

Letter from the Chair

What an amazing year 2011 has been. As this year draws to a close, I thought I would send out something of a holiday letter to all of you, to let you know a little bit about my family, and my life away from Masters Diving.

My husband, Paul, and I have been married over 24 years. Our anniversary next summer will be celebrated a month early, as we travel to Riccione, Italy, and then parts beyond as a present to each other. My husband is a college professor of Biology, has a Ph.D., and is very involved in working with students in undergraduate research. He has been instrumental in helping students gain entrance to the Honors program at several four-year universities, and even has a student who received a research job to further his education and earn a Masters degree. Paul is a volunteer at our local community theater, mostly backstage, but occasionally he will act, and this past year he has become an avid runner. Paul ran in his first half-marathon last month, and was happy to finish, but more happy that he got to run with his brother, Russell.

My son, Stephen, is a 16 year-old junior in high school. He was recently inducted into the National Honor Society, and currently is ranked 7th in his graduating class of 600 students. Stephen is ranked #1 on the tennis team, and is currently in the Super Champs division in USTA tennis. He is definitely one of the joys of my life. I have enjoyed watching him grow and mature these past 16 years- it is hard to believe in another year-and-a-half he will be heading off to college. Stephen and I share our love of sports, and I am definitely his biggest fan when he's playing.

As for me, I spend my time split between the pool and the classroom. I have been teaching for 25 years now, and currently teach Physics 1 and Advanced Placement Physics with Calculus. I am also pulling double duty this year as head swimming coach and diving coach for two high schools. This is my first year to be the head swimming coach, and it has been an experience! I enjoy the swimmers more than I thought I would, but am not enjoying the schedule that I am working. I currently work from 5:30 AM until at least 4:30 pm, with no breaks, and only part of a class period to

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call a teacher work period, or conference. I start the day with the swimmers, then go to school and teach, then end the day with the high school divers. Because of this schedule, I have stepped back from working with our club team for the time being. I hope to change that when the swim season ends. I also spend my free time singing in the church choir, and in a ladies' ensemble, and singing solos for our church. In years past I have participated in our Easter drama, and this year I was Mary, the Mother of Jesus. I also try to participate in our community theater when I can, and this year I was in the chorus for "Oklahoma". Obviously I have a full schedule, but I still find time to get in and dive occasionally, especially when people come to visit. If you are ever going to be in Midland, Texas, be sure to call me and we can dive together. I enjoyed having Johnna Jaynes visit recently, and any and all Masters divers are welcome!

I am looking forward to all that 2012 has to offer- a great meet at Roy Botsko's home pool in April, the FINA World Meet in Riccione in June, and the summer meet at Riverside, California in August. There is also a meet in Vancouver in June, after the Riccione meet. May God bless each and every one of you at this Christmas season, and here's to a Happy New Year!

Jennifer Mangum