

The Dobbs Family Newsletter

73 Riverview Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033-3137

2000 Edition

To our Family and Friends:

Last spring Kate completed her second year as a cadet at SUNY Maritime College, at Ft. Schuyler in the Bronx. Now, as a third year cadet she has completed most of her core engineering courses and has begun taking the specialized courses of the naval architecture major. To gain experience in that area she opted to substitute an internship in Maine for the regular summer cruise. Accordingly, she spent last summer living in Brunswick, Maine working for the nearby Bath Iron Works. One of the highlights of the summer was that she invited the family up to witness the launch of a destroyer that they completed. Things could be worse than a summer on the Maine coast! This was her first experience having her own apartment. Back at school she is the President of the local chapters of both The Society of Women in Engineers (SWE) and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME). This fall she had the opportunity to attend the annual convention of the latter in Vancouver. Rather than diving for the team this year, she wound up being the diving coach.



Unfortunately, she won't be with us this Christmas. To get the hours she needs for a her tug license, she will be working during the break on the Mississippi River.

John is currently a sophomore at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY. While the school's athletic training program is what attracted him there, he has since switched his area of concentration to Business. He is also a waiter at "Cozy Mel's" (a pun on Cozumel) a nearby Mexican eatery. He likes the area so well that he lived down there last summer and continued his job as he learned to speak the native language. In fact, as if one Dobbs were not enough, his cousin Emerson enrolled there also. John says that nothing is ever happening in Connecticut like it is in the Big Apple. He has to leave the Gisland to find whitewater for his kayaking, though. He has gotten quite involved being a "founding father" of the school's chapter of ΣAE , the fraternity he pledged last year, and he is currently the assistant pledge master. He was also the Homecoming Chair; his house won the float contest.



Laura is in sixth grade and will be twelve just after Christmas attending Saint James School in Manchester. She plays in the school band. After her flute went missing last spring she switched to the clarinet and was becoming quite proficient. However, the missing flute has since turned up and she is having trouble deciding which she likes better. She did well during the gymnastics competition season last spring, despite being out for a while with a broken thumb. She also attended music and arts and gymnastics camps this summer and seemed to enjoy them. Nevertheless, she decided this fall to make a major change and try cheerleading and tap dancing as alternatives. We still have to monitor her regularly, but the blood condition called IPT that she developed a little over a year ago seems to be subsiding. She likes soccer a lot and played well this fall in a local girls league.



Greg continues to work at United Technologies Research Center in the areas of environmental sciences and product development relating to energy recovery and indoor air quality. A patent was granted on the "DNAPL" removal technology discussed in last year's letter. Do you remember what a DNAPL is? Also, a patent issued on a technique for removing arsenic from groundwater that he helped develop in association with a UConn team. He worked some time on a Superfund site in Maine last summer, that was close enough to Bath to see Kate a few times. There continue to be reorganizations and changes in focus at work. This year he had three different supervisors as the organization changed repeatedly. He continues to volunteer some time at Hartford Hospital and is the local Dartmouth Club secretary and webmaster. Summer seemed to permit less time for kayaking this year. One of the unexpected events of the year is that Greg was able to make contact with two of his first cousins on his mother's side who he had not seen in many years. One lives only about twenty miles away from us and the other is close to where Mary's mother is.



Mary continues to work part time for the Glastonbury school system as a "job coach" for special education students enrolled in a high school work experience program. In fact, she enjoys this enough that she continued to do it during the summer. She is still on several committees for our local parish and also volunteers at Hartford Hospital. She also makes regular trips to Annapolis to visit her mother who is in a nursing home there. We had Thanksgiving in Glastonbury this year for the first time in several years since Mary had had some surgery earlier in the same week. She is now doing fine without the gall bladder.

We did fit in one week of a formal vacation last summer. We swapped our winter time share week in Vermont for a summer week anywhere "on the ocean". We wound up in a condo on Hilton Head Island, SC and had a lovely time despite the fact that we aren't golfers. We visited the Yorktown and Ft. Sumter in Charleston and Mount Vernon on our way home. Laura should be well prepared for school study of those three wars involving those sites.

We spend quite a bit of time online. We'd love to hear from you by any method you like.

Mary, Greg Kate, John, and Laura

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