Dear Family, Friends, and Colleagues,

One of the highlights of the year was that we served as keynote speakers for the 30th anniversary of ANIEI (National Association of Educational Institutions in Information Technology) in Mexico City, on Julie’s birthday. There were about 500 students in a very large audience, many of whom use the Spanish translation of the eighth edition of our book called Análisis Y Diseño De Sistemas. After our talk, they kept us posing for photos for about 90 minutes, smiling at multiple cameras and cellphones flashing every 10 seconds, and signing our books. After that outpouring, our hosts called us “Rock Stars.” We were overwhelmed by the warmth of the reception they gave us. Our best meal of the year was a 5-hour feast at Bresca, a fabulous new Mexico City restaurant.

While we intended to be away in Mexico for just a long weekend, we found ourselves stranded there for five extra days when Superstorm Sandy hit the East Coast and the airline cancelled our flight to Philadelphia. Our classes were cancelled for the week as well, so we gladly became instant tourists visiting the national anthropology museum as well as seeing Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera’s home, the Diego Rivera murals covering the walls in the National Palace, and many other wonderful sights. Mexico City is truly an international city now. When we returned home we found we only had one tree down, and it cleared the house with no damage. Many in New Jersey, including some of our colleagues and students, weren’t so fortunate. Some living near the shore had dwellings and cars destroyed, and many were without power for more than a week, so it made for an unwieldy and difficult semester.

Since this was a special year for Julie, we wanted to make sure to celebrate with as many friends as possible, but getting together a big group seemed like a scheduling challenge. So we tried to make 60 small parties in honor of her special year (counting our own private parties, too). It was tremendous fun. Three celebrations stood out. The first one was seeing the art installation by Japanese artist Tatzu Nishi who built what looked like an upscale New York City living room (60 feet in the air) surrounding the 13-foot-high marble sculpture of Columbus that towers over Columbus Circle. Another was listening to the Philadelphia Orchestra perform the score of West Side Story, synched to the 1961 film that was shown at the same time (with the musical track of the film technologically muted). A third memorable birthday event was hearing Barbara Cook sing during her 85th birthday concert in Carnegie Hall.

On Broadway we saw The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess starring Audra MacDonald and Norm Lewis. Off-Broadway we loved the new musical Giant at the Public Theater starring our friend, Brian D’Arcy James.

We once again attended the Tony Awards and the after party held at the Plaza Hotel in New York. It was a terrific night, with lots of friends and acquaintances winning awards.
We are both still Board members of EgoPo Classic Theatre in Philadelphia, where the company mounted a very successful Festival of Jewish Theatre season with productions of The Golem and A Dybbuk.

We enjoyed Paul Rudd’s performance in Grace.

You can see both of us in the My Ruined Life: Sing Along trailer for Season 2 at http://myruinedlife.com/. Our friend Lee Porter, writer and director of the Web series won “Best Web Series shot in Philadelphia” from FirstGlance Film Festival. We continue to support the Actor’s Fund and The Drama League, which is building a new home in Manhattan.

Jim Parsons of TV’s The Big Bang Theory was Harvey’s Elwood P. Dowd on Broadway.

It was a very productive and interesting year in research. Our paper on “Storytelling as a Qualitative Method for IS Research: Heralding the Heroic and Echoing the Mythic,” was published this year and we also presented a paper on our storytelling method at DSI, gave a panel on the theatre and information systems research at ICIS, and published and presented a paper on managing risk for open source software projects. We are observing that many organizational stories are similar to myths and that perhaps Wagner’s Ring Cycle explains it all.

Our conferences were in Seattle, San Francisco, and Orlando this year. Before AMCIS in Seattle we gave a workshop for minority Ph.D. students at the ISDSA conference sponsored by the PhD Project founded by KPMG. It was great fun.

Oliver Platt was wonderful to watch in As You Like It in Central Park in June.

We found a free evening to celebrate Mickey Mouse’s Christmas Party.

We were fortunate to spend Thanksgiving in Napa Valley. We visited with our friends the Shafers at Shafer Vineyards. On Thanksgiving we were blessed to share turkey dinner with all the trimmings (and lots of families) aboard the Napa Valley wine train as we glided past beautiful fall foliage.

Julie continues to serve as AIS Vice President of SIGs and Chapters. Ken participated in a project management workshop while Julie was in 2 days of Council meetings in Orlando.

Rutgers reorganization proposal consumed lots of energy and caused lots of concern among our friends and family. In July, we found out that the proposal was not going to become a reality, much to our relief, but we were sad when we thought of all of the good people our university had lost because of the proposal, and we looked back unhappily on the many hours required to respond to this threat. Things are on the upswing, though. In November, Rutgers accepted the invitation to join the Big Ten. We look forward to Rutgers’ 250th Anniversary in 2016.

We hope you have a wonderful year in 2013!

Ken & Julie December 2012 www.thekendalls.org