

# The Dobbs Family Newsletter

73 Riverview Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033-3137

1999 Edition

To our Family and Friends:

Last spring Kate completed her "mug" year as a cadet at NY Maritime College, a division of SUNY, in da Bronx. As a second year cadet she has less "spit and polish" to put up with now and consequently can concentrate more on the challenges of the engineering curriculum. She remains interested in naval architecture and is VP of the campus chapter of the society of women in Naval Architecture. She is also on the college swimming and diving team. The highlight of her year was to go on the mandatory school summer cruise. The Empire State VI sailed to Charleston, SC, Barbados, Naples, Italy, and Cardiff, Wales before returning to the Bronx. While she saw some interesting things ashore, much of the voyage she was in the engine room keeping the ships systems running at an ambient temperature of about 120 (F). She is still playing catch up on credits after transferring from Bucknell, so her post-cruise vacation was to take a math and physics courses at the University of Hartford.



John is currently a freshman at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY on Lon Gisland. He graduated from Salisbury School on a beautiful day last June. Once again he raced for Salisbury on the whitewater kayaking team last spring. He spent his summer at home working for a temp agency and was assigned for most of the time to a moving company. Based on his experience working with Salisbury's athletic trainer, he headed to Hofstra with the idea of pursuing that major, but he is looking at other areas as well. Both he and his sister seem to enjoy being in The City.



Laura is a busy almost-eleven-year-old who is in fifth grade and continues to like and do well at St. James School in Manchester. Her interest in gymnastics continues and she now practices for four hours four times a week at a gym in Southington. The flute gets second fiddle to the gymnastics, but we just heard a lovely Christmas concert at her school in which she sang and played in the band. She went to gymnastics camps last summer in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. After a virus this fall she developed a blood condition called IPT that sometimes can go on for six months or more, but as far as we know she is out of it now and is back to her regular schedule.

Greg 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. A patent is being granted on technology he helped develop on removing chlorinated solvents "DNAPLs" from groundwater. Also, the arsenic removal technology he co-invented with a University of Connecticut non-basketball team is still being considered by the patent office. Otherwise, there is still a lot of "churn" at work and UTC is once again announced a downsizing and restructuring program. Flat water kayaking is still a summer avocation and he continues to do new lengths of the Connecticut River. He continues to volunteer some time monthly at Hartford Hospital and is the local Dartmouth Club webmaster.

Mary completed her second unit of certification for hospital chaplaincy at Hartford Hospital. Even though she has two units still to go, openings were scarce for this fall; so with the expense of having two kids in college simultaneously, she began working part time for the Glastonbury school system as a "job coach" for retarded students enrolled in a special program. She enjoys working with these individuals and seeing the slow progress that is sometimes possible. A lot of her time, however, is spent on the parish council liturgy committee. She continues to make regular trips to Annapolis to visit her mother who is in a nursing home there. In fact, all of us were together for Thanksgiving there.

We did manage one official vacation last summer when we swapped our winter time-share for a steamy summer week in Orlando. We are now up to date on all the latest Disney attractions. The water parks were especially refreshing and even Dad went on the country's highest and fastest waterslide. On the same trip we also had a nice visit with Greg's uncle at the ocean in Vero Beach. Two other respites were Greg's 30th reunion at Dartmouth and a CFM annual meeting at Notre Dame.

We continue to try to stay connected with family and friends by e-mail. Send us your address; we'd love to hear from you! We wish you the best for the new millennium.

Mary, Greg Kate, John, and Laura

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