FOCUS Dedicates This Issue To Headmaster David M. Felsen

Written and Interviewed By Benjamin Yahalomi ’11
Edited and Interviewed By Matthew Karliner ’11

“Twenty-three years at Friends’ Central, twenty-two at GFS,” Mr. Felsen proudly announced to the Upper School community at a recent Meeting for Worship. Since arriving on campus in the late ’80s, Mr. Felsen has left an undeniable physical and emotional mark on campus. His charm, eagerness to engage with students and faculty, and love for our school will long be remembered. Visitors and students alike benefit from Mr. Felsen’s vision, realized, in our green, spacious, and technologically-advanced campus. Reflecting on his time here, Mr. Felsen remarked that interactions with faculty, students, and staff are what he has enjoyed most. When he first started as Headmaster, Kindergarten through 12th grade was located on the City Avenue Campus, with a student body of around 600. Today, the school numbers closer to 1000, including two distinct campuses in Wynnewood.

As Mr. Felsen recalls, visitors used to comment on the lackluster appearance of buildings on our City Avenue campus, which were outdated and in need of serious repairs. That never deterred him; indeed, Mr. Felsen moved forward with significant expansion and renovation. Most importantly, he made excellent use of the land in residential Wynnewood and developed the Lower School campus. From day one, Mr. Felsen wanted to remove cars from the center of campus, which he felt to be a nuisance to his vision for a more attractive community. He envisioned a green space in the center of campus, today’s oval and campus green, which was at the time a parking lot and driveway. Fifteen years after arriving at Friends’ Central, the campus green was created, coinciding with the construction of our innovative Fannie Cox Center for Science and Technology. Mr. Felsen notes this is one of his most important achievements as Headmaster. Since his arrival, three major buildings, including a new 1000-seat auditorium and science wing, were constructed. In addition, the construction of our innovative Fannie Cox Center for Science and Technology. Mr. Felsen notes this is one of his most important achievements as Headmaster. Since his arrival, three major buildings, including a new 1000-seat auditorium and science wing, were constructed.

Mr. Felsen has been headmaster at Friends’ Central School for the past 23 years. He announced his retirement on April 4, 2011. See Felsen on page 4.

As so many students and faculty are now aware, Mr. DelSoldo will be retiring at the end of this school year. He will be incredibly missed by the school, whether in his extremely popular and successful upper school psychology course, in his Pasta workshop in lower school (one that I was in, in fourth grade), or in his way of passing students and teachers who have their day lightened up by his radiant smile. I had the opportunity to ask Mr. DelSoldo several questions...

Mr. Davis Leaves on a High Note

You are truly missing out if you have not attended any of Mr. Davis’s electrifying choral concerts. If you have been lucky enough to go to these performances, you have experienced how the breathtaking music that Mr. Davis helps to create, emits a powerful aura that triggers emotion for the audience. However, if you are only a bystander in these concerts, you may not recognize all that lies beyond the music.

Take a look at the student display of photographs that line the walls of Shalcross hall, and it is likely that you will be struck by the picture of Mr. Davis standing in front of the meeting room towards the open seats with his arms outstretched. These photographs that were taken by the students in photography class work to embody the spirit of various members of the community, and the picture of Mr. Davis does just that. ‘This picture truly captures Mr. Davis’s essence as a teacher and mentor in the Friends’ Central community. His arms express the way in which he fearlessly opens himself up and shares with the community his contagious love and passion for both music and the school in a way that has inspired hundreds of students and faculty members alike over the years. Mr. Davis forms strong and rare connections with students. He not only opens himself up but is also receptive to others’ needs and interests. It is for these very reasons that when Mr. Davis announced several weeks ago to his chorus that he will be retiring next year, the room fell silent and tears came to many students’ eyes. Hannah Albertine, a junior who has worked closely with Mr. Davis over the past three years through her participation in chorus and vocal groups, observed, “Mr. Davis is one of the teachers that I respect the most in the school because he so clearly reciprocates that same respect to the students and is so passionate about the kids and the work he does. For me, chorus captures the best part about Friends’ Central, because it is such a welcoming environment where anyone can join, and all different students come together to form something amazing. And none of this would be possible without Mr. Davis.”

Before coming to Friends’ Central, Mr. Davis was teaching in the Radnor district at the Wayne Elementary School. The string music teacher, Mr. Davis is well-known for his high energy and enthusiasm in the classroom, and his passion for teaching music is evident in his interactions with students. He is known for his ability to engage and inspire his students, and his dedication to teaching has earned him the respect and admiration of both students and colleagues. Mr. Davis has been a beloved member of the Friends’ Central community for many years, and his absence will be greatly missed.

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Every morning as students arrive at school, whether by car or by foot, it is likely that they will see the smiling face of Dwayne Wilkerson, working as a traffic cop in the middle of the FCS driveway. While it is common to see Mr. Wilkerson, many students haven’t had the time to chat with him. However, I had the privilege of talking with Dwayne to learn about the many jobs he has on campus.

**LL:** How long have you been working at FCS? What are some of the many things you do at school?

**DW:** I came to Friends’ Central nine years ago, where I started out working in the cafeteria in the Lower School (a time when many current Upper School students attended the Old Gulph Road campus.) I moved to the Upper School 4 years later. While I do direct traffic in the morning, I am also a member of the grounds crew. For the most part, we help clean the campus in every way possible. I personally get to drive the Kubota truck (the small orange vehicle), which I’ve been doing for two years. It has been very helpful, especially in regards to accessing the further fields. I also cut the grass.

**LL:** What are your favorite things about FCS?

**DW:** I am really happy to work at Friends’ Central because I love what I am doing, and it’s really fun! I’d have to say my favorite part of the school day is seeing everyone drive in during the morning; it really makes my day because I know everyone is tired, but they are all so full of energy. I love that everyone is so excited, and it is really nice to be outside as well.

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**DF:** What do you like to do during your spare time?

**DW:** When I’m not at school, I like to ride my bike, listen to music, and I really enjoy going for walks. Also, just being outside and enjoying the day is always really nice; our campus is beautiful.

**LL:** When were you younger, what did you want to do as an adult?

**DW:** I really had so many ideas, but I knew that whatever I did, it was going to be a job that involved being social, talking to people. Sure enough, I’ve ended up at a very social job, and I am very happy.

In the second part of my Interview series, I sat down with Headmaster David Felsen. Most students recognize Mr. Felsen from his multitude of appearances at games, theatrical productions, and his annual reading of “The Polar Express.” However, what few people know is what being a Headmaster of a prestigious Friends school entails. In order to gain clarification, I asked Mr. Felsen a few questions:

**LL:** How long have you been involved with Quaker education?

**DF:** I have been at Friends’ Central for 23 years, and before my time here, I worked at Germantown Friends’ School for 22 years. At GFS, I was a teacher, coach, principal, and then eventually was a dean before moving to FCS. However, I also graduated from Haverford College, so I have long been involved with Quaker institutions.

**LL:** What sort of tasks are you involved with each day? What do you do, specifically on campus?

**DF:** I do many things everyday, and I try not to get drawn away from what brought me into my position as Headmaster in the first place (Mr. Felsen occasionally teaches Greek and attends Meeting for Worship weekly), but with a school of this size, and with such a strong sense of community, there is a lot involved in making Friends’ Central the best school it can be. I spend most of my time with the administrative team, as well the leaders of the many offices on campus (Business, Admissions and Development among others), and frequently have meetings with the Board of Trustees, parents and alumni.

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**DF:** What positions have you held at FCS, and what has been your favorite role?

I was the head Kindergarten teacher for 9 years, then when we expanded to 2 kindergartens in 1987, I became Director of Early Childhood Education and soon after Assistant Principal. Joe Ludwig and I have worked on a memoir; I’ll brush up on my Italian. I’ll spend time with my granddaughter, travel (Ireland in September), practice yoga. Reading, cooking and a little wine will fill out the rest of the days.

**LL:** What do you intend to do once you leave FCS?

I want to maintain my connections with Friends’ Central, so I’ll probably sub in the Lower and Upper School. I will join a writer’s group and work on a memoir. I’ll brush up on my Italian. I’ll spend time with my granddaughter, travel (Ireland in September), practice yoga. Reading, cooking and a little wine will fill out the rest of the days.

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**DF:** What will Mr. Davis do after he leaves Friends’?

Luckily for us, after Mr. Davis retires he will not completely vanish from Friends’ Central’s premises. He explained that although he feels it is time to put behind his teaching career, he is not ready to leave the school altogether. Next year, Mr. Davis will be here for one and a half days a week.

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**DF:** What challenges have you faced at FCS? What do you feel were your greatest achievements?

The challenges were the achievements! Growing the lower school from 220 to its height of 340 required much flexibility. I was in charge of the move from City Avenue Campus to our present Lower School. It was an incredible feat. Have you ever seen a kindergarten closet? We didn’t just move textbooks! At one point we were adding one new class every year and had to order desks, chairs, books, everything.

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**DF:** Do you have a goodbye message for FCS?

I would like to thank everyone for making the last 32 years so wonderful. This is a very caring and special school, and it will occupy a big part of my heart for the rest of my life.

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Imagine your first official job and I bet that it doesn’t involve harsh cleaning agents such as bleach and an equally harsh boss. Deborah Maraziti, FCS Foundations/Physics teacher, had a rough experience working at a deli in her hometown of Denville, New Jersey. As she describes it, her boss was a regular old scrooge, prone to breaking a few laws; she worked with meat cutlery that she is pretty sure 16-year-olds are not permitted to handle, by law. Once, she found an expired can of food and when she bought it to his attention he ordered her to put it back on the shelf because someone would buy it. The worst part was she could not simply quit because the guy and her grandfather were pretty good friends. If Ms. Ewen’s experience at the deli counter of a supermarket was anything like Ms. Maraziti’s it would explain why she quit on the 2nd day.

I think it’s clear that we should all steer clear of delis and opt for a job here at FCS where many teachers, especially those in the athletic department, claim their current job is the best they have ever had.

By Hilda Njanike ’13

Deb Maraziti
Liza Ewen
from Felsen on page 1 have been constructed on our City Avenue campus. Through his guidance and fundraising efforts, the Fannie Cox Center, the Shimada Athletic Center, and the Language Building have been built. Additionally, an all-weather track was constructed, and playing fields acquired from Lankenau. These additions have transformed the Upper School campus.

As Headmaster of a growing college preparatory academy, Mr. Felsen has spent a majority of his time with adults, including dealing with board members, fundraising, parents, and meeting with school administrators and faculty. Striking a balance between managerial duties and assuring a strong relationship with our student body have been the hardest parts of being Headmaster, says Mr. Felsen. Working at a school of 1000, it has unfortunately been difficult for him to get to know every student. Nonetheless, Mr. Felsen has had countless memorable interactions with students over the years. As he remarks, “I’d like to know everybody a lot better than I do, and that’s something I’ve mentioned before. Although I’ve been able to do some teaching of Greek, the students are not seeing what I’m doing everyday, and my relationship with them is a little more ceremonial. I love to go to a game; I like to go to concerts.”

Over the years, regardless of his ability to interact with each student on an individual basis, Mr. Felsen has garnered respect and regard from Friends’ Central students. It is clear that Mr. Felsen will leave a permanent mark on our campus, but specifically, what he will be remembered for? He remarked, “I just think I am someone who threw himself into this place body and soul, as they say I have. I have cared about everything that’s going on at Friends’ Central, and I’ve given my best. Someone who also has been collaborative. I love working well with other people, and getting the best out of other people.” Mr. Felsen’s warm-hearted demeanor and care for our campus will surely be remembered.

The school’s physical transformation is undeniable, but what else has changed at Friends’ Central since he arrived in 1988? While a strong sense of community has always been a unique aspect of student life, the student body has become noticeably more diverse than when he arrived in ‘88. As Mr. Felsen explained, “In terms of the student body, there are so many able, talented kids. We have been committed to living up to our belief in diversity, whether economic or racial. There’s a greater mix of students than there’s ever been at Friends’ Central. We keep working on that commitment, whether about students or faculty, and it’s been the hardest part of being a headmaster.”

“Where we’re at our best, there is a special climate at Friends’ Central; the atmosphere, the mutual and unreserved respect for the individual. Something we point to that is unusual at Friends’ Central.” – David Felsen

Answers from “How Well Do you Know Your Teachers?”

I dislike being in charge.--------------William Darling
I am practicing Buddhist.-------------Louis DelSoldo
I am adopted.-----------------------------Robert Folwell
Once I spent three days in total silence (not speaking).-------------------Mary Fran Torpey
I can read mad fast.----------------------Kelley Graham
I grew up in another country.-------------Laurie Novo
I am deathly afraid of lightning.----Dottie Mazullo

Focusing on Focus

By Marilyn Lager and Steven Patterson

He is from the southern hills of Indiana; she, from the concrete towers of the Bronx. He worked on his high school newspaper as a staff writer, and she was literary editor of her high school yearbook. They were both always interested in the written word, in reading and in literature. He has a PhD from Temple University; she has an MLS from Drexel University. They have worked together for eleven years – upstairs at the wooden table in the fiction section of the library, twice a week, mainly during lab/PE. Marilyn Lager and Steve Patterson – a team for 11 years as co-advisors of Focus.

Together, we advise, listen, encourage, laugh uproariously and yes, sometimes even discourage the writing of a Focus article or two [like the story of the headmaster’s Facebook page; or the never-ending proposals for articles “exposing” the high prices of food in the cafeterias]. Throughout our 11 years as a duo, we have developed a loving, mutually supportive relationship: Mrs. Lager worries that issues will never come out; Dr P says they will (always do). Mrs. Lager defends students -- far more than they know -- when some reporting or viewpoint is “inappropriate;” Dr P stands behind her. Mrs. Lager thrives on the opportunities Focus allows her to work with students as a teacher. And Dr P loves that she believes so deeply in these enterprising journalists.

There is no journalism course at FCS. No dedicated classroom time to instruct, revise, plan, and discuss. Focus is a “club” that meets when it can, a club that works to publish at least one issue a month. A club that represents our school. We’ve been proud to print the survey of drinking, texting and driving, enjoyed the article on where to get the best pizza on the Main Line and the profiles of many staff people who deserve to be known to the community.

And so, with what little time we have to reach our staff, we labor to make students understand what constitutes a good article or how journalism differs from analytic and personal writing. We schedule meetings 2x a week because it’s important that every staff member attends at least one meeting. Mrs. L and Dr P edit stories “on the fly” – by email or when students are available in free blocks or at lunches. As co-advisors, we try to make sure there is a balance between what the students want to write about and what the community wants to hear. That can be a fine line, very difficult to gauge. Still, we are always proud of our issues, in particular the Special Issue which comes out right before the seniors leave. Our hard-working staff always hopes it can please and inform our audience – an audience of students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, the headmaster, visitors and applicants.

The names of the many dedicated Focus staff writers, layout editors, and senior editors we’ve worked with over the years are too many to name in this space. Some have gone on to work for college newspapers. Some have just gone on. But Mrs. Lager and Dr P welcome them back and feel that we have touched their lives and given them skills that will help in college and throughout life.
From Player to Coach, Student to Teacher

By Jason Polykoff '02 (Faculty)

Perhaps the most difficult part of my transition from student to teacher was calling my colleagues by their first names. "Great to see you Mr. Grub...eh...John," I grew up at Friends' Central and it has become my home. I’m a "lifer," 15 years as a student to be exact. If you do the math, that's one year longer than the normal lifer. I was held back in pre-kindergarten...keeping color outside the lines. So when I got the call the spring of my senior year of college to come in for an interview to teach and coach basketball at Friends' Central, I jumped at the opportunity. I'm sure most of the students at FCS wonder what it's like on the other side, you know, the "teachers" side. Well...it certainly has its perks. When I was a student I used to sneak into the gym to play basketball, now they've actually given me a key. It feels waaayyy better to give our homework then to receive it. Both the cafeteria and the bookstore hook the teachers up. And I can use a cell phone on campus without getting it confiscated (side note: when I was in high school cell phones were just starting to become popular. Pagers and beepers were in. It made no sense, someone would page me, and I wouldn't have a phone to call them back!).

However, being a teacher is not always what it's cracked up to be. In high school I could wear sweatspants to school and be comfortable all day. Now I have to wear a shirt and tie. If you don't mistake me for an eleventh grade student I can't just hang in the back of the cafeteria anymore, at least not without receiving some dirty looks. I still feel uncomfortable entering through the "senior door." But perhaps worst of all, my worries have shifted from my Spanish quiz or my plans for Friday night, to ERB testing and my pension plan.

Fortunately, my transition from player to coach has been pretty seamless. I still get butterflies before the game, energized by the fans, and have kept my pregame ritual intact (you don't want to know). And while I don't get to actually play in the game, which is a pretty helpless feeling, I can still "Rock the Blue and White" with the best of them!

FCS Teacher Pet Peeves

By Sami Resnik '12

Mr. Ramsey...People who don't realize that they are not alone in the universe, and that they must actually SHARE the sidewalk.
Mr. Graham...People who wear hats in Meeting for Worship, people who don't clean up after themselves in the dining hall, people who do not change the toilet paper in the washroom, people who yell at me, people who think not change the toilet paper in the washroom, themselves in the dining hall, people who do...etc.
Mr. Morton...When store signs say "15 items or less," when people claim white chocolate is chocolate...etc.
Mr. Uyehara...When other ninjas think that they are exclusive to athletics.
Mr. Dankoff...Has no pet peeves
Ms. Lager...When you wash your face and water drips down your arms
Mr. Uyehara...When other ninjas think that I don't know when they're there, confusing "there," "their," and "they're"; "it's" and "its"; and "i.e." and "e.g."; not using a turn signal when switching lanes, Cowboys fans.
When students say "15 items or less"--and they really mean "15 items or fewer," when people claim white chocolate is actually chocolate...etc.
Mr. Dankoff...Has no pet peeves
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How Well Do You Know Your Teachers?

By Jordyn Karliner '14

You might think that teachers spend their time grading papers and preparing lessons for school. Their lives seem pretty boring, right? Anyone who believes that will change their minds after finding out these interesting facts about our faculty. Some of them might surprise you. Try to match the teacher with the correct fact, and see how well you know them by checking the answer key on page 4--.

1. I can play the flute.
   - Erika Harsett
2. I am deathly afraid of lightning.
   - Louis DeSoldo
3. I am a practicing Buddhist.
   - Laura Stewart
4. I was almost killed by an elephant when I was five.
   - Al Vernacchio
5. I am adopted.
   - Bill Kennedy
6. Once I spent three days in total silence (not speaking).
   - Jim Rosengarten
7. I can read really fast.
   - Linda McConnell
8. I grew up in another country.
   - Robert Folwell
9. I dislike being in charge.
   - Dorothy Mazullo
10. I like opera.
    - Mary Fran Torpey
11. I love opera.
    - Liza Ewen
12. One of my hobbies is photographing flowers.
    - Lance Jones
13. I am a radio DJ in college.
    - Lisa Mansure
    - Michael Crauderueff
15. I was a radio DJ in college.
    - Kelley Graham
16. I've jumped from an airplane.
    - William Darling

Focus congratulates Scott Sheppard on being named Maestro of the Philadelphia Orchestra!

Picture courtesy of Michael Finn '11 / Photo taken from Philadelphia Inquirer
BREAKING NEWS: Mr. Morris FIRED

By Jack Kornblatt '13

Over the course of his time here, Mr. Morris has developed a particular reputation: mean, uncaring, and most of all rude to his students. Everyday, young people eager to learn enter his room with a smile on their face and leave with a façade of despair as this former radio-announcer systematically crushes their spirits under the weight of his enormous mathematical equations and deliberately sardonic comments. For many years the school put up with Mr. Morris' behavior in the hopes that he would one day regain the kind and youthful spirit he once had before his will to teach was extinguished by the ceaseless cascade of unappreciative students. Well, the school had finally had enough, when last Friday, during block two, Mr. Morris snapped at one particular student for singing, thereby placing the final nail in his proverbial coffin.

According to FCS officials, firing Mr. Morris was not a difficult decision. Even since he was ousted last year as head of the math department after he lost a protractor duel to Mr. Darling, the man has grown increasingly resentful of the institution that demoted him and the children that he was supposed to serve. According to his wife "Brad felt under-appreciated. He felt like nobody really cared about what he had to offer. He started to become incredibly angry at the math department and the school as a whole. Ant the worse part is he takes it out on me.

This anger could be most plainly seen during classes after chorus block, when Mr. Morris would start yelling at students for being even a few minutes late because of chorus. As a result of this, the man soon developed a specialized hatred for both chorus and singing as a whole. One student told Focus that "During the holiday season, a group of little kids from the lower school came to his door to sing Christmas carols. When they knocked on the door, Mr. Morris opened the door to see who was there. When he found out they were carolers, he promptly slammed the door shut, leaving each child crying. Mr. Morris didn't care though. He kept right on going about parabolas.'

After that nothing happened for a while. Mr. Morris was talked to by Ms. Beth and was told that if anything like this were to happen again, he would be immediately fired. He was also told that he was to receive counseling once a week from Ms. Mazzullo about how to deal with his rage against music. According to Ms. Mazzullo "Brad was incredibly angry when he first came in. He kept shouting nonsense like 'I can prove one plus one equals one' or 'the Dallas cowboys are a good football team'. It took us a while to work through it, but in the end he came out all right. He even started putting up Beatles posters in his room." Yes it finally appeared as though the salt and pepper haired mock trial coach had finally gotten over his rage issues. He was his old self again, happy and eager to teach. Unfortunately, things did not stay that way.

As the musical Hello Dolly started approaching, students began singing in his class more and more and while this did not initially bother Mr. Morris, it soon started getting to him as the never ending sound of off-key singing and rhythm less bellowing filled his second floor room in the F.C.C. Eventually, the man was not able to take anymore and last Friday when young bright-eyed Jake Besan came skipping into his room singing "Fireworks," Mr. Morris snapped. He yelled at the young sophomore and told him that he was the reason he hated singing. Well, that was it for Mr. Morris, because Mr. Darling was in the room when that happened. The tall, white-bearded head of the administration promptly fired Mr. Morris and took over the class himself. Unconfirmed reports say that after this, Mr. Morris was unable to find a job anywhere. Eventually, he ran out of options and applied to Shipley, the only school left that would take him.

Who is the Real Mr. McCann??

By Ben Fogel '13

It all started freshman year in Mr. McCann’s (aka, Chris McCann's) Geometry class. Accusations started flying around that Mr. McCann wasn’t really the Mr. McCann we all know and love, but an athlete living several double lives. Who is the real Mr. McCann you might ask? I was asked to investigate and find out the truth.

The suspicion started when Mr. McCann would mysteriously disappear in the early afternoons of the spring.

This disappeared was most likely seen during classes after chorus block, when Mr. Morris would start yelling at students for being even a few minutes late because of chorus. As a result of this, the man soon developed a specialized hatred for both chorus and singing as a whole. One student told Focus that "During the holiday season, a group of little kids from the lower school came to his door to sing Christmas carols. When they knocked on the door, Mr. Morris opened the door to see who was there. When he found out they were carolers, he promptly slammed the door shut, leaving each child crying. Mr. Morris didn’t care though. He kept right on going about parabolas.'

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On a recent interview, Mr. McCann mentioned that "Bode Miller" once Mr. McCann returned from spending time with his wife and baby girl (2010 Vancouver Olympics), he recognized the student’s suspicions. In response, he promptly showed all of his Geometry classes, an embarrassing video of him on YouTube, rolling down the ski slopes head over heals, in an attempt to thwart and dissuade the accusations against him. In an official public statement, Bode Miller’s agent reported that Bode “has decided to take off the next two seasons to spend more time with his family.” Since the accusations in 2010, Mr. McCann has been laying low to stay out of the spotlight. Other connections between Bode Miller and Brian McCann are their identical height (both measure in at 6’2”), the fact that Bode himself was an amateur baseball player, playing baseball at the Division I level, not to mention the fact that they too look so similar. No further investigation will start until the Braves Season is fully underway and Mr. McCann’s activities can be monitored.
Phoenix Teachers In the Phast Lane by Jamie Ulrich '12

Did you know some of your teachers played NCAA athletics? Here are a few of their stories....

Tom MacFarlane - Rugby

A wide grin greets almost every visitor to Mr. MacFarlane’s room in The Language Building. The cheery, welcoming demeanor is a trademark of Mr. Mac, who is one of the most beloved teachers on campus. Little do we know, that gleeful grin once hid behind a mouthguard and a vicious snarl during Mr. Mac’s collegiate athletic years. Our very own literature teacher is a former rugby star at Princeton University.

Mr. Mac’s story starts not on the rugby pitch but in the ice rink. As a recruited hockey player out of high school, he decided to go to Princeton University. Prior to attending Princeton, the eighteen year old deferred a year to go to prep school. When he finally arrived at Princeton, Mr. Mac said he had “fallen of the coach’s radar.” Fighting for playing time on the rink, Macfarland faced what he described as a “crisis moment.” At the persuasion of his roommates, Mr. Mac quit the hockey team and joined the rugby squad.

The success that followed was tremendous. Mr. Mac was a two time all-Ivy League player and led his team to a top 20 national ranking his junior and senior year. During his junior season, Princeton established itself as a national power with a regional final victory of Navy. As a senior, Mr. Mac was selected as a team captain.

Mr. MacFarlane continued to be involved with the program after his career. As the head coach of the program, he took Princeton to Nationals for the first time and won an Ivy League championship in 2004.

Erika “Doc” Harnett – Fencing

What do Captain Jack Sparrow, Zoro and Erika “Doc” Harnett have in common? They are all skilled sword fighters! That’s right, our very own Latin teacher is an accomplished swashbuckler. Images of clashing steel, clever remarks and shouts of “En Garde!” come to mind, but the sport is so much more than that. According to Doc, Fencing is “mental chess game, where you set up the other person.”

Doc Harnett would know, as she competed in the sport at the division one level. Doc started her fencing career at Temple University, which is now one of the top programs in the nation. During her time at TU, Doc was coached by a former Olympian and flourished under the expert tutelage. In 1974, Doc reached the pinnacle of her achievement in fencing when she qualified for the NCAA national tournament. Next time you forget a homework assignment or skip class a second thought might be warranted, as Doc might bring her foil out of retirement.

Focus Dives In with Iain Anderson

Focus talked with FCS Swim Coach Iain Anderson about his involvement in FCS Swim program.

Focus: Through his leadership, the Friends’ Central Aquatics program, including the school team and FCA, has been successfully developed. What is one of the best moments you have had in your 10 year history of FCA and the HS team?

Iain: One of many would certainly be handing Headmaster David Felsen the school’s first FSL Championship plaque in 2004.

F: When you started the high school team, did you imagine that we would win the FSL championships for years on end?

I: Nope…yep.

F: How has your interaction with other successful high school and college coaches and their respective programs shaped the way you train our swimmers?

I: Dick Shoulberg—Germantown Academy’s world famous swim coach—has certainly had an influence on me and the way I approach training swimmers. He constantly demands excellence. Whether you are average or world caliber, Coach Shoulberg always requires you to step up to the plate and give your best shot.

The trick is to creatively motivate the individual to realize and accomplish so much more than she actually thought she could do. I’d like to think I have a little of that DNA in me.

F: What are your future plans for the high school team? As you have said to the team, we have already conquered the “Friends School League.” What is the next step in continuing to grow our program? Do you see the team significantly improving their success at Easterns in the years to come?

I: I have lived in and gone to schools in many places—ranging from Kampala, Uganda, where I was born, to Haverford School, to NYU, to Los Angeles. I’d like to think the variety of experiences has put me in a better position to understand and work with many different kinds of people, which really helps when overseeing/coaching the large and diverse community here at Friends’ Central.
Mr. Fedder Is Ctrl+Alt+Deleaving

By Sami Resnik '12

Come next year, Friends’ Central School will be missing one very tech-savvy individual—Mr. Fedder. Tech-savvy is of course the understatement of all time, considering that Mr. Fedder not only taught the Computer Science class and 9th grade computers class, but also helped to build the new FCS website. Introduced to FCS by his wife, middle school language skills teacher Mrs. Fedder, he spent 6 years here. He came from the corporate world and took to the new role of teacher with excitement. Mr. Fedder said that teaching at FCS taught him a great deal of patience, especially teaching such a difficult subject as computers. “Technology is a very complex, abstract subject, how to communicate that patiently in a way students can understand is something teaching here has taught me.” Though Mr. Fedder also remarked that he would miss the community, environment and sense of care among teachers, he is starting a very cool job. He is going to be a senior software engineer at a company called Whipple Hill, a cool job. He is going to be an independent schools all over the country. So, as Mr. Fedder farewell to Mr. Fedder, don’t despair too much, everyday we will be reminded of him—just open up your browser.

Mr. and Mrs. Fedder will start a new life in New Hampshire. Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Fedder

from Davis on page 2 to work in the Alumni and Archives office. Working with archives entails keeping the history of the school going while with the alumni office he will be going to events and representing the faculty to alumni. Outside of school, Mr. Davis plans on doing more composing, volunteering for the orchestra, traveling with his partner, cooking, and working on his garden. He explained that he sees retirement as simply doing different things rather than not doing anything at all. On the note of leaving, Mr. Davis expressed, “I wanted to leave when I had a really good feeling about what I was doing. I feel that the chorus is now strong enough that they can pull off successful choral seasons ahead. The saddest part of leaving will be not being able to work with students anymore to share music and concerts with the community.” Upon his departure there will certainly be a large hole left in the Friends’ Central community, but nevertheless the legacy he has left here will remain embedded in the school for years to come.

Teacher Top 10 - Favorite School Subject
1. English
2. Math
3. Foreign Language
4. History
5. Literature/Poetry
6. Science
7. Arts
8. Biology
9. Physics/Astro-Physics
10. Physical Education

Teacher Top 10 - Favorite Food
1. Chocolate
2. Sea Food
3. Stuffed
4. Italian
5. Pasta
6. Pizza
7. Duck
8. Potatoes
9. Ice Cream
10. Vegetables

Teacher Top 10 - Favorite Sport
1. Baseball
2. Football
3. Basketball
4. Hockey
5. Soccer
6. Horseback riding
7. Track and Field/Cross-Country
8. Swimming
9. Tennis
10. Wrestling

Teacher Top 10 - Vacation Spot
1. Beach
2. The Caribbean
3. England
4. Italy
5. New England
6. Europe
7. Costa Rica
8. Mountains
9. Vermont
10. Canada

Teacher Top 10 - Favorite Sports Team
1. Philadelphia Phillies
2. Philadelphia Eagles
3. Penn State
4. Philadelphia Flyers
5. Green Bay Packers
6. Dallas Cowboys
7. Chicago Bulls
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