



CHRISTMAS 2006

The Dobbs Family Newsletter

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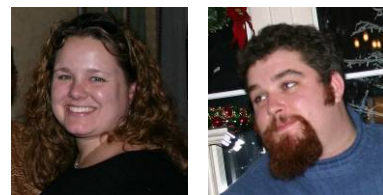
2006

2006 was a year of some changes, but on the whole a good one. Congratulations to those of you who have automatically gone to our website <http://greg.dobbs.net> and read this annual letter without waiting to get it in your holiday card. The bulk of the family photos have been moved to our photo site: <http://www.dobbsfamilyphotos.com>. You may while away the hours looking at copious photos and download those that you wish to keep.

Kate and Andy



Since their marriage in 2004, Kate and Andy have made their home in Virginia Beach, Virginia. We had the chance to visit a couple of times during the year. The year before last they acquired an Old English Mastiff puppy, Hawser that they sometimes show. The now near fully grown female coexists with three cats.



The big news that that they are expecting a child in May, so the animals will have to give up some space! Andy has changed jobs and is now based in Virginia rather than New York.

John Moves West



Late last year John switched employers to go to work for Reuters in midtown Manhattan. He is in charge of employee stock plans for Reuters, wishing he were eligible. His genes have exerted their influence, and he has moved from Long Island to New Jersey. He says it's because the commute is shorter from Hoboken than Long Island, but we know it's in his DNA. Despite the attractions of New Jersey, he took a short vacation in the Caribbean. The beagle pup, Bailey, he has had for several years in now fully grown.

Senior Year for Laura

Laura is now a senior at Portsmouth Abbey School. She is regularly on the honor roll and participates in a number of clubs. We will be pleased to celebrate her 18th birthday on December 27. My, how time has flown! Early this year she made a difficult decision on whether to continue playing varsity hockey or to change to something else. In retrospect it seems like it was a good decision to switch to squash. She was a quick study and had a good season, earning the most improved player team award and finishing near the top of the ladder. This year has started out well with her playing the #2 seed and winning her first two matches.

The last couple of seasons she has been plagued by a foot problem during the fall soccer season. Rather than possibly having to sit out part of the season again she decided to try another fall activity. PAS has a strong Community Service program which she enjoyed immensely. She was working with younger children in the afternoons most of the fall. Another prime sport is tennis. During spring break she traveled with her mixed gender team to Saddlebrook resort, near Tampa, to tune up for the spring season, which turned out to be credible. Tennis is gaining in popularity and success at her school. She was made the co-captain for her senior year.

For the second year in a row, she also was a Leader in Training (LIT) at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, CT, where she previously had been a camper. If she takes a mandatory year off and then is still interested in being a counselor, she now has the required



training. This is the camp that receives much of its funding from the profits of the ever-expanding “Newman’s Own” brand. So keep using that salad dressing!

To help her investigate career interests, she spent three weeks this summer at Brown University in a pre-college program learning modern biotechniques. In her final project she used electrophoresis and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques to identify which natural food store products used genetically-modified corn and which one’s didn’t. If you want to know the answer, you’ll have to contact her.

A big activity during senior year is the dreaded college application process. Laura and her friends are mostly over being tortured by standardized tests. We have also used up many vacation days visiting many colleges from North Carolina to Maine for tours and interviews. The final list is almost gelled and now the answers to the trick questions on the applications are being crafted. Soon we’ll know what the choices are.

Greg Continues Research Work



Greg continues to work for United Technologies Research Center doing mostly product development. He celebrated his 30th employment anniversary with them mid year. He completed a DOE-sponsored research program on energy recovery from ventilation air and still has some remaining work on a TSWG-sponsored contract on developing software tools for architects to use to protect building airflows from hazardous contaminants. The professional development course he developed for ASHRAE was offered for the first time mid year in Quebec City. It went well enough to be offered again in January in Dallas. The course deals with Facility and HVAC Terrorism Threat Assessment and Vulnerability Reduction—eight hours of lots of fun.

He still volunteers some time at Hartford Hospital but most activity this year continues to be with the Knights of Columbus who run a snack bar and beer kiosk at Rentschler field. He continues as the webmaster for the Dartmouth Club of Hartford and the South Mill Village Association. He is still the buildings chairman, and one of the events of the year was lightning striking our building—blowing out a lot of electronics and knocking the top off our neighbor’s chimney.

Mary Continues School and Volunteer Work

Mary still works for the West Hartford school system. She is a teacher’s assistant part of the day and a job coach at other times. She enjoys working with the special education students. In her free time she continues to volunteer at Hartford and St. Francis hospitals. She is also part of a women’s Bunko group.



Travels

Greg had business trips to Chicago, Quebec City, Denver, Raleigh, Pittsburgh, and Seattle. We all went to Quebec City. Laura was able to practice her French! We had a

Dobbs family gathering after Christmas in New York City and traveled to Alexandria shortly thereafter for the marriage of our niece, Erica. We also celebrated the 25th Anniversary of our cousins Uni and Joe and the marriage of our cousin’s son, Carl, on Long Island. Our vacation was a trip to Alaska to celebrate our

upcoming 30th wedding anniversary. We’ve been talking about doing this since our 25th and we had a great time. It was a train/bus tour through Alaska and the Yukon followed by a cruise back to Vancouver. The photos are posted on our photo site.



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

*Wishing You All the Best,
Mary, Greg, and Laura*