

Epistle, FAHE Conference

June 19-22, 2008

Where Faith and Practice Meet

Jennifer Barraclough, Director of Woodbrooke Study Centre in Birmingham, England, was absolutely glowing as she welcomed close to one hundred conferees to the 2008 FAHE conference, held for the first time at the only Quaker institution of higher learning in Britain. Those gathered shared her palpable excitement and profound gratitude at being safely together for the official welcome and the first plenary session. With this year's meeting, each of the founding institutions have now hosted the conference, closing one circle coordinate with, for the first time, opening up the conference to a site outside of the USA.

Woodbrooke, established in 1903 as an adult study centre, is a place of peace and beauty. For academics who are overcommitted it is clearly a respite conducive to recharging intellectually and spiritually, and creating space for creativity and inspiration. Gardens (including an herb and vegetable one which supplied much of the delicious food), cozy rooms for sleeping, and attractive meeting and sitting rooms, all contributed to a most precious and memorable experience. And the caring, resourceful FIRs (Friends in Residence) went beyond the call of duty to ensure that every need was met. It was a perfect setting for exploring the places "Where Faith and Practice Meet." Opportunities to investigate the beautiful house and grounds formerly owned by Quaker George Cadbury, and the surrounding village or Bournville, which he founded for the workers in the family chocolate factory (Cadbury's) were taken up by many and much appreciated. Some ventured four miles into the city of Birmingham via foot and/or public transport, and enjoyed experiencing the sights and sounds of a

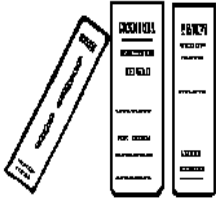
British city. We were delighted to participate in Woodbrooke's rhythm of morning worship, and end of the day "epilogue," which added to the sense of stillness and centeredness that contributed so much to the milieu of the conference. As did the readily accessible hot drinks and "biscuits."

The first plenary session speaker was Quaker astronomer Jocelyn Burnell, whose topic was "Heavens Above and Heaven on Earth." She spoke about her Quaker and scientific selves once being bedfellows, but how the Quaker-self had molded around the scientist-self over time. She shared some of the challenges she has faced in her career as scientist and Quaker, particularly around issues of perceived friction between knowledge and belief. Now in administration, she noted "more scope" for applying her values in decision-making. One of her ongoing areas of deep concern is gender issues and academic power structures, and she is thankful to have been able to effect positive change in this regard.

In the second plenary session John Punshon alluded to Satan's temptations of Jesus and explored how and where faith and practice meet. Drawing on his family's roots in Christian socialism, John linked the translation of faith into action to "looking for desirable consequences" and "asking where duty lies." He warned of the pitfalls of moral decision making, emphasizing peo-

(continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
EPISTLE	COVER
MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING	3
CALL FOR PAPERS, 2009 CONFERENCE	7
PLEASE 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

Rebecca Mays, clerk

<i>Abigail Adams</i>	<i>Laura Rediehs</i>
<i>Doug Burks</i>	<i>Lonnie Valentine</i>
<i>Gary Farlow</i>	<i>Steven Potthof</i>
<i>Steven Gilbert</i>	<i>Deborah Shaw</i>
<i>Mike Moyer</i>	<i>Caroline Whitbeck</i>

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Epistle

(continued from page 1)

ple's mixed motives ("you never know why anybody does anything"), and unintended consequences. He suggested that moral decision making is not a matter of calculation, rather, moral discernment is an act of imagination; we are best advised "to sleep on it" when attempting to plan our actions. But as John's own life indicates, we should be prepared for surprises. John urged us to live our lives acknowledging grace (his touchstone) by which everything comes.

Satish Kumar, editor for *Resurgence* magazine and programme director for Schumacher College, Devon, opened our third and last plenary by welcoming us and acknowledging the "love miles" we travelled to be together. The travel, while a source of emissions, makes our friendships possible, and it is time for all to extend friendship to the earth. He challenged us as Friends to integrate our academic lives with sustainable practice, pedagogy, policy and research - and to start now. Formerly a Jain monk, and a peace pilgrim, he shared his vision in which we will leave the fear now driving environmental concerns for a powerful, reverential environmentalism guided by the reality that "You are, therefore I am." His pragmatic idealism is guided by the principle of B.U.D.: "beautiful, useful, durable," and by holding up craftsmanship over mass production, and people as makers over people as consumers.

Workshops began on Thursday evening and continued through Sunday morning. How Friends teach and administer in the various classrooms and schools was articulated and demonstrated in creative and informative papers, discussions, panels, guided meditations, and even art projects. Both long-standing members and first-timers were willing to share findings and seek guidance from their Quaker colleagues.

Small groups were structured differently this year. Four options making use of discussion or worship sharing, and with or without queries were offered, and allowed Friends to reflect meaningfully together on the experiences and lessons of each day.

Business meeting was modestly attended and for the second year was held on Saturday morning, allowing it to be a more integral part of the overall event. As well as budget and committee reports, and the approval of revised bylaws, there were announcements made of the exploration of new initiatives to: 1) promote global collaboration, 2) support and train faculty in Quaker process and procedures, 3) find ways to assist underprepared students, and 4) expand the National Interfaith Youth Corps already in existence for high school students. And, as is the custom, minutes of appreciation were tenderly crafted and read for our host institution, Woodbrooke, local arrangement coordinator, Ben Pink Dandelion, and outgoing recording clerk, Jim Hood.

Friends look forward to reconvening June 18-21, 2009, to consider the conference theme "Education for the Abundant Life," at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

**Welcome to new
FAHE executive committee members
Doug Burks and
Deborah Shaw!**

Minutes, Friends Association for Higher Education Annual Meeting for Business

June 21, 2008

Cadbury Room, Woodbrooke Study Centre, Birmingham, U.K.

The meeting began with a period of expectant waiting upon the Spirit.

Clerk Rebecca Mays opened the meeting by remarking that she feels energized by business meetings because the sessions are where faith meets practice in very real and concrete ways.

Members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves to the gathered body.

FAHE By-laws

Rebecca Mays reviewed proposed changes to the organization's by-laws. She noted one change to the Purposes statement designed to lift up more specifically the organization's commitment to those members working at non-Quaker institutions. One large addition in Section VI specifies the responsibilities of the Executive Committee. The proposed changes also establish a Naming Committee from the floor of the body for the purpose of identifying membership of the Nominating Committee. Deborah Shaw noted some additional wording changes proposed by the Executive Committee.

Friends approved the new changes and additions to the by-laws.

Naming Committee

The clerk asked for suggestions from the body for two persons to serve as the naming committee for a period of two years. This naming committee will recommend names for the nominating committee to the

executive committee. Helene Pollock suggested Monteze Snyder, who agreed to serve. **Friends approved the service of Monteze Snyder.**

Newton Garver suggested Steve Smith for this service; Steve, with apology, felt moved to decline. Caroline Whitbeck suggested Nelson Bingham; Nelson agreed to serve, though he noted that he comes from the same institution as Monteze Snyder. After a brief consideration, **Friends approved the service of Nelson Bingham.**

Call for Papers for Guilford conference, June 2009

Rebecca Mays presented a copy of the call for papers prepared by the Executive Committee for the upcoming Guilford conference in June of 2009. Rebecca also noted that we have received a letter of invitation from Richard Sours, president of William Penn College, for a conference there in June 2010. David Ross reported that he has had a preliminary conversation with the incoming president of Bryn Mawr about the possibility of hosting the conference there in 2011. This conference would be held in conjunction with Friends Council on Education. There have also been tentative conversations with Pendle Hill about how we might partner with them in 2011 as well.

Rebecca asked those present to consider serving on Programming Committees for the upcoming conferences. Leslie Hickcox voiced

her hope that the conference could be held on the West Coast in 2012.

Nominating Committee

Caroline Whitbeck presented a report from the Nominating Committee, detailing the proposed staffing for various committees. **Friends heartily approved the nominations.**



Workshop in the Woodbrooke art room

Budget Report

Gary Farlow, treasurer, noted that copies of the organization's profit and loss are available for any member to review. That document does not seem to warrant particular discussion at this time. Gary discussed the budget vs. actual figures for 2007-2008 and the proposed budget for 2008-2009, highlighting the following items:

FAHE Coordinator Kori Heavner manages our money very carefully, as the budget vs. actual columns demonstrate;

The large expense for computer this year was expected and has been covered out of specified donations; We have had good response in contributions in the past few years,

(continued on page 4)

Minutes, cont'd

(continued from page 3)

largely due to challenge grants we have received;

We have begun to include a line for conference expenses in the budget for planning purposes;

With the challenge grants in hand, we now have the opportunity to invest some funds for earning interest income;

The office has moved to a new space in Friends Center and there has been a subsequent reduction in rent costs;

We have reallocated some of these rental costs to salary for the office manager, an adjustment that has been needed for some time;

We have also added money back into the travel line for the fall executive committee meeting.

The clerk called for comments or discussion; **Friends approved the proposed budget for FAHE for the coming year.**

Gary asked for Friends to acknowledge Kori's great care with the budget; Friends signaled their praise by clapping. Rebecca acknowledged Kori's great maturity in keeping clear the lines of separation between her organizational responsibilities and personal needs.

Investment with Friends Fiduciary Corporation proposal

Rebecca reported that we have received a \$5,000 challenge grant, \$1,600 of which has already been donated. We need to match the full amount by December 2008. The presence of these and other monies have made it possible and prudent for FAHE to begin investing funds

for the receipt of interest. Gary noted that Friends Fiduciary Corporation, the entity proposed in which to invest our funds, screens for socially-responsible investments. FFC also has a better-than-market return performance.

Friends approved the following minute:

The investment of FAHE funds with Friends Fiduciary Corporation is approved by the members gathered at the annual business meeting in 2008. Invested funds shall be segregated by purpose and restriction. Funds restricted for endowment purposes will be deposited with Friends Fiduciary Corporation as they are received. Designated funds or other excess funds will be invested as determined by the Treasurer in consultation with the Finance/Budget and Steering Committees.



A tea time chat at Woodbrooke

Membership

Rebecca asked Friends present to make certain to fill out their membership forms before they leave. She noted that ours is an organization that exists to serve its members' needs. In response to a question about FAHE's relationship with yearly meetings, Barbara Dixson suggested that FAHE would need to request representatives to FAHE from those yearly meetings before

they would be able to approve such. Friends agreed this would be a valuable pursuit.

Organizational directions

Rebecca Mays noted that the Executive Committee had discussed possible ways in which FAHE might be able to provide service to the wider body of Friends. That group has considered, for example, whether FAHE meetings could provide workshops that serve the wider body of Friends by focusing on pressing issues of the moment. Furthermore, are we called to something more than simply organizing our annual meeting in the coming years? Various Executive Committee members reported on concerns being explored as possible directions for FAHE to focus its energies.

International concerns: Kori Heavner noted that opportunities are emerging for collaborative relationships with Friends in Britain, Europe, East Africa, Ramallah, Bolivia, and possibly elsewhere. In which directions, she asked, are we being led? Newton Garver displayed an album of young Friends who are now participating in the Bolivian Friends higher education scholarship program. He noted that he doesn't see any opening at the moment for a formal relationship between FAHE and Friends in Bolivian higher education, but he hopes that we can continue to report on the developments there. Friends in Kenya have expressed some hope that FAHE might enter into a more formal relationship with Friends involved in higher education in Kenya.

(continued on page 5)

Minutes, cont'd

(continued from page 4)

Under-prepared college students:

Doug Burks reported that he, Abigail Adams, and Mike Moyers will be exploring how FAHE might be of service in assisting institution in addressing the problem of students coming to college under-prepared in a variety of ways.

Providing education in Quaker practice; supporting young faculty—

Steven Potthoff, Caroline Whitbeck, and Deborah Shaw are gathering information on what basic steps are now in place on Quaker campuses to introduce students, new faculty, and staff to Quakerism and what kinds of support FAHE might offer to young faculty and graduate students.

Interfaith dialogue for college students:

Rebecca Mays and Gary Farlow will be exploring ways that FAHE might help college students engage in interfaith dialogue utilizing methods developed by Eboo Patel, author of *Acts of Faith*, for high school students.

Steve Smith voiced some concern about the possible diffusion of energy among hard-working members of the Executive Committee in taking up these new directions, but he was happy to leave it to the discretion of that committee to continue to focus the energies of the organization. Rebecca Mays noted that these directions have been Spirit-led and the tasks presently assigned are of the information gathering variety.

Minutes of appreciation

Doug Burks read the following minute of appreciation for Woodbrooke for hosting the 2008

conference:

We came to Woodbrooke and began to learn a new language. We learned what brilliant and smashingly mean. 'Brilliant' is Woodbrooke Quaker Study Center and 'a smashingly good time' is what they provided us at our conference. Our successful conference was no accident. The extensive planning and the attention to the smallest detail that Jennifer Barraclough, the staff, and especially Ben Pink Dandelion, gave in preparation for our arrival ensured FAHE a great conference.



Woodbrooke head Jennifer Barraclough (r) with Pendle Hill head Lauri Perman

From our arrival to our final farewells, our host provided a caring and encouraging environment to explore "Where Faith and Practice Meet." Our physical needs were cared for twenty-four hours a day by Woodbrooke's FIRs (Friends in Residence). The FIRs and staff were gracious even when asked "curious questions" and by the total lack of direction exhibited by many of us visiting Yanks who constantly needed to ask for directions. From early breakfast to late night hot drinks and biscuits after evening epilogue, our comfort and needs were tended.

FAHE appreciates the spiritual care and ministry that Woodbrooke extended to us. The conference was a meeting

for worship with attention to conferencing in large part due to the exceptional ministry provided by Woodbrooke.

Woodbrooke showed us education at its best. They provided an education by example.

Woodbrooke provided us with an example of "Where Faith and Practice Meet" by their leadership in hosting our conference. FAHE thanks Woodbrooke for hosting the 2008 FAHE conference and for the loving care they provided all attendees.

Friends united in approving this minute.

Jim Hood read the following minute of appreciation for Ben Pink Dandelion:

Admittedly, when I first heard of "Ben Pink Dandelion," I, perhaps like others, imagined some kind of frowsy, latter-day hippie, sporting spiked hair and clad in horrid polyester trousers from a charity shop. But coming to know Ben has given me, among many other things, yet another reminder of how truth will dispel the false impression. And indeed, one thing to celebrate in this minute of appreciation for Ben is his own commitment to truth-seeking, that quiet persistence in him not to settle for transient or the merely good enough. But more specifically, the Friends Association for Higher Education records its profound thanks to Ben for his service on the Executive Committee during the past year

(continued on page 6)

Minutes, cont'd

(continued from page 5)

as the liaison from Woodbrooke. His role in planning and executing the June 2008 FAHE conference has been critical; he has demonstrated a deep caring in organizing the very first FAHE gathering held outside the confines of the United States.

Ben's gifts are remarkable, and the list of them long. Possessed of rich knowledge and insight regarding Quaker history, faith, and practice, he combines the theoretician's rhetorical subtlety with the tradesperson's ability to reign in a recalcitrant sound system. Seamlessly adept at both abstraction and concrete detail, Ben has been simultaneously an inspiring thinker and the go-to person for this conference, doing everything from presenting on the Quaker practice of "plaining" to fetching extension cords. His ability to make one feel welcome is matched only by his delicate and subtle humour, and anyone who has been the blessed victim of the Dandelion wit will attest to Ben's capacity for charm and grace.

FAHE attenders will leave this conference thankful for Ben's key role in the event. He is someone who knows intimately the peculiar ways of North Americans who may feel a bit perplexed by the number of times the English pause for beverages and biscuits or who struggle with the art of the British toilet. Our hearts have

been lifted by Ben, intelligent, hospitable, and droll, and we look forward to returning the favor many times over.

After some invigorating discussion of whether to use the verb "slay" (problematic because of its clear associations with violence) or "dispel," **Friends united in approving this minute.**



From l-r: Jim Hood, Abigail Adams, and Caroline Whitbeck in FAHE Executive session

Deborah Shaw read the following minute of appreciation for Jim Hood:

Jim Hood has served on the Executive Committee for the past six years with careful, tender attention, warmth, and humor, coupled with an amazing breadth and depth of knowledge and capability which have served the Association and its membership in a variety of ways.

As recording clerk for the Executive Committee, Jim facilitated their work through his attention to detail and his narrative skill. His gift of discernment was exercised in the tasks of the Nominating Committee and the Program Committee. The quality of an empowering style of leadership that Jim demonstrates beautifully has proved invaluable in the work of the Office

Committee. The 2001 FAHE/Friends Council on Education gathering held at Guilford College flowed smoothly and well due in no small part to Jim's sharing so generously of his time and talents.

Throughout the years, Jim's workshop presentation have refreshed and challenged participants as he reveals both his unabashed love of teaching and his students and his ongoing care in honing his craft.

We are deeply grateful for Jim's service to our Association through his work on the Executive Committee and through the many other ways he gifts us with his ministry and presence.

Friends approved this minute.

Steve Smith noted his sense of appreciation that FAHE is flourishing and he asked that the group to approve a sense of commendation to the Executive Committee for its leadership of FAHE. **Friends united in this approving this.**

The meeting concluded with a period of silent worship.

Have a great idea or leading?



An interest form is now available online to share your thoughts with the FAHE nominating committee: visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.a_spx?sm=XiL0h7URrmi9bQXajNXAXg_3d_3d



Education for the Abundant Life



Friends Association For Higher Education
Conference at Guilford College
June 18 - 21, 2009

Call for Papers

Please consider presenting a paper, offering a workshop, or participating in a panel at the next conference of the Friends Association for Higher Education (FAHE). While any proposal relevant to the general aims of the FAHE will be considered, we especially welcome proposals that address the theme of the 2009 conference: Education for the Abundant Life.

- * How does the life or lifestyle to which you aspire compare with the models of success that the contemporary world offers?
- * How do you discern the Spirit, personally and collectively? In your work? In your family life? In Friends organizations of which you are a part? In other organizations?
- * What temptations or distractions does academia present to your discernment? What/whom do you need (spiritually, intellectually, in terms of community/collaboration etc.) to overcome them? How do you find/create what you need?
- * How do you share your hope of the abundant life? What supports this hope in your academic/professional life?
- * How do you engage with students and others to live abundantly?
- * What "draws forth" abundance in your teaching, research and/or work with students?
- * When scarcity threatens a project, a partnership, a plan or a hope, how do you/we respond?

Send proposals with a title, presenter's name and contact information (mailing address and e-mail), type of presentation, and a short description of the presentation (1-2 paragraphs) to: FAHE-conference@quaker.org. Submitted descriptions will be the basis for the printed conference program. E-mailed submissions are strongly encouraged. Contact the office for instructions to submit by mail or fax.

Proposal Deadline: November 30, 2008

Post-Deadline submissions may be considered if they do not require scheduling more than 5 sessions concurrently.

Watch the FAHE website for more information: <http://www.earlham.edu/~fahe/>

Summer 2008



**Friends Association for
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FAHE encourages graduate students to submit proposals for the FAHE 2009 conference (see inside). FAHE will cover half of the registration fee for graduate students. Contact Caroline Whitbeck for more information at cw08@onlineethics.org or 413-446-4556. She would be happy to help students think about proposing a session, or about writing a proposal for a session. Proposals are due Nov. 30, 2008.

Time To Join / Renew / Share With A Friend!



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MEMBERSHIP JULY 1, 2008 -- JUNE 30, 2009

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, or send a note of inquiry to the office.

Name: _____ EMail 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:
Scholar: ___(\$100) Family: ___(\$75) Individual: ___(\$60) Associate/Student: ___ (\$15 - \$50)

Contribution above membership dues: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

Please make check payable to: Friends Association for Higher Education **Total payment included:** _____