

# The Lisell Family Christmas (New Year's) Letter



*Odin and Bo in Kittyville*

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## HOW TO PLAN A WEDDING FROM AFAR

By LuAnn

Weddings are wonderful and a bit exhausting! I was thrilled to be Shannon's wedding coordinator. Weddings are especially challenging when it's important to include family (by blood) and friends (family by choice) when these people reside all over the country. The solution was to have 2 receptions. The Minnesota ceremony and reception was the largest and most challenging. Planning a wedding 1000 miles away while running 2 businesses is made possible by having a supportive husband, use of the internet, free long dis-

tance and lots of prayers. It was the most cherished day of the year for me. The only regret is that the day passed so fast. Rick and I would have loved the opportunity to spend more time with all our friends and family who were there to

share our joy. Having the Texas reception was wonderful. It was more relaxed (for me) and was just the perfect way to include friends in welcoming Alex (formally) to the family.



*Melissa, Alex, Shannon, LuAnn and Rick*

## WHERE'S WALDO

By Rick

LuAnn and I did a little bit of traveling this year. We visited LuAnn's parents in Florida in January, May and August. We spent 2 weeks skiing at Keystone in March. We were in Palm Springs in May. We went to DC with Melissa in July. We took trips to Minnesota in June

(for a nephews wedding), September (for Shannon and Alex's wedding) and December to spend Christmas with family. We spent 10 days in Maui in November. We took a cruise out of Tampa with LuAnn's parents and friends in early December. A frequently asked question in 2010 was "who is taking care of the dog this week? "



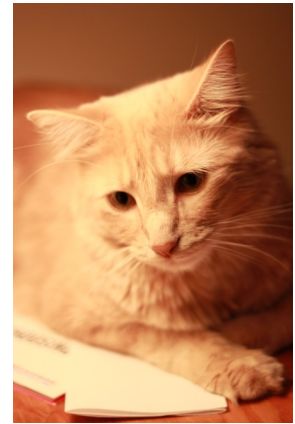
*Under the Bean in Chicago  
Rick and LuAnn*

## TOYS R NOT US

By Shannon

I began working at a Toys R Us Holiday Express last September and then moved to a Human Resource department supervisor position at a Babies R Us in January. I enjoyed the experience and gained useful knowledge for my new job. In October I began

working for Mom as her HR Assistant. I have also been helping with Lisell Travel. My first big project was to create websites for Strategic HR Solutions and Lisell Travel. Check them out and let us know what you think! [hrsolutions.lisell.com](http://hrsolutions.lisell.com) and [travel.lisell.com](http://travel.lisell.com)



Bo "naughty"



## I DO, I DON'T

By Shannon

On September 26, 2010 the Lisells officially welcomed Alex Stassen into our family. Alex and I were married at the Semple Mansion in Minneapolis. Mom worked very hard getting the arrangements ready being

in another state. The wedding turned out to be everything I had ever dreamed about! It was a very emotional and exciting day. Two weeks later there was a Texas celebration with all of our friends of the family down here. Our family

had so much fun being able to celebrate with us for a second time! After all the celebrating, Alex and I are settling in to a wonderful married life.



Odin

## MOVING ON UP

By Alex

The beginning of last year was an exciting one for Shannon and me. In mid January we moved out of Rick and LuAnn's house and out on our own. Living at Melissa's house has been great. Melissa, Shannon, and I are all getting along very well and the living situation is beneficial for all three. Shannon and I get to live in a home with ridiculously low rent, and Melissa gets loving kitties and tenants who help pay the mortgage. Plus, I get my very own man cave, a big positive.



*Melissa and the newest family member Hitch*



*Wowi Maui Sunset  
Alex, Shannon, Rick and LuAnn*

## WOWI MAUI

By Alex

As you already know, Shannon and I got hitched this past September. We spent a week in beautiful Maui, Hawaii in November for our honeymoon. The week was spent swimming, zip-lining, golfing,

scuba diving, horseback riding, and much more. Even though it was an action packed week, we had plenty of time to relax and soak up some sun. My first trip to Hawaii was a memorable one, and I plan to go back (with Shannon).

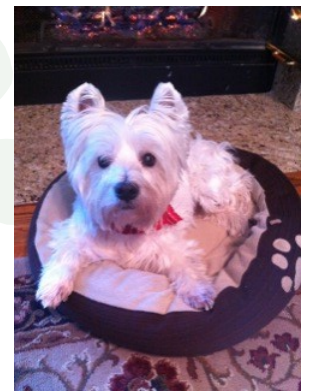
## ANOTHER GRADUATION

By Melissa

As my 4th year of teaching drew to a close, so did my year and a ½ long Master's degree program. One way my district supports professional growth of teachers is by offering a fully paid Master's Degree Pro-

gram. I now hold a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Texas Tech University and a Master's degree in Teacher Leadership from Lamar University. I am glad to be finished with the heavy reading load as

well as the weekly assignments, discussions, and finals... however, I am already beginning to think about returning for another Master's degree in Children's Literacy.



*Lexi*

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*Lexi and Santa Paws*



*Skiing on St. Patrick's Day  
Melissa*



*Melissa's handmade headboard*



*Hitch, Melissa's new puppy*

## MY HOUSE 2.0

By Melissa

Paint and sawdust are becoming regular smells at my home. I was inspired to start building furniture pieces after attending a graduation party at Dad's cousin Kristen's house. Kristen had just started blogging ([www.highheelsandahammer.com](http://www.highheelsandahammer.com)) about decorating and impressed me with all of the completed projects around her house. My first project included a queen-sized, upholstered headboard for the master bedroom. Dad patiently taught me how to measure, cut with the power saw, and use a nail gun.

After completing the headboard, the bedroom seemed to need something else so I enlisted the help of Shannon and Alex for an all-night painting project. Dad and Alex later spent an afternoon redoing the top of the arbor in my backyard. Mom and I, with the help of Lexi, Bo and Odin supervised the construction from below. In November, I put the whole family to work in the living room. The fireplace wall needed additional studs, to support the future addition of a TV, as well as a mantle. The guys handled most of the construction



*A new mantle/surround for Melissa's fireplace*

while the girls kept themselves busy painting the living and dining rooms. Now that the dust is settling, I am starting to make a plan for future projects.