

# FCC NEWSLETTER



## FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION – A WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

### FCC Shares Spotlight at Reunion

The Fontbonne Class of '65 was ready to party.

Fifty years after graduation, that class and many others returned to 6800 Wydown on October 2-4, for a jam-packed Fontbonne Reunion Weekend, "Back to the Future — Embracing our History...Celebrating What's Ahead." The honored class was well-represented at all the festivities. And so was the Fontbonne Community Connection!

FCC member and Class of '65 alum Lucy Meyer Hahn travelled 1,600 miles from her home in Boise, ID, to reunite with classmates and FCC friends. "There was a period in my life when I was focused on raising my girls and couldn't have been part of a giving circle like FCC. But now I can and, even though it's at a distance, I feel connected."

Before the special weekend came to a close, particularly touching tributes were offered to the Fontbonne Community Connection women's giving circle by two members, who shared their award spotlight with the FCC.

It had been a weekend filled with activities. There were campus tours, informative talks, dinners and, on Sunday, Mass in Doerr Chapel and the Reunion Brunch and Awards Ceremony in the Dunham Activity Center. At the awards ceremony, the University's most prestigious Founder's Award and the Alumni Award for Service to the University, were presented to FCC members Kate Toohey Gunn '65 and Barb Atteln '67, respectively. In their on-stage remarks, each chose to share her



special recognition with the Fontbonne Community Connection.

The University's "founding values" — quality, respect, diversity, community, justice, faith, Catholic presence and service wherever there is a need — personify a Founder's Award recipient. In 2008, Kate Gunn and four other women, in her words, "planted the seeds and laid the foundation for the Fontbonne Community Connection." Today, FCC has grown to 75 members and counting and has funded 109 projects. These include multiple aspects of the Bosnian Memory Project, new seating for the Mustard Seed Theatre, programs on literacy and healthy eating projects for children, to name just a few. FCC has awarded more than \$614,000 to date. Kate accepted her award "in honor of the women of the FCC."

*Story continued on page 3..*



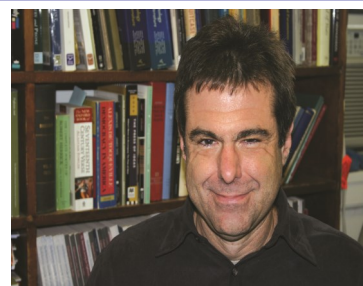
*L to R: Colette O'Brien, Mary Lee Walter, DeDe Caspari, Barb Atteln, Maggi Wester, Mary Ferguson, Nina Bryans, Sr. Mary Charity, Karen Gedera, Mary Schenkenberg, Jan Reilly (at rear), Maggie Fowler, Joan Falk, Kate Gunn, Kitty Lohrum, Sr Donna Gunn, Carolyn Berra and Lucy Hahn.*

## Share the November 13th FCC Celebration With a Friend

Some people just have the knack — exceptional hosts with a gift to create that magnetic mood of excitement and warmth, on a crisp autumn evening, ensuring that guests feel welcome into their home and their busy lives. Cathy and Mike Pressimone have that knack. On November 13<sup>th</sup> they will welcome FCC members, their spouses and guests to Wydown House for an autumn get-together, celebrating the giving circle's ever-widening circumference. The reception from 5 - 7 p.m. is an exceptionally opportune occasion for those who are already members to introduce a friend to FCC, to experience firsthand why it's such a compelling group to join.

Multiple conversations, lots of laughter and voices of all timbres will fall silent at 6 p.m. when two FCC award recipients, Dr. Ben Moore, Associate Professor of English and Communications, and Leslie Doyle, Director of Service Diversity and Social Justice, share their incredible stories of what FCC funding has meant and continues to mean to their programs, their students, and to communities far from the Fontbonne campus.

For Dr. Moore, who helped establish the *Bosnia Memory Project*, FCC continues to play an integral role in the project, which is dedicated to establishing an enduring record of Bosnian genocide survivors and their relatives, especially those in the St. Louis area. A 2015 award from the FCC enables the establishment of a permanent and protected repository for the growing archival collection of books, letters, recorded interviews of survivors, and photographs that reflect the culture and experiences of Bosnians. This historic collection is now permanently housed at Fontbonne's Jack C. Taylor Library.



FCC awarded funding for Leslie Doyle's *Griffins Achieving Progress* (GAP). The program's goal is to bridge a cultural gap on campus, and to provide a stronger support system for students of color on campus. GAP offers students of color a mentoring program that helps eliminate deep-rooted challenges those students often face on campus. The goal is also to educate all students on issues of diversity, inclusion and social justice. Mentoring helps ease the adjustment to university life, by creating a more inclusive community on campus — which, in turn, enables our students to feel connected and committed to Fontbonne.

Also featured are the always incredible, edible delights concocted by FCC members — DeDe Caspari's beef tenderloin sandwiches and Sandy Lehrer's spicy chicken wings, as well as a multitude of sweet and savory hors d'ourves and desserts, accompanied by wines from many cellars. The Events Committee has also created an attendance drawing gift basket filled with desirable FBU logoed items and unique artistic treasures. This autumn celebration is the perfect time to share Fontbonne Community Connection with a friend you'd like to see become one of our cherished members.

## FCC Shares Spotlight *Continued...*

Service to the University Award recognizes an alum who demonstrates outstanding loyalty, service and dedication to the University and to the Fontbonne Alumni Association. Barb Atteln retired from a 35-year career with IBM and, in the years since her graduation in 1967, she had unfailingly sent her alma mater a donation, yet had no direct connection to the University.

Eight years ago, Barb set foot on the Fontbonne campus for the first time in 40 years, at her class reunion. According to her, "The reconnection process was about to begin." Step one was evolving her annual donations into an endowed scholarship for Math and Computer Science students. Her next step was joining the fledgling FCC women's giving circle as a Charter Member. Barb became so firmly connected that she has served as committee chair and/or an officer ever since.

In accepting her award, Barb described the FCC as "a community of thoughtful, effective philanthropists among a diversified assembly of women," and noted that the FCC understands women want to feel a part of a movement and be connected to something larger than themselves. "It's less important for women to be the biggest donor in the room, and more important to feel they are contributing side-by-side with others, accumulating power by numbers. And, because FCC believes in the positive effect that higher education has on society, our women's giving circle offers these financial awards," she said. Barb closed by quoting the late Rev. Paul S. McElroy, whose First Congregational Church is a neighbor at 6501 Wydown, "What belongs to us is not important as to what we belong."



## Celebrating 2015 Awardees Who Work Magic With FCC Funding

On September 28, just a few weeks into the fall semester, it was celebration time for FCC 2015-2016 awardees.

Awards Chair, Liz Glaser welcomed the group of 17, each of whom had submitted his/her subsequently award-winning request to FCC last Spring. "We're here to celebrate *you*," she said. "Your ideas for doing extraordinary things make the FCC gain so much, as we watch our contributions to you work their magic. We wish we could fund *every* project that is submitted."

Through these 17 projects, which received a total of \$110,506, FCC will assist awardees in achieving goals, dreams and ideas that could not otherwise be met or achieved within their budget. Liz added, "We're also happy to see projects that we had previously funded grow and set the stage for greater opportunities, such as the zebrafish project. »



*Awards Committee Chair Liz Glaser congratulates*

Hosted by FCC's Membership Committee, in the East Building President's Room, this was the first celebratory event for awardees that the FCC has held. The festive atmosphere, with balloons and plenty of kudos from FCC members attending, also included lunch — with dessert courtesy of Hot Box Cookies.

The Awards Committee made the steps to fully complete their projects easy and clear for all. At the party, to make certain that awardees understood the importance their final report and the essential documentation, Liz used a Pecha Kucha presentation. Liz is a master of this simple presentation format, where a presenter shows 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The images advance automatically, with the presenter speaking along with each image. Liz noted the Pecha Kucha format might also be very useful to awardees, in making presentations about their projects. Their own 6 minute 40 second presentations could be made available to FCC members and others, to share just what awardees are accomplishing.



*FCC 2015-16 awardees celebrate funding for their creative projects.*

## All Aboard at Fontbonne's First Scan Station

Just two weeks after notification that the Library's request to FCC for a Scan Station had been granted, the new copier/scanner was at work in the Library's Information Commons area.

"Students love it," says Jane Theissen, Associate Professor, Reference Librarian. "It's all touch screen and much faster than what we've had before, and they can print anywhere on the campus."

Environmentally, the Scan Station enables users to scan and send documents via email, or directly to their smartphone or tablet, which decreases the volume of printed material. Students now have the option to print or email, to themselves or someone else, or to put the material on a flash drive. International students, who must scan and forward a significant number of pages to document their status, were particularly thrilled to find the Scan Station in place. The reaction of students, staff and faculty is universal — it's an amazing time-saver.

Millennial students expect and appreciate the availability of this technology. Many students had requested technology that was easier — and faster — to use. The need for an easy-to-use Scan Station was clear to FCC members, when they reviewed proposals and selected projects to be funded. The Library is clearly acknowledging this, with a sign posted above the scanner, indicating that generous support of FCC members provided the new equipment. Early in September, the Scan Station experienced its first line of students waiting their turn — which is, fortunately, not very long.



*Associate Professor, Reference Librarian Jane Theissen, familiarizes Anuj Acharya with the capabilities of the new scanner/copier/fax .*

## Author, Author! Jenna Voss Co-Authors "Small Talk"— Bringing Listening and Spoken Language to Young Children with Hearing Loss

Jenna Voss, with Ellie White of Central Institute for the Deaf, co-authored "Small Talk," a book acclaimed in reviews by the deaf education community as an "outstanding book that breaks down the important things today's parents need to know and do, from first diagnosis to educational steps in the journey toward raising a listening and talking child."

FCC member Jenna has taught at Fontbonne since 2007, earned her undergraduate and graduate in deaf education and early intervention in deaf education there. She earned her doctorate degree in speech and hearing science from Washington University. Jenna was working on the book while lecturing Fontbonne's deaf education students, chairing the FCC Membership Committee, parenting 4 ½ year-old son Michael with husband Ben, and delivering twins Ramona Bea and Francis Paul eight months ago.

Jenna proves that having a lot going on in your life doesn't really mean you are too busy to accomplish a great deal!

In an interview with Fontbonne's Communications Department, Jenna said, "I am proud of this book, as it is humbly my best effort at putting on paper all I've learned from my university courses, meaningful mentoring relationships with leaders in the field and, most of all, the families I've served. It was such a learning experience trying to put into words, along with my colleague Ellie White, what we know about growing small talkers. I hope these words will be useful to families in their earliest days after learning of their child's hearing status."



*Jenna at an FCC officer/committee chair meeting giving her Membership Committee report with help from Ramona Bea whose twin, Francis Paul, was busy elsewhere.*



## Welcome New Member Sister Donna Loretto Gunn, CSJ

When your sister is the Chair, your sister-in-law a founder, and your good friend an enthusiastic new member of the FCC, you are exposed to lots animated talk about this giving circle at family gatherings and in casual conversation.

Meet Sister Donna Loretto Gunn, who admits that hearing about FCC made her, well, a bit jealous. She is now FCC's newest member.

Sister Donna is Maggie Gunn Fowler's sister, a sister-in-law to FCC members Kate Toohey Gunn, and Lee Hynek Gunn, and dear friend of Sister Mary Charity Dalton.



*In Mississippi, Sr. Donna helped many unaccustomed to receiving assistance.*

As a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province for 58 years, Sister Donna taught elementary, secondary and college levels, worked with Cardinal Ritter Institute's Housing Services, served as the Community's Director of Retirement for five years and as Province Director of the St. Louis Province for eight years. She then moved to Mississippi where she worked for eighteen years with Catholic Charities' 104 Catholic parishes in 65 of Mississippi's 82 counties.

When the Jackson, MS, Bishop asked her to be Diocesan Disaster Relief Coordinator, he quipped, "What are the chances of Jackson ever having a disaster?" Two months later, Hurricane Katrina struck! Sister Donna coordinated Disaster Relief efforts for over a quarter million survivors who came into the diocese.

In 2007, Sister Donna moved from Catholic Charities to Sacred Heart Family Center in Camden, MS, a very poor, very rural, mostly African American Community. She coordinated special projects, including two home repair programs and a score of other outreach activities primarily focused on the area's low income senior citizens, many of whom were illiterate as a result of growing up in the South at a time when teaching black children was illegal. Sister Donna returned to St. Louis in late 2014 and continues to coordinate one of the home improvement programs she nurtured, as well as serving as Mission Advisor for the Carondelet Development Office.

Residing at Nazareth's independent living center puts Sr. Donna easily in touch with her eight siblings, 26 nieces and nephews and, at last count, 56 great nieces and nephews. As happy as she is to be back home, she says there was sadness in leaving Mississippi. She loved the people and the culture of the South. And they loved the Irish nun from St. Louis.

"The adjustment coming back here was difficult for me," says Sister Donna. "I felt guilty to have so many blessings." Despite homecoming challenges including breaking both ankles, she remains undaunted: "I think often of the people I lived with in Mississippi. From them I learned to praise and thank God despite frailty, brokenness or unpleasantness that comes my way."



## Annual Planning Meeting, August 13



*FCC Vice Chair Mary Schenkenberg and Chair Maggie Fowler enthusiastically urged members to plant and nurture seeds of growth for our women's giving circle.*



## Message From Chair



This autumn's *FCC Newsletter* sounds the alarm: Ready or not, the holidays are upon us! For me personally, it will be a season filled with special prayers of gratitude for you – both as a fellow member and for your trust in me.

The November 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of Remembrance and Reception reminds us and the families of deceased members what a gift they have been to FCC.

Speaking of gifts, Fontbonne's Wydown House and the Pressimone "first family" await you! It's *not* too late to register for this November 13<sup>th</sup> event! Dr. Ben Moore,

English and Communications (Bosnia Memory Project) and Leslie Doyle, Student Affairs Office (International Student Mentoring) are eager to share stories and personally thank you for making dreams come true.

Notice anything different about our FCC logo? Joan Falk and new FCC Liaison Laura Farrar have updated it in the University's true colors and high resolution.

FCC welcomes the Advancement Department's amazing collaborative support from fellow FCC member Kitty Lohrum, Vice-President; Laura Farrar, Director of Annual Giving; Kathy Kinney, Alumni Relations/Annual Fund Coordinator; Jill Hofherr, Senior Director of Advancement Services; and Miriam Moynihan, Director of Communications and Stewardship.

Finally, congratulations to Liz Glaser and the Awards Committee for their September 28<sup>th</sup> "Celebratory Lunch" for 2015 awardees and their primary approval sources. A palpable air of gratitude and excitement filled the President's Reception Room during a cleverly crafted Pecha Kucha presentation re financial information and reporting expectations. Check it out on Blackboard! And see the featured article in this newsletter.

FCC's official opening of our 2015-16 Awards Cycle on November 18<sup>th</sup> reminds us that we do, indeed, have much to be grateful for!

*Maggie*

Maggie Gunn Fowler  
FCC Chair

## Upcoming Events

### November

- 1 -- All Saints Mass 7 p.m. Remembrance, deceased members (FCC Reception to follow)
- 12 -- EAC (officer/committee chair) Meeting 8:45 a.m.
- 13 -- FCC Wydown House Reception 5-7 p.m.
- 18 -- 2016 Awards Season Opens (forms of intent avail online)

### December

- 13 --Lyon Society (includes FCC members) private theater performance, "All is Calm," Fine Arts Bldg. Appetizer reception in the gallery 3:30 p.m. Preceding performance at 5:00 p.m.

### January

- 14 -- EAC Meeting 8:45 a.m.
- 29 -- Deadline for Submitting Award Forms of Intent

## FCC 2015-2016 Officers & Committee Chairs

### OFFICERS

**Chair:** Maggie Fowler

**Vice Chair:** Mary Schenkenberg

**Corresponding Secretary:** Jan Reilly

**Treasurer:** Barb Atteln

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Archives & History:** Nina Bryans

**Awards:** Liz Glaser

**Bylaws:** Barb Atteln

**Events:** Sandy Lehrer

**Membership:** Mary Lee Walter & Becky McDermott

**Public Relations:** Anita Lamont

**FCC Historian:** Sr. Jane Hassett, CSJ