



## FOOT

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Freshman Outdoor Orientation Trips  
P.O. Box 201434  
Yale Station New Haven, CT 06520

Summer 2000

Dear FOOT Leader Alums,

Wow, we have made it to the millennium. FOOT continues to grow. We will have 44 trips this year (perhaps 45 if we have one trip for transfer students). One of the regions where we have added several trips is in the Berkshires. We now have four trips circling Mt. Greylock, which is the highest peak in Massachusetts. The White Mountains seem to be the most popular destination so we will perhaps add more there in the future. I currently rent a fleet of 10 cars for support crew and 11 buses for the trips. There is the constant fear of FOOT getting too big and losing some of its intimacy, but I have to admit there is still something very constant and simple in the core – a group of dedicated folks who love the outdoors and want to share their joy with others. If you came to one of our campfire talks during April or May Training you could probably hear echoes of some of the things you said during those heartfelt discussions about the philosophy of FOOT. You would also still be laughing a lot and recognize some of the same old New Games – although our repertoire has grown considerably. I pulled out all my old FOOT T-shirts and lined them up in chronological order which, of course, brought back a flood of memories. I will have to get a group to model them and put that picture in the next newsletter. This year the design is a bit post-modern. I may push for more bunnies and trees next year, but I have to admit I like the high tech quality of this year's design. We now put out a facebook which helps in learning names (we have 122 leaders this year, if you count support crew in the mix). At the end was an eerie "look-alike" section. Even I was selected to pose with a leader – but I may look more like his mother these days! I would like a section on reincarnations, because I'm starting to see (or maybe sense) strong resemblances to some of you out there and that is definitely strange... (just call me Shirley). We are going to have an alumni support crew this year in the Adirondacks, headed by **Jay Readey** '94. We have had alumni volunteers before whom we have thrown in with the current support crew folks, but this time it will be exclusively alums. I think it will be tons of fun. More on that later. In any case, last year's trips went extremely well. We had more people hiking than ever before and only one evacuation due to an upset stomach. The Leader and the sick FOOTie conveniently came out on the road just down from the local hospital so she was checked out in no time. I still get those panicked phone calls from anxious students before they come; one called and wanted to know why a pillow was not on the equipment list. Parents, too, can fret. A mother called last summer at 7:00 AM when it was pouring rain one morning during the trips who asked me to look out my window. I did and acknowledged that it was, indeed, raining. She wanted to know, now what? I wasn't sure if she wanted me to reassure her that everything would be just fine, or if I should start calling the rescue squads! Here is an email that a satisfied mother did send us after the trips: "Monday, September 6, 1999: Judging by all the excited tales about the FOOT EXPERIENCE, my daughter had a great time on her hike. I never thought she would enjoy roughing it, but she must have, because I have not heard one negative comment from her. She loves her 'footieeeeees' (big hugs when they meet) and is even considering becoming a leader. How did you manage to persuade Ms. Superclean to sleep in the dirt and love it? I am convinced it was only possible for her and the other footies to experience so much joy and excitement because of your careful leadership along the trip, and the many, many hours you spent planning and preparing to make sure everything would go well. It would be wonderful if you, too, had fun on the hike. Thank you for all the great care you have taken to

create warm memories the footies will still share with their grandchildren.” It was also great to have some FOOT Leader Alums on hand during the August training prep time – **Eric Greenwald** ’90, **Ivan Kerbal** ’96, **Dave Lewicki** ’97, and **Jay Readey** ’94.

Now on to the news from YOU! We got our annual Holiday card from **Jamie** (’86) and **Florence Williams**. They are enjoying the good life in Montana as Jamie continues to head the Nature Conservancy there and Florence continues to write. We keep trying to connect for a river trip, but Jamie is forever doing those donor trips. I wonder if he is still showing them the quarter and butt game! I noticed that **Sue Lamar** ’86 has moved to Albuquerque, NM. I guess she has finally left the Indian Reservation. **Liz Ablow** ’87 has been in touch several times: “Well, every time I receive a letter, note, mug, tshirt, etc. I have been inspired and planned to write...but my life is a constantly moving black hole where time keeps on disappearing. Though hectic, life overall is very good. Jacob (who is now 5) and Sara (who is 2) are constantly changing, growing, and amazing us daily. Both have great amounts of energy, full imaginations and a great sense of self that I hope will not be dismantled as they grow older. Jacob is going to Kindergarten next year and I thought making a choice for college was hard. We looked at many schools...both private and public...public schools work on a lottery system in Seattle sooo the popular ones are much harder to get into. We got into our first choice private school and first choice public school. Soo we still had another decision...soo Jacob is happily going to go to Orca the public school...It fits into his repertoire since he is now in the beluga room at his preschool. I am working full time so life is a constant juggle. I am currently functioning at a more pleasant work pace compared to the last couple of years. I was heavily involved in the Headwaters agreement/PALCO HCP EIS. The company I work for wrote the third party EIS and I was the technical lead for the riparian section of the EIS. It was an intense 2 years and it seems like it is just the beginning now that NMFS and USFWS are going to be challenged in court over the decision. At the same time I was the technical fisheries lead for a large land exchange between the USFS and a private timber company in Washington State. No Julia Butterflies in the trees for this project but it has its controversy....Though the work is over I am still a bit tired from these two projects despite the fact that it has been a few months since they were finalized. Dick and I have also been working hard on our house. We added onto it last year and we are doing all the finish work (painting, tiling, etc.) and are thankfully almost done. Most of the work is done at night when the kids are asleep – thank goodness they are heavy sleepers. But Dick and I are bug eyed tired beings. Next we have to finish painting the outside – it never ends. I guess you can say our lives are full...and I haven’t even mentioned our dog Doyle...another day...I remember the crazy coordination...Now that it is bigger and more trips it must be even crazier...It hasn’t changed much for me...when I have had big field efforts in Alaska we have gone through that same type of outrageous coordination...thank goodness it isn’t happening this summer...I’m into mellowness as much as I can get it...It would be great to have a reunion here in the wilds of Seattle...no really there are millions of options...” Then just recently this June I got another note from Liz: “I am now working for Seattle City Light which is a public utility of Seattle. I am working as a fisheries biologies/Senior environmental analyst. The main watersheds are the Cedar and Tolt Rivers. The work consists of everything from dealing with compliance issues, being involved in a few stakeholder groups that identify and implement restoration projects, monitoring and utilizing money that has been set aside as mitigation for FERC licensing and overlapping with the endangered species act issues that are a hot topic in the Pacific Northwest with the plight of the salmon, particularly Chinook and then, of course, bull trout. There is a lot to learn. Other than that, Dick has reopened his restaurant a week before I started my job. So we are going through a lot of transitions. Much love, Liz. My home email is [walablo@aol.com](mailto:walablo@aol.com). My home phone is 206-329-3689. My business email is [Elizabeth.Ablow@ci.seattle.wa.us](mailto:Elizabeth.Ablow@ci.seattle.wa.us). Work number is 206-386-4592.

A new voice from the past was that of **Melissa Balbach** ’88: “Greetings! Thanks so much for all of the great work you’ve done on the FOOT newsletters. I’m not always great about submitting info to them but I really enjoy reading them. We’re moving offices tomorrow and I just came across the summer newsletter that you sent out. I brought it into the office, hoping that I would respond, but somehow, I never got around to it. So now that I’m cleaning my desk – what do I find! How are things in New Haven? How is FOOT this year? I

was back in NH this October (I'm on the alumni Assembly and am supposed to be in NH each October and April for a weekend meeting.) I wanted to stop by and say hello, but I ran out of time. I have to say that things are looking good around campus. So, the quick summary of my life over the past 11 years? Too much blah blah. Recent history, however might be more manageable. I have to say that in some regards, I am a total FOOT disappointment. I hardly ever have the opportunity to go hiking or camping anymore, and the last time I used my tent was over 2 years ago when my husband and I took a 'sabbatical' (ie. we quit our jobs to travel) and went out west for 4 months. That was a great trip – lots of mountain biking, hiking and flyfishing, along with tons of great scenery. (I just got John – my honey – the National Parks version of Monopoly for Christmas. It looks hysterical!) However, both of us are now in the high tech world in Austin and don't have a whole lot of time off. Believe it or not, I'm at one of those insidious dot com companies. I have been with this company for over 1.5 years and I'm really enjoying it. Whoever would have thunk that this liberal arts poli sci major would end up in high tech. But it's actually pretty cool. My husband (oh yeah – I got married a 1.5 years ago out in Colorado. SOOO beautiful) is also with a Java related start-up. He's enjoying that, but lots o' challenges. So, I've been here in Austin for 5 years and really enjoying Austin, though rather dismayed with ALL of the growth that's taking place down here. They're trying to develop using smart growth policies, but when you build and grow as fast as Austin is, there is nothing smart about it. It's quite sad to watch them destroy all of the green spaces. I really should get more involved with some of the environmental organizations, but have not yet taken the time. It would be a really worthwhile investment. As a result of your newsletters, I hooked up with another FOOT leader while she was living here in Austin. I met Lee Deigaard while she was living here, getting a masters in creative writing, and had a great time hanging out with her. She has subsequently moved to Georgia (or at least that was the last I heard) and I have not been in touch since. So, if anyone's coming to Austin, send them my way. Would love to show them around. Also, I think that I used to be on the FOOT listserve, but fell off after I quit my job at Dell. Would love to be back on with this email: [mbalbach@works.com](mailto:mbalbach@works.com). Thanks again for all of your good work with FOOT. It really has become a great organization! Melissa Balbach.

**Diana Selig** '88 wrote from Berkeley, California: "Sounds like FOOT is going strong. This year my cousin, who was five years old in 1985, the year we started FOOT, will be participating in a FOOT trip as an incoming freshman. Time flies! I'm glad FOOT is there for her and her classmates to enjoy. Hope the trips go well this year and thanks for all your work on behalf of the program!" The shortest note was from **Roger Wynne** '88 doing law in Seattle: "Happy Trails." There was a nice little check stuck in there with it for our scholarship fund. It's odd because most of the correspondence I get from former FOOT leaders is big in words and little in \$\$ (which is fine!). I wonder if Roger is indicative of a new trend... **Patrick Whelan** '88 sent this: "I want to drop a line to officially thank you for the very cool FOOT t-shirt that y'all gave my son, Kyle. I am a proud father. This year for Father's Day we traveled to Idaho and hiked, camped, river rafted and swam in hot springs. He is a terrific outdoorsperson with just the right combination of enthusiasm and raw endurance. Is he the oldest of the next generation? I still teach history and live in Sarasota, Florida. In recent years I have been a leader of a Christian prison ministry called Kairos. Volunteering in prison is like working with FOOT groups, except the prisoners have larger muscles and more interesting tattoos. I would love to hear from those old timer FOOT folks. Love, Patrick." [pwhelan@saintstephans.org](mailto:pwhelan@saintstephans.org)

**Ann Vileisis** '89 sent a holiday card stating, "We love taking this opportunity to say hello and fill you in on a few highlights of our year. Get this – we're living in an apartment – TEMPORARILY! Ann is doing research for her next book about traveling in the Pacific Coastal mountains from Baja to Kodiak Island, which we did in 1997. Now finally, with other obligations completed, Tim (her husband) gets to do the writing. This year Ann received two prestigious history awards for her *Discovering the Unknown Landscape*, and Tim's latest book got published in the fall: *The Heart of America*. It came out beautifully and is getting lots of good attention. On the adventure side, we had a fabulous 200-mile Klamath River trip and an equally superb 70-mile backpack on the wild Lost Coast, both in northern California. After spending winter and spring in the mountains of Arizona, summer and fall in the Sierra and northern CA, we now face another warm winter. We'll be in Davis through the spring. The year 2000 will be packed full of book

work, speaking engagements, a few fun little trips and out usual one epic adventure. We miss the Tetons, Idaho, the Northwest, and our friends and families who are all over the place. We'd like to see you all! We wish you a joyous holiday and winter full of love and happiness and beauty on the wonderful earth." From **Ben Sayler** '89 and **Betsy Jubitz Sayler** '91 I got the following news: "We've just begun a new adventure – living in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. We'd love to hear from you, and if you dare, please come for a visit where the Wild West begins!" Ben is working at the Center of Excellence in Math and Science Education, Black Hills State University, and Betsy is working at the Black Hills Medical Center in Deadwood. Home: 384 Rim Rock Rd., Spearfish, SD 57783. 605-644-0047. [sayler@dtgnet.com](mailto:sayler@dtgnet.com) or [bjsayler@dtgnet.com](mailto:bjsayler@dtgnet.com).

**Trex Proffitt** '89 and wife Beth also sent in a holiday newsletter: "This year was one of tremendous change and excitement for our little household by Lake Michigan. Just as the early spring flowers were poking their way into the sunshine, Catherine Joanna Proffitt emerged into our life (born March 1999). Those first days were some of the most sleepless and exciting moments of our lives, and it's only gotten better (although the sleep situation hasn't improved quite as much as we would like). Catherine has many friends and has introduced us widely in the neighborhood and beyond. Indeed, because of her, 523 Hinman has become a major Chicago tourist attraction, at least for family and friends... The extra help has been much appreciated, since academic pressures this year have been unrelenting. Both budding scholars taught their own course for the first time, with Trex earning accolades for teaching excellence in the three sections of negotiations classes he taught to Kellogg business students. 'What does he know about negotiating?' you might ask. Well, those who can't do... (On a completely unrelated topic, his experiment studying the effect of instructor-provided beer and pizza on student evaluations of teaching achieved near significant results.) Meanwhile, Beth put her neonatal practice into theory, teaching developmental psychology for Northwestern's University College. Her teaching was so well-received that her class nearly tripled the second time, reaching an impressive eleven students! Although the incubation period and delivery of Beth's dissertation proposal is making pregnancy seem brief and childbirth a breeze, the fruits of some other scholarly labors are finally becoming visible. Her first journal article (a first-authored piece on the reasoning strategies of experts) just got accepted for publication at the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition. Trex is also building his publication record, working now on a 'revise and resubmit' at the Academy of Management Journal on the vocabulary of corporate change. He presented this and some dissertation work at several conferences. Both are striving for dissertation completion in 2000, and if all goes well, will soon be moving on to exciting careers, well, somewhere." There was some talk that this might be New Haven – but I haven't heard anything more! More baby news is from **Kristin Mitchell** '89. I received her son's birth announcement: Drake Murphy Mitchell Thomas, born March 1, 2000. Kristin politely reminded me about those baby FOOT T-shirts and I happily sent one right away. She added that everyone was doing great. They were off visit her brother in Paris. Drake's website: [www.alaska.net/~dthomas](http://www.alaska.net/~dthomas). **Toby Kovacs** '89 sent me a beautiful card with a picture of Lake Colden on the cover. Inside he said, "My wife, Rachel, and I spent this past Labor Day weekend retracing the route of a FOOT trip I led in the Adirondacks. We started at the ADK Loj, hiked to Colden Lake, day hiked over Mt. Marcy from Colden, and hiked back to the Loj. We must have been in great shape in college, I don't remember the trails being so tough! Ask Rach, she had to listen to FOOT stories all weekend! It was great seeing you at our 10<sup>th</sup> reunion in June (1999). Hope you've enjoyed your summer and that this year's FOOT trips were as fun-filled as the ones I remember! Best, Toby." **Paul Jahnige's** Community Resources seems to be still going strong. His newsletter announced all the current initiatives in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, DC. Some of the notable milestones included: launching a new National Model Greening and Green Jobs Project in Washington, DC, discovering the value of urban forest products ("in one of our most interesting projects, we have discovered that a diversity of city residents cultivate and collect over 103 forest products – including nuts, fruits, mushrooms, medicinals, crafts materials, and seeds"), and providing information to Urban Park Restoration projects and Environmental Education. Community Resources remains a small, energetic, and results-oriented non-profit working to improve the environment. Some news from **Tiff Bingham** '89 was that she has "finally given up my veterinary career. It was a difficult decision,

but a very necessary one. I'm exploring new career options and am excited to be headed in a direction which might better use my strengths. I'll keep you informed..."

From the Class of 1990 I heard from **Jeannette DeMallie Gorda** that she gave birth to a baby girl, Sasha Romaine Gorda, April 26, 1999. She wrote: "As you can see, the biggest news here is the arrival of our daughter Sasha. She is a joy. I got my nursing degree in May '98 and we came back to Fairbanks where I found a job working in a local clinic. I went back to work when Sasha was 10.5 weeks old, but after a few weeks have decided that what I really want to do right now is stay home with my daughter to get to know her better. I'm still planning to pursue a career in nurse-midwifery, but at this point it is a long-term goal. Motherhood calls. We are also working on finishing the construction of our house about 20 miles outside of Fairbanks. Anyone who finds him or herself adventuring in Alaska should feel free to visit. We are at PO Box 85175, Fairbanks, AK 99708." **Kashka Kubzdela** '90 sent the following email: "Sometime between July 5 and 10 (2000) we are planning to drive from Chicago to take a few days vacation in the White Mountains of New Hampshire before attending the NE Wolf Restoration Meeting in Rumford, Maine." She asked for company with her and her 2.5 year-old daughter, but by the time you all receive this she will probably be on the road. Kaska is at [kubz@aya.yale.edu](mailto:kubz@aya.yale.edu). **Eric Greenwald** '90 keeps resurfacing. He was on hand to help out with the last minute running around last August and I am hoping he will do an Alumni support crew this year. He has left the CIA and the last time we talked was starting up an internet company. **Baker Mallory** '91 mailed in a great photo with these words: "I'll be out in Jackson, Wyoming for Christmas and the 1<sup>st</sup>. I'm loving NYC. I can't believe it – I need an updated list of who is here." Baker is at 66 W 84<sup>th</sup> Street 4B, NYC, 10024. 212-874-7449. [Baker1969@yahoo.com](mailto:Baker1969@yahoo.com). Someone we haven't heard from in awhile and who just made the deadline was **Josh Barkin** '91! He wrote, "The main news from this end is that I got married 5 years ago to Laura Riera. It's hard to believe we had our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary this April. Laura is from Spain, so we got married by a justice of the peace in almost elope fashion – to fend off the evil INS – deciding only a couple days before the wedding to tie the knot. Two years later, my family got together with her family for a two day fiesta in northern Spain where we ate, drank, and were merry. Then we went hiking in the Picos de Europa – incredible mountains as impressive as the Swiss Alps, which rise up from the Cantabrian Sea. If you get a chance you should head to northern Spain. Laura designs magazines, which means a rigid work schedule and little vacation time, so we haven't been able to take any long adventures. But we've hit the Grand Canyon, China, Western Europe, and other fun destinations. (Sometimes I feel the FOOT newsletter reads like a travel brochure!) Being with Laura has been the best thing to happen to me. The other bit of news is that I have finally come out with my first collection of stories, titled 'Before Hiroshima.' The collection is only available from the publisher at [tobypress.com](http://tobypress.com) (you may have seen ads in The New Yorker or the NYTimes). I debate whether to send this kind of info, but since I enjoy such news about others I finally realized it's only fair to contribute as well. Since I've been in the Boston area the last five years I've had a chance to explore the Cape. Now I understand why you come up this way every summer with such religious fervor." Josh is at: 78 Pearson Ave. Somerville, MA 02144. 617-627-9865.

**Emel Gokyigit** '91 emailed: "Thank you so much for the baby T-shirt that arrived in the mail. Glad that you heard through the grapevine; I vaguely remember getting the FOOT letter in the fall in the midst of adjusting to a newborn and am sure I never responded. My son, Kenan (pronounced Ken-on) is 8 months old today. I'm still making my way through law school (I had him the first week of classes this year and was back in classes by the third week) and Dan is still working on the dissertation, so we're in perpetual studenthood. We split the child care between the two of us with some help from grandparents around finals time. It's worked out very well and we are thrilled to have the little guy in our lives. How are you doing? How's FOOT? I still regularly see many of the FOOT people (recently saw **Diana Fisher, Del Berger, Tali Zulman, Chris Roberts, Michael Kahan** among others). Send me news when you have a chance. Emel." Emel, if you recall, was one of my Head Coordinators. Her Co-Head Chris Roberts '91 also sent various news. The first sad news about the death of his mother-in-law: "We will remember 1999 as the year when Juliet, Hannah's mum, died. She died on November 1 (All Saints Day) of breast cancer. It is still hard to

believe that she is no longer in Yorkshire, putting the kettle on for a cup of tea. We have been able to be at peace about Mum's death, even though she was only 48, for several reasons. First, cancer allows you time to talk about the terrible word death and then move on. Secondly, Mum accomplished what she had to do on this earth. In a quiet way, her life was completed. As we experience Juliet's death, all the Christian teachings about life, death, and beyond that we have absorbed over the years are really put to the test. But our faith has stood us in good stead for living with the reality of her death. We don't just have memories to cling to, she really is still present. We can ask her to pray for us and we know that one day we will be reunited with her in some mysterious way." Chris continued to write, "Other things happened in 1999 as well. In February Hannah started a new job as a program officer at Partners for Livable Communities. Partners is a non-profit consulting firm that works on urban quality of life issues, with local projects in several cities around the US, and occasionally overseas as well. Most projects try to use the arts for inner-city regeneration. Another goal is to promote regional thinking, so that the city/suburb divide is less severe. Chris continues as Religion Editor for the PBS television series, Religion & Ethics Newsweekly. He also reported about 15 stories on the air. Some were theological (debate about the resurrection of Jesus, sculpture about the crucifixion), some ethical (was the Kosovo war just, welfare reform), and several about church life (two were about Catholic universities and intellectual freedom). Our big project this year was our garden! Our church meets in a restaurant that has a small plot of land in the back. It had been neglected – we carted off 10 bins of rubbish. It was also home to some rats, a family of stray cats, and a homeless man. But we nursed the land back to health and made friends with the residents. We planted shrubbery, eggplant, broccoli, Swiss chard, and herbs. We spent most of the summer giving away an overflow crop of the eggplant. Looking ahead to 2000, we plan to move back to the UK in mid-February. At first we'll live in the flat that is attached next door to Hannah's dad's house. We'll fix it up, use it as a base for travel, and Chris will begin some theology research. Mostly though, we'll enjoy being closer to Hannah's family. Then in the autumn we'll move to either Leeds or London, where Chris will begin a PhD and Hannah will look for work. This move is the classic definition of bittersweet. Washington has been a delightful place to live, and leaving our jobs, friends, church, and apartment will be painful. But returning to the UK will be an adventure and we are ready!" A later email announced: "I'll be using a personal address, which is [Chrinhanna@aol.com](mailto:Chrinhanna@aol.com). This address should work until at least September/October of 2000." I've had several correspondences from **Del Berger** '91, and I will put all the pieces together for you. She also just wrote so this information is up-to-date. "I am still working at the New Jewish High School as director of admissions and teaching French/English (depends on the year and what the school needs). The job is great and I wouldn't have it if not for the FOOT listserve, where I read about **Sara Heitler's** involvement with NJHS. The school has grown considerably since she left and we have acquired some federal land on which we plan to build in the near future. The school is a vibrant, exciting place – and I am chaperoning a trip to Greece in March that is run annually for the 9<sup>th</sup> graders in conjunction with their ancient history curriculum. I've never been, so I am thrilled. I love working in education: the energy of the kids combined with the intellectual challenges of growing a school and developing a curriculum for my own classes is incredibly fun. Next year I'm teaching a senior elective: "Classical themes in Contemporary Literature" – Sophocles, Aeschylus, Max Frisch, O'Neill, Anouilh – all my favorites. Personally, 1999 has been a difficult year and I am grateful for the fresh start a new millennium offers. After a long and turbulent courtship (an old fashioned word) and a short and turbulent marriage, my divorce was finalized in January. This is obviously nothing I ever expected would happen, but it turns out he and I saw marriage and its responsibilities very differently. In one sense, it was 'good' to find this out early. On the other hand, I can only sincerely wish no one else ever has to go through this because it isn't pretty. Friends and family have been amazingly supportive and helped me weather the storm. I think I came out of this experience with my humor intact, but a little kinder and gentler and even less judgmental. I'm celebrating this summer with a trip to the Pyrenees where I'll be bicycling (am I crazy?) in France and a brief visit to my beloved Alps. I'd love to spend some time in Vermont in August. So hikers/campers get in touch: 617-264-4548. Emel's new baby, a boy, is the cutest on earth, bar none, and he is beautiful! His name is Kenan and it suits him perfectly, somehow." I believe there is a new man in Del's life too. **Diana Fischer** '91 sent the quick news that "Lily's web page (her daughter) has been updated! Visit if you dare! [www.flash.net/~lilyfish/](http://www.flash.net/~lilyfish/) PS. If your internet browser is

like ours, you might have to hit your “refresh” (or some other similar) button to see the new revised pages. It was good to hear from **Melina Novy** ’91. “I got your FOOT newsletter and really appreciated it. It is so great what you are doing with FOOT, and how you have kept us all involved. I have been out of the country for a year, working in Thailand with the World Bank (in Bangkok). It was a very interesting year, as I had never spent much time in Asia, and the economic crisis was unfolding. Since I saw you last, I have finished my PhD at Princeton with the Woodrow Wilson School, focusing on Economics and Development. I’m now out in California with my boyfriend, Robert, who has just re-enrolled at Berkeley to finish his PhD in Math. We were in Thailand together, where he was doing professional triathlons. Now I am looking for a job here, and getting settled. It is great to be on the West coast again (I’m from Oregon). I was wondering if you could point me in the direction of any FOOT people out here; I was hoping to make friends and find some good people to do outdoor stuff with. I missed that a lot, living in Bangkok! I did meet up with **Frank Levy** by chance, and hope we’ll do some stuff together. I hope you are well. Good luck with FOOT this year. So many trips! Take care, Milena Novy.”

On to the class of 1992: **Louisa Castrodale** ’92 sent a postcard from Alaska with the following inscribed: “Your recent FOOT letter made it to my home in Anchorage. My new home for 2 years. I’m working for the State Health Department. My first field trip was to Adak Island 1300 miles west of Anchorage out the Aleutian chain – talk about remote! It’s staggering to be in a bowl of mountains on a clear day, I can see Mt. McKinley out my office window! Come visit. 4822 Mills Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508. 907-338-1071. [louisac@health.state.ak.us](mailto:louisac@health.state.ak.us).” I cheated on this next one – I happened to see it in the Mountain School alumni news: **Cesca Smith** ’92 wrote that she hopes to finish her PhD this year. It focuses on reconstructing past (2-10 million years old) grasslands using the chemical signature of fossil grass. She lives and does lab work in Boulder, Colorado but here degree is from the University of Chicago. I got a Season’s Greetings card from **Steve Bunyak** ’92. Check it out in the photo section. **Ben Harley** ’92 has been in touch. “Another season, another country. I have moved again – to NYC, USA. The short story, ‘I fell in love, and....’ The long story does not belong in an email. I am continuing to work for Monitor Company, from its New York office. After having few visitors in Paris and London, I hope that living in NYC will improve my chances of seeing you. Looking forward to being in touch soon, Ben Home Address: 218 W 14<sup>th</sup> Street, apt 9W NY, NY 10011 Business: 212-940-6114. Home: 646-486-2031. [bharley@aya.yale.edu](mailto:bharley@aya.yale.edu). My S.O. is in New Haven this year (hence the reason why I moved back to the US), so I am occasionally in the neighborhood. Compared to NYC, New Haven is a veritable garden – I have enjoyed my visits a great deal.” From **Sumner McCallie** ’92: “Hi Cilla! Thanks for continuing to send the FOOT newsletter even though I have been miserably out of touch. It is good as always to hear that you and FOOT are doing so well, and I wish you the best for this upcoming season. An update for what I’ve been up to: just returned from two weeks in Fiji where I took some of my students to work with Habitat for Humanity. Incredible experience living in a village on the northeast coast of the island. Some of the friendliest folks you’ll ever meet. Lived all together in a small hut while we built five homes – cement foundation with wooden framed walls and roof and aluminum tin sliding. This was my second time in Fiji with Habitat, though went on my own last time. Habitat has become a true passion for me – an organization which reaches out to help others but does so on the premise that each person has a unique gift and talent to be used – some are builders, others are talkers, others are chefs, others are positive folk to have on the site. Each person has so much to give and it can all be used in the slow, friendly pace of constructing a home. A vibrant sense of community develops and that is unmatched in life. This joy of working with Habitat began on a trip to Northern Ireland where I watched it bring two sides together in the midst of amazing violence. Then to Guyana (with students this time) to build in a society that has lost hope because of a failed economy. Then to this very school where I work (McCallie School – yes, it’s in the family) where the senior class raised almost \$40,000 and then built a home last year (check out our website at [www.mccallie.org/habitat](http://www.mccallie.org/habitat)). We dedicated the house the day before graduation – some nice publicity from local news and even a national service commendation from CBS. Good stuff going on! Outside Habitat work, my real job is here at McCallie as an academic counselor and Bioethics teacher. Also live in the freshmen dorm and help out with residential life programming. Couldn’t be happier. It feels amazing to have found a community which cares about what it is doing and is willing to

give freely of time and energy and resources in order to help folks grow in the individual ways they need to. Still getting out in the woods – more so this summer as I worked at High Rocks (outdoor adventure camp in NC that I wrote to you about at one point). We reconstructed the hiking curriculum to make it more experientially based and the results were good. I did learn, though, that in teaching map and compass on the trail to 10 and 11 year olds, it does help if they actually care about getting to the place they have picked to camp! But that is all in the fun of it. Hope life continues to go well for you. You're a wonderful solid rock for FOOT! Take care, Sumner.” **Jael Kampfe** '92 wrote: “Great to get the newsletter (as always). What an ongoing act of love. We need to get a website for FOOT so we can just update it via email or something. Not that I am all that internet hip. But that's what I understand via those in the know.... So the true update on me, in a nutshell. I am indeed back in my hometown of Red Lodge, Montana which is the greatest gift. Since I left home 15 years ago to pursue education I have been trying to get back to this small town at the base of the Beartooths and am quite happy that I have succeeded. The Lakota language textbook mentioned in the newsletter has come out this past February. Since '92 I had been editing 'Reading and Writing the Lakota Language' and the University of Utah Press just published it. (Check it out at Amazon.com!!) The book is the first full length Lakota (Sioux) curriculum textbook written by a native speaker and it involves a synthesis of a western and traditionally Lakota approach to language learning. In other words, it combines grammar and syntax with oral history and philosophy. Through that experience of living and working on the Rosebud reservation, I became more involved with Indian issues and have now started, with a team of other folks, a non-profit foundation that gives funding for individuals from Indian reservations to start businesses or non-profits. So I am now the executive director of Four Times Foundation. The name of the foundation comes from the Lakota concept of generosity where if a person receives a gift from the heart, they will, in time, return it four times over. I love my work. I am traveling a lot and learning even more. And in time, I will actually know something about economic development in Indian Country. And somewhere in between the language book and the start of the foundation, I danced for a year in a Montana based modern dance company... So, can you see the direct line in my career path? As for other FOOT sightings, **Jess Plumb, Mark Barnett, Ben Madley, Matt Eddy, Heidi Ellis, Perry deValpine, Katherine Gergen, Jason Soll,** and myself asll had a mini-reunion at the family ranch here in Montana. It was great to see everyone and to have a couple days camping at an old homestead cabin along West Reosebud River, hiking to Mystic Lake, and riding my horse. We all howled at our day of hiking where nine FOOT leaders forgot to bring enough water, no water filter, no iodine tablets, no little rain gear, and no first aid kit. Yep. We done did you proud, Cilla. The same crew is scheduled to reconvene over labor day this year with hopefully the birth of a new annual event. Jason is actually going to come and stay for a visit and a month just to take in a bit of Montana and cleanse the soul (soll). And **Jim Williams** '93 came out last summer for a vist and a month later had quit his PhD program in Psych and moved to Montana to take a job working with my bro leading outdoor wilderness trips. He's currently on a backpack trip in Alaska which he scouted and is leading. So that's all the news from Lake Wobegone. No children. One dog. One cat. A homeowner and a horse. Love to you Cilla and the great work that you do. FOOT is a critical program and you give it the strength which keeps it great. Enjoy what time you have left on the Vineyard. Jael.”

From **Katie Michel**, class of '93: “Had a wonderful year! Got married...It's working out – phew! Still printing books, designing stationary, logos, publishing prints, etc. While Adam was touring with his band 'Fountains of Wayne.' Kinda hectic. But fun. See lots of **Laura Bradford** who lives down the street. Love having a FOOTie in the hood! XXO.” From out west: “Everything is great in the LaPrade household. Burch is working for an internet startup in San Francisco. I am still working part-time as an equine veterinarian and a full time mom. Abbott is fabulous and we are loving parenthood! **Rachelle & Burch LaPrade** '93.” I occasionally see **Jody Esselstyn** '93 jogging on neighborhood streets. She reports she returned to the Yale School of Nursing as a full-time student this spring after some time off last year to be with family during her mom's terminal illness. The chronicle of her family's journey through the illness is preserved on website anyone can visit with a box of Kleenex handy ([www.esselstyn.com](http://www.esselstyn.com)). “I will finish my family nurse practitioner training in December 2000 and hope to practice in a community health center in New England while husband, Jeff, embarks on a landscape architecture degree.” She also told me that **Blake**

'96, her brother, and **Meredith Fort** '97 were back from Latin America and living in Boston. **Seth Dunn** '93 checked in: "Dear Cilla: I'm sorry it's taken me so long to send my email address (as you requested in last summer's FOOT newsletter): [dunnseth@yahoo.com](mailto:dunnseth@yahoo.com). Since I really enjoy receiving the newsletter, I suppose I should contribute something at last...I work at the Worldwatch Institute, an environmental think-tank, studying renewable energy. (Just returned from Germany, where if you take a train ride you're likely to see at least a cluster or two of wind turbines.) My DC-area hiking has been limited to the Shenandoah and Rock Creek Parks, but on sweaty summer days I close my eyes and visualize a FOOT support crew just around the corner and carrying several pints of Ben and Jerry's...So happy to hear that the program is flourishing, and hope it continues to do so! Take care, Seth." From **Matt Eddy** '93, "Hi Cilla. Just got your massive letter! Thanks! I've been accepted at Yale Forestry and am looking forward to mods, coursework, and good ol' fashioned revelry for two years in some familiar territory. I'll be living at 11 Linden Street (close to Orange), New Haven, CT 06511. I'll also be combining my forestry degree with my teaching certification. I continue to be a sucker for the FOOT type (adventuresome, loving of the outdoors, reflective about the big questions of life, dreams about lunches of bagels and GORP – you know the type), so if you know any FOOT alums in Connecticut, be sure to let me know! Take care – Matt."

I got a nice batch of letters from the class of '94. to begin with **Meg Wickwire**, who sent a lengthy Holiday note: "I'm sitting here at gate 36 of LAX waiting for my Midwest Express flight to Milwaukee and wondering just how far below the 74 degree air left outside a moment ago my next fresh air will be. I recently boasted to my English department colleagues that no, Robert Service was not exaggerating when he wrote in 'The Cremation of Sam McGee' that one's eyelashes can freeze together, causing a frigid temporary blindness. 'It has,' I announced with a smile, 'happened to me.' I realize that now I was perhaps too casual in reporting this horror. It only happened to me once, after all, and probably only because I chanced to exhale a particularly dense cloud of steam exactly at the instant I closed my eyes for the doomed blink. Though I recognize my hubris now, I'm afraid the Midwestern Powers That Be will frown upon my pride anyway and make me prove all over again that I can, when pressed, endure the kind of cold that can cause such an eyelash fiasco. Ah well, what's Christmas without a little dread? In any case, I have plenty to be happy about at this ripe old age of 27. For one thing, I love my job. This is significant considering how intense my workload has been this year. Despite the late night and weekend hours, though, I find myself driving into the school parking lot every morning smiling. My students are bright, funny, and thoughtful! My colleagues, too, are a wonderful combination of nurturing and challenging. I have learned so much from them! I've still got a long way to go before I reach Teacher of the Millennium status, but they've shown me close up the path to excellence, and given me the encouragement to start on it. Another perk of my job is the graduate school benefits. Once again H-W sent me one summer closer to my Master's in English through Middlebury's Bread Loaf program. This time, I chose the Juneau, Alaska campus. As I paddled through the unimaginable vastness during a kayaking trip in Glacier Bay, I couldn't help but be grateful for the cozy boat beneath me, for the muscles in my arms, and for my ability to realize just how amazing this experience was. My classes were incredible too, and mind-expanding in ways that applied directly to Alaska. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to take a writing class with John Elder, a scholar and naturalist whose gentle encouragement and sharp eye made the writing process more rewarding than ever before. Driving back to LA then, was especially difficult. The constant annoyances of traffic and dirty air have faded in my everyday awareness, but the more subtle reasons I'm not myself here have grown with time. Ironically, considering its immensity, I find LA stifling. Elements of myself that I cherish just don't thrive here. All smog jokes aside, though, it will be harder to leave than I ever thought possible. I have made incredible friends here – interesting, generous, supportive, funny people who have helped me hack a life out of this overcrowded desert. But it's time for me to move to a place I could love, closer to family and the outdoor sports I've missed since moving here. LA has taught me that I belong in the Northeast. If luck is with me, I will find my dream teaching job in Boston this year. If reality interferes, though, it may take another year. Cheers, Meg. [Meg@aya.yale.edu](mailto:Meg@aya.yale.edu)." Her good buddy **Elizabeth Murdock** '94 also sent some info: "Just a little news to report: Paul and I have just moved to a new place in DC. My new address is: 1305A 35<sup>th</sup> St. NW Washington, DC 20007. 202-342-1701. I'm still at National Wildlife Federation, still enjoying it...I'm

flying out to Southern California to help post some signs about the endangered arroyo frog in 3 national forests. (My project, so it's very exciting.) And I'm itching to go back to school, soon, I think. But, of course, I've been saying that for 5 years now! Well, just wanted you to know how warm I felt reading all the great FOOT news." **Jay Readey** '94 is still working in New Haven for an organization he started called Urban Solutions. He is about to leave that and enter the Yale Law School, and he says he is still committed to working for inner city issues. At the moment he can be reached at: [jay@urbansolutions.org](mailto:jay@urbansolutions.org). As I said earlier, he is putting together an alumni support crew in the Dacks. One of the members we think is – who else? – but our very own **Eric Greenwald!** He still wins the award for coming back to help out and the most support crews! Jay said, "I'm thinking it would be nice to get to the Dacks on the 10 year anniversary of my knee injury. (10 years! Can you believe that?) I'm excited that other alums are interested. The spirit of FOOT lives within me...I'm really excited to be able to do the FOOT thing in real style."

**Anne Parker** '94 was a voice from the past. She hailed: "Hi all – Well, it's a bittersweet day. It's my last day at Credit Suisse First Boston and it's my last day in New York. Yes, for all those that believed I would never leave, it's true. I have to say good bye to all my New York friends, so I'm sad. I am proud to say that I am leaving Wall Street! Whoo! It was a close call. BUT, for those who don't already know, I'm moving to Colorado with my finace Sandy Weil (BK '93), but not before we travel around the world – yippee! We are going on a two month trip to India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Israel. We're ecstatic. Then after this extended engagement honeymoon, we will be getting married on October 7<sup>th</sup>. I hope that all is going well for you and I look forward to getting the FOOT news every year. Now, when I get back I'm planning on getting back into Outdoor Education so I will definitely let you know where I end up. The purpose of this email is to give you my new email address which is [gannieb@yahoo.com](mailto:gannieb@yahoo.com). Our new address and phone number in Boulder is 650 Poplar Ave, Boulder, CO 80304. (303) 449-5344. Talk to you soon, Anne Parker." I have seen a lot of **Jen Weyburn** '94 this year. She has been working at Yale-China for the past several years in charge of their educational program. Jen was a Yale-China teacher herself. Hopkins, the school where I teach, now has a teacher exchange program administered by Yale-China and I was the liaison for the Chinese teacher at our school. So guess with whom I was suddenly working? Jen! I also had the great opportunity to go to China last March through this exchange which I will tell you more about later. In any case, Jen is leaving Yale-China this July. She is not totally sure what is next but she is interested in arts and theater education. She mentioned to me that **Jessica Plumb** '93 was doing some work for Yale-China too, but is about to head off for the state of Washington. She also told me that **Ted Deinard** '94 is now married (or about to be). **Scott Walsh** '94 sent this short note: "I will be starting business school this fall at the University of Virginia (1999). My address there will be 301 Harvest Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22903. My email is: [scottw@aya.yale.edu](mailto:scottw@aya.yale.edu). Keep in touch! Scott." The next letter I have to put into context. Here I was on the old Campus last August exactly on the Friday when all the FOOT trips return to Yale. You remember the zooy scene! It was a hot and sunny day, but mid-day thunder storms were threatening and, sure enough, the skies did explode and I was soon collecting not only dirty, but very WET FOOT gear. But we were having fun – of course, this is FOOT! Good old **Jay Readey**, who as I told you works in New Haven and has often helped me out on these days, was there on hand. I asked Jay to take a FOOT T-shirt to the Yale PO guy (he has his own private collection and always asks for one) and bring back any mail. Jay eagerly complied and one of the letters he brought back in his hand was from his old co-leader **Julie Puttgen** '94. After we both read it, we looked at each other and could only say, "wow." Here it is: "Dear Cilla, I've never written to you before yet reading your kind words of 99's FOOT report this afternoon and seeing the natural joy in the joy of other prompts me to write now. For the past three years I have been living in the Buddhist monasteries, mostly in England. This came as a surprise to me and yet an intuitive certainty after 2 years of working for Yale-China in Hong Kong and traveling in Buddhist countries. I came to a point of knowing that further travel outwards could not happen until I stopped and attended to the inwards journey whose call came stronger and stronger. Then, as I started to understand the power of monastic life as a tool for understanding and releasing the heart/mind and as I opened more to the possibilities of living in a 'community of solitaries' I realized I would be a nun. So in December I'm ordaining with three other sisters, making my commitment clear in somehow similar terms to those of you who've gotten married...with probably similar terrors and

exhilarations of letting perceived 'alternatives' and freedoms go their ways. It feels right to touch the Earth as Buddha did, to stop running around and really look at what's here and now, even if that's often hard work. This is a forest tradition from Thailand, our teacher's roots are in the wandering ways of the monks and nuns who've practiced a contemplative life in the towns and wilderness of India and SE Asia. So though it's a different approach from the beautiful, socially active and 'outdoorsy' lives many FOOT folks have crafted, I feel a strong connection to nature through this nun's life. England has so many well-loved forests and ancient sacred places and a vast network of trails and footpaths crisscrossing the islands, fields, farms, mountains, and villages. I feel blessed to be able to live this way and am grateful to all who contribute in any way by taking time to love and respect life. Anywhere we are, the same work finds us, the patient work of giving ourselves unstintingly to whatever presents itself in the moment. It is so good to read of so many good lives. Thank you Cilla for continuing to put together this sort of woven? Patchworked? Epic of births and deaths and all in-between. Should anyone reading this ever want to come visit, they would be welcome; I enjoy extending the invitation and though I can't say there's always something fun going on, I can say there's almost always a safe and peaceful place to come and be. All blessings to you, bright ones, Julie. Address: Amaratani Buddhist Monastery, Great Gaddesden, HPI 3BZ England."

A few hellos came from the class of '95. I know they had their 5<sup>th</sup> reunion at Yale. **Geoff Tanner** reported this back to me. (By the way he has been working at Hopkins this year, subbing in for his roommate who is on our exchange program to China. It's been fun, as you can imagine, to have him around!) I should note here that if any of you are coming back for your reunions, let me know and I will at least show up at some point. Often, the reunions happen so fast I forget they come and go. I know **Sara Heitler** '95 was there. I had seen Sara for a good visit earlier in the year. She is working in NYC for a foundation that is putting together curricula on ethics for schools. Sounds like fascinating work. Her address is 310 W. 95<sup>th</sup> St. #7B NY, NY 10025. 212-222-0034. **Kristen McDonald** '95 sent in a postcard with her new address: 4100 Queensbury Rd. Apt 4 Hyattsville, MD 20781. **Anne Egger** '95 came back to Yale for a Slavic Chorus reunion. I unfortunately was out of town. I hear she has left Utah for grad school in California. **Phil Mundy** '95 (check out photo) wrote: "Given the FOOT hat sightings you have on film, you might want another. This is a FOOT hat with me on the summit of Mt. Kosciusko in Australia. At a whopping 7000 feet or so Kosciusko is the tallest peak on a very flat continent. Thus it wasn't too tough a hike to get to the top (though I did do it the harder way by not using the ski lift that takes people up the steepest part). It might make a nice collection of photos to have FOOT hats (& owners) on top of the highest peaks of each continent. I'm sure FOOTies will get to most of them." Phil has other news he didn't report, but his old roommate did – check the last info in this next entry from **Brendon, BC, Connolly** '95. "Honestly I have been meaning to send news for the past four years, but each time I have received a FOOT newsletter, I have gotten all excited and sworn to write and send pictures and then I put it down and then it's four years later. Oh well. So here is my leaf. I have spent the past four years in the neighborhood of **Seth Hawkins** and **Kell** in Raleigh, NC, and would occasionally bump into them at festivals and such. Did some kayaking with **Peter Braasch** while he was in Durham. I was working as an intern architect for a couple of different firms down there, focusing on adaptive reuse of older historic structures. (Turning old factories and brick warehouses into restaurants and retail and living spaces.) It has been a very exciting couple of years at work. In my spare time I was playing pretty hard as well, mostly with Ultimate Frisbee, but also mountain biking and backpacking around the mountains of North Carolina. Such a beautiful state! My Ultimate team kept me pretty busy. I started playing in North Carolina since I had moved down there and didn't know a soul. **Sara Heitler** had suggested this option to me and before I knew it I was in Vancouver at the World Championships playing against Japanese and Swedish and German teams. It's been a great sport and a great experience for me. I traded all the sun and steady income of my North Carolina Days to move out to Seattle to start a Master of Architecture Program at the University of Washington. I was excited to read that **Ben Strauss** will be out here too. He's one of my personal FOOT heroes. I just arrived in Seattle and am settling in OK. This is a great place. It has been all sun since I arrived. I suppose the rain is a big myth. Hmmm. I had a great time driving out, stopping to backpack and mountain bike at the Badlands, Black Hills, Yellowstone, and the Grand Tetons. I also stopped at many prominent architectural sites, at which I would

show up unshaven and smelling like the backcountry. The tour guides didn't know what hit them. So I am quickly converting to the Northwest lifestyle, ingesting as much caffeine as I can to acclimate and enjoying the endless outdoor activities that surround this place before school starts up in late September. Thanks for keeping us all connected, Cilla. FOOT remains one of my most important Yale memories and I am thankful to be reminded of it. I lament that my FOOT hat has disintegrated from overuse, but I still have a few tattered shirts that are hanging tough. Take care, BC (Brendan Connolly) 2307 North 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Seattle, WA 98103. [bpc@u.washington.edu](mailto:bpc@u.washington.edu). PS Phil Mundy, my former roommate and co-leader (only male/male combo I think in FOOT history unless I am mistaken), is getting married in Australia next summer. He has invited me down under to be in the wedding! Exciting stuff! By.” **Peter Braasch** '95 also checked in: “I hope that you are doing well. Has anybody ever thought of getting FOOT folk together or doing a FOOT event of some sort at a reunion? I know that a bunch of folks are at least thinking about going to the 94 reunion (and we were thinking how much cooler it would be to just hang out with FOOT leaders...just kidding, sort of). **Scott Walsh, Eric Greenwald**, Jay Readey's brother, and I are going to make dinner/hang out next week. We are also planning to do some paddling (sea kayaking) on the Potomac/Chesapeake when it warms up. Do you know any other DC-based FOOTies? Give us a yell if you are down this a-way. I am sure that we would all love to take you out on the water. Thanks, Peter Braasch.” It was great to hear from **Susan Burton** '95: “Hello, it's former FOOTie Susan Burton (SM '95). I'd imagine you're in the midst of everything, just at the moment – filling platforms of food at Price Club, distributing maps and camping permits, greeting freshmen as they walk through Phelps Gate. I've very much enjoyed the FOOT alumni dispatches, these past few years. Am writing now because I'm hoping that you can put me in touch with Jael Kampfe. I'd love to talk to her about the work she's doing on the Sioux language textbook – and on the reservation in general. Have recently begun working on the public radio program This American Life (before this I was an editor at Harper's Magazine). Don't know if you're familiar with the show – it's a weekly, hour-long documentary series. (You can check out our Website at <http://www.thislife.org>). We try to capture life as it's actually lived in our country – we broadcast interviews and reported pieces, as well as everything from fiction to found tapes. We're always trying to expand our network of storytellers – especially those who can tell us tales of what life is like in the pockets of the nation we don't hear much about – such as Indian reservations. No urgency on this, and best wishes for a safe, gorgeous FOOT '99. Hope you're well. Susan Burton, Producer, This American Life. 312-832-3419.” One final member of the class of 1995, **Tamara Schurdak**, sent in the following last December: “I left Yale 2 years ago (was working in the Admissions Office) to go to Stanford to get my masters in Education and Policy. I drove and camped my way across the country – Badlands, Glacier, Giant Redwoods. This year I'm teaching at a school in Baltimore. I'm teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade history, coaching and doing college counseling. I'd like to get out of the college portion but love the rest! As for this summer this will be the first summer planned without weeks of camping, who knows, maybe I'll journey back to CA!”

Now on to the class of 1996. I received a nice long letter from **Rob Schonberger**. Here it is: “For the last two years around this time (July 1999) I have been so excited to get your update letters and read through the news about the people I love. And every year, I promise myself that I need to write you a letter and tell you how much I appreciate your ongoing work with FOOT and your compiling the newsletter, and also to tell you how much FOOT meant to me while I was at Yale. Yet, every year I have let the days slip by without writing. This time, though, after yet another year of remaining incommunicado, the guilt has finally caught up to me, and I can't endure the status of 'missing FOOT leader' any longer! I am currently in the midst of packing up my room in my parent's house in Atlanta to prepare for their move to another house in the same neighborhood – my new permanent address will be 1686 Grove Park Way, Decatur, GA 30033. 404-929-0016. Later today, I'm driving to Wisconsin to do the outdoor program at a Jewish summer camp in Conover, Wisconsin called Camp Ramah. This is my second summer leading canoe trips for the camp, and I find the work really rewarding. It is an important (and exhausting) challenge taking young suburban kids into the woods for the first time. Giving them a positive first experience in the wilderness is something which I hope will set the foundation in them for a lifetime of respect and wonder at the natural world. This is idealistic, and I think such idealism is essential for maintaining positive energy day after day with the kids.

This year, I'll also be leading a staff of about 6 other 'trippers' which is a role I am excited to assume. The area around Conover, WI is covered with lakes and rivers in very pristine conditions. I never thought it would happen, but spotting bald eagles and other wildlife on the river starts to become routine by the end of the summer. Also, when the workday ends and the kids are back in their cabins, there is at least one pub per river in the backwoods which leaves plenty of opportunities for hanging out with other trippers. It occurs to me that you may get inquiries from FOOT leaders from time to time about working in outdoor programs. Feel free to pass on my email: [rs569@columbia.edu](mailto:rs569@columbia.edu) to them and I'd be happy to talk with anybody about this summer camp opportunity. As you can see, I have a Columbia email account. For the coming academic year I will be in my second year of rabbinical school at Jewish Theological Seminary in Manhattan and will also be finishing my basic science pre-med courses at Columbia's school of general studies. It's a very full schedule both in terms of time and subject matters. As I close, I just wanted to reiterate how influential my FOOT experiences as a Footie, a leader and an organizer have been to me. Some of my warmest memories are connected with FOOT, and I think my current life as a part-time-full-time trip leader continues in some ways as a legacy to FOOT's importance to me. Although I had a love of nature and hiking before I came to FOOT, the program really helped solidify those feelings and gave me the tools for confident, fun trips which (I hope) I am now passing on to my campers. PS. As for spotting other leaders, I went out for lunch with **Kristen McDonald** in DC whose friendship and support in our time in China together was invaluable to me. I also ran into **Ben Strauss** at Claire's in New Haven while I was visiting my girlfriend Amy who is at Yale Law School. It was great to see him, even though our chance meeting was too rushed. I also got to see **Rebecca Whitney** and **Sara Heitler** briefly as each one passed through New York. I've also heard rumors that **Christian Manders** is traveling around with his dad's company, uh, harvesting skin, but I'll let him expand on that one." (!) I heard from **Rosemary Hutzler** '96 who is living in Brooklyn: 220 Berkeley Pl. Apt. 2A Brooklyn, NY 11217. 718-857-4028. [rh1@saintanns.k12.ny.us](mailto:rh1@saintanns.k12.ny.us). "My news is that I have been living in Park Slope for the last year, just beginning my second year as an English teacher (middle and high school) at Saint Anne's School in Brooklyn Heights. My household includes 2 cats, Lulu & B.B. and boyfriend Jon (when he's not in New Haven finishing school). Let me know if a NYC FOOT party is in the works. All the best to you. Rosemary." I also heard from **Julie Myers** '96: "I always look forward to receiving the round up letter. Thank you for also tracking me down this past year! So, I realize I've been one of the mutest FOOT alumni up until now, but here goes with some news: So, I spent last year ('98-99) in Barcelona doing medical research at a hospital. It was an amazing experience on many levels. I'm actually going back over my winter break to visit some friends, and my boyfriend and his family. He's originally from Mallorca, a ridiculously beautiful (if slightly overrun place). We hiked around there last summer. I guess I've already given away my current state of 'studenthood' by calling my vacation a 'break'! So, yes, I'm studying medicine at Cornell in NYC. I'm really enjoying it and have been quite involved in a health outreach project on the side. Incidentally, Cornell Med has FOOT type program: CAMP! **Amy Scheffler** '98, former FOOT Leader too, is involved. She's a 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Best Wishes, Take care, Julie." Another interesting FOOT Leader sighting I made myself! I was at a special lecture by Gus Speth the new Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and who was sitting behind me but Peter Ehrenhranz '96! He is a med student at Emory in Georgia, but was in Stamford, CT for the fall doing a rotation. His address is 120 Tuxworth Circle, Decatur, GA 30033. 404.315.6819. [pehrenk@emory.edu](mailto:pehrenk@emory.edu). You never know who will be just over your shoulder or hiding behind you! A letter just came in from **Matt Litwin** '96: "I have to admit that I've been a bit of an outdoor delinquent since graduating. Two exceptions are an awesome hiking trip in Costa Rica (near Drake Bay) and daily excursions into the Manhattan subway system. I've been living in New York City since graduating in 1996, have done a few different things, mostly on Wall Street. Last summer, excited about the awesome potential of the Web and more than a bit frustrated by being a watcher, rather than a doer, I co-founded Uncommongoods with a close professional friend and colleague. Uncommongoods is focused on sourcing, buying, and retailing many kinds of hard-to-find, often artisan or handmade goods from around the world. We just launched our first public version of the site at [www.uncommongoods.com](http://www.uncommongoods.com), and it's been a great ride. We've hired a team of 22, and have spent a lot of time working on building our site and awareness of our business. We're really excited by the progress we've made, but we have much that we are looking to do. One of the most important goals we have is the development of a Scout network, who we will depend

upon (and pay!) to help us find great handmade/artisan/limited quantity items from around the world. My thinking is that other FOOT leaders could be a great source of information and ideas – please invite any and all to contact us at [scout@uncommongoods.com](mailto:scout@uncommongoods.com). I hope all is well with you and your family and friends. I've not seen many ex-FOOT leaders in the city, but I did speak a while ago with Gretchen Weber who I think must still be out in San Francisco. Best wishes, Matt. [matt@uncommongoods.com](mailto:matt@uncommongoods.com). 221 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St. NY, NY 10011. 212.462.0030.

Here are a few peeps from of the class of 1997: The first is from **Dave Lewicki** '97. "Thanks for the great newsletter. It's always such a joy to read it. I've just finished chapter 23 – I can't wait to see how it ends! (wink) I know Jay has contacted you about helping out with FOOT-related events in the next few weeks. I wanted to let you know that I am both available and excited about being a part of FOOT '99. I have a minivan (with fake wood paneling) and am happy to cart people, things, gear, whatever. Let me know if you need a hand with anything FOOT-related...even foodstuff. Things with Urban Solutions are going well. We've just finished up with our summer program, employing 50 teenagers to do neighborhood beautification projects around New Haven. We're trying frantically to graduate our first class of AmeriCorps members by August 31 – lots of service hours still needed! Hope your summer has been good, and I look forward to hearing back from you. Best regards and hoping for more rain, Dave Lewicki. Urban Solutions, Inc. P.O. Box 200021 New Haven, CT 06520-0021. 203.624.1606." And from **Leah Angell** '97: "I am currently finishing my first two years at Harvard Divinity School, where I am getting a Master of Theological Studies in Judaism and comparative religion. I am living in LA this summer, working on an exhibition at the Skirball Cultural Center (a Jewish Museum) about Jewish American weddings. I am really excited. Are there any FOOT leaders in LA right now?? I hope that you and Steve are well. Leah." From the class of 1998, **Gretchen Boger** wrote this: Yesterday (August 21, 1999) I was taking my first day-hike with the Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club and as we tramped through the wet over the Blue Hills south of the city, I suddenly realized that this year's FOOTies must have been arriving on campus at the same moment. It was a shock to realize another year must be starting up, as I am fervently clinging to summer (detester of wintertime that I am). But I also felt a warm nostalgia, knowing that people were checking their equipment, divvying up food, and playing their first rounds of boppity-bop-bop. I hope it all goes wonderfully, as usual, this year. It was great to get your lengthy update on the FOOT family. The day it came, I was actually walking home from the T, absentminded, when someone called my name and I looked across the street to see **Carrie Tatum** '97. She had just moved to the neighborhood and was wandering around to see hwat was there. Answer: me! So we went back to my house, made dinner and read over the FOOT newsletter together. I guess a year from now, pieces of this letter may appear there! In which case I should probably give an update: I am in Boston, editing college-level history books as an associate editor (a recent promotion) at Bedford/St. Martin's college publishers. Yes, you can get a job directly related to your liberal arts major! In fact, all of our authors are history professors at universities around the country and this Friday, as all the FOOTies arrive dirty and happy back on campus, I'll arrive too! This time, five years to the day after I first moved into the Old Campus, I'll arrive again, attaché over my shoulder to go to a business lunch with two of my professors from the old days to talk to them about a new book they're writing for us. I'm tickled at the idea. Since I ultimately want to go back and do a PhD in history, this is a nice way to keep one foot in that world. But that may be a few years down the road yet. I also want to live overseas for awhile, quite possibly in Latin America, to get a better understanding of the world from a non-US perspective, in a place not quite so wealthy, privileged and powerful. A lot of people I've met since graduation are keen primarily on making money above all else, and that's been distressing. I miss the variety of ideas and passions of Yale students and especially a group like FOOT leaders. Having said that, I haven't seen too many of them in the Boston area. Maybe some are involved with the AMC, but as its Boston Chapter has 20,000 members and as I've only gone on one hike, I haven't run into anyone yet. Of course, I'm delighted Carrie has just arrived. I've also been singing here, as I did at Yale, with the Harvard Radcliffe Community Chorus, which is half Harvard affiliates and half community members, like me. And I've been doing human rights work to end the US led economic sanctions on Iraq, which have devastated the civilian population and done little to sway the regime, with a local peace group. A movement that is all but dead in the '90's but still

so important! I don't miss Yale with quite such a pang as my second year begins, but I still do wish I could be running along Prospect Street in the late afternoon, choosing a rich array of classes from the blue book...and introducing new freshmen to what a great four years it is. All the best, Gretchen. I can be found at 218 Walden St. Apt. 3, Cambridge, MA 02140. 617.864.1619. [gboger@bedfordstmartins.com](mailto:gboger@bedfordstmartins.com). If you hear of FOOTies in the Boston area, opportunities to teach or otherwise work in Latin America, or juicy gossip, I'd love to know!" I heard from **Alex Bemis** '98 who I believe is now back east: "To be frank I have no idea what on earth I'm doing these days in terms of long-term or short-term goals, but I've found that if you stay mobile it lets you avoid that kind of decision making. Thusly, summer '98, after a month of traveling cross-country with **Krissy Clarke** '98 and driving back solo, I spent about three months traveling around Europe, visiting friends and clearing out what was once my life's savings. I went to Berlin, Prague, Rome, Florence, Paris, Dublin, and London and spent a month on the island of Elba in Italy where I worked as a cook and did some gardening and basic farming. I'm happy to report that a large percentage of the folks I visited with on my European vacation were FOOT folks. I stayed with **Seth Gordon** '98/'99 in Rome, **Brian Lavary** '98 in Dublin and visited with **Saskia Cornes** '98 in Paris. **Elliott Blanchard** '98 and I met up on Elba and traveled together for about a month of my trip. I got back to the states last October and took another solo cross-country drive (this time in 4 days, including an inadvertent stopover in Chicago where I got into a car wreck and had a respiratory technician I met in the auto shot treat me to dinner at Hooter's). I arrived in LA on Halloween, and that's where I've been ever since. Any urban center is a study in contrasts but something about LA is simply...different. The people here are at once guileless and scheming, welcoming and fearfully private. There is beautiful weather but gross levels of smog and urban sprawl. The display of wealth out here is ridiculously ostentatious, the symptoms of poverty more crushingly grim. My feelings about the place vacillate daily. The only things I'm sure about is that the beach is nice, it feels great to drive up the coast to Malibu, and I've become a big fan of eating mangos and the high quality of LA's fresh produce. Since I've been here I haven't had a real job. For cash I've done a little bit of temping and a fair amount of writing for an alternaweekly here called New Times Los Angeles, mostly about music. I almost got a job here as a music editor there by accident after my editor quit and told me to apply. I lost out to some 40 year-old dude. He deserved it and boy, I pity the person who would have thought me responsible enough at the moment to handle that kind of job. Right now, I'm working on my first articles for out of town papers, the Village Voice and the Chicago Reader – and planning a trip to Japan from mid-August to early September. I'll be in Tokyo for two weeks of that time, visiting a friend teaching English over there. The other week will be spent at the Body Weather Farm in Yamanashi, a six hour trip from Tokyo. There I'll be doing some farm work and various other volunteer things in exchange for room, board and free admission to an avant-garde dance and theater festival the farm holds every summer. Right now my friend in Tokyo is also trying to convince me to spend another month in the Far East traveling with him to China, Thailand, Korea, etc. However, after this year I long for boredom and am trying to spurn the temptations of travel, one that is always strong with me. I'd like very much to be back in NYC by the fall of '99 working on a magazine or something. I think I could be happy ending up in NYC and never leaving that city after the year 2000. I think I've figured out what I'm doing at the moment: collecting surreal anecdotes. Anyone out there, feel free to get in touch. Email is probably the only reliable method: [AlexBemis@aol.com](mailto:AlexBemis@aol.com). Always works: 9 Rockhagen Rd., Thornwood, NY 10594. Cell phone: 213.924.2141. (Yale records had him at: 505 Court St. Apt. 4K Brooklyn, NY 11215.) I got this email from **Stephanie Park** '98, (which also explains the punctuation): "hey cilla. i just got the foot newsletter and wanted to give you my email address and info for future contact. the newsletter had to be re-routed through my home in Illinois. anyway, I'm here at vandy med school getting ready to start my second year. i actually just came back from a family medicine conference in kansas city and who did I run into but another foot leader...melissa lee! i was in the middle of this boring student delegate election and had to go to the bathroom. as i was leaving the conference room, melissa was standing by the door. it was crazy! I ran into her a couple of times during the conference. anyway, here's my email and such...stephanie park 2503 sharondale dr. nashville, tn 37215 and my email is [parkstephanie@hotmail.com](mailto:parkstephanie@hotmail.com). if i have more time, i'll send you some more news about other fellow foot leaders! take care and keep in touch, steph." **Stacey Ho** '98 has written twice with the final letter a better update which is always appreciated. She had to say, "I'm working in the Commissioner's office at the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection – one of the most exciting

things that we're doing is watershed management and planning. Government is a tough sell, but I'll probably stay in it. [Stacey then took issue with Fran Franze's speech in the last newsletter about the FOOT's main purpose not being to instill an appreciation of the outdoors] I have to count my freshman FOOT experience as the central and first encounter that I ever had with nature – and it left an impression that stays with me to this day, enough of one that eventually led me into the field of environmental policy. On the side, I teach school programs, environmental education through a watershed association near me. I try my best to share my sense of beauty and wonder of natural things. Little kids are a lot of fun too. I'm very thankful for the FOOT experience. I'm in Princeton, happy to hear from Yalies when in the area: 32 Hodge Rd. Princeton, NJ 08540. 609.921.9530. Thanks for the newsletter. Best wishes, Stacy."

I'm finally up to the class of 1999! First, some news from the past head coordinators – **Micah Jacobs** is at Yale Med School and he will be running MOOT (the medical school's version of FOOT) along with **Boots (Matt Kronman '98)** also at Yale Med. Last year **Max Laurens '98** and **Matt Stiebel '98** ran it, and the year before **Melissa Lee '97**! Do we see a conspiracy? Lucy Shaeffer '99 did the Habitat Bicycle Challenge summer and rode her bike from New Haven to Vancouver, BC (4,300 miles). This is what she reported about her trip: "We did it!! The HBC was a huge success this year. Here I am (see photo), triumphant and strong, celebrating at our final destination – the Pacific Ocean. We were so elated that all thirty of us ran into the water splashing and shouting with out biking clothes still on. It was a moment I will always remember. The whole trip will not be soon forgotten. It was painful at times but we knew we were working toward a good cause. The wonderful people we met along the way and the beautiful scenery we traveled through also made it worthwhile. If you are interested in hearing more about the trip itself, you can read journal entries on our website at [www.yale.edu/habitat](http://www.yale.edu/habitat). Between the northern and southern bike trips this year, a record amount of money was raised for Habitat for Humanity. The current total is over \$200,000 – enough to build two or three low-income houses in New Haven. This total, and what it means to the individual families and the New Haven community as a whole, is what all the hard work was about. The trip really was a big success. I hope that someday you will have the opportunity to descend the Rockies on a bicycle – it's an experience that shouldn't be missed." Lucy then went to Genoa, Italy to teach for a year. She wrote later, "I'm having a great time here in Genoa. I love this city...right on the Mediterranean Sea with fabulous food. My job is non-stop (teaching art K-8 and also assisting in second grade) but I've fallen in love with the kids. Give my best to everyone! My email is [lucyschaeffer@hotmail.com](mailto:lucyschaeffer@hotmail.com)." I got a note from **Jeremy Marwell '99** with the following: I am "saying good-bye (Sept. 1999) before I head off for the University of Cambridge and a whole new country. I will be there for two years, studying Modern and Cold War history and possibly dabbling in some physics for my second year. I'm also very much looking forward to a chance to live and study in England...and do some hiking in Scotland and Wales. For the next two years you can reach me at this address: Clare College, Cambridge, CB2 1TL England. [jmarwell@aya.yale.edu](mailto:jmarwell@aya.yale.edu). I will keep you updated on my various travels and adventures and hope to see you soon. Jeremy." I believe Jeremy is on a Marshall Scholarship. **Brian Kinlan '99** who will be studying at Santa Barbara next year sent a postcard which stated, "Salutas de Sevilla! I was just thinking about you and the FOOT crew this morning as I realized it's that time of year again (8/21/99)! Feels strange not to be bear bagging on Old Campus, frantically sorting food, lurking around your basement, or just lounging in a crazy creek somewhere. This'll probably reach you around the time you're breathing a big sign of relief – that is, when the trips come back. Hope everything went better than ever (how about those Catskills trips?) and say hi to the crew for me. Hope all's well with you! Ciao! Brian." Brian got one of those fellowships that follows you wherever you decide to study – so you can imagine his application process! His good buddy **Jeff Grigg '99** also sent in some interesting news: "You may know this already, but you'll be seeing quite a lot of me next year. Today I happily accepted a position teaching English at Hopkins. I'm really excited about it; it should be a great challenge and a lot of fun. And I'll be living with Micah in New Haven! I hope all is well with you and FOOT, and I'm really looking forward to working with you next year! I hope you are well, and I'm looking forward to seeing you in the fall! Take Care, Jeff." **Pam Cogan '99** did not write directly but here mother did. Here mom bought a new FOOT vest for Pam since hers was stolen. She reported that Pam is teaching in Australia for the year. She's at: 13 Lawson St. Paddington, New South Wales 2021, Australia.

[pjc@sydgram.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pjc@sydgram.nsw.edu.au). **Megan Campisi** '99 has sent various cards including a photo of her latest acting job as a cyborg (see photo). She's in San Francisco area trying to be an actor. She also got certified to drive an ambulance (a part-time job to pay the bills). "I'm missing northeastern autumns, but enjoying some northern California heat." I thought I would end the memos from you with what Megan had to say about FOOT has meant to her. Some of you know the routine – when you ask me to write a letter of recommendation for your various endeavors, I ask you to give some thoughts on FOOT which I then incorporate into my statement. So here's some of what Megan said: "Summer is escape. It is time to shed Yale and its rigors and sail away to the farthest reaches of the universe to explore some chosen dream. As August approaches, though, you start to feel the tethers pulling at your feet and you know it's time to return to school. Each time, I find myself straining against the difficult transition between the two wonderful, but very different worlds of summer and school. Each summer I seem to forget the things I love about Yale and I dread the return, but FOOT has always been the perfect transition, bridging the gap between the love of solitude, freedom and wilderness, and my love of study, people and Yale. I am an old codger when I arrive on Old Campus in late August, grumpily lamenting my return to New Haven from South Africa or Alaska or Italy. But I am soon persuaded to smile and laugh and cavort like a kid in the presence of the wonderful leaders. When the freshmen arrive I feel my mood swing up to the sky. I am so excited to meet this new group of people who are nervous and unsure, but who I know will be laughing and cavorting with me in a short time. I love feeling my 'leader radar' turning on, making me attuned to my FOOTies and the subtle signals they unconsciously give about their mood, needs, fears. Conceited as it may sound, I love explaining the experiences I've had in the wilderness and watching my FOOTies become confident that they are in competent hands. From that seed of trust we will develop strong, more mutual bonds. While on the FOOT trip itself my attention must be on the freshmen and their needs every hour of the day, nevertheless, the experience is perpetually rejuvenating. Every person has something they bring to the group and I find I am a more effective leader not by being the camp counselor/authority figure, but by being the more-knowledgeable-and-main-person-to-consult-in-the-decision-making-process. For me, it is a question of mutual respect and trust. From this, the trip, though an immense amount of work, is good fun for me as well." Thanks, Megan. There is more that Megan wrote but I thought this captured the essence of what you all felt when you came back at the end of the summer and there was FOOT between you and whatever year you were entering. I know we have been talking about another FOOT reunion. We did do a fantastic FOOT Reunion Trip down the San Juan River in June of 1995. I KNOW it's time for another trip. I will get going on it this year. I did have a local FOOT Leader Alumni Dinner last October that was well attended and lots of fun. Those who attended with a little bit of news: **Eric Harris-Braun** '88 (lives in Newtown, CT, is married with child and works in the computer business); **Paul Sabin** '92 (is married with, I believe, a new baby and is completing his History PhD); **Matt Eddy** '93 (already mentioned as being at the forestry school); **Marty Hale** '94 (who drove up from NYC in a flashy sportscar and spent most of the time making powercalls but what would be a party without a Hale twin?!); **Jen Weyburn** '94 (already mentioned at Yale-China); **Geoff Tanner** '95 (at Hopkins this spring but leaving to do lab work and eventually graduate school); **Ivan Kerbel** '96 (commuting to Stamford working in the business world); **Ryan Davies** '96 (a fourth-year Yale Med student); **Katherine Gergen** '96 (a 1<sup>st</sup> year Yale Med student); **Molly Breen** '97 (a 1<sup>st</sup> year Yale English grad student); **Melissa Lee** '97 (a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Yale Med student); **Matt Stiebel** '98 (a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Yale Med student); **Max Laurens** '98 (a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Yale Med student); **Boots/Matt Kronman** '98 (a 1<sup>st</sup> year Yale Med student); and **Kristin Michaelides** '98 (a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Forestry student). As you can see, it was a great crowd!! **Jay Readey** and **Tiff Bingham** had a previous engagement they couldn't get out of, **Dave Lewicki** was on his way back from Boston when his car broke down, **Micah Jacobs** was sick in bed, **Tom Perriello** '96 (at Yale Law) and **Emily Wilk** '96 (at Yale Med) were also tied up. So the New Haven gang is alive and well!

Now some news from ME. Steve and I did some interesting traveling. Last November for Thanksgiving we went to Florence, Italy to see Libby, Steve's daughter who was studying there for the year. During the New Year's we were up in Vermont celebrating the millennium near Sugarbush. But our big trip was last March to China. It was a fantastic journey – the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tianamen Square,

the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, the Bund at Shanghai – are all sights I will never forget. Now we are on the Vineyard, of course. This newsletter and the ocean seem intertwined. I get to re-read all your wonderful letters while listening to fog horns and the bell from a nearby buoy. We will be making one quick trip to the Badlands this July and hope to see **Ben and Betsy Saylor** at some point while we are out there. Hey, I want my picture in front of Mt. Rushmore too! Steve put together a conference this spring entitled “The Good in Nature and Humanity, Connecting Science, Religion and the Natural World.” It was an amazing collection of people, ideas, and workshops. One workshop I went to on Outdoor Education was chaired by the director of NOLS John Gans, and included the director of Outward Bound Jack Bierwirth (a Yale) and the superintendent of Carlsbad National Park among others. We had an intriguing discussion about the spiritual side to outdoor recreation. Saturday night’s entertainment after dinner included Kaiulani Lee’s performance on the life of Rachel Carson (you really felt as though you had met Rachel!), readings by Barry Lopez and Terry Tempest Williams, and a performance by the Paul Winter Consort. A thunder and lightning storm broke out (the show was outside at Edgerton Park) which added to the drama of the night. One dinner I attended I sat across from the guest speaker for the evening who was Wendell Berry. And this is only a smattering of what went on for those three days. It was pretty awesome. My teaching went well this year, but I am always thankful for the summer respite. Next year my environmental studies course will be AP environmental science. I have mixed feelings about the AP process, if some of you can remember back that far. The pressure to get into good colleges these days is even tougher than ever before and the AP thing is part of that nasty scene (I’ve been teaching AP US History for years) – however, on the good side, you get the best students, the coursework is definitely worthy, and for the environmental science – it is finally recognized up there with AP bio, physics, and chem. I see a real need for the best and the brightest to get into environmental studies and if this is what lures them in, so be it.

Something that I have been thinking about for some time now is putting together a book about FOOT. (Hey, if Princeton has published their Leader manual, we can do much better!) There is so much rich material about FOOT – its adventure, laughter, challenging and even painful moments, but most of all its enduring spirit – that I feel I can’t let this go by. Every time I start shuffling through FOOT memorabilia, whether it be old journals, poems – such as Jim Garman’s “Ode to a Key” he wrote as the keymaster -, your letters to the newsletter, even the index cards that you composed for the cook-out introductions, I get excited about the idea. My skill is not as a writer but as an organizer, a cut and paster, and editor. I would like to see where this idea goes – I want you, the FOOT Leaders, to be the main voices in the book because you have so many more experiences of FOOT than I alone have and you are the better and more talented writers – at least the more genuine. So that’s where you come in. I will give you some questions or ideas to chew on and I would greatly appreciate if you could pick whatever appeals to you and let your creative juices flow! My best advice is whenever you can to get as detailed and specific as possible; people like a good story. You may change any names to protect the innocent (and I can change yours too if you would like). If worse comes to worse, and the book idea doesn’t get off the ground, at least we will have one helluva newsletter next time round. It might be best to email me at [priscilla.kellert@yale.edu](mailto:priscilla.kellert@yale.edu) (but letters are fine too). Here are some questions/ideas to write about: 1. What did FOOT mean to you? (either as a freshman or a leader) That’s a fairly broad and possibly daunting topic so I will try to break it down a bit. 2. What did FOOT do for you in terms of character development? Did it help your confidence, self-esteem, problem-solving, general motivation? 3. What experience on FOOT was the happiest? Saddest? Most challenging? 4. How about the funniest experience? I’m sure there are plenty of these! 5. How did FOOT define community for you? How did it shape your friends during and after? What exactly is meant by bonding? 6. What did FOOT do to foster any leadership skills? 7. How have you translated anything from FOOT to life after Yale? 8. How did FOOT affect your career choice? 9. What FOOT-like experiences have you had since Yale? 10. What experiences have you had since Yale are very non-FOOTlike but still somehow incorporate the spirit of FOOT? 11. What do you remember about the landscape or environment you were in? 12. Did FOOT change your feelings and concerns about conservation? 13. Did you learn anything about a sense of place? 14. What were your thoughts about the challenges we face in protecting our environment? 15. How would you describe your own environmental ethic? 16. What’s it like growing up as a young 20/30 year old in our

world today? 17. Is there some subject not listed here but something you want to write about anyway? (please do!) Do not think that you have to record all of these! Just see if something stirs your memory or present state of mind. I'm looking for maybe 2-4 pages (unless, of course, you have the epic tale). Thanks in advance if you can send in anything! Some of you have already sent in testimonials that are worthy to be in print. As I said before, I am curious to see where this will go. Another source of motivation for me is that Steve did a fascinating study of NOLS, Outward Bound and SCA graduates and the results were stunning. I think FOOT, even though much shorter in length, can have similar results.

Before I close, please don't forget to make any donation you can afford to the Jason Karpf Scholarship Fund in memory of our dear friend Jason. He represented in an exemplary manner what one FOOT Leader described as qualities in all FOOT Leaders as being "fabulous, caring, listening, fun-loving, highly competent, and outdoors-loving." The scholarship supports our financial aid program for freshmen. Contributions are tax deductible. Also don't forget to stay in touch. I love all your notes, emails, letters and photos. Don't forget to report any births; that does make you eligible for a FOOT baby-T. Remember you can stay in touch lots of ways: my address is 57 Edgehill Rd. New Haven, CT 06511 (203) 865-9126. My email is [priscilla.kellert@yale.edu](mailto:priscilla.kellert@yale.edu). FOOT has its own webpage (check it out!): [www.yale.edu/foot](http://www.yale.edu/foot). And FOOT has its own email address: [yalefoot@bigfoot.com](mailto:yalefoot@bigfoot.com). And don't forget...the FOOT store is always OPEN.

Lots of Love xoxoxoxoxoxox,

CILLA