

FOCUS

FCS STUDENT MAGAZINE
MAY 2017



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FRIENDS'
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Check out the Quakefeed:
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Editors in Chief:

Eliza Caisse '18, Josh Weinstein '18,
& Julian Brenman '20

Graphic Design & Layout Editor:
Josh Weinstein '18

Faculty Advisors:

Steve Patterson and Montgomery Ogden

Writers:

James Peterson '17
Sydney Kaplan '18
Gia Matika '18
Evan Paszamant '18
Dylan Mitchell '19
Choya Chen '19
Nir Netz '19
Jack Li '20

Photography:

FCS Communications Office &
Jay Gorodetzer

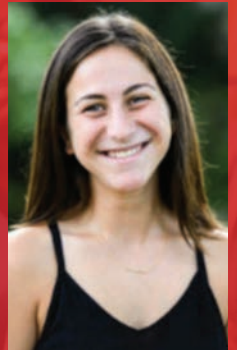




Goodbye to Our Co-Editor in Chief

BY: ELIZA CAISSE '18

One of *Focus*' co-editors in chief, Zoe Ginsberg, will be graduating this year along with the rest of the Class of 2017, and while I and the rest of the *Focus* team wish her the best of luck as she continues on with her journey, we obviously are incredibly saddened to see her go. During her time as co-editor in chief, Zoe has shown not only a tremendous work ethic but creativity and passion. She has gone out of her way to get articles done, edited, posted, and sent out for all to view and enjoy - no matter what our busy junior and senior years threw her way. And for this dedication, we are incredibly thankful.



As Zoe moves on to study at the University of Southern California next year (where she will be studying journalism!), we hope she continues to use the skills she learned during her time here. Thank you, Zoe, for all you have done both in *Focus* and at Friends' Central, we wish you the best of luck.

Art Hall: Looking Back Before Moving on

BY: JULIAN BRENMAN '20

After three years at the helm of Friends' Central's Upper School, History Teacher and Principal Art Hall is moving on.

Though excited to serve as Assistant Head of the Tower Hill School in Wilmington, Mr. Hall has fond memories here at Friends' Central. "My happiest memory by far is the holiday concert last year, when they performed Funky Holiday. That was an unbelievable experience. I couldn't believe students had put on that concert. Derin was playing the piano, Noelle and Zoe were singing, and it was amazing. I also enjoyed the production put on by the students from China. Each day I get to walk through the halls and interact with students, it's a blessing. You all make it hard to leave this place."

Mr. Hall shared his favorite thing about FCS as a whole: "Students care about each other. For example, we all know going through the college process is a stressful time for everybody. There's a lot of competition. I've been in schools when decisions come through, and students are accepted into college, they are running around campus screaming about which schools they were accepted into, high-fiving each other and just making a spectacle that doesn't need to be made. What I admire about the student body and environment here is how you don't see that. I honestly didn't know where a lot of the seniors were going until I saw some of them wearing sweat and tee-shirts. Maybe they went home, jumped around in their backyards, and hugged their parents or guardians sharing their emotions, but here, everybody was so composed. These students are so supportive of their classmates and so cognizant of the environment around them."

As far as his biggest accomplishment, the Principal reflects, "What I've done in my time here is gotten the faculty to re-think what it means to be a School that values diversity. It was always a School

that valued diversity and focused on the ability to reach each student individually. But now, I feel as though I've gotten the School to turn in a way it hasn't in a long time. That is what I'm most proud of. The academic core of this School is strong." Mr. Hall gives the following advice to his yet-to-be named permanent successor. "Take your time. Get to know this faculty. They're good folks. Good folks who want to work hard and lean in, but they don't want to be rushed. Get to know them as people first, and then as professionals."

In closing, Mr. Hall's parting words to students and faculty are as follows: "Enjoy one of the greatest schools in the area, if not the region and state. Even though we may hit a place in the road that seems rocky or insurmountable, it's not. Please know that though my time here has been brief, the connections I've formed have been stronger than at any school at which I've ever worked. I sincerely wish everybody the best."



Goodbye to Dr. P

BY: MONTGOMERY OGDEN

I like to tell students that Dr. P is my "school dad." When I arrived at Friends' Central in 2015, he emerged as a steadfast mentor, regularly emailing or sending a late night text to me and to other new faculty, always celebrating our gifts or helping to lift us up after a particularly hard day. In conversation, he can be a man of few words, but when he puts fingers to keys, elegant prose seems to pour out of him. Give Dr. P ten minutes, and he will crank out a two-page treatise on the art of thesis writing, student-friendly jokes included. And you can ask any teacher: his emails to colleagues will go down as some of the most memorable in Friends' Central history.



Dr. P is also an incredibly gifted intellectual who relishes the content that he teaches. As a fellow English teacher, I often leave our conversations astounded by the beauty of details I might otherwise have overlooked were it not for his guidance. Nowhere is this more evident, of course, than in his teaching of film. When interviewed for this piece, he admitted, "I will sorely miss teaching film studies.

Those classes have been so much fun, and it is evident every year how much students learn about critical viewing and film techniques." Students are clearly drawn to his passion for the medium - his Spring electives are so popular that extra chairs needed to be set up in his room last year due to over-enrollment. His "Double Features" course, built around inventive pairings of films across genre and decade, represents perhaps his finest contribution to the English department's catalogue.

During his 17 years at Friends' Central, Dr. Patterson has also served as the faculty advisor to *Focus*, overseeing its evolution from a black and white newspaper to an online news feed and print magazine. Due to his love of traveling, his friends in the language department have also come knocking over the years to ask him to serve as a chaperone for exchange trips abroad. He twice answered the call, traveling once to France and once to Peru. While Dr. P's absence will undoubtedly be felt amongst students and faculty alike, he will be sorely missed by his closest companions at FCS, Ms. Socorro and Ms. Perez.

Goodbye to Jenni Punt

BY: SYDNEY KAPLAN '18

This is goodbye to a truly wonderful, kind, funny, and intelligent individual. To know Jenni Punt is to know utter patience, kindness, and a helping hand. She has a give-and-take relationship as a teacher. She is the kind of person who not only teaches those around her but learns from those around her. She may teach you Bio, but you may teach her in return.

Jenni Punt came to Friends' Central in 2015 to teach Bio I Advanced and Bio II Advanced, as well as anyone who stopped by her office with a question. While I have never had Jenni as my teacher, I am lucky enough to be in her homeroom. One of the many fantastic things about Jenni is that you do not have to be in her class to get to know her.

Jenni will miss the students most - the everyday interactions with their energy, their questions, and concerns - as well as her colleagues, whom she referred to as "amongst the most dedicated group I've ever worked with." Among the things she loved most about being here at Friends' Central was the "collective caring about what the right thing to do is. This does not mean the right thing is always done... but there is a consciousness among faculty and students, and I feel like I'm on the front lines of what matters... the striving is important, the striving to do what is right." This means a lot to her.

Jenni said that what she loves most about biology is the stories. More specifically, origin stories; the stories of where things came from. She is also fond of the aquarium in her classroom and hatching eggs, as well as Gary the Platypus, whom she will miss. Jenni is going to work at the University of Pennsylvania, in their School of

Vet Medicine, as the director of ONE HEALTH Research Education. She will be working as a clinical professor, and teaching and trying to help develop the Master's program. This is the initiative that the CDC and World Health Organization have adopted. It's a philosophy; human, animal, and plant life are all considered.

When asked about what she would like to say to the next biology teacher, Jenni replied, "Bring energy, enthusiasm, and don't make a cut-off in terms of grades for students who would like to take Bio II. Make mistakes. Be open to different learning styles, and don't follow a script." Jenni is such an influential individual in our community, and she will be missed indefinitely. She is an incredible human being, and the Friends' Central community has been so lucky to have her here. Although it's sad to see her go, I for one am excited for Jenni as she moves forward into the next chapter of her life.

Jenni, I learned a lot of things from you, but most of all, I learned that I still have a lot to learn, and that I should be kind to myself and give myself room to grow. I think I speak for everyone when I say: thank you.



Goodbye to Teacher Monty

BY: JULIAN BRENNAN '20

English and Homeroom Teacher/Co-Advisor to *Focus*, Montgomery True Ogden, better known as "Monty" in our community, will be departing from Friends' Central this June. Everybody he touched during his two-year tenure will miss his humor, leadership, guidance, intelligence, and kindness.

In his next endeavor, Monty will continue to teach English at a friends' school, just in a slightly different setting. "I have accepted a Middle School Humanities position at the Monteverde Friends School in the Costa Rica Cloud Forest. I will be teaching an integrated English and social studies curriculum to a mixed class of fifth and sixth graders and another mixed class of seventh and eighth graders." To his ninth through 12th graders at Friends' Central, Monty explains, "I am not leaving because I am unhappy here. I love my students and colleagues. However, one thing not so many students know about me is I'm half Cuban, but I was not raised by my Cuban birth-mother past the age of two. I've spent a lot of time as a teenager, college student, and adult trying to explore that half of my identity that I feel disconnected from. A huge piece of that has been through learning to speak, read, and study poetry in Spanish. [Moving to Costa Rica] feels like the natural progression in that exploration. I'm not sure I'll have this opportunity again if I don't take it now. I'm trying to grab life by the horns and take this adventure with the person I love."

In addition to relocating, Monty has another significant event approaching; marrying his sweetheart.

Though Monty won't be able to take many of his belongings to Costa Rica, he says his memories at Friends' Central will not be left behind. "I will really miss the sincerity with which students express themselves here. Not just on the stage, but in the classroom, and in one-on-one conversations. I feel this is a school that gives students the space to really connect with those around them and celebrates that. I will also miss the chance to have mentors. Dr. P and Mr. Kennedy have been my informal mentors and 'school dads.'"

Monty's greatest accomplishment while at FCS "has been forming authentic relationships with the people I come into contact with, and helping people to feel seen, heard, and respected."

The teacher offers two parting pieces of advice to his students. "I'd like to shout out my study hall students specifically and simply remind them that the collaboration bench is available for use in the hallway, should they determine that they need to do group work. Otherwise, I'd like to offer them a serene and quiet place to work for the duration of study hall!" Second, he says, "climate change is real. I hope people will keep talking about it and the ways in which education can offer the chance for students to imagine and problem solve around the world."

On behalf of *Focus* and the FCS community, I thank Monty for all of the progress and memories he has created, and sincerely wish him luck and happiness wherever his life takes him.

Goodbye to Danielle David

BY: JOSH WEINSTEIN '18

I've been lucky to have Ms. David for three years in a row as my Spanish teacher. Ms. David is passionate about what she teaches, and it shows in the positive energy she brings to class every day. She has shown patience, kindness, and enthusiasm in her classes. She not only cares about the subject she teaches, but more importantly, about her students and the community as a whole. She is also known as an encouraging and positive coach for the girls' soccer team.

Ms. David came to Friends' Central in 2014 and has taught levels of Spanish ranging from I to IV, both regular and advanced. She said that she will mostly miss her colleagues, her students, and the soccer team. Ms. David shared her gratitude for the friends she has made at FCS. "The Language Department has been so supportive, and I feel so grateful for such amazing colleagues and friends." She also shared her experience coaching the girls' soccer team. "My experience coaching the girls' soccer team was unforgettable. The players and coaches are so talented and special. It was an honor to be a part of the program."

Ms. David shows her love for teaching with the energy she brings to class every day and carries throughout every lesson. However, for Ms. David, watching students learn and grow isn't the only rewarding part of teaching. She also enjoys getting to know her students and experiencing the fun moments in class. She shared, "...towards the end of the year, when everyone knows each other so well after the long journey of studying a language together, people can really open up - those are my favorite moments." She also reflects on why she loves foreign language and why she enjoys teaching it to others. "I love the connections that I have created,

the food, the culture, the music, and most of all sharing it with others." She grew up traveling to France and speaks French fluently. She channels her love of traveling and learning foreign languages into teaching.

When asked what advice she would give to her successor, she responded thoughtfully, "I would say that it is important to be patient and communicate. Make sure that the students know that you have their backs and that you want what is best for them, even if it means a challenge!"

Ms. David is moving to Washington, DC, to be with her boyfriend, Matt. She will be teaching Upper School Spanish at Flint Hill School in Oakton, Virginia. She will miss FCS dearly, and we will miss her very much in return. I wish her the best as she moves on to her new position, and I want to thank her for being such an amazing and inspiring teacher.



Goodbye to Mike Keaton

BY: ZOE GINSBERG '17

This year, Friends' Central has said goodbye to a special member of the School: college counselor Michael Keaton. Mike first came to Friends' Central on July 1, 2012, and left this April. Before working in college counseling at FCS, Mike worked for 14 years in college admissions, specifically Wentworth Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, and Haverford College.

I asked Mike what made him "switch sides of the desk" from college admissions to college counseling, and why he wanted to work at FCS. He said, "Friends' Central came on my radar when I was at Haverford College. We had a lot of FCS students that applied and who I personally interviewed over the years. All the kids we would see from FCS were great fits for Haverford, but in completely different ways. I found that no FCS student was cut from the same cloth." Mike knew even before he was a dad that he wanted his future kids to attend Friends' Central; he admired the student community and the impact students have on campus.

Mike enjoyed many things at Friends' Central, specifically the faculty, who he was proud to call his colleagues, and the array of student personalities. Mike believes that the faculty at FCS not only teach but guide their students toward success, and he really enjoyed hearing students tell him about the special relationships they have with their teachers. Mike thinks a unique quality of Friends' Central is the creation of a space for searching and seeking to discover what you are truly passionate about and that every student can find something that excites them at FCS.

Mike left FCS to be the Associate Dean and Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Drexel University. He reports to the Vice President and Dean of Admissions, and he oversees Drexel's undergraduate, transfer, and international admissions. Mike is responsible for representing the Office of Admissions across campus, as well as making high school visits and college fairs. Mike was especially excited to go back to leading information sessions.



Lastly, I asked Mike to tell us a little bit about his wife, Ryan, who will be replacing him in July as one of the college counselors at FCS. Ryan and Mike met at a college fair in 2000. Ryan has been working in college counseling at Abington Friends School for seven years and worked in college admissions at Niagara University, Swarthmore College, and Bryn Mawr College. Mike described her as a "top-notch pro" and said, "in all sincerity, FCS is getting an upgrade!"

On behalf of Friends' Central School, thank you, Mike, for all of your contributions, and good luck at Drexel!

Our Visit With Jim Rutenberg '87

BY: JOSH WEINSTEIN '18

On Friday, May 5, Friends' Central hosted a career day, during which many alumni/ae came back to discuss their current careers with students in the Upper School. One of the Friends' Central graduates who came during this day was Jim Rutenberg, Class of 1987. Jim is currently a media columnist for *The New York Times* and has written over 2,300 articles as a columnist and correspondent for the paper, mainly covering politics and the influence media has on it. On career day, the *Focus* staff sat down with Jim to discuss his high school years, how he became interested in journalism, and how he became a writer for *The New York Times*.

During our meeting, Jim talked about what Friends' Central was like when he was in the Upper School, noting how different the rules were. He had been asked to leave multiple times because he was dressed too casually, showing how much more lax our dress code is now. He told us jokingly, "If I'd shown up to school dressed like all of you are, I would have been kicked out." Besides talking about how Friends' Central has changed, he told us about his very first foray into journalism, telling us that he only wrote for *Focus* once or twice during his time at FCS but remembered creating his own publication during his high school years. He could not remember the exact name of his publication but believed it was something like "*The Underground*" and that investigative journalism, which allowed him to "dig up dirt" on something, was what he based the publication on. However, Jim and his friends only made two issues of the publication before they lost interest.

Jim also recounted his initial start as a professional journalist. He told us that he never ended up graduating from college, nor did he go to a journalism school. He explained that, after moving to New York City, he became interested in becoming a journalist but found few opportunities. He gave us a piece of advice: that potential employers really look at the past work of an individual and won't hire someone if they haven't written enough in the past. Jim needed more written work. While in a bar, a bunch of journalists from *The New York Times* who had been kicked out of the bar next door for being too drunk, came in, and Jim took the opportunity to ask them for advice. They pointed him towards a free newspaper where he wouldn't get paid but would be able to build a portfolio of articles that would make him more hireable. In 1993, Jim was hired by *The New York Daily News*, which is a popular tabloid-style magazine. He wrote as a gossip stringer, telling us that it really wasn't his forte but that he needed a job. Jim had to go to parties and events to get the latest news about celebrities, but the large social events weren't his speed. However, he learned how important it was to get the latest news on someone or to get something published first, even if it wasn't as well researched or polished. He had a few important breakthrough stories at *The New York Daily News*, both as a gossip stringer and later as a general assignment reporter, and was eventually hired by *The New York Times* in 2000, only one year after he began work at *The New York Observer*.



After starting to work for *The New York Times*, Jim only covered local politics. As he began to write more and more about politics and their place in the media, his articles became more media-centric, and he was named media columnist last year. When asked if there was anything he would change about his current position, he told us that working as a columnist means that you need to publish consistent articles every week, meaning that there is less or no time to work on large investigative projects. He misses the times when he could "disappear" for two months while investigating for an article before suddenly bursting onto the scene again with something no other paper had. He also told us that he is currently working on investigative piece about Russia's state media and its influence in the United States. He has been traveling to Russia to speak with the person in charge of the largest media outlet there, expressing how he wished he had the time to work on more projects like that one. However, he told us that, overall, he enjoys his current position, finding it a good challenge to produce articles on a weekly basis. We asked him for advice on what to do when we have trouble writing. He told us that when you're having trouble finding something to write or don't know how to start, you just need to write and not to over-think it, to find something that interests you and to just start and see where it goes.

The *Focus* team found Jim and his story to be quite inspiring. Simply starting out as someone who aspired to work for a paper like *The New York Times* but had no connections or many articles and yet, through hard work and perseverance, was able to attain a great position and a fulfilling job. His story becomes even more impressive considering he never finished college. Hopefully, Jim's story is able to inspire many aspiring journalists and give others hope that, much like Jim, as long as they are dedicated and work hard, their dreams too will come true.

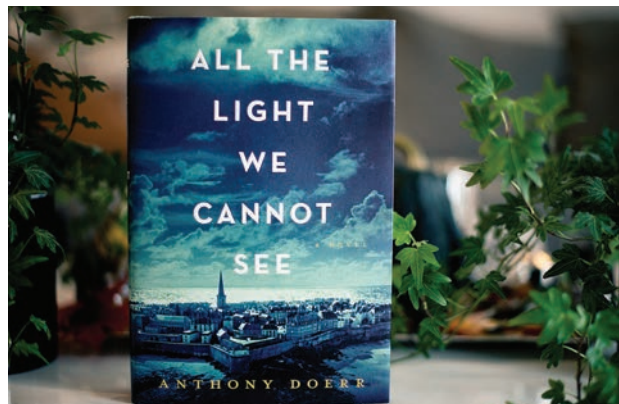


Book Review: *All the Light We Cannot See*

BY: GIA MATIKA '18

Historical fiction, anyone? Anthony Goerr has written *All the Light We Cannot See*, a masterpiece that takes place during World War II. We meet Werner, a young German boy in Hitler's army, and Marie-Laure, a Parisian girl who loses her sight at age 10. Goerr artfully takes us back and forth between the two points of view, every now and then connecting the stories indirectly until the very end. The stories seem to go in different directions and include a radio, a model house, a priceless stone, and enough unique characters to keep you stuck between the pages for hours.

The book itself is long but not boring. Each page is important and memorable, and I had to buy my own copy after reading a library copy. I absolutely encourage everyone to read this beautifully written story about people, life, and the details in between.



Interesting Senior Projects

BY: ZOE GINSBERG '17

Daniel Yadgaroff

Daniel will be working at a PAL (Police Athletic League) center for his senior project. He will have a chance to get to know some of the kids and spend time with them. Daniel will be using his photography skills to take photos of the children, along with interviewing them about their lives and experiences at PAL. Daniel's goal is to compile a collection of photos of the kids and their stories to create a booklet about PAL and how it changes children's lives. This project is significant to Daniel because he is very passionate about promoting its positive impact on its community. Daniel has a lot of respect for PAL and believes that the organization should be recognized for its excellence. Additionally, Daniel hopes to share the stories of the PAL kids with the FCS community.

Maya Holloway

Maya will be traveling around Pennsylvania to learn about and admire the landscapes in our home state. The purpose of this project is to highlight the raw beauty of the area around us in all its forms. Maya is inspired by the area around her but also knows some of the

beauty is hidden in the shadows. She hopes to gain an even greater appreciation for the places so close by, as well as see new areas she has never discovered. While going on these adventures, Maya will be videotaping, taking pictures, and recording herself narrating some of the details of the sights she visits. With this final presentation, Maya will be able to show others her findings and enlighten us all on the places to see in Pennsylvania.

Lorna MacFarlane

Lorna will be taking on an independent project focused on the architectural design of different buildings around the city of Philadelphia. Lorna hopes to be able to go into the city to find intriguing buildings and draw them. Lorna discovered her love for drawing through her art class at FCS and is excited to apply the skills she has acquired to her senior project. Lorna will also be paying close attention to the design of these buildings, as she participated in the architecture seminar class offered this year. Lorna's goal for her final portfolio is to have many different drawings of varying styles of architecture.

Wrestling Quaker Values

BY: JULIAN BRENNAN '20

Quaker tradition preaches love, respect, community, and teamwork. So, many people wonder, "Why would a Quaker school host a wrestling program? Doesn't that contradict Quakerism?" I must admit, when I first came to Friends' Central, I was a tad surprised to learn this sport was being practiced at such a "peaceful" institution. This feeling remained until I recently spoke to two FCS wrestling experts, who assure everyone the only thing wrestling tackles is teamwork.

Mr. Jacob Fogel '07 wrestled as a student and now serves as an eighth grade advisor, eighth & 10th grade history teacher, and as a wrestling and spring track and field coach. He explains how the sport embraces Quaker values. "Wrestling is about community within the team. There's a simplicity to it because there's no equipment. In a lot of other sports, there is equipment that gains an advantage, but in wrestling, it's just one's work ethic gaining advantage. Integrity is also an important aspect of the sport. If a player tries to do something that's cheating or dirty, the fans and ref will



see. Therefore, the player must hold him or herself accountable. In addition, there's a peaceful piece to wrestling. Every match starts and ends with the individual players shaking hands. This is symbolic and really drives the point home that opponents aren't enemies." He later recalls his wrestling days, noting, "Some of my best friends were people from other schools with whom I had to wrestle many times. As a result, I had a huge amount of respect for them."

As friendly as the sport may be, Mr. Fogel is all too familiar with the criticisms uninformed community members offer. "I have encountered people who accuse wrestling of being a violent endeavor. It's just a misunderstanding of the sport." C.J. Penneys '19 has been wrestling since fifth grade. He shares, "I don't think wrestling contradicts Quaker values because it's not a violent sport. In fact, I think it's the opposite. Any wrestling coach will say that when a

player goes on the mat, they must show respect for their opponent. Therefore, I think it upholds Quaker values as a non-violent sport."

So, there you have it. Wrestling upholds Quaker values, and next time you hear somebody claim otherwise, educate them with the wise words of Mr. Fogel and C.J.

Things to do This Summer in the Philadelphia Area

BY: ELIZA CAISSE '18

While some students probably have the majority of their summers planned out and booked, I'm sure many of you are staying here, in the Philadelphia area, for most or at least some of this summer. If this is the case for you, don't fret! There are many ways to cure the inevitable boredom of summer. Here, I have a list of some (but certainly not all) of the most fun and exciting things going on in Philadelphia this summer, all of which I hope you take full advantage of!



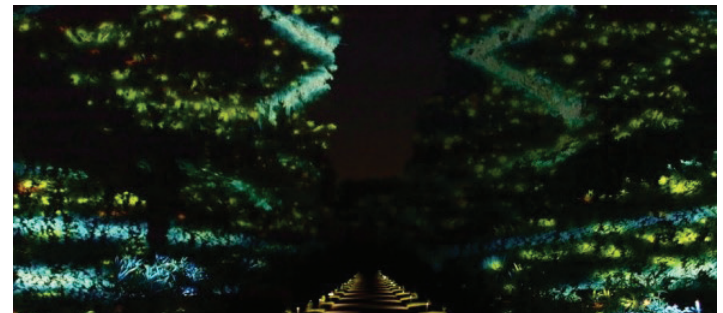
1. Manayunk Arts Festival (June 24th - 25th)

If you're looking for somewhere to express your creativity, shop for funky art, ceramics, and jewelry, eat food, and more, the Manayunk Arts Festival is definitely the place for you. As the name suggests, the event takes place annually in Manayunk, PA. The largest arts festival in the tristate area to which thousands show up, the two-date event offers nearly 200,000 collectors, buyers, and designers, and around 300 showcase artists. So, if you're on the market for some new knickknacks or simply want to stuff yourself with delicious food, make sure to attend the Manayunk Arts Festival this June!



2. Wawa Welcome America! (July 4th)

Looking for something great to do this 4th of July without the extra cost? No problem. Each year on Independence Day, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway hosts a large celebration in honor of the holiday. The famous event includes one of the largest free concerts in the country, great food, and July 4th fireworks over the Philadelphia Museum of Art, thus creating a spectacular show you definitely don't want to miss.



3. Nightscape: A Light and Sound Experience at Longwood Gardens (August 3rd - October 29th)

After an incredible show last year, Longwood Gardens will be returning this year with their second edition of Nightscape, their immersive after-dark installation. Every Wednesday through Saturday evening from August 3rd through October 29th, the 1,000 acres of botanical beauty that is Chester County's Longwood Gardens will stay open until 11 pm for an amazing, multi-sensory experience anyone can attend. Attendees can be promised a spectacular display of light, sound, music, and new and improved displays for a fantastic, cohesive experience anyone can enjoy.

4. 2nd Street Festival - Super Sized Block Party in Northern Liberties (August 6th)

Every summer in August, an estimated 40,000 attendees pack into the six-block stretch of North 2nd street for a day for the 2nd Street Festival, a block party filled with a plethora of music, food, art, workshops, and vendors. The festival strives to raise money to fund a business improvement district for the neighborhood, something which would offer beauty, improved lighting, street and sidewalk cleaning, etc. That will increase the levels of consumerism in the area, especially for smaller businesses. Last year, the festival raised \$20,000, and they are hoping to raise even more this year. So, if you're looking for both a good time and a good cause to contribute to, the 2nd Street Festival is the place to go.

Some concerts to look out for:

Banks - Electric Factory (June 2nd)
Phoenix - The Fillmore Philadelphia (June 2nd)
Chainsmokers - Liacouras Center (June 3rd)
U2 with the Lumineers - Lincoln Financial Field (June 18th)
Ed Sheeran - Wells Fargo Center (July 11th and 12th)
Gorillaz - Penn's Landing Pier (July 13th)
The Beach Boys - Penn's Peak (August 18th)
Shawn Mendes - Wells Fargo Center (August 22nd)
Lady Gaga - Wells Fargo Center (September 10th)

For more information on things to do this summer in the Philadelphia area, check out visitphilly.com or read through *Philly Mag*, where you will find even more exciting events you can attend! I hope you all have a great, joyful and entertainment-filled summer!

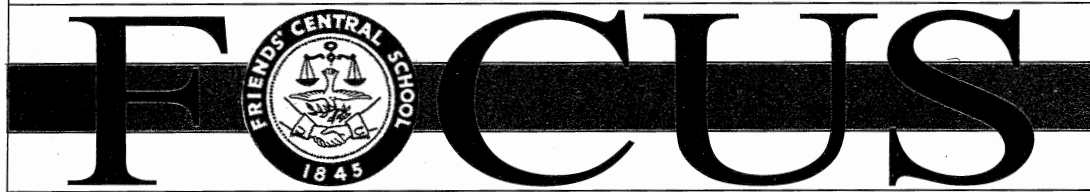
From the Archives

A Look Back at *Focus* History

BY: SYDNEY KAPLAN '18 & GIA MATIKA '18

I recently visited the archives of the Williamson College of the Trades. The archivist there, a family friend, used to work here at FCS, and she encouraged me to visit our own archives. As a (new) member of *Focus*, I thought it'd be great to include some articles from our predecessors. With the help of Jim Davis, here are a few Sydney and I found interesting. - Gia

Friends' Central School



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The Opening of the Fannie Cox Center: New Opportunities to Explore Science, Math, and Technology

Michael F. Robbins '04

Even though the skies were growing dark and Hurricane Isabel had already prompted the administration to close school for the next day, families and faculty filled the new Fannie Cox Center for the building's public debut on the evening of September 18th, 2003.

The festivities began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and continued with performances by the school's A Cappella vocal group and Jazz Band. The scents of pizza, chicken, and quesadillas wafted from the Reading Room.

Classroom doors were wide open, and teachers were talking with families about the new facilities, while student groups like Science Olympiad and the Math Team were also well represented. Mr. Dankoff displayed the benefits of the interactive whiteboards, explaining the significance of the Compromise of 1850 to willing listeners in the third-floor seminar room.

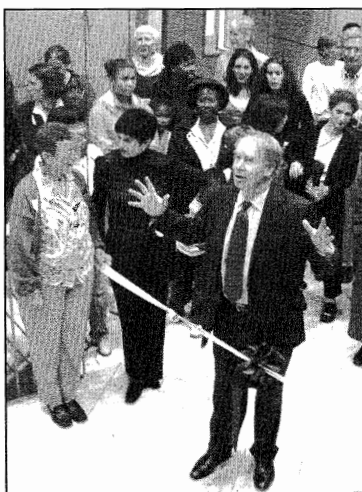
While the official opening continued, Tom Donovan of the Physical Plant Department led a tour of the mechanical systems that keep the building running. This includes the massive air handling equipment that keeps the temperature regulated inside

the large space. Mr. Donovan also described the network of sensors that constantly monitor system operations, and he could tell that carbon dioxide levels were higher than normal that night, likely because of the number of people at the ceremony.

Even as the storm winds increased, the tour group cautiously stepped out onto the roof of the building to see the electrical generator fed by natural gas. On the first floor, the group saw the electrical distribution controls and the gas-fired units that heat the building. Also present was a large tank full of sulfuric acid, eventually to be part of a system that decomposes laboratory waste before its disposal.

With the dream of new science facilities now a tangible reality, John Gruber, the chairman of the Upper School Science Department, was asked to comment on how the building would shift the future direction of the science program.

The Botany course will now feature much more lab work, he said, including thin layer chromatography and chemical extractions. One student in the



Mr. Felsen speaks to an enthusiastic crowd of donors, students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumni before the ribbon-cutting

class commented, "I'm really looking forward to using the new greenhouse in the winter so we can continue to study warm-weather plants."

Dr. Yin's new Experimental Biol-

ogy course is largely based on published research and student experimentation. In the class of only six students, all seniors, one commented that the class was "intimate."

Dr. Goldader's Physics M&T sections use distance sensors in their laboratory to explore basic kinematics. And while the technology allows students to graphically see relationships between displacement, velocity, and acceleration, one student felt that dropping apples from windows to calculate the acceleration due to gravity was equally exciting and educational.

Dr. Gallagher's AP Chemistry class will be able to complete its traditional "Copper Lab" much faster than in previous years, thanks to additional fume hood space. Ms. Roberts has also formed

a new Organic Chemistry mini-course during Block 6.

Science courses are not the only ones benefiting from the new facilities. *see Cox Center on page 3*



The former location of the temporary home of the FCS Math Department, affectionately dubbed "the Math Shack," is now a grassy plain

This Used to Be My Math Shack

Laura Karabell '06

The yellow caution tape has been removed, and the old Science Building has been demolished. The images of the Modular Village, also known as the Math Shack, remain only in our minds.

As summer has come to an end, great changes have occurred. In addition to the Fannie Cox Center for Science, Math, and Technology, many other alterations have been made to the campus.

New brick pathways twist and turn throughout the campus. Many benches have been installed for students to do homework, or simply to sit and enjoy the fresh air. With the removal of the Math Shack and the old Science Building, our campus is now both beautiful and vast.

The construction began about a year and a half ago. According to Doug Linton, the head of grounds at FCS, "The official start of construction began

over spring break [2002]... It all started with the demolition of the Cottage [the former location of the Development Office]."

Although the goal of completing the new building for this school year was achieved, there is still much work to be done. The playground and the sculpture that were once in the oval have yet to find their new homes on our renovated campus. The softball field needs to be finished. Trees need to be planted, and flowerbeds have yet to be completed. The small stone oval in the center of the campus is still in progress. "We ran out of flagstones," Mr. Linton explained, "That's where the names of donors will be carved."

Despite these incomplete projects, enthusiasm for the new campus from the student body is enormous. In the words of a sophomore, "This campus is truly something to smile about."

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Fannie Cox Center Opens Doors

Cox Center from page 1
Mr. Ricci's AP Statistics classes are also making use of the new touch-sensitive projection whiteboards (dubbed "SmartBoards"). Students can follow along with a realistic four-foot-tall graphing calculator and can watch other interactive statistics demonstrations. Also, at least one history class is now held in the new building.

The school also benefits technologically from the Fannie Cox Center. SmartBoards in the computer labs allow students to, from their seats, understand their assignment visually. Of course, simply the increased space is a blessing. "The best thing about these rooms [the new computer labs]," one senior commented, "is that there are always free computers in here, no matter what time of day."

Still, few details are available about changes to other courses. Instead, Mr. Gruber hopes that the school community will "adapt and evolve in the facility," redefining the curriculum as the year progresses. He also is certain that the new building will not sit idle over the summer and plans to continue to grow the Summer Science Institute, which this past summer involved insect studies in the Bahamas.

While other schools have seen up to a 20% rise in enrollment in science courses after constructing new facilities, Mr. Gruber doubts that such a rise will occur here because of the already very high school-wide participation in the sciences.

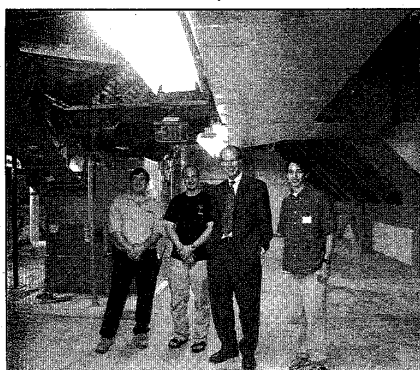
The greatest new opportunity brought by the new building will likely be an increased abundance of independent research projects. While all of the faculty members have research interests, ideas could come from

either students or teachers.

Mr. Gruber is already considering researching dietary and environmental polyphenisms of the *Nemoria* moth and would like to work on categorizing moth samples brought back from the Bahamas. And while he concedes, "It's not our mission to be publishing," he recognizes the possibility of having students' work printed in scientific journals. He also hopes that ongoing research will be highlighted on Friends' Central's upcoming redesigned public website.

While the school's Science Olympiad Team has shown its strength recently, ranked as the top private school in Pennsylvania and 8th in the state overall last school year, students will now also have the opportunity to study science through research projects of their own design. At the recent Club Fair organized by the Student Council, the Science Olympiad team enrolled far more girls and more freshmen than have typically participated in past years. In comparing the activity to independent research, Mr. Gruber recognizes the value of both programs, and understands that "research can be lonely, while Science Olympiad is a team effort," and research projects require students who have dedicated themselves to a more specific realm of the sciences.

At present, exhaustive details remain sketchy as to how exactly the new facilities will alter science courses, research projects, and extracurricular activities. Still, Mr. Gruber is confident that the academic community of Friends' Central will be "setting the standard for what is possible" for high school science students and looks forward to an exciting year ahead. ■



From left: Tom Donovan of the Physical Plant shows Jon Barchi '00, John Gruber, and Mike Robbins '04 the air-handling systems above the third floor of the Fannie Cox Center.

No Shirt, No Shoes, No Education: The Delicate Issue of Student Skin at FCS

Aaron Schwartz '05

This year, FCS has delved further into the issue of simplicity, a matter deeply rooted in Quaker values. In response to the rising amount of skin exhibited by many female students, the administration has implemented new rules concerning appropriate attire for those in Middle and Upper School.

The latest crackdown on immodesty centers on a two word revision in the Appearance Guidelines section of the FCS Directory. In the new 2003-2004 blue book of phone numbers and school guidelines, the popular "exposed midriff" has been added to the condemned list of "examples of inappropriate dress."

According to Co-Principal Maryellen Schwartz, both the new and old directories "intended to accomplish the same thing." However, because appearance guidelines had not been sufficiently distinct, many teachers felt uncomfortable approaching students about the sensitive and subjective issue of appropriate attire.

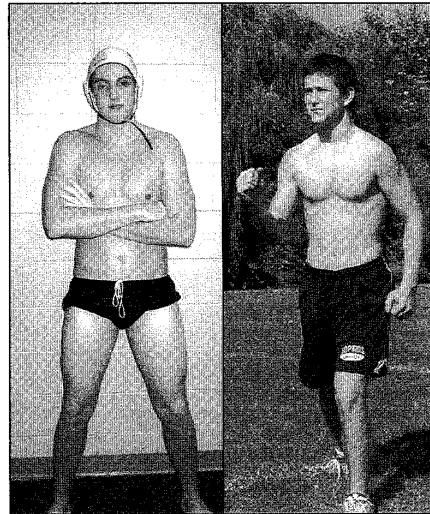
This amendment, while small, has brought about a new policy for dealing with skin-related offenders. If a student is busted with a brandished bellybutton, he or she will be provided with an FCS t-shirt, to be worn for the remainder of the school day.

This has not proven to be an idle threat. So far, all but one of the shirts, set aside for this purpose, have been handed out. Mrs. Schwartz hopes they will be returned soon. Although there is a fine line between symbol of school spirit and three-lettered brand of shame, she does not wish that feelings be hurt. "We don't like to be judgmental. Everyone has a different sense of what is extreme," she explained.

Students aren't the only ones restricted to certain modes of dress. Professionalism is expected from teachers also. Recently, Co-Principal Bill Kennedy instructed the faculty that jeans would be regarded as acceptable attire only on Service Days.

Mrs. Schwartz considers appropriate dress to be tied closely to maturity. As she notes, "The most extreme styles aren't found on college campuses, but in high schools and middle schools... [those] mostly getting in trouble are 9th or 10th grade girls."

Teachers and parents have praised the new measures. On Curriculum Night, parents gave



Deacon Lile '05 demonstrates appropriate attire for water polo (left), and Dan Kaufman '05 dons unacceptable dress for an outdoor jog (right)

a rousing applause when the "crackdown" was announced. Teacher Erika Harnett expressed enthusiasm for the new policies, saying, "[Certain dress styles] are not appropriate. I teach Latin, not belly-dancing." Student responses have not been so extreme. "Personally, I don't think the dress code's that big of a deal," one junior girl noted.

While the administration's new guidelines have clarified the school's position on appropriate dress, other school departments have less distinct codes concerning the regulation of skin.

“Teacher Erika Harnett expressed enthusiasm for the new policies, saying, ‘[Certain dress styles] are not appropriate. I teach Latin, not belly-dancing.’”

The Athletic Department's rules allow coaches to make the decisions concerning practice attire. However, due to concerns of gender equity, a school-wide policy discourages boys from exercising without shirts. "This is not the beach," Mr. Bradburd explains. As a result, the popular male athletic method of "Shirts vs. Skins" is frowned upon. The same is true for the popular slogan "Sun's Out: Guns Out", which essentially means, "Since the weather is agreeable, let us showcase our striking biceps," and in no way refers to firearms.

The conflicting nature of school-appropriate and sport-

appropriate leads to peculiar double standards. For instance, a male water polo player is encouraged to practice with nothing but a silly looking hat and a tight suit, revealing areas of the thigh which have never seen the light of day. But if the team goes running and his chest is bare, the student can be reprimanded by school athletic authorities.

The Arts Department also must deal with issues of skin. The depiction of nudity in school artwork is considered on a case by case basis by the department. "We hope in a self portrait, a student doesn't wish to take on issues of modesty...we reserve the right to censor student work," said Mr. Seidel.

Because fifth and sixth graders pass by the Upper School art in Shallcross Hall every day, teachers are especially careful about what should be displayed on its walls. When asked if the department bars certain works from display due to nudity, Mr. Seidel responded, "We do, we have, [and] we will."

Nonetheless, figures are often exhibited, which, off the canvas, would be quickly handed an FCS t-shirt. The divide between school-appropriate and art-appropriate is rather wide. Last year a self portrait of one member of the Class of 2003 stood out from the rest because the artist's breasts were largely visible. For the coming years, it seems that similar work will remain on display without issue, as long as students do not take their fashion cues from the models.

Where Will the Post-it Notes Go?

An Interview with Jim Davis

BY: SYDNEY KAPLAN '18

If you're wondering where the archives are, Mr. Davis' office among the archives is located on the second floor of the library. His door is the one surrounded by old photos in the hallway that leads you to Frederick's room.

Recently, *Focus* met with the archives manager, Jim Davis. We talked about the archives and the post-it notes on Ariel Eure's door. Mr. Davis worked at Friends' Central as a music teacher for almost forty years before deciding, six years ago, that it was time to stop teaching. However, he did not want to leave Friends' Central.

In the last six years, he has managed Friends' Central's large collection of archives. Mr. Davis told *Focus* that before taking on this job, he thought of the archives as "a collection of materials from the history of the school; photographs, documents, letters..." He assumed that he would just be the librarian of these things, while he actually has a more active role, curating the collection. The other piece of the archival work that he wasn't aware of is that people actually want to make use of the archives - people who are not Friends' Central students. Some of these people are family of alumni/ae seeking historical information about the experiences of their ancestors. Mr. Davis also occasionally welcomes researchers who are not affiliated with the school at all, but come intrigued by the wealth of information available in the school's trove.

You might be asking yourself, what does this have to do with the post-it notes? After the school year ends, the post-its and other artifacts that were on or around Ariel's door will be relocated to the archives. There, they will be cataloged by Mr. Davis and stored safely, so that they will not disintegrate or be forgotten. These notes are an exceedingly important part of Friends' Central's history, as well as its future, and under no circumstances are they to be mistreated or erased. They will always be accessible to students in the future. Maybe in fifty years, a Friends' Central student will come across these notes in the archives and republish them in this magazine or use them for senior project research.



My Top Five Favorite Songs of 2017 (so far)

BY: NIR NETZ '19

Hey everyone, and welcome back to another musical countdown!

Personally, I think 2017 is looking great music-wise. Some of my favorite bands are returning, newcomers are entering the fray, and amazing songs are being released left and right. This list will focus on my favorite songs that were officially released this year. I have one rule for this list: only one song per musician. Without further ado, hop aboard as I begin my Top Five Favorite Songs of 2017!

Five: You Are the Problem Here - First Aid Kit (Single, folk rock)

A song that discusses rape and conveys the message that the blame can't be put on anything or anyone but the rapists themselves. The lyrics to this are disturbing, and can really cut deep. You can hear the pain and anger in their voices.

Four: Everyone's a Liar - Mystery Weekend (Surprise, hard rock)

These lyrics resonate with me (HA!), and the rest of the song is pure rock 'n roll.

Three: In the Garden - Max Richter (Three Worlds: Music from Woolf Works, minimalist)

Beautiful, no questions asked.

Two: Mamacita - The Electric Swing Circus (It Flew By, electro-swing)



The instrumentals are bouncy, the lyrics are sly, and the vocalist is groovy. I love it all!

One: Where the Heart is Home - Xandria (Theater of Dimensions, symphonic metal)



Everything about this song is bewitching. The vocals are operatic and booming with intensity, and the violins and guitars fuel that feeling. Along with this, the lyrics are poetic and Shakespearean.

PRE-PROM



SENIOR'S LAST DAY



ALL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY



FOCUS

Check out *Focus* by visiting fcsquakefeed.com, or stop by Main 23 during Community block on Tuesdays.