

# Christmas 2003: Gary & Jeanel



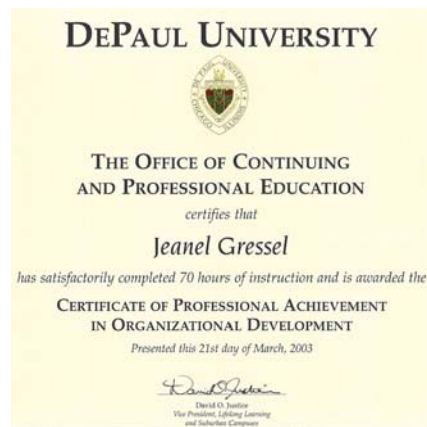
Two thousand and three was a fairly quiet year around the Gressel household. Gary remains at AT&T and Jeanel will begin a job in December at H&R

Block as a manager of some technicians at a local call center. Although it is a “seasonal” position until the end of tax season, it may open doors to full time positions later. The year will go out in style though. We’ll be in Hawaii from Christmas until New Year’s celebrating the second wedding ceremony of Woody & Maria, who were officially married this spring, with Gary having the honor of being a groomsman.



H&R BLOCK

Jeanel finished her coursework at DePaul University to receive a certification in Organizational Development. She made five separate week-long trips to Chicago to complete the work started a year ago.



**Gary for President!!!** Well, OK, maybe not. But now that he’s turned 35 years old he is fully qualified to make a run for the top office.



Jeanel got to travel overseas again with friend Barb Coleman. This year they took a trip through the AT&T Pioneers to France with a side trip to London. The ten day trip consisted of several day trips in and around Paris. By coincidence the trip was during the running of the Tour de France. Although the group left Paris the day before the race arrived back in Paris, Jeanel did see the setup for the finish of Lance Armstrong’s fifth win.

This summer we enjoyed watching the Royals make a real run at the playoffs in baseball—during a rebuilding year! As I type this the Chiefs are 11-1 and looking great.

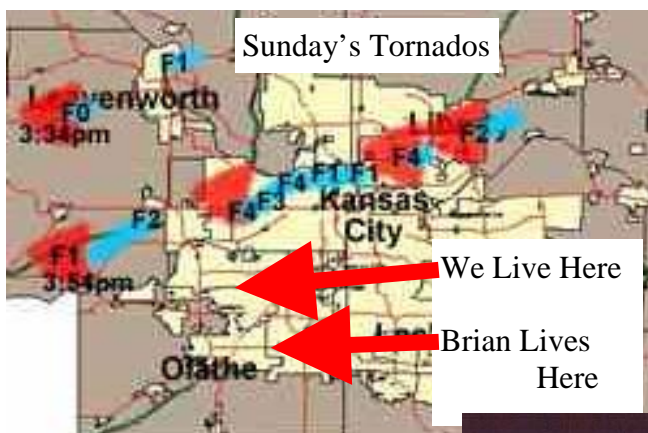


The T-bones arrived this summer and were as much fun as we expected. Fan promotions were held nearly every 1/2 inning and the 5,000 seat stadium kept everything close and personal. While Gary’s parents were visiting he got randomly selected to participate in the \$1,000,000 give away. If anyone hit a homerun through the “Bull’s Eye” during the game, Gary would walk away with a million. The sign sits about 400 feet away in left field. Nobody came close the whole game but it was quite fun hoping!



Beginning Sunday May 4th, the Kansas City area endured a week of tornados. The closest tornado to

our home was ten miles to our north. One tornado did damage about 1/2 mile from Gary's first KC apartment. After ten years in KC Gary still hasn't seen a tornado but this spring was exciting just the same.



Jeanel got to play in a weekly golf league on a par three course. The constant play allowed her to improve her game dramatically and make some new friends.



We continue to share tickets with Jeanel's brother for the New Theatre

Restaurant that produces five shows a year, usually with a "well known" actor. This fall, Don Knots, who has been here several times in the past, announced he would do one final professional show before retirement—here in KC. During his last weekend of doing "On Golden Pond" he took timeout to do some fundraising photos. Of course, we were there!



Since graduate school Gary has enjoyed playing with video in a variety of forms. In the spring Gary got to try it out for real by producing a video of his church's drama production. He produced a two hour video containing multiple camera angles, interviews, and a review of the

previous seven shows. Since then Gary's obtained more video equipment and software and taped a Broadway-styled review at the church. Instead of 3 months as he did this spring, this last performance took only 7 hours of time from start to finish. Gotta love those new toys!!!

In addition to the New Theatre productions, we also saw concerts from "The Blue Man Group" and James Taylor in Kansas City.

This year's Vegas trip gave us a chance to spend some time with family friends Larry, Meg, & Terri, and Jerry & Patty, and brother Brian. We saw "Celine Dion: A New Day." It's pricey, but the show was truly outstanding. The TV specials don't begin to reflect the awesome performance.



Gary got two more cysts this year—at the same time. Instead of just an office procedure, his doctor chose to do a quick outpatient surgery to remove them. Here is a picture of the one on Gary's forehead after it shrunk significantly thanks to a few days of antibiotics (trust us). Jeanel must be getting jealous as she got a "regular" cyst that was handled by a dermatologist. Maybe someday she can experience the true excitement Gary does regularly.



*Happy Holidays from Gary & Jeanel!!*