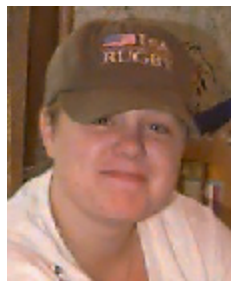


1997 Holiday Letter

73 Riverview Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033-3137

December 1997

To our Family and Friends:



**Kate** is a sophomore at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. As a freshman she discovered that she likes rugby and has too many other campus activities as well. She joined  $\text{KA}\Theta$  sorority and  $\text{A}\Phi\Omega$  service fraternity. She is involved with the Newman Center and bakes the bread for the liturgy. College is a process of self-discovery and decisions and she has decided that she is no longer thinking of herself as a premed. She is currently signed up as a math major, but is also considering some engineering specialties that could involve a change of school. She spent a second summer working for Camelot (Connecticut River) Cruises. She had more maritime duties this year, sometimes piloting the 350 passenger craft down the Connecticut River and across Long Island Sound to Long Island (under the watchful supervision of the captain).



**John** is having a busy third year at Salisbury School in Salisbury, CT. He was very involved with football this fall as a defensive middle linebacker, long snap, and center. His team was undefeated and beat Belmont Hill in the post season New England prep school finals. They got to play in Boston College's recently-renovated stadium. He has moved up a weight class in wrestling and was just elected co-captain. Last spring he continued to do whitewater kayaking and raced well in regional competitions. Salisbury is one of the few schools to compete in this sport. Last summer he worked for a local grocery chain and filled-in for a time on the waterfront staff of a local scout camp. He is delighted to be driving and to have overtaken his Dad in height. He was confirmed last spring in an impressive ceremony with the bishop.



**Laura** is a busy almost-nine-year-old who likes third grade. She has switched to a new school, St. James, in Manchester and seems to have made a good adjustment. While she gave up figure skating, she has gotten even more interested in gymnastics. Our family room is filling up with many medals and trophies from her meets. She is fairly strong in all the events, so she does well in the all-around score. Last summer she was very brave and went to a gymnastics camp in Pennsylvania by herself. Last fall she enjoyed participating in the town soccer program and last summer she was involved with our swim club's tennis and diving program. Piano lessons have given way to flute lessons; Brownies also continue. Mary was the cookie chairman! How many boxes would you like? She likes to use our PC and is well on her way to being a Solitaire card shark.

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**Greg** continues to work at UTRC in the areas of environmental cleanup chemistry and separation science. Quite a bit of time has been spent collaborating with faculty at UConn in a number of areas relating to it. He is also still working on some technology relating to future products for Carrier in the indoor comfort and air quality area. Greg also got bitten by the kayaking bug this year and spent a considerable amount of recreational time exploring the Connecticut River and nearby lakes. He is doing the river in sections and was able to get about half of the Connecticut length done using his one seater. He dragged them along to two Gordon conferences in New Hampshire this summer and had some fun with other conferees up there. We also purchased a two seater that we can use when it is a family outing. Quite a few of his cousins attended his birthday party on an especially hot day last August and a good time was had by all.

**Mary** was, of course, busy as the prime chauffeur and overseer. She spent two weeks this summer in Washington getting certified for additional grades in the Montessori-based Sunday School program at our church, *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*. She is still seeking a good work situation. She has also made roughly monthly trips to the Washington area to visit her mother, who is in a life care center there. Regrettably, her mother's Alzheimer's disease is progressing. She and Greg also continue to be Eucharistic ministers at the church and at Hartford and Manchester Hospitals.

Mary and Greg had an excellent celebration of our twentieth wedding anniversary on an all too short Caribbean cruise. On one of the shore excursions we spent an afternoon learning how to crew on an America's Cup boat. Greg was a grinder and Mary was a timer/cooler-queen, if you can imagine that. We were on the Stars-and-Stripes and sadly we lost to the Canadians in the end of day race. We had a week's family vacation last March at our time-share condo in Vermont in which the cross-country skiing was very good. Otherwise it was a year of local excursions and enjoyment of local activities such as our summer swim club.

The Tangs, currently of Los Angeles, visited us for Thanksgiving and we tried to reassemble as many as we could of the group that sponsored them here eighteen years ago.

We'd love to hear from you or have you visit. Here's the info you need for the medium you choose:

Greg	<a href="mailto:Greg@Dobbs.net">Greg@Dobbs.net</a> <a href="mailto:dobbs@alumni.princeton.edu">dobbs@alumni.princeton.edu</a> 860-610-7145 (work phone/fax)
Mary	<a href="mailto:Mary@Dobbs.net">Mary@Dobbs.net</a> 860-633-1814 (home) 860-657-4095 (fax)
Kate	<a href="mailto:Kate@Dobbs.net">Kate@Dobbs.net</a>

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	717-523-4801 (@ school)
Laura	<a href="mailto:DobbsLC@aol.com">DobbsLC@aol.com</a>
John	<a href="mailto:John@Dobbs.net">John@Dobbs.net</a> <a href="mailto:Kayaker@hotmail.com">Kayaker@hotmail.com</a> 860-435-5323 (@ school)

The recent change in our Internet service provider leaves our home page in a pretty rudimentary state; if you'd like to watch as we develop it you may tune your browser to: <http://www.greg.dobbs.net>

We did some volunteer work last weekend which delayed us in getting out our cards as rapidly as we would have liked. No matter when you get this, we wish you the best of holiday seasons and all the best for the New Year!

*Mary, Greg Kate, John, and Laura*