



The Dobbs Family Newsletter

90 South Mill Drive, South Glastonbury, CT 06073

The Family Moves

Even if you read no further in this letter, please note the change of address. We thought that even our wild turkeys couldn't get us to move, but after about 8.5 years of living in our home on the banks of



the Connecticut River, we moved about a mile away to a residential complex in South Glastonbury. While we regretted leaving a comfortable house that held many memories, we decided that not only was the real estate market good for selling but also that we needed to downsize. It was quite a job getting the house into mint condition and clearing it of the accumulation of old toys and other clutter that tends to fill all available space. Our unit has first floor bedrooms, a finished basement with an office, a loft recreation room, no grass to cut and no snow to shovel. We did the move in August and are finally beginning to feel settled.



Laura Graduates from Junior High

Laura graduated from St. James Jr. High School in June. She spent her summer preparing for high school by improving her tennis skills and learning to play golf. She also traveled with a group to a dude ranch in Montana to learn fly fishing and do horseback riding. She is currently attending Portsmouth Abbey School near Newport Rhode Island where she has a heavy academic schedule. Besides the normal courses that freshmen take everywhere, she has to take physics and Latin her first year. She played well on the JV soccer team this fall and is doing ice hockey



this winter. The campus is beautiful and convenient for side trips into Newport, so we're all becoming much more familiar with Rhode Island. While we regret having her away, cellphones, e-mail, and Instant Messenger keep us pretty well in touch.

Wedding Plans Progress

Kate continues to take grad courses at Virginia Tech and engage in the joys of home ownership in Virginia Beach. A near scrape with a passing hurricane was a concern but her neighborhood was one of the 15% that never lost power. We had a nice visit with her over Labor Day weekend. She and Andy continue to plan their wedding for next April 24th. One of the last events we had at our house before moving was an engagement party in the backyard under a large tent. It was our first opportunity to meet much of Andy's family. Many family members traveled an appreciable distance to attend and the weather cooperated.



John Nears Completion at Hofstra

John is working on his final requirements at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY, so that he can graduate in the spring. He is gaining work experience at a local bank as a Personal Banker. To meet his Language requirement he has selected Swahili, so if any of the bank's customers speak only Swahili he'll be able to take care of them. He has moved off campus and set up housekeeping in Glen Cove.



Laura's Team Wins National Championship

Last year Laura joined an "All Star Cheerleading" group, the U.S.A. Wildcats in Watertown, doing double duty on the junior and senior team. This team did well enough through the season including



meets in Atlanta and Dallas to make the Nationals in Orlando. Mary traveled to as many of these meets as possible and she also drove Laura to three-hour practices five nights per week. This tremendous effort paid off with Laura's junior team coming in first place in Orlando. The senior team came in second place. The competition took about three days and was held in Orlando. The State of Florida did its part of arranging for three days of constant downpours to make sure that we concentrated on the competition. One side benefit of the trip was that we got to visit Greg's uncle who lives in nearby Vero Beach.

Greg Continues Environmental Work

Greg continues to work for United Technologies Research Center doing mostly product development. He has DOE funding for energy recovery technology development and a new government contract relating to protecting building airflows from chemical and biological contaminants. Work also continues on local generation of electricity and use of the waste heat produced to heat and cool buildings.

He still volunteers some time at Hartford Hospital and is the local Dartmouth Club secretary and webmaster. With the house move there wasn't much time for kayaking this summer.

Mary Continues School and Volunteer Work

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. She also still volunteers at Hartford and St. Francis Hospitals. Early in the year she still made frequent trips to Annapolis to visit her mother who was in a life care community there. Sadly, Mrs. Connor passed away in the spring.



Travels

Aside from the cheerleading trips, we did a week of cross country skiing last February in Stowe with excellent snow conditions. Near the end of summer we also vacationed in Virginia Beach and enjoyed the ocean.

We had a nice Thanksgiving in our new place with everyone able to be in the same place at the same time.

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