

# The Dobbs Family Newsletter

73 Riverview Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033-3137

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*To our Family and Friends:*

**K**ate completed her sophomore year at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. She investigated a change in major from math to engineering throughout the year and Bucknell did not have the engineering specialties she was most interested in--naval architecture or nautical engineering.

After considering several places and despite liking Bucknell and leaving many of her friends, she transferred to NY Maritime College, a division of SUNY, in the Bronx. While academically she has transfer credits from Bucknell, she had to go through their intensive indoctrination period as a first year, "Mug" cadet. She made it through their version of "boot camp" and seems to have adjusted to the spit and polish and intensive PT that is part of campus life there. She learned to sail this fall, is part of the color guard, and has resumed competitive diving. As part of her professional training she has learned a lot about boiler design and shipboard fire fighting--something of a change in pace from the cornfields of Pennsylvania. She spent a third summer working for Camelot (Connecticut River) Cruises.



**J**ohn is having a busy senior year at Salisbury School in Salisbury, CT. Salisbury was undefeated in the regular football season again and John played several positions. Academically, he is most

excited about his EMT Biology course. If things go well, he will have a Connecticut EMT license by the end of the school year. He has gone through the trial of visiting many colleges and is now going through the painful process of completing the applications by their deadlines. John and Greg visited Colorado in late August to get some time in the mountains and see a number of schools out there. For his winter sport, and in concert with his EMT interests he decided to stop wrestling this year and work instead with the school's athletic trainer. Last spring he continued to do white water kayaking and raced well in regional races. Last summer he worked on the waterfront staff of a local scout camp.



**L**aura is a busy almost-ten-year-old who is in fourth grade and continues to like St. James School in Manchester. Her interest in gymnastics has intensified and she now practices for three hours several times a week on a new team.

She also likes diving and is part of a club team at Wesleyan that meets a couple of times a week. Between the two, she



manages to continue with the flute as part of the school band and expand her Beanie Baby collection.

**G**reg continues to work at United Technologies Research Center in the areas of environmental cleanup chemistry and product development related to air conditioning, energy recovery, and indoor air quality. Collaborations continue with faculty at UConn and we have a patent pending on arsenic removal technology. While this got started from needs relating to a Superfund site in Maine, it is also potentially a process that could permit water companies to cost-effectively remove arsenic if the US drinking water standard is lowered to match WHO requirements. It may also have some relevance to the Bangladesh calamity as was recently reported by Chemical and Engineering News. Flat water kayaking continues as time permits and some new sections of the Connecticut River were explored last summer. He continues to volunteer some time monthly at Hartford Hospital and is the Dartmouth Club web master.

**M**ary has changed her focus from Montessori-based Sunday School education using the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* methodology. Last summer she was in a very intensive program to get her first unit of certification for hospital chaplaincy. She was at a large nursing home in Meriden working mostly with Alzheimer's patients. This fall she is in a program at Hartford Hospital which will result in a second unit of certification. The general hospital situation is quite different; she has a 24-hour shift monthly and there are many difficult emergency-room cases to deal with.

She continues to make roughly monthly trips to the Washington area to visit her mother who is in a nursing home there. She was elected to our parish's council and is on the liturgy committee.

This was not a year of extensive vacations. We did get away to Vermont for our usual week of cross-country skiing in Stowe last winter. Laura can now easily make it to the Trapp cabin for lunch. We had an enjoyable Thanksgiving in Boston with Mary's brother's family.

We continue to try to stay connected with friends by e-mail and more traditional means and as time allows, keep our web sites up to date. For those of you who complain that there is no picture here of Mary and Greg, pay a visit to our websites. We'd love to hear from you!

## Mary, Greg, Kate, John, and Laura

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