

FOCUS

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The Search Heats Up



By KATE FORREST '14

As the school year progresses, many of you are wondering: will Mrs. Hoffman remain our head of school? Will her one-year turn into several? The answer is no. Mrs. Hoffman made it very clear from the start that she was only going to be head for one year because she came out of retirement for this job and wants to spend more time with her family and newly born grandson. So who will be the new head? Mr. Vernacchio and his search teams have narrowed it down to a group of semifinalists and are very confident with their decisions as you will see below in the following interview that I conducted with Mr. V.

Focus: Do you see a new Friends' Central headmaster in the group of candidates?

Mr. V: Yes. Within the group, all of them have potential. Each semi-finalist brings something new and different to the table. We just recently met with the last semi-finalist and will soon make a decision on which of the candidates will move on to the next round and become a finalist.

FC: Are the candidates all similar? Or extremely different?

V: They are all very different. They have a wide range of experience. Some are current heads of schools, and for some of them, the next logical step in their career is to become a head of school. Some of the candidates are Quaker, and others are not. They are diverse racially and are mixed in gender. But what is similar about all of them is that they all have the skills and qualities that would make them a successful head of school. Due to the fact that they are all so qualified, what determines which of them will be the new head is what their unique skills are and whose match up with what we need most right now. We are especially looking for someone who can help us with problematic areas.

FC: In your opinion, what is the most important thing a candidate must have/be?

V: Even though all of the candidates are not Quaker, I believe that they all must at least have a good understanding of Quaker education and spiritual dimension. The candidates who are not as educated about Quaker values all bring something else to the table that makes up for that. They must also have a uni-

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Frenchie Friends

By JULIA BARR '15
and ANNA SORENSEN '15

It's great! I don't want to go home!" That's how Arthur, along with Antoine, Anizee, Clara, and Delphine, some of the 23 students from Lyon, France, felt about their stay in Philadelphia. After some six years of studying English, they were finally able to travel to America to experience a different culture and live as a part of it.

Coming from an internation-

al school of 250 students per grade, Friends' Central was already a dramatically different school experience. At home in Lyon, school is, "big, gray, dreary, and cold." However, despite the dismal description, all of the exchange students agreed that school is not all bad; there are lots of fun aspects in their school year, such as the concert that takes place at the beginning of every season, in which all of the students can participate. In France, the grade structure is somewhat different; middle

school is from 6th to 9th grade and high school is the remaining three years. Their school day starts at 8:00am and ends at 5:30pm. Here in Philadelphia, the French exchange stu-

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YAC Yaps Back

By PETER DISSINGER '14

On November 9th, 2011, the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) hosted "Talking Back" where a panel of teenagers (including me) answered questions about stress, drugs and alcohol. The goal of this event was to give parents a teenager's perspective on high school issues so that they could better communicate with their own children. The discussion was a huge success, but could not have taken place without the Coalition of the Main Line's support.

In 1999, directly after the massacre at Columbine, the Coalition of the Main Line was founded to prevent such a disaster from happening in our area. The Coalition began administering surveys to detect areas of concern for the teenagers on the Main Line and created many youth programs. In 2009, the Coalition created the YAC so that they could have firsthand advice on the issues that they were addressing. For the third time in 2010, the Coalition sponsored a survey



[Left to Right]: Haley Banks (Shipley)
Haydn Hornstein-Platt (Lower Merion),
Jaslyn McIntosh (Baldwin),
Peter Dissinger (Friends' Central)

for 8th, 10th and 12th graders (which some Friends' Central students took last year). They asked YAC to respond to the survey results in a public discussion.

The survey that the Coalition used was called the Student Support Card. It stresses the importance of having exter-

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The Next Big Thing?

By NOAH SILVESTRY ‘15

While they may be “Anonymous,” it has become well known that Andrew “Krispy” Feldman, Andrew Vickery and Thor Kimmell are talented student artists who have found a way to create a business through their work. The three students have been creating street art for two years, and began printing clothing over the summer when they took a screen printing class at the Academy of Fine Arts. Their name, “Anonymous Mad Villainy,” has no real significance; it was chosen simply because they had been including the word “Anonymous” in their street art, and the last two words, “Mad Villainy,” seemed to add an atmosphere to the name.

One might ask, “How is their clothing created?” The production process starts with the design. There are two types of processes used for the conception of their clothing. Designs are either created on the computer or drawn from hand, and the ideas are created either individually or through a collective process. After the artists have determined an appropriate design for a line of clothing, they then begin the printing process. “You don’t need a huge facility to

make shirts and stuff either, we have a pretty basic setup in my basement,” says Krispy. The method that the company uses is called “Photo Emulsion Screen Printing.” Designs are put on transparency sheets and then exposed to a high exposure bulb. After that the screens are washed out and a vivid design ap-



Andrew “Krispy” Feldman, Andrew Vickery, Thor Kimmell

pears. They gained their knowledge of printing from a variety of sources ranging from classes to online instructional videos. After a lot of practice, the process can be mastered, but it takes true natural talent to have the creativity to make their work as unique as it is.

After taking the screen printing class over the summer, Krispy began printing t-shirts on his own, and when Andrew and Thor joined him, their productivity increased drastically. It was Andrew Vickery who originally proposed marketing their passion. They figured that collaboration on artwork

in the past had been successful, and it was just as well that they participated together in the production and sale of clothing. They have also been taking classes with Candy Depew, another local screen printing artist. Their designs, for the most part, resemble a lot of the street art work they had done in the past. Clothing, for them, is what they can use to express themselves, and earn some well deserved money in the process.

The difference between a good company and a great one is the creativity that can be derived from their inspirations. Obviously, their work is influenced by street art, but each individual brings his own ideas and point of view to each piece of clothing produced. “My inspiration for my work is to make art that’s unconventional and surreal but at the same time makes sense to [the viewer].” Krispy continues, “I take a lot of inspiration from comic books and cartoons as well as other artists in the Philadelphia street art scene, whether

it is someone with whom I draw outside of my close friends, or someone whose work I highly respect.” Another point of inspiration is the culture of skateboarding. “All of the designs I make are inspired by skateboarding clothing and the whole culture in general. When making clothing I get inspiration from other companies, such as Mishka, Diamond Supply and LRG.” says Andrew. All three artists agree that other artists’ work, clothing designed by esteemed brands, and the culture of action sports, are significant reference points for their products. “My inspiration is artists who make a statement. Artists who redefine what it is to be ‘cool’” Thor says.

Due to their tireless effort, Anonymous Mad Villainy is off to a good start. Krispy says they “have a lot of recognition now just from selling clothes to people.” The company is beginning to make a name for itself by selling clothes in Old City Philadelphia on the first Friday of each month. Of course, they will continue to design and produce clothing, and will be hosting release shows to aid this process. “We have big things planned, and it looks like they are going to happen for us.” ❖

#TWC

By OLIVER GOODMAN ‘13

The library was as quiet as a Monday morning block one class. [#Simile](#). I snuck behind the front desk and crouched outside Ms. Torpey’s new office. I took my blue vuvuzuela out of my swim bag, picked it up, and blew. [#Prank](#). It felt as if the entire library shook with the sound wave. [#Loud](#). Ms. Torpey screamed and immediately pulled me into her office and shut the door. [#Trouble](#). I gulped. She glared at me, “Oliver, I need to tell you something. Can you keep a secret?”

I replied honestly with, “No. Don’t tell me a secret, I can’t keep anything secret. Haven’t you heard about Marielle’s tail?” However, in that instant my mind raced with all the fascinating secrets that a librarian might have. “Wait! I changed my mind, I’m great at keeping secrets!” Was that too superfluous an answer? [#Vocabulary](#)

She sighed, “Very well. I’m pregnant.” [#Pregnant](#) [#HoldUpWoahDar](#)

I immediately had a vast amount of questions, “You’re with child? When can I meet it? Will its name be Oliver?”

“Yes. March. And no.”

Ms. Torpey, I wish you a cauldron ([#Halloween](#)) of luck as you set out on your adventure of motherhood. I hope your offspring will be friends with the new baby of Ms. Ewen. [#Welcome](#)

- [@SooGoodMan](#) ❖

Le Voyage Des Veaseys

By EMILIA WEINBERG ‘14

As the beginning of the school year approached, the members of the Friends’ Central community journeyed to their neighborhood Staples to buy school supplies. However, the Veaseys’ journey took them much farther—all the way to France! They will be spending the entire year experiencing the culture (and probably the great food!) of Southern France. I caught up with Campbell to see what their trip has been like so far. Here’s what he said:

“For the past month or so, we Veaseys have been living in Aix-en-Provence; a sunny, quiet town in the south of France. Where do I begin to describe it? Aix is an amazing place. Similar enough to Philadelphia that one would not start to miss the U.S. in terms of school, and basic infrastructure, but with a completely new culture that gives one a brand-new perspective on pretty much anything. I’ve been out of the country before, but to get the opportunity to live like French kids, to see Europe from their eyes as opposed to a tourist with a camera and a fanny pack—well that’s a different experience completely. By now we’ve formulated a daily routine during the week that consistently holds these things: French class (two to four hours a day of pure French, it’s a great program), squash (of course we found squash.), and downtime together in the evenings. The last is my fa-

vorite. We’re living in a nice apartment in center city, rented to us by a Professor friend of my Mom’s, with a great view of one of the city’s larger streets. On the weekends, and sometimes during the week (we’ll soak up this truancy for all its worth), our family heads out on a trip, usually by TGV (high speed rail), to different places throughout the country and continent. Still up on our list: a weekend trip to northern Italy and Spain, a long weekend in Paris, and a week-long road trip to Sweden through Western Europe! Can’t wait to see everyone back home, but in the meantime, we’re perfectly happy

here. Pour les parleurs de Français: Avant notre arrivée, nous n’avons pas pu parler cette langue. Un ou deux phrases, peut-être. C’est incroyable a quelle vitesse on peut apprendre une langue si on habite ou tout le monde parle cette langue. Je ne suis pas courament... en fait, ma Française est horrible maintenant! Mais je suis en train de apprendre, et j’ai un mois plus ici. Avec un peu de chance, je parlerai décemment!”

To learn more about their trip, visit Campbell’s blog at [lessonsofayear-abroad.blogspot.com](#) ❖



Carlen, left; Campbell, right

Philly Phailures

By JACK KORNBLATT ‘13

If ever there was a perfect example of the phrase “misery loves company,” it would be Philadelphia. For in no other city is there such a common bond of discontent. What is the reason for this, you may ask? Sports. Sports is a topic which, no matter what, is ever successful in rendering any fan of Philadelphia athletics a sad and despondent person. Whether it be the recent horrendous play of the 76ers, the playoff difficulty of the Flyers, the decades of disappointment of the Eagles, or the over 10,000 losses of the Phillies--the most of any team in the MLB--there is no denying that it truly sucks to be a Philly fan. This, as a result, has lead to the city of brotherly love developing the ironic

reputation of having the worst fan base in any sport. Contrary to popular belief, however, the discontent arises not from anger over lack of wins, but rather because of teams failing to play to their full potential.

For Philly fans, being family beaten is sad, but acceptable. Unfortunately, these teams almost never seem to lose nobly. Instead, we lose because we do not rise to the challenge. When the Phillies have a lineup consisting of fantastic hitters, and they lose a game one to nothing: that is what bothers us. When the Eagles lose a game because their kicker missed three field goals, that is what gets to us. That is what it means to love these teams. It means to watch all year round and see game after game of

athletic shortcomings. So, with all this in mind, it isn’t hard to see why it is so terrible to be a Philadelphia sports fan. At the same time, though, we can also be the greatest fans. Such is the case for people like Roy Halladay, Michael Vick, or Chris Pronger--people who put their heart and soul into every second of every game. We treat them as gods and celebrate all that they do for us, for they are the individuals we can trust, the ones that come up big. Unfortunately, it seems these kinds of players are often in short supply and thus the prevailing attitude becomes one of discontent. To be successful here is to do your job. To be unsuccessful is to fail at your job, something which neither Philly fans nor the world enjoys. ❖

From **YAC** on Page 1

nal and internal assets, such as loving and caring parents and academic motivation. The final results are given in a list of 40 assets. On average, Main Line students had 21.5 out of 40 assets compared to the national average of 18.5, which is good news. Of course, there were some negative results; over 52 percent of high school students had used alcohol in the past thirty days. 25 percent got in a car with a drunk driver once in the past year. The scariest statistic was that only 37 percent of the surveyed students felt like they were able to ask their parents for advice, which is the main reason why “Talking Back” was created.

During the discussion, we commented on and attempted to give solutions to lower the survey’s negative statistics. Having parents introduce the concept of alcohol and drugs at an earlier age and encouraging safer and more responsible experimenting was one solution we gave to the drinking and smoking problem. We also created a variety of solutions for what to do instead of getting in a car with someone who is drunk. Most notably, one solution is a new program called “Make the Call, Take the Call” in which teenagers have a parent or guardian that they can call who will pick them up in any situation, not ask questions (until the next morning), and get them home safely. Also, we each gave examples of ways that we reduce our stress levels (instead of drinking), like playing music and running. For parents, we suggested that if they were more open about their experiences as teens and were not overly strict with their kids, they would see an improvement in communication. ❖

From **French Exchange** on Page 1

dents enjoyed school at Friends’ Central, and felt a strong sense of community.

Part of the exchange experience was staying with a host family. “The parents were great, the cooking was great, the people are great.” Their favorite foods? Yapple yogurt, Philly cheesesteaks, and hamburgers. With their host family, they visited many popular tourist sights in Philadelphia, including the Kimmel Center, Independence Hall, Love Park, and the Philadelphia Art Museum. For Antoine, the art museum was particularly special, because of the famous Rocky steps, something he had dreamed of climbing since age 6.

All together, Arthur, Antoine, Anizee, Clara, and Delphine know that the memories from their stay in Philadelphia will be treasured always. This spring, some of our FCS students will be traveling to France, where hopefully an equally exciting and unforgettable experience awaits them. ❖

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Mike and Melinda

By HILDA NJANIKE ‘13

There was more to discuss than I ever imagined about the names of Melinda Yin, Upper School Biology teacher, and Michael Craudereuff, an upper school teacher of Spanish, Quakerism and Peace studies. The conversations I had with Mike and Melinda varied in nature since each teacher had a slight difference in ideology, though each revealed something deeper in what a name is personally, compared to what it portrays to the community at large.

Mike’s request to be called by his first name was a result of him assuming his Quaker identity to the world and taking responsibility to exercise the principles of his faith. These principles are

Truth, Simplicity and Equality which the original Quakers felt titles jeopardized; creating hierarchy, existing as mere decoration, and an artificial form of respect. Though both Melinda and Mike considered using their first names when beginning their careers here at Friends’ Central, they have not felt comfortable enough until recently.

When Melinda started her career



Photo by Marielle Greenblatt

here at Friends’ Central, she looked younger than her age and was mistaken for a student more than a few times. Therefore, she felt the title “Dr. Yin”

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Welcome Santiago!

By EMMA XU ‘14

Two weeks ago, surprising news spread across the FCS community: Ms. Ewen is a mom.. The 10th and 11th grade literature teacher, Liza Ewen, and her partner Sandra Rodriguez, finally met their son in New Jersey. They named him Santiago Franco Ewen-Rodriguez, after a whole year of the adopting process. Right now, they are back in Philly. I am very excited and honored to have this opportunity to interview Ms. Ewen via Skype. Ms. Ewen explained to me how she felt being a mother, where Santiago’s name came from, and about future plans.

Focus: I know this is your first baby. What is the feeling of having a little life in your hand and loving and caring for him?

Ewen: Santiago is really cute. It’s an amazing feeling. Nothing else could feel the same. I have never experienced this feeling before. People who have kids

always tell me about it but it’s different when you actually experience it. It feels really good.

F: After adopting Santiago, what is the atmosphere in your family like?

E: As to my family, they are very excited. Santiago is their first grandchild. They called in New Jersey but they haven’t called yet since we’ve been back to Philadelphia. We have just talked through Skype, and they are really happy to see Santiago. My partner’s family is also very excited. Although they already have lots of grandchildren, they still give a lot of love to Santiago. They really care about this baby. They are in Costa Rica right now but they are hoping to meet him soon.

F: Why did you name him Santiago Franco Ewen-Rodriguez?

E: People always ask this and hope to hear a good story. Over the past summer, we travelled in Guatemala and stayed over at a friend’s house. There was this young man who was a garden-

er named Santiago. He has an amazing story, and we were very impressed. Sandra and I had thought about many girls’ names but after we heard the news that we were adopting a young boy, we were excited to name him Santiago. Santiago’s birth mom chose Franco as his middle name. It means a lot to us. He can decide to be called by Santiago or Franco when he grows up. We gave him both of our family names.

F: I heard that you are taking off the entire year of school. Are there any further plans before coming back to school?

E: It’s important to take off the entire year and to be with Santiago. It wasn’t an easy decision to make. We made it during the past summer. We had no clue at all about when the baby would come to us. So we decided in advance to both get away from school for one year when we adopted. We really want to have kids and it has been a long process.

Fall’s Hottest New Show

By **CHIARA NEILSON ‘14**

“Remember the fairy tales your parents used to tell you before bedtime? Well, those weren’t stories, they were warnings.” Fairytales come to life in NBC’s new fall show “Grimm,” which premiered on Friday, October 28th at 9 P.M. It follows a detective, Nick, who discovers that fairytales are real and that he can see the creatures from the stories in their true forms because he is a Grimm. The monsters reveal themselves to Grimms, but to the average person, the beasts appear human.

Not only did I want to watch this show because it explored the interesting, new idea of fairytales in reality, but I was also excited to see it because my uncle, Silas Weir Mitchell, landed a major role on the show. He plays a reformed “big-bad wolf” named Monroe and provides Nick with proof of the “fantasy” world and aids him in his quest to defeat monsters. Silas told me that when he found out NBC had picked up the show, “It knocked my socks off! I couldn’t believe it...it was honestly a dream come true.” Before Grimm, he had been a guest on many shows including “Prison Break” and “My Name is Earl,” but this

is by far his most exciting role yet. I interviewed Silas about this new hit show and also his acting career.



Silas Weir Mitchell

Focus: How did you know you wanted to be an actor?

Silas Weir Mitchell: When I first started acting I was in third grade and I did Hansel and Gretel. And I really liked it and I kept doing it all throughout my school years, but I didn’t know I wanted to be an actor until...I don’t know...in high school. That’s when I really started thinking seriously about it.

F: How did you land this role? Did

you audition for Monroe initially?

SWM: I got this job because one of the two guys that created the show, (David Greenwalt and Jim Kouf), wrote and directed one of his own scripts a few years ago that I was in...and we kind of hit it off. So then when David brought Jim on to help write Grimm, Jim thought of me for the part of Monroe, and I auditioned and then I

got it.

F: Is this show different from other shows you have done before?

SWM: Well the special effects are definitely somewhat new to me. They use some animation and some makeup... you will see in future episodes when they use prosthetics and animation mixed together, it looks so much better. When it’s only computer graphics, there is always kind of a phony quality to it...

and we have a really great makeup guy.

F: What’s your favorite role you have ever played?

SWM: Probably this one!

F: Do you have an actor/director that you respect?

SWM: I’ve had a lot of really good teachers in my life. And there are people whose work I have always admired. I never really had any mentors, just always good teachers.

F: What advice would you give to young aspiring actors before they audition?

SWM: If you are really really prepared, and that means that if the story is really really real to you... [to achieve this] you need to use your imagination and spend time on it. It would be bad if you didn’t get nervous. The only reason you get nervous is because it means something to you and that is a good thing. But the more real the story is to you the less nervous you’ll be because as soon as you feel nerves, you replace the nerves with the story...if you believe it everyone else will believe it.

Tune into Grimm on NBC: Fridays at 9. ❖

From **Ewen** on Page 3

It’s silly to stay for just a few months with him and then get back to school. The hardest thing is leaving the classes. I have great classes, and I was just getting used to the new schedule. We were having a great time, and I miss all the students.

F: How long was the adopting process?

E: About a year ago we decided that we wanted to adopt an infant. We spent a month or so asking and doing research about adopting agencies. We found Open Arms which is a small adopting agency in Philly. It’s important that it was small and local. We felt really good. Last October, we did a lot of studies, paper work, and writing about ourselves. We finished in June. What we did is called an

Open Adoption, meaning that the birth parents and the adoptive parents can get together and actually meet one another. Santiago will grow up and have a chance to know his birth parents.

F: What are your future plans?

E: My life will be focused on Santiago. To watch him grow up. And I will be spending more time with my partner Sandra and my parents. I am hoping that when Santiago is napping, I could do some reading and writing. These are things that I usually get to do during summer, and now I could do it more often. This year is going to be about my family and relaxing time.

It was really great to have this conversation with Ms. Ewen and get to know more about her lovely baby. They will be having a great year together! ❖

From **Head of School** on Page 1

fied sense of the school and our curriculum.

FC: Who is working with you in determining the new head?

V: The entire community. There are many different groups working to determine the new head. The main group, the search committee, is made up of 9 people: 3 faculty members, 5 board members and 1 alumnus. Some others are the Board of Trustees, faculty support groups, student support groups, alumni support groups and parent support groups. All of these groups have an

equal say, except the Board of Trustees makes the final decision. Although the board decides in the end, their decision is based on whom the support groups said would best fit the school and our community.

Even though you may be disappointed that Mrs. Hoffman will not remain a permanent part of our community, she is committed to working with the new head and helping whenever he/she needs support. The search committee is making sure that the person who replaces Mrs. Hoffman will be the best fit for our school and our needs. ❖

Meet Jacob Fogel

By **BEN FOGEL ‘13**

This week I had the pleasure of meeting with FCS’s new Upper School wrestling Coach Jacob Fogel. Jacob, or Jake, recently graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio. Before college, he was a Friends’ Central lifer, attending Friends’ Central from kindergarten to 12th grade, graduating in the class of ‘06.

During Jake’s time at Friends Cen-

tral, he was very active within the FCS community. Jake joined many vocal groups, played the piano in jazz band and percussion in orchestra. When it came to athletics, Jake was a prime member of the water polo team as well as the wrestling team. Jake recalled that one of his favorite classes at FCS was calculus with Mr. Darling, even if he got strange looks when he told his friends his favorite class was advanced calculus. Jake has many memories of

other classes at Friends’ Central, including Mr. Gruber’s botany class and his time with Mr. Ross.

At Oberlin, Jake continued his athletic and musical careers as well as his academic one. Jake tried two new sports in college, playing Defensive Tackle for Oberlin’s football team as well as throwing shot put and javelin, among others, for Oberlin’s track



Photo by Bobir Atkhanov

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Lean on Me

By ISABEL NARDI ‘14

This fall, during one of our first assemblies, our school’s psychologist, Dr. Juliet Sternberg, introduced herself to students to explain what she offers at FCS. I had the chance to find out a little more about her and what she does here. Dr. Sternberg, who is in her 8th year at FCS, explained that it took her a long time to figure out the right profession for her. It wasn’t until after college that she discovered clinical psychology and realized that it combined many things she liked to do and think about. She decided to follow this calling and has been drawn to working with students in schools ever since.

She shared with me that being a psychologist allows her to, “have a more personal and close relationship with students.” Later Dr. Sternberg chuck-

led when telling me, “I can’t seem to get away from Quaker educational institutions,” explaining that besides working at FCS, she also attended a Quaker college (Swarthmore), she married a graduate of another one, and her children now attend a Quaker school (GFS). She went on to tell me that she previously worked at Central High. I was curious to learn the similarities and differences from FCS. Dr. Sternberg explained that one thing that stands out about FCS is “the time teachers are able to carve out of their days to care for their students. It’s wonderful!” I don’t think it could be summed up any better than that.



Photo by Bobir Atkhanov

At Friends’ Central Upper School, Dr. Sternberg spends most of her time providing short term support for students. Often, they are looking for help dealing with tough circumstances, experiences, or feelings. In the Middle School, Dr. Sternberg usually works with teachers and administrators to develop strategies to handle a variety of situations in her absence. Last spring, Upper School students were asked to voluntarily fill out a bullying survey so

Dr. Sternberg, along with Upper School faculty, could understand bullying from the students’ point of view. 85% of the students took part in the survey! Dr. Sternberg shared that she and the other teachers “were really touched by students’ thoughtful and sincere answers to each question.” The study will be shared with the students once it is completed.

As I finished my interview with Dr. Sternberg, I had the opportunity to talk with her about the FCS academics, athletics, and arts. We chatted about the importance of the Quaker ethics as well as the importance of Meeting for Worship. Dr. Sternberg is an easy going person making it simple to sit and talk with her. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know her, and I hope everyone gets to personally meet her at some point. ❖

From **Fogel** on Page 4

and field team. Although Jake did not wrestle at Oberlin, he continued his love for wrestling by coaching Oberlin High School’s wrestling team for four years. One of Jake’s favorite memories from college was a freshman seminar taught by Oberlin’s president. It was a class designed for 16 students, yet 25 students showed up for the course. At the end of class on the first day, the president assigned 450 pages of reading for class the next week. The next class, six students dropped the course and an additional 450 pages were assigned. The following week an additional 3 students dropped the class bringing the class total down to 16. His professor (Oberlin’s president) laughed and told his class they would only have 100 pages of reading for homework, now that only students who really wanted to take the course for its material and not its professor remained in the class. Jake, who was interested in the subject, went on to take another course taught by Oberlin’s president, where his professor played the same trick to weed out uninterested students. Jake has always loved teaching and is now studying to become a full time teacher. Jake is also currently working to add the guitar to the arsenal of instruments he plays.

After graduating from Oberlin, Jake got a phone call from former wrestling coach Ed Soto, telling Jake he should apply to be the new wrestling coach while he took a year off. Once Jake got the job and his former middle school teacher Mr. Ross heard of his return, Mr. Ross took him in. When Jake is not with the wrestling team, Jake is either working in Mr. Ross’ room or substituting in classrooms around campus.

Jake really enjoyed coming back to his former high school to work. He noted how much he enjoyed Friends’

Central’s atmosphere and how every FCS student was “multi-dimensional.” He explained that at Friends’ Central no student is stuck into the category of a “jock,” “nerd,” “band geek” or “popular kid,” but rather FCS students don’t need to explain themselves and that each student can fit into more than one of those categories. Jake enjoyed that attitude of Friends’ Central, considering he was always assumed to be only a “jock” outside of the FCS community by people just relying on his appearances. Jake also noted, smiling, that he notices that every grade is essentially a “carbon copy” of his grade; being able to find his “friends” from his time at FCS in other grades.

Jake noted the strange feeling of referring to many of his old teachers now as colleagues, rather than teachers. He feels he has a different perspective now as a teacher than he did five years ago as a student. Coming back to the place he thought he had it “all figured out” (as a senior), but now, he realizes, he really did not. The advice he would give to current FCS students is to “take on everything” and every opportunity. Students get very stressed about grades and colleges, feeling overwhelmed by an excess amount of work. He said that to succeed academically and socially in college you need to succeed academically and socially in high school, following your true aspirations in high school and do what you truly enjoy. He encouraged students to be multi-dimensional, learning now how to juggle academic, social and athletic activities because this is the first and only opportunity before college to learn how to juggle many aspects of life.

We would like to welcome Jacob back to the FCS community and are looking forward to a great wrestling season and seeing him around on campus. ❖

From **Teacher Names** on Page 3

was necessary to distinguish herself as an adult and to gain the respect due to a teacher, though she, admittedly, identifies more with “Melinda.” Though they ask us to acknowledge them both by their first names, they are sensitive to those students who feel truly uncomfortable; as if they are violating a fundamental principle in their culture, religion or upbringing by referring to them as Melinda and Mike. They only hope that as the years

progress and an entirely new group has entered the Upper School, that students will have no troubles; always having known them by their first names. Before this interview, I fell under the category of the uncomfortable but have concluded that titles are intended to show respect to someone, and it is more disrespectful to call them by something that they do not wish to be called than address them by their first names. ❖

Goodman, Got Game?

By OLIVER GOODMAN ‘13

What do swimming and cheerleading have in common? Absolutely nothing, which is why we were fairly surprised to see my big sister Rachel, dressed up in red and blue, on Franklin Field cheering, “Pennsylv-Pennsylv-Pennsylv-vaaaaaania!” My mouth dropped open, I was shocked.

I remember driving home from a particularly hard practice, and Rachel sighing. I frowned: I rarely had seen Rachel upset. “What’s wrong?”

She let out another sigh, “I’ve always wanted to be a cheerleader but instead I have to swim.”

“Yeah right,” I laughed, imagining Rachel, a cheerleader? She punched me. I would’ve hit back but she was driving, and my fear of her hitting another biker kept me in my place. And soon enough, I found myself playing cameraman for her cheerleading audition video.

This video included everything from filming her tap dancing to “aqua-sizing” to salsa dancing, but after hours of editing, her audition video was finished. About a week later, I awoke to a shriek. She had been accepted. Our mom was strangely upset at the news. “Rachel, I think it’s great that you’re doing



this, but I just don’t want all those football players ‘going under the mill.’” Rachel and I exchanged glances.

“Going under the what?”

“Oh, you know, when all of you cheerleaders line up and form a tunnel, and the football players crawl under your legs and out onto the field.”

We were even more confused. “Mom, have you ever been to a football game?”

“Well, no.”

And so Rachel, formerly known as captain of the Friends’ Central swim team, hung up her swim-suit, goggles and swim-cap, in return for a skirt, pom-poms, and a hair ribbon. Make us proud, sis.

As for me, I aspire to swim in college, but who knows? You might see me playing quarterback for Michigan some day. *Yeah, right.* ❖

Artist in the Spotlight: Colin Lee

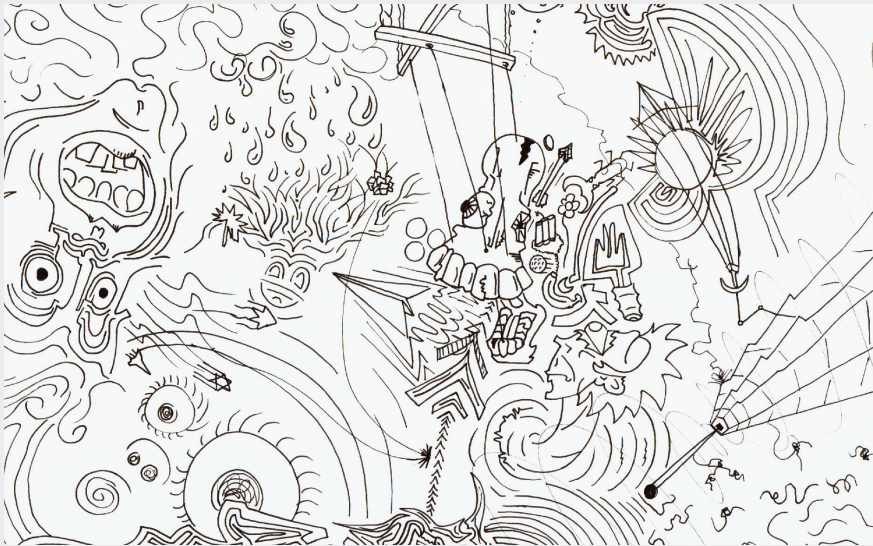
By HANNAH KAMINSKY ‘15 and MARISSA GRATZ ‘15

Everything inspires me,” says Colin Lee. “In most of my pieces I have used objects from everyday life. I look for the things that most people just look over.” Colin, one of the many talented artists at our school, is known for his outstanding artwork and inventive ways. For this issue, we decided to interview and uncover the creative mind of the artist Colin Lee.

Colin Lee’s passion for art began at a very young age, and it is something that he has always been intrigued by. He has gone to many art classes and has taken the two Studio Art Classes offered here at Friends’ Central. When asked what his inspiration was, Colin stated, “In some of my pieces, I like

to sketch as many random things as possible.” He likes to add things that most people wouldn’t normally think to use in artistic pieces. His collection of art includes “some chaotic and some very disciplined” visions. A lot of the times he uses black and white in his pieces “mostly because of the vivid contrast and [how] it is a lot easier to deal with.” Colin’s favorite artist is El Greco, a Greek painter famous for his unique and various paintings and sculptures.

Colin Lee’s artwork is not only a joy to create but also an extraordinary experience for those who have the privilege to view it. We look forward to the seeing his artwork in a famous museum one day. ❖



Phoenix in the Phast Lane: Billy Cassidy

By MAX GINSBERG ‘14

This issue’s Phoenix in the fast lane is Junior Billy Cassidy. Billy, who most people know as Billy Bil, is a new student this year who transferred from Bonner, basketball being the main reason. As soon as Billy set foot on campus, the expectations for him were huge. Coming into a nationally ranked program which has won three straight state championships is not easy, but Billy has fully embraced this challenge. If you ever stop by the gym after school you’ll see Billy Bil getting shots up or working on his ball handling, getting ready for the toughest schedule the boys basketball program has ever seen, including trips to Florida, Virginia Beach and Boston. Billy is known for his unbelievable jump shot that rarely ever touches the rim, but what most people don’t notice is that Billy is an amazing ball handler with a ridiculously high basketball IQ. According to head coach Jason Polykoff, “Billy will be a great addition to the

Friends’ Central boys’ basketball program. He’s a tough, team first player, whose outside shooting will prove to be a valuable asset.”

Unlike his time at Bonner where he had to do everything on the court, Billy’s main role on the team this year is going to be knocking down shots from three-point land and playing tough perimeter defense, things Billy does easily. Looking at the team this year, Billy is going to be contributing right away. Most teams will be worrying about the aggressive styles of play of Conrad Chambers, Karonn Davis and of course Amile Jefferson. This is going to leave Billy wide open behind the three point line and you should know by now, that’s cash. As Billy’s teammate, I cannot wait to see how Billy Bil is going to help this team win big games. A rumor around campus is that his twitter is awesome so please follow him at [@CassidyTw03_BTK](#). ❖



Artist in the Spotlight: Claudia Rizzo

By KEIRA SULTAN ‘12

Whether you have attended any of the girls’ varsity soccer games or have seen a poster with her name on it in the back of the cafeteria during senior day, you probably know Claudia Rizzo best as a soccer player. What you may not know is that after practice, Claudia trades in her sweaty cleats for a pair of pink pointe shoes, and her corner kick for a coupè. Claudia’s other passion is dance. While her love of the color pink and dressing up may have prompted her first ballet class at the age of 3, she stuck with it once she realized that the happiest she felt was while she was dancing. Claudia explained, “I love dancing because it allows me to feel a freedom of expression that I have never felt anywhere else. When I dance, I am completely in the moment and I can truly appreciate everything around me.”

Claudia has now danced for 15 years and has worked up to practicing six days a week for two hours a



day. That dedication has certainly paid off as she has landed several leading roles in shows put on by the company she dances for. These include Odette in *Swan Lake*, the lilac fairy in *Sleeping Beauty*, and the Sugarplum Fairy in an upcoming *Nutcracker* performance on December 11th. Although this will be Claudia’s last year dancing with her studio, she plans on majoring in dance in college and eventually wants to share her passion with others through teach-

ing dance to underprivileged children.

As a good friend of Claudia’s, I have been to several of her performances. And all I can say is that luckily her favorite color at three years old wasn’t black, because then nobody would now get the privilege to watch the incredible talent and grace that Claudia displays as she floats across the stage. ❖

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