

FAQs: Fontbonne Centennial Collection

Why this collection?

We've done a pretty good job of memorializing our history as an institution, but with this collection we want to share the small moments and the individual stories that history can overlook. We're hoping this project will provide opportunities to illuminate, challenge, and expand our understanding of the last century. Your biography and your experiences, as well as those of your mothers, sisters, colleagues, co-workers, and classmates are part of the picture. History matters. Our history is a vital part of our identity, both as individuals and as a community. Fontbonne's history and identity – its value and meaning – are determined by what has been written and preserved.

What is a microhistory?

Most of history we are familiar with seeks to contextualize and explain the past by drawing on big-picture ideas and large-scale movements. Microhistories, on the other hand, are the stories of individuals and their experiences. Petite narratives and local contexts that provide snapshots to capture a particular moment in time.

Who can participate?

EVERYONE who has been a part of the campus community during the last century. That includes (but is by no means limited to) current students, alumni, staff, faculty, board members, and Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. We hope to get a wide range of people to contribute to the project.

What kinds of things can I submit?

Anything you can imagine, really, but here are some ideas to get you started: photos, letters (to and from home), commencement programs, campus newsletters, literary magazines, class publications, Fontbonne-branded memorabilia (postcards, mugs, pins, pennants, etc.).

If you wrote a capstone project or a master's thesis during your time here and would like it to be available online, let us know. We already have paper copies of many of these in the Archives. If you contact us, we can check to see if we have yours and send you a release form.

I'd love to participate, but I don't have anything to share.

We realize not everyone has a cache of Fontbonne items stocked away, so we'd also like to encourage you to submit the memories you carry with you. Here are a few prompts to get you started.

Drop us an email or postcard with your response(s), and we'll include it in the collection as well!

Describe a favorite memory from your years at Fontbonne.

Do you remember when... or I was there when...

Why did you choose Fontbonne? What do you remember about your first day on campus?

Tell us about the Fontbonne person you remember most or who has been an important influence on your life.

Do you have any new-technology memories associated with Fontbonne? The advent of copiers, mainframes, email, databases, cell phones, etc.

What was the most important thing you learned during your time at Fontbonne?

Is there anything you'd like to share with future Fontbonne students?

Can I make more than one submission?

Absolutely! This is a multi-year campaign, and we'll be adding things to the collection as we go. We hope the posted submissions will inspire new ones. We'll do our best to link them all under the same name.

Will my name be associated with my submission?

Yes, if you want it to be. Donors' names will be included in the detailed record for each object. If you would prefer your name not be included, just let us know and we'll designate it as an anonymous submission.

Will every submission be included?

Probably not. We're hoping that this project will help us fill in some of the many gaps in our collections. (We don't, for instance, have a complete run of commencement programs, and we're missing many issues of student publications from the seventies.) If we get six copies of the commencement program from 1969 or a theater program from 2015, we'll only include one. We will, however, maintain a master list of all the donors that will be available with the collection.

How can I submit my memories?

There are three ways you can make submissions:

1. Email: griffinshare@fontbonne.edu
2. Mail: Jack C. Taylor Library, Fontbonne University
c/o Brady Shuman (Centennial Collection)
6800 Wydown Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63105
3. Drop-off: Just stop by the front desk at the library and ask for Brady or Rebecca.

Will I get my submission(s) back?

If you'd like, you're welcome to send or bring physical items in for us to scan or photograph. You can include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or make other arrangements for us to get them back to you.

Where can I find the Centennial Collection online?

You can find the collection online at <https://griffinshare.fontbonne.edu/centennial>.