How four alumni are working to create a better world.

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Our apologies to New Hampshire–based freelance photographer Rob Strong, who we forgot to credit for the wonderful photos that accompanied “Celebrating 20 Years of MCS” in our Fall 2008 issue. We regret the oversight. You can find another 300-plus of Rob’s reunion photos on our website; visit www.chewonki.org/alumni and click on “MCS Alumni.”
Sprinting to Success

Four years ago, when we began to plan for a campaign to secure Chewonki’s long-term health and longevity, we had no idea the global economy would be in the state it is today. In spite of this, we remain optimistic. Are we crazy? Not at all! We know that in these unpredictable times, Chewonki programs are needed more than ever and that our work is as relevant as it has ever been.

People and nations around the world are coming to terms with the fact that human activity is threatening our own existence. Our standard of living is but one measure of what it means to have a “good life.” Chewonki’s teachers and students work constantly to redefine that phrase and what it means to be a good citizen. I believe this work is the charge of the day.

Chewonki’s campaign to raise $11 million is making strides! The success of our campaign is both a gratifying endorsement of our work and an important indication that our supporters see value in the goals we set forth four years ago. We have raised a remarkable $9.27 million to date, and we send our deepest gratitude to all who have joined the effort. We are especially pleased that The Kresge Foundation extended the deadline for its $850,000 challenge grant. They understand that these are truly difficult times, and they are impressed with the quality of gifts and pledges we raised.

Our campaign goals reflect five areas of critical need at Chewonki: financial aid; staff enrichment and salary support; Camp Chewonki for Girls; access to the coast; and a model sustainable campus. Every story you read in this issue of the Chronicle will speak to these goals and to the value of a Chewonki experience.

It is particularly gratifying to see how our work is magnified by the inspiring work of others. The four individuals profiled in our cover story were all inspired in one way or another by their Chewonki experiences. So was Frank Sayre, who first came to camp in 1926! I could list dozens and dozens—even hundreds—more whose stories would be equally compelling. One of the things that fuels my engine is the knowledge that our work is making a real difference in the way people think about their communities and their environment—all over the world! There is no better reward.

It is thoughts such as these that have buoyed our spirits during this campaign. We have been heartened by the many gifts received from as near as Wiscasset and as far away as Hong Kong, and we are continually uplifted by the tributes that have accompanied them. And now, we are sprinting to the finish.

Chewonki’s staff and Board of Trustees and Advisors endorsed The Earth Charter of the United Nations in July 2002. When I reflect on these words and look around me at the work that Chewonki does each day, I am both grateful and proud that Chewonki continues to address the greatest charge of our time.

We stand at a critical moment in Earth’s history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

Don Hudson
Help Us Preserve Chewonki’s History!

Do you remember all of your cabinmates? Can you recall the names of counselors? Can you help us put names to faces and events? We’ve recently undertaken a project, and your assistance is essential. Chewonki librarian Ed Thompson is archiving 90-plus years of camp photos and loading them onto a photo website where they’re available for viewing by anyone who’s interested.

Ed has started with pre-1950 black-and-white photos and is working his way forward, decade by decade. Once the photos are identified, he will scan them to digital format, creating a rich history to be preserved, viewed, and enjoyed by Chewonki alumni for years to come.

Please spend a few minutes (or longer!) viewing these old photos and send us your memories. The photos can be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/chewonki/collections (click on the top left folder, titled “Camp Chewonki Alumni”), and you can respond to Dick Thomas, director of alumni relations (dthomas@chewonki.org or 207-882-7323 ext. 124). Thank you for helping us preserve Chewonki’s history!

Erin Cummings, 1960–2009

We lost a devoted member of our staff this winter. Erin Cummings of Westport Island died on February 11, 2009, at the age of 48 after a long battle with cancer. Erin had worked in our Business Office since 2002 and at the time of her death was our Human Resources manager. She also chaired Chewonki’s Community Committee.

Erin loved life, and she shared that love with her husband Mark, their daughters Casey (MCS 38; Camp ’04; Camp Staff ’05, ’07) and Kerry (Camp ’07; Camp Staff ’08), their son Chris (Camp ’01–’04, ’06, ’07; Camp Staff ’08), and everyone else in her sphere—including numerous Maine foster children. Even as she struggled with cancer, Erin taught us all to celebrate every day.

We miss Erin greatly, and are reminded often of her warm and generous spirit. We are honored that her family has established the Erin Cummings Scholarship Fund at Chewonki to provide support for children to participate in summer and school-year programs.

Don Hudson

MCS Adds Wilderness First Aid

How many high-school students do you know who can save a life? Well, you can now count Maine Coast Semester students among them. The school added Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training to its curriculum this year, and the response from students has been overwhelmingly positive.

WFA differs significantly from standard first-aid courses: it teaches what to do when help is miles away and calling 911 is not an option. Covering basic medical and life support skills in a wilderness context, the course prepares students to handle emergencies that may involve prolonged patient care, remote terrain, and improvised equipment.

For two intensive days, MCS students attend lectures, discuss medical issues, conduct simulations, and take exams. Upon successful completion of the course, they receive a Wilderness Medical Associates WFA certification card and Anaphylaxis and Adult CPR certifications cards, all of which are valid for three years.

In its first two semesters, the course has received nothing but praise from students. “I am still amazed by [WFA]. I thought the intensity, collaboration, compassion, and knowledge within this course were incredible,” said Fiona Haslett of MCS 41. Her classmates Ashley Rassi and Max Ritchie, writing together on the MCS blog, said “the WFA training…stands out as one of the top five activities here. We are both pretty proud to know that we successfully completed the course and that we know more than an average person might about how to save people in potentially harmful situations.”

WFA is offered at Chewonki in association with Wilderness Medical Associates (www.wildmed.com). WMA was the first in its field to develop a highly regarded curriculum and certification program and now conducts almost 400 courses a year worldwide. The course is taught by Chewonki health care coordinator and lead WMA instructor Eric Duffy, who is also a Wilderness EMT, State of Maine EMT, and Registered Maine Guide.

“Before teaching MCS 41, I could count on one hand the number of students I had who were younger than 18,” said Eric. “These students worked hard, and showed more effort than a lot of college groups I’ve worked with. Each one of them earned their certifications, and I gained new and rewarding insights into my work as an educator.”

Chewonki has a 20-year association with WMA, having offered its courses to countless faculty and staff, as well as members of the public. To inquire about WFA and other WMA courses offered at Chewonki, visit www.chewonki.org/trips.
Magnificent Visitor Takes Refuge at Chewonki

It’s hard to believe that the Snowy Owl pictured here is the same creature we first saw on November 25. That’s the day the bird was spotted walking down a sidewalk in Brunswick—about 20 miles south of Chewonki and at least 1,000 miles south of the species’ nearest breeding site. Small numbers of Snowy Owls move south every winter, and at least a few appear in Maine. But walking down a sidewalk? “We knew something had to be wrong with it,” said head naturalist Lynne Flaccus.

It was Animal Control Officer Heidi Nelson of the Brunswick P.D. who brought the bird to Chewonki. “I knew that was the best possible place I could take it,” she later said. “They’re good people. And bird people.” A careful examination by Lynne and Outreach director Anna Hunt, both of whom are licensed wildlife rehabilitators, revealed that the bird was severely emaciated and dehydrated but had no obvious injuries.

The owl was promptly moved into a Chewonki aviary with all the food and water it needed and gradually began to regain its strength. In the meantime, the wildlife recovery story was headline news in local newspapers as a cadre of neighbors anxiously followed the bird’s progress.

On an icy afternoon in mid-December, Lynne loaded the owl into a dog crate and drove it a few miles up the road to Chewonki’s Eaton Farm. A small group of Outreach staff who had helped the bird return to health were on hand to witness its release. Prema Long got to do the honors—but not before everyone had one last look at the magnificent visitor.

The sky was pink and dusk approaching fast. Wearing long leather gloves and holding the owl in both hands, Prema counted—“one, two, three”—and tossed the bird free. Without a moment’s hesitation, it flew high over the fields and water and landed atop a tall white pine on the opposite shore. “What a beautiful sight,” someone whispered softly.

The Snowy Owl was one of 121 animals—birds, bats, and turtles—that Chewonki rehabilitated and released in 2008. We wish it well, and hope that as you read these pages, it is safely back home on its summer breeding grounds in the Arctic tundra.

Our Newest Poster: Eat Well, Live Well

Eating well, with thoughtful attention to the sources of our food, is at the heart of living well. Anyone who has visited Chewonki’s dining hall knows that we take great interest in the source of our food, how it was grown, the balance of ingredients in our meals, and even the philosophy and politics of food. Our Farm and Kitchen Committee meets regularly to discuss these and other important issues. This committee was also at the heart of Chewonki’s newest curriculum project: a poster and related website on sustainable food.

Designed and illustrated by artist C. Michael Lewis and spearheaded by our Pathways curriculum team, the poster provides a colorful and thought-provoking discourse on five central topics: local food, health, fish, dairy, and meat. As with our previous posters, this one will have an associated website where teachers and students can further pursue the topics on the poster.

“The food poster has been a passionate collaboration between many of Chewonki’s food experts,” said sustainability coordinator Peter Arnold. The staff and particularly our Farm and Kitchen Committee contributed enormously to the content, and students of Maine Coast Semester 40 also provided input. The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and organic gardening guru Eliot Coleman graciously served as outside reviewers.

After an engaging and impassioned development process, the results are here! Eat Well, Live Well follows two earlier posters, Renewable Energy and Clean Water. The online version of the poster will go live this spring at www.chewonki.org/pathways.

Schools, teachers, and libraries can order free copies of our educational posters online. If you are not from a school or library, we are happy to mail posters for a small fee. Just go to www.chewonki.org/pathways. We regret that we can no longer ship posters internationally.

go paperless.
get enews.

In an effort to save resources, Chewonki is moving toward more e-communications and less printing. If you’d like to help us with that effort, please go to our website and sign up for our e-news. Click the lower left-hand button, “go paperless. get enews.” Once there, you can select the areas of interest for which you’d like to receive occasional emails.
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Interviews with four passionate alumni whose work is inspired by a vision of a better world

Will Bates
Sounding the call on climate change

Grew up in: Greenwich, CT
Graduated from: Middlebury College in 2005 with a major in Environmental Studies and a focus in Religion
Currently lives in: Budapest, Hungary
Works as: South-Central Asia Coordinator for 350.org
Cheboksan connection: Camp ’94, ’95, ’97, ’98; Camp Staff ’00–’03, ’05

On October 24, 2009, people all over the world will stand together and call for a fair global climate treaty. It’s called International Day of Climate Action, and Will Bates of 350.org is helping to build the buzz. 350.org is an international group that takes its name from the number of parts per million that scientists consider the safe upper limit for CO2 in our atmosphere.

The organization began as a climate activist group founded by author/activist Bill McKibben and a team of friends at Middlebury College. This same group ran Step It Up 2007, which resulted in more than 2,000 rallies held in all 50 states, and later helped launch the initiative 1Sky. Will has been there every step of the way, helping to build a movement to unite the world around solutions to the global climate crisis.

Q. Tell us a bit about your work.
A. My current work involves building a social movement large enough to reshape national and international politics so that societal actions will match what science and justice demand. I’m spending most of this year working abroad, in Budapest, South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. I returned to the U.S. once, to attend Power Shift 2009 [see back cover] and join the Capitol Climate Action on March 2.

Q. What drives you?
A. My first response is that I am driven by a constant desire for a more perfect world. That’s the short, honest answer. I have all kinds of dreams and hopes for our world well beyond the realm of climate change—some to do with peace, some with poverty, really anything involving social justice and cultivating goodness in our world.

My second response is that in exploring these admittedly broad interests, I’ve seen that climate change is the most urgent, most all-pervasive crisis the world is facing. No vision of a more peaceful, just world is possible without fully addressing this issue head-on. Climate change is in my mind the greatest symptom of a much larger social, spiritual crisis. And yet it is an issue that wields powerful scientific bases, and physical deadlines that cannot be ignored. If we do not reduce and eliminate the cause of climate change soon enough, we will lose our chance to avert ongoing catastrophe, forever. So, a real sense of urgency is part of what drives me.

And yet, urgency isn’t everything. Climate change is forcing us to acknowledge immense opportunities that can also further the causes of peace and social justice. International cooperation, the creation of more equitable and ecologically sustainable economies, the resurgence in real, local community—these are all requirements in any action to effectively address climate change, and all can have substantial benefits for our world beyond stopping global warming. To achieve all that, we must have international political commitment and investment. And our only opportunity for achieving that is in building a global political, social movement like we’ve never seen.

Q. What do you hope your work will accomplish?
A. 350.org is trying to create a new political space and to make it so irresistible that all politicians and governments will be drawn into it no matter how radical it may be. By the end of this year we hope our movement will have made it unmistakably clear that 350 ppm CO2 is the target we
need, and that the world is ready to unite around that.

Q. What do you find most satisfying about your job?
A. I love meeting and learning from so many inspiring and passionate people. From fellow youth climate activists, to local organizers, to people working on all sorts of different causes around the world—when working in the thick of grassroots movement building, there are endless numbers of remarkable people striving to create a better world.

Q. Do you have any suggestions for encouraging people to live more responsibly—i.e., with a greater awareness of Earth and our fellow citizens?
A. Organize! We’re beyond the point at which changing our lightbulbs and joining the local CSA are all it takes to be responsible citizens. Those are certainly good, important things—do them! But don’t stop there. In whatever form you can, organize. If you need more ideas for what that might mean, I might suggest a book my friends and I wrote in 2007 called Fight Global Warming Now: The Handbook for Taking Action in Your Community. And if you’re not sure what to organize around, we need all the help we can get for the 350 global day of action on October 24 of this year. Visit www.350.org to learn more and join in the movement.

Q. What is the most important thing you took away from Chewonki?
A. There is one obvious, important takeaway, and one more subtle. The obvious is that Chewonki is where I first learned about global warming. Peter Arnold’s introduction to the topic had an enormous impression on me and was likely the very first trigger that led to my interest and activity on this topic. The more subtle bit was just my general concept of community. The kind of community I’ve experienced at Chewonki remains one of the foundations of my vision for a better world. Most people who know about Chewonki probably don’t need me to define that sense of community for them—they know it too.

Paige Ruane
Understanding traditional medicine, and how to share the benefits equitably

Grew up in: New York City
Graduated from: Kenyon College in 1994
with a major in History; also holds a master’s in psychology from Lesley University
Currently lives in: New York City
Works as: President, Integrative Medicine Foundation
Chewonki connection: MCS 1 (Fall 1988); current member, Chewonki Advisory Board

Once or twice a year, Paige Ruane leaves Manhattan for Africa, traveling primarily in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. She never set out to start a nonprofit, but she did, in 2005 with a fellow Kenyon alum.

In partnership with local individuals and organizations in sub-Saharan Africa, Integrative Medicine Foundation seeks to build sustainable communities through researching and developing traditional medicine. Although 80 percent of sub-Saharan Africans rely on traditional medicine for their primary healthcare, few governments incorporate traditional medicine in their healthcare policies. The consequences are enormous, and they are the target of Paige’s passion.

Q. Tell us a bit about your work.
A. Integrative Medicine deals with the research of traditional—meaning culturally contextual, ancient traditions of—medicine. We have partnered with traditional healers in East Africa and plan to build a research laboratory and clinic to study the remedies found in Ugandan, Kenyan, and Rwandan traditions. I’m spearheading the effort to help educate the public on the surrounding environmental, human rights, and health issues driving our work. We are also devoted to effecting policy change both here and in Africa with regard to choices and best-practice availability for health care.

“The awakening I had at Chewonki to the importance of our relationship to nature and each other, and how best to cultivate those relationships, profoundly affected my path.”

Continued on page 8
Q. What drives you?
A. Experience with the frustrating inadequacy of our current health system. Witnessing the tragic circumstances of my parents' deaths from cancer, and seeing the physical and emotional problems of friends and family addressed with limited methods by conventional care.

Non-toxic remedies exist for most diseases, and in most cases they are better for our bodies and the environment than the chemical alternative. These remedies originate from cultures and healers not compensated for their knowledge. Their knowledge is stolen when it could instead create economically sustainable communities. Upward of 60 percent of pharmaceuticals are based on this knowledge. Yet a synthetic version is made, regardless of its superiority or inferiority to the original version, because (a) most first-world research is geared toward studying chemical, not plant, substances and (b) only patents for novel chemical substances are strictly lucrative.

My partners and I have written a paper, funded by The Rockefeller Foundation, that outlines new research protocols for plant medicine. Several scientific and medical experts have validated these protocols, and we plan to put them into practice. Classically used double-blind placebo controlled studies were not designed to understand the full potential nature holds as a medicine chest.

Q. What do you hope your work will accomplish?
A. I hope we can provide the basic human right of choice with regard to treatment options for diseases such as cancer, malaria, tuberculosis, and asthma. These diseases are being successfully addressed in obscure parts of Africa yet remain epidemics worldwide.

I want to help people make connections and see these issues as comprehensively linked. When we abuse our environment, we not only abuse our health through pollution, we also lose remedies. Nature holds remedies for us all. Perhaps illuminating this will help people value the environment in a more personal way. If we take economic advantage of people by stealing their knowledge, misusing it to help ourselves in the short term but harm ourselves, them, and the environment in the long term, it will catch up with us. These problems cross borders. We are more closely connected to people thousands of miles away than is conventionally grasped.

I hope to hold myself, and people with power and authority, accountable to these realities by creating valid data, dialogue, and awareness. We will do this through building independent laboratories and conducting research in collaboration, economically and intellectually, with traditional healers.

Q. What are your goals?
A. To create possibility and sustainability, and to guard human rights as they relate to health. We will try to fairly balance the economics of health by practicing equitable benefit sharing with traditional healers. Other goals are to promote sustainable farming practices both of medicinal herbs and food and to model environmental stewardship in all choices we make. We are creating a solar-powered office in the heart of Manhattan, for instance.

Q. Do you have any suggestions for encouraging people to live more responsibly?
A. I would suggest that people constantly consider what it means that we are part of an ecosystem, not separate from it. And I mean that not just environmentally but also culturally and relationally. I think there are delights in this consideration.

A parallel issue to traditional medicine is farming and food. I suggest that people not only consider what their medicine is, where it comes from, and what waste or sustainability is produced as a result of their choices, but what their food is, where it comes from, and what waste or sustainability is produced as a result of their habits. What do they trust and why? Do they trust something because it’s familiar or because they have thought it through deeply?

Q. What is the most important thing you took away from Chewonki?
A. I took away a real value of community, especially one that works toward mutual respect and consciousness together. There was emphasis on seeing our community process at MCS as parallel to ideal world community behavior. This doubtless influenced my later pursuits and activism.

Q. Tell us a bit about your current work.
A. I spend the majority of my time researching anti-corruption law and institutions in Africa with the ISS. I’m also working with professors at the University of Cape Town to examine traditional courts and customary law in South Africa.
“What strikes me about my Chewonki experience is how relevant it remains, even though I’m far from Maine and have not picked a career that involves direct work with the environment.”

Q. What drives you?
A. That’s a tough question. I’ve always been attracted to the challenge of examining problems that transcend national and/or cultural boundaries. That’s probably a reflection of my upbringing; my mother’s from Panama, my father from Ghana, and I grew up a beleaguered New York Mets fan (go figure). As for my still-young legal career, my specific interest is in measures that prevent and combat transnational crime, particularly corruption, with a broader interest in the cross-section between law and international affairs.

Q. What has it been like to observe U.S. affairs from South Africa?
A. Watching the U.S. election from this side of the world was fascinating. The entire country seemed captivated by the prospect of a U.S. president whose rhetoric, race, and cultural background seemed to promise so many transitions at once.

At the same time, while “yes we can” popped up in conversations everywhere, there was a certain wistfulness to the way people referred to the U.S. election as our “Mandela Moment.” As South Africa geared up for its own major elections in April 2009, there was a sense that the hope experienced by many at the end of Apartheid had been realized years later by only a few. While the formal structures of racial segregation have fallen, South Africa remains extremely stratified economically. Add to that the fact that the ruling party’s presidential candidate was facing high-profile corruption charges, and it seemed as if people saw in Obama reflections of a moment of hope and change that came and went in the immediate aftermath of Apartheid. It was both an engaging and cautionary tale about making change a reality.

Q. What’s the most satisfying thing you’ve done in the past year?
A. Let me think simply about the last month! I just wrote an op-ed on the dissolution (and planned reconfiguration) of South Africa’s anti-corruption unit that got some positive feedback and ran in newspapers in Cape Town and Johannesburg. I didn’t turn stone into bread, but it felt satisfying to contribute to the greater public discussion on policies that will affect the country’s immediate future.

Q. Where do you see yourself in five years?
A. I’d like to see myself as a federal prosecutor, although if you had asked me this question in college, I would never have predicted that answer! Yet I’ve seen the impacts that crime and corruption can bear on a country’s ability to make good on its promises, my attitude has changed. I also see myself as a still-suffering Mets fan—for which Don Hudson will probably ridicule me.

Q. How has your Chewonki experience followed you beyond Maine?
A. One of the things I love about Chewonki is that its impact extends far beyond the boundaries of Wiscasset, the country, or even one specific view of environmental activism. I continue to hear echoes of our MCS 18 conversations in discussions I have on the environmental challenges confronting urban environments or the impact of climate change in the developing world. When MCSers reflect on their experience, we often speak about how we grew in character while tucking away on Chewonki Neck. That still remains very true for me.”

Visit our website at www.chewonki.org
Pam Foxley Arifian
Guiding communities toward sustainability

Grew up in: New York City
Graduated from: Colby College in 2001 with a major in Sociology
Currently lives in: Pasadena, CA
Works as: a Community and Environmental Planner for RBF Consulting
Chewonki connection: Outdoor Classroom Educator, Outreach Instructor, and Wilderness Trip Leader, 2002–2004

Pam Foxley Arifian’s compass is set on a course toward inspiring and implementing sustainability. When she left Chewonki in 2004, it was to start a year-round sustainability program at Silver Lake Summer Camp and Conference Center in Connecticut. Part educational and part implementation, the program was directly inspired by Chewonki and continues to serve today as a model of sustainable environmental stewardship. In a year’s time, Pam got a composting toilet installed, created educational lessons, implemented green changes in the buildings and grounds, ramped up recycling efforts, and built a three-bin composting system and organic vegetable garden.

In 2005, Pam moved with her now-husband to southern California, where she found a new niche promoting sustainability in neighborhoods and municipalities for RBF, a planning and engineering firm with offices in California, Arizona, and Nevada.

“So much of my drive and dedication stem from my experience at Chewonki, and all of the people there who teach by example and lead with passion.”

Q. Tell us a bit about your work.
A. As RBF’s second (and first female) LEED Accredited Professional, I work with communities to create sustainable design guidelines for urban infill and revitalization projects. I also analyze development projects for their environmental impacts and recommend mitigation measures to reduce those impacts. I’ve coauthored a green office guide and helped create a green office group to promote a healthier, more environmentally friendly office environment. It’s very exciting work, and it’s also exciting to be in an area that by necessity has so much opportunity to make great advances in the field of sustainability.

Q. What drives you?
A. Living at Chewonki and being part of a community where everyone does their part to live with a lighter footprint taught me how much is possible—and how much sense it makes to live that way. I find it very satisfying to work with communities to encourage outside-the-box thinking and to promote a diversion from unsustainable business-as-usual.

Q. What do you hope your work will accomplish?
A. I am always seeking to inspire and empower action in others, be it through education or by implementing programs or creating design guidelines and policy for
communities. I hope my work will help people reduce their footprints, not only in their homes but also in their workplaces and communities.

Q. What are the biggest obstacles you face in achieving your goals?
A. People who are stuck in their business-as-usual mentalities, although I’m seeing less of this as the concept of “sustainability” and why we need to change our behaviors has become more widely accepted and even trendy. Also, people who are stuck on thinking about “cost” as a single-faceted concept, with no awareness of the life-cycle impacts of a material or design choice.

Q. Where do you see yourself in five years?
A. I will still be consulting with people to effect positive change. I hope to have my own garden, and also to take part in creating sustainable food opportunities for communities.

Q. What aspect of your Chewonki experience had the greatest impact on you?
A. All of it! Chewonki was the single most significant influence that led me to where I am now. Whether it was showing groups the compost bins and the role they play in creating delicious and nutritious food, or bringing a live animal or pedal-powered light bulbs into a classroom, Chewonki taught me to recognize and take advantage of teachable moments to turn on a light bulb in someone’s head and change their way of thinking.

I also learned that living more sustainably starts with everyday choices—and that those choices plant seeds of inspiration and understanding in others, and can create an ever-extending community of people who make a difference.

Visit our website at www.chewonki.org
Welcome to the Sustainability Office, the hub of Chewonki’s leading-edge conservation and energy initiatives. “It may look like chaos, but it’s not,” says coordinator Peter Arnold (pictured above).

Solar battery chargers—identical to the ones that campers and trippers build each summer—sit alongside cardboard boxes of educational posters. Plans for a hydro station that directs tidal flow to underground turbines sprawl across a desk.

But what’s up with the sheetrock buckets, pipes, and inner tubes? They look like they might have been scavenged from the back of an old shed (which it turns out they were). “That’s for the methane digester an MCS student wants to build,” Peter says matter-of-factly. And the bike? The one that’s wired to a bunch of lights bulbs mounted on a board in front of the handlebars? “Try it!” he offers. “You’ll have to pedal a lot harder to light up the incandescent bulbs than the compact fluorescents. The Outdoor Classroom uses that in their energy lessons.”

Assistant Tom Twist is here too, and he sets the record straight on where those garbage bags filled with aluminum cans are headed. It isn’t to a recycling center. “Students will be making a solar air heater out of those,” he explains. “They’ll paint the cans black, to absorb sunlight and turn it into heat. You’d be amazed how many BTUs a simple solar heater can generate.”

Many Chewonki participants will know this small office by its earlier name of Pathways. By any name, it’s an incubator for ideas that is adding exponentially to Chewonki’s long-standing strength in natural history education. “The Sustainability Office supports every one of our programs and more,” says Don Hudson. “These guys fan the flames around here! They’re always doing new and innovative things, and it’s contagious.”

“Peter Arnold is our 21st-century Roger Tory Peterson in terms of impact on our curriculum.”
—Willard Morgan
They generally eschew the traditional academic approach, preferring instead to offer participatory activities.

Maine Coast Semester has the greatest interaction with the office, largely because its students spend the most time here. “We do twelve 90-minute energy lessons a semester now. The kids are swimming in this stuff,” says Peter. Head of school Willard Morgan is thrilled. “Peter Arnold is our 21st-century Roger Tory Peterson in terms of impact on our curriculum,” he said recently.

Other program directors echo the praise. “The Sustainability Office helps us walk our talk and sets us apart from all the other camps,” says Genell Vashro, director of Chewonki’s new girls camp. At the boys camp, Renewable Energy has been a daily activity choice for several years. “It adds so much to our program,” says director Garth Altenburg. “Campers come to see that we’re doing something very different here, and that we’re doing it very deliberately.”

Dot Lamson, director of the Center for Environmental Education, can’t imagine functioning without the Sustainability Office: “It supports all of our programs with the resources, knowledge, and creativity to provide top-quality sustainability education as well as cutting-edge energy technology for our campus.”

The Sustainability Office also has an impact beyond Chewonki Neck. It has played a significant role in energy education in Maine, particularly for biodiesel and hydrogen, and its annual Sustainability Conference is known throughout New England. The office has also begun to play a role in helping to advance new commercial technologies, as it did last year with the solarized Kronosport electric vehicle.

These days, the buzz is all about the new direction Chewonki is moving with ocean energy. Peter and others imagine a day very soon when the Sheepscot River will be turning turbines that generate clean electricity. Peter has even taken on the role of project manager for Wiscasset Tidal Resources, a collaboration between Chewonki and the Town of Wiscasset. Another project could involve exporting green energy from Maine to Boston via a DC transmission line, and a third would store ocean energy like a big battery. “This part of our work continues to grow—inserting Chewonki into the middle of all this activity. It’s going to happen more and more, and it’s incredibly exciting,” observes Peter.

For almost 40 years, Chewonki has been committed both to modeling sustainable practices and to developing educational opportunities that lead to sustainability. “We first began looking at alternative technologies back in 1970, when we installed composting toilets on the Lower Field. We haven’t stopped looking for ways to transform this place since then,” Don Hudson said. “Our Sustainability Office will evolve,” he added. “It has to, because ‘sustainability’ isn’t an absolute term. What was defined as ‘sustainable’ ten years ago isn’t the same thing today.”

Whatever changes lie ahead, there’s one thing we’re sure of: the Sustainability Office will continue to provide wonderful opportunities and resources for students and educators of all ages. To learn more, visit www.chewonki.org/pathways.
Sixteen-year-old Johanna Douglas of Concord Academy in Massachusetts wants to be a dairy farmer. A few things still stand between Johanna and her goal—like finishing high school and then college—but one thing she already knows is that she won’t install a large methane digester on her farm. She figured that out doing an Independent Research Project for her Environmental Issues class at Chewonki.

In a 30-minute presentation last November, Johanna explained how methane digesters work and what their pros and cons are. After looking at 12 dairy farms from Vermont to Florida and from New Jersey to Wisconsin, she told her classmates she had reached a surprising conclusion: “I started this project thinking methane digestion would make my farm more sustainable. But I’ve come to a new understanding of the criteria needed for methane digesters to work efficiently, and a large one won’t be suitable for my small farm.”

A major stumbling block, she said, was that methane digesters achieve maximal efficiency only if cows are kept in their stalls all the time; otherwise, it’s impractical to collect the manure. “I’d rather pasture my cows, which is healthier and more humane, and look for other ways to make my farm more sustainable.” That didn’t mean Johanna had completely given up on methane digesters, however. With the help of sustainability assistant Tom Twist, she built her own small prototype, from a couple of inner tubes, some PVC piping, two sheetrock buckets, and a heat lamp. It didn’t work, but it was an admirable effort—and it got the Sustainability Office thinking more seriously about methane digestion at Chewonki. It also gave Johanna hope that someday she’ll be able to build a small methane digestor that does work.

Environmental Issues has been taught at Maine Coast Semester since the school opened in 1988. Typically, about a quarter of each semester’s students enroll in the class. The Independent Research Project, or IRP, has always been a cornerstone of it. “Many students have never been asked to pose their own question and design a research project to answer it,” says head of school Willard Morgan. “The IRP is an opportunity for students to ask what really excites them, then figure out how to design a project they can realistically pursue. ‘Ownership for your education’ is a phrase we’ve used at MCS for years, and nothing illustrates it better than IRPs.”

While each semester focuses on a single broad topic—sustainable forestry, lobstering, and climate change are just a few examples—students can range widely in their IRPs. Last semester, for instance, Sophie Silkes took a virtual journey to Kenya that resulted in “The Greenbelt Movement: Making Environmental Change in a Developing Nation.” Nick Derlin presented “The Commercial Beef Industry: Economics, the Environment and the Future.” For titles alone, though, it was hard to beat Johanna’s: “Methane Digestion of Cow Manure: Is It Just Grap?”

For many students, IRPs represent a new way of learning. “The process has always been as important as the product,” says assistant head of school Paul Arthur, who taught the class for many semesters. In their research, for example, students must go beyond books and learn how to use resources such as phone calls, interviews, and written correspondence. As they hone their analytical skills, they learn to differentiate between fact and opinion, to define point of view and perspective, and to identify biases—including their own. They also give a formal presentation on their topic. “We’ve never done anything like this. A 30-minute presentation is a lot!” said Julie Piñero. She called her IRP “by far the biggest research project or presentation I’ve ever done.”

Willard, who is teaching Environmental Issues this year, says that in almost every case the students become better versed on their topic than the teacher is. “They really do teach us. It’s great for them, and great for us.” Willard sees the IRPs as a “litmus test” for the faculty. “They tell us a lot about what students are interested in. In some cases, it really can drive the curriculum.” For students who have a particularly strong interest in environmental science, the IRP is also an opportunity to get more out of MCS than they otherwise could. “We can’t customize our curriculum for every student, but the IRP offers a small way to do that,” says Willard.

Environmental Issues is currently the only MCS class that includes an IRP, but that may change. Several faculty have been discussing whether or not they could have an IRP for every student as part of a revised curriculum. MCS is in the first year of a two-year curriculum review that aims to answer that and other questions.

In the meantime, the Environmental Issues students of MCS 42, who are studying climate change, are about to give their final presentations. If 41 previous semesters are any guide, these presentations will be pretty darn impressive.
Remembering Frank Sayre

Chezowki lost a great friend last October. When Frank Sayre died at the age of 93, obituaries appeared in newspapers across the country. From 1951 to 1978, the Very Rev. Francis B. Sayre Jr. had been dean of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The New York Times remembered him as a man for whom “discrimination was a recurring theme.” The Washington Post called him “a leading national voice of conscience.”

At Chezowki, he was simply Frank, sometimes Franny. He was 11 years old when he first came to camp in 1926. Little did we know that 71 years later he would pen a note that began “Dear Don, All my life Chezowki has been one of my dearest loves.” He returned as a camper and counselor, was a frequent visitor in the 1950s, and served for 35 years as an advisor and honorary trustee. He even honeymooned at Chezowki, in 1946, when he married Harriet Taft Hart. Frank’s brother Woody Sayre was also a camper and counselor, as were Frank’s son Tom and grandson Joe.

Frank was born in the White House on January 17, 1915, the fourth grandchild of President Woodrow Wilson. He grew up around the world, graduated from Williams College and Episcopal Theological Seminary, served as a Navy chaplain during World War II, and later had a parish in Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1951, Frank was called to the National Cathedral, the sixth-largest cathedral in the world. From its pulpit, he railed against McCarthyism, political corruption, the Vietnam War, and social injustices and discrimination of every stripe. He marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in 1965, and in 1968 won a decade-long fight to allow King to preach at the cathedral. It was King’s last sermon before his assassination five days later.

Born into a world of privilege and power, Frank consistently used that inheritance to advance larger causes and to fight for underdogs everywhere. He once said of his position: “Whoever is appointed the dean of the cathedral has in his hand a marvellous instrument, and he’s a coward if he doesn’t use it.”

More than a decade has passed since Frank last visited Chezowki, and few remain on campus who knew him, but his name is still widely known among the Chezowki family. “Scores of campers and staff remember him playing his guitar at campfires and his occasional Sunday homilies under the pine tree. The impression he left here was enormous,” said Dick Thomas.

Frank was especially close to Chezowki founder Clarence Allen. When Clarence died in April 1974, Frank and former executive director Tim Ellis presided at his memorial service at the Episcopal church in Camden, Maine.

It was at that service that Don Hudson first met Frank. “After I became president of Chezowki in 1991, Frank would call or write me periodically to share his thoughts about the value of Chezowki,” Don said recently. “Our files are full of wonderful snippets from him.” A particularly memorable one was written in 1991:

I don’t think I know of any enterprise that more effectively works for the kind of things I believe in. Chezowki is the fresh form of religion in our floundering society; it is not dogmatic or broken up like the churches, but real and practical. All kinds of people can unite behind what you are doing!

Another came in 1999, shortly before Frank stepped down as a trustee at the age of 84:

Thank you for your letter. I’ve read it with admiration and life-long love of the Camp and all its many descendants and friends. The work and witness that Mr. Allen founded has been an inspiration to me all through my life.

Congregational minister and theologian John Eusden—a former camper, counselor, and honorary trustee—spoke recently to the profound effect Chezowki had on Frank. The two men overlapped only one summer at camp but later saw each other often in Washington. “Frank’s sermons were among the first on ‘religion and environment,’ ” a subject he said his time at Chezowki influenced. Frank was an early environmentalist. We had many conversations about the value of working for God’s beautiful world, and how to honor and preserve it.”

Frank left this world on October 3, 2008, five years after his beloved wife. They are survived by two daughters, two sons, and eight grandchildren. On October 25, family and friends gathered at the National Cathedral to celebrate the former dean and give thanks for his life and ministry. In their own quiet way, many who knew Frank at Chezowki did the same. His life and wisdom will continue to inspire us.
A Chewonki Vacation

Beautiful, sustainable, and endlessly fun

BETTA STOTHART CONNOR

Last fall, when we announced that Chewonki would make its rustic cabins at Fourth Debsconeag Lake available to families, we had no idea the demand would be so great.

“More and more people are looking for short, three- or four-day experiences in exquisite natural settings where they can take advantage of great fishing, canoeing, and hiking. And many of them want the comfort of a cozy cabin and deliciously prepared meals,” said Chris Riley, assistant director of Chewonki Wilderness Programs. “Chewonki has all that and then some.”

With properties at Big Eddy and Fourth Debsconeag Lake, not to mention four beautiful new islands, Chewonki is now perfectly positioned to offer a rich variety of experiential vacations for adults and families. And we will be doing just that, starting this spring. As a result of some creative brainstorming and insight from leaders in the field of ecotourism, Chewonki has proudly launched Chewonki Wilderness Vacations for Adults and Families with a new brochure and website.

“Chewonki Vacations isn’t so much a new program as it is a reinvention of what we’ve been offering for years,” said Chewonki president Don Hudson. “With several exceptional new properties and a highly qualified and passionate staff, we’re simply expanding what we can do.”
Chewonki Vacations for 2009

Chewonki believes that the most rewarding and fulfilling vacations are ones in which both mind and body receive the rest and stimulation needed for renewal. We invite all of our friends and extended family to join us for a Chewonki Vacation.

For a complete description of offerings and prices, please request a brochure or visit us online at www.chewonki.org.

Debsconeag Wilderness Sporting Camps
Our wilderness camps are situated in the heart of Maine’s North Woods on an exquisite chain of lakes and ponds that are permanently protected as an ecological reserve. The sporting camps on Fourth Debsconeag Lake date back to the early 1900s when then vice president Theodore Roosevelt came to the region with his family to hunt and fish.

The rustic cabins at Fourth Debsconeag are cozy, charming, and historic. All sit on or only steps away from the lake, where loon calls are nearly always heard on summer nights. Each cabin has a simple kitchen, refrigerator, sink, running water, and woodstove. The property also has several yurts, each of which can accommodate up to eight guests.

Cabin and yurts are available for rent without a meal plan. For groups of six or more, Chewonki offers lodging and a full meal plan. We offer delicious, healthy meals and packed lunches. Breakfast and dinner are served in our dining lodge, with BBQs as weather permits. This site is available mid-May through early June, mid-August to late October, and in winter.

Chewonki Big Eddy Cabins and Campground
Situated on the West Branch of the Penobscot River, just outside Baxter State Park, Big Eddy has been a mecca for fishermen for at least 100 years and is considered a world-class site for landlocked salmon. Two cabins here are available for adults and families to rent. We also offer fully equipped “no-hassle” riverside camping.

Chewonki Family Camp
Family Camp is an opportunity for families to enjoy a fully outfitted Maine vacation in the company of other like-minded friends and families. This annual offering has become so popular that we now offer it at two locations: on the Maine coast at Chewonki’s main campus and at our rustic sporting camps on Fourth Debsconeag Lake. We can also design a custom Family Camp.

Chewonki Guided Wilderness Adventures
There is perhaps nothing more rewarding or transforming of spirit than taking an extended wilderness journey. Whether to the woods, waters, and mountains of Maine or eastern Canada, or well beyond that, the joys of wilderness travel are deep, rich, and lasting. Chewonki has been offering wilderness adventures for almost 100 years, and we are privileged to have great leaders. Our trips range in length from a few days to two weeks or more.

Chewonki Custom Trips
Chewonki is happy to create a custom adventure for you, your family, and friends that combines the best of outdoor experiences with cultural and educational activities, delicious meals, and a range of lodging options.

Elderhostel Trips
Chewonki has been leading Elderhostel groups in Maine since 1978, and we are proud of our long association with this organization. These fully guided experiences are for ages 55 and older.

Chewonki Vacations combines a suite of already existing offerings, such as Family Camp and our long-standing Wilderness Trips for Adults and Families, with several new ones. The central tenets that define this new venture are as follows:

- Chewonki Vacations take place primarily in natural, protected areas.
- Chewonki Vacations are limited in size, to minimize their impact on ecosystems.
- Chewonki Vacations are educational for all ages. Reading materials and lessons can be integrated into every experience if desired.
- Chewonki Vacations offer guests responsible and renewable choices whenever possible. Examples might include carpooling and vanpooling, use of renewable resources such as biofuels and solar-generated electricity, composting privies, solar hot water, and locally produced and organic foods.
- Chewonki Vacations make every effort to support the communities in which we travel and conduct our programs. For example, whenever possible we buy produce from local farmers, hire local guides, and promote local restaurants, inns, and shops.
- Chewonki Vacations respect local communities and cultures both by honoring their need for privacy and by encouraging a healthy interaction between visitors and local residents.
- Chewonki Vacations provide direct financial support for Chewonki’s educational mission.

Wilderness Programs director Greg Shute has high hopes for Chewonki Vacations. “People seem to be looking for ways to simplify their lives these days,” he noted. “Nature-based vacations provide a direct connection to wilderness that is both satisfying and deeply restorative. We’re pleased that this new program flows directly and naturally from Chewonki’s mission.”

Director of alumni relations Dick Thomas is also enthused. “The fact that Chewonki Family Camp has filled for the last two summers reveals a growing interest among our extended family of alumni and friends,” he said. “Families are looking for an opportunity to rest and renew in a stunning setting with the values that Chewonki holds dear. That’s exactly what Chewonki Vacations will offer.”
Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America by Thomas L. Friedman

It's hard not to feel discouraged, if not downright depressed, about the harm we've caused to our planet after reading the beginning of Thomas Friedman's *Hot, Flat, and Crowded* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008). The *New York Times* Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist is not one to see things through rose-colored glasses. He's serious about the widespread changes that are needed now.

In his early chapters, Friedman outlines the ways in which we have set in motion the powerful forces of climate change—and the unique climate, energy, and biodiversity challenges we face as a result. He also makes it clear that it will take a lot more than switching lightbulbs and recycling to change our course. "The task of creating the tools, systems, energy sources, and ethics that will allow the planet to grow in cleaner, more sustainable ways is going to be the biggest challenge of our lifetime," he writes.

The book's title derives from how Friedman sees the world. The planet is becoming *hot* as the world becomes more industrialized, increasing energy production and harmful carbon emissions in our atmosphere; the planet is becoming *flat*, or smaller, as globalization and modern technologies break down traditional geographic and cultural barriers while raising expectations for standards of living; and the planet is becoming *crowded* as modern medicine and technologies support population growth and competition for natural resources. The combination makes for a bleak outlook for the health of our natural world.

Those of us who've spent time at Chewonki know all of this. Fortunately, much of Friedman's book is devoted to offering his readers hope. A revolution of sustainability innovations can help save the planet, help America regain its position as a world leader in engineering and environmentalism, and create a new and powerful driver for our failing economy. The challenges, Friedman reminds us, are also opportunities. "America is always at its most powerful and most influential when it is combining innovation and inspiration, wealth-building and dignity-building, the quest for big profits and the tackling of big problems. When we do just one, we are less than the sum of our parts. When we do both, we are greater than the sum of our parts—much greater."

Friedman joyously shares the stories of the cutting-edge technologies and practices that can help us make the change from a world of dirty fuels to a world of clean and sustainable living, from the Energy Internet (think of very smart appliances connected to the grid via the Internet) to battery-powered cars that sell energy back to the grid.

Much has changed in the world since this book was published in Fall 2008, but its message is even timelier today as we struggle to find innovative ways to revive our economy. From a purely economic standpoint, Friedman makes a strong case for investing in new sustainable technologies. Combine this with his compelling rationale for why it's the right thing to do to save our planet, and *Hot, Flat, and Crowded* is a must-read.

For anyone who has been perplexed about the challenges facing our world and inspired by Chewonki's leadership in teaching and practicing sustainability in practical yet meaningful ways, this book will strike a powerful chord.

GARTH ALTENBURG

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**FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**Purchasing Green Power**

*Peter Sniffen, MCS Teaching Fellow*

Many people are surprised to learn that 48 percent of electricity in the U.S. still comes from coal-burning power plants (U.S. Department of Energy, 2007), causing environmental degradation in every step of the process. What's more, recent research shows clearly that for more than any other fossil fuel, the way the world decides to use coal is going to determine the future of our global climate.

The good news is that we all have the choice to buy electricity from clean, renewable sources and help break the dirty coal cycle.

According to the DOE, more than half of retail electricity customers in the U.S. can now purchase a green power product—generated by resources such as wind, solar, or hydropower—directly from their electricity supplier. And consumers everywhere can support renewable energy development by purchasing RECs: Renewable Energy Credits, or Certificates.

RECs are offered by many electric companies as well as various organizations; you don't need to switch your electricity provider to purchase them. An REC is essentially an agreement (sometimes contracted through a third party) in which your electric company agrees to generate an amount of electricity equivalent to your REC purchase from renewable sources. While RECs don't change the electrons coming to your door, they help drive the market and encourage development in renewable energy.

RECs do cost slightly more than conventional electricity. In Maine, it costs 2 to 3 cents more per kWh to purchase power from hydropower and wind turbines. The average Maine home uses about 6,500 kWh of electricity a year, which means completely separating from dirty coal electricity would only cost about $12 a month—a small price to pay to promote a clean-energy economy. Chewonki has recently converted all of its electricity accounts to green renewable sources through RECs.

You can find more about purchasing green power and RECs, including a clearinghouse of options organized by state, at the DOE’s website: http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/green-power/buying. Maine residents can also visit Maine Interfaith Power & Light at www.mipl.org (or call them at 207-721-0444).

So, join Chewonki and leaders around the country and make the switch to renewable energy sources!

**The bottom line:** By purchasing green power, you'll reduce your carbon emissions and support development of renewable energy.

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*This column takes its name and logo (with permission) from the Step It Up 2007 National Day of Climate Action that took place on April 14, 2007. For more information, visit www.stepitup2007.org.*
People

1930s
Norm Brown (Camp ’38–’41) lives in Standish, ME. He was delighted to receive the history that Jesse Dukes (Camp Staff ’00–’06) compiled for Chewonki’s 90th birthday in 2005 and hopes we will produce a longer version of it someday.

1940s
It was wonderful to hear from Reed Anthony (Camp ’40–’41) of Concord, MA. He sent greetings and “gratitude for the interest in natural history taught by Clarence Allen et al. 70 years ago.”

1950s
Rick Leslie (Camp ’52–’53) lives with his family in Santa Monica, CA. His son Harrison Ornest Leslie (Camp ’08) came to Chewonki for the first time last summer.

1960s
Mac Jernigan (Camp Staff ‘62–’63, ’67, ’95–’05) resides in San Francisco and still has a passion for boating. He expects to be in Maine in July and hopes to visit Chewonki.

Richard Whiting (Camp ’62–’63) sends warm regards and news of his sons (Camp ’99–’03): Dylan is a junior at Bryant University, and Sam is a first-year at UNH.

1970s
John Bracker (Camp ’74–’75) lives in Hartford, CT, with his wife and two children. He is head of the Watkinson School, a coed day school.

Jose-Maria Castillejo (Camp ’74–’76; Camp Staff ’86) has six children: “two of them boys and I can’t wait to show them Chewonki in two or three years!”

Dick Chase (Camp ’78–’79; Camp Staff ’81–’83) ran the Boston Marathon in April, to raise money for the American Liver Foundation. You can see how he did at www.dcmarathon.org.

Wisconsin entrepreneur Ben Hobbins (Camp Staff ’79) is getting folks hooked—on a new kind of soft fishing lure he invented. The IronClad (www.ironcladlures.com) doesn’t fall off like most soft lures do, which means it has the potential to “drastically reduce plastic waste in the environment.”

Beau Jackson (Camp ’76–’81) has become a minor celebrity in Korea, where he’s been teaching since 1998. As the host of three educational TV programs for middle-schoolers, Beau is known for his sense of fun and spontaneity, especially in teaching languages.

Congratulations to Evan Lewis (Camp ’71–’72; Maine Reach ’76–’77) and wife Sandra, who have a new son, Alexander, born 12-5-08. Their older son is 4, and Evan’s daughter is in college.

“We are still in Idaho,” writes Bege Reynolds (Maine Reach ’79). Daughter Elsa is a high-school senior; Miles is a sophomore; and Elliot is a second grader at a Waldorf farm school.

Bernie Rogan (Camp ’79–’81) is serving with a Marine Corps unit at Camp Fallujah, Iraq. “There have been many days here when I think fondly of Chewonki. I really hope to bring my family on one of your adventure trips.” When he’s not deployed, Bernie lives in Virginia with his family.

Jonathan Schachter (Camp ’72–’74) of Brooklyn, NY, says, “I still have my eye on camp for my two boys, ages 3 and 7½.”

Stu Work (Camp Staff ’73–’74, ’77) is head of school at Washington Episcopal School in Bethesda, MD.

1980s
Marc Bourgoin (Camp Staff ’88–’90, ’92–’94, ’96–’98) lives with his family in Somerville, MA. “We’re looking forward to the day when our daughter can attend the girls camp.” Bridget will follow in the footsteps of older brother John Flaherty (Camp ’05–’06).

Ted Bridge-Koenigshub (Farm Staff ’81–’83; Camp Staff ’83) teaches in Naples, ME, and always enjoys Chewonki’s visits to his school. “I continue to be impressed by the educators and [Outreach] program.” Son Colin is a 9th grader at Lake Region High School in Naples and has Brian Cushing (Camp Staff ’80, ’84, ’97–’00) for social studies and Kay Bolduc (former EE practicum student) for science.

“Not a youth anymore—now a middle-aged parent of three children!” writes Gareth Dalglish (Camp Staff ’85), who came to Chewonki 24 years ago as part of a U.S./UK youth exchange trip. “Still working in nature conservation, for the Government’s nature conservation agency, Natural England. Hoping I’ll be able to bring my children to see Chewonki some day.”

John Faigle (Camp ’82–’87; Camp Staff ’89–’90) says that whenever he hears from Chewonki, “great memories from my childhood just came flooding back.” He’s currently working in Hong Kong as a research analyst. “I’m still wed to the outdoors of NH and ME, so rest assured I haven’t been corrupted!”

Spring is here! We’ll be picking peas again at Salt Marsh Farm before we know it.

Visit our website at www.chewonki.org
What a nice surprise to open the The New Yorker in February and see a letter about the “green economy” from K. C. Golden (Camp & Maine Reach Staffs ’83–’84). K. C. is policy director for the Seattle nonprofit Climate Solutions and director of the Northwest Climate Connections. He spoke at Chewonki last October, as part of the MCS Climate Change series. Another speaker in the series was Will Bates (Camp ’94–’95, ’97–’98; Camp Staff ’00–’03, ’05; see story on p. 6).

James Hadley (Camp ’81–’84; Camp Staff ’87, ’89) sent a warm holiday note in December. His news, in a nutshell: “We’re fine here in Seoul.”

We were delighted to see Ben Harris (Camp ’88; Camp Staff ’94–’01) and 3-year-old Gabe at our campaign party in Boston last October. Mom had a good reason for staying home: baby brother Blake was born two days later!

High points of the past year for Steve Keane (EE Staff ’83–’85) and wife Marie Corbin-Keane (Camp & EE Staffs ’82–’85, ’87) of Bethel, ME, included “a successful nordic ski season and track season for all three kids, a trip to Europe, and a semester at Chewonki for daughter Katlyn [MCS 40].”

Sean Long (Camp ’80–’82) lives just a few miles from the Potomac River with his wife and 2-year-old daughter. “Often think of my wonderful summers at Chewonki, and in the past few years have put my kayaking skills to use running the rivers here and around the region. I truly hope my daughter will spend a few summers with you!”

Congratulations to Rich Mairies (Camp ’81–’82; Camp Staff ’83) and wife Neeta, who welcomed their first baby, Deven Nico, in 2008. “He’s going to be a Puffin in a few years!” says Rich. The family lives outside San Francisco.

Daniel Witting da Prato (Camp ’80) of Florence, Italy, has fond memories of Chewonki. He hopes someday to send his daughter and son to camp here.

After a winter trip to Maine from her home in Brooklyn, NY, Liz Brown (MCS 7; Camp Staff ’92–’93) said that “having the opportunity to run along the coast in the snow was incredibly restoring.” She looks forward to “additional excuses to come to Maine” when her son is old enough to attend camp.

Kevin Connors (MCS 15; Trustee) spent 10 days in January at the Sundance Film Festival, where the premier of his first film—Brief Interviews with Hideous Men—was “well received.” Kevin was the executive producer.

Life has been busy for Phil (Summer Staff ’96) and Margie DiVce (Staff ’78–’99) and family. Son Jason (Camp ’91–’94) is working in Burlington, VT; daughter Katie works for Central Maine Power; and their youngest, Samantha, has been studying in Italy.

Gino Giurarro (EE Staff ’95–’96) is director of ecological services at Stantec Consulting in Maine. Among other things, he has been involved with evaluating the impacts of wind turbines on birds and bats.

It was great to hear from Ben Hindell (MCS 9; Camp Staff ’95–’96, ’05), who emailed us out of the blue to say how much Chewonki has meant to him. After several years acting, directing, and producing shows in New York, Ben is pursuing a master’s in social work at NYU.

Alison “Hoppy” Hopcroft (MCS 14; Camp Staff ’95–’00) has a new job in Portland, OR, with a consulting firm that manages and markets energy efficiency programs. “I’m helping them develop and expand the sustainability side of the business. Fun stuff!”

Guthrie Jones (Camp ’95–’96; Camp Staff ’02–’03, ’05) lives in Long Island City and works in Brooklyn for IceStone, “a really great triple-green company.” It makes countertops and other durable surfaces out of recycled glass.

Hannah Kapell (MCS 21; Camp Staff ’99–’03) lives in “the other, more distant Portland”—Oregon. She has a master’s in planning and works for Alta, a company that does bike planning internationally.

Marathoner Emily LeVan (MCS faculty ’97–’00; Camp Staff ’99, ’02–’03) was inducted into the Bowdoin College Athletic Hall of Honor last October, for bringing “distinction, honor, and excellence” to her alma mater. Emily and husband Brad Johnson, our former Farm manager, moved to Vermont last summer. Their best news is that daughter Maddie, though still in treatment for leukemia, is doing well. Two Trials, the fundraiser the family started to support the Maine Children’s Cancer Program, has raised almost $80,000.

Congratulations to Andrew Lussen (Camp ’91–’94, ’97; Camp Staff ’98–’99), who will be married on May 24. Ditto to Nick Morrison (Camp ’93–’97; Camp Staff ’00–’01, ’03, ’05, ’07) and Liz Edmonds (Camp Staff ’01) who will become husband and wife the same day January brought a heartwarming note from Josh Niss (Camp ’92): “May your programs continue to educate, enlighten, thrive and generally support the curiosities of so very many aspiring youth for the years to come. My thanks for all you have done and continue to do so, you all are truly an inspiration.”

“It has been exciting observing the great strides Chewonki has been making,” writes Brendan Rogan (Camp ’93, ’95). Brendan works at a Montessori school in West Palm Beach, FL, and has been “implementing the Chewonki sustainability modules in the classroom, with great results.”

Jonathan Rubens (Camp ’99–’02) is at Washington University, class of 2012.

Congratulations to Betsy Bennett Stacey (Camp & EE Staffs ’96–’99) and husband Joe, who welcomed Mackenzie Claire Stacey on 2–7–09. “7 lbs 4 oz and gorgeous.”

A warm welcome to Edith Juniper Abbott, born 1-23-09 in Carpinteria, CA, to Tessa van der Werff (MCS 14; Camp & EE Staffs ’01) and husband Robert Abbott (Camp Staff ’01). “She gets extra points because she brought us some rain.”

The Wechsler boys are doing well. Sam (Camp ’95–’96, ’98, ’03) is getting his master’s in teaching electrical engineering at Lehigh, and Max (Camp ’95–’96, ’98–’00) will graduate from Cornell in May.

2000s

Warmest wishes to Dave Allan (Advisor and neighbor) and Nancy Shaul, who were married on 1-24-09.

It was wonderful to see Alana Beard (Camp Staff ’04–’05, ’07) on a recent visit to campus. “The new [Wallace Center] is beautiful,” she later wrote. “I am so grateful for Chewonki’s welcoming arms that are always open to former alumni and staff.”
**IN MEMORIAM**

**JOHN R. HAUG** (Camp ’30–’31) of South Freeport, ME, died on January 16, 2009, at the age of 90. Although more than seven decades had passed since John attended camp, he remained interested in Chewonki and had visited as recently as last September.

John was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in mechanical engineering. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he worked for 36 years in Boston as an engineer, primarily in the field of steam and electric power. He was also active in the Episcopal Church and was an avid sailor and downhill skier.

We extend our condolences to John’s wife, Hope, and their three children.

We were deeply saddened by the death of **HARLON MORSE** (Camp ’95–’01) of Ardmore, PA, on July 10, 2008. Harlon was 23 years old and died in a motorcycle accident. He was a graduate of the Delaware Valley Friends School and had worked for several years at the Chanticleer Foundation, a well-known public garden in nearby Wayne.

Former camp director Dick Thomas remembers Harlon well. “He was quiet and unassuming, with a keen and artistic eye and many skills. His love for the outdoors and especially for kayaking grew at Chewonki.” We were touched last summer when Harlon’s family donated his kayak to Chewonki, where it now has a place of honor among our fleet.

Harlon is survived by his parents and brother Spencer (Camp ’95–’96, ’98–’99).

Our hearts go out to the family of **ALEJANDRO SICRE** (Camp ’81–’82), who died suddenly in November 2008. Alex was a great-grandson of Chewonki founder Clarence Allen and had a special connection to this place. He is survived by his wife, Courtenay Sire, and their two young sons, Cooper and Graydon.

**KATRINA MOROSOFF STOUT** (Camp Staff ’71; former Advisor), who had a lifelong love for Chewonki, died of brain cancer on February 26, 2009, in Morristown, NJ. She was 60 years old and an art teacher at Ridge High School in Basking Ridge, NJ.

As the niece of Kay Allen, whose husband founded Chewonki, Katrina spent many summers at Chewonki as a young girl. In the early 1970s, while a student at Rhode Island School of Design, she was a camp art counselor and photographer, and years later she sent her own children to Chewonki. Katrina also worked at Alford Lake Camp for girls in Hope, ME, for 14 summers, establishing a thriving art program there. She was especially excited about Chewonki opening its own girls camp last summer.

Katrina is survived by her son Stewart (Camp ’94, ’96, ’97, ’99; Camp Staff ’04–’07), daughter Katie (Camp ’01, ’06; Camp Staff ’09), and brother Peter Morosoff (Camp ’51–’57; Camp Staff ’61, ’63–’67).

At her family’s request, Chewonki is honored to accept gifts to the Clarence E. and Katherine B. Allen Scholarship Fund in Katrina’s memory. Gifts can be made by sending a check to Chewonki or by making a contribution online at www.chewonki.org. (Please click on the link “Pathway to the Future.”)

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**The Puffins of 2017?**

Three cheers for our newest staff babies! Waterfront Manager Carob Arnold and wife Annie Nixon (Staff ’99–’01) welcomed **Benjamin Robert Amold** on 6-14-08. Assistant Farm Manager Jeremy Tardif and wife Kelsie welcomed **Claude Henry Tardif** on 1-6-09. And Katie Tremblay and husband Dana Circo welcomed **Nolan Jacob Circo** on 3-27-09.
Dear Friends,

At Chewonki, students learn to observe the world in detail, appreciate its many-faceted complexities, and consider what it means to be sustainable. Engaging in actions that contribute to positive changes in our world is a joyful enterprise, and we are always delighted to hear about the work of past participants in their home communities and elsewhere.

Recognizing that action was needed here at Chewonki to sustain our programs for the next 100 years, we embarked on the largest capital campaign in our history. This has been a very different kind of joyful enterprise as we have experienced the power of our community pulling together for this common purpose.

The goal of our Pathway to the Future campaign is an ambitious $11 million, and this objective is now in sight. As of this writing, we have raised an astonishing $9.27 million. Still, the next six months are critical: to qualify for an extraordinary challenge grant of $850,000 for our sustainable campus from The Kresge Foundation, we must raise another $621,000 by August 31. Every gift counts toward Kresge, and multiyear pledges are welcome.

We could never have come this far without the extraordinary generosity of our supporters. To each and every one of you who has made a gift, we send our deepest thanks. You come from as near as Wiscasset and as far away as Hong Kong, from across the United States, and from 19 foreign countries. You include MCS students and parents, current camp families, some campers and counselors we hadn’t heard from in years, an Adventure Camper who saved his allowance, and a multitude of others. Many of you made your gifts through our online “60 Day Challenge,” making Chewonki’s first foray into online fundraising a great success.

We have been especially touched by the notes and letters that many of you included with your gifts. Hearing your stories of how Chewonki has influenced you, and continues to do so, has inspired us and spurred us on.

The Chewonki community has rallied to the challenge of supporting both the Annual Appeal, so crucial to our day-to-day operations, and our Pathway to the Future campaign, making this report longer than ever. We are honored to include your names here; we are deeply grateful for your gifts and support.

Chewonki would not be the place it is without all the wonderful people who contribute to making positive changes in the world, who bring our programs alive, and who make our work possible. We thank you one and all.

LUCY HULL
Director of Development

PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Gifts received between May 1, 2006, and March 23, 2009

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Sandy Bandhu
Jesse Dukes
UBS

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & ANNUAL APPEAL GIFTS RESTRICTED TO ENDOWMENT

Gifts received between May 1, 2006, and March 23, 2009, through the Capital Campaign, and between September 1, 2007, and August 31, 2008, through the Annual Appeal

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Campaign Goal 2: Staff Enrichment and Salary Support—Endowment for Maine Coast Semester, Camp, and Outdoor Classroom staff, our most important resource today.

*Deceased

Visit our website at www.chewonki.org 25
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Campaign Goal 4: Securing Access to the Coast—Acquiring Hungry, Black, Russ, and Campbell Islands.

Visit our website at www.chewonki.org
Campaign Goal 5: A Sustainable Campus—Modeling the sustainable management of natural resources.

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Chewonki Goes to Washington

The rallying cry was “All for Green! Green for All!” More than 12,000 young people gathered in Washington, D.C., from February 27 to March 2 for Power Shift 2009, a youth-generated conference focusing on climate change. Among the crowd were dozens of Chewonki alumni, three Maine Coast Semester faculty, and an astounding 21 students from last fall’s MCS 41! Eight of them are pictured here.

“For me the whole conference was totally a ‘full-circle’ experience,” wrote Sarah Alexander (MCS 41) on her return. “I thought back to one of our first school meetings when [an MCS faculty member] asked me, ‘What is one thing you believe in so much you would protest for it?’ I remember thinking really hard about that question, but not having an easy answer. Now, only months later, I was in D.C., protesting on the Hill for climate change legislation. What a radical change!”

These MCS alumni and thousands more young people came from around the country with a common message: to ask our elected officials to rebuild our economy and reclaim our future by passing climate and energy policies that prioritize renewable energy and green jobs. Visit www.powershift09.org for more information.