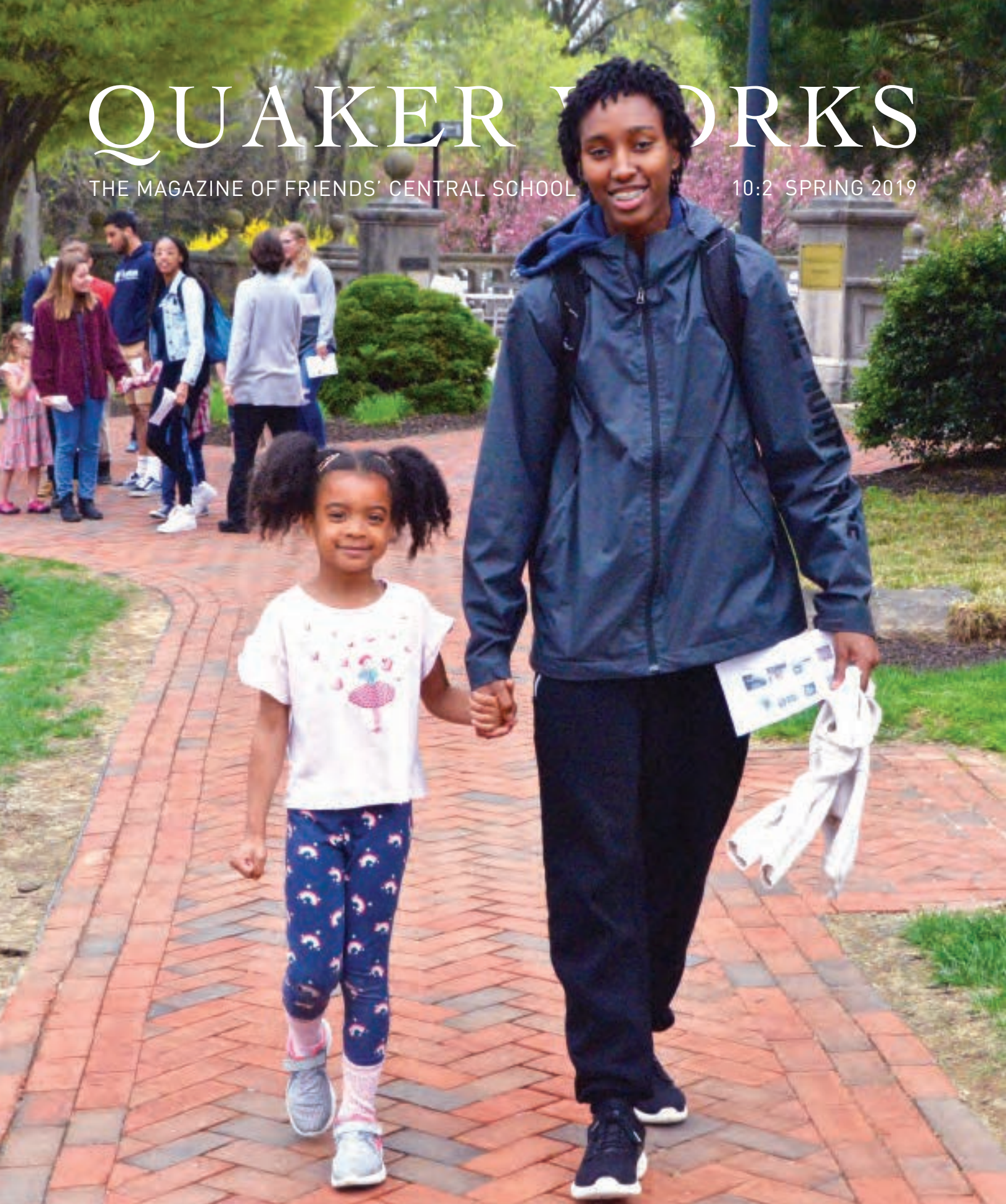


# QUAKER WORKS

THE MAGAZINE OF FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

10:2 SPRING 2019



JUSTICE CORE TEAM LAUNCHES

*All three divisions explore water and justice*

THE FANNIE COX CENTER AT 15

*Alums in science share their FCC memories*

FCS DISCOVERED WITH JIM DAVIS

*School report cards through the ages*



In February, the Asian Students' Association (ASA) hosted a fantastic assembly about the Lunar New Year, including a funny and informative video, a fashion show, and musical performances.

The idea of the assembly was to show how the Lunar New Year has been celebrated from the past to present through the perspective of our international students.





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# Letter from the Head of School

Dear Friends,

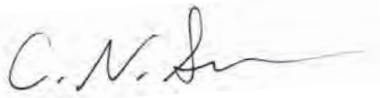
I'd love to be able to fully encapsulate the level of excitement and energy we're feeling this spring in the midst of so many on-campus events and with the sheer range of newsworthy FCS happenings. An impressive lineup of distinguished visiting scholars, scientists, and artists; instrumental concerts and drama productions; successes in debate and speech tournaments, as well as the Middle School History and Science Bee; athletic triumphs; a strong Admission season; and an inter-school art show currently gracing the walls of the renovated Shallcross Hall gallery are just a few of the many moments that come to mind. In the wider world, our alumni/ae continue to excel in a breathtaking array of professional pursuits.

In that vein, a personal highlight of this spring has to be watching Friends' Central's own De'Andre Hunter '16 lead the UVA Men's Basketball team to its first NCAA Championship in school history. The recent extensive news coverage – locally and nationally – of De'Andre showcases not only his own skill, tenacity, and quiet leadership but, more broadly, the outstanding qualities of FCS students and the strength of our community. Our alumni/ae make us proud every day.

Back on campus, as some of you may be aware, Clerked by Liz Cohen '83, the Long Range Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees, along with a steering committee of faculty and staff, has been engaged in strategic planning for the past 18 months. It will be no surprise to you that the excellence of our faculty, which at Friends' Central means passion in the classroom, modeling continued learning, and a willingness to extend themselves well beyond the classroom, was the center point from which the plan grew. Stay tuned for details in the coming months!

Read on in this issue of *Quaker Works* for many other incredible FCS community moments, including a look back on 15 years in the Fannie Cox Center and a yearlong focus on water equity and justice.

I hope to see many of you on our campuses for the end-of-year school events!



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



## QUAKER WORKS

THE MAGAZINE OF FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

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We welcome any comments, letters, photographs, and suggestions for future issues. Please send all communications to [communications@friendscentral.org](mailto:communications@friendscentral.org).

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Read past issues of *Quaker Works* at [friendscentral.org/publications](https://friendscentral.org/publications)



PLEASE RECYCLE



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL



Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha spent time at the Lower School when she visited FCS as the inaugural Distinguished Justice Leader in October. Dr. Mona, whose research exposed the Flint water crisis, is a pediatrician, professor, public health advocate, and author of *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*.

See page 23 for more about Dr. Mona, the new Justice Core Team, and an exploration of water equity.

## Features

**16** **The Fannie Cox Center at 15**  
A building where students go beyond the study of science to become scientists themselves

**23** **Friends' Central Dives into Water Equity, Integrity, and Justice**  
The New Justice Core Team, Inaugural Distinguished Visiting Justice Leader Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, and an Inspired FCS Community

**40** **FCS Discovered with Jim Davis**  
OAUBS: Grading at FCS

## Departments

**4** **Campus Log**

**12** **Athletics**

**29** **Notes from Friends**

### ON THE COVER:

Raane Smith '19 and her kindergarten buddy, Zhana Barron-Alicante '31, on their way to the 2019 All-School Assembly on April 18

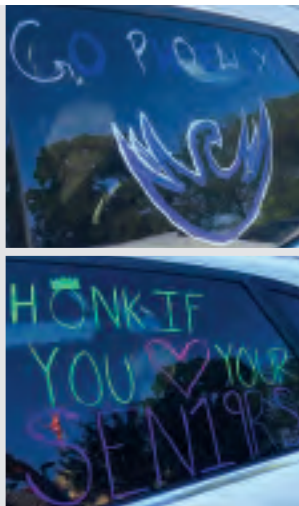


# CAMPUS LOG

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



First day of school on the City Ave. Campus



First day of school at the Lower School



## September Celebrations

The 2018-2019 school year kicked off in style with members of the Class of 2019 decorating their cars in celebration of their senior year (*above, second from left*), and the Lower School community gathering at the friendship bell to “ring in” the new school year (*above, second from right*). Among other September celebrations, International students, new and returning, came together for a Welcome Back Gathering (*top left*), and Parents for Diversity held a well-attended cookout (*bottom left*).

## MS Community Service

In October, several Middle School students took part in their first day of service at Carousel House. The students take part in a weekly “walk & talk” with visually impaired adults.

In December, the students met up with their Carousel House friends to help them do some holiday shopping.



Logyn Greer '25 (2nd from left) and Sasha McKenzie '25 “walk & talk” with their Carousel House friends.



Charlie Klein '25 helping his Carousel House friend with some holiday shopping



## WHYY Youth Media Awards Stars

In November, Spencer Thorne '22 took home third place overall in the category of Middle School Open at the WHYY Youth Media Awards for a short film he made as an eighth grader. Spencer's film was one of only 18 selected out of 300+ entries.

Also at the Awards, Gavin Sultan '19 wowed the crowd as part of the house band!



Spencer Thorne at the WHYY Youth Media Awards



The FCS City Avenue Dining staff

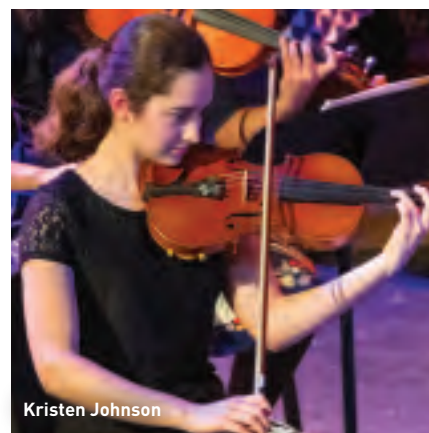
## Sustainability Award for FCS

In November, Friends' Central School's Dining Hall was named a 3-Star Certified Green Restaurant® by the Green Restaurant Association, a national non-profit dedicated to making restaurants and other dining facilities more sustainable. The Dining Hall, located in the newly renovated Shallcross Hall on Friends' Central's City Avenue campus, was recognized for its sustainability efforts in food offerings, energy and water efficiency, reduced waste efforts, and chemical and pollution reduction. Friends' Central is one of only three schools that have been similarly certified in the State of Pennsylvania.

## Upper School Violinist in District Orchestra Festival

For the second consecutive year, Kristen Johnson '19 was selected to perform in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 11 Orchestra Festival, which took place at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School in January.

A member of Friends' Central's Upper School orchestra, chamber music, and vocal groups, Kristen was one of just 33 violinists selected (out of over 100) to perform in the orchestra.



Kristen Johnson



## Echo Hill 2018

In late September, students spent four days at Echo Hill Outdoor School, a cornerstone of the FCS seventh grade experience.





## Grade 8 Visits D.C., Gets an Inside Look into Lobbying

In late September, the eighth grade headed to Washington, D.C., for their annual three-day trip. They were able to secure tickets to visit the National Museum of African American History & Culture for the first time since its opening.

On the final day of their trip, the students received a hands-on introduction to lobbying, along with their teachers and Middle School Principal Alexa Quinn, who described the visit in her message to Middle School parents:

"We began at the offices of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker lobbying group based in Washington, D.C. Several employees from

FCNL trained our students in 'lobbying 101,' including the most effective ways for constituents to interact with their local and national representatives. Our students had already chosen two topics on which to focus: gun control and climate change. They were split into three groups according to interest, and thanks to the help of FCNL, we then headed to our scheduled meetings with staffers from the offices of Senator Bob Casey, Senator Pat Toomey, and Representative Dwight Evans.

"I accompanied the group to Senator Casey's office. It was an amazing experience just to be in one of the Senate

office buildings (the Russell building). The conference room where we met Senator Casey's staffer was next to the office that had been occupied by President Kennedy when he was a senator, and we witnessed the hum of activity throughout the building.

"I knew that watching our students lobby on an issue that matters to them would be a wonderful experience, and I knew that they would make me proud – as they do every day. What I was not prepared for was how deeply moving it was to watch our students using their voice in this way – I was, in fact, moved to tears. They presented their 'ask,' they shared personal stories related to the issues at hand, and they asked thoughtful, probing questions that had not been scripted. When I reflect on what it was that moved me, I believe it was the combination of their earnestness and their understanding of the very real, disconcerting challenges that face our world. They are not cynical, and yet they are not under any misapprehension about how nuanced these issues are or about how they are affecting their daily lives."

*(Excerpted from Alexa Quinn's message to parents in the Just the FaCtS newsletter, Oct. 5, 2018.)*



Eighth graders in Washington, D.C.,

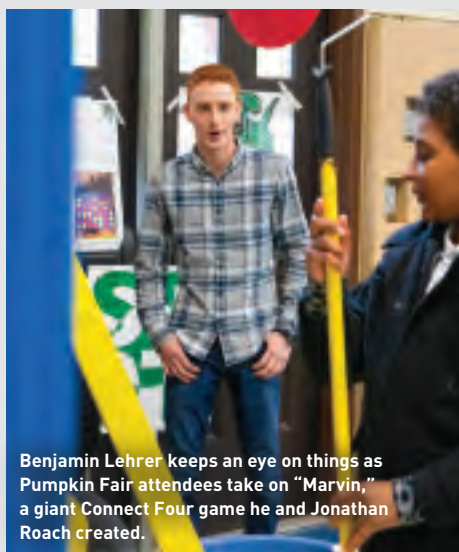


Students in 4B preparing the vegetables for "Stone Soup" as part of the Lower School's 18th annual Harvest Festival celebrations in October



Upper School Drama students at a Pig Iron Theatre Company workshop in February  
(Photograph by John Hawthorne)





Benjamin Lehrer keeps an eye on things as Pumpkin Fair attendees take on "Marvin," a giant Connect Four game he and Jonathan Roach created.



Face painting at Pumpkin Fair

## Lower School Pumpkin Fair 2018 & Maker Faire Triumph

Featuring face painting, games, the Haunted House, and of course, pumpkins, Pumpkin Fair 2018 was once again a fantastic event led by extraordinary Home and School Association volunteers. A highlight of this year's Pumpkin Fair was the appearance of "Marvin," a giant AI-powered Connect Four game. Designed, built, and programmed by Benjamin Lehrer '20 and Jonathan Roach '20, Marvin has optical sensors above each column to keep track of player pieces and a motorized system allowing the AI to place its own pieces.

For the second year in a row, the talented team of Benjamin and Jonathan triumphed at the World Maker Faire in NYC in September, with their AI creation taking first place.

## Holiday Cheer 2018

Sponsored by the Home & School Association, this year's Holiday Cheer event was another success. Teens, parents, and staff members from Families Forward Philadelphia came to campus to join FCS community members in a Makerspace project, a Varsity boys' basketball practice, or a Hip-Hop Workshop. The Holiday Cheer culminated in refreshments and stocking stuffing.



Fabulous FCS student and parent volunteers assisted at 2018 Holiday Cheer.

## Rip van Winkle

In December, 1A performed a skit in their classroom about the Hudson River and the story of Rip van Winkle for visiting family members.



Grade 15 students presenting Rip van Winkle



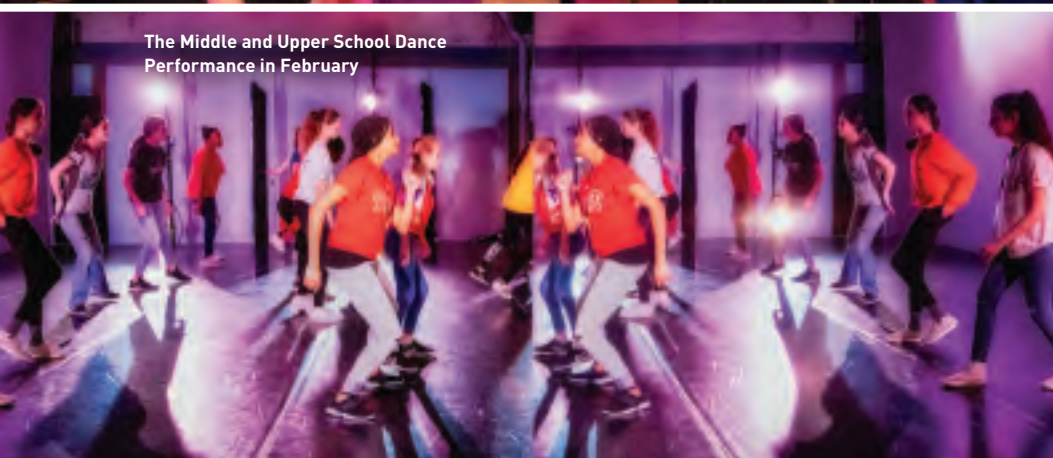
## CAMPUS LOG: FCS ON THE STAGE



The Middle School fall musical *Willy Wonka, Jr.*



The Upper School fall play *Whitesnake*



The Middle and Upper School Dance Performance in February



Upper School Choral Concert



Kindergarten-Grade 2 Winter Showcase



Upper School Drama Showcase in November  
(Photograph by Gerard Lewis)



Upper School Instrumental Concert



Grades 3-5 Winter Concert



Middle School Winter Concert



## Accolades Abound for Middle and Upper School Students



Lindsey Schweitzer, Jade Halpern, Ryan Jokelson

In December, the History Bowl Club sent a team led by Sara Bergmann '19 and Ben Klein '19, along with Marielle Buxbaum '20 and Ryan Jokelson '20, to Toms River, NJ, to compete in a regional history bowl competition. FCS soared past a highly competitive field of 15 area high schools, finishing with a semi-finalist ranking and qualifying for the National Championship to be held in Washington, D.C.

Out of a field of 15 teams - including 10 public schools - Friends' Central's stellar Debate Team of juniors Jade Halpern, Ryan Jokelson, and Lindsey Schweitzer won the PHSSL District 10 Parliamentary Debate Tournament in February. They went on to the State Tournament at Bloomsburg University in March, where they reached the semi-finals, making them one of the four best Parliamentary Debate teams in the state of PA.



Upper School DECA Club members

Also in February, Upper School DECA Club members garnered a number of medals and accolades at the State Championships in Hershey, PA. FCS took seven medals, awarded by category for highest achievements in role-plays and highest test scores. Thirteen of the 27 FCS students also received best-in-category awards. Among them were Ian Baime '20, who took third place in Automotive; Jack Li '20, who won second place in Accounting; and Imran Loudini '21, who came sixth in Restaurant and Food Service Management. Maranda Plunkett '19 received an award for top test score of the four professional selling events. Jack Li and Ian Baime made it through to the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida, in April.

In March, the regional History and Science Bee Competitions were held at

FCS, and a number of FCS Middle School students took part, with five qualifying for the National History Bee and the National Science Bee to be held in June in Chicago.



Middle School History and Science Bee National qualifiers

*(From left) faculty advisor Rosa Mutchnick with Middle Schoolers Alex Aronson '25 (history finalist), Ava Bowman '24 (science finalist), Zachary Dunne '25 (history finalist), Dev Gupta '23 (history finalist), Christian Rendon '24 (science finalist), and faculty advisor Jebb Chagan (missing is faculty advisor Rae Bloom)*

## Fantastic Creatures at Third Grade Zoo

For their Fall Project, the third grade studied Antarctica, learning about the climate, geography, wildlife, and population of the country through a multitude of hands-on activities and explorations. Students discovered that animals have to adapt to the severe climate in order to survive in Antarctica.

"While discussing climate and wildlife," explained third grade teacher Taylor Salvitti, "we introduced students to the concept of animal adaptations and how very few plants and animals on Antarctica can manage to survive in the harsh climate there. Once students had

an understanding of what animals would need to survive on Antarctica, they began creating their own animals that could potentially live on the continent."

The culminating project, in February, was the Third Grade Zoo, where parents, teachers, and students were able to go from room to room to see the new species. Salvitti shared, "We welcomed parents and FCS classes into the Light Lab to visit the 35 exhibits of the new creatures. Students dressed up in costume and prepared a short script to welcome visitors to their exhibit and tell all about their animal."



Suheir '28 displays her "zeal" - a zebra/seal hybrid, with the stripes of a zebra and the hair of a seal



# VISITORS TO CAMPUS

*FCS welcomed authors, artists, and leaders who enriched our community this fall and winter, including the following:*



## Choreographer Lanwei Ji

In September, Lanwei Ji came to assist the cast of the Upper School play *The White Snake* with their dance technique. Lanwei is a Chinese Dance teacher and choreographer who has taught at Penn and other local studios. Mingyu Zhou '19 acted as translator. Mingyu created choreography for the play, which fused ancient traditional Chinese gestures with modern dance.

## Author Amy Meyerson '00

In September, Friends' Central was delighted to have author Amy Meyerson '00 back on campus. Amy met with Upper School students to discuss her novel, *The Bookshop of Yesterdays*. She returned in March to talk to the FCS Alumni/ae Board and the wider community about her book and the writing process.

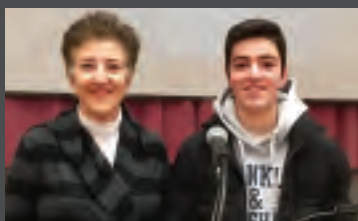


## Author Leah Franqui '05

Also in September, Friends' Central was thrilled to welcome back another alum author, Leah Franqui '05. She spent time with students in Upper School English classes, talking about *America for Beginners*, her recently released novel.

## Sevag Yepoyan '20

In January, Sevag Yepoyan '20 spoke to the 10th grade about the Armenian Genocide and its impact on his family. His mother, Linda Yepoyan, helped answer questions.



## George McCloskey

To kick off the 2018-2019 school year, George McCloskey, Ph.D., Professor and Director of School Psychology Research Psychology Department of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, lead a series of dynamic, informative meetings on executive function for FCS faculty.



## Bestselling Author Sarah J. Maas

In August, Friends' Central and Children's Book World hosted An Evening with Sarah J. Maas, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Throne of Glass* series and *A Court of Thorns and Roses* series. Sarah J. Maas visited FCS to discuss her recently released book *CatWoman: SoulStealer*.





## Graham The Therapy Dog

Caroline Fenkel '07 visited Middle School in October with Graham the Therapy Dog, launching the Wellness & Prevention programming for the year with grade 6.

## Author Laurie Keller

Children's book author and illustrator Laurie Keller visited the Lower School in October to discuss her new book *Potato Pants!* The students loved her demo on how to draw a potato!



## Author Matt Phelan

In March, Matt Phelan, children's book author and illustrator, visited the Lower School to talk about his latest book *Pignic* and how he approaches writing and illustrating.

## Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg

Community members were invited in January to a special parenting evening with Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg, *Raising Children and Adolescents Who are Prepared to Thrive in a Challenging World*. Dr. Ginsburg is a professor of pediatric medicine at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.



## 2019 Distinguished Visiting Scientist

Cognitive neuroscientist and professor in the MIT Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Dr. Rebecca Saxe was the 2019 Distinguished Visiting Scientist. On April 15, she came to campus to speak to students during the day, and in the evening, she delivered a fascinating lecture about her research titled, "It's the Thought that Counts: Progress Towards a Neuroscience of Theory of Mind."



## City Love

In February, City Love, the duo of Sterling Duns (aka Dwight Dunston '06) and Caselli Jordan brought their original music to Lower School students, who had a blast.



## 2019 Distinguished Visiting Humanities Lecturer

Author and Associate Professor and Director of Creative Writing at Bryn Mawr College, Daniel Torday was the 2019 Distinguished Visiting Humanities Lecturer. On March 13, Daniel visited with Humanities Core Team members and Upper School English students during the day and read from and then discussed his latest novel *Boomer1: A Novel* to a delighted audience of community members.

## Kwame Alexander

In April, FCS and Children's Book World hosted Kwame Alexander - poet, educator, *New York Times* bestselling author of 21 books, and recipient of the 2015 Newbery Medal - and authors/illustrators from his new publishing imprint, Versify. These talented authors and illustrators had the audience in their thrall with a performance unlike any other.





# Athletics



## Varsity Boys' and Girls' Swimming - FSL Champions Once Again!

Friends' Central School did it again in the pool at the Friends Schools League Championships held at George School on Saturday, February 9, 2019. In front of a packed crowd, the Phoenix boys (5-1) defended their league title successfully for the 16th consecutive time. The Phoenix girls (6-0) did likewise, placing one or more swimmers in the Top 6 in 21 out of the 22 total events. "Virtually everyone brought their A+ game today," commented FCS Head Coach Iain Anderson. "This was a very exciting win for our boys' and girls' teams, and I could not be prouder of the job they did!"

In other Varsity swimming news, Elisabeth Forsyth '20 set a new FCS and FSL record in the 100 Free with a time of 54.37 at Eastern's!

---

## Girls' Cross Country Wins Fourth Straight FSL Championship!

Friends' Central girls' cross country team came in first place Tuesday, October 16 to win the Friends School League Championships at Westtown for the fourth straight year with 33 points, edging out Germantown Friends by a point. Rebecca Wusinich '20 came in first place at 18 minutes, 32 seconds. Teammate Micah Trusty '22 clocked in at 18:49.48 for second place!



Photo by Greg Wilkinson





Raanee Smith signing her letter of intent

## Raanee Smith '19 Signs National Letter of Intent to Play DI Basketball at the University of Colorado Boulder

*From the November 27 issue of Main Line Times and Suburban Life:*

On November 16, Raanee Smith '19 signed her National Letter of Intent to play basketball at University of Colorado Boulder next year. Throughout her career at Friends' Central, Smith has played a pivotal role on the team's Friends Schools League playoff appearances. "Raanee has meant so much to our program," said head coach Phillip Annas. "She has grown each year as a player and a person, both on and off the court. She has been a tremendous role model for our younger players." Raanee plans to major in Computer Science with a view to a future career in the FBI. Congratulations, Raanee!

## Seven Seniors Commit to Play Collegiate Athletics

Seven seniors have committed to compete at the collegiate level next fall.

*(Pictured from left)* Raanee Smith - University of Colorado (Basketball), Alison Gery - Lafayette College (Swimming), Ingram Dillingham - Franklin & Marshall (Soccer), Ben Kollender - Muhlenberg College (Baseball), Benna Berger - Hamilton College (Lacrosse), Phebe Guenther - Dickinson College (Soccer), and *(not pictured)* Skye Victor - Franklin & Marshall (Tennis)



## Main Line Girls' Athletes of the Week

### Madison Smith '22 – Basketball – January 2019



On January 1, 2019, grade 9 guard/forward Madison Smith '22 was named the Main Line Girls' Athlete of the Week by *Main Line Times* and *Suburban Life*. "Madison is the type of player that only comes around once in a while. Her passion, enthusiasm and love for the game are unparalleled. Her competitive nature, fueled by her internal drive to improve, ensures that nobody is going to outwork her

on the court. Madison is a huge contributor on both ends of the court, especially on the glass." - Phil Annas, Associate Director of Athletics and Wellness and Head Varsity Basketball Coach. On the court, Madison averaged 14 points and 13 rebounds per game in December, posting six consecutive double-doubles for the Phoenix. Off the court, her favorite subject is Integrated Physics, and she also keeps busy with the Mock Trial Club.

### Micah Trusty '22 – Indoor Track – March 2019



In her 9th grade year, Trusty completed a stellar indoor track season as the Most Valuable Player for the Phoenix. She is ranked second in Pennsylvania and 17th nationally in the 800M run (clocked at 2:10.31), in which she finished 2nd in the PA Track & Field Coaches Association Indoor State Meet and 15th at the NB Indoor Nationals. In the indoor mile, she is ranked in the top 15

in Pennsylvania, and in the 400M run (clocked at 57.67), she is the second highest ranked freshman in Pennsylvania. She was an integral member of the distance medley relay, helping to break the school record, running the 800M segment in 2:13 as the Phoenix finished 10th (12:04.29). Head Indoor Track Coach Brandon Shell said, "Micah shows a lot of maturity and has such a large skill range it's hard to classify her as a sprinter or mid-distance runner. She's just a great runner and competitor, period." Micah's favorite subject is English. She shared that she loves "reading and writing in a variety of genres."





*(Image from UVA Men's Basketball)*

## Congratulations to De'Andre Hunter '16, University of Virginia Men's Basketball - 2019 NCAA Division I National Champion!

De'Andre led his team with a game-high 27 points in the championship game vs. Texas Tech, hitting a key three-pointer to tie the game with 12 seconds left and send it into overtime. He was named a finalist for Julius Erving Small Forward of the Year Award, ACC Defensive Player of the Year, and All-ACC First Team. De'Andre entered his name in the NBA draft on April 16, 2019.



# Alumni/ae Athletes *In the News*

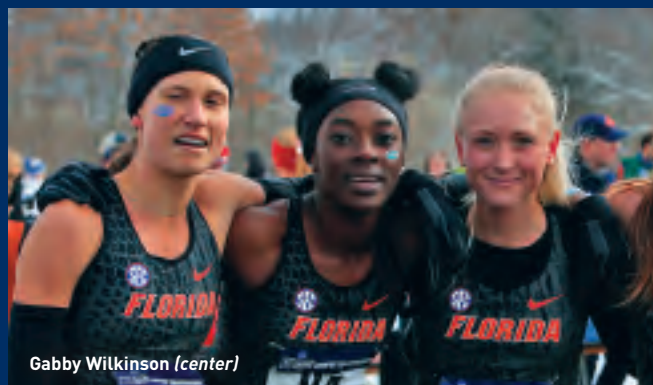
**Gabby Wilkinson '18**, with the University of Florida, ran the third-fastest time in the nation at 2:05.03 in the 800-meter run in the Florida Relays in April 2019.

**Jeff Brown '16**, a member of the Bucknell Track and Cross Country teams, tied his own school record of 6.81 in the 60M.

**Greg Dawson '16**, a member of the Jefferson University men's cross country team, earned CACC (Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference) All-Academic Honors for the second consecutive year and received the Top XVI Award, which is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the CACC championships. Greg has a 3.91 GPA at Jefferson.

**Jonathan Lawton '15** was named South Region Player of the Year and Sunshine State Conference Player of the Year with Florida Southern College. He is ranked among the top 50 DII athletes in the nation in free-throws made, free-throw attempts, free-throw percentage, three-pointers made, three-pointers per game, and total scoring.

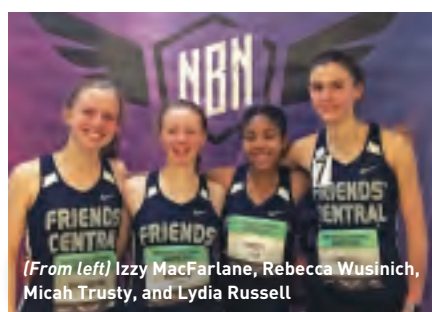
**Andrea DeSabato '05** and her team Philadelphia AMP won the Ultimate National Mixed Championship in October 2018.



Gabby Wilkinson (center)



Greg Dawson receiving his award



(From left) Izzy MacFarlane, Rebecca Wusinich, Micah Trusty, and Lydia Russell

## Varsity Girls' Indoor Track Distance Medley Relay Team Breaks Record

The Distance Medley Relay Team of Rebecca Wusinich '20, Micah Trusty '22, Izzy MacFarlane '20, and Lydia Russell '20 broke the FCS School record with a time of 12:04.23 at New Balance Indoor Nationals at the Armory NYC on March 8, 2019.

## Seventh Grader Finn Hilliard Breaks the Middle School 100 Free Record!

Congrats to Finn Hilliard '24, who broke the Middle School Swimming 100 Free Record in January 2019!



Alumni soccer game during Winter Break 2018



# The Fannie Cox Center at 15

The Fannie Cox Center for Science, Math, and Technology is a building where students go beyond the study of science to become scientists themselves.

**B**efore the Fannie Cox Center, 375 Upper School students learned science in five classrooms with very limited lab space.

Our students benefited from their exposure to an excellent and dedicated faculty, a strong curriculum, and intellectually curious and motivated classmates, but many aspects of the program were limited by the spaces in which courses were taught. Science, computer science, and math were all affected in varying degrees by some teaching spaces that were outdated and had become crowded as our enrollment grew.

Friends' Central students have always been smart, curious, and motivated – they graduate having enjoyed an excellent science experience. However, there came a moment when Friends' Central science teachers redesigned the way students approached science, and our facilities could not keep pace with changing pedagogy. As the forefront of science education moved farther away from facts in textbooks to a more integrated and experiential approach involving experimentation, investigation, and analysis, more extensive labs and research opportunities grew in importance. The construction of the Fannie Cox Center in 2003, complete with labs and sophisticated equipment, provided our teachers and students opportunities that matched their passion for learning.

This leap forward began with a desire to design a new facility from the inside out. Visits to topflight high schools and colleges and a generous gift that allowed the School to hire a science classroom and laboratory design specialist were important groundwork. The School selected architect Graham Gund and Associates to design a building to house science, math, and technology education and to unify the campus with a central green space. Former Head of School David Felsen remembers what it was like to make the case for the FCC, "At Friends' Central, we all believe people and program are what makes a great school, but our lead donor inspired others to see that spacious and well-designed teaching and research spaces free a faculty to do their best work with students."

The Fannie Cox Center for Science, Math, and Technology opened in the fall of 2003. It is a fabulous facility that exceeded all

expectations, providing far more than teaching spaces. The labs and classrooms gave our teachers the opportunity to transform their teaching. The degree to which Friends' Central students can now conduct original research, explore cutting-edge concepts, and collaborate with teachers to advance ongoing research is exceptional at the high school level.

## BECOMING SCIENTISTS

Through intensive coursework and real-world experiments, the Upper School science program helps students develop vital skills, such as critical thinking and original analysis. Christopher Guides, Chair of the Science Department, explains, "We're constantly examining what we do and how we do it. We've been deliberate about creating a curriculum that nurtures students' interest in science. When they graduate from here and go to college, whether they major in science or not, we want them to be active participants and put to use the skills and knowledge they acquired here."

Upper School students begin their course of study with our required ninth grade course, Integrated Physics, an evolved version of a class many remember as Foundations of Scientific Knowledge. This class, which takes a multi-disciplinary, inquiry-based approach, prepares science-interested students for upper-level science. For other students, the class provides a firm understanding of science and an essential level of scientific literacy. Many of our students go on to study science at the college level and beyond.

Following Integrated Physics, students choose from a variety of advanced and non-advanced science courses, as well as Astronomy, Atmospheric Science and Climate Change, Biodiversity, Biology of Bodies, and Botany. There's also Genetics Super Lab, which teaches students about the fundamentals, organisms, and techniques used in research laboratories around the world.

Upper School science teacher Holly McCloskey is a Ph.D. in the field of biochemistry. Her classes include Genetics Super Lab and Biology of Bodies, which she describes as "an anatomy and





Sonia Chin teaching  
in the FCC



Students in Debbie  
Skapik's Experiential  
Physics class testing the  
bridges that they built



## DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCIENTIST & CORE TEAM

Gifts that helped build the Fannie Cox Center were an investment in Friends' Central teachers and students and a vote of confidence in their future discoveries. As we had hoped, this building has also opened the way for teaching and research opportunities that were unimaginable 15 years ago. It has facilitated nationally known programs, such as the Distinguished Visiting Scientist and Science Core team, and launched a generation of young scientists into the world.

Over the past 12 years, the Distinguished Visiting Scientist and Core Team program has hosted renowned scholars, such as Brian Greene, Ph.D., director of Columbia University's Center for Theoretical Physics; Jared Diamond, Ph.D., professor of geography at UCLA and Pulitzer Prize-winning author; Janna Levin, Ph.D., a cosmologist and professor of astrophysics at Barnard College of Columbia; Douglas Emlen, Ph.D., an award-winning evolutionary biologist and professor of biology at the University of Montana; and David Charbonneau, Professor of Astronomy at Harvard University.

"We've had an amazing array of visitors," explains John Gruber, director of the Distinguished Visiting Scientist program and a member of Friends' Central's Upper School science faculty. "The students become resident experts in each visitor's field of study, so by the time [the scholars] come to campus, the students are so excited to meet them. One time, there was actually an audible gasp."

After the Distinguished Visiting Scientist lecture in the evening, students have the chance to ask the scholar follow-up questions about his or her work. Gruber says students also tend to inquire about the individual's life and background, such as, "What would you advise us to do at this stage of our education?" At the end of the year, participating students then visit the scholar's home institution, "so they can see where the real work is being done," Gruber says. "We're essentially trying to help our students understand what it's like to be in the role of a scientist," he adds. "We also want them to see that they don't have to wait to be a graduate student to get started in pursuing their interest in science."

physiology class with a health and medicine twist. "In Biology of Bodies, we're using models to build synovial joints, so the students are learning about the related bone and muscle groups, anatomical direction, and how the joints articulate," she says. "Rather than simply memorizing the names of all these things, they get to see how the joints are put together and why, so it has sort of an engineering feel. For students who have an interest in sports medicine, bioengineering, or other types of related careers, it's very exciting."

McCloskey also coordinates students' participation in the Annenberg High School Science Symposium, which is sponsored by Main Line Health. Through this program, students meet with mentors in specialized medical fields and perform in-depth literature research on topics in which they have a particular interest — regenerative medicine, for example. To kick off the event, students can observe a laparoscopic surgery in real time, and then ask questions of one or more surgeons at the surgery's conclusion. The symposium concludes with students making a final presentation of their research findings in front of a panel of judges.

Sonia Chin, Ph.D., teaches Biology and Genetics Superlab at Friends' Central. Chin strives to make science "come to life" by challenging students to apply classroom learning to real-world problems. "I want our students to see that science is not merely a collection of facts," she says. "The Super Lab gives us the chance to show students how science is done, and to explain that all of these so-called facts we talk about come from evidence."

Last summer, Chin explored advances in plant biology at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. Through the program, she connected with Doris Wagner, Ph.D., a biology professor with the University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences, and the two have discussed a future collaboration. Thanks in part to this experience, students in her Advanced Biology class will be participating in a genetic study of white clover, with the data from the study to be submitted to a database at Washington University in St. Louis.

The Upper School science program, with its outstanding instructors, continues to evolve. We look forward to the future achievements of the students currently occupying the classrooms and labs of the FCC as they head out into the world, inspired by excellent teachers and outstanding facilities and following in the footsteps of many illustrious FCS alumni/ae. [QW](#)



2019 Distinguished Visiting Scientist Rebecca Saxe, cognitive neuroscientist and professor in the MIT Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, delivered her evening lecture to a packed house of thoroughly engaged community members on April 15. The lecture was titled "It's the Thought that Counts: Progress Towards a Neuroscience of Theory of Mind."

# ALUMNI/AE REFLECT ON THE IMPACT OF THE FCC



**SARA VIOLA '04** was one of the Fannie Cox Center's inaugural students.

"I was so lucky to learn in the FCC, which was on par with any state-of-the-art university facility for science learning and research," says Sara, "But more importantly, I remember the wonderful teachers and mentors who brought the FCC to life. "I vividly remember learning about DNA, RNA, and encoding protein and musing about the way that molecules

have evolved to do this complex thing. I found it beautiful and fascinating – it is the moment I fell in love with science.

Friends' Central provided me a really great foundation in molecular biology. When I got to Princeton, we had done so much already a lot of it was review. The quality of our science education was a cut above."

Sara left FCS believing that she would pursue a career in research. Now in her final year of specialty training in pulmonary medicine and critical care, Sara says her FCS education has served her in many more ways than science alone. In fact, it is her appreciation for people and relationships that diverted her from a career in molecular biology to medicine. Empathy and establishing good communication with patients and families in the ICU are priorities for Sara, and she draws a direct line between understanding the importance of an empathetic approach to her experience in Middle School.

**NOOR BECKWITH '07**, Resident Physician in Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and McLean Hospital, recalls, "The FCC was a huge part of making me who I am today! I remember so fondly spending my free afternoons helping to curate John Gruber's magnificent insect collection and learning about entomology and botany under his tutelage. And just being in the terrific learning environment the FCC provided for my science classes launched me into my further study of biology at Harvard College and then of medicine at Harvard Medical School. That brings me to today, where I continue my study of and work in (human) biology as a physician. Thank you, FCS, and thank you, FCC!"



**ANNIE SPROGELL '08** did not think of herself as a "big science person" while at Friends' Central - not until junior year when she took Bio I advanced with Melinda Yin.

"It was one of the hardest classes I took, but it was so interesting it never felt like work. I remember learning about red blood cells and thinking how incredible it was that my own cells were doing that same thing inside me."

During Annie's senior year, she took Bio II and participated in the Annenberg Symposium at Lankenau Hospital, a research experience FCS students continue to enjoy. *(See facing page for details.)*

Annie went on to Princeton knowing that she wanted to combine two interests: English, which was her major, and the science necessary for medical school. As Annie reflects on her FCS preparation, the creativity of thinking and freedom to think for herself stand out. This, in combination with exposure to literature and laboratory experiences, set her apart from her classmates.

As she reflects on this choice, she says there were times she felt split between two worlds, but believes her course of study made her a "fuller" person. Now in a family practice residency at Abington Hospital, Annie says that her love of English and the skills she honed in that major are really important to her practice.

"Seventy-five percent of being a doctor is engaging on a personal level with patients, listening carefully, inferring meaning from the facts they share, and trying to imagine the rest of their story," she says.

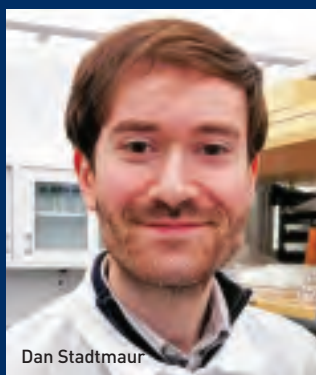
Annie started her career believing that she would practice rural medicine. After two years in the Maine countryside, she found she missed the size and diversity of populations she had been used to. Now at Abington Hospital, a place she says is a "cool combination of community and big city hospital," Annie seems to have found an environment of intellect and caring reminiscent of FCS, a place she remembers with fondness and appreciation.

**MAX GILBERT '09** writes, "I work for Culture Biosciences, a biotech startup building automated bioreactors that run in the cloud, helping customers scale production and get to market faster. I remember coming in on weekends to meet Mrs. Callaghan to work on my science fair project. There was such cool lab equipment we had access to that we didn't use in normal classes, but I learned to use for my project (gas chromatograph, rotary evaporator, etc.). She really nurtured my curiosity and love of science, even taking her own weekends to come work with me, which had a big impact on where I am today."

**ALEX KLEIMAN '11** reports, "I have so many fond memories of time spent in the FCC. Freewheeling math classes with Mr. Morris, after-school mock trial practice, chess during free period, and exciting chemistry experiments are but a few of the reasons that I so warmly remember my experiences in the FCC.

"I've always been interested in computers, but it was learning about hardware and assembling a computer in class which demonstrated the extent to which school could be a vehicle to pursue such an interest. Driven by a desire to continue learning about how computers work, I decided to take a computer science course my first semester of college. Now, seven years later, I'm working as a software engineer in Silicon Valley."





Dan Stadtmair

**DAN STADTMAUR '13** looks back on his FCS education with affection. He says the science curriculum was phenomenal, but it may have been the wealth of opportunity outside the classroom that shaped his experience most profoundly. Currently a Ph.D. candidate in evolutionary biology at Yale studying the evolution of pregnancy in mammals, Dan was first introduced to the field while

at FCS. He participated in the Science Core Team in each of his four years. In fact, he says that his exposure to the work of Harvard scientist Hopi Hoekstra was instrumental in his decision to enter this field of study. Looking back, he finds it extraordinary that, as a high school student, he not only studied but had the opportunity to interact with scientists at the top of their fields.

"I was thrilled by the chance to connect with these potential role models and find out what being a scientist is really like."

Entering his first science classes as a Yale undergrad, he found that experience reading and understanding scientific literature at FCS prepared him well.

Dan also appreciates the substantial laboratory and research space FCS offers its students. All science students participate in extensive labs. For those who are interested, there are possibilities for additional independent research or research assisting an FCS teacher in their work. Based on his passion for the topic, Dan took part in a research project on the evolutionary genetics of moths with John Gruber. The fact that FCS has the teaching and research space and the teachers who are ready to offer such a high-level experience here on campus is, according to Dan, really important.

A third formative opportunity came via the Upper School's STEAM team. He remembers the group having a great time, "coming up with cool engineering ideas to make the School a better place." During his senior year, they decided to enter and won a national challenge sponsored by Verizon. What he remembers most vividly is that the group had opportunities for different kinds of people to excel. For example, Dan contributed by writing the successful proposal and giving a speech about the project at the competition in Florida!

Though Dan is immersed in the world of science, he is quick to point out how important the high level of reading, writing, and thinking that was expected across his classes was to his preparation. Perhaps most importantly, Dan says he appreciates the values inherent in the philosophical grounding he received at FCS. He appreciates that at Friends' Central one learns the importance of being a good person. "Not everybody gets that."

**EMILY PILLET '14** is a Ph.D. student in biochemistry and molecular physics at the University of Pennsylvania. She writes, "When I was working in Mr. Gruber's lab, looking at the phylogeny of species



Emily Pillet

within the nemoria genus, I was terrified of even touching a micropipette, let alone aiding in the experiments. To this day, I still remember spending an hour with Mr. Gruber in his office, going through an online step by step walkthrough on how to pipette and how to perform a PCR protocol.

"One of the most incredible and rare features of Friends' Central is the sheer number of teachers who show you how much they care about your motivation to succeed and be enthused by the academic world, and the means by which they show that care. The resources and the introduction of laboratory protocols, all of which give me such fond memories of being in the FCC during and after school, were some of the most important advantages when I started my undergraduate career. I was one of the only students in my freshman biology major cohort who had begun to develop proper laboratory etiquette. This led me to enrolling in a competitive summer research program in my undergraduate freshman year, and every opportunity from there propelled me to the next one."

**ANNIE KENNEDY '16** writes, "In my senior year of high school, my Bio II class did CRISPR CAS9 in lab. We chose a procedure as a team, tested different options (in vitro vs. in vivo), and discussed the ethical implications of gene editing. Like all of my science experiences at FCS, the focus went beyond the nuts and bolts to the nuances of the



Annie Kennedy at work in the Penn Med lab

application. In the classroom, we were always pushed beyond the information we were presented in textbooks. A couple of years later, I was in an interview for a research position at Penn Med which I never thought I would get, and I mentioned casually that I had done CRISPR in high school. The PI's eyes lit up; she brought in a colleague, and they asked me all types of questions about it. This interaction really made me appreciate the cutting-edge science that FCS was incorporating into the classroom and how rare it is to experience that so young. I got the job and am pretty sure CRISPR had something to do it!"

**WILL PEARSON '16**, currently at Drexel University studying graphic design, remembers, "When I was a Junior, we first got the Maker-space. I cannot express how much that space helped me grow and realize my passion for design. To be able to have access to those tools and teach myself how to use them was invaluable." QW



# Breaking New Ground for Science, Math, and Technology: The FCC is Born



An FCS chemistry lab at the 15th and Race Street Campus, 1924



"New" labs with Clayton Farraday teaching in the old Art & Science Building, 1959



The Art & Science Building comes down to make way for the FCC in 2003.



The FCC Groundbreaking ceremony including Debbie Hull, Peter Arfaa, and former Head of School David Felsen



A massive construction site appears as the FCC foundations are dug.



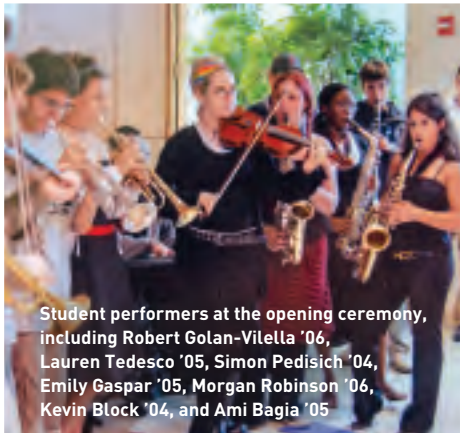
The steel frame of the FCC rises gradually from the site.



Construction finally complete, the FCC is ready for the opening celebrations!



The ribbon-cutting ceremony, with (from left) David Felsen, Gardner Hendrie '50, Karen Johansen, and Evelyn Rader



Student performers at the opening ceremony, including Robert Golan-Vilella '06, Lauren Tedesco '05, Simon Pedisich '04, Emily Gaspar '05, Morgan Robinson '06, Kevin Block '04, and Ami Bagia '05



Clayton Farraday '32 (right) and David Felsen at the opening of the Clayton F. Farraday Seminar room in the FCC



# The Friends' Central Fund...

your gift supports every aspect of an FCS education.



## Arts

Fostering creativity, building confidence, spreading joy, and deepening our understanding of what it means to be human — the arts are essential at FCS!



## Faculty Support

FCS teachers are leaders in their fields, and they remain committed to lifelong learning from their students and peers, as well as from professional development opportunities.

## Student Programs

From signature programs like the annual 7th grade Echo Hill trip to clubs like Model UN, FCS provides students with rich experiences both in and out of the classroom.



## Financial Aid

Drawing exceptionally strong students from across the greater Philadelphia region, FCS offers generous financial aid to keep our doors open to economically diverse students.



## School's Greatest Need

Unrestricted gifts support academic programs and allow FCS the freedom and flexibility to respond to pressing needs and promising initiatives.



## Athletics

Good sportsmanship, the satisfaction of competing, and the discipline needed for a healthy life are all part of FCS athletics.

**Please make your annual gift this school year before June 15, 2019.**

### How can I give?

Use the enclosed envelope or go to [friendscentral.org/gift](https://friendscentral.org/gift) to make your gift securely online.

If you have any questions or would like to make a gift of securities, please contact Kim Emmons-Benjet, Director of Annual Giving, at [kbenjet@friendscentral.org](mailto:kbenjet@friendscentral.org) or **610.645.4499**.





Fourth grade students proudly announce the \$729 the Lower School community raised in their service project for the Pediatric Public Health Initiative, led by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha (see page 25).

# Friends' Central Dives into Water Equity, Integrity, and Justice

*The New Justice Core Team, Inaugural Distinguished Visiting Justice Leader  
Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, and an Inspired FCS Community*

*Is access to clean water a right or a privilege? Who can be a changemaker?* Friends' Central sought the answers to these questions in a yearlong study of water equity and justice.

Water equity and justice provided the perfect backdrop for the new Justice Core Team – a group of over 20 Middle and Upper School students, faculty, and staff who are working to weave justice and inclusivity into the fabric of the School in significant ways – and the Team's inaugural Distinguished Visiting Justice Leader, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha.

Dwight Dunston '06, wrapping up his second year as Coordinator of Equity and Justice Education at Friends' Central, helped found the Justice Core Team. "It had been two years in the discussion and strategizing process before the Justice Core Team was borne. [Head of School] Craig Sellers and I had been doing a lot of thinking about diversity and inclusion and wanting the

announcement of the Justice Core Team to correspond with a speaker - someone actively working in the field of equity and justice. We wanted someone whose work we could study and whom we could bring to the community to inspire everyone – students in all three divisions, as well as faculty, staff, parents, and the greater community. We are so grateful to Lankenau Hospital for co-sponsoring her visit."

## Flint, Michigan, and "Dr. Mona"

In 2014, the city of Flint, MI, made the decision to switch their water source from Lake Huron and the Detroit River to the Flint River, a less expensive option. Due to insufficient treatment and testing, the lead levels in the water skyrocketed, affecting over 100,000 Flint residents, including many young children. Residents complained about foul-smelling and discolored water and faucets,

and there were outbreaks of rashes. A pediatrician in Flint began to notice the effects on her young patients but found that public health officials weren't willing to look into the issue.

The local pediatrician was Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha – affectionately known by many as “Dr. Mona” – a professor, noted public health advocate, and author of *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*, a dramatic account of the Flint Water Crisis.

Dr. Mona – in conjunction with other experts – demonstrated that the proportion of children under five with lead in their blood had doubled and, in some lower-income neighborhoods, even tripled since 2014. When she released her findings at a press conference, the State of Michigan sought to discredit her work, with government officials calling her an “unfortunate researcher” who was causing “unnecessary hysteria” with her “spliced and diced” data. That didn't stop her, though.

## From a Lower School Theme to an All-School Exploration

Each fall, the Lower School embarks on a school-wide theme, chosen the previous spring through faculty consensus. Grounded in a belief in the value of presenting content and curricula in an integrated manner, the fall theme shows students the interconnectivity of academic disciplines, the arts, and their lives. The Lower School chose Water as its fall theme this year, and teachers devised a broad and creative array of water-related projects and programs for each grade and classroom. For example, Nursery studied oceans and sea animals, complete with ocean-inspired yoga; first graders focused on the art and energy of water, constructing water wheels and generating their own watercolors; in “Project Oasis,” fifth grade created societies, spending time focusing on issues of green energy (hydro, wind, solar, geothermal) and using renewable energy sources to power houses, boats, and cars.

Inspired by the Lower School's choice of water as their Fall Project theme, and guided by this year's all-school theme of integrity, the Justice Core Team decided to focus on water equity in its inaugural year. Dwight Dunston explained, “We were informed about Dr. Mona and her work – particularly her new book and how people didn't initially believe her research about the water in Flint – and in this our inaugural year of the Justice Core Team, it seemed not only appropriate to bring her in but also amazing how it all fit together, building this curriculum around water, something so essential to our everyday life that we should all have equal access to it. The students in all three divisions just got it and were really fired up and inspired by her.”



Dr. Mona speaking to Lower School students

The fourth grade took Dr. Mona's visit and her work very seriously as they began preparing for her arrival. They watched Hanna-Attisha's TED talk and interviews she gave to the media and the water departments, with some images of the water in Flint. They also had a visit from Dwight Dunston, who talked to them about being advocates for change, even at a young age. Fourth grade teacher Alice McBee shared, “Hearing from Dwight, watching the videos of Dr. Mona, and seeing the photos and clips from the water and water departments helped get the students excited for her visit. Some were also quite sad after seeing some of the images, but they turned that sadness and empathy into action. (*Read more about that action on page 25.*)

Dr. Mona had inspired them to become activists.” Then it came time for Dr. Mona's visit to FCS.

## Truth to Power - Everyone Has a Voice

When Dr. Mona walked into the Lower School building, where she began her all-day visit to Friends' Central, it was as though a celebrity had arrived. The fourth and fifth graders, who had been learning about and studying her work for almost two months now, were so excited to see her and hear what she had to say.

Her message to the Lower School was that you are never too young to speak up. Dwight Dunston shared, “The Lower Schoolers were brilliant during Dr. Mona's visit. It was incredible to hear their questions and to see how upset they were that people didn't believe her scientific research and how the water was literally poisoning people.”

Dr. Mona was inspiring in her talks with students and

adults, sharing with the community what led to uncovering the truth and dangers regarding the water in Flint, as well as her thoughts on the reasons behind the inequity and what students can do to speak out about these injustices. She explained, “Flint is a great example of a world-wide problem in our country – how people in poorer communities don't have the same access to basic amenities, like

*“The Lower Schoolers were brilliant during Dr. Mona's visit. It was incredible to hear their questions and to see how upset they were that people didn't believe her scientific research and how the water was literally poisoning people.”*



clean water, as others. What I want you to go away with is the importance of speaking up. You are all powerful people, no matter how old you are.”

Alexa Quinn, Middle School Principal, said, “Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha was inspiring and uplifting. Our students were enthralled not only by her story but also with her intellect, warmth, and the way she tied issues together with her message of hope. She encouraged students to speak up for what is right, even when it’s hard, and to see themselves as being responsible for and connected to the well-being of other people.”

## Inspired to Take Action

Dr. Mona’s visit was a catalyst for change in the FCS community. In the Lower School, fourth graders formed what they called the “Junior Service Committee,” a group of about nine students who partnered with the faculty service committee to start a fundraiser for the Pediatric Public Health Initiative, which, led by Dr. Mona, works to address Flint’s community-wide lead exposure and help all Flint children to grow up healthy and strong. To promote their fundraiser, entitled “Help Us Help Them,” Committee members choreographed an announcement that was presented in the Lower School sharing assembly. They brought in shoeboxes and, during recess, decorated them with photos of Dr. Mona, kids from Flint, and the toxic water in Flint, and they distributed the boxes to the different classes. Lower School students performed extra chores around the house to raise money, and together, over \$700 was collected from the Lower School community! Alice McBee explained, “There was a huge response from the Lower School. And their reaction was like, ‘wow, we actually did something.’ It was so powerful and empowering for them.”

During her meeting with the Justice Core Team, Dr. Mona encouraged students to start working to make change right in their backyard. In that vein, the Team is hosting a speaker series in honor of Earth Month. Dwight Dunston shared, “We are working with the Upper School Sustainability Committee to host a speaker – focused on sustainability, equity, and justice – each week during the month of April. We wanted to bring in people interested in and doing environmental work in our community and around the city of Philadelphia.”

Friends’ Central is also working on a number of projects related to rainwater runoff, flooding, and increasing the number of native plants. One of those projects, which kicked off at the beginning of the school year, is the new Middle School Rain Garden. Led by science teacher and Science Department Chair Chris Guides, former Lower School science teacher Peter Grove, and a team of Middle School students, the Rain Garden, located between the Rex Gym and the Middle School, is an eco-friendly garden that uses rain that runs off of streets, roofs, and walkways to help water plants instead of directing the rain into the sewers. Included in the rain garden are plants native to the Friends’ Central area, helping insects, animals, and the environment. Other projects being considered on City Avenue include using cisterns for the Middle School to collect and use rainwater, installing a green/blue roof on Shallcross Hall, adding porous paving where possible, and reconfiguring parking lots to allow for the creation of bioswales.

In May, Middle School Earth Force Projects will also be focused on the environment and environmental justice. An exciting element of these projects is that Dr. Mona will be brought back into the fold to talk with Middle School students after they complete their projects in mid-May.

Dwight Dunston believes that there is a role for everyone who wants to make a difference, whether in their community or in the world, at all levels of involvement. “You can do something big or small to be advocates for change – you just have to find the role that’s right for you,” said Dwight. “We want all of our students to feel empowered to make change.” **QW**



Members of the Justice Core Team with Dr. Mona



Members of the Middle School Rain Garden team, with Peter Grove (not pictured: Chris Guides)



Kicking off the month-long Justice Core Team speaker series in April was Lois Brink (pictured above), a landscape architect and nationally recognized authority on schoolyard design and development. Brink spoke about her work designing sustainable and healthy schoolyards in Philadelphia.



## ***Newsies*, the 2019 Upper School Musical**











## Join the Legacy Giving Society

The Blackburn Society is named in honor of Eliza E. Blackburn '22 and her family. Their estate gift helped make possible the purchase of the Lower School campus and established the Blackburn Endowment, which supports faculty salaries. Gifts have ranged from that \$2 million to a recent bequest of \$2,000. All bequests make a difference to the future of the School and are deeply appreciated.

There are several paths to becoming a member of the Blackburn Society. One is to let us know you have made a bequest intention for Friends' Central as part of your estate planning. A bequest can be made by including Friends' Central in your will as a beneficiary of cash, securities, or other property.

Besides bequests, there are several types of charitable gift annuities that allow you to transfer assets to Friends' Central, and you or someone you choose can receive income. Friends' Central works with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation to administer these trusts. You can also choose to take advantage of the charitable IRA rollover available for individuals 70-1/2 and older. In all cases, you should seek qualified tax and legal counsel before making any significant gift or using a life income giving vehicle.



Eliza Blackburn '22 with  
faculty member Dave Kirk

If you are interested in creating a legacy that benefits you and Friends' Central School, please contact **Bob Cotter**, Director of Development, at 610-645-5076 or [rcotter@friendscentral.org](mailto:rcotter@friendscentral.org).

## Friends' Central

☼ REUNION 2020 ☼



**Save the Date:**  
**Saturday, May 9, 2020**

Reunion Class Years:

'45 '50 '55 '60 '65 '70  
'75 '80 '85 '90 '95 '00  
'05 '10 '15





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



## 1943

**Dorothy Jeanne Coleman Dangerfield** is pleased to report that, "Ben and I are both happily living in our home of 64 years, celebrated our 70th wedding anniversary last June, both retired in the 1980's – I from teaching social studies in a public school – and then we had a great time exploring the world. (Thank you, Miss Thoms, for giving me a deep love of history when I was a fourth grader.) Thirteen years ago, our granddaughter moved in with us, with her two sons. Watching the boys grow up has been the pleasure of our lives! My hobby is writing about things such as: "My Inability to remain in an Upright Position," "Houses of Worship of the World," and of course, about our travels. It has been a good and interesting life, including my 13 years at Friends' Central."



**LEFT** Irma Jones Simon '46 with portrait of her late father, Barclay L. Jones

## 1946

**Irma Jones Simon** is the only surviving daughter of late Headmaster Barclay L. Jones. Her daughter, Emily Poulin, writes, "She (Irma) was actually born in the Friends' Central campus cottage! She has many happy memories of growing up and attending FCS. It wasn't always easy being a Headmaster's daughter, but the lives of Irma, her mother (Mrs. Esther C. Jones), and her three sisters (Louise, Frances, and Hoylande) all centered around FCS until Barclay's untimely death in 1945."

## 1954

**Elizabeth Osborne** writes, "Friends' Central was a very supportive and helpful influence for me during a challenging time in my life. My parents died while I was in the



**RIGHT** Irma Jones Simon as an FCS student

Lower School, and shortly after graduation, my twin sister, Anne, also died. The Friends' Central Art Department continued to be exceptional and a great inspiration and refuge in many ways, thanks especially to Hobson Pittman and Dr. Merrill Bush. I still enjoy close friendships with classmates **Diana Burgwyn** and **Sandy Fetter**. I remember Friends' Central with great affection."

**Clarke Dunham** shares that, "1954 seems a long time ago, and it was. But as my life is concerned, 1956 marked the beginning of everything: my marriage, my family, and my professional career as a Scenic Designer that is still in motion as I write this. As I recall, my classmates asked me to exhibit some of my work at our 25th Reunion. In retrospect, I was pretty young then and just at the beginning of a long Broadway and opera career which continues to this day. I haven't really shared anything about my life with you since, so I thought perhaps, and since you asked, that I might include one of the images of my recent productions of the more than 400 that I have designed. That (*on the previous page*) is one of my designs for *Madame Butterfly* at the San Francisco Opera in 2010. Most recently, in 2017, I designed *Candide* at the New York City Opera. Both *Madame Butterfly* and *Candide* were directed by the legendary Harold Prince, with whom I have collaborated over the last 30 years. There is one amusing fact about my career. While many thousands have seen my theatrical and opera productions, over seven million folks have visited my public model train exhibits. Go figure. Still going. Forward!"



Madame Butterfly production at the San Francisco Opera in 2010, featuring scenic design by Clarke Dunham '54



At a steeplechase in Virginia for the birthday celebration of Andrew Stifler '57 are (from left) Andrew Stifler, Barbara Davis Widmayer '57, Bert Sheen Peterson '57, Don Peterson, Ted Widmayer, and Hank Zoob '57.

## 1955

George "Toby" Walters was elected President of the Board of Trustees of Naples Community Church for a two-year term. Prior to this election, he had served on the Board for six years.

## 1957

Several members of the Class of 1957 came to together to celebrate classmate Andy Stifler's 80th birthday this spring.

Classmates have been reaching out to one another throughout the year as they reach that special birthday.

## 1960

Janice Decker Frohner is pleased to report that "Bruce Woodruff, Guy DiCicco, and their wives and I enjoyed catching up on news and reminiscing about our days at FCS over dinner in Sarasota, Florida, in February."



Janice Decker Frohner '60 (center) catching up with Bruce Woodruff '60, Guy DiCicco '60 and their wives in Sarasota, Florida, in February

## 1965

Belle Brett "had a thrilling evening launching my first novel, *Gina in the Floating World*, to a standing-room-only crowd of 120 at Porter Square Books in Cambridge, MA, including a surprise appearance by classmate Susan Schwartz Goodrich and her partner, Hank." Kirkus Reviews calls Belle's novel, which is set in 1981 and inspired by her own travel experiences, "a sharply observed and unforgettable debut." Find out more at Belle's website, [www.bellebrett.com](http://www.bellebrett.com).



Belle Brett '65 (at left) greeting Susan Schwartz Goodrich '65 at Belle's book launch in Cambridge, MA (photo by John Heymann)





Model of a New York 30 by Rob Wadleigh '67 on display at the MIT Museum



**LEFT** Eve Ellis '76 (second from left) at the Women's Bond Club award Gala with Nikolay Djibankov (her business partner in The Matterhorn Group at Morgan Stanley); Seema Hingorani, founder of Girls Who Invest (second from right); and Gloria Steinem



**RIGHT** Eve addresses the audience at the Gala

## DEBBY PELTZ FEDDER '79, A LIFE OF EDUCATION GROUNDED IN SERVICE



Debbi Peltz Fedder on a recent trip to Jerusalem

When she arrived at FCS in 1971 as a 5th grader, already two weeks into the school year, little did Debbi Peltz Fedder know that this was the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the School – a place she would remain, as a student, staff member, teacher, and parent, for the next 40 years.

Debbi knew what she wanted to do with her life from a very young age, and in 9th grade biology class, some of her classmates and teachers knew it, too. Debbi shared, "Mrs. Eberly overheard

me explaining a concept to a confused classmate ... I glanced up to lock eyes with Mrs. Eberly. The look on her face wasn't one of consternation, but rather, one of curiosity and generosity. 'What do you want to do when you grow up?' she asked. Already fairly confident in a career path, I told her I thought I wanted to teach. 'Well,' she said, 'you'd be a good teacher.' With her inspiring words, we both moved forward – she with her lesson and I with tremendous inner confidence, pride, and relief for not getting in trouble, again!"

This meaningful moment with a favorite teacher of Debbi's, would mark the beginning of "a very long, joyful, and rewarding career in education, mostly right here at Friends' Central." After graduating from Dickinson College in 1983, Debbi began her teaching career in an Upper School classroom, teaching ancient history. Then she went back to school, receiving her M.Ed. from Harvard, and then later returned to FCS, becoming a permanent sub while pregnant with her older son. "I wanted to take that year as it came, and it turned out that one of the Middle School

teachers went on maternity leave in the spring, and I stepped into her role." This latest role would prove life-changing for Debbi, as she developed a strong connection to Middle School students and teachers, staying in that role from 1989 until her departure in 2011, when she and her family decided to move to New Hampshire.

In addition to her lifelong love of teaching, Debbi has been devoted to service. "The testimony of service ranked especially important, and work through service became an integral part of my life," Debbi said. "When service becomes a part of the school program and it's something you do every week, it was no longer around me but in me and was just a way of life." While teaching in the Middle School at FCS, Debbi shared that she valued the amount of time that students were given to immerse themselves in various service projects each week. Through this dedication to service, "students learned to understand the impact our service could have; they formed relationships with children, the elderly, and hospital patients. They sought to bring beauty to parks and the FCS campus, and they researched and supported organizations and relief programs that needed our help."

This dedication to service was also important to Debbi's own children, Matt '11 and Daniel '08. Matt, whose service project involved working with teachers at an elementary school to help educate 2nd graders one-on-one, decided not to skip school and attend the parade after the Phillies won the pennant in 2008, choosing to show up for service the next day (only to find that his student wasn't even in school that day!). Daniel and classmate Matt Bernstein helped to raise close to \$18,000 to help a non-profit organization create a soccer field in the impoverished region of Cape Town, South Africa, in honor of their soccer teammate, Chris Campbell '04, who passed away suddenly.

Debbi, one of this year's Distinguished Alumni/ae, has been an inspiration in her dedication to teaching, to service, and to FCS.

## 1967

**Rob Wadleigh** has a model of a New York 30 at the Herreshoff exhibit at the MIT Museum in Cambridge, MA. The exhibit will run for the next two years.

## 1971

**Dickson Dangerfield** writes, “My 32-year IT career has come to an end, and I am officially RETIRED. It feels GREAT, and I look forward to the next phase of my life! Just wanted to say that my Friends’ Central association has always been a source of enlightenment and strength to me over the years, for which I am forever grateful! I still reside in Wallingford, PA – living in my world of family, friends, model trains, beer, and dogs – and can be found in my mountain-top Tiki bar in my O scale train world of Dangerfieldland.”

## 1974

**Christopher Vaden** shares, “At the end of November, I retired after 29 years with the Environment & Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, the last half of that as the Deputy Chief of the Environmental Defense Section.”

## 1976

**Eve Ellis** reports, “I received a major prize for Women in Finance. On May 8, 2018, The Women’s Bond Club – which is the largest and oldest group of Women in Finance (not just bonds) – honored me,



Joshua Stein '93

presenting me with the Betty Cook Award for my work in advancing women. I was the first recipient of the Award. The Gala was in the Blue Whale Room at the Natural History Museum in NYC. There were 800 in attendance.

I wore white to honor Hillary and the suffragists. I even quoted Hillary in my acceptance speech (‘I have always believed that women are not victims. We are agents of change, we are drivers of progress...all we need is a fighting chance.’).

Visit [bit.ly/Ellis\\_Blog](http://bit.ly/Ellis_Blog) to read a post by Thomson Reuters, who had nominated me for the Award (and which describes the special nature of my wealth management practice leading to this Award).

In connection with the Betty Cook Award,



Terry Guerin met up with Andy Greenwald '95 and his daughter in March 2018

I had the privilege of directing \$25,000 to the charity of my choice. I chose Girls Who Invest. It was a wonderful night.”

## 1980

**Joshua Klein** shares, “January 1, I started a one-year term as president of the Pennsylvania Apartment Association-East after being elected by the membership. Also, for any golfers out there, I chair or serve on the committee for the following groups: Bucks County Community College, Coaches vs. Cancer, Harcum College, Rotary Club of Bristol, and Har Zion Men’s Club. I’d love to see some FCS people on the golf course.”

**Nancy Marcus Newman** is pleased to report that, “Beginning spring 2019, I am an



Rachel Newman Schwartz '89 (left) with Lisa Kay Solomon '89 in Snowbird, Utah



Barney Schmidt '95 on set at HBO





There was a great FCS clan at the wedding of Sophie Honik '03: Luciana Colapinto '03, Natalie Aronson '05, Ana Nogueira '03, Sophie, Grace Honik '07, and Jacob Cooper '03

adjunct professor at University of Pennsylvania Law School, teaching Professional Responsibility and Ethics with a focus on Lawyer Competence and Well-Being."

## 1987

**Tonya Evans** writes, "I am pleased to announce my recent appointment by Chief Judge Margaret M. Sweeney to serve a three-year term on the Intellectual Property Committee of the Advisory Council to the United States Court of Federal Claims. I was also recently selected to serve as Chair of Intellectual Property & Technology



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



On June 1, 2018, Sarah and Josh Wasserman '02 welcomed Taran Samuel. Taran's grandmother Linda Waxman Wasserman '75 is the happiest of all!

### RAY LOHIER '84 - IN SERVICE OF OTHERS AND STAYING TRUE TO ONESELF

One of this year's distinguished alums, Ray Lohier '84 reflects on his experiences at FCS with admiration and gratitude. In a class full of talented students, Ray thrived in the climate of the School. He remembers the Head of School, upon meeting him as a first grader, inviting him to join the community, hoping Ray would fit right in and would bring his gifts to us all. He did. And at Reunion he will continue to do so.

With characteristic humility, Ray credits FCS with teaching him how to think independently. He explained, "Friends' Central, I think, did two critical things – not just for me but for all its graduates. First, the School made you fully understand the box, what the box is – in other words, it made sure you mastered facts and engaged in reasoned thinking about those facts. Second, it incentivized me and my classmates to think outside of the box and not to be afraid to think for oneself."

After Friends' Central, Ray attended Harvard University and went on to receive his JD at NYU. He then practiced law, specializing in civil rights cases. Later, as a federal prosecutor in the Southern District of New York, he became Chief of the Narcotics Unit as well as Chief of the Securities and Commodities Fraud Task Force. In his position in the United States Attorney's office, Ray helped oversee the Bernard Madoff case. In 2010, he was nominated by President Obama to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to replace Sonia Sotomayor. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate unanimously.

Ray also teaches a class at NYU Law School, which he really enjoys. "It's terrific to teach," Ray said. "I always admired my Friends' Central teachers."

While excelling in the field of law, Ray sees his profession as an opportunity to serve others. When asked why he decided to go into law, Ray shared, "I see it as a very service-oriented profession. I wanted to be in service of others – something else I probably learned from Friends' Central."

A member of the distinctive Class of 1984 that made its mark on the School in many ways, Ray is grateful to be in touch with so many of his classmates, and he calls them "a pretty tight bunch."



(Left) Ray Lohier in a photo from the 1984 FCS yearbook and (at right) speaking to FCS students at Career Day 2014

They certainly were then, and it is heartening to hear that they still are today.

This spring will mark Ray's second official return to campus. In 2014, he visited classes as a part of Career Day and fascinated students as he educated them about our judicial system and the role of judges. When questioned by a student on how he spent most of his time preparing for cases, his answer was simple and direct. "Read." He then went on to recount how much reading he does to remain educated and current about any particular case, and that pursuing knowledge propels him still.

When asked what advice he would give to juniors and seniors preparing to leave Friends' Central and go out into the world, Ray answered, "To be true to themselves, to be committed to something beyond themselves, and to always try to improve their communities." And if they were interested in a career in law? "I would say be well read, be engaged in policy, and stay out of trouble."

We're thrilled to welcome Ray back to campus to share his vision of justice and commitment to service with us.

Online Programs here at UNH Law's Franklin Pierce Center for Intellectual Property. And I just returned from Geneva where I presented to over 150 staff and lawyers at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) about blockchain, cryptocurrency, and intellectual property."

### 1989

**Rachel Newman Schwartz** shares news of an "FCS reunion in Snowbird, Utah! **Lisa Kay Solomon** and I met up at The Wexner Foundation, Heritage Leadership, Summer Institute – Rachel as a Wexner Fellow, and Lisa as a Leadership Design Educator."

### 1993

**Joshua Stein** reports, "I was recently appointed Montgomery County Solicitor. I am the first full-time Solicitor in the county's 234-year history. I also currently serve on the board of the Abington School District, as well as the board of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit."

### 1995

**Barney Schmidt**, in his role as Senior Writer/Producer at HBO, recently produced a large successful promotional campaign for HBO and Cinemax shot at one of the sound stages used in the movie *Titanic*.

### 1997

On May 20, 2018, **Matt Driscoll** married Racquele Welsh-Driscoll under the redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains, where they live. His brother **Zach Driscoll '00** was the best man at the wedding. Matt teaches in the Department of English at Santa Clara University.

Matt's first-year writing courses at SCU focus on water development and conservation, their complex history in California and the American West, as well as their implications on the global scale. He also collaborates with the Faculty Liaison group on Sustainability at SCU, which attempts to support



faculty initiatives for teaching sustainability across academic disciplines.

## 1998

**Thomas Robson** writes, "In 2017, I achieved tenure at Millikin University and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. I was awarded my university's Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award, given annually to a single faculty member. My most recent piece of scholarship, 'The New Stagecraft's Nuts and Bolts,' appeared in the Spring 2017 issue of the journal *Theatre Design & Technology*."

## 2002

**David Gershkoff Slusky** has been awarded tenure at the University of Kansas and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. David teaches in the Department of Economics and researches three areas: access to healthcare (women's health clinic closures lower preventive care and raise the unmarried birth rate, Uber availability



(From left) Jacob Weisfeld '05, Benjamin Grinspan '05, Terry Guerin, Leah Franqui '05, and Izzy Grinspan '99 at the launch of Leah Franqui's book *America for Beginners* at Power Arena in Brooklyn, July 31, 2018



At the wedding of Michael Dohrmann '08 (from left) Luke Wagman '08; Sam Summers '08; Brittany Mclellan Fitzgerald '08; Noredy Neal '08; Candice Hardie '08; the bride, Eleanna Antoniou; Michael Dohrmann; Lance Jones '08; Dave Rosenblatt '08; Sarah Bradburd '08; Scott Kunz '08; Danny Horowitz '08; Anna Rosenblatt '08; and Bryan Farrar '08 (Phil Rosenblum '08 not pictured)

lowers ambulances usage rates, and Catholic hospitals have lower tubal ligation rates); infrastructure and environment (the Flint water crisis lowers the birth rate, and sunlight exposure lowers asthma rates); and insurance (the Medicaid expansion reduces medical divorce and eligibility for disability insurance raises disability rates).

### 2006

On October 27, **Liz Lundy** got married to her partner of five years, Molly Bittner, who is an Aerospace Engineer originally from Atlanta. After nearly six years in LA, the newlyweds will be moving to Amsterdam for Liz's job at Netflix. Liz is so excited for the next chapter!

### 2008

**Michael Dohrmann** shares, "Eleanna Antoniou and I got married at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on August 18, 2018. We were surrounded by many loving members of the Class of 2008. Go Phoenix!"

**Michael Pasek** completed his Ph.D. in social psychology at The Pennsylvania State University and is now a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at The New School for Social Research in New York. He studies the psychology of intergroup relations and religion.

### 2009

**Catherine Weingarten** writes, "I miss Meeting for Worship. It was so nice to have quiet time to just be present and reflect, and not have to be high achieving every second."

### 2011

**Drew Kopicki** shares that he recently accepted a resident physician position offer at Lankenau Medical Center and is still active with the Lower Merion Fire Department.

**Daniel Segall** reports, "I'm living in Nashville pursuing a music career; my first single, 'Nowhere Bar,' was released on all streaming platforms on March 1, 2019! Hoping to inspire others with my sound, I believe that country music at its best, like all music, can be a positive and unifying force."

### 2012

**Allison Feld** writes, "This fall, I will be attending Drexel University to pursue an MBA. One of the reasons I pursued a business degree (both for Undergraduate and for Graduate School) was because I enjoyed taking Dr. Graham's 'Capitalism and Consumption' History class and wanted to learn more!"



Mikey Pasek '08 (right) with his doctoral advisor, Dr. Jonathan Cook.



Daniel Segall '11 released his single "Nowhere Bar" on all streaming platforms on March 1, 2019.



## In Memoriam

Perry Anthony '59  
 Suzanne Burk Birmingham '50  
 Anne McAvoy Blackburn '50  
 Margaret Perry Blair '49  
 Neil Brown '69  
 Lee Crowder '50  
 Arthur Dannenberg '41  
 Jodi Guthrey Fraser '56  
 Howard Fussell '44  
 Robert Goodman '48  
 Douglas Greenfield '46  
 Elizabeth Smith Harper '54  
 David Hepner '53  
 Dorothy Schock Horne '38  
 Bitten Jensen Krentel '46  
 Robert Levin '70  
 Jane Evans Miner '68  
 Margaret Mitchell '35  
 Joan Lyons Newman '52  
 Ed Nicholson '43  
 Robert Noone '53  
 Dale Nupp '71  
 Charles Paxson '64  
 Lois Kneas Rogers '35  
 Murray Settlege '67  
 Carleton H. Steins '50  
 Lynn Huberman Stern '60  
 William Stotz '48  
 William Swenson '61  
 Winifred Jess Tierney '53  
 Nancy Schranz Wall '38  
 Joy Milhous Whiteley '53  
 John Witherspoon '64



Thelma Williams  
in 1994

Whether she was calming an anxious student, giving directions to a visiting family, or just making sure that those of us with whom she worked were okay, Thelma settled and centered the people on this campus in remarkable ways.

## Thelma Williams

BY BETH JOHNSON '77 &  
BILL KENNEDY

During the 1980s and early 1990s, Thelma Williams was the first person many of us met at Friends' Central – the first voice we heard on the phone when we called the School. As receptionist for many years in the Main Building, Thelma was knowledgeable and warm, helpful and unflappable, just the right person to serve as an introduction to this welcoming, but not always simple, school community. Seated behind her desk, located just to the right of the OPA Room, a few steps from our collective front door, she acted as our gatekeeper and, more importantly, our go-to person for everything that others working here should have known but couldn't always recall in the moment. Whether she was calming an anxious student, giving directions to a visiting family, or just making sure that those of us with whom she worked were okay, Thelma settled and centered the people on this campus in remarkable ways. As part of a community that takes pride in looking after its students, Thelma Williams looked after both the students and the adults charged with attending to our young people.

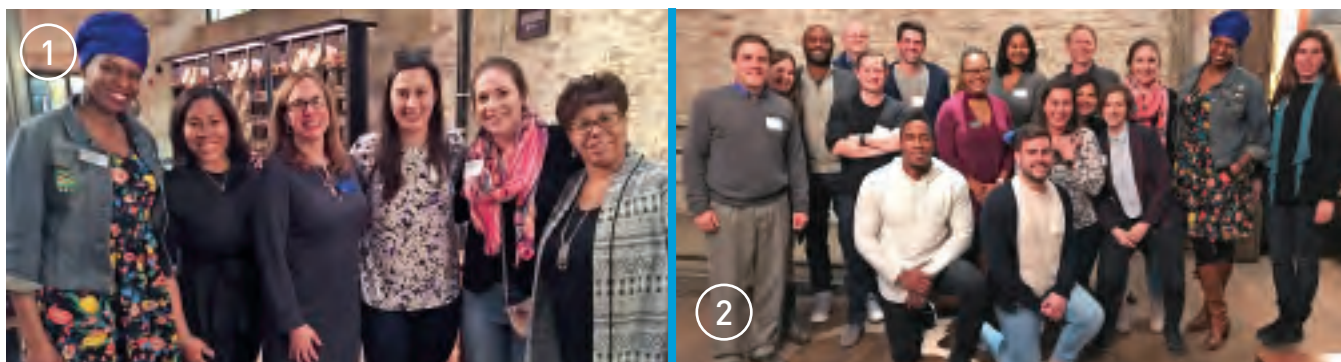
We will miss you, Thelma, and we are so grateful for the many ways in which you cared for Friends' Central. [QW](#)



Thelma was given 50 roses by Upper School students upon her retirement.

(From left) Thelma, Pablo Colapinto '96, Vanessa Garagocin '96, Phil Goff '95, Gabe Levitt '96, Tonie Walker '96, Chrissy Shaw '96, Josh Koplin '95, and Lori Holden '96

## ALUMNI/AE GATHERINGS AND CELEBRATIONS



### FCS & PHILADELPHIA



### YOUNG ALUMNI/AE LOCAL EVENTS





## BOSTON, WASHINGTON, D.C., & NEW YORK

- Latifah McMullin '99, Tanya Johnson Muse '02, Kim Emmons-Benjet, Taylor Lee '08, Mary Stroman '08, and Beth Davis Johnson '77 at our Philadelphia event at La Colombe in the fall
- Dan Crowley, Michelle Crowley, Quincy Booth '02, Bob Cotter, Michael Fox '02, Josh Wasserman '02, Lance Jones '08, Olivia Gillison '10, Simone Partridge '10, Alec Unkovic '08, Taylor Lee '08, Linda Waxman Wasserman '75, Tom MacFarlane, Dani Gershkoff '06, Mary Stroman '08, Latifah McMullin '99 and Clío Mallin '96 at La Colombe
- Alums with their families on Alumni/ae Baby Day at the Lower School
- Spring Center City event hosted by Julie Biron Maletz '05 for alumni/ae with young children
- The Class of 2019 celebrated 99 Days to Graduation with breakfast and their senior t-shirts.
- Jack Meyerson, Amy Meyerson '00, Pam Meyerson, and Laurie Novo
- The Alumni/ae Board partnered with the Upper School Service Committee to host a holiday party for children with parents who are incarcerated.
- Brad Morris, Breanna Guindon '12, Michele Meline '18, Danielle Schweitzer '18, Dane Greisiger '18, Dani Gershkoff '06, Miles Meline '18, Talia Rosenberg '17, Cullan Gilroy '17, Zoe Walker '17 and James Peterson '17 at a study break at UPenn
- Members of the Class of 2016 came together over Thanksgiving break to celebrate the life of classmate Ethan Hurwitz '16, including Anne Pizzini '16, Elise Foster '16, Derin Caglar '16 and Noah Averick '16
- Lindsay Talemal '16, John Gruber, and Belle Brett '65 in Boston
- David Bachrach '78 & Head of School Craig N. Sellers
- Class of 2019 senior t-shirt, signed by the seniors
- Jim Rosengarten, Leah Harris '16, Annie Roberts '18, Kyle Tuverson '15, and Anna Sorensen '15 at a study break at The George Washington University in D.C.
- Logan Brenner '08, Noredy Neal '08, Michael Dohrmann '08, and Head of School Craig N. Sellers at our spring NYC event
- Washington D.C. area alumni/ae enjoyed an evening hosted by Jonah Stiklorius '90 in his home including Lindsay Petersohn '13, Jon Ginsberg '90, Will Block '13, Craig N. Sellers, Bob Cotter, Jonathan Grinspan '02, Adam Axler '04, Meeran Ahn '04, Susannah Weaver '94, Dan Banko-Ferran '13, Linda Waxman Wasserman '75, and Dan Weiser '76.
- Tim Chawaga '06, Jacob Weisfeld '05, Ben Grinspan '05, Gabe Bloomfield '07 and Terry Guerin at our spring NYC event

# OAUBS: Grading at FCS

BY JIM DAVIS, ARCHIVIST (AND FORMER TEACHER)

So much was new to me when I first arrived at FCS in 1972. Independent Schools, Quakerism, and Upper School teaching all presented shifts in culture and style to which I needed to adapt, and quickly. The most abrupt of these culture shifts involved faculty meetings and the impenetrably arcane grading system. I remember praying someone would explain consensus to me and help me decipher our report cards. These issues were interrelated as faculty meetings were often, very often, taken up with discussions surrounding grading philosophy and report cards.

Grading and evaluation of students reflect the priorities and values of a school's mission. A perennial topic of debate, the issue of how to assess student progress leads to several profound questions. What is the truest and most honest mechanism for evaluation? Which method is the least ambiguous system? Isn't some ambiguity fairer and therefore preferable to narrow certainty? What summation is desirable: Letter grades? Numbers? Narratives? No evaluation of any kind? So many choices; so many ways to demonstrate to the community what the school values and how it measures the development of a student.

I'd like to turn to our archives and examine a few examples of grading systems Friends' Central has employed over the past 174 years. 159 years, to be precise, as the first report card in our collection dates from 1860 (*see images on facing page*). Note that numbers are used for evaluation at that time, with decimals! Was there really a distinction between 68 and 68.5? Class rank

(something we no longer do, I'm relieved to say), is then calculated at the bottom of the column. I happily report that, by 1864, our student had moved up that ladder! On the back of the card, Aaron Ivins, then principal of the boy's division, remarks that failure to make improvement in academic work could lead to "humiliating results." One wonders, reluctantly, what might constitute "humiliating" in 1860? Not only is the grading method of interest, but the courses being graded reveal the expectations of the society at the time. Science, language... where are you? What exactly is "Orthography"? (It's spelling, in case you wondered.)

So, report cards did reveal those studies the School and the society valued in addition to how those studies were evaluated. Class rank was clearly calculated on that 1860 card. An alumna of 1907 remembers that not only was one's rank determined, it then became the criterion by which one was seated! (Again, happily, something we no longer do.)

The next era of reporting at FCS, from the early 1940s to the late 1970s, came about as the result of the national eight-year study – a fascinating topic for another time – which encouraged schools to devise reporting systems that spoke to their particular needs and styles of evaluation. What our school came up with has to be one of the oddest and most idiosyncratic report card in education. On the one hand, categories of evaluation are broken into descriptions of particular ways a student may contribute – orally, written, concern for the community and the like. So far so

**"When I was a student, my aunt, a Philadelphia public school educator, promised to pay me a dollar for every A I received on my report card. When I showed her my report card, she was stunned to find out that she was paying me for O's as she intended and A's because she said she would. That cash windfall only lasted for one marking period. Love that OAUBS system!"**

**Beth Davis Johnson '77  
Upper School Principal**



Beth Davis Johnson '77 (center) and classmates in a sixth grade class photo



GREEK, - - - - -	
DRAWING, - - - - -	
General Average -	68.5
Sum of Demerit Marks - - -	
Result, after (deducting Demerits,) -	68.5
He stands No. 12 in a Class of 21	

HISTORY, - - - - -	60
ETYMOLOGY, - - - - -	50
GEOGRAPHY, - - - - -	66
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, - - - - -	72
CHEMISTRY, - - - - -	
PHYSIOLOGY, - - - - -	76
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, -	
" " PENNSYLVANIA, -	

Excerpts from an 1860 FCS report card: top right image shows the student's class rank ("12 in a class of 21") and his 68.5 "General Average"; at bottom is one of the remarks by Aaron Ivins, then principal of the boys' division, printed on the back of the report card

As we know from our archival record, FCS continues to wrestle with this question, and has answered it in many ways. Outstanding! [OW](#)



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**Deborah Peltz Fedder '79**



**Raymond Lohier '84**

LEARN MORE AT  
[friendscentral.org/Reunion](http://friendscentral.org/Reunion)