

FCC NEWSLETTER

Fontbonne Community Connection – A Women's Giving Circle

August, 2010--Edition #2

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Message From The Chair



Karen Gedera
FCC Chair

Dear Fellow FCC Member,

Our July 15th Annual Meeting was both fun and inspiring. Highlighted by the announcement of 2010-2011 grant recipients, the “agenda” for the morning included many heart-felt words of recognition and gratitude to all who contributed so much since the inception of the FCC just three years ago. We reveled in the realization of how far we have come during this short period: 15 new memberships this year added to 67 renewals bring us to a total of 82 members (both Fontbonne and non-Fontbonne alums) in various geographic locations and with an age range spanning seven decades! The greatest part of all is the awarding of \$71,213 in grants, bringing our three-year total to \$165,213. What an impact we are having on the University, its students and its programs, reaching far beyond Fontbonne’s walls! The biggest thank you goes to each of you for making all of this possible. It is an honor for me to be associated with this group of awesome women.

Karen

News Notes

IT WAS QUITE A...



CELEBRATION!



On July 15th, the **FCC Annual Meeting** featured a light breakfast complete with a champagne toast to celebrate the announcement of the new grant recipients for the coming year. Several changes in the FCC officers and committee chairs for the new term were also presented along with an invitation to all of our members to consider the possibility of joining one of our committees if time and interests permit. (See the Committee Section.)

A delightful slideshow, featuring the “faces of the FCC” was enjoyed by everyone present and the meeting concluded on a high note with an opportunity for each member to express her thoughts about her FCC experience, if she so desired. A group photo and a tour of the current renovation of the Anheuser-Busch Hall followed the meeting.

Important Documents Ratified

Mission: The Fontbonne Community Connection (FCC) is a women's giving circle that believes in the Mission of Fontbonne University and, specifically, in the positive effect that higher education has on society. The FCC awards financial grants to faculty, staff and students of the University, to advance their educational goals and to promote Fontbonne University.

Vision: We strive to be a diverse community of thoughtful, effective women philanthropists and a driving force in the Fontbonne University Community of life-long learners. We will inspire faculty, staff and students to reach higher and broader in their educational objectives, and we aspire to have the financial capacity to fund member-approved grant applications.

Core Values:

- * Requiring the annual financial contribution established by the FCC for membership
- * Allocating 100% of membership dues to grants
- * Honoring each member's voice through the practice of "one member, one vote" and with the spirit of thoughtful listening
- * Demonstrating self-reliance, transparency and accountability
- * Valuing diversity and integrity
- * Enjoying the experience

(These statements received final approval from the EAC on 3/18/2010 & 4/15/2010.)



“Capture the Moments”

We are again pleased to present updates from three of our 2009-2010 grant recipients who are eager to share their enthusiasm for their projects and the benefits being realized as a result of FCC funding.



Dr. Joyce Johnson

As the outgoing Director of Fontbonne's Center for Excellence in Teaching, Dr. Joyce Johnson reported that the **FONTBONNE TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM** sponsored by an FCC grant, offered a wonderful three-day session for four full-time faculty members, all of whom had expressed very specific goals for improving classroom learning. Dr. Johnson and the new incoming director of the center, Dr. Suzanne Stoelting, also participated in the sessions, which involved discussions on appropriate learning outcomes, redesigning learning experiences and brainstorming for new ideas to make their classrooms more relevant for learners in the 21st century. All four faculty members left the training session with new syllabi for their courses and lots of ideas. Evaluation forms returned by each participant rated the experience as highly successful and one that they would definitely recommend to other faculty members.



Under the auspices of the Campus Ministry, *Fontbonne in Service and Humility (FISH)* sponsored the **BELIZE SERVICE TRIP**, June 6-13, 2010, in which 18 students and three staff constructed a concrete foundation for a school library in Punta Gorda. Previously, *FISH* had helped with another school library in the area to house a portion of the 25,000 books the Fontbonne community collected for distribution across Mayan villages. Consequently, completing the foundation for a second small school library in this area was especially meaningful for the *FISH* participants as well as for the children and the adult residents, who will also be welcome patrons. Those who registered for the trip were required to attend four pre-trip meetings which, in addition to travel details, educated them about Belize and social justice issues surrounding the country. The five participants pictured are now 2010 Fontbonne “alums,” having graduated this past May, just prior to the trip!

FISH Co-advisor, Sarah Boul reported that their FCC grant reduced the personal cost for each student by more than 50%, making the trip realistically affordable for Fontbonne's students to participate.

FONTBONNE CONNECTS WITH DIVERSE WORLDS is a unique FCC-funded project created under the supervision of Fontbonne's Mathematics and Computer Science Department. In July of 2009, the University purchased its island in *Second Life*, thereby creating an internet-based, three-dimensional global and educational environment, named *Fontbonne Island*. Faculty and students worked to configure the island under the direction of Ms. Cheryl Davis, adjunct instructor in the University's MS in Computer Education program and technology coordinator for the Hazelwood School District. As part of the beginning stages of developing its environment, three students, Matthew Baugh, Joshua Billings and Tyler Malek have brought religion to *Fontbonne Island*. The young men have designed worship spaces and used symbols for each of the numerous religions represented. The research and development were part of Dr. Randy Rosenberg's class, *World Religions*.



Island when purchased

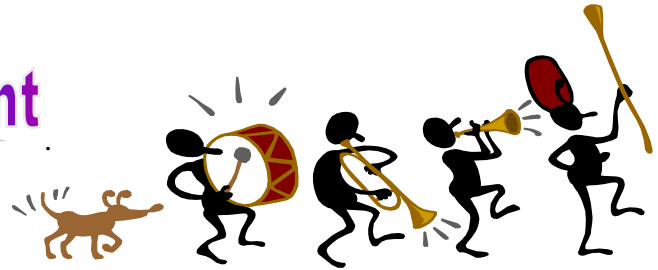


Added Worship Spaces

Great News! Because of the impressive launching of this project, Mr. Mark Franz, Fontbonne's Vice-President for Information Technology, has agreed to maintain the island in *Second Life* for yet another year...hence, the FCC grant lives on! In addition, Fontbonne's Faculty General Assembly (FGA) recently passed a motion to offer a graduate certificate in *Virtual Worlds in Education*!

Featured Upcoming Event

Be sure to **SAVE THE DATE!**



On **Wednesday, September 15th**, from **12:30–1:30 pm** in the **Medaille Meadow**, the FCC will host its first on-campus **Grant Award Presentation and Parade** to share our exciting news with the faculty, staff, and students and celebrate with all of the Fontbonne Community. The pomp and circumstance will kick off with a parade led by a bagpiper, and the University's mascot, *Gunner*. Our MC, Dr. Golden, will present "ceremonial" checks to each of our 2010-2011 grant recipients. The celebration will conclude with refreshments and FCC cupcakes and the chance to congratulate the new grant recipients...

scheduled for the from **9:00 - noon** **but wait--there's more!** The **FCC Annual Planning Meeting** is **morning of Wednesday, September 15th**, with the thought that participants would prefer to combine two events rather than schedule each separately. **All** FCC members are welcome and encouraged to attend the planning meeting which will be devoted to allowing everyone to input their ideas into plans for the coming year. A **box lunch** will be available at **noon**. Karen has expressed the hope that many members will be able to participate in both events—two for the price of one!



Committee Spotlight

In an effort to offer our members a better understanding of the leadership structure of the FCC, the Newsletter is introducing the **Committee Spotlight** feature in this issue, and will continue to highlight a different committee in each of several succeeding editions.

The **Awards Committee** is responsible for the award process and procedures each year. Chaired by Mary Ann Hogan, the committee includes Mary Ann Capellupo, Eileen Carr, Sue Ebanues, Sr. Jane Hassett, Sandy Lehrer, Peg Niemann, Marcia Quint, Carol Spehr and Bev Wagner. Mary Ann reported, "During our meetings this year, we discussed the reorganization of the voting process and the clarification of the grant application form. These discussions resulted in the creation of the *Letter of Intent* and a *faculty-approval system* for all applicants prior to submission to the FCC. The Awards Committee also plans several roundtable meetings annually, allowing FCC members to discuss and question the submitted applications prior to our membership voting deadline in June. While the women who serve on this committee feel a dedication and responsibility to the members of the FCC, we also feel we have personally gained insight into the mission of the University, the faculty and the needs of the students."



Mary Ann Hogan

The remaining FCC Committees and their Chairpersons for the 2010/2011 term are as follows:

Bylaws Committee—Kathy Murphy
Events Committee—Eleanor Ferry

Membership Committee—Sandra Lehrer
Public Relations Committee—Doris Wilson

The FCC Officers, along with the Chairs of each committee, comprise the Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) which meets monthly to discuss, advise and vote on any matters related to the operation of **your** organization. Individual committees schedule their meetings as needed.

If you might be interested in joining a specific committee, please contact Marcia Quint at mquint@fontbonne.edu (or 314-889-1408) to reach the appropriate contact person

FCC Events Calendar



In an attempt to determine the effectiveness of their efforts, several FCC Committees have expressed an interest in surveying our membership through a few brief questions. Consequently, we are in the process of combining these questions into a single *SurveyMonkey* questionnaire which is expected to arrive in your e-mail box around the third week of August. This timing will allow us to assess the results prior to our Annual Planning Meeting in September. Your participation in this survey will be very helpful to the EAC and especially appreciated by the Committees involved. Thank you in advance!

Fall Membership Event

Save the Date of **Friday, October 29, 2010**, from **7:30-9:00 am** in **Medaille** for our Fall Membership Recruiting Event with our guest speaker, Sr. Rosemary (Thomas Marguerite) Flanigan. Our topic will be *The Ethical and Moral Challenge for Today's Woman: Thinking Critically, Acting Ethically, and Assuming Responsibility*. Sr. Rosemary taught Philosophy at Fontbonne in the 1960s and participated in the civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. A dynamic speaker with a wonderful sense of humor, Sr. Rosemary will discuss how morality and ethics differ and how ethical reflection works when you apply it to these challenging times. This event is the perfect opportunity for you to invite a friend or family member to meet fellow FCC members and encourage them to consider joining the FCC. Look for an e-mail invitation soon!



Sr. Rosemary Flanigan

