

# Quaker Works



COMMENCEMENT  
*Celebrating the Class of 2023*

ALUMNI/AE WEEKEND 2023  
*A Weekend of Celebrations*

ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS  
2022-2023



#### ON THE COVER

Members of the Class of 2023  
at their commencement ceremony

Read all about Commencement 2023 on page 22.

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# Quaker Works

The Magazine of Friends' Central School

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From left: Liz Shinn Hulford '98, David Levin '98, Patrick Dostal '98, Head of School Beth Davis Johnson '77, Ian Bennett '95, Kevin Guynn '75, and Jackie Guynn '89 at Alumni/ae Weekend 2023. Read more about Alumni/ae Weekend on page 28.

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2022-2023

# Letter from the Head of School



Dear Friends,

Welcome to *Quaker Works* fall 2023!

I'm so excited about the 2023-2024 school year. As always, it's a joy to welcome all of our new students, their families, and our new colleagues to campus and to reconnect with our returning community members after our summer apart.

This fall, we're implementing a number of new and exciting facilities initiatives, which include a new nursery classroom to accommodate our third section of Nature Nursery; a refresh of Blackburn library (Stop by and admire!); newly renovated classrooms in the lower level of the Middle School; an expansion of our Natural Lands Program, adding a bird blind on the City Avenue campus; and a newly refurbished office space for our Development Office on the Lower School campus. We also have very exciting programming news – as I write this, we have just launched the Wellington Engagement Index in grades 6-12. Read all about it on page 12.

This issue of *Quaker Works* takes a look back over spring 2023, spotlighting many incredible events and accomplishments – academic, artistic, athletic, and beyond – and showcasing several illustrious visitors to campus. We celebrate our Class of 2023 graduates in the Commencement recap (pages 22-27); and we reflect on the fabulous Alumni/ae Weekend 2023 (pages 28-32) when we welcomed so many members of our alumni/ae community back to campus.

Please take the time to look over the Annual Report of Gifts 2022-2023 (beginning on page 33) where we share features on several donors and their generosity to Friends' Central.

As we celebrate our community, I am conscious of ongoing events in the wider world and in our own country that weigh upon us. After recent rulings of the Supreme Court, I wrote a recent letter to Friends' Central families. Rather than commenting on the Supreme Court decisions, I instead chose to reaffirm the values upon which Friends' Central School is founded and our ongoing commitment to a diverse and inclusive community. I believe a Friends' Central education has never been more important and am so glad to be partnering with all of you.

I look forward to a great fall here at Friends' Central, and I hope to see you on campus!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth D. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beth" being more prominent.

**Beth D. Johnson '77**  
*Head of School*





## BLUE/GRAY DAY 2023

Lower School students greeting the Phoenix at Blue/Gray Day 2023 in May; see page 21 and visit [bit.ly/FCSalbums](https://bit.ly/FCSalbums) for more photos of Blue/Gray Day!




A snapshot of some of the many activities, competitions, and achievements of spring 2023 • Visit [friendscentral.org](https://friendscentral.org) for more news.

# Campus Log



As a St. Patrick's Day surprise, Ian '26, his father, Andrew, and Ed '23 serenaded the community with a surprise Irish bagpipe concert on Felsen Common in the early morning.

## SENIOR GIVES TEDx TALK



Peikun Shi '23 was one of 10 TEDx Penn speakers on April 1 at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Activist artist and filmmaker, Peikun uses his talent to raise mental health awareness and break through emotional barriers. Through his short film, *As If Lost In A Fog*, co-directed and co-produced with a friend, Peikun shared his own experience with depression aggravated by the pandemic. This fall, Peikun is attending Duke University.

## QUEBEC TRIP

A group of intrepid Upper School French students, chaperoned by faculty members Cristina Pérez and Grant Calder, traveled to Quebec over spring break, where they had a fantastic time studying Québécois history, enjoying the wintry weather, and soaking up the culture.



## FOURTH GRADE ANTHOLOGY PUBLISHED

For the fourth grade's study of immigration and its impact on the United States, they focused on five distinct periods – Colonial America, US slavery, the Great Migration, the Dust Bowl, and Ellis Island. As a culminating project, the students retold the story of immigration to the United States through a series of stories, interviews, essays, graphic novels, and narrative poems. This work was assembled into an anthology that was available to purchase on Amazon throughout the month of June.



## FIRST GRADE FLIES TO JAPAN

In March, 1A students went on a 20-hour-and-55-minute "flight" to Japan in preparation for their study of the country. Students were tasked with helping to convert their classroom into an airport and airplane. They assumed the roles of pilots, TSA workers, flight attendants, grounds crew, and passengers. They "landed" safely and went on to learn all about Japan!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL MINI-COURSES 2023

Middle School students had a wide range of Mini-Courses to choose from this spring. Mini-Courses are a signature program in the Middle School. Teachers design three-day classes that students take the week before spring break. The classes are interdisciplinary, cross-grade, and involve a special field trip related to the subject.



## LIGHT LAB SHOWCASE

The fourth grade learned about electronics and programming in the Light Lab. Students in 4A paired that knowledge with research on birds in science and the practice of charcoal sketching in art to create interactive bird portraits. Students in 4B combined their study of identity and poetry writing with laser-cut silhouettes of each student to create interactive maker portraits. In May, the students held a Bird & Identity Showcase in the Light Lab.





**Second grade students researched and presented as their notable people at the Notable People Convention this spring.**



**Middle School volunteers at Paws and Affection in Narberth, helping socialize younger dogs who are training to become service animals – one of many service opportunities offered to Middle Schoolers this April**



## UPPER SCHOOL TAKES ON CID ESCAPE ROOMS

In March, Center for Innovation & Design Co-Director CJ Keller's Design Thinking class invited members of the Upper School community to challenge themselves in custom-made CID escape rooms. In addition to having a unifying theme and a connection to the broader curriculum, each room reflected the interests and special talents of its makers. Judging by the popular response – the rooms were “sold out” by the next day – this community-based happening was a great success.



**Having won the Rookie-All-Star award at their first competition in March, EarthQuakers, the Upper School robotics team, participated in the district championships in April.**



**Students perusing the outstanding selection at the Lower School Book Fair in March**



**Eighth grade students participating in the Art + Drama + Music Collaboration performed in March**



**The annual Holi Festival color throw brightened up the City Avenue campus in March.**



**PreK yoga, joined by Lower School Principal Melody Acinapura**



**Students at the Middle School Book Fair in April**



# FCS on the Stage



In April, Middle School actors took the stage for a fantastic production of *Playwrights in Progress*, the Middle School's annual play festival featuring performances of eighth grade students' original plays. Each play was written, directed, acted, and designed by students.



This year's grades 9 and 10 play, *Almost, Maine*, performed in May was a great success, directed by Lucy Shea '23 with Lindsay McVail '23 as her Assistant. Congratulations to all those behind the scenes and on stage on this wry, poignant, and polished series of vignettes.



## FCS AT THE CAPPIES

FCS Student Cappies critics, cast, and crew members of the FCS Upper School spring 2023 musical *Into the Woods* attended the Cappies Gala in May, where Ethan Jih-Cook '23 won a Cappie for Best Male Vocalist and Hannah Seidel-Nini '26 received a Cappies Spirit Award.

The Cappies is a writing and awards program that trains high school theater and journalism students to be expert writers, critical thinkers, and leaders. Cappies student critics decide who among their peer performers and technicians should be recognized for awards at the end of the season.



Michael Chou and Claire Samaha at the All-State Festivals

## MICHAEL CHOU '23 AND CLAIRE SAMAHA '23 EXTEND THEIR PMEA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In March, Michael Chou '23 was principal viola at the Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Region VI Orchestra Festival, and saxophonist Claire Samaha '23 performed at the PMEA Region VI Band Festival. Through auditions at their respective festivals, both Michael and Claire advanced to the PMEA All-State Festivals that were held in April, where Michael was selected as the principal violist (#1) in Pennsylvania, and Claire Samaha was selected as second chair!



Students performing at the Lower School Celebration of Art & Music in May



Middle School Spring Concert 2023



Jazz Band performing as part of this spring's Upper School Celebration of the Arts





## ETHAN JIH-COOK '23 IN THE NATIONAL BROADWAY TOUR OF MEAN GIRLS

Ethan Jih-Cook '23 has a lead role in the national tour of *Mean Girls*, playing the character of Damian.

*Mean Girls*, based on the book by Tina Fey, music by Jeff Richmond, and lyrics by Nell Benjamin, made its world premiere in 2017 at the National Theatre in Washington, D.C. and subsequently opened on Broadway in April 2018. Casey Nicholaw (*The Book of Mormon*) directed and choreographed the original Broadway production, which was nominated for 12 Tony Awards in 2018.

Congratulations, Ethan! *Mean Girls* comes to Philadelphia's Kimmel Cultural Campus in October, and we're so excited to have the opportunity to see Ethan on the stage.



## NINTH GRADE MACBETH DAY

In May, ninth-grade English classes held a *Macbeth* day. The students put on class-wide performances of scenes from *Macbeth* and enjoyed a special lunch and viewing of the 2021 production of the film with Denzel Washington in the titular role.

## FCS STUDENTS IN COMMONWEALTH YOUTHCHOIRS GALA CONCERT

Three Friends' Central students performed in the Commonwealth Youthchoirs Gala concert at the Kimmel Cultural Center in June. The performers were Adam Dailey '29 (Keystone State Boychoir), Naomi Karr '33 (Pennsylvania Girlchoir), and Harper Neczypor '28 (Pennsylvania Girlchoir). Congratulations to all three!



On May 4, Friends' Central hosted the first ever Consent Conference. Funded by an Edward E. Ford Educational Leadership Grant, the well-attended conference was open to area high schools. The keynote speaker (pictured here) was Dr. Laura McGuire, internationally recognized consultant, survivor, researcher, seminarian, and author of the books *Creating Cultures of Consent* (2021) and *The Sexual Misconduct Prevention Guidebook: Consent and Conduct for Higher Education Campuses* (2022).



In early April, first grade took a field trip to the Shofuso Japanese Cultural Center in Philadelphia. They toured the grounds, gardens and the house, and they learned about the unique history of the house. The students then used the experience to inspire them as they went on to study Japan and to make Japanese gardens in the Light Lab.



In late April, sixth grade students, in teams, presented findings from their nutrition research project, *Food for Thought*, to their classmates at the Sixth Grade Food Fair.

# Using DNA Extraction to Understand Inter-Species Connections in an Upper School Science Lab



Mel Diah presenting the findings at the FCS Natural History Conference



Mel working on DNA extraction

**Last year, as a senior at Friends' Central, Mel Diah '23 worked with Upper School science teacher John Gruber to understand the relationships between specific beetles and the mushroom host fungi used by the beetles for their larvae using DNA extraction techniques.**

"At the beginning of the [2022-2023] school year, I decided I wanted to dip my toes into some independent work, so I approached Mr. Gruber," Mel explained. "I had never done polymerase chain reaction (PCR) work or DNA extraction before, but I had learned about it in biology."

Some mycophagous (or fungi-eating) beetles lay eggs in mushrooms, and the beetle larvae grow inside the mushroom tissue. John and Mel discovered two fungi – one of which was on Friends' Central's City Avenue campus – that had beetle larvae present on them.

"When I started the work, Mr. Gruber said that I should use my research to craft a story about the importance of the beetle larvae in the biodiversity of the ecosystem," said Mel.

Mel worked to identify the beetles and the fungi in order to demonstrate that these specific beetles use these particular fungi as hosts for their young. The goal of the project was to identify the species and to highlight the importance of this symbiotic relationship to biodiversity, specifically on Friends' Central's City Avenue campus.

"Mel used the tools we have in the lab to take extracted DNA from these worm-like larvae and do a reaction called polymerase chain reaction (PCR) which makes billions of copies of one particular gene region," said John. "That gene region is what we call a barcode. Finding that barcode means that you

can get the sequence of DNA for that gene and know precisely which organism it is."

Together, Mel and John conducted DNA extractions to get fresh samples of purified DNA from the beetle larvae and the mushroom species, followed by a PCR reaction to amplify the specific portion of the DNA needed for identification purposes. The PCR products were then sent to a lab to be sequenced, and the resulting DNA sequences were "BLASTed" by comparing them to online international libraries of millions of cataloged DNA samples so they could determine the species identity associated with each of the DNA sequences. They successfully identified the organisms, and Mel presented their findings to the community at Friends' Central's first-ever Natural History Conference in May (see page 9 for more about the conference).

"Mel was a wonderful lab research collaborator – curious, careful, highly engaged, and interested in both the bigger questions and the small details of what we've been doing," said John. "Her project is a great example of bringing new knowledge to light about ecological relationships by applying sophisticated lab tools to great field observations. I'm really proud of what she accomplished."

While at FCS, along with being an enthusiastic scientist and student, Mel was also a captain of the wrestling team. In 2023, she earned All-American honors for the second year in a row. She was also nominated by Congresswoman Mary Gay Scalon (PA-05) to attend the United States Air Force and Naval Academies. Mel is excited to be attending the U.S. Naval Academy this fall and plans to major in Mechanical Engineering. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors! **QW**





**Phoebe Apollo, Deus Solis by Claire Kildall**

## STELLAR YEAR FOR FCS LATIN STUDENTS

Last year, FCS students competed regionally, nationally, and internationally in Latin competitions in the language, literature, mythology, and history of the Romans. The School saw one of the most spectacular years of results ever, including 15 national and international gold and silver medals.

There were 90 FCS students and family members in attendance at the Philadelphia Classical Society's 84th-annual Latin awards ceremony in April, where Claire Kildall '28 brought home the top prize, securing "Best of Show" in the middle school division for her original 3-D sculpted model of Phoebe Apollo, Deus Solis. In the notepad contest, Chiara Del Testa '25 illustrated a fierce Achilles.

Four eighth-grade students – Leah Mainland, Ruth Kelly, Maia Kalina, and Beatrice Damrauer – were ranked among the top 32 Latin students in the nation, and they went on to compete for the Petrino Award in Classics. They were all highlighted in publications by the American Classical League for their Excellence in Classics program. Congratulations to all!



## SEVENTH GRADE HISTORY PROJECTS

As the culmination of the signature seventh-grade history project, seventh graders shared their work with classmates and attending families in a "gallery-walk" format in Linton Gym in May.



**In spring, third graders learned about rocket propulsion, the moon, and Newton's third law. They built rockets and tested parachutes in preparation for their rocket launch in March. Working in pairs, the students set up the launch pads and pushed the buttons for ignition, and watched their rockets shoot high into the sky.**

## UPPER SCHOOL MATH COMPETITION SUCCESSES

Along with his fellow students in Calculus II Advanced and Linear Algebra, Jack Barsotti '24 participated in the PA Math League Contest throughout last year, his junior year. Friends' Central finished first in the county, and Jack earned a perfect score on all six tests. Only one other person in the entire state of Pennsylvania achieved this feat this year.

## UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE ACCOLADES

In May, James Heller '24 was named a finalist in the 76th Annual Delaware Valley Science Council and progressed onto the next stage, which took place in June, where he won an "Excellence in Science Award."

Also in May, coached by Upper School science teacher Chris Guides, the team of Poyraz Ozer, Ziqin Chen, Christopher Samuels, and Rishi Amaravadi garnered an honorable mention for their Buffalo Bomb Cyclone project at the CIMSS Virtual Science fair. The team used satellite images to why and how the storm in Buffalo, NY, in December 2022 happened and how to predict future storms.



**The Natural History Conference**

## FIRST-ANNUAL FCS NATURAL HISTORY CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

This year, Friends' Central science pioneered its first-ever Natural History Conference in May. The conference featured several FCS student presentations on independent and group research projects they had conducted over the school year. The projects covered a variety of topics including insect identification using DNA analyses, species distribution in moths, and identifying new species of mushrooms discovered on the City Avenue campus! Dr. James Lendemer of the New York Botanical Gardens was the conference keynote speaker. Dr. Lendemer is an expert in lichen biology, systematics, and evolution and works as the Associate Curator of the Institute of Systematic Botany at the New York Botanical Gardens.

## FCS WRITING CONTEST WINNERS 2023

Congratulations to Zoë Alter '23 and Maya Brothers '26, winners of the 2023 FCS English Department Writing Contests. Guest judges were author Amy Meyerson '00 and poet Rachel Edelman, who generously donated their time and expertise. You can read Zoë's story, "Whale Song," and Maya's poem, "the wooden slats on 16th street," at [bit.ly/FCSRamsey23](https://bit.ly/FCSRamsey23), along with the honorable mention entries by Noah Perot '26, Ona Stocovaz '24, and Azaria Sifontis '24.

## SENIOR BUILDS PROSTHETIC HANDS

For her senior project, Cate Fox '23 focused on building a prosthetic hand in the Center for Innovation & Design (CID), working with CID Co-Director CJ Keller and using the CID's 3D printer. Cate navigated the Enabling the Future website, which provides open-source designs for volunteers from all over the world who are using their 3D printers to make free and low-cost prosthetic upper limb devices for children and adults in need. Although they were unable to deliver the prosthetics to a recipient in the time period, Cate learned a lot and has pioneered a new service project for future FCS students.



## CAMPUS LOG



Nursery students enjoying Earth Day

### LOWER SCHOOL CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

To gear up for Earth Day on Saturday, April 15, each Lower School class adopted a tree on the Lower School campus. During the month of April, students reflected on the words *stewardship* and *sustainability*. They took care of their adopted trees, planted in the community garden, and connected with the beautiful campus. They read books under their trees and wrote poems dedicated to nature.



### MIDDLE SCHOOL EARTH DAY OF SERVICE

On April 19, students and teachers took part in an All-Middle-School Earth Day of Service. The full, action-packed day of events began with an assembly in the morning with guest speaker Neha Ghaisas, an Environmental Engineer from the Philadelphia Water Department. The entire Middle School then took a trip to Morris Park for a group stream clean-up, followed by a hike after lunch.



In May, Upper School art teacher Anthony Bowers took a group of his Studio Art students on a field trip to New York City to explore the Museum of Modern Art and Chelsea.



### FCS HOSTS PAN-ASIAN CONFERENCE

On March 18, over 30 students and faculty members from area high schools came together at FCS for the annual Pan-Asian Conference organized by Friends' Central's very own Asian Students Association. Keynote speaker Fariha Khan, Co-Director of Penn's Asian American Studies program (former FCS trustee, and parent of alums), kicked off the event with a talk on the history of Asians in the United States. Students and chaperones then had the opportunity to participate in affinity groups and workshops entitled Asians in Media, Identities and Authenticity, Changemaking in Schools, Food and Representation, and Parental Pressure and Mental Health.



### VIBE CONFERENCE 2023

On April 21, Friends' Central hosted the annual VIBE (Voices of Inclusivity, Belonging, and Equity) Conference on City Avenue campus. 2022-2023 FCS Distinguished Justice Leader Dr. H Bernard Hall (Professor of Urban Education at Drexel University) gave the keynote address, *It Was All A Dream: Celebrating 50 Years of Hip Hop*. The conference included student and faculty-led workshops around the theme of Culture & Celebration. Students guided Story Circle groups that explored personal experiences of being seen and supported at FCS. Upper School Ambassadors for Equity and Justice (teachers Jacob Fogel '07 and Rebecca Benjamin) led a session unpacking the social narratives found in banned books.



### SCIENCE CORE TEAM YEAR-END TRIP TO WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

Twenty-six FCS Science Core Team students in grades 9-12 – accompanied by faculty members John Gruber, Claire Roberts, Chris Guides, and Nora Swift – took a fabulous year-end trip to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in mid-June as a culmination of the 2022-2023 oceanographic Distinguished Visiting Scientist program. Highlights included a boat trip on a research vessel to tow an underwater camera and collect organisms; seeing the Alvin submersible and other research vessels; visiting a number of labs at the institute; and hearing from a Boston University undergraduate student and two graduate students in the joint MIT-WHOI doctoral degree program.

**For more photos of FCS events, visit [bit.ly/FCSalbums](https://bit.ly/FCSalbums).**



## FCS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY & STAFF

### Friends' Central welcomes new faculty and staff to the School for the 2023-2024 school year.

Joining the Friends' Central Lower School are Martha Cooney, Nursery Assistant; Rachel Evans, Long-term Substitute; Kim Kraemer, 4th Grade Teacher; Jennifer Lavenberg, Nursery-1st Grade Science Teacher and 1st Grade Assistant Teacher; Kate Morton, 2nd Grade Lead Teacher; and Lisa Whitaker, Lower School Receptionist.

Joining the Friends' Central Middle School is Amaris Castillo, Middle School Spanish teacher, and Molly Lloyd is the new Middle School Administrative Assistant.

Madeleine O'Donnell joins us as the Director of Library and Information Resources for Middle and Upper School, and Qil Jones '13 is the Center for Innovation & Design Teacher for Middle and Upper School.

Joining the Friends' Central Upper School are Sara Abramson, History teacher; Libby Fifer '09, French teacher; Antonio Calvo, Spanish Teacher; Sarah Gold, Math Teacher; and Noah Marks, Science Teacher. Yao Yang is the School's new Coordinator of International Student Education and Programs. Elizabeth Kryinovich has taken on the role of Interim Upper School Assistant Principal. Adrianna Savarese is taking over from Elizabeth as the Interim Learning Specialist.

Around our campus we also have a number of new staff members. The Home and School Association (HSA) welcomes Katie Polykoff and Kristin Grueser, HSA Co-Coordinator. Kimberley Lewis, Co-Director of College Counseling, and Tyler Clauson-Wolf, Associate Director of College Counseling, join the College Counseling team. Wesley Blades joins the Admissions Office as Admissions Marketing Coordinator. Finally, Will Gallagher is now the Director of Friends' Central Aquatics (FCA), and Jack Eichenlaub is the new Head Coach for FCA. **QW**

## Introducing the Two New Members of Friends' Central's Board of Trustees

*who we are & why we serve*



**J. Wilson Felter**

"I want to be a steward of our wonderful School that teaches the skills and competencies our students bring to the world to help make our communities stronger and safer as well as more caring, inclusive, peaceful, and sustainable."



**Emma Lapsansky-Werner**

"I'm loyal to FCS because the School carries on traditions to which I am committed – non-violence, lives of integrity, commitment to valuing human individuals and communities. FCS did a great job on my young people (Classes of 1988 and 1990), and I hope the School will continue to do this work for as many young people as it can serve."



# Friends' Central Adopts the Wellington Engagement Index

“The Wellington Index provides useful questions and queries and valuable student response data displayed in a graphic format for each class or section that's easy to read and cross-reference. And none of it imposes any limitations on all of the good things already going on in our classes. The Index just provides more opportunities to think about how we can continue to improve.”

GRANT CALDER P'20  
FACULTY MEMBER



**Out of each of the Friends' Central's last three strategic planning processes came a clear understanding that students are at the center of our Strategic Plan. As we engaged in research, surveys, and small-group work, what stood out is an ongoing desire on the part of our teachers to take what is working and enhance the way we serve our students and the mission of the School. Developing our new Strategic Plan, we asked ourselves, “What can we do in our classrooms, our instruction, and our relationships to deepen student engagement?”**

It was clear that we needed to hear from students themselves, and we needed a mechanism that would allow us to better understand their experience. With this in mind, we are thrilled to be launching the Wellington Engagement Index for grades 6-12, a tool created by the Wellington School in Ohio and now used by schools across the country to gather data from students about their level of engagement in the classroom. The Wellington Engagement Index gives students the opportunity to share their sense of both

challenge and enjoyment in their classroom learning. The data gathered gives teachers valuable information about the student experience and their practice.

This fall, lead by Associate Head of Alexa Dunnington Quinn '98, FCS Middle and Upper School teachers and administrators are embarking on the exciting, multi-year process of adopting the index, along with supporting professional development. Teachers can also apply for “engagement grants” to fund innovative, creative shifts in classroom practice, experiences, visiting experts, cross-curricular collaborations, and more.

Rooted in the Friends belief in continuing revelation, Friends' Central teachers model the joy of continuous learning for their students. Their own pleasure in learning – along with intentional classroom cultures that blend high expectations with a sense of community – motivates and engages students. With the adoption of the Wellington Engagement Index, we feel certain that student engagement will only continue to deepen. **QW**

*The Wellington Engagement Index initiative is generously supported by an anonymous donor.*



# Fifth Grade Meeting for Leaving & Bell-Ringing Ceremony



On Thursday, June 8, the Lower School celebrated the transition of the fifth grade to Middle School as their time at Lower School came to a close. A Meeting for Leaving was held in the Meeting Room, and fifth graders (pictured here) and their families then participated in the traditional Bell-Ringing Ceremony at the Friendship Bell to mark the end of their time at Lower School. During the celebrations, families were invited to The Ulmer Family Light Lab for a museum-style presentation of students' research projects and artifacts from their Ancient Civilizations thematic unit.

Raina '27 passing through the threshold at the Eighth Grade Meeting for Leaving 2023

## Eighth Grade Culminating Events 2023

Joel '27 presenting his Grade 8 Showcase research project to teacher Jebb Chagan



On Friday, June 9 – the last day of the 2022-2023 school year – the Middle School celebrated the eighth grade Class of 2027 at the annual Meeting for Leaving, a ceremony in which the students cross a symbolic threshold to mark the completion of their Middle School years. Another Middle School culminating event is the Grade 8 Showcase, held in early June, in which the students share their individual talents and interests with each other.

*Visit [bit.ly/FCSalbums](https://bit.ly/FCSalbums) to see more photos from all of the 2023 culminating events.*





## Jackson Greenberg '08

### Film and Television Composer

#### What's the most enjoyable aspect of your work?

Watching a movie without music and brainstorming the first ideas of what it might sound like

#### What FCS lessons or experiences prepared you for your career?

It would have to be both the opportunity to play with the high school jazz band when I was still a Middle School student and the opportunity to write music as a high school student for two of the Upper School plays – *Dracula* and *The Tempest* – directed by Terry Guerin.

#### Favorite FCS memories?

What really stands out for me is weekly Wednesday service; I went to Easter Seals down the street on City Ave for all four years of high school and learned a lot.

Reading *Catcher in the Rye* in Mr. Mac's English Class

The Middle School class trip to Echo Hill – glad to know that tradition continues!

#### What's next for you?

I'm finishing up the score for a movie called *Madu*, a documentary about a young Nigerian ballet dancer who gets a scholarship to study at a ballet conservatory in England. It will be available later this year on Disney+. It was my first project with Disney, and all of the dance scenes created an opportunity to complete the film with music.

I just finished a commission for a New York based string quartet, and I have some more upcoming documentary projects on the horizon.

### We love to hear from our alums!

Share your news and updates with Alumni/ae Director Jody Mayer at [jmayer@friendscentral.org](mailto:jmayer@friendscentral.org).



## Lindsay Bedford '07

### Director of Strategic Partnerships and Community Outreach at FringeArts

#### What's the most enjoyable aspect of your work?

Being able to take pride knowing that every day I work towards making the world a better and more beautiful place by championing the power of art and design. It's an incredible feeling to love your career and to be passionate about your role in the world!

#### What FCS lessons or experiences prepared you for your career?

One of the greatest lessons I learned at FCS was the Quaker value system. I didn't recognize it at the time, but experiences like service days gave me the opportunity to use those lessons I learned in the classroom in real world scenarios. As a non-profit professional in the arts and as a creative, I practice those lessons daily.

#### Favorite FCS memory?

My favorite FCS memory of all time is a memory I have of Ms. Beth from one of my earliest days at FCS. I grew up in Delaware County and lived in Media, further from school than many of my classmates. I took a school district bus to and from FCS every day, but I knew that if I ever missed the bus, my parents had given me emergency pocket money to catch Septa. Of course, I had to use my emergency funds on the wonderful snacks offered in the cafeteria at school, and of course, the day eventually came when I missed the bus and had no money to get home. I remember feeling anxious and scared to be reprimanded by my parents, and of course, trapped at school! Eventually, I walked to the Main Building, filled with shame, to tell Ms. Beth about what happened and to ask for help. Immediately, she made me feel better. She took two life-saving Septa tokens from her desk. She then walked me outside and stood with me at the bus stop and waited until I was safely on the bus heading towards 69th Street. I remember turning and seeing she was still there, watching and waiting, making sure I was okay even as the bus drove off. That's the love and commitment students receive at FCS. There's nothing like it!

#### What's next for you?

Performance art! I'm wrapping up my first Fringe Festival ever, and I've caught the Fringe bug! I've had the most incredible experience going to shows every day and feeling filled with excitement and wonder from all of the incredible local artists I've seen perform. I want to start moving towards becoming multidisciplinary in my artistic practice.

FCS Alumni/ae







## Emmett Culhane '09

**Marine biologist & MIT PhD candidate**

**What's the most enjoyable aspect of your work?**

I study large pelagic fish – like sharks and tuna – and how they interact with prey communities in the deep ocean or 'twilight zone.' This gives me the opportunity to do the things I love most from a personal standpoint – to be outside, to be on or near the sea, to explore, and to interact with wildlife – while at the same time contributing (hopefully) to the conservation and stewardship of the ocean and the creatures that live there.

**What FCS lessons or experiences prepared you for your career?**

The curriculum was value-driven, not just in the humanities but also in STEM. The instructors in science and math often went beyond computation to nurture our curiosity and to draw important connections between their subjects and moral or philosophical ideas that were non-obvious and inspiring. This has had a lasting impact on me and continues to influence the way I think about scientific problems and their relationship to larger social and environmental contexts.

**Favorite FCS memories?**

I have many fond memories of FCS, but my senior year stands out as a particularly idyllic time. During that year, I played in the jazz band, the chamber ensemble, and the orchestra; I played on organized sports teams; I acted in a play, and I sang in a musical. That year was the last time – and in some cases the first time – that I did any of those things. Looking back, it's hard for me to believe that I stood on stage and sang and danced in front of the whole school, but the culture of friendliness and acceptance we had in our class made me feel comfortable to try things and put myself out there in a way I haven't felt since.

**Can you describe your current research?**

The region of the ocean between 200 and 1000 meters is known as the ocean twilight zone; it's the largest biome on the planet and is less well-surveilled than the surface of the moon. The focus of my recent research has been on the use of acoustic sound waves to see into the twilight zone, and to describe the size and distribution of the community of organisms that lives there. A key element of this work is the deployment of tags on large fish and sharks known to forage in the twilight zone for food and to try and understand why and where they make these trips into the deep. I'm a PhD candidate in the MIT biology department, where I am supported by a Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology fellowship.



Photo from amymeyerson.com

## Amy Meyerson '00

**Writer and Professor,  
University of Southern California  
USC Writers Conference Director**

**What's the most enjoyable aspect of your work?**

For both of my jobs, it's the sense of community. For my first book, [*The Book of Yesterdays*] which is set in a bookshop, I researched the literary history of LA. There has been and continues to be a very vibrant community of writers in LA. Becoming part of that community has been a highlight of publishing.

I also love my time in the classroom. The first week of the new semester is a special time where I get to know my students and understand how the class is unique as a result of the different personalities and backgrounds of the students who are in it. I love reading my students' personal essays and getting to know them through their writing.

**What FCS lessons or experiences prepared you for your career?**

When I was a junior, I took Laurie Novo's elective class in fiction writing. I had always written but mostly in private. During that time, I was working on the school literary magazine as well. As a writer, that was the first time I shared my work openly and began to take my writing more seriously. The stories I wrote and the feedback I got built my confidence to keep writing. In response, whenever I'm home, I try to visit Laurie Novo's class and share my path with her students, reminding them that it started in a class similar to the one they're taking. (See page 16 for Amy's recent FCS visit!)

In college, when I started getting positive feedback on both creative and analytical writing, I realized how well Friends' Central had prepared me. As a professor, I can recognize when students have received a strong secondary education in writing.

**Favorite FCS memories?**

I loved the Botany class I took with Mr. Gruber. On the surface, it doesn't have anything to do with my career, but it's just another way that FCS inspired creativity. Mr. Gruber would take us around campus and teach us about the trees and plants as we walked. It was such a hands-on interactive way of learning about the physical world.

**What's next for you?**

I've started working on a new book, but I'm still in the early stages of conception, so I don't want to jinx myself by saying too much. It's a little different from my past books, and I'm very excited about it.



# VISITORS TO CAMPUS

## DISTINGUISHED VISITING JUSTICE LEADER H. BERNARD HALL

In April, Friends' Central's 2022-2023 Distinguished Visiting Justice Leader Dr. H. Bernard Hall gave a powerful talk via Zoom on the foundations and significance of hip-hop. H. Bernard Hall's scholarship on the intersection of hip-hop pedagogy and English education has been published in peer-reviewed academic journals and edited volumes and featured at international and national education conferences. An Assistant Professor of Urban Teacher Education at Drexel University, Dr. H. Bernard Hall has collaborated with K-12 schools, colleges, and community-based organizations to respond to calls for social and educational justice. H. Bernard Hall was also the keynote speaker at the annual VIBE (Voices of Inclusivity, Belonging, and Equity) Conference held on the City Avenue campus in May.



## AUTHOR BRIAN SELZNICK

In April, co-hosted by Children's Book World, *New York Times* bestselling creator and Caldecott Medalist Brian Selznick came to the City Avenue campus to share his artistic and literary journey writing his latest book, *Big Tree*.



## AUTHOR AMY MEYERSON '00

In March, author Amy Meyerson '00 visited Laurie Novo's Upper School English seminar *Explaining Myself to Myself: Contemporary American Memoir by Women*. Amy, who recently published her third novel, *The Love Scribe*, spoke to the students about about the writing process and her own work. Amy is the bestselling author of *The Bookshop of Yesterdays* and *The Imperfects*. Her books have been translated into 11 languages, and her short fiction has been published in numerous literary magazines. Amy teaches in the writing department at the University of Southern California.





## AUTHOR CLARIBEL A. ORTEGA

In May, Friends' Central Lower School hosted Claribel A. Ortega, a *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning author who was formerly a reporter and now writes middle-grade and young adult fantasy inspired by her Dominican heritage. Claribel's debut middle grade novel, *Ghost Squad*, is being made into a feature film, and her graphic novel *Frizzy* won the 2023 Pura Belpré Award. In a special assembly for grades 3-5, Claribel shared her new book, *Witchlings 2: The Golden Frog Games*, the sequel to her *New York Times* bestseller *Witchlings*.



## BRITTANY ANN TRANBAUGH

Brittany Ann Tranbaugh, former student of music teacher Michele Zuckman, visited Michele's Upper School Music Theory and Composition class in April to talk about being a singer/songwriter and her songwriting process. In 2022, Brittany won Song of the Year in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest.

## EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGIST DAVID WAGNER

David Wagner, Professor of Evolutionary Biology at the University Of Connecticut, zoomed into John Gruber's Upper School Biodiversity classes in April. David spoke about preservation and conservation, climate change, changing ecologies, and caterpillars. He's an expert on the life history of moths and on the "insect collapse," the losses that are underway in the insect world. Featured in a recent *New Yorker* article profile, David was also co-author, along with John Gruber and Tanner A. Matson, of Friends' Central's first ever scientific research article naming a previously unrecognized moth species.



## THE KATZENBACH FAMILY

In April, Kristi Kallam's Kindergarten class received a special visit from the Katzenbachs, a Friends' Central family who spoke to students about their adventure around the world last year, with a focus on the rainforest, which was inspired by their son's Sy's time in KB. Their three children, Marin '28, Sy '32, and Griffin '34, all participated in the presentation.



## CITY LOVE

City Love, a Philly-based social justice music and education group, visited the Lower School in spring to perform for the students and help them to continue to celebrate our similarities and differences. They reminded students that we can all be part of a long history of upstanders working to make a more fair, safe, kind, loving world.

## JOIN US FOR

## 2023-2024 DISTINGUISHED VISITING JUSTICE LEADERS

**Andrew Nadkarni '13 and Dr. Nalini Nadkarni**

*Between Earth & Sky: Exploring Disturbance and Recovery in Films and Forests*

**October 16, 2023**

**Friends' Central's City Avenue campus**



Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Utah, studies the biota in rainforest canopies and documents the numerous critical ecological roles they play in tropical and temperate forests, work that has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. Andrew Nadkarni '13 is a queer multiracial filmmaker. His directorial debut documentary, *Between Earth & Sky*, won Best Short at Big Sky Doc Film Fest, Audience Award at DC Environmental Film Fest and will premiere on PBS/POV this fall.



# Athletic News

## AVERY LEWIS '24 CONTINUES TO TRIUMPH

This spring and summer, Avery Lewis '24 continued to astound with new athletic triumphs every month! Beginning in April, Avery became a repeat Penn Relays Champion and moved to US number three on the current National Rankings. In May, she ran a personal best of 11.41 seconds to take third place in the girls' 100 meter, at the Puma East Coast International Showcase in Maryland.

Continuing her successes in June, Avery participated in the 2023 New Balance Nationals Outdoor on Franklin Field in Philadelphia. A third-round leap of 20 feet, 9.75 inches by Avery broke one of the few marks still standing from the previous century, a 20-9 bound by Villa Maria Academy standout Angie Brown at the 1994 Golden West Invitational in California. Avery closed out the competition with a leap of 20-0.5 to record half of the four total marks over 20-0.

Finally, in August, Avery traveled to the Jose A. Figueroa Freire Stadium in Puerto Rico to compete in the Pan American

U20 Track and Field Championships.

Avery took the lead in the fifth round for the Long Jump with a jump of 20-04.75 (-0.9). She went on to secure her win in the sixth round with an improved jump of 20-05 (-0.4). Her relay team also set a new American under-20 record in the 4x100. The group ran a time of 42.88 seconds, an effort just 0.19 seconds shy of a World U20 record. The performance shattered the previous Pan American U20 record of 43.38, which was also set by an American contingent.

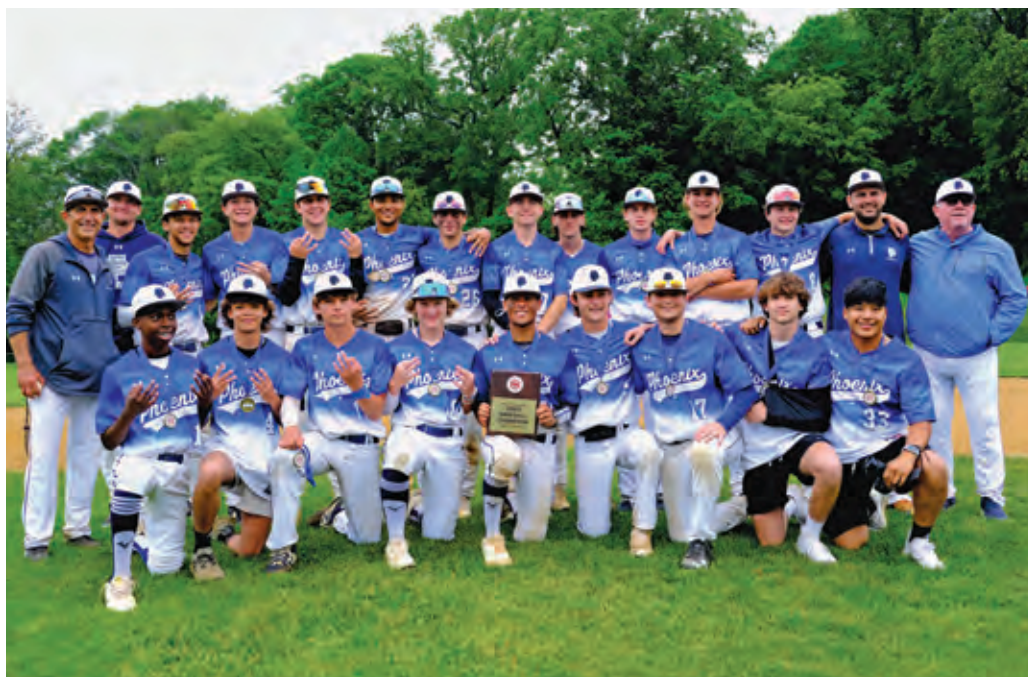
Avery ranked sixth nationally on the MileSplit50 top 50 girls track and field athletes and was named Second Team All-American for the outdoor season. She was also named Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Player of the year for the 2023 track and field season.

As Avery enters her senior year at Friends' Central, we are all so excited to watch her continue to excel and add to her incredible list of achievements!



Avery Lewis (photo by Patty Morgan Photography)

FOR MORE FCS ATHLETICS NEWS, VISIT [FRIENDSCENTRAL.ORG/ATHLETICS](https://FRIENDSCENTRAL.ORG/ATHLETICS)



## FRIENDS' CENTRAL BASEBALL WINS THIRD CONSECUTIVE FSL CHAMPIONSHIP

This spring, the Phoenix won its third straight Friends League baseball championship, beating Westtown 11-1 in six innings at home. Four seniors played a large role in securing this decisive victory. "The leadership that Darius Adkins, Alejandro Flores, Lucca Frattone, and Julian Abreu provided was exceptional," coach Jon Rubin '83 said. "They are really model community members, they are incredibly passionate about baseball, and they work their tails off, so their commitment to the sport is off the charts."

All four players are continuing on to play baseball at the collegiate level this fall. Lucas is at Wesleyan, Alejandro at Penn State-Harrisburg, Darius at St. Joseph's University, and Julian at Marist.





**MAIN LINE GIRLS ATHLETE  
OF THE WEEK  
MARIA MORSA '24**

Maria Morsa '24 was named Main Line Girls Athlete of the Week for the week of May 8-14, 2023. The junior shortstop, a first team All-Main Line and All-Friends' Schools League softball selection as a freshman, was a powerful presence in the heart of the Phoenix lineup this spring. "My interest in softball started with my mom," said Maria. "My mom played college softball at Villanova, and I always worked with her at a young age. I started playing at four years old, and it just grew to be my passion."

*Excerpted from a PA Prep Live article by Bruce Adams*



**MAIN LINE BOYS ATHLETE  
OF THE WEEK PABLO  
SPIELMAN-RODRIGUEZ '24**

Pablo Spielman-Rodriguez '24 was named Main Line Boys Athlete of the Week for the week beginning May 15, 2023. The junior infielder was a key contributor to the three-time FSL baseball champions this spring. Pablo wears the number 26 at FCS, inspired by former Phillies player Chase Utley. "Utley was my favorite player to watch on the Phillies. He always hustled to first on ground balls, no matter how routine, which had an impact on me as a child and still does today," Pablo shared.

*Excerpted from a PA Prep Live article by Bruce Adams*



**LOGYN GREER '25 IN  
TRYOUTS FOR THE U16  
NATIONAL TEAM**

Logyn Greer '25 was among just 55 girls invited to compete at USA Basketball's U16 National Team trials in Colorado Springs in May. While she was not selected, Logyn has already drawn college offers from Penn State, Georgetown, and St. Joseph's. She helped the Phoenix to a 21-6 season, averaging 15.2 points, and earned second-team all-state. Logyn also participated in the All-American Adidas Basketball Camp this summer, one of the premiere invitation-only basketball summer camps in the country.

**PASLA ALL-ACADEMIC  
TEAM ACCOLADES**

Congratulations to the following student-athletes who earned PASLA (Pennsylvania Area Schoolgirls Lacrosse Association) All-Academic Team awards for the spring 2023 season. PASLA awards recognizes students for not only their athleticism, but also for their work in the classroom. To receive this award, a lacrosse player must maintain a 3.5 GPA.

**Molly Allen '23**

**Nia Brooks '24**

**Haylee Gibson '23**

**Paz Sorg '24**

**Katherine Staton '24**





# Alumni/ae Athletes in the News

This spring, Syracuse University, collegiate alma mater of **HAKIM WARRICK '01**, retired Hakim's jersey at the 20th anniversary of his team's NCAA Championship win. Hakim went on to become a first-round NBA draft pick in 2005 and enjoy a 13-year career in professional basketball (eight in the NBA).



Photo of Amile Jefferson from goduke.com

This summer, **AMILE JEFFERSON '12** finalized a multiyear deal to become an assistant coach with the Boston Celtics. Amile won a national championship with Duke as a player in 2015, graduating from Duke in 2017. Amile joined the Orlando Magic for the 2019-2020 season; he then went on to play internationally. He joined the Blue Devils staff in July 2021.



Photo of Hakim Warrick at Syracuse by The block

Friends of Myles and organizers of the Myles Roche Memorial Soccer Tournament (from left) Theo '24, Daniel '24, and Gabe '24



## SOCCER TOURNAMENT IN HONOR OF MYLES ROCHE '24

The second-annual Myles Roche Memorial 3v3 Soccer Tournament took place on campus in April. The event is held to commemorate Myles Roche '24 and is organized and hosted by a group of Myles' Friends' Central friends. Myles, a keen soccer player, was a beloved member of the School community who passed away in 2021. His legacy lives on at FCS. In addition to the annual soccer tournament, the *Myles Patrick Roche '24 Endowed Scholarship* was created by family and friends to support tuition assistance in perpetuity in Myles' memory.

The Blue Team gearing up to compete at the Middle School's Phoenix Game Day 2023 in June







Middle School

# Blue/Gray Day 2023



Upper School



Lower School



Lower School







## CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2023

On Saturday, June 10, 2023, Friends' Central honored the Class of 2023 at the School's 178th Commencement, which was attended by large numbers of family, friends, and FCS faculty members.

Addressing the Class of 2023 directly, Head of School Beth Davis Johnson '77 said, "Everyone here today is filled with pride about you, your accomplishments, and the many beautiful ways you have let your lives speak. ... Despite the trials associated with your ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade years, you made the journey your own. You went from performing plays in masks outside to performing plays inside; athletic competitions with few fans and then with the stands filled; making friends and getting together online to gatherings on the fields, in Shallcross, and on Felsen Common. You became mentors to younger students, leaders on campus and beyond. We know you as exceptional young people who are strong, flexible, resilient, and creative. We know you can handle adversity, but you are also ready to thrive, excel, and make a difference, using these traits for the good, not just survival!"

The two student Commencement speakers were Dev Gupta and Gabe Riccardi. Dev, who came to FCS in the fourth grade, shared several stories about his class that were, he said, linked by the common thread of community. "Throughout these nine years, the understanding and kindness that I have felt in this cohort has been truly unique to our grade," he shared, describing the compassion his classmates have demonstrated over the years and wishing them all the very best in the future. This fall, Dev is attending Western Reserve University as a member of the Pre-Professional Scholars Program for Medicine, which grants him conditional admission to Case Western Reserve's School of Medicine.







Gabriel Riccardi, who joined the class in 2020, in the middle of ninth grade, spoke next, sharing how welcome his classmates made him feel as he transitioned to FCS. “This welcoming atmosphere extended into the classroom,” Gabe said. “Every teacher, without fail, approached me after my first class, offering their availability to meet, should I need any help catching up or understanding the material.” The Class of 2023, he said, “discovered ways to thrive and support one another” throughout the challenges of the pandemic. This fall, Gabe is attending Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where he is majoring in Musical Theater.

In her address, Michelle Crowley, FCS Director of Athletics & Wellness and parent of a Class of 2023 graduate, spoke about the importance of perseverance and shared the advice she gives to FCS student-athletes at the beginning of each season, the “10 things that require zero talent but do require perseverance.” Her list included being on time, having a strong work ethic, a positive attitude and passion, being prepared, and “doing a little extra.” She concluded by exhorting the graduates to, “let go of who you think you are supposed to be, and embrace who you are. Use the ‘10 things that require zero talent but do require perseverance’ to dare greatly, live wholeheartedly with authenticity, and own your story.”

Following the ceremony, the graduates – joined by their families and friends – enjoyed a reception, with opportunities for family photos, before heading out into the summer of 2023 as newly minted members of Friends’ Central’s alumni/ae community. **QW**

*For more photos from Commencement 2023, visit [bit.ly/FCSalbums](https://bit.ly/FCSalbums).*





# CLASS OF 2023 COLLEGE CHOICES

Barnard College	Juniata College	U.S. Naval Academy
Boston College	Loyola University Maryland	University of Alabama
Boston Conservatory	Marist College	University of California Berkeley
Bowdoin College (2)	McGill University	University of Colorado
Carnegie Mellon University	Morgan State University (2)	University of Florida
Case Western University (2)	New York University (Tisch)	University of Glasgow
Champlain College	Northeastern University (2)	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Connecticut College	Occidental College	University of Pennsylvania (4)
Cornell University (2)	Penn State University (Altoona)	University of Pittsburgh (3)
Delaware State University	Penn State University (Harrisburg) (2)	University of South Florida
Drexel University (4)	Penn State University (Main) (3)	University of St. Andrews (2)
Duke University	Princeton University	University of Toronto
Eckerd College	Purdue University	University of Winchester
Fairfield University	Seton Hall University	Vassar College
Franklin & Marshall College (2)	Smith College (2)	Villanova University
Gettysburg College	St. John's University	Wake Forest University
Hampton University	St. Joseph's University (2)	Washington University in St. Louis
Howard University	Swarthmore College	Wesleyan University
Ithaca College	Syracuse University	West Chester University (2)
Jacksonville University.	Temple University (3)	Widener University
Johns Hopkins University	Tufts University (2)	

## Class of 2023 attending specialized colleges and programs, including:

Five students attending Historically Black Colleges, six students attending Ivy League colleges, six students attending international universities, three students attending women's colleges, four students attending art colleges



# The Class of 2023









# Alumni/ae Weekend 2023



Alumni/ae Weekend 2023 began on Friday, May 12 at the Merion Cricket Club, where alums from the “Fabulous Fifties” and from the Class of 1960 gathered together for a special dinner. The idea for the dinner came to Dave Branning, agent for the Class of 1959, and some friends when they joined together to celebrate the life of Calvin “Pete” Drayer ’57 last summer. School pride was in the air throughout the night, and there was even an impromptu singing of the Alma Mater, enhanced by the voice of Head of School Beth Davis Johnson ’77.

On the next day, Saturday, the festivities were undiminished by the impending rain, and a big group gathered for breakfast and Meeting for Worship in Shallcross Hall. During the presentation of the Distinguished Alumnus/a Awards, our honorees each shared heartfelt messages about their time at FCS. Phil Scott ’73 said, “FCS was a place that allowed and encouraged me to be whatever and whomever I wanted to be; scholar, athlete, writer, actor, musician, politician, scientist, activist, all of the above.” Liz Cohen ’83 mentioned in her remarks that fellow awardee Juan Jewell ’68 was the best teacher she had ever had, including her college and law school professors. Juan was joined by 10 classmates from the Class of 1968. Some, he commented, “I have known for over 65 years.”

Another special alumna who came to campus was Dorothy Coleman Dangerfield ’43, celebrating her 80th FCS Reunion. Dorothy and members of the Classes of 1950 through 1973 enjoyed lunch in Shallcross Hall and a chance to reminisce and visit. Chairs and tables were rearranged to enable larger groups to eat together.

During the afternoon, FCS student ambassadors lead tours through the campus to showcase new enhancements and to hear stories from the alums’ school days. Each tour took time to stop in the Center for Innovation & Design (the CID), the City Avenue campus’ new dedicated space for innovation and design. In the CID’s fabrication workshop, CID Co-Director CJ Keller and student volunteers used a tufting gun to create an FCS-themed rug. The project was interactive, allowing visitors to participate in the creation.





3



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Those ready to face the chance of rain headed up to the Lankenau fields to cheer on the boys' baseball team. The Phoenix successfully defended their FSL title for the third year in a row under the leadership of Jon Rubin '83, who was also celebrating his 40th Reunion.

Classes from 1983 to 2013 celebrated into the evening downtown at Liquid Barrel Arts. The Class of 2013 had the biggest turnout in celebration of their 10th Reunion, with over 30 members of their class coming together. QW

## Alumni/ae Weekend returns May 3 & 4, 2024; mark your calendar and **SAVE the DATE!**

1. & 4. Alums from a range of class years braving the rain to reconnect with classmates
2. Inge Stark Olivero de Rubiana '60 and Sylvie '24 using a tufting gun to create an FCS-themed rug in the CID
3. Dorothy Coleman Dangerfield '43, celebrating her 80th FCS Reunion
5. FCS student ambassadors
6. Celebrating at the Merion Cricket Club on the Friday of Alumni/ae Weekend

For more photos from Alumni/ae Weekend 2023, visit [bit.ly/FCSalbums](https://bit.ly/FCSalbums).



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2023 REUNION CLASSES





## 2023 REUNION CLASSES



**1. Class of 1953** From left: Martha Green Meade, Peggy Brumfield Bruton, Karen Klein Mannes, Pincus Sall, Frank James

**2. Class of 1963** Front row, from left: Julie Berg Cooke, Marc Sherson, Anne Sherson, Vivian Appel; Back row, from left: Ann Hort Wolfe, Judith Herron Mosconi, Nina Beecham Stratton, Clemence Ravacon-Mershon, Beth Kirchhofer Hague, John Hague

**3. Class of 1968** Front row, from left: Doug Linton, Connie Burgess Lanzl, David Arnold, Neil Yoskin, Claire Janosik Griffin, Jenny Ornsteen James; Back row, from left: Helen Miehle, Peter Luborsky, Will Brown, Janet Goldwater, Juan Jewell, John Schalow, Ken Judson

**4. Class of 1973** Front row, from left: Sheila Broyles Hughes, Louise Schalow Del Vecchio, Phil Scott, Diane Funderburg, Anne Lion Mitchell, Ross Donolow, Vincent Carbone; Middle row, from left: Barbara Kritchevsky, Penny Levin, Pearl Graub Goldstein, Ron Harris, Edward Kohl, Emma George Terndrup, Wynne Alexander; Back row, from left: Jon Orwitz, James Murdock, Evan Wessel, Marcus Guynn, Bruce Baird, Lisa Korostoff Rooney

**5. Class of 1978** From left: Craig Boyer, Sylvia Hamerman-Brown, Lexy Lovell, Sally Jackson Leonard, Bernard Harris, Jr., Ed Whereat, John Balson

**6. Class of 1983** From left: Howard Harrison, Jim Larson, Nancy Sanders, Liz Cohen, Peter Gross, Noellie Hillebrecht, Kristin Johnsen-Neshati, Greg Kuhn

**7. Class of 1988** From left: Bill Georges, Ellen Cohen, Samantha Hauser Ekert, Eric Miller, Jessica Zeldin

**8. Class of 1998** From left: Josh Elgart, Molly Mullahy, Brendan Tozer, Liz Shinn Hulford, Alexa Dunnington Quinn, Graham Quinn, Nick Goldwyn, Chip Schofield

**9. Class of 2003** Front row, from left: David Kleban, Van Hemingway, Ale Franqui and daughter; Back row, from left: Max Frankel, Mary Craudereuff, Heather Klein, Madeleine Sheldon-Dante, Ian Ramsey-North and daughter, Greg Pearlman, Peter Wright and family

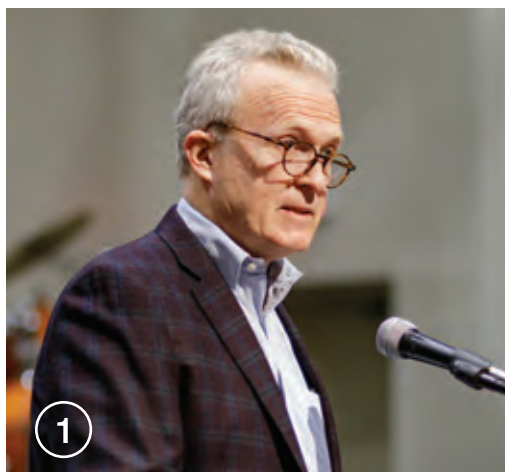
**10. Class of 2008** From left: Taylor Lee, Michael Dohrmann, Alec Unkovic, Dan Fedder, Logan Brenner, James Shelton

**11. Class of 2013** Front row, from left: Andrew Nadkarni, Victoria Gillison, Nate Willis, Grace Heard, Holly Woodbury, Rachel Weiss, Michael Furey; Back row, from left: Daniel Banko-Ferran, Ben Lichtman, Andrew Shoemaker

*For more photos from Alumni/ae Weekend 2023, visit [bit.ly/FCSalbums](https://bit.ly/FCSalbums).*



## ALUMNI/AE WEEKEND 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



**1.** Phillip Scott '73, former FCS trustee, was honored as a 2023 Distinguished Alumnus in recognition of his leadership and generosity to the FCS community.

**2.** Former FCS trustee Elizabeth Cohen '83 received the 2023 Distinguished Alumna award for her leadership and her many years of dedicated service to FCS.

**3.** FCS trustee Juan Jewell '68 was named a 2023 Distinguished Alumnus for dedicating his career to education and for his lifelong love of FCS.

**4.** David Williams '75 addresses attendees of the Alumni/ae of Color Gathering

**5.** Alums exploring the FCS archival photos that were on display in the Main Building's OPA Room

**6.** CID Co-Director CJ Keller giving alums a tour of the Center for Innovation & Design (CID)

**7.** A great turnout at the evening reception on the Saturday of Alumni/ae Weekend for the Class of 2013, who were celebrating their 10th FCS Reunion





# ALUMNI/AE

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHECK YOUR INBOX FOR DETAILS ABOUT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

**October 13** Fall Fest | Fall Varsity games, matches and meet vs. GFS | 4 pm

**October 25** Philadelphia Alumni/ae Happy Hour | 6 pm  
"The Mulberry," 1835 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

### SAVE THE DATE

## May 3 & 4, 2024 - Alumni/ae Weekend

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Radnor Hotel  
591 East Lancaster Avenue, St. Davids, PA 19087 | 610 341 3100

Please reference Friends' Central School Alumni/ae Weekend and make your reservation before Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

Other Hotel Options:

- Residence Inn Philadelphia Bala Cynwyd  
615 Righters Ferry Road, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 | 610 747 0550
- Devon Courtyard by Marriott  
762 W. Lancaster Ave, Wayne, PA 19087 | 610 687 6633
- Philadelphia Marriott West  
111 Crawford Ave, West Conshohocken, PA 19428 | 610 941 5600

Connect with other Alumni/ae using your LinkedIn profile - make sure you list Friends' Central School under your education section - visit the page here







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



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