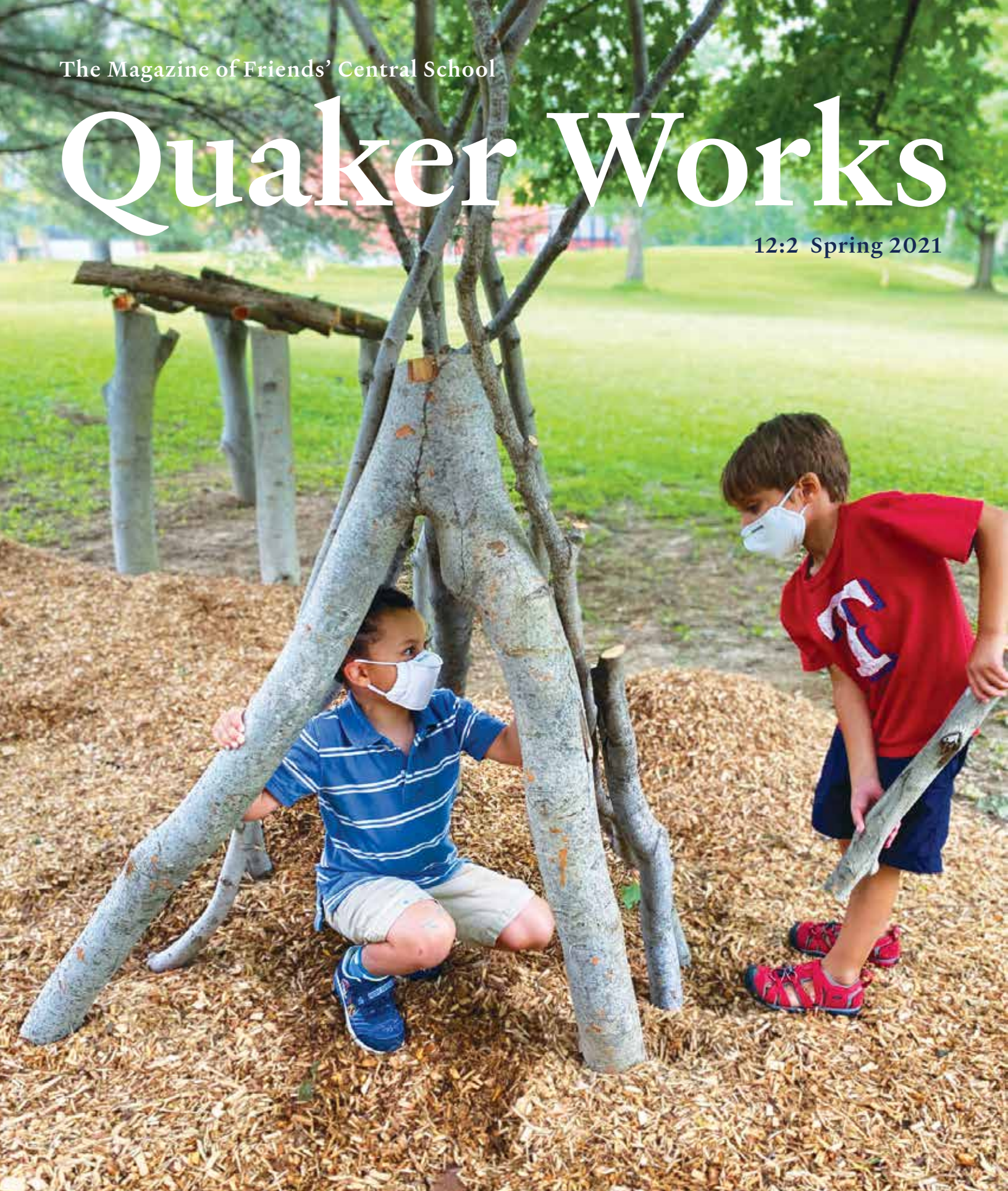


The Magazine of Friends' Central School

Quaker Works

12:2 Spring 2021



BETH DAVIS JOHNSON '77
New Interim Head of School

FCS RECEIVES LEADERSHIP GRANT
Supporting Consent Education

NOTES FROM FRIENDS
Spring 2021



ON THE COVER

Pre-K students William (left) and Tobin enjoying the new Nature Playground in September

Photo by Heather Exley

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Quaker Works

The Magazine of Friends' Central School

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We welcome any comments, letters, photographs, and suggestions for future issues. Please send all to communications@friendscentral.org.

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LOWER SCHOOL MARKS 100TH DAY

On March 1, Lower School celebrated the 100th day of school. The early grades explored the number 100 and learned how fun math can be! Kindergarten students and teachers dressed up as 100-year-olds and had a joint Morning Meeting where they read *100th Day Worries* by Margery Cuyler, followed by a warm-up with 10 sets of 10 exercises and a costume parade in the gym.

First graders demonstrated their coin counting abilities by posting a recording on Seesaw of at least two different ways to make 100 cents – or \$1.00 – using a mixture of quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies. They also created number scrolls, challenging themselves to write numbers beyond 100 and discovering a variety of number patterns.





Letter from the Head of School

Dear Friends,

Friends' Central's campuses are bursting with spring color, and I'm heartened by the warmer weather and the signs of renewal – a return, if not to “normal,” at least to a newly energized school world. This is also a moment of reflection as I pen my final *Quaker Works* letter.

This *Quaker Works* issue touches on the passage of time in a spread of then-and-now photos of Friends' Central's 175-year history, as well as in the piece by FCS archivist and former teacher Jim Davis, who will be retiring in June and looks back on his nearly 50 years at the School. The archives, in Jim's capable hands, have revealed so much about our School's history.

Anthony Benezet, an 18th century Quaker educator, described Quaker education as balancing time and eternity. The physical expression of this idea in our School has always been Meeting for Worship. We are present, together, for a defined period of time, and yet we are empowered to reflect upon larger, more eternal things. Of course, any one of us might be making a shopping list, but we also might be thinking about justice, fairness, or friendship.

The eternal, animating idea at FCS comes from a central commitment, and that commitment is Meeting for Worship. Together, we continually seek truth. And, since first stepping foot on campus nine years ago, I have found that attending Meeting provides an extraordinary advantage – it opens a window into the soul of our community.

It's been the honor of a lifetime to be the Head of School at Friends' Central. I am certain that my family, including my own children who are now proud alumni/ae, will be eternally grateful for an FCS education.

I'll close with recognition of a final, profound honor – the thrill of passing the baton of leadership to Beth Davis Johnson '77. Please join me as we welcome her in this issue of *Quaker Works* as Friends' Central's new Interim Head of School. I have deep respect and affection for Beth. She embodies so much of what our School aspires to do and create – her family, her leadership, her vision.

I invite you to join me in remaining in close touch with FCS, and I hope you are able to return safely for an in-person campus visit soon.

I wish you all a wonderful, healthy spring.

Craig N. Sellers
Head of School



On February 25, Upper School students and colleagues walked out to the City Avenue sidewalk to stand together in peaceful solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. A Meeting for Demonstration was also held that day for students who are remote learners.

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Archivist Jim Davis looks back on his nearly 50 years at FCS



In March, Taylor Salvitti's third grade students built benches as part of a Learning Math unit, "Building Benches and Measuring Tools," with the help of Glenn, Jerry, and Harry on the Physical Plant team.

LOWER SCHOOL POP-UP LIBRARY

In November, after hearing from students and teachers about how much they missed visiting the library and having access to the physical book collection, the Lower School Library launched a pop-up library! Lower School Librarian Indre Page loaded several shelves on wheels full of books of all genres and reading levels and headed outside. Students browsed and selected books outdoors on a beautiful fall day.



In January, Leah Anderson '21 brought her pet goat to Anthony Bowers Studio II class to serve as a live model.

Campus Log

FOR MORE SCHOOL NEWS, VISIT FRIENDSCENTRAL.ORG/NEWS



VACCINE TRAILBLAZER, KAYLA FOY

Senior Kayla Foy was a vaccine trailblazer when her volunteer work with the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium gave her the opportunity to help promote vaccination by receiving one of the first COVID vaccines herself in December.

In February, Kayla was recognized as Main Line Student of the Week for her outstanding academics and leadership, along with her volunteer work.



MIDDLE SCHOOL HOLIDAY COOKIE

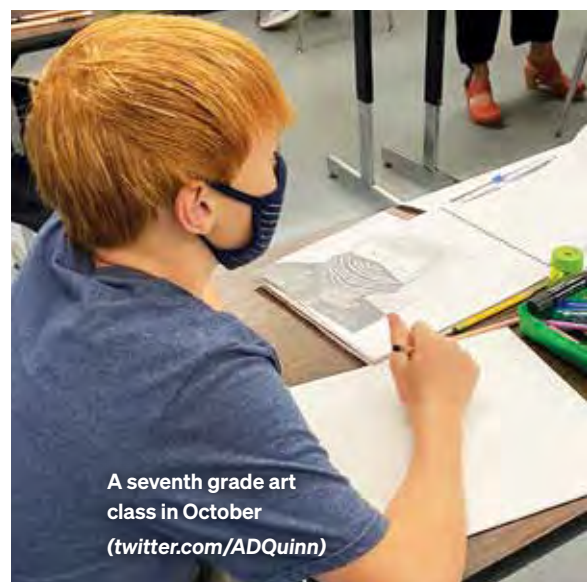


GRADE 2 SELF-PORTRAITS

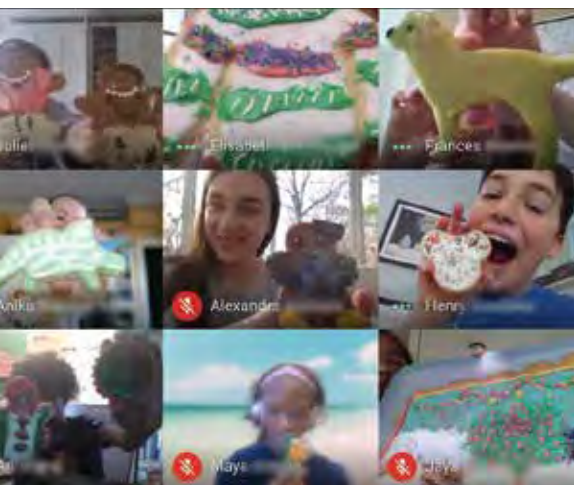


PHYSICS ESCAPE

In November, students in Debbie Skapik's Physics 1 Advanced studied projectile motion. She built "Escape the Breakout Room!"— an escape room where they had to solve physics puzzles and problems to "get out" back to the main Zoom room.



A seventh grade art class in October
(twitter.com/ADQuinn)



DECORATING CONTEST

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS CALLED TO ACTION

In early November, Middle School students, guided by teacher Rae Esformes Bloom, were given the opportunity to join an optional group entitled Call to Action. Students filled out a survey to indicate their interests in various causes and issues and identify the type of action they wanted to take part in. Thirty students completed the survey and worked together to choose three causes to focus on. They chose Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ+, and Climate Change. Once in their chosen groups, they worked on various projects, such as creating websites and social media content, presentations, and informative games to help educate the student body.

MOCK TRIAL & DEBATE TEAM ACCOLADES THIS WINTER

The **FCS Mock Trial team** participated in the Benjamin Franklin Invitational hosted by the University of Pennsylvania in January, where Kiyah Thorne '21 received an attorney award. In February, the team took part in the Montgomery County Mock Trial competition, completing the first two rounds and advancing to the quarter finals. Mock Trial consists of team members Erin Beck '22, Dev Gupta '23, Lindsay McVail '23, Jared Miller '22, Paz Sorg '24, Kiyah Thorne '21, Blayre Walters '21, Emma Wusinich '23, and Judy Zhu '23. Judy Zhu participated from China! Kiyah and Blayre did an outstanding job as team captains. Stephen Chawaga, Executive Director of Episcopal Legal Aid and FCS co-teacher of Law and Literature, was the attorney advisor for the team.

The **FCS Debate team** competed in February at the PHSSL District 10 State Qualifier, with two teams of two debaters allowed. After an intense five-hour competition, Leah Anderson '21 and Sophia David '21 finished fifth, and Quin Stovall '24 and Harper Will '21 took third place! Upper School math teacher Karl Paranya is the team's faculty advisor.

Congratulations to both teams!

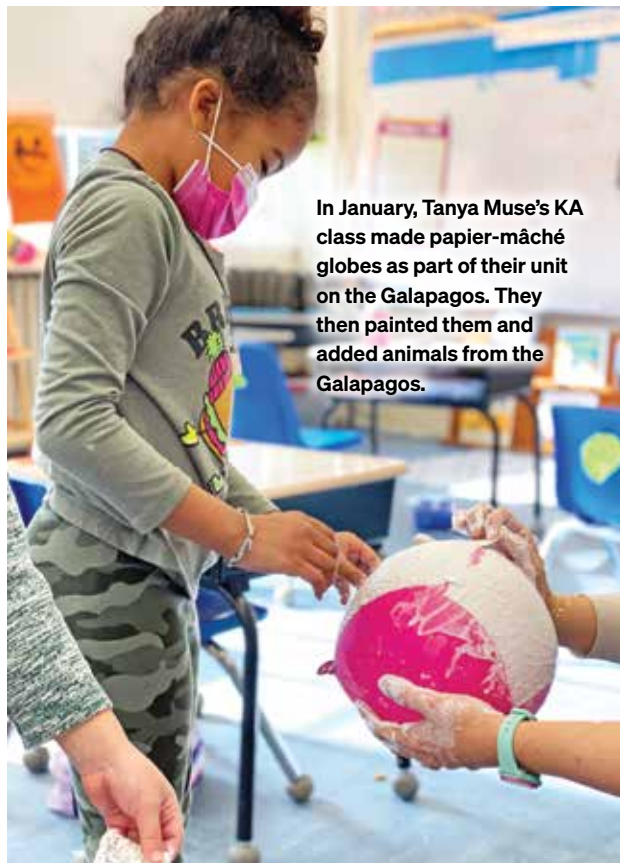
ASTEROID DISCOVERIES

FAST, the **Friends' Asteroid Search Team**, detected eight new asteroids in the month of February! They were very happy to be doing this research again. Seven of the discoveries were made by Ha-Eun Choi '21, leader of the club.



MIDDLE SCHOOL 1929 STOCK MARKET SIMULATION

In February, grade eight History students took part in a simulation game where they pretended to be speculators investing in the stock market during the months preceding the crash of 1929. Participants, many of whom were partnered in teams, played the roles of "banker" or "trader," making difficult choices in a volatile market. This simulation has been a regular feature of the eighth grade history curriculum for several years now; this year, History teacher Barbara Von Salis revamped the lesson to fit into the hybrid/virtual model.

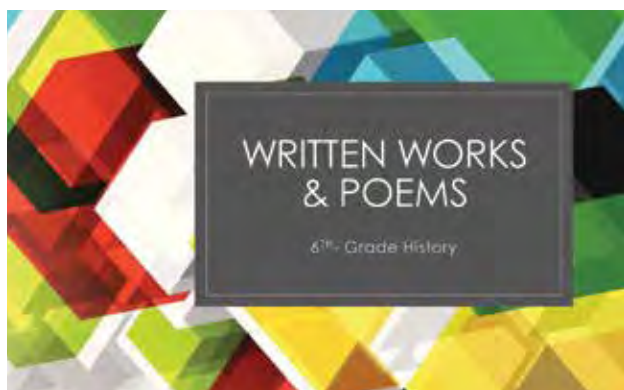


In January, Tanya Muse's KA class made papier-mâché globes as part of their unit on the Galapagos. They then painted them and added animals from the Galapagos.



WOODLAND NATURE TRAIL ON THE CITY AVE CAMPUS

Upper School science teacher John Gruber, along with Friends' Central's Physical Plant team, has created a path behind the City Avenue track that has some original native plantings and some great shade trees. They added a bench, as well as two beautiful interpretive signs! John has also planted some more native species in this area, and he has worked on removing the invasive pachysandra, ivy, and vinca that were covering the forest floor.



SIXTH GRADE CREATIVE WRITING

In February, inspired by the beauty and elegance of Amanda Gorman's moment on Inauguration Day, students in Jebb Chagan's sixth grade History class created their own poetry and written pieces. The work, submitted anonymously, was compiled into a publication which is available online at bitly.com/grade6FCS.

KINDERGARTEN EXPLORES THE NORTH AND SOUTH POLES

Upper School Science teacher Debbie Skapik paid a virtual visit in January to Kristi Kallam's KB class to talk to the students about her experiences traveling to the Arctic region and seeing the Northern Lights.

Judith Browne, Maker Ed teacher in Pre-K through grade 2, connected the Kindergarten team with her friend Dr. Kelly Siman, a researcher from the National University of Singapore's Centre for Nature-based Climate Solutions, who lived for a year in Antarctica. Kelly Siman (pictured below) visited Kindergarten classes via Zoom from Singapore in February. She discussed her time at the bottom of the earth and highlighted the importance of polar regions to our global community.



FCS on the Stage

IN THE SAME BOAT

This fall's Upper School drama production, *In the Same Boat*, was a piece of documentary theatre inspired by Anna Deavere Smith's verbatim theatre practice. Based on dozens of interviews with FCS Community members, it contained stories of the pandemic and surrounding events and celebrated the FCS community's complexity and resilience.



A scene from *In the Same Boat*



PLAYWRIGHTS IN PROGRESS

Eighth grade playwrights (pictured above, clockwise from top left) Brandon, Ciara, Aria, and Finn created dynamic one-act plays for this fall's Middle School drama production, *Playwrights in Progress*. The plays were performed by Middle School actors and polished by student director Anelia. The stage crew took their ideas and with film, sound, and graphics, brought the plays to life in a video that was shared in November.



A scene from *Playwrights in Progress*

UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS PERFORMED IN PHILADELPHIA SINFONIA PLAYERS CONCERT

Michael Chou '23 (violin), Dev Gupta '23 (bassoon), and Kokayi Jones '23 (trumpet) performed pieces by Ellington, Schubert, Bizet, Sibelius, and Copland as part of the Philadelphia Sinfonia Players Concert in February at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.



SHAKESPEARE AWARD WINNER

Lucy Shea '23 won second place at the 2021 Philadelphia Branch English Speaking Union Shakespeare Competition, receiving a prize of \$1,000. At the virtual Reception evening on March 7, she delivered her monologue, Helen from *All's Well That Ends Well*, Act 1 Scene 3.



Claire Samaha

Ben Allen

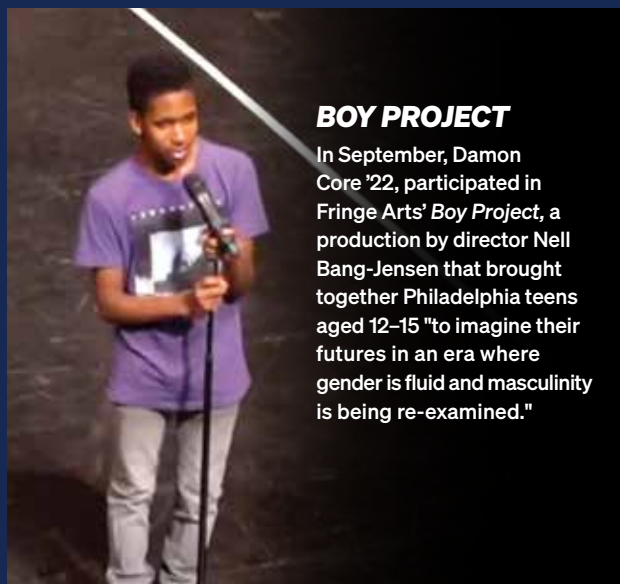
Michael Chou

STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PMEA ORCHESTRA

This winter, Ben Allen '21 (trumpet), Michael Chou '23 (violin), and Claire Samaha '23 (saxophone) were selected to join the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 11 Orchestra 2020-2021. They were chosen based on their auditions from a pool of hundreds of students from schools across Bucks and Montgomery counties who competed.

BOY PROJECT

In September, Damon Core '22, participated in Fringe Arts' *Boy Project*, a production by director Nell Bang-Jensen that brought together Philadelphia teens aged 12-15 "to imagine their futures in an era where gender is fluid and masculinity is being re-examined."



Faculty & Staff

RACHEL SLAUGHTER PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

Rachel Slaughter, Ed. D., FCS Upper School Learning Specialist, recently published a new book titled *Turning the Page: The Ultimate Guide for Teachers to Multicultural Literature*. Rachel, a Cabrini University graduate ('89) and Cabrini Trustee since August 2020, was featured in an article on Cabrini News. In the article, she said the book was "inspired by the experiences of students of color who have reported feeling 'loneliness and invisibility' in schools where multiculturalism is absent in the curriculum."

Rachel's other books include *Roxie's Mirage*, a novel published in 1994 about a group of teenagers navigating life in North Philadelphia, and *Daddy, Read to Me*, published in 2018, that aims to create a reading relationship between African American men and their sons. Rachel's latest book, *Turning the Page*, is a culmination of her work as an author, teacher, and mentor.

Read the *Cabrini News* article at bitly.com/RachelS-Cabrini.

THEATRE ARTIST AND PLAYWRIGHT MEGAN SCHUMACHER

Upper School English teacher Megan Schumacher is a distinguished and prolific playwright and theatre artist. Her play *Lowndes* premiered in September as part of the Philadelphia Women's Theatre Festival. *Lowndes* is set in the South in 1965 after the passing of the Voting Rights Act, when millions of black people were still unregistered to vote because of racial terrorism. Her play *Dionté and Khai Do Dinner*, inspired by Anne Carson's translation of Euripides' *The Bakkhai*, premiered at Villanova Theatre in October, directed by Malika Oyetimein. Megan has recently been working on an adaptation of John Hughes's *Sixteen Candles*; an early draft of Act 1 of her play *Sixteen* was recorded and premiered in March at Simpatico Theatre. Megan is a member of Simpatico Theatre's Jourska PlayWorks and The Foundry at PlayPenn. Her play *Superlosers* was produced for the 2018 Philadelphia Fringe Festival, and *Monster Mash* was performed as part of the Going Viral Festival on Facebook. She served as a production dramaturg for Quintessence Theatre's performance of Angelina Weld Grimké's *Rachel* and directed *Out of the Shadows* by Marissa Kennedy at the 2019 Philadelphia Fringe Festival. She has also directed Inis Nua Theatre's Reading Series.

ALEX PEARSON PUBLISHED IN EDUTOPIA

Alex Pearson, Upper School Latin teacher and Database Manager, had an article published in January in *Edutopia* where he gave his tips on using technology to share the sights and sounds of the classroom with virtual students. Read the article, titled "Bringing More of a Classroom Feel to Distance Learning," at bitly.com/AP-Edutopia.



FACULTY & STAFF



ERICA SNOWDEN CONTRIBUTES TO NEW BOOK

Erica Snowden, Friends' Central's Director of Equity and Multicultural Education, wrote two chapters of a newly published book, *Teaching Beautiful Brilliant Black Girls*. Over 80 authors contributed to the volume, a collective call to action for educational justice and fairness for all Black girls that focuses on transforming how Black girls are understood, respected, and taught.

Erica, a nationally recognized expert in the field of diversity and inclusion, has published widely and is frequently asked to present at national and local conferences.

For more information about *Teaching Beautiful Brilliant Black Girls*, visit bitly.com/ES-BBBG.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA): AN UPDATE

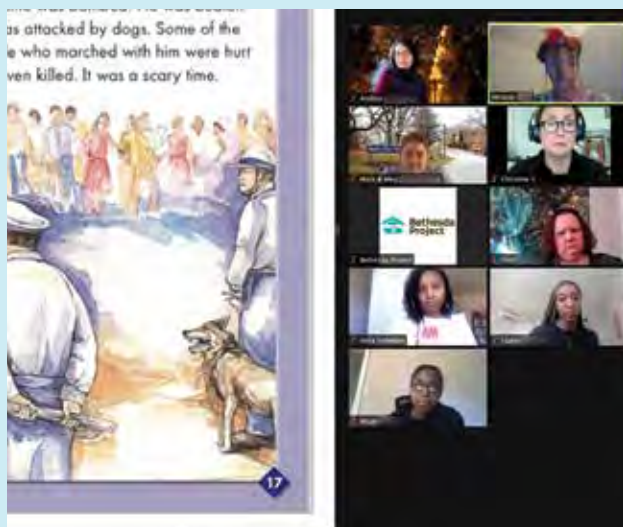
Friends' Central's Home and School Association (HSA) has had a very busy fall and winter season, despite the obvious challenges of the pandemic. The generosity of our parent community has been amazing, with parents volunteering time, effort, and energy to support the HSA, the School, and our wider community. We have been able to rethink some of our traditional programs, including Eldernet Baskets, the MLK Day of Celebration and Service, and the Lower School Book Fair – moving them online and finding creative ways to conduct drives and service.

We have had to be creative and devise other types of community programming, including hosting trivia nights and creating a new Fast 15! Program designed to keep parents connected. When we look to silver linings, the HSA has been able to partner with Parents of Students of Color (PSOC), the Admissions Office, Support Services, the US Service Committee, and our Director of Equity and Multicultural Education, Erica Snowden, to support and help with programs that benefit our children and our families.

We are already well into the second half of the year's events, which include our OneFCS meeting with the Head of School, Fast 15!s on Native Plantings (by member of the FCS Sustainability Committee and FCS Director of Finance and Operations Miriam Schaefer) and Archeology (by Archeology Professor and FCS Board Clerk Jim Wright), and planning for the Middle School Book Fair. We are also excited for new initiatives such as a Meeting for Sharing with Lower School parents to talk about parenting during these isolating times.

Current FCS parents, as we move into spring, the HSA is so excited to begin hosting some in-person parent gatherings as well as organizing ways we can appreciate our wonderful teachers. If you have any ideas, please share them with your Parent Reps; they are always there to help!

Andrea Nuneviller
Home and School Coordinator



MLK Day Virtual Assembly in January



Erica Snowden reading *The Colors of Us* by Karen Katz to Lower School students as part of the Black Lives Matter at School programming

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives Underway

This year, Director of Equity and Multicultural Education Erica Snowden has taken the lead in the School's efforts to create "a community of belonging." Her goal: to further the essential idea that students should bring their whole selves to campus – including race and ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, class, religion, family structure, nationality, etc.

Under Erica's leadership, several key DEI initiatives are underway. The School did a comprehensive equity audit to identify and address its DEI needs in meaningful ways. Friends' Central will share the findings with the entire community to continue its progress and improve accountability. The School has also created an Equity Oversight Council, with the intent to hire and retain more faculty and staff of color, as well as recruit more students of color. The Council will also ensure that key groups have the resources they need to reach education and professional-development goals stemming from the equity audit.

Partnerships with notable organizations in the DEI space have enabled Friends' Central to lead from the top down. Through the National SEED Project, the School is offering two SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) cohorts – one for faculty, another for adult family members of students – devoted to addressing issues of equity and bias in education. Likewise, Friends' Central's Board of Trustees is receiving training in racial literacy through a partnership with the organization known as Lion's Story.

Groups such as Parents of Students of Color (PSOC) and the Anti-Bias and Anti-Racist Parent Group have given parents at Friends' Central the opportunity to affirm identity, build community, and cultivate leadership amongst those who have a common lived experience in a racialized society. The Home and School Association has been hosting virtual events for these groups to connect.

Anti-bias curricula for all students include workshops on social justice and peaceful protest. Students are also encouraged to participate in affinity groups based on particular aspects of their identity, such as gender, race, or religion. Led by a Faculty advisor and two student leaders, each affinity group meets once a month to discuss issues of identity as a way to deepen students' understanding of themselves and others.

Black History Month 2021 began at FCS with a Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action. The week included programming each evening by Erica for Lower School students, followed by Middle and Upper School students, to learn about the 13 guiding principles of Black Lives Matter at School. On February 25, Upper School students held a demonstration along City Avenue to show their support for the BLM movement. At the Middle School, Principal Alexa Dunnington Quinn '98 and Assistant Principal Andy White '03 have continued their series on hate speech, covering the concepts of stereotypes and implicit bias as well as intent vs. impact. During one recent Lower School assembly, Erica discussed Barbie's Black history, stating that "Windows and Mirrors in toys are just as important as they are in books and curriculum." QW

EXCERPTED IN PART FROM THE *SUBURBAN LIFE* ARTICLE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AT FCS;
READ THE FULL ARTICLE AT [BIT.LY/FCS-DEI](https://bit.ly/FCS-DEI).

VISITORS TO CAMPUS



FILMMAKER ANDRÉ ROBERT LEE

In October, Friends' Central was thrilled to host André Robert Lee, teacher, producer, and documentary filmmaker, as our 2020-2021 Distinguished Visiting Justice Leader. Lee, who directed and produced *The Prep School Negro* and produced *I'm Not Racist ... Am I?*, discussed his latest documentary *Virtually Free*, which explores an unlikely Richmond partnership and its effort to transform the justice system and stop mass incarceration. Lee's virtual talk was followed by a Q&A.

BENJAMIN GRANT

Benjamin Grant, the founder of Overview, Zoomed into Middle School Community Block in November to provide a brand new perspective on the earth and our impact on the planet. Overview "uses satellite and aerial imagery to demonstrate how human activity and natural forces shape our Earth." The presentation was thought-provoking, entertaining, and informative.

Image from the Overview website



DR. JEN HELDMANN

During their planetary unit in December, Deborah Skapik's Upper School Astronomy class had a visit from cosmic scientist, Dr. Jen Heldmann of NASA Ames. She spoke about her trajectory in the field, from stories about inspiration from the movie "Spacecamp" at age 10 to receiving important mentoring at Colgate University.

AUTHOR PHYLLIS FAGELL

In November, Phyllis Fagell, author of *Middle School Matters: The 10 Key Skills Kids Need to Thrive in Middle School and Beyond*, held a webinar for Middle School parents. Fagell is a school counselor, author, and frequent contributor to *The Washington Post*.



FINANCE EXPERT

In February, financial expert Bar David, formerly of KPMG, spoke to grade 7 students about the stock market and the GameStop trading situation that shook the financial markets in January.



AUTHOR JON GRINSPAN '02

In March, historian, author, and FCS alumnus Jon Grinspan visited Grant Calder's US History class. Jon is the author of several books, including, most recently, *The Age of Acrimony: How Americans Fought to Fix Their Democracy, 1865-1915*.



SCIENTIST ROBIN HOPKINS

On April 7, FCS 2020-2021 Distinguished Visiting Scientist Dr. Robin Hopkins delivered a lecture titled "The Beauty and Complexity of Mate Choice in Plants." Dr. Hopkins is an evolutionary biologist with a deep background in botany, ecology, plant-pollinator relationships, and the dynamics of natural selection and speciation. She is the John Loeb Associate Professor of Natural Sciences and Associate Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University. During her virtual visit, Dr. Hopkins spent time speaking with Science Core Team students.

REVEREND WILLIAM GIPSON

Reverend William Gipson, Associate Vice Provost for Equity and Access at the University of Pennsylvania, joined the Middle School Community Block in March to speak to students about his work with the Children's Defense Fund as well as activism in general.



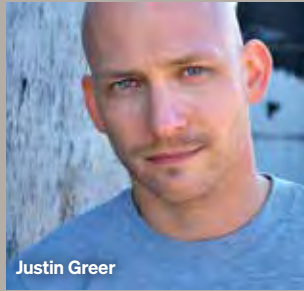
PROFESSIONAL DANCER

In November, Chandra Moss-Thorne, Lecturer in Dance at Swarthmore college and former professional dancer, was a special guest at the Lower School Zoom assembly, where shared her experience and expertise in dance.



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

In February, grade 10 students received a virtual visit from Holocaust survivor Michael Herskovitz. Herskovitz speaks regularly at schools, colleges, synagogues, and other organizations with the goal of educating the public. He has traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad. The event was made possible by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.



Justin Greer



Melissa Dunphy



Nicholas McBride

CHORUS & DRAMA CLASS ARTIST VISITS

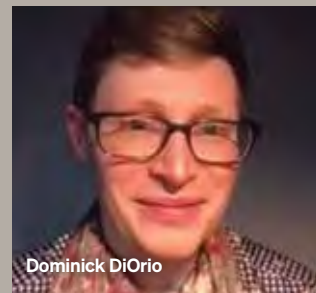
Former Broadway performer and educator **Justin Greer** visited Michele Zuckman's Upper School Chorus class in December to hold a chorus workshop with the class.

In November, **Nicholas McBride**, Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at The College of New Jersey, joined Michele's class to teach a workshop on inclusivity in the choral classroom.

Composer **Melissa Dunphy** visited Michele's class in February to discuss the importance of new voices, the need for more lyricists and composers.

Also visiting Michele's Chorus class was **Dominick DiOrio**, conductor of the Mendelssohn Chorus.

In March, Upper School Musical Theater class students had a visit from violinist Belinda Whitney, concertmaster and personnel manager for The Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra, concertmaster for the Broadway show *My Fair Lady*, and a performer with the Harlem Chamber Players.



Dominick DiOrio



Belinda Whitney



AUTHOR JAMILAH THOMPKINS-BIGELOW

Author Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow visited the Lower School in January for a virtual assembly, where she read from her recent book and took questions as part of the Lower School Library's Visiting Author Series. Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow's books feature young Muslim protagonists. She is the author of *Your Name is a Song* and *Mommy's Khimar*.



ACTOR BENJ MIRMAN

In March, actor Benj Mirman Zoomed into Elizabeth Carlson-Guerin's Upper School Drama class to teach a clowning workshop. Mirman was part of the original developmental workshop and production of the Tony-Award-winning revival *Oklahoma!* and he has been in numerous commercials. Mirman has taught clown workshops for everyone from high school students to Tony-nominated, professional actors.



Avery Lewis

NATIONAL CHAMPION AVERY LEWIS

In January, Avery Lewis '24 won the 200 meter dash at the The Virginia Showcase in Virginia Beach in 23.91 seconds. She became the sixth female freshman ever to be under 24 seconds indoors. Coach Brandon Shell said, "To firsthand see someone develop from a young age and watch the stage of her development from a little kid, to a young teenager, to a young woman, and still be on that same track that you hoped and projected she would stay on when she was younger, showing promises of being a phenom – it's amazing."

At the Virginia Showcase, Avery Lewis also broke the 30-year-old state long jump record held by Dawn Burrell with a leap of 20-8, and she then returned to the same venue to better that mark with a jump of 21-0.25 at Adidas Indoor Nationals in Virginia Beach Sports Center. Avery is PA#1 and US#1; and she is PA#1, US#7 in the 60m (7.49) and PA#1, US #3 in the 200m (23.91).



Micah Trusty



Miracle Price



Ryan Ellison



Inara Shell

PHOENIX SETTING TRACK RECORDS

Micah Trusty '22 placed PA#1 in 1000m in 3:01.95 and Miracle Price '22 placed PA#2 in 1000m in 3:03.20 at the Virginia Showcase at Virginia Beach Sports Center in January.

Micah set the FCS 400m indoor record with a time of 55.02 at the Adidas Indoor Nationals at the Virginia Beach Sports Center. Ryan Ellison '21 is PA#1 in the 55mH in 7.88, PA#2 in the 60mH in 8.59, and PA#9 over 400m in 52.4; each of these marks was set at Glen Mills Track in February. Ryan then traveled to the Adidas Indoor Nationals at the Virginia Beach Sports Center and set the FCS 400m indoor record with a 52.04.

Inara Shell '21 broke her own FCS record in the triple jump with a leap of 39-9 to finish in 2nd place at the Adidas Indoor Nationals. She also finished in 6th place in the long jump in 18-1. Both jumps earned her All-American honors.

ADAM BRAUN TAKES THE HELM

In December, Adam Braun became the new the Director and Head Coach of Friends' Central Aquatics and the Head Coach of the FCS Swim Program.

Adam joins us from Drexel University, where he served at the helm of the Dragons swimming and diving team for six years. Drexel accomplished a great deal under Adam's watch, including 135 team records that saw all the current men's records set and all but one of the current women's records set. During those six years, his swimmers rewrote the all-time top five performance list as well, setting a total of 429 new times. Lastly, 42 Drexel pool records and 36 freshman records were broken.

Adam is looking to build on Friends' Central's success, keeping alive the strong history and traditions of the swim program while creating some new ones, building the programs, and remaining a swim stronghold on the Mainline and in the Middle Atlantic region.



FCS SWIMMERS EXCEL

During the virtual FSL season in February, Clara Behling '24 (pictured at right) broke the 200M IM FCS swim record with 2:13.42. The boys' swim relay team of Ethan Cohen '22, Spencer Thorne '22, Finn Hilliard '24, and Holden Kopcsik '22 (pictured above from left) broke a FCS team and FSL record in the 200M Freestyle Relay in 1:31.52



CAMPUS LOG: ATHLETIC NEWS

CLASS OF 2021 COLLEGE COMMITS

LEAH ANDERSON

Colby College
Field Hockey

NATALIE NEUHAUS

Cornell College
Cross Country and
Track & Field

JACK DONAHOE

Misericordia University
Baseball

JUSTIN RUBIN

University of Virginia
Baseball

ANNA GULLACE

Smith College
Soccer

BEN SATZ

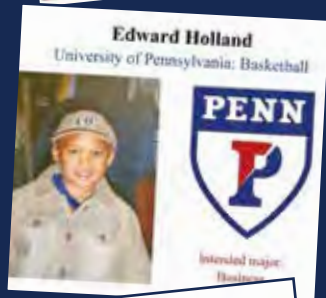
Suffolk University
Basketball

ED HOLLAND

University of
Pennsylvania
Basketball

INARA SHELL

Morgan State University
Track & Field



Alumni/ae Athletes in the News



Photo courtesy of Law Murray

LAW MURRAY '05 was hired as a staff writer to cover the LA Clippers for *The Athletic*. Law received his Masters in Journalism from the University of Southern California. He was previously an NBA

editor at ESPN, a researcher at NFL Media, and a contributor to DrewLeague.com and ClipperBlog. Upon taking his new role, he said, "Covering the Clippers for *The Athletic* gives me an opportunity to share a variety of perspectives with supreme depth and consistency. It's basketball, but it's also community. I value transparency and the ability to reach various commitment levels of basketball fandom and inclusivity."

AMILE JEFFERSON '12

recently signed with Galatasaray S.K. of the Turkish Basketball Super League. At the G League level, he recorded 18.5 PPG, 12.2 RPG, and 2.9 APG in 88 NBAGL contests (34.2 MPG) for the Iowa Wolves and Lakeland Magic. Galatasaray's record is now 18-5, and they are in first place.



Photo by Adam Nagy/NBAE via Getty Images

DE'ANDRE HUNTER '16 was drafted #4 in the first round by the Atlanta Hawks after they traded up in the 2019 draft. During his second season with the Hawks, he has become known as one of the most improved players in the league. Joel Lorenzi wrote in peachtreehoops.com, "Hunter has turned heads and changed expectations everywhere he's been. Growth is all he knows."

GABRIELLE WILKINSON '18 earned her first two All-American awards at the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships in March. She finished 6th place in the 800m and led-off on the University of Florida's 6th place Distance Medley Relay Team. At the SEC Championships, Gabby set a personal record of 2:02.85 in the 800M, finishing in 2nd place in the Conference and running the 2nd fastest time in school history. She finished the indoor season with the 14th fastest mark in the country, across all levels of competition.



Photo courtesy of floridagators.com



PAISAA VICE PRESIDENT MICHELLE CROWLEY

Director of Athletics and Wellness Michelle Crowley is affirmed by the PAISAA Board as Vice President for 2021-2022. Michelle said, "This is an incredible opportunity for me to represent not only Friends' Central School but also the

Friends Schools League in this leadership position. I look forward to advancing the Association in ways that amplify the voices of student-athletes and provide meaningful opportunities for growth for our coaches and programs. It will also be nice for Friends' Central to win a couple of PAISAA championships along the way!"

The Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association (PAISAA) was founded in 2007 to unite independent schools in the state of Pennsylvania in fostering healthy athletic rivalries, meaningful competition, and the values of sportsmanship.

FSL COMMITS TO ANTI-RACIST WORK

Friends' Central has committed, along with other Friends School League members, to necessary and meaningful anti-racist work. FSL School Athletic Directors announced in December that the FSL was engaging in this work. In their statement in October, the FSL Athletic Directors said the following: "Our call to action was sparked, in part, by an impassioned letter from a colleague sharing personal experiences with racism and injustice. The ensuing conversations included meeting with DEI practitioners from our respective institutions to dialogue and listen for recommendations to help inform our initial steps forward. We also conducted a League-wide audit that revealed great disparities in representation of People of Color in administrative and head coaching positions throughout the FSL."

To read the full statement from the FSL, visit bit.ly/FSL-Report.



Middle School students had a chance to enjoy sledding as a winter sport this year on the snowy City Avenue campus.

Celebrating Our Class of 2021 Athletes



Class of 2021 athletes on senior day -
see page 18 for a complete list of Class
of 2021 athletes!

Class of 2021 Athletes

LEAH ANDERSON

Field Hockey

RORE ANDERSON

Basketball, Softball

HALLIE BENDER

Tennis, Swimming, Lacrosse

HA-EUN CHOI

Tennis, Softball

MORGAN COOK-SATHER

Cross Country

JACK DONAHOE

Baseball

RYAN ELLISON

Track & Field

THOMAS FOLEY

Basketball

GABRIEL FRAGA

Wrestling

GABRIEL GREENBERG

Cross Country, Track & Field

MADELINE GREVES

Tennis

MOHAMMED GUEDDI

Wrestling

ANNA GULLACE

Soccer, Track & Field

CASPER HOFFMAN

Water Polo

EDWARD HOLLAND

Basketball

RUBY KAUFFMAN-ROSENGARTEN

Field Hockey

FINN KENT

Soccer

CINDY KIM

Field Hockey

TERRENCE LEWIS

Basketball

ERIC LILLARD

Soccer, Baseball

JARED LONNER

Soccer

IMRAN LOUDINI

Soccer, Wrestling

RYAN LYNCH

Soccer, Basketball, Track and Field

ANNE MCCAMMON

Tennis

ABIGAIL MCDONNELL

Field Hockey

KIERAN MCDONNELL

Cross Country, Baseball

NATALIE NEUHAUS

Cross Country, Track & Field

ZACHARY PLATT-BRANNON

Wrestling

JUSTIN RUBIN

Baseball

PATRICK RYAN

Soccer

BENJAMIN SATZ

Soccer, Basketball

BENJAMIN SCHLEGEL

Baseball

BASIM SCOTT-HORSHAW

Basketball

LILY SELKOW

Soccer, Lacrosse

ADAM SEROTA

Tennis

INARA SHELL

Track and Field

DIEGO SPIELMAN-RODRIGUEZ

Basketball, Tennis

AMANDA THOMPSON

Water Polo, Swimming

KIYAH THORNE

Field Hockey, Track & Field

THABO TSOTETSI

Soccer

ISAIAH WADDINGTON

Basketball, Baseball

HARPER WILL

Track & Field



Community-Centered Design to Promote Equity, Shaped by Quaker Roots

BY LINDSAY BEDFORD '07

When I first decided to compete in the Fifth Annual HOK Futures Design Challenge as an Interior Architecture & Design graduate student at Drexel University this winter, I expected the project to be a challenge and an opportunity to add a portfolio piece to my repertoire of student work. What I did not expect was that I would walk away with a renewed sense of purpose and understanding of the field I have chosen to make a career in and that I would be reminded of important lessons I learned years ago as a student at Friends' Central School.

The competition prompt was to design features within a health and wellness community campus for a local non-profit organization located in the Mill Creek neighborhood of West Philadelphia.

My project partner, Emily Grigsby, and I had similar beliefs about designing spaces that were not only aesthetically pleasing but also told conceptually rich stories, and, ideally, uplifted those we were designing for through our design decisions. We began by conducting research on Mill Creek's history and current demographics so that we could tell a story that wove the area's past and present in a thoughtful and meaningful way. We learned that the neighborhood is named for the creek that

runs from Montgomery County through West Philadelphia to the Schuylkill River. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the area was inhabited by the Lenape ("Original People") tribe. In the 19th century, development of the area accelerated as the pressure for developable land increased, which led to the decision to contain the creek in a subterranean pipe.

At the project site, we found a vacant plot with an abandoned two-story brick building in a predominantly African American neighborhood that could greatly benefit from more options for healthy and accessible food. Throughout our process, we worked to ensure every decision made would best serve the existing community, which led us to our choice to make our project a community center that included a food cooperative and not just a market as prescribed by the prompt. We liked the idea of a food co-op because, rather than adding programmatic elements that could potentially work against the preexisting community, we wanted to shape the program in a way that would aid in the cultivation of a communal, cooperative spirit.

Our focus was community-centered design to promote a greater sense of equity and unity within the Mill Creek neighborhood. Our favorite feature of our design was a winding garden-spine that sustains and connects programmatic elements, as Mill Creek once did for the native Lenape people. We carefully curated culturally responsive adjacencies in the space to blend the neighborhood's past and present to create their shared future.

Although Emily and I did not end up placing as finalists in the competition, I left with a sense of excitement and passion – I could spark change in my community and society overall by designing with empathy and a focus on helping others. As I thought about this important step in my design education, I realized I had already learned this lesson, but in a different way. Learning through service as a student at Friends' Central instilled in me the importance of understanding issues of



social justice and the role we play in creating change.

I joined Friends' Central in ninth grade and was excited to be a part of the Upper School community. One thing that distinctly differed from my experience at the public school I had come from was the scheduled Service Days we took part in collectively at Friends' Central. My service learning was conducted at the former William B. Mann School, currently, the Mastery Charter School Mann Elementary, in West Philadelphia.

During my time there, I, alongside my classmates, faced challenges that were unlike what we were used to in our environment at Friends' Central. At times, these situations were difficult, but these challenges helped me gain confidence and forced me to remain flexible and compassionate so that I could best serve those I had come to assist. I did not realize it at the time, but Friends' Central had provided me with an important base of values by teaching the guiding Quaker testimonies of stewardship, community, peace, and integrity. These important lessons instilled in me a sense of empathy and a belief, that I hold to this day, that the light of God is in everyone. Design has the power to impact lives, and I choose to lead and make a change by using my practice to create environments that address, protect, and respond to the needs of the people. QW

EXCERPTED FROM THE FULL ARTICLE,
PUBLISHED IN FCSFEATURES.ORG
READ THE COMPLETE ARTICLE AT
BIT.LY/LBEDFORD.



A portrait of Beth D. Johnson, a woman with short, curly brown hair, wearing glasses, a pearl necklace, and a colorful patterned top. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a stone wall.

New Interim Head of School Beth D. Johnson

“The testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends have been in my heart and helped inform all aspects of my life – professional as well as personal.”

BETH DAVIS JOHNSON '77



On January 8, James C. Wright, Clerk of the Board of Trustees, announced to the School community on behalf of the Board that Beth D. Johnson '77 will be stepping into the role of Interim Head of Friends' Central School beginning July 2021. Craig N. Sellers completes his nine-year tenure as Head of School at the end of this school year.

In his message, James Wright described Beth Johnson as a “gifted, seasoned, and visionary leader.” She brings with her a wealth of talent and school leadership experience, along with a genuine warmth and natural exuberance that make her ideally suited to the role. Currently serving as Upper School Principal, Beth is a proud “lifer” who first joined the Friends' Central community in 1963, when she entered the School as a nearly four-year-old. One of her earliest memories is of sitting in the Kindergarten classroom – now a Middle School teaching and conference space – looking up at the Noah's Ark mosaic above the fireplace which can be found there to this day.

When reflecting on her Friends' Central education, Beth noted the impact it has had on her own life. She values the combination of the academic preparation and Friends values she learned as a student and remarked they have guided her decisions and kept her at Friends' Central for all these years. “The testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends have been in my heart and helped inform all aspects of my life – professional as well as personal,” Beth said. “Unique to Friends' Central is the way continuing revelation (the Quaker belief that new truth is revealed to us as we continue our spiritual journeys individually and with one another) plays such an important role in everything we do. This particular testimony will be at the forefront for me as I take on this new role.”

Beth went on to say, “Continuing revelation is also the spark for both the intellectual engagement and transformational relationships that are at the heart of Friends' Central. As I look ahead, these will be at the center of my support for Friends' Central's strategic plan, Plan 175, and our division principals, faculty, and staff. I am confident that they are unmatched and that, together, they go further for our students and our community.”

Beth graduated from Friends' Central in 1977 and graduated summa cum laude from St. Joseph's University with a degree in Elementary Education. She returned to Friends' Central in 1987 as Assistant Director of Admission. She has since taken on numerous different roles at the School, including Day Camp Director, Interim Director of Diversity, Director of Admission and Financial Aid, Upper School Co-Principal and Dean of Students, and, most recently, Upper School Principal and Assistant Head of School for Student Life. Beth's many contributions along the way give her an essential breadth and depth of knowledge of the School's many dimensions. In addition to her administrative roles, Beth has also helped with the School's capital campaigns, participated in Long-Range Planning processes, co-founded Parents of Students of Color (PSOC), taught math in both Upper and Lower School, worked in our summer programs, coached Varsity cheerleading, and coordinated the Wynnefield Community Scholar Program.

Beth Johnson greeting Upper School students as they arrive on the first day of school in September 2019



In 2012, Beth left Friends' Central to serve the William Penn Charter School as Director of Upper and Middle School Admission. In 2018, the School was thrilled to welcome her back as Upper School Principal.

In 2009, Beth completed a Master of Science in Education in the School Leadership Program at the University of Pennsylvania. For the past 11 years, she has worked as a program mentor, advising masters candidates on matters of leadership and serving on a team that evaluates group inquiry projects and assesses internship performance. Beth has been called upon by organizations like the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), A Better Chance, Inc., and the Council for Women in Independent Schools (CWIS) to share her expertise and present on issues ranging from diversity to educating for the future. In recent years, Beth has offered workshops for the Association of Independent School Admission Professionals (PAISBOA).

Beth's daughters Tanya Johnson Muse '02 and Kristen Johnson Reid '03 are also FCS alumnae. Tanya was the first second-generation African American student to graduate from the School. And Tanya's two sons, current Middle and Lower School students, are Friends' Central's first third-generation African American students. Tanya herself is now a beloved Kindergarten teacher at Friends' Central's Lower School. Kristen is a Practice Operations Administrator at Penn Medicine.

"When I think about what the world is like right now, it's not lost on me that a Black woman is going to be sitting in the Head of School's Office," Beth noted. "It's really important to recognize this moment. It feels like an incredible weight, incredible opportunity, and incredible blessing all at the same time. My mind goes to Betty-Ann Workman who knew my mother. Betty-Ann was a woman of color and a former Head of Friends School Haverford. It's wonderful to have her memory and her smile and have her shoulders to stand on."

"The thing I love the most about Beth is her ability to connect with alums of all generations."

LINDA WAXMAN WASSERMAN '75
Director of Alumni/ae Relations

As Beth begins the transition to her new role, she has been grateful for the support she has already received from current Head of School Craig N. Sellers. "Craig continues to be supportive. His graciousness in pledging to work closely with me to affect a smooth transition is characteristic of his generosity," she said.

"I am so pleased that Beth Johnson will step into the Interim Head of School role – she will be exceptional!" Craig wrote in his message to the community. "The prospect of such a prominent and devoted alumna leading FCS speaks to the many ways a Friends' Central education has inspired students for decades and affirms that her vision and values will fit perfectly with the Board's future plans."

Beth maintains a special connection with many of the School's alumni/ae and is a popular presence at Reunions and other alumni/ae events. "The thing I love the most about Beth is her ability to connect with alums of all generations," Director of Alumni/ae Relations Linda Waxman Wasserman '75 reflected. "She is considerate, understanding, and compassionate, and she knows how to make everyone feel welcome and valued. Her passion for education, social justice, and the well-being of others have allowed her to enrich the lives of countless alums, not only as a role model and mentor, but also as a friend."

"I've been so excited about having the responsibility, as well as the opportunity, to meet alums I've never met before and to foster connections with all alums – some I haven't seen in quite some time and others I know well," Beth said. "We're all part of this wonderful community. One revered alumnus, Clayton Farraday '32, is someone I wish I could call. Clayton was utterly devoted to Friends' Central, serving our School in a number of important ways, including as acting Head of

School. It is his office I occupy now, and in many ways, I feel I am following in his footsteps."

Asked what she most looks forward to when she takes the reins this July, Beth replied without hesitation, "Getting to know everyone and having everyone know me – I'm excited about that." She plans to be a presence throughout the School, in all divisions and at as many events as possible; she doesn't want to be thought of as working in one office in one building. "I really feel that the most amazing part about our School is the sense of community," she said. "I want to help foster this wonderful, relational sense of our School."

"I was blessed to be asked to speak at my daughter Kristen's Commencement in 2003," she continued. "I remember that my speech was titled 'Friends' Central: It's All About the People.' And I think that's really true. One of our current students, in speaking to a prospective family about why he chose Friends' Central, said that when he visited other schools, they all emphasized the great relationships that students had with their teachers, but when he came to Friends' Central, he actually saw it in action, and that's why he chose this School. We are a unique community with incredibly interesting and vigorous and intellectual educational opportunities. But we do this with this element of relationship and community that is really so special and different than any other school. And it's true for generation after generation."

Along with her outstanding record of leadership and commitment to the School, Beth is best known for her ebullience and warmth. "I love to find joy in everything I do." **QW**



Beth Johnson (fifth from left) with other members of the FCS hockey team during her senior year

FCS Awarded \$250,000 Educational Leadership Grant

Friends' Central School was thrilled to announce in early February that we have been awarded a \$250,000 matching grant by the Edward E. Ford Foundation to support our leadership in a national conversation on Healthy Relationships and Consent Education.

This prestigious grant is awarded to a limited number of schools each year, and applications are by invitation only. Over the past 30 years, Friends' Central has received a number of smaller Edward E. Ford grants supporting financial aid, diversity, and professional development. This is the School's first Leadership grant.

In making Educational Leadership Awards, the Foundation looks for bold new ideas that both address challenges faced by independent schools and promise significant impact on the practice and thinking in the independent school community. "We believe this program is extraordinarily timely," said Head of School, Craig N. Sellers. "The Edward E. Ford Foundation has always been a singular supporter of excellence in independent school education. To be recognized by them in this way affirms our dedication to our values, our commitment to cultivating leadership skills and courage in our students, and our high aspirations for creating and supporting change."

We are grateful to the Foundation for understanding that consent education is key to helping young people avoid situations of sexual harassment, assault, and violence and for embracing our belief that the lessons learned in consent education can strengthen a community by adding practices and curriculum that can extend to supporting students' daily interactions. The practices



Al Vernacchio, photo courtesy of
The Philadelphia Inquirer; read the
Inquirer article about Al Vernacchio
at [Bit.ly/AI-EEF](https://bit.ly/AI-EEF)



and pedagogy rooted in consent are, in fact, fundamental to our Friends belief in deep and reflective listening and respect for one another. Their grant to us addresses the fact that consent education is seldom taught in schools and recognizes our unique readiness to lead in addressing this crisis.

Friends' Central will use this matching grant to create a Healthy Relationships and Consent Core team of students and teachers, led by Friends' Central teacher Al Vernacchio. Together, they will expand education and outreach to our school community and create a model for other schools. The leadership training the Core Team undergoes will serve our community as well as other schools. The full plan includes a biannual Healthy Relationships and Consent conference and a five-day summer institute, both of which will draw on national experts as well as our own student and faculty leaders.

Friends' Central has a long history of leadership in the area of sexuality education, beginning with a former head of school, Eric Johnson, who authored a widely used textbook in 1967, and it continues on under teacher Al Vernacchio's leadership. As we continue to grow institutionally, we are at the forefront of the important and ongoing work all independent schools need to undergo.

Al expressed his great enthusiasm for the work and for this opportunity. "This grant presents FCS with an amazing opportunity to expand upon the work we've been doing on consent education," he said. "Ever since the rise of the #MeToo movement, I've been focusing on consent education as a necessary component in our sexuality education programming. That led to a growing realization that consent should not be confined just to sexuality education but can be a guiding principle in creating respectful, equitable, and deliberate interactions between members in a school community."

He went on to say, "This grant will allow us to take the lessons we've learned from our practice of consent both, within and outside of the classroom, and offer it to other school communities. One of the things I'm most looking forward to is the development of our student Consent Core Team. These young people will be responsible for helping to develop and implement consent education in other schools. Peer to peer education is an essential element of our plans."

It is clear that this grant combines Friends' Central's longstanding tradition of developing student leaders, tradition of community respect, and sexuality education. These factors position the School well to support peer schools' growth in this important area.

In 2011, Al Vernacchio, a nationally recognized sexuality educator, was featured in *The New York Times*. He has given four TED talks and is the author of *For Goodness Sex: Changing the Way we Talk to Young People about Sexuality, Values, and Health*. In February, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* published a lengthy article about Al Vernacchio and his work on consent education as Sexuality Education Coordinator at Friends Central.

Friends' Central's understanding of excellence includes creating unique opportunities for deep academic exploration, for growth as leaders, and for matching public purpose with learning. As a result, our students and graduates are known for their creative, confident, and collaborative approaches to problem solving. This Edward E. Ford matching grant offers Friends' Central the possibility of deploying key school qualities such as deep listening, mutual respect, and the importance of both leadership and collaboration to strengthen our School and our wider community. **QW**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PARTNERING IN THE EDWARD E. FORD FOUNDATION MATCH, PLEASE CONTACT KIM EMMONS-BENJET, DIRECTOR OF LEADERSHIP GIVING AT KBENJET@FRIENDSCENTRAL.ORG.

REFLECTING ON TWO GENERATIONS OF SEX EDUCATION

Both of my children took Al Vernacchio's Sex and Society class. One of them commented that Al's class was "the perfect mix between structured and organic – our thoughts and ideas lead the discussion but were paired with Mr. V's experienced and knowledgeable moderating. He always had to push us out the door at the end of the period, and my conversations with peers often continued down the hall and back to the reading room (in the FCC). So, even though there was only one section of our Sex and Society class, the discussions often spread through the rest of the grade, because we would bring them back to our lunch tables and even to gatherings outside of school."

Amazingly, I could say the same thing about my own experience in Eric Johnson's sex education class almost a half century ago. I carried around Eric's book, conveniently published as a small format soft cover. It fit easily in my back pocket. It was accessible and conversational. It lived up to its title, *Love and Sex in Plain Language*. I don't think there had been anything like it before, certainly not that became as popular. And the conversations that started in that class often continued beyond it too.

GRANT CALDER, P '20
Director of College Counseling & Upper School History Teacher



A Farewell to Craig N. Sellers

In June, we bid farewell to Head of School Craig N. Sellers. FCS Board Clerk Jim Wright said, in his January message to the community, "Craig's deep commitment and rich experience in Quaker education have built on Friends' Central's strong foundation – adding exciting new spaces, like the Ulmer Family Light Lab and a re-envisioned Shallcross Hall; implementing a plethora of important policy innovations; and offering a steady hand through the unfathomable complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are profoundly grateful for his leadership and will miss his enthusiasm, friendly energy, and deep care for our School."

These pages provide a small snapshot of Craig's nine years as Head of School. The Sellers family – Craig, his wife, Cary, and his children, Bridgman '15 and Clare '18 – was Friends' Central's first "Head Family" since Merrill Bush and family came to FCS in 1952. Craig's mother, Shirley Simpson, has loyally read every *Just the Facts* weekly newsletter and attended numerous FCS concerts and plays over the years.

We thank Craig for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors!



(This page, clockwise from top) the Sellers family at Clare's graduation in 2018; fall 2012 Quaker Works issue introducing Craig; with (l-r) Distinguished Visiting Scientist Janna Levin and science teachers Anna Schall and John Gruber; Middle School students in 2017 visit for treats; with 1845 Award-winners Kalila Jones '19 and Zakaria Loudini '19; with Rich Ulmer '60 at the Ulmer Family Light Lab opening ceremony in 2016





(This page, clockwise from top) speaking at the Art of Fun School auction in 2013; spring 2017 Quaker Works issue covering the Ulmer Family Light Lab opening; Craig and Cary Sellers in 2012; meeting FCS students in 2012; at the Welcome Assembly in 2012; introducing Distinguished Visiting Scientist John Mather in 2014; visiting grade 3 students in 2017 as John Woolman, colonial era Quaker preacher and abolitionist





Remembering Ingrid Wilson '86

On Friends' Central's Lower School campus is a turtle sculpture; a beloved feature of the lower playground, it sits at ground level, inviting children to climb on it and run around it. What newer generations of FCS families and students may not know is that there's a moving story behind the turtle. The piece is the work of a well-known local sculptor, Eric Berg, and a small plaque on the ground in front is engraved with the words, "In loving memory of Ingrid Wilson '86 by her family, friends, and classmates."

Bill Bower, who taught at the Lower School FCS for 40 years, knew Ingrid and her family well. He was fourth grade teacher to both Ingrid and her older brother, Nicholas Wilson '85. Ingrid's younger brother, Peter Wilson '89, also attended Friends' Central. When Ingrid and her brothers progressed out of Lower School, Bill stayed in contact with the family.

"Ingrid was a wonderful student," recounted Bill. "She was creative and vibrant. She was full of life, and that followed her into the Middle and Upper School. She was very musical, a terrific piano player. She was also an athlete. She was very involved in the life of the School and very much a part of the School for a good number of years."

"Ingrid graduated from Friends' Central in 1986 and went off to Gettysburg College," he continued. "She was interested in early childhood education. When she was at Gettysburg, she came to me and asked if she could volunteer in my class. I was thrilled to hear that she wanted to work with young children."

In the spring of her sophomore year, Ingrid showed up for work in Bill's classroom with what appeared to be a miserable cold, and then she had a fever. "That was the onset of this catastrophic leukemia," he said. Despite intensive treatment at the best available facilities – including a specialized hospital in Seattle, Washington – she passed away at 21 years of age.

In May of 1990, a musical celebration was held to honor Ingrid at Friends' Central, with musicians and singers performing pieces that were favorites of Ingrid and her family. Her classmates and family worked with Lower School Principal Joe Ludwig and other administrators to purchase a sculpture in her memory. It was determined that a piece by local artist Eric Berg, known for his naturalistic sculptures of animals, would be ideal. Intentionally erected at the Lower School as a nod to Ingrid's passion for early childhood education, the turtle also had particular symbolic significance. "In some societies, the turtle is a symbol of eternal life – that seemed so perfect," explained Bill.

Bill made it his job, all those years ago, to help keep Ingrid's memory alive. He decided to write her biography in a way that would be accessible to Lower School students. "I went to the Wilsons and asked them if they would be comfortable with me doing this," he said. "I interviewed them about her life, wrote it up, and shared it with them to make sure they approved. I got a stipend to create 80 copies of the book." He titled the book *Ingrid*.

"Ingrid was a wonderful student. She was creative and vibrant. She was full of life, and that followed her into the Middle and Upper School. She was very musical, a terrific piano player. She was also an athlete. She was very involved in the life of the School and very much a part of the School for a good number of years."

BILL BOWER



The turtle sculpture on the Lower School campus

The cover of the program for the musical celebration held in Ingrid's memory at Friends' Central in May 1990



"I had a very artistic class the year I created the book; I read the story to them, and I invited them to submit drawings to illustrate the story," said Bill. (The student illustrators' names are listed in the acknowledgments section of the book and include current FCS Middle School teacher, basketball coach, and Assistant Athletic Director Jason Polykoff '02!).

"The photo of Ingrid on the cover of the book has this ethereal quality; there's this peach-colored light all around her," said Bill. "Her parents told me, 'Well, peach was Ingrid's favorite color.'"

Each copy of the book was hand assembled by Bill with the assistance of Ingrid's father, Murray Wilson. They painstakingly glued the printed pages, one by one, into blank books. The intention was that a copy of the book would live on the shelf of each Lower School classroom to be read to students, with several copies for the School library, copies for Middle and Upper School, and a quantity to be given to Ingrid's own family.

"During Devotions in the Lower School at the beginning of the day, we'd gather on the rug, and the teachers would read various short inspirational stories to get the kids thinking about things," said Bill. When the book about Ingrid was first created, the Lower School teachers were committed to reading it out loud; the memory was very fresh.

"I asked my colleagues how their students were responding to it, if they were comfortable reading it aloud, and if the kids wanted to re-read it for themselves," said Bill. Students were engaging with the book, and they loved seeing the pictures drawn by children their age.

There were times when, reading the story aloud to his class, Bill would find himself unable to continue. "I would start choking up," he said. "I would ask a student to finish reading the story while I composed myself again."

Bill felt it wasn't a bad thing for students to see a teacher experience emotion and for the students to read a story about loss that was, at the same time, a celebration of the life of a former Lower School student who deserved to be remembered.

"Throughout my teaching career, I would ask the kids if they knew why the turtle was there on the back playground. I would direct students who didn't know the story to read the book." **QW**

EXCERPTED FROM THE FULL ARTICLE, PUBLISHED IN FCSFEATURES.ORG, FRIENDS' CENTRAL'S ONLINE MAGAZINE
READ INGRID BY BILL BOWER AT [BIT.LY/INGRIDWILSON](http://bit.ly/IngridWilson).

SCULPTOR ERIC BERG

November 21, 1945 – April 20, 2020

Eric Berg, who resided in Philadelphia, completed over 40 public commissions at zoos, parks, museums and universities around the United States. Locally, his work is on display at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Reading Terminal Market, Drexel University (the Drexel Dragon!), the Philadelphia Zoo, and the Please Touch Museum, among other places. His smaller works, including bronze maquettes of the life-size public pieces, have been shown in galleries throughout the country.

(Pictured from left) Jim McKey, Vera & Murray Wilson, Nicholas Wilson '85, sculptor Eric Berg, Joe Ludwig, and David Felsen at the dedication of the turtle sculpture, October 5, 1991



Students at work in a chemistry lab in 1925 when the School was located at 15th and Race Streets



SCIENCE



Students doing research in the library in the Main Building (now the Admissions Office)

Advanced Biology students test a perfusion pump to prepare to decellularize a pig's heart in lab. Laboratory work throughout the year explores a variety of scientific techniques and gives students experience in analyzing their own original data.



175
1845 2020

FRIENDS' CENTRAL



Hurdlers on the Overbrook Campus in the 1930s

SPORTS

Winning lacrosse team in action in 2016



Language lab

TECH

LIBRARY



Students in the Blackburn Library in the 1980s



Lower School students
circa 1930s



Ambulances in front of
the School (at Race
Street) in 1917 – these
were purchased by the
School to serve as
medical transport for
troops in France during
World War I

As we mark our bicentennial – or 175th anniversary – we reflect back on and celebrate 175 years of purposeful, engaged, humanistic education. We have selected a few photographs from the archives to juxtapose against some more recent images, reminding us of the legacy of both continuity and change which mark Friends' Central's 175 years. The School has always innovated to meet the needs of our evolving world while remaining grounded in our heritage.



Students
preparing meals

SERVICE



West Side Story
rehearsal in 1990
(including
Tiffani Gavin '91)



Computer lab in the early 1970s

DRAMA



Drama production on the 15th and Race Street campus



Friends' Central Fund

In this anniversary year, our community reflects on 175 years of teaching and traditions. FCS families celebrate the many ways in which their children can dig deeper, go further, and aim higher to peacefully transform the world. A gift to the **Friends' Central Fund** ensures that FCS can continue to offer a curriculum that is both challenging and thoughtful, while nurturing the intellectual, spiritual, and ethical growth of our students. Your gift will support every aspect of a FCS education, including this year's priorities:

FINANCIAL AID

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
PROGRAMS AND TRAINING**

PANDEMIC SAFETY

FACULTY SUPPORT

GREATEST NEED

Thank you for making a difference!

FriendsCentral.org/giving

For more information, contact Melissa DiNofia - Bozzone, *Director of Annual Giving*
610-645-5420 • mdinofia@friendscentral.org



NOTES FROM FRIENDS

SHARE YOUR ALUMNI/AE NEWS

Friends' Central School encourages all alumni/ae to share news in the "Notes from Friends" section of *Quaker Works*. Send us your photos! To contribute, email communications@friendscentral.org (All alumni/ae notes are edited for length, grammar, and content.)

1943

Dorothy Jeanne Coleman Dangerfield

reports, "I believe I am the last of the three of my classmates that started together in kindergarten, 90 years ago. Ben and I are able to still be living in our 65 year old home because our granddaughter and her two sons live with us. During Ben's and my more agile years, we visited about 115 countries, depending how one counts a country. Unfortunately, our bodies are not up to that activity any longer. My traveling is now limited to writing about those years.

1947

J. Richard Relick shares, "I have been living in the lower Andes for the last seven years, with trips back to the US to my home in Belfast, Maine during the summer, but for the last year, I have not been able to travel back to the US due to the virus. I live in Cuenca, Ecuador, a city of 500,000 located in the mountains where the temperature in the summer is in the 70s with no humidity, and in the winter, there is a high in the 60s. There are 3,000 French, Spanish, Germans and Dutch in Cuenca, and 5,000 Americans. Ecuador is right on the equator, so our seasons are opposite to the US. It is now summertime. The city has three orchestras, three performing theaters, and four dance companies. It is a World Heritage City, with the old town just as it was in 1575 when the Spanish founded the city. The city is surrounded by indigenous folks who live in the mountain villages. The country is home to the Amazon and the Galapagos islands; I have visited both fantastic places.

1948

Virginia Keim Cole is pleased to report that on "June 2, 2020 my first Great Grand-

son was born to my grandson, Jeremy Cole. His name is Tyler Andrew Johnson-Cole. On October 13, 2020, I celebrated my 90th birthday with most of my extended family that lived in the area. Several did fly in to surprise me. Only five were unable to attend. We all 'social distanced' but had a lovely time. I also received over 90 birthday cards!"

1951

Barbara Green App shares, "I am living well in a Quaker Retirement Community. I retired three years ago and am very happy and healthy!"

1953

Francis Markland shares, "I am enjoying retirement, although it is very different than I anticipated due to COVID. My wife, Wendy, and I are stuck in our home and make it to the gym three times a week to work out in an outdoor area. Other than shopping and a few walks down to the Pacific Ocean about 1.5 miles west of our house, we don't

get out and about nearly as much as I had hoped to prior to retirement. We do plan to get back to Long Beach Island in August (COVID-permitting) where I have rented the home we used to own on the Island in Brant Beach. I expect between 8-12 family members will be there for the week, including all five grandkids from my two children (hopefully)."

1957

Curtis Pontz has published *The Stranglehold* (Dorrance Publishing Co., 2021). The book is available online through the secure Dorrance Publishing bookstore at www.DorranceBookstore.com.

1960

Bob Levin shares, "My new semi-novel, *Goshkin at Large*, is available, signed at www.theboblevin.com; in fact, all my books are."



Mini Florida Reunion for the Class of 1960 with (from left) Guy DiCicco, Janice Decker Frohner, and Bruce Woodruff



Aubrey Atwater
Traditional American Folk Music & Dance
 20 Campbell Street • Warren, RI 02885 • (401) 392-1909
www.atwater-donnelly.com

1962

Sally Price Lindsay Honey reports, "After decades of offshore racing, in 2014 Stan and I converted our 40' sailboat to cruising mode and left San Francisco heading south. In the fall of 2019, we completed our cruise down the Pacific coast, through the Panama Canal, and north to Newport, RI. We intended to race our boat in the Newport to Bermuda Race in June of 2020, but when the race was canceled due to COVID, we continued sailing Down East from Newport and spent the summer cruising the coast of Maine. It was a perfect alternative, as Maine had almost no cases of COVID, and we were able to enjoy buddy-boating with several friends on their boats and met many wonderful folks. We are hoping the Canadian border will open this coming summer to allow us to cruise on to Nova Scotia and perhaps Newfoundland. Meanwhile, we have both had our vaccines and are healthy and active. Wishing all the best to the FCS community."

1964

Virginia Duthie Allen writes, "After resisting for a few weeks back in March 2020, I

finally decided to give Quaker worship on Zoom a try. I was surprised at how well it worked, and I continue to assemble with Friends weekly. In some ways, using Zoom has brought us even closer together, and it has also allowed Friends from a distance to attend our Meeting (Hartford, CT). And, a suggestion: if you received a COVID stimulus check that you really don't need, donate it to a local charity that provides immediate relief to struggling families in your area."

Paul Seltzer reports "A new hobby: My neighbors now call me Chef BoyarSeltzer. Thinking about making my Sin City, AZ home a Bed & Breakfast for family and friends."

1967

Carolyn Hebden Facchiano shares, "the Class of 1967 has gotten together via email and Zoom to re-connect during this trying time of COVID-19 quarantine. On May 1, 2020, we had a Zoom class reunion, hosted by Sam Hodge, with 17 members of the class in attendance! Our email group – which is active sharing fun jokes, links, and personal notes about how we are passing the time – now has 30 of our classmates signed up. We continue to look for 'lost'

2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS KEVIN HOOKS '76

Kevin Hooks began his acting career several years before graduating from FCS in the Class of 1976. As a teen actor, he first gained significant recognition for his portrayal of the son of a Southern sharecropper in the 1972 film *Souther*, a role that he would revisit in the 2003 remake for the Wonderful World of Disney TV series. Kevin went on to act in the 1975 film *Aaron Loves Angela*. Shortly after his FCS graduation, Kevin landed a breakout role as conflicted high school basketball player Morris Thorpe on the award-winning TV series about high-school basketball, *The White Shadow*, which ran from 1978 to 1981. His role, Morris Thorpe, was voted one of America's 100 favorite characters in the history of television. Kevin was introduced to directing and producing by *The White Shadow* director, Bruce Paltrow. Kevin's work as a director is prolific, including numerous successful feature films and television shows such as *Passenger 57*, *This is Us*, *Prison Break*, and most recently, Showtime's *The Good Lord Bird* starring Ethan Hawke. Kevin directed Kim Cole in *Strictly Business* (1991), Wesley Snipes in *Passenger 57* (1992), Lawrence Fishburne in *Fled* (1996), and Patrick Swayze in *Black Dog* (1998). His TV direction is wide ranging, including *St. Elsewhere* (1983-1984), *ABC Afterschool Special* (1986-1987), *NYPD Blue* (2001-2004), *Prison Break* (2006-2009), *Soul Food* (2004-2004), and *This is Us* (2019-2020). Kevin has several significant works as a television executive producer, including a return home to shoot ABC's *Philly* (2001-2002), and ground breaking *Detroit 1-8-7* (2010-2011), producing the first one-hour network drama ever from Detroit. His most recent production, B.E.T.'s mini series *Madiba* (2017), was filmed on location in Johannesburg, South Africa, and at Robben Island, where Mandela was imprisoned for 18 of the years he was held. Kevin lives in Los Angeles. We cannot wait to watch what comes next!



Kevin Hooks (@KevHooks) Twitter

classmates and welcome anyone in the class to contact Carolyn Hebden at carolyn917@usa.net."

1969

James Supplee writes, "I've been working remotely since March using phone or Teams. It has been satisfying to provide counseling support to folks to help them get through a very challenging year."

1970

Carry Cooper reports, "This past spring, several classmates worked together to organize a class get-together via Zoom. We are also agreed that we all look forward to our "50+1" Reunion next May! :)"

1976

Bess Phillips shares, "Though 'exciting' news has been scarce, I'm healthy and well and continuing to shelter at home here in western NY. As a working musician, my job prospects have been pretty much leveled for the past year due to the pandemic, though I have been able to maintain a steady church gig. It keeps me singing, for which I'm very grateful. It's hard to believe that 2021 brings with it our 45th (!) Reunion. I so wish that I could spend some time with my beautiful classmates. Until then, I'm sending huge love and affection to all of them and the FCS community."

1977

Jas Smith has accepted the role of manager for a new program at Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. The forestry program provides youth with a rigorous field program in forestry, designed to create a career path in an area of insufficient workers combined with an effort to improve the quality of timber stands among private, nonprofit, and government ownerships.

1981

Aubrey Atwater Donnelly writes, "As a career folk musician and dancer, a big takeaway in the last year has been how essential the arts are to keep us connected, vibrant, and emotionally sound. After a complete and utter shutdown of my work in March, 2020, I was invited by various entities to reinvent and retrain to perform and teach virtually. I have been busy ever since. I hear from students and fans every day, telling me how important the arts have been in their pandemic lives. I am also a therapeutic musician at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence. (My first expe-



2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA EILEEN FLANAGAN '80

Eileen Flanagan is a writer and activist living in Philadelphia. Her current work focuses on the intersection of racial and environmental justice. She earned her undergraduate degree from Duke University in 1984 and a Master of Arts in African Studies from Yale University in 1989. Her first book, *Listen with Your Heart*, on the subject of seeking the sacred in romantic love was published by Warner Books in 1999. Her second book, *The Wisdom to Know the Difference*, strongly influenced by Quaker ideas, was published by Tarcher in 2009, and in 2010, won a silver Nautilus Book Award in the category of Personal Growth/Psychology. Eileen published her third book in 2015, a memoir entitled *Renewable: One Woman's Search for Simplicity, Faithfulness and Hope*, which tells the story of how a "nice Quaker girl" like her ended up committing civil disobedience over climate change. During her term as Board Chair (2013-2018) of the Earth Quaker Action Team, she led a campaign that successfully pressured one of the largest banks in the US to stop financing mountaintop removal coal mining. Eileen speaks internationally about change and how to make it.

rience with this work was my FCS senior project at CHOP!) I was vaccinated early with essential workers and am back at work there. That alone tells me how strongly music is valued. While all of this is not entirely surprising, it is a wonderful and validating reminder of how important the arts are in everyday human life. I am hoping to see old friends on May 8!"

1987

Mark Levy reports, "My firm, Hilco Redevelopment Partners, recently purchased the former Philadelphia Energy Solutions Oil Refinery in Southwest Philadelphia, which we are transforming into a world-class life sciences and logistics campus. I am excited to be giving back to the city I love! We are grateful to have the opportunity to create modern, sustainable jobs for the city. I currently reside in South Florida and am active with Ransom Everglades School in Miami (Coconut Grove), where my son is currently in 10th grade."

Paul Paz y Miño shares, "I hope everyone has kept safe during the pandemic. Fortunately, our family has remained healthy. As difficult as it has been for us in the US, Indigenous peoples of the Amazon are even more vulnerable. I am proud to say that my organization, Amazon Watch, has stepped up to help.



Perri Shaw Borish '92 with her son

Since June 2020, we have disbursed \$359,000 to Indigenous communities and organizations (in direct small and medium grants). So far in 2021, we have committed over \$200,000 to the COVID-19 health emergency, and we are committed to mobilizing and deploying an additional \$500,000 in the coming months. However, we need to raise \$5 million to deal with this existential threat to the guardians of a forest vital to our climate. If you want to learn how to help, please contact me. Thanks and be safe!"

Elizabeth Toborowsky Pollard writes, "When the COVID-19 pandemic began last March, I transitioned from working in nursing rehabilitation facilities to working in telemedicine for the Virtua Health System. This program has been successful in treating thousands of patients. Since that time, I have been working at our cardiac rehabilitation facility and assisting with administering vaccinations, which has been a truly rewarding experience."

1988

Andrea Paz y Miño Carty shares, "2020 brought a great deal of challenge and change. After 15 years, I parted ways with the Montessori school for which I taught. This freed me to be a teacher at a pod in the city of Lancaster, serving students identified by their school as high need during remote learning. The pod is fully funded by donations and grants. It is wonderful to support these students and their families. The job change also allowed me to work with a group from my Quaker Meeting and other educators to start a Friends school. I am most excited to have my oldest daughter, a Westtown graduate and F&M student, on the Board with me. We hope to

open our doors to students in the fall. Lancaster Friends School has social justice at its core and directing all aspects of the community and curriculum. We are working toward establishing a scholarship fund and capital to purchase a building in the city for the future. For now, we will be housed in our Quaker Meetinghouse. If friends from FCS want to talk about or support the project, please email lancasterfriendsschool@gmail.com."

1991

Alexander Miller joined the fin-tech ecommerce platform Perpay as Chief Commerce Officer in 2020.

1992

Perri Shaw Borish is "sending everyone warm, safe wishes during this crazy time! Happy to report my son just started FCS as a 9th grader! Also sharing the growth of my private practice, Whole Heart Maternal Mental Health. I'm loving it!"



2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS JON KEAN '85

Jon Kean is an award-winning documentary filmmaker living in Santa Monica, California. Jon graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1989 and, 10 years later, made his film debut as the writer/director of the comedy, *Kill the Man* (1999) starring Luke Wilson and Joshua Molina. Jon founded the acclaimed theatre company Theatre-A-Go-Go!, creating over a dozen original works in Los Angeles and New York. He then wrote, directed, and produced *Swimming in Auschwitz* (2007), a critically acclaimed documentary that follows the stories of six Jewish women, Holocaust survivors from different countries and backgrounds, during their time in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Jon's third film, *After Auschwitz*, which he also wrote, directed, and produced, is something of a sequel to *Swimming in Auschwitz*. It won Best Documentary Feature for the Long Beach International Film Festival in NYC, the Audience Award for the Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival, and the Best Documentary Feature for the Los Angeles Women's International Festival. Jon is currently working on several new documentaries, including *Mythical Creatures*, a groundbreaking visual documentary about Los Angeles artist Gary Baseman.



2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA TIFFANI GAVIN '91

Tiffani Gavin came to FCS as a freshman in 1987 – just in time to undertake the role of Mrs. Higgins in our production of *My Fair Lady*. The next four years saw Tiffani in the roles of Anita in *West Side Story* and Madame Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*. She distinguished herself in those years amidst stellar performances by a host of fellow performers. Golden days, indeed. She was one of the reasons Friends' Central did musicals in 1990 and 1991.

Upon graduating in 1991, Tiffani went to Brown University to study sociology and Modern Culture and Media. She then moved to New York City and has had an active and diverse career in theatre management and production – beginning at the Public Theatre and continuing managing and producing for Broadway and National Touring Company shows such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Blue Man Group*, *Ragtime*, and *Sweet Charity* among others.

She was recently named the new Executive Director of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut. Congratulations, Tiffani, on your many successes in the theatre. We like to think some of your experiences at FCS helped shape the artist you are today. We knew you when!

1995

Jennifer Briggs shares, "This past year, I have managed virtual schooling for my daughters and coordinated that with my own work, which continues outside of the house. I have continued teaching neuromuscular massage and the Alexander Technique in person at the Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy. I reduced how many clients I see in a day, often seeing only one. At the school and at my office, everything gets sprayed with alcohol liberally and frequently. My husband has been home, using our laundry room as his office. I love not packing lunches or rushing to be ready for a school bus, but I do look forward to a time when I don't need to arrange childcare whenever I plan on working."

1996

Gabby Duno Turner writes, "Helloooooo, friends! Greetings from Oakland, CA, where my family and I have been staying safe during this crazy year. I've been in the Bay Area since graduation (came out here to go to Stanford and never left!). I'm married to a healthcare hero, have two boys (3 and 7) and re-launched my own consulting business recently. I'm also hosting a pod of six first graders at my house every day – which are words I never thought I would utter – but feeling so grateful for my community, that we can do that safely outdoors here in CA and that we have happy, healthy kids! Sending hugs to all my former teachers and classmates. I miss hugging!"

1998

Patrick Dostal shares, "This last year has been tough. My wife and I are parenting four young children, ages 1-6, while we both are on the front lines of COVID healthcare in the Bethlehem/Allentown region. My wife is a pulmonary critical care physician, working with many COVID patients in the ICU, and I am the sole primary care physician for the Good Shepherd Raker Center, a 99-bed long term care facility for patients with chronic neuromuscular disabilities in Allentown. I'm proud to say that we have had no fatalities from COVID in our facility due to the hard work of all the staff and through the personal sacrifices of the residents. One of the many tragic stories of COVID is the severe isolation which the residents are forced to endure, many of whom cannot understand why, due to their own cognitive disability. For months on end, residents were not allowed out of their rooms, and all visitors have been banned entry for a year. Effectively, the healthcare facility became a healthcare prison. It has succeeded in its mission to prevent deaths from COVID, but at incalculable cost to the mental health and quality of life of its residents. For so many reasons, COVID life has been difficult. The recent snowstorms threw our schedules into chaos, juggling work, sudden school cancellations with 'distanced learning.' As people are able to do work and school from home, on one day, my wife was told to change her outpatient work to virtual appointments from home while day-care was closed and our 5 and 6 year-olds were supposed to be schooling over Zoom

at home at the same time. Sometimes, the pieces of the COVID life puzzle just don't fit together. Recently, my wife's uncle passed from COVID, like so many others, isolated in an ICU without family visitation. The next week, my wife was back in the ICU, intubating another COVID patient, thinking of her uncle. This last year has been tough."

Ross Trachtenberg reports, "In October, I became the first head baseball coach for Rosemont College in Bryn Mawr. The program will begin play at the NCAA Division III level during the 2021-2022 academic year."

2000

Teresa Ryan Whetstone and **Kehinde Whetstone** just celebrated their youngest daughter Ryan Whetstone's 1st birthday. "Her big sister Kennedy is a happy KB-er, loving all that the Lower School has to offer." Teresa and Kehinde enjoy, "reminding Kennedy of all of the fun things that FCS offered us 'sooo long ago.'"

2002

Jess English Abrams shares, "I am an inpatient L&D nurse at Jefferson Center City. We saw a huge influx of new patients after Hahnemann closed last August, and then six months later, had to face the start of the pandemic. Work is both the same and completely different than it used to be. It is disheartening to think that we will have to wear masks at work for the foreseeable future, because my field of nursing is very

hands-on and super emotional! We are all coping as well as we can. I am working full time nights and currently in grad school for my MSN in nursing education, enjoying my husband and two boys in the new home we moved into in September.”

2005

Louise Kraft Baigelman writes, “I run a literacy organization called Story Shares, and we are just about to launch our new platform to support struggling teen readers. We have a growing collection of books that are diverse, relevant, and readable. Our goal is to give the millions of teens with low literacy skills the chance to fall in love with a book and develop the skills they need to thrive. I am really excited about this upcoming 2.0 phase!”

2006

Having remained friends since high school, **Ryan Levan** and **Marco Massaro** are the founders and principals of 29MONROE, a hospitality group based in New York City. Even in the face of the Pandemic, they have just launched two bars in Lower Manhattan, called The Orchard Room and Writing on the Wall. “We’re looking forward to seeing familiar faces at our establishments!”

2007

Josh Aichenbaum shares, “Last summer, I founded Oak Tree Comics, a new independent comics publisher for young readers and the young-at-heart. We focus on telling stories that use imagination to champion social and environmental justice, inclusion, and the arts. Our first book is launching this spring! It’s called *Do You Speak Tree?* Our official launch day is Earth Day, April 22!”

2015

Rachel Feldman writes, “We’ve all been struggling with the pandemic, but I was lucky enough to be able to work through it and continue helping people. I am the program manager for a nonprofit organization in Virginia that offers free education and emergency food services to high-need families. During the peak of the pandemic, my coworkers and I were hand delivering thousands of meals each day and are now offering virtual tutoring and some limited in-person learning opportunities for students struggling with the switch. I now realize how privileged I was to have attended FCS and aim to help at-risk youth and adults achieve their dreams.”

IN MEMORIAM

David Boyd '62	Gwendolyn Welsh Jess '59	Whitten Richman '56
M. Reid Bush '59	Curtis Jones '46	Myles Roche '24
Thomas Donaldson '59	Lance Jones, Sr.	Alan Rubin '67
Ruth Jarvis DuBois '55	Kenneth Kirchhofer '62	Blaine Scott '46
Evelyn Fowles '63	Sarah Deming Love '55	Irma Jones Simon '46
Kay Gentile	J. Craig Marshall '64	Katherine Spaeth Smith '61
Murray Gorson '74	Gayle Waldhauser Martin '42	Marianne Hiller Smith '38
Richard Heilman '51	Franklin Milhous '60	Maureen Sullivan
Emanuel Hudock '74	Philip Osborne '51	John Young '73

Memories & Reflections

BY 2021 REUNION ALUMNI/AE

"Our senior musical was set to the music of a Broadway show – great fun and very clever lyrics. Also, not only did Mr. Snipe make algebra comprehensive but he was also a good bowling teacher."

Joy Appel Halsted '51

"The years I spent at Friends Central were among the most formative and important years of my life. I have carried with me the core values of the Quaker faith, both in raising my family and in working as a counselor in secondary schools. The friendships seven of us made in high school were held throughout our lives, as we continued to gather often and enjoy each other well into our 80s. There are five of us who still keep in touch today!"

Deborah Hazzard Nash '51

"French Class III with Madam Malecot!"

Robert Sylk '56

"Wonderful math training, serving as a columnist on the school paper, and Meeting for Worship each week."

Alan Wolf '56

"My year at Friends' Central was one of the most important in my life. It taught me tolerance, the philosophy to look at my fellow women and men as sisters and brothers, and the readiness to stand for my own beliefs. This was mainly established in the Quaker Meetings!"

Wolfgang Betz '61

"I have special memories of a warm, caring faculty, and especially Ann Whitcraft, Dean of Women."

Sally Schrader Irving '61

"Being at Friends' Central was the highlight of my youth and has stayed with me for over 50 years."

Lawrason Ann Clement '66

"Taking my turn sitting on the facing bench at Meeting for Worship, while my friends tried to make me giggle; it's hard to believe now that back then boys and girls sat on different sides!"

June Singley Evans '66

"I remember being in Mr. Cherim's chemistry class. We came in one morning to find the desks and chairs all asunder. 'That's entropy,' he explained. 'The tendency for things to

move into disorder.' Never forgot it. Another fun memory is that of Mr. Emerson in World History pounding his fist on his lectern and exclaiming, 'World federalism! That's what we need.' I have always wished the world could hear him."

Ellen Luborsky '66

"I entered Friends' Central in 9th grade, and until I started there, I hated school. Learning was a challenge, and I had never grasped the basics of comprehension of what I read."

"Friends' Central – with the help of many great and patient teachers, especially Mr. Ely – really helped me discover that I am capable of taking classes and actually enjoying them!"

Linda Robinson Groverman '71

"I remember several assemblies in Rex gymnasium; one where Dave Brubeck played a concert with a rhythm section and another with a concert by Grover Washington, Jr. and his whole band. In hindsight, that's amazing! These guys routinely headlined major theaters."

D. Ramsay Pennypacker '76

"In Lower School, we used to take an annual trip to the 'Secret Playground' located behind Lankenau Hospital."

Alexander Miller '91

"Creating many memories on the stage thanks to the gifts of Terry Guerin and Jim Davis"

Aimee Taxin Rubin '91

"Too many great memories: playing tennis and basketball on FCS teams, sitting many times with Mr. Darling to trouble-shoot math (and life!), playing tennis against Mr. Harris, and forming great relationships with teachers and friends. I am still great friends with my best friends from FCS 30 years later!"

Gabriela Duno Turner '96

"Swim team was awesome!"

David deLeon '11

"The French Exchange trip with Madame Ostroff-Weinberg, taken with my fellow French classmates – such an amazing experience!"

Arielle Parker '11

An Archivist Looks Back on *(Almost)* 50 Years

BY JIM DAVIS, ARCHIVIST & FORMER TEACHER

As FCS celebrates its 175th anniversary, I mark an anniversary of my own. Both are occasions for taking pride in accomplishments of the past and reflecting on ways in which the future might be even brighter.

After my retirement from teaching in 2011, I told former Head of School David Felsen that I was ready to leave the classroom, but I was not yet ready to leave FCS. To my good fortune – and I hope the School's – he agreed to look at ways I could continue to contribute to the community. Taking over the management of the School's Archives seemed like a good fit. I had, after all, been mentored by Clayton Farraday '32 and learned much of the School's history from him and, after 39 years, I had lived a bit of that history – if no match for Clayton's tenure (1936-2004 as an employee; 1928-1932 as a student)! But the archives need someone with an institutional memory, however, fragmentary. So, like the fools rushing in where angels fear, I took the plunge. Now, after nearly 50 years of association with the School, I am ever grateful for the work there. It has been a gift to me curating the precious photos, documents, programs, letters, publications, artifacts, and yes, clothing that occupy that all-too-small space designated "Archives." One aspect of the work has been to help family members, friends, and researchers connect to our School. The satisfaction of finding that picture of a grandmother on a hockey team or an essay in the literary magazine by a recently deceased uncle have been wonderfully gratifying. No further evidence of the breadth of FCS across time is necessary. Archives facilitate connections.

This article is a small (and inadequate) way to say thank you to an institution that has given me much. I want to share some memories of my own and some highlights that I have learned from others' memories.

Friends' Central in my first year, 1972, was a very different place. There were some 500 students, one campus, one lunchroom in the basement of the Lower School, no dining hall! There was no separate Middle School. Four concerts entertained the entire School for the year; the Lower School December concert was a Christmas Pageant. The prom was held in the OPA room of the Main Building. There was a football team. Beth Johnson '77 was a student and sang in the chorus. Our grading used a system unknown to the rest of the western world, and report cards had to be entered by hand and on site. Frustration would flare if two teachers simultaneously needed the 7th grade report cards, or if someone had commandeered the mimeograph machine. Male teachers wore ties, girls could be sent home for wearing red and black, and there was no maternity leave. Meeting for Worship, concerts, assemblies, and sometimes Commencement all took place in the drafty and noisy Rex Gym. A different place, indeed.

When alums ask me whether the School has changed since their time, my answer is invariably "of course." Schools change. Buildings, people, campuses, dress codes all change. But I always qualify that by saying that the School has not changed in the most important measure. If alums were to go into any classroom today, I strongly believe that they would feel at home. Why? Teachers still uphold the Quaker value of modeling respect for each other rather than imposing or demanding it. Classrooms are still places where each child is capable of seeking the truth.

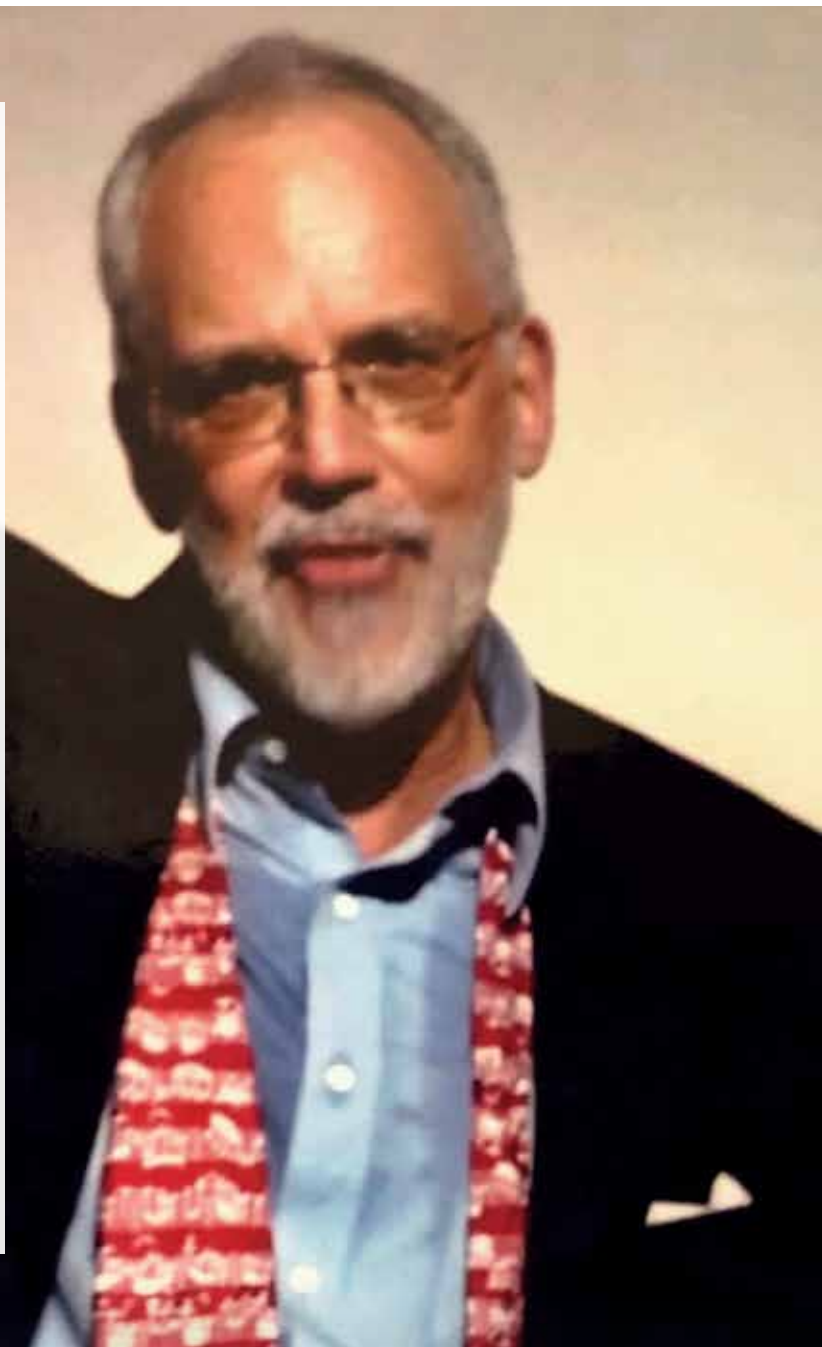
People often dismiss the Archives as merely enshrining the past. My 10 years in the Archives have taught me that it exists to teach us our past. How can we truly understand how FCS contributed to 175 years of education without knowing the rich, inspiring, and sometimes problematic legacy of the School? Without reading the passionate words of Richard McFeely (Head of School from 1948-1952) calling for the admis-



sion of African American students? Without reading the debates within the School every time it considered a change of campus or expansion to a new campus? Without seeing how the School has expanded its definitions of diversity? Without learning about the School's outreach to orphans in Italy after WWII or the sending of material to war-ravaged Holland? Without appreciating the inheritance of Mary Ann Ramsey's horrifyingly vivid eyewitness account of the Pearl Harbor attack? The baroque signature of Benjamin Eakins (penmanship instructor at FCS and father of painter Thomas Eakins) in a student's autograph book from 1872? Or the record of students debating the Vietnam War? We have a rich and textured history which must be not only preserved but handed on. A school that knows not its history cannot shape its future.

I feel lucky to be a part of the FCS story and immense gratitude for all who have invited me along for the telling of it. QW

Jim Davis retires from Friends' Central in June 2021 after 49 years of service to the School as a music teacher, Department Chair, and Archivist.



(Main image) Jim Davis in 2011 at his final FCS choral concert as a music teacher; (below at left) Jim in his earlier days conducting the chorus; (below at center) Jim lending his musical talents to an Upper School instrumental concert in 2008; (below, at right) showing archival images to alums at Reunion 2017



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