It was a gathering of women dressed in the bright colors of summer, engaged in pre-breakfast conversations. Small groups of FCC members meeting and greeting friends – longtime and new – in the Fontbonne caf’ sipping orange juice, coffee or tea and deciding how many of the delicious display of fruit, quiches, muffins and scones one should put on one’s plate.

The agenda was concise and business efficiently handled, however, this annual gathering is clearly a celebratory event.

FCC awards were announced, which full membership received in an email later that day. An impressive summary of the year’s activities and achievements was offered, and officers serving 2015-2016 were introduced. Sincerest appreciation was expressed to a leader stepping down, and the gavel passed to another. Then, one-by-one, each woman stood and offered personal reflection on her Fontbonne Community Connection membership.

At the meeting’s’ close, there was much toasting and FCC’s new Chair, Maggie Gunn Fowler, offered an exceptional one, a portion of which we share here:

“Thank you, (attending) FCC Founders, (Nina Bryans, DeDe Caspari, Kate Gunn and Carol Spehr for your vision, wisdom and unwavering dedication to forging a sisterhood of female philanthropists who now have a voice and the power to make a difference within the Fontbonne community and beyond. God bless you founders!

“Let us toast each other – our fellow members. It is not hyperbole to say, We are the heart and soul of FCC. It is our individual and collective contributions and our individual and collective donations of time and talent that breathe life into FCC and into the Fontbonne community. Cheers to our FCC sisterhood!”

See more photos of Awards Breakfast on Page 3...
Join an FCC Committee
Connect, Commit, Collaborate, Create, Change, and Celebrate

Seventy-five members of the Fontbonne Community Connection share a love of creating something that we have seen can change our community and the world beyond. We have accomplished that through collaboration.

Members have an intense connection with one another during our award review process and feel extremely committed to the role we play. We also like to celebrate our accomplishments and our FCC Annual Meeting gives us that opportunity. FCC has given us the confidence to increase our capacity to give because we have control over decision-making.

As we begin a new FCC year, please keep the name of our organization top of mind -- Fontbonne Community Connection! Join us at the Annual Planning Meeting (See Joan’s Note) and consider connecting with a committee. Take a look at what they do and know that working with a committee is an even greater connection to FCC’s mission. It is fulfilling and it is fun!

A Note From Joan --
I urge all FCC members to attend the Annual Planning Meeting on Thursday, August 13 to assist the new team of Officers and Committee Chairs in structuring the coming year’s activities and events -- your input and fresh ideas are truly invaluable! Come brainstorm with other fabulous women who form the FCC, and find your favorite way to be active and participatory. An informal box lunch will follow the meeting.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COMMITTEE

Want to have a great experience and learn a lot about the FCC and Fontbonne? Look into the Archives and History Committee!

We are building a university repository of FCC historical documents so that FCC members, students, faculty, and researchers can review and study the success of our FCC giving circle. We now have a standard catalog record of FCC materials in OCLC, a worldwide database of bibliographic records that allows items to be searchable in WorldCat, an online catalog of holdings of libraries from all over the world. These documents include FCC minutes, events, bylaws, award application packets, membership lists and packets, brochures, newsletters, photos, and other materials of historical interest.

A&H meets 6 to 8 times a year on the second Monday of the month in the Fontbonne Library Archive Room at 1:30 p.m. One of our most interesting projects is the annual review of the FCC Award Final Reports and Financial Logs. Using established criteria; we evaluate the reports and list them according to their outstanding merits.

COME JOIN US. WE ARE CAUSAL AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN.

Nina Bryans, nbryans@sbcglobal.net

AWARDS COMMITTEE

The FCC Awards Committee executes the steps of the process to determine the applications that the FCC can fund. To do this, the members of the Awards Committee work together to review applications for completeness, conduct the round tables, encourage FCC voting participation, and collect and report the voting results. In addition, the Awards Committee reviews all communication documents and makes any modifications to streamline the process for the next year.

The Awards Committee meets on as ad hoc basis on the Fontbonne campus, when needed, with email communication allowing us to move forward between meetings. If you are interested, please contact Chair Liz Glaser: lizglaser@yahoo.com

Learn more about committees on Page 6...
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bylaws are the most important document of an organization without which an organization would have no structure. The current version of the FCC Bylaws is available on Blackboard. As the organization has evolved and matured, the bylaws have been revised twice (March, 2011 and September, 2014) following the original creation in 2008.

Because the bylaws essentially address the structure of the FCC, it does not include information specific to “how” we operate. Many details which are not the responsibility of a specific committee are addressed in a more general Policies and Procedures document created and maintained by the Bylaws Committee. The current task of this committee is to review and update this document.

Members of this committee will learn a great deal about the internal workings of the FCC and will help keep policies and procedures viable and up-to-date. Committee work is not considered time-consuming. The number, time, location and type of meetings (in person, e-mail, conference call, etc.) is very flexible and is dictated by the availability and preferences of the members as well as whatever task is being worked on at the time.

Barb Atteln, Chair  b.atteln@sbcglobal.net

We really do consider ALL current FCC members to be on the Membership Committee, because we need you all to actively recruit for us! However, it would be lovely if you’d actually sign up to be on this committee. We meet as needed, usually on a quarterly basis. Last year we brainstormed for more ways to attract new members and retain current ones, and looked for ways to add diversity to our group. After all, the more members we have, the more projects we can fund.

Meetings are usually held at Fontbonne, at an agreed upon time. Even if you’re out of town a lot, we’d appreciate your input when you are available. In addition, you might be asked to help welcome new members, answering their questions, and ensuring that they understand the voting process. FCC usually has a couple of purely social events, giving everyone a chance to get to know others in the group. You can help with ideas for what might appeal to the members.

Co-Chairs: Mary Lee Walter:  mlwhome@live.com & Becky McDermott: 524ma@bmail.com

EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events Committee is perfect for those who like a good party but don’t have a lot of time. We plan and execute 3 events per year. We don’t have meetings; rather we correspond by e-mail in the weeks leading up to the function. The most valued attribute of a member of this committee is the ability to think of a fresh concept for an event. The larger membership of the FCC generously provides much of the food and beverage, however we co-ordinate the effort and fill in the gaps. We also set-up and clean-up; I can honestly say that this has never been more than a 15 minute chore. Some Events Committee members come to all of the functions throughout the year, some members only one or two, still others only contribute ideas. There is something for everyone even if you live out of town! A party is only as good as those who make it happen, so won’t you join us and make our events spectacular!

Co-Chairs: Angelia Gosney:  angelia@gosney.com & Sandra Lehrer: sandy.lehrer@gmail.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Public Relations Committee is definitely for those with an inquiring mind and a penchant for story-telling. This committee issues the FCC quarterly newsletter.

Committee members choose or are assigned news stories to follow up on the programs awarded and report on how FCC funding is being utilized. Prepare to be impressed. Faculty, staff and students who applied for the awards are enthusiastic and thrilled to tell us about how much FCC funds are appreciated and the positive changes they bring about. We also cover FCC-sponsored events.

For expediency and members’ time, our committee communicates online or by phone. Although we would love to do face-to-face interviews, most are done by phone. We believe that the FCC Newsletter is integral in keeping membership informed and up to speed on what our shared giving is accomplishing. If this piques your interest, please join us.

Anita Lamont, Chair  anita.lamont@charter.com
How FCC Celebrates a Great Year...at July 9th Awards Breakfast!
Janie von Wolfseck

Janie von Wolfseck spent two decades at Fontbonne in the Department of Communication Disorders and Deaf Education as a clinic director. And although she retired from Fontbonne in 2005, she never completely disconnected from the where she taught for two decades.

Professor Emeritus von Wolfseck may have officially retired, however, she remained committed to the University, her colleagues and students. For several years, Janie and her late husband, Wolfgang von Wolfseck, funded an endowed scholarship at Fontbonne.

Janie has boundless energy and is a longtime member of the Board of Directors at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf. She plays an active role in her church in St. Peters and spends a great deal of time making visits with Yankee, a rescued Labradoodle who is a therapy dog. They visit St. Charles County libraries, where children read to him as part of an educational curriculum, teaching children how to treat dogs. Yankee also is read to by children at Central Institute for the Deaf.

Just recently returned from a cruise that took her to Alaska, Vancouver and Victoria, she continues to love road trips, too, like the ones she and her husband had taken around the country.

Talking with her former Fontbonne colleagues, Lynne Shields, Professor/Director Graduate Studies in SLP and with FCC member Gale Rice, Professor/Director of Education and Allied Health Programs, Janie learned how much the department and its students have benefited from FCC awards. She also saw the ripple effect the awards have initiated. “I could see that when FCC stepped in, the faculty had an opportunity to provide things and take students places and it makes a huge difference. I knew I wanted to be part of what was happening.”

Sr. Mary Charity Dalton, CSJ

“Finally decided to ‘really retire’ to our retirement home with my community of sisters,” said Sr. Mary Charity Dalton, CSJ. “It’s a wonderful gift to me at this time in my life. Everything needed is provided. We have Mass every day. I am free to come and go whenever I wish. I’m able to drive and cars are provided. (I don’t have to scrape off the ice and snow anymore!) What more could I ask! It is a BLESSING.

Sr. Charity received Fontbonne’s Founder’s Award last year and her devoted former students, friends and acquaintances expressed gratitude to her for turning Fontbonnes’ theater department around and setting many students’ careers in the theater in motion as well as being a role model for all her students.

After a 27-year career at Fontbonne teaching speech, theater, voice and diction, Sr. Charity launched a volunteer career that included working with organizations including the Fontbonne Alumni Spirituality Committee, Sacred Heart Radio, Ronald McDonald House, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, and the Immigrant and Refugee Women’s Program.

So what “really retire” means to effervescent octogenarian Sr. Charity has a much different connotation than it might for the average person. One former student, a frequent visitor with Sr. Charity said, “She is so alive to issues, political and social; still asking questions and seeking answers.”

This is exactly what appealed to her about the FCC.

“I was invited several times by my former students and friends, Joan Buxton Falk and Mary Martin Schenkenberg. And I am so happy I accepted. It has been a real learning experience for me. I am impressed by the dedication of so many generous and beautiful women. Thank you.”
Laura Craft O’Hara (’03) was attending her first Fontbonne Community Connection Annual Breakfast Meeting July 9 where part of the fun is learning which faculty and student applicants have won FCC monetary awards for the coming academic year. Envelopes containing the names of the winners were attached beneath random chairs, to be opened and read by members to the group. And when it was Laura’s turn to rip open the envelope beneath her chair, she did and then she grinned, waved the envelope and said, “It’s the award I applied for—we won!” and shakily handed the paper to a fellow member to announce. She had asked for $1,000 for Fontbonne Reading Scouts: “Increasing Early Literacy Through a Community Reading Program.”

Dr. Laura O’Hara is Assistant Professor Communications Disorders and Deaf Education, and she got an enthusiastic round of applause that morning. “This will make an impact!” she said. Others would say that Laura herself has made an impact on the Fontbonne campus. A native of Collinsville, IL, Laura lives there with her husband, Tom, and their two sons, 9-year-old Jack and six-year-old Luke. She received her BA from Fontbonne in 2003 and her Masters in 2005. Laura earned her PhD from Saint Louis University. She knew she wanted to be a speech pathologist and she knew that Fontbonne’s strong program stood out from the rest.

In 2015, Laura O’Hara has been honored to receive the Student Organization Advisor Award, which recognizes members of the Fontbonne Community who “exemplify excellence in service, leadership and the core values of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.” “I’ve had an opportunity to see firsthand how FCC impacts the greater community,” she said. “There are so many opportunities out there to give, but FCC members see exactly where the money goes and how much it can do.”
Dot Grolla LeGrand
by Mary Schenkenberg

Dot’s journey to the FCC began at St. Elizabeth’s Academy where as a senior she saw a presentation from the Fontbonne Deaf Education Department. “Once I saw those little children with hearing aids, I knew that’s what I wanted to do!” Dot changed her choice from MIZZOU to Fontbonne. As a day-student, Dot made wonderful friends in the Speech Path. and Deaf Ed. Depts. “Sr. James Lorene was very influential. She was demanding and we were afraid of her, but she helped me become a good teacher. And Sr.Marie Damien was magnificent!”

Dot graduated in 1973 and began teaching at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf where she taught until she became a mom. Even then, Dot continued to volunteer at SJID, chairing their auction many times. And she taught deaf education classes for Fontbonne for more than 15 years.

In 1973, SJID needed a boys’ basketball coach. Dot volunteered her now husband, Larry, who continued coaching for many years. Both Dot and Larry were honored recently for their 40 years of service to SJID.

Today, the LeGrands enjoy bridge, golf, snow skiing, and traveling together; especially on cruises. Dot has also found time to chair events for Friends of Birthright and the former “CPA Wives”. Dot didn’t know about the FCC until a conversation with Kate Gunn prompted her to attend a presentation by faculty FCC grantees. She was sold. Dot enjoyed the voting process and looks forward to hearing some presentations from the 2015 grantees. Something others may not know about Dot? “I was adopted and we adopted two children of our own: a daughter who graduated from SLU law school and a son who studied architecture at the University of Southern California.” Both live in Los Angeles, CA.

Simple Math: The More We Grow, the More We Can Help

For the FCC, it’s always recruiting time. When you recall how you came to be part of FCC, it was most likely a friend, alum, a family member -- someone who shared information about FCC with you and made you want to be part of this special group of women. We are ALL recruiters for FCC, and talking about it to others only increases our opportunity to increase our awards.

A giving circle like ours is a profoundly rewarding way to donate money, and it’s definitely more fun sharing the experience with other women who care about Fontbonne, its students and faculty. The relationships and friendships created in FCC are a big reason why 75 current members continue to participate year after year.

We are totally involved in our donation of dollars -- we research, vote and follow up on the impact our dollars make and, in doing so, we experience a whole other level of satisfaction. Investing some of our time and energy in our donation is not simply donating money -- we are donating part of ourselves. When we hear about the ripple effects of the awards, it’s as if we have physically helped those whose lives you have touched.

Congratulations to Award Winners

Kate Gunn
Barb Atten

The Fontbonne community will honor its most outstanding alumni, as they receive Founders and Alumni Awards on October 4 at the Annual Alumni Brunch & Awards ceremony. Two of those honored alums are FCC members. Congratulations to Kate Toohey Gunn ’65, an FCC founding member, who will receive the Founders Award, which is the highest recognition. FCC Treasurer Barbara Atten ’67, will receive the Service to the Community Award, for outstanding contributions to the community.
Message From Retiring Chair

Dear Fellow FCC Members,

It was a delight to have so many members at the celebratory breakfast meeting, announcing our seventeen FCC Awards for 2015. We welcomed Institutional Advancement VP Kitty Lohrum, who joined the festivities as our first new FCC member for the coming year! Welcome also to members who joined this spring -- Sr. Mary Charity Dalton CSJ, Laura O’Hara and Lana Shepek. After reviewing the impressive accomplishments and activities of the past year, all of us were in a festive mood as our incoming FCC Chair, Maggie Fowler, toasted the support -- nearly $615,000 -- FCC has provided to date. FCC is truly making a difference -- on campus and beyond.

I’ve known Maggie for over 50 years, and FCC is in for a wonderful year, with her leadership. This woman is dynamite, with an unmatched passion for Fontbonne and the Sisters of St. Joseph. I wish her as much satisfaction as I’ve had, working with such amazing women as our FCC members, an extraordinary blessing in my life. I look forward to continuing to be supportive in whatever way I’m able.

My love and affection to all, as FCC continues treasuring the vision and mission of Fontbonne and the CSJs in our minds and hearts.

Joan

Joan Buxton Falk
Retiring FCC Chair

By the Numbers: Award Rewards

Since 2009, the Fontbonne Community Connection has awarded $614,710 to 92 projects benefiting Fontbonne University.

For the 2015-16 award cycle, we’ve just funded 17 projects for a total of $110,506, the largest amount since our founding.

More information on FCC finances is available on https://bblearn.fontbonne.edu/

New FCC Chair, Maggie Fowler

FCC 2015-2016 Officers & Committee Chairs

OFFICERS
Chair: Maggie Fowler
Vice Chair: Mary Schenkenberg
Recording Secretary: Eve Riley
Corresponding Secretary: Jan Reilly
Treasurer: Barb Atteln

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Archives & History: Nina Bryans
Awards: Liz Glaser
Bylaws: Barb Atteln
Events: Angelia Gosney
                Sandy Lehrer
Membership: Mary Lee Walter
                Becky McDermott
Public Relations: Anita McDermott
FCC Historian: Sr. Jane Hassett, CSJ

Upcoming Events

August, 2015
13 – FCC Annual Planning Meeting, Wydown Campus, East Building, 8:30-12:30

September, 2015
10 – EAC Meeting, 8:45-11:00, 200 S Brentwood 8A

October, 2015 (Note: reunion weekend Oct 2-4, Fall break, Oct 9-13)
4 – Founders Award/ Alumni Brunch
9 – EAC Meeting, 8:45-11:00, 200 S Brentwood 8A
Fall All Members Activity/Event to be Announced