



Connections

A Publication of The Friends School of Wilmington

Winter 2016

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and more...



Friends School of Wilmington

Why I Give to the FRIENDS SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND!

By Current Teacher and
Alumni Parent Karen Linehan

Every fall as the calendar year winds down, I look forward to giving to the Friends School annual fund. It is one small way of supporting our school and expressing gratitude for the many gifts my family has received during the past 16 years.

I give in honor of my daughters, Kelsey and Dylan, who graduated from Friends and carry the spirit of the school wherever they go. I give because I believe in our mission and the important work that we do as students, teachers, and parents each day of the year. I give because every morning as I walk in the door, I know that I am entering an extraordinary community. One that deeply considers the needs of children as they prepare to make their way in the greater world. A place that values the unique light within each person. A community of people working hard to bring positive change to the lives of others.

Joining the Friends School community is one of the most important decisions my family has ever made. I want our school to continue to grow for the next fifty years and beyond. I give to the annual fund because I love this school with all my heart. I cannot imagine my life, or the lives of my children, without the Friends School of Wilmington.

To make your tax deductible contribution

please visit:

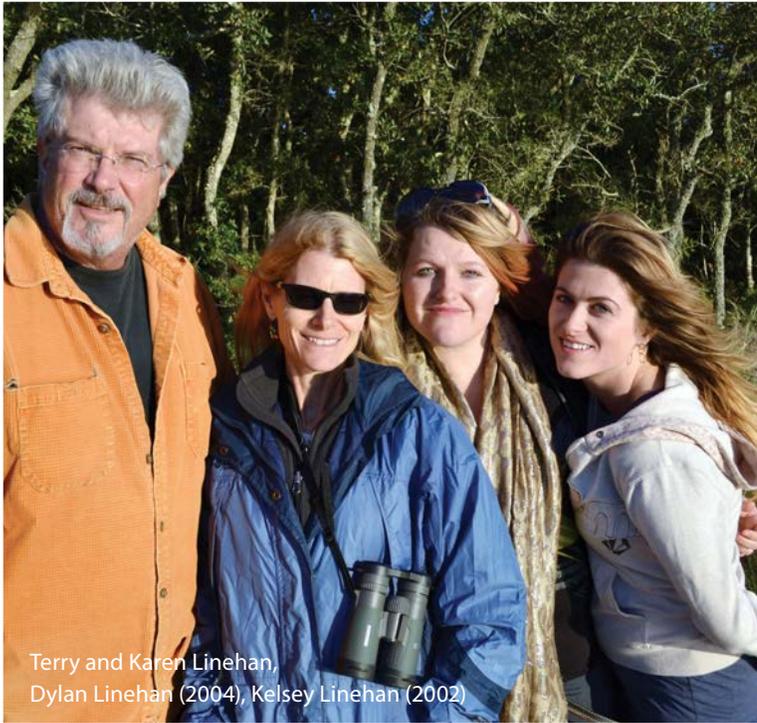
www.fsow.org and click Support FSW

or mail your gift to:

**Friends School of Wilmington
Development Office**
350 Peiffer Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28409

For more information please contact:

Jill Stockman
Development Director
jills@fsow.org | 910-792-1811



Terry and Karen Linehan,
Dylan Linehan (2004), Kelsey Linehan (2002)

On the cover: 1st grade students study the life cycle of the fritillary butterfly, examining an egg that was laid on the passion vine that grows in the school's butterfly garden.

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Empowering SCIENCE

“What do you see when you picture a scientist? Is it a white man in a lab coat?” These questions, posed by Karen Eng in her recent TEDFellows article, are accompanied by pictures of women from around the world who represent a range of disciplines including astrophysics, biology, genetics, archaeology, medicine, glaciology, and data science.

Karen is all about confronting stereotypes and empowering girls in fields where they do not typically flourish. “Everywhere you look, odds appear stacked against women in STEM [Science, Technology Engineering, and Math],” she observes. “Young male scientists receive up to twice as much funding as their female counterparts in Boston’s biomedical research institutions, a global research hub. Only 30% of the world’s researchers are women, and women hold fewer than 25% of STEM jobs in the US.”

When I read this, I appreciated the reminder that we need to be particularly careful to encourage girls to participate in enriching STEM activities at school and create encouraging paths for them to do so. We certainly know that our youngest students arrive as scientists, regardless of gender, seeking answers to questions, making sense of patterns, learning from evidence, and building knowledge. They enthusiastically investigate the puzzle of the world around them through science explorations offered by teachers from our Montessori program through the elementary years. As our students grow into Middle School, their critical thinking and problem-solving skills have had a sustained workout, and students are able to absorb and apply science and technology concepts that can reach well beyond the capacity of their parents. Ability knows no gender. But even here at Friends, we sometimes see girls begin to choose a lower profile as learners in STEM subjects as they experience the impact of larger cultural notions.



5th grade student, Emma, presents her science experiment at the “State Fair”

We want every one of our students, youngest to oldest, girls and boys, to have the opportunity to keep their natural science curiosity fired up throughout their years at Friends School. And parents agree. Last year, our auction’s fund-a-need raised over \$16,000 to enhance science programming at Friends School. These funds have enhanced place-based learning, allowed for increased science and technology resources, and expanded our extracurricular STEM offerings. In particular, Lego Robotics and Science Olympiad are two fabulous opportunities for students to dig into STEM within collaborative team approaches. Both of these offerings take our students off campus and out into the world where they compete with other students from around the region. I am thrilled that our students have this chance to broaden their horizons and tangibly experience life as a scientist. Thanks to all who supported this effort and to the teachers who carry it out with dedication. Good things ahead for our boys and our girls!



Brenda

Brenda Esch
Head of School

Laura Williams, Jennifer Mass, Ann Souder,
Elizabeth Souder, Sharon Ely



..... *After 15 years of Welcoming Families to FSW*

ANN SOUDER LOOKS FORWARD TO RETIREMENT

We said goodbye to Ann Souder who retired at the end of October after serving FSW for fifteen years. A celebratory send-off was attended by faculty, staff, board members, parents, students and alumni. Ann was royally roasted as guests regaled the crowd with fond and funny memories. As Admissions Director, she has been known to practically everyone with any affiliation at FSW.

Ann plans to spend her time traveling, volunteering, and reviving her own artistic talents. She will continue to be a treasured part of the extended Friends School community.



Thank you, Ann, for your years of dedicated service to the students of Friends School.

The First Annual FSW 5K & 1 Mile Family Fun Run was a Smashing Success!

Thanks to current families, old friends and new, who came out to support our first 5K. With over 175 race day participants, Colin Hackman, Go Time CEO, said it was "the biggest first year race since 2011." A special thank you to Shawn Tunis, FSW Parent and Race Director, for her amazing leadership and hard work. Without Shawn, this incredible community event would not have been possible!





Martina Jonsson-Boykin

Martina was born in Stockholm, Sweden and moved to San Diego, CA when she was seven years old. She learned to speak English by attending ESL classes and was fluent by age nine. In middle school and high school, Martina's third language, Spanish, came with ease and she went on to graduate from UNCW with a Master's in Secondary Education and a BA in Spanish. Martina studied abroad in Valencia and Seville, Spain and traveled to parts of Central America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean. She joined FSW in 2010 as the Spanish teacher. This was her second year leading FSW's Dominican Republic Service Learning and Language Immersion trip for a group of FSW 7th and 8th graders.

This was your second year leading the Dominican Republic trip. What was different the second time around?

Having a strong partnership with the DREAM Project from our work together for the past several years and our trip in 2014 contributed to our community and our students feeling even more confident about this 2015 trip. That confidence translated to students arriving in the Dominican Republic with complete openness and a desire to interact with the Dominican people, with less worry about language barriers. The three students who came on the trip for a second time, our veteran travelers, led as informal mentors, easily engaging in play and communication with children, explaining cultural differences and asking questions that brought our cultural awareness to a new level.

Another difference was that our service project was in a more remote location, and this isolated, rural community had challenges we had not witnessed before, including lack of proper trash disposal, an even lower educational program with poor classroom management, limited working bathrooms, a few small shacks as stores, and no restaurants.

Many of the comments our student travelers made about their experiences in the DR were quite remarkable. What was it like to witness such life changing experiences for our students?

I'm a planner, but it's impossible to know what will affect them most on a trip like this. Last year, there was an overwhelming amount of students analyzing the relationship between materialism and happiness, realizing that the Dominican children had so little, yet were so happy. This year, what stood out for the group was gratitude for

the amazing feeling of connecting with others on a deeper level, appreciating the many differences and yet seeing the universal qualities that we all have.

I witnessed these realizations while on the trips and then memories linked to this come up sporadically throughout the school days. I hear from students that they have whole walls of pictures from the trip in their rooms at home. They still remember the names of those with whom they formed incredible bonds. If this has planted just the tiniest seed to want to see the world, to interact with others even locally, to help someone else, and to explore and find value in cultures and languages, then I am absolutely thrilled. I get emotional just writing this and feel immense pride for this program.

This is your sixth year at FSW. What keeps you coming back?

Though foreign language education is my passion, I don't just teach Spanish at Friends School of Wilmington and I can't imagine just teaching Spanish now. I highly treasure my role as one of the 8th grade advisors and enjoy settling into the day with this group each morning and facilitating age-specific activities and discussions. I have strong connections with students, having taught many of them year after year and seeing them grow. How teachers and students treat each other matters and our sense of community matters. I see our school community with its values as a mini model of the community that these students may choose to surround themselves with, and spread, in their future. If I can contribute to students treating each other with kindness and integrity, caring for our community, inquiring, problem solving, and appreciating the world, what could be better? What is the value of foreign language if children don't care to interact with others? It is much more than any grammar exercise in a textbook.

You taught a French elective this year for the first time. Why?

I wanted students to have the experience of exploring a new foreign language, sending the message that all foreign language learning is valuable. Many studies show that any foreign language learning enhances knowledge of other languages, does not take away, and even gives students a deeper understanding of their first native language. A non-intentional outcome was that many students realized how well they knew Spanish in comparison as they made links between the languages. Besides the many reasons for learning, it was a blast to explore something new with students.



FSW student explores the community of Batey Caraballo

*New Programs at FSW
Give Students*

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

By FSW Parent Beth Bachelder

American astronomer Edwin Powell Hubble once said, “Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science.” It’s a sentiment that Friends School of Wilmington science teacher Bruce Kenney shares (although Bruce would use more inclusive pronouns), and it’s an excellent starting point to talk about all the Science adventures happening now at Friends.

The school’s LEGO Robotics Club just finished competing in a FIRST LEGO League qualifier in Myrtle Beach, S.C. These 4th, 5th and 6th graders have been working on their LEGO robotics projects since September. During the December 5th competition, they presented a robot that maneuvered a course to turn on a composter device and move the position of a truck.

Teams are forming for grades 3–5 and grades 6–8 to compete in Science Olympiad this year. Science Olympiad tournaments began in the mid-1970s. The first recorded event was actually held in Laurinburg, N.C. Today, there

are nearly 7,000 secondary schools from all 50 states participating, with an additional 10,000 or more elementary schools holding Science Olympiad tournaments or hands-on events. In 2016—for the first time ever—Friends School of Wilmington will become one of them!

Our school teams have already started preparing for the tournaments. The middle school teams will compete March 5 at UNCW and the elementary school teams will compete May 21 at Ashley High School. The teams will spend hours collaborating, studying, designing, testing and preparing their projects. The tournaments are rigorous academic competitions that consist of different hands-on, interactive, challenging and inquiry-based events that are well balanced between the various disciplines of biology, earth science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, engineering and technology.

There are numerous events to participate in this year at Science Olympiad. Elementary school students can compete in events such as Backyard Biologist, First in Flight, STEM Design Challenge, and Describe It, Write It.



Bruce works on a Raspberry Pi computer with a student.



Students participate in FIRST LEGO League qualifier in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Middle schoolers can compete in events like Bottle Rocket Launch, Duct Tape Challenge, Bridge Building, and Write It, Do It.

Bruce has been the science teacher at Friends School of Wilmington since 2004, and one of his guiding principles is to engage students through hands-on activities. He continually advocates for new science experiences. In

addition to LEGO Robotics, he has been working with students on technology and computer programming. Bruce spends his personal time, too, looking for ways to bring science to the kids. He recently received a Raspberry Pi computer and is working with it at home to discover ways to use it and share it with his students. Some ideas: use it as a robot controller or as a way to turn ordinary, non-computer objects into Internet of Thing (IoT) devices.

“Science is a way of knowing about the world we live in. It is about using our senses, and putting order to what we experience,” he says. “It’s important to remember, too, that everyone is a scientist in one way or another. If you want to plant a garden, you have to ask yourself questions about what you need to know to help the plants grow. When should I plant? How much water will I need? How much sunlight?”

With extracurricular activities like LEGO Robotics and Science Olympiad, the Science program at FSW continues to grow, extending our reach beyond the classroom and into the world.

The CHICKENS Have NAMES!

After thoughtful consideration and much happiness, the Pine Grove faculty named our chickens.



RACHEL

Rachel Carson | environmentalist
[PARTRIDGE ROCK]



MINNIE

Minnie Evans | Airlie Gardens artist
[COCHEON- WHITE]



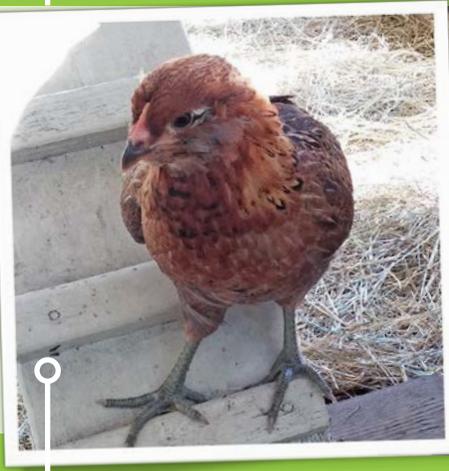
HARRIET

Harriet Tubman | humanitarian
[PARTRIDGE ROCK- STRIPED]



MARGARET

Margaret Fell | mother of Quakerism
[WYANDOTTE BLACK]



MARIA

Maria Montessori | educator
[AMERICANA-REDDISH]



Thank you again to our PTO and to everyone who donated to the Feathered Friends Fund. Your support made it possible to purchase our chicken coop.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TRIP

A Parent's Point of View { By FSW Parent Alex Peterson }

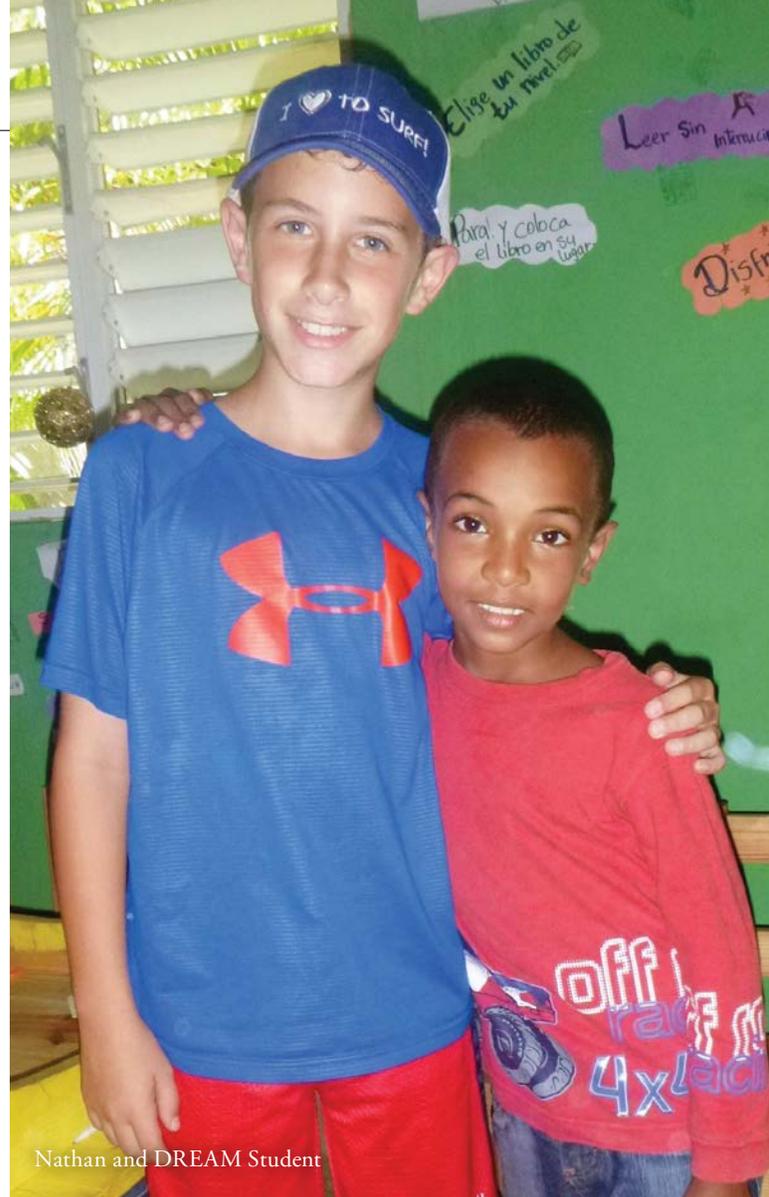
When I was a junior in college, I went to Brussels to study for a semester. It was pretty much forced upon me, and I was not at all happy to go. By the time I came home, however, I realized it was the best semester I'd had in college. I've always been grateful to my parents for not listening to my protestations. That's a big part of the reason I was immediately on board with my oldest son Nathan going on the Dominican Republic service learning trip.

Fortunately, he was eager to go as well. His enthusiasm didn't falter throughout the long process of fundraising and preparation. In fact, his butterflies didn't show up until we were in the car at 1:15 in the morning, heading to the Pine Grove campus. I related my experience of studying abroad, and that seemed to calm him a bit. My efforts paled in comparison to being around his friends and fellow travelers, though. Within 5 minutes of standing in the parking lot, he was raring to go. Finally, all travelers arrived,

It was hard to send him off, but we are thrilled with how he's grown intellectually and emotionally because of this experience!

the bus was loaded, and they headed to Raleigh.

As a parent, I was of two minds at that point. I was thrilled for him and what he was about to experience. As I'm sure you can understand, I was also feeling nervous about the scope of the trip and incredibly helpless that we wouldn't be there for him. My concerns faded greatly once the group arrived and we started seeing updates on the blog. That was a huge source of comfort for my wife and me



Nathan and DREAM Student

over the next week. We tried our best not to check it every single hour, but I'd be lying if I said we were successful. We were ravenous for information and pictures about their experiences, and we were never left wanting.

Finally, the day came for the group to return home. I found myself back at campus in the wee hours of the morning. While weary from the trip, Nathan actually had a glow about him, coming from the breadth of his experiences in a foreign country and satisfaction and pride in what they'd accomplished. When I asked him on the drive home, Nathan was unsure of whether he'd want to go on the trip again, but it only took a good night's sleep for him to recover. By the next afternoon, he was asking if he could do it again next year. I can't think of any better affirmation for the trip as a whole and for Martina and Liz in particular. It was hard to send him off, but we are thrilled with how he's grown intellectually and emotionally because of this experience!



Class of 2012 – Gray Salter

My name is Gray Salter and I attended FSW for a fantastic 7 years. I graduated from Friends and I am a current senior at Hoggard High School. Some of my favorite courses at Hoggard have been US History, English, and Sports Marketing. While in high school I have also participated in junior varsity football and varsity soccer. My future plans are, hopefully, to be accepted into Appalachian State University in Boone, NC and study Electronic Media and Broadcasting Communications. I intend for this major to lead me into a sports focused workplace where I can become a broadcaster, play by play announcer, or even a sports writer.

I have a lot to thank Friends School for as it gave me a great foundation for success in high school and has prepared me in excess for my future. I will always miss my days at FSW and the memories I made there, but I am very excited for the next chapter in my life.

Class of 2014 – Ashlee Horning

My name is Ashlee Horning, and I'm a sophomore at Carolina Friends School in Durham, NC. Currently, my favorite subject is World History. I enjoy learning about what living in different places was like before my own lifetime, and to hear extraordinary stories from

the past. Not to forget learning about how to avoid past mistakes, and to discover where current traditions come from. Outside of school, I enjoy writing short stories. I also work with my dog Ginger in obedience training, agility, and therapy. In my future, I hope to go



to college, preferably in-state, and find a job in journalism.

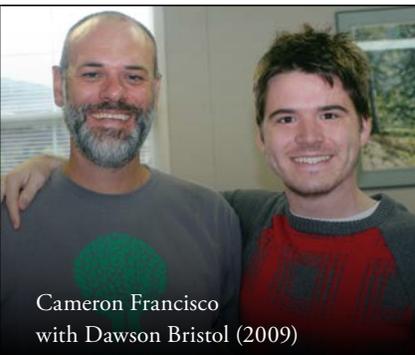
Class of 2012 – Jackson Lumpkin

Hi I'm Jackson Lumpkin and I spent 10 fantastic years at FSW. I am currently a Junior enrolled in the Lyceum Academy at New Hanover High School, a program that is very similar to FSW. The work is challenging but rewarding, and it's only 100 kids. These two facets, a small environment, along with a rigorous curriculum make Lyceum seem almost identical to my middle school. I enjoy History, as well as Spanish. I am currently in Spanish 4 where I am making the transition from conversationalist to fluent speaker. I have also been a member of the New Hanover Varsity soccer team for two years. We won a conference title and made two consecutive semi-final state playoff runs. One of the biggest things I took away from playing sports at FSW was sportsmanship; too many kids at the high school level refuse to shake hands after the game, or make poor tackles on the field. It is great that parents of FSW athletes let their children enjoy the game. Yes, winning is great, however middle school sports should be used as a medium for children to experience playing on a team, learning how to play, and most of all, learning how to act, win or lose. At FSW, we felt challenged to excel, but didn't get caught up with the obsession of winning.

If I could name one thing I miss the most about Friends School, it would probably be the privilege of addressing my teachers by their first names. What I found most difficult going into high school was the loss of a personal connection between the student and the teacher. Many Friends School kids may feel that their teachers during freshman and sophomore year are terrible and hate their job, when in reality these teachers deal with over



500 kids a day. My advice to these kids would be to take the time to form a relationship with your teachers. Because they have so many students, they may seem like they don't like you, when in reality talking with them for a minute after class and forming a personal relationship can make a real difference. I encourage Friends School students to enjoy your teachers at FSW, treat every day as a new adventure, and learn something new.



Cameron Francisco
with Dawson Bristol (2009)

FOLLOWING FRIENDS | Calling All Alumni to Connect with Cameron

What have you been up to since graduating from Friends School?

Email Cameron at cameronf@fsow.org and like us on Facebook.

We want to hear from you!

WINTER 2016 – Connections Newsletter



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FSW Alumni Day

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