

F



CUS

# FOCUS Dedicates This Issue To Headmaster David M. Felsen

Special  
Issue  
2011

All about  
our teachers  
and staff at  
Friends'  
Central  
School.

## Farewell Good Friend, Mr. 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 '80's, 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recalls, visitors used to comment on the lackluster appearance of buildings on our City Avenue campus, which were outdated and in need of serious repairs.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

see Felsen on page 4



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

Courtesy of <http://friendscentral.org>

## Ciao! Mr. DelSoldo

By Daniel Yahalomi '14

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 role as an inspiring lower school Assistant Principal, 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. DelSoldo and Melanie Sachs '11

### What attracted you to first work at FCS?

In 1978 I was working for Head Start, a federally funded early childhood program for underprivileged kids. There were funding cuts and I was in danger of losing my job. A

see DelSoldo on page 2

## Mr. Davis Leaves on a High Note

By Keira Sultan '12

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

see Davis on page 2



# Faces In The Crowd: Staff Profiles

By Louis Lesser '11

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 a year 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.*

from Davis on page 1  
teacher at this school was good friends with the past Friends’ Central orchestra teacher, and recommended Mr. Davis. Mr. Davis explained to me how when he first started at Friends’ Central. He had a complete culture shock going from a lower public school to a private Quaker high school. However, it did not take him very long to feel comfortable. “I knew right away that it was the right match for me. Not every school is right for every teacher or student. I am so lucky to have found the place where I can be myself and espouse the music that I love with incredible colleagues

that have equally strong passions.” It is amazing to think about just how much Mr. Davis has accomplished in his time here as he has built up such an expansive, active, and committed high profile music program. When Mr. Davis first arrived at Friends’ Central there were no singing groups, only about 30 people in the chorus, one

LL: 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 you were 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,*

see Profiles on page 3

from DelSoldo on page 1

friend who was a teacher at Germantown Friends urged me to apply to a Friends school. I told her I was a great fan of public schools. She explained that Friends schools were about values, not privilege, and so I applied and got the job as kindergarten teacher.

What year did you arrive at FCS, and how was it different from today?

The school was much smaller, about 620 students in all 3 divisions. There was no PreK and only one kindergarten class. Fifth grade was part of Lower School, which was the largest division in the school. There was much less diversity. Middle School operated out of three buildings that no longer exist. Shallcross Hall hadn’t been built, and the kindergarten playground was where Shallcross now sits. Upper School students ate lunch in the basement of Lower School, which is now the Middle School. The Upper School Library was in the back of the Wood building where the Development Office is. Lots of changes over 32 years!

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 together since, and, if I say so myself, we are a great team! I will really miss him and our daily chats. I have also helped

with Admissions. What I have enjoyed the most, however, is teaching. I have loved teaching the psychology class in the Upper School. There is just nothing on earth like the feeling of a class successfully taught.

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.

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.

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.



Photo by Sonjay Singh '11

orchestra of both middle and upper school students, and a combined middle and highschool choral and orchestra concert that was only about 45 minutes long. Over the years he has helped to establish two music theory classes, over ten vocal groups, and separate vocal and orchestra concerts both spanning several hours. However,

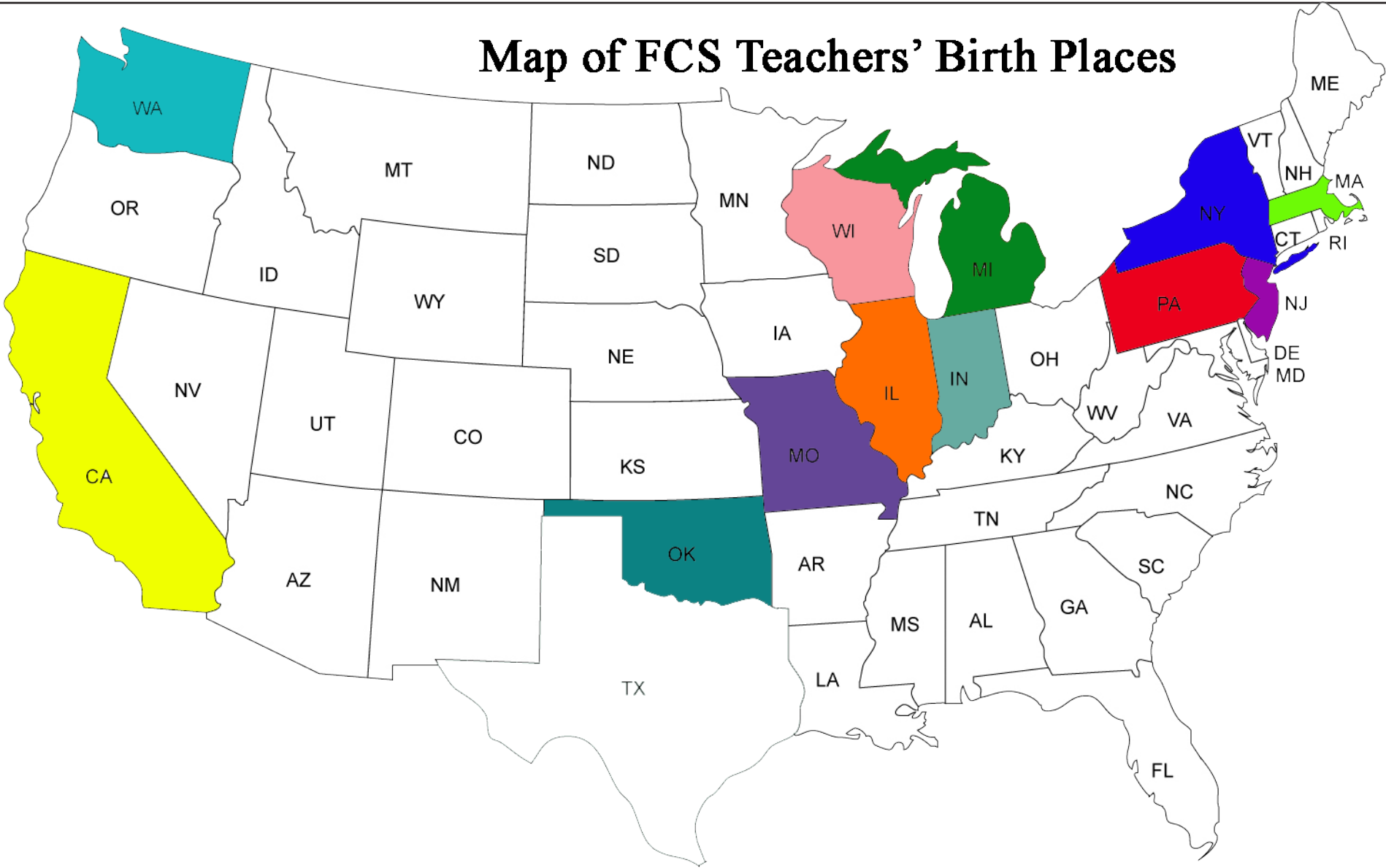
his contributions to the school are not limited solely to the music program. In 1988, Mr. Davis also helped to start up the Gay Sraight Alliance as a faculty advisor with Mr. Vernacchio.

What will Mr. Davis be doing 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 see Davis on page 8



## Map of FCS Teachers’ Birth Places



### Indiana

Michael Crauderueff ---- Elkhart  
Jim Rosengarten ---- Indianapolis  
Steve Patterson ---- Loogootee

### New Jersey

Deb Maraziti ---- Denville  
Scott Sheppard ---- Cherry Hill  
Colin Angevine ---- Montclair  
Bill Kennedy ---- Montclair  
Gary Nicolai ---- Passaic

### Other

Jim Davis ---- Seattle, Washington  
John Gruber ---- Detroit, Michigan  
Joel Dankoff ---- Boston, Massachusetts  
Terry Guerin ---- Chicago, Illinois  
Ed Soto ---- Levittown Lakes, Puerto Rico  
Alejandra Socorro ---- Venezuela  
Melinda Yin ---- Missouri  
Cristina Perez ---- Cali, Colombia  
William Darling ---- Oklahoma  
Tom MacFarlane ---- Montreal, Canada  
Jacqueline Gowen-Tolcott ---- Cuba  
Diego Luzuriaga ---- Ecuador

### Pennsylvania

Lisa Mansure ---- Bryn Mawr  
Mary Fran Torpey ---- Philadelphia  
Dottie Mazullo ---- Abington  
Lance Jones ---- Philadelphia  
Al Vernacchio ---- Philadelphia  
Megan Schumacher ---- York  
Louis DelSoldo ---- Philadelphia  
Robert Folwell ---- Philadelphia

Kazuo Uyehara ---- Philadelphia  
Kelley Graham ---- Philadelphia  
Erika Harnett ---- Philadelphia  
Josh Weisgrau ---- Narberth  
Carrie Brodsky ---- Philadelphia  
Holly McCloskey ---- Wilkes-Barre  
Brad Morris ---- Philadelphia  
Linda McConnell ---- Abington

### New York

Chris McCann ---- White Plains  
Keith Bradburd ---- New York  
Phyllis Gallagher ---- Brooklyn

Liza Ewen ---- Utica  
Marilyn Lager ---- New York

### California

Laurie Novo ---- San Francisco

Nina Morton ---- Los Altos

## Teachers Dine and Dash from Deli

By Hilda Njanike ‘13

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 him, 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.



Deb Maraziti



Liza Ewen

from **Profiles** on page 2 and also our neighborhood connections (Green Hill, Lankenau Hospital). Every other week I have a meeting with principals of all three divisions, as well as the aforementioned leaders of different departments, in order to discuss major issues, organize events such as in-service days, and also to plan for the year ahead: awarding Summer Stipends, renewing and/or restructuring contracts, etc. In the weeks when I don’t meet with this group, I meet with the Board of Trustees, who discuss Long Range Planning (the Vision 2020 program), the master plan for both campuses, marketing, and collecting task

force reports with me.  
LL: What does the Board of Trustees do?  
DF: *The Board is involved with nominating efforts* (the Board nominated Mr. Felsen as Headmaster), *and really oversee the overall policies of the school, helping me operate the school. They also assist in the realm of Finance: proposing budgets, Financial Aid and tuition prices, and they discuss maintenance of our campus.*  
LL: What do you enjoy doing outside of school? What should students know about you?  
DF: *I really enjoy storytelling, which many students can tell because I read “The Polar*  
see **Profiles** on page 8







# 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... kept coloring 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 waaaaay better to give out homework than 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 sweatpants to school and be comfortable all day. Now I have to wear a shirt and tie so visitors 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!



Mr. Polykoff ‘02 with his best friend Willie Frank ‘02 after their 2001 FSL championship win.

## 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.  
Dr. 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 the double yellow lines on the roadway are "optional"  
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.  
Ms. Morton...When store signs say "15 items or less"--and they really mean "15 items or fewer.", when people claim white chocolate is actually chocolate...so not true, I hate the way my favorite grading pens explode on airplanes, all over somebody's work. (As a science tutor, I feel obliged to note that the explosion occurs due to lower atmospheric pressure at that altitude, even in the pressurized plane cabin.), when I say "Haverford"...and people think I'm saying "Harvard."

## How Well Do You Know Your Teachers?

By Jordyn Karliner ‘14

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.
2. I am deathly afraid of lightning.
3. I am a practicing Buddhist.
4. I was almost killed by an elephant when I was five.
5. I am adopted.
6. Once I spent three days in total silence (not speaking).
7. I can read really fast.
8. I grew up in another country.
9. I dislike being in charge.
10. I love opera.
11. One of my hobbies is photographing flowers.
12. I was voted most valuable player on my college fencing team.
13. I can sing pretty well.
14. I still play Qbert on my Gameboy.
15. I was a radio DJ in college
16. I’ve jumped from an airplane.

- Erika Harnett \_\_\_\_\_  
Louis DeSoldo \_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Novo \_\_\_\_\_  
Al Vernacchio \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Rosengarten \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda McConnell \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Folwell \_\_\_\_\_  
Dottie Mazullo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Fran Torpey \_\_\_\_\_  
Liza Ewen \_\_\_\_\_  
Lance Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Mansure \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Crauderueff \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelley Graham \_\_\_\_\_  
William Darling \_\_\_\_\_

from Felsen on page 4

able to offer a broader and more competitive program. Mr. Bradburd, Director of Boys’ Athletics, spoke about Mr. Felsen’s devotion to our school: “David has been an extremely positive influence on the entire FCS community. His leadership style has been a wonderful fit for Friends’ Central School School. His care and concern for all areas of the School has kept Friends’ Central at the forefront of independent schools throughout the country. In particular, his support of our athletic program has allowed us to grow in many ways, but with his guidance I feel that we have always done it the right way. It has been my pleasure to have worked with David over the years, and I am thankful for having had that experience.”

Mr. Felsen spoke eloquently about our school’s athletic program. He said, “We have tried to continue the philosophy of the athletic department, which is to give young people a chance to play.

I think we have been less shy in gaining a certain achievement level, and in recognizing levels of individual achievement and group achievement, namely championships. I think there’s a broader program; the introduction of new sports, the enhanced facilities (Shimada, new tennis courts, new track), the explosion in female athletics. When the school rallies around an athletic team, and the house band plays, it helps create a certain type of spirit. But its not something exclusive to athletics. It’s the same feeling one gets when there’s a good play, concert, or the arts. That’s something I feel awfully good about these days.” At each Varsity Basketball game, Felsen stands out from the crowd, with his vocal and never-ending support for our squad. The Focus staff would like to send our best wishes to Mr. Felsen in his retirement! Thank you for your steadfast devotion to all that is Friends’ Central.



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



Picture courtesy of Michael Fires ‘11 / Photo taken from Philadelphia Inquirer

Focus is looking for staff writers, photographers, and anyone else interested in being part of the paper. For more information see Jamie Ulrich, Keira Sultan, Sami Resnik, Dr. P or Mrs. Lager.



# 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 decidedly 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. Ever 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 their. 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. Mazullo about how to deal with his rage against music. According to Ms. Mazullo "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 FCC. 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 math department 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,

with the excuse of a "doctor's appointment," or that his wife was "pregnant," or similar fabrications. I first took notice of these disappearances after a classmate pointed out McCann's striking resemblance to Braves catcher Brian McCann (no relation? coincidence? I think not). The most intriguing part about this connection was that McCann had left early that day for his annual "doctor's appointment," which happened to be the first day game for the Braves that year. After a while these no longer

seemed to be coincidences but conveniences for Mr. McCann. There were obvious connections between Mr. McCann and the Braves Brian McCann, but when Mr. McCann was confronted with these allegations all he had to say was "Bryan?" There is also speculation that Mr. McCann could indeed be the brother of Brian McCann, which would explain the similar looks, same last name, and a reason for Mr. McCann to attend as many Braves games as possible. With this myth in

question, I investigated to find out more about other possible connections to the sports world Mr. McCann might have. After geometry class in which we discussed the inclined slope of a mountain, I learned of Mr. McCann's love for skiing. For the first time it was revealed that Mr. McCann's love for the slopes; but during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, I was shocked to find out that I knew one of the contestants. A week prior to the start of the Olympics, Mr. McCann left school because he claimed his wife "was having a baby." Turns out, Mr. McCann was actually on the slopes and won the Bronze Medal in the Vancouver Olympics' Men Downhill competition, competing under the alias of

"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 heels, in an attempt to thwart and dispel 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.



Body Miller (left), Chris McCann (middle), and Brian McCann (right)



## 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 days. Our very own literature teacher is a former rugby all 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 Gaurde!" 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.



1974 Temple University Women's Fencing Team. Erika 'Doc' Harnett pictured, bottom right. Picture taken at 1974 NIWFA Championship at Cornell University.

## 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 it 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:** Conquer--now, that doesn't sound like a Quaker word. The next step is to continue educating the student athletes, parents and teachers. Specifically to help them understand that what we do here is not that extraordinary. However, I do realize that it might seem that way to someone who has never played sports before or been on a swim team. It's tough to get up before school and swim for two hours, or to practice over the holidays--but it is the standard. And the sooner we learn to embrace that notion, the sooner we will get to the next level.

**F:** What is a stand-out entertaining moment from your years of coaching?

**I:** Too many to cover in a student paper, but if I had to pick one--it might be Jordan Villars taking photos of his navel under the bleachers at Easterns with his smart phone and then studying the results for a very long time.

**F:** How has having FCA helped put Friends' Central Swimming on the map?

**I:** It has enabled us to interact with other schools/swimmers in the community and given us the practice opportunities to operate like a normal swim team.

**F:** What are your reflections on years spent at Friends' Central?

**I:** It has been challenging, educational and positive.

**F:** How have past experiences (prior to arriving at Friends' Central) shaped the way you coach?

**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.



# Teacher Top 10's

By Matthew Karliner '11 and Jordyn Karliner '14

## 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. Sushi
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-Counry
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
8. Philadelphia Union
9. Boston Celtics
10. Montreal Canadiens

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 alums. Outside of school, Mr. Davis plans on doing more composing, volunteering for the orchestra, traveling

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

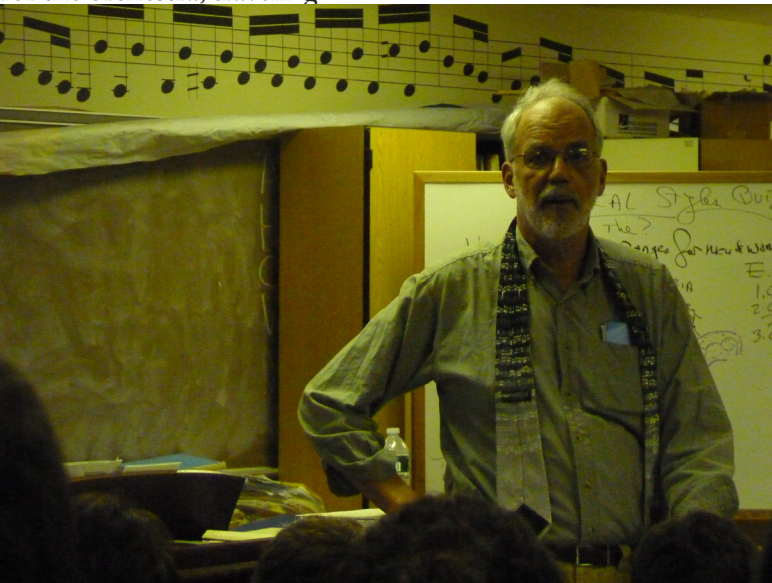


Photo by Sonjay Singh '11

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

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.



from Profiles on page 3 Express” every year, but my tales are never an attempt to sermonize, but rather to be personal. I have many life stories that I share, mostly from my own personal experience and those of my children, in order to let students know who I am and what I value. However, besides telling and reading stories, I enjoy playing golf, spending time with my family, gardening, and also taking recreational walks.

LL: What did you want to do when you were a kid? Did you always want to be involved with education?

DF: *When I was young, I grew up in a small town, and my Dad was the town doctor. Most people I knew thought I would follow in his footsteps, and for a while, I agreed with them. However, when I was taking classes at Haverford, I realized that being a doctor may not have been the best fit for my interests, teaching appealed to me and I’ve been in education ever since. I later learned from my mother that through it all, my dad had always thought of teaching to be a “fine profession.”*

Thanks to Mr. Wilkerson and Mr. Felsen. Be sure to say hi next time you see them on campus!

## 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, the company that Mr. Fedder worked with to design MyFCS and the Friends’ Central website. There, he will also be working to design and build systems like MyFCS, but for independent schools all over the country. So, as we bid 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

## FOCUS

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:  
MATTHEW KARLINER '11  
BENJAMIN YAHALOMI '11

NEWS EDITOR:  
SAMI RESNIK '12

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR:  
JACOB DAVIDSON '11

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:  
LOUIS LESSER '11

ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR  
KEIRA SULTAN '12

SPORTS EDITOR:  
JAMIE ULRICH '12

STAFF WRITERS:  
HANNAH ALBERTINE '12  
BEN FOGEL '13  
MAX GINSBERG '14  
WESLEY KAMINSKY '11  
JORDYN KARLINER '14  
JACK KORNBLATT '13  
HILDA NJANIKE '13  
OLIVER GOODMAN '13  
RACHEL GOODMAN '11  
DANIEL YAHALOMI '14

FACULTY ADVISORS:  
MARILYN LAGER  
STEVE PATTERSON

EMAIL:  
fcsfocus1845@gmail.com