

FOCUS

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Ch-ch-ch- Changes at FCS



By BEN FOGEL '13

What changes in the FCS community will await us when we return to school in the fall? As everyone knows by now, Mr. Felsen will be gone, and next year there will be an interim head of school chosen until a new, permanent head is appointed.

With Mr. Fedder's departure from the Technology Department another significant, yet mostly unknown change will affect FCS technology. Next year, Friends' Central students will no longer use the MyFCS system. The change is due to the departure of Mr. Fedder. As Mr. Fedder was responsible for programming MyFCS, should there be a problem in the wake of his departure, MyFCS could not be repaired. As Mr. Crowley put it, "It's a single point of failure." If something goes wrong, the whole system could fail without the help of its lead programmer.

Instead, Friends' Central will

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be using educational software called *Veracross* which is supported by a company full of computer engineers that will design and maintain the system. The switch will provide greater ease to the FCS community.

With the previous system, the Business Office, Admissions Department and the other faculty departments were separately added on the FCS server. Now with *Veracross*, they will all be on one database, which allows for easier communication, transactions and work among the different faculty

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Sheppard Flocks to Stardom

By JORDYN KARLINER '14

After working at Friends' Central for three years, Scott Sheppard, a highly regarded member of our community, is leaving to pursue a new career.

In the beginning of his time at FCS, Mr. Sheppard worked as a substitute teacher and later became a long-term sub while Ms. Perez was on maternity leave. Last year, Mr. Sheppard picked up an even heavier load as he taught two 9th grade lit classes and worked as an assistant in Development.

This year he is teaching one 9th grade class, as well as working in Communications. His responsibilities include assisting Rebecca Anderson, taking pictures, writing web and magazine articles, supplying content for the

school's social media outlets, and helping to catalogue sheet music left to the school.

In addition, Mr. Sheppard, who has a great interest in drama, has helped out in Mrs. Guerin's drama classes teaching improv. In fact, his love of drama has led him to his next step in departing our school. Starting next year, he will be attending a two-year program at Pig Iron's School for Advanced Performance Training, and also hopes to continue performing in The Groundswell Players Theatre Company.

Although Mr. Sheppard is extremely excited to partake in this adventure, there are many aspects of Friends' Central that he is going to miss. Along with his

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Friends' Central to be Price-less Next Year

By JAMIE ULRICH '12

Sadly, another member of our community is leaving us at the end of the year. Joel Price, FCS' Webmaster and Information Manager will not return to our school in the fall. Joel has had a tremendous impact on our community, as a coach and member of the technology and development office, and will be missed sorely.

Joel started at Friends' Central doing mostly data entry, helping to streamline our directory and emergency contact information. Joel has come to be the "voice" behind the school's Twitter account and Facebook profile. He has worked on the social media aspect of Friends' Central,

helping to promote our school and keep alumni and current members of the community up to date with what happens on our campus.

Before coming to Friends' Central, Joel was a full-time musician, but also had his teaching degree. Joel has graced us with his talent in many assemblies, bringing smiles to the faces of the Upper School students. Working in development and technology presented "a chance to do something in a school environment, because if I were in the classroom, I could not travel musically."

Joel is leaving us for a noble cause, as he will continue to work in the field of education. He is leav-

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Cool Senior Projects

By **JACK KORNBLATT ‘13**

Each year seniors head out into the “real” world to participate in all sorts of endeavors. Here is a sampling of some of their projects.

Mathew Karliner — working at the Main Line Media News laying out pages for Main Line Times, Main Line Suburban Life, King of Prussia Courier, and the Devon Horse Show Special Issue.

Dan Segall — working at Children’s Crisis Treatment Center (CcTC), a center focused on helping children and their families cope with the impact of behavioral health issues, traumatic events and other challenges that have an effect on childhood development. He is also learning to play classical and flamencan guitar.

Maggie Marks — hiking with her mother in Utah and working at the Astra Zeneca Hope Lodge, a facility that helps cancer patients.

Matt Fedder — working as an

office assistant in the Montgomery Court House with the District Attorney.

Jacob Davidson — assisting with the construction of several boats for the International Seaport Museum.

Katie Carpenter — volunteering at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge and the Schuylkill Center’s Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic.

Rachel Weissman — volunteering at several sites around Philadelphia, including SHARE food program, The Other Carpenter, and VITAS hospice care.

Sasha Mitts — working on an urban farm while learning about food impact and production. He is also meditating and engaging in psychonautic practices.

Benjamin Yahalomi — headquartering at the Municipal Services Building in Center City Philadelphia as an intern for Everett Gillison, the Deputy Mayor

for Public Safety. His responsibilities include assisting in outreach, fundraising, and organization for the Badges of Honor 5k Run. This run benefits the families of public safety employees killed in the line of duty and will take place this June 4th.

Ariel Parker — volunteering at Saunders Nursing Home for 4 hours a day. There, she will have one-on-one visits with the residents, assist with activities (such as BINGO), and help the recreational activities office in any way possible. Afterwards, for two hours, she will read books in the Blackburn Library that she has always wanted to read but has never had the time.

David DeLeon — restoring the volleyball courts at Glendale Park in Havertown. This involves fund raising, physical labor at the park, and other park cleanup tasks.

Katherine Roll — working on

a mosaic mural.

Drew Kopicki — photographing for the Montgomery County Fire Academy. This includes photographing HazMat drills, structural live-fire drills, and other aspects of emergency response.

Julia Feldbaum — mastering the art of Thai fruit carving. See her beautiful work on display in the Shallcross gallery. ❖



Julia Feldbaum’s Floral Watermelon

Headhunting for a Head of School

By **SAMI RESNIK ‘12**

It was a shock to many of us when Mr. David Felsen announced that this would be his last year as Headmaster of Friends’ Central. Who could ever replace the beloved Mr. Felsen? This question has been on the minds of students, faculty, administration, and parents alike. Don’t let your worries run away with you: a powerhouse search committee is working their hardest to find both an interim and a permanent head for our community.

This search committee includes Mr. Vernacchio, Ms. Dunnington, and Mrs. Fifer. Besides faculty, the search committee consists of five members from the Board of Trustees (which includes some FCS parents) and one member from the alumni committee. Each part of the FCS community is very well represented. Mr. Vernacchio makes it clear that “the committee wants to be able to express all the different community members’ needs.”

Being able to express these

needs, though, is a complicated process. The search committee just hired a search firm, which specializes in finding candidates for jobs in education. The committee interviewed a bunch of different companies, and the company they chose (Carney Sandoe) will look for both an interim head and permanent head. If the idea of using a search firm seems strange, it really is not.

By working together, the FCS search committee and the search firm will find the most qualified person to lead our school. Lest you think this search firm is not legitimate, they have spent three to four days at FCS getting a feel for our community and talking to various groups of the community. Hopefully, we have helped them

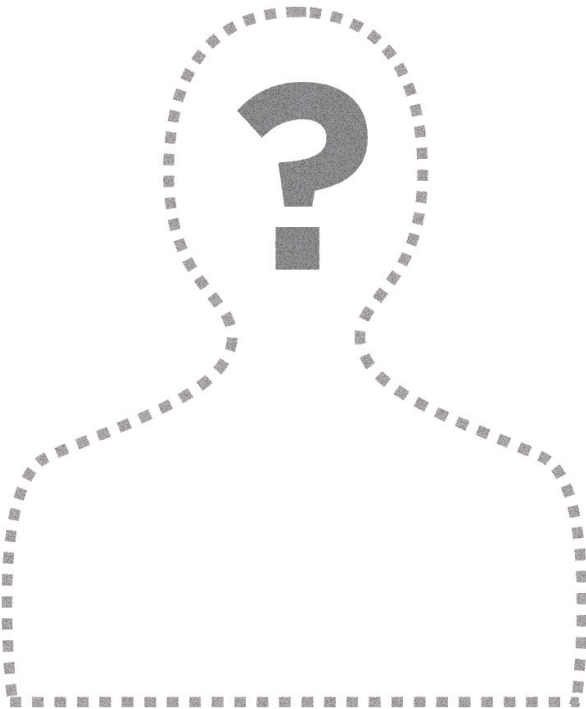
define what kind of place FCS is, and they will take that definition out to the world.

The process is definitely intensive, so what type of person does the school hope to find? Mr. Vernacchio expressed that they hope to find someone with Quaker experience or at least someone who understands the Quaker philosophy. Also important, a person with experience in a Kindergarten through 12th grade school and someone who can promote, raise funds, and as Mr. V said,

“be a guiding force for the entire school.” These qualities will definitely be crucial in finding an interim head, but especially for the permanent head.

Once the interim head is named, which the search committee hopes will be by the end of June or the start of July, the more expansive search for the permanent head begins. The permanent head of school will probably be named by the end of 2011. Mr. V. emphasizes that feedback is welcomed from anyone, especially students. He explains, “In both searches we want to involve as many facets of the community. We want the process to be transparent; anybody can ask questions.”

So, the Friends’ Central community can rest assured that the search for an interim and permanent head is being taken care of thoroughly and expertly. Mr. Felsen may be leaving, but the search committee is guaranteed to find our community a head who will guide our school in the best possible way. ❖



From Sheppard on Page 1

interactions with students and teachers, he will also miss Meeting for Worship, Service Days, and the Wood Building.

Mr. Sheppard expressed that while he has countless great memories of Friends' Central, one of his fondest is the final candlelit scene in the FCS performance of Romeo and Juliet. He was so pleased to see how all the students helped make the performance great.

When asked how Friends' Central has changed him as a person, Mr. Sheppard responded, "Before FCS I had never worked at a place where the boss asked me, 'What do you want to get out of this place?' It made me realize, as I began to ponder that question, that people perform at their best when they care deeply about the work they are doing. Understanding this perspective made me

want to pursue my artistic passions more seriously." Added Mr. Sheppard, "In the words of David Felsen, 'I know that I will always be for FCS.'"

We will all miss Mr. Sheppard and wish him the best in his future endeavors. ❖



Nonpareils Joel Price and Scott Sheppard [Photo by Price]

Bon Voyage, Veaseys!

By HILDA NJANIKE '13

Sadly, the Friends' Central campus is going to be lacking a bit of spirit next fall. The Veasey twins, Carlen and Campbell, are heading off to Lyon, France, for some extreme adventures: French public school, French culture, and, no doubt, French girls (ooh la la). Since both take Spanish, and both voice concern over speaking French, most of their summer will be dedicated to working with a French tutor and probably a thick helping of "Rosetta Stone."

Now you might be wondering, why all of a sudden a move to France? Their mother, a doctor at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, is going on sabbatical and decided upon this trip. Though Campbell admits that the

most French thing about him is his hungering for a good baguette occasionally, he will be excited to have Germany, Spain and other exotic places a few hours train ride away. Carlen, after pondering for a moment, found his interest in architecture to be his biggest link to France; it's one of the many things he is excited to learn about and see there. He also admitted that although he is looking forward to the trip, lacrosse is one thing he will have trouble parting with.

A slightly comic damper on the trip is that Campbell and Carlen's five-month stay in Europe may force them to repeat junior year once they return back to our community, which they promise to miss very much. ❖



From Joel Price on Page 1

ing to work for a start-up gaming company, where his best friend Matt Murphy (former teacher at Friends' Central) is currently employed. (Matt works in San Francisco, but Joel will work from Philadelphia, making occasional

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departments. For example, it will be possible to pay bills online, which was not possible with the previous system.

Veracross also opens the door for many new possibilities for Friends' Central. With the new system, it will be possible to have a grade-tracking system and other useful tools for the community. While there are no promises yet for tracking grades and other such helpful items through Veracross, the switch to Veracross will be a significant and beneficial change for FCS.

Finally, the most anticipated change for the upcoming school year will be the change in the Upper School schedule. The 2011-12 school year will be the pilot year for the new schedule, and if all goes well it could become FCS' permanent schedule. For quite some time, the faculty and deans have been discussing and debating what the new schedule will look like next year.

"The driving reason for the change," explained Ms. Novo, "is that science labs cannot be scheduled in our old format. Stress reduction is also very important, and we're excited about a schedule that might make everyone's day a

California visits.)

His first project at the company will be to develop a game to help promote financial literacy in students. "Ninety-five percent of students are financially illiterate coming out of high school," said Price. Financially illiterate includes not knowing how to balance a check book or deal with a bank account. This new job represents a chance to help young people across the globe, while Joel gets to work with Matt Murphy, the best man at his wedding. In losing Joel, the community is losing one of its most welcoming and kind members, as well as a talented Webmaster. ❖

little smoother, but we wouldn't have made the change in this way at this time if the schedule still worked." As we know, there were many flaws in the old schedule, including this year in which a freshman Foundations class had to schedule its lab during lunch. Ms. Novo put it best when she said "It really doesn't work."

Next year there will still be 10 blocks in a day (7 of them being class blocks) and no daily rotation (meaning each week the schedule will remain the same). The new schedule will also include double blocks. A new block will be added to the schedule next year: the "Vocal / Clubs / Extra Help / Dept Mtg" block. This block is the time where vocal groups (which usually meet after school or during the day), clubs and extra-help groups (such as the writing lab, math lab, science lab, etc.) will have the opportunity to meet.

P.E. will be scheduled when a student has a double free block or a study hall,. While double blocks are not perfect, the time will be very useful to those classes that need the extra time to have a long lecture, project or lab. When talking with Ms. Novo, she explained that having a class twice in a

Phoenix in the Phast Lane & Artist in the Spotlight

By MAX GINSBERG ‘14 and KEIRA SULTAN ‘12

Malique Killing — Track



Photo by Adam Segall ‘14

As all of us watched the boys’ basketball team hold onto their title of champions in the Friends League and win the state championship for the third year in a row, we were amazed at the speed and agility of senior guard Malique Killing. Malique, already set to play basketball for Muhlenberg, decided to run track this spring for the Phoenix and has made some serious noise.

Participating in multiple events, his skills as an athlete are off the charts. This was echoed by coach Keenan Willis who explained, “He’s an athlete, as versatile as they come. What he lacks in height, he makes up for in desire, intelligence and effort. His best

asset is his refusal to fail.”

At the meet against Episcopal and Germantown Academies, Malique took home three first place finishes. At the prestigious Henderson invitational, Malique earned third place in the high jump at 21’6,” and got fourth in the 100-meter sprint with an astounding time of 11.2 seconds. He was also a key member in the renowned Penn relays when he ran in a team with Nate Willis (‘13), Dan Segall (‘11) and Alex Sheltzer (‘11). They ran a season’s best, finishing the 4 X 400 meter in 3:34.04. After seeing this, Muhlenberg couldn’t resist and now Malique will likely run for them next spring. ♦

Matt Block

Have you ever watched a film and thought about what the creation of it exactly entails? Mav Block (11’), certainly has. In fact, he will be discovering these answers for the next four years as he attends NYU’s film school, Tisch. But before he embarks on this next step of his life, Mav has already begun finding the answers to these questions on his own as he continues to work on a self-written, directed, produced, and edited film titled “The Red Sprite” for his senior project.

When I asked Mav what the film was about, he sighed and smiled, struggling to condense its entirety into a several sentence description. He finally settled upon the most basic summary of the film as one about a girl in a drug enticed dream world who searches for her heart after she loses it both literally and metaphorically. When asked what was one of the best things about working on this particular film, he said, “The cool thing about this project is that since it is set in a dream world I was able to explore different video effects, and create an overall vision that is not possible with ordinary shooting.”

However, filming and editing is certainly no walk in the park. Mav explained that since you are trying to create an illusion of continuity in a film, you can be shooting a scene that lasts a minute for several hours because you must ensure that lighting, actors, props, etc. are all in the same place. So what will Mav be doing with this film once his hard work is finally complete? Although the film won’t be completed until mid June, there will be a scene from it in the senior project screening.

In addition, depending upon his overall satisfaction



with its end result, Mav may submit it to several short film festivals. He also definitely plans on putting the film online, so make sure to check out the website Vimeo this summer if you want to get a look at the full film. We wish Mav the best of luck with finishing up his movie and hope he has an amazing experience as he continues to broaden and explore his love of film when he leaves for school in the fall! ♦

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day does not mean two times the homework. The point of the double block is to have one fewer class a day. This will cut down the anxiety for the students doing homework.

She also mentioned that teachers will attempt to do different things during the classes to try and break up the 80 minute period. Multimedia, presentations, small group work and other approaches to a long class block could help move along the class and prevent the feeling of a never-ending Spanish lecture, lit discussion, or history lesson. An important part to this change is that it may not be permanent. The flex-

ibility in the administration will allow the schedule to be altered in upcoming years to perfect the Upper School’s schedule.

With next year still months away, there are still possible changes yet to be made, but the teachers and deans have a good idea about how things will run. With so many changes, students and teachers alike cannot help but wonder, how will it work? Although the new changes may sound intimidating now, in September, FCS will still be FCS, with the same Meeting for Worship, the same students, and the same devoted teachers and staff who all make the FCS community a welcoming and caring place. ♦

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