FROM PINWHEELS TO POLITICS
From the Headmaster:

Dear Friends,

In recognition and anticipation of the gathering presidential campaign, our editor, Rebecca Anderson, has chosen politics as the theme for this issue of Directions. She has assembled a variety of articles featuring Friends’ Central alumni/ae who are involved in the political process. Many of those graduates trace their interest in politics to some facet of their experiences here.

In the article entitled, “Politics at Friends’ Central,” Leigh Browning reviews the efforts made by today’s Lower, Middle, and Upper School faculty at “pulling kids of all ages into politics in ways that can spark a lifelong interest.” The testimony of eleventh grader, Natalie Willis, is further evidence that Friends’ Central is continuing to do its part in encouraging students to be involved citizens who can make a difference.

It is a pleasure to keep you informed about the accomplishments of our alumni/ae and the activities of current Friends’ Central faculty and students.

Sincerely,
David M. Felsen
Headmaster

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Cover: Artwork by Joel F. W. Price
Left: Middle School human peace sign and scenes from around campus,
September 21, 2007, International Day of Peace

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Dear Friends,

I love the rhythm of school life. Every September is a fresh start, full of possibility and resolve. The excitement in the halls is palpable, as is a predominant sense of optimism. This fall, Friends’ Central started the year by celebrating International Day of Peace. The activities spanned all three divisions—there were folded paper cranes, paper pinwheels, two human peace signs, and a lot of discussion. Students and teachers alike commented on what a perfect way it was to begin the academic year. I was able to participate in the celebrations on both campuses, and so in addition to the general excitement, I witnessed what many others felt—a remarkable sense of School unity. We are a School of close to 1,000 students on two beautiful, abundant campuses, but on September 21st we stood together and asked for peace. It certainly was a beautiful beginning.

When I began developing this issue, politics jumped to mind because we are in the midst of a presidential campaign. But as I spoke with alumni/ae involved in politics, I began to see some interesting, unexpected similarities between this feature section and the stories in Campus Log, specifically between politics and the spirited beginning of a school year. For one thing, there is a distinct rhythm to our country’s cycles of elections and leadership, the possibility of new beginnings every few years, and with it, the chance to refine our resolve. Each of the alumni/ae I spoke with commented on the energy and spirit of the American democratic process as part of their interest in politics. There is also a certain kind of unity each election day, particularly when we choose a new president. By 10 p.m. E.S.T. we’ve begun to color the map blue and red, but for most of that early November day, citizens in far flung states share a sense of anticipation and purpose.

This issue of Directions covers both Peace Day and politics. In between there are stories about awards, adventures, dragon boats, and climate change. There is news from alumni/ae around the world and a photo spread of the many alumni/ae children enrolled as current students. The magazine is varied and full—much like Friends’ Central itself. I hope you enjoy it.

Rebecca H. Anderson
Director of Communications

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Director of Communications

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Visit Friends’ Central on the web at www.friendscentral.org
Contents

Departments

4 Campus Log
5 Summer Art Fills Shallcross
7 Give Peace a Chance
10 Fall Athletics Wrap Up
20 Dracula

Feature

22 Beyond Voting: Friends’ Central Alumni/aes Talk About the Business of Politics

Jill Banks Barad ’57
Joe Lenski ’83
Jim Rutenberg ’87
Emil Steiner ’97
Adam Axler ’04 & Lise Rahdert ’05

33 In Support
37 Annual Pumpkin Fair
39 Alumni/aes News
43 Notes From Friends
49 From the Archives
New Trustees Join Friends’ Central’s Board

Friends’ Central School is pleased to welcome two new members to the Board of Trustees.

Suzanne Morrison teaches English at Springside School, an all-girls’ private school in Philadelphia. She has also taught at Friends’ Central (1998–2002), Temple University, and the University of Iowa. In addition to teaching and private tutoring, Suzanne was an educational consultant for Bennett Educational Resources; she lived, studied, and worked at Pendle Hill, a Quaker contemplation and retreat center in Wallingford, PA; and she was the Quakerism Coordinator at Friends’ Central. Suzanne attends Germantown Monthly Meeting where she and her two children, Roxana ’20 and John ’20, are members. Suzanne earned her B.A. from Haverford College and an M.A. from The University of Iowa.

She is looking forward to serving on the Board of Friends’ Central. “My mother attended Westtown, and I have always wished I had been able to follow in her footsteps. Even as a teenager, the Friends school ethos attracted me. Years later I jumped at the chance to teach English at Friends’ Central and found just the combination of Quaker values and academic rigor I had felt missing from my own high school experience. After a few year hiatus to spend time with my children, Friends’ Central offered me the opportunity to return for a year as the Quaker Coordinator. Since the fall of 2006 I have been an Friends’ Central parent and am thrilled that my children are getting a Friends school education. As the years have gone by, my belief has only become stronger that Friends schools, and Friends’ Central in particular, provide a unique gift to the students who attend them. As a board member, I want to do whatever I can to help preserve and strengthen the institution.”

Matthew S. Levitties graduated from Friends’ Central in 1985. He served on the Alumni/ae Board for ten years and as President of the Alumni/ae Board for four years. He has served on the Board of Trustees of Albert Einstein Healthcare Network since 1997.

Matthew has been a Senior Portfolio Manager with the Large Cap Value Team at Chartwell Investment Partners since 2003. Prior to joining Chartwell, Matthew served as a Vice President and Portfolio Manager at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, and he was an Assistant Vice President and Analyst at Wellington Management Company, LLP. Matthew earned his B.A. and M.A. from The Johns Hopkins University. He also earned an M.B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School. Matthew and his wife, Anja Jefferis Levitties ’86, are the parents of Nathan ‘19 and Samuel ’17.

“I am grateful for the honor and opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees,” Matthew says. “As a graduate of Friends’ Central, and a parent of two current Lower School students, I am looking forward to working with my fellow trustees to continue to foster the robust and supportive environment of the School so that the exceptional faculty and staff can continue creating new and exciting educational, athletic, artistic, and community service programs for our children. The strength of the Friends’ Central community comes from the commitment and involvement of all of its members and I am pleased to have a new role in which to participate.”
Summer Art Fills Shallcross Hall

This summer, Middle School art teacher Caroline Maw-Deis put together an art exhibition in the Shallcross Hall Gallery featuring the creative work of Friends’ Central faculty and staff. Caroline encouraged all of her co-workers to submit any kind of creative piece, a strategy that opened the door to many who might not consider themselves “artists” in the traditional sense. As she explained, “the most important thing was that creativity could be interpreted in many ways, which allowed everybody to participate.” The exhibit contained more than forty pieces and ranged from photos and paintings to ceramics and quilts. It even included a photo of a live music performance by Ken Reynolds of the technology department. The creative pieces kept the gallery walls looking colorful until student work could be displayed. Caroline was thrilled with the results of this first-year project, so much so that she envisions doing it again next year.

Angelina Riley ’00 was a 2007 Pennsylvania Fellow at the Center for Progressive Leadership. Each year, this program brings together a group of emerging leaders from around the state of Pennsylvania with elected officials and professionals for political training and mentorship. Angelina currently works as a Performance Improvement Coordinator for Princeton HealthCare System.

Upper School art teacher, Peter Seidel, had an award-winning summer. Seidel’s “Cleaner #8” oil painting was the First Place Jurors’ Choice winner at the Wayne Art Center’s National Juried show. His painting “Mouthwash #4” was awarded the Silver Medal at the annual Da Vinci Art Alliance juried members show. To read more about Peter’s work, visit www.peterseidelart.com.

Amira Simon ’16 performed in the Rebecca Davis Dance Company World Premier of the new contemporary ballet Helen Keller at the Prince Music Theater this November. Amira is currently preparing for the Pennsylvania Ballet’s annual performance of The Nutcracker.

Jason Green’s ’94 new project is SoulGenesis: A Movement Through Music. SoulGenesis seeks to encourage more socially conscious and responsible living to an ethnically diverse audience through the promotion of music. The first initiative of SoulGenesis is SoulGen.com, an online community geared toward exposing viewers and members to under-represented, high quality HipHop and Soul Artists, and this fall, their efforts were featured in Philadelphia Weekly. On their website, SoulGenesis writes, “We believe there is a growing body of individuals concerned about their local and global community. For this more socially engaged and concerned group, we hope to raise awareness of simple strategies and products that benefit self, community and environment.” To read more about SoulGenesis, visit www.SoulGen.com.
2007 National Merit and Achievement Students
Friends’ Central is delighted to announce that the National Merit Program has recognized twelve seniors as Semifinalists and Commended scholars. Over the last five years, twenty-two percent of Friends’ Central seniors have earned these distinctions. Senior Jasmine Martin has been named an Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Black Americans, an academic competition that provides recognition for exceptional Black American high school students.

National Merit Commended (from left): Back Row: Charles Baron; Oliver Backes, Semi-Finalist; Matthew Buchwald; Thomas Lefevre; Christopher Hall; Samuel Summers, Semi-Finalist; Noredy Neal; Thomas Bernard. Front Row: Rachel Erulkar; Anne Sprogell; Katherine Lindenbaum; Anthony Golan-Vilella, National Hispanic Scholar

2007-2008 Film & Lecture Series Hosts Dennis Culhane
On Thursday, October 11, 2007, Dennis Culhane, a renowned homelessness expert and parent of Emmett ’09 and Aengus ’11, visited Friends’ Central to give a wonderful evening lecture on his research. The first Film & Lecture event of the 2007-2008 series, Culhane’s talk was an engaging summary of the work he has done observing and comparing the patterns of homeless individuals and homeless families in multiple cities. His expertise and passion for the subject resulted in an enjoyable, interesting evening for the sizable audience of Friends’ Central community members. Look for announcements about our future Film and Lecture evenings on the Friends’ Central website and in the mail.

Dennis Culhane

On Monday, September 24th, the sixth grade class at Friends’ Central went to the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire to see Queen Elizabeth and her Court. The Faire offered the students the opportunity to experience a living history museum and witness first-hand the pressure that Queen Elizabeth faced to name an heir to her throne. Before going, the sixth graders also put together posters to advertise the Faire. Student Claudia Detre’s ’14 poster was chosen to represent Friends’ Central and won first place against submissions from eight other schools.

Director of Development, Lydia Martin, mother of Nate ’14, Annie ’16, and Peter Kennedy ’18, was inducted into the Haverford College Athletic Hall of Fame in October. Lydia played varsity field hockey and lacrosse all four years at Haverford. She was an All American in lacrosse, and during her senior year, the Haverford women’s lacrosse team was undefeated. Lydia joined four other Haverford graduates to form the inaugural class inducted into the Hall of Fame and carries the distinct honor of being the first woman inducted.

Teddy Mazurek ’08 was chosen to serve on the Teen Advisory Committee for J-Serve, an annual day of service for Jewish youth throughout the world. Teddy has been participating in J-Serve for three years.

Last summer, at Briarwood Cross Country Camp, Friends’ Central team members Patrick DeSabato ’09, Ivo Milic-Stirkalj ’09, and Jacob Snider ’09 were inspired by a meeting with Widener University coach Vince Touey to raise money for a cause. Touey coached star runner Macharia Yuot, one of the “Lost Boys” of the Sudan who made the incredible journey to the United States to begin a new life. Touey’s recounting of Macharia’s life story, the obstacles the Sudanese runner overcame to be a competitor in
Give Peace A Chance

In 2001, the United Nations established International Day of Peace as an annual day of global ceasefire with a fixed calendar date, largely due to the efforts of Jeremy Gilley, founder of the non-profit organization “Peace One Day.” Six years later, on Friday, September 21, 2007, Friends’ Central celebrated Peace Day for the first time with a variety of activities for the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools.

The Lower School began its day with an assembly, during which they watched a short clip from Jeremy Gilley’s documentary entitled “Peace One Day.” The children were all very moved by the film and enthusiastic about participating in a global gesture. Throughout the week, in preparation for Peace Day, the children each made a pinwheel from recycled material and wrote their hopes for peace in its folds. On Friday afternoon, they gathered with their pinwheels on the field outside and formed a giant peace sign. As the wind blew, everyone’s pinwheels spun, sending their messages of peace out into the world. Fourth grade teacher Chris Ramsey considered the day a great success for Lower School, saying, “it was a wonderful way to begin the school year, having children [share] about the theme of Peace in the classrooms and in the assembly. I am so happy that we took this on and made it happen.”

At the City Avenue campus, Middle and Upper School students also found various ways to observe International Day of Peace. In the early morning, fifth and seventh graders put their pinwheels at the School entrance for all to see throughout the day. Those who were in the cafeteria on Friday afternoon witnessed a rare event: a moment of silence during lunchtime to reflect on peace and cooperation among all the world’s citizens. The silence in a typically busy and noisy environment was a powerful experience for students and teachers alike. Also during lunch, students crowded around a table to make origami cranes to send to a Hiroshima war memorial this spring. Finally, at the end of the day, the Middle School students hurried out behind the Fannie Cox Center and held hands to form their own human peace sign. Everyone waved with excitement as a news helicopter passed overhead. On both campuses, International Day of Peace was a tremendous success at Friends’ Central, one we hope will be repeated for years to come.

The 2008 Olympic Trials this fall, and, as DeSabato said, Macharia’s “will to persevere everyday without the guarantee that he would find food, water, or shelter” inspired DeSabato, Milic-Strkalj, and Snider to raise money for the organization “Doctors Without Borders,” a medical program provides emergency aid to areas facing humanitarian crises. The three boys, along with the rest of their team, took pledges for every 5k race that they ran this fall, calling themselves “Runners for Life,” and by the end of the season, had raised close to $6,000. They hope to get other teams involved in their fundraising efforts.

College Counseling Co-Director, Carrie Brodsky, has been invited to join Penn State’s “High School Counselor Advisory Group.” Twice a year, the University’s key management personnel meet with this small group of high school counselors to seek feedback and engage in discussion about current processes, trends, issues, and concerns relating to Penn State admissions. Carrie will be a member of this group for the next three years.

Anna Lynn-Palevsky ’13 is getting ready to attend a winter branch of the Strings International Music Festival, a prestigious music camp featuring Kimberly Fisher, Principal Second Violinist for the Philadelphia Orchestra, and other orchestra members as faculty. In May, after performing well in the Gold Key Musical Competition, Anna was invited to play in Carnegie Hall. She chose to perform the Prelude from Debussy’s Suite Bergamasque on the piano.

Sally Marie Carson Gorsline ’46 was awarded an honorary title by the French government in recognition of her contributions to the region of Burgundy. Marie lives in Bussy-le-Grand, a town in Burgundy, where she runs the Musee d’Amour. The museum, which Marie began in 1994, honors the work of her late husband, painter Douglas Gorsline, as well as other local artists.

Nicolas Pavao ’14 finished 7th out of a field of 145 runners at the 20th Annual Germantown Friends’ Cross Country Invitational. His finish time was 11:16 for 2k (1.8 miles).
All School: Campus Log

It’s a Family Affair...

LOWER SCHOOL
Children of Alumni/ae Parents or Grandparents

Left to Right

Front Row: Lily Selkow ’21, Dylan Buchholz ’21, Phoebe Dubb ’21, Kieran McDonnell ’21, Beau Greisiger ’21

Second Row: Ava Hawkins ’21, Alexander McDonnell ’18, Annie Roberts ’18, Aubrey Schall ’18, Jane Whellan ’20, Emma Gordon ’20

Third Row: Ben Klein ’19, Hannah Grossman ’19, Rose McDonnell ’18, Leah Broker ’19, Amelia McDonnell ’18, E. Sebastian Villa ’20

Fourth Row: Nathan Levitties ’19, Ayla Bleznak ’19, Chloe Hawkins ’19, Jacob Grossman ’18, Dane Greisiger ’18, Mathew Fiebach ’18

Fifth Row: Amira Simon ’16, Cole Snyder ’17, David Vonderheide ’17, Grace Getlin ’17, Albert Bleznak ’17, Caroline Getlin ’17, Samuel Levitties ’17

Sixth Row: Jesse Rubin ’16, Joshua Fiebach ’16, Bruno Vogrig ’16, Steven Folwell ’16, J. Alexander Andrews ’17

Missing: Amari Aiken ’17, Kaia Aiken ’20, and Michael Moyerman ’20
All School: Campus Log

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Children of Alumni/ae Parents or Grandparents
Left to right
Back Row: Taylor Allen '14, Jonathan Newman '12, Isabel Terres '12, Samantha Resnik '12, Antonia DiLuca '12, John Bowie '12, Nathan Willis '13, Jerome Allen '14, Katherine McElroy '12, Briana Folwell '13
Middle Row: Jonas Snyder '15, Bryan Rubin '14, Rebecca LeBow '14, Maya Rosenberg '14, Jason Clough '13, Michael Andrews '13, Garrett Getlin '14
Front Row: Noah Snyder '15, Kevin Bendesky '15, Sophie Ritt '15, Grace McDonnell '15
Missing: Colin Roberts '14

UPPER SCHOOL
Children of Alumni/ae Parents or Grandparents
Left to Right
Back Row: Samuel Morris '08, Scott Kunz '08, Richard Moses '09, Edward Rooney '10, Kenneth Ludwig '08, Daniel Fedder '08, Akiva Goldstein '11
Middle Row: Elizabeth McElroy '09, Michael DiLuca '10, Natalie Willis '09, Natasha Willis '10, Katrina Knight '11, Margaret Bowie '09, Rachael Fishman '11
Front Row: Jaime Clough '10, Jaime Hyman '11, Matthew Fedder '11, Matthew Hyman '09
Missing: Danie Bendesky '11, Rachael Erulkar '08, Douglas Roberts '11
Fall Athletics Wrap Up

Our fall was a busy one, characterized by an overall sense of accomplishment. Of special note is how the weather was on our side with only two rain days during the regular season. We were able to get in most of our games on schedule!

Our Varsity and Junior Varsity teams showed up on campus on August 27 to begin another year of representing Friends’ Central in the best sense. We are proud of our teams’ level of play this fall and the way in which they conducted themselves.

Keith and I are both indebted to our coaches. The amount of time, energy, and good will that they put into their respective teams and seasons is remarkable.

Linda McConnell,
Girls’ Athletic Director

BOYS’ CROSS COUNTRY

Record: 9-1
2nd Place Friends Schools League
2nd Place PA State Independent Schools Meet
Coach: Ed Soto
Captains: Patrick DeSabato ’09, Jacob Snider ’09
MVP: Patrick DeSabato ’09
MIP: Alex Sheltzer ’11
All Friends Schools League: Patrick DeSabato ’09, Ivo Milic-Strkalj ’09, Jacob Snider ’09, H.M. Alex Sheltzer ’11
All State: Patrick DeSabato ’09 (1st team), Ivo Milic-Strkalj ’09 (2nd team), Jacob Snider ’09 (2nd team)

GIRLS’ CROSS COUNTRY

Record: 4-4
Coach: Jernell Mapp
Captains: Madeleine Friel ’08, Jillian Glen ’09
MVP: Jillian Glen ’09
MIP: Jacquelyn Maldonado ’10, Elizabeth Mitnick ’09
All Friends Schools League: Jillian Glen ’09

FIELD HOCKEY

Record: 3-10
Coach: Jody Mayer
Captains: Isabel Friedman ’08, Lindsay Elkin ’08, Hope Spector ’08
MVP: Nicole Deutschman ’09
MIP: Gabriella Capone ’10
All Friends Schools League: Nicole Deutschman ’09

BOYS’ SOCCER

Record: 7-9-2
Coach: Chris Campbell
Assistant Coach: Dan Crowley
Captains: Michael Dohrmann ’08, Matthew Bernstein ’08, Daniel Fedder ’08
MVP: Daniel Fedder ’08
MIP: Colin Yarnell ’08
All Friends School League: Daniel Fedder ’08, Matthew Bernstein ’08, H.M. Michael Pasek ’08

GIRLS’ SOCCER

Record: 7-7-2
Coach: Keith Bradburd
Captains: Sarah Bradburd ’08, Cayla Huppert ’08, Lindsay Nadkarni ’08
MVP: Sarah Bradburd ’08, Lindsay Nadkarni ’08
MIP: Hannah Shaw ’10, Jaime Hyman ’11
All Friends Schools League: Sarah Bradburd ’08, Lindsay Nadkarni ’08, H.M. Cayla Huppert ’08
ALL SCHOOL: Campus Log

GIRLS’ TENNIS
Record: 13-1
Friends Schools League Champions (4th consecutive year)
Friends Schools League Individual Champions: Ariel Several ’09, second singles; Sarah Weingarten ’10, third singles; Julia Ellis-Kahana ’09 and Hallie Greitzer ’10, first doubles; Anne Sprogell ’08 and Alexi Several ’11, second doubles.
Coach: Jason Henderson
Captains: Anne Sprogell ’08, Amanda Zeiger ’08
MVP: Julia Ellis-Kahana ’09
MIP: Anne Sprogell ’08
All Friends Schools League: Emily Rosenblum ’09, Ariel Several ’09, Sarah Weingarten ’10, Julia Ellis-Kahana ’09, Hallie Greitzer ’10

WATERPOLO
Record: 2-10
Coach: Iain Anderson, Ed Davis
Captain: Bryan Farrar ’08
MVP: Bryan Farrar ’08
MIP: Aengus Culhane ’11

Most Valuable Players (from left): (back row) Julia Ellis Kahana ’09, Tennis; Bryan Farrar ’08, Water Polo; Pat DeSabato ’09, Cross Country. (front row) Lindsay Nadkarni ’08, Soccer; Sarah Bradbury ’08, Soccer; Jillian Glen ’09, Cross Country; and Nicole Deutschman ’09, Field Hockey.

Most Improved Players (from left): (back row) Jaime Hyman ’11, Soccer; Hannah Shaw ’10, Soccer; Elizabeth Mitnick ’09, Cross Country; Alex Sheltzer ’11, Cross Country; Colin Yarnell ’08, Soccer. (front row) Anne Sprogell ’08, Tennis; and Gabriella Capone ’10, Field Hockey. Missing: Aengus Culhane ’11
Alumni/ae Athletic Report: Fall Season Recap

**CROSS COUNTRY**
Ian Ramsey-North '03 had a terrific fall season for the Haverford College men’s cross country team, ranked 6th in Division III. He was named to the Division III Cross Country All-American team after finishing 16th overall at championships.

Robert Ricketts '06 and the LaSalle University men’s cross country team claimed their sixth Atlantic 10 Conference championship in the last seven seasons (they finished second in 2005).

Katie Bash '06 helped the Bates’ College women’s cross country team finish in 7th place at the New England Small College Athletic Conference championships. Bash was the sixth Bates runner, and seventy-fifth overall runner, to cross the finish line.

**SOCCER**
Zach Weimer '06 played five games in goal (three starts) for the Swarthmore College men’s soccer team this fall. In those five games, Weimer managed to allow only one goal, on fifteen saves, with a team best .938 saves percentage. As of October 24, 2007 Swarthmore had a 10-3-3 overall record, including an undefeated non-league record.

Gettysburg College men’s soccer defender Drew Erikson '06 started six games for the Bullets this season, while playing in fifteen. Gettysburg secured a playoff spot, finishing the season in 4th-place in the Centennial Conference.

Former Friends’ Central soccer star Galen Guindon '06 had a fabulous season for Goucher College, starting all eighteen games they played. Guindon, who had two goals and four assists this season, helped lead Goucher to a 8-9-1 overall record. He was also named to the Landmark Conferences second team.

Emily Olson '07 was the anchor on the defense for the Muhlenberg College women’s soccer team this fall. The Muhlenberg freshman helped the Mules record a 7-6-1 overall record, and a 4-4-1 Centennial Conference record. Joining Olson on the Muhlenberg soccer team was fellow Friends’ Central graduate Julie Roberts '07. Roberts joined Olson on defense for the Mules.

The University of Pennsylvania’s women’s soccer midfielder Sarah Friedman '07 has helped lead the Quakers to an 11-2-1 overall record and a 4-0-0 Ivy League record. Friedman, who scored a goal and five assists in fourteen games this season for Pennsylvania, was the star player for the Friends’ Central girls’ soccer team that won the Friends Schools League championship in 2005. She was named to the Women’s Soccer All-Ivy League Team as an Honorable Mention.

**FIELD HOCKEY**
Friends’ Central graduate Meeran Ahn '04 completed her senior season for Haverford College’s women’s field hockey team this fall. The Fords finished the season 7-11 overall, which was their second consecutive seven-win season. Before last season, Haverford had not had a seven-win season since 1999.

**TENNIS**
Karen Lavi '06 opened the fall tennis season well for the Haverford College women’s tennis team, after she defeated her Chestnut Hill College opponent 6-1, 6-3 in the Haverford Fall Invitational. She went on to finish the Invitational with a 2-1 singles record, and a 1-2 doubles record. This fall tennis season is a warm up for Lavi for when league matches begin in the spring.

**FOOTBALL**
Better known to the Friends’ Central community as a wrestler, Jacob Fogel '07 used his grit and determination to walk onto the Oberlin College football team this fall. Although Fogel saw limited minutes this year for Oberlin (3-5 Overall, 3-2 League), it is an accomplishment to make a college football team coming from a school without a football program.
The Friends’ Central School community was deeply saddened this summer when Christopher Campbell, Jr. ’04, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, August 15, 2007. At the time, Chris was preparing for his senior year as a star midfielder on the Franklin and Marshall College soccer team.

On Sunday, August 19, close to 700 people gathered in Shallcross Hall for a memorial service organized by several of Chris’s friends from Friends’ Central. The many memories shared during the service by Chris’s childhood friends, school friends, college teammates, teachers, and family paid tribute to his passion for sports, loyalty to his friends and family, and extraordinary effervescence.

The Friends’ Central community will continue to remember Chris in several ways. This fall, the boys’ varsity soccer team wore black armbands with Chris’s #10 on them. Friends’ Central has placed a granite marker with Chris’s name and #10 on the soccer field where both home and away teams enter the field. We will be placing a plaque in Chris’s memory on the large rock between the lacrosse and soccer fields. We will be establishing a soccer fund in Chris’s name that will be maintained as an endowment and will be the beneficiary of an annual soccer clinic run by the boys’ soccer team. Finally, the Friends Schools League has named the boys’ All State Soccer Player Award in honor of Chris. The award states:

“Character is what sets great athletes apart from good athletes, great teammates apart from good ones. It is the foundation on which the Friends Schools League rests. Chris Campbell, Jr. is remembered for his exceptional combination of character and athleticism. He played hard, played fair, and played for the love of the game.

This All State Award recognizes players who strive to do the same.”

As his friends wrote in the program for his memorial service, “For many of us, Chris was and will continue to be a compass, and though the needle may lie still, it will forever point in the direction of what is good and what is right. Twenty one years is shorter than any of us would have liked, but thankfully it is long enough. Whatever our own passions might be, wherever we are in this world and in life, remember Chris, and walk in his direction.”
Friends’ Central Joins the Philadelphia Dragon Boat Festival

This October, two Lower School faculty members, Kim Parris and Heather Exley, co-led a group of teachers to great success in a most unorthodox sport. For the first time, members of the Friends’ Central School community participated in the Philadelphia Dragon Boat Festival at Fairmount Park. Dragon boat racing originates from ancient China, and the Festival has been a tradition in Philadelphia for the past five years. Crews of twenty-one must expertly propel large flat water canoes, elaborately designed and painted to look like Chinese dragons, along the Schuylkill River. The Friends’ Central team consisted of fifteen faculty members, five faculty spouses, and one parent. The team started the day off strong, making their best time in the first race and finishing ahead of the Shipley team. Their good time in the first race put them in a more challenging division for the rest of the day, and their spirits remained high through two other races. Friends’ Central finished the day with what the team considered to be their best-paddled race. To top off all their success, team drummer Jean Taranta received this year’s “Amazing Drummer Award” and was pictured on the Dragon Boat Festival homepage: www.philadragonboatfestival.com. Kim Parris said of her colleague, “Jean has a way of encouraging people to come together and was a great team builder because of her contagious positive energy. She is so inspirational as an individual who continues to learn, love, laugh and look for new ways to make the world a better place.” Congratulations to Jean and to everyone involved!

Magic Lines and Colorful Pages: Learning to Write in Lower School

Learning to write at Friends’ Central begins in pre-kindergarten with the art of storytelling. In the PKA classroom this October, the young students were bursting to tell stories about their time at the Pumpkin Fair, so Mrs. Kallam broke it down into steps. First, everyone drew a picture of the story they wanted to tell, making sure to use plenty of fall colors. Next, they each spent time one-on-one with their teacher verbalizing the story they had drawn. To the best of their ability, they tried to write down the sounds that Mrs. Kallam helped them hear in the words they were saying. If they couldn’t match a letter to the sound, they wrote a “magic line” to symbolize that letter. Finally, Mrs. Kallam wrote beneath their writing in “adult writing” the words that they intended to write. The result? Their illustrated words, tucked away in their writing journals: a permanent record of the journey of learning to write.

This process occurs one to two times a week in pre-kindergarten and fits into the larger program of “Kidwriting,” an integrated approach to writing in which phonics instruction is an essential and planned part of every week. Children learn to sound out words without the pressure of being wrong—if they don’t know a word or letter, they simply write a “magic line.” Kidwriting continues into kindergarten and then first grade, where students write daily in their journals. The program, introduced in 2003 by then kindergarten teacher Melanie Yulman, is immensely gratifying for both teachers and students. Remarking on her students’ progress this year, Kristi Kallam explains, “PKA began journals the second week of school and already I’ve seen the difference. Many of my students are taking more risks in their writing and are writing more than a few words. Many more are participating in our daily phonics lessons and are making connections among letters and sounds on their own. Last year was my first year teaching pre-kindergarten and implementing this modified program. I now look at those students I taught last year and see how confident their writing and reading skills are in kindergarten. It is very rewarding.”
Lower School: Campus Log

Scenes from “The Renaissance World”
lower school’s fall thematic project

(Clockwise from top left) Joan Raina and Jack Briggs in the Lower School faculty play; 4th grade visits the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire; Renaissance art; 3A’s colorful Renaissance masks
A Scientific Experiment in Friendship

Looking into a room full of eighth graders calmly drawing portraits in crayon with their kindergarten buddies, you might not realize you were witnessing rigorous scientific observation. But the eighth graders are more than role models and friends in the colorful kindergarten classrooms; they are also scientists of cognitive development. As a supplement to the human development segment of their science class, the eighth graders meet with the kindergartners and pre-kindergarteners a number of times during the year. The first few times, the students get to know each other through various activities and projects. In February, the eighth graders use the experiments of developmental psychologist Jean Piaget to evaluate their buddies, and as their final project they write up a lab report of their conclusions based on the observations they made. Make no mistake, the kindergarteners are doing their fair share of observation, too, and their watchful eyes follow every move the “big kids” make. Perhaps most importantly, in the midst of their mutual scrutiny, both sets of students get to forge new friendships, drawing, playing, and chatting away until it’s time to say goodbye.
Middle School: Campus Log

Middle School Adventure Day: A Friends’ Central Tradition

This fall, Middle School students from fifth, sixth, and eighth grade continued a tradition that is now twenty years old: Middle School Adventure Day. Former principal Mike Mersky established Adventure Day in 1987 to provide sixth and eighth grade students with a unique activity during the week-long seventh grade trip to Echo Hill. The first Adventure Day offered a choice between just two outdoor activities. Since then, Adventure Day has grown significantly. This year, Friends’ Central offered six activities for students in fifth, sixth, and eight grades, including two biking trips, a hike through Valley Green, rock climbing at the Philadelphia Rock Gym, canoeing down the Brandywine River, rafting down the Delaware River, and a ropes course canopy tour at Spring Mountain. According to Mark Fifer, Adventure Day has now become “essential to the Middle School experience.”

Adventure Day encourages community-building as well as fun, as students of different ages work together to overcome physical obstacles and ensure that everyone succeeds. Older students help the younger students and gain an important sense of leadership. As Jonathan Newman ’12 explains, “as an eighth grader you need to take on more responsibility, [but] it’s still a lot of fun.” The outdoor activities enable students and teachers alike to “see the classroom as something beyond just the four walls,” says Fifer. Middle School teacher Michelle Crowley feels that watching students overcome the challenges they face in this environment is just as fulfilling for faculty as it is for the students themselves: “The excitement and pride that the students [feel] accomplishing the individual challenges is as rewarding for a teacher as having them ace a test.”

Directions Fall 2007
The Distinguished Scientist Program: Part Two

As a follow-up to National Geographic anthropologist and ethnobotanist Wade Davis’ visit last spring, faculty members John Gruber, Megan Schumacher, Maria Socorro, and Jason Kramer took twenty-four Upper School students on an overnight trip to Washington D.C. in June. Davis was the first guest of the Distinguished Visiting Scientist Program, which invites scientists to come to Friends’ Central and talk to students about their research, both in a lecture format and in individual science classrooms. At the end of the year, a self-selecting group of students then travels to the scientist’s research center to enhance their understanding of the lectures. In Davis’ case, it was a challenge to find a suitable place to visit, as much of his work takes place in foreign countries, not in a traditional laboratory. John landed on Washington, D.C. because students could see Davis’ home base, National Geographic, and also experience and think deeply about the themes of his talk through the many museum exhibitions in the area.

In D.C., students were able to explore Davis’ studies of biodiversity and cultural diversity from many different perspectives, visiting exhibits that ranged from Native American cultural artifacts to photographs taken by refugees in Uganda to rare and endangered species of plants and animals at the U.S. Botanical Gardens and the National Zoo. Gruber felt that the students “were engaging in the highest academic enterprise. They had a chance to get behind the scenes, to see the process of generating this research.”

After dinner, students spent the evening in a conference room at the Hyatt, sharing their thoughts and discussing the various ways that the exhibitions they attended presented different cultures. The students’ engagement and interest in Davis’ work speaks to the great success of the Visiting Scientist program. As one student wrote, “My experience with Wade Davis and the activities surrounding his appearance at Friends’ Central have been nothing short of life altering. My appreciation for being given the opportunity to be exposed to such a point of view is inexpressible. Mr. Davis has provided me with the rope to connect the incredibly vast and marvelous ethnosphere that is our world.”

Teaching Non-Violence

Supported by a Clayton Farraday Master Teachers’ Summer Stipend, Upper School teacher Mike Crauderueff visited the University of California at Berkeley this past July to take part in the “Educators for Nonviolence” conference. Mike co-led “Teaching Nonviolence to High Schoolers” with Jill Dalander Johnson, a teacher from Oakley, California’s Freedom High School. The two educators taught their workshop participants about how to gather materials and develop curricula in peace studies. Mike remarked, “It was great to share our knowledge with such an energetic group of educators. In addition to giving the workshop, collaborating with Jill was inspiring. I think we were able to offer important information to everyone who attended our session.”

During the summer, Mike refined the curriculum he had been planning for a course called “Peace Studies: Nonviolent Social Change.” The course, offered to eleventh and twelfth graders this fall, is Friends’ Central’s first Peace Studies class. The curriculum moves from the micro/personal to the macro/international scale of investigation, studying conflict and peaceful resolutions in contexts that range from interpersonal relationships to peace and reconciliation in South Africa. Mike reports that his new course is off to a strong start, and his students would tend to agree. Senior Erica Carey is both excited and challenged by the course material, which has the students reading a great variety of perspectives on the subject of peace. Some of the college-level readings include Stanley Milgram’s infamous experiment, selections from The Ghandi Reader, and Charles Dobson’s The Troublemaker’s Teaparty. In addition to the readings, Erica especially enjoys the class dynamic, because she and her peers “are not in it for a school transcript, but because we want to know the information to make decisions for ourselves about how we want to exist as peaceful people.”

Most recently, Mike’s students enjoyed a visit from George Lakey, a visiting professor at Swarthmore College in the Peace and Conflict Studies Department who regaled them with tales of his “civil disobedience” in the name of peace and promised he would be their first phone call were they ever themselves imprisoned on similar grounds.
Friends’ Central Contemplates Climate Change

On Thursday, October 4, Friends’ Central tenth and eleventh graders observed Climate Change Day, devoting themselves to the exploration of some of the numerous facets of global climate change. Grant Calder, one of the primary organizers of the day, explained that it allowed students, faculty, and administrators to “share ideas and concerns, and perhaps more importantly to talk about what we can do to live sustainably on our planet.”

Students, faculty, and administrators alike paid tribute to the day in the early morning by using alternative means of transportation to get to school. In all, science teacher John Gruber calculates that over 225 miles were not driven by FCS commuters who walked, rode bikes, took public transit and carpooled to campus that morning. The day continued with a screening of Al Gore’s documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. After the film, students split into discussion groups to cover a range of topics. In one, a Septa engineer spoke to students about public transportation and Septa’s efforts to produce cleaner emissions. In other groups, students went outside to explore the climate of their own campus: one group analyzed soil samples outside the language building, while another used a telescope to view spots on the sun. Still others took a more political stance, researching local environmental issues and writing letters to various government officials. The successful day was followed up by an assembly on Friday, serendipitously the day Al Gore received the Nobel Peace Prize, where students gave short but thoughtful presentations of their groups’ activities to the rest of the school. The students’ enthusiasm was mirrored by faculty: Biology teacher Melinda Yin, who came up with the idea for Climate Change Day, wrote “I was warmly encouraged by the student response to these issues, and the work they did in small groups to address particular concerns…. Our students rose to the challenge of an overwhelming and disheartening subject and considered it thoughtfully and passionately. Rather than becoming defeated by the enormity of climate change, they embraced their ability to make a difference and inspired me.”
Dracula

This year's fall production was a spooky treat! Upper School Students performed Bram Stoker's Dracula on October 26 and 27 for an enthusiastic audience. Getting everyone in the Halloween spirit, Doctor Van Helsing, Jonathan Harker, and other neighbors of Carfax Castle joined forces to vanquish the ultimate in evil, Count Dracula himself. Dracula starred Alec Unkovic ’08 as Dracula, David Eschenazi ’09 as Professor Van Helsing, Amy Corenswet ’09 as Mina Harker, and Julia Romano ’09 as Lucy Westenra.

We are all looking forward to the next production, Shakepeare's The Tempest on February 29 and March 1, 2008.
One of the most wonderful aspects of Friends’ Central is the strong sense of community that pervades the School.

It is hoped that everyone connected to Friends’ Central will make the Annual Giving Campaign a philanthropic priority.

Please join in the common mission of endorsing the School through the Campaign and help open doors for all the young people at Friends’ Central.

{THANK YOU}
TO CAST A FREE BALLOT.
A ROOT OF DEMOCRACY

GENERAL ELECTION BALLOTS

USA 3¢
BEYOND VOTING:
FRIENDS' CENTRAL ALUMNI/AE TALK ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS

If we would learn what the human race really is at bottom, we need only observe it in election times.
—Mark Twain’s Autobiography by Samuel Clemens

Samuel Clemens would have had a field day with elections today! The passionate trumpeting of causes, the partisan bickering, the reasons individuals choose to vote or not, the manipulation of history, design, and emotion in ad campaigns, the media frenzy, and the pageantry surrounding a candidate's appearances all speak volumes about what our society values and craves. As we gear up for a presidential campaign full of historical firsts, we talked to several Friends’ Central alumni/ae whose business it is to analyze our behavior, shape our reactions, and rouse our emotions during election times.
—Rebecca H. Anderson

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AS A CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST

Politics is like theater to me,” says Jill Banks Barad ’57. “There are the actors out front and the directors who work behind the scenes pulling the show together. The business of politics happens off stage.” Jill is the owner of Jill Barad & Associates, a Los Angeles-based political consulting, public relations, and government affairs firm. She has provided consulting and campaign management for federal, state, local and judicial campaigns, as well as statewide and local ballot measures. She has produced millions of pieces of campaign literature for candidates and issues statewide in California.

Jill’s theater analogies are well-earned, since she began her professional life on stage—first here at Friends’ Central where she was involved in just about every production, then at Temple University where she majored in theater, and on stage in Philadelphia, including the Playhouse in the Park. When Jill moved to Los Angeles and started a family, she became involved in her community with local candidates and issues. It was an easy transition, she explains. “I grew up in a political family where being political meant being actively involved in the community.”

As Jill increasingly became associated with particular causes, she started organizing parties for the candidates who supported them. Suddenly, she was on her way to her current position as one of California’s top political fundraisers. “I became known for having the best lists,” Jill says, referring to the political campaign donor lists. “One day, it occurred to me
that these lists should be worth something, so I went into business as a professional fundraiser for local and then statewide candidates."

In 1980, Jill said to herself, “I want to do what the big boys do; I want to do it all” and so she formed her own company and went to work as a political strategist and consultant, co-managing a statewide ballot proposition and managing several Los Angeles City Council races. Since then she has worked with politicians and candidates, including current California Lt. Governor John Garamendi, Secretary of State Debra Bowen, and numerous members of the California legislature and Los Angeles City Council. Jill has also taught political public relations, media, and fundraising courses at UCLA since 1988, where she tells her students again and again that politics is all about the money. “You can be the best candidate in the world, but without money, you can’t make your message.”

Jill’s pronouncement is disillusioning to her students. “They think they are going to run a ‘grass-roots’ campaign. They don’t realize that you need money to run a grass roots campaign. You need money for literature, advertising and for mailing. You need money to target the neighborhoods you need to walk. You need money to print up the pamphlets to leave when you walk door to door.”

Jill knows first hand how important money is—when she ran for Los Angeles City Council in 2001, she had the overwhelming support of the city and state elected officials and the unions, walked hundreds of precincts, and thought she had a comfortable campaign fund. But a young attorney came out of nowhere with money raised by his father, a well-connected downtown Los Angeles attorney, that nearly doubled her total. “I sent out five mailers,” Jill explains. “He had the money to send out twenty-five.” Without any key endorsements or union support, the young attorney won.

Although Jill now jokingly refers to herself as a “recovering politician,” she is excited by the growing number of women involved in politics. When she first started running political campaigns, she was one of the very few to break into the “old boys club” of campaign management. Even today, it is difficult for women in political campaign management.

“One of the most exciting things ever for me as a woman in politics was being at the 1984 convention when Geraldine Ferraro was nominated for Vice President. All she had to say was, ‘My name is Geraldine’ and the place went wild.” When asked about the current presidential campaign, Jill is confident that Hillary will energize compassionate men and activate female voters. “A woman’s ability to speak as a candidate and as a mother tends to make her more believable and trustworthy,” she argues. “A woman can market her message differently than a man can. She can draw on her experiences and translate the big political issues in human terms.”

Jill is a key player in Los Angeles politics where she is a frequent panelist commenting on the political issues and campaigns of the day. She is an elected Board member of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, where she is serving her third term as President. She has also served on task forces and commissions and is a friend and supporter of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaragosa.

Jill remains passionate about her life in politics. “I always felt, and I still do, that I can make a difference. Most of us involved in politics have this conviction at our core.” Having gone from behind the stage to the front of the stage as a candidate, Jill knows both sides of the curtain and the adrenaline rush of both the theater and politics. Yet, she still says whether as a candidate or campaign strategist, “no matter how intense the emotional roller coaster ride of this business, you hopefully never lose that sense that you can make a difference in the world.”

Jill Banks Barad ’57 introduces Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaragosa at a major campaign fundraising event at her home.
How does a mechanical engineer end up sitting in front of the camera “calling” the presidential elections for CNN?

“When I was a senior at Princeton, I saw the perfect job posted at Career Services,” explains Joe Lenski ’83 by way of an answer. “It was for CBS News working in the election survey unit. But first I had to explain how my engineering studies qualified me for a job focused on politics. So I told the interviewer that I could name all one hundred United States Senators. ‘No one can do that,’ he said. After three or four states, I had made my point.”

In the election survey unit at CBS, Joe worked on statistical computations and modeling under Warren Mitofsky, the father of exit polling. In 1967, Mitofsky pioneered the use of exit polls to project winners in elections. His ideas changed the way the media covers elections as well as the expectations the general public has about how and when it learns results.

Today, Joe runs Edison Media Research, a company he founded in 1994. At Edison, Joe conducts market research and survey projects for newspapers, television and radio stations, cable networks, record labels, and Internet companies.

Since 2003, in conjunction with Mitofsky International, Edison has been conducting the exit poll projections for all six major news organizations—ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, FOX, and the Associated Press. In 2002, Edison conducted the CNN RealVote project that put Joe on the air.

Joe has always been interested in politics. At Princeton, he took six courses on politics alongside his work toward his engineering degree, and when he was at Friends’ Central, he combined his passion for politics with his affinity for statistics and systems in a way that directly foreshadowed his later career path—Joe wrote and conducted surveys for the School newspaper. “I was cleaning out my parents’ basement recently, and I found an old article I had written for the Middle School paper. I had done a poll of the 1976 Carter/Ford election in which I had Carter winning.” Even in sixth grade, Joe had devised a way to accurately predict results!

Exit polling during an election is an enormous undertaking that involves close to 3,000 people in the field, distributing questionnaires to voters as they leave the polls. For a presidential election, 110,000 questionnaires are distributed, roughly 2,000 per state, and processed in a short, 12-hour period. The news organizations control the editorial side of the polling; they determine the questions, the states to target, and the specific numbers of questionnaires per state. Joe and his team are responsible for mobilizing this army of interviewers, for reading and processing the data, and finally, for distributing the results to the networks.

Two of the biggest challenges Joe faces are working with a fixed deadline and maintaining the security of the information he collects. There is no room, or time, for error in exit polling. Elections don’t wait just because a polling system fails or a computer goes down. So Joe spends most of his time testing and retesting the massive data collecting system that he has designed and runs—grateful each time for his background in engineering.

The Internet has exponentially increased the amount of attention that must be paid to security. Most survey results, Joe explains, are phoned into a central data collecting headquarters; occasionally hand held devices are used. In either instance, the possibility of information being leaked is a great concern. Starting in 2006, all exit poll results gathered during the day have remained in a Quarantine Room that does not have any phone lines, computers, or wireless capability. At 5:00 p.m., the room is opened up and the reporters can be briefed all at once.

The Internet has had another effect on Joe’s job as well. “With 24 hours cable news, internet, political bloggers, every-one needs information to chew on and analyze immediately,” Joe says. “The information I generate and disseminate has become part of the mainstream political discourse, and it gets attention now before, during and after an actual election.”

“There is nothing I enjoy more than Election Day,” Joe says with satisfaction. “It is a real high when the votes come in, especially since I get to look at data before anyone else. I have information that no one else knows until I collect it. I’ve grown somewhat addicted to it!”

One of the first times Joe felt the rush of election- fervor was when he was a student at Friends’ Central: “Carter did a...
whistle-stop train tour that brought him to Overbrook station during his campaign. I remember that the whole School marched, class by class, down to the station to hear him. Seeing a presidential candidate speak in person was incredibly moving and memorable.” It certainly seems as if this mechanical engineer was destined for a life in politics.

**MEET THE PRESS**

“I’ll be glad to reply to or dodge your questions, depending on what I think will help our election most,” George H. W. Bush once said to a reporter, and Bill Clinton declared, “What you heard me say was not what you thought I said!” As the reactions of these two presidents illustrates, the media’s coverage of politicians’ decisions, opinions, and actions—both past and present, professional and personal—carries a lot of weight, sometimes as much as what politicians themselves say and do. Recently Friends’ Central caught up with Jim Rutenberg ’87, political reporter for The New York Times, to get an inside look at the power of the press.

Jim started his career in 1991 at a local New York City paper, hustled his way to the New York Post and then the Daily News as a gossip stringer. The Observer hired him to cover the television industry and finally, in 2000, he was hired by The Times for that same beat. During the 2003/2004 election season, Jim began covering media strategy and political news for The Times, and from April 2005 to October 2007, he covered the White House. “When I was out of school, working in a bar, broke, I wanted to cover the White House for The Times. But if I could have seen my future, I would have come up with a different plan,” Jim jokes. “A president generates a ton of news.”

With another presidential campaign under way, Jim is back on the campaign trail, focusing on what the candidates do to reach voters and how they interact with the media. For Jim, the thirteen months preceding a presidential election are a rush. “Once the campaign is on, you figure there is no time off,” he explains. “I go after the story, I go where my editor wants, I go where I think there is news—in that order. And I have to be prepared to go with a moment’s notice. It is not at all a normal way of living.”

Despite the busy nature, the life of a political reporter is also a lot of fun. “We work 18 hour days, 7 days a week. We go to sleep and we are up again in 4 hours, especially on the White House beat. But there is a lot of camaraderie, too.” Jim says. “You are with the same group of reporters, from lots of different news organizations. The challenge is to break of the pack, to differentiate your coverage from theirs.”

So what does it take, I asked Jim, to win an election, or to have a successful campaign? “Every election is different,” he answered. “What is important is to be for something and have a vision and a plan. Bush had a plan, and people were surprised, but he did try to execute that plan, granted with some serious diversions. This election, reporters will want to listen even more closely to policy issues.”

How easy it is for reporters to listen to—or to hear a candidate’s take on an issue depends, in part, on how the candidate interacts with the media. From Jim’s perspective, “I have been doing this for fifteen years and my sense is that the candidates who have been more transparent with the media, have had more lasting political success.” Jim uses Bush and Giuliani as examples of candidates who have been hard for the press to get to know. “Ultimately, when they hit harder patches, their difficult media relations contributed to their low ratings, which got in the way of their governing. Clinton and Reagan, Jim says, were great communicators. “They each had plenty of fights with the press and a certain level of hostility, but they understood how to work the press and as a result were able to come back from serious lows.”

This election, Jim will be looking carefully at a relatively new type of press relations—how the campaigns interact with the activist bloggers. At the moment, it is too early to know what effect the bloggers will have, although “bloggers can really shift the dynamics of a candidacy, especially in the primaries. There is more room for volatility in an election because of the presence of bloggers,” he says.

As a journalist, bloggers put Jim in an interesting position. “I’ll be covering the bloggers and they’ll be covering me covering them!” They also pose a challenge to the traditional objectivity of reporters. “I predict nothing. That’s why I love covering politics,” says Jim. Bloggers,
on the other hand, “critique from a partisan angle, and one of the challenges for us (print journalists) is appreciating the legitimacy of that argument.” Still, Jim is quick to point out the important role the bloggers can play. “Last time around, they flagged issues we were missing. After all, it took a conservative blogger to get behind Dan Rather’s coverage of Bush’s military record.” Surprises such as the Rather/Bush story keep reporters going. While the rest of us spend the better part of an election season looking for certainty so we can cast a vote, journalists thrive on breaking news and unexpected disclosures.” What I love is the unpredictability of covering politics,” Jim says.

GUTTENBERG TO GORE

by Emil Steiner ’97

In the 2004 Presidential race bloggers were a fringe group regarded in much the same way as e-mail users were a decade previous—clever technophiles with a product of little use. As we approach the 2008 elections blogging is not only accepted by mainstream media (MSM), but is respected for being independent of it.

Why the sudden change? Two words: “Rathergate” and “Macaca.” The former brought the word blog (web-log) into the American vernacular; the later showed how online, user-generated content can change the course of American history.

It all began September 8th, 2004, when Dan Rather ran a piece on 60 Minutes Wednesday, alleging that President Bush used his influence to manipulate his military record. The venerable journalist presented documents purportedly from a commanding officer, which most viewers simply accepted as real. It was Dan Rather for goodness sakes! But a small group of conservative bloggers didn’t buy it, and immediately began investigating and then discussing inconsistencies they noticed in the typography of the photocopies.

Across forums, word began to spread that the documents may have been forged. When the conversation/noise reached critical mass, MSM began digging and within a fortnight, CBS and Dan Rather admitted they couldn’t prove the documents were authentic. From then on, when bloggers blogged, MSM listened.

Two years after that it was the liberals turn to capitalize on new media with the 2006 Macaca elections. In August, incumbent Senator George Allen (R-VA) was so far ahead in the polls that the DNC was redirecting money towards more realistic swing states. But all that changed on a campaign stop in Blacks, Virginia when Allen used what sounded like a racial slur to address one of his opponent’s staffers. That staffer just happened to be a holding a camera at the time and caught the whole thing on tape.

Thanks to the video sharing site YouTube and the bloggers/commenters who pushed the footage viral, “Macaca” became an ever-present boogeyman in the Republican’s PR nightmare of ‘06. As a result, challenger Jim Webb (D) overcame a 20-point deficit and swung the balance of Congressional power back to the Democratic Party. Time Magazine even awarded its 2006 Person of the Year, to “you,” the creators of user generated content.

It’s no exaggeration to say that journalism has changed more in the past three years than the previous thirty. Someday soon the printing press will be as antiquated as the typewriter, and ink stains will be reminisced about like leaded fuel. But it isn’t just the cheap and fast accessibility which makes this new media so powerful- a well organized library can give you that. What separates new news from old is the reader’s ability to interact and freely affect its content. The blogosphere is a manifestation of that freedom. Whereas before readers could, and still do, submit letters to the editor, the probability of seeing them in print remained slim. In blogs, not only can comments be seen immediately, they can spur a whole stream of written dialogue, which may actually change the world.

Emil Steiner currently writes the OFF/beat blog for The Washington Post.

Emil and his classmates at the Friends’ Central Reunion in May
YOUNG AND INVOLVED: A Q & A WITH ADAM AXLER ’04 & LISE RAHDERT ’05, TWO YOUNG ACTIVISTS

When did you first get involved in politics?

Adam: As they say, politics is a family thing, and for me that was definitely the case. My first concrete political experience was volunteering with my mother for the Gore/Lieberman Campaign in 2000. While in high school, I helped to found the Montgomery County Young Democrats, planned a protest against President Bush’s appearance at the Ardmore YMCA, and organized a registration drive for my senior class. On a more philosophical level, my interest in politics is rooted in a moral outlook on the world, one that was fostered by my time at Friends’ Central.

Lise: I first got excited about politics when I attended the National Young Leaders Conference the summer after my sophomore year of high school. Being in Washington and seeing politics first hand, as well as participating in simulations of political processes, made me realize the immense power I could have to exact change. After the 2004 election, I realized that just caring wasn’t enough, one has to get involved in campaigns. So for my senior project, I worked for Lois Murphy’s congressional campaign. Since the beginning of my first year at Brown I have been involved on the executive board of the Brown Democrats attempting to combat political ignorance and apathy on campus.

You represent a younger generation of political activists, what kind of a difference can young people make? Would you say your generation is pretty involved politically?

Lise: One thing that frustrates me about our generation is that young people grossly underestimate their potential role in the political process. Protests are very common on Brown’s campus, but there are more active ways to be involved than simply marching around the Main Green. Political apathy is a huge problem in our age group—a disgustingly small percentage of eligible voters between the ages of 18 and 24 actually cast ballots. In order to get involved in a real way, one must start from the ground up, working on local campaigns, grassroots projects, and other organizations.

Adam: Lise’s absolutely right. Young people often lack the ability to donate money to a political campaign, but we make up for it in enthusiasm. Campaigns often take this enthusiasm for granted; the trick is getting young people involved beyond just canvassing or making phone calls. I am always trying to get students involved in planning and running campaigns. Taking the skills and concepts we learn in class and applying them to the campaigns we’re involved in can benefit both these campaigns and educations.

What kind of a difference do you want to make? How do you view your role and your responsibilities?

Adam: I’m particularly interested in fixing the health care “system” in this county. It’s a source of incredible inequality and what’s worse, we spend enormous sums of money for a “system” that creates outcomes worse than most other industrialized nations. For me, the desire to fix this problem comes out of an understanding of the privilege I’ve had by attending places like Friends’ Central and Brown. This is my way of giving back for the advantages I’ve had in life.

Lise: I couldn’t agree with Adam more. Our economic system has created gross and cruel inequities in our society, and our government misspends money on programs that do not work and often make situations worse. It’s hard to pinpoint one issue about which I care more than others at this point; the current political landscape disgusts me on so many levels. Whether it be advancing gay
rights, ensuring the future of social security or raising awareness about global warming, the responsibility of young Americans is to pick an issue and really make a difference. I plan on being involved in political campaigns in the years to come, because the reality is that getting the right people elected is the only way to make real change happen, as we have daily proof.

Do you think democracy works?

Lise: I have to admit, sometimes it’s difficult not to become cynical about the political process. Everywhere you look, there are corrupt politicians exploiting real issues for political gain. The reality is that there is no point in hating the system, or having the “fight the man” attitude that many Brown students do, because this is the system we have and if we are going to make real change we must work within its parameters. Everyone's heard the quote from Winston Churchill, “Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others” and that statement rings very true for me. This is why, as I’ve said before, getting involved in campaigns to get the right people elected is the most effective way to see the change you want happen in this country. Democracy only works if people vote, raise awareness, are vocal about their opinions and take advantage of the freedom we have to stand up to the government.

Adam: Political involvement can definitely be frustrating. November 2nd, 2004 was one of the worst days of my life. But the honest truth is that you need to look at the long term for the outcome of your efforts. You’ll win and lose elections, but hopefully, over time you can push the dialogue and conventional wisdom in the direction you want. While it might not always seem like you’re making headway, as Lise said, it’s the best way we have to affect change. The founders designed a system with tremendous inertia for a reason. It isn’t supposed to be easy to bring about change, but it is possible.

How are you hoping to be involved in the next presidential elections? What would you encourage others to do?

Lise: As of now I am currently undecided as to which candidate I am supporting in the primary. I may not get involved fully in a campaign until after the primary this year, but when a candidate is nominated I will volunteer, canvass, phone bank and get out the vote as much as possible. Since I will be at Brown during the election, I will use my leadership position on the Democrats to get as many students involved in the campaign as possible. Adam is right—everyone should volunteer for political campaigns, because campaigns always want volunteers and they want you to work for them in whatever capacity you can.

Adam: I am currently the Volunteer Coordinator for Brown Students for Barack Obama. When I graduate in May, I am hoping to work on a Senate campaign instead of the presidential one. I think I’ll be able to get more involved in a state-wide rather than a national campaign. I think I’ll be able to get involved in at a higher level in a state-wide instead of a national campaign. This is the election cycle of our generation. Regardless of your political affiliation, the outcome of the upcoming Presidential and Congressional elections will determine the direction of this country for a generation. Campaigns are always looking for volunteers and you’d be surprised how often volunteers turn into paid positions. My advice for others wanting to get involved is to do it.

POLITICS AT FCS

The world of politics may at first glance seem to be one from which children are necessarily excluded. They are, after all, denied the most basic point of entry into the political process: the right to vote. But at Friends’ Central, teachers are up to the interesting challenge of pulling kids of all ages into politics in ways that can spark a lifelong interest.

In the Lower School, students gain their first real exposure to the political realm in the fourth grade, when they study American history. At such a young age, it is natural that any political opinions are shaped almost entirely by their parents. Fourth grade teacher Don Denton explains that he tries to take the children out of their parents’ mindset and instead “[teach] them concepts that they will eventually put to use as they form their own opinions and world view.” To that end, he focuses on the human rights movements which can be grasped at a child’s level. In studying women’s rights, for example, he has the fourth graders write speeches to address the Seneca Falls conference of 1848, then hold a mock demonstration in the halls and read their speeches to other classes. In doing so, Don enables the fourth graders to open their minds and gain
Just as with the Lower School students, the political ideologies of Middle Schoolers are still largely formed by those of their parents. As Middle School Administrative Advisor Mark Fifer explains, however, they are at an age when they can begin to ask questions about the political spectrum, or ask the older people around them why they have particular political opinions. To satisfy their budding curiosity surrounding politics, Mark began a new rotational course this year for sixth graders. It’s a skills course that focuses on civic government and politics, and Mark has been impressed by the students’ attraction to the material. “The kids are energized; they have a lot they want to find out about,” he says excitedly. The course culminates with a full day trip to the Constitution Center in Philadelphia, which helps to summarize and clarify what the students have learned in the classroom. At the end of the course, Mark tells his students, “This is not an ending, it’s a beginning—the beginning of you being active in the pursuit of understanding our government.”

The pursuit that students begin in Middle School continues on into the Upper School, where teachers find their students still filled with curiosity about the political process. History teacher Gary Nicolai insists, “I don’t have to get them energized [about politics]; they want to know.”

The primary curriculum that covers the U.S. political system is the eleventh grade American History class, which details for students the history of the U.S. government and how it came to look the way it does today. But in their high school years, students also have the opportunity to move beyond this knowledge and become involved in international politics. In the model U.N. program at Friends’ Central, run by Gary, students simulate the workings of the U.N. and have the chance to attend the four-day University of Pennsylvania model U.N. conference. Numerous Friends’ Central students that Gary has worked with have gone on to make a living in world politics in various capacities, and he has no doubt that the model U.N. program was instrumental in encouraging their interests early on.

For Friends’ Central students, a political education entails exploration rather than indoctrination: in the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools, teachers encourage their pupils to pursue their interests and become politically active in the myriad ways that are available to them, even when voting is not yet a possibility.

Eleventh-grader Natalie Willis, who has attended Friends’ Central since pre-kindergarten, has done just that. Since early August, she has been volunteering in mayoral candidate Michael Nutter’s Philadelphia office two times a week. The opportunity came about unexpectedly: Natalie was at a journalism workshop at the Daily News when Nutter came into the news office with a number of interns. When Natalie expressed her interest in their work, they tracked her down and asked her to volunteer for the campaign, and she’s been there ever since. She loves having the chance to see what goes on behind the scenes, and is fascinated by the flurry of activity that Nutter faces every day—even in a relatively uncompetitive race! But her interest in politics, she maintains, was sparked in her fourth-grade classroom during presidential election in 2000. Drawn into the subject of politics by Ginger Fifer’s discussions of the electoral process with her entire class, Natalie never lost her taste for “political debacles.” Though her volunteer work on Nutter’s campaign is her first job in government affairs, her “ultimate goal in life” is to combine her love of politics and journalism in a single career in Washington D.C. Fortunately, as this winter’s Directions can attest, she has plenty of role models in the greater Friends’ Central School community to look up to.

Natalie Willis ’08 with Philadelphia mayor-elect Michael Nutter
LIFE IS BUSY —
many things to remember.
Here’s one detail you won’t want to forget:

Reunion Weekend
Come back to campus and enjoy the little things.
“The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program is an easy and effective way to help business owners leverage their Pennsylvania state tax commitments to support private education.”

— Jim Bradbeer, President of Lilly Pulitzer, and his wife Carol are the parents of J.B. ’14, Peter ’16, Thomas ’19 and John age 4

If you pay corporate net income tax, capital stock franchise tax, bank and trust company shares tax, title insurance company shares tax, insurance premiums tax or mutual thrift institutions tax, then you could join Lilly Pulitzer and other generous companies and support Friends’ Central School through Pennsylvania’s EITC program. This year, gifts through the EITC totaled almost $250,000 which helped us open our doors for about 20 students with limited means, but unlimited potential.

If you have any questions, or think your company would be interested in participating in this program, please contact Lydia Martin, Director of Development: 610-645-5034, lmartin@friendscentral.org or Jim Brennan, Director of Annual Giving: 610-645-5036, jbrennan@friendscentral.org
A community like Friends’ Central requires the generosity and commitment of every one of its members; and the many ways parents, alumni/ae and friends support the School are all appreciated. This year though, we’d like to ask that you consider the School’s top fundraising priority—Annual Giving. Your gift to Annual Giving will support the ongoing needs for competitive faculty and staff salaries, purchase of new technology, student services, financial aid, and the upkeep of facilities.

We don’t make this request lightly. After all, Friends’ Central is an independent school like no other. Look at what our children are getting! The emphasis on experiential learning fosters an environment in which students can hone their intellectual curiosity and their critical thinking skills. Rigorous academics are balanced with robust arts and athletic offerings. The variety of opportunities for community service inspires a social consciousness in all students and bestows the foundation for action-oriented, responsible citizens. Faculty and schoolmates alike encourage each other to explore and develop their personal interests, talents and passions. This, along with our strong commitment to diversity, instills respect for the value of all individuals.

Thank you for your continued kindness and confidence in Friends’ Central. Together we can ensure the funds necessary to maintain the School’s excellence that we so highly regard.

Lawrence Reichlin
Lorna Dreyfuss
Co-Chairs of the 2007–2008 Annual Giving Campaign
In Support

Headmaster’s Reception

The Headmaster’s Reception celebrates leadership giving to the Annual Giving Campaign. This year’s dinner was hosted by Flavia Vogrig and Robert Gassel ’69.

(Clockwise from top)
Anja Levitties ’86, Matt Levitties ’85, Brian Benjet and Kim Emmons-Benjet
Larry Reichlin and Jon Reichlin
Marguerite and Matthew Cooper
Molly Love, Adrian Castelli, Philip and Karen Ivory
Jonathan Sprogell and Kathy Taylor
Welcome Back Picnic

On Sunday, September 9, the Home & School Association hosted a Welcome Back picnic for Lower School families. Everyone brought their own picnic and enjoyed reconnecting with each other and the playground before School opened on Monday.

(Above) New first grade families, the Sterns and Ansaris, get to know each other

(Top left) Harry ’20 and Georgia ’17 Andrews

(Above) Sara Bergmann ’19 and Margaret Mushi ’19

(Left) Lorna Dreyfuss, Patrick and Marcia Morgan
PSOC Picnic

Each September, the Parents of Students of Color committee (PSOC) hosts a picnic at the start of the School year. Throughout the year, the PSOC committee supports efforts to develop greater sensitivity and open communication with the School community.
Pumpkin Fair

On Sunday, October 28, the Home & School Association hosted its annual Pumpkin Fair at the Lower School campus. The Lower School gym and parking lot were filled with old-fashioned arcade games, a juggler, food tents, crafts, pumpkins, and even a place to build your own scarecrow. The Upper School Jazz Band performed, and for the fearless, there was a haunted house in the basement. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Lower School Discretionary Fund.
In 1989, Friends' Central approached Margot Newman Stickley ’48 about the School’s capital campaign. Margot had been a loyal supporter of the School, but didn’t feel ready to make a capital gift. Instead, she began to consider ways to give a substantial gift to the School upon her death. At the time she hoped to fund a partial scholarship.

Almost twenty years later, we are all the beneficiaries of Margot’s foresight and generosity. The trust Margot and her husband George created will provide tuitions for four Friends’ Central students in perpetuity. By allowing Friends’ Central to open its doors to students in the years to come, Margot has created a legacy of which her classmates, family, and school should be proud.

If you are interested in creating your own legacy, please contact Lydia Martin at 610-645-5034 or lmartin@friendscentral.org.
My memories of time spent as a student at Friends’ Central School remain vivid, as if the intervening years were not so numerous. Thankfully, I have been able to remain in contact with many members of my graduating class of 1961, as well as with some of my former teachers. As time has passed, I have realized more and more just how fortunate we all were to have received a superb education in an environment that provided both nurture and a set of ethical and moral guidelines. We learned about ourselves in a way that was totally integrated with the world around us. As we departed upon graduation, we were sent out in strength to what lay ahead in our respective lives.

Recently, I had the privilege of speaking to a group of alumni/ae at the Sande Webster Gallery in Philadelphia. Linda Wasserman, Director of Alumni/ae Affairs at Friends’ Central School, contacted me when she learned that I was to have an exhibition of my photography in Philadelphia, and she arranged for a Friends’ Central reception two days before the show’s opening. It was an evening to remember. The warmth and feeling of connectedness so characteristic of Friends’ Central School were present in abundance. I am extremely grateful to Linda and to the rest of the staff for providing me with this wonderful opportunity to see old friends, to meet some new ones, and to share some thoughts about my work with everyone present. I feel very blessed to be part of this community.

Photography Show

On October 10, Friends’ Central alumni/ae and parents from the Philadelphia area gathered at the Sande Webster Gallery in Philadelphia for a special preview of the new photography show by Ann Ginsburgh Hofkin ’61. We shared refreshments and memories, and listened to Ann talk about her development as a photographer and her travels.

(Top) Dana Lynne Neefe ’61, Rich Allman ’61, Ray Jones ’61, Joan Belletti Rensch ’61
(Middle) Clio Malin ’96 and Latifah McMullin ’99
(Bottom) Margie and Dan Wainfan
Friends’ Central in the Capitol

This October Friends’ Central traveled to Washington, D.C. to catch up with alumni/ae living in and around the Capitol.

On Wednesday, October 17, young alumni/ae gathered at Ventnor Sports’ Cafe, which is owned by Scott Auslander ’96.

On Thursday evening, Friends’ Central hosted an elegant reception for alumni/ae of all ages at the Cosmos Club.

(Below left) Scott Auslander ’96, Ayanna Phillips ’97, and Gail Carter Zuagar ’97

(Below right) Rachael Feinman ’00 and Steve Nichols

(Above) Julie Gilbert ’07 and Brittany Rodriguez ’07

(Left) Harvey Weiner ’81, Latifah McMullin ’99, Gail Carter Zuagar ’97, Sarah Mendelson ’80, Deborah and Victor Freeman ’80

(Below) Nelson Denlinger, Molly Kline ’51, and Ruth Stubbs Denlinger ’55

(Below middle) Dean Griffith ’91 and Michelle Artz

(Below right) Dick Kline, Alexander Beck Jeffries, Nina Beck Morris ’74, Linda Waxman Wasserman ’75
On Saturday, October 20, Friends’ Central alumni/ae gathered at the Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia for an evening of delicious food and conversation with friends. The evening also featured a special ceremony recognizing Rick Moses ’77 and his commitment to fostering diversity at Friends’ Central.

(Clockwise from top)
Sheila Royal-Moses, Rick Moses ’77, and Ruth Moses
Kiesha King ’01, Sophia Abdullah ’99, Gail Carter Zuagar ’97, Mark Waller ’00, Latifah McMullin ’99 and Angelina Riley ’00
Sheila Bridges ’82 and Nancy Sanders ’83
Jason Green ’94 and Kimberly Rothwell ’92
The Horikawa sisters, Karen ’77 and Joyce ’80
The Racers’ Day Luncheon

The Racers’ Day luncheon on October 24, honored graduates from the class of 1957 or earlier. This event offered some loyal members of the Friends’ Central community a chance to see old friends, meet some new ones, and connect with the School. Many of the alumni/ae marveled at the physical changes the campus has undergone. They were greeted by current Friends’ Central students who are members of the Representatives for Alumni/ae and Development club (RAD). Jim Davis brought members of his choral group to perform for the alumni/ae.

(Top) Winkie Ostroff Gaev ’50, Bill Black, Susan Souder Black ’55, “Nick” Freeman ’55, LaRue Freeman, Donald Reimenschneider ’52, Anita Reimenschneider

(Middle left) Susan Kelsay ’59, Julia Frick ’32, Gladys Baker Monier ’32, Karen Hires, Ross Gillette ’31

(Middle right) Harriet Cook Roberts ’38, Paul Saxer ’38, Nancy Schranz Wall ’38, Lucy Christian Statzell ’37, Ben Statzell ’37, Sally Hooper Farrington ’37, Kenneth Stephensen

(Bottom left) Members of RAD help Hoy Jones White ’45 across campus

(Bottom right) Martha Shmidheiser Dubarry ’44, Bill Carson ’41, Dickson Werner ’41
**Alumni/ae**

1910s

Helen Lane Stout ’18 celebrated her 107th birthday on September 6th. Her daughter, Carolyn Johnson, reports that Helen’s party was featured in an article in the local newspaper in Chester County, PA.

1930s

Louise Woodcock McCreery ’35 recently celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends in Philadelphia. In attendance was classmate Dorothy Everitt Bond ’35 who reported that a fun time was had by all.

1940s

Duke Smith ’42 is president of the Lake Drive Foundation Sound Start. The foundation strives to raise $125,000 minimum each year for early intervention programs for deaf babies (one month to three years-old). The Lake Drive School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children is located in Duke’s community of Mountain Lakes, NJ. Duke also serves as chairman of the Mountain Lakes Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and the 55 Plus Friday programs.

1950s

J. Donald Reimenschneider ’52 writes: “I will always have special memories of Clayton Farraday and Richard Burgess.”

Ted Clisby ’55 writes: “My wife Judy and I took a 70th birthday cruise to the Panama Canal in April. I was stationed there from time to time in the US Air Force, in the early 60s. Many changes are taking place there.”

The 2007 Venice Film Festival awarded Brian R. DePalma ’58 the Silver Lion Award for best director for Redacted, a collection of stories about U.S. soldiers serving in the Iraq conflict and the media coverage of the war.

1960s

Noel Gay Sharpless Wittenberg ’61 writes: “I had a wonderful trip to Budapest, Prague, and Vienna this summer with friends. My youngest daughter, Krista, married John Horan on March 31st, 2007.”

Jill Malamud Fetell ’66 is doing complementary medicine: acupuncture, clinical nutrition, physical therapy, and massage therapy at two offices in Tarrytown and West Nyack, New York.

1970s

Gurujojda Khalsa ’70 emailed: “Currently I am an attorney with a private practice in Bakersfield, California specializing in Immigration and Transactional Business Law. I am also Chairman of the Kern County Human Relations Commission, which is a County Commission charged with hearing, investigating, and resolving issues of discrimination as they pertain to education, race, gender, disability, law enforcement, housing, aging, and employment. I recently celebrated my 55th birthday and tested for my 5th degree black belt in Kenpo Karate. I teach martial arts, yoga, and meditation on a weekly basis in Bakersfield and Los Angeles. I especially enjoy my classes with children and young people.

I’m married to Siri Ved Kaur Khalsa and our 20th wedding anniversary was on October 11th, 2007. My daughter Sat Amrit Kaur is 17 and a senior at Miri Piri Academy, a foreign education boarding school in Amritsar, India, where she has been in attendance since the 8th grade. She comes home for three months in the summer to re-experience the movies, cable TV, and ice cream and spend a little time with her parents. She is applying to colleges and is leaning toward becoming a “banana slug” at UC Santa Cruz. All in all life is excellent. I am very grateful to have attended Friend’s Central. It gave me a great start in all areas of my life and created an incredible amount of forward momentum which I am still experiencing today.

Claire Janosik Griffin ’68 moved to the Washington, D.C. area in 2001. She is busy teaching, finishing a novel, and competing on a Master’s Rowing team.

Wynne Alexander ’73 has written a book, Get It From the Drums: A History of Protest and Protest Songs of the 1960s and ’70s. The book, which comes with an accompanying CD, was originally commissioned by the School District of Philadelphia and is being used for teaching. It chronicles, through history and interviews, the music that gave voice to the powerful social movements that transformed the country. A total of 17 musicians donated the rights to their music and lyrics to
benefit the students and education in this major, yet financially hard pressed urban school system. The history focuses on the Civil Rights and Anti War Movements of the latter part of the 20th century. The Vietnam War, the Women’s Movement, Earth Day, Watergate Scandal and liberation of South Africa are also highlighted. When shown an advance copy, music legend and scholar Buffy Sainte-Marie applauded the book and said it is "beautifully written." Musicians such as Marvin Gaye, James Brown, Buffalo Springfield, Nina Simone, Creedence Clearwater Revival, The O'Jays, McFadden, and Curtis Mayfield provide the musical context. As Alexander notes on her website (wynnealexander.com), "The immense stature of the stars involved and their willingness to help elevate the struggling school system is extraordinary. For years now the music industry has run campaigns with Rock stars urging that music education be kept in the schools. The most recent round of federal budget cuts have been harsh and the Arts and Music are getting hit very hard. Philadelphia is an urban school district of predominantly Black and Hispanic students. To their credit, these musical stars and legends actually put their money where their mouths are and donated all the lyric and recording rights secured in this project.”

Anne L. Mitchell ’73 writes that she is currently pursuing a graduate degree in sports psychology. She also has competed at the world level in tri and dualthlons for ten years, and has been ranked at the world and national levels for the past five years.

David N. Kendall ’75 writes: "Watch my movie! Nature of the Beast is a romantic comedy, werewolf horror film that I wrote and produced with my friend Bob Young. It premiered this October on ABC Family. The premise: a young woman on the brink of marriage discovers that her fiancé has a secret—for three days out of every month he’s a vicious werewolf. It’s an allegory for the fact that men tend to minimize their problems and lie big time. I’ve been working crazy in New Orleans on a new kiddie tv show.

James S. Smith, III ’77 is the controller at Twin Cities Community Development Corporation in Fitchburg, MA. The non-profit focuses on low income housing, small business start-up and community organizing in the Massachusetts cities of Fitchburg and Leominster. Jim is grateful and fortunate to be living in beautiful Concord, MA.

1980s

Amanda Trask ’80 is working part-time as an attorney. Her daughter is almost 17 and her son just turned 21!

David J. Shuman ’84 writes: “I am a veterinarian in Santa Cruz, California. Recently I returned from an interesting expedition to Antarctica. I went with a group of researchers from the U.S. and Scotland to the Antarctic Peninsula to catch and place radio tags on Crab eater Seals. Interesting event. The "crabby’s" live on the ice flows so catching them is dangerous as many of the icebergs where they sleep are small and unstable. They’re not overly popular in the press so you rarely hear about them but the old sealers couldn’t hunt them. As a result, their numbers were never decimated and they are now the second most numerous mammal on the planet behind humans. Our job was to literally hop on one of these bergs, catch and anesthetize the seal, get some physical data and then affix an electronic tag to the base of its neck. The goal was to both learn more about the individual’s physiology and to use the seal as a "Sentinel" for the researchers. The seals are able to go where humans can’t so the seals are able to go where humans can’t so the seals are able to go where humans can’t so the seals are able to go where humans can’t so the seals are able to go where humans can’t so the seals are able to go where humans can’t so the seals are able to go where humans can’t. Barnz first wrote Phoebe in Wonderland, on Long Island. Phoebe is the tale of a 9-year-old girl (Elle Fanning) with behavioural problems and the attempts by her parents (Felicity Huffman and Bill Pullman) and an inspirational teacher (Patricia Clarkson) to help and understand her. Barnz first wrote Phoebe almost a decade ago, and although people loved it, they couldn’t see a film with a 9-year-old lead and a mainly female cast getting financing. “It’s been an uphill battle,” Barnz says, “and I cannot tell you how many times I have heard the word ‘no’ in conjunction with this project.” Though Barnz has worked consistently as a Hollywood screenwriter since the late ’90s, often with his writing partner, Vanity Fair journalist Ned Zeman, Phoebe is the first of his scripts to get made. He describes finally filming his pet project as “most exhilarating and also fairly exhausting. It’s pretty great.”

Eric Ash ’89 has developed a successful snacks and sweets trivia game called "Eat It." Eric writes that it is "selling like hot cakes" and that he loves living in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife and daughter.

1990s


Melanie Fischer Rubenstein’s ’87 art was featured at the Sara Nightingale Gallery in the Hamptons, NY in April and May, 2007.

Daniel Bernstein Barnz ’88 was recently in Filmmaker Magazine. “About a year ago,” he says “I decided that if I didn’t have a project in production by November of this year, I was going to abandon L.A. and move to Africa for a year with my family and go live among the elephants.” At the moment, though, Barnz is not packing his bags for the safari but directing his debut feature, Phoebe in Wonderland, of the 2005. They joined together in a W riter’s Notes from Friends

Beth Ruzansky ’96 and Tracy True celebrated their union in Burlington, Vermont on December 30, 2005. They joined together in the Quaker tradition under the care of
Burlington Friends Meeting surrounded by friends and family including Beth’s parents, Cindy and Steve Ruzansky (PA), brother Josh Ruzansky ‘00, sister Nancy Lipkin Sipera ‘88, and Alison Jacobs Friedmann ‘96. In other news, Beth continues to be active as a member in the Burlington Friends Monthly Meeting of Friends and is serving as clerk of meeting during 2007. She also continues her work with the City of Burlington’s Community and Economic Development Office running an AmeriCorps*VISTA program, and other initiatives addressing poverty, class, and refugees.

Ilyse Berman ‘98 is currently teaching pre-kindergarten in Devon and attending the master’s program in early childhood education at West Chester University.

Margot Conrad ‘99 is currently the Government Affairs Manager at the Partnership for Public Service, a non-partisan, non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. She enjoys working on the Hill and advocating for reforms to help strengthen the federal civil service.

Kate VanGundy Nelson ‘99 has her MAT from Brown and is teaching 8th grade social studies in Washington, D.C.

Matthew Murphy ‘97 spent seven weeks this past summer in Quito, Ecuador learning Spanish. Although incredibly busy, he did have some opportunities to travel and meet new friends from all across the world— including fellow Friends’ Central graduates, Sofia Zaragocin ‘99 and Rosie Dent ‘01.

2000s

Ali Pincus ‘00 is working in Executive Education at Harvard Business School, putting on training programs for executives from around the world. “I am also at the Simmons School of Management pursing my MBA. (And for a totally random coincidence, the wife of my former science teacher at FCS is in my program!)”

Tyler VanGundy ‘00 is working for a small company that does finance for low and moderate housing in New York City.

Phoenicia Williams ‘02 graduated from Temple University in May 2006 and is now with the Peace Corps in Kenya. She recently wrote, “I am saddened by the poverty of some other families. Some children go to school in tattered clothes or no shoes! The people are so strong!! They have such a will to survive and maintain their culture and its richness. When people come into town, which is where we have lunch, send mail, and check email, they are dressed to the 9s. The men wear suits or suit jackets and the women wear suits or dresses. The people in Kitui are mostly Akamba and from birth they learn, their mother tongue Kikamba, Swahili and English! I have language class everyday from 8 to 11 and then lunch. After lunch, we go to a high school and work with the business club there. We are going to help them identify business opportunities in the surrounding community and some basic business/management skills. The roads are sometimes riddled with trash because the only way to dispose of waste in such a rural area is to burn it in piles and the trash just blows around. There are valleys and mountains all around and it’s clean and scenic where I live. There is a new home or building every few kilometers though most people who finish college live in Nairobi or another larger city. The moon is like a flood lamp at night and there are more stars in the sky than I could have imagined...so beautiful. Just keep me in your prayers. I have 2 months more of training and then my two years begins!”

Carlin R. Adelson ‘05 and Eric Zeiger ‘05 are studying abroad this semester in London.

Samuel A. Eisner ‘05 is majoring in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Penn. He is coaching a basketball team of 10-13 year olds in West Philly. He is planning to go to Rome with fellow FCS alumnna Natalie Aronson ‘05 in the fall to study abroad. He is also in the process of signing a multi-year deal with the Eagles.

Kylie Hardin ‘05 is attending The University of South Australia in Adelaide, on a semester long study abroad program. She writes that she has really enjoyed her time there, visiting Cleland Wildlife Park and hiking Mount Lofty. She and her group mates in her programming class are working with the South Australian Football League and as a result received tickets to an Adelaide Crows game, with special tours of the training facilities, locker rooms, and at half-time they were on the oval with 46,000 fans looking on! Kylie is looking forward to a visit from her Mom and Grandmom. You can reach her at Kylie.hardin@gordon.edu.

Alumni/ae, we want to hear from you!
Have you published a book recently? Run a marathon? Had a baby? FCS encourages friends to share their news with Directions. Email your notes and photos to alumni@friendscentral.org (preferable method) or mail information to the Development Office, 1101 City Avenue, Wynnewood, PA 19096. Please mark the back of prints with your name and class year. Digital images must be of high quality (28” x 21” at 72 dpi, or 4” x 6” at 300 dpi). We accept photos up to 2MB.
Marriages


2. Beth Ruzansky ’96 and Tracy True on December 30, 2005.


Lela Patrik and Joel F. W. Price (Faculty) on October 6, 2007.
New Arrivals

1. Samuel, Charlotte and Jacob Wizov, June 14, 2006 to Michelle Weisman Wizov ’88 and Ryan Wizov.


3. Ari N. Berman, June 7, 2007 to Robyn Needleman Berman ’93 and Scott Berman.


5. Andrew Levin, May 18, 2007 to Stephanie and Michael Levin ’93.


8. Omar Muse, June 21, 2007 to Tanya Johnson Muse ’02 and Omar Muse.
In Memoriam

Former Faculty
Kathleen (Kit) George
Thomas A. Wood
  (memorial in April issue)
Thomas Worth

Alumni/ae
Eleanor Jenkins Zendt ’25
William Serber ’30
Jane Compton Mory ’37
Trudell Green Brown ’38
Arnold E. Smolens ’38
Stephen D. Cope ’39
Betty Dennis Hawley ’39
James D. McGuigan ’39
Mary Sax Hoenigmann ’41
Margot Newman Stickley ’48
William D. Fordyce ’52
Marilyn Downs Monks ’52
Justice S. Shortlidge ’52
Samuel Bookbinder ’53
Stephen F. Collins ’56
Albert W. Fowler ’58
William K. Conroy ’81
Christopher Campbell ’04

Friends’ Central
Goes to the Movies!
Are you an actor, a director, a writer,
an avid viewer, a critic?
For our next issue, we want to hear
from anyone who works with
or just loves movies.
Contact: Rebecca Anderson, editor
at: randerson@friendscentral.org
"All Aboard!"

In 1976, Jimmy Carter conducted a whistle-stop train tour during his campaign for presidency. One of his stops was at the Overbrook train station just down City Avenue from Friends’ Central. Joe Lenski ’83 remembers that everyone marched down to the station to hear him.
Friends’ Central
1101 City Avenue
Wynnewood, PA 19096-3490

May Peace & Joy Be Yours Throughout the New Year!