 2003, it was the stadium seats and home theater. In 2004, the big adventure was the hot tub project, which included a partial relocation of the patio and significant electrical work, not to mention getting a rental truck stuck in the mud. The drama seems to grow every year. This year, when Kevin began work on a patio roof out back,<sup>4</sup> the discovery of some badly deteriorated wood behind the gutter resulted in the decision to re-roof the house as well.<sup>5</sup>

With all the snow and rain, that became an adventure in its own right, especially when a worker fell through the living room ceiling. Hopefully these projects will get finished up by spring and we can focus on some interior remodeling - maybe even get the house ready for sale. I think Kevin might finally be ready to consider moving.



## Family Pets

Kevin finally came to his senses and relegated Chief and Kolder, our Siberian Huskies, to the indoors. They were picked up by the SPCA for the second time back in September 2004. The first time was a \$100 fine per dog, but the second offense for failing to contain your pets results in a mandatory court appearance. I think when the judge read the maximum sentence of 30 days jail time per offense, it put a bit of a scare into Kevin. Thankfully he left with only a \$135 fine. Needless to say, he has been

much more careful not to let the dogs out of his sight.

Speaking of scares, Kevin witnessed Chief having a seizure only 3 days before we left for our cruise. Thankfully, Chief's test results were clear and we were able to leave both boys in the care of PetSuites while we were gone. The most difficult part was that *my* family had just lost our 13-yr old Golden Retriever, Diana, the day before.



## Love & Marriage

The past couple years have been full of friends' engagements,

weddings, and babies. Since our wedding in 2003, our friends Andy & Steph, Joe & Kelly, and Stephen & Emily have married (2003), our friends Luke & Morganna (2004) and our friends David & Maggie, Mark & Jaclyn, and Robin & Chris (2005). It looks like our friends Kevin & Nichole will be next - they got engaged just this month. Keeping right in step, there were at least 5 additions to the families of *other* recently married friends. Indeed, it has been a wonderful couple of years.



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- <sup>1</sup> <http://www.SycamoreSchools.org> → Find a Teacher → enter "Carroll" → Art at Montgomery OR simply...  
[http://my.sycamoreschools.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab=courses&url=/bin/common/course.pl?course\\_id=1779\\_1](http://my.sycamoreschools.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab=courses&url=/bin/common/course.pl?course_id=1779_1)
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.KevinAndMartha.com/China>
- <sup>3</sup> <http://www.KevinAndMartha.com/Cruise2005>
- <sup>4</sup> <http://www.KevinAndMartha.com/PatioRoof>
- <sup>5</sup> <http://www.KevinAndMartha.com/ReRoof>