



Dear Friend:

I am a bit embarrassed contacting friends only once a year, at Christmas time. As I am getting older, instead of less, there are more and more duties and commitments. I have also noticed that now I need more time than a few years ago to complete a certain assignment. Or, maybe, all my actions are performed more accurately.

In late June and early July, I was with my wife Janina on a short vacation in the Dominican Republic. It was really a great "all inclusive" get away due to excellent accommodation, beautiful beaches and swimming pools, very nice and professional service and delicious food. To me, too much sun and heat. I generally do not swim and sunbathe before 15:00 pm, or do that early in the morning. It was our third "all inclusive" in the hospitable Dominican Republic. For us, a trip to Caribbean Islands is convenient, because taking an early morning flight, we reach a destination in early afternoon. So that, we can have a lunch and then the whole afternoon to do a reconnaissance of the resort. A very important advantage is the only 1-hour time difference, so there is no problem with adapting to the new time zone.

Upon return to the U.S. I had a lot of work with supervising laboratory tests on new prototypes. In addition, I had to prepare and practice my Keynote Speech for the International Conference on Electrical Machines and Systems ICEMS'14 in Hangzhou, China and prepare a paper for the 3rd Smolensk Conference in Warsaw. Entertaining a large audience of 800 people, among them a lot of high-level professionals is stressful. I was in China from 20 to 26 October. A flight from Chicago to Shanghai is very long, about 14 and a half hour non-stop in the air, and then three hours by bus to Hangzhou. It is quite a big effort, but in the end, I returned from this trip very satisfied.

Then, I had two 10-day trips to Canada, in order to supervise the prototyping and laboratory tests on novel electrical machines for special applications. A bit boring, but necessary activity, as people are making a lot of mistakes inadvertently during laboratory measurements, which leads to irreversible damage of very expensive prototypes.

I was in Bydgoszcz, Poland, from November 20 to December 1. I do not anymore stay in guest rooms of students' dormitories. There is always noise all nights. Impossible to sleep. Nowadays, everybody can be a University student in Poland. Most students do not study or they are not capable learning at tertiary education level. Heavy alcohol drinking is now common in students' residences. I have found nearby a small, but very pleasant and modern hotel, which belongs to the Oncology Centre in Bydgoszcz. The hotel is located almost in the forest. It is a very quiet and comfortable place. In the morning a good breakfast and good coffee is served. There are only two bus stops to get to the University. Next time I will be flying to Poland probably in the second half of March 2015. My time in Poland is always very limited, so that I even do not have time to visit my immediate family in Poland.

I am not thinking about retirement yet, but at my age everything can happen. I can say that, thanks to God, at present time I enjoy an excellent health, but it is hard to say how long I will be in good shape. While attending professional conferences, I see how people are changing. Many of my friends have retired, many of them also passed away. I see fewer and fewer my long-time friends and more and more younger generation of researchers. But among young people I feel younger.

I have serious problems with obtaining permissions to publish; therefore my primarily technical and scientific activity is innovation and patent applications. This type of activity in the U.S. is most welcomed by all organizations including corporations, governmental institutions and academia. Every year I submit at least 20 new ideas and obtain annually from 8 to 12 U.S. patents. There are some financial gratifications for innovative ideas, but imperceptible.

Dear Friend, I wish you a good health, family get together, and real Christmas spirit. All the best for the coming New Year 2015!

I will be staying during Christmas and New Year Season with my immediate U.S. family in our house in Glastonbury, Connecticut. I will return by car to my house in Loves Parks, Illinois, where I work, on January 10/11, 2015.

Jacek Gieras



Glastonbury, CT, December 2014



3Es:

Excellent beaches

Excellent swimming pools

Excellent food

The Royal Suites Turquesa by Palladium, First Class Resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic



International Conference on Electrical Machines and Systems ICEMS'14, Hangzhou, China, October 22-25, 2014.



New family member Max, the son of Karolina and Steven, born March 22, 2014 in Hartford Hospital, Connecticut.



Other grandsons: Alex, the son of Karolina and Steven; JC, the son of Izabella and Chris.