

July 1996

Dear Former FOOT Leaders,

It's summer and time for another FOOT leader newsletter. Last year was an incredible year of news and hard to top, but people continue to write and send interesting stories of their lives. FOOT continues to do well. All our trips are filled for this August. We have a waiting list of about 100 which is frustrating since we don't want to turn away any eager campers, but we have to grow in a controlled manner and we did add four new trips last year. This year we anticipate taking 290 freshmen on trips and we have moved to the White Mountains as one of the regions where we hike. The leaders continue to be an intimate group. We had a good spring of training and preparation sessions, mostly out at Deer Lake in Killingworth. We outgrew Horse Island a while back for some of you old timers! The Yale Medical School is starting up their own wilderness orientation program called MOOT with a lot of help from FOOT and the blessings of Rev/Dr. Ben Doolittle who is finishing up there. I am assisting in setting up the program which included sending off 3 current FOOT leaders to train the med student leaders on a 4 day trip in May.

So--to begin at the beginning. After starting last summer with the FOOT reunion trip in June, **Jamie ('85) and Florence Williams** went to Brazil to the Amazon on a Nature Conservancy boat trip. Steve and I visited Jamie and Florence last September for a few days in Steamboat Springs. We visited the Carpenter Ranch that Jamie has preserved along the Yampa River in Colorado and saw lots of sandhill cranes. Jamie continues to do good work for The Nature Conservancy and Florence continues to write freelance. **Sue Lamar '85**, another reunion trip alum, had so much fun on the San Juan River that she rafted the Colorado through the Grand Canyon for 3 weeks later in the summer. In her own words, she "enjoyed the magic of the Canyon as a passenger, trip medical provider and human ballast." She continues to travel throughout the southwest with weekend getaways to Durango, Telluride, Taos, and Flagstaff. She is still working at the Indian Health Service in Ft. Defiance, AZ, and wonders what a Republican dominated Washington will eventually do to their budget. In her Christmas letter she wished the best to all and hoped "the coming year brings political enlightenment to Washington and values--like protecting the environment, saving the National Parks, funding health care programs, passing pro-choice legislation, supporting public broadcasting, and doing everything possible to better education in this country..." **Christine Walravens '88** must have completed her first year of medical school by now in Albuquerque, NM. She said she felt a little slow given all the FOOT leaders who graduated after her and are already MDs! She is now engaged to a lucky man named David ("ex-boyfriend, now fiance") who is also at the med school with her. She lives in a very urban part of town but still has a hummingbird at her feeder every day and can be on a gorgeous mountain trail in 25 minutes. She is thrilled and relieved to be back in an arid, mountainous zone. Her new address is: 1501 Indian School Rd. Apt. E310, Alb., NM 87102. **James Shifren '88** sent his regards, stating that things continue to go well in New York City although he hasn't written his first novel yet. I believe he has moved as well: 430 E. 86 St Apt. 8G NY, NY 10028.

Beth Hackman and **Trex Proffitt '89** got married June '95 (reported in last year's newsletter). They are now both graduate students in Chicago. They can be reached at 1033 Wesley Ave. Evanston, IL 60202. 708-491-0458. **Ann Vileisis '89** sent a lengthy holiday newsletter, reporting that 1995 was a good and busy year. Her book on the history of wetlands must be finished by now. Tim Palmer's (her husband) book Lifelines was published last year adding another to a long list of books by him. Last August they spent a month at the British Columbia headwaters of the Columbia River while researching for a book about the Columbia River Basin. It was magnificent: glacial rivers, undisturbed wetlands, and wilderness mountains. They hiked in Yoho National Park and canoed the glacial Kicking Horse River. In September they returned to Idaho to run the Salmon River. After that they "settled down" for 2 months in Portland, Oregon. They enjoyed the pace of city life, visiting old friends and making new ones. This winter they were in Kelly, Wyoming to housesit in a cabin belonging to an old friend. Here they worked on their various projects, skied the back country and enjoyed their moose neighbors. Tim had another book out this March, America by Rivers. Rough life!? As Ann put it, they have guardian angels watching over them and life at the moment is full of love, delight and joy.

Carrie Hatcher '89 has finished her first year of graduate school in Ann Arbor, MI. Last summer she hiked in Taiwan where she experienced gorges, rivers, and hot springs, galore. Sally Loomis and **Paul Jahnige '89** are still running Community Resources, an urban forestry program in Baltimore. They have moved to a red farmhouse and are located at 5131 Wetherdsville Rd. Baltimore, MD 21207. (410) 448-0640. Some of the projects they have initiated include a Philadelphia Urban Environmental Day Camp (which has a 3 day expedition in the Poconos), a workshop to train all of the State Urban Forestry Coordinators, a steering committee for Revitalizing Baltimore, and an attitude and perception survey of the Gwynns Falls Trail Greenway. In their Holiday Greeting they announced that Paul still plants his trees and Sally's hair is still short, but I've heard through the grapevine that Sally is with child!! Good news. In fact, I got the news from the dad himself when he came up to New Haven this spring to talk to Steve's class on environmental education about urban environmental programs.

Tiff Bingham '89 wrote that she has been working as a vet in her hometown in Connecticut for 6 months out of the year and the other half as a NOLS instructor. The last I heard from her she was off the work a semester course in Baja starting in January. One of my favorite places! I felt another connection to Tiff as I visited Machu Picchu last December. Her great-grandfather, Hiram Bingham discovered the place in the early part of this century. What an awesome setting--I declare it the center of the universe. **Michael Kahan '90** sent in a letter with lots of FOOT gossip. He had spent six months in St. Petersburg, Russia to be with his wife Gabriella who is doing research for her dissertation. Michael took a leave of absence from his studies and concentrated on learning Russian. He also taught English to college students at the St. Petersburg University of Economics & finance as well as to a younger group of students ages 5-14. He and his wife also did a lot of entertaining--it seems as though all the relatives (and we're including

distant ones) and old friends thought this would be a great time to visit Russia. Michael is now back at Penn and lonely since Gabriella is still in Russia for another 6 months. So he would love to see any old friends NOW. Michael included news of the marriage in October of **Emel Gokyigit** to Dan Wadhvani, a first-year grad student in U.S. History at Penn. He saw **Kristin Wolcott Edwards**, her husband Scott, and their 2 and a half year old son Dylan at their home in the suburbs of Philly. Kristin is back at Temple Med and Scott is a resident at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Their address is: 1005 Aikens Rd. Wynnewood, PA 19096. (610) 642-2167. **Tom Beierle** is also in Philly studying at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton. His wife Didi is in the Nurse Practitioner program at Penn. They're at: 2318 South St. #2 Philadelphia, PA. And of course, we can't leave Michael without giving his address: 403 S. 22nd St. Apt 2R, Philadelphia, PA 19146.

Last year's newsletter evoked a response from **Renny Gleeson** '90, who is alive and well and, yes, an artist in New York City, working three days a week for a sculptor and spending the rest of his days in his studio. He had two shows last summer and decent sales. His studio is on 14th St. between 6th and 7th Avenues where he paints and sculpts. At this point he is doing recognizable figurative imagery. He does emerge every so briefly and blinking into the light of interpersonal friendships. So seek him out at 135 W. 14 St Apt 3 NY, NY 10011. I recently received news from **Alan Rimm-Kaufman** '90 that he and his wife, Sara, are moving to the Richmond-Charlottesville area and would welcome any FOOT folk nearby or passing through. They both finished their PhDs this spring, Sara in psych from Harvard and Alan in Operations Research from MIT. Alan saw Perry DeValpine at Paul Sabin's bachelor party not too long ago--which I guess means that Paul is about to get married. Congratulations, Paul! Some news of **Lee Deigaard**: she was living in Austin, Texas attending graduate school (art or writing?) and now she has moved to Route 1, Box 66, Wildwood, GA 30757. I spoke recently with **Eric Greenwald** '90 on the phone. He just graduated from Michigan Law School, is presently in Boulder, CO, studying for the bar and is planning to work for Shearman & Sterling in DC. There is the possibility of working in the Dept. of Justice, Office of Internal Affairs, Criminal Affairs, and he will keep us posted. And you guessed it, it looks like Eric will be back for support crew this summer!

Last summer as the FOOT trips were about to take off I ran into **Katie Hackett** '91 in the archway of Phelps Gate! She has finally quit her job in New York and is traveling to Africa with her boyfriend. She wrote to Steve a nice long letter which I meant to steal for this newsletter but we left it in New Haven. (I'm on the Vineyard at the moment...) I know she is interested in applying to the Yale Forestry School. It will be great to have her back in New Haven. **Baker Mallory** '91 spent last summer in Jackson, Wyoming after the FOOT reunion trip. He had many exciting encounters with moose, bear, coyote and elk and had many great climbs including the Grand Teton (13,770') See him and the FOOT hat in the picture section. He is back in Boston at architecture school. **Emel Gokyigit** '91 you already heard is engaged. She finished the Kennedy School in Boston after having spent last summer in Washington working for the Congressional Research Service. She wrote a report on legal and regulatory issues on the Internet. She loved the work but found Washington too hot, humid and political! She saw a lot of **Diana Fisher Gomberg** and a bit of **Glen Magid** who is working on his PhD. She and Chris Roberts are always in touch. He spent another year in England to work for a documentary company. **Del Berger** is in Concord teaching French at the Concord Academy. **Tali Zulman Ziv** is still in San Francisco doing her residency. Future plans for Emel include spending a year in Philly and then heading for Harvard Law School. Her new address will be 2206 Kater St., Philadelphia, PA 19146. Speaking of **Chris Roberts** '91, I had a nice long talk with him on the phone. He left England rather abruptly after being deported!! No, he wasn't smuggling drugs; the customs folks thought he was returning to England to work illegally, so they told him he had two weeks to leave the country. (Poor, Chris was only love sick--his return was to be with his British honey.) So now Chris is back in the States exploring new possibilities for his future. He spent most of this summer working on various farms, including one in Maine.

I got a very long letter from **Ben Harley** '92 this spring--one of the alums whom I really had lost touch with since he graduated. He said he had been meaning to write for about three years. (I'm sure there are a few others like that out there!!) He said some nice things about FOOT which I wanted to share with you: "The contribution that my experiences with FOOT have made to my life is incalculable. Even after growing up in Colorado where camping, hiking, and fishing were taken for granted, I did not have the respect and appreciation for the natural environment with which FOOT was able to inspire me in just 5 days. I am deeply grateful for the perspective that has fundamentally changed my life. I would be less fulfilled and happy person today if I had not benefited from the FOOT program. In addition, FOOT introduced me to principles of group dynamics and leadership that have proved invaluable. The self assurance and sensitivity in which FOOT trained me, have been the mainstays of my "real" life after college. Whether teaching, guiding, wandering or just plain doing the corporate thing, I am constantly drawing upon the skills and awareness that FOOT gave me. Perhaps, I would have found an outlet for developing these skills in another organization, with a different mission and different means, but I doubt it. In the end, FOOT provided a fantastic support structure and many of the people that I am honored to call my friends." Thank you, Ben, for such thoughts.

Ben continued with some news of what he has been doing since graduation... he worked for a short time on a research project for a small advocacy group called the Consumer Energy Council of America. It was a fun way to get his feet wet in Washington but he has not been back since. His next engagement was teaching acting at a summer program in Pennsylvania--a very enjoyable experience, comparable to a 5 week FOOT trip dedicated to the theater rather than the outdoors. At the end of the summer of 1992 he left for a 2 week holiday in France and Italy and came back to the states 14 months later. During the interim he traveled most of Europe, worked 5 months in an Alpine ski resort and found another job as a bicycle tour guide for a company called Butterfield and Robinson. Although working with adults (wealthy and occasionally more childish than any FOOTie), he was often using the team leadership and group dynamic skills that had been learned through 4 years with FOOT. Not to mention the reference on his resume that allowed him to get the job in the first place! He got to know many regions in France. Eating in 3 star restaurants, drinking fantastic wine, guiding Americans through the countryside and commenting on church architecture, urban development and art history (and any other malarkey that came to his often exhausted and hung over mind) he had a great deal of fun. Eventually winter came, the guiding season ended and Ben managed to convince the company to send him off to New Zealand to guide trips there (January 1994). After a couple of months of guiding in New Zealand, he toured Australia by motor cycle and then went on to SE Asia, India and Nepal. He came back to Europe a different person but quickly scuttled back into the personality he knew better. He found a job in Paris (Feb. 1995) and is there to this day. He is working for a mobile telephone company doing marketing strategy and database management. He is eager to get back in touch with the person he was when he returned from India more than a year ago, so he will probably be on the move soon. His business address: c/o Hutchinson Telecom France, 11 rue de l'Abreuvoir, 92412 Courbevoie CEDEX France. email: bharley@imaginet.fr.

I heard from **Cynthia Boyd '92**, also from whom I hadn't heard in a while. She is still at Duke Medical School, but took a leave of absence this past year to get a Master's in Public Health in Epidemiology at UNC-Chapel Hill. She will graduate in May of 1997 instead of this last May. She loves the masters program and is really glad she did it because it helped a lot in terms of her deciding what she is interested in pursuing for residency and is fascinated by epidemiology. Her project for her masters is on rural sexually transmitted disease. She thinks she is going to pursue internal medicine and perhaps infectious diseases later on, but she is really interested in working in public health in some form. She is working to establish community health programs in a community center in Durham. Since graduating, she has been at school almost year round, but she has gotten to go cross-country skiing in addition to a lot of camping and hiking in North Carolina and the Smokies. She loves North Carolina and thinks it is beautiful. She reported that **Trip Meine** is at Duke Medical School as well, in the class of 1998. She also saw **Moshe and Rebecca Usudi** a lot; it was great to be in the same place. She is also in school with Milena Novy's cousin. It never ceases to amaze her how small the world is.

She should look up **Seth Hawkins '93** who is trying to get into UNC-Chapel Hill's med school: his address is 207A Purefoy Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514-4857. (919)969-8118. **Emily Swanson** is at medical school too--Harvard Med and I hear that she is involved in their wilderness orientation program! **Steve Kahn '93** who is at Harvard as well led an Outward Bound program last summer in the boundary waters of Minnesota.

Some big news from **Rachelle Lyons and Burch LaPrade '93** is that they are tying the wedding knot this summer--August 10th in St. Helena, CA! Rachelle is finishing up vet school and Burch is working for the Berkeley police department. May they find many years of happiness together--Oh joy, another FOOT marriage!!

Perry DeValpine '93 is happy at graduate school at the University of California at Davis. His first term went smoothly and he was slightly enlightened in the ways of insect phylogeny and the essential crises of ecology. Life in Davis is great. He is enjoying being in a smaller town and in a university community. **Jake Bowers** is out in California too. He's at 501 Forest, #1, Oakland, CA 94618. 510-654-6134. email: jbowers@uclink2.berkeley.edu (if this is not correct, it is because I couldn't make out his handwriting, sorry!) Also, this is not how Yale has him listed so I hope his postcard is more updated than his Yale files.

Jessica Jones just wrote from Cairo. She went there to work for an English language weekly, which she did for about 6 months. Then after visiting her folks in Utah, she returned to Cairo to work for Voice of America as a stringer. So far she has written and voiced lots of stories about Arab summits, Egyptians militants and coups in the Gulf. She gets a fair amount of air time and has done a couple of interesting feature stories as well, complete with all kinds of interviews, music and background noise. She doesn't know how long she will be doing this, but she is having fun! I had one of Jessica's Footies (Gus Eliot) run a computer workshop for Hopkins. He said he had done FOOT as a freshman and I asked him who his leaders were. When he said Jessica and Peter Ackerman, I knew this young man had some great dancing teachers under the stars! (Remember Jessica?) **Ben Strauss '94** wrote from Barro Colorado Island in Lake Gatun to the west of the Panama Canal where he is spending 6 months doing research on giant damselflies, and more generally exploring the rainforest. He's climbed up a couple of massive trees with ropes to get a canopy view, canoed at night watching baby crocs prowl and spend most of his time just walking through the forest among his experimental sites--often spotting monkeys, peccaries, swarms of ants, giant morpho butterflies, poison arrow frogs, you name it...quite a delight. And of course, feeding lots of chiggers and ticks.

Anne Parker has been in touch for a few recommendations for some new adventures. She is leaving her high-paying but low-excitement job as an investment banker in New York and heading for the mountains of Wyoming. She is leading a 30 day backpacking trip with Wilderness Ventures this summer and then hopes to do the NOLS instructors course. **Carrie Paterson '94** is still living in Aspen, Colorado. She is a sculptor among other things and had a show in Denver not too long ago.

Elizabeth Murdock '94 sent several letters. Her best "It's a small FOOT world story" was last spring when she was working for the National Endowment for the Arts. She had to make some calls to former grantees in order to get photos and news clippings from their projects. She called a Sioux professor in South Dakota and was told by the young woman on the phone that he was away. Elizabeth said, "Well, could you please leave a message that Elizabeth Murdock called and..." and the woman on the other end said, "Elizabeth! This is Jael!" (**Jael Kampfe**) Needless to say, they chatted for about 20 minutes--- and we all wonder where all that tax money goes. Elizabeth went on to say that it was very interesting to work for the Endowment, since they were constantly trying to defend their position. She did some administration work, a lot of organizing of meetings and grant making panels and did some international research (re: responses to the arts funding controversy in the U.S.). Her internship there was all in all a success because she made a lot of good contacts and learned much--especially listening to the grant panels. It was interesting to see what is really getting money. After her stint in DC she spent some time traveling around Europe with her sisters. Her future hopes to include something with academia--either studying or teaching. She recently moved to San Francisco from Eugene, Oregon. She is hoping to get a teaching position in the Philippines at a private Episcopal School.

What hails from the **Hale brothers**? **Charlie '94** has moved to Boston from New York where he is working for a computer telecommunications firm. I think he sits in front of the computer all day dreaming up Yo Mama jokes. Charlie and I had, what you could call, a rather lengthy reunion of our very own when we led a Hopkins backpacking trip to Big Bend National Park in Texas this past March. We also brought along Kayla Tabela who is the present Head FOOT Co-Coordinator. (see pix) We had a grand old time, eating Mexican food and yes, you guessed it, telling Yo Mama jokes. Charlie shocked the students when he told them they had to drink all their wastewater from their meals. But pretty soon, he had them all in line, and they swore to start this tradition back at the school cafeteria by the time the trip was over. At the Harvard-Yale game last fall Charlie ran into lots of FOOT folks including **Steve Kahn** who concurred that out of all of Yale's many aspects they missed FOOT the most. **Marty** is still in the Big Apple. He (and Charlie when he was there) joined a neat community service group called the Green Guerrillas. The group is focused on community greening, mainly keeping community parks active in the city. To put food on the table, Marty works in telecommunications as well.

J-P Pettridge '94 just graduated from the Yale School of Forestry this May. She spent part of last year on Puerto Rico in the El Yunque cloud forest which gets about 500 inches of rain/year! **Meg Wickwire '94** wrote that she has come to the conclusion that rural living at this time of her life is not for her, so she has packed up, quit her job at the Student Conservation Association in New Hampshire and has just left for England where she will be studying Chaucer at Oxford through Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English. For a Master's degree she'll study for 5 summers. She may decide, however, to transfer the credits and complete her degree more quickly. She will spend next fall in Chicago doing "god-knows-what" to support herself while she spends time with people her own age! Too bad she missed Chris Roberts who was there forever...

Of recent graduates, **Geoff Tanner '95** wins the prize for winding up the farthest away--he was employed as the foreign teacher of English (and Science and Music/Dance and Ultimate Frisbee/Soccer, etc.) at a small nongovernment primary school in a small town in the state of Gujarat in northwestern India. Except for the difficulties of language barriers, massive diet changes, and being the only American with a 100km radius or more, it was a nice setup. He was provided with several rooms at the school, along with his own personal w.c. and the use of a kitchen. They actually paid him on top of that!! Geoff admitted that there is a lot which goes into the daily efforts of trying to teach a foreign language to kids who'd rather be outside, jumping all over the place than sitting in some class listening to some long-haired freak with odd-colored eyes, hair, and skin yap at them in a foreign language. It requires a good deal more energy than passing out in a lecture does, at last as far as Geoff can recall. But as challenging as it is, it definitely has its rewards, especially when you see that what you're talking about is actually getting through and having some effect on the kids. It's a special feeling of accomplishment. Plus there is a whole bunch of other things that he does and sees and gets involved in a daily basis which are just so completely different from any experience he had back in the States. Once they had to spend the first 10 minutes of the evening sports period kicking cows off the playing field. It's amazing how quickly a huge animal which looks rooted in place gets up and going if you give it a quick tug on the tail and a smart slap on the back. Of course, the cattle driving experience wasn't half as chaotic as the ensuing baseball game turned out to be. Other adventures of Geoff included travels to Nepal, camel treks in the deserts of Rajasthan and the hills of the Himachal Pradesh. Geoff might be back in the States by now.

I had a nice phone conversation with **Tamara Schurdak '95** who is working for 2 years for Yale Admissions. So she is still around New Haven at 337 Alden Ave. Apt 7, New Haven 06515. 203-387-3549. **Phil Mundy** and **Rebecca Whitney '95** were both at Andover, teaching in a one year intern program. Rebecca is heading out to San Francisco to teach in a school out there. **Sarah Kelley '95** is working on a farm in Lyme, CT, living very organically. **Ann Egger '95**, I believe, is still in Bluff, Utah. She took a geology course last summer in Montana and on her way there stopped off in San Francisco to see Perry DeValpine, Peter Ackerman, Jason Soll and Mandy Rice. People keep asking her about the next reunion trip! **Dave Lambert '95** finally left New Haven this June to head out for graduate school in biology at the University of Arizona in Tucson. We will miss him.

In the new tradition of sending off our parting seniors with some kind of an event, we had a barbecue at Hopkins in late April overlooking the skyline of New Haven while some of us braved one of the longest zip lines around! It was lots of fun. **Dave Lambert** was there as well as **Jay Ready '94** who is still in New Haven working for LEAP, a program for inner city kids.

I'm still feeling the glow from last year's reunion trip rafting down the San Juan. We will have to plan another trip soon--Let's see--if you count that the student committee to start FOOT was formed in 1984, that leaves only 2 years until our 15th! (counting 1994 as our tenth!) Meanwhile, if some of you are still yearning for that FOOT experience again at an earlier date--here's your opportunity!! It appears that the motor pool at Yale is shutting down and it is getting harder and harder for us to rent cars for people under the age of 21. So, if you are interested in doing support crew (hey--expenses paid for vacation in one of the lovely sites we go to--Adirondacks, White Mountains, Vermont, etc.) you, too, can be an **Eric Greenwald** or **Jay Ready** (old leaders who have already come back to do this for us)! In fact, one alum wrote back that they couldn't imagine any FOOT year without Eric! The dates for this year are August 24-30. Or, just keep this in mind for subsequent years. We would love to have you back! Also--Eric Greenwald is interested in starting up a listserve for emailing each other. He is exploring the possibilities. So if you are using email, please send your email address to Eric: eric_greenwald@msn.com and to me: skellert@minerva.cis.yale.edu. FOOT enters cyberspace!

Something new this year in terms of the newsletter: since the alumni record printed the names & addresses of this year's graduating seniors, I decided to go ahead and send them the newsletter. Usually I wait a year until folks have had a year out but why not start them right up and get them hooked into the FOOT network? So we are even bigger than ever!

Some update on me. Steve and I both took a sabbatical last fall and spent most of our time on the Vineyard. Steve has just finished another book (From Kinship to Mastery), coming out on the heels of his other book published recently The Value of Life. Good reading, if I may say so. This fall I worked on a research project on experiential education that Steve is heading. We are surveying graduates of NOLS, Outward Bound and SCA. It should be interesting. We traveled out west (saw Jamie & Florence), finally made it to Provincetown off season, and then headed to South America & Peru. We spent one week in the Andes and one week on the Amazon. Both were amazing experiences. I gave our naturalist guide in the Amazon a FOOT hat, so some day if you are ever in the rainforest and come across a native wearing a familiar looking hat, don't be surprised... We now have three dogs--Beecher, Samson & Willy (Beecher's grandson) and two kittens, Aldo & Leo (for Aldo Leopold).

My final word and thoughts for you is to stay well, be happy, and continue to be the wonderful FOOT person you were and will always be. I hold all of you very close to my heart.

Love,

CILLA

