

FOOT Newsletter 2025

Dear FOOT Leader Alums,

It's hard to know where to begin. This has been a turbulent year for many of us and it's not over. The ground is like sand beneath us and is shifting daily. I just hope we will get to the other side of the craziness of our political reality. We also had two FOOT Leaders tragically die this year; Wesley Mittman LePatner, Class of 2003, was among the four people killed when a gunman opened fire in the lobby of a Midtown Manhattan office building last summer. See many tributes to her in her class notes. Adam Michalowski, Class of 2019, drowned while vacationing in Mexico this past March. Both so sad and awful. Tell someone you love them today, as Adam's Poobah Julia Weiner wrote.

However, there still is something positive and good in the world. FOOT is thriving. We now have 220 leaders, 670 freshmen, run 88 trips, and depart in 18 coach buses. It's kinda crazy! But the FOOT magic is still the same. We conducted a survey after last August and Over 90% of respondents rated their experience as "Great" or "Fantastic" with 71% saying "Fantastic." The 2025 Outdoor Orientation Benchmarking Survey conducted by the University of New Hampshire noted that the Yale FOOT program is operating at a level of **national excellence**. "The quantitative metrics clearly position the program as a leader in fostering trust, peer belonging, and leader growth. The qualitative data connects to these strong statistical outcomes. The FOOT team is commended for creating a transition experience that is not only positive but demonstrably effective in building essential social and emotional skills for student success."

It's important during these times, to stay strong with your friendships and people who mean a lot. That's why I keep plugging away at this newsletter and focusing on the FOOT family and the joy the alums share with each other. It is soooo good to hear from you!! Kudos to the Leaders of the Class of '94 who sent in 17 news items! A record. It great to hear from some of the regulars, but also some new reports from leaders who have been quiet for a while. So, here is the news.

Class of 1985, 86, 87

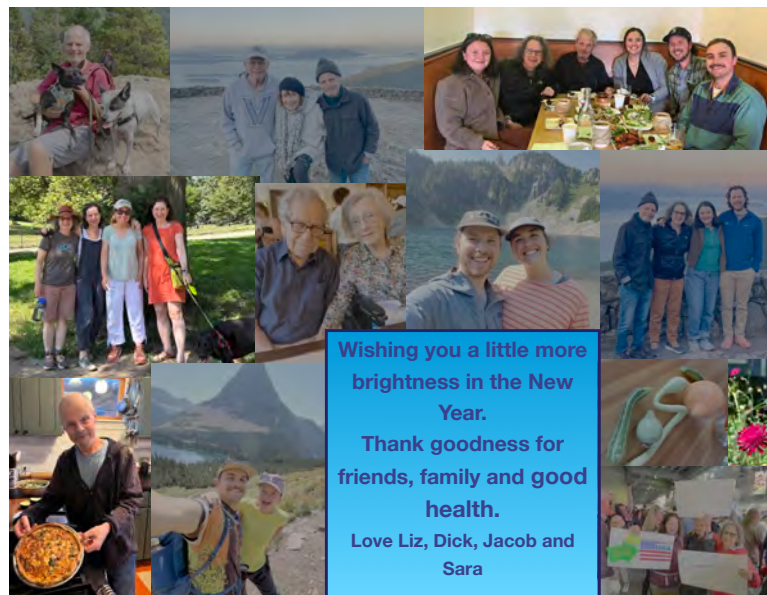
Jamie Williams: one of my favorite moments recently taking my 86-year-old step-mother to a "No Kings" protest. It was her first ever protest (which is saying something and a hopeful sign!) but so fun to see her proudly out there standing up for the values we all care about and enjoying all the signs and chants and collective power. We are loving it on Maine's mid coast (Rockport) and our outdoor life here (when I am home!) and the great community of friends we have built. We walk our husky (Callie) and Great Pyrenees mutt (Bear) up Beech Hill preserve near us every day with its breathtaking views of Penobscot Bay from Acadia National Park to Hurricane Island of Outward Bound fame, to Monhegan Island, our favorite spring birding Mecca and outdoor brewery on lobster traps. I am still working for the World Wildlife Fund helping WWF country programs finance and expand conservation-area networks to protect cool places like the Amazon, the Mayan Forest, the Meso American Reef and some amazing landscapes in Southern Africa. It's a lot of travel but a complete inspiration to work with so many remarkable people! I still bump into FOOT leaders often and in some of the most remote places on earth, and I always love hearing the enthusiasm people have for it and what it meant to them and the lifelong friends they have made! I'm especially grateful for Cilla - 42 years at the center of our spirited FOOT family! Hope you all are well and doing what you can to save this fragile country of ours! If ever there was a time for making our voices heard, this is it! It would be so fun to see you all sometime! Best, Jamie

Eve Vogel: How weird to be the ancient originals, from such a vastly different technological era. I'm still at UMass, a political geographer / political ecologist, working still on the politics and policy and history of river and electric power systems. If folks come through the Pioneer Valley, it would be fun to catch up--you can find me on the UMass website! I had a many-year rough road of (single-by-choice) parenting of a (neurodiverse) kid in a world that isn't great at supporting kids or parents, with stories I can share if there are others interested in community or hearing lessons I learned. And, things are solidly better these days and child is off launching. Now here I am looking up in my early 60s wondering if I finally have the bandwidth to do some of the writing I expected I'd do years earlier in life, or if there's something else I want to do. Not sure yet, and have learned radical acceptance of many things and a bit more living in the moment. Enough of my friends are retiring, it's no longer unimaginable, but I still see some use in keeping the academic hat and post for a bit yet. I'm experimenting with living part time in Cambridge, MA, my home town. I also still get out to Oregon, my other longtime home, most every year. I think backpacking is now beyond me-- even rigorous hiking wears me out; but who knows? my 83-year-old stepmom's aerobics-and-weights class whipped my butt, so maybe I just need to (and can) get back in shape. In horrific political and environmental times, I appreciated the real winter we had in New England this year, and have come sometimes to reflect that everything we love has always been temporary and prone to periodic

catastrophe; perhaps the strangeness was simply that somehow we thought we were immune. Past generations and people in other places endured and fought; we can too. It's so great to hear about all of you who are out protesting the new horrors, and/or working on so many great things. I'll send you all a little FOOT vibe on the next big protest (this Saturday)! Shall we meet up at the Boundary Waters? Hugs, Eve P.S. Beth, how do I get ahold of you? P.P.S. Liz, I'd still love to chat with you about hydro / LIHI etc stuff... this summer? P. P.P.S. Matt, a Geography connection of mine is in Duluth, Afton Clarke-Sather-- say hi if you run into him. P.P.P.P.S. I've had fun running into Paul Jahnige a few times on hydropower / CT River stuff.

Matt Etterson: I'm still at EPA, where it's been an interesting year. The Office of Research and Development, where I worked, was eliminated last year and I ended up in EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. Still doing risk assessment, but much more on the applied side now, rather than the R&D side. I'm winding down my University work. I have 3 graduate students, all of whom will finish this calendar year. They'll be my last. Julie and I are also thinking about retirement and helping ageing parents. My folks passed away years ago, but her Dad is still alive (90) and living independently. Together with her other sibs we're trying to help him continue to do so for as long as possible. Our eldest, Scout, just decided to switch PhD programs from ASU in Phoenix to UC Santa Cruz. They'll move in August, so we'll have another reason to go West. Our youngest is a senior at OSU in Corvallis. I think he plans to stay there after graduating.

Liz Ablow: I'm still in Seattle, still grounded in the same house for more than 30 years. I continue to get great satisfaction in my small yard—growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers, and doing my best to coexist with the local urban wildlife. The squirrels, rabbits, and rats remain unconvinced that patience would leave plenty for everyone, so the ongoing standoff continues. I've also stayed active on the protest circuit, both here in Seattle and beyond—I even made it to NYC for one No Kings protest. This is not a moment to stand on the sidelines. I believe these protests along with many small actions make a difference. On the work front, I'm still with Seattle City Light, where my focus lately has been on relicensing a small hydro project that also supplies water to the city. I have worked on this river for over three decades, and am glad to see it getting the attention it deserves from the City, Tribes, agencies, and NGOs. 2025 was a year shaped by family health challenges—thankfully, all with positive outcomes. My 92-year-old mom successfully underwent a valve-in-valve procedure. Dick had a successful hip replacement and is now back to pickleball, hiking, biking, and even telemark skiing. I faced a health challenge of my own, too, with an early-year diagnosis of breast cancer. Thankfully, it was caught early through a routine mammogram. It's a common, well-understood, and treatable form, and my outlook is very good. I'm sharing this as a reminder to stay on top of your health care. Even with dense breasts, early detection is possible—and it makes all the difference.



Class of 1988

Patrick Whelan: Last summer I walked the 190-mile Coast to Coast Wainwright trek across England through the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales, and the North York Moors with my 32 year-old son. This was the longest hike of my lifetime. I was inspired to walk the Coast to Coast Trail by my college advisor Bill Cronon, who made the same trek with his son about ten years earlier. Several times I told stories to my son of my hiking adventures with FOOT. He and my other son are continuing the outdoors tradition of my family. I am continuing to teach high school history at the same school where I had my first job right out of college. At this point I have no plans of retirement.



Class of 1989

Trex Proffitt: For Beth (also '89) and Trex, 2025 was the year we started Indivisible Lancaster Together and organized marches, rallies, protests, lobbying efforts, and many other similar projects to resist the Trump administration and advance a sane, progressive vision for our society. We just concluded our biggest rally yet in Lancaster with 5,000 participants marching into and rallying in a city park. I tend to be the front man in the MC role, organizing the speakers and performers on stage, while Beth does all the behind the volunteer organizing, comms, and logistics. As with June and October, today we rest...and think of friends like you far and wide. Eddie (22) will graduate from Yale in May. He has had a great time with Purple Crayon and FOOT and countless other campus experiences, one of which may have been some academic course of study or other. Lauren (24) has been traveling the country from one gig to the next, working alternatively at a folk school in Wisconsin and a glass school in Washington State. We have Lauren in town with us for two more weeks before she returns to the glass school in Washington. Last year, a generous benefactor sent us to Japan for a vacation and this June, my mom is treating us all to a visit to Japan and our childhood home, Okinawa. We are indeed fortunate to have her visit so often in between her various travels as she lands on 80 years old this year. FOOT Hugs, Trex



Ben Sayler and Betsy Sayler '90: Betsy and I continue to enjoy life in South Dakota. We get outdoors a lot — plenty of hiking and long walks and occasional backpacking trips. We also do a fair amount of skiing, both alpine and cross country — though our snow was marginal at best this year. Betsy's medical practice continues to be rewarding. The horrendousness in DC is impacting my work in STEM education, which is heavily reliant on federal grants. Hoping weather the storm. Doing what I can to limit the damage. Wishing everyone well!! Ben



Greg Felt: Hello All – A quick update from Colorado. I finished eight years as Chaffee County Commissioner about 15 months ago and transitioned into running the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District. We cover about 3000 square miles of Colorado and provide both advocacy and raw water supply/well augmentation. It's the driest year of the "modern" era in Colorado – a lot on my plate at the moment! I've also recently finished six years as the Arkansas River Basin director on the Colorado Water Conservation Board and I am also a director for another conservancy district that manages a major trans-mountain diversion bringing Colorado River water to eastern Colorado. As has been the case since FOOT days, my career continues to revolve around rivers and water. And yes, I am still part owner of ArkAnglers, the largest guide service and fly-fishing retail operation in the basin. I don't guide much these days; there isn't enough time! My family is doing well. Susan and I celebrated 35 years last fall and still live in Salida. Our son, Rowen, got married at our place last summer (he and Rachel live in Oakland, he is a software engineer). Daughter Kestrel lives 4 miles down the road and works with Susan in her home design business. Kes is in a long-term committed relationship but we love the fact that we see her every day! It's a crazy world these days. I put a lot of effort into educating our congressional delegation on water issues (as well as educating state officials too) and working on local support for recreation management, wildfire mitigation, and supporting agriculture and working lands. A lot of challenges but we all take inspiration from our remarkable landscape. We also grow and hunt a lot of our food so there is grounding and inspiration to be found there too. I was interviewed a while back for a FOOT retrospective and was absolutely floored by the extent to which it has grown and become an institution at Yale. We should all be proud to have been there at the beginning. Peace and perspective to all of you! Greg Felt 719-530-1118

Paul Jahnige and Sally Loomis '89: Reporting from Western Mass! All good here in our little bubble, and working to stay positive, but also active. We are still getting our Outdoorphins whenever we can, and working to weave the social fabric. Did some great xc skiing this year, and my goal for the next few is to practice to learn to like to swim. (Sally's already quite good at that). Kids are thriving. Sage (29) will graduate in the spring in Food Policy. Sierra (28) is working in San Fran, and Skye (19) is rocking UC Santa Cruz, as a budding marine ecologist. Can't wait to connect with any and all of you soon. Give a shout when you are about in W Mass. Love to All, Paul



Ann Vileisis: Dear FOOT friends, Tim and I send greetings from Oregon's South Coast! It's good to hear your news. Here's ours: I am leaning into the work of being mayor in my small town while also continuing my role as a conservation leader in our region. Mayor work means lining up funds for essential water infrastructure and public safety, and a lot more --trying to make local government work well. Conservation work is also multi-faceted but still includes fending off mining in the headwaters of our region's remarkable wild rivers --from the Elk to the Smith--especially now with the big push for extraction from our public lands. Tim is still writing books on conservation topics, with two in the pipeline--and helping me in countless ways, given my way-too-busy schedule. With all the work, we are finding it harder to get away for long trips, but there are a lot of good things to do close at hand. Last summer, we had fun rafting down the Klamath River, including a reach where a big dam was recently removed. And we're striving to be better weekend-warriors (for sanity and fitness sake): here we are hiking in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in this weekend (mid-April 2026). Our FOOT highlight of the past year was a second visit from



Lauren Proffitt who reminds us of her mom and dad (Beth and Trex). If anyone makes it to the Oregon coast, we'd LOVE to see you. Peace, love, and big FOOT HUGS!! Ann P.O. Box 1286 Port Orford, OR 97465. 541-332-0261 www.annvileisis.com



Class of 1990

Stewart Moritz: Maura and I did the Tour du Mont Blanc this past summer (2025) and are going to hike in the Cairngorms and on Skye in Scotland this June. Three 20-mile MammothMarches coming up, as well. Trying to hold off on getting my ankle replaced (which, sadly, I must) for as long as possible. Our "little one," Grace is finishing up at UChicago this term, and Claire lives out in Joshua Tree. Maura has me rebuilding a 1972 Airstream from the ground up, so we will be doing some travelling and "camping" (ha!) in a couple of years when she retires. All the best to everyone!

Eve Porter-Zuckerman: In my 2025, my kids had a great winter of skiing! Ursula (10) picked up cross-country skate-skiing with fervor, and Thomas (12) made major progress in downhill. In this photo, they both showed off their skate-skiing to my dad ('55) on a visit. Ursula wears her Yale sweatshirt, picked up at our 35th this past May, ALL the time... Aside from hiking and boating and the rest here in NH, they both go to nearly all-summer camps in Maine (Arcadia and Birch Rock) where they do all manner of wonderful outdoor activities. Now that they are older, our discussions of the news, alas, have grown more lively; we've enjoyed the camaraderie at No Kings rallies, and find as many ways as possible to celebrate active learning and work for kindness. My husband's been serving on our local school board for 10 years now, and I'm on our local library board. Consulting and teaching from home these past few years, I work with some really nice people enabled software having a wide range of skills to groups, and grad students. Walks in essential outlet for experiencing.



(whose height I know not) on AI-projects... and am grateful for opportunities teaching conversation how to work with data and AI to the woods with our dogs remain an processing this world we are all

Class of 1991

Baker Mallory: The Mallorys had a great 2025 with our two high school juniors and a senior. Lots of college applications, SATs, sports commitments and term papers kept everyone super busy (and hopefully not too stressed out.) A few sports injuries on top of it all would make me classify it as a rebuilding year. My oldest, Gus, is into college, but I won't fully believe it until he actually starts this fall. My middle boy, Brad, did get 'committed' to college in September through lacrosse and he's thrilled about his opportunity. Rose is preparing herself for application this fall... Yale is right there at the top of her list! 🍷 Jody and I had a fantastic belated 20th anniversary ski trip to Jackson, WY back in February. It was heavenly to take a looong vacation. I'm heading to our reunion this May and look forward to running into our old gang. Best Wishes everyone, Baker

Chris Roberts: Here is our annual update.

Last summer Martha (20) swore to speak nothing but Arabic at Middlebury's program in Vermont. Thankfully she was allowed to go to Mass in English. Now she's back from three months studying in Rabat, Morocco. Ruth (17) is in her last year at Martin Saints. She has applied to colleges and is waiting to make a final decision in the spring. She's also contemplating a gap year. Ruth gives her all to everything she's involved in, waking mom up with cookie making for school events at 12:30am (sigh!), head sacristan and teen ministry leader at our parish, and attempting to sew her prom dress. Sarah (almost 15) ended eight years of homeschooling with a field trip, with mom and Button, to Colonial Williamsburg. We especially loved the artisans, including the wheelwright, one of the only wheelwrights in the world. Then September came around and Sarah started ninth grade at Martin Saints. Button/Miriam (11) is in fifth grade and homeschools



with mom. We studied *Tom Sawyer* last fall and now the kids all speak to each other in Southern accents. Mom and Button took another field trip to Rabat in December where we stayed two doors down from Martha. We experienced Moroccan hospitality with delicious meals of couscous from a communal bowl with spoons or hands. Chris' hard work at Martin Saints continues to bear fruit. The school is flourishing in its new location and the staff and faculty are building a magnanimous, orthodox culture. See www.martinsaintsclassical.org/newsletters for his homilies and comments on school life. Chris also trained as a National Canoe Safety Patrol member, learning to rescue people in trouble on the Upper Delaware River.

With lots of love, Chris



With Cilla on the Old Campus!



Karen O'Brien: Was at a Y91 reunion in Puerto Rico this weekend, and **Betsy Jubitz** was there! We were thinking and reminiscing about FOOT. Hope all is well! Xo ox

(Karen's son is currently a FOOT Leader!)



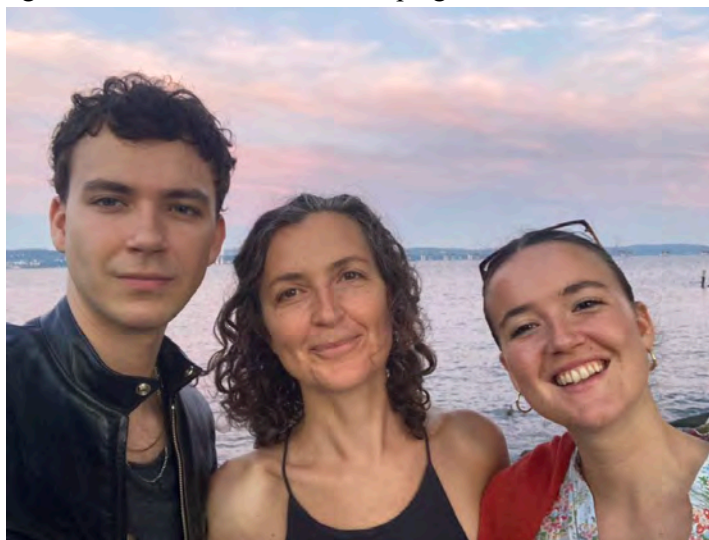
Class of 1992

From Peter Ackerman: I'm living in New York, writing tv shows and plays. My wife and I have one son who graduated college last year and is interested in writing, directing, and performing (he's hiking in the Adirondacks as I write this, not far from where my Freshman FOOT group, led by Eric Steadman & Jeanette DeMalley, hiked in 1988), and another who's a junior in college.

From Dave Goetsch: Hey folks! Here's my 13 year old Cooper after discovering my t-shirt library (too old and threadbare to wear but too sentimental to donate). If you're in LA, reach out and we can hike to the Wisdom Tree and over to the back of the Hollywood Sign. (From Cilla: amazingly, I can remember David's interview for being a leader. We asked folks how they would describe Yale and Dave gave this incredible monologue of all the sights and shops on York Street.)

Louisa Castrodale: Yay, so great to hear from and about everyone! I'm still in AK with family, although a week away from our youngest graduating HS! I hang out with Laura Grant a few times a year traveling on the west coast. Appreciate feeling positive vibes of community from kindred spirits, thanks Sylke!!! Love to all!!

Sylke Jackson: Sylke Jackson is running for office! She will be on the ballot for Democrats and the Working Families Party for Clarkstown Town Council in NY and wants to bring transparency, integrity, and sustainability to her local government. Check out her campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



Cesca McInerney: I live in Adelaide Australia with my Aussie husband and 15 year old son. We recently had a wonderful trip to Japan with some friends. I'll include a photo from that trip that illustrates that I am now the shortest in my family. I have had some professional ups and downs that have taken me away from palaeoclimate research and university teaching and I now work on agriculture research at CSIRO. I used to measure fossils and now I measure farm animals. Sheep's wool, mostly. Hope you are all well and please share some pics of you and your people! I, for one, would love to see them.
(photo in Japan)



Jake Bowers: Mari is finishing year 1 at Vassar. She was in charge of the family holiday e-card and decided to summarize last year with photos of Cara and I eating. Cosmo (16) has advanced from "I'm good" to "Today they asked me to do something boring". Cara and I are still in Urbana, IL where driving tests ask you to pretend that you are parking facing uphill.



**Bowers-Wongs 2026
Year of the Horse 馬**



Class of 1993

Jessica Plumb: 2025 felt a split screen year: crazy in our country, yet productive and compelling on the home front. It's been a time of big transitions, as our daughter took an amazing gap year then started college on the other side of the country. She went trekking in the Andes, then chose to spend half the year working with me on a new documentary project about Northern temperate rainforests. It's been such a joy to share this journey with her, a memorable way to launch our next chapter. Zia became a certified drone pilot in three countries, and her photography is woven throughout the website for my latest project, <https://www.rootsofresiliencefilm.com>.

While she was away on her adventures, I completed a two-year journey; a trilogy of films about Southern resident orcas and the Chinook salmon they depend on, both iconic species of the Pacific Northwest. These stories explored indigenous knowledge and science solutions from both sides of the Salish Sea. None of us imagined how quickly the US / Canada relationship would deteriorate in 2025, and this project became an unexpected rallying cry for cross-border ecological efforts. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work on meaningful [stories](#) in our region and beyond, for a life shaped by creative freedom and abundant wilderness, in a passionately progressive rural area. (Yes, they exist!) These are wild times, and I wish my fellow Footies well, wherever this finds you. We're always up for a good hike if you're in the area. :)

filming in southeast Alaska



About to send Zia off on her own FOOT adventure (!) from the University of Vermont honors college.



Home again



(Here's an interesting footnote about Jessica. We (Cilla & Jessica) met up by chance on a shuttle bus from Falmouth to Woods Hole, Massachusetts that took us to the Martha's Vineyard Ferry. Years ago.)

Ashley West: Typically I have only been touching base every 3-5 years or so, because my life as a professor at Temple University-The Tyler School of Art & Architecture has meant that I spend far too many hours on my tail at my desk looking at screens, whether it's to prepare for classes or to do my own research and writing. (I teach the history of printmaking and early modern art of Northern Europe, c. 1450-1700, especially outward facing to the rest of the world.) I've become far too much of a bookworm rather than a wild creature of the outdoors, as I used to be! Having said that, I



see a potential salve for the spirit during these horrific crazy times in a return to nature, even if just with a walk in the Wissahickon, some longer strolls with the dogs for some fresh air just around the neighborhood. So I've been trying to keep it simpler than usual to maintain energy for survival and community, and for creating some 'good trouble,' as John Lewis so aptly put it.

Attached is a photo of me with our dear dog Henry, who passed away last year. He was my buddy and wingman, by my side whether I was working late at night at my desk or taking a study break with one of those lovely walks.

Burch and Rachelle (Lyons) LaPrade: We continue to love life in rural Connecticut - partly because it has us closer to the four kids and partly for the hiking and outdoor lifestyle. Burch walks to his home office in the original barn on the property (outfitted with a wood burning stove) as he continues to run Gain Compliance. I have a longer commute, through rolling hills and along and over rivers to Millbrook Equine, where I work part-time. We hike daily with our dogs on our own property and often with friends on nearby trails. We recently completed a guest house for grown children and friends - come visit! Our oldest Abbott is in his second year of law school at Harvard and our second son Forrest will start law school this fall after a year in Cambridge, UK completing a Master's degree. This past year brought lots of car trips to Brunswick, Maine where Beckett is a senior and Kendrick a freshman at Bowdoin. We have made as many regattas (crew for Beckett), soccer, and ice hockey games (for Kendrick) as possible. Attached is a photo of us toasting on Christmas Eve 2024 in Obergurgl Austria and then celebrating Kendrick's high school graduation in May 2025.



Class of 1994

Jay Ready, Morse: I am loving these updates...thank you all for responding. I live in the South Suburbs of Chicago where I am working to broaden a legal practice after having been a somewhat reluctant lawyer for 20+ years putting more energy into entrepreneurship in civil rights and community development. Conflicts in business, politics, nonprofits and life have come to find me, and I have belatedly discovered the importance of the full range of legal tools. The FOOT-like joy that has been keeping me sane is a niche brand of long-distance cycling called Randonneuring, which loosely translated from the French means “rambling on a bike.” The centerpiece is the 1200KM Paris-Brest-Paris, held every four years and dating back to 1891, the oldest organized bicycle event in the world. In 2023 I narrowly missed finishing with some epic mishaps (fun interview here: <https://youtu.be/apXYPLQWc0s>), and I have been obsessed with getting back in 2027. As a pre-qualifier this June, I will be riding Cleveland-Cincinnati-Cleveland in my beloved home state of Ohio - but then I'm getting more excited as we get all these New England updates for a second 1000K ride in late September called “New England 6-Pack,” in a cloverleaf from a base camp in Manchester, NH that will touch all six New England States over the course of 75 hours. I also continue to be involved in a Chicago thru-hike vision (www.outerbelt.org), now supported with a “Harvey Conservation Corps” AmeriCorps program based in my wife Lisa's hometown of Harvey, Illinois. Our son Chad is in grad school in NYC for data science. And if you're a clean-energy fan and come visit Chicago, please join me for a tour of www.greenerachicago.com, an ingenious Bio-Digester and job creator that generates compost and renewable natural gas from food waste, and where I am a board member and general counsel. Cheers, Jay

Jen Pett-Ridge, Morse: It is so good to hear you are all thriving. I'm in Berkeley, as ever, and it's spring and we finally got a rooftop solar system that is bringing me joy. But it has been....a year. The evisceration of science funding has been gutting--at all the places I work (Lawrence Livermore lab, UC Merced, UC Berkeley). Tenured faculty are being let go at my husband's university. My Chinese national postdocs are no longer allowed to come onsite. I study soils and microorganisms and climate change and CO2 removal, and all of that has been abandoned, with the assumption that we can just pivot to AI and 'energy dominance'. So to try and keep my job, I'm pitching projects aimed mainly at California--which has many issues to solve (food, water, energy, jobs, housing)--and at least some enthusiasm. The kids are great--our eldest (my step daughter) is finishing her PhD in June, and managing to be the best mom ever to our 2.5yr old grandson. Ellie is a sophomore at Wesleyan doing neurobio and music and teaching herself to play jazz guitar. Tess is a high school junior and thinks architecture or graphic design are kinda-sorta cool, but AP Bio is definitely NOT! (to her mother's chagrin). But she loves being outside and is going to hike the last section (100-mile wilderness) of the AT this summer and end at the top of Mt Katahdin. My peak-bagging days are behind me, but I'm beyond thrilled that she's picking up that thread... Sending hugs to you all, JP

Elizabeth Murdock, Pierson: For my part: I am still living in San Francisco with my husband, Paul, our younger daughter (Pia, 10th grade), and our fantastic dog, Lorelei (photo below). Our older daughter (Zoë) is a first year at Wellesley and loving it. We miss her a ton but are thrilled she's happy—and glad to have excuses to visit her on the East Coast. I am currently taking an extended “sabbatical” from my environmental advocacy career to work on a novel—a wildlife conservation thriller! This is a passion project of mine, inspired by my work, and it has been challenging, rewarding, and lots of fun. The novel is coming along fine, but, sadly, I am no Lee Child (who apparently churns out one best-selling novel per year)—so no need to hold space on your calendars for the book tour yet. You have time. ;-) I do a little “real work” on the side and am on two boards—one wildlife group, one arts organization. My husband retired last year (consulting now), so we are definitely thinking about what the post-kids phase will look like. On top of all that, we have been dealing with the reality of aging parents, which has been stressful and, at times, heart-breaking. It forces me to think about how short life really is. I am so grateful for so many things in this world—including getting to be a part of this wonderful group of people. And I am regularly grateful for the stunning natural beauty all around us here in SF. (Bay Area FOOTies, we need to get together for a hike in 2026!)

Heidi Ellis, Trumbull: I'm living just outside of Boston on our little family farm where our miniature cows help us take ourselves less seriously. Our oldest, Eva, is at Bates (and will be a leader this fall in their version of FOOT), Ceci, a high school junior, just returned from a semester at the High Mountain Institute in Colorado where she spent weeks at a time backpacking in the Rockies, and Jack--age 11--spends most of his time coding video games and humbling me as a parent by refusing to follow any of the standard 'how to be a child' playbooks. I'm still working at Boston Children's Hospital/HMS as a psychology researcher in the area of trauma, increasingly focusing my work on trying to understand and prevent hate-motivated violence. Unfortunately, this work has gotten harder over the past year and a half both because of the increase in hate, violent extremism, and dark online spaces that kids (and adults) have access to, AND the fact all of my federal grants to do this work were cancelled by the current

administration. (To quote one of my cancellation notices--'Violence prevention is no longer a priority"). My antidote to all of this is to spend more time skiing and hiking in Maine, playing with our new puppy Ziggy, and reading fiction to see if that helps me make sense of this world. So glad to be in touch with you all. Heidi

Carrie Patterson (Calhoun) Hopper: Love hearing about all of you. I'm still a publisher and artist in Northeast Los Angeles. My life is a gluten-free layer cake of optimism with a deeply cynical layer and a daily moving meditation practice (plus dairy-free fondant). I enjoy birdsong and casual birding wherever I am (recently, an owl pellet in my parkway!), volunteering in the bonsai nursery at The Huntington gardens, walking and running under treed canopies and on rocky or sandy trails, mountain biking within view of the ocean sunsets, occasional skiing when there is enough snow in Colorado (!), and etc. Married no kids but many pets have graced our lives. Use sunscreen and take care of your neighbors and family. Life is short, so be generous and make the most of it!

Esther Parish, JE: I'm still living in East Tennessee surrounded by beautiful lakes and mountains, but also by many staunchly red folks. I am thrilled to work with scientists from across the world at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where my applied research projects are primarily focused on bioenergy and hydropower. My two kids are both adults now (gulp!). My son Levi graduated last May from the University of Alabama, where he used his full-ride National Merit Scholarship to earn dual degrees in Civil Engineering and International Relations with a minor in Arabic. After spending four school years and summers away, he surprised my husband Brad and me by moving back home. He has been adjusting to the slower pace of working for a nearby city's Public Works Department while trying to figure out what he'd like to do for his next adventure. My daughter Avery is living her best life as a junior at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. She is majoring in psychology and plans to become a therapist. I still love to travel and finally fulfilled my lifelong dream of sailing down the Nile and visiting the Great Pyramids last fall. I'm hoping to make it to New Zealand this coming November with a friend who grew up there. Please reach out if you are ever nearby in the Great Smoky Mountains!

Jason Soll ES: I am living in Berkeley. I have a 13 year old son who I enjoy very much. He's taller than I am now and still sprouting up. His growth is kinda amazing, and I am captivated to see what's around the corner as he continues to unfold into himself. He's excited about high school next year which is heartening because it's an intimidating urban school of 3,200 with security officers in every building.

I was dying for my father to spend time with me and teach me things, so of course I have a son who has no interest in either. I'd take him backpacking, do scuba trips, backcountry skiing and teach him to use tools to fix and build sh*t. But maybe long after I have stopped caring we'll share some kind of mentoring relationship. They absorb us no matter what- I just wish I could have more conscious impact on the process!

I am happily divorced- happy that the divorce process is over and happy to be starting over 20 years, wiser and more content with myself. The marriage wasn't so bad, but having our son was most of what was keeping us together. As I am sure that many of you know, it's hard to change deep patterns and refresh the relationship, and my ex and I didn't both want to try which is all for the best.

I am currently managing a large addition to my tiny home, so my new sweetheart and her daughter can move in. It's really fun to build for myself because I have spent my career building for others, most of that time at an Oakland company that makes architecturally designed custom homes, remodels and cabinets.

My work is always novel and never boring, but the best part is the collaboration with coworkers, subcontractors and designers. That said, there's now always somebody retiring or about to which is bittersweet. And I am amazed that some of you are retiring. Well done! Divorce depleted my 401k and Employee stock and I have a second loan on the house, so I am starting over at 54, and it seems like I'll be working to 75+! But at least work is low stress with great collaborators and the days pass quickly.

Speaking of passing, as some of you noted, we're in the era of aging parents, which is quite a trip. I know it's happening to all of us at the same time. My mother is in her last stage of cancer, others of her generation are slowing down or departed. From what I hear the end is often due or even overdue- and a relief as much as grief. Wow! I am trying to get my head around how time keeps marching along. I feel still young and surprisingly old at the same time.

In the last week I saw **Perry de Valpine '93**, **Rebecca Whitney '95** and Kate McGlashen '93 (nee McNicholls) and spoke with Scott McGlashen '93, and I hear **Matt Eddy '93** will be in town next week. (I think only Perry and Rebecca were Foot leaders...) It's good to be connected!

Scott Walsh, Davenport: Oh, my heart. So great to read your updates. I've "retired" after 30 years of fighting the good fight in sustainability, now coaching rowing full time, San Diego State University in the mornings, San Diego Rowing Club middle schoolers in the afternoon, and a brief nap in between if I'm lucky. I love it so much. San Diego is awesome. We're empty nesters now, so we have spare bedrooms. Come visit. It's awesome here. Cheers, Scott

Mark Barnett, Trumbull: I love all these updates and there's so much that you've all written that makes me want to hear more. Hopefully soon! For now quickly, since I'm late to the party, I'm still living in the Boston area (Brookline) with my wife **Katherine (Gergen Barnett)** - class of '96 and also a FOOT leader as many of you know) as we have been for 20+ years and where we've raised out three kiddos and have a wonderful community.

Our oldest Gabriel is a junior at Tulane (Anne - very curious if he and your daughter have crossed paths) studying Economics and loving it. Can't say that the outdoors are a huge part of his life these days, but he did do a NOLS semester and then three months on a commercial fishing vessel in AK during his gap year so it's in there somewhere :). He'll be in NYC this summer doing clean energy finance and definitely seems drawn to the big apple. Amira is a senior in high school and will be staying local next year at Tufts, which we're all thrilled about. And our youngest Hannah is in 7th grade and passionate about many things but lately musical theater and downhill skiing appear to top the list.

As for me, I continue to run an Energy & Climate Solutions practice that I started here at a Boston-based law firm, so my work has also been affected in various ways by the current regime (our offshore wind clients for example seem to be center of the bullseye for the Trump administration). But I take solace in the incredible perseverance and resilience of the sector and still get to support incredible technologies and projects being developed everyday.

Echoing Elizabeth and Jason and others though, we definitely reflect often on the preciousness of these few turns we all get around the sun. We lost Katherine's dad last summer and more recently my dad has been struggling with some very serious health challenges, but we are very grateful for the time we've had with our elder loved ones and try to appreciate those around us every day.

We do get up to the mountains a lot though - for skiing and hiking and just being - and I feel very grateful for that, as well as for the simple natural beauty of dog walks in the morning mist and sunsets over the river, and for all of you. Here's wishing a Happy Passover and an early Happy Easter to all of these celebrating, and sending hugs to all! - Mark

Julie Püttgen, TD: Oh, my goodness! Many of us '94's are about to turn 1/2 of 108 - which means a good distance towards a complete set of experiences, a collection of possibilities both glimpsed and fully lived out. Timothy and I will celebrate our 20th anniversary in July - after much tumult it is wonderful to settle into real allyship with one another. I'm still in private practice as a somatic & expressive arts therapist in NH, also offering collaborative workshops that incorporate dance and family / systems constellations. Locally, I'm involved in community land-rewilding and stewardship efforts that bring much joy. This May I'm continuing my pilgrimage on the Camino in France & if all goes well, I'll wind up on the Basque border where I started this adventure at 19. Turns out FOOT was right: we're built to meet life and land at a walking pace. With every good wish, Julie

Charlie Hale BR: We're still living in NYC. We have Julia and Charles, both 17, and William, 8. William is the reincarnation of Chris Farley and is in perpetual trouble at Dalton for hilarious outbursts that the teachers do not appreciate. Julia is gunning for Yale and will be a great candidate. Charles is working on building Skynet -- an AI with a consciousness -- in a low-level programming language. College is a bit tougher for him because he's wildly dyslexic and dysgraphic and wants both business and tech. 2 years ago, he wrote a program that passed Yale online courses without human intervention, which was pretty funny. We spend a lot of time in upstate NY with log splitters and machinery. Come and visit if you're around Dutchess County -- we have a great guest house. While I continue to publish Patch and dive into distressed situations in tech, my open-source 30-year survey on what great leaders do differently from the worst has become an amazing coaching and hiring guide. I'm an internship factory for kids and happy to help. Missing you all and FOOT. ❤️❤️ C 6178182222

Jen Weyburn, Pierson: I've been living in NYC for 7 years, having returned after 15 years away (Atlanta, Shanghai, Copenhagen). I'm loving running Packer, a pK-12th grade independent school in Brooklyn Heights. Though most of my administrative work is with adults, I try to spend as much direct time with students as I can. A recent highlight was chaperoning a trip to Martinique with our 11th graders.

It is a wonderful periodic treat to see Marty and Pippa Hale!

I get my outdoors fix in the urban wilds of Brooklyn Bridge Park - cold bright windy mornings are the best. My husband Garrett and I are on the verge of empty-nesting. Will is an undergrad at U Chicago, where he is loving philosophy and econ. Eddie will head to Williams in the fall (Garrett's alma mater) and is relishing the wilderness there. We are excited to spend time in the Berkshires ourselves.

I am enjoying getting to New Haven several times a year now, serving on the board of the Yale-China Association. Now celebrating its 125th anniversary, its people-to-people work in education, health, and the arts, remains more vital than ever. All best wishes to everyone, Jen

(A footnote about Jen from Cilla: I attended Packer in Brooklyn Heights for the 7th and 8th grades! Lived right behind the school on Livingston Street. Jen also arranged a trip to China for me when she was at the Yale-China Association. Many thanks for that!!)

Kathy Guarini, Morse: Hello to everyone from Westchester, NY! I'm loving the post-corporate life -- having left IBM in 2023 after 24 years there in various leadership roles. Since then I've been teaching (at Yale and Cornell Tech), serving on boards, speaking, writing, etc. -- an eclectic mix of activities that keep things interesting and fun. It's been a joy to be back in New Haven interacting with both undergraduates (my engineering class is called "Disruptive Technologies and Responsible Innovation") and graduate students (my SOM class is "Crisis Management in Tech"). I'm (still!) married to fellow Y94er Michael Guarini (26 years and counting), who is a social studies teacher. Our 3 kids are terrific. Our oldest just started her first full-time job as a middle school math teacher in the South Bronx; she's living in Manhattan with some friends from college. Our middle is a junior at the University of Delaware, super involved in student theater, which gives us lots of excuses to visit to see shows he acts in, directs, or writes. Our youngest is a high school sophomore involved in every activity under the sun -- and we do our best to keep up with him. Very few outdoorsy updates to report...other than the occasional Scouts camping trip that we reluctantly join. =) Wishing everyone well! Kathy

Martin Hale, JE: I've loved reading all the news from our class. I am still living in Brooklyn Heights with my Australian wife, Pippa, and two boys Gus and Martin who are eight and six, respectively. They are still at the age where there are lots of giggles and some tears, all of which are great fun. A photo from tonight in Puerto Rico of the 6 year old is attached. I am still investing in little companies quite a few of which sell into to the government. The decimation of our research labs remains alarming as JP noted. Fondly, Marty

Anne Weil Morse: Hey guys! So much fun to hear all the updates!! Things here in Denver, CO are going well. Hard to believe I've been here for 10 years now! My hiking and mountain time has really slowed down due to a painful hip, hip reconstruction, and then a bad recovery. Sigh. But, I'm practicing in patience for ongoing improvement in the coming year! My kids are all great - I have two graduating this year, one from UChicago in Econ, currently on a job hunt. And, my middle guy is graduating from Wash U in St. Louis, aiming for an English PhD. Finally, my daughter is a sophomore at Tulane and heading abroad to Scotland and Australia next year. Sandy and I are taking advantage of our "Free Bird" years to travel more. We're heading to Spain for the month of April to try Digital Nomad life. Our plan is to sight-see in the morning and work all afternoon/evening. Wish us luck! Things at my company, Flax & Twine, have grown enough to allow this kind of physical departure for me, which is exciting. It's so thrilling to grow a company from a hobby blog all the way to a 7 figure business! I have such a great team. I adore spreading the love of making and all things handmade around the country. Lots of love from CO, Anne

Ted Deinard, Trumbull: Hi All! I live in Greenwich, CT and work for my in-laws' private equity business where I've been for 18 years. My daughter is 23 and living at home with my wife Jen and me working her first job out of college in wealth management. My son is 21 and a Junior at Penn.

The joy of my life is the Christian community I have found here at Stanwich Church (<https://stanwichchurch.org/>) and in facilitating Alpha Courses (<https://alphausa.org/>). If anyone is curious about faith, I'd be delighted to chat!

Meg Wickwire, BR: I'm still living in Concord, MA, on the brink of a move a few miles away but still loving this area. I'm tutoring full time, veering increasingly toward support for students struggling with anxiety and/or neurodiverse minds, homeschoolers, and the writing aspect of college application work. I'm starting to educate myself more about AI, too, as the implications for education seem fantastic and horrifying in equal measure. Bill is retired, managing his increasingly difficult Parkinson's symptoms with grace and good humor. He's amazing. My son is a freshman at Haverford this year, and in addition to some more academic strengths, the place seems to have a wonderful sense of humor to it. It reminds me a great deal of what I encountered on that first FOOT day and throughout my Yale years; smart kids refusing to take themselves too seriously. (Y94 really did have the best sense of play, didn't it? And FOOT even more so. Or maybe *we* inspired that in our whole class?) I'm feeling truly grateful that Penn landed in a wonderful place, and I'm reveling in his stories and adventures, though still missing him keenly at times. Such is this ever-evolving parenting gig!

Class of 1995

Ben Linas: My life is happy, but not so exciting. I am a Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at BU and an Infectious Diseases doctor. Arguably, I am a failed foot leader, because I took my family backpacking last summer and it was kinda a disaster. To be fair, it **POURED**. Like, I have never camped in that much rain. Thankfully, we had a tent! Also, the tent

was a little bit bigger than the platform, which was a savior because the water that came into the tent ran down into the gutter that was created by the corner of the tent that hung down off of the platform. So, we were surrounded by a moat of water in the tent, but our bags were dry(ish). Two of my daughters loved it and want to go again. I ruined camping forever for the third daughter ___

Abby has the cool news. She released a new film this month....

Class of 1996

Katie Brandi: don't know if I have ever written in to the FOOT notes, but I always love reading them and hearing all the interesting things people are doing. I am a psychoanalyst/psychotherapist in private practice in NYC. I don't get to the woods as much as I would like, though I did go hiking in the Dolomites last summer and sometimes dabble in hiking in the Berkshires. I have two girls: 11-year-old Nell and 19-year-old Lucy. Lucy is a freshman at Yale and had the greatest time ever on her FOOT trip. It's March now, and I am not sure she has gone a day without a meal or a chat with one of her FOOT friends. It was truly magic. All the more bonding due to the bear that wandered into their campsite and ate their food: she described the experience as scary enough to make a good story, but not so scary as to be traumatizing and turn her off camping forever. In fact, she just got the great news that she is going to be a FOOT leader next fall. I feel old. I am so thrilled that FOOT is still thriving, as is the ever-impressive Cilla! I hope to see some of you at the 30th reunion this May. xx Katie

Josh Cott: It's been a very long time...I don't think I've ever sent in an update! Our son Noah is now a first year at Yale and had a terrific FOOT experience and wants to be a FOOT Leader (*he is!*) so it has been very much on my mind. Noah has celiac disease (has to be strictly gluten free) so sending him off on group adventures is always a bit anxiety provoking. We were excited to learn FOOT has gluten free trips now, but had no idea how amazing it would be: for the first time in his life he was surrounded by other kids with celiac! Many of them are now his best friends at Yale. Having that community to start off with has been a tremendous blessing for him well beyond the usual joys of FOOT. We can't say thank you enough for giving him that opportunity! I have lived for many years in Ashland, Oregon with my wife Caraway

and our two kids. I didn't do much backpacking when the kids were smaller but in the last 5 years they've gotten more independent and I've discovered the joys of ultralight backpacking--it makes me feel young again to carry only 20 pounds on my back and sleep under a tarp! Attached are a few photos of me (in the greyish shirt) with my cousin **Becca Falik** and her husband **Matt Pasternak**, both FOOT leaders who graduated in the early 2000s. In the one photo we are doing a mediocre job of spelling out FOOT with our hands (should have gone with the full body approach--next time!). August in the Sierras--can't beat it! Here's a rare pic (these days) of our kids together (in front of Connecticut Hall, no less!).



Ivan Kerbel: caught me in mid-browse and daydreaming of first / future trips to the High Sierras (Kearsarge Pass, Rae Lakes) with my own sprockets,

Wallace and Beatrice (aged 10 and 8). ...



Class of 1998

From the Class Agent:

FOOT 1998: Peri-50 this year... Deadline: March 20

Instructions Please complete your section below by:

1. Write your update responding to one or any of the prompts (1000-1500 words- joke!)
2. Insert a photo: Set width to 3 inches (this keeps all photos uniform)
3. !BONUS! Submit a photo from your original FOOT trip.

Optional prompts...

- I ventured to _____ and would highly recommend it.
- I ventured to _____ and would not recommend it.
- I surprised myself by...
- Best thing about turning 50 is/was...

Alec Bemis: Brooklyn, New York (and sometimes Toronto, Ontario) War is bad, especially when it's being run by rapacious opportunists. Other than that, no comment & everything's going great.



Elliot Blanchard - New York, New York:

Update: Fifty is not yet fabulous but it was great seeing classmates at the party in February. All is well - everyone is aging, children moving to next level of schools (which is stressful), and still trying to do a summer hiking trip with them each year. Last year - Banff; this year - the Andes!



Gretchen Boger - Newport, Rhode Island: Update: Best things about turning 50 on January 10: (1) taking my longest run in several years, 14 miles, and feeling great, (2) a surprise montage of video well wishes from family and friends, including some I hadn't talked to in years — thanks, awesome husband, (3) the trip my husband planned for this coming summer that will get us both to the final states we need to have visited all 50. That classic Tulsa-Bismarck-Alaska route. When I was in my 20s I had a series of awesome women friends in my life who acted as mentors to me and who happened each to be 50 when we met. Now I get to be that for others. I surprised myself this winter by starting to study Mandarin. My favorite sentence so far: 我是历史老师, (*Wǒ shì lìshǐ lǎoshī*, or I am a history teacher).



Chris Cayten, Brooklyn, NY: We had three great trips in the last few year, Morocco desert, and glamping in Joshua Tree (for Megan's 50th and Zion Utah (for mine!). Common thread - the desert. When you live in a city and spend your nature time in New England forests, there's something magical and foreign about a desert. Quiet, amazing stars, hot days and COLD nights. Highly recommend AutoCamp Joshua Tree, right next to the north entrance of the park and you can drive in any time day or night. Also Under Canvas 20 minutes outside of Zion and away from all the tarmac. Go hiking in Valley of Fire instead of Zion park.

I am still helping real estate developers and policymakers improve energy and emissions of existing buildings in NYC and across the country. Megan leads a \$1B private equity fund investing in nature based climate solutions around the world.

Kids doing great, Caterina (17) in the middle of college section, Will (15) playing soccer piano and singing and Chili (12) playing as much soccer as possible!



Vintage FOOT Trip Photo!



Kristen Clothier: I moved to southwestern Colorado two years ago; I'm currently the Historic Preservation & Planning Director for the Town of Telluride. I'm enjoying outdoor adventures year-round, every chance I get. FOOT friends, come visit - I would highly recommend it! Skiing, hiking, fly fishing, climbing, music and film festivals ... all right here in this beautiful mountain town. kristenvoseclothier@gmail.com

Charlie Koven, Berkeley, CA: The main thing is I switched to running, which I highly recommend. I hadn't been able to run more than a couple miles for like thirty years due to various joint pains, but this past year I committed, went cold turkey on recreational bicycling, and now I'm a not-terribly-fast runner. Other than that, not much. It's been a bit of a tricky year to be a federally-funded climate scientist, but so far at least I'm staying put. Kids are great: oldest is at UC Santa Barbara and youngest at Berkeley High. Had a couple of excellent backpacking adventures, in the Emigrant (pictured, with children) and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wildernesses, both also highly recommended.

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Brian Lavery, Dublin, Ireland: I love seeing the names of all you amazing people here. Before the next 98 reunion can we do a FOOT reunion in the woods? Not joking. Being 50ish can bring cynicism and bitterness but good humans and nature still inspire me. Please get in touch if you come to Ireland. Maybe even if you don't. I'm playing a lot of jazz clarinet these days.

Dona Tversky, Stanford, CA: We hiked Mt. Fuji for sunrise which I would absolutely recommend. I would not necessarily recommend going to Japan in the summer. I would 100% recommend biking around “the art island” Naoshima. I surprised myself this December by going to the NCAA Volleyball championships in Kansas City (anyone VB fans?) after becoming a kind of ridiculous fan of the sport. Season tickets for the Cardinal. Every inch of my 63 inch youngest daughter, Dalia, is devoted to Volleyball, and the older one Alma is 18 and working her tail off at Wash U St Louis. Boola boola to you all!



Class of 1999

Micah Jacobs: We are doing well in Dallas. Paula continues to work as an ICU nurse. I am still training fellows in pediatric urology. Our 11 year old daughter Isabela and 8 year old son Noah are doing all the fun kid stuff. In short life is good. Dallas is flat so not much topography for the kind of hiking that we love but we have plenty to do outdoors here. I spoke with **Nick Frankfurt** on the phone the other day and we shared a dream about a '99 FOOT reunion. If we put something together it would be amazing to have you there. Hope you are doing well. Micah

Jonathan Griswold: I can't think of anyone who has had such a profound impact on the lives of so many generations of Yalies, both directly on these trips and the kids' relationships with the outdoors but more profoundly on the foundation of their Yale experience and the confidence and openness they bring to it in those critical early days.

Megan Campisi and Gates Hurand (00): we are still in Brooklyn with our two kids, Kiera (8) and Arthur (10). I continue to write novels and make theater. My latest project is a masked play about immigration created by an international ensemble. It's headed to the Edinburgh Festival this August for any Footies in Scotland. Gates still works for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, a lesser known federal agency.



Katie Scharf Dykes: Katie is in her 8th year serving as Commissioner at the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection which has been an amazing experience, where she gets to help tackle climate change and support outdoor recreation at our many amazing CT state parks and forests. Cilla recently contacted Katie to help with some permits FOOT needed in northeast CT. Katie made it happen instantly!

Class of 2000

Laura Haverland: I'm living in Little Compton, RI running a small dairy farm making cheese and yogurt and parenting two excellent and anxious children (13 and 5 1/2). In the midst of our farm's calving season and running at least two loads of cow placenta-smearred laundry a day. Woohoo! Not much hiking happening, but I have recently rediscovered my love for swimming in middle



age, and lucky for me I live half a mile from the ocean! And, this past winter, some mom friends and I did a super fun hut-to-hut cross country ski adventure in Maine that I highly recommend!



Nathan Vasquez: After 15 years as a trader at Citibank, I somehow ended up running a sticker company with my wife (www.pipsticks.com). We're coming up on 12 years with it, and I still can't fully explain how that happened. The hours are simultaneously much better and much worse. But I never wear a suit anymore, and I'm around for the kids all the time. Those are huge pluses. We moved around a lot post-Yale — Midwest, NYC, London, California — and finally landed in Brooklyn with four kids (16, 15, 13, and 11) and a dog we had no business getting. Two of the kids tested into NYC specialized high schools (Stuyvesant and Brooklyn tech), so at least someone in the family is living up to the Yale name.

Tara Cronin: I continue to practice pediatric ophthalmology in the New Haven area and I keep busy as a soccer mom of my 2 boys, Liam (12) and Luke (9). We recently added a puppy, Ruby, to the craziness. I'm already looking forward to the next Yale reunion!

Jed Herrmann: I live in Washington DC with my wife, Meg Sullivan, also class of 2000 but not a FOOTie. We have five kids, which still amazes me. They are 15,13,11,9 and 9. I work for a management consulting firm, helping state and local governments to improve their programs and results. I don't do as much hiking as I'd like but I do get some trail running in. No hiking to speak of either, but I've basically ditched the car these days living in a walkable city. Great to hear from you, all the best to everyone in FOOT.



Class of 2001

Catherine Price: My brief report: still living in Philadelphia with my husband and daughter, just had a book come out ([The Amazing Generation](#), co-authored with Jonathan Haidt) that's my best attempt to save our kids from having their lives stolen by smartphones and social media (go outside!) and am really looking forward to our 25th reunion in late May!

Class of 2004

Becca Falik and her husband, **Matt Pasternak**, (both class of '04 FOOT leaders) summited el Piltriquitron in Patagonia with their three kids this past winter. In the second picture, Becca, Matt, and Becca's cousin, **Josh Cott** (who was a FOOT Poobah from around eight years before) are pictured on top of Half Dome at Yosemite.



Adam Stack says "I'm living in Santa Fe working for various Tribes on cultural and environmental issues. I'd love to see anyone who's passing through this part of the country! My dog Wiley loves visitors."



Catherine Halaby: shares “2026 is starting off with several new life milestone things. I recently got engaged to my longtime partner Gil, and we continue to live together in LA with our maniac dog, Doug. In March I also started a new job in digital comms for progressives, which is something of a trip back to the beginning. I spent 3 years in DC right after graduation, but haven’t had a job that touches government in 20 years. If any FOOTies out there want to talk making politics break through on algorithmic feeds, I’d welcome connecting.”



Here’s a pic of **Strand Conover** (Davenport ‘04) and **Ariel Phillips** (Trumbull ‘06) with their daughters Annika (8) and Saskia (11). The four live in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. Strand is a senior partner at talent and literary agency, WME, and Ariel is completing a master’s degree in mental health counseling at NYU.

Emily (Isaak) Schindler (PC ‘04) and her husband Matt live in St. Louis, Missouri, where Emily works as a pathologist. Last summer Emily, Matt, and their children Vienna (18), Hudson (14), and Reid (14), visited Banff and went on several great hikes.



Class of 2003

Tony Anagnostou: Hi Foot :) Best from Haiti, where I’m spending the month with MSF helping out with emergency surgery stuff. Then back to coastal Northern California to re-enter the grind of American healthcare and grumble about the political chaos. We’re still a prime destination for redwood visiting, sea stack admiring, coastal California adventurers if you need a guest room along your travels.

Lauren Keane: My family and I spent a good part of 2025 sailing westward through the archipelagos of French Polynesia on our 35-foot sailboat. It was a real adventure in every sense of the word, and one that required my FOOT backcountry skills more times than I would have imagined. Our time was up in August and we headed home to San Francisco for the girls to restart regular school (3rd and 6th grades), and for Ben and me to find new jobs (not the greatest timing on that, but we continue to send hope out into the universe that it'll work out eventually). Grateful to have had the opportunity to live differently for a magical chapter of our lives. I'd love to reconnect with FOOTies in the Bay.

Alex Milsom: All's well here in NYC. I'm running an outdoors club at the college where I teach English (Hostos – CUNY's smallest college), and I'm maintaining a Substack called "Birds You Never Asked For" where you can see my bad bird photography and read about the time I saw a coyote crash through the ice in Central Park. Let folks know that if they're ever in NYC, they can go birding with me and Josh Berezin!

Ben Schrader: 2025 was an unusual one in the Schrader household. I left the Department of Justice in May, after nearly 15 years on the job. But that gave me the opportunity to spend the summer with my kids, James (6) and Frankie (4). We had a lot of great afternoons swimming in the pool and generally just bumming around the neighborhood. I did some teaching in the fall, and joined a law firm in Nashville in January 2026. We also got some solid outdoor trips/vacations in over the course of the year: Cancun in February (for Kristina's 40th), a family reunion in July, our annual trip to Rosemary Beach (in August), hiking in the Rockies (also in August), the Chicago Marathon in October (still seeking that elusive sub-4:00), a great family camping trip at Fall Creek Falls with fellow '03ers Dan and Laura Stein in November, a trip to New Haven for the Harvard-Yale game (and a visit with Marc Silverman), and other random trips to Missoula and San Francisco.

I also recently took a stroll down memory lane, and dug up two old photos of the 2003 class of FOOT Leaders (see below). We were babies!





Marc Silverman: After a long stint at DOJ and then a short stint at a law firm based in NYC, I joined Meta in March 2026. I'm helping to lead the company's investigations and working to target bad actors on the platform. My kiddos are 14 and 10. The older one is in high school, she celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in 2025, and it's so crazy that she'll be off to college in a few years. I'm still living in the New Haven area. That means getting to catch up with Yalies (including one **Ben Schrader**) whenever they happen to be in town. Enclosed is a photo with Ben and my son after Yale's victory at the Game this past fall. If you'll be visiting campus anytime soon, please let me know.



Sasha Waring: Our family made the most of a most bizarre winter here in PNW Land, skiing every Sunday up at Stevens Pass while our youngest son (10) rocked his freeride program despite rain, exposed rocks and roots, and other hazards of skiing in the era of climate change. We are now transitioning to soccer and lacrosse seasons. Our oldest son turns 16 in 6 weeks, so we are a little nervous but also excited to have an extra driver in the house imminently. I may possibly take the prize for first in our FOOT class to have a total hip replacement—which I did in May 2025 after a couple years of increasing pain and investigations determined I had bad arthritis from hip dysplasia and it was time to go full bionic. So far so good, and while long distance running is sadly off the table, I'm spending quality time on various bikes, at the climbing gym, and soon enough, out on trails.

Notes for Wesley LePatner

Chris Heaney: Like a lot of us, I met Wesley at the end of freshman year, when we became FOOT leaders. She was funny, smart, magnetic—someone that freshpeople only a couple years younger could look up to even when she was —height-wise— also looking up at them, eyebrows cocked. She was already clearly a good leader, able to warmly address a room of people, cut through the noise, eliminate differences, getting us to work.

Which is also why Wesley intimidated the heck out of me—but only until we were paired up (with two other leaders) to be support crew on the AT before the start of our Sophomore year. Four days sitting together in a lean-too or at a trailhead waiting, good-humored but bored, left me forever charmed by how much of a goofball she also was, particularly on one lovely point: that Wesley Mittman Really Missed Evan LePatner, and that four days away from Evan was four days too many. So, when the last morning came, and we had to decide which of us had to leave a little earlier to return the rental car and deliver some of the gear to FOOT headquarters, Wesley “volunteered” me to drive (my license being the only Tri-State advantage that my NJ-self had over that NY superheroine?) so that she could get back to New Haven and Evan faster. It was a fast and happy three-hours back. She had a cell phone already, and every so often she called Evan to update him on our progress. When we arrived, he was waiting at Phelps Gate. Wesley got out of the car, ran over to him as if they'd been separated for a year, and they folded into a beautiful bear hug, both of them beaming. It was incredibly sweet. It was the first time I thought: Oh, so *that's* what a couple our age who's going to get married looks like. Also, the girl could *delegate*: I then drove away to drop off the gear on my own. But very happily. Because who could refuse Wesley? Chris

Sarah Indyk: These are photos of Wesley and me sneaking away from May Training to search for a cell phone signal and make illegal phone calls to our boyfriends. Extra funny because we also took photos of each other (you know you're bad at breaking rules when you document yourself doing it) and at that time you had to take photos with an actual camera. It was an on-brand Wesley FOOT moment. But equally Wesley was that she helped me believe I could be a FOOT leader in

the first place and encouraged me to apply. It was one of many times she gave me good advice that led to the opportunity for us to do something fun and meaningful together.



Lauren Keane: Wes always made everyone around her feel welcome and feel like they belonged. I found that wasn't always true at Yale, and I always admired her for that. A truly good person who set a powerful example for the rest of us.

Louise Langheier: We lost the most remarkable human, leader, friend and FOOT leader in 2025--[Wesley Mittman LePatner](#). I was lucky enough to be on her freshman FOOT trip and we bonded immediately, most memorably when she showed me the hairdryer she had packed in her backpack (her she wouldn't need it:) Wesley approached FOOT like life--she was all in, operated at the highest standard, and those around her. She was beloved by her Co-leaders and everyone who came across her path. Pictured here are leaders and her best friends--Sarah Indyk, Jessie Hurstak, and Katie Cole (honorary FOOT leader) here is her amazing husband, Evan LePatner, who was life. Evan continues her legacy in raising her children, Emerson, alongside her parents, and finding ways to continue all that she was. I know he has appreciated many of you. Keep it coming. Sending extra love, Louise



and I got to tell she approached deeply supported FOOTies and fellow FOOT Rossman, Emily Also pictured the love of her Jonathan and honor and outreach from so



Ben Schrader: I was at the beach with my family last summer when I heard the news about Wesley. My wife Kristina and I listened to the livestream of the funeral service at Central Synagogue on our drive later that week from the beach to a family reunion in Florida. Hearing her husband Evan, her daughter Emerson, fellow '03er Louise Langheier, and others speak about Wesley was an experience: I could barely comprehend how people who were so close to her could summon the courage to deliver such powerful eulogies only days after her death. Like many, many others, I recognized early on what a force of nature she was: “intimidating” was the word I kept coming back to, and after she passed I realized that I was not alone in perceiving her that way. She was truly one of a kind, and although she was taken from this world much too soon, there can be no question that she left her mark on it. Last fall, I was back in New Haven, and I happened to be taking a tour of Sterling Memorial Library. I turned a corner in the Linonia & Brothers reading room—where I took many naps in college—and stopped in my tracks when I saw the inscription below (Evan and Wes have been longtime supporters of Yale and this reflects their dedication). I hope that future Yalies understand and appreciate what Wes was able to achieve, even though she only had half as much time as she should have had to achieve it.



Marc Silverman: Wesley Mittman LePatner was one of a kind. Her husband, Evan, is doing wonderful things to honor her memory and to support their children in the wake of Wesley’s senseless and horrific death. So, I’ll confine my thoughts to just one note of gratitude for having had the privilege of counting myself among Wesley’s friends. About five

years ago, I was going through a really tough time in my personal life. Evan and Wesley reached out to invite me to dinner. This act of kindness may have seemed small to them, but the evening I spent with them meant so much to me in that moment. Wesley's life was full of acts of kindness, some small and some big, but all significant. I will be forever grateful for her act of kindness back then and for her friendship ever since our time together at Yale.

Sasha Waring: Over the past eight I have thought often and deeply about Wesley, who was killed on my birthday last year. She was so many wonderful things, both to all the people in her life and also within herself. I first met her on the Cross Campus lawn the day before classes started, where she and my first Yale roommate had just taken the German placement exam. I did not know at the time, but should not have been surprised given her wit, warmth, and general awesomeness, that she would soon become a very good friend. She met Evan Lapatner a couple weeks later (perhaps the best Screw-dance set up of all time) and that relationship took off like a rocket while the rest of us plodded through questionable college romances for years. Many of my favorite Wesley memories came three years later, when Evan, fellow FOOT leader Aaron Jakes and I lived together in a spacious if somewhat decrepit and sloping-floored apartment in the Elmhurst, just across from Rudy's Bar. Wesley was our honorary 4th roommate, clearly taking the title belt over other friends and girlfriends. She easily held her own against the three loud and stubborn primary residents of the apartment, which for me cemented her place in my life, which she would keep for the next 20+ years, as a truly badass woman who always punched well above her height yet also gave excellent two armed hugs. Wes we love you and miss you.

Class of 2006

Aaron Zelinsky: I had a wonderful time having dinner with my co-leader, **Bevan Dowd '08**, two weeks ago in San Diego!

Class of 2011

Chelsea Willett: Hello interested fellow former FOOT leader! Chelsea here. I looked up a dad joke for your enjoyment. Question: What do you call it when James Bond takes a bath? Answer: Bubble-oh 7! Excited to see your updates, hope you are well. ❤️

Dounia Bredes: Still in Rhode Island. Added another kiddo. Maybe by next year, we will have added chickens! Come visit the Ocean State. It's nice. (Nora and Cassius below.)



Thomas Meyer: Hi! Still living in South Boston. Had a little baby boy (Charlie) in October with my bride (Emilie) and I have since come to experience true sleep deprivation. Other highlights of the past year include seeing some other foot '11 gents in Santa Barbara, and hosting a bbq for Boston area foot leaders and their friends, partners, and offspring. I think we smoked 30 lbs of meat, which is approximately double the weight of that cute little bear in the first photo. It was SUCH A TREAT! Hoping to do it again once we're done with some renovations so drop me a line if you too live in the greatest city in the world. Or if you're just visiting.



Michelle Ho: Still in New Haven, still writing/teaching with the addition of a now 2-year-old Jasper, born back in 2023! Loving my toddler mom era and also about to publish my debut poetry collection, *Bone Symphony*, out Oct 2026. I'll be book touring soon, so please send recs for fave bookstores/cafes/third space in your city!! I've had the privilege of staying in touch with **Emma Sokoloff-Rubin**, **Kelvin Vu**, and **Akina Younge**, and hope to see many of you at reunion in the spring! <3

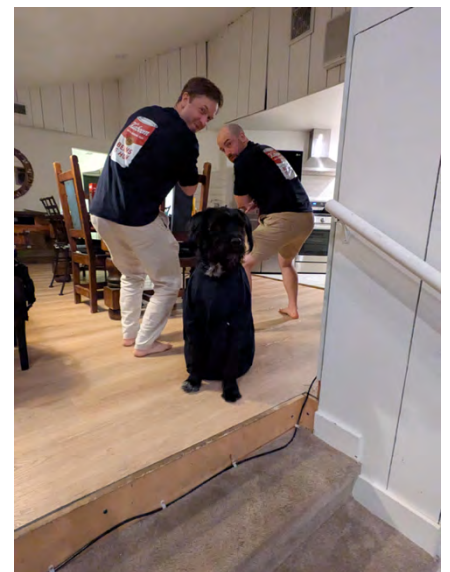


Elliott Brennan: Hi everyone! I am still out in California, for better or for worse. I will finish my PhD this summer, and I am still trying to figure out what is next because my Plan A was to head back to DC and be a policy advisor of some variety and it turns out that the current admin does not want policy advice . . . 🤔😅😞

I am currently pivoting closer to the academic track and applying for postdoctoral fellowships for research positions at a bunch of different universities between here (Venice Beach) and Lamu (a very beautiful beach in northern Kenya). If you know of any openings in your local college of universities in the departments of economics, statistics, qualitative research, or Defense Against the Dark Arts, please let me know!

On the personal front, my dog Mariner is still keeping me sane, and I had the opportunity to run into some other FOOT leaders in Santa Barbara last August: **Dennis "Howie Mandel" Howe**, **Thomas Mittens/Meyer**, **Tully of the Loughlin Clan**, **Christopher Lash-Ortiz**, and **Yurimeister**.

I hope that I will get to see many more of you this year at the Reunion!



Here's a link to our Class Chat for May in New Haven '26:

https://chat.whatsapp.com/EGASIUy4Z5SLbAKXZOSnmf?mode=gi_c

Kelvin Vu: After a five-year, sprint-paced marathon, I finally finished architecture + landscape architecture school and moved to Boston to dive into entry-level design work in my mid-thirties - hell yeah! Also still teaching and getting back into performing soon, so stay tuned. If you're ever in the Boston area, come visit and hang out with the fabulous crew of FOOT folks here!

Chris Lash: A child is born! Just about a year after tying the knot, my wife Adri (FOOTie '13) and I welcomed Alma Lorita Lash into the picture. She is destined to become best friends or mortal enemies with Thomas Meyer's baby - text (508) 404-4208 to cast your vote. We are still in the DC region and would love love *love* to see you, hear from you, feed you, and minister unto your every need if you're ever in the area.



Chelsea Willett: After three great years in Vienna, Austria, I've moved to Minneapolis and just custom-ordered a green velvet sectional. The perfect perch for knitting, reading, and pretending I'm royalty. Reach out if you're ever in the Twin Cities!!

Class of 2012

Nate Taylor: Emily and I welcomed Ian Isaiah Taylor on February 27, 2025. Words so far: [dada, mama, blub, uh-oh, down, go!]. When you visit Providence, come ride with us!





Mia Yabut Wiese:

GREETINGS FOOT FAM! It's been a loooooooong winter for our crew: Edward (BK '12), Jamie (6), Rafa (4), Alia (1), and Hammie (?). Before we forgot what it's like to be warm and snowless, some highlights included: annual family trips to Bermuda, Camden, ME, and Nashville.. and one solo trip for me to do some hiking in Yosemite and Sequoia National Park!! I wore my FOOT hiking boots(!!!) and very quickly realized it's time for an upgrade... let me know if you have any suggestions for a flat-footed, ankle sprain prone, former gymnast with lots of joint issues.....

STAY WELL AND HEALTHY!





John Ettinger: Set new lifetime goal of visiting all National Parks with wife Amy and baby Jack (pictured here, smaller person). Off to strong start with delightful visit to Olympic last summer. Headed to Rocky Mountain this summer. Excited to visit friends Max DLB (FOOT '13) and Peter W (FOOT '12) while in Denver. Will probably play them off one another to optimize chances of free lodging. Max is the jealous/competitive type and will surely bite. Hopefully his upstairs guest room is available, but he's got like a million kids now so space could be tight. May have to pivot to Peter. That's fine. Nice guy. Talks about 'ontologies' a lot. Still don't know what those are, but they feel important.



Lepi Jha Fishman: Oomgala as a greeting (could you ever have dreamed up such a faux pas?!). Eddie (BK '11) and I continue to be coming at you from NYC. I am a product manager at Stripe, where I lead the AMER Cards team. Eddie is a Senior Fellow and Director of Geoconomics at the Council on Foreign Relations and continues to give, in the parlance of our 4-year-old daughter, "book talks" about his book *Chokepoints*. Pictured here, we are with our completely wild children in West Tisbury from summer 2025. We're hoping to get outdoors more after the long winter that was 2026! We are lucky that we have some wonderful FOOT alums and their gorgeous/genius children in our lives but it's never enough. Please let me know if/when you find yourself any of the following situations: in NYC, online transacting with your credit card, scrutinizing chokepoints in our economy, or looking for a toddler playdate. We hope to see some of you at Eddie's 15-year reunion this May!



Alejandro Torres: Sebastian is now potty-training Benicio while Kyle and I drink Palomas and red wine and rejoice. This Torres potty training is the antithesis of "Leave No Trace" — in fact, maximum traces are left in their underwear. Otherwise, the Atlanta metro continues to treat us well!

Jonathan Martin: Hi from the mountains! Carrie and I took the kids to Dillon for spring break and this is Callum's first year of real skiing. Unfortunately, it also happened to be Colorado's worst ever ski season. In general though, things are good! Thanks to a group of high school babysitters, we've been doing a lot more game nights and dinners with other FOOTies in the Front Range. We also managed to make trips to New Orleans, Silver Dollar City, and London. New Orleans was a particular highlight because it was the kids' first time experiencing Mardi Gras! Lots of Love from Carrie, Jonathan, Callum, and Norah!



Adi Kamdar: Hello! We're still enjoying ourselves in Washington, D.C., where I'm lucky enough to make **Peter Wilczynski** ('12) take my kids to different Smithsonian museums, and I get to keep improvising with **Chris "Dad" Lash** ('11). Things are pretty great overall, though the pull back west is still strong. I have a feeling next FOOT update will have bigger life updates!



Peter Wilczynski: 2025 was a fun year - I got married to my wife, Jill, renamed Maxar to another nondescript though vaguely threatening name (Vantor), travelled the world selling satellites and did my first XC ski marathon. Our book club focused on "Prophets of Modernity" and I managed to get a really lovely 10th reunion hike around Rae Lakes Loop, spending a night next to one of my favorite rivers in the world. Wishing everyone the best, and if you're ever in DC or CO, holler at your boy!

Ari Berkowitz: Hi FOOT Friends! I got married the week before Christmas! Santa was the star of our photobooth. And our first dance was to our favorite song from "A Muppet Christmas Carol" (sung by Kermit). Will and I (and our very old dog, Toby) are still living in LA, where I'm currently writing a bunch of movies for Netflix that'll probably never come out — but at least Netflix has good snacks! Hit me up if you're ever visiting LA and want some coconut water I stole from the office!



Michael Jones: Hi FOOT Family, Alexis and I packed up our belongings, our bikes, our son Harry and our new addition Sophie in 2025, moving from Amsterdam to London to pursue new challenges and enjoy another amazing city. Settling in has been quite a bit easier than our Amsterdam experience, and we're happily settled and loving London now nearly a year in. Not all of our Amsterdam life was left behind, we still bike everywhere in the city (despite it being a bit more precarious) and can't stop saying "nee" instead of "no". We continue to live life in the outdoors - our city life consists mostly of time in the garden, time in the park, time in the Heath, and time on the time. Rain or shine. and when we have time for holiday, we've made the most of the Alps being so close.

Starting to get the kids into skiing (and enjoying hot chocolate afterwards), so we can make it a family activity over time. Sending love, wishing you all well, and really excited to hear all the updates.





Jack Bisceglia: Hey FOOTies! This has been a wild year keeping track of our two bear cubs, Ginny (4) and Teddy (1)! We're having a great time in Richmond, surrounded by lots of cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Come visit us! We're looking forward to some hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park this summer with **Jonathan and Carrie Martin** and their crew!



Virginia Waldrop: I'm living in Seattle these days with my fiancé, Karun, and teaching at Washington State's internal medicine residency program. My hobbies at this point mostly consist of watching baseball / cheering for the Astros (the down seasons separate the wheat from the chaff), trail running and hopefully gardening more. Please know that you are all welcome to come stay with us any time - even if you're just passing through. We love to host and would love to share Seattle with you! We'll be here for at least a couple more years while Karun finishes up dermatology residency - and then maybe back to Austin or maybe it's the PNW for the long haul!

Class of 2013

Cody McCoy: Hello from Chicago!!! It's been a great few months here for reunions with FOOT leaders-- the Windy City is home to **Stephanie Rivkin** (2013), **Joel Sircus** (2014), and their family, plus **Lili Rudis** and **Tully McLoughlin** (2011), and their fam!! Too bad I forgot to take any pictures when we got together :) I'm still doing wildlife biology with plenty of adventures on land and sea; text me if you find yourself in Chicago, Woods Hole (MA), or Palau! Here's to more FOOT reunions in 2026!



Jacob Evelyn and Steph Wagner: are living in Providence, RI, where we're lucky to live near a small forest for walking and skiing, a pond for birding and skating, and a sidewalk for oh so much shoveling. We spend our days wrangling a four-year-old, one-year-old, and doggo who love the heck out of each other. And we want to garden but don't know how (please help). If you're ever in Rhody, we'd love to host ya!



Julia Osterman: I'm living in Roanoke, VA with my husband Ben Strong (ES '13) and our two kids, Paloma (almost four years old!) and Anthony (or Big Tony as we affectionately call him) (one year old). We love taking Paloma, Anthony, and our dog Sierra hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains and on the Appalachian Trail (FOOTies in the making!) and getting involved in the local community. One example I'm particularly excited about: After a petition with almost [400 signatures](#), [local OpEds](#), and [a radio appearance on our local NPR station](#), we convinced our local minor league baseball team to embrace Hellbenders (a giant salamander found only in appalachia) as an alternate identity with their first Hellbenders night dedicated to raising



awareness/funds for local conservation on June 26. Half the proceeds for tickets [bought through this link](#) go to support baby hellbenders and restore the local population and two local breweries are brewing beers inspired by Hellbenders for the event. Come join us for a big celebration of nature,



conservation, baseball, and Appalachian/bluegrass music!! Seriously, email me if you're interested in visiting us and exploring a beautiful part of the country. It's going to be a party!! On the work front, I founded and lead a non-profit coalition of/advance market commitment by nature-based carbon removal buyers ([Symbiosis Coalition](#)) to catalyze nature restoration projects (starting with reforestation, agroforestry, and mangroves) around the world.



Justine Bunis and Jacob Paul: Hello FOOT fam from Justine Bunis and Jacob Paul! Jacob and I are still living, working, and adventuring out in Los Angeles, now with our ten month old son Arlo! Come visit any time if you'd like to stay with us in LA and/or come camping in the Sierras!

Ric Caraballo: Hey friends! Life is still good in SF, please give a shout if you're ever in town. Fun update - a few weeks ago **Ariel Kirshenbaum** ('14) gave me a ride to a housewarming party for **Evan Mullen** ('14) where we also saw **Onagh MacKenzie** ('15) and **Jacob Osborne** ('16). Apparently spelling FOOT with our bodies is now "embarrassing in front of the other guests" or something, so we just took this regular group pic instead. Still cute.



Rory Marsh: Sup y'all! Still out here in Denver, which in a way is thanks to FOOT and the love for hiking that it stirred in me! Obligatory Rockies photo below. Hit me up if you're in the area for a hike or if you want to check out a Lightship (electric adventure vehicle we make). Would love to catch up!



Stephanie Rivkin: Hi friends! Hope everyone is crushing it out there! We are officially deep into the toddler years. Thriving one moment and...thriving...less the next! Our biggest news is that our crew is growing again—we are so excited to be expecting a baby boy this summer! Cooper (now 3.5) and Jackson (who just turned 1.5) are gearing up for their new roles, while our dog Dusty (almost 6!) is holding down the fort as the veteran big brother of the house. On the professional front, I'm still at Google - going on 9 years here. **Joel** ('14) and I have enjoyed **Cody McCoy's** ('13) move to town and a birthday visit from **Ric Caraballo** ('13) as well! We're looking forward to summer in Chicago after another travel heavy year. Hope to see many more of you soon!



Class of 2014

Natalie Akers: I live in Bellingham, WA where I'm doing my best to grow my appetite for rain. I work as an advisor at a community college up here and still love talking about CTE/vocational ed. I'm currently with fetus. Rose from last year: (Ariel Kirshenbaum '14) crashing my secret wedding. I love visitors!

Angelica Calabrese: Ciao dal Salento! I haven't written one of these in a long time, so here's a bit of an update -- I've been more or less working for Where There Be Dragons since 2016 (!!! almost 10 years!!), in a trajectory that was inspired in a big way by FOOT! I worked as an instructor for many years, then took a few years off to get an MA in Anthropology (poorly timed to be precisely during the pandemic) and then came back to Dragons in an admin role in 2022. I'm currently the Program Director for the Princeton Bridge Year Program (which is run through Dragons), and I get to travel quite a bit for work while maintaining a home base in southern Italy, where I've been for the past five years. Hit me up if you're ever in Lecce/Puglia and want to hang -- or want to head to fun stuff like this sweet local festival I went to



recently, where people dress up as trees
Sending love to all!



David Cruz: Erin and I are planting good roots in Austin, TX. I've joined my union's board and have been running a [campaign](#) to stop city management from uprooting 1000+ people. Erin has been dealing with some chronic fatigue post-partum but we have some idea about management and treatment, which makes our outlook feel hopeful. Being in Austin near my parents has been a blessing as we have spent the last year being busier than ever before. The big update is Lucia. Fourteen months of fatherhood has had me exhausted but doing more than I ever thought possible! She's been walking for five months and her talking is exploding. My favorite activity recently has been taking her on walks and having her call all furry animals "dog". Shoutout to post-partum visits last year from **Field Rogers '15** and from Chelsea Hartman who recently married **Jake Keaney '14**. If you're ever in town, please hit me up 512-497-5479. PS My sister, Tess Cruz, just finished the first year of her MFA program in Directing at the Yale School of Drama. If you're in New Haven, keep an eye out for her first show at the university next academic year!



Ali Friedman: Yá'át'ééh from Navajo Nation! My partner Lucas, our dog Babka and I moved to Fort Defiance, AZ in Navajo Nation this January after a brief stint in London. Lucas just finished writing a novel and I am working as an ER doctor in a tribal hospital. We are looking for fellow adventurers in the Four Corners region so if you are looking to backpack, run, bike, etc. or are just in the area please let us know:) *or if you feel like a prisoner to your medical career and need a good out also let me know!*

FOOTlights of the year include adventures in the Sierras and Southwest with FFFF (Forever Fellow FOOTIE Friedman) **Raffi Friedman**, meeting FOOT superstar babies Archan and Isabel, any moment with CVP '13, and visiting **Bobby Dresser** in his latest locale of Costa Rica. Insert obligatory race pic from Monument Valley here:



Courtney Halgren: What a difference a year makes! After a thorny 2024, 2025 has been full of roses — got engaged to my partner Alirio (Yale 2015); moved to Philadelphia (again); brought home our perfect pup Steve; and celebrated 363 days breast cancer-free by running the NYC marathon (and raising \$20k+ for Fred's Team in the process). Among many buds for 2026, we're moving back to the New Haven area this summer, hopefully for good.



Jake Keaney: Hi FOOT! We had a busy 2025. Our wedding in July was an intimate affair—the crowd in attendance totaled only 15, but the ceremony included well wishes from friends and family near and far including some FOOT representation from **David Cruz '14** and **John Sullivan '14**. Just before our wedding, my wife and I moved from NYC to Boston, where we are very happy to be much closer to our families after our long years of collective medical training finally ended. We hope that this will be our last move along I-95 for the foreseeable future... I continue to work as a primary care physician, and my wife started a new job as a neonatal ICU doctor in Boston. Please reach out if you're ever in Boston!



Isaiah Lyons-Galante: My life is the same ol' same ol' doing a PhD in Boulder, CO. This past year had some big downs and big ups -- I had to get ankle surgery, spent NYE in the ER and got really depressed about our government, but I also did all my favorite outdoor sports, cried with joy at some protests, finally traveled back to Kenya, and got married in France to my partner of 8 years, Charlotte! Please please hit me up for some Colorado mountain adventures, 6172850697 :)



Caroline Lester: Isabel Sage Reneau-Wedeen was born November 21, arriving early and immediately distinguishing herself from her mom and dad. So far, her interests are cuddling, black and white contrast, and boobs. She makes us laugh every day. We are proud parents of the perfect baby!

Sarah Esther Maslin: I live in Mexico City now! I'm finishing my decade-long book project (about the long aftermath of a massacre in a village in El Salvador), freelancing, and starting to think about next steps (go back to being a foreign correspondent? get a history phd? move to Alaska?). I'm also enjoying far more visits than when I lived in Brazil, including a smashing and only-slightly-stressful Thanksgiving with **Ira Slomski-Pritz '14** and **Will Kronick '14**. This year my partner Hugo and I are hoping to hike and climb, explore Mexico, and travel as much as possible. We're always looking for people to catsit and/or swap homes (our apartment sits in the branches of a jacaranda, and our cats fit the maxim "everyone who has two cats has one beautiful idiot and one terrifying demon plotting a coup"). If you're contemplating a trip to CDMX, hit me up!



Sophie Nethercut: Hi beautiful FOOT fam! After over a decade living in Alaska, I bid farewell to the 49th state (and my dear Alaska FOOT friends!), and drove 3,000+ miles south with my partner Jim to Pacifica, CA. I'm currently a first-year psychiatry resident at the local county hospital and overall loving being a coastal critter. Another Bay Area perk: so many FOOT humans floating around! Excited to be here till at least 2029 - if you're around, reach out and let's go hiking :)



Joel Sircus: Joel and his family are still living in Chicago, but I am not writing to you with another series of trite life updates. Rather, I am excited to inform you all that I am launching a highly lucrative Initial Coin Offering. Due to a temporary misunderstanding with my issuer's central bank, my vast collection of unminted NFTs has been locked, and I am offering a few brave FOOT alumni the chance to invest in my new cryptocurrency, LeaveNoTrace, to help me pay the unlock fees. I already have significant backing from one anonymous donor (Cilla), but happy to open the opportunity up to others. Please send me your crypto wallet seed phrases immediately; I eagerly await your prompt and discreet reply.



Margaret Van Hawk: Hey FOOT team!! Sending lots of love from Washington, DC. My daughter Annie will be two in July and she'll also be a big sister! Baby #2 is expected in July and we are so excited. Greg and I combined our last names

(Hawkins and Van Cleve) to create a new last name for our family, so I am now officially Margaret Van Hawk. Here's a pic of our squad during cherry blossom season!



Amelia Earnest: 2025 was a year for the books - Raahul and I welcomed a little boy in February named Archie. After getting through the worst of the sleepless phase, we made the most of our leaves by taking a month to bop around France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the UK. Archie didn't seem to notice any of the sites, but we all had a grand time. We are traveling a bit more slowly these days but loving every phase. On the professional side, I left BCG in the fall to take a chief of staff role at a growth stage health care company called Lantern. It's been a wild ride and I'm learning a ton. Please drop me a line if you ever find yourself near Park slope!



Maren Hopkins: Hi FOOT! 2025 was a busy year, our daughter Marlowe turned one and we've been chasing her around ever since. We're still living in Menlo Park and invested in a hiking backpack which lets us take her with us on more outdoor adventures. We both still work in tech (investing for me, operating for Kevin) so if you find yourself in the Bay Area for work or fun let us know!

Class of 2015



Grace Lindsey: I am (newly!) a Principal in Brooklyn at the same school I started at after we graduated (with many schools sprinkled in over the years). My Poobah-dom is certainly the role that best prepared me to be a Principal, though my very silly middle schoolers aren't ready for a full game of miniature tanks. Loved seeing so many of you at our 10th Reunion-- please reach out if you are in NYC, I have a spare room and love guests.

Jacob Kemet-Rosenwohl: Shakkaura and Jacob have just welcomed their first child, Miriam. Sleep is elusive but the cuddles are fantastic. There probably is more to say, but I'm too sleep-deprived to figure it out. Sending best wishes to all!

Valerie Eisenson: In April 2025, we welcomed Baby Suri to the fam! She is smiley and incredibly active. Lila is an adoring big sister, as long as Suri doesn't touch ANY OF HER STUFF, EVER! (Her stuff = anything she can see.) Both girls are happiest outside, whether it is "helping" shovel 3 feet of snow, swinging, or reenacting the movie Frozen in its entirety at the playground's rock wall. Aroop and I are just the side characters in their lives, and are enjoying every minute. If you swing by Providence, come say hey! xoxo





Evi Steyer: Evi is living in Fort Greene, Brooklyn with her husband Johannes, her son Wolfie, and her cat Gus. When not forcing Joy Shan (FOOT 15) to attend YIMBY meetings with her, she spends her time reading, investing in climate companies, bullying her extended family to visit her, and throwing up (because she is expecting a second boy in October '26). I'm trying to think of other hobbies / pastimes, but really that's it. Please come say hi if you are in BK!

Abigail Carney: I'm still in Los Angeles. Finishing up writing for Season 2 of The Boroughs. Season 1 FINALLY airs on May 21 on Netflix - watch it so that we get to make Season 2. Baby Leo is now

almost 14 months old! He loves books and being outside.



Kevin Kirk: 2025 was both an amazing and difficult year! A highlight was officiating **Megan and Alex's** wedding (we all met on VT support together). I asked everyone in the audience to be their support crew. On the professional front I finally left Google and am working at a climate/geo-tech startup called LGND. On the personal side I'm still living in Rio de Janeiro, but I just went through an incredibly tough breakup and it's leaving me uncertain about where I want to be in the world. Onward! text if you're in Rio or just to catch up!



Megan Opatrny and Alex Dobner got married in May in a ceremony officiated by none other than our fellow VT support crew member Kevin Kirk! We then moved to Boston for Megan's pulmonary and critical care medicine fellowship at MGH/BIDMC. In October, Alex traveled to Chile for a conference and convinced Kevin to join him afterwards to hike

the W trek in Torres del Paine National Park. They saw lots of beautiful mountains, played a lot of Monopoly Deal, and caught some huuge trout! Reach out if you're ever in Boston!

Class of 2016

Shalila de Bourmont: Updates from Oakland! This year makes 9 years in the bay for me and my wife, Darby! We live very close to fellow FOOT leader **Charlotte Weiner** and have weekly dinners with her, which is always a highlight of the week. I'm finishing up my 3rd year of OB/GYN residency and have one more year to go before they let me out in the wild. Most of my life is spent in the hospital, but on the rare weekend off, my wife and I have a goal of hiking in every county in California, and hopefully this year we make it out to the Eastern Sierras!

Brooke Eastman: in the past year, I advanced to candidacy in my PhD program! Now I'm researching and writing my dissertation full time, which allows me to travel around Southwestern deserts looking at and thinking about works of Land Art. Here are a few photos from a site visit last June to Nancy Holt's Sun Tunnels in Utah's Great Basin Desert to see the summer solstice solar alignment, a trek I highly recommend making. Still living in St. Louis with my husband Olly, so let me know if you're ever in town and want to eat some BBQ!



Isaac Hudis: Made the COLLASSAL move from the Upper EAST Side to the Upper WEST Side. Spent a night camping in Bhutan – new route for FOOT 2027? Ran a half marathon and actually enjoyed it! Sending absolutely all of my fluv to everyone. 10 years flies by fast! Xoxo



Maddy Landon: 14 years ago, I got off the FOOT bus to start a surprisingly strenuous hike with this girl. Now we get to be neighbors in Brooklyn and do fun things like overstay our welcome at fancy cocktail bars. Life is going well :)





Jerelyn Luther: Another year! Still in Brooklyn, still a lawyer! Staying sane by doing random hikes when I can, joined two book clubs, and idling time away in bars and art galleries with Maddy. This year I did a photo shoot with my cat, highly recommend to all!

Will Theiss: Hi everyone. Hard to believe the glory days were 10 years ago. My wife Hall and I welcomed Fritz Theiss on January 4, 2026, shown here in Millburn, New Jersey after I ate both halves of the sandwich of the year at the Millburn Deli. I feel like I'm the equipment manager all over again, minus the chance to drive Cilla's truck. Please actually do reach out if you're in New Jersey or Connecticut, where we're moving back to soon. Fritz needs friends!



Peter Wycoff: I'm still in London working on wrapping up my phd. Plenty of "hiking" in the hills of the UK over the past few years. Please drop a word if you're ever in town! A snap from the Island of Skye with Dave, and from South London with Sara.



Class of 2017

Rob LaRose: All is well out here. I'm still living in Seattle, still working as a public defender, and still have that glitch with my credit card where it keeps accidentally buying plane tickets to Anchorage to hike and ski...

Other important life updates: I recently took on cat co-parenting responsibilities (past me would be gobsmacked by this development), I finally upgraded to Spotify without ads, and I am still trying to convince anyone who'll listen that my trail mix start-up idea is brilliant and they should take it and run with it — I just want a teeny tiny share. Any takers? If you're gonna be out this way anytime soon, let me know! Always looking for another reason to put on hiking shoes instead of a suit.

Teddy Goetz: Teddy is living with their wife and 2-year-old in Takoma Park, MD and working as a psychiatrist at Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group (Kaiser Permanente) nearby.

Zoe Dobuler: Hi FOOT! This past summer, I got married and my husband and I moved to Philadelphia, where I started a new job at an art museum outside the city. We've been loving it here so far (cheesesteaks are, in fact, delicious) and would love to see any other leaders in the area!

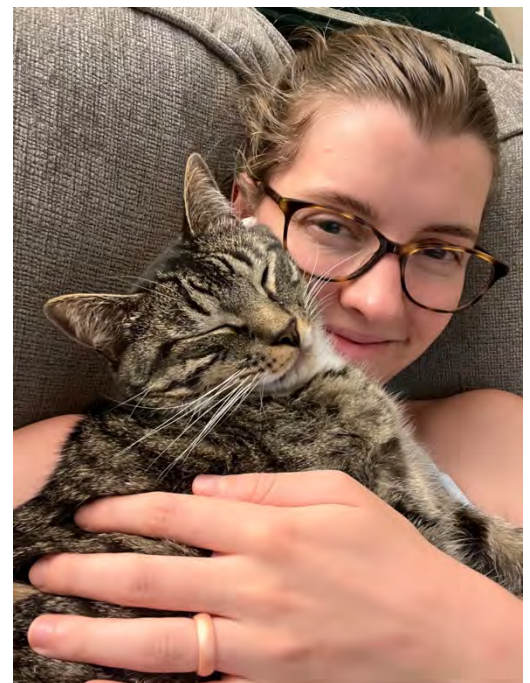
Brandon Hudik: Life's busy over here, still living in New Haven and a family medicine resident up at Middlesex. Birding has been my new hobby. Rob and I talk a lot regarding the subject. He recently finished his first murder trial working as public defender 🍷 and living with his boo out in Seattle. I'll tell him to send you some pictures of his little adventures. Otherwise been getting out for hikes when I can. Still think of foot as family. If you're ever in town and have the bandwidth for coffee let me know. I hope you are well! Can't wait to read about the adventures you've been having. Brandon

Abby Dutton: Rose - Finished my PhD in Spring, 2025, and transitioned back to my final two years of medical school at Dartmouth. Legally married my best friend who I met in graduate school and who is now working in biotech to support his wife who refuses to grow up and get a job (just kidding! I'm working on it!). Despite a busy third year of medical school, made the most of my time with friends and family and felt so privileged to be back in the hospital working with patients.

Bud - A wedding! Being done with planning a wedding! Working towards another graduation (hopefully), and finding out where we are moving for the next chapter. Applying into pediatrics residency in Fall, 2026 and many more adventures with friends and family :)

Thorn - Diagnosed with celiac disease and really missing bread (torts). Missing you all even more! Still in the rural VT boonies and although it's beautiful and peaceful (currently getting serenaded by an out-of-tune owl), there are not enough FOOTies within dinner-date distance. Come visit!

Pictured: Graduation, the best and only gluten free-food at a mac and cheese festival (note: it's all bacon), Charlie the cat and a good depiction of how I spend most of my days.





Class of 2018

Meg Pritchard: Hi FOOT! It's been another busy year, but grateful as ever for the FOOT family far and wide. I'm currently splitting my time between Charlottesville, VA, and DC, so please give a shout if you're ever in the area! Here's a photo from the Harvard-Yale game this year, which I got to celebrate in person with the Blue Ridge Yalies (and, of course, Cilla and Russell)!! Fluv, Meg

Julia Char Gilbert: Hello friends! This past year I wrapped up my time in New Zealand and, after a lil stint in Vermont and a quick trip to see **Romy Carpenter** ('18) in Maine, I moved to Philly! Turns out **Emma Ryan** ('17), **Zoe Dobuler** ('17), **Ariela Zebede** ('19), and **Franklin Eccher** ('19) are here too! Sometimes **Peter O'Neill** ('19) even makes a guest appearance. If you're passing through town, give a shout! Sending love, Julia



Class of 2019

We are deeply saddened about the sudden passing of our fellow FOOT leader, **Adam Michalowski**.

For anyone who would like to support his family, here is [Adam's GoFundMe](#). If anyone has been left off this email, please loop them in or forward. Thinking today of this amazing FOOT community and all that Adam brought to it. If anyone feels inclined to share any memories of him, we are here to listen. Tell someone you love them today. Sending so much FLUV. ❤️ -James and Julia

Ben Wong: Hi FOOT! I'm in Boston spending most of my days structuring financing for affordable housing and trying to see as much theater as possible. I live near an arboretum and work by the ocean, which has been good for the soul. HMU if you're passing through bean town. Photo creds to the fluvly Constance Thurmond!



Kate Halabi: Hi FOOT! Sending love to you all! I'm currently living outside Philly, completing a premed postbac program at Bryn Mawr so that I can apply to med school. A twist I didn't see coming when we graduated! And: I live with a class of '23 FOOT leader, Charlotte Townley!! The best part is the community of people I'm joining in medicine, and its ideals. The hardest part is that there's seemingly unlimited studying to do, so I always feel like I'm behind (which distracts me from enjoying the learning). Beyond that... just dreaming about summer adventures outside. And always making an effort to become sillier as we get older instead of more serious.

James Post: Hi everyone! I'm based in DC and have been traveling regularly to Mississippi for work with a tech company focused on improving government services. I also turned 30, joined a chorus, have been very into Kpop, and moved in with my boyfriend, Dan! And met up with Class of '18 FOOT leader, Hedy Gutfreund, in Philadelphia 😊



Class of 2020

Lindsay Hogan: I live in New York City and I'm (still) working on a phd in oceanography. Highlights from the past year include seeing many 2020 foot leaders at our 5 year reunion and two months on an ice breaking research ship off the coast of Antarctica. Reach out if you're looking for adventures in/around NYC!



Sonali Durham: After graduating from NYU Law in May, I'll be moving down to Orlando for a year to clerk before returning to NYC in fall 2027. If you find yourself in Central Florida in the next year please reach out!

Picture: Hiking in the Atacama Desert in Chile with (sadly non-FOOT) Yale friends Mary, Margo, and Timothy '20 on my last-ever spring break.



Marina Miller: I'm currently working as a park ranger with NPS at Denali. Come join me for guided backcountry hikes or dog sled demos this summer!

Caroline Borden: This spring, in no particular order, I plan to: graduate, get married, move to Baltimore, start residency, and star as Troy Bolton in my medical school musical (you read that right) alongside fellow 2020 FOOT leader and amateur pit director Grant Young. Next year, I hope to do less. If you're living in the Baltimore/DC area, please reach out - I'm always looking for more friends!!!



Sophia Krohn: I'm doing good

Leah Smith: Living and working (as a juvenile defense lawyer) with the sasquatches of Columbia, South Carolina for the year! Go Cocks!



Daniel Kaylor: I'm graduating from Michigan Law in May 2026, then will be spending a year clerking in Pittsburgh. Most likely Chicago after that, hopefully for a good long time! If you're ever in my neck of the woods, please reach out. Fluv to all my FOOT family!

Pictured: Me on a recent trip to Hong Kong; and me celebrating Holi in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India.



Veronica Boratyn: Hello from Chicago! I'm an M4 med student at Northwestern in Chicago! M3 year was one of those years that demanded much of the student and much of the teacher, but I feel very lucky folks let me take care of them. I love Chicago and all my little communities here. Lake Michigan is always tremendous and I love her. However, I am desperate for some ~forests~ and ~elevation~. I would love to go on a hiking / outdoors trip in the next year. Please reach out if you're interested in organizing something—even if we haven't spoken in years (or if you are also just pining for the pines). One highlight of the year was visiting poobah '20 **Andrew Ballard** for New Year's 2026. With fluy, Veronica (v.boratyn@gmail.com)

Class of 2021



a picture of FOOT leaders **Lily Dodd**, **Tommy Martin**, **Aditi Shetty**, and **Eleanor Cook** from a camping trip in Yellowstone last summer!

Eleanor Cook: Hello from Missoula, Montana! It's crazy to think that I've been living here for three years now! I'm currently going into my sixth season as a wildland firefighter and fourth on my crew here in Missoula, so I spent the bulk of 2025 fighting fires. We worked in Manitoba (enjoy the ridiculous bug net situation), Colorado, Wyoming, Washington, and, of course, Montana. For the fall, I went down to Tallahassee to do some fire ecology research and learn about all the prescribed



burning that they do there! When I wasn't in the woods, I was able to visit Aditi Shetty ('21) in Austin not once, but twice! And Brendan Campbell's ('21+1) return to Missoula from China has exponentially increased the amount of fluv in my daily life. With fire, I can be pretty difficult to pin down but my futon is always available if ever you find yourself in Montana. Sending loads of fluv!



Jamie Large: I've been living in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York, and working as a software engineer for Bloomberg. It's so lame and boring! I want to be outside!!! 2025 was very exciting because I got a polaroid camera and I started

producing/hosting a variety show in McCarren Park--follow it on instagram @worldsbestvarietyshow, and come by sometime! I'd love to see some fluvly faces at the next one (February 9, 2026). I also traveled a lot including visiting the wonderful **Daniel Kaylor** (FOOT '20) in Chicago where he showed me the best boat tour in the city and promptly took a nap on it. Can't believe it's been 5 years and can't WAIT to get some fluv at the reunion (rumor has it a primal scream is in the works)



Class of 2023

Holly Basile Corvallis, OR: Hi FOOT people!! It's been some time. Journey and I are doing very well. Let's see... I moved to OR at the beginning of 2024 to pursue a research fellowship with a USFS bioacoustics lab. I listen to birds all day! My work contributes to the conservation of the Spotted owl, but there are a lot of other species that we do research on. Besides that, I spend my time at CrossFit, exploring the PNW, in Portland, and hanging by the river or ocean in the summer. I'm looking into PhD programs for ecology and environmental ethics to apply to in the next year or so. I'll probably stick to the western side of the country, but we'll see! FLUV!



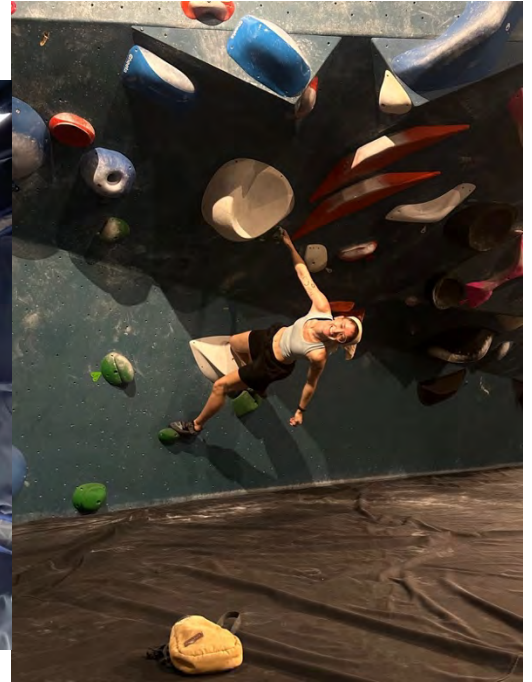
Tilden Chao San Francisco, CA: Hello dear friends! I've been living in San Francisco for about 2 years now and continue to fall in love with this place. Since it's the FOOT newsletter, an outdoor adventure update first: my mom gave me and my girlfriend Alexa a tent for Christmas, and we've now built out a crate full of camping stuff. For Valentine's Day, we camped out in Mendocino (about 4 hours north) where we had a great mix of Type I and II fun ... it rained hard the whole time and our car battery died at the campsite, but we made some new friends who kindly jumpstarted our car, and spent much of the trip watching Bridgerton S4 and trying to stay warm.

I'm still working at Generation, a sustainability-focused investment firm chaired by Al Gore. I don't have the greatest work-life balance, but I do love my work. I interact with Al every couple of weeks (I think he knows who I am by now?) and I'm often traveling to London, where our other firm is based. I spend a lot of my time thinking about how to fund sustainability solutions broadly, from climate to healthcare to financial inclusion.

A recent little highlight was a visit from **Ketty** (FOOT '25) - pictured here. We had great fun sitting in the park and eating gelato on our back porch.



Laurel Humphreys Irvine, CA: Hi FOOT people! This year was a big one for me! In August, I drove from Pennsylvania to California to start my PhD in fungal ecology at UC Irvine. No field work yet, just lots and lots of reading. After 6 years in the Northeast, southern California delivered quite the shock to my system! I've recently gotten into birding, which has helped me feel more connected to this strange foreign land. With the help of new and old friends, I'm slowly but surely expanding my list of Good Places beyond my climbing gym, nearby trails, the marsh, my apartment, and wherever I can camp. My boyfriend just moved from PA to Los Angeles, so the list is sure to grow swiftly now that my adventure buddy has arrived! I'll be taking him on his first backpacking trip soon, and I WILL be teaching him how to Oomgala.

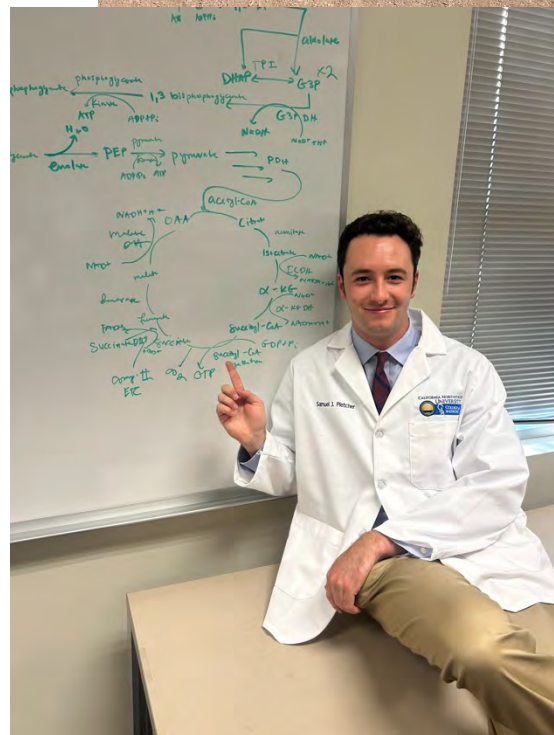


Avery Mitchell Kendal, UK: I'm on two years of living in the Lake District and designing trail guides for Cicerone Press!





Sam Pletcher Sacramento, CA: Hello FOOT alums! After a couple of post-grad years in Boston, I returned to my home state of California this past summer and am now living in Sacramento as a first-year medical student. In my non-studying time, I'm cleansing myself of seven years of east coast residency by skiing in Tahoe, hiking in Point Reyes and the Marin Headlands, and dropping down to San Francisco to enjoy some baseball with FOOT '23 **Sol Bloomfield**. If anyone finds themselves passing through Sactown, give me a shout! Much FLUV.

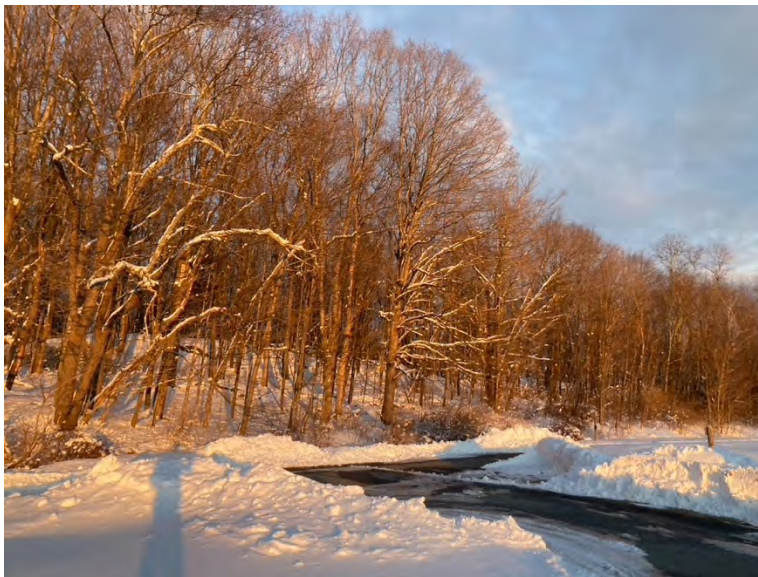


Naomi Shimberg Cambridge, MA: Hello FOOT! I miss you! Update is mostly the same as last year: still living in Cambridge Mass, still in the PhD studying climate economics, still cooking and playing soccer, and still engaged :) FOOT pal highlights of the year included a trip to the fjords of Norway with Noa and **Kapp** (highly recommend trying the floating saunas), contra dance and sledding adventures with Danielle, and many shabbat dinners with Max and Hannah. Lowlights included **Max, Hannah, and Danielle** moving away from Cambridge.



Rebecca Wessel Milbrook, NY: After spending 10 months in the great city of Philadelphia post-grad, I moved to the Hudson Valley last spring! I've developed an obsession with bog, bats, and baking pizza and I am loving living in such a beautiful place. I survived maybe the coldest, snowiest winter of my life, and went snowshoeing for the first time! Now that the snow is finally melting, I'm looking forward to lots of spring hiking, camping, and bogging. I also recently took a NOLS WFR course which I would highly recommend to anyone thinking about it!





Class of 2024

Bea Portela: Hi wonderful FOOT friends! I am still living in San Francisco and continue to be obsessed with its trees. Some highlight outside memories this year include hiking in Scotland with Cali, Avery, and Kate (all '23) and a late summer trip in the Sierras with Ariana ('24) and Rhea ('24). This year also brought East Coast adventures with a reunion of the FOOT crew in Acadia to see Rosie ('24) and Calista ('24) crush their races!! If you're living or visiting the Bay, please reach out! (beaportela1@gmail.com) I'm thinking of cooking up an alumni reunion. There will be FOOT games...





Charlotte Townley: Hello lovely FOOT people! This year has been full of transitions. After graduating, I moved to NYC for a brief 9 months living the corporate girly dream life. A highlight of my year included taking FOOT besties Sam and Kate to a Brooklyn gem called Little Armenia Cafe, where you get waited on hand and foot by the amazing owner, chef Ararat. Before you know it, 3 hours have gone by, you've finished the bottle of Armenian wine, and a dessert smorgasbord has been brought to the table, compliments of the chef. The romp around NYC wrapped up quicker than expected though, because I decided to quit my job and go do a pre-med post-bac at Bryn Mawr #yolo (Shout out to Veronica Boratyn my muse). I've been loving my year here, and the excess of joy and laughter is in no small part due to my amazing roomie Kate Halabi. Who knows where I'll be next, but I'm just having fun being along for the adventure and mystery. Should we have a foot reunion in Acadia sometime soon? If you're down, hit me up. Lots of fluv, Charlotte



Cora Hagens: Hiya, FOOT! Sending greetings from Cambridge, MA, where I am blessed to live near (and even with!) so many former FOOT leaders. Highlights of 2025 included starting a new job as a paralegal at an environmental law non-profit, running and biking all over Boston's glorious park system, and keeping the FOOT spirit alive with a ton of outdoor adventures (pictured below). What a joy it has been to have so many FOOT folks in my life this year!!!



Eli Kennard: I am living large in Madison Wisconsin. I am looking forward to a trip to Iceland in May and am always on the look out for more adventures with my FOOT buddies. Faren Roth lives in the area as well and we meet monthly to solve puzzles and reminisce on days past



Jacob Slaughter: Jacob is enjoying life as a busy research fellow at YLS. He works remotely from the mountains whenever possible!

Kate Williams: After a successful ACL reconstruction last April, Kate hopped out to California to hike the JMT which ended with an epic Mt. Whitney sunrise. Made an exciting job switch to an energy startup at the start of the year, but still spends most of her time trying to find ways to escape to the mountains- usually with fellow foot leaders.





Natalie Smink: Greetings Foot Friends! After an incredible year of post-college travel and seasonal jobs, I have landed full time in Seattle, WA working for a nonprofit on public lands issues! As a first timer in the PNW, I must say I love the combination of forests, mountains, oceans and lakes. The outdoor activities are endless and it is a true FOOT leader haven. Being in the PNW also comes with the benefit of being close to Alaska! This past year I had the opportunity to travel to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (and stand on the Arctic Ocean!!) and the Tongass National Forest. I miss other FOOT folk out here in the PNW, but hold so much fluv for all the mini reunions that have happened this past year!



Rosie Rothschild: Hi! I'm living in NYC and just started working at a health tech startup. Over new years, I hiked the O trek in Patagonia with fellow foot leaders Drew and Calista. I have also found lots of joy in hanging out with other foot leaders in the city and beyond!



Theo Haaks: Helloooo from Washington, DC! This year I moved into one of the city's awesome row-homes with fellow FOOT leader Nat, and I have felt so lucky to have adventured with other leaders near and far! From skiing in Canada to cheering for fleet-FOOTed Rosie and Calista at races in Acadia, so many of this year's highlights were outdoors with fluvly foot folks. I'm so stoked to get out there more this summer, so shoot me a text if you're looking to backpack or if you're ever in the DMV!! Lots of Fluv, Theo



FOOT Alumni Newsletter: V1
FOOT 2025: Almost 1 year out...

Instructions:

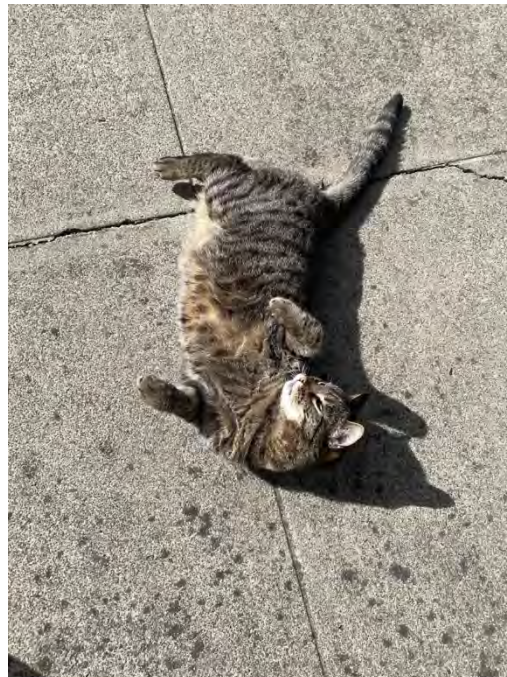
1. Share with us your **stories** since graduation! Where have you been? Who have you spent time with? What are you up to now? Are you still touching grass?
- a. **Tag** other FOOT leaders if you adventured with them(:
2. Include **photos**. We love photos, Cilla *loves* photos!!! Format them so they fit nicely with your text.
3. Bonus: roughly alphabetize your response in the document if you can, helps us with final formatting!

Prompts to ponder:

1. We know many of you did summer trips post-grad, how did those turn out?
2. A surprising challenge or joy in post-grad life
3. How are you finding and creating community now?
4. Something you full-sent #noregrets after college

Alaysia Navor — New Haven, CT: in nhv

Benj Mosseau — Bay Area, CA: I'm living in the SF Bay Area but I visited my cousins recently in Crete! Look at how precious my little cousin is!



Carigan McGuinn — Yosemite: After graduating, myself and 6 other FOOT leader besties flew to the west coast and spent a week camping and hiking in Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks! In August, I moved to Yosemite full time to work as an environmental science educator for Naturebridge, a nonprofit park partner. I've spent the last year teaching 5th-12th graders how to play outside and connect with themselves, their classmates, and the world around them! I absolutely love working here and am planning to stay all of next year. In my free time I get outside to hike, climb, and take cold dips in the Merced river whenever I can :) Let me know if you ever visit the park— I'd love to say hi!



Dom Alberts — NYC, New York: I'm working at a tech startup but I promise I'm thinking of the trees and plotting my return to them.

Gus Buck — Salt Lake City, UT: - Cloud Seeding

Josephine Stark— NYC, New York: Hi FOOT!! I am in NYC doing theater, film, and writing while yearning to touch grass and enthusiastically planning multiple summer camping adventures — miss you guys!!

Ketty Nguyen — New Haven, CT: Hi FOOT! I had possibly my most 'summer' summer yet, complete with a SW road trip with my brother who also graduated, my first solo camping trip, and my first backpacking trip since ACL surgery (to the Maroon Bells 4PL, no less!). After such a pause with injury, my return outdoors is all the more gratifying and grounding.

New Haven is still home, but not for much longer. Much of this past year was spent delivering kale to friendly faces, watching all 13 of Kubrick's movies on film, and savoring the Yale Farm. Crucially, I also realized how much I like talking to people and not deep frying my eyes with a screen, hence departing from clinical imaging research to a patient-facing position.

I take a page from my co David Rosenbloom's MO and cold call people on long walks to catch up. I declared 2025 the year of the leek. On my 2026 bingo card is "moving out west" with my eyes set on NorCal... if you are in the Bay Area and north through Sonoma, I can't wait to hear from you(:

Senior support from 2025 May Training was such a blast. We're nearing the 1y mark so I had to include a throwback picture and a massive thank you again to everyone for making FOOT so special. Fluv to all, and stay connected! xxx





Matthew Elmore Merritt — Cambridge, MA: Hello FOOT newsletter!

I have just returned from Rumney, New Hampshire, where my friends and I organized a training trip for next year's leaders of Harvard Medical School's First-Year outdoor orientation trip. We call the program FEAT, but it is functionally FOOT. During the training/camping trip, I of course found myself reflecting on the joy of being a FOOT leader during my sophomore year at Yale (4 years ago!). The experience of leading FOOT gave me several close friends (I even texted some of them last week!) and made me a more confident, reassured person. The experience also gave me an opportunity to pay forward the kindness I had received through outdoor recreation. I did not grow up in an outdoorsy family, which has made me very grateful to the many people who made the outdoors accessible to me when I first started adventuring. The mentorship and community given to us by the outdoors is a very special thing, and I am grateful to the FOOT community for making that feeling of connection to oneself, others, and land possible for me.

In other news, I am a first-year medical student at Harvard. I will be living in Kathmandu for the months of June and July, where I am working with Nick Simons Institute on C-section outcomes research. Any and all Nepal connections are appreciated! Offers to climb outside are readily accepted.

Cheers, Matthew

matthewmerritt131@gmail.com





Frances Keohane — Oxford, UK: After graduating, I had the absolute pleasure of booking it out West to do some epic hiking/camping in Yosemite and Kings Canyon/Sequoia with a squad of wonderful FOOT leaders: Kemper Lowry, Casey McGuire, Carigan McGuinn (now a Yosemite pro), Charlotte Lisa, Dom Alberts, and Lily Ates (all class of 2025). I spent the summer as a camp counselor for 5-year-olds at a NYC YMCA – indoors, mind you – and, although I slowly lost my mind, I felt equipped with all of the FOOT training. In September, my dad and I hiked the Presidential Loop in the Whites, which was absolutely stunning and reminded me of the trip I led with Kaj Litch (Yale 2026) back in 2024. No butt concussion this time!

In September, I moved across the pond and am currently pursuing a Master's in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Oxford (shoutout to FOOT leaders Robby Hill (2024) and Rose Hansen (2025), who are in Oxford too!). Here, I have swapped the backpack for an oar and have spent the majority of my outdoors time on the water. I will be returning to the states in July, hopefully after some weeks of great hiking on this side of the world. Missing everyone!!

Ben Crair — New York, NY: Hi everyone! After graduating I spent two weeks exploring Thailand and another couple weeks in the Sierras, including 5 days of backpacking in Yosemite! I'm now in NYC working on power market research for an energy trading company. Currently trying to get my outdoor fix from Central Park, but hoping for more adventures soon.

Izzy Kalb — San Antonio, TX: HI wonderful foot people! Since graduating I moved to San Antonio, Texas with Teach for America. I'm 3.5 weeks away from completing my first year as a teacher! I teach 8th grade English Language Arts and middle school ESL in a Title I school in San Antonio Independently School District. I've introduced my kiddos to the joy of trail games with a few FOOT classics like Bob the Weasel, Contact, and Bunny Bunny; they love to complain about having to play, and also love to play - beyond reminiscent of my footies :) Anyone in Texas or interested in teaching or generally just wanting to say hi, please reach out anytime! Forever endless fluv <3

Cilla: Wow – was it worth the wait? A January deadline stretched out to May?? I think so! So great to hear from ALL of you. *I hate pestering you, but I love the final product.* Thank you for contributing.

So for me, this is my 42nd year of FOOT. That sounds scary, but it still brings lots of joy and definitely tons of Type 1 fun. Our big news was finishing up a new house in Vermont on our Vermont farm. It is lovely and it's great to be in a house where things work and is efficient. I'm still doing weddings at Sky Acres (www.skyacresevents.com) which are always a happy occasion. So, think of me if you are tying the knot or want to renew your vows. A FOOT discount! I spend a lot of

time organizing – dinner parties, community potlucks, church picnics, book events. I guess FOOT has given me some practice with that. I write short essays about my life – mostly funny. For examples: “Everything is a Project,” “Mistaken Identity,” “The Joys of Renting.” I still play lots of pickleball. I have totally abandoned tennis for what my pro calls the dark side. It is addicting and I am an addict.

I made the Yale School of the Environment’s book of 125 Years of YSE (formerly the Forestry School)! Here I am working at Weyerhaeuser in Oregon. (I graduated in ’81)



Here is our new house in Vermont



We were entertained all last summer by a nearby den of mother fox and 4 kits.



Here I am not too long ago hiking at Hanging Rock in NC.



Sending lots of Love, FLUV, and everything else! xoxo, Cilla