

Hello Hello!! I hope that this note finds you healthy and happy and looking forward to a fun 2005!

While 2003 was a year of change for me, 2004 was full of learning and growth. 2005 promises to be back to the "change" theme as I've moved from the Bay Area, my home for the last nine years.

Yes, I have (just) moved -- to Jackson, Mississippi to be the Director of Research and Development for SmartSynch (www.smartsynch.com), the leading provider of advanced wireless metering technology to the energy and utility industries. This may sound like an odd switch from my previous work with unmanned airplanes and robots, but I'll actually be using much of my expertise in human-computer interaction. This move gives me an outstanding opportunity to make a difference in a rapidly-growing technology company as well as contribute to progress in my home state of Mississippi.

I'm in an apartment until I find a house in Jackson that fits my personality - for my most current mailing address and other contact info, click on "Contact Info" on the left at <http://www.HLJones.com>



Showing our LumiMap tech gadgets to local kids in El Salvador

2004 was full of growth on a personal level that far exceeded anything I've experienced before. I'm very happy with the changes that have taken place in my life and look forward to more. But since it's difficult to give that justice in a brief letter, I'll stick with the standard "How I Spent 2004" spiel:

My work with unmanned airplanes at MLB (www.spyplanes.com) ended in May. I spent the summer developing my non-profit, LumiMap (www.LumiMap.org), which is now becoming a university program. Autumn then became job-search time, which ended in December with the decision to go with SmartSynch. When I started looking in September, I never dreamed I'd be in Mississippi in January!

I got back into flying, finally, and took lots of friends for tours of the San Francisco Bay and flew some down for a camping trip on Catalina Island near Los Angeles. I did a little travel -- to Central America (El Salvador and Costa Rica), Europe (England, Scotland, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg), and lots of military bases. I continued to get much joy from singing in my church choir and was asked to help lead the services for a few weekends this summer. My co-teacher Kevin Conley and I got our Spanish-language basic computer skills class up to the classroom capacity of 15. I also met and got to know a couple of authors with books hot off the press -- please take a look at [Life 2.0](#) by Rich Karlgaard and [The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini.

Those are the successes. The failures and the mistakes would fill a few pages, yet they were the catalyst for the great personal growth that happened this year. Hopefully 2005 will have ways to encourage even more growth - without quite so many headaches and heartaches!



Rest stop during Foxy's Fall Century 100-mile bike ride

That brings up one more bit of change -- I had my first two tow truck rides this year, unfortunately both after wrecks of my Explorer. No people-injuries. The Explorer, however, made it through the first one, but not the second. It was a good pal for almost 10 years - I hated to see it go.

By the way, thanks to the leadership of my friend and its CEO Clark Love, Forest One is doing great without me -- growing and profitable.

In case we haven't been in contact lately, I hope this note will encourage you to send me an update!

All my best, Hank

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At the controls over San Jose