


The Magazine of Friends' Central School

Quaker Works

13:1 Fall 2021

A portrait of Beth D. Johnson '77, Interim Head of Friends' Central School. She is a Black woman with short, dark, curly hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a black top and a yellow and black patterned scarf. The background is a blurred bookshelf.

Beth D. Johnson '77,
Interim Head of Friends' Central School

COMMENCEMENT
Celebrating the Class of 2021

REUNION 2021
The First-Ever Virtual Reunion

ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS
2020-2021



ON THE COVER

Beth D. Johnson '77,
Friends' Central's
Interim Head of
School

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Quaker Works

The Magazine of Friends' Central School

Interim Head of School

Beth D. Johnson '77

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On June 12, 2021, we celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2021 at Commencement. Read the full story on page 24.

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Letter from the Head of School

Dear Friends,

Welcome to *Quaker Works* Fall 2021!

As I begin my tenure as Interim Head of Friends' Central School, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the warmth of your welcome. Leading our beloved school is an enormous and exciting responsibility. I am thrilled by the support and encouragement of our current students and families, alumni/ae, parents of alumni/ae, present and former colleagues and trustees, and friends. I look forward to the many things we can accomplish together!

In this issue, we look back at spring and summer 2021 and celebrate the many accomplishments of our faculty and our students, particularly the members of the Class of 2021 who graduated in June. We also reflect back on Reunion 2021, which, unlike Commencement, took place virtually this year but was nonetheless remarkably well attended, with over 400 FCS alums Zooming in from across the country and internationally.

You will also see photos from our first-ever Community Celebration on September 12, an event that served to kick off the school year and my time as interim head. On the 12th, community members from every constituency came together on a beautiful afternoon – dressed in our blue, gray, and white, masked and physically distant but so happy to see each other and enjoy the many activities available for all ages. September 12 was a glorious way to open the school year. It was a powerful reminder that, despite what is happening in the world, there is joy, peace, and tranquility at Friends' Central, and I am grateful to be a part of it. Thanks to the FCS organizers and the many volunteers who made this phenomenal event possible.

The Annual Report of gifts 2020-2021 – beginning on page 33 – is a further heart-warming testament to the generous spirit of the FCS community. We celebrate the highest level of philanthropy in 10 years!

The 2021-2022 school year launched with enthusiasm, joy, resilience, and adaptability. We are so grateful to be back on campus, and we are equally determined to face the year's COVID challenges together. I am filled with appreciation for this community.

I hope to see you soon – in person or virtually – and I wish you all a wonderful fall!

Beth D. Johnson '77
Interim Head of School



FCS COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Current FCS families, alumni/ae, faculty, staff, trustees, and friends came together for an afternoon of fun in September to usher in the new school year and welcome Beth D. Johnson '77 as Interim Head of School. It was a wonderful day, full of FCS spirit and celebration! See page 19 for more photos.

(Back row, from left) The Johnson family at the Community Celebration: Tanya Johnson Muse '02, Omar '26, Martin Johnson, Beth D. Johnson '77, Kristen Johnson Reid '03, Jani Reid, Thomas Reid; (front row, from left) Nathan '30, Madison, and McKenna



Campus Log

FOR MORE SCHOOL NEWS, VISIT
FRIENDSCENTRAL.ORG/NEWS



INTERNATIONAL SENIOR FAMILY EVENT

On the last day of school, June 11, a virtual celebration was held in honor of our international seniors and their families who were unable to attend Commencement 2021 due to the pandemic. Several international FCS alumni/ae took part to help mark the occasion and provide assistance with translation. Pictured addressing the international families is Zhihao Liu '20.



The Middle School Latin Banquet was held in Shimada Gym this June.

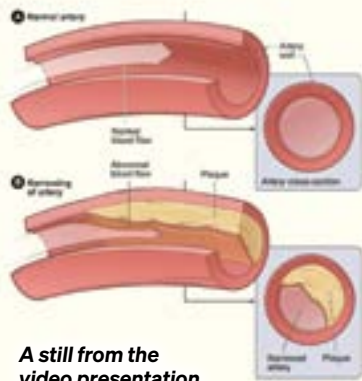


Students sharing their projects at the Grade 7 History Fair in June



ATTIC TREASURE CHALLENGE

On a rainy day in April, grade five students used the 4Cs (*Collaboration, Communication, Critical thinking, and Creativity*) to successfully solve the "Attic Treasure" breakout challenge. Created and facilitated by technology teacher Sue Borrero, the challenge involved deciphering seemingly random clues to unlock numerical, word, and directional locks and gain access to the treasure.



A still from the video presentation

ANNENBERG SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

On April 8, FCS Upper School students participated in the Annenberg High School Science Symposium, a program designed to promote discourse among high school science students in the area. Each hospital in the Main Line Health system hosts an annual event to promote science and medicine to local high schools. Current seniors Katarina Siggelkow, Daniel Saligman, Thomas McCabe, Sophie O'Beirne, Kai Davidson, and Caroline Goodwin all took part this spring. The students submitted a presentation, titled *Bioprinting Cardiac Tissue to Repair Damage Due to Heart Attacks*, to four other local schools and doctors, nurses, and medical residents from Main Line Health.



WORLD BOOK DAY AT THE LOWER SCHOOL

The Lower School celebrated World Book Day on April 23 with a range of festivities, including an outdoor lunch and parade for Kindergarten and read alouds via Zoom. Teachers and students alike came dressed as their favorite book characters to mark the day.

PHILADELPHIA CLASSICAL SOCIETY ACCOLADES

FCS had phenomenal results at this year's Philadelphia Classical Society banquet, taking home 27 awards and the top prize overall! FCS accolades included four Best-of-Show winners: An Huynh '24, Julia Sparrow '26, and Ha-Eun Choi '21 (who won two!). Ha-Eun's painting depicting Icarus plunging into the sea won the 2021 Best of Show – the top overall prize! An awards ceremony was held in May at Drexelbrook. Congratulations to all the winners!



Fourth grade students demonstrated their innovative robotic creations at the Grade 4 Robotics Fair in May.



KAYLA FOY NAMED TO THE ROOT "FUTURE 25 LIST"

Congratulations to Kayla Foy '21 who was named to the 'Future 25 List' by *The Root*! Kayla logged hundreds of volunteer hours with the Black Doctors COVID Consortium this year and is attending Xavier University this fall, pursuing a dual degree in biomedical engineering and biology.

READ ALOUD WITH ERICA SNOWDEN

In April, students in grades 3-5 had a virtual assembly with Erica Snowden, Director of Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion, who read them the book *Martin & Anne: The Kindred Spirits of Dr. King and Anne Frank*. Students created Venn diagrams to compare and contrast Dr. King and Anne Frank. The activity and discussion had students look at how we are more alike than different.



Lower School faculty and staff were fittingly dressed as superheroes during Lower School's Spirit Week in June.

CAMPUS LOG

PHYSICS BOAT RACE



Thabo Tsotetsi '21 and Taylor Snowden '21, navigating their winning vessel across the pool

In April, the Physics Boat Race featured boats made by teams of Upper School Physics students. The winners were Thabo Tsotetsi '21, Inara Shell '21, and Taylor Snowden '21, with their boat, the "Thinaylor."

Middle Schoolers at their dress rehearsal of an adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



MARKING JUNETEENTH

On June 19, Erica Snowden, Director of Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion, invited families in all divisions to join her in celebrating Juneteenth, an annual holiday to mark the end of enslavement. Via Zoom, Erica read a picture book about Juneteenth, and attendees learned a little about the celebration and why it's important. Several people shared stories of how they celebrate Juneteenth and what it means to them.

SENIOR FEATURED IN SCIENCE NEWS FOR STUDENTS

In April, Sophia David '21 was featured in *Science News for Students* for her research in partnership with the Complex Systems Lab at the University of Pennsylvania on how humans trace patterns of stars in the night sky. Sophia had the opportunity to work with a diverse group of postdoctoral fellows, doctoral students, and undergraduate students at the Complex Systems Lab. The project Sophia and team worked on was about understanding why people from different cultures and time periods perceived star constellations in similar ways. Sophia presented the team's findings, a paper titled *Free Energy Model of the Human Perception of a Starry Sky*, on March 18 at an online meeting of the American Physical Society.

ACCOLADES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL HARPIST

This spring, Aria Fiorillo '25 placed second in the big harp competition held by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Harp Society. At this, her first harp competition, Aria had been slated to be in Division II based on her skill level and age. However, she opted to compete in Division III, for older and more advanced students. First and second place winners performed at the virtual Winners' Recital on April 18.

ALL-STATE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

This spring, Ben Allen '21 and Claire Samaha '23 were both selected for All-State instrumental groups. Ben, who plays the trumpet, is a member of the All-State Concert Band, and Claire, who plays the alto saxophone, was selected for the All-State Wind Ensemble. Congratulations to both!

MOOT COURT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Jared Miller '22 and Dev Gupta '23 on their third-place finish in the Baldwin Moot Court Tournament in April. The pair presented oral argument on a real-life case, *Baxter v. Bracey*, which posed issues involving the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the doctrine of qualified immunity. Jared was one of only two students in the tournament to receive an Outstanding Attorney Award for the top individual lawyers.



MIDDLE SCHOOL POETRY DAY

In early June, grade six students held a poetry reading and shared their poetry decorated on trees across campus (pictured above). They transformed Linton Gym into an enchanting coffee house. Students presented poetry, participated in a gallery walk, and celebrated the creativity of their classmates.

History on the Streets



At the Philadelphia Museum of Art with Nelson Hammond

During the last several weeks of the semester last spring, seven seniors participated in a Philadelphia History seminar in lieu of the usual individualized senior projects made much more difficult to plan by the pandemic. By then, things were looking up with respect to vaccination rates, and the Delta variant had not yet begun to make its presence felt. The weather was perfect, not too hot, and there was virtually no precipitation, enabling us to be out and about a couple of days a week.

Our first trip centered on the Wyck House in Germantown. The oldest part of the structure was built in the late 1600s, just a few years after the colony was established. Its earliest owner was a Quaker, and it stayed in the same family until the 1970s. That day, we also visited some of the sites of the Battle of Germantown and two Quaker schools directly across the street from each other, one of which was set up, like Friends' Central, as a breakaway Hicksite school during the Great (Quaker) Schism in the mid-19th century.

Later outings included visits to the former Institute for Colored Youth, one of the very early private schools for Black students in the U.S. Set up by a group of Quakers in 1837. The faculty was composed entirely of African Americans, probably a first. Stops were also made at Washington Square, The Philadelphia Athenaeum, and the site of the home of James Forten, an African American who fought in the War for Independence and went on to become a prominent business owner and abolitionist. Early German arrivals to the colony brought their beer-making traditions, and brewing has been an important industry in the city since its founding. We discussed its history and visited a new brewery recently built in an old 19th century industrial building next to the Wayne

Junction train station. The latter was one of the busiest in the country at the turn of the 20th century. Passengers could embark on trains bound for cities up and down the East Coast and west all the way to California.

The seniors gave presentations on the histories of a number of the universities and colleges that make their homes in Philadelphia and highlighted ways in which these institutions have both reflected and contributed to the history of the city.

Students read and discussed *First City*, a work about the making of the history of Philadelphia and also read *A Short History of Philadelphia from its Foundation to the Present Time*, both a history and an historical document published in 1887. We also enjoyed a live Zoom tour of the main building at Girard College.

Several members of the wider Friends' Central community generously contributed their time and expertise to the seminar.

Nelson Hammond, longtime security staffer and former FCS parent, hosted our visit to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where he also works. The major renovation of the west entrance had just been completed, and we were wowed by the beautiful spaces and the natural light that filled them.

Jon Grinspan '02, historian, curator at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. and author of a new book, *The Age of Acrimony: How Americans Fought to Fix Their Democracy, 1865-1915*, met with us via Zoom and talked about William Kelley, a Philadelphian who represented the city in the U.S. Congress from 1861-1890. He is a central figure in Grinspan's latest work.

Steve Chawaga, husband of faculty member Laurie Novo and parent of FCS alums, met us at the Laurel Hill Cemetery (est. 1836) in East Falls and gave us a wonderful tour of what was only the second major garden cemetery in the United States and whose internees are a who's who of Philadelphia history.

The seminar was full of reminders of the degree to which we are surrounded by our local history, most of the time unconsciously. As one student noted on our first trip to Germantown, "It's almost overwhelming that such pivotal events occurred along School House Lane and that [soldiers of the Continental Army camped on the fields the day before the Battle of Germantown] where I run and play baseball in Friends League meets and games. I'm becoming more appreciative of my upbringing near Philadelphia."

Friends' Central, whose first 80 years were spent at 4th and Cherry in what is now "Old City," is very much an integral part of Philadelphia's rich history, and we should take more opportunities to venture out into the city.

Grant Calder, P '20

Director of College Counseling & Upper School History Teacher

FCS on the Stage

The spring Upper School musical, *Songs for a New World*, was a work of musical theatre written and composed by Jason Robert Brown and originally produced Off-Broadway at the WPA Theatre in 1995. This highly creative Upper School production took place outside in May, behind the Main Building, with the setting of the sun transforming the lighting as the performance progressed.



CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

This May, the Spring Concert was combined with the Upper School Arts Banquet for a virtual celebration of the arts. The community-wide event featured live instrumental music, choral recordings, and visual artwork. The arts department premiered a website showcasing additional visual art and an opportunity to revisit past performances from this year.



LOWER SCHOOL SPRING SING

The Lower School Spring Sing in May was a beautiful community-wide event featuring several teachers and the 3rd-5th grade chorus. This virtual evening also celebrated the artwork of Lower School artists and marked a unique and memorable year that will remain with us forever. Attendees were invited to sing along to the live music provided by teachers Galen Guindon '06, Sofia Seidel '13, and Lauren Tedesco '05.



GRADE 9 & 10 PLAY

The Grade 9 & 10 Play this year was a hit! Ably and enthusiastically directed by seniors Cathy Hebert and Claire May, it featured songs, monologues, and scenes. Congratulations to the directors and the talented singers and performers: Savina Copas '24, Emma Wusinich '23, Mollie Kenney '23, Alex Rice '23, Lindsay McVail '23, Lucy Shea '23, Wesley Bozman '24, Quin Stovall '24, Sylvie Hoffman '24, and Mira LeVine '23.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL, JR.

This spring's Middle School musical was a fabulous and inventive production of *High School Musical Jr.*! The play was safely filmed from home, on green screen, and around our campus. The result was an innovative and fun multimedia event, shared on the Middle School Theater website. Congratulations to the cast and crew!





GRADE EIGHT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

At a ceremony in June, seven grade eight students received awards for outstanding citizenship during their Middle School years. Award recipients were (pictured at left, from left) Duncan, Charles, Alex, Aria, Sasha, Logyn, and Elio. Congratulations to all on setting an example of "letting their lives speak" at FCS and in the wider world!



GRADE 3 "STORY OF ME"

At a virtual assembly in June, students in 3B were excited to share their end-of-year storytelling projects titled "Story of Me." Pictured above is a still from the video presentation.



SCRAMBLED STATES OF AMERICA

Grade four students were excited to share their puppet show/movie titled *The Scrambled States of America* at an assembly in June. Above is a still from their movie.



LOWER SCHOOL MEETING FOR COMMUNITY

In May, the entire Lower School community came together for a Meeting for Community. Serenaded by teachers Natalie Martin and Galen Guindon '06 (above right), the students made their way to the outdoor Meeting at the Pavilion, which was draped in colorful flags created by the students themselves.

FCS COLLEGE COUNSELING UPDATE

We are thrilled to announce that a third college counselor joined our office this September. Sonja Bhan brings a broad range of experience in undergraduate and graduate admissions at Barnard College and the University of Pennsylvania and in college counseling at King's Academy in Jordan and the Tanglin Trust School in Singapore. She has also worked as an education consultant at World Education Services and School Choice International. We are already enjoying her company and appreciating her expertise. Sonja will support our work with the 12th grade in the fall and begin working individually with a portion of the 11th grade upon our return from Winter Break.

During the past school year, our college counseling office felt the impact of the pandemic much less than the academic departments in the School. One-on-one and group Zoom sessions worked very well, given the nature of our services and needs. Still, we were extremely happy to begin meeting with students again in person over the summer. Last year, all of our scheduled visits by college admissions officers were virtual. This year, most of them will again be in person, and we will also host a number via Zoom. The 2021-2022 admissions cycle will also see the continuation of the test-optional policy at most colleges and universities.

By the time you read this college counseling update, most of the hundred or so scheduled visits by college representatives will have occurred, and many of the current 12th graders will have submitted multiple college applications. Some may already have received admissions decisions for the fall of 2022. In November, we will co-sponsor our annual financial aid night event and host our own "Nuts and Bolts" session introducing 11th graders and their families to the college process and admissions calendar for the 2022-2023 cycle.

The Friends' Central College Counseling Office



Sonja Bhan

CRAIG N. SELLERS PAVILION & GREEN DEDICATION

On June 6, a dedication ceremony was held for the Craig N. Sellers Pavilion & Green at the Lower School to honor Craig N. Sellers' nine-year term as Head of School.

(Pictured at right) The Sellers family: (from left) Bridgman '15, Shirley Simpson (Craig's mother), Craig N. Sellers, Cary Sellers, and Clare '18; (below) The Craig N. Sellers Pavilion & Green



FCS SCIENCE PROGRAM PUBLISHES SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ARTICLE

Friends' Central's first ever scientific research article naming a previously unrecognized moth species was released in *The Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society* this June. Spearheaded and co-authored by Upper School science teacher John Gruber, the paper is the culmination of activities over several years, including a Summer Science Institute for students from West Philadelphia and the lab and field work of several former and current FCS students. It also grew out of the summer Hendrie fund support for field work in New Mexico and Arizona. The work represents the first ever peer-reviewed scientific journal publication to come directly out of the FCS science program.



(From left) G'ianni Rowley, Makayla Washington, and Myanah Martin

The initial identifying of the moth species – named *Allypiodes flavilinguis* Grote – was due, in large part, to chance. John Gruber had been working for a number of years with FCS students, collecting samples and studying the DNA of groups of North American emerald moths, his specialty area. In July 2017, John made a field trip to New Mexico to collect moth specimens. That August, in his science classroom at FCS, he held the first DNA Science Summer Camp, a molecular genetics program, co-sponsored by Main Line Health, for students from West Philadelphia. Three young women from West Philadelphia – G'ianni Rowley, Makayla Washington, and Myanah Martin – who participated in the program for one week that August, were instrumental in the moth discovery. The young women were learning about genetics and DNA science, and for this educational exercise, John offered them a box of moth specimens he'd recently brought back from New Mexico. He asked them to select a moth that they would then sequence and then show, via the DNA sequencing, that it belonged to the expected species.

What they uncovered was an unrecognized species of moth – not technically “new” because it had been seen, known, collected, and given a name in the 19th century.



(Top row) *Allypiodes flavilinguis* Grote, the moth species rediscovered by the FCS team; (bottom row) *Allypiodes bimaculata*, a similar-appearing species, originally believed to be the same species

It was, however, not an existing part of the current insect fauna in the US, and John and team were able to demonstrate with the DNA and a great deal of work that it was a real and distinct species.

“Even more fascinating,” John said, “was the fact that this moth had been named in the 1800s in one of the very first expeditions by a Professor Frederick Snow who founded the Biology department at the University of Kansas. He was there in the 1880s, he did the first meaningful insect collections in New Mexico, he found this moth, and he named it (*flavilinguis*).” In 1900, however, the moth was determined to be just another sample of an already classified moth species, and the species name was dropped.

There were a number of FCS students, current and graduated, who were instrumental to this DNA research project – Sara Bergmann '19, Shelby Harris '19, Jade Halpern '20, Lindsey Schweitzer '20, and Day'Mon Wimberly '22. These students did all the additional DNA sequences that were required. The students all volunteered their after-school hours to be a part of John's research team and carry out this biodiversity work in the lab, in a teacher-student lab collaboration far more typical of the college experience than high school.

In June 2021, the paper – co-authored by John W. Gruber, Tanner A. Matson, and David L. Wagner – was published, with recognition given to G'ianni, Makayla, and Myanah for the role they played, as well as to the many FCS students who worked on the project.

Excerpted from the full article published on fcsfeatures.org, FCS' online magazine.

Read about Friends' Central's first ever endowed teaching chair on page 38!

Marking Transitions in Grade 5 and Grade 8

GRADE FIVE BELL-RINGING CEREMONY AND "CLAP-OUT"

During the last week of school in June, the Lower School community came together to celebrate the transition of fifth grade students to Middle School. Transition events included an All-Lower-School "Clap-Out" for the fifth grade (pictured above) and the traditional Bell-Ringing ceremony, where each fifth grade student rings the Lower School Friendship Bell to mark the conclusion of their Lower School journey and the beginning of their Middle School years.

(Below, clockwise from left) Tyren, Leah, Elliott, and Karishma at the 2021 Bell-Ringing Ceremony





GRADE EIGHT MEETING FOR LEAVING 2021

On Thursday, June 10, the Middle School celebrated eighth graders at the Meeting for Leaving, a ceremony in which eighth graders cross a symbolic threshold as they complete their Middle School years.

Another traditional end-of-year culminating event was the Grade 8 Showcase. Normally held in person, this year, the Showcase evening took the form of Showcase video watch parties, where students shared their wonderful projects with each other.

(This page, clockwise from top left) Trina; Sasba; Middle School Principal Alexa Quinn and faculty members clap in recognition of each grade eight student as they cross the threshold; Gabe Moore



VISITORS TO CAMPUS



PLAYWRIGHT JAMES IJAMES

Our **2020-2021 Distinguished Visiting Humanities Lecturer** was James Ijames, an award-winning Philadelphia-based playwright, director, performer, and educator. At his virtual lecture to the community on April 22, Ijames spoke about his formation as a playwright and his work, including his play *Fat Ham*, which premiered in digital form this spring at the Wilma Theater and is described as a "contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare's Hamlet, set on a pig farm in the American South, that explores big issues (like toxic masculinity and cycles of violence) with a light touch." Ijames is Assistant Professor of Theatre at Villanova University. He is also a co-artistic director of the Wilma Theater. Ijames met with FCS students in the Humanities Core Team over the course of the day before his virtual talk and live Q&A in the evening.



EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGIST ROBIN HOPKINS

In early April, Friends' Central was thrilled to host Robin Hopkins, Ph.D. as our **2020-2021 Distinguished Visiting Scientist**. Hopkins is an evolutionary biologist with a deep background in botany, ecology, plant-pollinator relationships, and the dynamics of natural selection and speciation. She delivered a community-wide virtual lecture titled *The Beauty and Complexity of Mate Choice in Plants*, where she shared her research with Phlox species in Texas – a fascinating story of how plants have evolved some flower colors to ensure that pollinators will serve the plants' reproductive interests by avoiding inter-specific hybridization. Prior to her talk, Hopkins met virtually with FCS Science Core Team students and shared a video for them that offered a narrated personal tour of the research labs and greenhouses where she works.

2021-2022 DISTINGUISHED VISITING LECTURERS

Tiffany Jewell

Distinguished Visiting Justice Leader
October 14, 2021

Jon Grinspan '02

Distinguished Humanities Lecturer
March 15, 2022

Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd

Distinguished Visiting Scientist
April 14, 2022



KOREAN PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

In May, the Lower School was treated to a performance by a Korean drumming ensemble at an assembly. Founded in 2018, URIOL is a traditional Korean percussion ensemble based in Philadelphia. Lower School science teacher Natalie Martin is a member of URIOL, so the students saw a familiar face among the performers!

URIOL explores and creates new music for traditional percussion instruments. Hyunjin Cha, artistic director of URIOL, is a former performer and director of programming and operations for Dulsori, a world-renowned Korean music ensemble that has performed in over 54 countries.



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR PETER STERN

On April 9, Middle and Upper School students had a special Zoom presentation by Peter Stern. Mr. Stern is a survivor of the Holocaust, and we were honored to welcome him and learn from his life story. He shared his experience of growing up as a Jewish boy in Nazi Germany and recounted his story of survival. It was an incredibly powerful and moving presentation. Mr. Stern's visit was scheduled to coincide with Yom Hashoah and the United States' Days of Remembrance for the Holocaust.



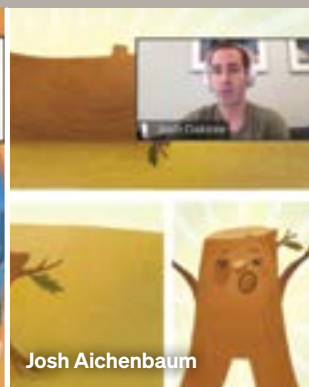
Jacqueline Davies

LOWER SCHOOL AUTHOR VISITS

Best-selling author Jacqueline Davies paid a visit to the Lower School in April for a virtual author event with grades K-2. She read aloud from her newly published book, *Sydney and Taylor Explore the Whole Wide World*. Authors Hena Khan and Josh Aichenbaum, an FCS alum from the Class of 2007, both paid virtual visits to the Lower School on May 7. Hena Khan spoke to grades 3-5 students about her new book, *Amina's Song*, and Josh Aichenbaum met with Pre-K-grade 2 students to read from his book *Do You Speak Tree?*



Hena Khan

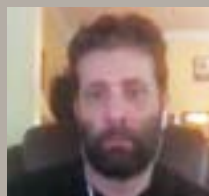


Josh Aichenbaum



SUSTAINABILITY CLUB VISITORS

Jon Leshner (pictured at top), Principal Environmental Planner with the Montgomery County Planning Commission, and David Richman, a member of Lower Merion Township's Environmental Advisory Council, visited the Upper School Sustainability Club in April. Jon spoke about his efforts to convince municipalities to make sustainable choices regarding land use. David also works with the Lower Merion Municipality to make more sustainable choices. As David told the students, "Whatever we do that makes a difference can resonate beyond the immediate impact we have."



AARON MINTZES

For Earth Day 2021 in April, Aaron Mintzes, Senior Policy Counsel for Earthworks, gave a presentation to the Middle School about the organization. Earthworks is a nonprofit operating in most states with oil, gas, and mining development, including Pennsylvania. Earthworks partners with communities impacted by invisible air pollution from oil and gas facilities; they make pollution visible using infrared cameras to expose the oil and gas industry's pollution to the public and regulators, and they advocate for more protective policy change at all levels of government.

BROADWAY WIG DESIGNER

In May, Mary Kay Yezerski visited Michele Zuckman's Block 2 Musical Theater class to discuss her work. Mary is a wig designer for *Wicked* on Broadway.



KATHLEEN GRIMES

In May, the Upper School ABAR (Anti-Bias Antiracism) Club met with Kathleen Grimes, Ph.D., a renowned expert on anti-black racism and on the relationship between Catholicism and White Supremacy. Grimes spoke about her work and the pushback she encounters, the importance of dismantling anti-black racism (and other forms of racism), and how we can be better allies.



ATHLETIC NEWS



Luke Buscaglia was named Main Line Boys Athlete of the Week in May.

RECORD-SETTING SEASON FOR FCS BASEBALL

The FCS baseball team ended the season with a 25-6 overall record, marking the team's best season in years and eclipsing the most wins ever for FCS boys baseball. During the make-shift post-season tournament, called "The Comeback Classic," the team had a six-game winning streak which ended by defeating Perikomen School 7-5. Luke Buscaglia '22 (pictured above, at right) was named the Main Line Boys Athlete of the Week in May. As an 11th Grader, Luke was batting .439 with a .609 on-base percentage and had 27 stolen bases and 24 RBIs for the Phoenix. In his interview he said, "Coach Rubin is the main reason why I came to Friends' Central. I am so grateful to be a part of the program that he has built, for his commitment to our team, and the high standards that he holds us to. I am thankful for his guidance over the past three years both on and off the field."

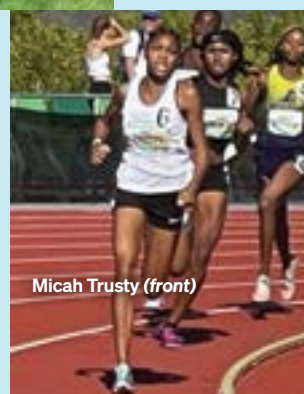


FIFTH CONSECUTIVE TITLE FOR GIRLS' TRACK AND FIELD

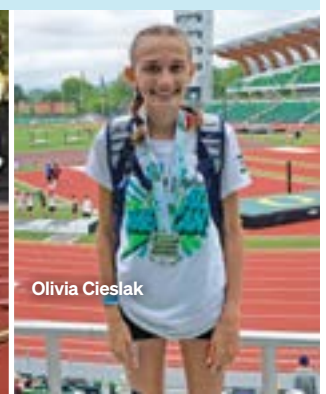
Friends' Central School won their fifth consecutive Track and Field Friends Schools League Championship with a score of 115-92. The Phoenix won seven of the 14 events, led by Inara Shell '21, who won three individual events (200M, Long Jump, and the Triple Jump). Other winners for the Phoenix were Micah Trusty '22 in the 400M and Miracle Price '22 in the 800M. The Phoenix also took gold in the 4x400M relay (Anna Gullace '21, Quin Stovall '24, Micah Trusty, and Miracle Price) and 4x800M relay (Sadie Forman '23, Micah Trusty, Quin Stovall, and Natalie Neuhaus '21).

PHOENIX TRACK ACCOLADES

Both Micah Trusty '22 and Olivia Cieslak '25 competed at the National Scholastic Athletics Foundation (NSAF) track & field Outdoor Nationals at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon this summer. Micah finished third in the 800M in Girls 800 Championships in 2:08.37. Olivia finished second in the Middle School Girls Mile in 5:02.97. Congratulations to both!



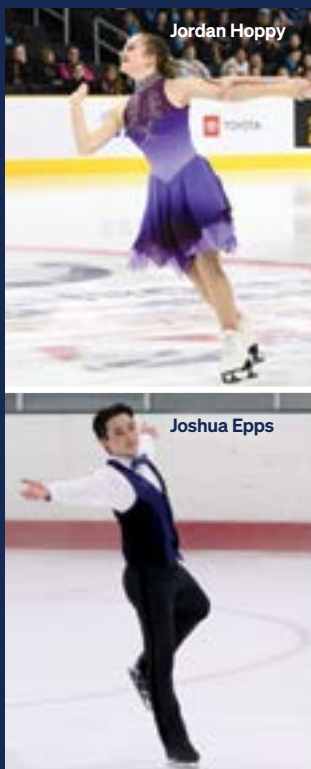
Micah Trusty (front)



Olivia Cieslak

FIGURE SKATING AWARD-WINNERS

The U.S. Figure Skating Graduating Seniors Award recognizes athletes who have participated in figure skating throughout high school; awards are given at the Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze level based on a skater's level of competitive achievement in high school. Selection for this award speaks to a skater's continued commitment to succeeding in their athletic and academic endeavors. Congratulations to Jordan Hoppy '21 on her Platinum level achievement. Jordan will continue with synchronized skating in college with the Hayden Synchro organization in the greater Boston area. Congratulations to Joshua Epps '21 on his Gold level achievement. Josh will continue to skate in college at the club level.



LIFESAVING NATIONAL CHAMPION

This August, Hugh Shields '22 competed in the Under-19 division of the USLA Championships against other young lifeguards in Monmouth County. In an interview, Hugh said, "It was a great time, getting to hang out with the Monmouth County team. I was fortunate to be invited since we didn't have a team from Long Beach Island going. I had a lot of fun being there." Hugh brought home some medals for his prowess in the open water. Competing in the Under-19 division, Shields won a trio of golds and a silver.

Ed Holland in
January 2020



ED HOLLAND '21 RECRUITED BY UPENN

Head Coach of the University of Pennsylvania men's basketball team, Steve Donahue, announced his recruit picks in June as he rebuilds the collegiate basketball team. Ed Holland '21 was one of five exciting prospects. Coach Donahue said in an interview, "All five of these guys have excellent skill sets and I think they will impact our program over the next four years." Ed began playing for the UPenn team this fall.

CAMPUS LOG: ATHLETIC NEWS

FIRST TEAM, ALL-FRIENDS SCHOOL LEAGUE, & PASLA

A number of FCS athletes received First Team, All-Friends School League, and PASLA recognition this spring. All-league and honorable mention squads are selected in each sport at the end of each season by the coaches of that sport under the supervision of the sport commissioner using Quaker decision making principles. Athletic Directors give final approval. In selecting players to the all-league or honorable mention squads sportsmanship is as important as athletic prowess. PASLA recognizes students for not only their athleticism, but also for their work in the classroom. To receive this award, a player must maintain a 3.5 GPA.

FIRST TEAM ALL FRIENDS SCHOOL LEAGUE:

Baseball: Jon Aman '22, Sam Burman '22, Luke Buscaglia '22, Jack Donahoe '21, Johnny Fitzpatrick '22, Lucca Frattone '23, Dylan Posencheg '22, Justin Rubin '21
Golf: Alec Plante '22
Softball: Maria Morsa '24, Kasey Xenidis '24

Tennis: Adam Serota '21, Diego Spielman-Rodriguez '21
Track and Field: Ryan Ellison '21, Kya McBride-Small '23, Ben Meyers '22, Miracle Price '22, Micah Trusty '22, Inara Shell '21, Quin Stovall '24

FRIENDS SCHOOL LEAGUE HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Baseball: Alejandro Flores '23
Golf: Holden Kopcsik '22
Lacrosse: Hallie Bender '21, Maddy Berger '22
Tennis: Wes Bozman '24

PASLA ALL-ACADEMIC (LACROSSE):

Hallie Bender '21
Maddy Berger '22
Leah Anderson '21

Alumni/ae Athletes in the News



Courtesy of
goduke.com

AMILE JEFFERSON '12 was hired by his alma mater Duke to be the Men's Basketball Director of Player Development. After graduating from Duke in 2017, Amile joined the Orlando Magic for 2019-2020 season; he then went on to play internationally. Mike Krzyzewski, Head Coach for the Blue Devils, said of Amile, "It is a thrill to have Amile back in our program ... [He] is truly one of the best representatives of Duke Basketball as a fierce competitor who never took a day off—whether it was in a game, on the practice court, and more importantly, in the classroom."

BRYAN RUBY '13 (formerly Rubin) who plays for the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes recently came out as gay publicly. Bryan is also a successful country singer, and he will be showcased in the upcoming documentary *Out in Nashville*. While he came out four years ago to family and friends, he decided to publicly come out to his teammates, and the world, this summer. In an interview, Bryan said, "I want to help create a world where future generations of baseball players don't have to sacrifice authenticity or who they really are to play the game they love."



Courtesy of usatoday.com



Courtesy of theaudl.com

JUSTIN KELLER '14 was recruited to join the professional ultimate frisbee team, the DC Breeze. The DC Breeze is an open professional ultimate team based in the District of Columbia, competing in the Atlantic Division of the American Ultimate Disc League.

PETER BRADBEER '16 won his second Golf Association of Philadelphia Patterson Cup title this August. He was 12-under 131 at the end of the two-day competition, eclipsing the previous record of 10-under 134 set in 2013 by Brandon Matthews. Peter said in an interview with the *Inquirer*, "Honestly, I'm speechless. I played really well. Sometimes the ball is going to go in the hole when you don't think it's going to go. So I'm just ecstatic to be the 2021 Patterson Cup champion."



Courtesy of
inquirer.com



Photo courtesy of
floridagators.com

GABRIELLE WILKINSON '18, a student at the University of Florida, won the Southeastern Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships gold medal for the first time with a time of 4:15.28 in the 1500M. The women's team took sixth place overall at that competition.



NEW VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH MIKE COOK '02

Mike Cook '02 has taken the helm of Friends' Central's boys' basketball program. As a ninth grade student at FCS, Mike led an incredible turnaround in the program. The Phoenix were 6-10, 1-6 before he arrived. By the time he graduated, the Phoenix were 22-3, 9-0. Mike was the FCS boys' basketball all-time leading scorer with 1800 points, a record that stands to this day. He went on to play with tremendous success at East Carolina University and then at the University of Pittsburgh. Mike then played for seven seasons overseas. After his playing career, Mike returned to FCS in 2016 to serve as Assistant Director of Admissions and Athletics Liaison. He became an assistant basketball coach in 2018 and is now set to write the next chapter for the Phoenix.

As he takes on the role, Mike said, "This program has held a special place in the hearts of my family and me. It provided me an opportunity for a better life, and we are forever grateful for that. To have the opportunity to be the head coach of this team is something that I will not take for granted. I am beyond excited to get to work!" Devin Coleman '11 will continue as assistant coach.



PHOENIX GAME DAY

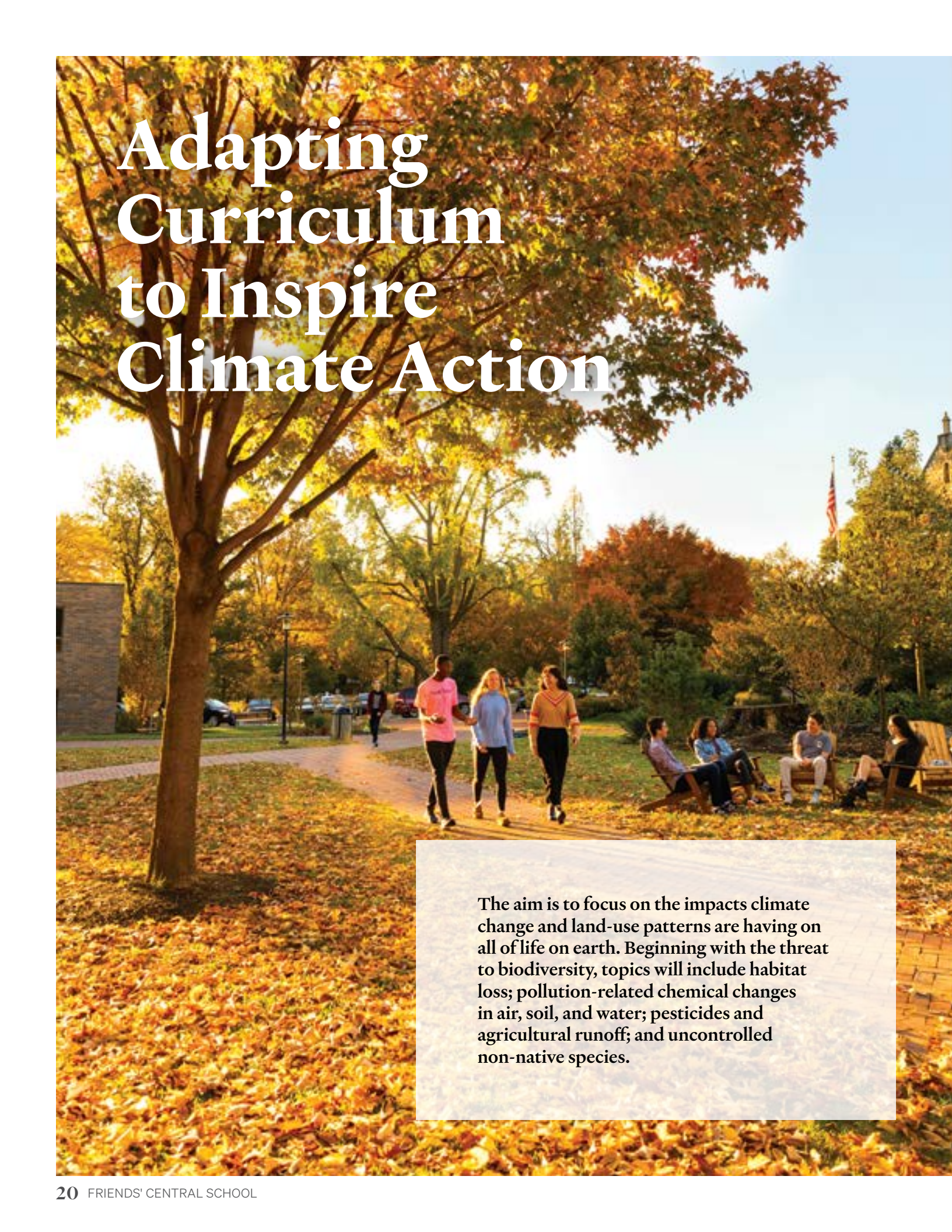
Dressed in their team colors of blue, red, yellow, or green, Middle School students competed with their teams to win the coveted Phoenix Cup at the annual Phoenix Game Day during the last week of school in June – a week filled with fun, community spirit, and celebration. Congratulations to the Red Team on taking the 2021 Phoenix Game Day Cup!



**FCS COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021**

For more photos from the day, visit bit.ly/FCSalbums





Adapting Curriculum to Inspire Climate Action

The aim is to focus on the impacts climate change and land-use patterns are having on all of life on earth. Beginning with the threat to biodiversity, topics will include habitat loss; pollution-related chemical changes in air, soil, and water; pesticides and agricultural runoff; and uncontrolled non-native species.

ANNOUNCING A NEW APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY

In the early months of the pandemic, as most people stayed close to home, their cars underused, canceling flights, and unable to enjoy even nearby forms of recreation, there were signs of planetary healing. Cleaner air and water, wildlife reappearing, and green shoots popping up in unexpected places were stark reminders of the impact of humans on our planet.

Exploring this big topic is just one example of mission-driven learning at Friends' Central. For the last few years, in response to significant student and teacher interest, the School has offered individual classes, across departments, addressing climate change and biodiversity. These are courses that help us educate students who will live our vision – applying their courage and intellect to issues and doing their part to peacefully transform the world. This ambition cannot be realized without a deep understanding of the world's most pressing issues.

In recognition of the critical nature of this course of study and the intense and scholarly interest of teachers and students in pursuing it, Upper School science teacher John Gruber is launching a special division within the science department, Biodiversity and Ecological Monitoring. The aim is to focus on the impacts climate change and land-use patterns are having on all of life on earth. Beginning with the threat to biodiversity, topics will include habitat loss; pollution-related chemical changes in air, soil, and water; pesticides and agricultural runoff; and uncontrolled non-native species.

We will go further at Friends' Central by taking these ideas and concepts from the abstract to the concrete – understanding both the underlying science and the immediate and real-world implications in our own region.

Program design is underway and includes a review of the strong existing foundation at Friends' Central in science teaching and research, with a consideration of the curriculum in new or existing classes, extracurricular opportunities, service work, and independent research alongside new summer programming. In time, an annual conference or scientific meeting is envisioned that could bring scientists and students together to share research findings and promote scientific communication.

The program aims to include field work – ensuring direct, hands-on experiences – and the possibility of local and global partnerships with research centers for conservation biology as well as organizations focusing on this work and related policy.

As this new program takes shape, Upper School teachers Monty Ogden, Anna Schall, and John Gruber are already offering topically relevant classes.

Two years ago, Monty Ogden, an Upper School literature teacher, created a popular seminar class called *Everything Change: Love in the Anthropocene*. The course begins with a consideration of Margaret Atwood's essay, "It's not Climate Change -- It's Everything Change." Atwood establishes climate change as a crisis that stretches far beyond the boundaries of weather, touching all aspects and forms of life. Many scientists use the term anthropocene for our geologic era – a recognition of the scale of influence humans have had on earth. Ogden's course is interdisciplinary in nature. Its purpose is to challenge students and teachers alike to engage courageously with climate change by considering its artistic, social, and spiritual implications. In keeping with Friends tradition, the class uses guiding queries including: *What is nature?*

How does our conception of nature shape our understanding of stewardship? What is the relationship between social justice and the environment? What is the role of storytelling and communication in addressing climate change? How does scarcity impact our ability to love? Perhaps most importantly, students are also asked to consider what it means to come of age in a world with climate change. Students read novels, short stories, essays, and other forms of media.



Anna Schall



“At Friends’ Central, students are encouraged from a young age to think of themselves in relation to the world.”

BILL KENNEDY
Interim Upper School Principal

“At Friends’ Central, students are encouraged from a young age to think of themselves in relation to the world. Using humanities to address critical topics like climate change gives students an important lens to refine their thinking and to recognize the urgency in a different way,” said Interim Upper School Principal Bill Kennedy.

Within our science department, Anna Schall currently offers a spring elective titled *Atmospheric Science and Climate Change* that explores the sources of the individual atmospheric chemical constituents that are known to be the greenhouse gases – the ways they differ in their greenhouse warming potential and subsequent climate change impact that they will likely impose on global communities. The class is, said Schall, “designed to steep students both in the scientific principles that underlie modern climate science and methods of communicating about climate change. We are responsible for empowering young people with the understanding of what is happening and how they can affect change in their communities. Students dive into the local impacts of climate change in various regions and explore how issues of access and privilege affect the impacts on different populations. They also walk away with the understanding that addressing climate change requires implementing a mosaic of solutions now, not the hope for single-technological creation in the future.”

John Gruber’s *Advanced Biodiversity* semester course, now running for several years, focuses on the role of ecological studies, evolutionary biology, and molecular phylogenetics in understanding the diversity of life on Earth. Central questions addressed in Gruber’s hands-on course include definitions of biodiversity and ways to measure it, how scientists estimate species richness in different habitats, and how conservation biologists work to address threats to biodiversity. The course draws from a body of knowledge that includes scientific articles, recorded interviews with scientists, and video footage of biodiversity hot spots. There is a lab component involving molecular techniques in gene sequencing that are used to study relationships among species or look for unrecognized cryptic species, building on a 10-year research program in Gruber’s lab (*see page 11 for details*).

Building on the many curricular and extracurricular options already in place that explore this all-too-relevant topic, the new Biodiversity and Ecological Monitoring division represents an important step forward for Friends’ Central in our innovative and hands-on approach to education. We look forward to watching the progress of this new initiative, knowing it will not only significantly enrich our own community but that it also has the potential to impact the future, as our students graduate into the world equipped with a deeper and richer understanding of climate change and the impact of humans on our planet. **QW**

MIDDLE SCHOOL IN ACTION

In all three divisions, examples abound of Friends' Central students already engaged in hands-on efforts to effect change.

In Middle School, students and faculty spend two hours each Wednesday engaged in a program of service. Faculty members serve as advisors, organizers, and participants. Students serve as leaders and participants where their understanding of the world and human behavior is further shaped by exploring new contexts. This work includes neighboring efforts such as cleaning the Indian Creek watershed or going as far as the nation's capital to lobby Congress on climate change.

"We ask students to visualize problems and how they might design solutions," said Alexa Quinn, Middle School Principal. "It's about being able to live our mission and vision as a school and make positive change."

As an example, Middle School students, grades 6-8, discovered a bridge washed away in Morris Park, so they designed, built, and installed a temporary, flood-proof bridge and then worked with city officials to find and fund a more permanent solution. Students also removed hundreds, if not thousands, of invasive plants and planted native plants into the space.

Call to Action, a Middle School service group, chose climate change as one of their three causes. Together they worked on websites, informative games, social media content, and presentations to educate the student body. During a Community Block in April, students from the climate action group presented their research on climate change and discussed methods to help reverse climate change.



(Above) Middle School Stream watch in 2019; (below) students in Call to Action giving their presentation on climate change



In the upcoming months, check out fcsfeatures.org, Friends' Central's online magazine, and the [Spring 2022 Quaker Works](#) magazine for a look at Lower School's environmental, farming, and climate initiatives!



Commencement 2021



(Above) Commencement 2021; (Below, left) Ruby Kauffman-Rosengarten '21 (left) and Elise Ingram '21; (Below, right) Isaiah Waddington '21 (left) and Thabo Ungaphumelela '21





Celebrating the Many Qualities of the Class of 2021

Commencement 2021 in early June felt like a brief and glorious respite from the pandemic – a slight opening up back to life as we’d previously known it. We heaved a collective, if temporary, sigh of relief at the return to what looked like a fairly typical Friends’ Central Commencement, despite the masks and the large screens connecting us to those joining us virtually. The majority of our graduates were able to be together in person, bringing with them many friends and family members to celebrate their accomplishment. The weather was perfect – no rain, not too hot, not too cold – and the atmosphere was joyful.

FCS faculty members and trustees lead the procession of the graduates-to-be, who, dressed in cap and gowns and cheered on by friends and family members, made their way onto the Commencement Terrace and took their places.

After a moment of Silent Worship, Clerk of the Board of Trustees Jim Wright read the poem “Praise Song for the Day” by Elizabeth Alexander. Former Head of School Craig N. Sellers then welcomed all to Commencement 2021, including the over 100 people who joined the celebration remotely. Craig thanked FCS faculty and staff, who, he said, “consistently gave their all” during a challenging year.

The first student speaker, Liam Giszter, enumerated and expanded on the key adjectives he felt best described the FCS Class of 2021 – “perseverant, driven, adaptable, passionate, talented, and graceful.”

“Not every grade has had to apply to colleges at the same time as a global pandemic, a national lockdown, a call to protest, a year ripe with racial violence, and a terrorist attack against the capital of the nation,” Liam said. “We are a driven class,” he continued, “I don’t think there was any doubt about that when the Senior Committee and Student Council Leaders struggled tirelessly and brought a sense of normalcy and tradition to a virtual senior year.”

“We all survived the eight-hour Zoom days without flunking school ... so I can easily say that the Class of 2021 is adaptable,” he joked.

And, on a more serious note, Liam spoke about the passion of the Class of 2021 who put so much “time and effort” into getting through a difficult year. He touched on the talent of his classmates – “the incredible artists, actors, musicians, engineers, mathematicians, scholars, scientists, inventors, advocates and leaders who are dead-set on changing the world.” And he shared what he felt was the most important quality of the Class – grace. “We learned, albeit the hard way, not to be daunted by change,” he said.

The second student speaker, Ryan Lynch, described her impressions of the School as a new student in 10th grade. Initially surprised and, she confessed, somewhat taken aback by the friendliness of her new classmates, Ryan quickly learned to appreciate the warmth and openness she discovered at FCS. “The hugs came to represent the genuineness I felt in the spirit of this School and the spirit of our Class,” she said.

Inspired by her younger brother, who, she said, had turned her family into “Disney fanatics,” Ryan drew on some lessons from several Disney movies. “As we learned from *Finding Nemo*,” she said, “you need to just keep swimming, just keep swimming, and eventually you’ll know how to flow with the tide.” From the movie *Up*, Ryan shared the following lesson: “Even though at times it might feel terrifying to step out of our comfort zones, we’ve learned from high school that it’s necessary. Join that club, apply for that leadership position, go to that party. You never know who you’ll meet and what

COMMENCEMENT 2021

could come out of that experience. ‘Adventure is out there’ - soak it all up.” From *Toy Story*, her advice for her classmates as they look to find new friends in the wider world was to remember that they “have a home at Friends’ Central with people who already know how incredible you are. ... you will always have a friend in me, have a friend in us.”

“In the true fashion of Gen Z,” as Ryan described it, she concluded by taking a selfie with all her classmates to remember the day.

Faculty speaker Alex McDonnell ’87, FCS Technology Integration Specialist, Upper School history teacher, and parent of five FCS alums, provided some words of advice in his address. He asked the graduates to follow the School’s vision statement and “peacefully transform the world,” but, he continued, “let the world transform you too.” Drawing on some hands-on lessons learned in Lower, Middle, and Upper School, he also encouraged them to cultivate wisdom. “Wisdom is intelligence tempered by empathy,” he said. “If we really want to transform the world, we have to understand and share the feelings of others.” And he spent a moment thanking the graduates. “I’ve seen you grow up. I watched your successes on stage, in the classroom and on the courts, fields and track. You’ve made your mark on me and on this place for the good,” he said.

Giving the second faculty address, Jim Rosengarten, Upper School history teacher, Chair of the History Department, and parent of three graduates, spoke about love as the force that drives us all. “I learn most about love by seeing the outward expressions of it,” he said. “Those outward expressions of love are usually actions – especially the subtle ones – that teach me more about what it means to love than any reading or talking can do.” He concluded by exhorting the graduates: “Be open to letting love change you, to letting it teach you. Find those outward expressions of love and let them create a sense of gratitude that not only will strengthen you but also guide you into the habit of creating love. We’ve seen you start doing it already, and we look forward to you teaching us more.”

The ceremony concluded with the conferring of diplomas to each member of the Class of 2021, beginning with the international students not able to be present, whose diplomas were awarded virtually, via the live-stream feed.

We wish the Class of 2021 all the best for the successful future we know is in store for them when they share their many gifts and unique qualities with the wider world. **QW**

1. Ryan Lynch ’21

2. The awarding of diplomas to our international students

3. Jim Rosengarten

4. Alex McDonnell ’87

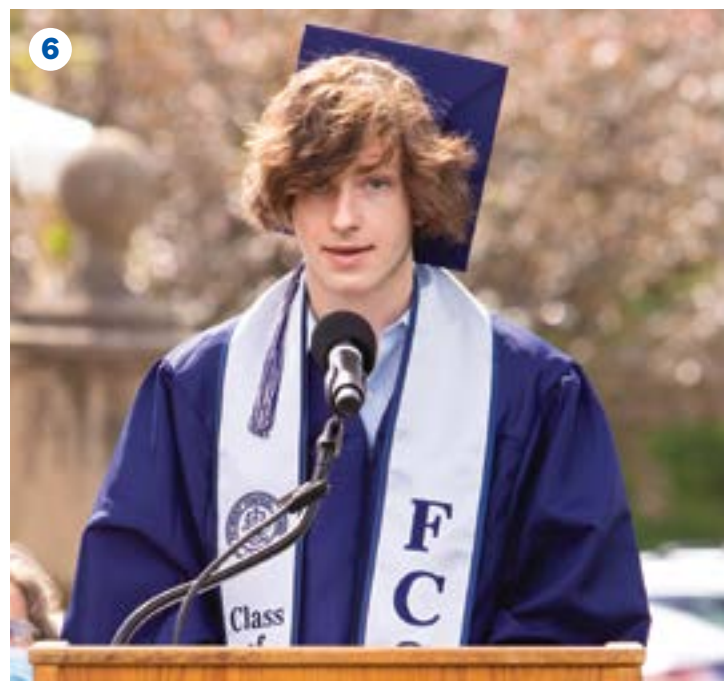
5. Bailie Stovall ’21 and

Quin Stovall ’24 with

parents Idris and Joyce

6. Liam Giszter ’21

For more photos from Commencement 2021, visit bit.ly/FCSalbums.



Class of 2021 College Choices

Boston College	Lincoln University (2)	University of Delaware
Boston Conservatory at Berklee	Loyola Marymount University	University of Denver
Boston University (2)	Macalester College	Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Brandeis University	McDaniel College	University of Mary Washington
Brown University	Misericordia University	University of Pennsylvania (3)
Champlain College	Morgan State University (2)	University of Pittsburgh (3)
Colby College	New York University (2)	Univ. of Pittsburgh at Bradford
Colgate University	Oberlin College	University of Richmond
College of Charleston	Occidental College	University of Rochester
College of William and Mary (2)	Penn State University (4)	University of San Francisco
Cornell College	Penn State University - Altoona	University of St. Andrews (2)
Cornell University	Reed College	University of Tampa
Dickinson College (3)	Saint Joseph's University	University of Toronto
Drew University	San Diego State University	University of Virginia
Drexel University (3)	Skidmore College	Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison (4)
Duquesne University	Smith College (2)	Vanderbilt University
Emerson College	Spelman College	Wagner College
Emory University	St. John's College	Wake Forest University
Franklin and Marshall College	St. John's University	Wesleyan University
George Washington University	Suffolk University	West Chester University
Hampton University	Temple University	Williams College
Haverford College (2)	Temple University Japan	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Juniata College (2)	Tyler School of Art	Xavier University Louisiana
Lafayette College	University of California Davis	Yale University
Lehigh University (2)	University of California Los Angeles	York College of PA

Class of 2021 attending specialized colleges and programs, including:

Seven students attending Historically Black Colleges, two students attending a women's college, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Tyler School of Art

International universities:

University of St. Andrews, Temple University Japan, University of Toronto

The Class of 2021





Reunion 2021

Over 440 alums from 35 states and seven countries attended the first-ever virtual FCS Reunion on May 8, 2021! The evening opened with a program including many faces in our community along with reflections from our 2020 and 2021 distinguished alums, Kevin Hooks '76, Eileen Flanagan '80, John Kean '85, and Tiffani Gavin '91.

With grace and warm conversations, alums patiently stayed on Zoom during a few technical glitches (thank you!) and then proceeded into over 20 class breakout rooms to celebrate their reunions with former faculty and special guests.

Special thanks and congratulations to the Class of 1960 for raising \$175,000 for FCS' 175th anniversary. Bravo!

(Top row, below) 2021 Distinguished Alumnus Kevin Hooks '76 and 2020 Distinguished Alumna Eileen Flanagan '80; (Bottom row) 2020 Distinguished Alumnus John Kean '85 and 2021 Distinguished Alumna Tiffani Gavin '91

“We had a great time at Reunion this year! The Zoom format allowed many people to participate, from Florida to California to New York. We caught up on where people are and what they've been doing since 1976, but we also had a lot of laughs and shared FCS memories. We had so much fun that we decided to follow up with more get-togethers.”

NANCY JACKSON MARCHAND '76



Kevin Hooks (@KevHooks) Twitter






(Above) Members of the Class of 1980 catch up at their class breakout room during Reunion 2021; (below) members of the Class of 1965 at their 56th Reunion







Members of the Class of 1991 (above) members and of the Class of 1981 (below) at their respective class breakout rooms during Reunion 2021





2022 UNIVERSITY



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 7, 2022

Celebrating the Classes of 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977,
1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012 and 2017



Friends' Central School
1101 City Avenue
Wynnewood, PA 19096-3418



All gifts to Friends' Central School help FCS go further.



Thank You!

