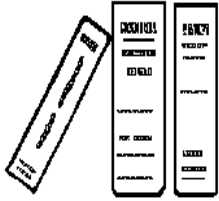
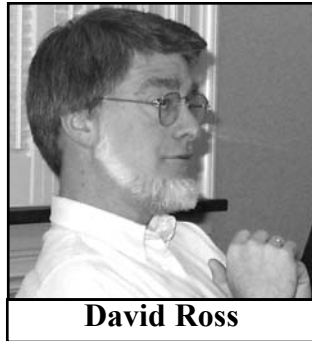


# Conference 2001 Report



## Friends Association for Higher Education NEWSLETTER

### From the new FAHE Clerk



David Ross

Dear Friends,

Recently, I had occasion to help relatives look into recommended inoculations and other medical prophylactics for a trip to Costa Rica (for hepatitis, vaccines; for dengue fever, politely encourage mosquitoes to turn elsewhere for sustenance). It dawned on me that I use our annual conference in much the same way to inoculate myself against such infectious diseases as cynicism and fears that turn differences into conflicts and conflicts into behavior that wounds.

At FAHE events, I let my guard down and allow my best (truest, I hope) self to shine forth. I give and receive affirmation; within each space, it becomes natural to enter into joyful expectant waiting; around every corner lurks the promise of a hug; mistakes are opportunities for others to lend a helping hand; and service is a guilt-free delight.

At Guilford (oh, what a welcome they gave us -- like visiting a favorite aunt!), I lived and learned in a community that I wish could be mine 365 days a year. So I leave Guilford determined to take next steps (however small) to create and nurture such a community around me.

We shy folks can't expect to stand in bell towers and call our institutions to a common sense of mission. But we can be subversives for Love. We can nurture and expand the circle of friends that calls forth the best in each of us -- that holds the promise of making each day an FAHE conference. This limited, almost selfish, creation of mini-communities

carries with it the possibility of transforming our institutions as these small cells, epidemic-like, infect the whole.

I can't think of a higher education organization other than FAHE that has such a high proportion of the presidents of institutional members as active participants in the organization and annual conference sessions. Toward the end of one session, someone asked Doug Bennett (Earlham), Dan DiBiasio (Wilmington), Don McNemar (Guilford), and Tom Tritton (Haverford) what FAHE could do for them. The answer: encourage more folks on our campuses to become FAHE members. Leadership, Doug pointed out, is largely a matter of agenda setting; after that, the leader can but watch what participants in the life of the institution make of it. What academic leader wouldn't want more folks committed to student-centered pedagogy; seeking to unify the life of the spirit with intellectual rigor and social justice; and sharing an experience of the divine that enriches and is enriched by differences? Hence, our individual actions to use our FAHE experiences to build personal support structures turn out to be our most effective strategy for promoting positive institutional change as these mini-communities, epidemic-like, infect the whole.

So when I return to teaching this fall, I'll be keeping my eyes open looking for folks who are excited by uncovering new ways of learning with their students, who could use some affirmation for the ways they enrich the campus environment, for whom scholarly exchange is like a memorable potluck, and who by their example challenge me to

*(continued on page 2)*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
FROM THE FAHE CLERK	1
THE EPISTLE	3
"POSTCARDS, IM-ING, AND CONNECTIONS"	5
POETRY THAT AROSE...	6
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP	8

*A publication of*  
**Friends Association for  
 Higher Education**

**THE PURPOSE** of the Friends Association for Higher Education is to strengthen the Quaker mission in higher education. FAHE is devoted to:

\* Facilitating interaction and fellowship among all who share Friends' ideals of higher education;

\* Discerning the unity of spirituality, intellectual rigor, and social justice;

\* Sharing the scholarly research in the service of Friends' values; and

\* Providing resources and encouragement to Friends-connected institutions of higher education in understanding and applying Friends' values.

**Executive Committee**

<i>Anne Dalke</i>	<i>David Ross</i>
<i>Dan DiBiasio</i>	<i>Susan Schmidt</i>
<i>Barbara Dixson</i>	<i>Deborah Shaw</i>
<i>Roy Gathercoal</i>	<i>Neil Snarr</i>
<i>Susan McNaught</i>	<i>Kurt Terrell</i>
<i>Helene Pollock</i>	<i>Jim Wescoat</i>
<i>Earl Redding</i>	

**Clerk**

*David Ross*  
 Bryn Mawr College  
 Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
 610-526-5180  
 dross@brynmawr.edu

**Office Staff**

*Debi Peterson*  
 FAHE Coordinator  
 1501 Cherry Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19102  
 Phone: 215-241-7116  
 Fax: 215-241-7278  
 Email: fahe @quaker.org  
 WEB: www. earlham.edu/~fahe

**FAHE Newsletter**

**Editor:** Anne Dalke  
*adalke@brynmawr.edu*  
**Layout/Design:** Debi Peterson

## From the Clerk...

*(continued from page 1)*

be the person I want to be. As I find them, I will share with them my delight in FAHE. This sort of outreach doesn't come easily to me; so I would welcome hearing from you about ways you've shared FAHE and expanded your support community. I ([dross@brynmawr.edu](mailto:dross@brynmawr.edu)) or Diane Harvey ([dh164@umail.umd.edu](mailto:dh164@umail.umd.edu)), who is convening our membership subcommittee, would welcome ideas about how FAHE could help you in this effort.

There's another way in which this community building I propose is far from selfish: FAHE needs to grow to keep our joint conversation rich and ensure the financial health of the organization. Our June Meeting for Business accepted a budget for the coming year predicated on the assumption of increasing our membership by at least 100 this year (from a base of about 225). That budget recognizes the fact that prices of the goods and services we purchased have risen, that the very welcome increased use our membership is making of the resources of our Philadelphia office (as well as the expanded initiatives we hope to undertake) requires that we expand the time we ask Debi Peterson, as Coordinator, to give us. For this reason, the annual meeting also approved an increase in dues effective with the fall mailing (with the stipulation that folks may continue to join FAHE, paying whatever they can afford). This is the first increase since 1996.

But have I got a deal for you: If you did not renew your membership as part of the Guilford conference (check your mailing address label if uncertain about your membership status), you may renew now (before September 15) at the old rate. Of course, contributions above the recommended level are always welcome and cover the shortfall from members with limited income.

I would much rather see FAHE meet its financial needs through new members than by raising dues. Meeting our membership goal for the year would be a snap, if each of us adds even one more person to our personal communities, but let's see if we can't do better. Debi ([fahe@quaker.org](mailto:fahe@quaker.org)) would be delighted to send any material that would help your outreach efforts and as I noted above, Diane and I would be interested in hearing from you and helping out in any way we can.

David R. Ross  
 August 2001



FAHE / FCE conference plenary session at  
 New Garden Friends Meeting

# The Epistle

## of the Meetings of the Friends Association of Higher Education and the Friends Council on Education

### Greensboro, NC June 14-17, 2001

From June 14-17 the Friends Association of Higher Education and the Friends Council on Education met on the historic campus of Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. One hundred and seventy attendees from seventy-nine institutions across the land gathered, talked, listened, worshiped and explored together around the theme "Living & Learning in Community." Across the four main branches of the American Quaker tree and beyond, Friends shared their joys, woes, hopes and visions in an atmosphere of family, reunion, comfort and support. In that sense, we not only discussed community, we experienced it.

Two of our plenary speakers, Max Carter and William Willimon, contributed the gift of humor. What joyous laughter we shared! We not only chuckled at Max Carter's cataloging of little-known Friendly anecdotes but also stretched our imaginations when we pondered the unimaginable -- a "Quakerless" North Carolina! William Willimon, minister to Duke University and professor of the practice of Christian ministry, told poignant stories about young people yearning for friendship and community. He especially challenged us to see education as training in the art of friendship. It takes time, place is important and conversation is at the heart of it all.

Two morning plenaries contributed the gift of educational leaders' sharing candidly about the spiritual and practical challenges they face. Heads of Friends schools in the South outlined stories of their particular schools' histories. We heard about such strong leadings as those among Friends who willed a school not to close, and we learned

of an instance when a school closed and later reopened. The heads of schools spoke honestly about the challenges, while sharing a collage of inspiring images: the schools that are addressing the painful history of race relations, those that are being a model in the healing of the racial divide, those that are reflecting the diversity of their communities in the face of continuing social and economic segregation, those that change the world one child at a time. We came back to Cyril Harvey's definition of education as "one human being exploring with other human beings the meaning of being human."

Interestingly, the theme of "place" that had been posed by William Willimon took a new form in a plenary session where leaders of diverse institutions described their work of building community through a spiritual wellness class, through a broadly supported and politically sophisticated program of community service, and through students caring about the natural environment all around them. Challenging the view that schools could exist without a place at all, Tom Farquar implored us to keep technology in its place - with students and relationships in the foreground:

When school is a place,  
Where we are cared for,  
And for which we care,  
There is a chance  
That we can learn  
To care for the place  
Called the Earth.

Close to eighty-five presenters and facilitators shared their challenges and hopes within forty-seven workshops spread over six sessions. Friends

engaged in practical discussions focusing on Quaker pre-schools, schools (primary, middle and secondary), colleges, and seminaries. Bolivian Friends, Lolita Cutipa and Cecilia Paco, traveled from their native land to tell us about their Quaker schools and to offer hand-made traditional goods at a fair price. Many workshops offered an active exchange of Quaker insights into such pedagogical issues as values teaching, accountability, learning strategies, interdisciplinary studies and conflict resolution. Others discussed the Bible, theology, spirituality, community, relationships between yearly meetings and their schools and colleges, and how to teach Quaker decision-making. Friends shared their teaching and learning experiences from settings as different as the internet, retreat centers, a women's prison, the breadth of educational institutions and a poor urban neighborhood. Diversity -- both its challenges and its blessings -- was a recurring theme, and we continue to be impressed with the spiritual core of our educational ventures.

Our meetings for worship and a dramatic evening plenary were also imbued with a sense of divine presence. Whittier's words, "Drop Thy still dews of quietness, Till all our strivings cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our ordered lives confess The beauty of Thy peace" came alive for us in relation to Sara Beth Terrell's exposition of what it means to accept the yoke of Christ: becoming active learners in that eternal school which has no boundaries. We

*(continued on page 4)*



Earl Harrison, FCE Interim Director,  
B.J. Weatherby and other Friends await  
the FCE plenary session.



Friends gathered for a workshop session

(continued from page 3)

## The Epistle ...

can trust the "still, small voice of calm" in that which we take up and that which we lay down, seeking faithfully to attend, discern and heed the divine will. During the final plenary session, the touching story of the Levering family was enacted dramatically by Barbara Bates Smith and narrated by Frank Levering. Amidst the experience we were brought closer to that tender place where the human and the divine meet.

As we explored our work together as Friends educators, we were impressed with the collegiality that is felt between us -- across our disciplines, across the levels on which we teach, across boundaries imposed by professional guilds -- as we learn from and support one another in our common work. In that sense, community results from being engaged together in a common vocation. Institutionally, we are helped by learning what other groups and schools are doing, and we are challenged and encouraged in learning of one another's successes and struggles. Individually, we are helped by receiving the benefit of light from one another, especially where our vision is dim, enabling us to identify more clearly and to walk more faithfully the paths before us.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who planned and organized this conference, as well as to the many individuals and institutions whose attendance made such a gathering possible. Indeed, we are all challenged in our callings as educators, and we are helped in the venture of living and learning in community.



Don and Brita McNemar and ....

**Mark your  
calendars now!**

**2002 Conference**  
**EDUCATING FOR**  
**PEACE**  
**AND SOCIAL**  
**JUSTICE**

**Wilmington College**  
**Wilmington, Ohio**  
**June 20-23, 2002**

### *Minute of Appreciation for Guilford*

*There is not time, there are not words, to say what FAHE needs to say to Guilford. What a welcome you gave us! And how thankful we are for what you have done. We aim our gratitude especially to **Don McNemar**, who welcomed us enthusiastically and hosted us generously; to the local arrangements committee: **Jim Hood, Deborah Shaw and Janet Wright** gave special leadership, but they had wonderful help, including the wider Friends community, who stepped up to many tasks. **Jeanette Wilson**, our longtime office coordinator, kept the bookstore open; others assisted with the field trips and provided a variety of services too numerous to mention. **New Garden Friends Meeting** shared the beautiful space of their worship room for our plenaries.*

*We found ourselves for four days gathered in a kingdom of heaven on earth, surrounded by Friends who greeted us kindly each morning, talked with us intently and intelligently all day (and much of the night), who led us in our*

*search for spirit, and accompanied one another in an ongoing seeking for transcendence. Guilford gave us the space, and was the place, for such a conversation. We are grateful and we thank you.*

Approved at the annual business meeting  
of the Friends Association for Higher Education  
June 17, 2001



Friends delight in prolonged  
conversations at each meal

**FAHE WEB SITE**  
**[www.earlham.edu/~fahe](http://www.earlham.edu/~fahe)**

webmaster  
**Dr. Eric Jones**

## POSTCARDS, IM-ING, AND CONNECTIONS



**Steve Gilbert**

Several years ago Shelly Steinbach told me something that has improved my relations with my children ever since.

Sheldon Steinbach, Vice President and General Counsel of the American Council on Education, and I were having a "business lunch" to talk about intellectual property and other important professional matters of mutual interest. Somehow we got onto the topic of children leaving home for college and discovered that Shelly was a couple years ahead of me -- my oldest son Nate had just begun as a freshman that year. Shelly's daughter had already been away from home for a couple of years. We started talking about how difficult it was to maintain good communication with our adolescent or young adult children even when they were home and even harder when they were away (especially in those days when email was not yet so common on many campuses).

Shelly told me about his frequent visits to a little store not too far from Dupont Circle in DC that sold a wide variety of tourist materials, including an unusual array of greeting cards and postcards. He described his practice of sending a card to his daughter almost every day when she was away from home. Since then, I've been trying to send postcards to my children whenever they're away from home. I'm always looking for interesting postcards and I always try to carry some postage stamps with me. I don't come close to Shelly's daily pace, but probably have averaged about one a week per son/daughter. When I've visited their living places, I usually see at least a couple of my postcards on display somewhere, and sometimes my sons mention one of the card's messages to me.

You can't write much on a postcard. It's almost impossible to be very profound or even very informative. However, when you receive a postcard with even a brief handwritten message, you're getting a reminder

that someone has been thinking about you at least a little, that someone cares. So I keep sending those postcards. Now, I've been trying to send some occasionally even to other people in my family who live far away, people I don't get to see very often any more. It's something I can do in airports and on airplanes.

More recently, I was watching my fifteen-year-old daughter use our home computer to "IM" [Instant Message] with some friends. She usually asks me not to read over her shoulder. But this time I asked her if all those overlapping open windows were live conversations. She was involved with ten separate online conversations at once. I sneaked a look at the contents of a couple of the most visible.

At first my prejudices about the shallowness of much of the usage of this medium were confirmed. But then my daughter explained that several of those exchanges were with her friends from summer camp and with one of her best long-time friends who had moved away from our immediate neighborhood and who doesn't go to her school. My daughter was IM-ing to keep in touch.

The shallowness and brevity of her interactions weren't really much different from what I write on my postcards. Both are simple means for allowing us to stay in touch, even a little, when the pace and complexity of our lives often prevent us from engaging in activities that could extend our personal relationships more significantly.

Both of these activities can keep the door open for more meaningful connections, perhaps even help to make arrangements for them. The danger is that we sometimes find ourselves with too many of these shallow connections interfering with our capacity or opportunity to have more significant relationships at all -- preventing us from having what Edward Hallowell calls "Human Moments" [See Hallowell's most recent book, *Connect*. For an audio recording of an interview, a photo, and some additional info about Hallowell, see <http://www.tlt-group.org/media/Ned.html>]

Those of us engaged in extending the educational uses of information technology are especially susceptible to being overloaded with communications from our colleagues and friends. Many of us have increasing

trouble sorting the shallow from the deeper or more significant messages. We also feel obliged to examine and use an ever-expanding variety of communications media. Our challenge is to find better ways of managing this rich environment and these powerful tools, ways that will help us bring more meaningful "human moments" into our lives.

**Steven W. Gilbert** is President of The TLT Group, the teaching, learning and technology affiliate of the American Association for Higher Education ([www.tltgroup.org](http://www.tltgroup.org)).

### Invitation to a Roundtable on Technology

*Following Steve Gilbert's reflections, we invite you to imagine web technology as offering a new sort of Meetingplace, realizing that the character of that place will make for different kinds of exchanges, help us expand time and place beyond the limits of what we have known as the "real." Can our new FAHE website, for instance, become a "Meetinghouse" where old Friends can gather and new ones can join us?*

#### More generally, Friends:

\* How do you understand the relationship between Quaker values and technological innovation?

\* To what degree do you see new information technologies facilitating or obstructing Quaker values such as community and Quaker practices such as silence?

### What canst thou say, Friends, to these matters?

#### Please respond:

\* via email to [FAHE@quaker.org](mailto:FAHE@quaker.org)

\* or on the FAHE web page  
[www.earlham.edu/~fahe](http://www.earlham.edu/~fahe)



*It is twilight as I step into the graveyard, among the fireflies.  
My friend Chris died this Spring,  
before we had a chance to grow old together.  
It is still and my eyes are dry. Nature  
must cry for me, these tears of light  
Among the stones.*

*Jim Anderson  
June 2001*

*Poetry that arose, and was read, at Guilford...*

### *The Old Beard and the New*

*Years ago --*

*in a previous incarnation, it seems --  
I decided to grow a beard - for Pioneer Days,  
or some such thing.*

*It amazed me that such a work of art*

*could be produced by doing nothing --  
by the ceasing to do that which I had done  
most every day for more than twenty years.*

*My wife --*

*whom I thought to be my partner for life --  
Said: "Shave it off... You must choose  
between the beard and me."  
And so I shaved it off.*

*Did I make the right choice?*

*Today --*

*You see me here, my work of art intact.  
I have done again what I had done before --  
produced a work of art by ceasing to do.*

*Will my new beard suffer the fate of the old?*

*I do not know, But I am sure that --  
given a similar ultimatum --  
I would not make that same mistake again.*

*So when you see me next --*

*if the beard is gone --  
Think not that I have succumbed to the whim of a wife,  
but to the habit of daily ritual.*

*Earl W. Redding  
June 22, 1996*



Sterling Olmsted

## Poetry that arose ...



Susanne Weil

### *The End of the Road?*

*How do you know  
when you've reached  
the end of the road?*

*The pavement is broken  
and then it gives out  
and the weeds  
and the grasses take over  
and there are bushes  
and trees  
but there is still a faint path  
which shows  
that someone has been here before.*

*So feel with your feet  
and go on*

*but don't stop  
for someone  
has been here  
before.*

**Sterling Olmsted**  
February 2001

### *Bow Willow Camp*

*Like a sandy snake  
The wash winds back into the rocks.  
Here on the hill, stunted angry yuccas  
Stab back at the scorching sun.  
Bright yellow splashes dot the bow willows,  
Tiny warblers, hunting butterflies,  
Make the branches bounce.*

*Cactus, beavertails: don't touch!  
Those flowers must have sucked all the scarlet  
Out of the spectrum.  
That's the only explanation.*

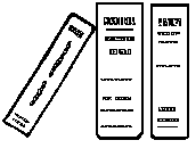
*Later, winds whirl up from the desert floor.  
Ocotillos, limber-armed,  
Wave red fingers at passing clouds.  
Dark with rain the thirsty air drinks up,  
This surreal storm I see but never feel.*

*Over pink rocks, purple shadows  
Stalk into evening.  
I follow the campfire's smoke  
Into a wilderness of stars.*

**Susanne Weil**  
Anza Borrego  
April 9, 2001



Summer 2001



## Friends Association for Higher Education

1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Phone: 215-241-7116

FAX: 215-241-7278

Email: [FAHE@quaker.org](mailto:FAHE@quaker.org)

Web Page: [www.earlham.edu/~fahe](http://www.earlham.edu/~fahe)



**Dan DiBiasio, Tom Tritton, Don McNemar and Doug Bennett at the Presidents' panel discussion**

*The deadline for  
submissions to the fall newsletter  
is October 1, 2001*

## Time to join / Renew / Share With A Friend!



### Friends Association for Higher Education

1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Phone: 215-241-7116

FAX: 215-241-7278

Email: [FAHE@quaker.org](mailto:FAHE@quaker.org)

Web Page: [www.earlham.edu/~fahe](http://www.earlham.edu/~fahe)

### MEMBERSHIP JULY 1, 2001 -- JUNE 30, 2002

Who should join? Friends interested in higher education, anyone connected with Friends higher education institutions, and anyone interested in furthering a Spirit-based commitment to higher education. If you have a question about whether your membership is current, email [fahe@quaker.org](mailto:fahe@quaker.org), or send a note of inquiry to the office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Surface Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

College or other affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline or other college office: \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly/Yearly Meeting or  
other religious affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate FAHE membership level:

Family: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$50)

Individual: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$40)

Student (\$10) / Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution above membership dues: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: Friends Association for Higher Education

Total payment included: \_\_\_\_\_