

Christmas 2002



The Dobbs Family Newsletter

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

73 Riverview Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Greg and Mary Celebrate Their 25th Anniversary

We celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary in Glastonbury on a cold January evening. It was a few days ahead of the actual date in order to be a



surprise party. The kids did an excellent job preparing the event. We were fortunate to have a few of the folks there who had been at our wedding, including our best man and some of the ushers.

Kate Graduates from College And Takes a Job

Kate completed her graduation requirements with honors as a cadet at SUNY Maritime College in the



Bronx. Her major was Naval Architecture in the School of Engineering. The ceremony was a special dinner on a January evening at the school. She continued her job interviews for a couple of weeks thereafter and wound up with a number of choices of jobs that were located from Louisiana to Maine. She chose

the midpoint, a position in Virginia with NAVSEA at

Norfolk Naval Shipyard. She found a nice apartment on a lake in Virginia Beach, about a mile from the ocean, and began work in February. She has been involved with dry dock operations and overhaul and repair. As far as we know, she is the only certified dry dock operator in the Dobbs family. Kate has enrolled in some grad courses at Virginia Tech, so she is now a Hoakie and she recently bought a house.

John Progresses at Hofstra

John is currently a senior at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY. He hasn't changed his major lately, so it is still Sociology with a minor in human resources. He stayed on Long Island all summer to take courses and continue his off-campus job at Fortunoff's, a well-known Lon Gisland retailer. He has transitioned from Housewares to Watches and then to more expensive Watches. Pretty soon he'll be offering you a Rolex.



3 Cheers for Laura

Laura is an eighth grade honor roll student at St. James School in Manchester and will be fourteen just after Christmas. She plays in the school and regional bands, having abandoned all former instruments in favor of the saxophone. Does anyone need a flute or clarinet? Lessons in tap and modern dance culminated in a show last spring.

In the spring Laura was also part of the St. James cheerleading squad, that, believe it or not, Mary coached. They performed at school basketball games. This whetted the appetite for a more sophisticated move. The all encompassing sport of the summer and fall has been travel, competitive cheerleading. Laura joined an "All Star Cheerleading" group, the U.S.A. Wildcats in Watertown as part of the junior team. Her tumbling from her former gymnastics training is so good that she now competes on the senior team as well. We have recently been to regional and east coast meets in Boston, Atlantic City, and Springfield. Atlanta and Texas are early in the New Year. Watch your ESPN to see a meet and catch the Wildcats. They have been finishing at or near the top so far.

Greg Continues Environmental Work

Greg continues to work in the areas of environmental control and related product development. This year he got his fifth and sixth patents; for a method of removing arsenic from contaminated water using iron filings and a method of destroying contaminants in the subsurface using an oxidation process. The DOE contracts that were won last year on energy recovery from ventilation air and on heating and cooling buildings using waste heat from microturbines are progressing. He continues to volunteer some time at Hartford Hospital and is the local Dartmouth Club secretary and webmaster. Kayaking on the nearby Connecticut River is still enjoyable when time permits.

Mary Is as Busy as Ever

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 the time not spent chauffeuring Laura to activities, she still volunteers at Hartford and St. Francis Hospitals. She still also makes regular trips to Annapolis to visit her mother who is in a life care community healthcare section there and who is in poor health.

Kate Announces Her Engagement!

As a special treat to those of you who have made it to the back page of this Holiday News, the big deal event to come in our family will be in April 2004 when Kate weds Andrew Terwilliger of Middletown,

New York. Andy was a fellow student at New York Maritime, majoring in Maritime Engineering. He is currently an Engineer on vessels traveling from New York City to Canada.

Travels

We did a week of cross country skiing last February in New



Hampshire. Unfortunately, the snow conditions weren't ideal. This summer we traveled to southern Dade County to attend a national CFM convention and renew some acquaintances. On the same trip we were able to visit Greg's Uncle Bill in Vero Beach. Later in the summer we spent a week exploring the Virginia Beach area near Kate's apartment. One of the highlights of the trip was an ocean kayaking morning in which Laura and Greg saw dolphins breaching all around the group.

Driving instructions to our home are on our website, <http://www.greg.dobbs.net>. All of us can easily be reached by e-mail at greg@dobbs.net, mary@dobbs.net, kate@dobbs.net, john@dobbs.net, and laura@dobbs.net. We hope to hear from you.

Wishing You All the best,

Mary, Greg , Kate, John, and Laura