

# QUAKER WORKS

THE MAGAZINE OF FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

10:1 Fall 2018

## Summer Learning for FCS Faculty

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Alumni/ae back on campus for Reunion 2018  
*See page 24 for a Reunion recap*

# Letter from the Head of School

Dear Friends,

We're in the moment when school life pivots from the beginning of the year to a school in full swing. The air is crisp, sports teams are entering (and winning!) fall championships, performing arts events are taking shape, and, of course, our classrooms are thriving.

These last few weeks, I have had the pleasure of seeing young Friends' Central graduates taking some time from their colleges' fall breaks to visit teachers and friends. As I reflect on my time in FCS classrooms this fall, these visits just make sense – I've observed the magic. There is a connectedness in our classrooms that encourages participation and rewards intellectual bravery. The dialogue is lively and intellectual, and shaped by both students and teachers.

Our science and humanities Core Teams have been staples of the Upper School for many years. This year, under the leadership of Dwight Dunston '06, Coordinator of Equity and Justice Education, we have added an all-school Justice Core Team who will kick off by investigating environmental justice with a focus on water. We will begin the year's exploration with a visit and public lecture by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, the courageous pediatrician who played a key role in exposing and ameliorating the Flint water crisis.

We are all excited about the added dimensions and opportunities our new teaching kitchen and Center City extended day program are offering FCS students and families. They are newly unfolding, and I look forward to sharing more about them in the coming months.

I particularly want to take a moment to thank you for sharing your love for Friends' Central with colleagues, relatives, and friends. This year, Friends' Central welcomed 158 new, talented, and enthusiastic students. Most of these new families say that they first visited the School because a friend or colleague encouraged them to take a look. So thank you to all who are out in the world and spreading the FCS word.

I look forward to seeing you on campus.



**Craig N. Sellers**  
*Head of School*



## QUAKER WORKS

The Magazine of Friends' Central School

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We welcome any comments, letters, photographs, and suggestions for future issues.

Please send all communications to [communications@friendscentral.org](mailto:communications@friendscentral.org).

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FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL



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### ON THE COVER:

Members of the Class of 2018 celebrate the moment they all officially graduated. See page 18 for the full Commencement 2018 recap.

Lower School students helping science teacher Tiffany Borsch take care of the chickens on the Lower School campus

# CAMPUS LOG

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

## Middle School Students Garner 2018 Philadelphia Classical Society Awards

FCS Middle School students once again excelled at the annual Philadelphia Classical Society contest held in May, taking home an impressive 22 awards. Accolades included the Best of Show that went to Esmé Yanowitz '22. Congratulations to all of our Latin students on yet another strong year!



Upper School Chorus members and teachers pictured with Eric Whitacre (seated)

## FCS Students Perform at Carnegie Hall

In April, Upper School Chorus students participated in a choral music festival in New York City for national and international high school and college choral groups led by Grammy-winning composer/conductor Eric Whitacre. Organized by Distinguished Concerts International New York, the weekend-long festival culminated in a group performance in Carnegie Hall's renowned Stern Auditorium.

"It's incredible to have the opportunity to not only perform at Carnegie Hall but also to work with wonderful students from around the world," shared Friends' Central Chorus members Evan Paszament '18 and Skye Victor '19. "The feeling is truly overwhelming."

During the same weekend, Evan Sweitzer '20 made his Carnegie Hall debut on solo piano in the Dr. Andor Kiszely Solo, Concerto, and Ensemble Recital. Evan was selected from among top students throughout the Greater Philadelphia region via a competitive audition process. He played Chopin's *Nocturne in C-sharp Minor, Op. 27 No. 1*.

"I have had many wonderful opportunities to challenge myself musically (last school year) – from Jazz Band and Chamber with Mr. Bradley and *Comedy of Errors* with Ms. Guerin, to accompanying some of FCS's terrific vocalists for their performances and the community jazz program I participate in at the Kimmel Center," said Evan. "But there is no doubt that the experience of performing in Carnegie Hall was a highlight of my year!"



Evan Sweitzer outside Carnegie Hall



## Makerspace Map of Africa

In the spring, Danielle Saint-Hilaire's 10th grade History classes visited the Makerspace during Community Block to collaborate on building a map of Africa, complete with each country and customized to show geography, capital cities, commodities, and year of independence.



## 2018-2019 Student Council Leaders

Congratulations to this year's Student Council leaders: President-elect Nathan Levitties '19 and Vice Presidents Kalila Jones '19, McKenna Blinman '19, and Anna Comstock '19. Their tenure as leaders began in April 2018.

## National History Bee at Friends' Central

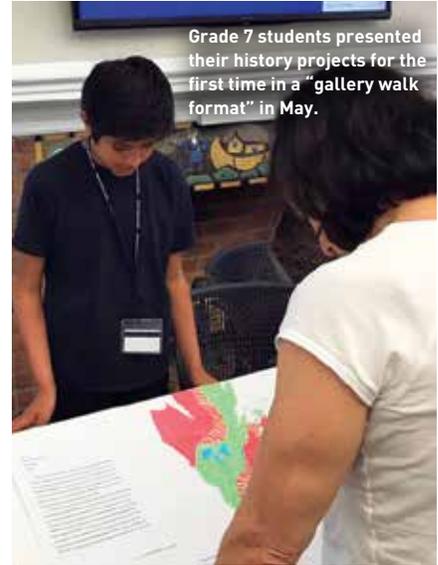
On April 19, Friends' Central welcomed over 340 people, including 150 Middle School student qualifiers from public and private schools in the tri-state area, to host the Regional Finals of the Middle School National History Bee. Four Friends' Central Middle Schoolers qualified for and participated in the Regional Finals, and based on their performance at Regionals, two students qualified for National Finals. In addition, six Upper School students competed in the National History Bee and Bowl Varsity and JV National Championships, which took place the weekend of April 27-29.

Friends' Central Middle School students Theo Dankoff '24, Dev Gupta '24, Emilio Ovalle '24, and Alec Plante '22 finished among the top 120 in the region on the Online Regional Qualifying Exam (ORQE), making them eligible to participate in the Regional Finals of the National History Bee. All four students who took the regional exam qualified. Based on their outstanding performance at the Regional Finals, Theo Dankoff, and Emilio Ovalle qualified for the National Finals, and Theo



Dankoff also qualified to participate in the U.S. Geography Olympiad.

In the Upper School division, six Friends' Central students competed in the Regional History Bee and Bowl Competition and advanced to the National History Bee and Bowl Varsity and JV National Championships the weekend of April 27-29 in Arlington, Va. Sara Bergmann '19, Ben Klein '19, Marielle Buxbaum '20, Ryan Jokelson '20, Peter Salgado '19, and Emma Velinsky '19 represented Friends' Central at the National Championships.



Grade 7 students presented their history projects for the first time in a "gallery walk format" in May.

## Bubble Mania Hits the Middle School

For Friends' Central's version of International Bubble Day, Middle School faculty, staff, and students alike gathered on Felsen Common to blow bubbles to their hearts' content on a beautiful June day. An initiative of the Student Support Services team, Bubble Mania provided a fun and relaxing community moment for all.



## Middle School Citizenship Awards

In June, the Middle School honored several grade 8 students for their contributions as citizens. Nominated by their classmates and teachers, Audrey Blinman and Alejandro Sanoja were awarded the Ida Hill Cahn Award for Peace Through Service; Jai Smith and Arielle Zabusky received the Frank M. Groff Award for Sportsmanship and Friendship; Calvin Mustokoff and Jordyn Paszamant were awarded the Jacqueline Frances O'Neill Award for Enthusiasm and Spirit.



(From left) Audrey Blinman, Calvin Mustokoff, Alejandro Sanoja, Jordyn Paszamant, Jai Smith, and Arielle Zabusky

## Pan-Asian Conference

In May, over 40 students and faculty members from Friends' Central and other local schools gathered for the first-ever Friends' Central Annual student-led Pan-Asian conference. At the conference, which was skillfully spearheaded by Angela Zhang '18 and Xinping Xie '19, conversations about issues regarding Asian identity, common concerns in the Asian community, and Asian culture took place. "It was an incredibly powerful, uniting event. I was honored to be a part of it, and I learned a lot," declared conference attendee FCS teacher Betsy Katzmann. (Excerpted from an article by Julian Brenman '20.)

## Lower School Teachers Bring *The Lorax* to Life

At a Friday assembly in May, Lower School faculty members entertained students with a fun and colorful performance of *The Lorax*, based on the classic children's book by Dr. Seuss. The title character, the Lorax, "speaks for the trees" and warns of the dangers of disrespecting the environment, while offering a message of hope and encouragement.



Kindergarten students were excited to meet up with their senior buddies when they came to campus for the 2018 All-School Assembly – an annual FCS spring tradition.





## Outstanding Spring Instrumental & Choral Performances

The many talents of FCS students across all divisions were on display again this spring – with fabulous instrumental and choral concerts in Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools.

### *Comedy of Errors*

A *Comedy of Errors*, an early Shakespearean comedy about mistaken identity, was this winter’s Upper School musical. Transposed to the 1920s, the buoyant production was set to the tune of classics of the era, including “Ain’t We Got Fun,” “Pennies from Heaven,” and music of the Harlem Renaissance. Featuring 20s icons like Charlie Chaplin and Bessie Smith, the play came to life with piano playing, tap dancing, singing, and plenty of clowning. In preparation for the musical, Director and drama teacher Terry Guerin’s students took part in a clowning workshop with FCS alum and professional clown Andrew Scharff ’95.

A *Comedy of Errors* garnered two Greater Philadelphia Cappie awards in May: Evan Schweitzer ’20 for Creativity, and Best Ensemble went to the red-nosed clowns: Marielle Buxbaum ’20, Benny Flora ’20, Kate Dewey ’21, Claire May ’21, Ian Duane ’21, and Dylan Buchholz ’21.



### *The Phantom Tollbooth JR*

Clever, witty, and well executed, *The Phantom Tollbooth JR*, the Middle School winter play was a hit. Said Middle School Principal Alexa Quinn, “The wordplay in the script was an English teacher’s dream. The students did a fantastic job with their complicated lines and the required comedic timing.” Adapted from Norton Juster’s beloved, award-winning children’s book, the inventive production was a resounding success.





David Felsen receiving his award in May

## Former Head of School David Felsen is 2018 Jay Barry Harris Hero of the Year

David Felsen was named the 2018 Jay Barry Harris Hero of the Year by the organization Team Up Philly for his long legacy of improving the lives of children. The award was presented to him at BE A HERO, Team Up Philly's 12th annual benefit evening.

David was Head of School at Friends' Central for 23 years, from 1988-2011. Prior to FCS, David taught, coached, and finally served as Dean of Students, Upper School Principal, and Dean of Faculty at Germantown Friends. He founded summer basketball, reading, and math clinics at both schools, mainly to serve community boys and girls. Those programs continue to provide enriching experiences and scholarship assistance to neighborhood youth. David has been honored by his alma maters, the Williston Northampton School and Haverford College, and currently serves as a resource for Philadelphia Youth Basketball. Team Up Philly stated that they wanted to "honor his long legacy of improving the lives of children through athletics and academics."

Team Up Philly is dedicated "to empowering girls living in under-served Philadelphia neighborhoods to achieve their full potential through participation in programs that combine athletics, character development, fitness & nutrition education, leadership training and academic support."

Donations were received in David Felsen's name to help a Team Up Philly girl attend a summer Basketball, Reading, and Math clinic. Congratulations to David Felsen on this well deserved recognition!

## Grade 5 Bell Ringing

After a Meeting for Leaving on the last day of school in June, grade 5 students rang the Lower School Friendship Bell to mark the transition to Middle School. Pictured below at the ceremony is Brandon Sutton '25.



## Debate Award

Vicky Ruolin Feng '20 has been awarded a full scholarship to attend the 2019 Cornell International Summer Debate Camp, which takes place next summer at Cornell. This summer, she took part in the Cornell-Vision Overseas Debate Foundations Workshop, held in Beijing, where she was recognized for her achievements with a "Champion" award. Congratulations, Vicky!



Grade 2 had a blast in the Light Lab in May, working with partners to create stop-motion movies about mitosis!



## Grade 5 Scientists

At the Science Fair this spring, grade 5 students presented their independently designed experiments, including questions they sought answers to and the data they used to try to answer them. Their knowledge of the Scientific Method was on full display, along with their fabulous projects!



(From left) Upper School Principal Beth Johnson, Vicky, and Vicky's parents

# VISITORS TO CAMPUS

*FCS welcomed experts, artists, and leaders who enriched our community in the spring of 2018 including the following:*



## Holocaust Survivor Peter Stern

In April, to mark Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day (April 12), Peter Stern, a Holocaust survivor born in Nuremberg, Germany, spoke at an Upper School Assembly. He described his experience during the Holocaust and the impact that it has had on him. Mr. Stern received a standing ovation from Upper School students. The assembly was the initiative of Student Council President Nathan Levitties '19 and Benjamin Miller '20.



## Bridget Gurtler

In May, historian Bridget Gurtler came to FCS to co-teach a class with Grant Calder on the history of medicine. Bridget recently completed postdoctoral fellowships at Johns Hopkins University's Institute for the History of Medicine and the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. Her scholarship focuses on how gender, race, and science shape American cultural relationships to reproduction.



## Firefighter & Alum Channon Easley

Nursery students got a special visit in April from Channon Easley '04. An FCS alum and current Philadelphia firefighter, Channon talked to our Nursery students about fire safety as part of their community helpers unit.

## Playwright Michael Hollinger

Visiting the campus virtually via Google Hangouts was award-winning playwright Michael Hollinger, who spoke to Terry Guerin's ensemble class in May, talking about his work and answering questions from students. Michael was the FCS Artist in Residence in 2010.



## FCS Welcomes New Faculty & Staff

Friends' Central was thrilled to welcome 12 new teachers, administrators, staff members, and interns to the School for the 2018-2019 school year.

At the administrative level, Friends' Central School was excited to welcome back alumna Beth Davis Johnson '77 as the Upper School Principal. After serving FCS in a number of leadership positions – most recently as Upper School Co-Principal, Dean of Students for eight years – Beth returned to Friends' Central after six years as Director of Upper and Middle School Admission at Penn Charter. A proud Friends' Central "lifer," Beth is a summa cum laude graduate of St. Joseph's University and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a Master of Science in Education in the School Leadership Program. She is currently a University-assigned mentor for masters candidates, supporting



candidates in understanding best practices in curriculum development and wider leadership. Beth is frequently called upon by organizations like the National Association of Independent Schools to share her expertise and present in areas that range from educating for the future to support services to issues of diversity.

Joining the Friends' Central Lower School were Jenn Curran, Lower School Counselor; Christie Kapothanasis, Grade 5 Humanities Teacher; Donovan Moore, Lower School Admission Administrative

Assistant; Sacha Page, Assistant Librarian; Taylor Salvitti, Grade 3 Lead Teacher; and Robin Worgan, who returns to FCS as part-time Grade 2 Assistant Teacher.

In the Middle and Upper Schools, Friends' Central welcomed Jill MacDougall, Middle School Learning Specialist; Deirdre Murphy, part-time Art Teacher; Alex Pearson, Latin Teacher and Database Manager; and School & Mental Health Counseling Interns Eric Swiech & Lauren Paulson.

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## A Historical Perspective by FCS Trustee Juan Jewell '68

Kicking off the faculty and staff in-service week, FCS trustee Juan Jewell '68 was this year's opening speaker on the topic of integrity, the School-wide testimony for 2018-2019. As an FCS alum, past FCS faculty member, and historian, Juan had a wealth of information to share with the community. He tapped into the FCS archives and his own schoolday memories to explore what has made the School exceptional over so many decades.

Juan shared that, in a 1980 self-study by a school where he previously worked, the study's author, Newt Hodgson, suggested, *'School should be a place a place where one looks forward to going in the morning and is somewhat reluctant to leave in the afternoon.'*

"I agree, and by that criterion, the Friends' Central I attended as a child was a very good school indeed. My mother claims that I loved the place the minute I set foot on the campus," said Juan,



describing how, in 1959, aged eight, he trekked five miles on foot to get to school in a snowstorm when the school bus didn't arrive.

He went on to quote from former FCS Head of School Eric Johnson, who, in his address to parents in September 1951, listed 12 non-academic goals of the School that, as Juan pointed out, "seem as relevant today as when they were articulated in 1951." Included among them is a commitment to integrity and to developing a "social responsibility toward one's local group, one's nation,

and the world, with special emphasis on responsibility to live on a basis of mutual respect and appreciation with those of different religion, color, social and economic status, and nationality."

After highlighting moments of change and upheaval in the School's history, Juan concluded with the following: "The School has lived through stressful times before, and it was able to survive because of the faith and the energy of its teachers and their commitment to key values – integrity among them – that are as relevant today as they were when I first walked onto this campus 63 years ago.

"Those who taught me, shaped me. I hope that I, in some small way, helped shape those who I taught. We all stand on the shoulders of giants. And I am confident that you, by virtue of the people you are, will help the children in your charge become the people we want and need them to be."

## 2017-2018 Distinguished Visiting Scientist Douglas Emlen

On April 11, evolutionary biologist and Professor of Biology at the University of Montana Douglas Emlen came to FCS to deliver a lecture entitled “Extravagant Results of Nature’s Arms Race,” as our 2018 Distinguished Visiting Scientist. His fascinating talk explored the evolution of animal weaponry and its parallels with the human arms race.

The following day, Emlen returned to campus to meet with Science Core Team members and hold two sessions with Upper School students to talk about his work and answer questions.



## Distinguished Lecture Series 2018-2019



*Distinguished Visiting Justice Leader*

**Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha**  
October 30, 2018 • 6:30 pm

Dr. Hanna-Attisha, whose research exposed the Flint water crisis, is a pediatrician, professor, public health advocate, and author of *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*.



*Distinguished Humanities Lecturer*

**Daniel Torday**  
February 20, 2019 • 7:30 pm

Author and Associate Professor and Director of Creating Writing at Bryn Mawr College, Daniel Torday will read from and discuss his latest book *Boomer1: A Novel*.



*Distinguished Visiting Scientist*

**Dr. Rebecca Saxe**  
April 15, 2019 • 7:30 pm

Cognitive neuroscientist and professor in the MIT Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Dr. Saxe will share her research, known as “Theory of Mind.”

*Also, save the date for a special parenting evening with*

**Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg** • January 17, 2019 • 7:00 pm

*Raising Children and Adolescents Who are Prepared to Thrive in a Challenging World*



# Athletics

## Girls' Track & Field - 3-Peat FSL Champs and PAISAA Champs!

The 2018 Friends' Central Varsity girls' track and field team came into the spring season with a champion's mindset, a positive attitude, and the determination and work ethic to back it up. With senior leadership and freshman energy, this team was bound for success. It is no wonder that they won the Friends Schools League for the third year in a row and that they won the PAISAA Track Championship for the first time in program history!

At the FSL Championships on May 12, 2018, FCS racked up first place finishes in 10 events. The 4x400M relay of Amelia McDonnell '18, Ava Forman '18, Izzy MacFarlane '20, and Inara Shell '21 finished first, as did the FCS 4x800M girls' relay team of Nadia Taranta '18, Lydia Russell '20, Sydney Bendesky '20, and Izzy MacFarlane. Ava Forman finished first in the javelin, 100M hurdles, and 300M hurdles. Gabrielle Wilkinson '18 finished first in the 1,600M run and the 800M run. Inara Shell finished first in both the long jump and triple jump. Bailie Stovall '21 was third in the 100M dash and second in the long jump. Lyla Forman '20 was second in both the 100M hurdles and the 300M hurdles. Rebecca Wusinich '20 placed second in the 1,600M run and first in the 3,200M run. Izzy MacFarlane was first in the 400M run and second in the 200M run. Lydia Russell was third in the 3,200M run, and Nadia Taranta placed second in the 800M run. Emma Malone '20 finished second in the shotput. The girls' 4x100 relay of Lyla Forman, Morgan Cook-Sather '21, Bailie Stovall, and Omoiy Jordan '21 finished third.

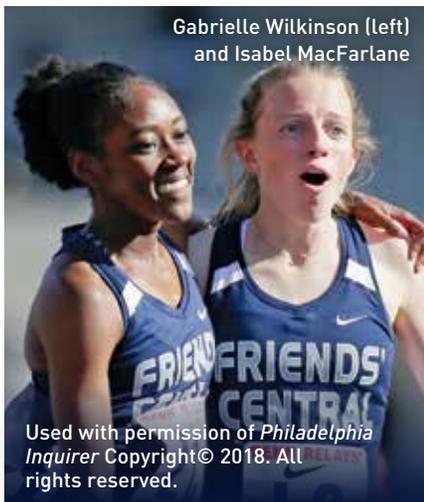
At the PAISAA Championships on May 19, 2018, the 4x100M relay was first with a quartet of Bailie Stovall, Inara Shell, Lyla Forman, and Izzy MacFarlane. The 4x400M relay of Inara Shell, Ava Forman, Gabrielle Wilkinson, and Izzy MacFarlane finished first with a new PAISAA record time of 3:57.91. Ava Forman finished first in the 100M hurdles and the 300M hurdles and second in the javelin. Gabrielle Wilkinson finished first in the 1,600M run and 800M run. Rebecca Wusinich placed third in the 3,200M run. Inara Shell was second in the long jump and first in the triple jump with a new PAISAA record mark of 37-11.75. The FCS girls 4x800M relay of Rebecca Wusinich, Nadia Taranta, Amelia McDonnell, and Sydney Bendesky was second.

Two FCS girls' track athletes also medaled at New Balance Nationals last June. Inara Shell jumped 37-11.5 to finish 3rd in the triple jump. Her mark ranked her 5th in PA. Gabrielle Wilkinson ran 2:05.27 in the 800M run to finish 2nd and garner All-American honors. Her time ranked her 1st in PA and 4th in the US.

## Middle & Upper School Track Teams Shine at Penn Relays

The Varsity girls' 4x400M relay team of Inara Shell '21, Ava Forman '18, Gabrielle Wilkinson '18, and Isabel MacFarlane '20 took gold in High School Girls 4X400M relay in the Philadelphia Academic category with a time of 3:57.46.

The Middle School boys' 4x100M team of Hugh Shields '22, Jacquo Pierre '24, Christian Whitfield '23, and Noah Thomas '22 took 3rd, running a personal best and setting a new Middle School record with a time of 50.48.



Gabrielle Wilkinson (left) and Isabel MacFarlane

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Amile Jefferson (left) with Head of School Craig N. Sellers

## #25 Jersey is Now Retired

On Thursday, May 10, 2018, students, faculty, friends, family, and coaches gathered to honor Amile Jefferson '12 with the retirement of his No. 25 Phoenix basketball jersey. A standout player at FCS, scoring over 1,500 points and grabbing over 800 rebounds, as well as a three-time captain at Duke and four-time member of the All-ACC Academic Team, Amile was recognized for his achievements both on and off the court. At the ceremony, he spoke to students about his experience and appreciation for the community at Friends' Central and the love of learning that was fostered in him, "There's beauty in the struggle... and learning, failing, and so many things that you're going to go through in life, and we're all going to go through... life is beautiful, and we are forever learning." Amile led the NBA G-League in rebounds and broke the single season double-double record while playing for the Minnesota Timberwolves' team the Iowa Wolves last season. He was recently signed to a two-way contract with the Orlando Magic.

## Alumni/ae Athletes *In the News*

Please send your alumni/ae sports news to [communications@friendscentral.org](mailto:communications@friendscentral.org)

On May 23, 2018, **Lauren Becker Rubin '83** was inducted into the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. Becker Rubin enjoyed standout lacrosse careers as a student-athlete at Friends' Central and at Brown University, as well as a coach, leading the FCS Varsity girls' lacrosse team to a 110-45-1 record, which included seven FSL Championships, a PAISAA Championship, and being named PhillyLacrosse.com Coach of the Year.

**De'Andre Hunter '16** was a starting member of the University of Virginia's Division I Men's Basketball Team, the 2018 ACC Tournament and Regular Season Champions.

**Emma Dahle '14** was honored by the IWLCA as a Division I Academic Honor Roll student. To be eligible, student-athletes must have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or greater during their junior, senior, or grad year.

**David Dawson '10**, who has been cycling with Team Skyline for four years, has helped his team achieve 15 wins for the season (two of them coming from himself), including the West Reading Radsport Criterium in August.

**Gus Anderson '16** was a member of the 2018 Division III Champion Men's Swimming & Diving Team at Denison University.



Lauren Becker Rubin with emcee Marc Zumoff, a Sixers broadcaster - Image © phillylacrosse.com

## Winter 2018 Athletic Awards

On March 7, 2018, winter sports athletes and coaches were honored for their excellence and sportsmanship in athletics. The following athletes received the Most Valuable Player award for their respective winter sports: Joshua Friday '18 for boys' basketball, Nia Jordan '19 for girls' basketball, Alex Veith '20 for boys' indoor track, Gabrielle Wilkinson '18 for girls' indoor track, Lucas DeSipio '20 for boys' squash, Claire Coss '18 for girls' squash, Galen Cassidy '18 for boys' swimming, Sophie Shack '18 for girls' swimming, and Jackson Snider '20 for wrestling.

The following athletes received the Most Improved Player award for their respective winter sports: Toure Mosley-Banks '18 for boys' basketball, Rore Anderson '21 for girls' basketball, Lucas Klein '20 for boys' indoor track, Inara Shell '21 and Nadia Taranta '18 for girls' indoor track, Benjamin Miller '20 for boys' squash, Aliza Sall '20 for girls' squash, Mason Davis '19 for boys' swimming, Anna Volpp '20 for girls' swimming, and Zakaria Loudini '19 for wrestling.

## 2018 Spring & Senior Athletic Awards

On May 23, 2018, spring athletes and coaches, as well as senior athletes, were honored for their hard work, outstanding play, and dedication to the FCS athletic program. The following athletes received the Most Valuable Player award for their respective spring sports: Ava Forman '18 for girls' track and field, Zak Loudini '19 for boys' track and field, Dane Greisiger '18 and Ben Kollender '19 for baseball, Michele Meline '18 for softball, John Bradbeer '21 for golf, Ethan Broaddus '18 for boys' tennis, and Morgan Crowley '18 for girls' lacrosse.

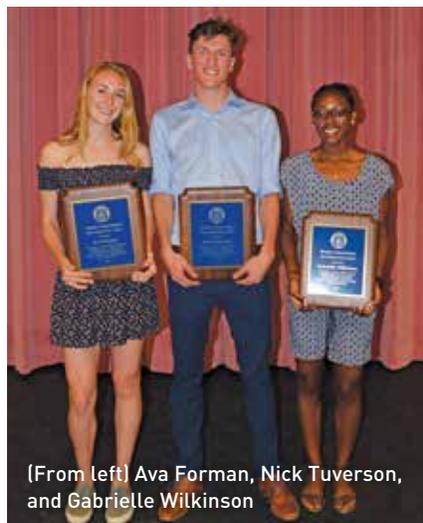


MVP Spring Award Recipients

The following athletes received the Most Improved Player award for their respective sports: Anna Gullace '21 and Emma Malone '20 for girls' track and field, Ibraheem Ahmad '20 and Devin O'Connell '20 for boys' track and field, Sam Pendrak '19 for baseball, Sammy Darling '21 for softball, Max Cohen '19 for golf, Adam Serota '21 for boys' tennis, and Phebe Guenther '19 for girls' lacrosse.

Additional exciting spring and senior honors included the 2018 Friends' Central School Athletic Director's Award, received by Gabrielle Wilkinson '18, and 2018 PASLA Lacrosse All-Academic Honors, awarded to Benna Berger '18 and Morgan Crowley.

To cap off the spring athletic awards evening, seven athletes were honored with the following memorial awards or awards for excellence in athletics during their Upper School athletic career: Morgan Crowley and Sophie Shack received the Florence Jackson Award, Dale Decatur and Alex McDonnell received the David Kirk Award, and Nick Tuverson, Ava Forman, and Gabrielle Wilkinson received the Outstanding Senior Athlete Award.



(From left) Ava Forman, Nick Tuverson, and Gabrielle Wilkinson

Ben Kollender '19 was named Main Line Athlete of the Week for the week of May 7, 2018. An outstanding defensive catcher and captain, Ben was batting .381 (as of May 6) with an on-base percentage of .525, a slugging percentage of .690, and a 1.215 OPS. A Carpenter Cup participant and 2nd team All-Main Line pick as a sophomore, Kollender is also President of the Friends' Central Student Athlete Advisory Committee, as well as a talented musician, playing the drums, guitar and piano.



Ben Kollender

Hugh Shields '22 won the board race in the 14/15-year-old A Division during the U.S. Lifesaving Association Junior National Championships in Virginia Beach, VA.

Tristan Szapary '20 was named 2018-2019 USA Fencing 1st Team All-American and All-Academic, finished 10th at Nationals, and ranked USA #4 for boys' U17.

Blake Roshkoff '20 finished 2nd in the Cincinnati Midwest Summer US Squash Gold Tournament in July and is currently ranked #14 in boys' U17.

Rebecca Wusinich '20 won gold in the 3000M run, Inara Shell '21 won gold in the triple jump, and Micah Trusty '22 won gold in 800M and the 1500M at the AAU Track Championships held in Des Moines, Iowa.



# BLACKBURN SOCIETY

## *Legacy Giving Opportunities*

The thoughtfulness of alumni/ae, parents of alumni/ae, and other friends of the School who have remembered Friends' Central in their estates has resulted in wonderful benefits to generations of students and teachers. These generous donors have created endowment funds, helped renovate buildings, and provided financial aid.

Planned giving donors are all members of the Blackburn Society, named in honor of Eliza E. Blackburn '22 and her family. Their estate gift has benefitted Friends' Central for many decades. While there are numerous possibilities for planned gifts, here are three common opportunities: bequests, charitable gift annuities, and IRA rollovers.

### • BEQUEST

A bequest is a gift from your estate—a transfer of cash, securities, or other property made through your estate plans. You can make a bequest to Friends' Central by including language in your will or living trust leaving a

portion of your estate to the School, or by designating Friends' Central as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy.

### • CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

An arrangement where you irrevocably transfer assets to Friends' Central and receive income for life. Income will go to you or someone chosen by you. The trust can run for your lifetime or for a specified number of years; then the trust assets go to Friends' Central. For such gifts to Friends' Central, the School works with Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

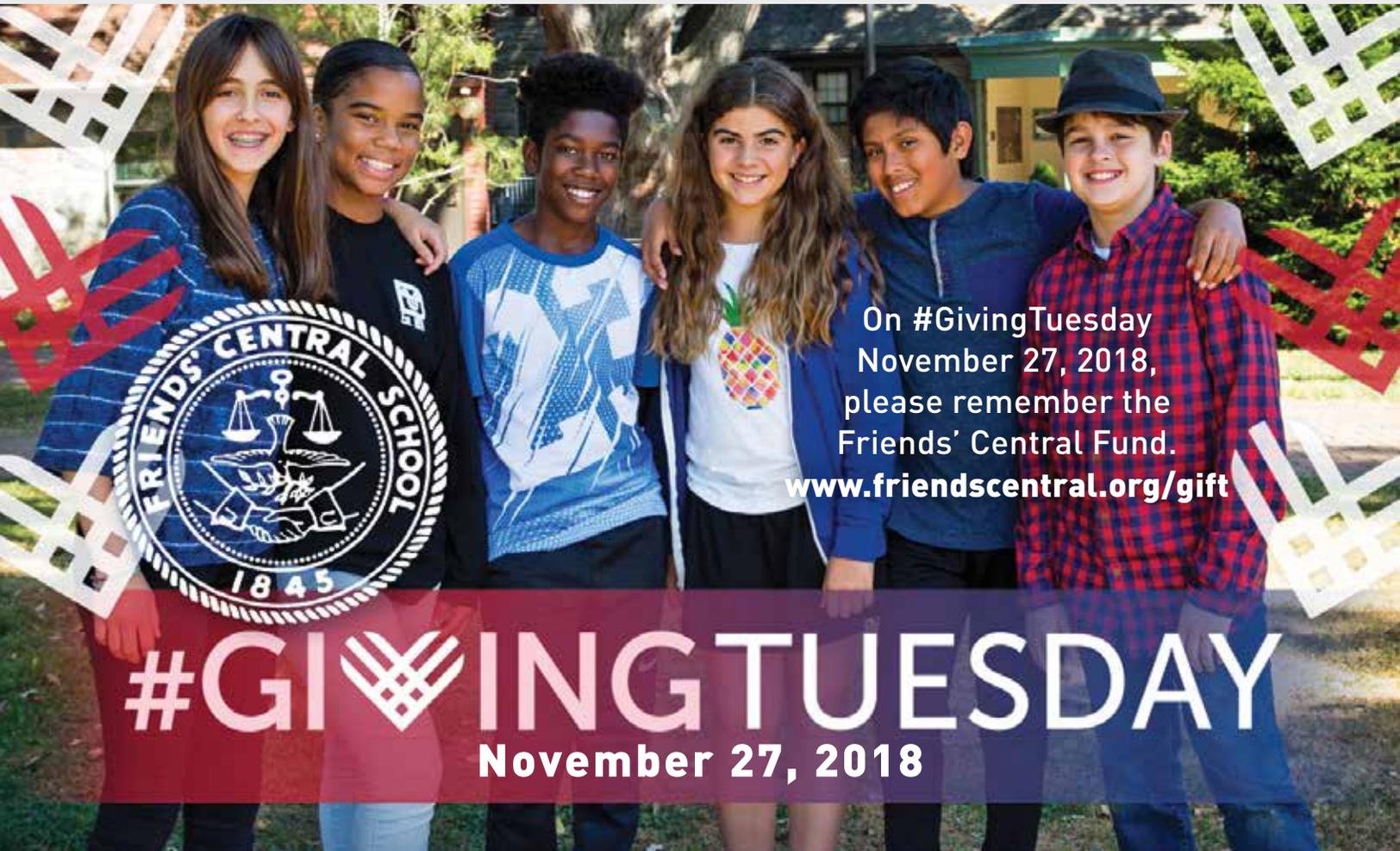
### • IRA ROLLOVER

The charitable IRA rollover is designed for individuals age 70-1/2 or older to give directly to qualified charities and avoid tax obligation you might incur from required or elective IRA distributions. The amount donated is not included in your adjusted gross income (AGI) and thus not subject to percentage limits for charitable deductions.



Eliza E. Blackburn '22

Estate gifts can be structured in many ways, some of which provide immediate tax benefits and long-term income. If you are interested in creating a legacy that benefits you and Friends' Central School, please contact Bob Cotter, Director Development, at 610-645-5076 or [rcotter@friendscentral.org](mailto:rcotter@friendscentral.org).



On #GivingTuesday  
November 27, 2018,  
please remember the  
Friends' Central Fund.  
[www.friendscentral.org/gift](http://www.friendscentral.org/gift)

# #GIVINGTUESDAY

November 27, 2018

# Summer Learning for FCS Faculty

For many Friends' Central teachers, summer is not simply a time to get some rest and prepare for the year ahead, it's also a learning opportunity. Thanks to the Clayton Farraday Mastership, the Fannie Cox Hendrie Fund for Science and Math, and the initiative of the teachers themselves, this summer saw many FCS faculty members immersed in a wide range of independent educational activities that enriched their own intellectual lives and provided invaluable teaching and curricular tools that they bring directly back with them to their classrooms.

The Clayton Farraday Mastership is an endowed fund established in 1978 to honor Clayton Farraday '32 and his lifelong dedication to Friends' Central. The stipend program offers Friends' Central teachers the opportunity to grow as educators and scholars during the summer months. The Fannie Cox Hendrie Fund for Science and Math is to be used across all divisions to enhance the Math and Science programs at Friends' Central.

Listed below are just a few examples of the learning that took place this summer. Visit [friendscentral.org/news](http://friendscentral.org/news) for more details, and stay tuned over the year for more news stories about teachers' summer learning!

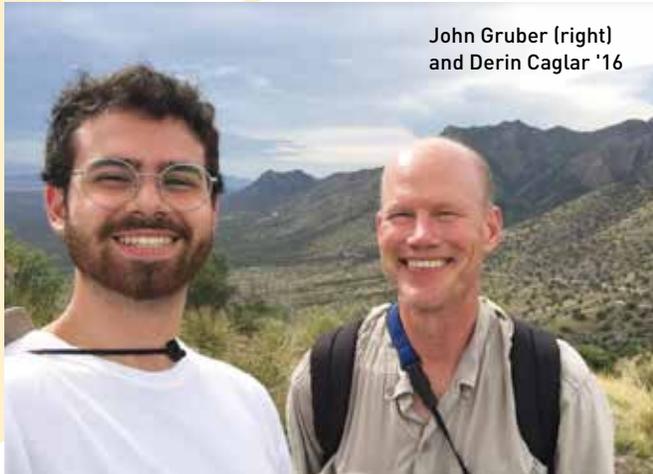
Middle School English teacher **Laurel Burkbauer** received a Farraday Mastership stipend to further develop the 7th grade curriculum as a whole, which included a thorough review of the literature selections. Laurel sought to explore whether the texts were vertically integrated and if they supported the analytical skills being taught in the literature program. She also looked at the books being taught and considered the balance of literature that would engage seventh graders with diverse taste in books while teaching them the skills they'll need in 8th grade. Based on all of these factors, Laurel added *Ender's Game* and *March*, to be paired with *Brown Girl Dreaming*, which she is reintroducing to the 7th grade's reading list.

Middle and Upper School music teacher **Michele Zuckman** studied World Music Drumming this summer through the Farraday Mastership fund. Drawn from West African and Caribbean drumming traditions, World Music Drumming invites all students, regardless of their musical background, into the creative process. Four summers ago, she studied Circlesinging – a creative and improvisational technique that grows from a single musical idea, with each member listening and adding new elements – with musician Bobby McFerrin. She found World Music Drumming and Circlesinging were each a perfect philosophical and pedagogical fit for Friends' Central.



Michele Zuckman directing a musical performance at the assembly celebrating the 2018 International Day of Peace

Both forms of creative and kinesthetic learning form the basis of the nine-week 6th grade music rotation. This fall, Michele and Julie Cowitz Gordon '81, Middle School drama teacher, are bringing their grade 6 drama and music students together to create stories with percussion, adding the oral storytelling tradition already studied in 6th grade drama to the new music curriculum. World Music Drumming will be offered as an Upper School elective in the spring semester.



John Gruber (right)  
and Derin Caglar '16

Upper School history teacher **Frank Fisher** teaches “Creating Africa,” which addresses the transatlantic trade networks and the creation of an extensive transatlantic diaspora community. He traveled to England in the summer, visiting London, Liverpool, and Manchester. With a Farraday Mastership stipend, his aim was to add depth to his “current understanding (and teaching) about the sugar trade, the slave trade, industrialization, abolition and the growth of the black population in Britain over the course of the 18th and 19th centuries.” Spending a great deal of time exploring local libraries and other resources, his understanding was enriched even as more questions were generated by his research.

Upper School science teacher **John Gruber** spent 10 days in the field on his summer stipend research expedition to the Gila National Forest in New Mexico and the Coronado National Forest in the Huachuca Mountains in southeastern Arizona. Working on unnamed species of day flying moths while also studying plant-insect relationships, he described the experience as “very successful.” For the second half of the trip, he paired up with FCS alum Derin Caglar '16, who flew out to join him for four days of collecting and studying in the mountain ranges in southeastern Arizona.

Upper School science teacher **Sonia Chin** described her course, Frontiers and Techniques in Plant Science, which took place this summer at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, as “summer camp for scientists.” A PhD-trained scientist with expertise in animal biology, Sonia saw this course as a chance to revisit and explore plant biology with internationally renowned experts. Funded by the Fannie Cox Hendrie Fund, Sonia’s reimmersion into the world of research science was intellectually exciting. It also widened her circle of colleagues, which, by extension, will bring new expertise into FCS classrooms.

In the summer, led by the Math Department and supported by the Fannie Cox Hendrie fund, a group of nine faculty members in all three divisions participated in a professional development course on teaching coding. The Math Department, in an initiative that began a few years ago, found that one area of need, due to the growing interest in the topic, was coding. The group, which included **Bill Darling, Greg Klein, Linda Quinlan, Rebecca Benjamin, Julie Plunkett, Anna Schall, Pdraig Barry, Brie Daley, and Sue Borrero**, took a course via CodeHS introducing



Sonia Chin at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, photo courtesy of the *Current Exchange* Blog of CSHL Meetings & Courses

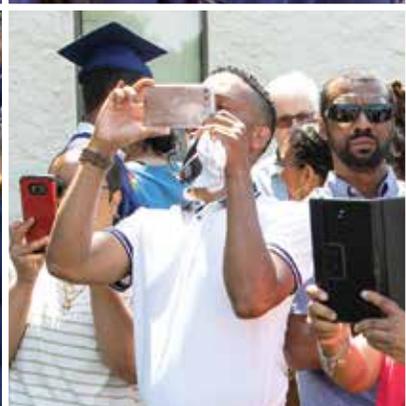
the coding language Python, with the hopes of incorporating coding into the curriculum in various ways within the next few years. One exciting initiative that has already grown out of the coding summer course is “Girls Who Code,” a brand new Upper School Club, connected to the national organization of the same name, which introduces underrepresented genders to STEM fields. Over 30 students have signed up for and are participating in the Club, which hopes to connect with women working in the STEM and coding fields.

This summer, Upper School teachers **Michael Darfler** and **Anna Schall** participated in a cutting-edge summer learning opportunity called RETHink. A National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded program that provides research experience for teachers at various universities across the US, the RETHink program took place at Drexel University’s College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) and focused on “Machine Learning to Enhance Human-Centered Computing.”

Anna and Michael worked with William Mongan in the Drexel Wireless System’s Lab, looking at using knit Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) antennas in smart garments called Belly Bands to measure respiration in infants, particularly premature infants, and perinatal women. Both Michael and Anna will be incorporating elements of this project into their classes – Michael with his second semester computer science class, and Anna with her physics class. [QW](#)



Michael Darfler  
and Anna Schall



# COMMENCEMENT 2018

*For the Class of 2018 – Moments of Glory, of Struggle, of Justice*

On June 9, 2018, 88 young people walked together down the aisle to Commencement Terrace for the last time as Friends' Central students. They departed down that same pathway, diplomas in hand, to join the thousands of alumni/ae who have left their mark on their alma mater and gone into the world, equipped with an impressive set of skills. If the messages in this year's Commencement addresses are any indication, members of the Class of 2018 will seek a future connected to social justice – speaking up for those whose voices have been dimmed or diminished and making a difference in the world.

Head of School Craig N. Sellers kicked off the Commencement ceremony, sharing with the graduates, "In your relationships with your teachers, and in your lives as friends and sons and daughters and family members, I've seen you pursue something bigger than grades and trophies. I've seen you pursue your deep desire for purpose and meaning, in the way you commit to serving others, and in the way you commit to being present with love and kindness for others."

Both the student speakers wove advocating for change into their respective student addresses, describing their classmates as "compassionate" and "open" with a deep desire to speak up when they felt something had to be said or done.

FCS "lifer" Alexandra Fiorentino-Swinton '18 began her speech by recognizing the "responsibility to acknowledge those

whose potential has been cut short," and asked the audience to take a moment of silence for all "living and departed, who will not have this celebratory moment." She went on to say, "Friends' Central has taught us that if we see a problem, if we don't like the direction we're heading, if any wrong is being done, it is our task as people with agency to take hold of the problem and reshape it ourselves ... We as a Class have been particularly passionate about many social issues and have brought them to the forefront of school-wide discussion ... I commend every single one of my peers on being so fearlessly open with their experiences, opinions, and beliefs."

Tristen Pasternak '18, who joined her Class in grade 11 and brought the perspective of a relative newcomer to the School, shared that at Friends' Central, "the students are the leaders ... I have seen my fellow students stand up and speak out when they knew there was something that had to be said. I have seen the compassion each student expresses for one another, and the fiery curiosity with which they drive class discussions and their individual lives ... I truly have faith in the world knowing these young people are about to enter it. Friends' Central is the place where it all began. The world is the place where we all will go on to flourish."



On that beautiful June day, we were filled with pride in the Class of 2018 and the unforgettable moments they spent at Friends' Central School. Just as they have spoken up and demanded more for themselves and for FCS during their time here, we believe that they will continue to use their voice to advocate for change, no matter where life leads them. [QW](#)

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## Upper School Student Awards

In May, Friends' Central School held its annual Upper School Academic Awards Ceremony, recognizing students for their outstanding efforts in academics, leadership, and citizenship. Highlighting the ceremony was the induction of 19 members of the Class of 2018 into the Cum Laude Society.

The Cum Laude Society recognizes the distinguished academic record of students during their Friends' Central career. As members of the Cum Laude Society, part of their responsibilities, said Head of School Craig N. Sellers, is "to make some contribution to the ongoing search for greater understanding of the world in which we live."

The 2018 inductees into the Friends' Central School Cum Laude Society are (in alpha order): Jana Alrayes, Maxwell Bender, Ethan Broaddus, Galen Cassidy, Yucong Chen, Claire Coss, Dale Decatur, Dane Greisiger, Zhexuan Huang, Alexander McDonnell, Rose McDonnell, Michele Meline, James Meyers, Tristen Pasternak, Annie Roberts, Sarah Scheuritzel, Danielle Schweitzer, Yihao Yan, and Qianhui Angela Zhang.



**The 1845 Award**, an honor conferred by the graduating Class and the Upper School faculty on two members of the Class of 2018 who embody the characteristics displayed in Friends' Central's school seal, was presented to Saleana Copeland and Miles Meline, pictured above with Head of School Craig N. Sellers.





# *The Class of 2018* **COLLEGE CHOICES**

- |                                     |  |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Albright College                    | University of Florida                  | Pratt Institute                    |
| Allegheny College                   | Franklin & Marshall College (2)        | Rice University                    |
| Barnard College                     | George Mason University                | Rochester Institute of Technology  |
| Boston College (2)                  | The George Washington University (3)   | University of Rochester (2)        |
| Boston University (2)               | Gettysburg College                     | Saint Joseph's University          |
| Bryn Mawr College (3)               | Hamilton College (2)                   | Skidmore College                   |
| University of Chicago (2)           | Haverford College (2)                  | University of Southern California  |
| The City University of New York (2) | Howard University                      | St. Olaf College                   |
| Clark Atlanta University            | Lafayette College                      | Temple University                  |
| Clark University                    | University of Maryland, College Park   | The University of Texas at Austin  |
| Colgate University                  | McGill University                      | Tulane University (2)              |
| Colorado College                    | University of Miami                    | Vanderbilt University              |
| Connecticut College                 | New York University (2)                | Vassar College                     |
| Cornell University                  | Northeastern University (2)            | Wake Forest University             |
| University of Delaware              | Oberlin College of Arts & Sciences (4) | Washington University in St. Louis |
| Dickinson College                   | Pennsylvania State University          | West Chester University            |
| Drexel University (3)               | University of Pennsylvania (9)         | Williams College                   |
| Emerson College                     | University of Pittsburgh (5)           | Xavier University of Louisiana     |

## **MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2018 ATTENDING SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS INCLUDING:**

*The George Washington University Honors Program • NYU Tisch School of the Arts • University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business and School of Engineering • University of Pittsburgh Honors Program • Rice University School of Engineering • University of Texas Business School*



# THE CLASS OF 2018



# REUNION





# 2018

In May, 300 alumni/ae and their family and friends returned to Friends' Central to celebrate Reunion 2018. Throughout the weekend, alumni/ae attended lectures, participated in activities, toured the campus, and formed bonds over shared experiences at social events and meals.

Reunion 2018 saw the return to campus for the Classes of 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, and 2013.

One Reunion highlight came from the Class of 1968, whose members celebrated their 50th Reunion this year. They dedicated their Class Gift to Doug Linton '68 and Linn Linton in honor of their incredible dedication over many years to the School as horticulturalists and arborists, keeping the campuses beautiful using sustainable practices. The Linton Garden, designed and lovingly installed by Linn and Doug, lives on the City Avenue campus - a lasting gift by the Class of 1968 and a testament to the dedication of the Lintons.



# 2018 REUNION CLASSES



## Class of 1943

Left to right: Dorothy Coleman, Bill Thomas, Jim Dannenberg, Herb Spatola, Billie Patch Weber

## Class of 1948

Ginny Keim Cole (center) with her daughters



## Class of 1953

Left to right: Karen Klein Mannes, Martha Green Mead, Bob Buckley, Joan Branen Rawles-Davis, Frank James, Peggy Brumfield Bruton, W. Warren von Uffel, Jr., Marlene Miller Buckley, Bill Perloff



## Class of 1958

Left to right: Kirk Foulke, Debbie Deming Goetz, Jack Parsons, Robert Freedman, Marjorie Schwartz Dilsheimer, Steve Reynolds, Carolyn McNeill Manwaring

## Class of 1963

Bob Weinstein (right) with son Adam Weinstein '98



## Class of 1973

From left: Vince Carbone, Ed Kohl, Emma George Terndrup, Ron Harris, Penny Levin, Bruce Baird, Ross Donolow, Evan Wessel



## Class of 1968 (above)

Back row, from left: Hugo Hsu, Juan Jewell, John Newman, Neil Yoskin, David Sears, Karen Van Brocklin Vanderyt, Cyril Draffin, Connie Burgess Lanzl, Jane Cubberley Luce; Front row, from left: Don Fair, Doug Linton, David Arnold, Deborah Massey, Will Brown, Adah Lindquist Coultas, Jon Baird, Peter Luborsky



## Class of 1978

From left: Edward Whereat, Craig Boyer, Renwick ("Renny") Beverly, Susan Kendall Thompson, John Balson, Sylvia Hamerman-Brown, Laura Bolt Heuer, Karen Knowles, Nina Weisbord, Karen Palcho, Lexy Lovell, Anna Marina Iossifides, Beth Topiol, Curtis Miller, Alex Otey, Hani Khella, Bernard Harris, Jr.

## Class of 1983 (below)

Front row, from left: Steve Lerner, Alex Klein, Allison Smith Kane, Nancy Sanders, Liz Cohen, Noelle Christy Hillebrecht, Kathi Bucci-Havira, Bill Miller, Jeremy Treatman, Marjie Kean Fradin, Jon Rubin; Middle row, from left: Fred Hawkins, Peter Gross, John Kissane, Jamie Hunter, Steve Lane, Jamie Unkefer; Back row, from left: Andrea Mellman, Lauren Becker Rubin



## Class of 1988

From left: Andy Baer, Aaron Selkow, Bill Fanshel, Simon Glaser, Eric Miller, Elizabeth Gerst Ivanov, David Perloff, Betsy Rubel Corrin, Paul Kitsdonk, Jessica Zeldin, Michael Siegel, Christa Sanders, Maria Farnon Marino, Liz Robbins



## Class of 1993

Back row, from left: David Lakoff, Michael Frishberg; Front row, from left: Lauren Albert Ravitz, Rebecca Carr Calvani, Jocelyn Patterson Mosley, Andrea Ellman Mirin, Lauren Pindzola Courtney, Lori Spector



## Class of 1998

Left to right: Alexa Dunnington Quinn with husband, Graham, Janel Swaye MacDermott, Brendan Tozer, Jeffrey Brody, Dan Silver, Adam Weinstein



## Class of 2003

Back row, from left: Thea Grasberger Burstin, Lena Muenke, Caitlin Rooney Merto, Jacob Cooper, Edwige Carrenard-Cook, Matthew Collier, Leah Eppinger, Alejandro Franqui, Caroline Pavloff Agnew, Max Frankel, Sarah Glickman Freedman, Debra Japko, Mary Crauderueff, Jonathan Wegener, Ben Eisenberg, Phil Arras; Front row, from left: Van Hemingway, Madeleine Sheldon-Dante



## Class of 2008 (above)

Back row, from left: Max Bernard, Alec Unkovic, Alexy Posner, Candice Hardie, Noredy Neal, Michael Dohrmann, Benjamin Wright-Rowan, Fernando Jones, David Rosenblatt, Charles Baron, James Shelton; Front row, from left: Ariela Weinberger, Colin Yarnell, Brittany McLellan Fitzgerald, Taylor Lee, Mary Stroman, Logan Brenner, Adara Cohen, Dan Kessler, Lindsey Elkin, Jeremy Slovak

## Class of 2013 (at left)

Back row, from left: Ben Lichtman, Grace Heard, Daniel Stadtmuer, Gabby Owens, Daniel Banko-Ferran, Holly Woodbury, Blake Bortnick, Andrew Nadkarni, Nathan Willis, Michael Furey, Luca Diadul; front: Adam Bolotsky



# REUNION 2018 *Weekend Highlights*

**1** FCS Archivist and former faculty member Jim Davis was on-hand at Reunion, as always, to give campus tours to alumni/ae, including an overview of the many archival photos that were on display.

**2** On the Friday before Reunion, seven alumni/ae returned to campus for Career Day 2018. They shared their many and varied professional experiences with students and answered questions. Pictured is professional artist Sonya Sklaroff '88 speaking to Upper School art students.

**3** The recently renovated Shallcross Hall Dining Hall was showcased at Reunion, with several classes enjoying their Reunion lunch in the bright new space.

**4** Linn and Doug Linton '68 received a well-deserved honor from the Class of 1968, who dedicated the Class Gift of the Linton Garden to the couple in recognition of their hard work.

**5** Kalila Jones '19, Reunion Student Volunteer and FCS Student Council Vice President, welcomed alumni/ae to the Reunion Celebration.

**6** Ty Stiklorius '93 was honored as the 2018 Distinguished Alumna for her accomplishments in the field of music and her commitment to representing artists. Benj Pasek '03 received the 2018 Distinguished Alumnus Award for his achievements as an award-winning songwriter, lyricist, and composer.

**7** Current parent and former Alumni/ae Board President Aaron Selkow '88 talked about his time at FCS, his daughter's experience as a student, and the importance of coming together at Reunion.

**8** Young alums from the Class of 2013 enjoyed catching up with their former teachers, including Al Vernacchio.





# Save the date for A NIGHT OUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Monday, November 19 • 6:30 pm

Parents – current and past – and alumni/ae, take a break from your daily routine and spend the evening learning with Friends' Central teachers! The evening will begin with a keynote speaker, followed by a unique 45-minute class of your choice taught by an outstanding FCS faculty member. Be on the lookout for more details and an invitation to come shortly!

## SPREAD THE WORD: UPCOMING FCS ADMISSION EVENTS!

### Walk-in Wednesday Tours Each Week

8:30 am - Middle & Upper Schools

9 am - Lower School

### Admission Information Sessions

Nov. 7, 2018 • Dec. 5, 2018 • Feb. 6, 2019 • Mar. 6, 2019

8:30 am - Middle & Upper Schools • 9 am - Lower School



**NEW THIS YEAR!**  
Lower School  
Center City After Care  
and Transport Hub!

*"As an alumna, I knew that I always wanted my children to attend Friends' Central. My son is currently enrolled in the Nursery program. He is learning letters and counting, but more importantly, he is learning about honesty, integrity, and kindness. He is gaining knowledge about community and nature in a way that very few other schools could provide.*

*He looks forward to coming home to teach our family about his day, especially his little sister. We look forward to having her start the program as soon as she turns three!" – Jessica '01*

[Register at friendscentral.org/visit](http://friendscentral.org/visit)



FRIENDS'  
CENTRAL  
SCHOOL

1101 City Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096-3418  
[www.friendscentral.org](http://www.friendscentral.org)

# Friends' Central

☼ REUNION 2019 ☼



***Save the Date:***  
**Saturday, May 11, 2019**

Reunion Class Years:

'44 '49 '54 '59 '64 '69  
'74 '79 '84 '89 '94 '99  
'04 '09 '14