

December, 2007

Dear friends,

We hope this letter finds you happy, healthy, and enjoying a restful and restorative holiday season with loved ones. Those of you who memorized our past holiday letters (or retrieved them from your archives for comparison) will recognize the borrowed opening line from last year, which introduces this year's exciting theme: "Stasis!" Here is a brief overview of things that are largely or entirely unchanged since last December:

1. John is writing this letter again. Same font, too.
2. We still live in our home in Yardley, PA. (For a new view, though, we present Exhibit A, below.) Having moved often in the past decade, we relish this stability.



Exhibit A: 204 Aspen Rd., centered in this aerial photo.

3. Ayelet continues her work in the Psychology Department at the University of Pennsylvania (see Exhibit B). She began working with her first graduate student this year. On the road to becoming a licensed psychologist, Ayelet is gaining supervised clinical experience with patients at the Center for Cognitive Therapy. Despite my suggestion, she does not wear a trainee cap that tallies and displays her accumulated hours of clinical work.
4. John continues his work in the Psychology Department at The College of New Jersey (see Exhibit C). Because he does not aspire to be licensed to do anything useful, he devotes his professional energies to research on statistical methods and teaching topics in applied psychology. This holiday season, John would be happy to design a computerized simulation study for you or to discuss the pros and cons of various techniques to detect deception.



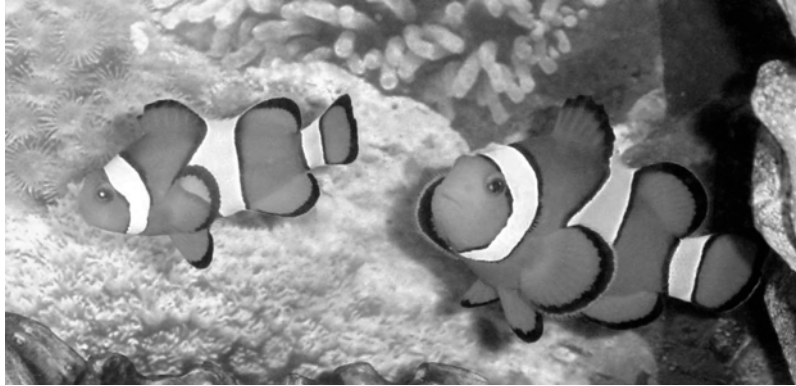
Exhibit B: The Solomon Labs building at Penn (centered). A direct view of Ayelet at work is obscured by the massive roof-mounted fans (and the roof).



Exhibit C: The Social Science building at TCNJ (centered). Note that Google's satellites either captured this image prior to fall, 2005 or our new library has recently been obliterated.

(over)

5. *Our niece, Maya, is one year older. Now that we think of it, everyone we know has aged by one year ...just like last year.*
6. *John's aquarium supports the same two clownfish (*amphiprion percula*), and they continue to spawn every couple of weeks. See Exhibit D—sorry, aerial photograph not available.*



*Exhibit D: John's pair of clownfish (male on left, female on right).
Photo from 12/04 to underscore the Stasis!*

Of course, in addition to Stasis! there have been some new developments. Observe that the following list is formatted using bullet points rather than numbers to accentuate the change.

- *Our second niece, Isabella, was born to Nick (John's brother) and his wife Jenn in April. Because they're still living and working near Washington, DC, we need only drive 193.894 miles to visit (that figure is approximate, my internet connection is down).*
- *Ayelet's aquarium now houses an ornamental shrimp (*lysmata amboinensis*) in addition to her two clownfish (*amphiprion ocellaris*). We didn't claim that each of these were significant changes...*
- *In addition to reading, John enjoys watching football while walking quickly on his treadmill. Although he has not found a way to take any credit for this, the team he grew up cheering for—the New England Patriots—is doing rather well this season. Sundays have provided sufficient game time for John to pursue his admittedly senseless goal of walking 50 miles in a day, which he accomplished earlier this month.*
- *Ayelet traveled to Israel in May to celebrate her cousin's wedding and her grandmother's 80th birthday. John was unable to accompany her, as he spent 26 hours in Belgium during that time to serve on the examining committee for a student completing his doctoral thesis. Ayelet would recommend spending a week in Israel for anyone, but John cannot say the same about 26 hours in Belgium.*

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a wonderful new year. We feel fortunate to have you in our lives and look forward to keeping in touch. We have enjoyed hosting family and friends who have visited or traveled to Philly this year, and we invite you to stop by if you're ever in the area.

All our love,

*Ayelet and John
204 Aspen Rd.
Yardley, PA 19067*

*Ayelet: 267-229-7858, ruscio@psych.upenn.edu
John: 267-229-7857, ruscio@tcnj.edu*