

VISION 2020: QUAKER WORKS IN ACTION

ON THEIR HONOR

WINDOW TO THE PAST

4:2 | Summer 2013

# QUAKER WORKS

THE MAGAZINE OF FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

**Sparkling A Passion For Drama**  
**AT FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL**







# QUAKER WORKS

THE MAGAZINE OF FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

## 2012-2013

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert Gassel '69, *Clerk*  
Karen N. Horikawa '77,  
*Vice-Clerk*

Melissa Anderson  
James B. Bradbeer, Jr.  
Adrian Castelli  
Carolyn Cohen  
Kenneth Dunn  
George Elser  
Wilson Felter  
Christine Gaspar '70  
Edward Grinspan  
Deborah Hull  
Kent Julye  
Michael C. Kelly  
Matthew S. Levitties '85  
Craig Lord  
Suzanne Morrison

James Murdock '73  
Ann V. Satterthwaite  
Philip E. Scott '73  
Joy Takahashi  
Peter Arfaa, *Emeritus*  
Barbara M. Cohen, *Emerita*  
Hillard Madway, *Emeritus*  
Joanna Schoff '51, *Emerita*

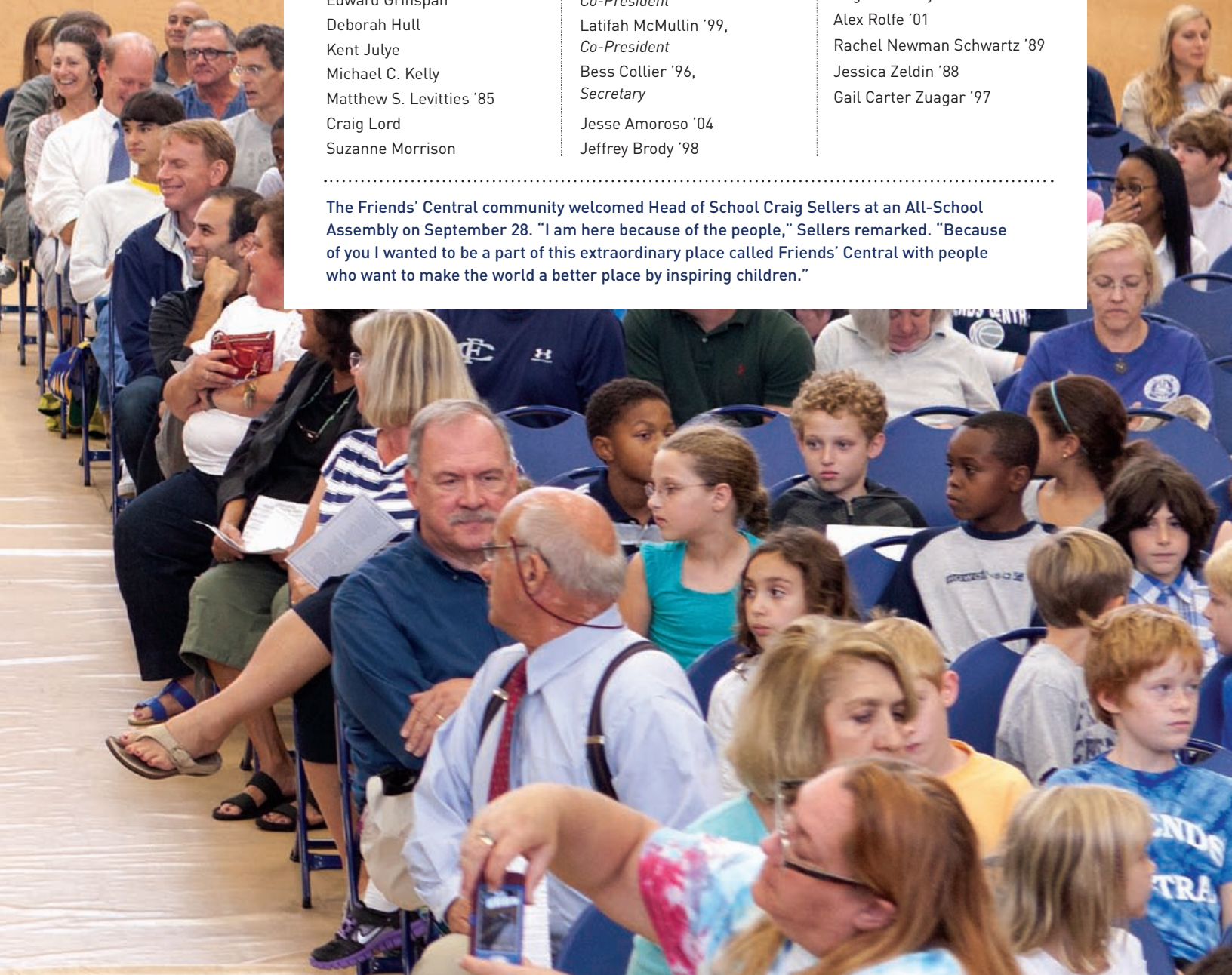
## 2012-2013

### ALUMNI/AE BOARD

Clio Mallin '96,  
*Co-President*  
Latifah McMullin '99,  
*Co-President*  
Bess Collier '96,  
*Secretary*  
Jesse Amoroso '04  
Jeffrey Brody '98

Deborah Charamella '01  
Lauren Collier '99  
Alice Hess Crowell '46  
Andrea Deutsch '85  
David Ellis '51  
Janice Decker Frohner '60  
Ruba Habtemicael '96  
Peter Klein '87  
Kimberly Kurtz Lent '87  
Patrick Lord '90  
Jane Cubberley Luce '68  
Lauren Albert Ravitz '93  
Angelina Riley '00  
Alex Rolfe '01  
Rachel Newman Schwartz '89  
Jessica Zeldin '88  
Gail Carter Zuagar '97

The Friends' Central community welcomed Head of School Craig Sellers at an All-School Assembly on September 28. "I am here because of the people," Sellers remarked. "Because of you I wanted to be a part of this extraordinary place called Friends' Central with people who want to make the world a better place by inspiring children."



## Letter from the Head of School

Dear Friends,

*In the Friends' Central Arts Department,  
our business is delight.*

—Peter Seidel,  
Chair of the Arts Department



I am continually amazed at the powerful and mysterious practice Quakers call Meeting for Worship. One of the most compelling characteristics of Friends' Central School is our commitment to this essential practice, where faculty, staff, and students sit in silence and listen to that still voice inside. While we do this routinely, Meeting is rarely the same each week.

During Career Day this year, again and again I heard our alumni/ae speak to the values they received from Meeting. At an Upper School Assembly, Benj Pasek and Ana Nogueira, both members of the Class of 2003 and both working in the acting world, were asked the following

question: "How has coming from a Quaker school affected you in your career?" Their answers were similar – both said that the listening and reflection inherent in Meeting for Worship helped them to develop empathy. Now, in their adult lives working in the arts, they see the benefits of connecting to characters on a deeper, more compassionate level because they understand people's problems better.

Benj and Ana are just two of our many alumni/ae who shine in the arts world. As you will see in this issue of *Quaker Works*, the level of excellence in the arts at FCS is remarkable. Part of this excellence speaks for itself – by witnessing the outstanding works of art in our gallery in Shallcross Hall, by going to the Lower, Middle, and Upper School plays, or by attending the concerts and other arts programs at Friends' Central. Like Meeting for Worship, the arts have the capacity to inspire continual discovery, leaving you with the clear sense that you can see, feel, or appreciate something new each time.

In the spirit of Aldous Huxley, "after silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is art." I hope you find inspiration, and that you get a taste of what Friends' Central is all about – from Meeting for Worship to art, athletics, and service – in this magazine.

You will find evidence of more stories like Benj's and Ana's, as well as many more sources for inspiration, in this issue of *Quaker Works*. QW

Craig N. Sellers  
Head of School

## QUAKER WORKS

THE MAGAZINE OF FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**  
Craig N. Sellers

**DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**  
Lydia A. Martin

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
Lisa D'Orazio

**DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI/AE AFFAIRS**  
Linda Waxman Wasserman '75

**DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING**  
Jody Mayer

**COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT INTERN**  
Taylor Lee '08

**DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ASSOCIATES**  
Diana Bleakley '01  
Tonie Walker '96

**ARCHIVIST AND ALUMNI/AE ASSOCIATE**  
Jim Davis

**COPYWRITER**  
Beth Burrell

**CONTRIBUTOR**  
Jim Mack

**LAYOUT AND DESIGN**  
Proof Design Studios

**PRINTING**  
CRW Graphics


**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Dennis Degnan, Lisa D'Orazio, Jay Gorodetzer,  
Dianne Heard, Laura Keen, Taylor Lee '08,  
Jim Mack, Mike Tolbert

We welcome any comments, letters, photographs, and suggestions for future issues. Please send all communications to:  
Editor, *Quaker Works: The Magazine*

**Friends' Central School**  
1101 City Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096  
communications@friendscentral.org

© 2013 Friends Central School

 Visit Friends' Central on the web at  
[www.friendscentral.org](http://www.friendscentral.org)

 Follow us on Facebook and Twitter  
[facebook.com/friendscentral](https://facebook.com/friendscentral)  
[twitter.com/friendscentral](https://twitter.com/friendscentral)

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



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

 PLEASE RECYCLE



# CONTENTS

QUAKER WORKS • The Magazine of Friends' Central School • 4:2 | Spring/Summer 2013



10

## FEATURES

### 10 **Sparking a Passion for Drama at Friends' Central School**

Since the late 1800s, student productions and faculty plays have long been a school tradition. Drama teacher Terry Guerin continues to showcase the dramatic talents of FCS students and feed their passion for acting.

### 20 **Vision 2020: Quaker Works in Action**

New vision and leadership at Friends' Central embraces 21st century learning.

### 24 **On Their Honor**

Friends' Central students spearhead writing of Friends' Central Honor Statement.

## DEPARTMENTS

### 2 **OPENING COMMENTS**

Letter from the Head of School

### 5 **CAMPUS LOG**

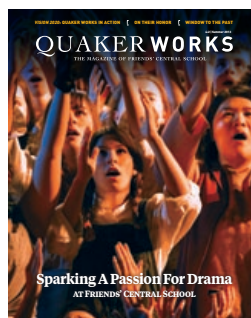
### **ALUMNI/AE**

26 Notes from Friends

### 32 **FCS DISCOVERED**

Window to the Past

## ON THE COVER



**ON THE COVER:** The Upper School performed the musical *Urinetown* from February 28-March 3, 2013.

PHOTO BY JAY GORODETZER



20



# CAMPUS LOG



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

## ALL-SCHOOL WELCOME ASSEMBLY

On Friday, September 28, at an All-School Assembly welcoming Craig Sellers to Friends' Central, Middle Schoolers presented the new Head of School with a card, designed by Lower School art teacher, Kim Parris, and signed by every FCS student and teacher.



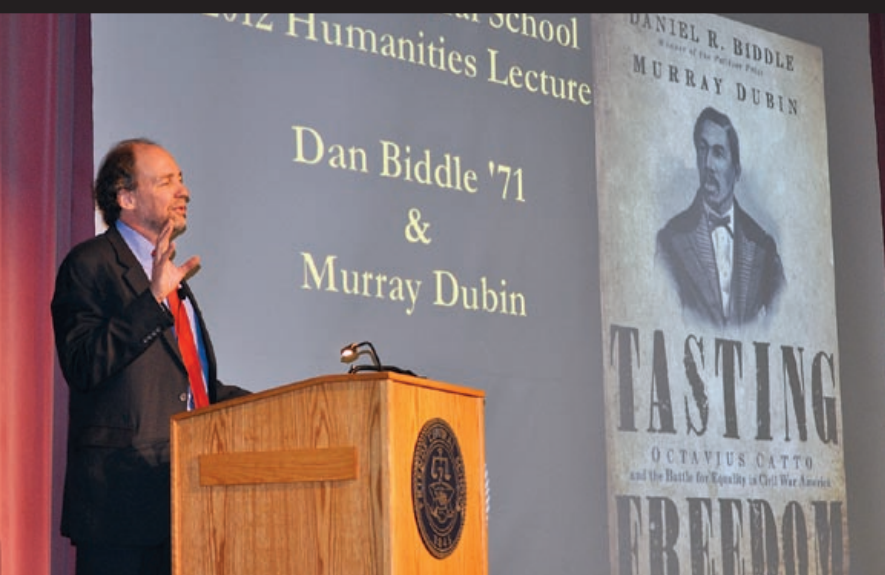
L to r: Head of School Craig Sellers with Middle School students Caroline Blackman '20, Tori Lane '19, Matthew Nguyen '17, and Galen Cassidy '18



5th graders Pierce Hayton and Matteo Lewis load cleaning supplies into a truck packed with donations for victims of Hurricane Sandy.

## SUPER STORM SANDY RELIEF

It was an all-school effort supporting Hurricane Sandy Relief. The Lower School donated grab-n-go food and dozens of cases of water, the Middle School gathered coats and blankets, and the Upper School donated dozens of cases of cleaning supplies.



## FRIENDS' CENTRAL'S 2012 DISTINGUISHED HUMANITIES LECTURE

Friends' Central's 2012 Distinguished Humanities Lecturer Dan Biddle '71, along with co-author Murray Dubin, came to campus to discuss their book, *Tasting Freedom: Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America*, a perfect compliment to Friends' Central's year-long celebration of the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. Octavius Catto led the Civil Rights Movement in Philadelphia in the 1860s.



## MLK Jr. Day of Service

For this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, the Lower School worked with Clothes4Souls to collect, sort, and bag shirts, pants, and shoes to send to those in need. The Middle School assembled lunches for My Brother's Place, an organization that provides emergency shelter and support for more than 350 of the city's most vulnerable homeless. Upper School students spent the day of service at Fishtown Recreation Center participating in a Restoration and Mural Painting project.



## PERFECTING THE ART OF FUN

On March 9, 2013, nearly 300 guests partook in the *Perfecting the Art of Fun* Auction benefiting Financial Aid. The theme was the Roaring 20s and guests came dressed for the occasion and enjoyed a special 20s-inspired menu. The Auction raised \$140,000 this year with live and silent auction items such as a behind-the-scenes tour at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts and Phillies and Flyers tickets.







## CELEBRATING THE SEASON WITH MUSIC

Friends' Central's choral and instrumental groups in all three divisions shared their passion for music and performing with the entire FCS community at concerts performed in every division.

**PICTURED LEFT:** members of the Upper School chorus performed at the US Choral Concert, the Middle School Orchestra wowed the audience at the MS Instrumental Concert; **PICTURED BELOW:** 1st graders performed at a concert for their parents and teachers.



## FCS LEARNS SECRETS OF HAPPY FAMILIES



Bruce Feiler, *New York Times* columnist, PBS writer/host, and 5-time *New York Times* bestselling author, came to campus on February 21 to discuss his latest book *The Secrets of Happy Families: Improve Your Mornings, Rethink Family Dinner, Fight Smarter, Go Out and Play, and Much More*, a timely, counterintuitive book that answers the questions countless parents are asking: How do we manage the chaos of our lives? How do we teach our kids values? How do we make our family happier?





## FCS STEAMnet Wins App Challenge!

The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) team's app "STEAMnet" is one of five high school winning designs in Verizon's Innovative App Challenge. Their app was designed to support creative thinking and virtual collaboration, especially outside the school day. More than 470 teams from across the country submitted their concepts for the App Challenge. The Friends' Central STEAMnet team consisted of eight students: Samuel Beckley, Grace Heard, Drew Leventhal, Max Luzuriaga, Aqeel Phillips, Colin Roberts, Daniel Stadtmauer, and Heather Witzel-Lakin. The team was guided by three faculty advisors: Colin Angevine '05, Keith Buckingham, and Josh Weisgrau. Students also received tutorials from Verizon's Innovation Center engineers, who created instructional videos on app design and development.



The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab will continue to work with the STEAM team to refine their projects. Verizon will provide the teams with professional support and training to help bring their concepts to market, and final products will be made available for download from Google's Play Store. In addition, Friends' Central received a \$10,000 Verizon Foundation grant to advance STEM education at their school, and each team member received the new Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1, courtesy of Samsung Mobile.

## A NIGHT OUT IN THE CLASSROOM

On October 28, 2012, Friends' Central hosted *Inside FCS: A Night Out in the Classroom*, showcasing the amazing teachers at FCS. Parents enjoyed a wide range of classes, from *Printmaking* to *Poetry*, *Basketweaving*, *Philadelphia Architecture*, and much more!

Below: Grant Calder spoke to parents about the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, and Bill Kennedy taught parents the ins and outs of how to read a poem.



## INTERSCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

Friends' Central hosted the Interschool Art Exhibition, featuring remarkable works of art created by Upper School students at FCS, The Baldwin School, Episcopal Academy, The Shipley School, The Haverford School, and The Agnes Irwin School. Student artwork, including photography, woodworking, acrylic and oil painting, sculptures, and drawings, was on display from February 25 - March 19, showcasing the outstanding talents of young artists in the Main Line community.



# FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL'S ATHLETIC SUCCESSES



## GIRLS' SOCCER CAPTURES BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

In the quest for the Friends Schools League crown, on November 1, 2012, the **Varsity Girls' Soccer team** defeated GFS by a score of 1-0 on a second half penalty-kick goal by Jesse Rubin.



The Friends' Central **Varsity Boys' Cross Country team** placed three runners in the top 10 and took second place with 47 points at the Friends Schools League championship at the George School on October 16.



Senior striker **Sam Stein** was named *Main Line Media News* Athlete of the Week for the week of September 26, 2012. Stein scored seven goals and added two assists in helping Friends' Central get off to a 4-0 start by tallying the game-winning goal in each of the four contests. Stein will play soccer for Union College next year.

Friends' Central senior **Maria Conyers-Jordan** signed a letter of intent to play Division I basketball for Wagner College in Staten Island, N.Y. Conyers-Jordan averaged 17.2 points, 5.5 rebounds, 3.1 assists, and 2.5 steals per game last season and led Friends' Central to a berth in the Friends Schools League (FSL) championship game.



Friends' Central senior guard **Billy Cassidy** committed to play college basketball at Division II Chestnut Hill College. In his junior season, the 5-9 sharp shooter connected on 64 three-pointers while helping the Phoenix to a 22-5 record and its fourth straight Pennsylvania Independent Schools Tournament title.



Friends' Central senior swimmer **Allegra Armstrong** was named *Main Line Media News* Athlete of the Week for the week of January 20, 2013. A senior captain, Armstrong broke two Friends' Central girls' swimming records this season (200IM, 200Free), broke the school's 500 free record last year, and made the finals at Easterns. She has been an All-FSL swimmer and the swimming team's MVP the last two years. Armstrong and **Ryan Cassidy** will swim at Hamilton College next year.







## FRIENDS' CENTRAL SWIMMERS CAPTURE FSL CHAMPIONSHIPS

From *The Main Line Times*

Friends' Central School did it again in the pool at the Friends Schools League Championships hosted at Swarthmore College.

In front of a packed crowd, the Phoenix boys (7-0) defended their league title successfully for the 10th consecutive time, winning 10 of 11 events and outscoring runner-up George, 132-50.

The Phoenix girls (5-2) did likewise, defending their respective title successfully for the eighth consecutive time, shattering a school and league record in the 200 free relay and outscoring second place Westtown, 96-65.



Friends' Central senior guard and tri-captain of the Varsity Boys' Basketball team, **Karonn Davis**, was named *Main Line Media News* Athlete of the Week for the week of December 19, 2012. Davis scored a career high 34 points in the Phoenix's win against Atlantic Christian. During the week, he averaged 21 points, 5.5 rebounds, and 2.0 steals as the Phoenix went 3-0. Davis will play Division I basketball at Niagara next year.



The Friends' Central **Middle School Basketball teams** each took home titles at The Philadelphia School tournaments this winter. The girls' team won their second consecutive championship on February 2, and the boys' team claimed first place a week later on February 9.



For more than 160 years,  
Friends' Central School  
has benefited from a  
strong tradition of giving.



## *Giving is at the heart of* **QUAKER WORKS**

Annual Giving gifts stretch farther and affect more of the Friends' Central community than any other fundraising effort.

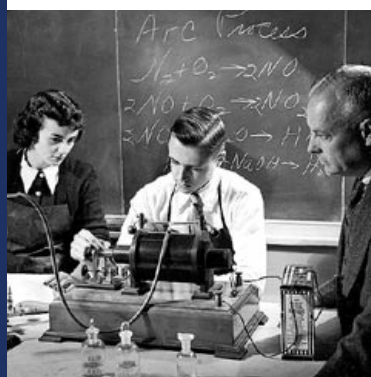
The money is put to immediate use for faculty salaries and retirement, student programs, and financial aid.

**Honor your FCS experience  
with your own tradition of giving.  
Make an Annual Giving gift this year  
and support current students and  
faculty at Friends' Central.**

Contact Director of Annual Giving Jody Mayer at [jmayer@friendscentral.org](mailto:jmayer@friendscentral.org) or 610.645.4499 for more information or visit [friendscentral.org/gift](http://friendscentral.org/gift) to give online.



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL











# Sparkling a Passion ~ for ~ DRAMA at FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

BY BETH BURRELL  
WITH LISA D'ORAZIO



On an early Monday morning in March, the Friends' Central drama room is chilly. Upper School drama teacher Terry Guerin asks her students to gather in a circle and warm up. It's time to play an ice-breaking improv game, and Terry laughs as she casts herself in the lead role. Everyone laughs along with her, and the fun - and work - begins.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



**T**hey begin counting off one by one and then slapping their legs in time. Guerin starts the chanting and elimination game that requires students to keep track of their own number and those of others. At first, there's a little nervousness while students get comfortable with the rules, then a sharp focus on keeping the game moving, and finally, a lot of laughter.



Like many drama games and exercises, it takes concentration and collaboration. "And that," says Guerin, "is the essence of ensemble theatre. True collaboration happens in the theatre – it's great communal art. Everyone is committed to the storytelling. We talk about that right out of the gate – it's about everyone being essential. If everyone doesn't become one, it doesn't work."

Guerin has been bringing ensemble theatre of all stripes and types to Friends' Central for 25 years. Productions have ranged from large popular musicals like *West Side Story*, *Gypsy*, and *Dolls*, and *Urinetown*, to lesser known works like *Playing for Time* and *Oedipus Rex* (see sidebar with show list on page 17). Guerin also began the drama showcase

program at FCS, bringing to life works such as *Fires in the Mirror* and, most recently this winter, "8" *The Play*, about marriage equality. Her quest for new material and her remarkable vision are the foundation of a cutting edge dramatic arts community at Friends' Central – a community that has launched the careers of numerous alumni/ae, many of whom credit her passion for drama and theatre with inspiring their professional lives.

"Terry demonstrated it was possible to live an artistic life," says Andy Greenwald '95, a successful author, screenwriter, and critic, who remembers Terry fondly. "She teaches you to be fearless at a time in your life when it's very hard to do that ... Everything about her makes things feel more possible."



## In the Beginning...

Evidence of dramatic productions at Friends' Central has been traced all the way back to the late 1800s. Student productions and faculty plays have long been a school tradition and have always involved many students, as well as brave faculty members, in acting, making scenery, handling properties, and lighting. Lower School teachers have been preparing plays in the classroom since the early 1900s. This practice is still in place today, as all students in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades perform classroom plays at the end of each year. Nursery, Pre-K, and K, too, have opportunities with dramatic expression, from acting out nursery rhymes to doing skits and plays for their parents. Lower School Assistant Principal, Ginger



Student Play 1923-1924





Lower School Play 1940s – performed in what is now Room 10 of the Middle School building on the City Avenue campus

Fifer, believes that the benefits of students producing and acting in plays each year are endless and revolve around the teachers' steadfast commitment to deepening students' self-esteem. Fifer explains, "The Lower School faculty believes in the value of drama at Friends' Central, and our teachers are committed to providing our children with opportunities in this form of creative expression. In our dramatic endeavors, the bottom line is about the Quaker testimony of community, both the building and deepening of it with our children. For all of us working with Lower School children, the sense of accomplishment that comes from working as a team on a play is profound every time, and children all grow in self-confidence, without exception." These end-of-year plays integrate learning in reading, writing, and history better than any other project possible, particularly since they grow out of the Lower School's commitment to thematic learning.

Berenice Woerner and Robert Cadigan are credited with jumpstarting the FCS drama program at FCS, but



Lower School Play *Robin Hood* June 1940



*Theater in the Round* (circa 1955)

around 1915, one teacher, Olive Day, began to really push the boundaries of drama at Friends' Central, a tradition that was passed down to her successors in the drama department. *Friends' Central 1845-1984*, a history of FCS written by Clayton Farraday, says that "Olive Day was 50 years ahead of her time in producing classroom plays, and in her emphasis on student participation." Day's talent for producing drama productions, particularly ones that were outside the box and ahead of their time, sparked a passion for acting among her students, and due to growing interest among students, drama was added to the curriculum in 1930.

Under the leadership of Richard Burgess, Ted Shakespeare, Joe Servello, Dave Schaeffer, and Lenny Haas '76, drama teachers at FCS from the 1960s through the 1980s, the drama program really started to take off, and drama productions became less traditional and much more experimental, something that colleges

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



are known for more so than high schools. Due to this unconventionality, more students were confident enough to choose drama as a course of study in college, and so the School was searching for ways to feed students' passion for theatre and expand the drama program at Friends' Central School. One of the answers to this growing need to showcase the dramatic talents of FCS students, feed their passion for acting, and get Friends' Central's drama program on the map was Terry Guerin.



In May 1975, a remarkable outdoor production of Shakespeare's tragedy *Othello* was performed. The stage was constructed at the foot of the stairs in the back of the main building, with the entire main building serving as the backdrop to the production. Richard Fetter '64 contributed his time and skill for the lighting of the two evening performances.



## BESS PHILLIPS '76

### *Once Upon a Mattress* (1975)

Bess is now a professional singer, known for her work in opera, jazz, and Celtic funk, and is also a featured soloist for orchestras nationwide. She has sung in numerous solo recitals and many operatic roles, including Lucia in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, Tirésias in Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, Despina in Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, and Woman with a Cake Box in Argento's *Postcards from Morocco*.

## JON KEAN '85

### *Iolanthe* (1985)

Jon Kean now an actor, writer, and producer living in Santa Monica, CA. His most recent film, *Swimming in Auschwitz*, is a documentary which tells the story of six Jewish women and their experiences in the Auschwitz concentration camp.



Pictured with Jon Kean is Emily Freeman '85.



## Guerin Comes to FCS...

Terry Guerin came to Friends' Central in 1988, starting in both the Middle and Upper Schools as a drama teacher (she is now solely in the Upper School). Guerin attended a large public high school in Chicago, beginning theatre herself at Quincy College, where she earned a BFA in theatre with a concentration in direction and acting. She went on to earn an MA from Villanova and a certificate from the Globe Shakespeare Education Center (London) in *Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance*. Before arriving at Friends' Central, Guerin acted in Philadelphia, taught drama at The Baldwin School, and taught acting and musical theatre at Villanova University, where she also directed shows. She met her husband (now a software architect) in the Philadelphia theatre world, and her children, Joey '05 and Maggie '04, are both Friends' Central graduates.

Jim Davis, formerly Friends' Central's music teacher, choral director, and chair of the Arts Department, worked with Terry from the beginning of her tenure. "She's so much more interested in theatre as an art – as transformative not merely as entertainment. She's a teacher before an entertainer. Her goal is an ensemble cast that can convey the truth of a story," Davis says.

He continues, "She really believes in creating a commitment on the part of the cast ... she has no use for who's the star or who's the lead."

In fact, Terry impresses upon cast members that no part in a show is too small. During that moment on stage, an actor holds the story (and the audience) in his or her hands - and with every actor passionately committed and engaged, a wonderful thing happens.



Benj Pasek '03, now an award-winning and Tony-nominated Broadway composer, laughs remembering a moment when he lost sight of that. He was a sophomore at Friends' Central acting in the '70s play, *Hot \_l Baltimore*. On stage for his two minutes delivering a pizza, he saw his chance to "mug the audience" for a laugh ('breaking through' what is called the fourth wall between the audience and stage). He got one. And he was elated! He exited the stage and found Terry waiting backstage, not so elated.

"She chewed me out for getting out of character," Pasek said. But the episode didn't scare him off. "When you have someone who cares that much, it is inspiring – to work at a higher level. She inspired me to take the work seriously. I thought if she cares that much, I should, too."

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



## PETER WILSON '89 DANIEL BARNZ '88

### *Middle School Melodrama* (1983-84)

Peter is currently principal timpanist with the Harrisburg Symphony and the Albany Symphony. He has also toured and recorded with the New York Philharmonic, as timpanist and percussionist, and performs regularly with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Daniel is now a writer/director living in Los Angeles, Ca. Daniel wrote and directed the film *Won't Back Down*, which appeared in theaters last fall (2012) and starred Maggie Gyllenhaal and Viola Davis as two determined mothers looking to transform their children's Pittsburgh school in order to make a difference in the inner-city education of children.

## Upper School Musical *Urinetown*

A musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics, and musical theatre itself. To regulate water consumption, Urinetown has outlawed the use of private toilets. A light-hearted frolic, this show was a hit with audiences of all ages from March 1-3.



## Middle School Musical *Seussical, Jr.*

"Oh the thinks you can think." The Middle School presented *Seussical, Jr.* to packed houses on March 15 and 16. Thank you to the cast and crew for reminding us that "a person's a person no matter how small."







## Her Own Path

It was on a trip with students to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland that Guerin organized in 2000 when she first met actors from the Pig Iron Theatre Company, which was right in her backyard – Philadelphia. That chance meeting kindled a collaboration with Pig Iron that continues today. Actors from Pig Iron, a theatre company known for its rigorous physical and experimental work, come to Friends' Central to hold workshops with our students at least once a year, giving our students the opportunity to work with professional actors.

Jessica Rosenberg '00 remembers that Scotland trip and the world it opened up to her and other students. While Jessica (now earning her Ph.D. in comparative literature at the University of Pennsylvania) hated being on stage, Guerin strongly encouraged her to be a dramaturge – leading play research and development. “I’ve come to see that this is one of the basic connections between Terry’s artistic commitments and her commitment to a welcoming and inclusive community,” Jessica says. “She doesn’t just see places for everyone in theatre and in the FCS community – she *creates* them.”

Guerin says she is fortunate to be at Friends' Central, where she has the freedom to explore new and unconventional work. FCS is committed to keeping drama productions free admission for audiences, allowing

## ANA NOGUEIRA '03

### *Pride and Prejudice* (2002)

Ana is an actor whose star is on the rise. She is currently appearing as Nona Palmeira in the TV series *Blue Bloods* and has been cast in the new Michael J. Fox Show, which is set to debut on NBC this fall.



drama teachers to experiment and focus on the work itself, not on financing it, and each production is open to the public, allowing our students to showcase their talents in front of a wide range of audiences. The School puts on two main stage productions each year, alternating between a musical and Shakespeare production each winter, drama showcases like this year's “8” *The Play* and in past years, *The Laramie Project* and *Funny Shorts*, as well as a 9th & 10th grade play, a leadership opportunity and culminating experience for students involved in drama classes, where seniors have the opportunity to direct a cast of 9th and 10th grade actors.







## Back in the Classroom

The Monday morning drama students are warmed up now, having moved on to other exercises, like mirroring the movements of a partner, pondering whether an animal – maybe a hyena, gnat, lizard, cat, or bear – has traits like their characters. They finish up by rehearsing a scene for an upcoming drama showcase with their partners.

“Let your body inform the way you’re saying your lines ... make it abstract, weird, different, just keep the connection with each other,” Guerin tells students.

“How do we get those perfect, spontaneous moments? Repeat the line until you feel your partner is coming back at you honestly. You want to be able to do that, and let’s just see what happens.”

Lucky for all of us in the audience, we get to see what happens, too! [QW](#)



## BENJ PASEK '03

### *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (2001)

Benj is a Tony-nominated songwriter, along with his writing partner Justin Paul, of the Broadway musical *A Christmas Story*, which opened last fall to rave reviews, was named one of the Top 10 Shows of 2012 by *Time Magazine*, and was recognized as the #1 Musical of 2012 by *USA Today*. Benj and Justin also composed the lyrics for the off-Broadway musical *Dogfight*, and their original songs were featured on Season 2 of NBC’s *Smash*. (More info on page 19)

# FCS Theatre Productions over 25 years

**88-89** The Foreigner / The Taming of the Shrew

**89-90** Elephant Man / West Side Story

**90-91** Museum / A Little Night Music

**91-92** As You Like it / The Lion and the Jewel

**92-93** Waiting for Lefty / Playing for Time

**93-94** Rumors / A Midsummer Night’s Dream

**94-95** Time of your Life / Guys and Dolls

**95-96** Home Cookin’ /  
The Importance of Being Earnest

**96-97** To Kill a Mocking Bird / Chorus Line

**97-98** Frankenstein / Birds  
(*Terry on spring sabbatical*)

**98-99** Much Ado about Nothing / Into the Woods

**99-00** Summer People / Once in a Lifetime

**00-01** Hot I Baltimore / How to Succeed In  
Business Without Really Trying

**01-02** Twelfth Night / Pride and Prejudice

**02-03** Oedipus Rex / 42nd Street

**03-04** The Taming of the Shrew / Arcadia

**04-05** Catch 22 / Once upon a Mattress

**05-06** The Miracle Worker / As you Like it

**06-07** The Women / Pajama Game

**07-08** Dracula / The Tempest

**08-09** The Madwoman of Chaillot / High Society

**09-10** Romeo and Juliet / The Foreigner

**10-11** Sleepless City / Hello Dolly

**11-12** Middletown / Macbeth

**12-13** Great Expectations / Urinetown



# VOICES of FCS ALUMNI/AE

## Jackson Greenberg '08

*Currently composing musical scores for movies and television; composed an original work that was performed (winter 2011-2012) by the Bratislava Symphony Orchestra*



Terry had a huge impact on my life even though I never took a class with her! At the end of my junior year after a concert I played with the jazz band, Terry approached me and asked if I'd like to compose music for one of her plays the following year (*Dracula*). Up until that point I had never composed for anything other than one or two pieces

for the jazz band. Terry took a leap of faith asking me, so I took a leap of faith and said yes... I'll never forget that initial feeling of watching the audience while playing my music and noticing that they were not looking at me, but at the actors on stage. I felt like I was a part of something bigger than just my own musical expression and I really loved that feeling.

Essentially, it was the opportunity that Terry afforded me that proved to me that I could compose, and compose for drama. Growing up I was always a huge film buff but never really saw an opportunity into the field - working with Terry, and realizing the importance of the effect that music has on drama, showed me a whole new world, a world that I live in now and love living in now and probably would never have found if it had not been for Terry.

## Ana Nogueira '03

*Actor for the last six years, in theater, musical theatre and television; most recently cast in Michael J. Fox's new NBC comedy series, which launches this fall*



Something I have grown to appreciate more as I've gotten older and made acting my profession is Terry's focus on the experimental side of theatre. I went to college for acting, and I think very few of my classmates had worked with companies like Pig Iron or picked a character from an Anna Devereaux Smith play out of a hat to perform in front of the

school. Girls were playing boys, boys were playing girls, black,

white, Latin, Asian, whatever. We weren't just doing *Our Town* year after year (although, they did do *Our Town* at one point and it was beautiful). We were experimenting and going outside of our comfort zones and taking risks. Again, as a teenager this is not easy but I am so grateful that I started so early. It is this kind of training that allows people to grow into true artists and not just personality actors, mimicking performances that they've seen someone else do. So far, I've had a career that I am very proud of and I am certain that my love of the arts and strong work ethic started at FCS and in class with Terry Guerin.

## Gabriel Bloomfield '07

*Pursuing a Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature, specializing in the literature of Renaissance England at Columbia*



What's remarkable about Terry's teaching is that she always treats her students as true colleagues. She never shied away from difficult material; she always assumed we were game for unconventionality, such as when she chose to direct Clare Booth Luce's *The Women* as an Upper School play one year. Her dedication to freedom

of thought and expression always made itself evident in her teaching and direction and was enormously empowering for me, and I think for a lot of other students... Not to mention that she's an extraordinarily gifted theater artist. She made us feel that we were part of something truly impressive. Her friendship has extended long past my graduation. She attended plays I directed in college, and has continued to offer much wisdom.

## Julie Nathanson '91

*Actor for the past 18 years and a professional writer in the entertainment business; nominated for a Writers Guild Award in 2002; chosen as the new voice of Disney's Princess Belle, voice-matching Paige O'Hara, who originated the role in the animated film, Beauty and the Beast*

In our senior year, Terry and Jim Davis chose Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*; this show was not a safe, easy choice, but one





that was musically complex with some rather mature relational themes. When I was cast as "Anne," I remember feeling encouraged by Terry's belief in my ability to handle it as an actress and singer. But Terry's influence was so much more than the lovely shot in the arm of being cast in one of her shows. Terry's deep passion for theatre, her ensemble-style

teaching, and the forthright feedback she gave to students always gave us the message that we were all artists, each with our own fair chance to succeed in entertainment... Terry insisted that we familiarize ourselves with the entirety of theatre. Not just the acting spotlight, but the lights themselves. Not just taking center stage, but actually building the stage.

I found my old drama journal from senior year... a note from class reads, "*Theatre is collaborative.*" That's a pretty important message to give high school students interested in real-life theatre. But, considering my own focus on voiceover, I found this passage pertinent, "*I value [Terry's] opinion so much. When she criticizes me, I take it seriously, not personally. So I was especially grateful for her input, praises as well as criticisms. Voice modulation is key, and I will work on this in the future.*" Terry was right.

## Mwazhuwa Kuretu '00

*Director of Extended Day program at Friends School Haverford; leads theatre program at summer camp; previously at Friends Select School where, among other tasks, he led Middle School theatre productions*



Terry was like a second mom to me. Her room was a place to sit and talk...she would go to bat for you for anything. I was never that interested in drama classes and wouldn't have gotten involved if she hadn't asked me. I was in *A Lunch Line* in 7th grade and that's the first time I recall being in a production and taking it seriously. I ended up studying theatre at

NYU....Senior year (at Friends'), when I needed help with a part, she said, "You're doing the performance - it's got to come out of you; otherwise it's me and it's not going to feel natural." She was always available and willing to go over and over something, and that helps you become confident on stage. Terry was very big on saying that everything was a work in progress.

## Benj Pasek '03

*While a student at Friends' Central, Benj Pasek '03 says he wasn't much of a planner. He knew he had creative instincts, but he hadn't looked much beyond high school. Terry Guerin changed that.*

"She definitely influenced what I went to college for - musical theatre," says Pasek, now an award-winning, Tony-nominated Broadway composer. Pasek left FCS for the University of

Michigan's renowned musical theatre program - it was there that Pasek became good friends with Justin Paul, now his collaborator on a host of projects. Last July, *Vanity Fair* called Pasek & Paul "the heirs of Rodgers and Hammerstein."



And last November, when **Pasek & Paul** made their Broadway debut as composers of the score for *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, Terry was there to see it. "I love Terry," Pasek says. "She believed in giving people interesting, provocative, challenging work. She was giving us material that didn't talk down to us - most drama teachers aren't

exposing kids to that. She was treating us as professionals when we were neophytes."

"It was then that I started thinking about what theatre could be," he says. Guerin helped by introducing FCS students to professionals working in the field, including actors at the Pig Iron Theatre Company in Philadelphia. "I have vivid memories of seeing Pig Iron actors working in totally different ways," Pasek recalls.

He continues, "I read Shakespeare for the first time because of Terry, Sondheim because of Terry, *Angels in America* because of Terry. She's been pushing the envelope since well, forever."

In spring 2000, Pasek was in the audience at Friends' Central for a drama showcase put on by Guerin's drama students: *Fires in the Mirror* by Anna Deavere Smith. He remembers being particularly moved by the monologues of numerous people Smith had interviewed following violent racial riots in the Crown Heights neighborhood of New York City in 1991. Emulating her style, Pasek later visited many diners in Greater Philadelphia in 2003, to interview people about the Iraq war, which had just begun. Though it started as an English project at FCS, writing the monologues continued at Michigan as a college student.

Along with their Broadway debut in November, Pasek & Paul:

- Wrote songs and music for the musical *Dogfight*.
- Won the 2011 Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theatre from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for *Dogfight*.
- Wrote original songs for Season 2 of the hit NBC show *SMASH*.
- Made their debut as songwriters with their widely acclaimed song cycle, *Edges*.
- Were named the youngest recipients of the Jonathan Larson Grant Award (2007), which recognizes emerging talent in musical theatre.
- Were named one of *The Dramatist* magazine's "50 to Watch" in contemporary theatre.
- Travel and teach master classes in songwriting and performance at universities throughout the world.

Pasek & Paul received three Tony award nominations for their work on *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, and Best Original Score. They are currently at work on an original musical with playwright Steven Levenson. Read more at [pasekandpaul.com](http://pasekandpaul.com).





5th graders Hannah Book, Sebastian Villa, and Caroline Blackman

# VISION 2020: QUAKER WORKS IN ACTION

New Vision and Leadership at Friends'  
Central Embraces 21st Century Learning

BY BILL DONOHUE • PHOTOS BY ROB HALL

**At Friends' Central School, students discover the skills** needed to thrive academically, socially, and spiritually in an increasingly complex world. The school has been committed to reflection and adapting to the needs of today's globally connected students.

This transformation stems from a Quaker-based culture devoted to continual reinvention, as well as from *Vision 2020*, a comprehensive long-range plan developed at Friends' over the past two years, designed to better endow students with the tools and confidence they will need to excel in a 21st century learning environment.

*Vision 2020* was launched in the fall of 2010, with the administration, parent body, alumni/ae, and faculty working together to develop goals in areas ranging from how it engages the curriculum and the community to how it acquires the necessary resources to ensure that students thrive. To help guide the school through this plan, Friends' Central recently welcomed Craig Sellers as its new Head of School.

"The best way to move into the future is to have a plan that people can organize around and get excited about," says Sellers. "The boldness of the school and the people who work here was very attractive to me. My goal is to listen, learn, and lead. Listening is a hallmark of Quaker schools, because if you're committed to listening you can't help but learn. Our students will be going out into a changed world, interacting with people of all faiths and all nations," he continues, "so I'm committed to seeing how we as a school can think globally, as well as understanding how technology can help us fortify 21st century learning. Excellent education presumes a mastery of these tools, and we are committed to succeeding."

One major change that grew out of *Vision 2020* began in September in Friends' Central's Middle School, which is introducing a one-to-one Chromebook pilot program for the 7th grade as a way to integrate technology into the classrooms.



Although invaluable, technology in and of itself does not add value unless it enhances other practical skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, and reflection — complexity tempered by simplicity.

In addition, the Quaker values of peace, integrity, community, and stewardship are continually reinforced at Friends' Central. Service is an essential part of the rich curriculum where children learn that each individual has a responsibility to realize his or her ability to make a difference. Students also benefit from a fresh look at the school's definition of diversity and inclusion, and this depth of respect extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom.



Alex Smith '20

"The main thing we want to do is start to challenge our students to help them become thinkers," says Middle School teacher Terrell. "At the same time, it's important to practice what you preach, and we do. We have teachers who are constantly trying to better themselves professionally, encouraging one another to be lifelong learners, too."



Middle School math teacher Cristina Fitzpatrick works with Aiden McClave '20

Perhaps the most important hallmark of a Friends' Central education is excellence in academics, which stems from its innovative curriculum. One example is an online math program known as ALEKS (short for Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces). Facilitated by the faculty, ALEKS uses artificial intelligence to continually teach and assess each individual student's math aptitude. Through adaptive questioning, ALEKS can accurately assess a student's knowledge base and then create a targeted question sequence to meet that student's needs.

Given the school's commitment to technology, Middle School students can use ALEKS in school or at home through an individual account and it will soon be available on their iPods, iPads, and other portable devices. Friends' Central expects ALEKS to strengthen each student's individual math skills and, in turn, build confidence and self-esteem, according to Middle School math teacher Sharon Morsa. "It is our expectation that when our students go on to the Upper School, that they are confident and comfortable in their own ability to analyze information, think critically, draw conclusions, and implement strategies in moving information to the next appropriate phase," she says. "ALEKS supports this in the math discipline, and we are certain that it will facilitate excitement and interest



6th graders Katie Leone and Devon Sandler

not only in math but also science and eventually other areas of academics. A newly found confidence in math can open many doors."

he language of language study."

"Teachers from around the country come to Friends' Central School during the summer to train in

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



the Prima Lingua program so they can take this back to their schools," she continues. "Our students are proud of the fact that they see others coming to learn from us, from them. They see me grabbing every chance I get to use new tools of technology to enhance our experience."

**“The best way to move into the future IS TO HAVE A PLAN that people can organize around and get excited about.”**

– CRAIG SELLERS  
*Head of School*

The faculty at Friends' Central excels at realizing and understanding the student body's academic and social needs. In other words, they truly know the students, which is perhaps the greatest gift the school can impart to the children who pass through its doors. "This is a community grounded in respect, united in purpose, and driven by values," says Morsa. "Beyond the textbooks, beyond the computers, beyond the classrooms, Friends' Central students go out into the world knowing that they not only have a responsibility, but most importantly they have the skills and know how to make a positive difference—and they do. "This is Quaker Works in action, and it doesn't happen by accident." QW

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

## QUAKER WORKS VISION 2020

### VISION UPDATE:

#### Blackburn Library Branches Out to E-books

As we returned from winter break, the Blackburn Library launched into the world of e-books with a new reference e-book collection and hundreds of downloadable fiction e-books.

#### 5th Grade To Lower School in 2013-2014

In the context of Vision 2020, and after much research and discussion, Friends' Central will move the 5th grade from the Middle School on the City Avenue campus to the Lower School, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.

#### Lower School and Shallcross Upgrades Kick Off Renovations

The first campus improvements of Vision 2020 are already underway in two much-used spaces: the Lower School gym and the art classrooms and offices.

#### Statement of Diversity and Inclusivity Approved

Friends' Central strives to be a diverse and inclusive community, in which all voices are respected and appreciated. One of the first tasks of the Engaged Community Working Group was to specifically express the School's philosophy of diversity and share it with both the FCS and the greater community. The result is a powerful statement that is posted prominently at [friendscentral.org/diversity](http://friendscentral.org/diversity).

#### Communication Key to Engaged Community

The scope of Vision 2020 encompasses things great and small. While talk of renovations and cool new technology initiatives may grab the headlines, simple actions such as steps to improve communication can be just as important to move forward the mission of the School.

#### Main Building Makeover

Plans to transform the first floor of the Main Building on the City Avenue campus are underway! With an emphasis on welcoming visitors to the School, the Architectural Design firm H2L2 has been engaged by Friends' Central to rethink and redesign our reception area, sitting room, and admission interview spaces.



# FRIENDS' CENTRAL FILLS TWO KEY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

**L**AST JANUARY, Head of School Craig Sellers announced the results of two important searches for the future of Friends' Central School: the Assistant Head of School for Academic Program and the Middle School Principal. In a letter to the FCS community, Sellers wrote, "Some of the most important decisions a Head of School makes are choosing the right leaders to embrace and carry out the mission of the School. Rarely does a Head have such good fortune as to announce the results of not one but two very important searches for the future of Friends' Central School. I believe both of these educators are exceptional, experienced thinkers who, with their unparalleled excellence, are exactly what Friends' Central needs at this moment in time. Joining us from the Flint Hill School as our first Assistant Head of School for Academic Program is Shannan Boyle Schuster, Ed.D. Stepping into a new role as our next Middle School Principal is Alexa Dunnington Quinn '98."

## Assistant Head of School for Academic Program SHANNAN BOYLE SCHUSTER, ED.D.



Shannan Schuster's impressive educational background, diverse experience, expertise, and leadership qualities clearly set her apart from an outstanding set of candidates. Currently the Dean of Faculty and Assistant Director of Studies at Flint Hill School, a Pre-K–12 school in Oakton, Va., Schuster's work has been most impressive. She joined Flint Hill as the Math Department Chair in 2001. In 2003, she became the Assistant Director of Flint Hill's Middle School and in 2005 became Dean of Faculty for Pre-K–12. Her achievements as Dean of Faculty include: rolling out a one-to-one iPad and MacBook program, leadership in the design of a learning center, and directing professional development for a faculty of 200. Her innovative work in the area of faculty evaluation and hiring helped Flint Hill grow from a school of 700 in 2001 to its present enrollment of 1,100. A graduate of Vanderbilt University and Teacher's College, Columbia University, Schuster also teaches a graduate-level class for young independent school teachers at the University of Virginia.

About her appointment Schuster says, "When I visited Friends' Central in December, I immediately felt the sense

of community, drive for excellence, and commitment to students. I am thrilled—and humbled—to join the FCS team, and I look forward to helping the School achieve its strategic initiatives and conceptualize its vision for the future. With such an incredible history and outstanding program, I am eager to learn more about the School and immerse myself in the community."

## Middle School Principal

### ALEXA DUNNINGTON QUINN '98



Alexa Dunnington Quinn, Friends' Central School Class of 1998, has spent the last 11 years growing into a Middle School leader at FCS. At each stage of this search, she emerged as the candidate with the most exciting ideas, a grounded understanding of

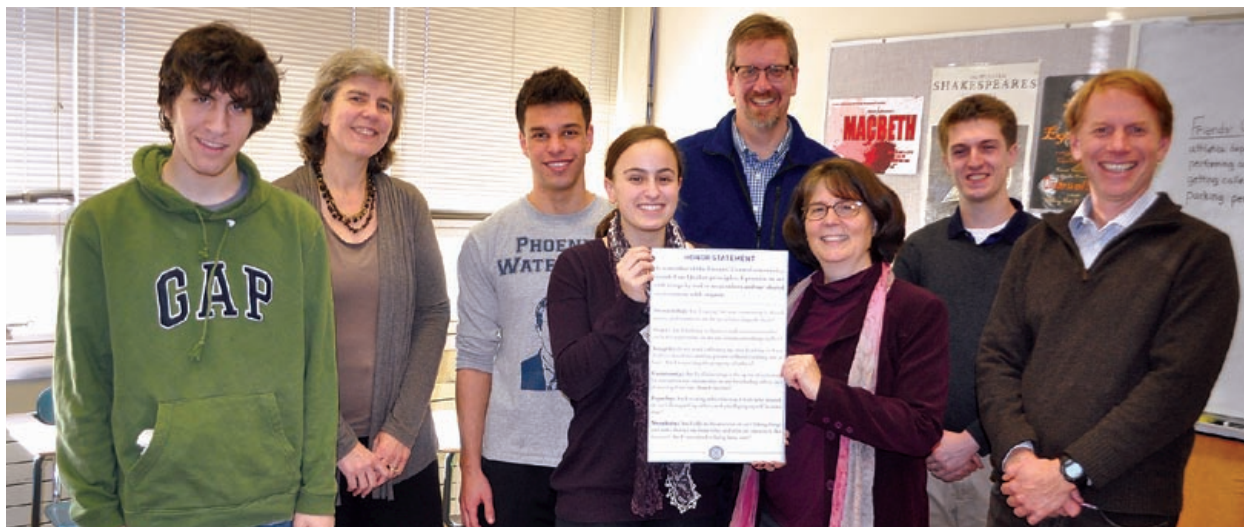
Middle School children, and well prepared to implement dynamic, thoughtful change. A graduate of Oberlin College, Middlebury College, and the University of Pennsylvania, Quinn currently serves as Administrative Advisor for Curriculum Development and Grade 7 Liaison at Friends' Central. In this role, she facilitates and supports curriculum across all Middle School grades and subjects, organizes programming for faculty, and recently spearheaded the first phase of Middle School curriculum mapping. She has worked on and supported new communications initiatives, such as grade-level newsletters to parents, and coordinates the Middle School service program. Alexa also served as co-clerk of the Vision 2020 facilities team and was selected for the Friends Council on Education Institute for Engaging Leadership, a two-year training program for aspiring leaders of Quaker schools.

On her new role as Middle School Principal Quinn says, "Friends' Central has a long, impressive history as a vibrant learning community anchored by Quaker values. Throughout the search process, I have been inspired by my conversations with members of the community and by the profound commitment to Friends' Central and to Friends education that we share. I feel honored and privileged to be given the opportunity to serve Friends' Central in this role. I look forward to working in partnership with students, their families, and the faculty as we continue to celebrate and to strive for excellence together."

# ON THEIR HONOR

Friends' Central Students Spearhead Writing of Friends' Central Honor Statement

BY TAYLOR LEE AND LISA D'ORAZIO



Students and faculty who collaborated on writing Friends' Central's first honor statement were Blake Bortnick '13, Upper School Co-Principal and Dean of Faculty Laurie Novo, Oliver Goodman '13, Suzy Bernstein '13, Upper School history teacher Jim Rosengarten, Quaker Coordinator Robyn Richmond, Grant Schiller '14, Upper School English Teacher Tom MacFarlane, and (not pictured) Matt Strahan '14.

**A**fter months of discussion, meetings with faculty and students, and a series of drafts, last winter, Friends' Central's Upper School saw its first Honor Statement.

Spearheaded by Upper School students Suzy Bernstein '13, Oliver Goodman '13, Blake Bortnick '13, Grant Schiller '14, and Matt Strahan '14 and teachers Robyn Richmond, Tom MacFarlane, and Jim Rosengarten, the Upper School was presented with an Honor Statement, followed by queries framed by the Quaker testimonies to help us reflect on the implications of our decisions. When students and teachers came back to school after winter break, the statement was printed and hung in every Upper School classroom.

Upper School Co-Principal Laurie Novo was thrilled to report to parents back in December that the honor

statement had been finalized and would be posted in each Upper School classroom. Regarding the thought process behind having an honor statement, although at a Quaker school where integrity is one of the seven testimonies, Novo said, "We have all struggled at times with the 'messiness' of decision-making in a Quaker school, but when our objective is truly shared, as this one is, the collaborative process of the whole community, guided by a steering committee of students and teachers, is a very productive experience. Nestling our honor statement in the familiar context of the Testimonies and practice of queries feels 'right' to us, and the queries were shaped and strengthened by discussion in advisories and at Student Council and faculty meetings."

The honor statement serves as a gentle reminder for students, as well as teachers, to be honest and open when making decisions. One of the most powerful topics raised and discussed by students and teachers was the stress and damage to valued relationships that is caused by cheating. Grant Schiller '14 and Matt Strahan '14 both agree that "having the honor statement allows for more discussion between students and teachers" about cheating and one's integrity in general. *qw*



## HONOR STATEMENT

As a member of the Friends' Central community, founded on Quaker principles, I promise to act with integrity and to treat others and our shared environment with respect.

**Stewardship:** Am I caring for our community's shared spaces and resources, or do my actions degrade them?

**Peace:** Am I helping to foster a safe environment for authentic expression, or are my actions provoking conflict?

**Integrity:** Is my work reflecting my own learning, or have I taken ideas from another person without crediting her or him? Am I respecting the property of others?

**Community:** Am I collaborating in the spirit of inclusivity to strengthen our community, or am I excluding others and detracting from our shared mission?

**Equality:** Am I treating others the way I wish to be treated, or am I disregarding others and privileging myself in some way?

**Simplicity:** Am I fully in this moment, or am I letting things and tasks distract me from what and who are present in this moment? Am I committed to being here, now?



# Notes from Friends

## Alumni/ae

### Share Your Alumni/ae News



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

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

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

### 1934

**Sarah Wallis Stevens** moved from Florida to an assisted living facility in Connecticut, to be nearer to her children. She has five children in the Northeast and one in Portland, Ore. Stevens and four of her children attended a Wallis Family Reunion in Estes Park, Colo., this past July. Her niece, **Sarah Staats '57**, was among the almost 70 attendees. "I have great memories of Friends' Central," Stevens writes. "My parents sent six daughters to FCS, and I am still in touch with one classmate, **Mary Bowen Young**. Another point of contact: David Felsen was a student at Williston Academy in Easthampton, Mass., when my husband, Phillips Stevens, was Headmaster."

### 1943

**Bob Conn** volunteers at the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College and is looking forward to celebrating with his class at their 70th Reunion in May. He and his wife, Patti, have been married for more than 50 years. They live in Lafayette Hill, Pa., and enjoy visiting with their two children and four granddaughters, all who live near to them.

**Dorothy Coleman Dangerfield** writes, "70 years? How time has flown! After

FCS, I became a registered nurse, a wife in 1948, a mother three times, a public school teacher of social studies, a grandmother, a retiree, a volunteer for several organizations, a great grandmother, and I am still running our home for my husband, granddaughter, and great grandsons. My father was in the Class of 1913, and our oldest son Dickson was in the Class of 1971 at Friends' Central."

**Jim Dannenberg** practiced and taught dentistry for 50 years and has spent the last 14 years as a full-time volunteer at W.B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences in Philadelphia. He and his wife, Dena Jacobson Dannenberg, have been married for more than 60 years. They have three children and six grandchildren.

**Charles Russ** lives in Dallas, Texas, with his wife, Elaine. They have two children and eight grandchildren.

### 1950

**Marlee Chandlee Turner** continues to run her Northern Pines Bed and Breakfast on Crescent Lake in Raymond, Maine. She enjoys being a member of the Portland Friends Meeting.

### 1953

**Dottie Lieberman Grant** enjoyed spending time with classmate (and BFF) **Philippa Wehle** in New York City last winter. Grant lives in Vero Beach, Fla., and enjoys visiting her family and friends in New York. Wehle was a bridesmaid at Grant's wedding, and they have remained close friends all their lives. "FCS was a very important part of my life, which has not faded," Grant writes. "I am an example of living my entire life with the fun, joy, knowledge, and spirit of FCS as a major contributor."



Philippa Wehle '53 (left) and Dottie Lieberman Grant '53

### 1954

**Elizabeth Osborne** exhibited her work at the Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College. The show, "Four Visions, Four Painters," ran from October 6, 2012 to January 11, 2013.

### 1957

**Jill Banks Barad** and her husband, Ross, traveled from Los Angeles to vacation in Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod this past August. They visited for a few days with **Barbara Davis Widmayer** and her husband, Ted. Barbara gave a



grand tour of historic Plymouth, and Barbara and **Hank Zoob** joined them for dinner. She says, "A good time was had by all!"



(From left) Jill Banks Barad '57, Hank Zoob '57, and Barbara Davis Widmayer '57

## 1959

**Roberta Latshaw McCarthy** caught up with **Joan Mesirov Sperans** at their 50th Reunion in 2009. These high school best friends lost contact after graduation, but since meeting again have kept up regular communication by phone and email. In 2010, Sperans surprised McCarthy with plane tickets to visit her in San Francisco, a city that McCarthy had always wanted to visit. While McCarthy was hesitant to accept this generous gift, Sperans persuaded her to make what was a most memorable trip. The duo visited the city's tourist sites, including the Contemporary Jewish Museum, where Sperans is a docent, and enjoyed dinner with Sperans' friends. "Joan has continued to be a person with perspicacity, an adventurous nature, kindness, and a value for humanity," McCarthy writes. "For this fantastic opportunity, learning experience, and joyful time, I will always thank her."

## 1960

**Lynn Volckhausen Edinoff** writes that she and her husband, Stuart, have been married for more than 42 years. They live in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. She loves being an oncology social worker, facilitating 20 cancer and other support groups, such as meditation and bereavement,

each month and counseling patients and families. After graduating from Antioch College in Ohio, and University of Chicago and Loyola University with a masters, Edinoff worked for 47 years in all aspects of social work. In Chicago, she worked in adoption, public aid, legal aid, home for dependent and neglected children, community mental health center, private practice, and taught psychology at Oakton Community College. She has lived in Ft. Lauderdale for 34 years "in two houses on the same block near the ocean," she writes. Edinoff has worked in seven hospitals in Miami Beach, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties as director of social work, patient advocate coordinator, and in oncology social work, and has taught undergraduate- and graduate-level classes. She is a docent at the Ft. Lauderdale Museum of Art, is active in three book clubs, and practices Zen Buddhism and yoga. Edinoff's passion is travel, and in 2011 she visited Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Spain, Italy, France, Greece, Montenegro, and Key West. "Stuart and I had a wonderful time at the 50th Reunion two years ago," she writes. "Friends' Central staff and classmates did a great job organizing the Reunion."



Stuart and Lynn Edinoff '60 in Barcelona doing what they love best: eating and being abroad

**Janice Decker Frohner** got together this winter with a few members of the Class of 1960 for a weekend of fun and sharing memories in Sarasota, Fla. Frohner hosted a dinner Friday evening, and the group participated in various activities in the Sarasota area Saturday before concluding the festivities at a local restaurant that evening.



Members of the Class of 1960 gather for a weekend of fun in Sarasota, Fla. From left are Ginger Arnold Gleason '60, Bruce Woodruff '60, Janice Decker Frohner '60, Lynn Volckhausen Edinoff '60, Stu Edinoff, Bruce Babcock '60, Lois Babcock, Nick Scull '60, and Carol Scull.

## 1961



Ann Ginsburgh Hofkin '61 (left) at the opening of her exhibition at the A.I.R. Gallery in Brooklyn, N.Y., last May.

**Ann Ginsburgh Hofkin** has exhibited her photography across the country in recent months. Last May to July, her "Mysterious Landscapes"

photographs were featured at the St. Paul, Minn., Jewish Community Center. Her one-person "Trees of Life" exhibition was featured at A.I.R. Gallery in Brooklyn, N.Y., from May to June. Also in May, two of her pieces were chosen for inclusion in the Living Green 11th Annual Expo: "Senses and Sensibility: A Delicate Balance: the Environment, Sustainability, and an Artist's Voice," at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. She will have two one-person shows at the Jerusalem Theater

## Notes from Friends

in Israel in the coming year. Hofkin also writes that her son Ben was awarded the prize in Talmudic study and received his master's degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

### 1968



**Claire Janosik Griffin** wrote her first young adult novel, *Nowhere to Run*, a contemporary, urban, and fast-paced story about friendship and

choices. Kirkus Reviews awarded it a star for "exceptional merit."

### 1969

**Susan Shaw Phillips** and her husband, George, recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

### 1976

**Susan Ravdin** continues to travel with her husband, Wilfrid de Freitas, all over the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. to exhibit at antiquarian book fairs and attend book auctions and sales. "I'd love to meet any FCS alumnus/a attending one of our fairs. Stop and say hello!" she writes.

### 1977

**Gabriel Schaff '77** and retired FCS choral director and current School archivist Jim Davis gave a



fantastic performance of works by Wagner, Verdi, and Alkan for FCS Upper School students in February. Their commentary on the historical significance of the pieces was magnificent. The duo also performed the set at Rutgers-Camden.

**David Shakespeare** really enjoyed seeing his classmates at last year's Reunion. He and his wife Leslie live outside of Boston in Melrose, MA. His father and former Friends' Central teacher, Ted Shakespeare, lives at Cathedral Village in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, David's kidneys are failing from an inherited disease that both his mother and one of his older brothers died from. David is hoping to find a special person who is willing to be a living kidney donor (they only need one). He has created a web page to reach out to potential donors and supporters. The URL is ShakespeareNeedsAKidney.com. He hopes that alumni/ae will visit the site, say hello, and help him spread the word.

### 1979

**Carol Rubin Fishman** is back to teaching full time at Robert J. Wilf Preschool and Kindergarten at the Kaiserman JCC just up the street from FCS. "I'm loving it!" she writes. The book she co-authored with her mother-in-law, *A Lone Candle: Secrets Too Heavy To Bear*, has been accepted by the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., for sale in its gift shop.

### 1980

**Eileen Flanagan** recently visited South Africa and Botswana, where she served in the Peace Corps over 25 years ago. She is writing articles about how climate change is affecting the region and working on a memoir about consumption.



Eileen Flanagan '80 revisited the school in Botswana where she taught for two and a half years as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

**Rick Walls** is enjoying a successful career as a writer, director, and producer in the Los Angeles area. He has worked on more than 30 feature films. His docu-drama about the rise of marijuana use among inner-city youth, *L-evated: The Blunt Truth*, won national TV programming awards, and his informational piece about green buildings and initiatives in commercial real estate, a *Philadelphia Environment Story*, was nominated for a local Emmy award. In 2009, Walls directed the short film *Angle* that was screened at the Cannes Film Festival.

### 1987

**Paul Paz y Miño** is still living in Oakland, Calif., with his wife, Sue, and children, Gabriel, 4, and Elena, 2. For the past five years, Paz y Miño has been the managing director for the human rights and environmental organization Amazon Watch. This past August, he won a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the CIA in his role as an associate fellow with the Institute for Policy Studies on human rights issues in Colombia. "Despite the distance from home (and this disappointing season), both Gabriel and Elena are growing up as Phillies fans," he writes.





(From left) Sebastian Goldstein '91, Jim Davis, Julie Nathanson Holcomb '91, Greg Goff '91, Terry Guerin, Amy Taxin Rubin '91, and Tiffany Gavin '91

## 1991

Sebastian Goldstein, Julie Nathanson Holcomb, Greg Goff, Amy Taxin Rubin, and Tiffany Gavin got together over the holidays with FCS drama teacher Terry Guerin and retired music teacher Jim Davis. The group of actors and singers watched a video of their production of *West Side Story*, the first musical on which Terry and Jim collaborated at FCS.

## 1994

Maggie Schmitt won the award for the Best Arab Cookbook of 2013 by the jury of the Gourmand International Cookbook Awards for her book, *The Gaza Kitchen: A Palestinian Culinary Journey*. The award was announced to 1,200 representatives of the international cookbook publishing world at a gala event at the Paris International Cookbook Fair.

## 1995

Andrew Scharff spent his sixth summer performing in Myrtle Beach, S.C. In October, he returned to the show cast on the Celebrity Solstice Cruise Ship, which traveled to Jordan, United Arab Emirates, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii.

## 1996

Pablo Colapinto is a part of the team responsible for the visual projections used in the new production of *Parsifal* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.



Tonie Walker '96

**Tonie Walker** joined the FCS Office of Institutional Advancement in January and is working primarily in the areas of Annual

Giving and Alumni/ae Affairs. She graduated from Barnard College and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. She has practiced as a tax litigator in Washington, D.C., and worked in real estate for more than seven years. She recently served as the Academic Advising Coordinator at Penn Law.

## 1998

Patrick Dostal married Courtney Lewis at Christ Church in Philadelphia. Dostal recently finished his residency in internal medicine at Temple Hospital and started his fellowship in geriatrics at the University of Pennsylvania.



Patrick Dostal '98 married Courtney Lewis.

Alexa Dunnington married Graham Quinn on August 31 at the Horticulture Center in Philadelphia. Other 1998 alumni/ae in attendance were **Janel Swaye MacDermott**, **Josh Elgart**, **Jim McCormick**, and **Brendan Tozer**. The wedding was officiated by FCS teacher Jim Rosengarten and attended by some of Alexa's current and former colleagues from FCS. Dunnington has taught 7th and 8th grade Language Arts at Friends' Central, and was recently named the School's Middle School Principal, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Alexa and Graham met at FCS, where he attended 9th and 10th grades.



**Elizabeth Shinn Hulford** self-published a devotional for parents of babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) called *Whispers of a Parent's Heart*. Hulford serves as a chaplain at Adventist Hinsdale

## Notes from Friends

Hospital, and the inspiration for the book came out of her experiences ministering with parents and families in the NICU setting. Each chapter is devoted to a practical issue facing parents and includes a prayer and an inspirational quote from Scripture or literature.

**Dan Silver** was featured in the January 2013 issue of the *Mid Atlantic Thoroughbred* magazine about his new position as director of racing operations with Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, a casino and thoroughbred racehorse track near Harrisburg. He worked for five years for the New York Racing Association and was recognized as a young industry leader by *Thoroughbred Times* in 2010 as a member of its "40 Under 40" class.



Dan Silver '98 with 2011 Preakness Stakes winner Shackleford

### 2000



**Tara Ramchandani Bains** and her husband, Chiraag, welcomed daughter, Roopa Kolar Bains, on November 25, 2012. She weighed

5 lbs, 15 oz and was 20 inches long at birth.

### 2001

**Josh Pasek** is an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Michigan. His recent study, "The Impact of Anti-Black Racism on Approval of Barack Obama's Job Performance and on Voting in the 2012 Presidential Election," was cited extensively in a February article in *The New York Times*.

### 2003

**Ana Nogueira** was cast in Michael J. Fox's new NBC comedy series, which launches in fall 2013. The comedy is inspired by Fox's real life and stars him as Mike Burnaby, a husband and father of three in New York City juggling the challenges of family and career while dealing with Parkinson's disease. A former lead anchor for a local TV station, Mike decides to go back to work after Parkinson's forced him to take time off. Nogueira will play Kay, Mike's hard-working segment producer.

### 2004

**Nora Paul-Schultz** graduated from Tufts University with a master's in secondary science education. She teaches physics at Chelsea High School and lives in Somerville, Mass.

### 2005

**Geneva Campbell** will be graduating from Penn Law School this spring and will be clerking for Federal District Court Judge Raymond Jackson in the Eastern District of Virginia for one year. Campbell will start at as an associate in intellectual property at Dechert, LLP after her clerkship.

**Ellen Hemingway** has been tutoring a 16-year-old boy with autism for the past two years. "It is the most rewarding thing I have ever done," she writes. "My work with him has inspired me to pursue a

master's degree in special education from Drexel University. I am continuously grateful to the FCS teachers and community for instilling in me the patience and the work ethic to go into this field."

**Jacob Weisfeld** is the co-president of the Art Law Society at Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law where he is a third-year student. He participated in the National Cultural Heritage 2012 Moot Court in Chicago where his team was a quarterfinalist. Weisfeld will serve as a team captain in the 2013 competition. He currently lives in Brooklyn.

### 2006

**Dwight Dunston** and **Robert Ricketts** are currently a part of the four-piece indie urban-folk band, Token Prospects. "We have been playing all around Philadelphia and have been enjoying getting out, meeting new friends, and making people smile," Dunston writes.



Robert Ricketts '06 (left) and Dwight Dunston '06 (second from left) are part of the indie urban-folk band, Token Prospects.

### 2007

**Jacob Fogel** has worked this year at Friends' Central, helping out in the Office of Institutional Advancement, substitute teaching, and, serving as history



teacher Jim Rosengarten's sabbatical replacement. Fogel has also served as assistant coach for the Water Polo, Wrestling, and Track & Field teams.



Fernando Jones '08 (left) and Jacob Fogel '07 have lent their services to FCS in many ways this year.

**Jeremy Greenbaum** is touring with the traveling show *Madagascar Live!* He is performing as Melman the giraffe and is currently touring Europe.

**Laura Matey** is serving as the education apprentice for the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia.

## 2008

**Fernando Jones** is working this year at Friends' Central as a technology intern, learning about all aspects of FCS technology and systems while providing tech support to the School. He also was a member of the Middle School Wrestling coaching staff, as well as assisting the Upper School wrestling teams.



**Scott Kunz** graduated from Carnegie Mellon last spring with a dual degree in biomedical and mechanical engineering.

After a few weeks at his first job with a manufacturing company in Indiana, he took a risk and "jumped into my car and headed back to Pittsburgh to work on my dream, starting my own company," he writes. Kunz is now co-founder and CEO of Modern Mobility,



An FCS contingent of teachers and classmates made the trip to see Lizzy Marmon '09 perform in George Washington University's production of *Sweeney Todd*. From left are Natalie Willis, Emily Harnett, Sakina Abdus Shakur, Al Vernacchio, Marmon, Terry Guerin, and Eric Sullivan McMorris.

a company that makes innovative braces for scoliosis. He is also the owner of ProfessionalSEOGuru, an online management business. "The businesses I've started are not what's important," Kunz writes, "but rather my decision to go after what I wanted to do and what everyone had told me was too risky. I've lost my ability to procrastinate, and I'm excited about what the future holds for me. So, if you ever have that thought in the back of your head, that nagging voice that tells you to go against the grain, I highly recommend it."

## 2009

**Lizzy Marmon** played the role of Mrs. Lovett in George Washington University's production of *Sweeney Todd*. Says one review of the play, "Marmon eschews the coy histrionics of other Lovetts I have seen and often steals the show with an almost peerless sense of comic timing and delivery." An FCS contingent of teachers and classmates made the trip to Washington, D.C., to see the show and support Lizzy this past November.

## 2010

**Megan Holt** was named a captain of the Haverford College field hockey team this past season. She led the Fords to the conference championship game for the second time in three years and a ranking

of 19th in the National Field Hockey Coaches Association final poll.

**Charlotte James** attends Johns Hopkins University and was awarded a summer 2012 internship from the university's Center for Social Concern. As a member of the Community Impact Internship Program (CIIP), James worked in the mayor's office assisting in the coordination of the City's first Baltimore Project Homeless Connect. The project provided a single location where multidisciplinary service providers collaborated to serve and empower people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. James is spending her junior year abroad; this fall, she studied Portuguese and continued her research on homelessness in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. She is studying at the Universidad Catolica de Cordoba, Argentina, this spring.

## 2011

**Adam Posner** was named to the fall 2012 Dean's List of Franklin & Marshall College.

## In Memoriam

### Alumni/ae

Henry Edmunds '36  
Elizabeth Leiby Hiller '57  
Michael Ritter '61



# WINDOW TO THE PAST

The Blackburn Library is now home to the only remaining piece of Friends' Central's original school building at 4th and Cherry Streets in Philadelphia: a spoke-wheel window that was saved when the building was torn down. The window hangs behind the library's front desk and represents a push by Archivist Jim Davis to get more pieces out of storage and into displays across the two Friends' Central School campuses.

BY JIM MACK

As Friends' Central relocated and grew over the years, this "bulls-eye" window moved along with the flow of the School, from one storage area to another. How the piece survived is a mystery. In the early 1980's, Clayton Farraday, who, by that time, had retired from teaching and served as the School's archivist, had secured the window in archives room on the second floor of the library. There it sat until Jim Davis found it as he was taking inventory of the room he inherited when he took on the role of archivist in 2011. The window, while in good shape, had several panes that needed to be replaced, and Davis dispatched the piece to the basement of Shallcross Hall until he could either clear out room in the archives, or find a permanent location for the window.

This past winter, Library Director Mary Fran Torpey was in search of something to put on the wall behind the library's front desk. During her visit to the archives, Davis suggested the bulls-eye window, and they agreed that it would be the perfect centerpiece for a display about the earliest years of Friends' Central. Accompanying the window are photos of the first school

buildings, a historical map showing the locations of Friends' Central's first two schools, and descriptive text explaining the significance of the pieces. The window display has become a popular conversation piece in this high-traffic area of campus. Visitors to the library have asked to inspect the window and photos and to read the inscriptions — which is exactly what Davis and Torpey were hoping.

Farraday once told Davis that, "It is important to recognize that the School is what it is now because of what it was." For Davis, there is an ongoing story that links the School, and this window is the only artifact that takes

us back to the beginning of that story. He hopes that seeing this modest piece of FCS history "is a reminder of the trajectory that the School has been on."

The window display in the library is an example of Davis' broader goal of increasing access to Friends' Central's archival collection. "I want the archives to be something that people can take inspiration from, something that will make people ponder the ways that FCS has shaped us," Davis says. "The library is the perfect place for the window to be, for what is a library but a collection that both links us together and to our past."

With increasing access in mind, Davis and his stable of volunteers have embarked on the tedious process of scanning and digitizing archival photos. Davis is also working with teachers and administrators to create more "mini-exhibits" in visible areas of campus. The latest project is a collection of historical scientific instruments including microscopes from the 1920's, meters, magnets, and a gas extractor, which will be on display in the Fannie Cox Center for Science, Math, and Technology. Davis also continues to assist teachers with their lessons, recently loaning a set of student newspapers from the 1960's to Jim Rosengarten's history class.

"Archives are not supposed to remain untouched," Davis says. "My job is not only to preserve the collection but also to make the whole community aware of our past. I want to get our story out there. QW

FCS Archivist Jim Davis (left) and Library Director Mary Fran Torpey worked together to bring a piece of Friends' Central history to a high-traffic area of campus.





# THE LIZA BLACKBURN LEGACY



## Leave a Legacy to Guarantee Excellence Over Time. *This Teacher Did!*

**T**hroughout Friends' Central's history, teachers have touched the lives of our students, creating a legacy of intellectual pursuits and devotion to school. Some, like Liza Blackburn, continue to touch the lives of students today.

Liza Blackburn graduated from Friends' Central School in 1922. She returned to School where she became the Director of Girls Athletics, Assistant Dean for Girls, coached field hockey, basketball and tennis and taught social studies. Her career at Friends' Central spanned 42 years from 1925 to 1967. Ever a generous supporter during her life, Liza

included Friends' Central in her estate plan. This thoughtful and generous decision ensures that Liza Blackburn's devotion to Friends' Central will always be present in the lives of Friends' Central students and teachers.

We invite you to follow her example and join the society named for her, The Blackburn Society. Membership in this Society is granted to those who, like Liza Blackburn, include Friends' Central in their estate plans. The generous legacies provided by society members will truly guarantee excellence over time.



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

To learn more about joining the Blackburn Society and leaving your own legacy, please contact Lydia Martin at 610.645.5034 or [lmartin@friendscentral.org](mailto:lmartin@friendscentral.org).



FRIENDS'  
CENTRAL  
SCHOOL

1101 City Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096-3490  
[www.friendscentral.org](http://www.friendscentral.org)



FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL



**MAY 11, 2013**

*Congratulations to our*  
**2013 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS/A AWARD WINNERS!**



**James Murdock '73**



**Lexy Lovell '78**

LEARN MORE AT  
[www.friendscentral.org/alumni/reunion](http://www.friendscentral.org/alumni/reunion)