

# Season's Greetings

December, 1994

Dear Friends,

How can the time fly by so quickly? It seems that I just finished up the Christmas letter from last year and now it is time to go again. It must mean that we are having a good time--and we are. After our scare of 3 years ago, we have learned not to take anything for granted. With that in mind, it is with great joy that we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy, healthy New Year. We are looking forward to the holidays since all three girls will be home for Christmas.

This has been a transition year for each of our girls. **Beth** and the MAIA QUARTET are based at Juilliard in New York City this year and have just found out that they will be there next year also. This is absolutely the best place in the country for them to be, so it is wonderful that they were chosen by the Juilliard String Quartet to work directly with them in their fellowship program. In addition to their teaching and coaching duties, the quartet has played concerts in Cleveland, Columbus, Baltimore, Kansas City--and they will be here for 12 days in January doing several concerts and playing in a number of schools as part of their educational outreach. Their visit to Austin last January was very successful. Beth is loving living in New York--she is rooming with her best friend since the 4th grade, Pria, who is working on a Ph.D. in immunology at NYU. The quartet was in Aspen this summer and enjoyed it once again. Beth and her boyfriend Mark came by here on their way back to Baltimore before she moved to New York. The MAIA's New York debut concert will be on April 10 in Paul Hall at Juilliard. Mel and I plan to be there and we'd love to see any of you who are in the area.

**Sarah** is having a very exciting year, too. This is her first year of teaching high school chemistry--Kemper High School in Sugarland--about a 50 mile round trip commute from her place in Houston. She is teaching beginning chemistry to 5 sections of 30 students each and is doing a wonderful job. She is calling parents, getting to school early for student help sessions (really early since school starts at 7:30 a.m.), and is working very hard with the students. She was just home for Thanksgiving and spent most of the time grading papers or working on lesson plans. She has been mistaken for one of the students a number of times, so she is careful now when she is in the halls to carry her grade book or her beautiful briefcase given to her by her boyfriend John.

**Mardie** is getting used to the real world this year as she is doing her preceptorship with the architecture firm of Llewelyn-Davies Sahni in Houston. She graduated with an undergraduate degree in architecture in May from Rice, a gala occasion attended by Mel and me, Sarah and Beth, and my parents who came in from North Carolina. She started work in July and has been enjoying doing a variety of architecture activities including some design and urban planning. Next fall she will go back to Rice for one more year. She is sharing an apartment with another young woman, so is getting used to cooking and grocery shopping and such. It was good to have her home for a long Thanksgiving holiday. She will only get one work day off for Christmas, but she will be home.

Mel and I had a fabulous 3 1/2 week trip to England this summer. At one point I was hugging Mel and saying that I couldn't believe that we were really there. He laughed and said that 2 years ago all he was hoping to do was get to Zilker Park, the park 1 mile from our home. My back is still a problem, so I walked a good ways across the Atlantic on the plane. We stayed in the south of England, from Canterbury to Bristol and then to Cornwall, Devon, Wales, and the Cotswolds. We saw friends, Dean and Lydia Tapley and Eunice Paul when we arrived, toured a few days on our own in our rented car, and then arrived in Bristol where we descended upon wonderful FSU friend Don Kimber and his wife Ann who entertained us royally for 2 wonderful weeks. We used Bristol as a base and made a number of day trips, plus several overnight excursions. The most wonderful place we saw was Weobley, an enchanting Elizabethan town with incredible flowers and wonderful buildings--and the most fabulous restaurants. After we left the Kimbers we spent several hectic, exhilarating days in London and then headed home.

Eleven days after getting home I was back on a plane again headed to North Carolina to celebrate my mom's 75th birthday. Siblings Nancy, Robert and Sandra came, too--and we had such a good time with Mom and Dad--a tour of Biltmore and 2 fabulous days at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville. It was so much fun! My folks are doing great!

Mel is going through a round of physical therapy to help his back. I am, too--for my back. It is helping both of us, and Mel's tennis game is really heating up again.

One amazing development this year has been the ardent recruitment by UT of my brother Robert. There is a vacant chair in the music department that they really want him to take and he is seriously considering it. He, Julia and Kelly were out here from UCLA in March (after my sister Nancy had taken a bus person's holiday in February, coming here to visit my school during her winter break). Robert was back again in September for more talks and he will be back again in mid-December. If that goes well, the Winter family should be moving here in the fall of 1996. To find out what Robert does, check out the December issue of WIRED magazine. There is a really nice article on him and his new multi-media company, Calliope.

The next Winter/Brown family reunion will be at the Sunset Hill Inn in Enfield, N.H., July 15-22. Our cousin Lois had lobbied long and hard for us to meet in New England which we are finally doing--but it will be without her. She died of liver failure in May and we all miss her so. If you are going to be in the area, give us a call and come by. We had hoped to have another Miami neighbors reunion, but that didn't work out this time--we'll try again in 1997.

Even though we only correspond with most of you once a year, you are often in our thoughts. We wish you great joy in the coming year--and pray that there will be peace on earth in 1995.

Love,  
Pat, Beth, Mel, Mardie & Sarah

