



FRIENDS WORLD SCHOLARS

The Friends World Newsletter • Fall/Winter 2003-04

FROM THE DEAN

January, 2004

I bring you greetings from World Headquarters, as well as three pieces of good news; first, early in January, the leaders of India and Pakistan will start peace talks between the two countries. In an era of seemingly increasing global tensions, this is an important event to note. Next, the 2004 Presidential election in the United States seems to have attracted an unusual amount of attention and participation from today's young adults (much, but by no means all, connected to Howard Dean's campaign). The energy and enthusiasm displayed mirrors that of many of our current students who are very passionate and engaged in the world about them. Retention of continuing students is at an all time high within the program. Third, within the Friends World Program itself, we have been awarded a \$50,000 Dewitt-Wallace travel grant to provide a one month summer program in Costa Rica for disadvantaged young people on the east end of Long Island. We are especially delighted to now offer an experience at one of our centers to a small group of people who would not otherwise be able to afford it.

The President of Long Island University wrote a letter to the New York Community Trust thanking them for the Dewitt-Wallace grant. I close with a short quotation from that letter:

"In an era of global tensions and unrest, we need to ensure that Americans not turn inward away from the world. There must be more international programs to take Americans abroad rather than have military service in Iraq and Afghanistan the first foreign experiences for our young." – Dr. David Steinberg

Thank you all for your continuing support of, and interest in, the Friends World Program. I send to all of you best wishes for the new year.

Sincerely,

Robert Glass

FRIENDS WORLD LAUNCHES NEW ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM *Creating a Life in Balance through Environmental Citizenship*

In Fall 2004, the Friends World Program will launch a challenging four-year domestic travel program designed to provide students with an in-depth knowledge of critical environmental issues in the United States. Students are introduced to environmental studies at Southampton College of Long Island University, nationally recognized for its excellent programs in marine biology and environmental studies. A hallmark of the curriculum is its emphasis on field observation and hands-on learning. Long Island's East End provides exceptional service learning opportunities in wetlands ecology, sustainable development and organic farming. Southampton College recently has signed a Green Pledge for a "Natural College by the Sea" with the goal to "educate and motivate individuals to contribute to creating a better world."

Domestic travel in the first year Environmental Program includes guided field trips to the United Nations, the barrier islands off South Carolina, coastal Maine, Boston and the Appalachian highlands of Tennessee. In the second year, students will study desert ecology, Native American culture, water rights issues, irrigation, human migration and conflicting cultural perspectives in the American southwest, with field trips to the

Upper Gulf of California in Puerto Penasco, Mexico. Third year students will develop a global perspective on important environmental and human issues through immersion in cross-cultural studies at our Centers in Costa Rica and India with field trips to neighboring countries. The final year is spent on the student's senior thesis and a capstone project involving Southampton College and the local community.

This new Environmental Program will continue the Friends World commitment of combining experiential education and traditional classroom learning through lectures, seminars, workshops, field trips and individualized programs of independent study. The service learning will give students extraordinary first-hand knowledge, laying the groundwork for their future roles as community leaders, grassroots organizers, researchers and writers committed to sustainable technology and environmental preservation.



Poet/Farmer and Director of Quail Hill Farm, Scott Chaskey, discussing organic agriculture with Friends World staff and students.

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**COMPARATIVE RELIGION
& CULTURE CENTER**

Contact World Headquarters

MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT EXECUTIVE

After graduating from Friends World in Spring 2003, I became the Friends World student executive. In this position, I primarily serve as a liaison between the students around the world and the World Headquarters administration. My work thus far has involved communicating with students and student representatives in our centers; meeting regularly with the numerous students who are enrolled through World Headquarters; and working closely with Kathleen Modrowski, assisting with necessary work that has evolved as a result of the creation of the new **American environmental studies four-year program**. I spent quite a bit of time working on the current issue of *evaluation*. But my passion this semester has been a field research project, gathering materials to be used at each of our Centers. More on this project:

Friends World in the Field

Field research and independent study are among the most challenging, the most rewarding and the most radical elements of a Friends World education. Where else does a college structure its curriculum at the most basic level to integrate field experience? After studying for a year each at the North American Center in New York (NAC) and the South Asia Center in India (SAC), I spent my last year with Friends World in Hangzhou (China) where I wrote my senior thesis on national identity and education. Looking back over the semesters, the independent work that I did in Manhattan, Calcutta and Hangzhou was where my education felt most real. The courses I took involving this independent work stretched my thinking about the subjects I was studying. I was able to apply elements of social science research

learned through my studies in real-life settings filled with human issues.

By forcing me out into the field, this experiential approach to learning pushes the boundaries of the classroom beyond the limits of texts, lectures and blackboards. In the field, a course on religion in India becomes not an exercise in diversity-thinking, instead it confronts you with an alternate picture of reality. With the authority of knowledge broken, you must piece together your own understanding of another cultural framework from the ambiguity of an interview, the obscurity of a guest lecturer or the uncertainty of daily life overseas. All this chaos is held within the grasp of every Friends World student, every semester, in every location. For me, it wasn't until the final year of my studies and my senior thesis that this international education started to make sense. My thesis included interviews and other fieldwork at a Chinese high school that turned research into raw engagement with a highly foreign society.

It was easy to get lost in the complexities of an independent project like this, and it was sometimes easy to feel like my "work" was meaningless. I realized, though, that all the parts of my Friends World education were pointing to this research I was doing. Everything I had done in the past was in part preparing me for my thesis work. Through this work I learned what it meant to "engage current scholarship" and construct research that questioned this knowledge. It was a lonely road much of the time— maybe it has to be— but I'd do it all again if I could.

Matthew Graville, Student Executive, 2003-2004

CURRENT STUDENT – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Current Student **Mariko Tanaka** has been selected for a residency at the Vermont Studio Center (VSC) in Spring 2004. The Vermont Studio Center is a non-profit year round international creative community located in Johnson, VT. It is the country's largest art colony open to artists and writers, with a campus of 30 buildings including a meditation and yoga center, lecture halls, computer facilities, a sculpture workshop, a print-making studio and black and white darkrooms for photographers.



Mariko Tanaka

VSC is a haven for international artists, giving awards and fellowships to those who are selected by its committee review board. Every month, artists are provided with studio

space and accommodations, allowing them to focus their energy on the production and creation of their art and writing. The residents also have the opportunity to learn from guest lecturers—distinguished artists and writers who are on hand to present their work and discuss their process through conferences and studio visits.

Mariko is looking forward to spending an uninterrupted month out of New York City, creating new work. She hopes her collaboration at VSC "will lead to a personal discovery of my own creative process and the ability to share some of that with others." For further information, check out: www.vermontstudiocenter.org

ALUMNI NEWS

COINCIDENCE

By Heidi Nestler Fukushima

The only true thing I can say about coincidence sounds like a joke; it happens when you least expect it.

My husband, Daisuke, waited in the quiet Kyoto street outside the house where we've lived since this summer. Michiyo Katsura turned the corner. With his cell phone to his ear, Daisuke waved to Michiyo to direct her to our house. Michiyo, a friend of a friend, knew only two things about Daisuke—that he was married to an American and that he worked in computers. She had called Daisuke, asking him to see if he could recover data lost through a computer virus. Outside the house, Michiyo handed Daisuke her business card to introduce herself. From the kitchen, where I had started preparing tea, I could hear animated snippets and knew there was something unexpected about this meeting. "You're never going to believe this," said Daisuke as he carried the computer into the house. "Katsura-san works for Friends World!" The three of us sat down, drank tea, and talked as if we were old friends who hadn't met for years and had a lot of catching up to do.

Daisuke and I are both graduates of Friends World College. We attended at roughly the same time (1985-1989) but only met each other senior year. I had spent much of my time in London, while he had been in Kyoto and New York. For all our jet setting, we met in the humble warmth of the kitchen at the old Huntington campus. He had made a dramatic entrance through the back door. We exchanged hellos, while I made guacamole. It was my first day working in the school's kitchen as assistant to Maryam, reigning iron chef of Friends World at that time (and no doubt still cooking up a storm somewhere out there).

I had gotten this job through an uncharacteristic bit of boldness on my part. I had recently returned to the United States and was talking on the telephone to the center director, Don Nielson, about my senior project. He apologized for putting me on hold so much and explained, on top of all his other responsibilities, that he was saddled with trying to find another person to work in the kitchen before the transfer class arrived. "I can cook!" I said energetically.

"Really?" came his interested reply. "Can you cook vegetarian?" "I AM vegetarian!" I had a job.

By nature I am reserved, but I know what Goethe says is true: "Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it." Friends World didn't exactly teach this shy girl to be bold, but more accurately perhaps to trust in the moment when this occurs. In high school I had always been labeled "different" or "creative," but I probably could have found a comfortable niche in a more traditional college setting. I entered Friends World with the notion somehow of developing my Inner Auntie Mame.

Flash-forward from the guacamole (1988) to City Hall in San Francisco. Daisuke and I married in 1990. San Francisco was still rebuilding from the 1989 earthquake, and in our only wedding photos, scaffolding is visible behind us—although we are clearly and blissfully undaunted by it.

We have lived back and forth between the United States and Japan for the past 14 years. Our two sons were both born near



Heidi and Daisuke Fukushima

Daisuke's hometown in Kyushu, but have spent much of their lives in California.

Today, Daisuke manages the Japan initiatives for an American software company that builds online shopping sites. He studied alternative education while at Friends World, but while in Brussels writing his senior thesis and using a personal computer for the first time, he became fascinated with the computer itself. He is a self-taught programmer and also worked for many years as a translator and interpreter.

One part of the project that he is currently working on involves bringing Japanese products, including the work of some of Kyoto's finest craftsmen, to a shopping site where people outside of Japan can easily purchase them. This grew out of his involvement with another project, kamon.org, which digitizes *kamon*, or family crests, and seeks to preserve them as public domain. As Daisuke ages, he has begun to embrace traditional Japanese culture more and more. Anyone who knew the "bad boy" way back when may be surprised to learn, for example, that Daisuke now practices tea ceremony.

Over the years, I have worked as an English teacher, a proofreader and a stay-at-home mom. Adding another layer to this tale of coincidence, our family hosted Nei Karoda, before she became a Friends World student.

The first time I met Nei was at the airport in San Francisco when she was eleven years old. Her parents had sent her, along with her younger sister, to stay for a week at our house. It was their first experience abroad. Over the years we kept in close touch. We lived in the same small town at one point, and our son attended the "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" kindergarten (Kirakiraboshi Yochien) run by Nei's parents. When Nei was ready to start college she decided to go to America. She lived with us for nearly two years while she studied English. As she began to reach the end of her ESL program, I encouraged her to push her teachers to allow her to do an internship. Internships were not part of the program, but the teachers had been looking for ways to get their students out into the world more. So it was arranged, and Nei began teaching Japanese at my children's Waldorf school. I acted as a field advisor, passing on what I knew of the nuts and bolts of lesson planning and class management; together, we came up with materials and lesson plans that fit with the curriculum. The first class Nei had to teach was fifth grade. She was terrified, and it showed. "They are so big!" I remember her saying, peering into the room. But as soon as she was standing in front of the class, all traces of terror disappeared and she came alive. She quite clearly had that spark, that teacher-energy. As her time in America was drawing to an end, Nei was not sure what to do next. After her experience with the Waldorf school, she wanted more. The thought of enrolling in a community college did not thrill her. She sat pondering her options at the kitchen table. I sat with her in silence and pondered whether or not to speak, knowing firsthand the can of worms I might be unleashing by doing so. There is very little, given the chance, that I would go back and change, I realized. "Life's a banquet," I began in my head. Finally, I said aloud, "Well, there is this program where you make your own learning plan and study all over the world..."

ALUMNI NEWS *continued*

Two Friends World alumni have found themselves in Colorado!! **Linda Bodzin** (European Center) has been living in Boulder since 1991, where she attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and received her film degree in 1996. She now works for the University as a data reporting analyst and does film and video work in her spare time. She's married to Brian and they had a baby boy, Taylor, in July 2002. You can get in touch with Linda at liana.bodzin@attbi.com

Sarah L. Scott (NAC, EUR) tells us that she is now living in a small mountain town tucked into the San Juan Mountains in southwest Colorado. Sarah works FOUR jobs...working for a small documentary film company (Miranda Productions), digitalizing and indexing the photo collection for the Telluride Historic Society, working as the art coordinator for the Mountain Film in Telluride festival and waiting tables to support her snowboarding habit! Keep in touch with Sarah at sarahsuperstar@hotmail.com

Tami Farber (FWP '99) is now living in Malawi, Africa, and is working for UNICEF on early childhood issues. You can reach Tami at shiningbright@hotmail.com

Alexander D. Massac (East Africa, East Asia) is living in New York City and working as a paramedic for the New York Presbyterian Hospital. He has three children and can be reached at amassac1@aol.com

Harmony Harriman (NAC, LAC, SAC) recently graduated from Goddard College and is teaching at Twinfield Union School and the Vermont Governor's Institute on Education in Plainfield, Vermont. She would love to hear from other FW alumni and can be found at harmonyjoy23@yahoo.com

Alumna **Samantha Henry** (NAC, LAC) graduated from Hunter College in 1995. She is now living in Astoria, N.Y., and working as a journalist and media consultant to the United Nations. You can reach Samantha at samanthahenry@yahoo.com

David Lerner (FWC graduate) is the president of Riptide Communications, a small "no frills and bare bones" public relations firm in Greenwich Village, NYC, that he and Kathy Engel formed in 1989. He has trained immigrant day-laborers on Long Island and has drawn the media's attention to various civil-rights lawsuits. In an article that appeared in PR Week in May 2003, he was quoted as saying "we'll work for the underdog in virtually any circumstance."

Max Freund (FWP '94; Council of Overseers) and Cynthia Luna are happy to announce that they were married on August 30, 2003 in a bilingual, multicultural ceremony near Cynthia's home town of Mexico City. They created the ceremony themselves to honor both American-Jewish and Mexican traditions. They owe their marriage to the YMCA, as Max works in the international department of the United States national office, and Cynthia serves on the worldwide YMCA board of directors. Best wishes Max and Cynthia!!!

Naomi Wolfe (NAC, LAC) tells us that after living in Guatemala for 10 years and studying to be a legal translator, she moved to Toronto before relocating to British Columbia, where she lives with her two sons. She is teaching ESL at a local community college on Vancouver Island and recently became a

certified Spanish/English interpreter. She is very involved in immigrant issues and diversity training and loves gardening, salsa dancing, music and running. Naomi would love to hear from fellow alumni and asks us "Where the heck is everyone?" You can contact Naomi at nlwolfe@hotmail.com

Andy Silver (LAC, EUR FWC '72) writes to us from Charlotte, North Carolina, where he lives with his wife and has a full service mediation practice for divorcing couples, workplace grievances and federal civil rights disputes. The Silvers have two grown children and five grandchildren. He also does stand-up comedy in the Southeast. His website is www.resolutionexperts.com and you can reach Andy at Andy@resolutionexperts.com He would LOVE to hear from classmates from the 1967-1972 era.

Evan Roberts (EUR, Middle East Center), now living in Portland, Maine, is working with Aurora & Quanta Productions, a photo agency that represents many National Geographic and fine art photographers. He completed work on a photo/oral history project called "Living Positive," which tells the stories of social workers and their HIV infected clients. In 2002, he received the Rebel Blend Artist Grant from a local coffee roaster, Coffee by Design, to complete a project titled "6x6." Evan writes that "6x6" is a photographic and audio project that traces six pathways of six people, resulting in 36 unique stories (based on the popular notion that we are all connected by six degrees of separation). Check out the online magazine that he helped to create: www.spinemagazine.org and his forthcoming Web site www.evandavidroberts.com You can e-mail Evan at evandavidroberts@yahoo.com

Andrew Cote graduated from the FWP in 1997 after living in Kyoto for four years. Andrew went on to receive his M.A. in TESOL from Manhattanville College in New York, won a fellowship through George Soros' Open Society Foundation to teach for one year in the newly formed English Language and Literature Department in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and then accepted a job as a writer for an educational Web site that brought him to Turkey, India and Nepal, where he had a personal audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama at his residence in northern India. This summer, Andrew was awarded a Fulbright grant to lecture at the A. Russo State University, in the Republic of Moldova during the 2003-2004 academic year. Cote will teach graduate-level classes on second language acquisition methodologies in Moldova and also will lecture at several other universities in the former Soviet Union, including ones in Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania.

Julie Kaufman Friends World graduate of 1972 held a special get-together for alumni from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, and New Hampshire to meet E.P. Menon, a former director of the South Asia Center. The gatherings were held on Thursday, September 4, 2003 and Sunday, September 7, 2003.

G. Randy Kasten (FWC 1974-1975 Norwich, England), now an attorney, is married and living in San Francisco. He still enjoys music composition and fiction writing and can be reached at kasten3@yahoo.com

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

New staff at WHQ: **Katie Kwak** joined the Dean's Office in July as the program manager/executive assistant to the dean. **Stephen Dougherty** has joined the Admissions Office as the assistant dean of enrollment management and **Keith Koppenhoefer** is the new assistant director/coordinator. Both Steve and Keith come to the FWP from the Admissions Office at Touro College, School of Health Sciences. **Matt Graville** is our new student executive, and we've had the pleasure of working with **Donna Olson** this past year. Donna worked with the Dean's Office on submitting proposals and hopefully acquiring grants. She's off to an adventure in South America. Thank you, Donna!!!

Justin O'Jack joins the **China Center (CHI)** as the new academic coordinator. He is working on his Ph.D. (University of California).

The **East Asia Center (EAS)** has named **Aaron Campbell** academic coordinator. He holds a B.S. from the University of Michigan, an M.Ed. from the University of Sheffield and a Ph.D. (in progress) from the University of Sheffield.

The **EUR Center** has several new adjunct faculty members: **Caroline Gellor** earned a B.Sc. Hons. in biology from the City of London Polytechnic with a certificate in ecology and conservation from Capel Manor. She has extensive experience teaching agriculture, ecology and conservation at the Birkbeck College, University of London, where she runs weekend courses in environmental education & interpretation. **Rosalind Erskine** has an M.A. in modern languages from Oxford. She taught in the British school system and had a successful television career as a senior producer for the BBC, travelling around the world creating documentaries about Fidel Castro, Yasser Arafat, Nelson Mandela and other high-profile world figures. At Friends World, she teaches courses in conflict resolution. **Julianna Fuzesi** earned a B.A. in European studies and an M.Sc. in comparative politics from the London School of Economics, where she is completing her doctorate on Hungary and its transborder minorities in Romania and Slovakia. She has had a

multinational European upbringing and speaks French, German and Hungarian fluently. Her expertise is in national and ethnic conflicts and her enthusiasm for the Peace and Reconciliation Program is contagious. **Michal Ben-Josef** holds a B.A. in political science and an M.A. in international relations from Tel-Aviv University. She currently working on her Ph.D. at M.I.T in international relations and comparative politics. Ben-Josef has previously taught at Harvard, M.I.T. and Tel-Aviv University in the areas of Middle East studies and truth and reconciliation commissions. She speaks Hebrew and has worked as a security officer for El-Al Israel Airlines. **Anjali Menezes-Fonfreye** is center administrator. She worked in sales and marketing for Ernst & Young and Deloitte & Touche; taught French at the American International School; is a French national of Indian origin; and lived in India, France and the United Kingdom. She earned a degree in French literature and psychology from the University of Bombay and specialized in French with diplomas from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Alliance Française in Paris, France. **Claire Kibblewhite** is the accommodation coordinator, working part time while tending to her three school-aged-children. She previously worked as operations manager for Centres for Academic Programmes Abroad (CAPA), managing semester abroad programs for U.S. universities and community colleges. She holds a B.Ed. Honours degree from Southampton University and soon will begin a part time B.A. in garden design.

New CRC staff: the new associate director is **William Love**, who holds a Ph.D. in religion from Columbia University and an M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary. He has lived and taught religion and philosophy (the double meaning is intended) in Japan over four years, including in-depth experience in mountaineering, Buddhism and Japanese archery. **Alina Feld** joins the staff as faculty advisor. She earned an M.A. in comparative literature and religion from SUNY at Stony Brook and is presently finishing up her dissertation (Life of a Symbol: Melancholy) for her Ph.D. in religious and theological studies at Boston University. **Carl Gabrielson** a FWP and CRC alum, who studied extensively in Japan and China was hired as an administrative assistant.

FACULTY PROFILE – South Asia Center, Bangalore, India

While working in Washington, D.C., as the Indian deputy chief of missions, Mr. A.P. Venkateswaran attended a disarmament conference in New York. After hearing Homer Jack, a staunch disarmament supporter, speak to the assembly, Mr. Venkateswaran was inspired to continue his career as a public servant with the goal of promoting peace through understanding. After retiring from his position as India's ambassador to China, he began working with SAC. He is deeply fond of Friends World and its focus on experiential learning because of a belief he still holds to this very day: Experiencing life is vital to understanding, and through understanding peace is possible.

Today, Mr. Venkateswaran is happy to be called 'Venkat' by his students, because as he claims, it's much easier to remember. Whether, Venkat is searching the Web via Google or in discussion with an advisee, his office door is



A.P. Venkateswaran

always open. He is always willing to engage in lively debate. Despite his distinguished career, "Venkat" is much happier being known as a friend rather than being known only by a list of his past accomplishments.

Madras University — B.Sc. in physics and chemistry

Post Grad — economics & politics

Oxford Balliol College — international law

Joined the Foreign Service —

served in Ethiopia, U.S.S.R., Syria, Federal Republic of Germany, South Seas Territories (Fiji), U.N. in Geneva, Disarmament

Conference, Washington, D.C., and China.

Met The Dalai Lama and became a member of the Dalai Lama's Advisory Committee Harvard University Fellow 1974-75.

Joined Friends World College South Asia Center — 1990s to present.

Profile submitted by FWP student John Grillo

FRIENDS WORLD PROGRAMS

Peace and Reconciliation

London, England; Heredia, Costa Rica; Bangalore, South India, Hangzhou, China

Global Health and Healing Traditions

Heredia, Costa Rica; Bangalore, South India; Hangzhou, China

Comparative Religion and Culture

Multi-site (Taiwan, India, Mediterranean)

British and European Studies - London, England

East Asia Studies - Kyoto, Japan

Chinese Studies - Hangzhou, China

South Asia Studies - Bangalore, South India

Foundation Year Program - London, England

Environmental Studies - A Latin American Perspective

Heredia, Costa Rica

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CONGRATULATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Roxanne Lawson (EUR) and **Justin Hostetler** (EAS) are this year's recipients of the **George and Elizabeth Watson Scholarships**. This annual scholarship, given by the Watson Fund Committee of the Long Island Quarterly Meeting honors Friends World students who demonstrate their commitment to "serve the less fortunate of humanity."

The **Benjamin Gilman Scholarship** winner for spring 2004 is **Keisha Johnson. Wade Shepard**, who joins Friends World SP'04 will study in East Asia as a **Freeman-Asia Scholar**.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

SENIOR RECOGNITION MAY 22, 2004

LIU COMMENCEMENT MAY 23, 2004

WORLD CONFERENCE MAY 24-28, 2004

Details will be announced in early Spring.

FW WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU...

Friends World has many opportunities for future students and alumni in – publications, viewbooks, websites, etc. If you have an article, a poem, perhaps a photo (electronic – 300 dpi – minimum size 3" x 5"), or news of you, please feel free to contact us. Send information to: joyce.tuttle@liu.edu

Please visit our website: www.liu.edu/friendsworld. Click on to the alumni section and send us your latest information. View our student profiles and consider adding yourself. Please tell us what you've been doing in Friends World or since graduating from Friends World.



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