

FOOT Alumni Newsletter 2020

Dear FOOT Alumni Leaders,

Wow, what a year. Between Covid-19, politics, and environmental crises, you wonder where we are heading. My hope is that you are all well and safe. If you or any family members got the virus, I pray that you are now recovered. I have had my two vaccine shots and am starting to emerge from the lock-down mentality. Actually, my Covid activity was to get out and explore as much as I could. Russell and I went to towns that were completely shut down at first – no people, no stores open, no cars. It was eerily quiet, very twilight zone-like. We walked the streets and looked at cool architecture. Or we hiked in nature preserves that were still open. I kept a photographic record of our explorations.

Meanwhile, I think you know Yale shut down last March and just announced it will reopen for all staff August 1. We had to go virtual for FOOT, which was a challenge -- both May Training and August Trips. The leaders did a brilliant job holding it together and producing some excellent training videos and zoom sessions. For the August trips we had about 300 first-years participate for a week of zoom sessions of ice breakers, public lands education, and deeper discussions. We even had three alums, Jamie Williams, Adam Stack and Sara Kahanamoku, speak to participants. The outcome was positive, but the leaders are so hoping to get back to the woods this year. Our latest news there is that we can do 4 Day Trips, with some adjustments, but at least we will be in-person and outside! Just hope no new variants that will change this! So here is the news from 2020, the year we were all glad to somehow survive:

1985-88

Jamie Williams: I have attached a photo in the Linville Gorge with my kids last summer, where we spent a great week hiking every mountain and swimming every river we could. This is where Cilla used to lead outdoor trips for Outward Bound. The outdoors has been our anchor to sanity and resilience this last year of the pandemic. One of the things I have enjoyed the most amidst the lockdown has been the end-of day hikes my kids and I do along the Potomac River near Great Falls. I'm still working at The Wilderness Society here in DC. After a tough four years of defending against all the anti-environmental attacks from the Trump Administration, we are now thrilled to seize such an historic opportunity to make great progress on conservation, climate and environmental justice with the new administration.

One of the real highlights of this year was the chance to join a zoom call last August with FOOT leaders to discuss how we can forge a more inclusive and just environmental movement. It was fun to share some of the early FOOT stories and talk about conservation as well as hear so many inspiring stories from other FOOT alums about their leadership on social justice. It is great to see how much FOOT has grown as a program and how focused the current leaders are in ensuring the program leads on equity, justice, diversity, and inclusion. Our original hope with FOOT was to attract and enable (through scholarships) the full diversity of students attending Yale to build strong bonds as a source of strength and community for their time at Yale. It is rewarding to see the current leaders taking that to a whole new level with the virtual FOOT "trips" they did this year combining group experiences with learnings about land and equity issues, especially with respect to Indigenous communities who have been dispossessed of most of their original homelands but still have strong ties to the lands where FOOT operates. This is a big focus for us at The Wilderness Society where we are working to support tribes in their efforts to conserve and co-manage ancestral, sacred places on public lands. All the best, Jamie



Eve Vogel: Hi all! I drove out to Oregon in June 2020 so I would not have to fly during covid, picked up my son from boarding school in Utah, and spent 3 months in Oregon (drove my son back to Utah in July). Near the end of my Oregon stay I spent a week hiding in my 2nd floor room which was the least smoky part of the house, when the forest fires descended on Portland and I learned about air quality standards (100 is not good, 300 is really bad, 500 is literally off the charts). I drove back east in September, four weeks after my second semester of all-remote UMass classes had started. Back in Massachusetts, I adopted a new dog in October, my son transferred to a school in Connecticut in January, and I have great housemates - two international student couples and wonderful toddler - so I'm actually feeling somewhat settled in western MA and enjoying the great Connecticut River Valley in this otherwise strange and often terrible time of covid. In my research, I'm deep in the weeds thinking about how people can and are working to continue to protect rivers from damaging hydropower impacts, or mitigate impacts with improved connectivity elsewhere, while competitive electric generators are incentivized to build bigger reservoirs in their pump storage stations, and get greater earnings when they provide flexibility to the grid's now 5-minute price signals, all in the name of solving the climate crisis. For the first time in a long time, I have the mental and emotional space to actually do this kind of deep dive. There have been a lot of hard lessons learned about parenting and self over the past couple years, so I'm also working to pay it forward and support other parents as I am able. Eve



Liz Ablow: like the rest of you it has been an interesting ride, navigating COVID 19 and for us in the West, forest fires, which as Eve Vogel already described meant very bad air quality. I have been fortunate to be able to work from home and still accomplished all the fieldwork and projects planned for this past year. It doesn't mean it was easy. We had to delay work while we setup COVID protocols, then we kept rescheduling outdoor work, first because of high flows and then bad air quality. When the stars aligned, and we could get out, many folks who were originally scheduled to participate had conflicts. Fortunately, my daughter and her boyfriend were visiting from Utah, so they were recruited to assist. A separate project included successfully placing 200 full size trees with rootwads into a river to form log jams. Because of the size of the trees and the lack of access to the river this required using a Chinook helicopter. This again was

challenging to schedule since Chinook helicopters are also used to fight fires, and fire fighting is prioritized. Our project originally scheduled for summer was executed in late fall and finished the day before the full force of fall rains came. My husband had the same type of ever-changing environment with his bakery/cafe. They closed for three weeks last March, regrouped, and started take out. Eventually, they moved to outdoor seating through much of the winter. It is amazing how supportive Seattlelites are when it comes to their local businesses. At my husband's cafe customers bring their own blankets, and even towels to dry their seats, and hunker down in all weather for good food and a sense of community. Now that vaccines are available to the restaurant industry, Dick and his employees have either been vaccinated or scheduled for a vaccine. We are all beginning to release big sighs as the vaccine rollout touches more and more people in our community. Outside of work, I continue to hike, garden and ski. I included a photo, when both my kids were visiting, skiing at Crystal Mountain.

I spent all winter and spring digging up my yard to remove an invasive ornamental that I had planted over 25 years before. It was insanely ambitious, but just finished this weekend. The intense root system got to a tipping point that no longer could be ignored. I felt there were real parallels with my fight in the yard with the greater struggles in the world. Each time I thought I made progress I would find a whole other lobe of roots spreading a different direction. This past year truly amplified the inequities that were already present. I participated in some powerful marches and other forms of protest. I am so relieved Biden and Harris are in the White House, but I am also concerned that we may become complacent with this change of administration. We have to keep the momentum and apply what we have learned. With that, I will sign off and wish everyone a healthy and happy spring. Liz Ablow





1988

Roger Wynne: You know despite the insanity and sadness of this year, I'm glad to still count on the annual call for newsletter material. It's a part of the season for me now. I've put out the call to my cohort and will let you know of any materials they submit. I would be happy to chat with current leaders about land use law. [Roger was our first speaker for new series of alums speaking to current leaders in 2021] I've practiced it for...wow...just over a quarter century now and have taught it as an adjunct professor. I have a roughly 15-to-20-minute slide show intro to why it matters, focused on Washington State, but the themes are universal to the US. I could also talk about the reality of practicing land use law (and why it's not always the same as shaping policy), how it differs from environmental law, and paths to that practice (which for most lawyers involves needing to work in the related fields of real estate, construction, and environmental law). And happy to answer questions.



1989

Paul Jahnige: The Jahnige-Loomis Clan continues to do well here in New England. We have enjoyed this year's opportunities to get out in the woods and explore, and the current snows are especially beautiful. The two daughters (Sage and Sierra) are graduated college and out in the work world in the era of Covid, but both doing well (although Sage still suffers from over 18 mos of post concussion). Skye is remote in ninth grade, but seems to be doing well and getting outside between games of mindcraft. I have started a like bi-weekly Carbon Support Group / Book(ish) Club with **Ben Saylor** and **Tiff (Bingham) Cunningham** that has been fun and thought provoking. I miss you all and hope you are all well. Love Paul (and Sally, Sage, Sierra and Skye)

Trex Proffitt: What year is it now? Maybe your news is just the same as mine, or at least you can imagine some overlap: work meetings on computer, stay home a lot more except to go on outdoor adventures away from people, wait for a vaccine, walk the dogs 4 times a day, read a lot of election news. Well, one thing I've done this year is I just went public with my kidney transplant need. That was actually kind of hard to do because it feels so selfish to ask the world for a

kidney. It feels... “unseemly.” Anyway, it’s time to solicit, so let me know if you run across some spare kidneys. There is a FB page here: <https://www.facebook.com/kidney4trex>

Our little family had a good couple of weeks in the mountains this summer. Eddie, Lauren, and I drove through covid to the Colorado hills, camped along the way and avoided people, stayed and hiked a bit with family in remote isolation, then sped back. Lately our old dog Samantha has been going downhill so we got her some washable diapers. Here are photos representing each of those adventures.

I’m hoping this summer we can go out west and actually visit people. (Hello, vaccine!)



Betsy and Ben Sayler and the boys, Will (16) & Jay (18)
Still in South Dakota!



Ann Vileisis: My husband Tim and I continue to love living on the Oregon Coast. He's published several new photo books that may interest you— including *Twilight of the Hemlocks and Beeches*, documenting the beauty of those trees in eastern forests ahead of their decimation pathogens, and others oriented toward outdoor travel, including two stunning volumes published by Rizzoli (*America's Great River Journeys* and *America's Great Mountain Trails*). A couple of years ago, for the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Tim was featured in a beautiful short film that showcases the special place where we live on Oregon's coast that I am sharing with you here for fun (we're a team so I am in it too! :): <https://vimeo.com/249044434>

Meanwhile, I have continued to pursue my two careers—as a grassroots Audubon activist in rural Oregon, protecting our extraordinary public lands “backyard,” while also continuing to write and speak about environmental history as an independent scholar. Our Kalmiopsis Audubon chapter focuses on protecting the natural values of our extraordinary corner of SW Oregon, birds and MORE. We’ve got an amazing collection of wild rivers, old-growth forests, rare plants, and salmon runs —so after a lifetime of feeling inspired and uplifted by nature and public lands all around the West, this is a terrific place to live and engage. If anyone ever makes it out this way, we’d love to show you some highlights!

On the writing front, I had a new book, my third, come out this past year: *Abalone: the remarkable history and uncertain future of California's iconic shellfish*. It was released at the first pandemic peak, when book stores and libraries were closed, Amazon was not shipping books, and we were all trying to figure out how to function with the covid-19—so it’s been somewhat of an uphill push to get it out into the world. More recently, I’ve started giving book talks via zoom, which has been rewarding. We’ve been fortunate to avoid most pandemic difficulties, and I hope that everyone else is staying safe and well, too! Ann

1990

Michael Kahan: On the "Purple Stride" pancreatic cancer fundraiser, in memory of **Kashka Kubzdela**, I was thrilled to get a great response from the FOOT community. **Trex and Beth Proffitt, Kristin Edwards,** and **Tiff Cunningham** joined right away! We formed a team and decided to call ourselves "On FOOT for Kashka." **Eve Porter Zuckerman** and **Roger Wynne** joined us along the way, and Kashka's husband, David Fenner, joined as well.

We had a beautiful day on November 7. Each of us took a walk or a hike in our part of the world, and took a moment to think about Kashka. Some photos are below (top to bottom: Eve + kids in New Hampshire, David Fenner and friend in Northern Virginia, Kristin, Beth & Trex near Philadelphia, Roger in Washington State, Michael in California, Tiff in Connecticut).

We got together for a Zoom call afterward to celebrate - it was wonderful to see everyone.







Eve Porter-Zuckerman: Making new paths, building cairns, cross-country skiing through the woods, sugaring (making maple syrup), playing with our 2 Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs and our Great Dane, sledding, snowshoeing, hiking, bird-watching, and seeing and talking with family and friends and schoolmates (Kindergarten and 2nd grade)... over the internet. My family and I are all grateful for nature and happy we have access to it in abundance during this time. I also was glad to find hope and camaraderie in the wake of Kashka's death in the fundraising walk Michael and others made happen. We have such a strong FOOT community, and it's reassuring to draw upon it.



Michael Kahan: My family and I managed ok this past year. I transitioned to teaching from home, and embraced the cliché by baking a lot of sourdough bread. Our kids (Frieda, 19 and Eva, 23) were home with us for more of the year than they would have been without the pandemic, so that was a silver lining.

My main foot-related news of this year was the fundraising walk that a group of us participated in to raise money for pancreatic cancer care and research, in memory of Kashka. We raised about \$3000, and found a meaningful way to reconnect with fellow foot-people.

Sending greetings to all from the Bay Area; let's hope for a healthy and happy 2021!



1991

Baker Mallory: I picked a strange year to make big changes, but after dozens of years teaching, tutoring and mentoring on the side of my landscape architecture practice a moment of opportunity arose to do it full time and I took it. Cilla, and my FOOT experience, helped me land a faculty position at the Eaglebrook School in Deerfield, MA teaching architecture and math, coaching 3 sports and running a dorm full of middle school boys... Yikes, what a change, what a challenge... it has been great. Jody is part time at the School, but still running our business from CT... Gus (14), Brad (12) and Rose (12) are all there with me, learning the ropes, and enjoying the new boarding school environment; restrictions abound, but luckily the school has stayed running at full schedule during the pandemic. My best to you all, Baker



Karen Erine, nee O'Brien: We are doing well; here is a picture of us last December - we managed to get a trip to Peru in before Covid hit. My daughter is 19 and a sophomore at Brown. My sons are 17 and 14 and in high school. One of the nicest FOOT-related things has been that **Josh Barkan** has moved to the Boston area and we've been able to get together a few times to catch up. We had some good laughs about the time we ran into Dr. Ruth in the Adirondacks. I continue to work at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, in Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Very much looking forward to getting the covid vaccine! Best wishes to all the FOOTies and Cilla. May the new year bring health and happiness!



Kate Hackett: I am the Executive Director at Delaware's oldest and largest land trust...we've helped protect 31,600 acres on the Delmarva Peninsula and we continue to own and actively manage 21,600 acres. Part of the fun of my job is mentoring that next generation and connecting people to nature in new ways. I can't tell you how many times I've had to hop out of my kayak -- midstream -- into the canoe of an inexperienced set of canoeists to help them navigate Blackbird Creek. Of course, these antics, WHILE the paddle trip is underway, are far more interesting and do more to pique kids' interest than anything we could say about the bird and wildlife around us! LOL! I also negotiate all our land acquisition projects and do most of our fundraising. At home, our family is EXTREMELY outdoor oriented and adventurous. Our vacations (pre-COVID) find us doing 14ers in CO, 16 mile 8' elevation change hikes to hot springs in the Rockies, float trips down the Rio Grande, and multi-day backpacking trips in places like Olympic National Park. I am proud to have found a partner who embraces all this with me and we've raised two incredibly talented, capable young women...one of whom is applying to Yale this year but, really, has her heart set on the University of Chicago.

Sadly for me, all this leaves me less time than I'd like to connect and reconnect with my old FOOTies. *From her PR statement:* Ms. Hackett has more than 25 years of leadership experience in land and water conservation and management. Her work in the environmental arena includes land acquisition, protection of water resources, public policy, government relations, fundraising, and constituency building. Throughout her career, she has successfully implemented regional initiatives that improve the quality of natural resources and also protect the economic vitality of working landscapes. Ms. Hackett has collaborated on these issues with a broad range of stakeholders, including: local residents; landowners; non-profits; advisory boards; local, regional, state, and Federal governments; and environmental organizations. She has worked in the Mid-Atlantic, northern front of the Rocky Mountains, Great Lakes region, Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, and northeastern Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, and Eritrea). Prior to joining Delaware Wild Lands in 2011, Ms. Hackett worked for The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service, the Eritrean Ministry of Water Works, and UNICEF.



Kate was the third speaker for our new FOOT Alum—Current Leaders Speakers Series: She talked about the intersectionality of natural resource conservation, highlighting the critical importance of land (and water) conservation and the role our natural resources play in species protection and biodiversity, development of new medicines, public health, economic stability, and provision of urban and rural infrastructure (including water and wastewater systems). From Kate: My journey to Delaware and my position as an Executive Director was circuitous and I would also like to share the value of following one's whims and interests as mine have taken me from the hills of Appalachia to the hallways of Yale to the wilderness areas of the Rockies to the rubbled roads of Asmara, Eritrea and back.

Eric Steadman's kids!



1992

Sumner McCallie: Life in Chattanooga, TN remains good. Am thankful for the election and where we can maybe move as a country. This has been a hard 4 years. Sumner offered his brother Brady, who was not a leader but who did FOOT, as our second speaker in our alum-leader 2021 speaker series!

1993

Ashley West: The one bright note of this difficult year--which is what I want to share--is that my partner and I finally decided to get married, after being together for 20 years. We did it on Sept. 8. Thank goodness for the Quakers, in this case: with all sorts of closures, including of Philadelphia City Hall, we nonetheless were able to do a kind of self-made marriage ceremony based on Philadelphia's long Quaker history. So we got a license from the city and were able to marry officially just with 2 friends as witnesses; we all signed a document and voilà. Besides that, I continue to be an Assoc Prof. at Temple University. I've become quite adept at teaching online, though it is exhausting for faculty and students alike. So it's not something I'm looking to continue in a post-Covid world. I think we're all lucky to have Zoom as a technology, but if anything, this period I HOPE has demonstrated the value of in-person teaching and connection.

Julie Barker: I'm attaching a picture of **Stephanie Kwei** and me hiking outside of Boston last weekend. We see each other regularly and have enjoyed several FOOT-and-socially-distanced appropriate get togethers in the past few months. It's been a blessing!



Jeremiah Scharf: The Scharf family has been hanging in there, given the circumstances. We've been fortunate so far that family and friends have remained safe, and we have learned from our children over the past year which of our favorite movies from the '80s and '90s have held up over the years and which have not (Good Will Hunting, Field of Dreams ... yes; Coming to America ... ah, no). I (Jeremiah) have been mostly working remotely doing research on Tourette syndrome while also seeing patients in a mix of virtual and in-person visits. My wife Laura is a primary care pediatrician, and has been more directly involved in COVID-related care. Our most memorable moments of 2020 have been outdoors, as we have hiked in more Massachusetts State Parks in the past 12 months than we have in over a decade. The highlight of the year, however, was our trip to Acadia in mid-August, where the less well-traveled trails made us feel like things were 'normal' again. While we do hope to take the trip to the Badlands and Yellowstone that was cancelled last July, I suspect that Bar Harbor may become an annual tradition. I am attaching a picture of the team (me, my wife Laura, Nathaniel (15) and Eli (12)) if there is room to include it in the newsletter. My best to all, Jeremiah



Katie Michel: It has been a challenging year, but as we emerge out of the pandemic, I am looking at an empty nest. My oldest is finishing up high school and youngest has applied to boarding schools. Their dad, Adam Schlesinger, died of Covid-19 on April 1, 2020. It was a harrowing time. Don't know what the empty nest will look like but I do know change is coming my way. My NYC gallery, Planthouse, has survived online through the shutdowns. We welcome all visitors at planthouse.net! Hope all is well, Katie

Burch and Rachelle LaPrade: The LaPrade family, for the most part, has been hunkered down in Des Moines for the past year. Like many, we found increased family time to be the silver lining to the pandemic. Having all four kids home for an extended period - and with unexpected free time for many of them - was a gift. All our kids ventured into the kitchen, cooking dinner for the family once every two weeks. The results ranged from hearty pasta to extensive Middle Eastern feasts. Fall found Abbott back in Middlebury for his senior year (how did THAT happen?!), and Forrest returned to Yale in January for his Sophomore spring. Forrest loved his experience on FOOT so much he applied for and was chosen to be a FOOT leader last winter. He is looking forward to leading in a non-virtual way someday. In a couple weeks, Beckett, our high school junior, will be the third LaPrade child to attend The Mountain School in Vermont. Although it will involve a few more steps than past years (quarantining at home then driving with masks on to drop him off), we are excited for him to have this experience and grateful that it will provide his first in-person school experience since last March. That means that in a few weeks we will be down to just Kendrick at home. An 8th grader attending remote school, Kendrick has stayed busy with four hockey teams and one soccer team. Burch and I continue with work and are grateful to see our parents fully vaccinated as we eagerly await our turn, albeit at the far end of the line.



1994

Jason Soll: Pandemic life sure has its ups and downs, but having some definite introvert tendencies has meant it has not been so difficult for me, personally. In fact, thanks to Covid I was finally able to buy my own home during the onset of the shelter and place orders when real estate temporarily stumbled. That, and the ability to cash in retirement funds without a penalty made the difference. Owning my own place has been personally significant because my career is building homes for others. So it has been wonderfully fun to work on my own, which is also my pandemic hobby. Approaching 50 (wuh?!) while interrupting my previous exercise regime as a devoted CrossFit gym member and regularly swimming at the public pool has been a painful proposition. But Rebecca Whitney has coached me on how to sign up for the few slots available each week for lap swimming at the public pool. We have about 2.2 seconds, no joke!, to snag up to 3 spots for the coming week. So far I am averaging 1.5 opportunities to exercise per week. You ask, why I don't do other things during the day? It is because I go to work at 5:00 a.m. so I can get in some hours before coming home to fulfill my share of Distance Learning Supervision Duties and then head back to work in the

afternoon. At least the DL is better organized than the spring, but our 8-year-old son certainly needs a break some time with peers and a break from screens.

But I'm not complaining considering how much worse other people have it, and how unfairly the pandemic is impacting less advantaged people among us. I was an African-American studies major, but all the social justice conversations, news reports and politics, and BLM demonstrations have turned my attention in a new way to how the basis of this country's government is egregious compromises around racism and slavery. It is the end of Black History month so I've been reading my son's course materials with him, as well as recently finished reading "The Warmth of Other Suns." (Good book!) I've been reflecting on voting patterns, civil rights and the election and I'm feeling outraged indignation at the existence of the Senate, filibuster, and Electoral College. These structures ensure that this country may never live up to its fantasy of being a representative democracy.

I expected as I agree to possibly get more conservative but maybe it won't happen that way. Instead I feel opposed to the simplistic demonizations on both extremes of the political spectrum; neither side seems oriented toward truth or wisdom. Perhaps getting older we may have more space inside to accommodate the complexities of the human experience and not lazily resort to simplistic thinking.

That's enough rambling. I will end on a note of gratitude, sharing three things on my mind as I write.

One, I feel lucky to live in temperate California.

Two, the days are getting longer.

And, there, the vaccines are here. I just read a NYT article about a mobile vaccination sites of undocumented farm workers in Riverside county and I already had my first dose- both reasons for optimism.

All the best, Jason Soll

Julie Puttgen: Since childhood I've been a fan of speculative fiction. Imagine, then, my delight this afternoon upon being COVID-vaccinated by two 20-year-old National Guardsmen, near the former Petites section of a bankrupted JC Penney's in a strip mall not far from where I live. The scenario has it all! Plague, dystopian economics, steadfast young footsoldiers, nanotechnology - and maybe the Mark of the Beast as a bonus. In some weird way, I feel I have been training for the pandemic for years. Residencies, meditation retreats, monastic life - all of these turn out to be excellent preparation for lockdown. Give me inordinate amounts of time alone, and I will make up things to make up, devise rituals for holding meaning, and cook up structures to hold me safe. I have been happily writing, stitching, dancing, and attending to my therapy clients both remotely and - in a FOOT-friendly twist - outdoors on a newly-ferral golf course, all through this year. One client, on a single-degree NH morning, devised the term Polar Therapy. I might never have dived into it, had the pandemic not made rambling, snow-covered walks seem so absolutely reasonable. That is the sunny slope. The shadowy vale is: I pick up the newspaper and the cruelty of human folly hits me full-force. NH's state legislature is in the midst of a post-Trump paroxysm of bad ideas. Wolves are slaughtered carelessly by people who know nothing about their lives. Fancy zoom therapists like me get vaccinated ahead of the grocery workers whose "essentialness" eased off considerably when resource-allocation plans were being drawn up. Through my clients I am often reminded of very hard truths affecting many people everywhere, right now. So I remember to show up where I can, kiss my dogs' ears, cook good food, and care for shared space at home and in my community. I keep turning to the body, to beauty, movement, and what the forest has to teach, day after day. We have two more months of winter here (March and April), and I think we'll be ok.

With love, Julie

Jay Ready: My biggest professional accomplishment this summer had a very FOOT outdoorsy feel to it. I was New Markets Tax Credits counsel for the Green Era Urban Farming campus, a \$32 million development in the Auburn-Gresham community on the South Side of Chicago that will create hundreds of jobs and link the neighborhood to the regional economy. An anaerobic digester tank will turn food waste into compost and biogas, and the compost will be used to fuel a citywide network of urban farms, with farm stands and education space on campus. One week after the closing, Green Era was part of the winning application for the Chicago Prize, \$10 million to support a transformative neighborhood project. In addition to serving as counsel and a grant writer, I have joined the board of managers for Green Era and am excited about the future on Chicago's South Side.

Hiking has continued to be my pandemic life hack. During the shortest days of the year in December and January, I took a hike during the first and last hour of daylight each day - then got back to work until late in the evening. I am blessed to have 30+ miles of backwoods hiking within 15 minutes' drive of home in the Cook County Forest Preserves on my Outerbelt Project (www.Outerbelt.org). Cheers to all the FOOTies out there!

Anne Weil: Things are good here! Thanks for reaching out. Speaking of indoor crafts, my business, Flax & Twine, which is all about learning and enjoying hand crafts is going gangbusters. Sandy and I are living off memories of trekking across

a Canadian glacier in the summer 2019, though we have had some highlights this COVID year. I got a kayak and paddled my heart out in beautiful lakes in Colorado. My oldest got in to UChicago early decision this fall, which we're thrilled about. My other two are hanging on through many school quarantines and distanced friendships. We bought a hot tub at the beginning of COVID and it just might be the best thing I ever bought. We consider ourselves so lucky through this time that has been so challenging for so many. We mourn Sandy's uncle who passed this year from COVID, and keep our fingers crossed for a speedy distribution of vaccines! Anne

Ben Strauss: Well, what a year. Who knew that the number one reason to move from Manhattan to Princeton would prove to be that Princeton's the better place to wait out a pandemic!? My family ate out of the garden and walked our pre-pandemic puppy around the neighborhood all summer (thank heavens we got her!). I continue to run the nonprofit Climate Central, which focuses on climate science and solutions and their communication, and where behind the scenes our modest team continues to have a bigger impact than I ever dreamed I'd be part of. We are fortunate we can do our work well remotely; among other things, we managed to grow our influence on local news last year even as climate coverage on the national networks dropped by half (for many understandable reasons), and we've built a great pipeline of future projects. So, as miserable as the last year has been overall, I feel very lucky, with work proceeding, and being cloistered at home with my family sailing in our house-ship across this great covid ocean of time. At Thanksgiving, the three of us looked at each other before we began the meal, and agreed that we could have no better companions for this long journey. We know it is a much much tougher situation for so many. I send warm wishes to all of my FOOT friends and family, and so look forward to the time when we all can connect again in person.

Carrie Patterson: Doing fine. Exploring the nature in my neighborhood. I have a few great local hikes with natural springs, frogs, coyotes, views of the San Gabriels and other mountains and hills sometimes in flames. Lots of improvised camping everywhere, our unhoused population really having exploded over the last 5-7 years. It has been such a difficult reality check in so many ways to live in Los Angeles, but one thing I think about constantly when I'm out enjoying nature is what it would mean to have to survive in it, and what is the difference between camping and unauthorized homesteading. There's a very optimistic man living close to an onramp I use who plants corn several times a year. Inevitably it is razed by CALTRANS. But he does it again. We all need to feel connected. If you can do anything to help the unhoused in your areas, especially families, please consider making a donation somewhere. I wish you all the very best! Carrie

Meg Wickwire: *[Meg had a great message to her FOOT Leader classmates, so I decided to include it here:]*

Life is pretty intense for all of us these days; here's hoping you and your loved ones are safe.

That said, it's time to cough up some updates. I know it feels trivial these days, but I can't help thinking that for those of us struggling, it would be a small source of cheers. Plus, aren't we wise to grab every opportunity we can to reflect on these, our crazy times? Am I the only one who sometimes pictures a history major one day combing through a FOOT update from the pandemic year as she writes her semester essay on social responses to global crises? So step up and wrestle your place in history from obscurity!

It need not be long. If you need a prompt, how about one of these:

- Name one person you're not sorry to have avoided all year.
- Explain why you do, or do not, enjoy indoor crafts.
- Name one weird place you've eaten a meal this year.
- Mention a strange pandemic wardrobe habit. You know you have them. Full disclosure: Mine is wearing the same sweater every single day all winter. Seriously: Every. Single. day. In my defense, it's a recycled cashmere turtleneck by Patagonia, and they make things right; it's effortlessly comfortable and perfectly warm. Also, I have never been bound by good fashion sense, so why start during a pandemic!?

Best to all of you, and I'm looking forward to a FOOT reunion in 2022. I just made that idea up, but it has a nice ring to it, don't you think? Heart Lake in the Adirondacks, anyone?

Her is her news: In August during the calm(ish) before the Fall Covid storm, Bill, Penn (14), and I traveled to Yellowstone very, very carefully. We have gone most years for a long time; the wildlife and the wildness have a strong pull on us. This time we drove from Concord, MA, which was an adventure in itself. So was the preparation stage: I packed all meals for the four-day drive! I sanitized each hotel room upon arrival, and we perfected open air "comfort breaks" on the road (ahem! Literally.). We discovered that A) I am no longer interested in audiobooks that involve cannibalism (what IS it about boys?!?), B) It is possible for one's entire bum to fall asleep, and C) Even amid fear of

death, Yellowstone does something important for all three of us. For days we hiked through and stood at our favorite vantage points, chatting with Rick McIntyre and our wolfing friends, not to mention watching the wolves themselves in their late-summer business. Surrounding ourselves with Yellowstone's thriving vastness went a long way to restoring in all three of us a sense of peace. We stopped at Teddy Roosevelt National Park and The Badlands, too, something we haven't done all the times we've flown. Beauty takes so many forms in our incredible country; it was good for that lesson to be fresh as we faced this winter and the madness that came to a head in our capitol. The constancy of nature really soothes me, and it's hard not to feel proud of our country for protecting so many large swathes of it. Here's hoping 2021 is a hopeful time for all of you! We've earned it.

Dave Lambert (and **Emily Lambert** ('96); and guest starring **Mark Barnett** and **Katherine Gergen-Barnett** ('96)

Hello Footies! It's been a while since we sent an update and Meg has inspired me with her plea for the historical record. Like everyone else, we have been maxed out just getting through this year. At the same time, we frequently felt that this is one of the defining eras of our lives, but didn't have time to reflect on it enough... so here you go.

I live in Rochester NY with my wife Emily (Wilk; MC '96, FOOT), and our three boys, Wendell (17) Charlie (15) and Sam (13). One of the most important ways that we have been experiencing nature in the last few years has been building a rustic camp on an island in the Adirondacks. We bought a tiny (1.75 ac) island in the southern part of Tupper lake 5 years ago with several other families. Loon Island is really beautiful-- tucked back in a quiet bay, surrounded by state lands, with amazing wildlife and swimming and paddling.

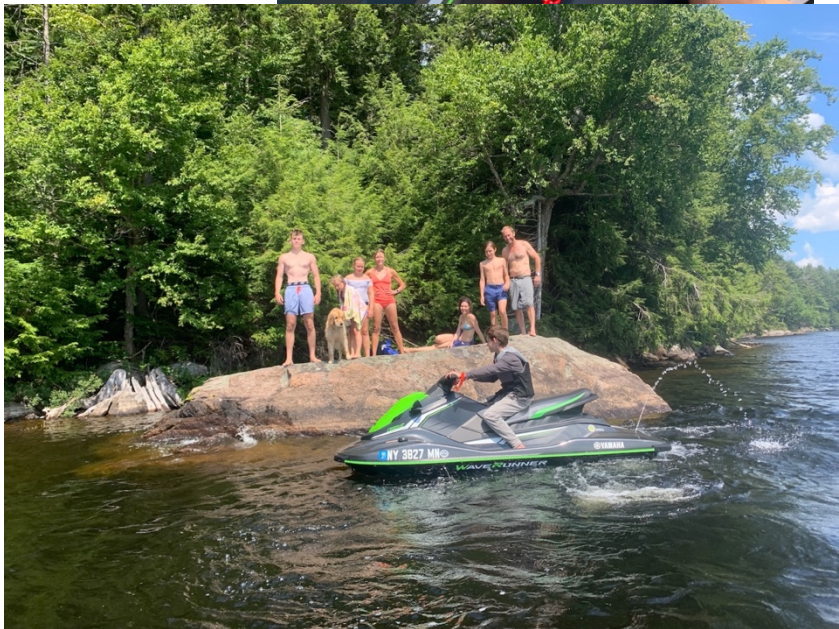
In the ADK park, you can't build anything bigger than 100 square feet if it is within 100 feet of the shore, and the island is so small that almost the whole thing is within 100 feet of shore. The area in the center that is far enough away from any shoreline to be exempt from this rule is only about 100 sq. feet (!)-- so that is where we put the outhouse. We then built a series of tiny buildings. At this point we have a bunkhouse/storage shed, an open-air kitchen, a dock structure, a 12V solar system, and erected a yurt. Most recently, we found an amazing timberframe carpenter to help us put up a beautiful post and beam cabin joined with oak pegs. Everything is a challenge because materials are brought over by canoe or our dilapidated 16 foot Boston Whaler, and every building is unfinished in some way. But it is very fun and satisfying-- an elaborate version of childhood fort building.

We knew Loon would be a welcome refuge this summer, because it's close enough that we can drive there without stopping, and once there, we can be totally isolated. It proved true, and we felt very lucky that we spent a lot of time up there last summer. The most covid-specific aspect of last summer at Loon Island was a dramatic example of a parenting phenomenon I think of as the "hotdog" principle. Backstory: Many years ago we were looking for an apartment for Emily in the East Rock neighborhood when she was starting med school, and we looked at one on the third floor of a large house in the East Rock neighborhood. This was well before we had kids, and the homeowners were Divinity school students with a three-year old. While talking about details of the apartment, the dad absent-mindedly microwaved a hotdog, cut it up and put it on a plate for the kid. When we left, we didn't talk about the apartment, because we couldn't stop talking about how appalling it was that he fed his child a hotdog. It didn't take very many years of parenting to 1) feed our kids hot dogs, and 2) realize that we were going to do a lot of things as parents that we would have found shocking before we were in the thick of it. The "hotdog principle".

It reached what is hopefully its apex for us last summer. As the spring unfolded in its terrifying, tragic and surreal way, and all of our summer travel plans evaporated, we felt bad for ourselves, but lucky that we could still go to Loon Island. Somehow, the boys sensed that this situation might be the perfect one to press one of their long-time dreams, a dream which I had consistently, clearly and virtuously rejected: jet skis. I have always hated jet skis. They are loud, intrusive, annoying and possibly dangerous--the mosquitoes of watercraft. They are the exact opposite of the Adirondack wilderness esthetic that I value. The boys, on the other hand, saw them as fun, promoting independence, and fun. And they also pointed out that I that don't let them take the boston whaler out by themselves because the ancient two stroke motor could die at any moment. And also that a modern jet ski engine was more efficient and less dirty than my whaler. And also that I was a boomer.

Somehow, they won Emily over, and on July 4, 2020, I found myself pulling two jet-skis behind the minivan up to the lake. They love them and had many adventures, none of which resulted in injury. I find them terrifyingly fast and loud, and instituted strict speed limits in our bay, so they were zooming around in areas that already had plenty of traffic where I couldn't hear them.

The highlight of our time at Loon last summer was a visit from **Mark Barnett** (TC '94, FOOT) and **Katherine Gergen-Barnett** (PC '96, FOOT) and their kids Gabriel, Amira, and Hannah. As you might imagine they are fantastic campers, campfire guitar sing-alongers, and lake swimmers. Turns out at least some of them became skilled jetskiers, too. Dave Lambert



Ben Madley: Ben Madley and his family continue to live in Southern California, where he teaches American Indian Studies and History at UCLA. A highlight of his year was the week-long backpacking trip that he and FOOT leader extraordinaire **Perry DeValpine** took with their sons (Jacob and Luke) in Yosemite National Park. Weathering hail, electrical storms, and more purple mountain majesty that seemed possible, they trailed their much faster teenage offspring through alpine meadows, past lakes, and over a mountain pass while wearing masks and remaining appropriately distanced. Here's to more FOOT outings in 2021!

Charlie Hale, Marty Hale and Jen Weyburn: I (Cilla) recently had the wonderful occasion to catch up with these three. Charlie is based in New York but living in Southern California during the pandemic. He has two young teenagers (twins, no less) and a 3-year old! Charlie takes over companies (watch out if you own one!) and sets them straight (how's that for a layperson's view of business?). He also gave a wonderful gift to Yale/FOOT recently which should eventually take care of our financial aid needs. Marty lives in Brooklyn Heights with family and is also in finance. Jen Weyburn recently became the Head of the Packer School also in Brooklyn Heights. I went to Packer for 7th & 8th grades!!!! I told her to look me up in one of the old yearbooks!

Jody Esselstyn: (from Charlottesville, VA) I'm still doing school nursing half time, and Jeff is WFH in our basement. Our two younger kids (6th and 11th grade) are doing hybrid learning - some in-person and some virtual. Our oldest decided to take a gap year before starting at UVA and he's thru-hiking the AT right now. He's gone over 600 miles and is getting close to Blacksburg, VA. We hope to see him soon!

1995

Sara (Heitler) Bamberger: Hi wonderful FOOT folks. Here's my update:

This has been a good, albeit strange year for me. In August, my family of 7 relocated to Israel, where my sister and parents now also live. My husband is still commuting to UC Berkeley, where he is a law professor, although this year he commuted less. Thankfully, our five children, who are currently ages 8-17, seem to be handling the move well. They are adjusting to the new language, culture and setting with resilience and good humor, most of the time. Getting everyone over to this side of the globe was a project many years in the making, and I am proud and relieved that we have finally done it, in the middle of a pandemic no less.

In addition to serving as the family CTO (Chief Transition Officer), I'm taking an intensive language course, and also working on a career shift to creative nonfiction writing. In my spare time I serve on the board of SquashBond, a nonprofit that brings together Jewish and Arab children through the game of squash.

With joy and some ambivalence, I can also share that my eldest son Max was recently accepted to Yale, and will most likely be attending in the fall. It seems hard to fathom that I will actually be the parent of a Footie, assuming the program runs. If anyone else has kids in the class of 2025, let me know and we can tell our kids to look out for each other. And of course, should you be in the Middle East, give a holler.

BC Connelly: Has been a trying year for I'm sure all on this string, and hope that everyone is making it through and doing well. Similar to Anne, our therapy this year has been the trails – my daughter (15) is in a cool youth leadership program with the Seattle Mountaineers, which has reminded me a lot of my FOOT memories with many of you...a small pod of kids all socially distanced and masked helping each other learn climbing, skiing, mountaineering and just generally how to be self-reliant and kind. And smart phone use is really limited on trips, which is parentally amazing. A really kind group of kids who have each other's backs and have really gotten each other through this last year. I signed on as a youth leader and it has been pretty amazing to be a part of that with her. My son (14) on the other hand discovered X-box as his preferred social connection, disappeared into his bedroom and closed the blinds for 6 months, grew 10 inches and made everyone's life hard during his vertical metamorphosis. I am now the shortest human in the house. Still adjusting. Grateful for much this year, sustaining an architectural practice and keeping 180 people employed through the last year has been challenging but has gone well, my wife is a therapist and front liner at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, so grateful for her work and our collective health. Another silver lining for me was not being on planes once a week to support projects in California and beyond...grateful to have had so much time with my grumpy and angsty teens and my family in recent months. My mom just moved in with us also after my dad passing last month, so might need some of Sara's transition officer training sessions and skills to keep the peace here. Wishing all of you a healthy and positive 2021. Please don't be a stranger if any of you are in Seattle.

Geoff Tanner: Two precocious and very much pre-teening girls attending the local public Montessori school in Westville, New Haven at the base of West Rock while we all live together (as opposed to living with some of us CT some

of the time, and more of us in KY more of the time and all in MA a little time) in Goatville, New Haven, near the base of East Rock!

Kristen McDonald: We 3 - my partner Colin of 15 years, and our 6 year old Ellis - moved to Nevada City, CA to hole up at a friend's 200 acre forested eco-commune - traditional land of the Nisenan people- for the duration of the pandemic. Colin works on the property doing carpentry and I telecommute at Pacific Environment where I lead the China program. This has been a tough year work-wise with US China relations tanking so notably. But probably the hardest part of the year for me has been missing our friends and community - and the ocean - back home (in Point Reyes, CA). Still, a lot of good has come of the year - including testing my utopian theories about communal life with the sometimes profoundly challenging realities. But it's also great to be in a big bubble, and we drive a lot less, are learning new skills like forestry, milling, and hide tanning, and have saved a lot of money. Ellis's happiness and my desire for him to have normalcy and freedom has been a key factor in decisions this year. We are enjoying homeschooling him in a parent coop with 2 other families, we got season passes to Donner Ski Ranch nearby, and he spends most of his time in a feral pack with other kids. He is thriving and happy and I am so grateful for that particularly this year. Sending hugs from the Sierras, Kristen

Sam Dyson - an inspiration:

I'm happy to share this blog post which is an update of its own, with some Yale reflections in it and plenty of life dreaming.

<https://samueledyson.medium.com/casting-new-visions-for-science-in-society-95f9d5266e21>

Stay well everyone, Sam

Susan Burton: Right now my 12-year-old son is downstairs on the couch with my 74-year-old mother for the first time in over a year. She's fully vaccinated and spending the weekend with us. It feels old and new at once. What a year—we've been frightened, grateful, infuriated, hopeful. We—me, my husband Mike (SM '95, FOOT-ie in character if not in reality), high-school sophomore Nick and seventh-grader Will—have ridden out the pandemic mainly in Brooklyn and on Shelter Island. I've done my job as a producer of *This American Life* in both places, editing stories on Zoom or forming a cove of pillows around a mic for a makeshift studio. But the big professional news is that in June my memoir, *Empty*, was published by Random House. The book tells the story of the eating disorder that defined my adolescence and shaped my adulthood, too—though it took me writing this book to really understand that. *Empty* opens with a scene on my freshman FOOT trip in the Catskills—a scene I fact-checked as best I could with **Anne Egger** '95 and **Laura Bradford** '92. Cilla herself makes an appearance later in the book—a scene in which the two of us do some bulk shopping at Price Club. The book's publication was a dream come true for me, simple as that. Wishing all health, strength, and serenity—Susan

Anne Egger: As for many of you, this has been a tough year for me for a number of reasons, both personal and professional. A saving grace during the pandemic year of teaching online, relationship changes, new projects starting in the midst of uncertainty, and life lived through Zoom has been helping out with - dare I say, coaching - our local Nordic ski team during the winter. Mostly the 6- to 8-year olds - so fun. It has been a total treat to work with the youngest kids, for whom the primary goal is to make sure they are having fun and want to keep coming back. (Which is good, because I know nothing about actually coaching skiing.) It's in-person, outside... we're all wearing masks, but such a good antidote to the Zoom room. My guest room in Ellensburg is always open! Come visit. Anne

1996

Blake Esselstyn: I (Cilla) recently traveled to Asheville, North Carolina and met up with Blake and his lovely wife who live there.

Blake used to work as a city planner for Asheville, but now works for the state. They have a 13 year old (who was in the shower, of course!) They live in a sweet neighborhood just outside of town. We drank a toast to **Geoff Tanner!** (birthday?)



Ivan Kerbel:

We are slowly thawing out up here in the Pacific Northwest. My own 'pandemic project' has been to launch a Seattle-wide effort to bring families and teachers together in small-sized, home-based learning groups ... a way to carry on with some semblance of normalcy (education + socialization on a tiny scale) in the midst of COVID chaos. I'm now partnering with the University of Washington to launch a global public health and education outcomes survey to learn more about how families have fared these past 12 months.

Needless to say, it's felt both empowering and therapeutic to find myself directly involved in helping kids and parents (especially 'essential workers') as well as employing a good number of teaching artists, early education specialists, caregivers, et al in the process. I was early enough to this cause that the tie-in between 'micro schools' and pandemic-era learning pods is mostly my fault, I'm afraid, and I've relished being part of a national conversation on access and equity, among other issues, profiled in the *New York Times* and on NPR (where I had a chance to chat with fellow Yalies Anya Kamenetz and Ari Shapiro).

As Stephen Colbert would say, "*Meanwhile...*" here are a few pics of my car being overrun by baby mountain gorillas (Wallace and Beatrice). We are all healthy, and staying (for the most part) sane.



Jo Ilfeld: Always great to read your (and Foot) emails. So here's my brief update. We've been hunkering down here in NorCal where not much is open still and life still feels pretty insular. Although my middle schooler and high schooler have gone back to school just in the past few weeks and for that we're very grateful! My oldest, Adin, just started this year at UChicago and we're grateful they've had students on Campus with weekly testing and incredibly low Covid rates. And he's definitely working hard there. I continue to do executive leadership coaching with leaders and teams, both within the



Bay Area, and now with Covid, much more nationally - since everything is virtual anyways! Reflecting back I'm so grateful for the leadership muscles I learned to flex with FOOT, it honestly should be an exercise all students get - the amount of student led leadership and thoughtfulness there provides a lot of growth! My husband Jeff continues to work some Covid shifts at the hospital while growing his solar energy business. It feels like the time in our lives when a lot of people are rethinking their original careers like him (Internist by training) and moving into second inspiring careers. I look forward to reading all the other '96 news! P.S. I've also been running YaleWomen of NorCal for 2 years now - if anyone out here wants to get involved - please email me (jo@incitetoleadership.com) Proud family pic attached! Warmly, Jo Executive Leadership Coach & Consultant, Developing Innovative Leaders for High-Impact Organizations www.InciteToLeadership.com Download my complimentary e-book on How To Be A High-Performance Leader

Oliver Pierson:

Greetings FOOT Folks and hope all are well! After 15+ years living in Africa, we returned to the USA over the summer of 2019 and settled in Burlington, Vermont. My wife does public health research at the University of Vermont and I run the Lakes and Ponds Program for Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation. My days are spent dealing trying to improve water quality in Lake Champlain and the state's 800+ other lakes which means working with farmers, legislators, shoreland property owners, developers, and many partner organizations on a myriad of watershed, stream, and lake management issues. We have two kids in elementary school and I can't wait until remote learning is a thing of the past. Vermont has been a good place to weather the pandemic (lots of social distancing going on up here even before COVID) and we're fortunate to be close to great outdoor recreation opportunities. We've had a snowy winter, and now that the kids can ski and carry a pack at the same time, we've been able to get out for a few ski touring trips to cabins deep in Vermont's woods, and we look forward to lots of time on the water and in the woods this summer, once all the mud dries up. All the best!



In addition, Ivan learned that:

Sam Dyson '95 was accepted to the University of Chicago PhD program in Physics and Astronomy & Astrophysics. You can read his blog post about that experience here:

<https://samueledyson.medium.com/i-got-in-heres-my-physics-grad-school-essay-20d7db3c0376>

I'm sure Sam would send you a photo if asked. I learned about his pursuit of a PhD because I follow Yalies involved in education, from K-12 to the higher stuff. Sam is amazing!!

1997

Amelia Shaw: We've spent the last few years in Ecuador, land of volcanoes, jungles and the Andes. Our three kids Luna (10), Stella (8) and Enzo (4) have loved hiking with llamas and paddling canoes down caiman-filled rivers - we get them out on the trail early so they can get their love of hiking in their blood, and escape from the doldrums of home-schooling in the pandemic. Thankfully our family has been well, it has been an education to see how COVID is handled in Quito, this country took admirable steps to contain the spread. We will be leaving Latin America this summer and heading to Southern Africa to live and work in Malawi for a few years - never a dull moment in the Foreign Service. I still have my FOOT hat - musty as it is - and wear it with pride.

1998

Gretchen Boger: I don't have much news. My family feels blessed that we have spent the last year healthy and employed, and that the adults in our household are now vaccinated. I continue to teach history at the Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr, PA, and we've been extraordinarily fortunate to be open in-person full-time for all students since September, by spreading them out over multiple classrooms and creating outdoor teaching spaces. My simultaneous Zoom management of students in the building in two different rooms, at home, and at home in China posed a quick and steep learning curve, but I think I may now qualify for jobs in air traffic control if the travel industry picks up again. I got through the Trump era with ever increasing seriousness about running and having run through that disaster, have discovered enough wind in my sails to keep going so far, competing ever against my middle-aged self.

My 15-year-old daughter, Edith, transferred this winter to Putney, a progressive boarding school in Vermont where she's embracing the farm and arts programs, while my 12-year-old, Alice, gets her Vermont time during Quaker wilderness camp in the summer. My husband and I love it up there, too. Maybe someday we will all wind up in the Green Mountains.

Gretchen and family & uncle!



Matt Kronman: Nothing much to report from Seattle; two girls (almost 12 and almost 11) who have been patiently doing virtual school for a year, my wife Evelyn and I still work at Seattle Children's Hospital, which of course has gone through lots of changes and adaptations over the last year, and we still find time to get outside and play - this year was a good opportunity for the girls to transition from downhill skiing to cross country and avoid the crowds! Sending love from Seattle, boots

Charlie Koven: I'm still living in Berkeley, California, where I work as a climate scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, and been working from home alongside my wife and two daughters (11 and 14) for the past year. We've been trying to get outside together as much as possible to preserve sanity during the pandemic, and paddling on San Francisco Bay has been particularly helpful on that front. Of possible interest to this group is that I've been working as a lead author on the latest IPCC climate assessment report, which we just wrapped up and submitted last month; TLDR of which is that there is still hope if we act now with great ambition, as seems to be starting to happen. Cheers, Charlie

Tatum Nolan: I've got a 2 year old now and we moved to Bellingham from Seattle a year ago. We love the smaller town feel. We're getting out a lot and really happy Cedar's favorite demand is "owsay, raw, keek." That means "let's go throw some rocks in the creek!"

I'm still at Cairnspring Mills, a locally sourced, non-commodity, stone milled flour company. Loving the work and it's growing. Please come say hi if you find yourself in the area!

Elliott Blanchard: Not a ton to report here. We've had as good a pandemic as possible – escaped to Stonington CT last spring, went back to NYC in fall where kids have been in school (9 and 12) pretty much full time. I've been working remotely at a small firm. Feel pretty lucky that the kids were at relatively decent ages to handle this, all things considered, and definitely grateful they've been in person. Only things of FOOT note are that I am close friends with the purchasers of Cilla's home, so got to enjoy another outside dinner there this fall. And working on my getting kids to be hikers – got them out to SW pre-pandemic (Zion, Grand Canyon, Sedona, Saguaro Nat'l Park) which was awesome, and took them up some peaks in New Hampshire this summer. Unfortunately, they are still pretty weak little things and definitely not up to FOOT leader standards. Yet.

Liz Averill: My family of 4 was together A LOT this past year like everyone else. We're considering a move away from the DC area, but still in Alexandria, VA for now. I recently had the lovely treat of seeing **Steph Park '98** for a couple of hours when she was unexpectedly stranded overnight near National Airport. She and **Matt Stiebel** both gave me good advice related to who to see for a recent hip surgery, so especially grateful to my '98 FOOT friends this year. Hoping to get back to hiking again in the fall. :)



1999

Jonathan Griswold: What a delight to hear from you—is there anything I'm missing more than old friends and the outdoors, and is there anything that conjures up both better than FOOT? My wife, Preeti, and sons Henry (1) and James (4) have now spent a couple years in London. I've been amazed by the system of public footpaths in this country and how the greatest baronial estate is subject to being criss-crossed (sticking to the path of course) by legions of walkers. And I've gotten out of London to tramp them as often as possible given kids and the pandemic which is to say not very often. But we've been healthy and have a small private garden so count ourselves very lucky. Best wishes to the gang and to you, and my best wishes that the class of 2025

will get to go on their FOOT trips!

Andrew Bonney: Andrew is in his 14th year running commercial strategy for regional airline Cape Air and lives in Marion, Mass. He has served in the Air National Guard as a Medical Service Corps officer since 2012, so was called to active duty for April and May 2020 to help the Massachusetts National Guard's "Surgeon Cell" coordinate the Guard's response. In January Andrew and his family (Christina (ES '99), Clara 13 and Charlie 10) embraced the "remote" school and work options made available due to COVID and moved to St. Thomas, USVI for the winter, where Andrew would continue his Cape Air executive responsibilities and be immersed in the Caribbean marketplace, where in peak tourist

season Cape Air has 25 aircraft plying nine routes. However, in early March Andrew was called back up to active duty by the Air National Guard to lead a vaccination team in Brockton, MA. In the picture below “Major Bonney” is in the back row, second from the right. **Massachusetts National Guard Task Force Raptor/Medical Augmentation Team Alpha** Brockton, Mass., March 18, 2021



2000

Jacob Heitler: Everyone's had a crazy year, and same for us. Our biggest news is that we had a baby boy, Gabriel Hod Heitler. That makes 2 girls (7 and 5), and 2 boys (3, and 5 months). We're still living in Berkeley, CA. I have dreams of taking the crew out in the wild, but first I have dreams of sleeping through the night. :)





Lily Morgan Owen: After 16 years in NYC, I moved to Sunnyvale, California in 2016. Since then I've been making up for lost outdoor time by communing with the redwoods, standing in awe of the Pacific surf, and playing in the Tahoe snow with my husband and two daughters ages 7 & 10. Now if I could only get them to like hiking...

Laura Haverland: We've been riding out the pandemic in our little coastal corner of Rhode Island. We have been incredibly grateful for the big distraction and project of our healthy pandemic baby, Louisa Morley who was born June 13, 2020. She is keeping us busy and stuck at home anyway. Schools have been open in RI thanks to our governor. Our family sure has gotten used to wearing snowsuits for picnics and socializing all winter. There's no bad weather, only bad clothing. Hooray for spring! Hope you all are making it through this wretched lonely time.



Tara Cronin: We survived the craziness of remote learning and working in the medical field fortunately with good health. We made it through the winter blues with lots of skiing and we are looking forward to Spring!

2001

Richard Grossman: In a funny bit of serendipity, I've enjoyed reconnecting with **Nick Frankfurt** ('99), who is my daughter Clara's (11) science teacher and advisor at Cathedral School in NYC. It will still be a while before Nick enjoys the "pleasure" of having Ezra (4) in class - he's more of an alchemy guy.



2002

Maggie Whelan: As it has been for so many, 2020 has been hard, but we are getting through it. Just before Covid, we had some pretty big changes - I completed my residency and fellowship at Tulane in New Orleans. I did a program called Triple Board, which involves residencies in Pediatrics and Psychiatry and a fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. After finishing in August 2019, we moved back to Pittsburgh to be closer to family and so that my husband could resume working for his small engineering company. He had been working remotely for five years while we were in New Orleans. I got a job as a Child Psychiatrist with University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. We had about six months of getting situated before Covid struck and turned everything upside down. We have actually been fairly lucky - we both still have our jobs and mine feels more needed than ever. Our girls are doing remarkably well - Caroline is 8 and Penny is 4. Both sets of grandparents are in Pittsburgh and they remain relatively healthy and are now vaccinated, as are my husband and I. We're looking forward to moving beyond Covid and whatever that new normal might be! Hope you are doing well! Maggie



Anthony Anagnostou: Hello all- greetings from Saipan, where Charlotte (wife and Best Travel Companion Ever) and I have settled in after a year touring the country, dodging viruses, and spending a lot of time outside. We are vaguely chalking the adventures up to “social distancing” but mostly we were having a good time outside. We have been lucky. Now we are camped out for the year on the other side of the international date line (read: we live in the future!). Get your vaccine and drop by- Anthony & Charlotte

Wesley (Mittman) LePatner: Evan ('03) and I spent much of this past Spring and Summer holed up at our house with our two young children, ages 7 and 9, in the Berkshires along the AT. We loved our daily outdoor walks, forest explorations and frequent bear sightings. Our family did more hiking during those six months than we have in years, and definitely refined our tree and bird identification skills. When not on the AT trail, I “saw” my FOOT '03 crew (Foot leaders **Louise Davis Langheier, Sarah Indyk, Emily Hurstak, and Jessie Rossman** as well as Foot participant, Katie Cole) most Fridays on a weekly Zoom. Evan and I also had the chance to catch up outdoors with **Marc Silverman '03** one evening on Lakes Washining and Washinee in Connecticut. Missing all of my Foot friends and hoping you and your families remain safe and well. Evan and I would love socially-distant, outdoor visits from any Footies passing through the area.



Lauren Keane: We are still hanging on to life in San Francisco despite stressful predictions that we may not have full-time public school again for more hiking/camping elementary-aged kids in the holler if you would, too! one pandemic-appropriate summer: Hiking the High way across Sequoia summit of Mt Whitney, Ben. We expect the hardest backpacking but rather hang out back home with 6 and 3, for 8-9 days while through the mountains. come with us on such now we stick to one-night carry the required pounds snacks. We'll hopefully be turning 40 (!) and starting some sort, since I've finally McKinsey and am in search of something more purpose-driven for my next thing.



We'd love buddies with meantime, so please I'm hoping to make dream happen this Sierra Trail, all the National Park to the with my husband part won't be the finding someone to our munchkins, now we meander our way Someday they'll adventures but for trips where we can and pounds of kid celebrating me a new life chapter of quit my job at

Ben Schrader: 2020: pretty weird year! We were cruising until March 3, when a tornado came through our backyard in Nashville with no warning at 12:30 a.m. and took half the neighborhood (and our car, see attached photo) along with it. A

week or two later, the gravity of the looming pandemic became increasingly apparent, and Kristina and I set up a home office in the dining room, where we've been working ever since. (On the bright side, we are finally using our dining room for something!) We spent the spring and summer adapting to the new normal and getting our house back in order. I also grew a (temporary) beard, as was pandemic custom. By the end of the summer, the cabin fever proved too much, so we rented an RV trailer and struck out for the Great American West. We—meaning Kristina, me, our 9-month-old James, and our dachshund Vera—spent three days getting to Colorado. We (sort of) took our time at Twin Lakes, Black Canyon, Telluride, Mesa Verde, Mt. Blanca, and the Great Sand Dunes before heading back to Tennessee via the Ozark Mountains. It was definitely the elixir we needed, and it won't be the last road trip we take as a family.

Hope everyone is well, and please stop by the next time you pass through Nashville!



Peter Shanley: Life has been a bit too rich to capture in a succinct update... but I can try. Most importantly we welcomed a 3rd kid this summer which has filled our days and aligned well with how shrunken everyone's worlds have grown during the pandemic. Theo joins older brother Mason and Eva, my step kids, as our modern family grows and I learn new meanings of the word "balance" and our impossible pursuit of the fallacy of a work/life balance. Ha.

I've also recently started a dream job doing "Blue Collar Big Data" in the auto space for ACV Auctions, helping take my hometown of Buffalo's first "tech unicorn" public in the coming years while keeping our family rooted in the UWS and engaged in the local culture and civic fabric of NYC.

2 working parents, 2 homeschooling kids coming of age in the big city, and one newborn ball of love and chaos amidst the covid and civic cluster of our shared moment... what could go wrong ;-)

Marc Silverman: Marc Silverman (holding it down in New Haven) sends in the following photo of him and his two kiddos (Anabelle and Westley) at Sleeping Giant State Park last fall:



2004

Matt Fitzgerald: My wife April and I have been spending this infinite March with our three-year-old daughter, Sibley, here in my hometown of Berkeley, California. I spend my workdays advising social impact organizations, including overseeing global tree-planting projects funded by [#TeamTrees](#), a crowdfunding campaign I led with YouTube creators MrBeast and Mark Rober. So far, we've funded nearly 23 million trees and have put more than 8 million of them in the ground, on every continent not named Antarctica. As a FOOT-related bonus, I got to attend **Drew Baldwin's** Streamy Awards and grab a reunion selfie!

2006

Brandon (Berkeley) Middaugh: Pandemic life in Seattle has been full of outdoor time on hikes such as Mt St Helens and other destinations in the Cascades. We took our toddler son Davis on a successful first camping trip last summer (pic attached). Fellow FOOT leader **Claire Gagne '06** has agreed to be a godparent to Davis, and so I have no doubt that he will become a lifetime hiker based on his love of trails (especially running just out of reach from his parents) and climbing (to precarious heights). I am working from home managing Microsoft's Climate Innovation Fund program, and I recently

joined fellow FOOT leader **Annika (Swanson) Berman '05** as a volunteer board member for a regional NGO, Climate Solutions. Otherwise, I'm counting down the days to full vaccination so we can reunite with family and friends! Sending best wishes to FOOT leaders everywhere. Hugs, Brandon



Aaron Zelinsky: If you haven't tried Baby Foot Peel in these pandemic times, you should. My tootsies have never felt so fresh and new. For the uninitiated, see here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/23/style/self-care/babyfoot-foot-peels.html>.

Dawn Lippert: I'm a dozen years into funding climate technology companies through Elemental Excelsior and a new spin-off venture fund, and working on making broader policy and corporate changes that the startups illuminate. I feel so fortunate to work on climate every day! Our daughter Lily is almost 2 now and we've gotten to spend a ton of time with her through 2020 while working from home. Lily loves books, signing, surfing (which we do at home in Hawai'i) and skiing (which she just tried this week in Utah). Still an open invite for FOOTies to come visit us in Honolulu when things open up again!

Danielle Lovell: This year, we've done our best with a relatively liveable pandemic. I'm still working with MotionHall, our daughter Soma is growing into a strong, hilarious two year old and John is now working with a publisher on his game (growing to a studio of six through 2020). We feel a bit like we're waiting for the world to start again, just like many. I'll be missing you all at our 15-year reunion this year, but hope to start seeing your faces again when life restarts.

2007

Anny Gaul: Anny is back in DC teaching Arabic & food history at the University of Maryland. She is hoping this is the last move for a long while and goes for long walks in the National Arboretum whenever weather permits. If you pass through DC please get in touch!

Mila Dunbar-Irwin: I was lucky enough to spend my pandemic year in an outdoor activity mecca - I'm still in Moab, UT - and when everything shut down, they kicked all the tourists out and barred the gates! Longtime locals said it was the quietest spring they'd seen since the 70s. It was a magical time of locals-only trails, birds singing in the bushes, no traffic, and real quiet. We actually had a local movement begin to legally limit road noise in this town spring from that quiet Spring! Ordinances have been passed and local electeds are lobbying the state. There are bumper stickers! We are so grateful to have been quarantined here; I know others weren't so lucky. COVID didn't really hit until the fall (that rural wave), so we had a relatively lovely time until then.

We're mostly back to normal now (thank you vaccine!) and my partner and I and our two dogs have been adventuring on feet and wheels, enjoying socially distanced outdoor activities, and looking forward to finally having people over to beat us at our favorite games! We've been able to safely see family occasionally, which has been a blessing. Some adventure

highlights have included a bikepacking trip in Death Valley, skiing in the La Sals and the Eastern Sierras, backpacking in the Grand Canyon, slot canyons in the San Rafael Swell, biking all the local haunts and paddleboarding the Colorado River all summer when it's ungodly hot. I went on my first solo backpacking trip (with my dog, is that cheating?) in the San Juans in CO which was amazing! I can't believe it's taken me this long.

We hid out in our truck camper on Gooseberry Mesa during the election and came back just in time to tear up at Kamala's acceptance speech. Oh, and we did get COVID in December. The experience wasn't too bad at the time, but I still can't smell much. So feel free leave your deodorant at home, bring the smelliest boots you'd like, and come hang out in the desert with me! -- I've just started as the Sustainability Director for the City of Moab and I couldn't be more excited!



2008

Agnes (née Alex) Borinsky: I love reading these every year, even if I'm usually one of the mum onlookers, without updates... But here goes, in this strange and challenging year, with lots that I feel grateful for: friends here in LA, and everywhere; backyard meals; the squirrels jumping from the tree out my window to the roof; the sprawling parks of southern California; my camping hammock; farmers' market citrus. Health, a home, a vaccine. I published a young adult novel this year, *Sasha Masha*, and continue to work on a handful of other writing projects - plays, essays, another novel.

Jake Branzburg: Maia and I welcomed Tali to the family in June. We're big fans. Come visit us in Philly!



Anna Dechert: I'm hermitting away on a lovely hillside in Tunbridge, Vermont and as far as pandemic homesteads go it's a pretty excellent one. My husband* is building our house while we live in it - we have multiple bathrooms but no interior doors yet. Lots of spots for visitors to set up a tent (if you're nice we may let you stay inside). I tried my hand at pig-farming for meat last summer, which was a fun new adventure. We're now at 7 chickens, one guinea hen**, and two cats. Contemplating quail or sheep as our next acquisition, with a long-term goal of anything that will make passers-by stop and say "what the heeeeck??" - perhaps peacocks, elk, or a camel. I left my job which involved significant international travel in summer 2020 and started the Sustainable Innovation MBA program at the University of Vermont. I'll finish this summer and looking to find some new career adventures in the area - not yet sure what that will be.

*We eloped in January 2020 and planned a party for summer 2021 but we've put that on hold.

**Don't let anyone convince you to get guinea hens. Google the noise they make if you're contemplating it.

Photos: ice-breaking on our pond to encourage spring; our chickens and our hillside





Bevan Dowd: Last year was one of many changes – I left my firm to join Google to counsel their ads products, got married (hear, hear for tiny covid weddings!), and temporarily relocated to San Diego to ride out the pandemic there. Beaches and sun make pandemics more tolerable, in case you were wondering. Aside from that, I am grateful more than ever for friends, family, and the great outdoors. I hope everyone has stayed safe and connected this year. If anybody is back up in San Francisco and wants a bed to crash in or a hike to go on, reach out!

Pat Grimm: I'm finishing up my fellowship in orthopaedic foot and ankle surgery at OrthoCarolina in Charlotte, NC. My wife Gretchen and I will continue our trek southeast as we move to Augusta, GA this summer for my first duty station at Fort Gordon. She will continue to work remotely in the international development industry, and we'll adjust to the humidity together. Hope the FOOT community is doing well!

Anna Grotberg: One consistency of 2020 was a lot of 'urban hiking' exploring the many streets and greenspaces of south west London and getting to play tourist...with no tourists around. 2020 brought a number of postponements - a wedding, a citizenship ceremony, meeting new family members. But my fiancé and I still managed some incredible walking/hiking throughout England and a magical socially distant week in the Luberon taking on some epic hills. We have learned that mother nature is a healer in these weird & wild times. Hope everyone is safe & well!

Andrew Karlin: As for most people, 2020 was a tough year for me as well, but I am very appreciative of many blessings from this past year of the pandemic. My family and friends, for the most part, have stayed largely healthy, and we were able to see each other while working remotely. I ended up taking time to work from Boston, Philadelphia, DC, Vermont, Park City, and Florida, and very much appreciate every moment with family and friends. I also have found the opportunity to take up new forms of exercise, such as rowing, biking, pilates, cross-fit, swimming, and mountain trail jogging, as well as skiing and running, despite continuing to work long 18+ hours every day. As you may have surmised, I am indeed still doing healthcare investment banking focused on M&A and capital raising advisory for healthcare services and HCIT companies. While the hours have continued to be fairly brutal (100 - 120+ hour weeks), I am fortunate to continue to be busy and to have the opportunity to advise great clients. We realized a record year in 2020, with ~20 closed deals, over an exceptionally busy stretch from May 2020 until now. I am furthermore grateful that the firm recognized our team's efforts and extended promotions, including one to me to the Director position. Otherwise, all else is going well on my side. I am still living and working out of my apartment in Manhattan, and very much hope to see everyone as the pandemic subsides this year!



Greg Lipstein & Laura Chandhok:

For much of the year we hid
We think we avoided the 'vid
The girls grew quite tight
As you'd guess that they might
Rarely encountering another kid

We're still out here in CO
This year both working from home
Overall things are good
We got outside when we could
Looking forward to a new status quo

Olga L: Greetings from Westchester!! I hope everyone is staying healthy and surviving this absolutely crazy year. My husband Jake and I had a baby boy last December and moved up to Westchester right before the pandemic hit - and right as we were getting into the swing of things with newborn life in the suburbs we entered into the COVID lockdown. In many ways, the past year has been difficult and we miss our families and friends dearly. But in other ways, it has been a real blessing to be able to work from home and spend extra time with Baby Ethan during his first year and get a chance to slow down a bit. My two quarantine hobbies have been Peloton and baking (I needed hobbies that counteracted each other!) and when the weather is warm we love hiking around the Hudson Valley and in Upstate New York. Looking forward to the day that we can have a FOOT huddle together again!



Dave Lyons & Lynn McGregor: Hello FOOT! Lynn and I welcomed baby Phoebe in March 2020. She brought us much joy and excuses to go on long, socially distanced walks, and fortunately, she loves the outdoors! Lynn continues to work in drug discovery, and I'm still practicing environmental and municipal law, both of us mostly working from home. If anyone's up for an outing near Boston, let us know!



Ross Pinkerton: We were able to get out for some hikes with Nathan this fall and look forward to more. We're also happy to announce that he will be a big brother in May or June!



Arun Storrs: Noah Cooper (TC 05) and I postponed our wedding due to the pandemic, but in the meantime, we have welcomed DJ Roomba to our little one bedroom in our lovely Los Angeles neighborhood - she's a great sleeper, albeit a little noisy and sometimes crabby during the day.

I've occupied my pandemic days by donating to the Community Fridge around the corner from our place (check to see if your city is doing these too) and by joining my local Buy Nothing Group on Facebook - if you haven't yet, join yours! It has been a welcome solace to build community and also get and give things to my neighbors - everything from passion fruit off the tree to a brand new stove top griddle! Also, I found out that I'm pretty intolerant to gluten, so I've been experimenting with nordic bread (the anti-sourdough, but it's tasty)!



Dan Turner-Evans: My pandemic project has been crafting a 15 lb puppy into the perfect 75+ lb hiking machine. We're still working on "Come!" and "Please don't eat that deer carcass!" but Loki has otherwise turned into an excellent trail companion. We've trekked all over VA and WV, braving rattlesnakes, ice storms, and hunting season. All signs are now pointing to a Santa Cruz, CA exodus this fall, with an epic cross country road trip along the way.

Mackenzie Wehner: I'm still in Houston, still loving academic medicine. We added a baby boy to the family this winter and our daughter is delighted to be a big sister.



2009

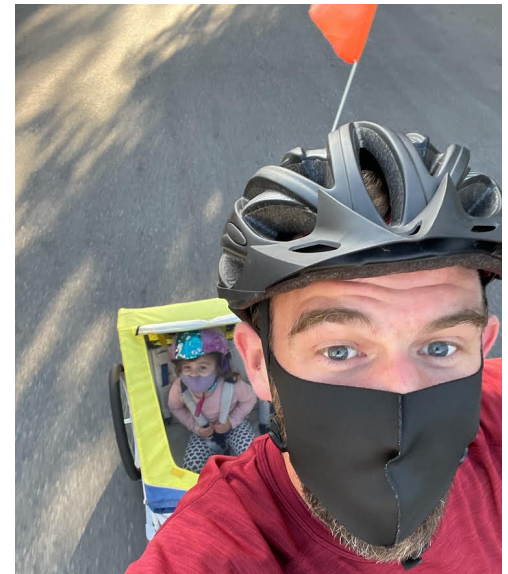
Lilah Wolf: We welcomed our son, Grayson, in November. He joined our first son, Bogey, who came to us with all his chaos in September. Life at the public defender is still rewarding and interesting and challenging and we continue to love being near my family, especially now that they provide routine babysitting



Matt Barber: Leigh, Zoe (3 y/o) and I moved (drove!) from Boston to LA June 2020 for Leigh's IR fellowship. We saw many national parks. We live in Culver City and have only one car, which means Zoe and I have a daily adventure to get to school! We will move again to Denver for Leigh to take an attending job at University of Denver. There are lots of outdoor options, and I can't wait to see how high my VO2-Max goes after breathing the air.



Laura Zatz: My biggest news is that I finished my ScD in Nutrition and Social and Behavioral Sciences. In the fall, I started working at the Behavioral Insights Team where we apply behavioral science to develop more effective policies and programs. I'm working for our DC office, but remote from Providence, RI for now where we get to see Jasper Frank and Mara Harwel. Our saddest update is that we recently lost our 11-year old cat Oliver to cancer (much gratitude to Severin Knudsen for remote veterinary advice). In this difficult year, Ben and I have been grateful for opportunities to spend socially distanced time in nature at local parks and beaches. I hope that everyone is safe, well, and fully vaccinated soon!



Anna Parks: We have two big reasons to feel hopeful this year:
1) Second son, Wilmot (Will) Strong (named after his great great grandpa who was a California gold prospector) was born in September. See attached for how he's getting along w/ his older brother, Zeke (2.5yo).
2) We are moving to Salt Lake City (my hometown) from the Bay Area this summer. I'm taking a job as a Hematologist at the University of Utah after finally finishing training, and my husband is gonna work remotely like a stereotypical pandemic tech worker. We are psyched to indoctrinate our kids with a love for hiking and skiing. Please come visit-- we would love to have visitors and friends.



Lizzie Fulton: I've been living in Mexico City for the past year and a half with my husband Aaron Reiss. We are imminently returning to NYC, now a family of four: with a cat and our sweet son Milo, who was born in Mexico in November. I hope for joyous post-vaccine reunions soon.



Claire Bucholz: All is good as good as can be here. I'm still doing the geology gig at Caltech and my husband Devin is studying seismic hazard around LA. We had our third kid in January (Wesley Toshio McPhillips). He takes his middle name from his grandfather who was also a native Californian (from a central valley fruit farming family). Photos attached of the three kiddos. PLEASE EXCUSE THE WEIRD FORMATTING OF THE NEXT FEW PHOTOS. I COULDN'T GET MY COMPUTER TO REDUCE THEM! CILLA





Gregor Nazarian: Great to hear from you! I'm living in Berkeley and teaching history at a high school in Oakland. My wife Taraneh and I had our second son this year, so our house is fuller and louder than ever. The hiking out here is gorgeous, and it's not so far to the sea. We still eat trail burritos regularly.

Ali Seitz: Hi FOOT! Chrix and I welcomed our first baby, Noa Gloria Finne, in September. I'm mid-Neurology residency in NYC, anxiously awaiting some relief from the pandemic.

Rachel Kanter: Hi everyone! We've had another entire kid during the pandemic - just celebrated Baby Ben's 1 year birthday. So crazy that he has basically never seen another human outside our pod. Isaac, almost 3, is an occasionally doting, mostly bossy older brother. We moved to the suburbs of Bethesda right before the pandemic and have been enjoying having more outdoor space. I'm even attempting to grow veggies! Much love to all. Hope everyone is safe and healthy.



2010

Austin Anderson: As I'm sure is true for all of us, it was an eventful year. I very fortunately squeezed in a trip to visit my two sisters, who were living in Cartagena, right before the pandemic started in March, and have been at home ever since. Except for the part where there was a water main break outside my apartment building and the basement flooded, destroying all of the electrical equipment, and we had to move out on 6 hours' notice and I lived with my in-laws for three months. But turns out the trout fishing in Westchester is very good, so I made the most of it. And then there was helping Emily with her recovery from a torn Achilles tendon (expertly diagnosed via FaceTime by FOOT's own Dr. **Michael "Leslie" Golden**). But things started looking up in the fall: we bought a house in the lovely Roslindale neighborhood of Boston, becoming sort-of-neighbors with **Libbey "Danger" Davis Hunt**, and finding ourselves right next door to the Arnold Arboretum. Now I get a daily dose of trees on walks with our new puppy Nica, who we adopted in October right after we moved in (photos below - she's growing fast). We've had a few challenges and sadness this year, but understand we are very fortunate in the scheme of things, and are grateful for it. As always, please look me up if you're in Boston.



Eli Bildner: Hello FOOT friends:

It feels contrarian, maybe even a bit wrong, to just "share an update" given our shared context of death, disease, political upheaval, etc. But it also feels refreshingly normal and nice! So here goes:

Like a number of you, I imagine, we spent a good chunk of the past year in the Groundhog Day of work from home. We tried to count our blessings. California weather enabled lots of bike rides and even some backpacking trips, and we even managed to spend a glorious two months of summer with my family in western Mass. I also fired up a portable pizza oven most Sunday nights, which became almost a meditation of sorts (less healthy, I guess).

A couple of months ago, my wife Astrid and I had a daughter, Ayla. We're totally in love with her — and also with her smell. Did you know about the new baby smell? It's a real thing. We had no idea. Anyhow, babies smell great.

Otherwise, we're continuing to kick it in the East Bay and welcome visitors! I'm still leading the org I founded a few years ago, Rivet School, and loving spending my days thinking about the future of education, work, and



opportunity. I'm less enthralled with philanthropic fundraising, but there's always a price to pay. All my good thoughts your way.

Elizabeth Breit: Elizabeth moved to Jerusalem for a little while, where she had possession of an unmarked white van with a mattress and camped a lot in the desert and at the beach. She has since been sucked back into the orbit of her hometown of Brooklyn. She's working as the rabbi of a tiny congregation in upstate NY, and also at a synagogue in Westchester, and trying to dance outside as much as possible because being a rabbi on zoom is exhausting and toes the line of dissolute meaninglessness. She'd be delighted to see any FOOT faces and makes a heartfelt plea (!) for tri-state area hiking buddies as most of her city friends are 'indoor people'. With love.

Libbey Davis Hunt: What a year! Nathan and I moved to Boston just a few months before everything shut down last year. While it was challenging to be in lock-down mode while in a new city, we were very grateful to be able to be near to family. We were fortunate to spend several months of the spring and summer in Maine, trading in endless zoom calls in our little apartment, for endless zoom calls with great access to the outdoors. In July, we welcomed our daughter Linden into the world! Definitely the bright spot of 2020. I was able to spend the rest of 2020 hanging out with her which was such a joy (exhausting too, but definitely joyful). As the weather warms and vaccines keep rolling out, we are very much looking forward to more outdoor adventures and reconnecting with friends. Let me know if you're ever in the Boston area—Linden would love to meet you! Much love.

Leslie Golden: This year has obviously been a doozy. In late March my hospital stopped all elective surgery. We entered a new norm of daily temperature checks and signing out fresh PPE. I never thought I'd see the day when I had to show the blood on my mask in order to get a new one. That said, I've been amazed and inspired by the resilience of the medical and hospital community. I am also extremely fortunate that my training has not been derailed by the pandemic. I graduated from residency in June and moved to Salt Lake City in July for a one year sports medicine fellowship. I have already gone on some great hikes and am slowly learning to ski. I haven't had as many visitors as I expected, for obvious reasons, but it has been an exciting adventure. I have also officially signed a contract for my first attending job (!) I'll be moving to the DC suburbs in August to work on the eastern campus of WVU. Hoping to catch up with some DC folks! I am grateful for friends, family, health and safety and looking forward to many happy reunions when it is safe in the coming years.

Wiles Kase: Lauren and I moved to Denver as of 1 year ago, almost to the day -- it's been a great place to ride out Covid isolation. And while the pandemic has made for lots of reality-TV-level family spats (why don't boomers wear masks???), we're focusing on some positives -- like our first child, which we're expecting in June! What a fun time :-). Lauren has been loving her job and has also been exploring Colorado like it's her... job. Lots and lots of hiking. We see way too few FOOT folks day-to-day but have a handful of Yalies in the neighborhood. For fun, I have taken up an extracurricular interest in/obsession with trees since taking forestry grad school courses at Michigan a few years ago. I wish I'd had this forest knowledge while leading FOOT trips in the Berkshires/White/Green Mountains!; what a treasure trove of fun facts. I've also been playing a lot of the strategy board game Diplomacy; if there are any Diplomacy fans out there, reach out -- let's start a game online! On the work front, I'm currently working with mining, agriculture, and energy companies to develop ESG strategies, which is challenging work (carbon markets, afforestation, etc. aren't always top of mind for these stodgy industries). But it's engaging (at least some of the time) and fits within a 9-to-5. Please do reach out, I'd love to catch up with any and all of you. I recently reconnected with **Eli Bildner** and **Caity Richards** after many years and it was as if not a day had passed. Hope to hear from many of you again soon <3

Craig Minoff: 2020 was a stranger year than most, especially after becoming a "COVID early adopter" with fellow Foot Leader **Peter W.** during a questionable mid-March ski trip.

With fresh antibodies and SF shut down, my partner and I embarked on an RV journey across the mountain west. We had a great time exploring National Parks and learning the wonders (and travails of RV life), practicing Leave No Trace and other hard skills while camping in Idaho, the Tetons and Yellowstone. We enjoyed camper life enough to dive in and buy a 35' camper trailer that we have been using to explore the US for the last six months. Life on the road has delivered all sorts of lessons, including a few hilarious/stinky experiences with our sewer system. We are headed up the east coast this summer and hope to see some of you there!

On the work front, I am still with [Kasa](#), a furnished apartment rental company that is like an Airbnb-hotel hybrid. Things were touch and go for a bit, but we are off to the races and ready for the Summer of Travel in 2021! Amazingly, the Settlers managed to squeeze in a San Diego reunion before the shutdowns in February:



And I got some quality time with **Peter W.** and **Thomas Smyth** during adventures to Hawaii and Savannah:



Molly Rubenstein: Hi all! Looking forward to reading all your updates! COVID brought a lot of change to my life this year, much of it surprisingly good. I'm still living in Cambridge, but in September my partner Tim and I celebrated our 5-year anniversary by moving to a house near Harvard Square with a couple of friends, a giant yard, and a fire pit, which has been a huge upgrade given quarantine restrictions. I took on a new pandemic-related job in April as Co-Executive Director of [Open Source Medical Supplies](#); which I'm now in the process of wrapping up along with my Innovation Ecosystems role at [MIT D-Lab](#), where I've been for the last 5+ years. I'm really excited about taking some time off and figuring out what I want to do next; ideally still community-development-related but in a way that doesn't require me to sit at a computer for 8 hours a day. Looking for buddies for winter hiking and cross-country skiing adventures, if anyone's in

the Boston/New Hampshire/Maine area and interested in joining forces in a socially-distanced manner! Including a picture from my last trip right before the travel bans came down in March. We had some great climbing, hiking, and castle adventures in the UK with the friends we're now living and podding with; but unfortunately no serendipitous FOOT community sightings! Wishing you all the best for 2021, Molly



Tom Schnitzer: Hey FOOT Fam - hello from Boston MA where I've spent almost all of the past year in the South End with my wife Kristina and our two dogs. We are excited to announce that we have another family member arriving soon: a baby boy due in late March! Work kept us both busy when we weren't zooming with friends or attempting new culinary adventures. I'm still at Wayfair managing the Home Improvement business, so hit me up if you have any big renovation ideas! There was a lot of difficult news to process in 2020 and we are grateful for continued connections with friends and family, good health (which more than ever we don't take for granted), and lots of time spent outdoors. Before the world shut down in March, I did enjoy a lovely long weekend with **Jasper Frank, Zack Abrahamson, Craig Minoff, Dan Schechner, and Brian Boyle** [all FOOT '10] in San Diego. True to form we completed a great hike and celebrated with plenty of good West Coast beer. Kristina and I also got up to the Whites in New Hampshire and to a family lake spot in Maine. Wishing everyone a better 2021!

Sarah Wolf: I am really fortunate that it's been a relatively good year for me, despite the state of the world. After getting a Ph.D in Religion at Northwestern in 2018, I got more or less my dream job teaching Talmud at the Jewish Theological Seminary in Manhattan. I am continuing to teach there entirely on Zoom, which is certainly not the same, but it still has its fun moments. As it turns out, the rabbinical school world is full of FOOT folk these days! I miss seeing **Liz Breit** in the halls at JTS now that we're remote, but I did get to reconnect with **Eliza Scheffler** ('12) in a class on Zoom this past summer, and I've also enjoyed getting to know Emmanuel Cantor ('18! did not actually know if he was a FOOT leader but Google confirms) in several remote classes during the last year.

In personal news, 2020 brought me a cat and a spouse, both of which have been excellent company as we've been hunkered down in our little Manhattan apartment together. Phil and I got married in an outdoor ceremony over the summer with 10 live guests and a LOT of Zoom guests -- it's the cheapest way for your parents to get to invite all their friends, highly recommend! For our mini-moon, we hiked Mt. Greylock, which I had first hiked in 2006 as a FOOTie. Here we are at the top.



2011

Tully McLoughlin: Lili Rudis and I are engaged (!). In late 2020, we abandoned our apt above Mr. Mango in Fort Greene in favor of the more rarified air of Colorado, where we are now, with our families. We purchased a used Subaru from Scott Harvey Subaru in deep NJ and are in need of bumper sticker recs, or stickers themselves -- please send. We climbed two 14ers (see photo): Grays and Torreys. Lili's dad Mark is teaching us to telemark. On Christmas we made paella (see photo). Best of all, Lili's slice of King Cake held the plastic trinket this January, so she has a whole year of good luck coming her way.



Dounia Bredes: Back living in Monterey, CA. It sure is pretty out here when there are no wildfires or mudslides. Teaching middle school (live and in-person). Surviving the pandemic by crocheting hats, baking bread, and getting outside as much as possible. Looking forward to your visits, post-vaccinations.



Abby West: I moved to Memphis, TN! My partner in life and biz, West (yes, really!), and I are spending the next year-ish outside the city in a cabin on a lake near his family. We spent 2020 in our (beloved, yardless) apartment in SF rethinking our travel company, [Thatch](#), and recently released [an app](#) that lets you create and share interactive travel content (think lists of your favorite hikes, top spots from bygone adventures, etc) with your friends & family. I'm looking forward to exploring as much of the South as I can while I'm here - holler if you're nearby! Or, once you're vaccinated, come visit, and we'll have a big bonfire because there is no forest fire danger here!!

Steph Marton: Collin and I welcomed a baby girl, Emery. She arrived on her exact due date at 6am, which makes us optimistic about her tendencies toward promptness. All three of us are healthy and extremely happy, enjoying our cozy, wintry parental leave.

Chris Lash: Sending warm vibes and good wishes to FOOT leaders near and far after a roller-coaster of a year. I "graduated" from Yale SOM this May and just recently landed at Capital Impact Partners, a major community development financial institution ("CDFI" if you're in a hurry) in Washington, DC. Highlights of my new apartment include a view of Evening Dog Hour in the local park and a 5-minute walk to meet "Deep State" Dennis Howe at a local outdoor watering hole. To any of you out there who may be experiencing uncertainty or loss, I hope you have the support you need. If you don't, give me a ring: (508) 404-4208.

Chelsea Willett: I am about a year into my postdoc at Lawrence Livermore National Lab, sneaking away on long weekends to Yosemite/Lassen/Pinnacles/etc. I also got a new bike, which has been an exciting turn of events. Hanging onto the excitement and hope of a future FOOT hangout!



2012

Kevin Hoffman

Hi FOOT family! I'm rapidly approaching a full year (!!!) of teaching 8th grade math remotely, in a role that also has me managing my organization's high school math curriculum half time. It's feeling like it may be time for a change, so I've applied to graduate school in education and hope to study and work in some combination next year. Aside from that, I've enjoyed getting outside with my girlfriend and enjoying all that the Bay Area has to offer - including a recent trip to Pinnacles National Park, where we saw a condor! Wishing you all the best in the coming year.



Eliza Scheffler: The past year ahhhh. Many highs and lows. I'm still living in Brooklyn, making my way through the 5 years of studying to become a Rabbi. Andy (husband) and I got a car during the pandemic, which enabled us to explore lots of the NY-area woods and some lakes during the summer months. We also had a baby! I was only ever pregnant during quarantine, which was surreal but also a blessing. Raffi is pretty cute and sometimes his random face twitches look like smiles... we think he'll start smiling on purpose soon! Much love to everyone. Oh, and I saw a poem in a coffee shop the other day that I liked. Snapped a photo, I'll share that too. You know, I like poems but I don't encounter new ones very often. If you're reading this, send me a poem that you like?



MAP FOR WANDERERS

—You are Here—

Notice everything inviting you to arrive.

It can be like this,
with the pine wind clearing your mind of
how many year-long thoughts.
Not waiting, wanting gently
what is.

It can be like this, a certain bend in a tree
can be seen as ecstatic. And it seems to be curing you
of this fear of standing still
how gift-waves come find you
One after another.

-David Bailey

Catherine Osborn: Hi FOOT! Thinking of everyone lots as this pandemic passes its year mark and sending wishes for everyone's health and happiness. I spent part of 2020 helping take care of family in Texas, thankfully who are all well, and have returned to Rio where I continue to be based as a journalist. I now write weekly about Latin America for Foreign Policy and continue to report for NPR and other outlets. I moved in with my partner Marco in October (photo from Thanksgiving) and we've been able to get in some good hiking in and around Rio despite lockdowns. One amazing coincidence of FOOT and Brazil is that I've also been lucky to spend lots of time with Sarah Maslin ('14) who is based in São Paulo over these years, an even more treasured friendship in pandemic times. Hugs to all.



Mia Yabut Wiese: FOOT FAM. Hello from NYC! I'm currently in graduate school studying molecular and cell biology. My research focuses on blood disorders and blood cancer. The past year was a wild one! My husband, Edward, and I welcomed our first son, Jamie, on January 27. Just as we were preparing to exit our newborn bubble, covid hit the



city . We were lucky my family was here to help with Jamie so we could both return to work... and we've since been getting by taking long walks around the city. We escaped to shelter island last fall and went on multiple amazing hikes through the island's mashomack preserve. Highly recommend! Missing you all, and looking forward to our ten year reunion (!!!!) next year!

LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES! CILLA →



Alejandro Torres: Finished my pediatrics residency in Atlanta and am now doing private practice out in the community. Meanwhile, Kyle and I were able to buy a house here in Atlanta with a Catskills-esque backyard — let us know when you're in town (we can rake leaves together, such fun)!



Peter Wilczynski: 2020...what a year. Man, this was a weird one. I was an early adopter of COVID-19, the now not-so-novel coronavirus, contracting the virus on an ill-fated trip to Aspen, CO during the first week of March. Based on unsophisticated contact tracing, it appears that we participated in a minor superspreader event on our flight home to SF. But I recovered quickly, taking a week off to sleep and read *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, which had been on my list for awhile. I continue to have the same job, though Palantir went public this year and became an official meme stock which means that [people post pictures](#) of our CEO (Alex Karp) superimposed on a Pokemon (Magikarp) and compose rap videos about us. More seriously, we had the chance to really reflect on what we've been working on, and I had the opportunity to craft the technology and product sections of our [S1](#) which was a dream come true! I can't wait to get back to normal and see more of your smiling faces in person - I miss you all tremendously!

Brendan Ternus: Still living in Melbourne, where I'm directing afterschool programming for a public school and helping kids make professionally published books at a creative writing nonprofit, plus some freelance arts education projects on the side: in a few weeks I'm launching a pair of escape rooms designed by middle schoolers! Kids create the darndest things. I spent my end-of-year vacation hiking in the Grampians Mountains and the fabulously-named Lerderderg Gorge. Thankfully COVID has been handled sensibly by leadership down here (thus far), so life is relatively normal, but I'm sending so much love and good vibes back to everyone elsewhere.

Rae Ellen Bichell: We've been very busy with choice activities like: laughing at loud farts, piling olives into tiny wagons, face-planting in the snow, sticking band-aids in our hair. Highlight of the season was an adventure to southwestern Colorado to see dinosaur tracks and rock art. Hope everyone is doing well as possible during this nutso time.



Jack Bisceglia: It has been quite a year! We rode out the pandemic in Brooklyn, and embraced quarantine activities – baking sourdough, wildlife photography (in New York City, it's mostly birds), board games, and woodworking! We got a car, once unthinkable in NYC, and have really enjoyed exploring New York, upstate and out on Long Island. Looking forward to some longer road trips to see all the friends we have been missing this year!

2013

Bay Gross: Bay Gross is rocking a sweet beard and just took a 23andme test even though his twin sister has already done one. Among his recent successes are the creation of a sea shanty Spotify playlist and a third-place finish, behind **Jacob Effron** and **Nate Zelinsky**, in a late-night game of Counterstrike.

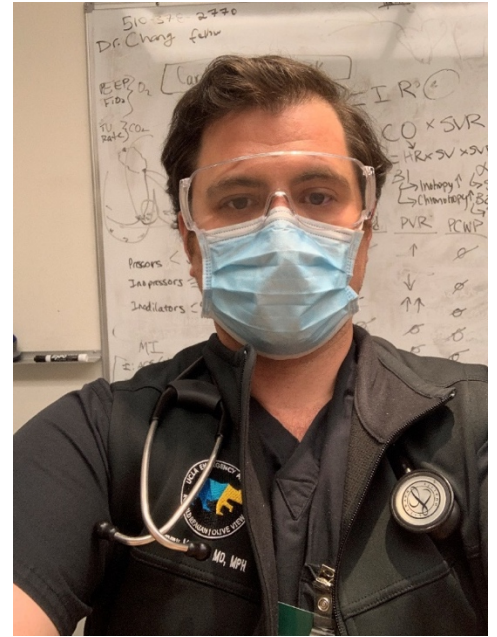
Cody McCoy: With the cancelled field season my marsupial sightings dropped an estimated 98%. But I hit the wildlife bonanza in January before we knew about covid! My partner and I visited Jenna Poggi (Yale '13) in Hawaii, where we saw albatrosses dance, manta rays swoop, and Hawaiian monk seals sunbathe.



Diana Saverin & David Carel: We've spent the pandemic in a cozy cabin overlooking Fairbanks, Alaska with our two sled dogs, Mason and Fiddle. We used the extra time at home last summer to grow, gather, and preserve lots of food -- turnips, carrots, green beans, salmon, and enough wild blueberries and cranberries for at least a pie a week. Diana spent the winter teaching creative writing and yoga, David's been working in progressive politics in Alaska, and we've both gotten outside most days to go skiing with the pups, including the occasional camping trip in the Brooks Range, Alaska Range, or the White Mountains outside Fairbanks. We'll both be leading trips for NOLS this summer, finding time between contracts for our own camping trips and growing/gathering food. Come visit!



Jimmy Murphy: Hey FOOT Fam! Wow, how un-COVID safe were literally every single one of our activities? So many group hugs. This has been a very interesting year indeed--I'm in my 3rd year of Emergency Medicine residency at UCLA-Olive View. On the plus side, I got to leave the house almost every day! On the negative side, I got COVID, saw some terribly sick young people who did not do well, was sickened by the anti-mask folks, and forgot how to treat anything other than COVID. My whole life was COVID--work, research, freaking out about getting it/giving it to people, etc. But now I'm vaccinated (double immunity!) and things are on the upswing nationally! I've been lucky enough to see both Katie Fruin and Glen Meyerowitz in the hospital (for work, not as patients #HIPAA). And I'm so grateful for all the people who quarantined hard, sewed masks, helped out. And I'm especially grateful for Dolly Parton. Hope you all are getting vaccinated soon!



Jordan Orosz: My first houseplant, a large schefflera arboricola named Thomasina, is thriving and I joined the White House as Deputy Associate Counsel.

Julia Osterman: Howdy FOOT! I graduated from Stanford in June with my MBA and MS in Environment and Resources and now lead business development for SilviaTerra, a climate tech company founded by two Yalies that's building a data-driven marketplace to empower every landowner and every forested acre to participate in forest carbon markets. My husband Ben Mullet (Stiles '13) and I embraced the COVID nomad lifestyle and lived in Sierraville (tiny town north of Tahoe of 100 people) last summer and have been living in San Diego near my grandmother since September. We're probably heading to the East Coast for the summer but TBD! We adopted a puppy in February (30th birthday present!) and named her Sierra in honor of all the hiking adventures in her namesake mountains we plan to do. Anyone up for a FOOT reunion backpacking trip post-COVID? Email me! jiosterman@gmail.com



Our family of three in San Diego!



Backpacking in Ansel Adams wilderness (summer 2020)

Kat Lau: Though New York is still home base, I've spent the last few months crisscrossing the country, working first for Mark Kelly's senate campaign in Arizona, then Jon Ossoff's in Georgia (fellow FOOT leader **Alex Kramer** gets the credit for inspiring my move into full-time politics :). Unfortunately both cross-country drives were done in a rush, so a leisurely road trip remains on the bucket list, but I did manage to squeeze in time for some good hikes and camping along the way - see pic attached of me getting iced on top of Piestewa Peak in Phoenix....sigh. I'm now back in Brooklyn figuring out what's next, and looking forward to being able to hug many of you in person again soon! Sending y'all lots of FOOT love, and hoping that in the midst of a very difficult year you were able to find some moments of fun (Types 1 and 2).



Katie Ruffing: After a few sequential Boston sublets and a stint in Cambodia over the preceding two years, I went full-time nomad in 2020 (safely) spending time with family and sharing a pod house with some Yale friends in South Carolina, then Colorado. I was grateful for the flexibility afforded by working remotely that made this possible- and was able to conquer some new outdoor adventure firsts in the process- first canoe-packing trip and first solo multi-day backpacking trip! Just this month I moved to Brooklyn, where, after lots of time living in temporary situations, I'm hoping

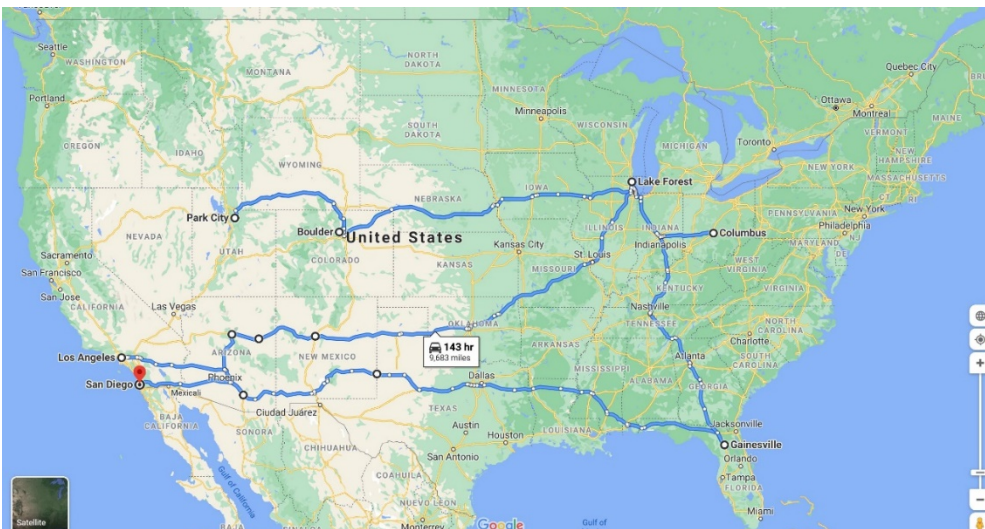
to put down some roots and idk maybe hang a painting? We'll see! If you are in the area or passing through, please say hello I'd love to see you and explore NYC together!

Max de La Bruyère: All well in Denver, at least when the dogs aren't trying to eat the mailman. Fundraising for a startup real estate business. It's a slog.

Ric Caraballo: After 4 years of living in San Francisco, this January I moved to Austin, Texas with Tesla to help bring up our new factory here. Learning lots about construction, trying to remember how to drive everywhere, and enjoying as many breakfast tacos as I can while looking forward to the live music scene post-pandemic. Got to host Stephanie Rivkin for a few days and can't wait for more visitors, so give a shout if you're in the area!



Rory Marsh: For the past couple years, I've been weed whacking on a road-less-traveled, chasing a longtime dream to compete as a professional endurance athlete (primarily triathlon & cycling). The pandemic shut down racing for 2020, but training still took me to Boulder and Park City for significant chunks of time. With conditions constantly changing and air travel sometimes sketchy, I racked up ~10,000 miles of long-distance driving in the last year, crossing the country in a couple different directions. I feel very fortunate to have seen so much of the US on the road, and the travel has given me a great appreciation of the natural beauty and ecological diversity of this country. In downtime from training, I also wrote a children's book and continue to work on a novel that I hope to finish this year. I'm thankful as always for the skills and savvy that I learned through FOOT! I'm currently living in Carlsbad, CA (San Diego County).





Sinead O'Brien: I got married (to a dentist)! Just my immediate family and his at my parent's place in Concord. It was really nice!



Stephanie Rivkin: Joel ('14) and I have spent the majority of the past year in Chicago with brief stints in New York, California, and Maryland. I became a certified yoga teacher last spring, and the biggest change in our lives this year has been the addition of our extra large puppy, Dusty (90 lbs at 9 months) - who isn't the biggest yoga fan. Hope to see lots of FOOT friends in 2021!



Steph Wagner & Jacob Evelyn: It's been quite a year! We got married in Atlanta last March right as the whole world was imploding. And then we moved to Providence, RI for the start of Steph's pediatrics/psychiatry residency. And then we got a puppy! (Dora says hi, sends puppy kisses.) After all that excitement we're looking forward to hiking in the northeast again—please join us!





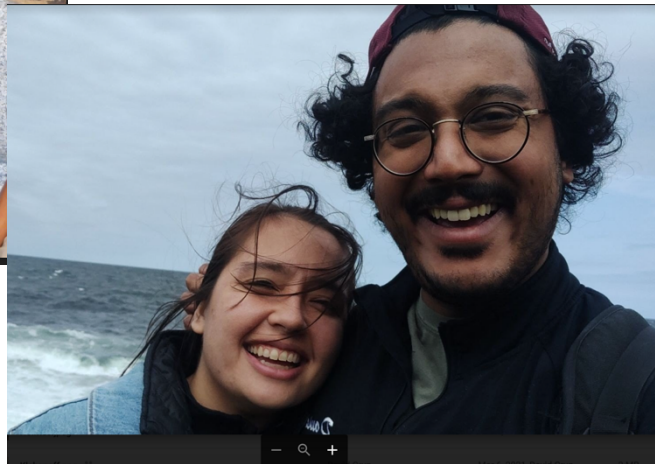
2014

Natalie Akers: I'm coming up on one year living in Sisters, Oregon — a former ranch town that's more hat than horse. I'm here thru 2022 to witness the world-famous quilt show, Rodeo, and Sisters Folk Festival. I work at a YouthBuild program helping 16-24 yr olds get jobs. I teach more piano lessons over zoom than I ever imagined. The best days include hiking and skiing in snowy mountains, playing Billie Eilish covers with teenagers, and chatting up Ariel Kirshenbaum on her dog walks. Room in the backyard for tents and RVs.

Claire Donnelley: I'm in my last year of med school, applying to residency and just finished up interviews. My COVID activities have involved a lot of hiking with Peter, building a saltwater aquarium, going to the Bronx zoo, and mucho trail running. Right before pandemic, I was off in Uganda/Tanzania doing research, and also trekking with my momma in the Bwindi Impenetrable forest with one of the few remaining colonies of wild Silverback Gorillas.



David Cruz: In late 2019, my beloved cousin was killed in a domestic violence incident. I had hoped to spend a lot of time with my family in Texas throughout 2020. Instead, I was lucky enough to go remote and hunker down in Somerville, MA. Through the pandemic, I got to enjoy my bike, joined my neighborhood's Buy Nothing group, and volunteered at an income tax clinic. I also managed to put out some grad school applications and did some fun hikes with Erin (including my first coastal hike, pictured). I have a lot to look forward to in 2021!



Amelia Earnest: Hello FOOT family! As I know was the case for many people, 2020 was a year of big changes for me. In a case of very ironic timing, I left my job in global health last year to start full-time at Columbia Business School. While most of my MBA experience has taken place via my couch/Zoom, I've loved getting to be a student again and



enjoyed getting some in-person time via the outdoors club and CBS sketch comedy group. My other big change was a not-so-distant move from the East Village to the Upper West Side, where I've fallen in love with our views of the sunset and proximity to amazing parks. (I'm looking to run outside more if anyone in Manhattan needs a running buddy!). Lots to be thankful for -- including this amazing community!



Abby Eurich Well, in March 2020 it seemed as though time had stopped, and nothing would happen in life until the world went back to "normal" and we could hug our families again. Shortly after the world's quarantine began, however, I graduated from Colorado State University with a Master's in Watershed Science! I got a job with the US Geological Survey in Fort Collins, CO, an employer I had only dreamed about since childhood. Then my partner, Elle, and I adopted the sweetest puppy in the world and named him Jackson. He has been a light in our lives and is dragging us on hikes and adventures every chance he gets. Last, but certainly not least, Elle and I got married on Nov. 1, 2020, in a small outdoor gathering of our immediate family members. So, looking back on the year that I feared would be mundane and stagnant, turns out it was one of the most pivotal and exciting years of my life!

Happy to share some good news with you all and hope you are chugging along in your lives, as well, and staying healthy!



Eric Fishman Wow everyone teaching online has been really hard!! I've been teaching 5th and 6th grade this year, in a public school in Boston. It's really sad to not feel like I have real connections with the students. Upsides: I can take naps during my lunch breaks. Well, that might actually be the only upside. Besides capturing Zoom chats with student gems like this:

11:51:01 GUYS I JUST PUT COTTON CANDY IN MILK IT TASTES LIKE CLOUDS

Otherwise, I'm living in a co-op-style house with my partner and 7 others, which has been a boon during the pandemic. And occasionally getting to see other FOOT leaders like DJ Scramble here (see photo). Sending love to everyone!

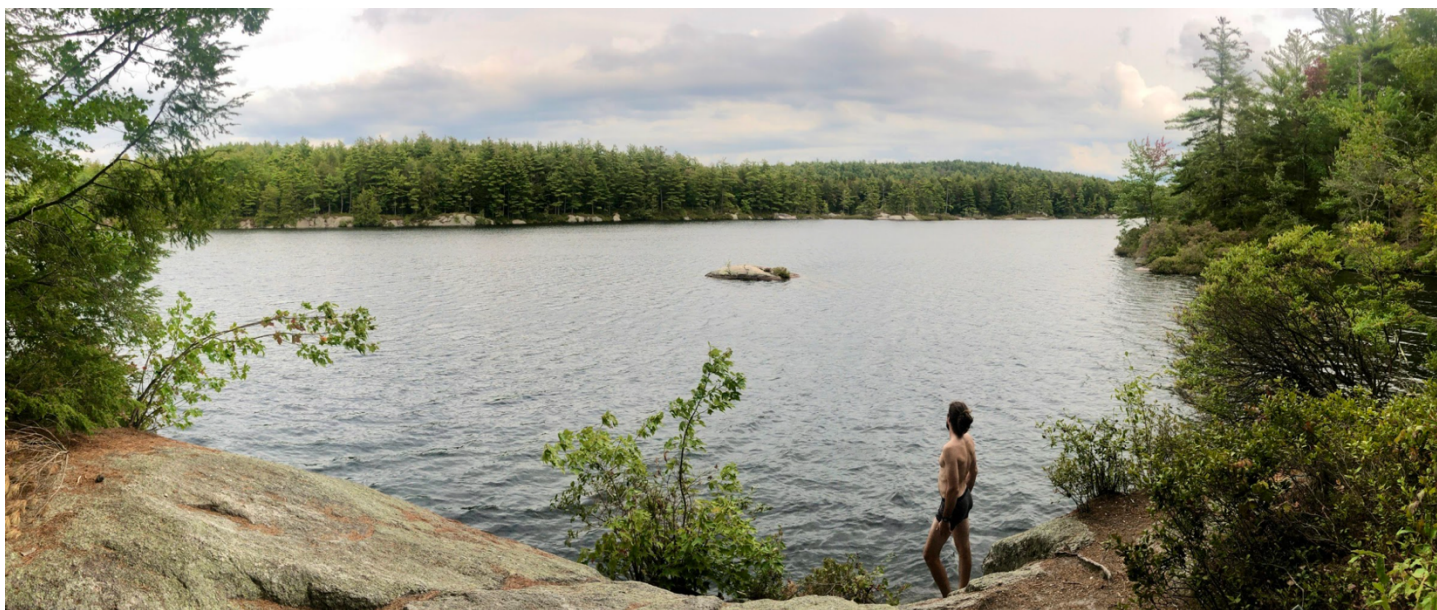


Amanda Hall 2020 was monumental for a whole bunch of reasons. The obvious aside, I finished my PhD, got married, and moved to London (all in the same month)! I'm currently teaching Politics and International Relations at both UCL and St Andrews and have settled in the UK long-term, so when travel is possible please let me know if you're ever passing through!



Tao Tao Holmes Three highlights from the past ~year:

- Spending an awesome day at an empty Pisgah State Park with **Kevin Kirk** (FOOT '15)
- Discovering the world of animation, stop-motion, and motion graphics
- Making croissants—twice!



Jake Keaney New year same stuff. Still living in New Haven, still training in medicine, though now as a medicine/pediatrics resident at Yale-New Haven. Say hi when you swing through!

Ariel Kirshenbaum Hi FOOT! Does anyone else spend DAYS procrastinating to write their newsletter blurb bc they're hoping some stroke of HILARITY will come to them, so fellow FOOTers will read it and think, "My, my, my, that person is so cute and funny; I wish we had made out back when we all lived within a 1-mile radius and there was no pandemic and we were young and life was good?!!!" Cool, Me neither.

Anyway, updates... I am writing from Berkeley, CA where I live with my partner and dog. I now work for the school district in Richmond, CA (where I used to teach math), as the "Career Industry Connector," with a specific focus on the health fields. It's my job to act as the bridge between schools & local employers, to help strengthen the school-->career pipeline for BIPOC students interested in health/bioscience. It's a mix of employer engagement, teaching career readiness skills, program development, and things like planning career days / internships / field trips etc. I really dig it. If you're in the Bay, I'd love to connect. I realized during the pandemic that quarantine life is basically no different than my typical social life, and I'm working to change that (once it's safe to do so!)

Emily Klebanoff HI FRIENDS!! Despite the general horror of 2020 I count myself very lucky to have been healthy and safe and able to generally live my life pretty well from home. I'm still living in SF and still working at Facebook but thought I should send in an update this year because I got a puppy AND got engaged! The puppy is named Ghobi and the fiancé is named Karthik and they are both very nice and cuddly. Sending love to all of you, especially those that didn't get as lucky as I did this past year – and come visit me in SF and meet my cute guys any time!!

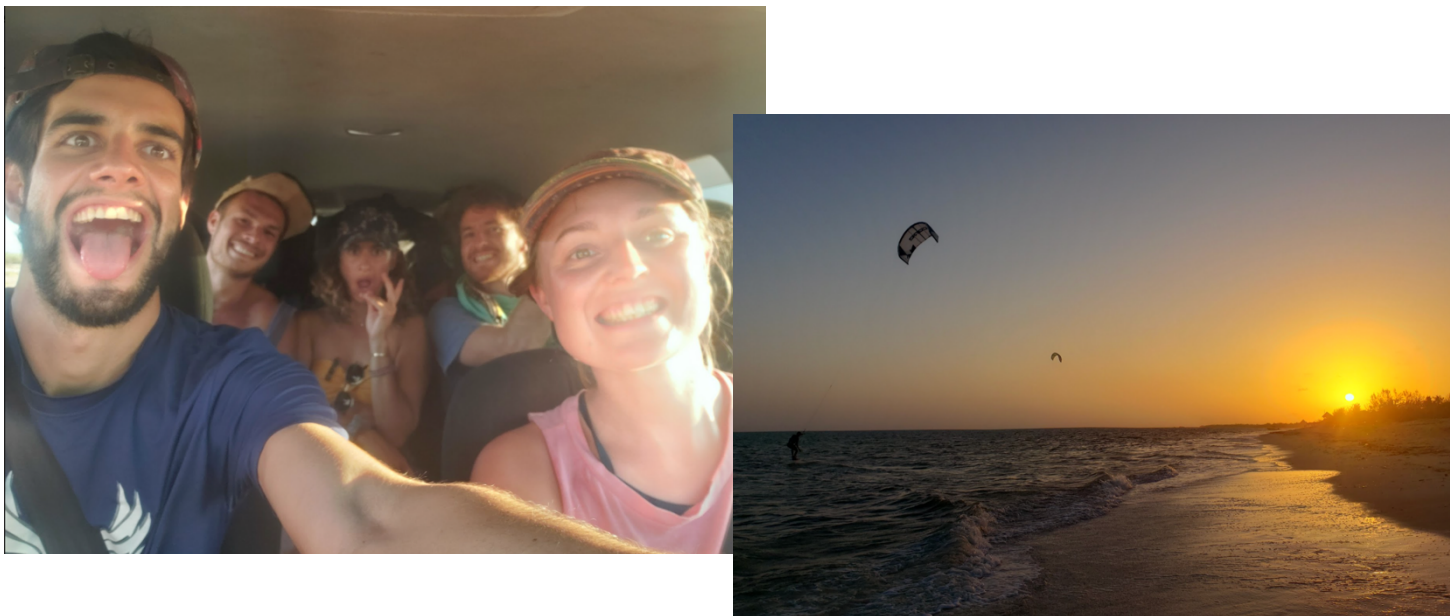


Caroline Lester I moved from Brooklyn to Unalaska, Alaska in February 2020, which obviously turned out to be

an insane thing to do. After that, I moved down to Sitka, a much better place to be because it has cell phone service, internet, and regular flights on and off the island. Most importantly, it also has Sophie Nethercut, pictured here with my life-partner, Oni. I'm still working as a writer and audio producer, and theoretically am going to Berkeley law in the fall. (I've said that for the past two years! But this year just might be the one!) If/when that happens, east bay footies, get at me!!! Missing May training trips, hugs, and my footie community. Hope everyone is holding up ok. Here's an extra oni pic, for the fans.



Isaiah Lyons-Galante 2020 found me unexpectedly spending half the year in Cambridge, Massachusetts, living with my parents in the house I grew up in. When Kenya closed down international flights in March, my girlfriend Charlotte and I grabbed one of the last flights out to be able to be with my family, in case. I got to experience my first New England summer in almost 10 years, and the most family time since high school. I'm lucky that they're all healthy now, but it was tough to be so limited socially for an extrovert like me (at least I saw DCruz once!!). We made it back to Kenya in August, where we've been rebuilding our community and our lives. For the first time, I bought a car, road tripped into the desert, and learned how to kitesurf. COVID life in Kenya is very livable, with low case counts, great weather, and big outdoor spaces. After 4.5 years here in Nairobi, I've finally starting thinking about what could be next. #1 criteria is living near mountains, so if you've got any suggestions I'm all ears!





Andrew Marburg Hi FOOT! I found my way back to North Carolina and am currently in my 3rd year of medical school at UNC. I've been splitting my time between Chapel Hill and Wilmington along with my girlfriend, Jiyun, and our cat, Chao. Sadly, I have no recent mountain adventures to report, but I have been keeping myself sane and centered by surfing when I can. Give me a holler if you find yourself here in the land of the pines!

Sarah Maslin Still a journalist, still in Brazil. I got cats to try to compete with all the baby photos (stop it, people! Just kidding--keep 'em coming). Their names are Tufo and Avianca, which mean different things depending on which Latin American country you're from. They're currently playing Capture-the-Flag with a paperweight made of dozens of rainbow feathers, scraps of which are now all over the apartment. At the risk of angering people I'm also sending a photo of a crazy palm tree I saw in the state of Alagoas, in northeastern Brazil. Does anyone know how it might have gotten that way?!



Sophie Nethercut Hello beautiful FOOT family! Greetings from super rainy Sitka, AK. I'm still here! Currently working at the local hospital, snorkeling with nudibranchs, and using my snowshoes whenever I can. Covid sucks, but one amazing thing that happened this year is that **Caroline Lester** came back to Sitka! We've been picking lots of cranberries and eating lots of donuts. I'm planning to hike the Arizona Trail this spring (come join me for any part of it!) and will be starting medical school this fall at the University of Washington. Sending love & salmonberries & fresh, salty Sitka air to you all <3

Joel Circus I would like to thank the FOOT family for teaching me the joys of base camping long before 2020 reared its ugly head. Not much by way of new updates this year - I am still living in Chicago with my co-leader for life Stephanie Rivkin ('13). We got a dog (how original!), which has been a whole heck of a lot of fun, and we have been making our way through the lifetime supply of tortillas that I panic bought back in March. I am hoping that these next few months pass safely and quickly and that everyone can begin to partake in Primal Screams and Oomgalas again soon. Lots of love!

Margaret Van Cleve Hey FOOT Family! I am still here in D.C., still teaching at DCPS, and still taking walks/naps with my dog, Jef (see pic!). Big changes are that I moved up from kindergarten to 5th grade this year and that I am also working part-time now for Transcend Education, working alongside schools that are centering student well-being and social-emotional learning. Sending you all my love and a year's worth of hugs. I am hopeful for a beautiful year for each of you.



2015

Gordon McCambridge I was thankfully already scheduled to leave China over Lunar New Year 2020. After watching events unfold from the US, I flew to Taiwan in order to be in the same time zone and hopefully jump back into the mainland as things calmed down. Part anxiety-reducing, part time-killing, I decided to rent a motorbike and ride through the center of the island. An unexpectedly stunning ride through the mountains and gorges. Including photos to hopefully tempt one of you to someday try yourself.

I then left Taiwan and have been back on the mainland since mid-February. Life has been almost-normal since March, apart from being effectively stuck here. But I'm nevertheless very grateful to the people and government for their collective covid response. Highlights from the year include going to Wuhan in July and moving into a new office in October. I'm personally losing hope for a Class of 2015 5/6 year reunion, but I plan to spend significantly more time back in the US next year. Hopefully our paths cross again.



Kevin Kirk: In March 2020 I signed a lease in lower Manhattan a week before news of Covid and have since been living with there with my brother and two college friends. We embraced the poor timing and have developed various quarantine team-building habits together, most notably a 108-day yoga challenge. I've spent a ton of time on my bike, and I also learned to unicycle.

My lease ends this month, and I'm moving into a converted van to drive around the country in, at least until I'm required to be back in the NYC office in September. Let me know if you'd like a visit!

On the work front: I'm still a software engineer at Google, and will be working remotely while traveling. I took a climate boot camp through Air Miners recently and am thinking that my next job will be for some sort of sustainability-focused tech company. Hoping to make that move in 2021 or 22.

KevinKirk43@gmail.com / 973-650-9637

Adrian Chiem: Hi everybody! Throughout this pandemic year, it's been a strange mix of alternating between working at the hospital and sitting in my bedroom. I am humbled and grateful for community, friends, loved ones, and the spring birds. One positive note: After four long years, I'm happy to let you all know that I've matched into OB/GYN at Jefferson in Philadelphia. Deeply excited to be engaging the fight for reproductive justice on this next adventure in my life. What will I miss about Providence, you ask? Everything, but in particular, my long winter walks with **Onagh MacKenzie**. Anyways, come visit me! There will be a bunch of new FOOT docs around Philly. :)

Gracia Vargas: After 5 lovely years in Ann Arbor, I am headed back east to start my general surgery residency at UPenn! Thrilled to be moving to the city of brotherly (f)luv, especially knowing Adrian is going to be my neighbor :) Please come visit, through preferably not in the operating room... Sending you all my love in these wild times ❤️

Alex Dobner and **Megan Opatrny** are moving to the same city at last! Alex is starting a math postdoc at the University of Michigan, and Megan is starting internal medicine residency at Michigan Medicine. We are so excited to move to Ann Arbor (and get lots of recommendations from Gracia)! Come visit us!

2016

Will Conlon: I graduated law school this spring and am living in Billings, Montana, with nice access to the outdoors, like this pic at Yellowstone. It's lovely!



Brooke Eastman

After a series of travel bans and visa delays, 2020 was the year that I married my husband Olly and moved back to London (picture from our micro wedding)! We spend our lockdown days going on long walks and cooking through all of Ina Garten's books. We're here for the next few years, so please do let me know if you're ever in the UK!

Isaac Hudis: I'm finishing my last semester of Columbia Law School and my last semester of school ever.

It may be all remote, at least I get to (virtually) attend the same school as **Jerelyn** again! During a break in the action this summer, I went on my first ever self-organized-non-FOOT backpacking trip! My boyfriend and I hiked around for a couple days in the Adirondacks. The scenery was breathtaking, the wilderness humbling, and the time together priceless. And yet, the only picture either of us seemed to take was of the instructions to our iodine kit resting on my thigh. Safety first!



John Keisling: Hey guys! I'm entering my 4th year in the Air Force and just promoted to the rank of Captain. It's been a pretty busy year for us here. I moved to Niceville, Florida back in May to attend EOD (explosive ordnance disposal/bomb squad) school. I should be finishing up my training in April and will be moving again, this time to Guam, where I'll be for about 3 years. Super nervous about moving to an island in the middle of nowhere but really excited for the travel opportunities it presents. So if you ever find your way to my little tropical island, I got a spare bed! Visitors welcome! But most importantly of all, I rode a horse for the first time a few weeks ago.



Maddie Landon: Never could get into sourdough making but got way too into creating paper mache earrings (shown in photo at older sister's mini wedding). This year, I am moving to Chicago to hang out with **Lily Vanderbloemen!**



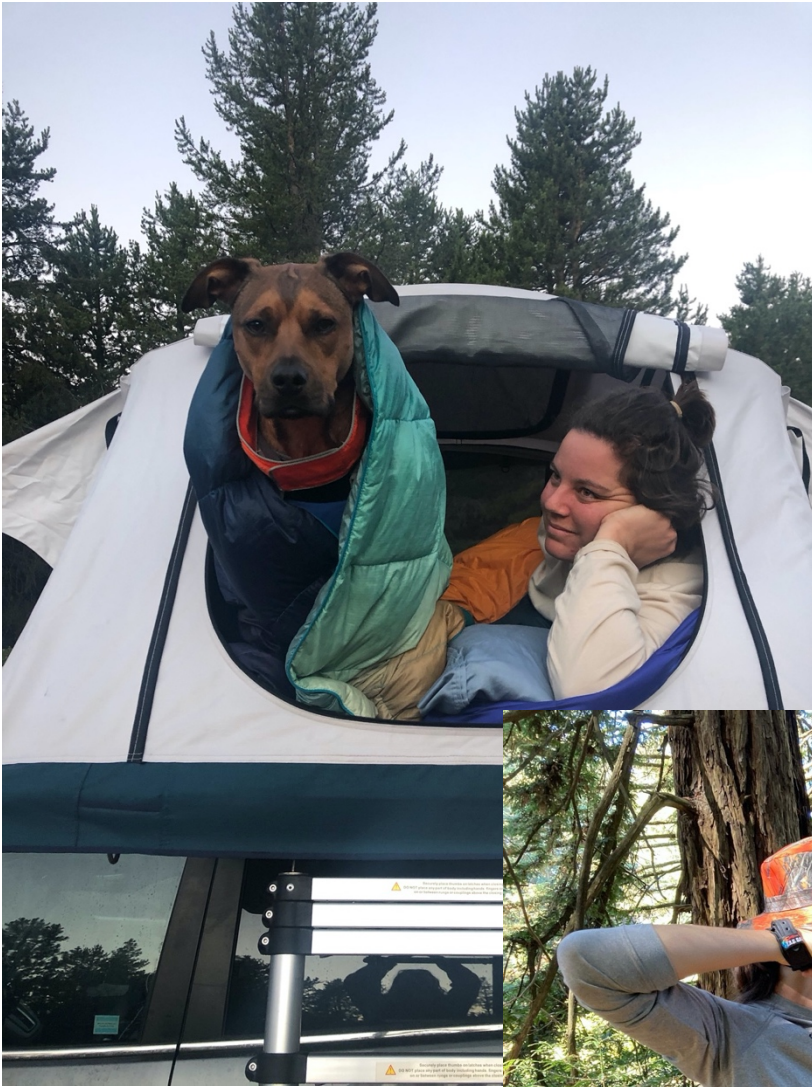
Jerelyn Luther: I finished up teaching 6th grade (remote school is wild!), spent a long summer biking/cooking elaborate meals or eating beans out of a can/growing copious plants/reading/painting in Brooklyn, and started at Columbia Law this fall! Fun fact: Isaac and I are back at school together again, but virtually! If you're ever up to walk miles around Manhattan, let me know!

Greg Meyer: **Sara (Kahanamoku):** and I are still grad students at Berkeley (year 4 of ? now woooo). Our dog Kolohe is all grown up now but he still acts like a puppy! **Shalila (de Bourmont)** lives right near us in Oakland with her fiance Darby, and we have been trying to make the best of it during the pandemic. Kolohe misses Auntie Shalila a LOT!



[Shalila, Sara and I attempting to safely hang out, by the SF Bay]

Sara and I were supposed to get married Aug 1, 2020 but had to cancel because of the pandemic. Bummer. So we went camping in the Sierra on our wedding day instead (tbh worth it). Darby and Shalila's wedding was scheduled for about a month before ours, and also got canceled. :/ We will get there someday!!



[Ko wearing a blanket in our tent because he is a wimp]

Lastly, Sara and I started learning archery! Come visit us someday when we're done with grad school and move to Sara's homeland of Hawai'i, we will feed you fresh boar 🐖

[Me wearing a FOOT shirt with my bow]



Anne O'Brien: Hi everyone! I'm living in Chicago and also in the weird time warp of social distancing — I can't believe the year went by so quickly. My big events for 2020 were graduating from the Harris School of Public Policy at UChicago and also doing more crosswords than is probably healthy. Getting out into nature a bit (pictured) was a highlight, too. Hope you're all doing well — if you're ever passing through Chicago in the after-times, let me know



Jacob Osborne: Jacob Osborne and almost-Doctor **Onagh MacKenzie ('15)** are still living in Providence, RI, with their sweet COVID pup Phoebe. In case Onagh doesn't submit a newsletter entry because she's currently on a six-days-a-week internal medicine rotation — she is rounding the corner toward her final year of med school and going to be an amazing primary care doctor really really soon! She's also been digging *The Chicks* and *The Highwomen*. New developments for Jacob include teaching theater to 5th graders, advocating for Rhode Island's exciting [Green New Deal legislation](#), owning



cross country skis for the first time, and embarking into the weird world of making strangers laugh on TikTok. Sending lots of love and good vibes to the FOOT community in 2021!



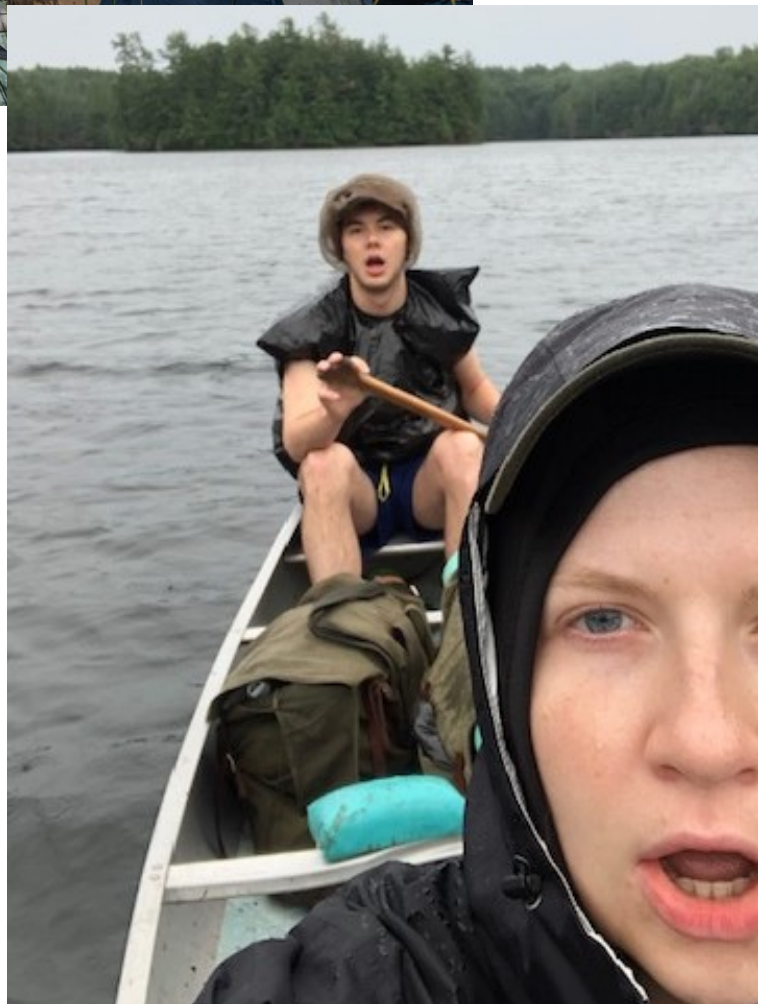
Sophie Paci: Sophie has been living in San Francisco and teaching hybrid 1st grade (virtual and in person students) at a school called Burke's. She loves her students because they are funny, creative, and open-minded, and give her hope for the future! When she is not muting and unmuting kids, she enjoys biking, hiking, and baking!



Skylar Shibayama: 2020 led to more time reading, walking, and with family than I ever expected! Still with the Seattle Mariners, I spent most of 2020 continuing analytical research projects and on Zoom calls helping our coaches make strategic decisions like which pitchers to use in different situations. Remote work has allowed me to spend more time than ever before in rural Eastern Washington and, presently, Atlanta, where I've temporarily snuck away from Seattle's seasonal depression to live with Chris Moates '16 and my brother and inject my life with more sun, steak, tennis, Quiplash, and online chess. Lots to be thankful for!



Will Theiss: Hi friends, I'm living in Germany these days, working on a dissertation. Still, me and my girlfriend Hall got to the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan for a trip last summer. Cheers to a slack-jaw, trash-bag-as-a-rain-jacket kind of year. Will



Lily Vanderbloemen: Started my MBA at Northwestern while continuing to work in 2020—finally relocating to Chicago by summer 2021! Looking forward to running into other FOOT folks in the windy city (shout out to Maddy Landon starting at Kellogg this fall!!!!) Found joy during covid with many hikes with my new dog, Nellie! See pic of my cute puppy!



Peter Wyckoff: Peter moved to Brussels in late 2020 after a long year of being locked down in the British countryside (though thankfully with lots of footpaths and nature nearby). Missing US friends a bunch, and hoping that everyone has been safe.

2017

Teddy Goetz: Hi all! I spent 2020 in my 3rd and 4th years of medical school at Columbia (in NYC), which included deciding to pursue psychiatry and applying to residency, months as a senior student in inpatient psychiatry and in the ICU, taking board exams, and a lot of virtual work and research (mixed methods work on LGBTQ mental health). In larger news, I began the year by publicly coming out as trans, and then (euphorically) changed my name and had gender affirming surgery—despite pandemic barriers—and ended the year getting engaged to my partner Mandy! Though a tumultuous year of much anxiety and grief, I have never felt happier than I do right now.



Abigail Dutton: Hi FOOT fam! My-oh-my do I miss galavanting about with you all in hiking boots instead of masks. This year has been a quiet one, but nevertheless, filled with love and (safe, socially distanced) adventure. I am lucky to be living in rural New Hampshire where hanging out on mountains >6 ft apart was the norm long before it became cool in 2020. In June, I completed my first two years of medical school at Dartmouth and transitioned to graduate school. Over the summer, I rotated in research labs at the hospital and found my PhD home in a lab dedicated to studying neonatal herpes infection. Since then, it's been business-as-usual studying the impact of viral infection on brain development and behavior, perfecting the ultimate chocolate chip cookie recipe with my two best friends and roommates (a very willing taste-test team), and exploring the great outdoors with new grad school friends by kayak, hiking boot, ski, and skate. Big thanks to FOOT for teaching me to make friends outdoors -- socially distanced has never been more social. Sending so much FLUV! <3

(Pic captions: Summiting Mt. Morgan with FOOT leader **Harry Kane** ('18) and friends Sam and Sarah who also happened to be on my freshman year foot trip!; Summiting Little Ascutney with my roommate and best friend Maggie; A

puzzle I painted depicting Franconia ridge because I forgot to take a single picture when I hiked it in October)



Emma Poole: Hi FOOT! After 3 super years living in my native Boston, I got a new job based in Chicago in June and will be finally making the move in Spring 2021. Eager to learn/eat/see everything Chicago, spend all summer outside, and continue to root for Boston sports teams so please please hit me up & come visit!

Zoe Dobuler: Hi, FOOT! I hope everyone is holding up okay. I'm still living in the Berkshires, finishing up my master's in art history at Williams and making time for outdoor adventures when I can. A highlight of the winter was Zoom phone banking for the Georgia runoff elections with the wonderful **Emma's (Poole and Ryan)**, and I was so inspired to see how many leaders were active around the elections and continue to make change in their communities. You all rock. If anyone finds themselves in western Mass, let me know!

Juliet Strauss: Well, we all really know how this year went... but before we all knew about "the virus that shall not be named," my FOOTie visited me in NOLA for Mardi Gras. How fun! And other than that, I've just been chugging away here in my second year of medical school at Tulane. Probably the most exciting news of all is that I've started vaccinating folks, my dad got remarried, and there's a new administration!! I so loved the class of 2017 roll call on election day :) Miss you all and looking forward to sunnier skies ahead <3



Rob LaRose: Hmm, last year I raised 2 tadpoles, 5 baby swallows, and 9 caterpillars. And I spent most of my summer filming the various birds that showed up at my dad's feeders. So yeah, you could say I had a lot going on in my life in 2020...

Mikayla Harris: Hi FOOT! Wow 2020, what a year. I bounced from DC to back home with my family in the Maryland suburbs, but made a home for myself in New Haven in August. I've complemented Zoom School of Law with hikes and bike rides up East Rock and occasional run-ins with other former FOOT leaders living in New Haven. One of the benefits

of the pandemic is that I've been able to re-connect with FOOT friends I lost touch with which has been really wonderful. Drop me a line if you want to be sent some fun memes or TikToks to brighten your day! Hope everyone stays safe and healthy.



Brandon Hudik: This last year I found and adopted 2 frogs, 5 adult swallows and 9 butterflies! They seemed to be trying to escape this year too.



2018

Eddie Maza: Over the summer I finished my master's degree at Oxford and moved back to NJ with my family. During the various lockdowns I started making short art-talks and putting them on instagram (@ArtQuickLook). I tried to escape the North East winter by fleeing to Texas, but now it is snowing here too. I'm doing all of this while I wait for museums to start hiring again and "get a job" as my mother keeps telling me I need to do. Sending lots of Fluv to everyone <3



Julia Char Gilbert: Hi friends! I'm still in Denver. Sometimes I go outside; other times I don't. One time I went for a hike with **Theo Kuhn** ('18), and when he ran back to the car to grab something, a child got confused and thought he had murdered me in the forest. (He hadn't.) Another time I went to a phone bank and **Emma Ryan** ('17) and **Alex Simon** ('17) were there. It was nice. I've amassed a lot of houseplants since coming to Colorado, so I should be here for a little bit. If you're in the neighborhood, come say hi! Hope you all are taking care of yourselves. Looking forward to crossing paths again soon.

Kelsi Caywood: Hey FOOT fam! I hope you are all staying safe and well. (A line I've started way too many emails with this year, but still rings true.) I've been keeping busy with writing, getting outdoors, and catching up with old friends (including some fellow FOOT leaders). I graduate from Stanford this spring with plans to start a doctoral program in the fall, likely in the UK, to study gender equality and comparative social policy. Hoping for more FOOT moments (in person!) when we're on the other side of this. - Kelsi

Brian Beitler: Here is a picture of a me right before my friend gave me my first haircut in months (due to covid) and also a picture I took of a chicken that had the same hairstyle.



Diksha Brahmhatt: Hey y'all!

What a wild year! At the height of the pandemic, I was working overtime at the NYC Health Department and going on very eerie runs through a deserted Times Square. Last fall, I started med school at Weill Cornell in NYC and have loved it more than I thought I would! Let me know if you ever need a cardiac or pulmonary exam -- I can at the very least pretend like I know what I'm doing! My classmates and I have been keeping ourselves entertained in the era of Zoom school by planning walking food tours, playing soccer in Central Park, and hosting virtual game nights :) I'm eagerly waiting for the day I can see all my FOOT friends again! I miss my weekend socially-distanced meet-ups on East Rock with **Rob LaRose** ('17) and visiting **Justin Abbasi** ('18) when he lived in DC! - Diksha



Holden Leslie-Bole: Hi FOOT! I'm starting my PhD in physical oceanography at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, focusing on sea-level rise and coastal adaptation. Despite the chaos of 2020, I still managed to get some good outdoor adventures in, including climbing Mount Whitney in July. I hope you all are healthy and doing well, and if you're ever in San Diego, my door is always open!

Meg Pritchard: Hi FOOT! After a summer back home in Charlottesville, I spent the fall and winter in Williamstown, where I've been slowly training my neighbor's cats to come to the window to greet me. Looking forward to warmer days, better weather, and plenty of cinnamon-roll group hugs in the future! Lots of fluv, Meg



Taylor Holshouser: Well, there are worse places to be during a pandemic than Alaska. The combination of WFH and



poor weather made for a rough start, but by May it was nice enough to play outside. Overall, we made it through okay. My mother got the vaccine in March, which was a tremendous relief, and I got my second “Fauci ouchie” last week. Fingers crossed we can all get back to “normal” —whatever that means— soon. Thinking of all of you and hoping to see you in Alaska one of these days. As always, the door is open, the spare bedroom is yours, and there’s an empty seat in the drift boat if you’re game for an adventure. Until then, much fluv.

2020

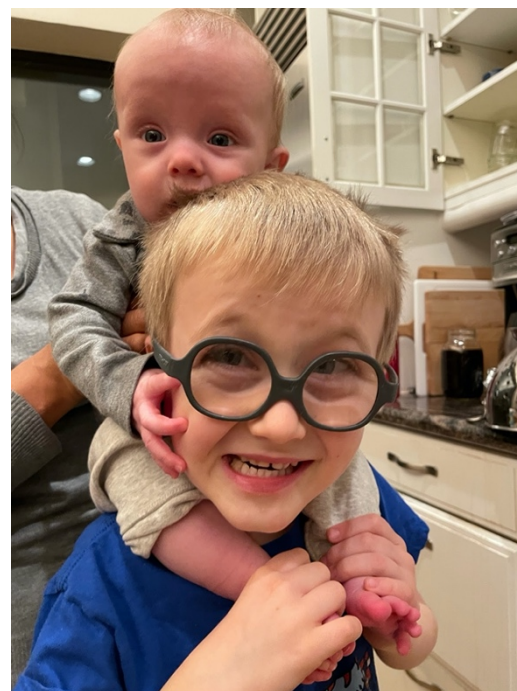
Daniel Kaylor: Flibblyflobbly greepa goop to anyone reading this. Or are people still saying "hello" these days? I can't be sure; isolation has caused my family's dialect to diverge from what you might call "Standard North American English." Jokes aside, I will *most likely* be heading to Changsha, Hunan, China in August to teach English at Yali High School (real name) for two years, barring any more pannies, or more likely, a cold war between the U.S. and China complete with heavy travel restrictions. At any rate, if anyone takes a trip to China in the next two years, hit me up! I miss FOOT dearly—especially everyone in 2020 (and any current leaders reading this) who I didn't get to say goodbye to in person. I've attached a pic of me, washed-up and graduated, after a year of living at home. Love to all! xoxo



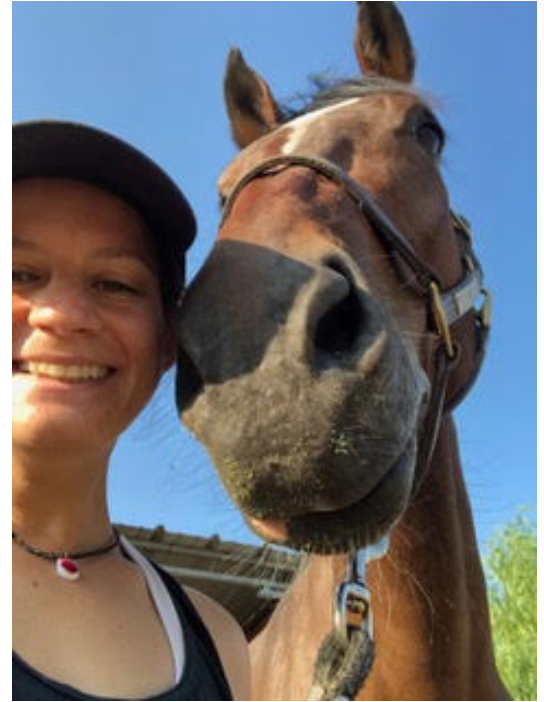
Kellen Silver: Hi FOOT! After a quietly combusting spring and a whirlwind of a summer, I am now settled in Brooklyn, where I work remotely for a healthcare management company in LA. "Why would you work from three thousand miles away?" you might ask. Great question! My newest nephew was born in August (see whirlwind above), and he and his brother (see picture below) live in Brooklyn with my oldest sister in her husband's childhood home. Even with



masks and distancing, I am getting to see them way more than I normally would, which makes the three hour time difference much more manageable. My other sister also lives here, and it's been really great to be close to family. And since I have mornings free while the west coast sleeps, I have been reading more than I have in my whole life (please send me recommendations! or actually, ummmm FOOT book club??). No idea what the future holds, but for now I'm here! And if you're willing to hike in the rain in a mask like a certain co-core head I know, I would certainly love to see you :)



Leah Smith: Hi all! Since graduating I moved to Southern California to work on a horse farm for the winter, but will be headed back home to my family in Baltimore soon. Most of the time I haven't been working has been spent applying to law school to start in the fall of 2021 (hopefully!). I've also been doing lots of hiking, backpacking, and outdoors exploration, and am now very jealous of people who live on the west coast and have gorgeous, Type I fun style hiking weather in the middle of December. It's just not fair.



Ben Weiss (he/him/his) In this day and age, I feel extremely fortunate to be healthy and happy. Like many of my classmates, COVID-19 threw my post-grad plans into chaos. Originally, I was awarded a fellowship to support 9 months of robotics research in Italy, but when the pandemic hit, it became clear that this adventure would have to wait. Following graduation, I stayed in New Haven and worked full time for Havenly Treats, a cafe on a mission to help refugee and immigrant women prosper, uplift their families, and shape their communities. As one of the co-founders, it was an amazing opportunity to dive into the work without having to simultaneously juggle school life. Fortunately, I was able to redirect my fellowship funding to support my next gig: working at the Sweet Water Foundation of Chicago as an Urban Ecology Fellow, developing a sensor system for their greenhouse operation. This unexpected adventure also meant that I got to spend tons of time with my mom, making the most of a strange holiday season. As my fellowship at Sweet Water came to a close, I was hired as a Marine Robotics Engineer at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Cape Cod, MA. Although this journey greatly diverged from “the plan”, I feel so privileged to have landed where I did. Speaking of which, if you are in MA and would like to go for a socially distanced walk, send me an email at bweiss1901@gmail.com! one of seemingly infinite beautiful views that can be found around my new home. →





Chanukah for two with my mom in Chicago.

Eli Swab: Currently working remotely from New Haven—just couldn't bring myself to leave yet. Would love to see anyone who is here. I miss FOOT and all of you!

Lindsay Hogan: Hello to the lovely FOOT community! I've moved to Leeds, England to study climate science. I spend lots of time looking at satellite images of sea-ice, running in the rain, and exploring Yorkshire. If you're ever in the midlands or looking for adventure in the british isles, be in touch!

Charlotte Van Voorhis: After a tumultuous Senior Spring and anti-climatic graduation in her backyard, Charlotte faced post-grad life by curling up in her bed and reading. Like a lot. Some good ones and some bad ones, but hey! That's what not having a Yale course load is for :)

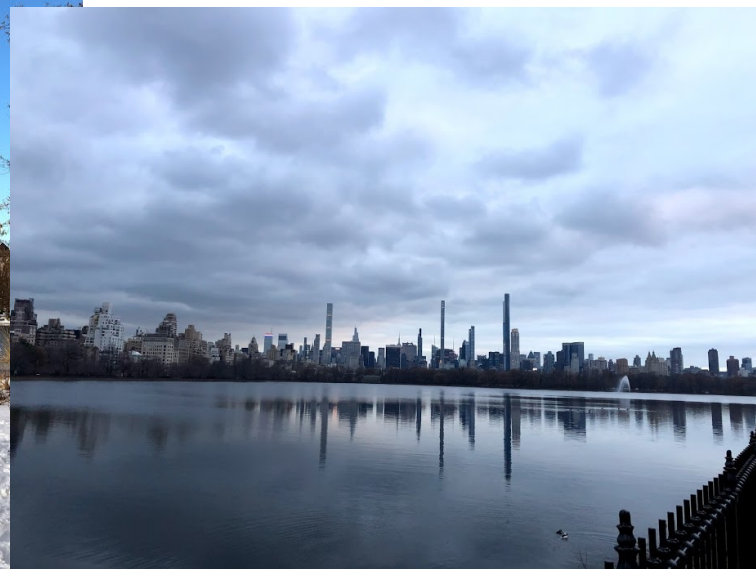
Over the summer she worked for the New Haven Pride Center, which is the wonderful LGBTQ+ Community Center in New Haven. She helped them set up and recruit volunteers for the Pride Center's warmline--a place for residents to call in moments of loneliness, if not crisis.

In the fall, Charlotte moved to Bozeman, Montana and lived with a bunch of family. Out there, she hiked, painted, learned to ride a horse and nannied a new little cousin who was born right at the start of Covid! As the holidays drew closer, she decided to move back home, though, and began a new teaching job.

Currently, she's enjoying life in her own (tiny) New York City apartment in East Harlem, getting more familiar with Central Park and the 6 train. She teaches Language Arts and Math at the Windward School, which enrolls exclusively students with dyslexia and language-based learning disabilities. It's been super interesting for this American Studies major/Linguistics stan to learn more about the neuroscience of reading and the Reading Wars around phonics instruction.

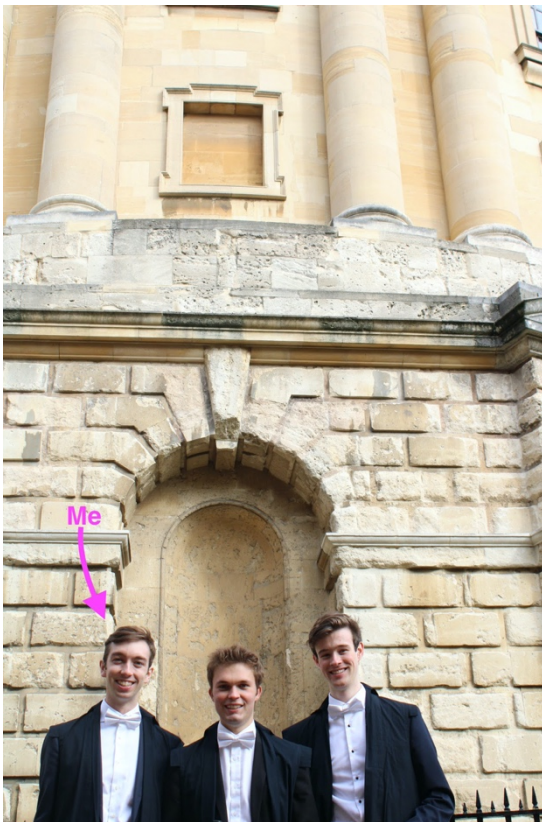
In her spare time, Charlotte still reads a lot and is getting better at cooking, although the bar was pretty low to start with. She misses May Training/her fellow FOOT leaders a lot and is sending lots of Fluv to everyone in the community on or off campus!!!! <3





Andy Ballard: Following a summer of reading and hiking in Maine, I moved to Oxford, England to study English and American literature. The virus has transformed my experience— often for the worse, but sometimes for the better. While staying home during lockdowns, I've grown closer to the English and Scottish students I live with than I'd ever anticipated; I often imagine the days as part of a much longer, far less-outdoorsy FOOT trip! Complete with shares of both Type I and Type II fun :) Highlights of the year have included backpacking in Baxter State Park, ME, spending Christmas in Liverpool, and late night runs through Oxford's century's old streets. Sending fluv!

Matriculation at Oxford, and a view of Mt. Katahdin in Baxter State Park)



And for me, **Cilla**! After Yale shut down last March, Russell and I headed south to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Everything went into lock-down, but we decided to get outdoors as much as possible. So we explored by foot and by car as many small and large towns within a day's drive. The towns were a bit eerie with no people, no cars and everything closed. But we saw great architecture, landscapes, and outdoor historic sites. We even visited many cemeteries which we figured were safe places. Once summer and the heat hit, we went north to Vermont and Martha's Vineyard. Vermont proved to be a very safe place to be last summer, and, of course, we could do a lot of outdoor activities. In September, I had two big procedures. I finally got two new front teeth after losing them in my accident of July 2019 when I fell off the Vineyard roof. And then I got a new hip – my third new joint. I now have 2 new hips and a knee. Yikes! Oddly, I am feeling pretty healthy! I can

hike and bike with no pain. I spent the winter in North Carolina. Now that it's heating up, we will head north again. This has been a challenging year in many ways, and I hope we can all come out of it in decent shape! Much love to all. FLUV, Cilla
(Pix clockwise: Hiking in Hanging Rock, NC; view of the Blue Ridge outside of Charlottesville, VA; at our farm in Washington, VT; at the beach in NC)

