

H A P P Y H O L I D A Y S 2 0 0 8

To All of Our Wonderful Clients, Suppliers, & Friends

2008 It was the best of times (so many great projects!), it was the worst of times (so much night and weekend work!), it was the age of wisdom (warehouse operations reached peak performance levels!), it was the age of foolishness (what were we thinking when we agreed to finish all those projects by the end of August?) ... **This year's AV installations set new records for KONTEK.** To pull it off, we hired two new installers, Pete and Brian; employed a record number of summer interns - 7; set up a "2nd shift" camera calibration & programming workbench overseen by Erik & Jonathan to handle upgrades to the UNC Friday Center; redeployed Julian as a part-time Crestron Programmer; promoted Tim to Lead Installer; promoted Mike and DJ to the design team; invested in advanced training (congratulations to Jonathan & Julian, Mike, DJ & Tim, and Pete & Brian!); eschewed softball; and generally worked everyone to exhaustion (please don't say anything about Billy's, Brenda's, and Wes's new gray hairs). **NOT TO SAY WE WERE ALL WORK AND NO PLAY: TEAM KONTEK TOOK A DAY OFF TO GO SKIING; HUNG OUT AT SEVERAL BULLS GAMES; HAD A PIZZA PARTY AT FRANK & ELLEN'S "CASSILHAUS" CONSTRUCTION SITE (www.cassilhaus.typepad.com); AND HOSTED A GUY-SHOWER FOR KIM BEFORE HIS WEDDING TO HOPE ([video of the happy couple dancing to music dj'd by Sammy coming to YouTube soon](#)).** **Cameron took off for his annual fishing trip; Scott disconnected from his 24/7 service department responsibilities long enough to go white water rafting on the Gauley River in West Virginia; Brenda & Jan went on a cruise to the Mexican Riviera (although nobody warned them that the Pacific is *cold*); Jonathan's daguerrotypes were on show in galleries in Durham and London; DJ and his band "Sea Cow" popped up at venues all over the Triangle; and Sammy dj'ed all over town. WE CELEBRATED DAN'S 15TH YEAR WITH KONTEK AND ANOINTED HIM "OLD MAN SANVILLE."** *Jan had surgery and couldn't pee for a month, but that didn't stop her from getting Wool E Bull to make a surprise appearance at our annual open house extravaganza. SOME OF US ARE GETTING OLDER - THREE KONTEK KIDS WENT OFF TO COLLEGE THIS YEAR: WES'S ELDEST DAUGHTER KATHRYN, BILLY'S MIDDLE DAUGHTER ANNA, AND JAN'S YOUNGEST SON JEFF. We held our annual retreat at the UNC Friday Center (best meeting site ever) to wrap up this year and plan for the next, where we learned that Ben is a science fair winner, Brian plays guitar, Pete plays sax, and Linda sang in a garage band (is an RGBGs revival in our future?). Monica survived her first KONTEK holiday party with patience and panache, even when her new boss, Gigi, was acknowledged as the resident Crazy Cat Lady.*

After a calm 2007, the new year came roaring in like a runaway 18-wheeler full of AV racks. It was a record-breaking year for KONTEK's intrepid team.

Three very large projects at Duke filled up most of our summer calendar. The Fuqua School of Business was the site of our largest and most complex project, the Breeden Hall addition. Four years in the planning, Breeden has five dual image widescreen lecture halls with ceiling mounted document cameras and full web capture and videoconferencing capability, two elegant multipurpose meeting rooms, twenty-eight team rooms, an eight-screen digital signage array, and more.

Right across the street at Duke Law's Star Commons addition, we designed and installed a gigantic motorized screen disguised as a steel structural element in the atrium's glass curtain wall, with a widescreen digital projector embedded in the opposite wall and a robotic camera system allowing Commons events to be remotely recorded. The project also included an elegant 40 seat classroom, library conference and study rooms, and digital signage.

And a short walk across the quad, in Perkins Library, our most unusual project of the year was The Link--a groundbreaking learning center that integrates 21 teaching spaces ranging from large classrooms to small seminar rooms in a collaborative environment designed to encourage small group interactions. Featuring extensive use of streaming video over the data network, The Link is meant to be a working model for testing and development of new classroom technologies.

At the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-Chapel Hill, we had the opportunity to design state of the art AV technology for the new Capital Markets Lab, where business students have real-time access to global financial and market information and experience a Wall Street-like trading environment.

The UNC Friday Center continued upgrading its AV systems with KONTEK's help. This year, we expanded the remote video camera network in the building to a total of 18 broadcast quality cameras, all remotely operated from the master AV control room at the center of this beautiful (and busy) building.

After years of partnership with Campbell University's School of Pharmacy satellite campus in RTP, we finally got to travel to the home campus at Buies Creek, North Carolina to renovate and upgrade the Maddox and Hartness classrooms with videoconferencing & rich media capture systems.

Team KONTEK may be evenly divided between Duke, UNC, and NC State partisans, but we all agree on Durham Bulls baseball. When the Diamond View II building opened this year, Smith Breeden Associates acquired a prime view from their balcony high above left field. Our crew took a break from the game to install sophisticated new AV systems for Smith Breeden's elegant board room & conference rooms.

This year we welcomed new Kontekians Peter Rehm; Brian Peters; and Monica Ellis, her husband Derek and daughters Makayla and Alani. We said farewell to Mark Ray, Joel Johnson and Amy Blanton.

During these uncertain times we are especially grateful for satisfying work, for tolerant families who put up with our passion for all things geeky, and for great clients who become great friends. We wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a New Year filled with peace and joy.

This year's holiday card picture overlooking Rhode Island Sound was taken by Frank

Frank Konhaus, Wes Newman, Dan Sanville, Gigi Krapels, Brenda Pratt, Billy Morris, Ben Wallace,
Sammy Truong, Scott Sublett, Tim Rabalais, Mike Juday, Jan Stutts, Jonathan Danforth, Cameron Powell,
Julian Milano, DJ James, Linda Guzynski, Erik Benson, Kim Durack, Peter Rehm, Brian Peters, and Monica Ellis

K O N T E K S Y S T E M S