



**Happy Holidays to all of our wonderful clients, suppliers, & friends!**

**2011** Greece may be on the brink of default and the Eurozone may be in crisis, but Kontek had another record-breaking year. **Woohoo!** We still managed to have fun, too, at work as well as at this year's ever-popular Kontek Night at the Bulls party. *Kudos to Michael, our newest programmer, who designed this year's kn@tb t-shirt!* Visitors to the Kontek men's restroom may recall Frank's "Motel 6" photo series. Who knew it would end up on loan to Charlotte's DOMA Gallery for its "Eyes of Carolina" exhibit? Charlotte plays catch-up to Durham again. *Wes's nest may be newly empty, but his driveway isn't. After six months of weekend work, sailboat "Bella" was (re-)built and (re-)christened just in time for the summer season.* **LINDA ADOPTED CHICKENS—AND SPENT MANY HAPPY HOURS RESEARCHING SOLENOID-ACTUATED AUTOMATIC COOP DOOR OPENERS.** Jonathan organized his second annual Maker Faire – bigger, better and even more intensively geeky. After surviving last year's high speed impact with an 18-wheeler, Brenda replaced her demolished red Miata convertible with – a yellow Miata convertible. Some people never learn. **DJ went an entire year with no emergency room visits for soccer or skateboarding injuries. In related news, Kontek's health insurance costs dropped 13%. Joel bought a powerboat, spent a sunny Saturday towing Kontek staff and kids around Falls Lake, but didn't keep a close eye on the depth sounder. Bad news: the new propeller is not a reimbursable expense. JC, NEW TO KONTEK, DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS OK TO SAY "NO" WHEN JOEL SUGGESTED ONE LAST HIGH SPEED SPIN ON THE TUBE AROUND THE LAKE, IN THE DARK.** Julian finally finished the most meticulous home renovation project ever – of a rental house. **Billy trimmed the family payroll by one when son Ben (ace Kontek summer employee) landed a full time job at Pixar Studios in San Francisco. Coming soon: Kontek, the movie! Erik discovered that promotion to Service Manager is a license to torture Monica with unreadable service tickets. Monica just keeps chuckling, and her ever-present good humor keeps us all sane. JAN MAY NO LONGER BE A TEENAGER, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HER FROM SNEAKING OUT OF THE OFFICE TO STAND IN LINE FOR "TWILIGHT: BREAKING DAWN."** Single guys Brian and Pete kept trying to out-do each other with exotic vacations – Jamaica, St. Maarten, the Dominican Republic. *Cameron packed his son Jonathan off to freshman year at NC State, an act of real selflessness for Kontek's most rabid Tar Heel fan.* Tim appeared on stage in his church gospel quartet. Coming soon: Kontek all-installer gospel sextet? *Dan finally got an iPhone with text buttons big enough for his thumbs. Sammy and Dannette welcomed baby Baez, who has already developed enhancements to the Linux kernel and was recently arrested during the Occupy Durham protest. Ben and Julie welcomed baby Liam to their growing family. And Kim and Hope welcomed their second baby boy, Cal. A banner year for Kontek Kidz! Gigi thanks the Goddess that we're all still employed and stressed out, per usual.*



The national economy may still be in the doldrums, but you'd never know it from the pace at Kontek this year. 2011 started out busy and never slowed down.

With some help from a federal stimulus grant, our biggest project of the year was NCCU Law's statewide TALIAS telepresence network - Technology Assisted Legal Instruction and Services. With its hub in Durham and satellite sites in Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Greensboro and Winston-Salem, TALIAS is making the expertise of NCCU's professors, students & clinic staff available to communities across the state. Its programs already include public seminars on legal topics like foreclosure prevention, college credit pre-law courses, and collaboration among the state's historically black colleges and universities and with Legal Aid of NC. As NCCU's partner, Kontek helped envision, design and install a system that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of many North Carolinians for years to come.

Our largest summer project, at Duke Law, was equally ambitious in a different way and we accomplished it on a tight timetable. We renovated five major teaching spaces (lecture halls, seminar rooms, and moot court room) with widescreen HD video projection, all-digital video switching, Smart Podium annotation systems, and remotely operated HD video cameras, and tied all the rooms together with a powerful and flexible control room system which will allow classes and special events to be captured at full HD quality.

College classroom projects have always been near and dear to our hearts at Kontek, and the transition to the digital age is giving us plenty of chances to revisit older analog rooms and upgrade them to support iPads, HDMI laptops, Blu-ray players, wide screen projection formats, and lecture capture technology. This year we got to do exciting multi-classroom upgrade projects at NC State's College of Management (11 classrooms) and at NC Central University (the School of Business, and undergraduate classrooms in the Farrison-Newton, Miller Morgan, and Walker buildings). The award for most out-of-the-box classroom must go to Duke's Dance Media Lab, where motion-triggered video events will combine with dance to create a new form of live performance art.

Kontek's "Raleigh and east" division had a banner year. We installed major video and sound systems at WakeMed's Andrews Center for Continuing Medical Education and WakeMed Cary Hospital. We were frequent visitors to Greenville, providing new systems for Pitt County Medical Center's hospital auditorium, chapel, and conference rooms. Closer to home, we jumped at every chance to do projects in downtown Durham and at the American Tobacco Campus (where we can walk to job sites from our office), including equipping HTC's corporate offices, Duke Management Company's new board room, MDC's convening space for non-profits, and the Durham Chamber of Commerce's board room and conference room.

On the New Technology front, plasma and LCD displays just keep getting bigger and more affordable, and we found ourselves choosing flat panels for projects that would have gotten projectors in the past. Any Duke students who aren't sufficiently impressed with the new 85" plasma display at the Duke Athletics Hall of Fame can always go back home to the dorm (if they live in the new Keohane Residence Hall, that is) and watch the ACC Tournament on the 103" commons room plasma.

Two new Kontekians joined the team this year, field installer JC Stevens and software programmer Michael Martin, and we are excited about the contributions they will make to our team. Three new future AV technicians arrived in the form of Kontek babies Baez, Liam, and Cal. Our family continues to grow! We wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a New Year filled with peace and joy.

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This year's holiday card picture by Frank features puddle reflections of neon wreaths in downtown San Francisco

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Frank Konhaus, Wes Newman, Dan Sanville, Gigi Krapels, Brenda Pratt, Billy Morris, Ben Wallace, Sammy Truong, Tim Rabalais, Jan Stutts, Jonathan Danforth, Cameron Powell, Julian Milano, DJ James, Linda Guzynski, Erik Benson, Kim Durack, Peter Rehm, Brian Peters, Monica Ellis, Joel Johnson, JC Stevens, Michael Martin