

QUAKERWORKS

THE MAGAZINE OF FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

8:2 Spring 2017



The Ulmer Family Light Lab Opens Its Doors!

THE LIGHT LAB IN ACTION | MEETING FOR WORSHIP - A HISTORY | FCS @ THE OSCARS





FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Letter from the Head of School

Dear Friends,

The transition from winter to spring at Friends' Central School has enlivened both of our vibrant campuses and our entire community. An academic year wrapped in the testimony of Simplicity, the opening of The Ulmer Family Light Lab, and strong College Counseling and enrollment numbers indicate that the future of our school looks bright and we have much to celebrate. I am excited to share some of those highlights with you in this spring issue of *Quaker Works*.

We've already begun to witness the impact the The Ulmer Family Light Lab is having on the Lower School academic program. From enhancing an already thriving farm-to-table program to providing greater opportunities to bring the curriculum to life, this state-of-the-art facility lets Lower Schoolers learn and make in a environment envisioned and created just for them.

The last few months of the year have been bustling with energy and activity at FCS. Seniors are diving into Senior Project and looking ahead to Commencement, and we welcomed over 300 alumni/ae and families for Reunion Weekend 2017. Within these pages, you will read about the illustrious alumni/ae who returned to campus for Career Day, as well as friends who may not have been on campus but who reminisce about the impact their Friends' Central years have had on their lives in the "Notes from Friends" section.

The Class of 2017 has been shining in the college admissions process, with acceptances at the most selective colleges and universities like Harvard, Yale, Brown, Penn, University of Chicago, Georgetown, and Amherst, institutions that span four continents (North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia), specialized programs like NYU Tisch School of the Arts and the Syracuse University Newhouse School of Communications, and Quaker colleges like Haverford, Bryn Mawr, Swarthmore, Guilford, and Whittier. I appreciate their gifts as individuals and the dedication of a faculty that has educated, shaped, and encouraged them.

We are in the midst of welcoming new students for the 2017-2018 school year, and I'm thrilled to share that the future of Friends' Central looks bright. Strong interest in our school has resulted in new enrollment, as well as reenrollment, that is outpacing last year. I would like to thank current families who have once again entrusted their children to us for 2017-2018.

This school year has been a remarkable one – with both highlights and moments that have made us stronger and tested the resilience of our cherished school. I am grateful, now more than ever, for the support and partnership of our community.



Craig N. Sellers
Head of School



QUAKER WORKS

The Magazine of Friends' Central School

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FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL



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ON THE COVER:

The Ulmer Family Light Lab at the Lower School opened its doors on October 21, 2016. Pictured at the opening ceremony are (from top left) Head of School Craig N. Sellers, Bev Ulmer, Rich Ulmer '60, and Lower School Principal Kelly Pierre, with Lower School students. Read more on page 16.



KB performing their Rainforest Play in February. Read all about the Rainforest Project and the Light Lab on page 20.

Campus Log

For more School news, visit the FCS Pressroom at friendscentral.org/news

International Day of Peace 2016

In September, Friends' Central observed International Day of Peace 2016, with a number of events and assemblies held throughout the day in all three divisions of the School.

Pictured at right are Peace Mobiles created by Middle School students and Lower School students gathering around the Peace Pole to mark the day.



Echo Hill 2016

In September, grade 7 students headed to Echo Hill Outdoor School on the Eastern Shore of Maryland for an exciting four days of outdoor team-building activities, a cornerstone FCS experience. Six grade 10 and 11 students went along to help mentor seventh grade students as part of a Leadership Program that began two years ago.



Upper School Makers Triumph

In September, a project created by Upper School students Jonathan Roach '20 and Ben Lehrer '20 earned three ribbons at the National Maker Faire in New York, including "Best in Show." Their electric saxophone – which used a pressure sensor in the mouthpiece to activate the Arduino, creating the saxophone sound – was also named one of the "Coolest Projects" at Maker Faire by *PC Mag*.

Lower School Harvest Fest

In October, to celebrate Harvest Fest, students brought into school and proudly displayed their garden bounty, poems, drawings, and other self-directed projects representing their experiences in and around a garden.



Keystone State Boychoir Star Visit

In September, Lower Schoolers were treated to a performance by Keystone State Boychoir singer Bobby Hill, who was joined by Associate Music Director Steven Fisher. Bobby's fabulous voice was made famous when he sang a solo at the Papal Mass in Philadelphia in 2015.





Spanish Exchange Students

Nineteen students joined us from Spain for two weeks this fall. A number of FCS Upper School students hosted our visitors and then traveled to Spain for the second half of the exchange program in March.



Grade 3 Students Take a Flying Class with Upper School Physics

Grade 3 students worked with Upper School Physics students in October to create planes and make them fly.

Harp Duo Comes to the Makerspace

In October, Upper School Computer Science hosted a visiting artist duo. Their work combines a concert harp, computer visualizations, and robots to create a one-of-a-kind experience.



Pumpkin Fair 2016

A much-loved FCS tradition is the annual Lower School Pumpkin Fair in late October, and this year was another great one! For the second year in a row, Kalila Jones '19 sold her one-of-a-kind crocheted hats at Pumpkin Fair and donated proceeds back to Friends' Central.

On page 36, see photos from Alumni/ae Baby Day that took place on the same day!



Middle & Upper School Students Learn About WWII Japanese Internment Camps

At a special assembly in October, director Frank Chi spoke to students and showed clips from his moving film *Letters from Camp*, which features contemporary Muslim American youth reading letters written by young Japanese Americans in World War II internment camps in the US. Also present to talk about life at the camps was A.H. Nishikawa. At age four, Nishikawa was interned with his family at a camp in Arizona.





The Lion King, Jr.

Middle School students presented Disney's *The Lion King, Jr.* to packed houses in November. Audience members of all ages loved this lively, toe-tapping musical performed by our talented Middle Schoolers.



Infinite Black Suitcase

In October, Upper School drama students captivated audiences with their outstanding and emotional performances of *Infinite Black Suitcase*, receiving stellar reviews from CAPPIES critics.



Parents vs. Students

On a beautiful fall day, we were happy to welcome parents to campus to show off their athletic skills at the fall Middle School Parent-Child Game Day. Fun – along with some hearty exercise – was had by all!



Advanced Physics Boat Race

In January, students in Advanced Physics raced boats they had constructed in class from cardboard, applying principles learned in physics. Fun was had, but not all boats turned out to be seaworthy!



Multilingual Fashion Show

Students showcased their language skills, along with their fabulous costumes, at the annual Grade 8 Multilingual Fashion Show in November.

Brazilian Rainforest Market

Grade 3 students held a Brazilian Rainforest Market in November, inviting the Lower School community to enjoy Brazilian culture and treats.



Photo by Chandra Savage '17

Second Annual Diversity Conference

In November, Friends' Central School hosted the second annual diversity conference, titled *Different Voices, Same Vision: Selfhood and the American Perspective*. Created in 2015 and led by FCS student Simone Gibson '17, this year's conference provided a space for students and teachers from Philadelphia area public, private, and parochial schools to discuss topics in race relations, make sense of this year's election, and inspire people to take action and advocate for change.



Holiday Concerts 2016

The Holiday season was ushered in with a series of beautiful, festive performances, including the Upper School Instrumental Concert (*left*), the Middle School Winter Concert (*top, at right*), the Grade K-3 Winter Showcase (*second from bottom, at right*), and the Upper School Choral Concert (*bottom right*).



Middle School HearStrong Champion

Elliott Gross '21 was named a HearStrong Champion by the HearStrong Foundation, which "serves to celebrate individuals worldwide who have not only faced hearing loss but conquered it with a determined spirit, a focused mind, and an unwavering heart!" Elliott is an important advocate and uses his voice to inspire change. Last year, he gave a presentation about hearing loss to his seventh grade class. Because Elliott is aware of the life-changing benefits of music, he raises money for the Clarke School of Hearing's music program and performs for the students each year.



Middle School Service-Thru-Art students, with advisor Caroline Maw-Deis, painted a beautiful mural in the basement of the Middle School.



Middle School Book Fair 2017



Lower School Book Fair 2017

Book Fairs at Middle & Lower Schools

The Middle School Book Fair, held February 6-8, was a success, made possible by many community members, including Service-Thru-Art students – who created beautiful posters – and the many teachers and parent volunteers who gave their time. We are also grateful to Heather Hebert and Children's Book World for their help and coordination. Net proceeds from the Book Fair go towards bringing guest authors to campus. Courtesy of *National Geographic's* Black History Month Author Tour, authors Ann Bausum and Michael Cottman spoke to parents and students and signed books at Book Fair Family Hour.

The Lower School Book Fair, which took place at the end of February, also drew many crowds and sold many books. Book Fair highlights at the Lower School included the annual Family Night, where magician Marc DeSouza entertained the crowd, and a fabulous assembly by author C. Alexander London. Thanks to the many community members who helped make it another great event!



Author C. Alexander London



Dance Performance

In February, Middle and Upper School dancers put on an excellent performance, full of inspired choreography and enhanced by fabulous lighting effects.



Grandparents & Special Friends Come to School

On December 2, grandparents and special friends joined their Middle School hosts for a day at FCS. They visited classes and enjoyed a preview of the Winter Concert.



John Woolman Visits Lower School

John Woolman (aka Head of School Craig N. Sellers) paid a visit to the Lower School in February to talk about his life and answer questions as a Quaker preacher and abolitionist in the colonial era.



Grade 2 Students Become Teachers in Science Class

Grade 2 students combined their new science knowledge with their individual creativity to build two-foot long models of worms, complete with internal organs, which were researched, built, and diagrammed. Each grade 2 student then taught a Pre-K student, using their wonderfully unique models as a guide.



The Chinese Culture Club organized a fabulous assembly to celebrate Chinese New Year! Pictured is Chersea Gong '19 performing Bian Lian ("changing faces").

Honoring the Legacy of Dr. King on MLK Day of Service 2017

This year, over 300 Friends' Central students, parents, and alumni/ae participated in MLK Day service projects benefitting Families Forward Philadelphia, the Bethesda Project, and Overbrook Educational Center, making it a true "Day On" for the FCS community.



Middle School community members came together to pack lunches for Bethesda Project on MLK Day of Service 2017.

Academic and Speaking Accolades for Upper School Students

It has been a great year so far for various debate, speaking, and academic teams in the Upper School, with many students participating in a range of regional and state competitions and collecting a number of impressive awards. Highlights include the following competitions.

COMAP

In January, three FCS teams entered the Annual Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications (COMAP) 19th Annual High School Mathematical Modeling Contest. All three teams placed in the top third; one team placed in the top 10%; and for the second consecutive year, one FCS team placed in the top 2%. The team of Samuel Weiss '17, Jiwei Cheng '17, Harrison Burdge '17, and Neil Goldader '17 earned the designation of National Finalist in the Contest. They qualified for and competed in the International Mathematical Modeling Challenge, IM2C, a five-day international competition that took place in April.

Princeton Model Congress

Aidan Fitzsimons '17 and Carmella Saia '18 both received an Honorable Mention at the Princeton Model Congress Awards in November.

ILMUNC

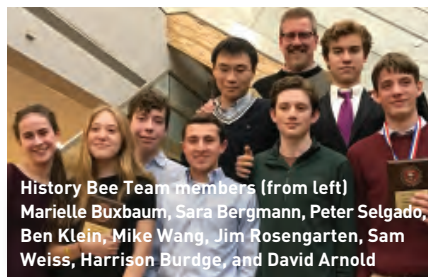
In January, members of the FCS Model UN team headed to the annual Ivy League Model United Nations Conference in Philadelphia, where Aidan Fitzsimons '17 won an Outstanding Delegate award, and Samuel Weiss '17 and Harrison Burdge '17 received verbal commendations.

History Bowl and Bee Success

FCS's Varsity and JV History Bowl Teams both went to the semi-finals of the Delaware State History Bowl in January. The Varsity team lost in as close a match as possible (290-280) to the eventual champions. The JV team had a great showing as well, advancing to the semi-finals. David Arnold '17 placed third in the state of Delaware in the History Bee, a competition among individuals.



FCS delegation members at ILMUNC



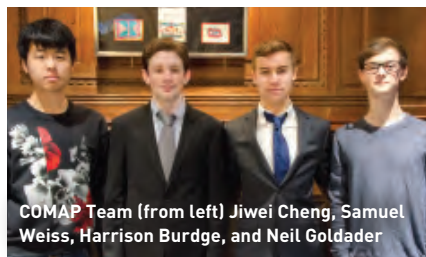
History Bee Team members (from left) Marielle Buxbaum, Sara Bergmann, Peter Selgado, Ben Klein, Mike Wang, Jim Rosengarten, Sam Weiss, Harrison Burdge, and David Arnold

Oral Proficiency Contest

The Oral Proficiency Contest, held in February at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, was open to all schools in Montgomery County, and this year, there were about 140 students participating in five languages. Among the FCS students taking part, six made it to the finals in French and Spanish. Silver prize winners were Seth Casel '22, Ben Helpin '17, Victoria Rosa '20, Anna Volpp '20, Lydia Russell '20, and Emma Verges '17.

Debate Team

The Debate Team of seniors Aidan Fitzsimons, David Arnold, and Samuel Weiss won the District 10 debate tournament at Harrington High School in February. They went on to compete at the State Tournament in March, where they took fifth place in Parliamentary Debate,



COMAP Team (from left) Jiwei Cheng, Samuel Weiss, Harrison Burdge, and Neil Goldader



Debate Team (from left) David Arnold, Sam Weiss, and Aidan Fitzsimons

making it two years in a row that FCS finished in the top five at the state level!

DECA

The DECA States PA competition held in Hershey in February was another success. FCS Business Club members did a fabulous job, with Max Auerbach '17, Max Valenci '17, and Matt Fiebach '18 qualifying for the national competition held in Anaheim, CA in April. Zak Loudini '19, Alex Veith '20, and Nathan Levitties '19 all received awards in their categories. [QW](#)



FCS Business Club members on their way to the DECA States PA competition

2017 DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Elizabeth Milroy, Distinguished Humanities Lecturer

In January, Friends' Central welcomed Dr. Elizabeth Milroy, Professor and Department Head of Art and Art History in the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design at Drexel University and author of *The Grid and the River: Philadelphia's Green Places, 1682-1876*. Milroy's lecture was entitled "Inventing Public Parks: Frederick Law Olmsted & Philadelphia's Green Places."



Janna Levin, Distinguished Visiting Scientist

In April, Barnard College Professor of Astrophysics Dr. Janna Levin delivered a lecture entitled "Black Hole Blues and Other Songs from Outer Space: The Story of the Detection of Gravitational Waves." Dr. Levin is the author of - among several books - *Black Hole Blues and Other Songs From Outer Space*. She is also the director of sciences at Pioneer Works, a non-profit foundation in Brooklyn that fosters multidisciplinary creativity in the arts and sciences.



Friends' Central Receives PlusUs Design for Learning Grant

PlusUs announced in February that Friends' Central School has been named a recipient of the Design for Learning Grant. An educational consultancy, PlusUs works with clients to create communications, workshops, spaces, and strategy; the grant is aimed at helping schools implement projects focused on instruction, strategy, communications, teacher training, or physical learning environments. Friends' Central Makerspace Director Michael Darfler (pictured at left) shared, "We're incredibly honored and thrilled to have been named a recipient of the Design for Learning Grant. With the support and expertise of PlusUs, we will continue to expand access to Making and to empowering our students to be leaders of their own education."

Prize-Winning Cacti

At this year's Philadelphia Flower Show, Jordan Panzer '19 was recognized for his horticultural skills, competing with far older contenders to win – for one of his cacti – a first prize on day one, second prize on day two, and first prize on day three; a third prize in the entire competition for a second cactus; and prizes at each of the three stages for a third cactus. Congratulations, Jordan!



Athletics

Girls' Cross Country Wins 2nd Consecutive FSL Championship



For the second consecutive season, the Friends' Central Varsity Girls' Cross Country team took home the FSL title for the Phoenix. On an uncharacteristically hot 86 degree fall day, the Phoenix torched the course taking #1 Emily Burd '17, #3 Gabby Wilkinson '18, #4 Nadia Taranta '18, #5 Claire Szapary '17, #6 Rose McDonnell '18, #10 Amelia McDonnell '18, and #11 Emma Verges '17. Emily Burd's winning time for the 3.1 George School course was 19.29.9. Combining the team's championship race with scores from their FSL dual meets, FCS 2016 Varsity girls' cross country team came away with the team championship.

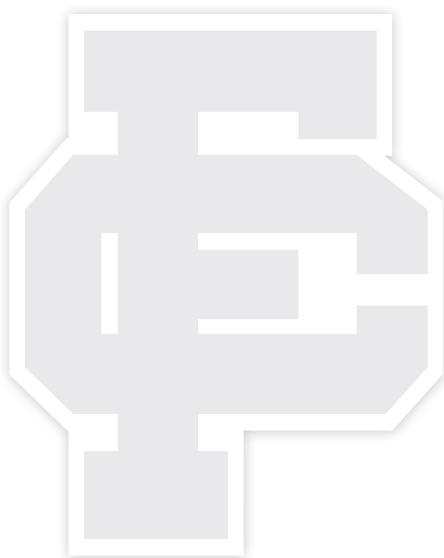
Friends' Central continued its dominance in the girls' Junior Varsity race winning the Junior Varsity championship race. The Phoenix came in #1 Lydia Russell '20, #2 Kristen Johnson '19, #3 Tristen Pasternak '18, #4 Michaela Colavita '17, #6 Jasper Kolimago '20 and #8 Jade Helpen '20.



FSL Championships for Boys' Swimming and Girls' Swimming

Friends' Central swimmers dominated once again at the 2016-2017 Friends Schools League Championships on Saturday, February 11, taking home titles in both girls' and boys' swimming for the Phoenix. In front of a packed crowd, the Phoenix boys' swimming team (5-2) defended its league title successfully for the 14th consecutive year. In a standout season, the Phoenix girls (6-1) won 8 out of the 11 events and set a number of records in the process to also take home the girls' swimming title.

An elated FCS Head Coach Iain Anderson stated, "The kids were thrown all sorts of 'cold & flu' curve balls this winter, but they certainly found a team way to rally and turn in great overall performances in the Championships!"



Back-to-Back FSL Championships for Girls' Tennis

On Tuesday, November 1, Friends' Central hosted the Friends Schools League Girls' Tennis Championship. After a good afternoon of tennis, under the passionate and strong coaching of Alex Margolies '10, FCS repeated as FSL Champions, coming away with the victory after defeating GFS 5-0! Alex summed up the season by stating, "It means so much to bring your own passion back to Friends' Central as a young alum. To be able to add to the great tradition of FCS tennis is a special thing. The girls grew in mental toughness throughout the season, and that is what got them this Championship. They stayed hungry, and their focus down the stretch was the key."



Making the College Sports Segue - 14 Student-Athletes to Compete in Collegiate Athletics Next Year

Fourteen Friends' Central seniors have committed to participating in collegiate athletics next year. They include (front from left) Sophie Berger, Trinity College (lacrosse); Hayden Posencheg, Duquesne University (lacrosse); Hannah Posencheg, Dickinson College (lacrosse); Emily Burd, University of Pittsburgh (track); (back from left) Emma Verges, Macalester College (track/cross country); Lorna MacFarlane, Dartmouth College (soccer); Antone Walker, Wesleyan College (basketball); Alec Andrews, Muhlenberg College (baseball); Matt Blackman, Wesleyan College (soccer); Nolan McGrann, Gettysburg College (soccer); Jessica Goralski, Stony Brook University (lacrosse); (not pictured) Asa Bell, Guilford College (soccer); Jacob Liberman, Dickinson College (golf); Sidney McLeod-Whitener, Rowan University (track); and Robby Saligman, Boston University (track).

FCS MS Girls and Boys BBall Win at TPS

On back-to-back weekends, Friends' Central's Middle School girls' and boys' "A" basketball teams won The Philadelphia School's annual Basketball Tournaments. On January 28, the FCS MS "A" girls' basketball team defeated Baldwin 35-19 in a first round game before matching up against TPS in the Championship. The Phoenix prevailed in the final game by the score of 35-9. The Middle School boys' "A" team traveled to The Philadelphia School on February 4 and also came away with the Championship. In their opening game, the Phoenix matched up against the Kangaroos of Abington Friends defeating them by the score of 46-17. In the Championship game, FCS defeated the host school by the score of 55-33.

Alumni/ae Athletes *In the News*

Gus Anderson '16, a freshman at Denison University, helped Denison's men's swimming & diving team win its ninth straight North Coast Athletic Conference Championship.

Peter Bradbeer '16, a freshman at Bucknell University, fired a 2-under-par 69 to lead the Bucknell men's golf team to a 293 team score in the second and final round of the Wildcat Invitational on Tuesday at White Manor Country Club. After shooting 76 in the opening round, Peter was nearly flawless in round two, birdying holes 6, 14, and 16.

Jeff Brown '16, a freshman at Bucknell University, is an Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletics of

America (IC4A) qualifier in both the 100M and 200M. He also finished third in the 60M at the Bison Opener.

Maddie Henry '16, a freshman at Cornell University, was named Ivy League Rookie of the Week in November after making five saves to help Cornell defeat Dartmouth College. Maddie capped her freshman season with a perfect 4-0 record in between the pipes for the Big Red.

Jesse Rubin '16, a freshman at Washington University in St. Louis, was on the women's soccer Division III National Champion team.

Elliot Davis '15, a sophomore at Occidental College, finished 12th in 200

Fly after the AM Session at the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC) Men's Swimming and Diving Championships.

Ben Shapiro '15, a sophomore at Dickinson College, placed 7th in 200 IM at Centennial Swimming Championships.

Allegra Armstrong '13, a senior at Bryn Mawr College and captain of Bryn Mawr's swimming team, placed 30th out of 500 at the Centennial Championships.

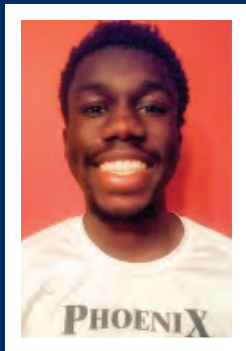
Ryan Cassidy '13, a senior at Hamilton College and captain of Hamilton's men's swimming team, placed 23rd out of 500 at the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCACs).

ATHLETES IN THE NEWS

Jacob Liberman

Places Second in PAISAA Golf Tournament

Jacob Liberman '17 had an inspiring round and finished tied for second in the Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association (PAISAA) golf tournament at Chester Valley Golf Club in Malvern in October. Although Friends' Central's golf team competes in the spring, Jacob elected to represent the Phoenix in the fall PAISAA tournament. Because of the difficult conditions, Jacob found himself reciting the mantra "precision beats power, timing beats speed." It helped! Jacob went on to score a 76 to tie him for second place in the tournament. Well done, Jacob!



Asa Bell '17

BOYS' SOCCER

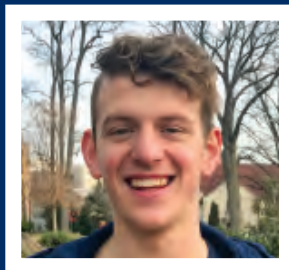
In November, senior forward Asa Bell was named Main Line Media News Boys' Athlete of the Week. Bell, one of the top players in the Friends Schools League, scored a dozen goals (many of them game-winners) and dished out a half-dozen assists for the Phoenix boys' soccer team. Friends' Central head coach Galen Guindon said, "Asa has

tremendous speed and has worked hard to improve his finishing. His ability to get in behind the back line makes him an extremely dangerous striker. He is a team first player and has been a fantastic leader for our program this season." Off the pitch, Bell runs track for Friends' Central, has competed at the Penn Relays, and has been an avid drummer since 4th grade.

Robby Saligman '17

BOYS' INDOOR TRACK

In February, Robby was named Main Line Media News Boys' Athlete of the Week. The 6-foot-4 senior track star was rated third in the Pennsylvania Indoor Pole Vault Rankings. He had a half-dozen consecutive first-place finishes in the Track and Field Coaches Association of Greater Philadelphia (TFCA of GP) Indoor series and set a new TFCA of GP Indoor Last Chance meet record at 14-8. Robby qualified for the TFCA of GP Meet of Champions and the Pennsylvania Indoor High School State Championship. He also runs the 4x400, 300-meter hurdles, long jumps, and is a captain of the boys' spring track team. Robby also represented Friends' Central at the PTFCA State Meet, vaulting 14' 6" to finish in 5th place in the standings. He had qualified earlier in the "Emerging Elite" Pole Vault with a standard of 14' 10" for the New Balance Indoor Nationals on March 10-12, 2017 at The Armory in New York City.



(From left) Coach Guindon, Matt Blackman, Lorna MacFarlane, and Coach Nowell

Soccer Duo Named All-State for SPSCA

Lorna MacFarlane '17 and Matt Blackman '17 were honored as All-State soccer players at the annual Southeastern Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association (SPSCA) banquet held in December at Williamson's Restaurant in Horsham, PA. Lorna and Matt were selected from the Friends Schools League as All-State players. Congrats to Lorna and Matt, who richly represent all that is strived for by the Friends Schools League and Friends' Central School student-athletes.

Elisabeth Forsyth '20

GIRLS' SWIMMING

In February, Elisabeth Forsyth, 9th grade swimmer, was named Main Line Media News Girls' Athlete of the Week. Elisabeth finished 8th in both the 500 free and 200 free at Easterns, where she also was part of Friends' Central's ninth-place 200 free relay team and 12th place 400 free relay quartet. At the Friends Schools League Championships, Elisabeth won the 200 IM (setting a George School pool record) and 100 back, and was on the winning 200 free relay and 400 free relay teams that both set George School pool records. Friends' Central head coach Iain Anderson said, "She is diversely talented in the water, shows up first to practice every single day, treats her coaches with the utmost respect, and is a supportive teammate."



Emily Lorry '18

GIRLS' SOCCER

In October, Emily Lorry, junior outside back, was named Main Line Media News Girls' Athlete of the Week. Emily helped anchor a Friends' Central girls' soccer team defense that allowed only six goals in nine games, including three straight shutouts (including a 0-0 draw against defending Inter-Ac champion Episcopal Academy). Friends' Central girls' soccer head coach Luke Nowell said, "Emily is one of our top defenders and for me the best outside back in the area. She is a lock-down defender, brilliant on the ball, and makes all of her teammates around her better."



A FOND FAREWELL TO BELOVED ALUMS & COACHES



Lauren Becker Rubin '83

For 15 years, Lauren Becker Rubin '83, girls' lacrosse coach, has embodied the very best of Friends' Central School. Her fiercely competitive nature – coupled with a passion for drawing the best from every athlete – has made Lauren among Friends' Central's winningest coaches. But to characterize her success in terms of wins and losses would trivialize the depth of character and commitment to education that she brought to every season and every team. For Lauren, every new season represented a new challenge. She introduced her players to strategies like meditation and positive psychology, always presuming that players had the potential to grow and contribute more.

Several years ago, Lauren created a leadership council to expand the leadership

opportunities for students beyond the role of team captains. This group of leaders met regularly to discuss the team's performance and consider strategies for improvement. This broadening of opportunity allowed students like Talia East '10, a relative newcomer to lacrosse, to make an impact on the team. Talia said, "Becker helped me to prepare for a collegiate career at Penn State, where I utilized the same initial leadership fundamentals she instilled in me to lead my University to its first 3 consecutive Big Ten Championships. I went on to use those leadership skills throughout my professional basketball career."

As a coach, Lauren was always fully committed and fully present. She understood that success on the field required success off the field. FCS parent Beth Dahle said, "Our girls were incredibly privileged to have had Lauren as a coach, mentor, and role model. She devoted as much time to her players' personal development as she did to cultivating their lacrosse skills. Team participation and leadership are critical life skills that young women can utilize to achieve academic and professional success, and Lauren's recognition of this has prepared her players for college and beyond."

Lauren worked every year to get to know her players as individuals and to build the strongest team possible. Her record of success speaks volumes for these efforts. Lauren is the mother of Bryan '14, Jesse '16, and Justin '21. [QW](#)

FCS LACROSSE UNDER COACH RUBIN

30+ Academic All Americans

3 USL All Americans

8 Friends League championships

1 PA Independent School Championship

PASLA Coach of the Year, 2014

Bob Folwell '80

For nearly 40 years, the name Bob Folwell has been synonymous with Friends' Central. From loyal alumnus and dedicated parent to passionate faculty member and talented coach, Bob has formed bonds with countless classmates, students, colleagues, and friends, and he leaves a lasting legacy on the fabric of the School.

Bob has been a staple on both campuses almost continuously since arriving at FCS as a junior. He recalls, "I was admitted by Joe Ludwig in 1978. I had come from an inner city school, and it was quite a culture change for me. I was coming from a concrete jungle to this beautiful green campus, with motivated academic students - it was quite a gift and really helped prepare me for college and the future."

After graduating from Friends' Central in 1980, Bob attended Drexel University, then transferred to Antioch College where he received his Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education in 1986. Just two months later, he found himself back at FCS. Bob's tenure began in 1986 as an assistant teacher in first grade. When the Lower School moved to Old Gulph Road, Bob would also call FCS his home. He explained, "When FCS bought the Lower School campus in 1990, I started living on campus - first in the apartment, then in the house below. When our children were born, Aqueelah and I raised them on the Lower School campus. They had an 18-acre campus as their backyard during their entire childhood." Bob's children, Briana '13 and Steven '16, continued the family's legacy at Friends' Central.

From an assistant teacher in grade 1, Pre-K, and Kindergarten to Physical Education teacher in all three divisions, co-director of the Basketball, Reading, and Math Clinic, as well as Middle School, JV, and Varsity Coach, and ultimately, Chair of the Health and Physical Education Department, Bob's impact has been felt by many children in so many ways. Tom Foley '21 said, "He not only taught us skills that we could use on the court, but also life lessons that we could take from our journey together - lessons like hard work, leadership, and teamwork that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives."

Reflecting back, Bob said, "I've been happily living in the present here at FCS for 40 years. I bleed blue and gray, and as much as I look forward to the second half of my journey with my partner, Terry, I will miss this, my second home." [QW](#)



THE ULMER FAMILY



Friends' Central Launches Groundbreaking Center for Student Innovation

On Friday, October 21, 2016, Friends' Central unveiled The Ulmer Family Light Lab, a cutting-edge facility dedicated to creation and innovation for students in Nursery School through grade 5. Lower School students and faculty, parents, Board members, administrators, and alumni/ae were on hand for the grand opening of this groundbreaking building, making it a truly momentous occasion.

"Today is a very special day in the life and history of our remarkable school," announced Head of School Craig N. Sellers, who welcomed the more than 300 people in attendance. Kelly Bird Pierre, Lower School Principal, shared, "Today marks the opening of The Ulmer Family Light Lab, an unprecedented space for 3-11 year olds to participate in Maker Education. The philosophy of Maker Education has always informed what teachers at FCS have done, and this facility will allow us to build upon our work by expanding the tools and shared spaces that are available and that have been chosen and designed explicitly for our youngest students to engage in this type of work."

Designed by Barba+Wheelock and constructed by E. Allen Reeves, the Light Lab brings together Friends' Central's creative faculty with cutting-edge design, increased space, and a plethora of resources. All these tools combine to offer young learners the very best opportunities to innovate and create. The Light Lab houses four makerspace studios in the areas of natural sciences,

fabrication, media & computing, and design, allowing teachers to build on the integrated curriculum that already exists in the Lower School by providing students with the space and tools to acquire a deeper understanding of and connection to their learning.

The construction of The Ulmer Family Light Lab was made possible by the generosity of the Friends' Central community, particularly the \$1 million gift donated by Rich Ulmer, Friends' Central Class of 1960, and his wife, Bev. Rich and Bev were in attendance and proudly cut the ribbon at the grand opening, officially opening The Ulmer Family Light Lab for Friends' Central's youngest "makers."

Addressing the Ulmer family, Sellers stated, "On behalf of everyone at Friends' Central, thank you for your leadership in helping us make this dream come true."

SINCE OPENING ITS DOORS IN OCTOBER

The Light Lab has become a repository for an avalanche of student creativity, enabling 3-year-olds to 11-year-olds to take advantage of these new facilities to bring their ideas to life. Students now have myriad opportunities to create, invent, and learn with tools such as 3D printers, laser and vinyl cutters, sewing machines, woodworking tools, art supplies, software for animation, filmmaking, recording music, and more.

LIGHT LAB OPENS!



The Light Lab's Natural Sciences Studio elevates the importance of Friends' Central's already thriving farm-to-table program in the Lower School. Students spend several hours outside each week tending a large community garden that provides a portion of food used to feed students, faculty, and staff for lunch, and in the new Solarium and full kitchen in the Natural Sciences Studio, students are gardening year-round and using hydroponics and vertical farming solutions to provide even more fresh items for the Lower School menu. In the aeroponic towers, students have already begun harvesting Swiss chard, cucumbers, arugula, kale, and leaf lettuce.

In the Fabrication Studio, which houses the most equipment of any studio, students can research, design, and bring their inventions to life using a wide variety of tools – from computer-aided design software and professional laser cutter to saws, hammers, nails, and plywood, as well

as a sewing station and dynamic furniture with whiteboard tabletops. Brie Daley, Light Lab Director, explains, "This range and versatility make it feel like a place where nearly anything could

be made and hopefully will be as time progresses." Students are bringing to life many lessons they are learning in the classroom, including the construction of wooden covered wagons during the study



Makerspace Director Michael Darfler introduces the 3D printer in the Fabrication Studio at the opening.

of Laura Ingalls Wilder and life on the prairie, sewing costumes for class plays, creating an interactive display board, 3D design and printing of Roman coins, building cardboard prototype castles using design thinking, and making light-up paper circuit Valentine's Day cards.

The Design Studio is the most flexible of all the studios, with lots of natural light from the beautiful skylights. Fully stocked with a wide variety of art supplies, from paints, paper, pastels, and watercolors to an assortment of recyclables for designing, as well as two vinyl cutters, a library of Little Bits, and an unfinished plywood floor for worry-free messes, the space has been used for large-format art projects like murals, scenery for plays, and life-sized models. Daley shares, "The Design Studio holds an abundance of materials to embellish and beautify projects from an artistic standpoint. It doesn't house any large equipment which makes the space truly flexible; when



Light Lab Director Brie Daley at work with students on a project in the Design Studio

tables are moved out, there's enough room for multiple classes to collaborate on something like the 30-foot painted boa constrictor that KB made while studying the rainforest or life-sized body systems in the third grade's study of the human body."

The Media and Computing Studio boasts a full green screen, electronics, robotics equipment, and a soundproof recording room for students to explore the world of filmmaking, animation, programming, and music editing. Since the

"This range and versatility make it feel like a place where nearly anything could be made and hopefully will be as time progresses."



Grade 5 students use the green screen, iPads, and editing technologies to create movies in the Media and Computing Studio.

opening of the Light Lab, the Media and Computing Studio has been buzzing with activity. Pre-KB students filmed their road trip movie in front of the green screen, and grade 5 students worked in the recording studio and used the green screen to shoot their Silk Road commercials. Additionally, this studio is the hub for after-school clubs like Robotics and Coding Cafe.

"Young children have so many powerful ideas that they are bursting to share with others," Daley says. "Friends' Central teachers have always been tuned in to the fact that children learn more when they are active participants, making and doing. These four new flexible spaces will allow us to expand the opportunities for our little ones even further and to continue striving towards our Mission and Vision." QW



(Above and top right) students at work on an interactive sculpture that was on display at the entrance of the Light Lab at the Opening



Light Lab Opening evening celebration



Light Lab on the night of the Opening



THE LIGHT LAB IN ACTION

Kindergarten and Grade 5 Students Bring the Rainforest to Life

In February and March, Kindergartners partnered with 5th graders to create a one-of-a-kind, interactive display rainforest board, the culmination of many weeks of learning about the ecosystem and inhabitants of the rainforest. After creating hanging sloths, green-eyed tree frogs, and foliage to make their rainforest board a vibrant work of art, students worked in the Light Lab to bring their rainforest board to the next level – interactivity.

Each KB student chose a rainforest animal to research, then worked with their grade 5 buddies to record a rainforest animal fun fact in the Light Lab recording studio. Using Scratch software, students implemented a code that would activate the recording when the touch sensor's circuit was completed. The touch sensor on each animal was wired to a Makey Makey, a small circuit board that allows for the building of creative circuits with anything conductive. The Rainforest Board works by using a person in order to complete the circuit. The person touches two

squares designated by color, allowing a small amount of electricity to travel through the path – including through the person – tricking the computer into believing a key was pressed and thus activating the Scratch programming!

Grade 4 Takes States Festival to the Next Level

Each year, 4th graders choose a state to research and present on, representing historical events and landmarks unique to their chosen state.

Many students chose to work on their states projects in the Light Lab to take advantage of the breadth of tools and materials available. From building a water turbine to demonstrate the power of Nevada's Hoover Dam in the Fabrication Studio to creating Minnesota's North Pacific Railway, complete with train and remote control, using Little Bits in the Design Studio, the Light Lab enabled students in grade 4 to build and create in ways never before available.

Pre-KB Students ZOOM in Their Electronic Cars

In January, students in Pre-KB began constructing their wearable cars. They first worked in the Design Studio to create the base with cardboard and paint. Then, they created the spinning wheels to add to the base. Next, they discussed electricity and how to build a simple LittleBits circuit as a car horn. They installed the circuit onto the car wheel with Velcro, after much excitement about where to put the horn. And in March, as the grand finale, Pre-KB students drove their wearable cars into the Media & Computing Studio to record their journey in front of the green screen.



Pre-KB students “drove” their wearable electronic cars into the Media & Computing Studio.

Pre-KA Students Blast Off in Their Rockets

This winter, Pre-KA began building rockets in their study of outer space. Each student made the body, cone, and fins of their rocket, then they added flaming cellophane and rocket lanterns to the ceiling of their classroom, adding to the beautiful illusion of a night sky. [QW](#)



Jake presents his train project at the Grade 4 States Festival.



At the Grade 4 States Festival, Chloe demonstrates her water generator which powers the lights in her model Nevada casino.



Students have already begun to harvest fresh produce from the aeroponic towers in the Natural Sciences Studio.



BLACKBURN SOCIETY

Legacy Giving Opportunities

Students will benefit from the generosity of Ivan Gabel of the Class of 1949, who thoughtfully remembered Friends' Central School in his will with a bequest to support financial aid. Throughout the School's history, many alumni/ae and other friends have helped Friends' Central thrive by providing for the School as part of their estate planning.

Those who let us know about their planned giving intentions become members of the Blackburn Society, named in honor of Eliza E. Blackburn '22, whose estate gift has benefitted Friends' Central for many decades. Six new members have been added to the Blackburn Society so far this year!

While bequest intentions are among the most common choices, IRA rollovers and charitable gift annuities are also possibilities. *(As always, donors should check with their financial advisors before making a legacy gift.)*

• IRA ROLLOVER

A charitable IRA rollover is designed for individuals age 70 and one half or older to give directly to Friends' Central, while potentially avoiding tax obligations you might incur from required IRA distributions.

• 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 commonly works with Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

There are various opportunities for structuring estate gifts. 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.



Eliza E. Blackburn '22

NOTES from Friends

Share Your Alumni/ae News

Friends' Central School encourages all alumni/ae to share news in the "Notes from Friends" section of *Quaker Works*. Send us your photos! Digital and print photos are accepted. 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 writes, "When I think of the dates that stand out in my life, a September day in 1930 is the first one that I can remember. I was starting kindergarten at Friends' Central School. What a wonderful kindergarten room we had, with a huge sandbox, a cardboard house on a wooden frame, and a big fireplace with tiles around its perimeter. I cannot remember if we ever actually had a fire in the fireplace. I loved that room! Mr. Nicholson drove Betty Eliason, his son Eddie, and me home in time for lunch each day. Back then, both kindergarten and first grade were only half days. Mr. Nicholson had many hats at FCS, including shop teacher and maintenance manager. In June 1943, the same three of us graduated. I can hardly believe that next year our graduation will be 75 years in the past."

1947

Brigitte Solmitz Alexander reports that "no news is good news at our age! I'm living at Crosslands, a Quaker retirement community. Clayton Farraday, Anne Whitcraft, and Bernice Woerner - remember them? - were also living here when we arrived years ago. I hope to encounter some classmates at our 70th Reunion in May."

J. Richard Relick notes, "I continue to live in Cuenca, Ecuador and enjoy the daily temperatures of 70°F. It is a great country. Cuenca is in the Lower Andes and is situated at 8,500 ft. I have enjoyed hanging out in the Galapagos Islands and sailing through

the Panama Canal. My next trip is down the Amazon but not in a dugout canoe. I only wish I had been a better Spanish student at Friends' Central as at my age, the brain is not as nimble and thus my español is somewhat limited. I hope to make it back to the Estados Unidos in time for the Reunion of the great Class of 1947."

1951

Anne Miller Matheson shares, "Congratulations for everyone who made it to Reunion last year and best wishes to everyone! We are celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary soon and have family from all over Western Canada coming to join us. I would love to hear from any of my classmates, my email address is annejohn@sasktel.net."

1952

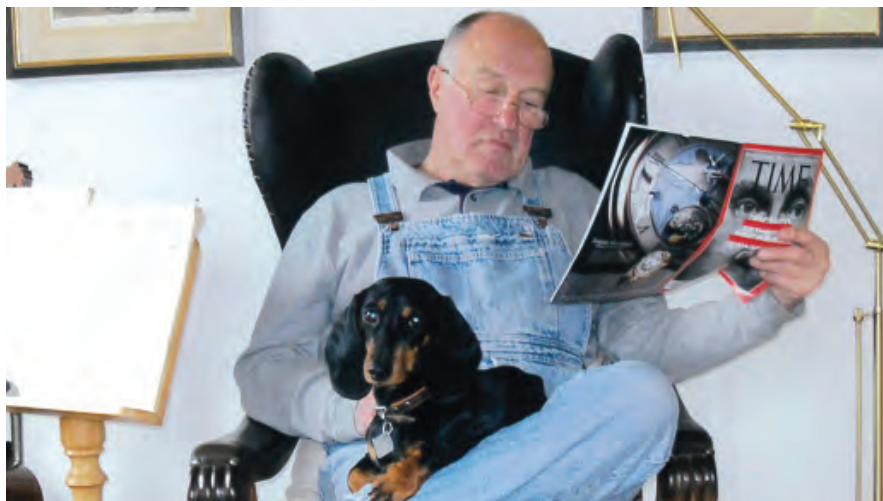
Joan Hellwege reports, "My husband and I always spend the month of June in the Philadelphia area. We take the autotrain in Sanford, FL, on May 30 and arrive in Lorton, VA, the next day and then head to the Philadelphia area until June 26. We always miss Reunion but do stop in at FCS sometime in June. We just finished our eighth Holland America cruise."

1955

George "Toby" Walters was selected as Senior Mentor of the Year 2016 for the Take Stock in Children program of the Collier County (FL) Education Foundation - Champions for Learning. It is a mentoring and scholarship program in tandem with the Florida Pre Paid College Fund. He has



Joan Hellwege '52 in Nevis during her eighth Holland America Line cruise



Erik Guthy '57 with his dog, Cindy

My days are full of work, taking care of horses and pasture with 20 apple trees.

“Together with my son, we have a modest undertaking in the township. I am honorary president of our local ‘Christian Social Workers,’ where we care for over 100 sick and disabled people, ambulant care of dementia patients, and various other projects. I am grateful for the good health I enjoy, keep playing the lute and guitar, and training my dog, Cindy. I keep my brain active by reading (often aloud) in English, French, and Russian, especially reciting poems of my much beloved Alexander Pushkin.”

Peter Savage shares that there is “not much new here. After Penn Law School, I signed up to be a clandestine officer in the CIA and was posted in Brazil and Argentina until

mentored a high school student for four years who will graduate in early June. His mentee is ranked number two in his class, with a weighted GPA of 5.21, and is a member of the National Honor Society. A Gates Millennium Scholar with a Gates Millennium Scholarship from the Gates Foundation, the young man will be attending the Honors College at the University of South Florida in Tampa. His major will be Bio Medical Engineering as he aspires to become a physician, with a specialty in Internal Medicine and a sub-specialty in Pulmonology. George – being a friend, confidant, and trusted advisor – guided, advised, and developed a strong relationship and a bonding with this young man that will last a lifetime.

1956

Carol Perloff Twain writes, “All is well here! We are expecting our third GREAT-Grandchild. What a thrill! It was wonderful to be there for our 60th Reunion last spring!!”

1957

Erik Guthy writes, “As I may not be able to attend the Reunion, here are updates on my personal life: For 11 years I have been retired as a surgeon and live in a beloved old farm house (1850) in the Bavarian Alps, together with my wife and two horses and our dog. Two years ago, our son moved in with us. A studied inventor, he works for a small company taking care of classic (race) cars, and is organizing their entry in this year’s Mile Miglia in Italy. A dream job!



Jean Duthie Broderick '66 in Cuernavaca, Mexico

1978. Upon returning to the USA with my Brazilian wife, Ina Dutra, and three daughters, I lived in Baltimore and worked in the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) office of HUD, in Washington DC, and thereafter, transferred to the Charles Center Inner Harbor office of the City of Baltimore. My job was to get UDAG funding for new hotel projects in the downtown area. In 1997, I co-founded an international travel vaccination and travel security company, Passport Health, Inc, that became a national franchise operation, with offices in 40 states and 120 cities. I was bought out of the firm by my partner in 2010. In 2003, my wife, Ina Dutra, died of Alzheimers, and I married Deborah Tillett in 2004. Life has been one happy adventure ever since.

"My memories of Friends' Central are of Mrs. Benner and of John Burroughs. Mrs. B: 'Practice makes perfect, and some people practice to be perfect fools.' During the height of a squirt gun rage, when many guys were armed with the weapons banned by the School, John Burroughs started a class by pulling out a confiscated squirt gun and spraying the class. Those who were armed pulled out their weapons to response. John B said, 'Ok guys, hand them over.'"

Henry Zoob reports, "I've just published a book entitled *A Lifetime of Genesis*. It is an exploration of the Covenant of Abraham in Genesis, along with stories and issues from my life that relate to the lives of the heroes

and heroines of Genesis. Contact me by email, and I'll arrange to have a book sent to you. You can also purchase it on Amazon."

1964

A few months after celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, **John Witherspoon** and his wife, Paula, welcomed their first grandchild, Aedan Moses Shindell, born on December 12, 2016.

1966

Jean Duthie Broderick writes, "I just returned from two wonderful weeks of Spanish immersion classes at Universidad Internacional in Cuernavaca, México, with a group of friends. The programs they offer are specifically – and sometimes individually – geared to a learner's proficiency level. It feels like a great, warm homecoming for me, as this was my eighth time participating – three times as the director. I'll be planning to go again next January, and it sure would be fun to include some Friends' Central-ites! All ages and stages welcome. I can be reached at go4it81147@gmail.com."

1967

Jed Callen reports, "I graduated from work this past November and am in the process of moving from New Hampshire to Frisco, Colorado. I am looking forward to being near my daughters, their husbands, and one

granddaughter, so far. I am also looking forward to hiking, biking, paddling, skiing, and slaying the wily trout. So far, they are winning! Best to all my classmates!"

Diane Bierman Carson shares, "Friends' Central changed my life in so many ways. I owe my management skills to learning consensus. I became a Friend and had the most beautiful marriage under the care of my Meeting. I still communicate after almost 50 years with classmates, and in my saddest moment, the loss of my husband, my classmates reached out to me and brought caring and comfort to me. FCS, you represent what is the best of humanity. I am grateful."

Dan Carter, Brian Kunz, and Ron Diment attended a 50-year retirement party in Philadelphia for Jim Murray, FCS math teacher, soccer, and baseball coach from 1965-1969. The fete was held by alumni, staff, and friends at St. Joseph's Prep, where Mr. Murray moved on to a very successful career as soccer coach, teacher, and athletic director until his recent retirement. He is enshrined in the PA Sports Hall of Fame.

William Evans writes, "I have enjoyed living in Montana and have established an Adult and Child Counseling Service in Helena that is now going on 30 years. I'm not ready to retire yet! My wife and I have enjoyed lots of travels. Our son has a therapy



Aedan Moses Shindell, first grandchild of John Witherspoon '64 and wife, Paula, was born on December 12, 2016.



Ron Diment (second from left), Dan Carter (far right), and Brian Kunz from the Class of 1967 attended the St. Joseph's Prep retirement party for Jim Murray, FCS math teacher, soccer, and baseball coach.

THE JOHNSON FAMILY – A FRIENDS’ CENTRAL LEGACY

When young Beth Davis began at Friends’ Central’s K-4 school in 1963, little did she know that she had kicked off an FCS legacy that would span three generations (so far). An FCS “lifer” (Class of 1977), proud parent of two alumni/ae – Tanya Johnson Muse ’02 and Kristen Johnson Reid ’03 – and grandparent of two current FCS students – Omar Muse ’26 and Nathan Muse ’30 – Beth says that she is “honored to be a Friends’ Central graduate, proud of my children for earning their FCS diplomas, and I can’t wait for my grandsons to sit on that same graduation terrace.”

Tanya and Kristen were also Friends’ Central lifers, with many fond memories, particularly of the strength of community at FCS. Kristen shares an example of community that took place when she was in the Upper School. “I was sick and hospitalized for three months. Students visited, and all of BSF (Black Student Forum) stopped by the hospital before the quadruple header basketball game. Teachers also visited and were heroic in their efforts to support my goal of completing the schoolwork for the year so that I would not have to attend summer school. One teacher, Bill Darling, even came to my home to help me with math,” Kristen explains.

The Davis/Johnson women were actively involved in many facets of school life at FCS, with all three participating in sports and Black Student Forum. Beth and Kristen took part in school plays and music groups, and Tanya and Kristen were also members of the Student Admission Committee. They were also a family of “firsts” for Friends’ Central. Tanya shares, “It’s not every day you have a family of firsts as we do. I am the first graduate of an African-American alum, and we are the first family of color to have three generations at FCS. At one point, one person from each generation was here at the same time. When it was time for my youngest son to attend FCS, I remember him saying, ‘is it time to go to our family school now?’ I replied with, ‘Yes, Nathan, it’s time.’ I remember that moment bringing such joy and warmth to my heart. At that moment, I knew my children loved this place as much as I do!”

Returning to Friends’ Central to work was welcome and thrilling for both Beth and Tanya. Beth shares, “The field of education is in my genes. Both of my parents were teachers, and my aunt and uncle entered the same field. Even though I attended Johns Hopkins University with the expectation of becoming a doctor, I felt called to work in a school. Back in 1987, I was offered the opportunity to return to Friends’ Central to work in the Admissions Office, and my heart skipped a beat in excitement. I accepted the offer and hoped that I would be able to give back to the institution that provided me with an incredible education.” Tanya, now a Kindergarten teacher at Friends’ Central, says, “Former Lower School Principal Joe Ludwig gave me a call during my senior year of college and said, ‘Tanya, I know you are almost finished school. Any chance you’d like to come back to FCS to teach?’ How could I say no? I leapt at the opportunity. The chance to come back to the institution that helped shape me as a person was a no brainer!”

We are incredibly fortunate to have generations of Davis, Johnson, and Muse family members so deeply connected to Friends’ Central School! Thank you for your loyalty!



(From left) Tanya Johnson Muse '02, Beth Davis Johnson '77, and Kristen Johnson Reid '03

practice in Scottsdale, Arizona. I would welcome hearing from classmates about what they are doing.”

Samuel Hodge has co-authored *Head Trauma and Brain Injuries for Lawyers*. This book, published by the American Bar Association, provides an in-depth analysis of injuries to the brain and spinal cord, as well as those structures surrounding the central nervous system. This is Sam’s eighth

book and his text, *Anatomy for Litigators*, was the recipient of the Award for Professional Excellence in Legal Publications. Sam is a professor at Temple University, where he teaches both law and anatomy and is the Director of the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. He lectures nationally on anatomy and trauma and is considered one of the most popular continuing legal education speakers in the country. In fact, his course, Into the Lab, received the

Best Course Award by the International Association of Continuing Legal Education. Sam has received multiple teaching awards on the professional, university, and national levels, and his interactive teaching style has been the subject of stories in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. He has also been featured on National Public Radio and television. In addition to his books, Sam has written more than



Susan Michael Rogers '75 (third from left) with her husband, John (sixth from left) at the wedding of their eldest son, David, in May 2016.

150 articles that have been published in various medical and legal journals, and he has been named a top lawyer in Pennsylvania on multiple occasions.

1975

Patricia Brady shares, "I recently received my M.Div. from the accredited University of Spiritual Healing and Sufism. I am actively involved in interfaith work exploring, among other things, the commonalities in the Abrahamic religions, as well as healing and bridge-building through music. I have a vegetable garden and laying hens, and I still live happily with my husband, Joel Walzer, in the Catskills of New York. My mom, former Lower School music teacher, Bernice Brady, is 89 years young, lives independently at White Horse Village, and is actively involved in music and other doings there. My brother, Kevin Brady '72, passed away in 2013 from Lou Gehrig's disease."

1977

Pam Mayro Cohen writes, "Sorry I am unable to attend Reunion, but my husband and I will be away on vacation. Hope everyone is well! My step-son, Daniel Cohen, Class of 2020, has attended FCS since kindergarten, and I am often at school. The campus has dramatically changed since our graduation, but the caring spirit has endured. Best wishes to everyone from the Class of 1977!"

1980

In addition to writing and public speaking, **Eileen Flanagan** has been teaching online courses for people who feel called to step into activism during these tumultuous times.

Eileen's recently published memoir *Renewable: One Woman's Search for Simplicity, Faithfulness, and Hope*, was the FCS faculty book choice for the summer of 2016. Eileen also spoke at the faculty & staff opening meeting and was the featured speaker at the *One FCS* Parent Meeting in January.

1984

Chris Minster recently accepted a new position with Lockheed Martin as the Program Director for Surface Navy Integration

Systems. He is currently working in Camden, NJ at the company's new Advanced Product Development Center (APDC).

1987

Mark Levy is Executive Managing Director at JLL in Washington, DC, and runs the firm's Global Ports, Airports and Global Infrastructure Team. He is married to Brooke Selinger-Levy, who owns a DC-area event planning firm, and has three children, Joshua, 17, Skye 14, and Raife, 12. Mark and his family live in Bethesda, MD.

1992

Jessica Christie Morowitz lives in Pittsburgh, PA, with her husband Michael and two children Anna (9) and Jack (7). She



Liz Wells Oppenheim '98 and her one-of-a-kind jewelry at the PMA Craft Show



Patrick Dostal '98 and wife, Courtney, welcomed their third child, Jacob Lawrence Dostal, to the family

works at 412 Food Rescue, a non-profit dedicated to ending hunger and waste in Allegheny County.

1994

Maggie Schmitt recently introduced the second edition of her book, *A Gaza Kitchen: A Palestinian Cultural Journey* at a sold-out event at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

1998

Patrick Dostal and his wife Courtney were very excited to welcome their third child, Jacob Lawrence Dostal, to the family.

Liz Wells Oppenheim was in town from San Francisco in November for the PMA Craft Show. Her one-of-a-kind jewelry made with a Japanese technique called mitsuro was for sale at the Craft Show. She creates jewelry by warming a handmade wax, then hand sculpts the wax into richly textured wearable forms which are then cast in metal and carefully hand finished.

Brendan Tozer writes that he "started with Dumont Aircraft Charter as Flight Operations Manager based at the ILG airport in August 2016. I moved to Delaware in February of 2017 with my wife Jill and 15-month-old daughter Madeline. We are expecting our second child in September."

2002

David Clements is a chief resident in Psychiatry at Cooper University hospital and will be starting a Fellowship in

Addiction Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania this summer. He is also the founder of Clemtech Pharmaceuticals, specializing in trans-dermal patch technology.

Tracy Miller and her husband, Jonah, welcomed a baby girl, Avery Rose, on February 9, 2016.

2006

Morgan Robinson reports, "I recently graduated from Temple University School of Sport, Tourism, and Hospitality Management with my Master of Science in Sport Business with a focus on Event Management. I am currently employed with The University of Pennsylvania working in Development and Alumni Relations on the Programs & Special Events team."

2008

Brittany McLellan Fitzgerald says, "Hi there! I have recently been appointed Chair of the Make-A-Wish Metro NY 'Under-40' Board. I am currently an Associate at Goldman. I am always so proud to say I went to FCS!"



Kehinde Whetstone '00 and Teresa Ryan '00 with their beautiful daughter, Kennedy



Congratulations to Casey Cipriani '01, whose son, Liam Joseph Levine, was born on March 1, 2017!



David Gershkoff Slusky '02 with daughter, Eve, and wife, Joanna

Read one of several articles about Brittany's involvement with Make-A-Wish on the Goldman Sachs website: www.goldmansachs.com/careers/blog/posts/gs-analysts-make-a-wish-foundation.html.

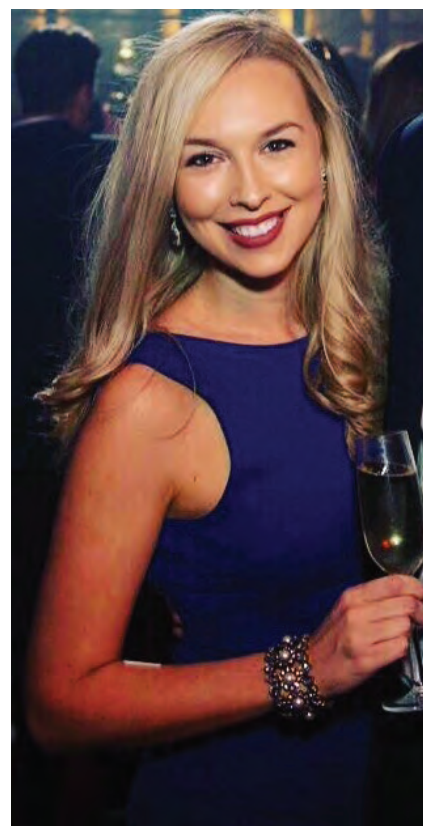
Scott Kunz reports, "My brother Robbie '04 and I have been working on our real estate business located in Fishtown, Philadelphia for a few years now. We also started an online custom leather jacket company at IndependenceBrothers.com. I took a photo

of another alum, Luke Wagman '08 wearing our jacket (*see page 30 for photo*)!"

Alexy Posner recently opened her own public relations & branding firm, specializing in athletes and non-profit work. This has been a dream of hers since graduating



Brand logo for Alexy Posner Public Relations



Brittany McLellan Fitzgerald '08

college in 2012. Some of the individuals her firm represents include NFL Analyst & American Ninja Warrior host Akbar Gbajabiamila and Orioles All-Star center fielder Adam Jones. Alexy spends most of her time at baseball games supporting her boyfriend, Aaron Brown, who plays in the Phillies organization. Alexy is always looking to connect with other alumni/ae! Reach out to her, and check out her firm at www.alexyposner.com.

2010

Madelena Rizzo writes, "I am in my first year of graduate school at Drexel University, pursuing a dual JD/PhD. My passions lie in forensic psychology, offender rehabilitation, reentry, and policy reform, and I hope to use the doctorate in clinical psychology and the law degree to pursue these issues. But I have ample time to decide the specifics – the program is seven years in total!"

2011

Wesley Kaminsky reports, “Currently, I serve on the social media team for the NBA, where I am in charge of live covering and tweeting games on a nightly basis. As a lifelong sports – and particularly basketball – fan, this opportunity came at a perfect time for me, as I interned with the NBA Players Association prior, while graduating from Temple University in May of 2016.”



Luke Wagman '08 models a custom leather jacket designed by brothers Scott Kunz '08 and Robbie Kunz '04.

In Memoriam

Jeanne Adams
Priscilla Okie Alexander '41
Rachel Replansky Bailey '90
Charlotte Eby Bartlett '43
Dorothy Everitt Bond '35
Elizabeth Crofoot Bowers '33
Paul Cerwinka '67
Jesse Darlington '51
Albina De Meio '65
Louis DelSoldo
Dorothy Gotwald Dixon '44
Alexander Duno '93
Walter Frommer '47

Ivan Gabel '49
Judith Moulton Greene '56
Sarah Schalow Hassold
Ethan Hurwitz '16
Florence Jackson
Marilyn Bixby Karius '67
Robert Kindred '58
Donald Kirkland '43
Stephanie Koenig '70
Marilyn Lager
Constance Louie
Elizabeth Seybold-Atwater Parsons '76
Patricia Reifsnnyder

Edward Rice '34
George Richards '59
Harriet Cooke Roberts '38
David Roy '51
Sue Williams Saul '44
Edward Shakespeare
Joan Lallou Smith '52
David Trumper '47
Maude Moore Underwood '54
Jesse Wagner '62
Dickson Werner '41
Holly Mezvinsky Werth '86
Robert Yarnall '46

Remembering Ethan Hurwitz '16

Excerpted from the Eulogy delivered by Al Vernacchio on November 14, 2016

I don't remember exactly when I met Ethan. I taught Nat (Ethan's brother) when he was a junior and senior, so I'm sure it was somewhere in those years. I'm pretty sure it was Nat who introduced me to Ethan. I never had the pleasure of teaching him, but that didn't stop me from knowing him. It was hard not to know Ethan. He was a young man who was short in stature, but BIG in presence. Not big as in forceful or overbearing – no, big as in bright and charming and full of life. For a kid who certainly was entitled to have a bad day, I never saw Ethan have one at school. He wasn't always gregarious, but he was never glum.

Ethan had no time for negativity. And that made him something of a magnet at school. I rarely saw him alone. It was much more common to see him as the nucleus of a group, surrounded by his pals and classmates. There's a picture that was posted to Facebook after Ethan died; it was from his senior pre-prom. That's when the kids gather at the school for photos before heading out the big night. In the photo, Ethan is standing in the center of a group (of course), looking dapper in a gray tux.

Around him are (I counted) twelve boys, all in black tuxedos, two kneeling at his feet and the rest in back or at his side. They are enveloping Ethan. The most amazing thing about the photo is how many of the boys are touching him. I read that photo as the boys affirming their connection with him. “He's our Ethan,” they seem to be saying. – **Al Vernacchio**



Reflections on Beloved Faculty and Staff Members



Jeanne Adams

Jeanne Adams

Jeanne was a teacher of social studies and history in the Middle and Upper Schools from 1969 to 1987. She was a committed advocate of girls' education and organized an all-day Woman's Day Conference where panelists representing a variety of fields spoke to students in an assembly and small groups. She was a passionate voice for civil rights, marching with MLK in 1963. Jeanne believed in living her faith by ministering to others and served as a volunteer at St. Barnabas' Mission in Philadelphia. She was the mother of Edgar '74, Mark '77, and Ginger '80.



Marilyn Lager

Marilyn Lager

Marilyn served as FCS Middle and Upper School librarian from 1987 until her retirement in 2012. She oversaw the transformation of the library into a space which made use of technology. Her most

notable contribution to the life of the School, besides her work in the library, was the development of *Forum*, a journal featuring writing by faculty and staff. *Forum* was envisioned as a vehicle for examining educational issues including trends in curriculum development, travel, philosophy, and reflections on educational practice. Before her retirement, Marilyn shaped a final issue to celebrate the writings of contributors who had served FCS for 30 years or more. A wonderful legacy indeed. Marilyn's son, Rob Lager, is a 1986 graduate of FCS.



Ted Shakespeare

Ted Shakespeare

Ted taught English from 1971 to 1975. In addition to being a commanding presence in the classroom – both physically and intellectually – he directed a number of dramatic productions, including *The Crucible*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*. A fierce champion of civil rights, defender of liberal causes, and an unflagging voice of integrity in school politics, he left an enduring impression on students and faculty alike. He was the father of David '77.

Lou Del Soldo

A knowledgeable and committed educator, Lou was especially known for his expertise in early childhood learning. He taught in our Lower School from 1978 to 2011. In addition to his work in the classroom, he served as Assistant Lower



Lou DelSoldo

School Principal. His child psychology class in the Upper School was a popular offering where he shared his insights of the developmental progress of children. He also, along with Joe Ludwig, worked hard to promote the School's relationship with CEIS, an elementary school in Rimini, Italy. He was the father of Eve '92 and Ramona.



Floss Jackson

Florence (Floss) Jackson

Floss was the Director of Girls' Athletics and a coach – field hockey and lacrosse – from 1959 to 1981. Her coaching philosophy emphasized skill development, sportsmanship, and the building of character through athletics. One of her players said that she was always composed, fair, competitive, and kind. Floss saw sports as a piece of one's entire education and valued all aspects of the Friends' Central experience. She took her players to sports camps in the Poconos before seasons began and relished the opportunity to bestow the highly prized "white blazers" to her senior three-season athletes. She was much loved by her players and respected by her colleagues. [QW](#)



TURN PENNSYLVANIA STATE TAX DOLLARS INTO FINANCIAL AID DOLLARS FOR FRIENDS' CENTRAL STUDENTS!

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs administered by the state of Pennsylvania provide significant tax credits to eligible businesses that allocate a portion of their tax dollars to FCS to provide financial aid to deserving students. New applications to the state are due July 1, 2017, and renewals are due May 15.

New this year! The Friends Collaborative, a consortium of independent Quaker Schools, has created an LLC for qualified investors to receive personal income tax credit through EITC. FCS then receives the EITC gift from the Collaborative. If you are interested in reducing your personal state tax liability while supporting an FCS education, this may be the option for you.

To learn more about business tax credit through EITC and OSTC or personal tax credit through the Friends Collaborative, please contact Kim Emmons-Benjet in the Office of Annual Giving at kbenjet@friendscentral.org or 610-645-4499.

CAREER DAY ALUMNI/AE

The following illustrious alumni/ae came to campus to share their professional experiences on Career Day 2017:



James Rutenberg

James R. Rutenberg '87

As the media columnist for *The New York Times* and a contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*, James R. Rutenberg is at the heart of conversation "about our shifting media landscape" in relation to American politics. In his column *The Mediator*, Jim writes on a range of challenges facing the press. With articles such as "Media's Next Challenge: Overcoming the Threat of Fake News" and "Yes, the News Can Survive the Newspaper," Jim advocates for the importance and relevance of journalism.

After studying journalism at New York University, Jim was a reporter at *The New York Observer*, *New York Daily News*, and *New York Post* prior to his career at *The New York Times*. Throughout his 17 years at *The Times*, he has covered presidential and national politics and the media as a political, investigative, White House, and business correspondent, as well as City Hall bureau chief.

In recognition of his commitment to truth and transparency through his work in journalism, Friends' Central honored Jim with the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Jim writes that he is very much looking forward to being back on campus for Reunion this May and to talking with students about his work as a journalist at Career Day.



Tonya Evans

Tonya M. Evans '87

Tonya M. Evans will be joining the tenured faculty of the University of New Hampshire School of Law this fall as an integral member of the Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property and the UNH Sports and Entertainment Law Institute.

A nationally respected expert on intellectual property, trusts and estates, and entertainment law, Tonya primarily focuses on the intersection of those areas of law and the impact of new technologies and artistic forms on copyright law. She is currently the Associate Dean for Inclusion and Equity and an Associate Professor of Law at Widener University, and her courses are uniquely informed by her background as an accomplished author, poet, and former professional tennis player, as well as her vast work in the law field. Following her education at Friends' Central, she earned her B.S. from Northwestern University and J.D. from Howard University.

In recognition of her achievements in law and her commitment to social justice, diversity, and inclusivity, Friends' Central honored Tonya with the 2017 Distinguished Alumna Award.

Tonya says of her work, "My approach in the classroom is to challenge and to engage students from day one in law school, not merely as students but as first-year practicing lawyers. I use legal studies and the critical thinking, analysis, oral, and writing

skills required in law school to prepare students to be highly skilled, ethical, motivated, intellectually curious, compassionate, and confident professionals. Excellence, compassion, and intellectual curiosity were some of the hallmarks of my education at Friends Central; they were encouraged and nurtured early and often."



Paul Paz y Miño

Paul Paz y Miño '87

Since 1997, Paul Paz y Miño has been an advocate for human rights and environmental justice based in Oakland, California. Paul is Associate Director of Amazon Watch, a nonprofit organization that works with indigenous communities in the Amazon regions of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru to help strengthen the long-term foundation for environmentally sustainable development. In the *Huffington Post*, he has brought public attention to the long-term impact of oil pollution in the Lago Agrio oil field region of Ecuador and the ongoing legal battle between local residents and Chevron Corporation over responsibilities for cleanup.

After earning his M.A. in International Affairs at George Washington University, Paul became the Guatemala/Chiapas Program Director at the Seva Foundation prior to his work at Amazon Watch.

Currently, he is also an Associate Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies and continues his volunteer work of over 20 years as Colombia Country Specialist for Amnesty International USA.

Paul writes, “My work with Amazon Watch since 2007 has been challenging and rewarding. We challenge some of the world’s biggest polluters, such as Chevron, and work with some amazing partners in the Amazon. Quaker ideals of social justice and compassion are a part of my work and home life every day.”

Looking ahead to his 30th FCS Reunion, Paul hopes to return to campus and to stay in touch with all of his FCS classmates.



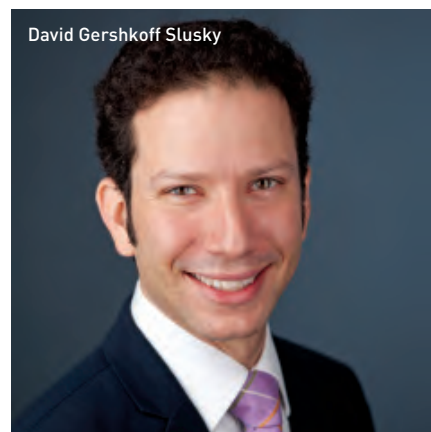
Amile Jefferson '12

This spring, Amile Jefferson wrapped up his 115-game college basketball career at Duke University. Throughout his time at Duke, Amile was an exceptional leader, both on and off the court, as a key player and three-time captain of his team, four-time member of the All-ACC Academic Team, and as an active volunteer in his community. Helping lead his team to an NCAA Championship title in 2015, he has been overwhelmingly recognized by his teammates as the heart and soul of the team and as a selfless team player. Amile’s accomplishments are also historically significant within the larger Duke Athletic Program. He is not only the first player in Duke history to be named a member of the All-ACC Academic Team four times, but he is also the only player in the last two decades at Duke to be named a three-time captain.

Currently a graduate student in Duke’s Divinity School, Amile has also volunteered in a number of programs that cultivate children’s intellectual and leadership growth.

He and his teammates are involved with the Read with the Blue Devils program, which seeks to aid area teachers in encouraging children to read at an early age. He has come to be known as a fixture at Duke Children’s Hospital and the Emily K Center, whose mission is inspire students to dream big, act with character and purpose, and reach their potential as leaders in their communities. Through basketball clinics, Amile and his team have also had opportunity to work with children from the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development.

This year, Amile will be recognized as an active FCS alumnus who is living and breathing our Mission to peacefully transform the world as a leader in his community with the retirement of his FCS basketball jersey.



David Gershkoff Slusky '02

David Gershkoff Slusky lives in Lawrence, Kansas with his wife, Joanna Slusky, and four-year-old daughter, Eve. David enjoys his research and teaching as an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Kansas and an Oswald Scholar at the University of Kansas, where he co-directs the Health Policy Research Group and is a faculty affiliate of the Institute for Policy & Social Research. His research focuses on how public policy affects maternal and child health, and his work was cited on the floor of the Kansas House right before they voted by a veto-proof majority to expand Medicaid. Recent publications show that women’s health clinic closures due to funding cuts reduce preventive care and that increases in maternal sunlight exposure reduce childhood asthma. His research has been funded in part by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and has been covered by the *San*

Francisco Chronicle, *Vox*, *Slate*, *NPR’s Morning Edition*, and *FiveThirtyEight*. He also teaches courses on microeconomic theory, labor economics, and health policy. Previously, he was a management consultant in Oliver Wyman’s financial services practice in New York City. He holds a doctorate in economics from Princeton University and an undergraduate degree in physics and international studies from Yale University.

David enjoys spending time with his family, cooking, and attending Congregation Beth Shalom in Overland Park, Kansas.

As a student at Friends’ Central, David was a part of Model UN, the Debate Team, the Math Team, and Student Admission Committee. He performed in *Barbershop* and *Twelfth Night*, and he directed the *Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* for his senior project.



Kristin Hevner-Wyatt '97

Kristin Hevner-Wyatt is a music composer whose pieces have been performed nationally and internationally and span the musical genres of classical opera, electronic dance music, and atonal rock. She has also composed music for national commercials, including GEICO, and numerous independent films, and her music has been performed in Carnegie Hall, Birdland, and in conjunction with La Scala in Milan. As former Composer-in-Residence with the new NYC-based opera company Metropolis Opera Project, Kristin penned four full-length contemporary operas that have been recently performed off-Broadway.

Kristin holds degrees from The Esther Boyer School of Music at Temple University, The

Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and the School for Audio Engineering (SAE), NYC. In addition to her work as a composer, she also maintains a private instruction practice in NYC and Westchester County. She has previously served on the board of directors for "The Look and Listen Festival," an annual event dedicated to the performance of contemporary music in art galleries.

She writes that one of her fondest memories from Friends' Central "...was having the challenge and the opportunity to compose a suite of piano pieces for my senior project. To be given the time and space to develop my creative vision at such a young age was a tremendous gift. I remember performing those pieces for an audience of my friends, classmates, and teachers and feeling not only pride in what I had accomplished but a burgeoning sense of possibility that I could share who I was through the language of music. It was a profound experience. Now, as a teacher myself, I understand how important receiving both emotional and intellectual support from faculty was for me in pursuing what I love to do and sharing it with others."



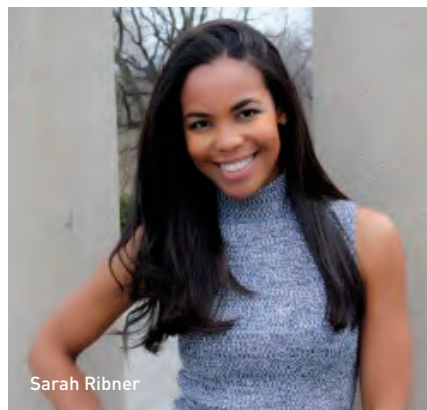
Jonathan Grinspan '02

Jonathan Grinspan is Curator of Political History at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, whose work explores the reciprocal relationship between politics and popular culture in American history.

Prior to his work with the Smithsonian, Jonathan earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in History at the University of Virginia and his B.A. at Sarah Lawrence College. His first book, *The Virgin Vote: How Young Americans Made Democracy Social, Politics Personal, and*

Voting Popular in the Nineteenth Century, uncovers a forgotten era when young men and women fueled American democracy.

Currently, he is researching a second book on the long struggle for control of American politics fought between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of the 20th century. His writing also explores a number of other historical subjects, from Civil War coffee to young people's courtships to political rioting in 19th century America.



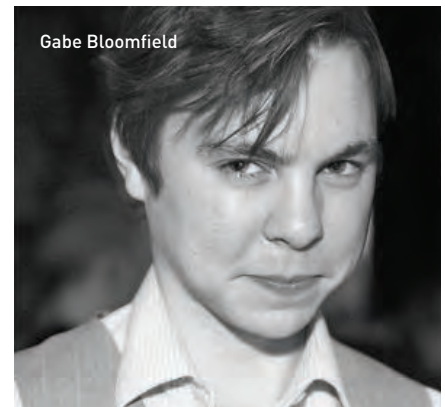
Sarah Ribner '07

These are exciting times for Sarah Ribner. In December 2015, Sarah became the first FCS alumna to appear on ABC's hit show *Shark Tank* with co-founder and former FCS student Jess Edelstein to pitch their product PiperWai Natural Deodorant to business investors. Their entrepreneurial venture initially began when Jess developed her own deodorant formula using activated charcoal, essential oils, and natural moisturizers as a natural alternative to other deodorants with chemical ingredients that irritated her sensitive skin. After extensively researching body odor and creating a homemade deodorant formula that really worked, Jess shared it with her longtime best friend Sarah, who tested it out during a volunteer trip to South America in 2013, where it withstood trekking through hot and humid weather. Seeing a gap in the market for an effective natural deodorant that wouldn't burn sensitive skin, Sarah and Jess went into business together shortly thereafter to bring the product to the public.

As Sarah was earning her MBA at Columbia School of Business, she and Jess started hand-making PiperWai out of a community

kitchen in Kensington, PA. Following initial start-up support from their family, they found additional support from winning a business pitch competition at Columbia Business and through an Indiegogo campaign in June 2015.

Since appearing on *Shark Tank* where Sarah and Jess struck a deal with New York real estate mogul Barbara Corcoran, PiperWai has skyrocketed. In just three months of the episode's airing, PiperWai made over \$2 million in sales. In a recent interview with the online publication *Black Girl in Om*, Sarah highlighted that her passion for natural personal care products is an extension of her holistic approach to health overall, which values one's relationship with the world and the health of one's mind alongside exercise and diet.



Gabe Bloomfield '07

Gabe Bloomfield came to FCS in ninth grade and quickly made himself a visible and active member of the School. He pursued a number of interests while at FCS – most notably in the arts. He sang in the chorus, participated in the vocal groups, and acted in numerous plays and dramatic productions. He acted in *The Women* and showcased his dancing, singing, and acting skills in *The Pajama Game*. His submission to the Young Playwright's Festival, *Snow is Falling*, won first prize and received a full production in Philadelphia. In his senior year, he wrote *Omi*, which he then directed as the ninth and tenth grade play. He was a leader in the GSA and was also a member of our short-lived but passionate 4th team tennis squad! A versatile student indeed.

Gabe is now pursuing a PhD program at Columbia University, specializing in the poetry of 17th century England. [QW](#)

FCS ALUMNI/AE GATHERINGS ACROSS THE USA 2016-2017

Friends' Central has been on the move again this year, catching up with alumni/ae in NYC, Sarasota, Washington, D.C., and locally - on campus and in Ardmore! We've been thrilled to see so many great FCS people at gatherings across the country. We hope to see you next year on the East or West Coast! Stay tuned for alumni/ae event information.

1. Jacob Weisfeld '05 and Ben Grinspan '05
2. Alex Rolfe '01 and his son at Alumni/ae Baby Day
3. Alumni/ae Baby Day 2016
4. Emil Steiner '97 and Latifah McMullin '99
5. Our newest alums-in-the-making celebrating 99 days until graduation with their Class of 2017 shirts
6. (Back row, from left) Zach Jacobs '16, Justin Burdge '15, Georgia Fossett '16, Jerome Allen '14, Aris Mourelatos '15, Keith Buckingham, Odette Moolten '15, Ben Kahn '14; (front row) Emily Flick '14, Matt Strahan '14, Elizabeth Flick '14, Claudia Kassner '15
7. (From left) Flavia Vogrig, Bill Kennedy, Ian Bennett '95, and Katie Heller '94
8. (From left) Head of School Craig N. Sellers, Jared Grove '95, and Evan Grove '01
9. Ellen Cohen '81 and Kim Emmons-Benjet
10. (From left) Sarah Brown '07, Holly Woodbury '13, and Latifah McMullin '99
11. Erika Harnett and Jacob Weisfeld '05
12. John Gruber, Adam Farrar '05, Adam Axler '04
13. Dillon Boyer '79 and Harvey Weiner '81
14. Alumni/ae from the Classes of 2013-2016
15. (Back row, from left) John Gruber, Craig N. Sellers, Adam Axler '04, Lena Muenke '03, Dean Griffith '91, Linda Waxman Wasserman '75, Jon Ginsberg '90; (middle) Gail Carter Zuagar '97, Ed Rehfeld '82, Dillon Boyer '79, Nancy Sanders '83, Harvey Weiner '81; (front) Latifah McMullin '99, Taiwo Whetstone '00, Ruth Stubbs Denlinger '55
16. (From left) Guy DiCiccio '60, Janice Decker Frohner '60, Bruce Woodruff '60, Nick Scull '60
17. Demetra and Smedley Walters '44
18. FCS in Sarasota



1. NEW YORK



2. FCS LOWER SCHOOL



3. FCS LOWER SCHOOL



4. ARDMORE



5. FCS CITY AVENUE



6. PHILADELPHIA



7. ARDMORE



8. ARDMORE



9. NEW YORK CITY



10. NEW YORK CITY



11. NEW YORK CITY



12. WASHINGTON, D.C.



13. WASHINGTON, D.C.



14. FCS CITY AVENUE



15. WASHINGTON, D.C.



16. SARASOTA, FL



17. SARASOTA, FL



18. SARASOTA, FL



Meeting for Worship: The Heart of FCS

Meeting for Worship in the new Shallcross Hall, 1981

BY JIM DAVIS, ARCHIVIST

Anyone connected with Friends' Central School – or any Friends school, for that matter – is familiar with Meeting for Worship. We describe it as an activity of central importance, at the heart of School life. Why? Its centrality goes beyond the fact that it takes place – in the Upper School – mid-week. We consider it central to life at FCS because it is the one activity we all share. Neither musical events nor plays nor athletic contests can claim this distinction. By the time they graduate, seniors will have seen a wide variation in their academic, social, and extra-curricular experiences of the School. It is Meeting for Worship that is the singular, shared event common to all.

Some questions then arise about Meeting. *Why do we gather in this way? Has it changed throughout FCS' history? How is it that it has survived, pretty much intact, these 172 years? What are some examples of how it has nurtured, consoled, and sustained our community?*

First, a bit of a paradox: We go to Meeting to worship in silence. It would seem that there could be no more individual endeavor than private, silent prayer. And yet Meeting happens in the presence of the community. Is it then individual or communal?

I often feel the word “community” is overused and misunderstood. It most certainly does not refer to folks having a common mind. A cursory look at our School shows the folly of that supposition. We are certainly not united in our theologies, for example.

In my view, it is about being committed to a common purpose. We are united in our determination to find ways to live together and to accord each other the respect of being fellow seekers. This happens in Meeting.

Faith & Practice 1997, the well-known publication of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, addresses the balance between the individual and the community as follows: “Worshipping together strengthens the members of the worshipping community and deepens the act of worship itself. Such communal worship is like a living organism whose individual but interdependent members are essential to one another and to the life of the greater whole.”

The outward appearance of Meeting, wherever it is held, is familiar to all who experience it. But differences exist as well. FCS is singular from other Friends schools in one distinctive way. Since our move to the City Avenue campus in 1925, we have not been under the care of a Meeting and, as a consequence, we have no designated Meeting House. Upon relocating to our present campus, Meeting was held in Rex Gym – yes, a gym. In a space featuring inadequate heating and non-existent cooling, students, staff, and faculty would gather, seated in blue chairs a few sizes too small for growing adolescents (and adults!), and attempt to settle into silence. Quakers have never placed importance on the

Beloved former teacher Clayton Farraday used to remind any and all complainers that the blue chairs were “the best investment the School ever made.” The chairs, purchased for less than 30 cents a piece during the Depression, lasted over 50 years.

decoration or adornment of worship spaces, but the Rex Gym took this principle to extreme levels. Speaking of those blue chairs (*see picture below*), beloved former teacher Clayton Farraday used to remind any and all complainers that they were “the best investment the School ever made.” The chairs, purchased for less than 30 cents a piece during the Depression, lasted over 50 years. Durability clearly took priority over comfort and charm, and Quaker thrift paid off.

Worshipping amidst volleyball nets, with noisy heaters and the aroma of physical exertion permeating the room, challenged us to try to find the voice of God within! In keeping with older Friends’ practice, the sexes were kept separate - until the late 1960s, that is, when students began quietly undoing the seating plan. After Meeting was closed, the silence was rudely shattered by the sound of hundreds of chairs being lined up against the wall. The gym did afford something our subsequent venue could not – flexibility of seating. Concentric circles, rows facing the stage, rows facing each other, all manner of designs allowed fresh experiences.

The change of venue for Meeting happened in 1981 with the opening of Shallcross Hall. The space was intentionally designed to perform a double duty as both Meeting space and theatre. The design of the space was, therefore, spartan; pews, arranged in a gentle semicircular pattern facing the stage, were installed instead of theatre chairs. Though clearly not a Meeting House, it does, I think, succeed in evoking a quiet, serene space suited for contemplation. At times, the presence of a set under construction distracts from one’s meditation; occasionally, it stimulates paths of thought.

Whether in a gym or a quasi-theatre, Meeting for Worship at FCS has often been the locus of a community confronting profound grief or frightening world events, as well as sharing great joy. I mean no disrespect when I say we are fortunate to have the vehicle of Meeting at our disposal. It is a readily understood practice that needs no explanatory preface, no deciphering of mechanics. When traumatic events occur within or outside our community, Meeting is called, and we simply settle into silence; purpose and practice take familiar hold. Whether it was 9/11, the imminent invasion of Iraq (both times), or loss of

friends and colleagues, the process of grieving and healing has always begun with Meeting for Worship. Over the years, we have heard heart-rending stories of loss and fear shared in confidence, safe in the knowledge that the confidence would not be broken. Baccalaureate, the night before Commencement, becomes a simultaneously joyful and bittersweet evening, shared by soon-to-be-alums, their families, and the School that has nurtured them.

There have been several unusual moments in Meeting over the years that have shaken up the routine and yanked us all out of our quietude in ways George Fox probably never imagined. A teacher, for example, once walked out after loudly proclaiming, “I can’t take the silence”(!). Another teacher ate up the entire Meeting period reminiscing about his summer day camp. On occasion, when the weather is nice, we have held “ambulatory meetings” where the School has moved outside to worship.

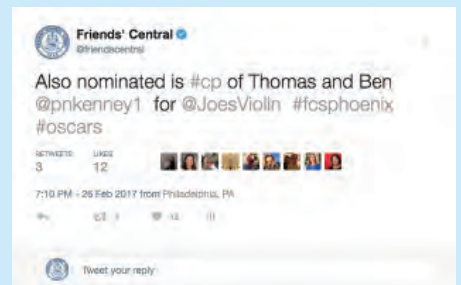
The very presence of Meeting and the requirement that all students and faculty attend has been – to no one’s surprise – a topic of some debate. Letters to the Editor of the School newspaper have at times focused on this issue. In October 1965, “a concerned student” argues that attending Meeting should be optional for students. “Compulsory attendance... is in direct conflict with the Friends’ foremost principle: All actions a person takes must be in accord with his conscience and therefore should not be externally imposed.”

Another student expresses an opposing view in December of the same year, stating, “Meeting for Worship is something we are very fortunate to have... a time when you can forget the trials of the day and worship God in your own silent way. This period of time is important in my life, and I hope that other people feel that it is important in theirs.”

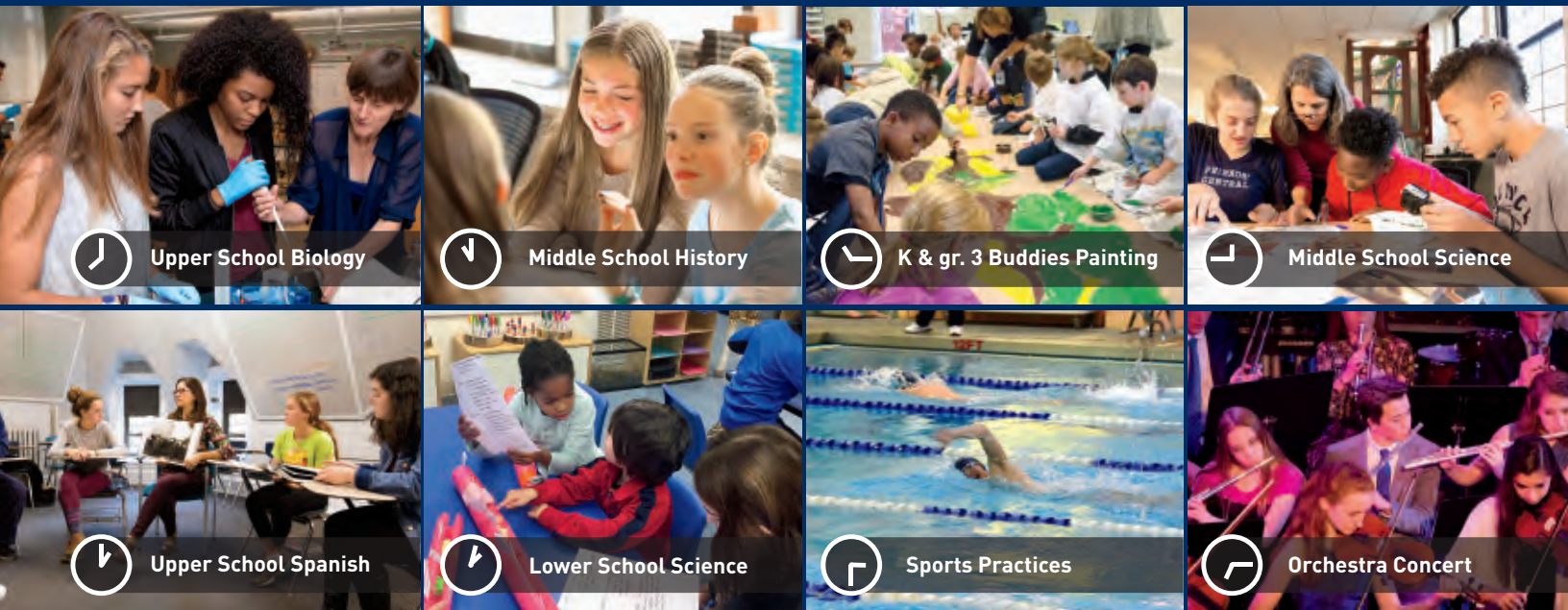
Debates such as these and others like it will always characterize the conversations around Meeting. Disagreements (sometimes heatedly expressed), joyful song, messages of profound spirituality, humor and rejoicing, challenges to School policy – all of these have found their way into the fabric of the gathering we call Meeting for Worship. We are blessed by the gifts it brings. **QW**



FCS @ THE OSCARS



EVERY DAY AT FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL...



Your support for the Friends' Central Fund makes all of this possible and helps sustain our extraordinary school. A gift to the Friends' Central Fund is the most important gift you can make to FCS each year.

For more information or to make a gift of stock or securities, please contact the Office of Annual Giving at giving@friendscentral.org or call 610-645-4499. Make your gift securely online at friendscentral.org/giving. Thank you!

7:1 STUDENT/
TEACHER RATIO

603 NEW BOOKS
(LS LIBRARY)

one
ORGANIC
TEACHING
GARDEN
(LS)

176
FACULTY
MEMBERS

68 CLUBS
(UPPER SCHOOL)

\$5M
FINANCIAL
AID
ANNUALLY

MEETINGS FOR
WORSHIP
EACH WEEK
3

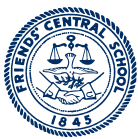
18 DRAMA
PRODUCTIONS
(10 LS, 2 MS, 6 US YEARLY)

AVERAGE
CLASS
SIZE:
14

75
ATHLETIC
TEAMS
including

26
VARSITY
TEAMS

2 CAMPUSES
over **40** ACRES



FRIENDS'
CENTRAL
SCHOOL

1101 City Avenue
Wynnewood, PA 19096-3418
www.friendscentral.org

Congratulations to Tonya Evans '87 and James Rutenberg '87, Recipients of Reunion 2017 Distinguished Alumna/us Awards!



Tonya M. Evans '87

for her achievements in law and
her commitment to social justice,
diversity, and inclusivity



James R. Rutenberg '87

for his commitment to truth and
transparency through his work in
journalism

2017 REUNION WEEKEND

Reunion 2017 was held on May 6.
For a recap of Reunion, visit
friendscentral.org/Reunion. If your
grad year ends in a "3"
or a "8", stayed tuned for
Reunion 2018 information!

