

**Friends Seminary Committee**  
**Report of Academic Year 2008-2009**  
**To New York Quarterly Meeting**  
**October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Friends Seminary flourished in its 223<sup>rd</sup> year of operation – a year of severe financial stress for the world – because of the extraordinary commitment of its community to the school’s Quaker mission. The administration worked diligently to cut spending to the bone and kept faculty, staff, and parents informed of its plans throughout the year. Enrollment was strong and included the addition of a third kindergarten. Together these savings and increased tuition income allowed the school to meet its financial aid goals (16% percent of tuition income goes to financial aid), its salary commitments to faculty and staff, and to raise tuition by the smallest percentage in recent years. Most extraordinary, however, was the extent to which the school’s community continued to give: the Annual Fund had its best year and the capital campaign reached its goal eighteen months early. A special fund was created to receive gifts designated to help support school families who found themselves in distress and has allowed a significant number of students to remain at school while their families work toward financial recovery.

Our Long Range Planning process, which was collaborative and included members of the Quarter, culminated in a report that focuses on community and our Quaker foundation. Of special interest to Friends will be plans to:

- recruit candidates for teaching and for a new internship program at Quaker colleges and historically black colleges and universities;
- educate the community about Quaker decision-making practices;
- engage the school community in the writing of a *Faith and Practice*;
- establish a Center for Peace, Equity and Justice which will integrate community service, diversity and Quaker-in-Residence work.

In addition, last year the school:

- worked with Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting to create a mutual Care Committee;
- developed a policy on communication and confidentiality for School Committee work;
- created the position of Quaker-In-Residence and full-time Director of Diversity;
- collaborated with 15th Street Meeting: lower school teachers and First Day teachers worked on curriculum and community service projects; the Peace Committee contributed to the planning of Peace Week;
- added Arabic language to the curriculum (including an evening adult class made available to all members of the Quarter);
- created the Mariana Wright Chapman Academic Center to provide additional, free academic support and tutoring to middle and upper school students before, during and after school;
- held a workshop on Quaker decision making led by Arthur Larrabee for faculty, staff and administration.

Rather than our usual narrative report, this year we will show a new video, a gift from a parent to the school, which will be used in our Admissions program and which we think, more than words can, captures Friends Seminary as it is.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Alexander