

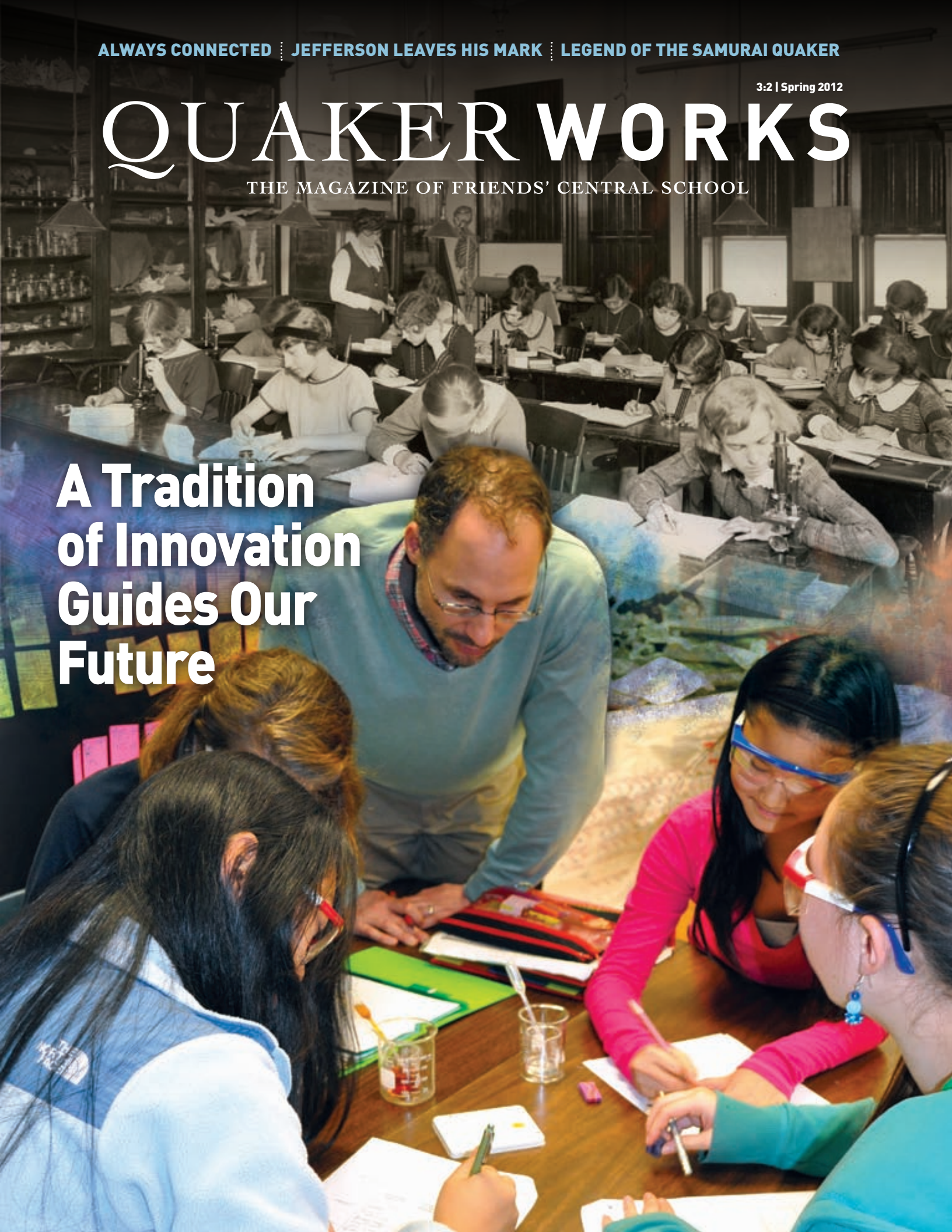
ALWAYS CONNECTED : JEFFERSON LEAVES HIS MARK : LEGEND OF THE SAMURAI QUAKER

3:2 | Spring 2012

# QUAKERWORKS

THE MAGAZINE OF FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

**A Tradition  
of Innovation  
Guides Our  
Future**







# QUAKER WORKS

THE MAGAZINE OF FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

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The Friends' Central Phoenix fires up the crowd on Spirit Night, the culminating event of a week-long celebration of FCS spirit! Students in all grades took part in a number of community-building activities throughout the week and together enjoyed an evening of exciting contests in the Shimada Athletic Center.

PHOTO BY JAY GORODETZER



# Reflections on a Year at FCS

Joanne Hoffman shares her thoughts with the *Quaker Works* Magazine staff as she nears the end of her year of guiding Friends' Central through an important time of transition.



**Some might have thought that having an Interim Head meant the School stood still, but we have made great strides this year.**

When the Search Committee asked what I would do as an Interim Head of School, I said that title talks about timing, not responsibility. Beginning with the idea that no school can stand still, I felt it was critically important to capture the passion and energy of the School and of *Vision 2020* to move Friends' Central forward in an organized and purposeful way. So much great thinking has emerged from all our constituencies, and it was my privilege to work with all in this great School community.

## How has *Vision 2020* positioned Friends' Central for the future?

Through *Vision 2020*, Friends' Central is poised to launch a series of initiatives that will propel the School forward in deep and powerful ways. Working groups have held individual and collaborative meetings throughout the year to move toward realizing *Vision 2020* goals in a thoughtful, creative, and integrated way. Initiatives that are emerging, like creating a distinctive transitional program for 5th grade students and piloting one-to-one computing with 7th graders, reflect the passion and dedication people feel for the School. This process is just what we ask our students to do every day—it is little wonder that it is working so well!

## What makes Friends' Central the School that it is?

When I think about this question, my thoughts swirl. There are so many remarkable qualities I've observed throughout the year, yet when I think about it, they swirl from a central point—the faculty. The care this community shows for all of its members; the intellectual depth that I observe in classrooms; the courage of conviction that I witness in Meeting for Worship—all comes from a faculty that is mentoring, teaching, modeling, and inspiring with a non-stop energy that is extraordinary. I appreciate Friends' Central's unique qualities every minute of every day. If my daughter lived in the area, there is no doubt that she would send her children to Friends' Central. She lives in New York City, and she and her husband long for a school like this one.

## What surprised you about this year?

I have had so much fun with the Friends' Central students this year. You might think such deep thinkers would take themselves pretty seriously, and they do, but I have found that the kids also make life fun here. They make me laugh out loud! They are true to themselves in a way that lets them be smart, sweet, and funny in a way that is as rare as it is wonderful.

## What are your plans for the summer and the coming year?

My husband and I are looking forward to an exciting summer. He is taking a well-deserved sabbatical, and we are heading to Paris for five weeks of culture and language immersion. I am sure that I am driving Rochelle [Ostroff-Weinberg] crazy with my irregular attendance at her French lessons! Then, we will spend some time in our Adirondack cottage before returning to the Boston area where I will be following my passion for educating young people, for caring for underserved children, and for promoting nonviolent conflict resolution. *qw*

# QUAKER WORKS

THE MAGAZINE OF FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Editor, *Quaker Works: The Magazine*

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FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL



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Times of change can be as invigorating as they are unsettling. They offer a chance to look backward, forward, and inward, drawing lessons and inspiration for the future. With a new Head of School beginning this summer, and a comprehensive Long Range Plan just underway, Friends' Central School is undeniably in the midst of change.

BY BETH BURNELL

**W**hat does this mean for Friends' Central? Looking back, how has FCS as only survived 167 years, but thrived, making bold moves and staying true to Quaker values? Looking ahead, how does the School long piece with an increasingly complex and technologically sophisticated world? How does the small school of 1845 fit in 2012? What lessons learned for coming into the past, and what will come?

The most recent long-term leader, David Folmer, ended his 12 years as Friends' Central's last Head of School by looking forward to the "new, vital leadership" of Greg Folmer, who became Head of School on July 1, and that FCS is in a good position to manage the transition. But as many believe it, "The very able, very capable leader will see Friends' Central through," he says. That good position, according to Folmer, includes two thousand faculty members, 800 long-term financial staff, a commitment to diversity, service, and social justice, and a tradition of

departments and programs, not to mention high-caliber students and alumnae.

So James Wright, who has guided the Board of Trustees since the late 1990s, "It's a great transition in leadership offers the opportunity to look at what we've been doing and understand the nature of the challenges we're facing." Through the School's readiness to open 1,000 doors to the highest, it's not 1993. That's not necessarily a bad thing, Wright says. The transition offers leaders the opportunity to rethink the future. "We need to be the best," he says. "We need to be the best."

David Folmer is a person of a high grade and great leadership at Friends' Central and an excellent professor at Haverford College, where he teaches American history. "You don't want to be a big guy," he says. "You want to be a person who is a good person and do it. 'Wherein, how do you know you're doing it better than anyone else?'"

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**ON THE COVER:** Top: Girls' biology class in 1926. Bottom: Chris Guides instructs his 7th grade science class this year.

**BOTTOM PHOTO BY JIM MACK.**



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# CAMPUS LOG



For more School news visit the FCS Pressroom at [www.friendscentral.org/pressroom](http://www.friendscentral.org/pressroom).



## FCS IS WONDERSTRUCK

Friends' Central was delighted to host acclaimed children's author Brian Selznick on September 17. Selznick talked about his *New York Times* bestseller and Caldecott Medal winner *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* and his new novel, *Wonderstruck*. Pictured here are (from left): Grace Kauffman-Rosengarten '16, Ruby Kauffman-Rosengarten '21, Brian Selznick, Mira Kauffman-Rosengarten '18, and Anne Kennedy '16.

## NYT ARTICLE, TED TALK FOR INNOVATIVE FCS TEACHER

In November, *The New York Times Magazine* featured Upper School teacher Al Vernacchio for his innovative Sexuality and Society class. Thoughtful, intelligent, respectful—Vernacchio's class illustrates how Friends' Central's Quaker principles inform a complex and personal topic. Forward-thinking, where so many schools are reactive, this class, the article notes,

"may well be the only one of its kind in the United States."

"We are proud of Al, the curriculum he has developed, and the way Sexuality and Society fits with the Quaker tradition of leadership in education as, well as Friends' Central's philosophy and broader curriculum," says Head of School Joanne Hoffman.

In March, Vernacchio traveled to California to deliver a fun, informative, and eye-opening TED Talk on some of the topics covered in his class. The talk was streamed live to Upper School students.

PHOTO BY THE NEW YORK TIMES



## CELEBRATING PEACE (AND SOCCER)

With soccer kicks and saves, baked goodies, music, smiles all around, and even a little origami, Friends' Central students, faculty, and staff joined the global community to celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 21.



Felsen Commons was ringed with colorful peace banners created by FCS students, who took part in a variety of activities designed not only to commemorate the day and bring the community together, but also to raise funds in support of the Chris Campbell '04 Memorial Field and the CTC Ten Foundation in Khayelitsha Township, South Africa. Students donated money to try and score a goal against a faculty member, purchased delicious baked goods, held a soccer-ball-juggling competition, and made some beautiful paper peace cranes and other crafts. In total, Friends' Central raised nearly \$700 for the CTC Ten Foundation. Lower School students celebrated by attending a special Meeting for Worship at the School's Peace Grove and painting river rocks with vibrant colors, messages, and symbols of peace.

## SENIORS EARN NATIONAL MERIT HONORS



The National Merit Scholarship Program recognized 17 seniors, 18 percent of the 97 students in the Class of 2012, for their extraordinary scores on the PSAT/NMSQT. Nine Friends' Central students were named National Merit Semifinalists. They are: Sean Bray, Paula Burkhardt, Emily deLisle, C. Myles Everett, Alexander Flick, George Keith, Charlotte Pawley, Elizabeth Phillips, and Spencer Villars. Eight Friends' Central students were named National Merit Commended Students. They are: Samuel Brodfuehrer, Ilan Dreyfuss, William Fedullo, Rory Giszter, Jeffrey Horowitz, Jibreel Powell, Noah Schoenberg, and James Ulrich.



In addition, Everett and Kirsten Easley were honored by the National Achievement Program, which was established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students. Nicolas DeFina was selected as a National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholar.



## Distinguished Humanities Lecture Explores Slavery in Other Cultures

Eve Troutt Powell, associate professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania, and current FCS parent, gave the 2011 Distinguished Humanities Lecture on November 9. Troutt Powell discussed her current research, which explores the history of slavery and servitude in the Middle East and East Africa, and comparisons with the American perception of "The Help."

## HOLIDAY CONCERTS RING IN THE SEASON

Friends' Central's vocal and instrumental groups gave outstanding performances in December. From the Upper School Orchestra's annual show at One Liberty Place in Philadelphia, to the Upper and Middle School concerts, to the many Lower School holiday assemblies, FCS performers demonstrated their passion, energy, and talents, and exhibited how much they have learned in their music classes. Pictured here, top to bottom: Paula Burkhardt '12 performs at the One Liberty Place Concert; singing at the Middle School Concert are 5th graders (front, from left) Zoe Shoemaker, Noah Condiff, and Owen Pearson, and (back, from left) Gavin Sultan and Mason Davis; and the 4th grade on stage at the Lower School Holiday Program.





## A NEW PERSPECTIVE OF DIVERSITY IN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Unreserved respect for the individual and building community are two of Friends' Central's guiding principles. Several members of the Friends' Central community enjoyed the extraordinary opportunity to explore and share these ideas when they took part in the National Association of Independent Schools 24th Annual People of Color Conference (PoCC) and 18th Annual Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC), held in conjunction this December in Philadelphia.



Five FCS juniors and 20 faculty and staff members attended the three-day conferences, which drew more than 1,000 attendees from across the country. Beth Johnson, Upper School Co-Principal and Dean of Students, Keino Terrell, Administrative Coordinator of Diversity for both the Lower and Middle Schools and Middle School teacher, and Lauren Davis, Middle School teacher, led packed workshop sessions at the PoCC. The students who attended are (pictured here with Rodney Glasgow, SDLC Co-Chair (center)), from left, Nathan Willis, Iyana Admasu, Victoria Gillison, Aqeel Phillips, and Janelle Purnell.

## Learning to Change the World

*In this reflective essay that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer in February, Emilia Weinberg '14 discusses the importance of embracing a broad range of perspectives to enact change in today's world.*

Many times when I turn on the TV or pick up a newspaper, I am surprised and discouraged by the narrow-minded thinking of numerous public figures. My time as a Friends' Central student has made me used to, excited, and inspired by broad perspectives. Now, more than ever, a wide range of ideas is crucial to our changing world. Advancements in technology, medicine, and other fields happen because of progressive thinkers who are willing to break boundaries to better the world. Those who have the skill to do so did not develop their talents solely during their adult lives. Their journeys started when they were young and involved more than sitting at a desk. They had to open their eyes to the world and get involved before they could change it.

At Friends' Central School, students learn not only to be comfortable with themselves but with the wide range of ideas and perspectives of others. The Friends' Central community enables students to fit in while still being able to stand out. We are taught not to ostracize someone for being different, but rather to benefit from what they offer to the classroom, the School, and ultimately the world. From community service to student organizations, we regularly receive opportunities to be challenged, inspired, and impressed by ourselves, our peers, and our teachers. It is this unique learning environment that makes the Friends' Central experience inimitable. We learn that to create change we must respect one another and celebrate our differences.

In my 12 years as a Friends' Central student, I have benefited from not only the remarkable classroom education but from the more than 160 years Friends' Central has dedicated to finding ways to encourage students to think creatively to solve problems and overcome obstacles. As my peers and I grow and develop our academic skills to prepare, like other high school students, for college, we are simultaneously developing our capacity to deal with real world situations and issues. We are taught to bring an open-minded, inventive perspective to the series of quandaries our world faces today. At Friends' Central, our common aspiration to make a positive change brings us together, but our individual ways of achieving our goals sets us apart. The world is in constant need of innovators, people determined to change the world, and people who respect differences—people like Friends' Central students.

*Student Emilia Weinberg '14 - for Friends' Central School*

## QUAKER WORKS

Friends' Central School is a co-educational, college preparatory day school for nursery school through grade 12, located on two campuses in Wynnewood, PA.

[www.friendscentral.org](http://www.friendscentral.org)



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL



## A Day of Service

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, more than 300 Friends' Central students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumni/ae volunteered during the School's annual day of service to serve those in need and to celebrate and reflect on Dr. King's legacy. In culmination of a months-long project, the FCS Lower School sorted and bagged 1,250 pairs of shoes for the Soles4Souls organization, a provider of free shoes for those in need all over the world.



## YOUNG SCIENTISTS EXAMINE PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL REACTIONS

Experiential learning is one of the key building blocks of a Friends' Central education, and this February, the 7th grade class conducted in-depth studies of physical and chemical properties in science class. In one exercise, the students analyzed chemical and physical changes to identify similar-looking substances. Hands-on learning, sparking curiosity—a small snapshot of how *Quaker Works*.



## MOCK TRIAL MAKES HISTORY

This February, the Friends' Central Mock Trial team advanced to the Montgomery County District Finals for the first time in School history. The eight members of the Finals team are: from left, Jack Kornblatt, Kellan Barr, Lindsay Petersohn, Will Block, Claudia Kassner, Becca Sloane, Sam Beckley, and Ben Fogel with Faculty Advisor Brad Morris. Current parents Steve Chawaga and Susan Tabor-Kleiman volunteered to help the team this year.

"Mock Trial is a challenging activity that fuses both legal and academic thinking with some theatrical thinking," says junior Ben Fogel. "It is fun and stimulating and provides a great introduction to how law is practiced in our legal system."





## A WORLD PREMIERE AT CARNEGIE HALL

Sixteen members of the Upper School Chorus participated in the world premiere performance of James Eakin's 45-minute requiem *Flowers Over the Graves of War* as part of the Distinguished Concerts Singers International at Carnegie Hall. Friends' Central was the only high school represented in a chorus that included three college groups and members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. The FCS singers are (from left): Rebecca Buxbaum, Anneka Allman, Madi Archard, Luca Diadul, Holly Woodbury, Jake Bessen, Andrew Nadkarni, Dan Banko, Haley Pogachefsky, Andrew Shoemaker, Giulietta Schoenfeld, Andie Belkoff, Victoria Gillison, Beah Jacobson, Matthew Strahan, and Choral Director Michele Zuckman. Not pictured is Lauren Harris. Zuckman and FCS music teacher Brian Ramsey worked through the fall and winter to prepare the group for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



## FSL CHAMPIONSHIPS HIGHLIGHT SUCCESSFUL ATHLETIC SEASONS



Captained by Co-MVP Becca Dahle and Tess Wei, the girls' soccer team won the Friends Schools League title for the first time since 2005. Along with Dahle and Wei, Co-MVP Meghan Cartafalsa, a *Main Line Times* Athlete of the Week selection, and Jo Fischer received First Team All-League honors. Fischer was also named to the All-Main Line First Team and was nominated as the player of the year by the Southeast Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association.

This winter, the boys' basketball team won its fourth consecutive independent school state title led by all-everything senior Amile Jefferson (see his feature story on page 24), and the girls' basketball team played in the FSL Championship game for the fourth straight year, led by MVP, FSL First-Teamer and *Main Line Times* Athlete of the Week Maria Conyers-Jordan.

In the pool, Friends' Central continued their championship reign with the boys' swimming team winning their ninth consecutive championship and the girls' team winning their



seventh consecutive championship. Several girls' records were broken this season: Emily Flick broke the 100 meter freestyle record, and Marielle Greenblatt broke the 100 meter breaststroke record. In addition, the 400 meter freestyle relay record was broken by the team of Allegra Armstrong, Elizabeth Flick, Emily Flick, and Victoria Gillison. The Flick sisters, Gillison, Greenblatt, and team MVP Armstrong took home First Team All-Friends Schools League honors. For the boys, the 400 freestyle relay record was broken by Alex Flick, Oliver Goodman, Matt Weinberg, and Ben Shapiro. Team MVP Alex Flick led the way, swimming to All-League First Team honors. He was joined by Weinberg, Shapiro, and Ryan Cassidy.





## The Play's the Thing

Friends' Central's thespians put on some terrific shows this fall and winter. The Upper School staged creative interpretations of *Middletown* and *Macbeth*; the Middle School put on a captivating and colorful performance of the musical *Once on This Island, Jr.*; and the 4th grade brought the house down with its play, *U.S. Geography*, a musical comedy in which friendly aliens explore all the regions of the United States. The FCS Drama Program earned 13 Greater Philadelphia Cappies nominations this year.



For more than 160 years,  
Friends' Central School  
has benefitted from a  
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FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL









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## A Tradition of Innovation

# GUIDES OUR FUTURE

Times of change can be as invigorating as they are unsettling. They offer a chance to look backward, forward, and inward, drawing lessons and inspiration for the future. With a new Head of School beginning this summer, and a comprehensive Long Range Plan just underway, Friends' Central School is undoubtedly in the midst of change.

BY BETH BURRELL

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What does this mean for Friends' Central? Looking back, how has FCS not only survived 167 years, but thrived, making bold innovations and staying true to Quaker values? Looking ahead, how does the School keep pace with an increasingly complex and technologically sophisticated world? How does the small school of 1845 see itself in 2012? What leaders steered the course in the past, and who will now?

The most recent long-time leader, David Felsen, ended his 23 years at Friends' Central last June. Felsen says he looks forward to the "new, vital leadership" of Craig Sellers, who becomes Head of School on July 1, and that FCS is in a good position to manage the transition like so many before it. "The very able, very stable faculty will see Friends' Central through," he says. That good position, according to Felsen, includes two vibrant, lively campuses, little long-term financial debt, a commitment to diversity, service, and social justice, and academically rich

departments and programs, not to mention high-caliber graduates and alumni/ae.

To James Wright, who has guided the Board of Trustees over the last two years, "A major transition in leadership offers the opportunity to look at what we've been doing and understand the nature of the challenges we're facing." Though the School's enrollment topped 1,000 students at its highest, it's now 890. That's not necessarily a bad thing, Wright says. The transition affords leaders the opportunity to evaluate the best size. "Do we need to be that big? Do we want to be?"

Darin Hayton is a parent of a 4th grader and pre-kindergartener at Friends' Central and assistant professor at Haverford College where enrollment dominates many discussions. "You don't want to blindly get bigger," he says. It's more important to figure out what you do well and do it. "Otherwise, how do you ensure you'll do it better than anyone else?"

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



"You can't chase every trendy educational subject and method," Hayton continues. What impressed Hayton and his wife when they first visited the School was its thoughtful response to change. "It's not a School that is beholden to fashion," he says.

## A LOOK BACK

In 1984, the School published Clayton L. Farraday's comprehensive look at Friends' Central history. Farraday was a respected and long-time biology teacher who had acted as interim Head more than once, and finally, served as School archivist. His book, *Friends' Central School: 1845-1984*, describes the beginnings of the Central School on Cherry Street in Philadelphia. Not too long after, the School moved to 15th and Race Streets, and finally, in 1925, it moved to Overbrook. Some opposed the move to Overbrook as leaving the 'central' city of its roots (orchestrated by then Head of School Barclay Jones), but leaders wanted more green space, especially for younger children, and many other schools were facing similar demands. During those early days, other milestones included opening a Kindergarten in 1877 (radical at the time, according to Farraday); combining boys and girls under one principal in 1905; surviving tough economic times during the Depression; opening the Middle School



Upper School science teacher Kazuo Uyehara instructs his Foundations of Scientific Knowledge class. This 9th grade course is an important building block for FCS's advanced science curriculum. On page 10: Boys' chemistry lab in 1924.

(under the leadership of Thomas Wood, Head of School immediately preceding David Felsen), in the early 1970s; and later, in 1990, moving the Lower School to Old Gulph Road in Wynnewood.

When Wood came to Friends' Central in 1971, he found a fairly "sleepy Quaker school," said Jim Davis, long-time music teacher at FCS who retired last

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

## A Pioneer in Education

### 1845

Friends' Central School, established by the Joint Committee on Education of the Cherry Street, Green Street, and Spruce Street Meetings, opens its doors at 4th and Cherry Streets in Philadelphia for "all Quaker children as well as children of any non-Friends who wished to enroll and share in the Quaker education." Ninety-eight boys and 102 girls were enrolled.



### 1905

Department heads were appointed for the first time to integrate work within the disciplines in the curriculum and between the girls' and boys' departments.



### 1909

**W. Elmer Barrett** becomes first Headmaster of both boys' and girls' departments. Prior to his appointment, separate principals oversaw each division.

### 1857

Friends' Central moves to its new location at 15th and Race Streets.

### 1877

Friends' Central begins offering a Kindergarten class, the first in Philadelphia.

### 1878

The first Commencement exercises were held.

### 1906

Friends' Central joins the Inter-Academic Athletic Association League.





# LEADING THE WAY

*Viewing the progress of Friends' Central over more than a century inevitably leads to Heads of School. But many teachers, administrators, trustees, alumni/ae, and parents have shaped FCS. Notable are:*

**BETTINA MOORE** (1945-1969), a Kindergarten teacher, who recognized the increasingly global world, and established a partnership with a "sister school" in Italy that remains today for 4th graders.

**MICHI TASHJIAN** (1974-2001), Friends' Central's first Diversity Coordinator and Lower School Principal, who asked the question: Why not build the fall curriculum around a single theme (water, the Renaissance, Shakespeare, Narnia) and let teachers run with it? The Lower School's hallmark thematic education curriculum continues today. (See the feature article about thematic learning in the Lower School on page 20.)

**BETH JOHNSON '77**, now Upper School Co-Principal, hired in 1987 as the first person of color in the Friends' Central Admissions Office, charged with attracting minority students

and bolstering the mission of sustainable diversity. She oversaw the Wynnefield Community Scholarship program, under which minority applications soared from a handful to more than 100.

**JIM DAVIS**, long-time music teacher and co-founder (with student Jasper Liem '98) in 1998 of the School's Gay-Straight Alliance, which meets weekly, holds assemblies, dances, and other activities. Davis recently visited numerous GSAs in local public and private schools, confirming that Friends' Central's GSA is one of the most active. "We can be really proud of the place it has in the life of our school," Davis says.

**AL VERNACCHIO**, Upper School English teacher and founder of the School's innovative and now nationally known Sexuality and Society curriculum, recently profiled and lauded in a cover story in *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*.

**JOE LUDWIG '69**, Associate Head of School and Lower School Principal, who insisted that young kids needed a healthy dose of green space separated from bigger kids, and returned from Texas in the late 1980s to head the newly moved Lower School (opened in 1990). "We in the Lower School felt we really could create a child's world," he said.

**1913**

Field Hockey introduced as the first sport for girls.

**1916**

Grades 7 and 8 become co-ed.

**1917**

During WWI, Friends' Central prepares supplies for hospitals and orphanages in France, raises \$364,450 for a Victory Loan, and purchases three ambulances for the Red Cross.



**1922**

L. Ralston Thomas becomes Headmaster.

**1924**

Barclay L. Jones becomes Headmaster.



**1916**

John W. Carr named Headmaster.



**1919**

Charles Burton Walsh named Headmaster.



**1921**

Senior class added to the School (prior to that, FCS education ended in 11th grade).



**1925**

The School moves to City Line Avenue. The philosophy of education in this new "Country Day School" model asserted that the leisure and recreation time of boys and girls were just as important as their study time. The School opened for 213 students in grades 7-12.

**1926**

The Elementary School moved from 15th and Race to Overbrook.





Collaboration and investigation are important principles that drive Friends' Central's pedagogy. Quaker values shape an educational model that is both intellectual and thoughtful.

summer. Davis now oversees the archives and works in the alumni/ae office. Wood set to work creating the School's first development office, granting sabbatical leave and higher salaries for teachers, overseeing construction of Shallcross Hall (including "soft new cushions" in the Meeting room for the first time); and bolstering communications to parents and alumni/ae. He foresaw stiff competition in the college market, and knew that parents had many school choices in the

surrounding Main Line community. He wanted FCS to stand out. During this tenure, enrollment surpassed 600 for the first time in 1980.

Felsen continued that tradition, cultivating relationships with many donors, which led to construction of the Shimada Athletic Center, the Fannie Cox Center for Math, Science, and Technology, and the Language Building, not to mention the outdoor commons now bearing Felsen's

## A Pioneer in Education



**1926**

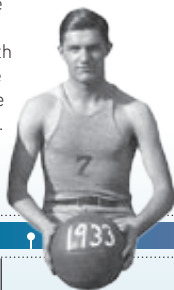
The School seal was approved.

**1927**

The first basketball game was played at Friends' Central's own gym.

**1932**

A school newspaper *Friends' Central News* was born; since some of the content was in direct competition with the *Blue and Gray*, the *Blue and Gray* became the literary magazine.



**1945**

**Richard H. McFeely** named Headmaster.



**1946**

During WWII, Friends' Central partners with two schools in Europe: the Lower School with Ciro Manzini in Montenerodomo, Italy, and the Upper School with Scholen met den Bijbel, in Arnhem, Holland, to provide aid and share correspondence.

**1948**

First Annual Giving program launched.



**1930**

A stage was added to the end of the gymnasium, which made it possible to present a dramatic production.

**1940**

A guidance program for selecting courses of study and preparation for college began.

**1945**

Foreign Study Program began.



**1948**

**Eric Warner Johnson** becomes Headmaster.





name (many don't remember that cars were allowed in what is now the green central campus space). Enrollment during Felsen's tenure rose from just over 600 to more than 1,000 (the endowment from less than \$2 million to more than \$20 million), and the Lower School successfully moved and blossomed on its new 18-acre site. Additionally, Felsen started a successful Friends' Central version of the Basketball, Reading, and Math Clinic during the summers (that he had begun while at Germantown Friends). "David had an extraordinary ability to see and envision the future of the School," Wright says.

## ROOTED IN QUAKER TRADITIONS

If you haven't visited the Friends' Central website recently, there's no better place than the About Us tab to read about the School's mission and core beliefs. With the guidance of a public relations and marketing firm over the last three years, the School has refined the website; re-articulated its Core Beliefs, explained why "Quaker Works" works; and explored the School's reputation and image in the community. Part of a new marketing strategy included periodically publishing the core beliefs in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. For, Felsen, this more public face ran a bit counter to Quaker modesty, but he felt it was vital in today's competitive marketplace where a "brand" name is imperative.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

**1951**

The means of using numbers corresponding to the grade level was introduced (1st grade through 12th grade).

**1958**

The Blackburn Library opens.

**1952**

Merrill E. Bush named Headmaster.



# QUAKERWORKS **2** VISION **20**

## Vision 2020: The Long Range Plan for Friends' Central School

*Through Vision 2020 Friends' Central has created a comprehensive plan to prepare its students for fulfilling lives and for the most challenging colleges and careers. Vision 2020 blends a rigorous preparatory curriculum with enduring Quaker principles, to provide its students with the moral compass needed to let their lives speak as engaged and active citizens. Vision 2020 is defined by five Strategic Goals:*

### QuakerWorks at Friends' Central School

Friends' Central strives to be the most distinctive Quaker school choice in the greater Philadelphia area. We are a school with a commitment to integrating Friends' testimonies and practice in every aspect of school life—all within the context of a vibrant and rigorous academic program.

### Engaging Curriculum

*Vision 2020* seeks to develop a vigorous and innovative curriculum, informed by clear values and driven by a fundamental commitment to nurturing the innate promise of every student. Through the whole-hearted engagement of students and faculty, our curriculum develops collaborative, curious, analytical, and entrepreneurial students endowed with the skills and confidence to flourish in an increasingly complex world.

### Engaged Community

Friends' Central is founded upon a diverse community drawn together by common values—a community that honors all visions and voices and holds unreserved respect for each individual. At the heart of this principle is the essential partnership between family and school.

### Facilities to Support Innovation

*Vision 2020* celebrates tradition and innovation in its facilities by supporting the needs of our evolving curriculum. The facilities at Friends' Central will be evaluated and updated to provide our students with state-of-the-art educational opportunities.

### Financial Sustainability

Through our Long Range Plan, Friends' Central has a fully developed, sustainable financial plan that supports a comprehensive and innovative academic program as it provides our outstanding education to a wide socio-economic range of students.

The underlying message is that Quaker education stands alone in its ability to educate kids to be compassionate, intelligent problem solvers in an increasingly complex world. Many programs and courses at Friends' Central make this happen, along with the freedom granted teachers to shape their curriculum. But two rooted in Quaker tradition are standouts: Meeting for Worship and community service. Both happen in every grade.

Joanne Hoffman, Interim Head of School this year, says she has been stunned at the feelings of pride and ownership, not only of faculty, but of students, in the weekly Meetings. "The depth of thinking and speaking I find extraordinary," Hoffman remarks. Others echoed her feelings. "There's a respect for others and integrity to the meetings for Worship," says Davis. "It's one of the things we do well."

Mark Fifer, a Middle School teacher and administrative advisor since 1981, said Meetings in the Middle School often include a video and music component, and are followed by Life Skills meeting on Thursdays. There, students can follow up in smaller groups about issues raised in the larger Meetings.

Similar accolades apply to the Upper School service days in the fall, and the weekly service days in the Middle School. Fifer says that FCS has been in the forefront for more than 25 years, incorporating service into the

curriculum, especially helpful during the tumultuous middle school years. "It's good for the kids to get outside of themselves," Fifer says. "It's incredible what kids get back from the experience."

## LOSING, BUT WINNING

At a morning meeting for Upper School parents in January, Hoffman played a voicemail message she had received from a Florida resident. The 65-year-old man had attended a basketball tournament in Fort Myers, where the Phoenix Boys' Varsity Basketball team had been defeated. "He was moved to call," Hoffman said, because "he'd never seen that level of grace, dignity, and goodwill before." She continued, "They played their hearts out until the very end when they could have given up. They were courageous and determined."

That message spoke to Hoffman, and offered a telling story about her short time at Friends' Central. "It's a unique culture and climate here, defined by Quaker values," she said. "We all live these every single day. The students seem to have understood and internalized those values—whether it's in a dance performance, on the basketball court, or in a food drive. Our kids live it, not just talk about it."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

## A Pioneer in Education

**1960**

Senior projects established.

**1970**

Thomas A. Wood becomes Headmaster.



**1974**

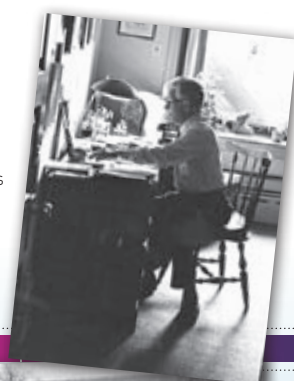
Middle School introduced for Grades 6, 7, and 8.

**1975**

First faculty sabbatical granted.

**1981**

FCS joins the Friends Schools League as an inaugural member.



**1965**

Friends' Central left the Inter-Ac League to join the Penn Jersey League.

**1974**

Friends' Central's first computer purchased.



**1978**

Shallcross Hall is completed. The School Meeting Room and spacious arts facilities were construction priorities.











Sixth graders Briana Cypress, Alexandra Swinton, and Sasha Brooks work together in science class. FCS students are expected to engage actively in their coursework, honor each other's voices, and recognize a plurality of perspectives. Previous page: (from left) Joanne Hoffman, David Felsen, and Craig Sellers.

Like other leaders, Wright feels confident in FCS's mission to guide children academically and socially, and that *Vision 2020*, the School's new Long Range Plan, has looked hard at the management of facilities, financial sustainability, programming, and curriculum. Representatives from the entire school community—parents, teachers, administrators, alumni/ae, and the 30-member Board of Trustees—have been engaged in planning discussions. “Continuous inspection and introspection,” Wright says, “is vital for the School to keep

pace with an increasingly globalized world. The work forced the questions: ‘Where did we want to be *vis a vis* other independent and public schools? How do we stay tied to our mission and prepared for the future?’”

Quaker values—simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship—were and are very much at the core, Wright says. In 1845, and undoubtedly, in 2020. *qw*

**Beth Burrell** is a freelance journalist and Friends' Central parent.

## A Pioneer in Education

**1988**  
**David M. Felsen**  
named  
Headmaster.



**1990**  
Opening of Lower  
School Campus on  
Old Gulph Road.

**1998**  
Gay-Straight  
Alliance formed,  
one of the earliest  
and most active in  
the region.

**2000**  
Shimada Athletic Center  
opens, housing three  
gyms, an indoor pool,  
a fitness room, and a  
wrestling room.



**2012**  
**Craig Sellers**  
selected as  
Head of School.

**1988**  
Basketball,  
Reading, and  
Math Clinic  
established.



**1996**  
Language Building opens with  
innovative language classrooms  
and offices for the counseling  
department.



**2003**  
Fannie Cox Center for Math, Science,  
and Technology opens with 13  
classrooms, two computer labs,  
a lecture hall, and a landscaped  
campus green connecting it with the  
rest of campus.



**2011**  
*Vision 2020*,  
the School's  
comprehensive  
Long Range Plan  
is unveiled after  
months of work  
by the Planning  
Committee and  
Tasks Forces.



## OUR 11TH HEAD OF SCHOOL

*Beginning July 1, Friends' Central will be led by its new Head of School, Craig Normile Sellers.*

"Craig Sellers is an experienced and successful Head of School with a wide range of credentials in the field of independent school education," says James C. Wright, Clerk of the Board of Trustees. "He has been a proven leader at a number of different schools, including Quaker institutions. Craig and his wife, Cary, bring a deep commitment to Friends' faith and practice. With his clarity of vision, depth of experience, and energy to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, Craig is the right person to implement the School's Long Range Plan, *Vision 2020*, and to secure the future of Friends' Central."

The Board's Search Committee, co-clerked by Michael Kelly and Ann Satterthwaite, conducted a comprehensive seven-month national search, and Sellers was the unanimous selection of the Board of Trustees.

Says Kelly, "Craig exhibits all the qualities we desire in our new Head of School. He is a strong communicator with a remarkable record of accomplishment as a head. We see him as the best possible choice to meet the School's needs."

Sellers is currently the Head of School at The Derryfield School, a 380-student day school for grades 6 through 12 in Manchester, N.H., a position he has held since 2007. Sellers began his career in education in 1994 at Friends Seminary in New York where he served as its Director of Development and a member of the faculty. He went on to serve as Head of School at United Friends School, a Quaker

school for students in nursery through grade eight, from 2000-2007 before becoming Derryfield's Head.

"I consider my appointment as the Head of School at Friends' Central to be the professional honor of a lifetime," Sellers says. "Returning to Friends education allows me to integrate my passions in a way that, in equal measure, humbles me and makes my heart race. Friends' Central is uniquely poised to carry on its noble traditions, while embracing the future."

A member of the Society of Friends, Sellers also has served on the Friends Council on Education. He is a graduate of The Lawrenceville School and holds a B.A. in English and government from Franklin & Marshall College. He also received a J.D. from the New York Law School (where he served as Articles Editor of the *Human Rights Law Review*) and an M.A. in educational administration from the Klingenstein Center at Columbia University's Teachers College. Sellers participated in a Fulbright Administrative Exchange in Thailand prior to assuming the headship of The Derryfield School. He and his wife, Cary, have two children.

Notes Sellers, "Looking through a parent's lens added texture to my visits to Friends' Central. At every step, my wife and I were thrilled with the way the School combines opportunities in academics, arts, and athletics with core values we hold dear."

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Craig Normile Sellers and his wife, Cary, were introduced to the Friends' Central community at the first town hall meeting about *Vision 2020*, the School's Long Range Plan.











ALWAYS CONNECTED :

# Thematic Learning in the Lower School

BY BILL DONAHUE  
PHOTOS BY ROB HALL

Thirty-six years is a long time to spend in one place, but not if you're Jack Briggs.

Briggs has taught 3rd grade at Friends' Central School for more than three decades—closer to four, really—yet each year has been fresh and engaging. He credits this “sense of newness and reinvention” to the School’s unique approach to teaching students through a discipline known as thematic learning. Essentially, he and his fellow teachers collaborate on a central theme for the entire Lower School, designed to help students gain a depth of interest and understanding that is often absent in traditional approaches to curriculum.

“The collaboration we have here makes Friends’ Central a very special place that is well suited for the teachers and the students as well,” Briggs says. “It’s a very powerful environment here, and it produces an incredibly strong community that promotes learning on a deep level. As teachers, we do our best when we’re teaching something we have a deep interest in,” he continues, “and the kids do much better because of that; they pick up on that passion, and it makes them want to learn.”



Lower School students traverse the suspension bridge that spans the pond behind the school. Opposite page: (From left) 1st graders Roman Levant, Henry Wheeler, and Nicolas Nonemaker.

Friends’ Central has created an education model shaped in part by Quaker values such as integrity, equality, and compassion. Members of the Friends’ Central faculty set increasingly high standards to prepare students for college life and beyond while encouraging participation in a process that continually fosters creative, critical, and flexible thinking.



Fall thematic projects include hands-on learning, such as building a tipi in Jack Briggs' 3rd grade class.

"The curriculum, and the way in which the pedagogy supports the curriculum, demonstrates a connectedness to learning that creates a powerful foundation for the rest of our students' lives," says Joanne Hoffman, Head of School. "From the very earliest age, students are taught that all learning is connected. Through that sense of interconnectedness there's a power that can last one's whole life."

Friends' Central graduates are intelligent and compassionate problem solvers, actively involved citizens, and visionary leaders. They go on to some of the most prestigious colleges, and as many as 20 percent of graduates over the past five years have been named National Merit Scholar Finalists, Semi-finalists, or Commended students.

"There's a qualitative difference here," Hoffman says. "Students are not satisfied with the surface answer or even just the right answer; there is always the seeking of a deeper truth, and that demands a different kind of approach to scholarship. The thematic piece in the Lower School is extraordinary. It's the way in which students learn to connect different disciplines of science, math,

and literature. It begins in Lower School and extends throughout their education.

"Friends' Central is a place that has depth, texture, and richness in its teaching and learning environment, which is very unusual," Hoffman continues. "Through thematic education, there is an intellectual rigor here undergirded by a very clear set of values that every part of our constituency lives, talks about, and makes part of their lives. Graduates often talk to me about the values they learned here and how those values helped them define themselves into adulthood."

## A PASSION FOR LEARNING

Thematic learning begins at the start of every school year when teachers and students begin the exploration of the Fall Project unified around a common theme. This allows students to explore a subject at a developmentally appropriate level, understand the connectedness of information, and interact with other students across grade levels who are studying the same topic. The theme is reflected across the curriculum in reading and writing, mathematics and science, social studies, art, and music, and teachers have the flexibility to develop their own materials.

"As teachers, we're all able to take our deep passionate interests and use them to create these studies," says Briggs, who earned a Ph.D. in education from the University of Pennsylvania, and is dual certified to teach elementary and high school. "We don't use textbooks; we use regular nonfiction books that relate to a specific topic, such as American Indian culture and history."

For this year's Fall Project, "The World of Water," some classes chose to explore specific places or bodies of water by way of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, or Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson's *Peter and the Starcatchers*. As classes investigate their topics, students discover opportunities to learn about other cultures and life in other lands. Because all educational activities are done in the context of the theme, students develop a rich framework around which to build the information.

For Briggs' students, the Fall Project included hands-on experience—building large structures, for example, such as a tipi. For a previous Fall Project, he and his students built a scaled-down replica of the Wright Brothers flyer made of wood, fabric, and wire, with working controls to underscore the theme of flight.

Briggs and his colleagues teach Friends' Central students that the highest expression of creativity is the belief that



**“It’s a very powerful environment here, and it produces an incredibly strong community that promotes learning on a deep level. As teachers, we do our best when we’re teaching something we have a deep interest in, and the kids do much better because of that; they pick up on that passion, and it makes them want to learn.”**

– JACK BRIGGS, 3RD GRADE TEACHER

“anything is possible.” The visual and performing arts are essential to every student’s education, to express themselves, but also to foster self-confidence, as an integral part of the core curriculum and elsewhere. For example, music classes are required for students from Nursery through grade 10, while dramatic productions are a required piece of the Lower School curriculum and an optional opportunity for Middle and Upper School students. There’s also an incredibly strong sense of community in every classroom at Friends’ Central. This enables students to solve problems together and reach consensus so everyone feels a part of the decision-making process. It also gets them thinking about how they can help their own communities, their country, and the world around them.

The Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship are continually reinforced. All students—from the youngest children to the graduating seniors—know these values, according to Hoffman. Students benefit from a focus on diversity and inclusion, and this depth of respect extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom. Students also participate in major service initiatives to improve the surrounding community, such as raising funds for worthy causes or gathering food items to help others who are less fortunate.

“If you talk to somebody from the class of 1975, to a very recent graduate, they all said their time here had a very strong effect on their working lives,” says Hoffman. “They say this is where they learned the values that sustained them.”

Since 1845, Friends’ Central has been preparing its students for the most challenging colleges and careers, while also providing them with a “moral compass” put in place by cultivating the spirit through the enduring Quaker principles of truth and integrity. The school holds regular gatherings of the community in “The Meeting Room,” whereby members of the constituency are welcome to share their thoughts openly.

“When kids graduate from here, they almost feel like they’ve been taught how to think for themselves, not just accept what they’re told,” says Briggs, who has 16 students in his class this year. “They usually find they can learn anything, so they’re not daunted by heading off to college. With the class sizes as small as they are, there’s a lot of dialogue between teachers and students, and among the students. The children here realize that their ideas are important, and their questions are important.



Alexander Borghese '25 painting his own version of the Sistine Chapel in his pre-kindergarten class.

“We try to be the best independent school we can,” Briggs continues. “As teachers, every year we have a new curriculum to develop, and it keeps you on your toes. That’s important to me as a teacher, but you have to work hard at it. You continually reinvent how and what you teach, which makes it an exciting place to teach. And that, in turn, also makes it an exciting place for children to learn.”

In other words, as the Friends’ Central motto goes, *Quaker Works. QW*

This story first appeared in the February 2012 issue of *Suburban Life Magazine*.





# LEAVING HIS MARK

Amile Jefferson ends his Friends' Central career as a caring friend, a diligent student, and, of course, one of the greatest basketball players the School has ever seen.

BY JASON POLYKOFF '02

I still remember it like it was yesterday. It was spring, and I was a second-year math teacher sitting in my cramped office in the basement of the Middle School, when I walks Mike Michnowicz. Mike, an 8th grader at the time, was perhaps the tallest student in the Middle School standing about six-foot one-inch tall.

"Coach Polykoff, I have a visitor who plays basketball," Mike said.

"Well, bring him in and introduce him to me," I responded.

I was not prepared for who was about to walk into my tiny office. Ducking under the doorway was this tall, skinny, long-armed 8th grade visitor. He had about two or three inches on Mike.

"Hi Coach, my name is Amile Jefferson," this visitor said. He was polite, well spoken, and wore a big smile. I instantly liked him. However, I couldn't help but notice the boyish face on his six-foot-four-inch frame and thought to myself, "Wow, he's going to keep growing!"

"So, are you any good?" I asked semi-facetiously. "I'm okay, I have a lot to work on," he said. I thought to myself, "He's either very modest, or he can't play a lick."

"Well, I hope you decide to come to Friends' Central, and perhaps you could play for us one day," I told him.



Standing out, fitting in ... Amile Jefferson (second from left) walks with senior classmates (from left) Spencer Reiter, Cynthia Valdez, Jeffrey Horowitz, and Daniel Stern.

Well, after four years and four consecutive Pennsylvania Independent School State championships, two Friends Schools League championships, a two-time Pennsylvania AA Player of the Year selection, a three-time Pennsylvania First-Team All-State selection, a two-time *Philadelphia Inquirer* Southeastern Pennsylvania Boys' Basketball Player of the Year award, a two-time ESPN/Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys' Basketball Player of the



Seniors Hannah Albertine and Amile Jefferson listen to an Upper School assembly.

Year award, a McDonald's All-American selection, over 1,500 career points, 800 career rebounds, and 180 career blocks, I found out ... he was just being modest.

Amile comes from a humble background. He applied to Friends' Central as a 6th grade student hoping to attend in the fall of his 7th grade year. However, Friends' Central decided he was not yet academically ready. His math was great, but his writing and reading comprehension needed work. Disappointed, but determined, his family enrolled him at Penn Alexander School in West Philadelphia so that he could work on his reading and writing skills.

Penn Alexander wasn't your normal middle school. Amile had only 40 kids in his class, and there was no basketball team. That didn't bother Amile, though; his concern was strengthening his reading and writing. Amile utilized his time at Penn Alexander to become a stronger student, and after reapplying to Friends' Central in the fall of his 8th grade year, he was admitted for high school.

Contrary to popular belief, Amile was never "recruited" to play basketball at Friends' Central. In fact, I had no idea who he was when he walked into my office that morning. His family never used the "basketball card" when applying to Friends' Central. If he was going to be accepted, it was going to be because he was academically strong enough, not because he could put a ball in a basket.

It didn't take long for me to realize Amile could play. The fall of his freshman year we would hold weekly workouts for players interested in basketball who weren't playing a fall sport. We would have as many as 12 players in the gym working on their skills and playing pickup games. Included in the workouts was future McDonald's All-American nominee and newly transferred student, Travis Robinson '10.

Travis, a junior at the time, was an athletic, six-foot five-inch, wing guard who would eventually receive a full athletic scholarship to attend Boston University. Travis had quickly established himself as one of the most dominant players in the gym—often slicing through defenders with ease before dippy-doing for a layup or dunking over anyone near him. Everyone at the workout knew who Travis was even before he transferred to Friends' Central, and they seemed intimidated.

Everyone that is, except for Amile. As I sat there watching from the sidelines, I'll never forget when Travis received a pass at half court and appeared to have a wide open path to the basket for one of his patented rim-rocking dunks. Amile, his opponent at the time, was under his own basket and was determined not to let Travis score uncontested. With an all-out sprint Amile hustled down the court after Travis who was preparing to jump towards the hoop. As Travis neared the rim for what he thought would be an open shot, Amile's long and lanky



Amile Jefferson brings the crowd to its feet with a thunderous dunk on Spirit Night.



body hurled itself towards Travis as his arm reached up and swatted the ball, pinning it against the backboard. All at once the baby-faced freshman's voiced echoed throughout the gym, "GET THAT SHOT OUTTA HERE!" I turned to my assistant coach who was sitting next to me at the time and said, "He's going to be special."

The thing most people recognize very quickly about Amile is that while he is a fierce competitor on the court, he is a sweet, polite, mild-mannered young man off the court. The same person who will scratch, claw, and grab in order to win a drill at practice will be the first one to invite a Middle School student to shoot with him after practice. While Amile was determined to not allow Travis to make that open dunk and would have done anything to make sure of it, it should be no surprise that Travis became one of Amile's closest friends on the team that season. He understands the difference between being a competitor on the court, and having strong moral character off of it.

Tom MacFarlane, Amile's senior-year literature teacher, recognizes Amile's charismatic personality as well. "As impressive as he is on the basketball court, as an exceptional leader and teammate, Amile is loved and admired in this community above all for everything else he brings to us—his integrity, his sense of humor, his curiosity, his smile, his perspective, and his generosity," MacFarlane says. "I cannot say enough about Amile and what a tremendous role model and leader he has become in our School."

I remember a specific moment from Amile's freshman year that spoke highly to his character. Amile had been playing well and was supposed to make his first start of his high school career against Valley Forge Military Academy. The player who usually started in front of him was a senior who had been playing poorly and was chosen to come off the bench that game. Needless to say this senior was not happy about his demotion and appeared discouraged during pregame warm-ups. Amile, recognizing his teammate's frustration, approached me before the game. He explained that his teammate's mental well-being was more important than him starting, and asked if he could come off the bench so that his teammate could start instead.

I looked at him funny and asked, "Are you sure?"

With all the confidence and maturity of a senior, the young freshman replied, "Yeah coach, it doesn't bother me."

Perhaps most surprising to those who know Amile Jefferson as a terrific basketball player is the fact that



On Senior Night (from left): Assistant Coach John Timms, Head Coach Jason Polykoff '02, Amile's father, Malcolm Musgrove, Amile Jefferson, Amile's mother, Quetta Jefferson, Assistant Coach Kenneth Jackson, and Assistant Coach Scott Scarlotta.

he is a terrific student as well. The competitiveness that Amile exudes on the court also translates to the classroom. Refusing to be thought of as simply a "dumb jock," Amile has become a hardworking, insightful, and resourceful student.

Says Michael Crauderueff, Amile's Spanish II teacher, "From day one, I knew there was something special about him. He was focused, curious, and energetic during our class activities. Indeed, he was always prepared in advance to engage with the material and other students in the classroom. He put forth a total effort, working hard to improve his skills, and he was willing to share those skills with those around him. I was impressed with Amile's respectful attitude for the material, his classmates, and me."

As Amile's coach for the past four years, I will certainly miss his basketball ability, but I will also miss his leadership, intensity, and work ethic. While Amile will be sorely missed, I can't help but think about that future college coach sitting at his desk as Amile, now a freshman in college, walks through the door to say hello. While he may know a thing or two about Amile "the basketball player," he will have no idea about the type of young man he is about to coach. He'll find out soon enough. *QW*

**Jason Polykoff '02** is a Middle School math teacher, Co-Director of Sports Information, and Head Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach at Friends' Central.



# Trip to Holland Spurs Memory of Post-War School Relationship

The colorful tulips from Friends' Central's sister school in Arnhem, Netherlands, were fresh in her mind when **Elizabeth Smith Harper '54** called School Archivist Jim Davis this past January to learn more about the relationship FCS had with *Scholen met dem Bijbel*.

BY JIM MACK



School Archivist Jim Davis and Elizabeth Smith Harper '54 look through clippings about Friends' Central's World War II recovery efforts.

Harper remembered that the tulips were a gift from a school in Holland, and she wanted to research the School's connection before her trip to Europe in June, as she hoped to be able to visit the school. She and Davis spent an afternoon going through the archives from that period.

"We found some interesting clippings that documented Friends' Central's participation in Post-World War II recovery efforts," says Davis.

In 1947 and 1948, the FCS Upper School, led by the Students' Service Committee, sent school supplies, tools, clothing, candy, books, and games to the Dutch school, and the Lower School sent supplies to Ciro Manizini School in Italy. In response, the Arnhem school sent tulip bulbs that were planted in front of what was then the Upper School building (now the Wood Building).

"We also found a moving letter from the head of the Arnhem school that described how difficult conditions were in Holland during and after the war," continues Davis. "He wrote about the utter devastation they experienced and

expressed how thankful they were for Friends' Central's help. It was a vivid and powerful first-person account."

The School Archives, located on the second floor of the Blackburn Library, serve as an important collection of primary sources not only for visiting researchers, but also for Friends' Central's history classes. In fact, Davis says, history teachers have used the letter from the Dutch head of school in lessons about the war and its aftermath.

As Harper was leaving the Archives, she and Davis ran into School Horticulturalist and Arborist Doug Linton '68. After hearing her story, Linton, whose brother was classmates with Harper, asked if she could bring back some catalogs so he could order some Dutch tulips to revive that piece of FCS history. Harper readily agreed.

During a follow-up call Harper said to Davis, "Tell Dougie he'll get his tulips."

To make an appointment to visit the school archives, contact archivist Jim Davis at 610.645.5038 or [jdavis@friendscentral.org](mailto:jdavis@friendscentral.org). [QW](#)

Jim Mack is the Director of Publications at Friends' Central School.



In 1947 a school in Arnhem, Holland, sent a gift of colorful tulips to thank Friends' Central for its support after the war.



# Notes from Friends

## Alumni/ae

### Share Your Alumni/ae News



Friends' Central encourages all alumni/ae to share news in the "Notes from Friends" section of *Quaker Works*.

Send us your photos! Digital photos, saved as 300 dpi .jpg files, are accepted as well as print photos. Photos will be returned upon request.

To contribute, email communications@friendscentral.org or write to Editor, *Quaker Works: The Magazine*, Friends' Central School, 1101 City Avenue, Wynnewood, PA 19096. (All alumni/ae notes are edited for length, grammar, and content.)

### 1943

**Dorothy Coleman Dangerfield** and her husband, Ben, are helping to raise their great grandsons Cole and Logan. "Helping to raise the next generation certainly makes old age interesting!" she writes.



Dorothy Coleman Dangerfield '43 with her two helpers, great grandsons Cole and Logan

### 1948

**Jack Banks** recently returned from a cultural exchange trip to Havana, Cuba, through the Insight Cuba organization. "It was not a vacation," he says. "It was an experience. We saw a lot of poverty, but we also saw some impressive work done by neighborhood groups in the arts, such as an art school for children creating beautiful murals." Banks lives in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he hosted a large holiday party for his neighbors in

December. He had a special caterer fly in for the event from her home in Sherman Oaks, Calif., – his sister **Jill Banks Barad '57**, "who did a beautiful job," he says.

### 1950

**Marlee Chandlee Turner** loves living in Maine, and still takes her annual Amtrak trips to East Texas and California to visit her sons and sister.

### 1953

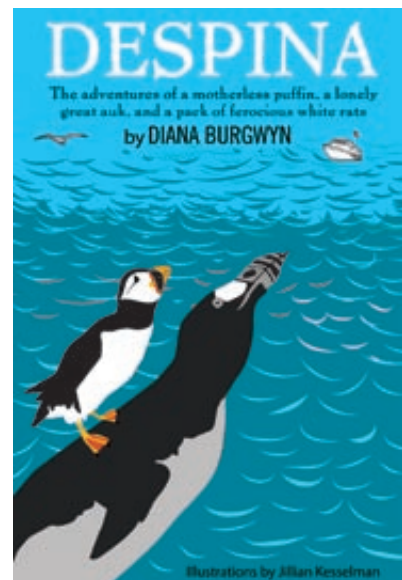
**Dottie Lieberman Grant** lives in Vero Beach, Fla., and is still working full time for an attorney. She serves as house manager for the Emerson Center Celebrated Speaker Series, and hosted the Cultural Council's Florida Humanities Program and Jazz and Cabaret Programs. She was invited for the second year in a row to be a guest speaker at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach on the topic, "The U-Bend of Life – Why People Get Happier as They Get Older." Grant enjoys several visits with her sons, family, and friends in New York City.

**Philippa Wehle** is still active as writer and translator of contemporary French

plays into English and is a program advisor to the *Maison des Arts in Creteil*, located outside of Paris.

### 1954

**Diana Stambul Burgwyn** has taken a break from her writing on classical music and has finished her first work of fiction, *Despina*, a fantasy for children age 8 and up, about a puffin and a great auk. "The underlying message is that every species has a place on earth and, if allowed to become extinct, will be gone forever," she writes. "Publishing a first children's book at age 75, I suppose that's one way to keep our minds young!" The book will be published by Telemachus Press this spring.



### 1956

**Alan Wolf** is still playing jazz in the Philadelphia area and still works as an auto dealer. He recently attended a FCS basketball game with several friends

## Recognizing a Life of Distinction



George M. "Toby" Walters '55

**George "Toby" Walters '55** was recognized by the Education Foundation of Collier County, Florida, as one of its 10 Men of Distinction for 2012. The award honors those who have distinguished themselves through their extensive philanthropic service, and whose passion for helping others has made the community a better place to live.

"In my passion to give back to the community, I have become addicted to the feeling I get when I help other people," Walters says. "Caring about how children

grow by guiding, encouraging, and supporting them will help in maximizing their potential in life. A person of character lives his life with the values of honesty, responsibility, integrity, and respect. Love your life as if you have an obligation to leave this world a better place."

Walters serves as the chairman of the board of directors of Avow Hospice, and mentors in the Take Stock in Children program. He is the retired vice president and wealth strategist of Northern Trust Bank, past president of the Estate Planning Council of Naples, and past director of the Income Development Sub-committee for the American Cancer Society. He also served as a coach and director of youth soccer for 17 years in Wynnewood and Naples.

He and his wife, **Ann (Dothard) '58**, have one son, Greg; twin daughters, Lindsey and Suzanne; two granddaughters; and four step-grandchildren.

from the Class of 1957 including **Richard Klein** and **Pete Drayer**. Wolf has three grandchildren and will be married 50 years on June 30 to his wife, Arlene. He also has recently heard from **Bonnie Bresson Wood** and **Bob Sylk**.

## 1957

**Stephen Cozen**, founder and chairman of the Philadelphia-based law firm Cozen O'Connor, was named Business Leader of the Year by Drexel University's LeBow College of Business for his success in law, business, and citizenship. He was honored at a luncheon on February 13.

## 1959

**Nancy BreMiller Black**, with her husband Michael, successfully moved in early February from their three-story brownstone in Brooklyn that they had lived in for 39 years to a two-bedroom apartment in downtown Brooklyn. After much sorting, giving away, and throwing away of things, they are enjoying their new neighborhood and much simplified lives.

**David Branning** writes that "retirement at end of April has opened up opportunity for Elaine and I to travel and sail three different remote control sail boats in

competition from Detroit, Mich., to Stowe, Vt., to Marco Island, Fla., in 2012. We got to see **Steve Jess** and his sister, **Barbara Charlson '55**, in Marco Island in March, and we share a meal often with **Bonnie** and **Dick Richards** in Maryland. We will see **Betsy Markland Schwartz** in June in California. Countdown to our 55th Reunion has begun."

**Carolyn Houghton** has settled into the Philadelphia area, buying a home last spring and has a new job as a bookkeeper for BBLM Architects, located in the Chinatown area of Philadelphia. "The last of my four children is getting married in June!" she writes.

**Bonnie** and **Dick Richards** traveled slowly south this February, meeting up with other class members along the way. They first visited **Cinda Buswell Hill** in New Bern, N.C., and then caught up with **David Branning** in Florida and **Betsy Mackey Smith** in Hilton Head, S.C. "Though many years have passed since our graduation, our FCS friends are still the best!" they write.

**Betsy Mackey Smith** lives in Hilton Head, S.C., and enjoyed a mini-reunion there with **Allan Mackey '55** and his wife Helen, and **Bonnie** and **Dick Richards**. "Great memories still strong after 50 years!" she writes.

**Joan Sperans** has enjoyed leading tours as a docent for the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. "The Houdini exhibit was the most fun," she writes. Sperans traveled to Shakespeare festivals in Ashland, Ore., Amsterdam, Poland, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Williamsburg, Va., and travel photography continues to be a new interest for her. "The most rewarding part of 2011 has been my ongoing mentorship of a 16-year-old high school junior. We share our love of photography, hiking, art, and dance. Her grades have improved so much this year!"



**Joan Shore Steinhouse** currently splits her time between New York City and Steamboat Springs, Colo., and writes that "if anybody expects to hit these parts, let me know. We are really living the life of two best worlds: an exciting, exhilarating city and a wonderful outdoor, mountain, hiking, biking, golfing, skiing life."

## 1960

**Rich Ulmer** writes that he is "still carrying such wonderful memories from our 50th Reunion and hoping we can put together a 55th of similar proportions. It'd sure be a great opportunity to meet and acquaint with our new FCS Head of School in person as well as renew relationships with fellow '60ers. Until then, best wishes to all."

## 1961

**Julie Pontz Curson** writes that "the Class of 1961 50th Reunion was a huge success, and months later, it's still happening! **Lynne Iverson Neefe**, **Joan Belletti Rensch**, **Rich Allman** and I made a 'road trip' to Reading to visit with classmate **Michael Ritter**, who missed the Reunion. Another such

'trip' more recently occurred along with classmate **Gary Vogt**. Very preliminary conversations are underway for a Class 70th Birthday Party in the fall of 2013, when that auspicious event will happen or have happened to all of us. Stay tuned for further updates! Join the conversation!"

**Allen Reishtein** will retire from his law practice this summer after 44 years. He and his wife, Judy, decided to relocate to Jerusalem, where they will be closer to their children and grandchildren.

## 1963

**Joanne Johnson Hemingway** writes, "It is difficult to believe that it has been 49 years since I graduated from FCS, while my son, **Sylvan '03**, graduated nine years ago, and my daughter, **Ellen '05**, seven years ago. I can't help but remember fondly and continually appreciate how good FCS has been to all three of us."

## 1964

**Shellie Curcio Karabell** has been appointed director of media relations and knowledge, and editor-in-chief of INSEAD

Knowledge at the INSEAD Business School in Fontainebleau, France. INSEAD is ranked among the top business schools in the world and has campuses in France, Singapore, and Abu Dhabi.

## 1965

**Kathleen Lane Enscoe** lives in Green Bay, Wis., and recently visited classmate **Toinette Leroux Jewell** in Naples, Fla. "Toinette and her husband sold their Pennsylvania home and their condo in Miami and moved to a new home in Naples. Here's to FCS and our continued connections," she writes.

## 1966

**Laurie Clement** is going on her second trip to Cuba in April with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. She is an Advisory Council Member of the Institute and also has been involved this semester in an Eckerd-sponsored organic gardening program called the Edible Peace Patch Project, in which she teaches grades K - 6 to plant and grow their own vegetables in gardens at several elementary schools. "In my spare time I have taken up Cajun Zydeco, Swing, and Contra dancing—life is good," she writes.

## 1967

**Jean Murdock Warrington** writes, "It's been 45 years, and my classmates' faces are clear in my memory ... I'm back in Philadelphia, working with Quakers in North Philly doing community gardens with kids ... I'm thinking of Mr. Ely's English class in that tiny third floor room with slanted walls."

## 1968

**Peter Luborsky** has been teaching Modern Languages at Ursinus College for the past 11 years, he writes, "but in an odd turn, I have come to be teaching



Members of the Class of 1961 took a road trip to visit Michael Ritter (seated in front), who missed the Reunion. From left are Rich Allman, Joan Belletti Rensch, Julie Pontz Curson, and Lynne Iverson Neefe.

## Notes from Friends

Latin, too, and often have occasion to thank Ms. Fiesel for introducing me to it. My son, David, is living in Maui and is expecting his second son, and daughter, Marie, is living in Toulouse, France. And I live in elegant Phoenixville."

**Helen Miehle** is in her last semester of a two-year study program at the Institute for Spiritual Formation, part of Talbot School of Theology at Biola University near Los Angeles. She hopes to graduate in May with an M.A. in spiritual formation and soul care. "Part of my training included a three-week solitary retreat accompanied by a therapist near Gig Harbor, Wash., which was an enlightening and life-changing experience," she writes. "I enjoyed breath-taking sunrises and sunsets while in Washington and the beautiful views along the California coast (especially the Big Sur area) where I went camping with a friend in August. God willing, I hope to use what I have learned about spiritual formation and soul care to be an encouragement to Bible translators in Southeast Asia, where I have worked as a translation consultant for many years. I really enjoyed seeing classmates at our 40th reunion back in 2008, but I probably won't make it to our 45th since I plan to be overseas by spring of 2013."



Helen Miehle '68 on vacation at Big Sur on the California Coast in August 2011.

## 1969

**Carl Parris** celebrated 30 years at IBM in November. At IBM he works on mainframe strategy and design with a focus on analytics. "Both kids are out of the house and launched in their own careers, so my wife, Ann Moring, and I bought the Hudson Valley Pottery School in the village of Rhinebeck, N.Y.," he writes. "Ann is a painter and has her studio upstairs, and we have eight pottery wheels, three kilns, and a staff of great instructors. When I get a bit of free time I sail my boat on the Hudson River."



Carl Parris '69 learning to throw a pot in his new pottery school.

## 1970

**Charles Gregory** has served as co-host of the live Internet radio show "The New American Dream Radio" since February 2011.

**Sherry McVickar** is exhibiting a collection of her paintings at the Montgomery County Community College West campus. The show, "Sherry McVickar: American Literalist," runs from May 21 to June 29.

## 1972

**Carol Clemencko** is still living in San Diego, Calif., where she works as a psychologist. She is traveling to Europe with her husband of 25 years to celebrate their anniversary. Her son graduated from Harvard in 2009 and lives in New York, where he works at the Ford Foundation.

## 1975

**Mark Arnold** has recently married and is now living in London.

## 1978

**Alex Otey** produced a Grammy-nominated CD, *Fitness Rock e3 Roll*, in the Best Children's Album category, on which he was also a featured artist. He also arranged and produced a work as a contributing featured artist on the Grammy-winning CD, *All About Bullies ... Big and Small*, in the same category. All proceeds from that album will be donated to Pacer Center's Kids Against Bullying. Otey's wife, Amy, was the featured vocalist on *Fitness Rock e3 Roll*, and was featured on the Grammy-winning *All About Bullies*.



Alex Otey '78 (second from left) walks the red carpet at the 54th Grammy Awards with his wife, Amy, and band. Otey produced a Grammy-nominated CD, and was a contributing featured artist on a Grammy-winning CD.

**Stacey Snider**, co-chairman and CEO of DreamWorks Studios, was honored by the City Year organization for her commitment to education. Snider is a



## A Life of Music



Gabriel Schaff '77 with former FCS choral director and current School archivist Jim Davis at Rutgers University in 2010.

**Gabriel Schaff '77** wrote his first book, *The Essential Guide to Bows of the Violin Family*, which comprises his many years of historical research on string instruments and their shared influences on compositional styles and performance practices. The book, published in 2009, has received critical acclaim world-wide. Two further historical works are in the process of being published.

Schaff is a freelance violinist, performing as a tenured member with many of the leading symphony, opera, and ballet ensembles in and around New York City, in addition to chamber and recital

collaborations. Recent live performances have explored unjustly neglected works of the grand Romantic tradition of the 19th century. Schaff has performed throughout most of Europe and the Middle East, and has been broadcast on National Public Radio and Television, New Jersey Network, the BBC, and many commercial radio and television stations. In addition to his private teaching studio, he continues a relationship with Rutgers University and SUNY Purchase as a guest performer and lecturer, most recently with Pinchas Zukerman and Gil Shaham. His professional studies on the violin have included the Curtis String Quartet and Manhattan School, where he served as Erick Friedman's teaching assistant, and subsequent collaborator for 11 years as a chamber musician at the Garrett Lakes Arts Festival in Maryland. His years of research and application in the concert hall has created a demand for his expertise. He is also the shop manager for Robert Ames Fine Violins and Bows, the largest shop of its kind in New Jersey, just outside Manhattan.

His daughter Susannah, attends Marymount Manhattan College in New York City.



Gabriel Schaff '77

member of the City Year Los Angeles Board. Two films that she worked on with Steven Spielberg (*War Horse* and *The Help*) were nominated for best picture at the 2012 Oscars.

## 1980

**Joshua Klein** has accepted leadership posts with many Philadelphia groups, including co-chair of the Legislative Committee for the Apartment Association of Greater Philadelphia; co-chair of Corporate Partners at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts; treasurer of Lower Merion and Narberth Public Access Television; and secretary of the Rotary Club of Bristol.

## 1984

**Raymond Lohier** was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, taking the seat of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomeyer. Celebrating his induction were FCS classmates **Mark Silberberg**, **Carlos Alston**, **Jeff Greenberg**, **Dan Porter**, and **Andrew Miller**.



Celebrating the induction of Raymond Lohier to the U.S. Court of Appeals are Class of 1984 classmates (from left) Mark Silberberg, Carlos Alston, Jeff Greenberg, Lohier, Dan Porter, and Andrew Miller.

## 1985

**Andrea Deutsch** was elected to the Narberth Borough Council in February, on which she will serve until December 2013. She chairs the Finance Committee and the Economic Development

## Notes from Friends

Committee, and serves on the Health & Welfare and Property Committees as well. She was chosen for her leadership as a small business owner (she owns Spot's, the Place for Paws) and her commitment to being involved in the community. She also holds a law degree from Temple University and has practiced law at Lundy, Flitter, Beldecos & Berger. She concentrated in consumer fraud litigation. She is a member of the Narberth Business Association and treasurer of Narberth Havurah. She also serves on the Friends' Central School Board of Alumni/ae.

**Robynne Slotnick Pendariès** has been living in Paris since she graduated from Tufts in 1989. She lives with her French husband, Marc, who is a golf pro. "I started my own professional organizer business five years ago, mostly for expatriates and Anglophones living in Paris", she writes. She has two children, Adrien, 13, and Léa, 9.

### 1987

**Tonya Evans** was promoted to Associate Professor of Law at Widener University School of Law (Harrisburg Campus). She is looking forward to attending her 25th reunion this May!

**Jen Zweben** took a recent surf trip to Panama and began working with Quiksilver as a digital user experience architect. She is also traveling this spring to Jordan for a trek to Petra. "Since I'm taking so much time off, I might not make it to reunion, but I will try my hardest to get there," she writes.

### 1988

**Aaron Selkow** has gone back to camp. After three years working for JCC Association in New York, Selkow returned to his "roots" in becoming the Executive Director of Camp Harlam. The camp's 300-acre camp site and retreat center is in the Poconos with a

year-round office in Bala Cynwyd. His wife, Ann, and daughter, **Lily '21**, will continue spending their summers at Pinemere Camp (where Selkow was the longtime director) 10 miles away ... "but at least I will have my dog, Luke, with me at Harlam!" he writes. Selkow also published his first book, *Robust Cloud: A Father's Journey to China*, a journal from his trip with his wife to adopt Lily in 2004.

**Sonya Sklaroff** showed her solo exhibit, *New York Portraits, Part III*, this fall at *Galerie Sparto* in Paris, France.

### 1989

**Keith Robinson** was recognized by the American Board of Cardiology as an Outstanding Pulmonary Specialist Physician and also received a Special Recognition for Excellence Award by the National Institute of Pulmonary Hypertension.

### 1990

**Amanda Welsh Greenwald** recently became the Dean of Faculty at Winchester Thurston School, an independent school in Pittsburgh, where she has been teaching for 15 years.

### 1994

**Daniel Slawe** and his wife, Meredith, welcomed their daughter, Dorothy Ruth, on September 17. Dotty joined her big brother, Billy. Dan is chief operating officer and general counsel of Evolution Marketing Research, a health care marketing research firm in Blue Bell, and is a part-time MBA student at NYU Stern School of Business. Meredith is an associate in the Commercial Litigation Group at Drinker Biddle & Reath in Philadelphia. Dan and Meredith met on their first day of classes at Penn Law School in 2002 and will celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary this May.

### 1995

**Andrew Scharff** is finishing up a year performing with Celebrity Cruise Lines on the Celebrity Solstice. He was in the Caribbean for eight months and in the Mediterranean for the last four. He is looking forward to taking a break to return home to Philadelphia, but will return to the Solstice in October 2011 to continue to perform in four different shows.

**Barney Schmidt** welcomed his daughter Penelope Fae Schmidt, born on August 27, 2011, in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Penelope Fae Schmidt, daughter of Barney Schmidt '95

### 1996

**Beth Truzansky** is very involved with the Burlington Friends Meeting and just led the Meeting in a six-month visioning and strategic planning process. Professionally, she continues to work with the City of Burlington, Vt., and area agencies to do a better job serving Burlington's diverse community. "Life with kids and my partner, Tracy, is a great gift!" she writes.



Former FCS teacher Steve Ruzansky with his granddaughter, April Truzansky.





Beth Truzansky '96, with her daughters, April and Faith.

**Denise Woltering Vargas** is sorry she could not attend last year's reunion and is hoping to make the next one. She is currently living in New Orleans with her husband, Ricardo, and daughter, Belisa. She works at Tulane University managing the Educational Outreach program at the Stone Center for Latin American Studies. She received her B.A. in Spanish from Reed College, and M.A. in international communication at American University. When not working, she enjoys traveling and parading in New Orleans second lines with her family.

## 1997

**Matt Murphy Garmur** and his wife, Kelly, live in Oakland, Calif., where he is the CTO at a small tech startup called CrowdTangle. Matt worked at Friends' Central for nine years after college before moving out to the Bay Area, where he lives near fellow classmates **Ari Moskowitz** and **Anne Griffith Olow**.

**Emil Steiner** earned a Master's degree in journalism from Temple University, where he serves as a communications professor at the Fox School of Business.

**AnnMarie Polsenberg Thomas's** work with "squishy circuits" was featured in a recent *Wired* Magazine video about making electrical circuits from homemade Play-Doh. Thomas is an assistant professor at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. She is the director of the UST Design laboratory and leads a team of students looking at both the playful side of engineering (squishy circuits for students, the science of circus, toy design) and ways to use engineering design to help others. Thomas co-founded and co-directs the UST Center for Pre-Collegiate Engineering Education. Through this center, she develops and

teaches engineering courses for Pre-K through 12 educators and conducts research on engineering at the pre-collegiate level.

## 1999

Robyn Polykoff was recently promoted to Director of Education and Assistant Director of the School at The Malvern School for Early Education in King of Prussia. She has also become the proud mother of a beautiful baby girl, Marisa Taylor Mudd, born on June 29, 2011.

## Alumna Launches Successful Boys' Clothing Line



Samantha Taylor '99 (left) with business partner Jess Tweedale

While in college, Samantha Taylor '99, took a spur-of-the-moment trip to London and fell in love with the city. She later decided to make the UK her permanent residence and began working at the University of Oxford in research administration. After a few years, though, she decided to test her skills in the world of fashion. Having grown up with a mother working in fashion design, it did not feel like such a leap for Taylor to take up this same interest. Her mother flew out and stayed for six weeks, passing off her knowledge of quality fabrics and design savvy. And so Unruly Blue was born.

In her time as a British transplant, Taylor noticed that European men have a much greater appreciation for their wardrobe choices in comparison to their American counterparts. This, in conjunction with working at a university that is more than 800 years old, inspired Taylor to create a vintage, preppy-chic aesthetic for boys ages 4 through 12—sharp enough for fashion, comfortable enough for function. "We're trying to dress the next generation," Unruly Blue Associate Director Jess Tweedale explains.

Unruly Blue officially took off last April, and was soon picked up by Hervia, a high-end British boutique, where Taylor's pieces will appear alongside Vivienne Westwood formalwear. All materials used are synthetic-free and manufactured exclusively in England to not only ensure quality, but to honor those influences that shaped Unruly Blue. You can see Taylor's line at [unrulyblue.co.uk](http://unrulyblue.co.uk).

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Robyn Polykoff '99 with daughter, Marisa.

## 2000

**Rachael Feinman Nichols** is in her sixth year as a French teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia, outside of Washington, D.C. She will be graduating from George Mason University in May with a Master's degree in education. When not in the classroom, as a teacher or student, Rachael is spending time with her two sons, Logan, 2 ½, and Hayden, 13 months.

**Tara Ramchandani** is now settled in Washington, D.C., where her husband, Chiraag Bains, and she are both civil rights lawyers. Ramchandani works at Relman, Dane & Colfax, a small firm in D.C. with



Becky Auslander '01 (center) celebrated her wedding with classmates Carly Segal '01 and Julie Katz '01 in September.

a nationwide litigation practice focusing on housing and lending discrimination, employment discrimination, public accommodations, and police misconduct. This past September she had the pleasure of joining in the celebrations surrounding the wedding of **Isabel Daniels** to Andy Glowalla. "In addition to toasting the happy couple, it was wonderful to catch up with FCS friends, including **Emily Bosk '99**, **Amy Meyerson**, **Liz Wells Oppenheim '98**, **Ali Pincus**, and **Jessica Rosenberg**," she writes.

## 2001

**Becky Auslander** married Josh Zweig on September 24, 2011. **Julie Katz**, **David Kivitz**, and **Carly Segal** attended the wedding, as well as the bride's brother, Scott Auslander '96.

## 2002

**David Gershkoff** married Joanna Slusky in June. They spent this past summer in Stockholm, where Joanna was a postdoctoral researcher in biophysics



David Gershkoff '02 married Joanne Slusky in June 2011.



at Stockholm University, and David served a research assistant for Princeton economics professor Alan Krueger. They traveled to the Balkans, including Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, and Greece for their honeymoon in August. The couple recently moved to Center City Philadelphia, where David is continuing his Ph.D. studies in economics at Princeton, and Joanna is conducting postdoctoral research at Fox Chase Cancer Center.

**Jason Polykoff** was a panelist in November at Haverford College's Careers in Sports Symposium, a joint project of the Bi-College Career Development Office and the Haverford Athletics Department. The speakers discussed how they got into the sports industry and gave tips to students about how to get jobs in this competitive field. Polykoff is a Middle School math teacher, co-director of sports information, and varsity boys' basketball coach at Friends' Central. He has led the Phoenix to four consecutive Pennsylvania independent school state titles.

**Geoff Wertime** left the world of journalism in the spring to pursue a career in civil rights, and just started this fall at New York University Law.

## 2003

**Benj Pasek** composed the score for *A Christmas Story: The Musical!* with his writing partner, Justin Paul. The duo won the 2011 Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theater from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for their writing of the music and lyrics for the play, *Dogfight*.

**Mustafa Shakur** is ranked as the 95th-best high school basketball player in Pennsylvania high school history, in a new book, *Heads of State: Pennsylvania's Greatest High School Basketball Players of the Modern Era*. **Hakim Warrick '01** ranks 113th.

## 2005

**Eli Muhrer** is studying pediatric mood disorders using brain imaging in a fellowship at the National Institutes of Health. He will begin his first year at Harvard Medical School this fall.

**Anna Raff** has enrolled in a Ph.D. program in French Literature at New York University.

## 2006

**Lise Rahdert** is working on sentencing reform and corrections policy at the Vera Institute of Justice in New York City. She will begin her first year at Yale Law School in the fall.

## 2007

**Sammy Dweck** recently took an amazing trip to Israel. "I rode a camel through the Negev, climbed Mount Masada, floated in the Dead Sea, and then returned home to my best month ever in real estate sales!" he writes.

**Jason Goodman**, a current student at the University of Pennsylvania, is the director of a state-wide network for over 70 LGBT student groups on both high school and college campuses. He attended a state conference in Pittsburgh, where he was honored for being the most progressive youth in the state. Jason was also



Sarah Friedman '07

## World Cup Dreams Lead to Professional Soccer in Tel Aviv

Sarah Friedman '07 is playing professional soccer in Israel for ASA Tel Aviv, a team based at Tel Aviv University that won its league cup last season. The recent University of Pennsylvania graduate hopes to make the Israeli national team and play in a World Cup. Friedman visited Israel in 2009, when she competed for the United States in the Maccabiah Games. "I didn't want to leave when I was there," she said in an article in the *Jewish Exponent*. The attacking midfielder finished her career at Penn as the all-time assist leader with 30 and ninth in all-time points with 48. She was a two-time First-team All-Ivy League selection and helped the Quakers win two Ivy League titles.

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recognized by the national organization "Campus Pride" as one of the top 12 LGBT youth advocates in the country.

**Max Nisen** is currently an editorial intern at *Al Jazeera English* in Doha, Qatar. He is writing for the international business, finance, and economics program "Counting the Cost." Nisen graduated from Pomona College last June with an economics degree.

**Emily Spooner** graduated from Tufts in May and is currently working in the Boston Teacher Residency program, in which she is co-teaching and also earning her M.Ed. "When I think about models for planning in the classroom, my FCS teachers (particularly my English and history teachers) are the examples that most immediately come to mind," she writes.

### 2008

**Michael Dohrmann** is in his senior year at Franklin and Marshall and is captain of the track team. After graduation he will work at Prudential Financial, Inc. in asset management.

**Jackson Greenberg** composed and produced his original work, "The Other Side of Paradise," which was recorded by the Bratislava Symphony Orchestra. He is a senior at Princeton University.

**Candice Hardie** is a public communications major at American University and is currently interning with Discovery Communications' Animal Planet Network.

**Alfonse Mandese** will graduate *cum laude* with a degree in economics from Franklin and Marshall in May. After graduation he will be doing institutional equity sales for Citigroup in Boston.

**Hannah Minkoff** is a political science major at New York University.

**Alexy Posner** spent the summer in Europe taking classes at Trinity College. She now has a one-year internship in Los Angeles with Arn Tellem, the sports agent of the Phillies' Chase Utley.

**Dana Sigovich** is a senior at West Chester University, and is applying to the Fashion Institute of Philadelphia.

**Hope Spector** is taking the year off to serve as a social networking intern in Israel. She is planning to attend graduate school to study sex therapy.

**Alexander Unkovic** was selected to serve as an Eleanor Under Winter '43 Endowed Intern at the Tang Museum, Skidmore College's contemporary art gallery.

### 2009

**Ariel Several** is completing her junior year at Johns Hopkins University majoring in political science and minoring in entrepreneurial management. Last fall she studied in London, England, and had an internship with Quintessentially Communications PR. Her job included public relations assignments for high end brands such as Jaguar and Johnnie Walker. This summer she will be interning at Bloomberg LP at their corporate headquarters in New York City as a financial sales and analytics intern. Several is also a top tennis player at Johns Hopkins, and has played in the top six starting singles players since freshman year. The Blue Jays have won the Centennial Conference for the past five years and made it to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Championships for the past three.

### 2010

**Gabriella Capone**, a sophomore goalkeeper at Swathmore College, was named the Centennial Conference defensive field hockey player of the week in October.

**Talia East** has been a key member of the Penn State women's basketball team, helping the team earn a four-seed in the NCAA tournament.

### 2011

**Elizabeth Baker** is enjoying her experience at Syracuse University. She was cast in the independent film *Adult World* starring John Cusack and Emma Roberts and filmed cameo scenes in early March.

**Malique Killing** was second on the team in scoring at 16.6 points per game in his debut season at Muhlenberg College. His 27 points led the Mules to a league playoff victory against Ursinus, in which he broke the school's freshman scoring mark. He finished the season with a freshman record 449 points.

**Dan Kurnick** and **Sonjay Singh** worked for the Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center this summer as junior teachers. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* ran a story in July, "Young eco-sleuths discover Cobbs Creek fish kill," about their work in tracking down the source of fish kill to a city pool discharging chlorinated water. Kurnick and Singh spent the summer training younger interns to continue this kind of work.

## In Memoriam

### Faculty and Staff

Sarah "Nancy" Beaman  
Laurie Fox

### Alumni/ae

Jean Campbell Lumpkin '39  
Joyce La Roche Finkbiner '47  
Mary Fleischer Hughes '35  
Christine Meyers Jameson '47  
Jane Lines Manring '51  
Margaret Roatch Nagy '55  
Rose Pepp Phillips '57  
Junious A. Rhone '78  
Hoylande J. White '45



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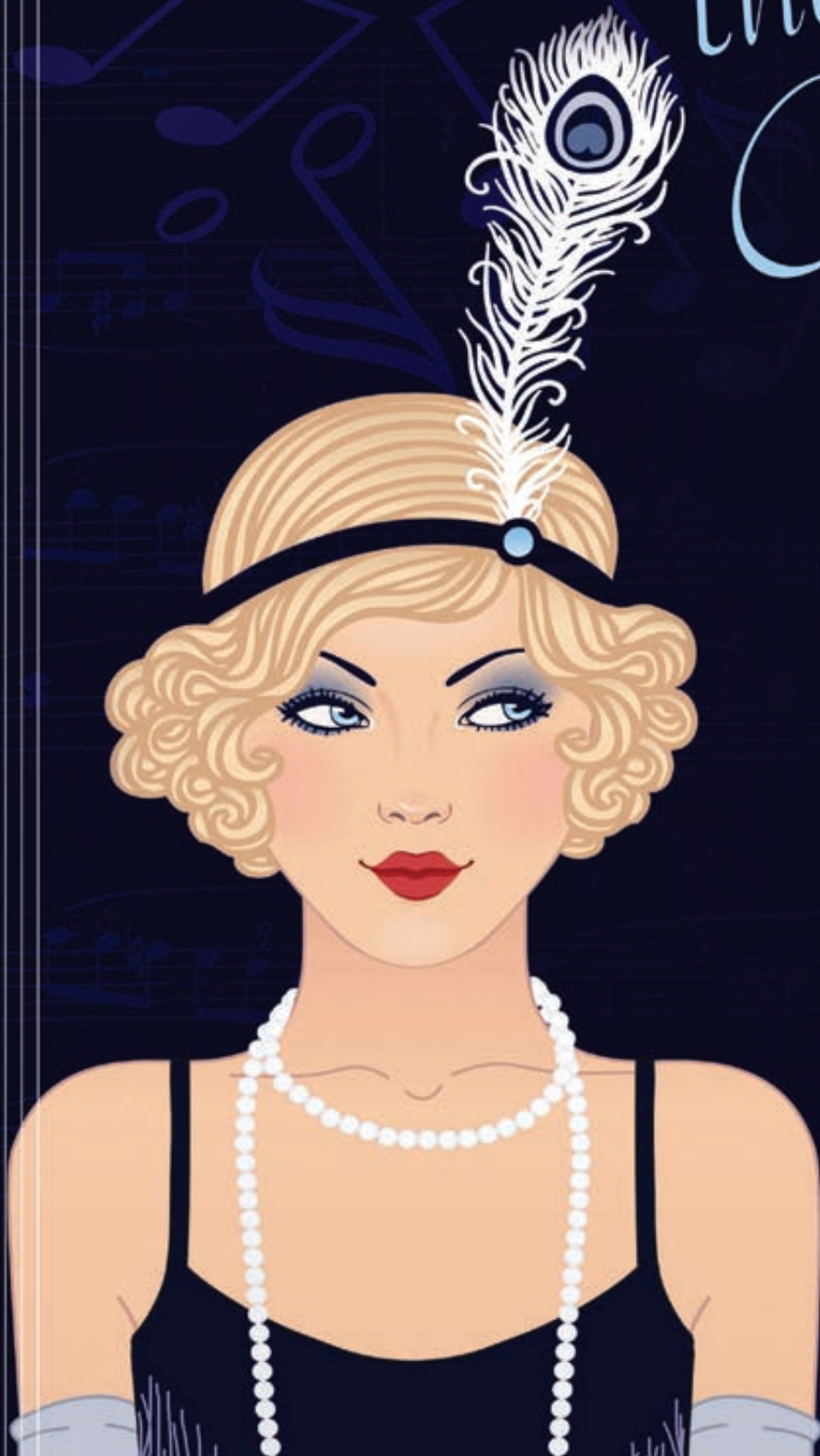
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# THE **LEGEND** OF THE SAMURAI **QUAKER**

In 1887, when the Friends' Central City Avenue campus was still the home of the Morris family, Mrs. Wistar Morris, a Quaker and philanthropist, hosted a unique visitor in the family mansion, now the Wood Building.

BY GRANT CALDER AND DWIGHT DUNSTON '06



Inazo Nitobe, born in Japan in 1862 into the Samurai class, came to the U.S. in 1884 to study at Johns Hopkins. One day, Nitobe caught sight of a group of women coming out of what he would come to learn was a Meeting house. The women and their plain dress struck a chord within Nitobe.

"I liked very much their simplicity and earnestness," he wrote. He attended one Meeting for Worship, and continued to attend Meetings, later becoming a convinced Quaker.

Before the end of his master's degree studies at Johns Hopkins, Nitobe was asked by Morris to speak to the Friends Foreign Missionary Society in her home. The Friends had just begun missionary work in Japan, and were eager to learn about the country. After his talk, Nitobe was approached by a young lady named Mary Elkinton, who was from a prominent Quaker family in Philadelphia. Elkinton was moved by his words, and the two spoke at length. Four years later, they married, and the event was featured on the front page of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Mary spent the rest of her life in Japan, where she started the Distant Friends School and also helped to establish the first Japanese Humane Society.

In 1900, Nitobe wrote his most famous book, *Bushido: The Soul of Japan*, in which he discussed how the Samurai ideals of politeness, bravery, and loyalty were ingrained in Japanese culture and how these principles paralleled

chivalry in the West. Nitobe, having been introduced to the Samurai code at a young age and Quaker beliefs in his adult years, heard echoes of his early life in his current.

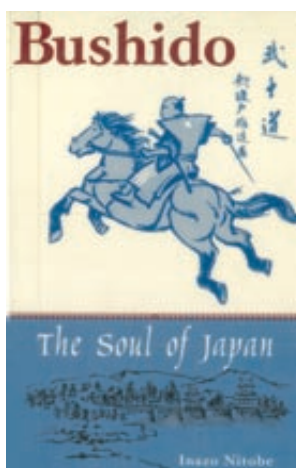
It was Nitobe's hope that the teachings of Bushido would move individuals of all backgrounds to live a life of charity, as he stated, "With an enlarged view of life, with the growth of democracy, with better knowledge of other peoples and nations, the Confucian idea of benevolence ... will expand into the Christian conception of love."

Nitobe established a reputation as one of Japan's great internationalists. He was a prolific author (among his works is a biography of William Penn, published in 1894)

and held many academic and diplomatic posts in Japan. In 1920 he was selected as the Under Secretary-General in the League of Nations. Nitobe continues to be widely recognized for his work in encouraging cultural and economic ties between Japan, the U.S., and other western countries. Between 1984 and 2004, his portrait appeared on the 5,000 yen bill.

No doubt Nitobe would have been pleased to know that in the 21st century, the house in which he addressed a group of internationally minded 19th century Quakers is not only a centerpiece of the Friends' Central campus, but the Saturday campus of the Japanese

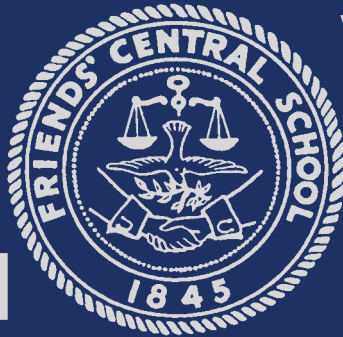
Language School of Philadelphia, serving more than 230 students from around the Delaware Valley. *qw*



**Grant Calder** is an Upper School history teacher and the Co-Director of College Counseling, and **Dwight Dunston '06** is a Communications and Teaching Assistant at Friends' Central.



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**Questions? Please call Lydia Martin, Director of Development 610-645-5034**



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