

Happy Holidays

December 2008



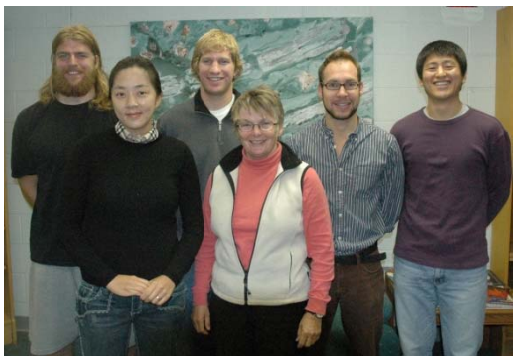
Hoping your 2008 was a good year. For me, parts of this year have presented the hardest challenges of my life.

It started in July when my mother had a massive hemorrhage of a severe ulcer. She was in acute and long-term care hospitals for >80 days. After six blood transfusions and emergency surgery she refused to eat and resisted most of her treatment. Finally, she was placed in Hospice where, after 30 days, she died peacefully on October 9th.



I took her out to California to bury her with my father. My cousin Tom, from Detroit, conducted the graveside service. Her sister Pat came down from Northern California with her husband Dick and cousin Diane and husband Bob. Her sister Grace came from Detroit with cousins Tom and Debby. Alhambra neighbors came as well as long time family friends Tom Ross and his daughter Laura and cousin Sherry. Cousin Tom Stires and aunt Betty Mills attended from the Lewis family. Patsy, my college friend who still lives out in the area, truly helped organize the whole event. I could not have done it without her help and support.

As one of my activities while in California, Patsy and I tried to find my Grandfather's old cleaning store near the Wilsure district and my grandparents home in the Silver Lake area; both in Los Angeles. Grandma's house had not changed. And Grandpa's old store is now a computer store. Took another look at the house I grew-up in, in Alhambra. It was a good end to the hardest thing I've ever had to do.



Here is the picture of my students this year; two doctoral students and three new masters' students. As a team, we have been quite productive in 2008. Jaume Padilla finished his doctoral work at IU in December this year. He has been an essential team leader for most of our research. I shall truly miss him. But, he is heading to a fantastic post-doc with an internationally known team in vascular research at the University of Missouri. In January, we will welcome a new doctoral student, Daniel Yeung, from Hong Kong.

See our research at: <http://www.iub.edu/~afp/research.html>



As for the dogs: Dart and her puppies had a great year. In less than one year, Dart earned her Amateur Field Championship (AFC), won a Best in Specialty Show (BISS) (⇐) and earned her Field Championship (⇒) to become a rare Dual Champion (DC). She finished the AFC in Missouri; the BISS in a dog show in Illinois; and the DC in Florida.



Her name is now:

BISS DC AFC Red Oak Totem from SnowRidge, JH, OA, OAJ

With this win, Dart became the 150th Dual Vizsla Champion since Vizslas were recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1960. Narrowing it down further, she's the 43rd Dual Champion female. The 10th BISS Dual Champion and the 2nd BISS Dual Champion female in her breed since 1960. Quite an accomplishment.



To put the icing on the cake, her puppy Jake (⇐) won both the Open and Amateur Derby stakes in Florida the day Dart finished. These wins for Jake were also finishing wins for him. He's won just about as much as he can as juvenile dog. My puppy, Shine placed third in the Amateur Walking Derby. Shine has more winning to do before he turns two years old in April.

Puppy Jake (⇒) has been the most productive Dart-Mart puppy. He was ranked as high as 9th in the country as a juvenile field dog early in 2008. He earned his Junior Hunter at six months old and earned a Prize I in the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) Natural Ability (NA) test. His owners (Mark & Crystal) earned the honor of the Most Promising Young Couple in the Tampa Bay Vizsla Club.



(⇐) Puppy Lily and owner Valerie, in Michigan, cleaned up at the local field trials. We had a nice visit with her in May. Lily & Val are also working on agility.



(⇒) My puppy Shine didn't do too bad, winning some juvenile field trial stakes, earning his junior hunter and a Prize I (perfect score) in his NAVHDA NA test. He ranked #15 in the US earlier in the Spring.



(⇐) We met puppy Juli and owners John & Linda, from Connecticut, at the Miami Valley Specialty in June. She has been competing in dog shows and field trials and has placed in both! She's following in her mom's pawprints.



Hope you all have a good holiday and great 2009!

<http://www.totemvizslas.com>