



Friends

The Friends World Alumni Newsletter • Fall 2001

In light of the tragic events of September 11, I wanted to share this communication, originally sent to the Friends World Centers, with our larger community.

The Interim Dean's letter to the FW Centers, September 11, 2001

Dear Friends,

The tragedy in New York City today is of such a magnitude that it seems almost impossible to address in words. Our hearts go out to all those families who have a loved one involved and to all others caught in the myriad ripples caused by the event. We hope the rescue workers will be successful in helping save many of the people still caught in the destruction and that loss of life-sure to be huge-will not be greater than it already is.

At this most difficult time I think it very important that we gather together as a com-

munity, or a series of smaller communities, wherever we are. Please do call a meeting as soon as possible to discuss this event, and the implications for our program, with the whole community.

1. Please confirm the health and safety of each student as soon as possible. When you have done so, please send a note to Carol Baker at World Headquarters.
2. Please discuss the recent post on the US State Department travel page where safety suggestions are listed. This is a time for heightened attentions to safety, and for extra precautions when traveling in groups. In addition, it is a good time for all of us to practice our "conflict resolution" skills, so that our participation in any tense cross-cultural interaction helps decrease rather than increase the risk of violence. And please, no jokes or

carefree actions at airport security at this time—you may well find yourself in custody. <http://travel.state.gov/wwcl.html>

3. Please confirm all contact numbers and plan only modest excursions for the next few days. Avoid any crowded public places or festivals until further notice.
4. Please encourage all students to phone their families.

During the meeting, perhaps you might also consider taking a few moments to reflect on the larger meaning and purpose of the Friends World Program. Surely peace and reconciliation lie at the heart of our mission statement, and such an event only highlights the need for sincere people of good will to pursue cross-cultural study. I wish you all well, please take care.

Robert

GREETINGS FROM THE INTERIM DEAN:

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, Lewis Greenstein resigned as Dean of Friends World as of August 31st after eight years of service to the Program. Though I am pleased to be writing my first note to you as Interim Dean, I am also a little intimidated. Lewis' contribution to the Program was both significant and comprehensive - his will be a very difficult act to follow. I feel a certain kinship with the performer on the Ed Sullivan show who followed the Beatles in 1963, (I think his act was spinning plates on the ends of multiple sticks) or the baseball player who batted after Reggie Jackson in the 1977 World Series. Who were those people? See what I mean? I am a Canadian citizen and was born and raised on Vancouver Island, off the west coast of Canada. I have an undergraduate degree from the University of British Columbia and graduate degrees from Temple University and Syracuse University. Before coming to Friends World I held a series of teaching appointments at Sarah Lawrence College, Alfred University and St. Olaf College. During my time in Philadelphia I had the opportunity to

study education and art for two years at the Barnes Foundation, where John Dewey was the first Director of Education. I have published a book and several articles on Buddhist and Postmodern Thought and one article on John Dewey and the Barnes Foundation. For the last four years I have been the Director of the Comparative Religion and Culture Program (CRC). In the three academic years from 1997 through May of 2000, I accompanied different groups of students as they traveled the globe studying contemporary issues and the great religions of the world. I spent multiple ten week terms working and studying with students in East Asia (Japan or Taiwan), India and the Middle East. During the last year I visited all those regions once more in order to plan the 2001-2002 CRC program. I now have the opportunity to reflect upon that global experience yet again and apply the knowledge gained to a new challenge. I look forward to working closely with World Council and the Council of Overseers over the next year and to carrying on Lewis' rich legacy.

Robert Glass

NEWS OF YOU

Craig Holden (FWC '71-'72) - president of Sustane, a division of Natural Fertilizer of America, Inc. - putting into practice his interest in a cleaner planet—craigh@sustane.com

Padma Karma (FWC '85) name at Friends World, Felix R. Esquerdo-runs a Tibetan Buddhist Center in New Haven, CT. "responsible for guiding about fifty people weekly - I also continue to study and train in Buddhist practices - when I do take some time for other interests, it includes gourmet food and films." For.dzogchen@snet.net.

Ahmed Samatar (FWP '90) - has continued his interest in science, after receiving his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from SUNY Stony Brook in 1998. He is involved with cancer research at Schering-Plough in N.J. Jelanu@aol.com

Harold M. Tanner (FWC 78-79) - is an assistant professor of Chinese, Japanese and World History at the University of Northern Texas. He published a recent book, *Strike Hard! Anti-Crime Campaigns and Chinese Criminal Justice, 1979-1985* - with his wife Yiyun. He has two children, 8 & 2. 940-387-2016.

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THE FIRST YEAR PROGRAM MOVES TO LONDON 2002

In keeping with our commitment to global education, global citizenship, and the global issues of our changing world, Friends World is strengthening its commitment to international, experiential education by revising and moving our first year program to London starting September 2002.

As part of this recommitment to "Global Education for a New Millennium," the first year program will emphasize the following areas of the Friends World Mission Statement:

- Global citizenship (by developing a broad world view and cultivating global sensitivity)
- Global education (through experiencing a culture other than one's own)
- Global issues (by studying the most urgent contemporary human problems to prepare for action in the interests of the world community)

The first year, two semester, program is designed to provide students with the skills, insights and abilities to maximize the benefit of their experiential education. Specifically, students will learn to think and write critically and to apply these skills to the philosophy and methodology of

research. They will also gain insight into a variety of global and historic issues. These skills will be developed through a first semester core curriculum consisting of 4-5 courses focused on:

- Global history from local perspectives
- Ecology and environmental issues
- Global issues in a European context
- Exploring culture through the creative arts
- An Introduction to Cross-Cultural Study

In the second semester, internships, service learning and field trips will be bracketed by short courses on a variety of global issues, all designed to lead the student naturally into a specific second year program.

Prior to departure, students will receive all the necessary information about travel, safety, room/board, requirements, supplies, health information, course registration, field travel, internships and financial aid. There will be a comprehensive orientation to the program on arrival in London. New students will first meet in New York, at a designated spot to commence with the orientation process and travel to London together.

COUNCIL OF OVERSEERS CONSIDERS RELOCATION

The Council of Overseers, an advisory group to the Friends World Program, was established in 1991, at the time of the merger of Friends World College and LIU. It was agreed by LIU and the then Trustees of the College, that an advisory council would be formed, to preserve and promote the mission of Friends World Program. The Council is composed of Quakers, graduates, international experts, and community members. All appointments to the Council are approved by David Steinberg, President of LIU. The Council meets quarterly, with the Dean, and reviews financial, curriculum, admissions, and fund raising reports. Council members also make regular contributions to support the Program.

As was the case with other constituencies of Friends World, Council members were surprised at the announcement on June 13 regarding the relocation of the first year program to London. Not unexpectedly, there has been some strong reaction to the relocation decision. Email between alums and students has been considerable. Email to the various sites at Southampton (web and Email and listserve mail) has been considerable. In typical Friends World fashion,

responses cover the spectrum. Some have been positive, some have been negative, especially with regard to the decision making process. These same differences of opinion exist within the Council.

The Council immediately convened meetings with the Dean, other Friends World staff, and the Provost of Southampton College. Over the course of four meetings, there was fuller discussion of the financial, enrollment, and curriculum needs which would be addressed by the relocation of the first year program. These discussions led to a sense of the meeting for the Council to support the decision, and to work to make it successful.

The Council also feels that it is important that such important decisions in the future be made with fuller communication to, and opportunity for responses from, the Council as well as other constituencies.

The Council invites communication from alums, students, and friends of Friends World. Please write to Council of Overseers, Friends World Program, Southampton College, 239 Montauk Highway, Southampton, NY 11968. All communications will be responded to via mail, so please include a current mailing address.

LARocca NEW ACADEMIC DEAN

James L. Larocca has been named Dean of Southampton College, succeeding Margaret Madden, who has been appointed University Dean for Learning and Technology. Both appointments start September 1.

Larocca currently holds the Keyspan Distinguished Chair in Public Policy. "Jim Larocca is an extraordinarily talented person, and we are fortunate that he has chosen to bring to Southampton College his breadth of experience in public and private management, civic service and educational leadership. He has the perfect

mix of experience, intellectual strength and practical ability," said University President David J. Steinberg.

Larocca has had a rich and varied career in government and politics, business, the law and academe. A lawyer, he served in the cabinets of two New York governors and as President of the Long Island Association, the region's largest business and civic organization. He currently serves as Chairman of the Long Island Nature Conservancy, a major environmental preservation group.

HEATHER LYNNE MARINI-FRIENDS WORLD STUDENT EXECUTIVE-2001-2002

The fall leaves begin to turn. The pumpkins are ripening in the fields. While the earth is readying her energy to go down inside herself as she prepares for winter, we are all getting ready to do the same things. Some of us in India, some in Japan, some in Australia, some in the United States, some in Africa, some in Europe, some in Central America, some in South America and some in China. We are all getting ready to learn and grow.

At the North American Center I am happy to say we are having a great year already. Much of the community at the North American Center is sad that we are

shutting down. Even the Southampton students that I thought in my first year would never understand us Friends Worlders seem very sad we are leaving as well. We are an inspiration for professors and a spark in this university. We have set up new systems of chatting from afar and keeping our student voice at a listenable volume. If anyone is interested to receive our weekly email newsletter written by every center's student rep, now called the Town Crier, please contact me and I can put you on the list. This newsletter is called ONE VOICE and is a way to keep everyone informed, from

center to center, of what is really going on and a way for students to reach out and get the real facts.

The winter winds are closing in and somewhere out there the summer sun is bright and bold. Each one of us is in a different land, yet one world, and each one of us falls into the spell of a different season. Regardless of winter, spring, summer or fall we are all growing and changing. Enjoy your changes and I wish that your embrace toward knowledge be a warm one.

GRADUATION DAY 10 MAY 2001

Another busy and satisfying graduation was completed, the 10th since the merger in 1991. Warm thanks to the many people who helped make the day such a successful one - to Hicks Nurseries for floral decorations at the dinner, Robert Martin for the Council of Overseers awards certificates; staff and faculty.

Over sixty seniors were candidates for graduation, and thirty-two were on campus for the presentations and commencement ceremony. In addition, a number of Friends World seniors participated in the Southampton commencement on Sunday 11 May.

A Continental breakfast in Chancellors' Hall started the day. Seniors and their guests totaled close to 300 people — by far the largest graduation crowd in Friends World history.

Presentations in Duke Lecture Hall started at 9:00 AM and continued throughout the day. A hero lunch for all was enjoyed inside and outside in the perfect weather.

As always, the presentations included a broad range of topics — peace and conflict resolution, the philosophy of ecology, women's

studies, the healing powers of yoga, early childhood education, dance and choreography, and a study of the life of Latino immigrants on Long Island.

Following the presentations, the graduation ceremony took place in the athletic center on campus. An extra sense of excitement and anticipation was felt, due to the presence, as graduation speaker, of Thich Nhat Hanh, a world famous Buddhist teacher and spiritual leader. The public was invited to join us to hear him speak at 8PM following the gala graduation dinner. Because of the large crowd expected, the large gym on campus was set up for 2000 plus seats.

George Watson, former President of Friends World College in the '70's was present, and was introduced, as were dignitaries from Southampton College and LIU.

An important addition to the graduation this year was the presentation of the Council of Overseers Faculty and Senior Thesis awards acknowledging achievement in furthering the Friends World Program mission. The citations, accompanied by a \$500 check, were presented by Council of Overseers Co-Clerks,

Janet Palmer and Ethan Atkin.

The Faculty Award, recognizing scholarly activities and exceptional service to students was presented to Lewis Greenstein, Dean of the Program. The Senior Thesis Award recognizes an exemplary body of work which can serve as a model for future students and faculty, and an example for those who seek to understand Friends World's unique program. This was presented to Sheri Bird, whose thesis was titled "Genocide Against Women: The Cry for Recognition of Gender Oppression". Sheri's thesis has been bound and is available in the library.

Following the ceremony, the seniors and their guests moved to the small gym next door for the gala graduation dinner. Close to 300 participated and enjoyed the international dinner.

At 8:00 PM the commencement speaker was introduced in the large gym. Seniors and their guests and members of the public, were privileged to hear this renowned teacher and author speak to the Seniors on "The Path of Understanding and Love."

THICH NHAT HANH SPEAKS AT GRADUATION BY MAJA GRAY

I knew he was famous, this monk, but until I saw the line of people who were waiting to buy tickets I had no idea just how renowned he actually is. The line wound its way across the parking lot as hundreds of people assembled in the chilly Long Island evening an hour before the doors opened. Apparently, they were more than willing to sit still on hard wooden bleachers for two hours to listen to this man speak. And now, after having heard his speech myself, I see why.

Thich Nhat Hanh is a Buddhist monk, originally from Vietnam, who lives in France and travels throughout the world giving lectures and hosting spiritual retreats. I imagine he has spoken before thousands of crowds in his seventy-five years, but he sounded only pleased to be on the stage in front of us in that hot gymnasium. "I am glad to be here with you, my friends," he said quietly, and it sounded genuine.

That's what he was — genuine. I'm searching for words to describe him, because

he was so unlike anyone else I've ever heard. He was genuine and gentle, quiet and intelligent, and even from where I was sitting in the middle of the audience, I could feel the aura of strength and compassion that radiated from him. Each of his words was carefully chosen, and each conveyed an intensity I'm not accustomed to hearing normally. As I listened I kept wishing I had a pen and paper, for almost every sentence was powerful enough that I wanted to write it down to remember. And it was obvious he is a poet; lovely, lucid phrases seemed to come as naturally to him as normal speech to anyone else.

He spoke of many topics, but two I particularly remember are emotions and impermanence. He had us imagine anger like a seed that sent down roots into our soul, growing deeper and deeper. In other words, you can get rid of bad emotions when they're young, before they've had time to attach themselves to you. The same thing with good emotions, like love: the seed of love will, given care,

flourish and flower and fill your whole soul with its scent.

To convey the essence of impermanence, he said, "Think of someone you love." And then he paused and said, "Now imagine your beloved in three hundred years." My "beloved" in my mind went from eighteen to thirty, to fifty, to eighty, until she was dead, and just bones, and finally dust, and then not even that. "Everything is impermanent," he said, in his slightly-accented voice. "It will not always be here. Live in the present and make your beloved happy now for you will not always have them." It made me want to jump up and give everybody hugs: my father, my stepmother, my brother, my stepsisters, I wanted to hug them all.

And that's a pretty good summation: Thich Nhat Hanh, so full of wisdom, was also full of love and compassion. He made me want to hug everybody.

ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

The '01 Annual Appeal was mailed in January. The pledge year is now the same as the Program's fiscal year, which runs from September 1 to August 31. The '01 Annual Appeal total stands at \$17,935. An additional \$9,145 was the Program's share of ticket sales for Thich Nhat Hahn's address, open to the public. This income was shared with Thich Nhat Hanh's Plum Village meditation community in France. The total income for 2001 was \$27,080. Financial support for the Program is vital to carrying out the mission; many thanks to those 90 people who contributed!

TELL US ABOUT YOU...

We have a new alumni list! To subscribe: send a e-mail message to: listproc@listserv.liu.edu (with NO subject or email signature). Your message must read: Subscribe fw-alumni firstname lastname *substitute your first and last name
To send mail to the fw-alumni list: Address your mail to: fw-alumni@listserv.liu.edu
Your mail will be sent to Friends World headquarters to Carol Baker. Replies to mail will go back to the sender of that message, not the entire list.

Name _____ Name while at Friends World (if different) _____

Address _____ e-mail: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Business _____ Occupation _____

Business Name and Address _____

Friends World Centers Attended & Years _____

Year of Graduation from Friends World _____ Area of senior study _____

Graduation from another college? _____ Year _____ Degree _____

May we list you in a new Alumni Directory? _____ May we publish this news in our Alumni newsletter? _____

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