

December 1996

To our Family and Friends:

Right off the bat for those who missed it last year, our "new" address is:

73 Riverview Road
Glastonbury, CT 06033-3137

We will be in this house two years next March and have been enjoying it—but it took us well over a year to sell our old one. At least that horror is over now.

Laura Connor (Mary's mother) visited us several times from her life care center in Annapolis, Maryland, but as she becomes more infirm, it is harder to manage this. We were, however, able to assist her in attending a reunion with all her siblings in her old home town in Massachusetts last September, at her brother's wedding anniversary.

Kate completed her senior year at Deerfield academy in Massachusetts and survived the college admissions ordeal. Her diving team won the New England championships. The graduation ceremony in June was quite special, as she was one of the pipers who led the procession. We really appreciated seeing those of you who could make it to her party. Her summer consisted of a week's bagpipe camp in Vermont and a summer job working for Camelot (Connecticut River) Cruises as a restaurant assistant and a deckhand. She was managing the eatery by the end of the season. She is now ensconced at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. She seems to really like the place, even though she did not get all the courses she wanted first semester. She chose women's rugby as a diversion from her studies and her team made nationals. She is also part of a service fraternity and investment club.

John had a busy first year at Salisbury School in Salisbury, CT. He did well for a freshman on the wrestling team and then chose kayaking for his spring sport. Since his coach used to coach the U. S. Olympic team, we are not as worried as we otherwise would be every time we see him do an Eskimo roll. This fall he was a middle linebacker on the JV football team and moved up to the varsity for the last game of the season. He was the technology representative for his class as his campus was getting wired and he is now starting to set up his own home page at school. Last summer he became a Star scout and went to the local camp. He also worked hard at Landmark School in Marblehead, MA, and that academic effort has begun to pay off for him this year at school. He is now essentially as tall as his father and is looking forward to driver ed.

Laura is a busy almost-eight-year-old who likes second grade. Last winter she advanced in level in figure skating, but she decided that she likes gymnastics much more. She is continuing with the latter and has begun to compete. She also took swimming and tennis lessons at our swim club last summer, enjoying the latter more than the former. She is also in an enrichment program Wednesday afternoons at Talcott Mountain

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Science Center. Piano and Brownies also continue.

Greg continues to work at UTRC in the areas of environmental chemistry and separation science. As the downsized corporation becomes more profitable, there may be more stability in the short term. Research is still quite focused. Quite a bit of time has been spent collaborating with faculty at UConn on toxic metal remediation, which involves sampling trips to Maine. Product development projects relate to the general area of indoor air quality and comfort. One of the highlights of the year was being able to attend an international conference on membrane science and technology in Sydney.

Mary was, of course, busy as the prime chauffeur. She did, however, get heavily involved with introducing a new elementary level Sunday School program at our church, *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*. It is based on the Montessori method and she attended classes in Minnesota learn how Montessori is applied specifically for religious instruction. Laura is one of her students. She and Greg also became Eucharistic ministers at the church and at Hartford and Manchester Hospitals. She got pretty involved with the election and was pictured in the Hartford Courant. Despite the Presidential Debate, Hartford has not yet come out of the recession and the economy has not created a suitable job for her.

We had a week's family vacation last March at our time-share condo in Vermont in which the cross-country skiing was the best we've ever had. Last August we also had a week in Ocean City, MD and had an opportunity to see the wild horses at Assateague and the birds at Chincoteague. The proximity also permitted a visit with Mary's mother and her brother's family on our way back.

We'd love to hear from you or have you visit.

You are to be congratulated if you made it this far into the letter. If you want to phone us or get your revenge by e-mail, here is the info:

Greg	Greg@Dobbs.net dobbs@utrc.utc.com 860-610-7145 (work phone/fax)
Mary	Mary@Dobbs.net 860-633-1814 (home) 860-657-4095 (fax)
Kate	Kate@Dobbs.net 717-523-4801 (room @ school)
John	John@Dobbs.net

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kayaker@hotmail.com

860-435-5323 (room @ school)

We have freshened up our personal home page with some pictures of last winter's vacation cross-country skiing. You can still find us at URL: <http://www.dobbs.nu/>

We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and all the best for the New Year!

Mary, Greg Kate, John, and Laura