

FOCUS



Volume XXXV Issue 6

1101 City Avenue Wynnewood Pennsylvania 19096

Special Issue Spring 2010 Edition

SPECIAL ISSUE: DECADE IN REVIEW 2000-2010

To Our Readers,

We are so excited to present to you our annual special issue which this year is aptly themed A Decade in Review. As we begin the '10s, the *Focus* staff revisited the past decade's successes and failures, fads and fashion, technology and innovations, throwbacks and setbacks, and probably most importantly, its influence on all of us from childhood to adolescence. As seniors prepare to leave, reflecting on their time at FCS, *Focus* invites you to look a little bit farther back into the past to remember what was and to be excited for what will be. Thanks for your support this past year, and we hope *Focus* gave you a better "focus" on campus life and the larger world.

Arielle Fogel and Madelena Rizzo, Editors-in-Chief

Changes in FCS Through the Eyes of the Headmaster

By Madelena Rizzo '10

When current Headmaster David Felsen arrived here in 1988, Friends' Central was composed of 630 students; this encompassed all three divisions, mind you. Indeed, the Upper School was only about 220 students, and the Lower School was nestled into the current Middle School building. The dynamics of the school changed drastically beginning in 1990 with the decision to move the

Lower School to its current location on Old Gulph Road. Mr. Felsen asserted that there was a "huge response to the second campus," resulting in an increase of students to over 1000 in total. With this blossoming of enrollment, there was also a swelling of diversity, and FCS was flooded with talented individuals. New programs were developed, and the faculty grew in size to accommodate the unique and ever-growing student body. However, this increase in size also meant that the

school had to invest in new buildings, which has involved major campaigns of the last two decades.

Both the academic and athletic buildings were lacking at the beginning of the second millennium. The science building was "inadequate," and the Linton and Rex gymnasiums limited spectator attendance and also athletic performance. Mr. Felsen headed this expansion campaign, which saw the construction of the Fannie Cox Center and Shimada. In addition, tennis courts were added and 7 acres of land were leased

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FCS Campus: Then and Now

The FCS campus has changed dramatically in the past 10 years. Here is a look back on the appearance of the campus at the turn of the century.

By Daniel Banko '13



The Cottage (used by Development Dept.)



Paving of the Tennis Courts



The Red Building (used by the Math Dept.)



Frame of Shimada Gym



*Front of the Campus in 2010
-- Photo Courtesy of Haleemah Jackson*

Focus Editors from the Past 10 Years Consider the Past 10 Years

By Arielle Fogel '10

Throughout this issue, the current *Focus* staff has reminisced, lamented, and explained the past decade. In order to make our account of the decade more gratifying, we decided to reach out to former *Focus* editors-in-chief from the past 10 years to nominate what they considered the most memorable things of the decade.

David Talemal '00 – “The most memorable thing in the last 10 years for me, would have to be the introduction of the iPhone. I’ve had all 3 generations so far, and I definitely believe it revolutionized the way people stay mobile. From having a phone, to surfing the web, to listening to music and playing games, the iPhone made us much more of a mobile society, much more so than we were back in 2000.

Currently a manager at a local Arby’s restaurant, David is trying to become a general manager sometime in the upcoming months.

Geoff Wertime '02 – “If there’s one thing that rippled through the first decade of the new millennium, it’s the effects of the September 11 attacks. Throughout the years since that day in 2001 we’ve experienced two wars, dramatic changes in personal privacy expectations, and a total shift in foreign policy. Other countries have completely reassessed their international relations policies as well, and a notable few have undergone massive upheavals.”

After graduating from FCS,

Geoff studied at Vassar College and then moved to France for a year to teach English. Now, he is currently a reporter in New Jersey where he’s been very successful, winning a few New Jersey Press Association awards in the past couple of years.

Joyce Miller '03 – “The creation of Youtube has affected everything with a real or potential audience, causing major power shifts in all creative entertainment medias, and opening up a whole new realm of possibilities for upstarts and young people – and on an individual, educational level. Students can Youtube Sean Penn harassing his daughter or dead poets reading their own work aloud (while they were alive). We’re an audio-visual society for the time being and Youtube serves as one of our central theaters.”

After graduating from FCS, Joyce studied at NYU where she majored in theater.

Jimmy Yang '04 – “If it’s one single ‘most memorable’ event, it’d have to be 9-11, but I’m guessing other former editors will write about that, so I’ll write about something else. I think when we look back in the future, the defining development of the 2000s would be the information explosion, which isn’t one event but a whole series of events, from Google to Wikipedia to Youtube to Twitter. This decade marked the shift from traditional media to the web. The result is not only greatly increased accessibility of information, but also widespread channels for publication. The impact is

comparable to the invention of the printing press! In fact, the Internet has already changed how we live our lives. Just look at Facebook!”

Jimmy is currently a medical student in the 6th of a 7-year medical program at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan.

Sarah Brown '05 – “I would say increased global communication through e-mail, blogs, and social media networks like Facebook, twitter, myspace, linkedin, flickr, etc. has had a profound impact on the world this past decade. When I graduated from FCS, we were just starting to use Smart Boards (leave it to avant-garde teachers like Mr. Gruber to institute such cutting-edge learning technology) and e-mail for school-related projects. Now look at the kids these days! And it’s not just kids, obviously. Nonprofits, like the one I currently work for called Peace Action West out in the San Francisco Bay Area, use social media network marketing to target potential peace advocates, mobilize collective actions, and galvanize coordinated legislative pressure.”

Aaron Schwartz '05 – “That’s a tough question you posed! As I’m typing this, I’m trying to decide between September 11th, the financial crisis, and Barack Obama’s election. I hate to be a downer on this one, but I have to go with September 11th. The attack inflicted such intense trauma on the country and its citizens. The images from that day were

seared into every American’s memory. And then came the aftermath. Two long wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay, Daniel Pearl, torture memos, Saddam Hussein’s execution, and all the rest. I cannot even imagine what the decade would have looked like if the attack had not occurred.”

Aaron has just started his MD/PhD at Harvard University where he will study the economics of health.

Ben Present '07 – “This past decade was definitely a memorable one, from experiencing 9/11 as a seventh grader, to electing our first black president, to the Phillies winning their first championship in 25 years. Talk about an unbelievable 10 years. Also I think you have to look at creations like the iPod, the GPS, and Facebook and the impact they’ve had on people’s lives. Our world was certainly a completely different place 10 years ago.”

Ben is currently a junior at the University of Maryland where he’s been working for the student newspaper, The Diamondback. This summer, he’ll be interning in Harrisburg at The Patriot-News, working for the sports section.

Matt Buchwald '08 – “Watching the Phillies win the world series was one of the most memorable moments of the decade for me. It was incredibly exciting to watch the game and insanely fun to experience the post-game celebration on Broad Street. There was an indescribable

sense of connection and euphoria among all the Philly fans enjoying the moment, which I have never experienced anywhere else.”

Matt, a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania, is working towards a degree in economics with concentrations in finance and entrepreneurship.

Brendan Kaminsky '08 – “To me, the most memorable occurrence of the decade was 9/11. Witnessing America, the most important force in the world under attack, made us question world stability and global US supremacy. Personall,y being so close to these attacks was very scary, and threatened my sense of security to travel in the United States.”

Brendan is currently studying at UNC-Chapel Hill where he is majoring in Management and Society with a minor in entrepreneurship. He also plays on the basketball team.

Dan Fedder '08 – “There are many important events that define a period of time. I think the iPod and iTunes revolutionized the way we listen to and transport music today, which ultimately changed the way we communicate. We can see its development over the entire decade as well, so this was a major part of the 2000s.”

Dan is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis where he is double-majoring in history and accounting.

from HEADMASTER on page 1 from Lankenau to field the girls’ soccer, varsity baseball and lacrosse teams. Mr. Felsen partnered this growth of athletic facilities with a surge in school spirit and unity. Shimada boasted a gorgeous gym, a pool, and a wrestling room, and it quickly became a place where the student body could gather to watch games. Unbeknownst to me, there used to be a parking lot in the space that is now the oval. Wishing to change this, the architects of the Science Building conceived a campus green that would expand the

current parking lot. This green created a coherence of all of the buildings; the architect described it as a wheel, with its various spokes leading out into the world. This was also an important step in creating a more unified curriculum and a more connected student body. Imagine FCS without the campus green--it would certainly be a lot less appealing and inviting! As the decade came to a close, FCS was unfortunately not spared in the economic recession. For every private school in the area, enrollment is barely staying constant, and

we are faced with the threat of shrinkage. According to Mr. Felsen, the Lower School is feeling the brunt of the hard times, since parents are less willing than before to enroll their children in an expensive private school from



an early age. These challenging times have led FCS to adapt a new marketing campaign centered on the slogan, “Quaker Works.” Despite these measures, Mr. Felsen assured me that the philosophy of the school is not changing, as our mission is still to “attract a healthy mix

of students” that results in a “diverse student body.” However, the administration must be conscious of the future and ensure that FCS remains the place we love. Amazingly, Mr. Felsen revealed that there are already plans for the school 25 to 30 years into the future! That’s vision for you. So much has changed at FCS over the last decades, from the actual student body to the facilities and opportunities available. And as Mr. Felsen enthusiastically stated, “We’re not done yet!”

America’s Changing Political Landscape

By Benjamin Yahalomi ‘11

Over the last 10 years, there has been a dynamic shift in the political landscape in Washington and in city halls around the country. Who would have thought that in 2008, the country could/would elect a president of color, Barack Obama? But our country has encountered major problems: unemployment, a health care crisis with outrageous costs, two major wars, 9/11, and skyrocketing college costs. The population is disenchanted with a Congress that is stagnant and rarely accomplishes anything. The Democratic controlled Congress now has an approval rating of only 18%, with 4 out of 5 Americans unhappy with the job they’re doing.

The first decade of the millennium will be remembered as a pinnacle in the ongoing development of American politics. 9/11 profoundly reshaped our

political system. It revealed flaws in our security system -- from airports to public buildings -- and flaws in our government’s response to the crisis; and it threw our nation into desperation and despair. While 9/11 initially made the US united as a country, after some time tensions between Republicans and Democrats exploded.

Spotlight on 2009: the minority party, Republicans, delaying votes on a bill they fear will pass. At one point in our nation’s history, the filibuster was rare. But in 2009, 139 bills were filibustered in the United States Senate. There is not a more striking example of the pitfalls of partisanship.

As we encounter new challenges, like the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Americans become increasingly partisan in their viewpoints. According to the Gallup Poll, conservatism is now, for the first time,

the most popular political ideology, with more conservatives (40%) than moderates (36%). A shock, I know! At Friends’ Central, liberals dominate (how many McCain buttons or bake sales did you see around campus during the last presidential campaign?), but around the country, that’s not the case.

Nevertheless, as we move into the new decade, I see a bright future for our government. Politicians like Republican Bobby Jindal, governor of Louisiana, and Democrat Joe Sestak, congressman from the 7th District of Pennsylvania (encompassing suburbs near Friends’ Central), represent the new party leadership, and they will bring new ideas to Washington.

As we move forward, there is hope for increased cooperation between party leadership and important new legislation over the next few years.

What the Past Decade Should Be Called

By Devon Kratchman ‘10

This past decade has been filled with great technological advances, political controversies, funny television moments, and other memorable events. When asked “What should this decade be called?”; FCS students came up with some clever and thought-provoking decade labels. Here are the top 11:

1. The iDecade
2. The Uggs and Leggings Era
3. The Decade of Change
4. The War on Terror Era
5. The Age of the Internet
6. The “All the Celebrities are Dying at Once” Era
7. The Return of Retro Decade
8. The Text Me Era
9. Tech Dec
10. The Snookie Era
11. The “Leggings are not Pants” Era

Longstanding FCS Teachers Shed Light On Their Experience At FCS

By Benjamin Fogel ‘13

For this article, I interviewed longstanding FCS teachers to get their perspectives on how life has changed at school since they have been teaching here. (The earliest perspective, from Mr. Davis, goes back to the late 60's.) When I talked to them, there emerged many similar themes and understandings of how FCS has changed. They all agreed that FCS has grown and expanded considerably over the years. There have been both positive and negative effects to this change.

Ms. Gowen Tolcott (FCS faculty since 1981) said that she used to know all the students and teachers when the student body was smaller and now some of that small community «feel» is gone. Along with the expansion of the student body, there have been many physical changes across campus as well. With the construction of the FCC, the Language Building, and Shimada, students are more spread out around campus. Mr. Davis (FCS

faculty since 1969) added that now that all campus buildings face the oval, the entire school has a different feel. He said that the school now focuses on the center of the campus and even though there may be a greater number of students on campus, all the students are connected by the campus oval. Mr. Davis also expressed his appreciation for FCS' GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) and the amazing impact it has had on the FCS community. He elaborated, explaining that 30, 20, even 15 years ago, it was very difficult and almost unbearable for a student or teacher to come out and be openly gay. Now with the establishment of the GSA 12 years ago, the community is more accepting of all students (whether they're gay or not). Since Mr. Davis has been teaching at FCS for so long, he has had the rare privilege of being able to teach multiple generations of the same family. He said that this interesting event at first really shocked him (he thought his age had finally caught up to him and never realized how long he had actually

been working at FCS). Mr. Davis went on to say that he rather enjoyed seeing and teaching the children of his past students. To be able to see how generations and children progress over the years is a really special part of Mr. Davis' time on campus. Although Mr. Davis thinks that students today are not as globally conscious and interested as generations in the past (such as when the students gave up their Senior Prom in 1969 to raise money for a local organization), he agrees that students today are just as warm and loving as they have always been.

Mr. Bradburd (FCS faculty since 1977) explained to me the effect that the building of Shimada has had on the school. The sports teams now have a nicer and newer facility to train and play games. A building and a gym like Shimada complemented our basketball teams' continual integration into our school's community and popularity. Sports have evolved at Friends' Central throughout time. For example, we used

to have a football team in the 70's who won three league championships, but because of a lack of student participation in football, the team was dropped. Many new sports have also been added in recent years such as lacrosse, golf, indoor track and water polo. The requirement for sports credits has also dramatically changed over the years. When talking to Mr. Bradburd, I found out that originally students were required to play *all* 12 seasons during their time at Friends' Central; that number was reduced to seven seasons before what it is today, 4 seasons.

Besides the sports programs, a number of other school programs have expanded majorly over the years. Originally FCS only had one orchestra, one play a year, and two choirs (one for the Upper School and one for the Middle School). The arts at FCS have come a long way since then, given the number of orchestras, choirs and plays we now have yearly.

One part of our school that both Mr. Davis, Mr. Bradburd and Ms. Gowen Tolcott agreed will never change is the sense of community. Our community might be continuously growing, but our school's togetherness and Quaker identity will never change. Mr. Davis told me that one of his favorite parts about FCS is the constant warm feeling that everyone shows for each other, and the bonding we all share as a community every Wednesday morning during Meeting for Worship. Friends' Central's loving atmosphere is what separates us from other schools and is something that has not changed in the past. This is something we must appreciate and recognize just as these teachers have already done.

(Incidentally, other teachers who have been here 25 years or more include Mr. Morris, Mr. Nic, Mr. Buc, Doc Harnett, Mr. Crauderueff, Ms.Haimm, Ms.Johnson and Ms. DeVan.)

Fast Forward

(Future Fashion, Friendships and Fun)

By Gwendolyn Lewis ‘10

Future Fashion: History repeats itself. It repeats itself in politics, world relations, human actions and most visibly in fashion. Since the dawn of the new millennium we have been defining “what’s hot” and “what’s not” by adopting fashion trends from the previous decades. This is the copy-cat decade, the revival decade. We’ve resurrected the 60s Letter Jackets, designed for the football or basketball “jocks”(look out for our own varsity boys basketball team sporting these jackets around campus). Also from the 60s, we’ve swiped the slack pants and the dressy casual pocketed button down shirt.

We’ve subtly robbed the 70s of their earthy sandals and waist belts, and we’ve blatantly mimicked them with peasant shirts, peace sign décor, hippy headbands, gaucho pants and the bold floral print. We’ve milked the 80s for all they’re worth, first by “partying like a rock star” in skinny jeans, thick glasses, sweat suits and chunky fake gold chains (Hello, Run DMC!). Second, we’ve imitated them with boldly

overexposed leg warmers and the still surviving high waist jeans accompanied by a tucked in shirt.

We’ve replicated the Fresh Prince of Bell Air and his trademark 90s gear by wearing all of the colors of the rainbow at once, with a pair of Reebok Classic sneakers to match. Bill Cosby even has a skirt at Urban Outfitters named and fashioned after his unique 90s sweaters, called “The Cosby Skirt.” So, what’s left? Or more interestingly, what’s next? Well, fortunately for the future, we’ve yet to heist the 50s, the Renaissance or Medieval eras, and the Biblical times.

Let’s take a look at a few future fashion must haves:

The Outer Garment: copyright B.C.E - The Outer Garment is a must- have staple in any man or woman’s wardrobe. The Outer Garment, made to accommodate all seasons (comes in wool, cotton, lace, leather and sheer), is an ankle long overcoat which can be worn over most or all outfits or when fastened it can be

worn as a dress-like outfit by itself. An Outer Garment can add a touch of class to anyone’s

ten layers of additional skirt underneath the outer layer of skirt, no woman can feel more

feminine than when wearing this skirt! The outer layer of the skirt is embroidered with a poodle stitched in the bottom right corner. This item can be found in your local grandmother’s closet.

The 100 lb. Multipurpose Dress: copyright Renaissance - Weighing in at approximately 90lbs is this neutral colored dress that can be worn on any

occasion (i.e. swimming, bathing, riding a bike, frolicking in town). It is perfect for any duty that a woman may carry out in her everyday life. Wearing the dress is a workout in itself (carrying the dress on your body burns calories like aerobic exercise).

Future Friendships: The boom of technology in the last 10 year span has taken friendship to a new level and has even redefined the meaning of the word. There are “Facebook friends,” “Facebook mutual friends,” “Myspace friends” and “AIM buddies.” Nowadays, it is possible to carry out complete friendships and even romantic relationships without ever having to meet in person or hear each others' voices. If we never see or hear some of these people in real life, then how can we be sure that they actually exist? But, if they are the “ideal friend” then how much do we actually care about their authenticity? After all, as Euripides said, “One loyal friend is worth ten thousand relatives.” And if you think MySpace and Facebook were revolutionary, wait until the launch of AutoFriend.com! (COMING SOON in the near future) - a place to make “real” friends. Design or discover an already concocted character and befriend it in an instant. Who really wants to take the time to get to know someone, enduring the awkward stages

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Sex Sells: Ads 2000-Today

By Madelena Rizzo ‘10

It’s seductive. It’s alluring. It’s.....Millstone coffee? Advertisements from the past decade share many important characteristics, including the all-important sex appeal. Even though the use of the erotic to promote a product has been a seller for decades, ads are continually evolving to become more and more suggestive. The advertisements that I cited above are both from 2001, demonstrating the use of sex to advertise a product as neutral as coffee. Indeed, according to Wikipedia, “Increased tolerance, more tempered censorship, emancipatory developments and increasing buying power of previously neglected appreciative target groups in rich markets (mainly in the west) have led to a marked

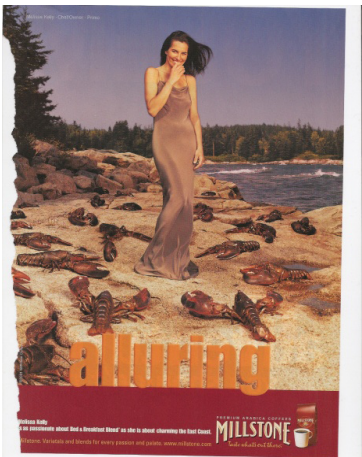
increase in the share of attractive flesh ‘on display.’” Whereas in the past women were the main focus points of such ads, there is a trend



of displaying erotic men as well.

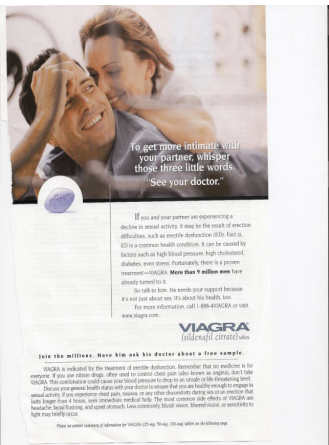
Advertising for prescription medications has exploded in the past decade, now appearing everywhere you turn. This developing market is known as “Direct-to-consumer” prescription drug advertising. If you

look back at media from 20 years ago, you would be hard-pressed to find a prescription drug ad. According to the *Food and Drug Law Journal* (“The Development of Direct-to-Consumer Prescription



Drug Advertising Regulation”), “With regard to broadcast media, this is a relatively new phenomenon because, for many years, pharmaceutical manufacturers were reluctant to advertise their products directly to the consumer because of the ‘brief summary’ requirement

of the food and drug law and regulations.” In other words, drug companies were dissuaded from displaying their products for the public because of the burdensome warnings and product information that



were required by law. In the past, it was the doctors who were targeted by the drug companies instead of the patients. However, after the Food and Drug Administration lessened the requirements for such ads, the drug companies jumped at the opportunity to appeal directly to their recipients. The 2002 ad below

demonstrates these new players in the advertising world.

Another interesting change in advertisements has come from those involving food. As America has become more health-conscious (one might say health-*obsessive*), companies have made a point to state the calorie count of their products or another similar statement, in addition to listing the health benefits. It is interesting to note that although the Stouffer’s Steak Tips Dijon below is part of their Lean Cuisine line, it says nothing on the front of the package or in the advertisement about its nutritional benefits. The motto states, “Do something good for yourself,” but this is ambiguous. Does this mean that you should ease up on yourself and allow yourself

see ADS on page 5

When Teachers Had a Life

By Samantha Resnik '12

Some of you will be surprised to find out that 10 years ago, many teachers here at FCS were in very different places than they are



Mr. Coval 10 Years Ago

now. For instance, Andy Coval, 10th grade algebra teacher, was a senior at Emory University majoring in philosophy. After he graduated, he wanted to volunteer, so he headed off to a Mexican neighborhood located in Chicago to volunteer for a church and community center. Afterward, Mr. Coval spent three months as a guest in a monastery, living and following the rules as if he were a monk. When I asked Mr. Coval what he was thinking about 10 years ago, he replied, “Ten years ago I was thinking about the same things I’m thinking about now: What to do with my life.”

from ADS on page 4 to indulge? The intentional choice of “yourself” instead of “your body” infers that



this dinner is not healthy enough to be touting its worth to the world. As societal attitudes towards food change, so do the advertisements (even if the product has not changed).

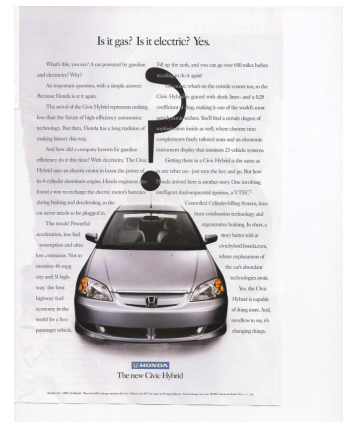
Looking over ads from the start of this millennium, I noticed obvious differences: the images

Another teacher, Nina Morton, was only 14 years old and was in the 8th grade. She attended a small private school in California, where she was the shortest person in her class. Ms. Morton

explained that she hated science at the time, which is ironic seeing that she is now a first-rate chemistry and Foundations teacher. Instead, she was crazy about British literature. Ms. Morton, laughing, proclaimed, “I thought I was going to be a writer, which definitely is not happening now.”

At the same time, all the way in another continent, one of the Upper School’s Spanish teachers, Ms. Socorro, was teaching at an international school

were lower in resolution, the colors were duller, and the gadgets depicted were clunky and awkward by



today’s standards. Also, there were many more words in the old ads than there are in modern ads. As an example, look at the 2002 ad for the Honda Civic Hybrid. The reader is overwhelmed by paragraphs describing the car and its features, so much so that it takes away from the actual product. These days,

called Escuela Bella Vista. The school was located in her hometown of Maracaibo, Venezuela, and was composed of a diverse student body. She professes, “Teaching at EBV was definitely a culturally enriching experience.” Though Ms. Socorro was very close with her family, she was looking for a new adventure. She wanted to teach Spanish at an international school in another country, but one of the requisites to apply to those schools was citizenship or residency in the United States. She did not have either.



Mrs. Socorro 10 Years Ago

advertisers focus more on visuals and less on text because they are aware that many readers will not take time to read all of the print.

So, what sort of ads can we expect to see in the future? Certainly more on the computer, as technology continues to evolve. With more and more TV viewers recording their shows or buying them and thus avoiding the commercials, companies will be forced to use other means to sell their goods. Expect even more erotic ads as society becomes increasingly blasé about what is presented to them, and fewer words in the ads. That said, how will future observers dissect today’s advertisements? What will they be able to say about our society from the values we exhibited in our ads?

However, these bumps in the road did not stop her. Ms. Socorro eventually arrived in Philadelphia, where she currently resides. She good-naturedly said, “Coming from Maracaibo, one of the warmest and sunniest cities in Venezuela and with a year round temperature of about 95^o F, you can imagine how hard it was for me to adjust to the winter weather of Philadelphia.”

And last but not least, Mr. McCann, also a math teacher, was only a few miles away from FCS a decade ago. He was a sophomore at Haverford College, where he majored in



Ms. Morton in 8th grade

physics. In addition to playing soccer there, he also played the saxophone in a funk band called “Hiram.” That summer, Mr. McCann was an ocean lifeguard at the Amagansett Beach Association in East Hampton, NY. He humorously recounted, “I got paid to body surf and get sunburned. What a job!”

Now you will probably sit in class and wonder where *your* teacher was a decade ago. Well, not if you have Mr. Buck...

Your RSVP: Yes. No. Maybe.

Host: Boy.

Time:8pm sharp Venue: Facebook chat

Description: Dear Crush, I always wanted to ask you out but I was always afraid to do so in person. Thanks to the future meaning of a Facebook event, I can now take you on a digi-date. Will you go out with me?

Guests: 2 Attending: 2. Maybe: 0. Not Yet Responded: 0.

Wall: (write something): Girl: 10.01pm: What should I wear?

from FORWARD on page 4 when there is nothing to talk about and too much to learn? Skip all of the tedious and annoying aspects of friendship and find a loyal, long-lasting avatar to be your friend today on AutoFriend.com. Hello popularity and goodbye social outcast! On this site no one has to be lonely. Complete a brief personality test and be automatically matched with a best friend. AutoFriends give you the pros of friendship while eliminating the cons. Digitally manufactured, these friends are exempt from the imperfections of human friends. F.F.U.B.U (friends for us, by us)!

Future Fun: Between text invites and Facebook events, the act of mailing an invitation is becoming extinct. With the click of a button, you can organize a gathering of thousands of people from all over the U.S. But what if the Facebook event actually took place on Facebook? Let’s take a look at the possibility of this happening in the future:

Event Title: A Date.

Bring it on
Class of 2020!

O Brave New (CGI) World!

By Steve Patterson (Faculty)

Computer generated imagery (CGI) ruled movie houses with a steady stream of must-see blockbuster epics. Over the past 10 years, we've had the computer-enabled *Ring* trilogy, the Potter series, the *Pirates* franchise, legions of superhero tales, and more

count on reliable, sometimes astonishing performances. Heath Ledger best straddled both venues: his trumped-up Joker was the unidentifiable menace among us; and his lovelost Ennis del Mar showed how easily we misidentify that menace.

With *Bowling for Columbine*

break your heart. And just as *Ratatouille*, *The Incredibles*, or *Finding Nemo* made us wonder if our love for the Pixar style had grown too thick, stop-action reared its charming, claymation head via *The Fantastic Mr. Fox*. Perhaps the most provocative use of the form: *Waltz With Bashir*, a hybrid of documentary and animation that captured conflict in the Middle East.

There has been something of a paradox in the steady wave of films struggling to

make sense of the war in Iraq, a war we've hardly

been allowed to witness otherwise (see *The Hurt Locker* or *In the Valley of Elah*). Indeed, with much that was tragic marring our times, it was not surprising that many films dealt with the pain of memory and the illusions of identity -- *Donnie Darko*, *Memento*, *Away From Her*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, to name a few. Or that the zeitgeist was so often captured through a lens darkly, as in *There Will Be Blood*, *Children of Men*, *District 9*, *No Country for Old Men*, *Elephant*, or *The Lives*

see MOVIES on page 7



Avatar actress pre- and post-CGI.

than a few apocalyptic images of the Statue of Liberty imploding. All of them have showcased awesome spectacles, many of them have made spectacular fortunes, and a few already look cheesy. Frankly, I can't see how any one of them is more breathtaking than what Ang Lee did with thin wires and bamboo trees in *Crouching Tiger*. But we are definitely in for more: *Avatar* closed the decade with its modest promise to transform the way movies are made and watched.

It was also a decade when you could follow certain actors to the Ritz or the cineplex and

and *Fahrenheit 9/11*, Michael Moore shaped a new attitude about the power and purpose of documentaries. We came to enjoy the likes of *Grizzly Man*, *Hoop Dreams*, or *Murderball* for their subjective viewpoints. We got so hip to the form that the jokes in mockumentaries like *Borat* or *Best In Show* were easily caught, and it's become high praise to say of a film, like the drama-*verite*, *The Class*, «It seemed like a documentary.»

Speaking of cinematic forms enjoying a renaissance, what about all those cartoons? *Up* can now boast an exemplary montage, guaranteed to

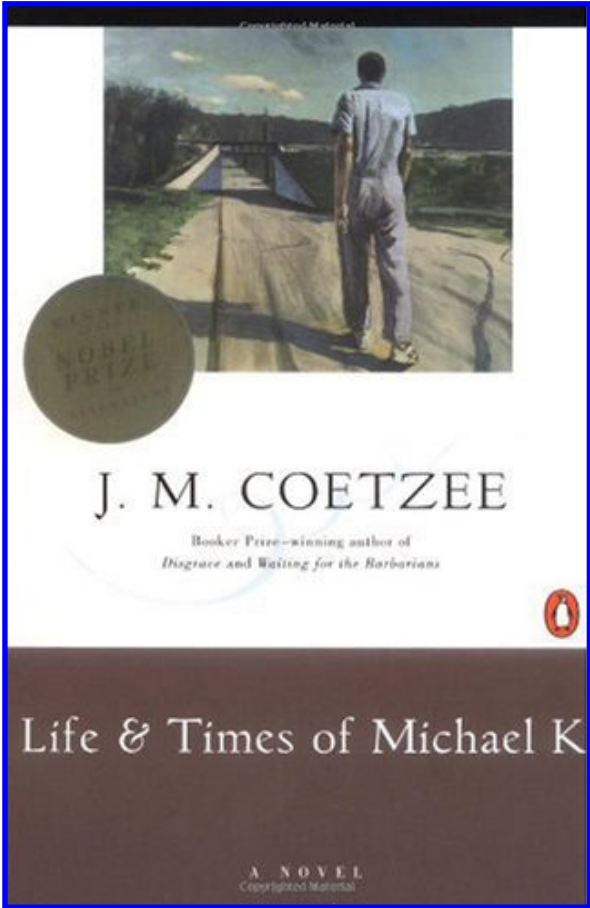
Best Books of the Decade...Says Who??

By Marilyn Lager (Faculty)

I always freeze when anyone asks me (and people do all the time) to name my all-time favorite book or author. I feel like a deer in the headlights, because at first, I stammer, and I become tongue-tied, and then finally mumble something about Toni Morrison or Philip Roth or even Maeve Binchy. I frequently play back the scene at my interview at Wellesley College, back in the days when personal interviews at colleges were key to admission, and I was asked those same questions: *What is your favorite book? Who is your favorite author?* I froze then, too, and that September, I went to a college other than

Wellesley.

So when I thought about writing an essay about the best books of the decade, I started having the same trouble. I am an over-zealous reader, and I have read over a hundred books in this past decade. I decided to turn to the experts and see what



From <http://amazon.com>

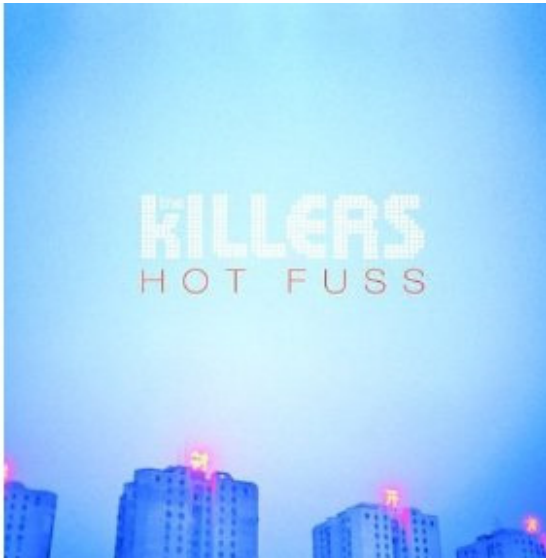
The Decade in Music

By Scott Kulicke '10

The last decade in music has, in a huge way, been a response to the 90s. With an excess of pop-punk (Blink 182, Sum 41) sandwiched between nonsense (Limp Bizkit), the thousands came around looking for something new. Several things grew out of this, but as the decade went along, artists found themselves looking around, disappointed with some of the answers that emerged. There were some seeds that were more

a massive eraser out and starting again.” While horribly pretentious (a trend of the decade: pretentious artists making fantastic music (i.e., Kanye West: *Graduation*), Yorke was right: Radiohead completely changed the way alt-rock was viewed, and, with a single album, cut out pop-punk and ska bands that had had their way the past decade (see the failure of Blink 182 drummer and bassist’s project, +44, as an example). What followed was a more

mainstream recognition of bands like The Strokes (*Is This It?*), The Flaming Lips (*Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots*), and The Killers (*Hot Fuss*). Kid A was hip to electronica before Discovery came out, and the collective impact of these two albums paved



influential than others, two of which were Radiohead’s *Kid A* and Daft Punk’s *Discovery* (2000 and 2001, respectively).

Discovery opened one of the biggest doors of the decade: electronica. What had been more or less a marginal genre met with skepticism and dismissal from “real musicians,” but Discovery, without any sort of pre-conceived agenda, shook enough of the preconceptions about electronica that the door was opened in some really great, really horrible ways.

Kid A, however, was much more intentional. Thom Yorke of Radiohead, upon the release of the album, explained that, «Kid A is like getting

they chose...and then see if I, a librarian with 35 years of experience, agreed.

The Nobel Literature Prize, awarded yearly to the author who has written works “that have most benefited humankind,” chose authors, in the last decade, from China, 3 from the UK, Hungary, South Africa, Austria, Turkey, France, and last year, Romania. (No Americans. In fact, American writers have only garnered the award 7 times in over 100 years.) I am pleased to say that Doris Lessing,

electronica’s road so that now we’re learning to deal with the new found tool we have. Some have overused it (T-Pain: autotuning), some have found their own niche within it (M.I.A), and some have used its convenience to make some of the best albums of the decade (*The Grey Album* by Danger Mouse).

The thousands have been a decade defined by our answer to the 90s, electronica, and while some albums and artists have encountered huge successes in conjunction with the normal progression (*Lil Wayne*, *The White Stripes*), the truly interesting development has been watching musicians fiddle with their new toy: computers.

from the UK is one of my favorite authors, and she was the winner in 2007. A South African writer, J.M. Coetzee, awardee in 2003, has written books such as *Disgrace* and *Slow Man*, and I can count his book, *The Life and Times of Michael K* as one of my favorites. So I’m not too out of synch with Mr. Nobel.

In this country, we have the National Book Awards and the Pulitzer Prizes, both which

see BOOKS on page 7

The *Best* Of The Decade According to FCS Faculty

Devon Kratchman '10 and Rebekah Ahn '10

We went to the FCS specialists to uncover what they thought to be the best of the best of the past decade. From movies to moments to scientific discoveries, these teachers chose monumental, influential, and interesting 'Best Of's'.

MOST SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL EVENT:

Dr. Graham says that the **elections of Barack Obama and George W. Bush II** were the most significant historical events of the decade because Obama's election was "an incredible milestone on so many levels" while Bush's elections were "also very significant, given the constitutional issues they raised."

Mr. Calder says that the **rise of China** is the most historical event of the decade because "China began to assert itself in entirely new ways on the world stage" and may become "the dominant economy on the planet in the next decade or so." He predicts that while England and the US have been the dominant powerhouses of the world for centuries, the next few "may belong to Asia with China in the lead."

Mr. Rosengarten says that **the decision to invade Iraq** in 2003 is the most historic event of the decade. Rosengarten states this was a "change-of-the-

terrain decision that had affected the whole world." The invasion into Iraq, one of the most powerful nations in the world, has interrupted any international cooperation and only triggered a series of unfortunate events that we "will continue to experience the echoes of for many years to come."

BEST PIECE OF LITERATURE (FICTION):

Mrs. Novo says that "one of the more under-appreciated books of the decade" is **The Last Samurai** by **Helen DeWitt**. It was published in 2000 and has a "breezy, clever voice that might remind us of Dave Eggers or Zadie Smith." The book is about a single mother and her son in London. The young boy is a prodigy whose family life in London is wacky and out of the ordinary. The boy decides he wants to find his father, yet his mother will not tell him who he is. Most of the story is focused on a series of encounters the boy has with

people whom he thinks may be his father.

MOST SIGNIFICANT SCIENCE DISCOVERY:

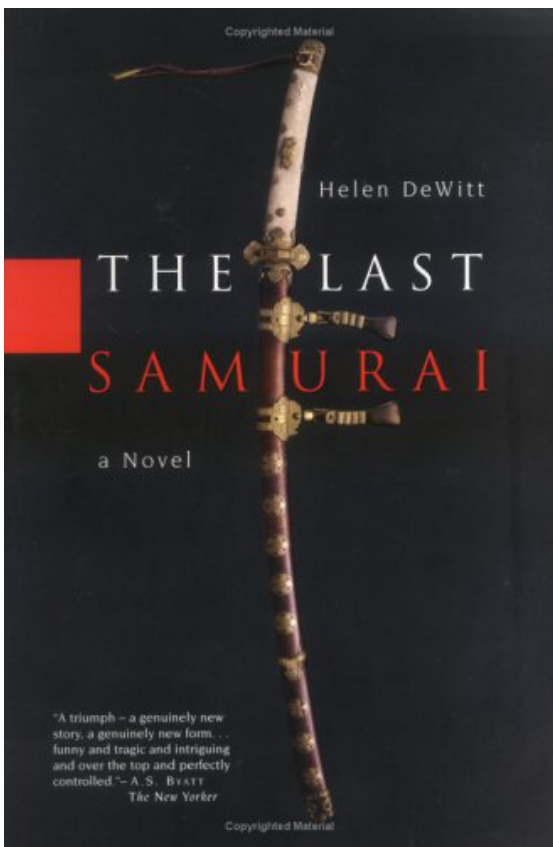
Because "there are too many exciting discoveries within [her] field that have come out in the last 10 years," **Dr. Yin** chose a scientific finding she has a more personal connection to. She chose **the discovery of the gene and mutation responsible for the disease Fibrodysplasia ossificans progressive (FOP)**. This disease turns patients'

patients and their families' lives. Dr. Yin was involved in a lab at UPenn in the late 1990s that was searching for the mutation in a gene that caused FOP. In 2006, this lab found the mutation that caused the disease, and when she heard the news she "had to pull over on the road and shout out [her] astonishment and joy!" Dr. Yin says "the discovery is not only a beautiful example of molecular genetics and biochemistry, but it has already accelerated and focused research efforts to find treatments for these patients."

singing "The Lamb," all of the musicals, and working with Theory II students.

BEST PAINTING OR ARTIST:

Although **Mrs. Takiff-Weiss** did not declare this piece of art necessarily the *best* painting of the decade, she considered the Obama *Hope* painting by Shepard Fairey to be one of the most "momentous paintings" from the past ten years. Shepard Fairey had been notorious for making political statements with his art pieces, and his *Hope* painting caused a lot of commotion. Although



From <http://large.bangzo.com>

muscle into bone so that the patient is essentially "trapped in a second skeleton". This disease, as you can well imagine, has severe effects on

BEST MUSICIAN OR BEST MUSIC PIECE:

Mr. Davis lists many of his favorite FCS music moments of the decade such as Liz Gross and Taiwo Whetstone, both from the class of 2000, singing a duet from "Norma" by Bellini, the Upper School Chorus singing some of his work, last year's Barbershop singing "You're Just Too Good To Be True" to him, Vocal Ensemble



From www.designlessbetter.com

Shepard Fairey was charged with copyright infringement

see **BEST** on page 8

from **MOVIES** on page 6 of *Others*. While each was admirably crafted, hope and redemption, when ventured, came apprehensively.

As for the undead popularity of torture-porn in such series as *Saw* or *Hostel*, I don't get it. And as for the question of vampire hysteria, there was an answer in the gorgeously creepy *Let the Right One In*. More enjoyable were the goofy bromances that flirted with homosexual desire, then claimed, «Dude, I was *joking*.» Most welcome were the fine imports from Latin American and Spanish directors -- *Y Tu Mama*

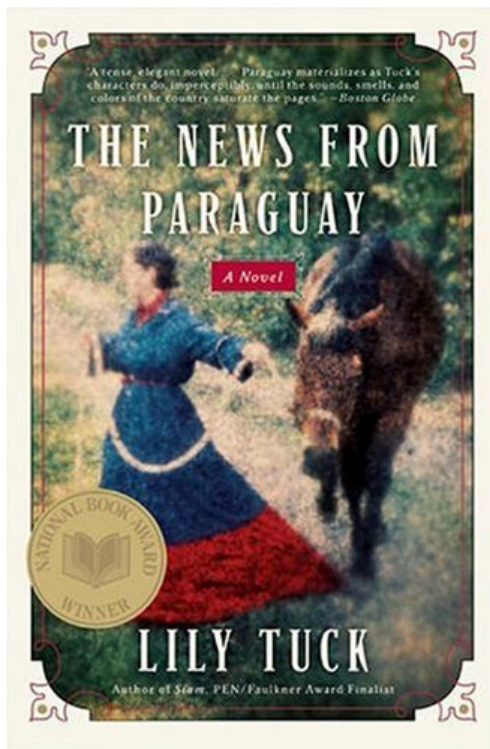
Tambien, Amores Perros, Cidade de Deus, El Orfanato, and anything by Pedro Almodovar. They've brought unfamiliar nuances of joy, color, danger and mystery to the screen. Not to mention Gael Garcia Bernal.

Finally, though I regret choosing a favorite film of the decade, I'll say *El laberinto del fauno* (*Pan's Labyrinth*). Del Toro captured the terrible innocence of childhood, the urgent necessity of fables, the lunacies of war, and the ambiguities of happy endings in ways that made me forget, with every viewing, that it's just another CGI movie.

from **BOOKS** on page 6

award fiction top prizes. The National tends to pick books with a lot of drama and edge, like *The News from Paraguay*, 2004, and the book I am reading right now (how prescient of me), *Let the Great World Spin* by Collum McCann, 2009 winner. It is not my favorite of the bunch... or the decade. It is simply too dramatic and over the top in plot and language. The Pulitzer awards seem to go to kinder, gentler books, such as Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies* and Elizabeth

Strout's, *Olive Kitteridge*.



From <http://amazon.com>

(Although the kinder, gentler award would decidedly not go to Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, an apocalyptic novel of a father and son trying to stay alive when the world has been destroyed).

So now, if asked, about the best books of the decade, I am not going to stress. I am going to memorize the award winners. Ultimately, the best books will appear on these lists. Somehow, even in spite of not wanting to follow fashion and authority, I agree with them most of the time. And I will keep on reading into the next decade.

from **BEST** on page 7

by the Associated Press for using this image as the basis of his painting, the lawsuit was cleared, and his painting became one of the “iconic images of Obama’s campaign.” Mrs. Takiff-Weiss says this painting “sparks many questions regarding appropriation, the role of the artist in society, and the ability of art to reach a wide audience.”

BEST FRENCH FILM:

Madame Ostroff-Weinberg says that “D’une seule voix” (“One Voice”/ “One Sole Voice”) is the best French film of the decade as this documentary focuses on the profound power of music. In this film released in 2008, Jean-Yves Labat de Rossi personally invites Muslims, Jews, Christians, Palestinians,



From <http://ozap.com>

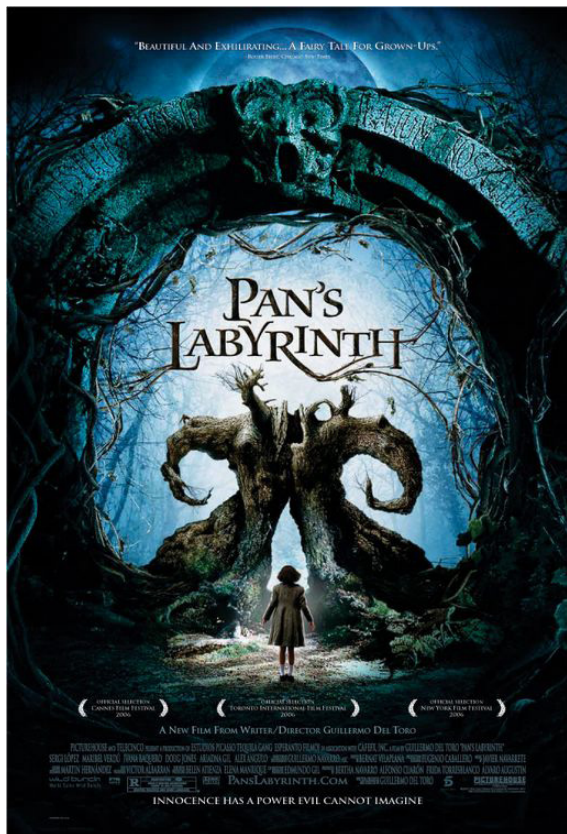
goal being to bring people of such differing backgrounds to gather in France, the “neutral” place, to compose and perform music *together*. Madame

describes how “music can weave through all cultures as it brings separate strands together,” becoming one uniform piece as distinctions begin to fade. She also spoke about how the film was “honest” because it portrayed the cultural tension between these groups as being “far from perfect.” “D’une seule voix” was “simply human” and she hopes to teach it next year in one of her French classes.

BEST SPANISH FILM: Señora Gowen-Tolcott says that **Pan’s Labyrinth** is her favorite Spanish movie of the decade as it combines both reality and fantasy. It is set during

the fascist triumph in Spain in 1939. The cruel stepfather of

part is breathtaking and well incorporated into the plot of the movie” because Ofelia “tries to escape reality into a world inhabited by fauns, fairies and grotesque figures, and she is successful in accomplishing her prescribed tasks to return to her real father.” She claims that the ending was bittersweet; it was both sad and liberating and in her opinion, **Pan’s Labyrinth** “is one of the best of Guillermo’s del Toro’s realizations.”



From <http://www.ramchandra.me.uk>

Ofelia, the young protagonist of the film, embodies “the tyranny that will rule the country for decades.” GT describes how “the fantasy

From Floaties to Uggs: Fashion Changes

By Keira Sultan ‘12

In the 60s, the hippies spread peace and love in tie dye shirts and long floral dresses. People discoed through the 70s wearing bell bottoms and platform shoes. They partied through the 80s in their shoulder pads and leg warmers, and rocked the 90s in blazers and petticoats. Each decade is partly defined by the styles that were worn which echoed the social, political, and cultural climate of



from <http://www.papermag.com/>

those past ten years. But how about the past decade? What were the fashion styles and trends that marked the turn of the century, and how do they epitomize this decade? If you travel back in time to the Friends’ Central middle school halls in 2000, you will most likely overhear a group of teeny boppers belting out the familiar lyrics of “Oops I Did It Again.” With pop music at its height, and the breakout of music sensation Britney

Spears in 2000, the streets became filled with teen and preteen Britney look-alikes in midriff tops and trucker hats. But in 2003, people threw away their revealing shirts and covered up in track suits by Juicy and Puma. Whether

running at the gym or strutting through high school halls, teen girls and adults alike paraded monochromatic head to toe valour clothing. Those more interested in the music scene stayed home from the gym and rocked to punk rock bands in baggy jeans, spiky hair, trucker hats, and aviator sunglasses made popular by bands such as Blink 182, Green Day and Sum 41. Early 2000 style was very reminiscent of 70s

and 90s grunge fashion with Converse shoes, Vans, skinny jeans, and spiked hair for men and straight hair for women. Although many of the trends of the earlier part of the decade slowly faded, other fads such as Uggs (2003), Ray Ban wayfarers (2004), leggings (2005), ballet flats (2007), flannel shirts and leather jackets (2008), are still sported by teens and adults all over the U.S..


With the rise of innovative new technologies such as iPods, Macbooks, and iPhones, some believe the years of 2000 through 2010 will be remembered as “the techie age.” As this technological trend caused so called “geek culture” to become more accepted and prevalent, fashion trends arose such as Chuck Taylor All Star Converse, colorful hoodies, and tee-shirts with pictures and phrases mirroring current pop culture.

As the past decade came to an end, so did the fashion scene of the 2000s. And what will the 2010s hold for future style trends and fads? We’ll just have to wait and see.

TOP TEN INTERNET PHENOMENA OF THE DECADE

By Hannah Albertine '12

- 1) “Charlie Bit Me”
This YouTube craze tops the list with about 161 million views. I’m sure you’ve all seen it, and if you haven’t, get to it! Cute kids, slight pain and British accents- it can’t get any better than this!


- 2) “The Evolution of Dance”
A middle-aged nerd with some sweet moves shows off his versatile style of everything from the Twist to Hammertime.

3) Susan Boyle’s Performance on Britain’s Got Talent
An unexpected and heart-gushing clip from the show *Britain’s Got Talent*. Even impossible-to-please Simon was smiling!

4) “Sneezing Baby Panda”
Who knew such a cute little fuzz ball could be so loud?

5) “David After the Dentist”
A personal favorite of mine, David After the
- 6) “Jill and Kevin’s Wedding Entrance”
Complete with a couple dancing down the aisle to Chris Brown’s, “Forever,” this real life musical was so popular that there was an episode of *The Office* based on it.

7) “Leave Britney Alone”
A Wacky Britney Spears’ fan expresses his support and sympathy for the troubled pop star.

8) “Numa Numa”
A hilarious lip-sync to the Moldovan techno hit. In 2004, “Numa Numa” was one of the earliest Internet phenomena to grace the world.

9) “Peanut Butter Jelly Time”
We all sang it in middle school.....

10) “Diet Coke & Mentos Fountain”
A popular experiment taken to an extreme measure. (Please contact the Science Department for further details.)

Phoenix in the Phast Lane - Decade Edition

Jamie Sundheim '02

Jamie is a proud member of the class of 2002. While at Friends' Central, she was an All-League and All-Main Line soccer and basketball player, but it was on the lacrosse field that she really shone. Jamie earned All-League and All-Main Line status all four years as a Phoenix lacrosse star. During her senior season, she compiled 29 goals and 25 assists. Jamie was nominated for Main Line Times athlete of the year. After Friends' Central, Jamie went on to play lacrosse at a division one level as a member of the Princeton women's lacrosse program. During her career as a Princeton Tiger, she twice reached the national championship, and took home the crown in 2003.



Hakim Warrick '01

In a year where the boys' basketball program captured league and state titles, we should remember a man who took over a program and helped bring home the FSL championship, a feat that hadn't been accomplished since 1974. Hakim Warrick spent his freshman and sophomore seasons at University City High School before coming to Friends' Central in his junior year. Only 76 points from joining the 1,000 point club, Hakim averaged 16 points, 13 rebounds and 5 blocks per game during his senior season. After high school, Hakim went to Syracuse University to play basketball. There he won a national championship with the Orangemen in 2002. During that game, Warrick had a last second block to ensure a victory for 'Cuse. He was drafted 19th overall by the Memphis Grizzlies of the NBA, but now Warrick is a member of the Chicago Bulls. Four years ago, Friends' Central retired his number 21 jersey.



From <http://a.espncdn.com>

Let's Bring the Felsen Cup Home

By Jamie Urlich '12

In some respects, this has been a successful decade for the sports teams of Friends' Central. If you are a member of either the swim team or the girls' tennis team, you dominated the 21st century thus far. Add two state championship basketball trophies to the equation, and you might think it was a good ten years to be a student athlete at FCS. Yet despite some successes, it has been an embarrassingly slow decade in terms of our rivalry with Germantown Friends School.

The competition between the FCS Phoenix and the GFS Tigers, in all varsity sports, resulting in the winning of The Felsen Cup, has been a one sided contest for the past ten years. The Felsen Cup became an official trophy in 1989 when David Felsen switched from teaching at GFS to being the headmaster at our school. Only twice this past decade has the Felsen Cup called our City Avenue campus home. Ever since 2002, FCS has failed to win the majority of the regular season varsity competitions.

Our seemingly successful

seasons can be attributed to the fact that GFS doesn't have swimming, boys' lacrosse or golf, and Friends' Central has housed successful teams in all three sports. Consequently, these sports account for almost 20 percent of the total championship programs in our school's history and have produced successful programs in the past ten years.

Yet the rivalry still doesn't seem so lop-sided. In boys' and girls' basketball, the most heavily attended sporting events on campus, Friends' Central has been the dominating power. For three years in a row the boys' basketball team has been to the league championship game, a game that Germantown hasn't played in since 1997 or won since 1989. The girls' basketball team at Germantown has enjoyed more success, but still hasn't won any league titles this decade. For the majority of FCS students who regularly attend the basketball games, the real rivals are Shipley and the Academy of the New Church. These two schools have been the stiffest competition in the league in

recent memory.

But on the other hand, if you run cross-country or play baseball, you know firsthand the powerhouse teams GFS has produced. This decade, GFS has captured nine of ten boys' cross country titles, eight of ten in girls' cross country, and six consecutive baseball crowns. Dominance in these sports, as well as consistent showings in others, has allowed the Tigers to own the Felsen cup in the 21st century.

In terms of championships, Friends' Central and Germantown Friends have the two most successful sports programs in Friends League history. The two have combined for 192 conference titles in league history, and it makes sense that the two would establish a rivalry. Unfortunately, as of late it has been all Germantown. Heading into this decade, Friends' Central led the Felsen Cup 5-4. However, at the close of the decade, FCS trails 13-7. Hopefully in the next decade we can re-establish our leading position.



Championships Over the Decade

Do you think you know how many times each varsity team has captured the Friends League title over the last 10 years? Put in your guesses, then read on to find out the actual answers!

Boys' Swimming—8 Girls' Tennis—6

Girls' Swimming—5 Boys' Basketball—3

Girls' Lacrosse—3 Softball—3

Golf—2 Girls' Soccer—2

Boys' Lacrosse—2 Boys' Soccer—1

Boys' Cross Country—1 Girls' Basketball—1

Girls' Cross Country—0 Water Polo—0

Wrestling—0 Baseball—0

Boys' Track and Field—0 Girls' Track and Field—0

Members of the *Focus* staff from the year 2000



*Keira Sultan –
My favorite food was "shushi" (I
still pronounced all my s's as sh's).*



*Ben Fogel –
Saving the world and drinking
chocolate milk, all before bedtime.*



*Jamie Ulrich –
Hey Arnold's #1 Fan.*



*Devon Kratchman –
I aspired to be a Disney Princess,
and many times attempted to fly
away on a magic carpet ride...but
failed miserably.*



*Daniel Banko –
I was addicted to Playmobil.*



*Arielle Fogel –
I was obsessed with Rocket Power
and when I wasn't watching
Nickelodeon, I was owning people
in Gogos*



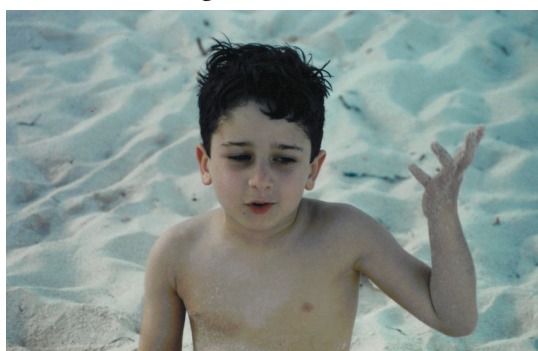
*Jordan Taffet –
I knew where to find every Dunkin Donuts and
Zany Brainy in Philadelphia.*



*Sami Resnik –
I loved the Wild Thornberrys.*



*Rebekah Ahn –
If I wasn't watching Rugrats I
was playing veterinarian with my
stuffed animals.*



*Benjy Yahalomi –
Questioning was my passion....still is today.*



*Matthew Karliner–
Stanley Cup here I come...*



*Madelena Rizzo –
Just call me the two-braids-
and-a-headband-every-single-
day girl!*

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