

FCC NEWSLETTER



FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION – A WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

FCC To Host Afternoon Tea to Welcome “Falling” Back to Mustard Seed Theatre

After a triumphant run off-Broadway with effusive accolades from New York critics in 2012, Professor of Theatre Deanna Jent is once more staging her original play, “Falling,” from April 11 through May 4, and a special invitation to experience it is extended to FCC members and guests. This time, the audience will enjoy the play from new seating, enabled by an FCC award.

Inspired by her experiences as a mother of an autistic child, Deanna Jent’s heartfelt and nuanced family drama is shot through with dark humor that is as cathartic for the audience as it is for her characters.

Prior to the April 12 performance at 5 p.m., Fontbonne Community Connection will celebrate the return of this powerful production with a reception on Saturday, April 12 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Gallery. A post-play discussion from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m., led by Professor Jent, will follow the 90-minute production.

The FCC ticket price is \$20. Watch for an invitation with more details in arriving to your mailbox later this month.



Happy Hour Celebrates FCC Grants Awarded

By: Rosemary Quigley

Early in the evening on Friday November 1, nearly 65 FCC members, guests, grant recipients, new faculty and staff gathered in the Fontbonne Library to hear highlights of FCC Awards from 2008-2013.

Following a social time, during which an impressive array of delicious sweets and savories plus wine and sparkling juice were enjoyed, eight grant recipients from a variety of departments and areas of the University spoke – Dr. Ben Moore, Dr. Susan Lenhian, Mary Beth Gallagher, Dr. Deanna Jent, Dr. Lynne Shields, Denise Mueller, Isabella Liu and Margaret Gilleo. All expressed personal feelings about the impact that the FCC grant had on them and their work. Afterward, members and guests mingled and socialized with grant recipients.

The evening was deemed a great success and an excellent opportunity for FCC members to learn first-hand the impact our grants have, not just on the recipients, but on the persons and communities targeted by their projects. Members attending shared a sense of pride at being part of these exciting projects.



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FCC Advances Faculty and Strengthens Institution By: Wendy Schneider

Fontbonne prides itself on the University's reputation within the community for hiring top-notch faculty committed to investing time and support to elevate each scholar's success. Imagine the difficulty of these decisions, while working to develop a balanced 2013-2014 budget. Weighing the cost of granting faculty stipends for professional development against the opportunity to freeze tuition in the midst of financially tumultuous times, some cuts were obviously necessary.

In response to such a tight budget, Dr. Suzanne Stoelting requested \$5,000 from Fontbonne Community Connections (FCC) to reimburse faculty who planned to travel and present at teaching and learning conferences and workshops. One stipulation of receiving the reimbursement was the agreement from each faculty to share their teaching techniques, strategies, philosophies, and ideas with the Fontbonne community. Over the course of the year, ten faculty members were approved for stipends. They returned to campus energized and prepared to share their experiences with fellow colleagues. In fact, the presentation; "Experiential Learning: An exploration of situated and service learning" by Dr. Sarah Huisman and Dr. Allison Edwards, inspired Dr. Stoelting to apply for another FCC award for Fontbonne to host a Service Learning Workshop.

Participation in conferences addressing the pedagogy of higher education, the scholarship of teaching, learning and technology, and even in a Ted-Talk, allows faculty to share their knowledge and expertise as educators locally, regionally and nationally. Stipend recipients also return to campus with new information and a greater understanding of current trends in higher education. Dr. Mary Abkemeier, Chair of the Department of Mathematics, represented Fontbonne at UMSL's Focus on Teaching and Technology conference, where she spoke on cognitive load and online course design. In addition to her other takeaways, Mary commented on what a boost it was to hear from her peers how much they respected the quality of Fontbonne's online courses.

In Dr. Stoelting's words, "During these tough economic times, the faculty would not have been able to attend these conferences without the help of the Fontbonne Community Connection. You can't imagine how grateful we are. You just can't. It really makes a huge difference and allows our faculty to enhance their knowledge of teaching and learning in higher education, which undoubtedly enhances student learning and allows Fontbonne to embrace our mission of academic excellence."



Recipients of Professional Conference Stipends: Back row (l to r): Dr. Lawrence Monteilh, Dr. Stephanie Afful, Jo Ann Mattson, Dr. Mary Abkemeier, Dr. Laurel Newman Front: Dr. Suzanne Stoelting and Dr. Sarah Huisman. Not pictured: Dr. Jenna van Sickle, Mr. Joseph Mannion and Dr. Amy Peach.

New Chapter for Dr. Dennis and Monica Golden

"The FCC women are so important to the University; bringing an energy and spirit of empowerment that in turn, empowers students, faculty — and Fontbonne. I cherish the organization and am proud of its accomplishments." *Monica Golden*

It's never easy to say goodbye to a friend.

At the end of June, the nearly two-decade Golden era at Fontbonne comes to a close with the departure of Dr. Dennis Golden. We lose a powerful voice for the mission of Fontbonne.

And the Fontbonne Community Connection loses the effervescent Monica Golden who, as the First Lady of Fontbonne, opened her home to our giving circle and encouraged others to join us. She not only has been a tireless ambassador for the University, she also supports FCC's work. Monica makes a lasting impression on everyone she meets. As an FCC member, she understands that we make a bigger difference together than any one of us could make by herself.

On Thursday, May 8, 2014, Fontbonne University will honor Dr. Dennis Golden at a fundraising gala.



New Member Spotlight: Carolyn Caudle Berra



Left to right: Carolyn Berra, Sr. Jane and Mary Ferguson

When Sr. Jane Hasset invited Carolyn Caudle Berra (76) for lunch at Fontbonne, they dined on food grown by students in a garden made possible by an FCC 2012 grant. That meal, and Sr. Jane's sincere and well-honed recruitment, can be credited with adding

Carolyn to the FCC's membership roster.

Carolyn received dual degrees at Fontbonne, a BA in theater and BS degree in business. And she didn't stop there. Over the

years, she completed three master degree programs from Webster University – one in Marketing, Media Communications and Business Administration.

She is an accountant at Ameren and will have been with the energy company for 37 years on March 16. She met her husband, Phil, as they both sat in a veterinarian's waiting room with their dogs. Their son, Phillip Carroll, is 19 and a sophomore marketing major at Saint Louis University. The family moved to Pacific when Phil, a mechanical engineer, retired from Anheuser Busch.

Carolyn has graced the stages at the Kirkwood Theater Guild and performed in her St. George Parish productions. When she has time, she enjoys yoga, swimming, walking her two dogs, and listening to NPR. She has joined the FCC Awards Committee and the Membership Committee. Please welcome Carolyn to FCC.

Reflecting into the Future– Grant Benefits Pre-Service Teachers

Ask Dr. Sarah Huisman, Department of Human Environmental Sciences, about the FCC grant received for a one-year study, and it is clear that she has a passion for preparing better teachers to serve children in the classroom. The study, which will be completed in the spring, focused on educating future teachers about strategies for becoming effective and resilient teachers

Dr. Huisman conducted the study with a master teacher and a kindergarten teacher. Technology played a key role, as the future teachers were required to keep and be reviewed on video blogs (VLOGS), using iPads in practicum settings. This was a different approach to examining how pre-service teachers can gain confidence in bringing learning outcomes, now recognized as a major predictor of teachers' competence and commitment to teaching. The study also looked closely at the importance of reflective teaching for the pre-service teacher, which is the ability to learn to access personal beliefs and to question goals and values that guide one's assumptions.

Technology played a key role in the study, as the pre-service teachers were provided with iPads, to record their teaching methods on their VLOG. This gave instant audio and visual feedback, to review and reflect on themselves.

The study determined that, aided by iPad technology, pre-service teachers will have better reflective skills, be more resilient and able to impact the lives of more children. According to Dr. Huisman, "Reflection is the most important thing for teachers, not the teaching." Taping and seeing themselves in the classroom, allowed students to gain a higher level of maturity and become less afraid to see and hear themselves. According to Dr. Huisman, efficacy for pre-service teachers, and feeling confident that they are capable of bringing learning outcomes, will be an important predictor of teachers' competence and commitment to teaching.

(The study's iPads go to the Fontbonne Library at the conclusion of the study, to be checked out to students enrolled in education courses that require technology for reflection.)



Dr. Sarah Huisman

Newest Members...

We welcome our newest members...

— **Sr. Mary Carol Anth '57**

— **Dr. Carmen Russell**

— **Mary Lee Walter '68**

Coming Events

FCC 2013-2014 Events and Important Dates

Friday, January 31, 2014

Preliminary Application deadline for the 2014 award cycle

Sunday, February 16, 2014, 5:00-7:00 PM

Spirituality Committee presents speaker John O'Leary

Thursday, March 27, 2014, Keynote speaker at 7:00 PM

A Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of an Exciting Vatican II Document

Thursday, April 10, 2014

FCC Final Application deadline

Saturday, April 12, 2014, 4:00-6:30 PM

The Pleasures of Afternoon Tea & "Falling" — Meet and mingle with FCC members at the pre-performance reception, and then enjoy the off-Broadway hit, "Falling"

Message from the Chair



Dear Fellow FCC Members,

We begin the new year by welcoming three new FCC members: Carmen Russell, Sr. Mary Carol Anth and Mary Lee Walter. Delighted to have you aboard, as we gear up for our 2014 award cycle, which has 38 preliminary proposals submitted. The November student workshop on FCC award process resulted in several preliminary proposals from students. Hopefully, they'll follow through with final proposals!

Fontbonne's Alumni Spirituality Event on February 16, facilitated by a 2013 FCC award, features a presentation by the dynamic John O'Leary. I've been blown away, each time I've heard John speak, and I urge all FCC members to attend this extraordinary Sunday evening presentation, reception and Mass.

Also mark your calendar for a special FCC member/guest treat, "The Pleasures of Afternoon Tea" — a lovely reception on Saturday, April 12, followed by a performance of Deanna Jent's off-Broadway hit, "Falling." Having seen Mustard Seed Theatre's powerful premiere on campus two years ago, I wouldn't miss this reprise, featuring the original cast — plus the comfort of those great new theatre seats, which FCC funding made possible.

Joan

Joan Buxton Falk
FCC Chair 2013-2014

FCC 2013-2014 Officers and Committee Chairs

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