

Fontbonne University's

tableaux

fall 2004

Special Insert
Alumni Reunion

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TEACHERS TEACH IN MANY WAYS

The last time I wrote to you in this space, I spoke of accomplishments, big and small, personal and professional and, for me, most importantly of my dad's progress in battling colon cancer.

Unfortunately, as far too many people have experienced, the insidious and relentless nature of this disease proved too formidable a foe. Reflecting on my father's passing — still a raw wound at times — I do find solace in how he lived his life and what he contributed to this world.

A teacher in the Missoula School District for 42 years, he touched the lives of thousands of Montana youngsters, giving of his time — many the night I recall him sitting at our kitchen table, up late, grading papers — helping shape minds with his patient wisdom and love of the learning process. His legacy was evident at a remembrance ceremony where more than 300 family, friends, colleagues, and a few former students, gathered to share positive memories of his life. I learned a lot that day and throughout my father's time on this earth.

What struck me most, perhaps, was the warm camaraderie displayed before and after his death. Teachers are a close lot and it was never more evident than in the support and love offered by these educators as one of their own battled to the end.

The emotional events of this summer have served as a poignant reminder to me of just how important education is to our community and, indeed, our world. As Fontbonne faculty work every day to fulfill the university's mission, I am impressed by their dedication, motivation and innovation. Many of the stories in this issue of *Tableaux*,

for instance, are colored in one way or another by the contributions of a faculty member.

From our introspective look at poet-in-residence Jason Sommer ... to an exploration of what "Catholic identity" means to assistant professor Theresa Jeevanjee ... to the career-shaping influences of assistant professor Rogene Nelson on one of her former fashion merchandising students, we're bringing you examples of important contributions by Fontbonne faculty.

You'll also find out how sports management director Charlie Helbling spends his summers and what new academic dean Nancy Blattner values most in the teaching corps.

As the dust begins to settle on this issue of *Tableaux*, let's not forget about the critical role all our faculty play. Let's appreciate and value — every day — what a teacher has meant in our lives.

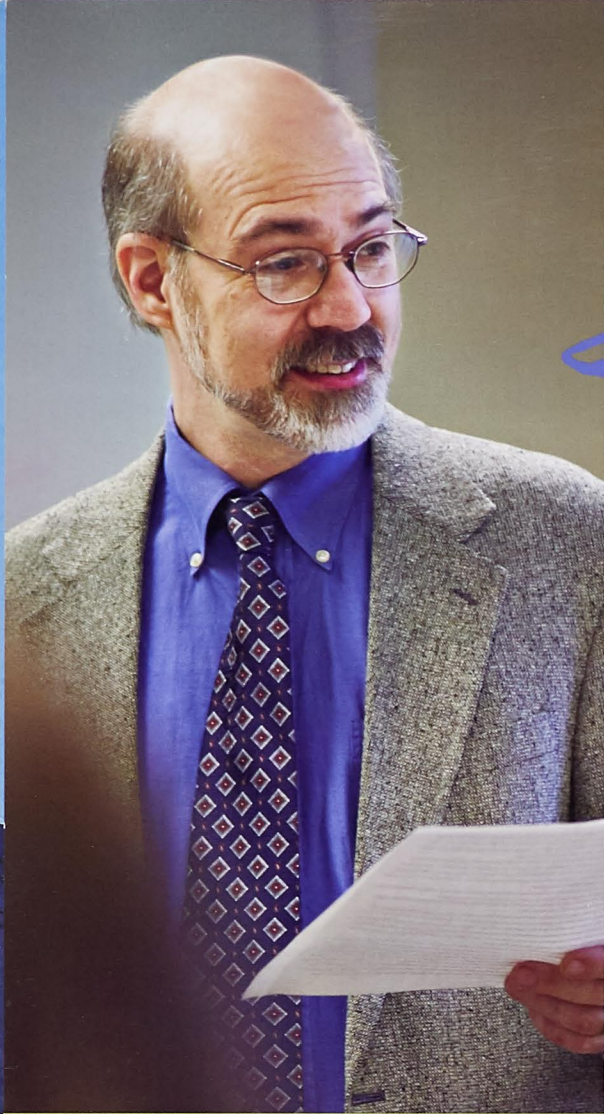


Edward M. Johnson
Aug. 23, 1935 — Aug. 26, 2004

Mark Johnson
editor

enrollment by the numbers

- Fontbonne's fall '04 enrollment reached an all-time high, topping out at 2,827, more than a 10% increase over last year's count of 2,543.
- Included in this robust increase is a one-year growth of 9.5% in the OPTIONS program, which now boasts enrollment of over 900 students.
- New MBA student enrollment is up nearly 20%.
- Fontbonne is now 34% diverse in student population and this fall saw a 30% male population in first-time freshmen.
- Of particular note is a 9% increase in new student enrollment with particular emphasis on traditional transfer students.
- Overall, full-time students increased from 1,657 in '03 to 1,902 in '04, while part-time enrollment grew from 886 to 925.



a love of Language

by Kylie Shafferkoetter

If you close your eyes and listen to Jason Sommer talk about his life, you can picture the odd, poignant moments that make up a memory and — almost more importantly — you can hear them, too. The shuffle of school shoes running along the pocked streets of 1950s Bronx, diverse dialects dancing through the air, laughing, fighting, talking in Yiddish, Italian or with an Irish brogue. The cadence of children's rhymes. The subtle, uncomfortable smoothing of a dress at the mention of the Holocaust and the sweet sound of a mother reading to her only child.

If you listen to him long enough you get a sense of a world far from the subdued suburbs with picket fences and garage doors to separate and hide life's differences. Much of his world was developed in the street, with immigrants and American-born alike converging on a city, a neighborhood, simultaneously shaping the heart and soul of a future teacher and poet.

It's from this confluence that Sommer, 54, Fontbonne professor of English and poet-in-residence, first developed his love for the rhythm of language. "Street games and chants from Irish and African-American kids helped start me in poetry. The richness of New York speech, the way that other languages — like Yiddish — stood behind it drew me in," he recalls.

He recites:

*"My mother and your mother were out hanging clothes.
My mother gave your mother a punch in the nose.
What color blood came out?
Blue. Purple. Green."*

"I was fascinated by the bounce of the sounds," he says from his office lined with hundreds of books and pictures of famous writers interspersed with piles of papers — expected English prof fare.

Sommer, the son and nephew of Holocaust survivors, grew up with an acute awareness of pain, perseverance and poetry. He channeled those emotions into his writing and has recently had his third book of poems published by the University of Chicago Press. *"The Man Who Sleeps In My Office"* pays tribute to the minutia of life, the brief moments of clarity found in the everyday.

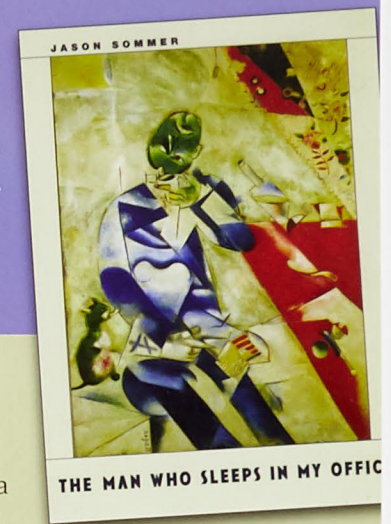
His first two books explored the Holocaust through the eyes of an American-born son seeking answers for himself and his family. Through poetry, he asks forbidden questions of relatives who protected him from the unspeakable. He reconstructs and recreates the bits of stories he's pieced together and tries to resolve his own feelings of anger and guilt.

"Growing up in the shadow of the Holocaust affected me greatly. The damage in the people I lived with and knew was very real," Sommer says.

Education was extremely important in the Sommer household. Sommer's father, Judah (Jay), who was born and raised in Kustanovice, a small village outside the city of Munkács in the former Czechoslovakia, speaks 10 languages and took 18 years of night school to get his degrees, two master's (one in Spanish and a second in Russian) and all but his dissertation in Russian literature.

His mother, Shirley, who was born in the United States,

Jason Sommer's poems have appeared in many magazines, including *The New Republic*, *TriQuarterly*, *Ploughshares*, *Occident*, the *Chicago Review* and in Ireland's *the Honest Ulsterman*. He is the winner of the prestigious Whiting Writing Award. His books can be purchased at Amazon.com and Left Bank Books in the Central West End. To purchase a signed copy, go to www.jasonsommer.com.



THE MAN WHO SLEEPS IN MY OFFICE

was a high school English teacher who always read to her son and encouraged his writing. So, it was no surprise that Sommer grew into a top student at Yeshivat Akiba, a Jewish parochial school, and later at a Bronx public school.

"It was clear to me that knowing things was of value and that knowledge was admired," he explains. He attended Brandeis University just outside of Boston and majored in English. It was there he dove into the calm control of Elizabeth Bishop's works, the confessional poems of Robert Lowell, and others. Sommer got more serious about writing and his words started popping up in literary magazines when he was only 18.

He went on to earn his master's at Stanford University as a creative writing fellow and his doctorate from Saint Louis University.

"In writing you're trying to ensure that feelings enter words in an enduring way," he explains. Many of his first poems were about love, relationships and Bible stories.

As he grew older, more of his subject matter turned to the shadow of "catastrophic history," as he calls it. "I reached a level of maturation where I was able to handle some of the different stories I had heard. But how do you tell these stories that don't belong to you? What does it mean to be the child of a Holocaust survivor? I felt my own connection to the stories," he explains.

In his current book, he deals more with "the otherness, the doubleness on border states (not geographical, but metaphysical). I'm very interested in the idea that one's posture in the world might lead to knowledge of self and to boundaries of the self as well," Sommer says, explaining the complexity of looking at the sometimes simple, microscopic moments in our lives. "I like to explore the edge of one thing that is on the verge of another." In his poem, "The Vision," a man with vision

VISION

*For the sad man, legally
blind in several states without
his glasses, who sits
on the side of the bed,
there comes a moment in a tear,
in the gathering
before the fall in the criss-
cross of forces and
resistances, an equipoise
between surface tension
and gravity and the thin
dam of the lower lid,
brimming but not
brimmed over yet,
and the mass becomes a shape,
the shape a lens that compensates
exactly for his deficit in seeing,
and he sees.*

*He sees
his glasses cross-legged
on the nightstand, unblurred titles
on the spines of books lining
a sharp-edged shelf,
things standing clearly
as what they are
while he focuses away,
on these present objects
on this odd interval itself,
which is like some revelation—
as if before the tear falls
from his eyes scales might,
a moment like a moment
in which a vision comes,
except there is no vision,
only this form of it.*

problems sees perfectly as a single tear reaches his pupil and acts as a lens — clearly a metaphor for much more.

His love of words translates well to the classroom where he shares the world of literature with his students. "The key is to show them a mind grappling with problems like the ones they will wrestle with. It's important that they understand the engaging difficulty and the joy of working with literature," he says.

Sommer likes the interaction with students and the immediate gratification the classroom provides. "It's so great when they respond," he explains, especially to his jokes.

Certainly his students are not bored. Sommer, who doesn't drink coffee, seems to have an endless supply of energy and enthusiasm, which he channels in many directions.

He has directed plays at Fontbonne, written stand-up comedy as well as award-winning sketch comedy in Dublin, Ireland, served on the boards of literary organizations and been a part of numerous writing groups.

"I've always had good energy. I come from good stock," he says of his parents, who still live in New York. "I generally outlast my students over the course of a semester. It's amazing considering they're so young."

Sommer always knew he would write and teach at a small school.

"Fontbonne has been a welcoming place in many ways. What I do is valued and I get to work with some extraordinary people," he says.

Although Sommer's parents eventually did move out of their Bronx apartment to the fresh air of the suburbs, by then he had already moved on. And it is the sounds of the Bronx streets that continue to echo throughout his poems, leaving an extraordinary legacy of their own.



TALENT KNOWS TALENT

by Mark E. Johnson

DAWN HIEGER HAS AN EYE FOR TALENT, AND ONE MIGHT SAY IT BEGINS WHEN SHE LOOKS IN THE MIRROR.

A 2000 Fontbonne graduate, the 26-year-old already co-owns a successful talent agency and has hopes to grow her business in the coming years. Though fairly young by industry standards, Hieger says she always had dreams of owning her own business and now it's clear she had the confidence — and talent — to put her plan in motion. With a degree in fashion merchandising, Hieger went to work at a local talent agency, where she met Mandi Morris, who would soon become a good friend and later her business partner.

After a year or so, the two became disenchanted with the direction of the agency and began exploring the idea of breaking out on their own. "We had a vision where customer service and a focus on the individual talent was the main priority," Hieger says. "We just knew we could do this right."

Armed with a business plan researched through the Internet, trips to the library as well as consults with other small business owners — and a loan secured with a personal guarantee from Morris' parents — the two opened the doors to Azalea Agency in May 2002.

Located in St. Louis' historic Soulard neighborhood, Azalea now represents some 225 individuals, ranging from toddlers to great grandparents. The company focuses on actors, models, stylists and voice-over talent.

Word Academy. "I also thought my professors were great. And the coursework in my major helped me visualize all the opportunities I might explore in this career field."

The fashion merchandising program is diverse by design and draws upon the "arts and humanities, the sciences, and business skills," according to program co-director and assistant professor Joyce Starr Johnson.

"We provide students with many opportunities for growth both in and out of the classroom," Johnson says. She cites as examples the many tours of various manufacturing and merchandising facilities, local seminars and events, and study tours that help students put their education into a larger context.

In fact, Hieger credits an internship she had with local wardrobe consultant Georgia Palmer as one of the motivating factors for pursuing her career. That's not uncommon, says assistant professor Rogene Nelsen, Hieger's advisor and the program's other co-director.

"Students like Dawn, who take advantage of the many networking and off-campus opportunities we are able to assist them with, find themselves particularly confident of their skills and are ready to move on to exciting careers upon graduation," Nelsen says.

Exciting would be an apt description for the Fontbonne alum's success so far. Featured in the *St. Louis Business*

"I know you hear it a lot, but I felt so at home at Fontbonne. It was a very personal experience."

"We've been able to stay true to our goals and that's focusing on each person and their own career aspirations," Hieger says. "Communication is really key in this business and we make sure we listen carefully to the people we represent as well as the clients who use our services."

Hieger credits her experience and education at Fontbonne with much of her success. "I know you hear it a lot, but I felt so at home at Fontbonne. It was a very personal experience," says Hieger, a product of local Incarnate

Journal — not once, but twice this year — Azalea seems poised for full bloom. And that suits Hieger just fine ... with one major stipulation.

"I want our business to grow naturally," she says. "Are we doing it right? Are we staying true to our goals? If I'm happy with myself, I figure the agency is where it's supposed to be."

IN THE LAST YEAR ALONE, THE FONTBONNE FASHION MERCHANDISING PROGRAM HAS SEEN A 34% INCREASE IN STUDENTS.

PICKING UP THE PIECES

by Kit Breshears



Amid a graveyard of downed tree limbs, household refuse, alabaster bathtubs and sheet metal, Fontbonne junior Nikki Giesler was feeding an old, green couch to the chomping steel jaws of a St. Louis County dump truck.

Giesler and more than 100 Fontbonne freshmen spent a warm August Saturday cleaning up trash in the north St. Louis City area of Pagedale as part of Freshman Orientation Service Saturday.

Service Saturday, sponsored by Fontbonne in Service and Humility, or FISH, has been an annual event since

the organization began in 2000. Megan Muehler, assistant director of campus ministry, believes that a service day not only helps neighborhoods and the community, but helps students as well.

"Freshmen love FISH and participating in the service day," she said. "It takes them out of their comfort zones, and at the end of the day they have made new friends and done something to affect the world around them. It builds a great deal of character."

Sacrificing the time to help others didn't go unnoticed. While Giesler and director of student activities Chris Gill drove

around picking up scrap metal and broken appliances in a work truck, many area residents took time to thank them and offer helping hands. "People were coming out of their houses to thank us," she said. "They kept asking us how much we were getting paid to help them out, and they could not believe we were doing it for free, that we were only doing this to help them out."

After students — and several staff and faculty who had joined the effort — filled the dump truck and work trucks that had canvassed nearly the entire Pagedale area, the refuse was taken to a local dump near



"People were coming out of their houses to thank us ... they could not believe

ars



the Pagedale City Hall where senior Karen Sallwasser waited patiently to help unload it.

“There were so many students that we broke into small groups to get the job done quickly, but well,” she said. “When the trash came to us — the tires, the sheet metal, the appliances — those of us who worked at the dump site had to sort through it all by hand to make sure nothing got discarded that could be recycled.”

A willingness to serve is something that comes naturally to Fontbonne students, according to Muehler. “College can be just about academics, but when you’re out

in the community and working in it, you get a sense of a greater purpose. Students participate in service trips because they know it’s important and it’s part of our mission at Fontbonne.”

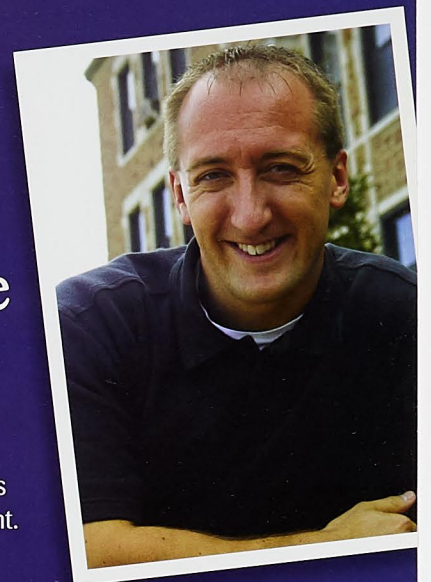
For Giesler, it’s very simple. “We did the right thing. We spent a day of our time helping others.”



could not believe we were doing it for free ... to help them out.”

— Nikki Giesler, junior

A Focus on Service



Campus ministry oversees the FISH service initiative and much more. Meet the new leader of this important department.

Name: Tony Mravle

Title: Director of Campus Ministry.
Started July 15, 2004.

Education: bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill., and a master’s degree in leadership studies with a concentration in pastoral leadership from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill.

Personal motto: 1 Cor. 16:13-14. “Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave and be strong. Do all of your work in love.”

Home: Kirkwood, Missouri

Role models: Jesus Christ and his parents.

Favorite sports team: “I grew up near Chicago, so I love the Cubs.”

Family: Engaged to Jennifer Murphy, a chiropractor in St. Louis, and will be married in April. Oldest of four children.

Favorite restaurant: Hacienda. “They make great margaritas.”

Hobbies: Reading, soccer, watching the Cubs, the Bears and “Law and Order”, spirituality and connecting with people.

Why Fontbonne: “I love the community and the culture that is here in part because of the sponsorship of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. It is an open, loving community that focuses on service.”

Goals: “Based on student requests, we’re starting a Bible study program and expanding our scope of service trips.”

T H E R O L E

Freshman Alex Cornwell likes that some professors encourage him to go to Mass on the weekend. "They might not even be Catholic, but they recognize that some students should go," he says with a smile. Cornwell, a business major, has attended private Catholic schools since kindergarten. So, although he considered other universities, Fontbonne seemed a natural fit.

"It's very welcoming here," he says. "Although you always take your faith with you wherever you go, it's nice to be at a school built on certain principles."

And those principles are grounded in Catholicism. As Fontbonne University approaches its second century, the school has undertaken an assessment of its Catholic identity.

According to Fontbonne's chancellor, Barbara Dreher, CSJ, being a Catholic university is a plus, not a minus. "Our Catholic identity impels us to ground our educating and learning in values that promote knowing, loving and serving the truth that unites, rather than divides, faith and reason, grace and nature, the divine and the human," she says.

"Yes, we want our students to be successful," she explains. "But more so, Fontbonne's Catholic identity pushes us to educate students to be life-long learners who will champion respect, diversity, community, justice, faith and service."

The chancellor is quick to point out that Fontbonne does not seek to

convert people to Catholicism. "That's not the focus of Catholicism nor of Fontbonne," she says. "We focus on *practicing* more than preaching Gospel values, and *living* more than reading about Catholic social teachings."

IN THE CLASSROOM

During lively class discussions the topic of religion may or may not pop up, according to faculty members.

"It is because Fontbonne is Catholic that I'm here," says Theresa Jeevanjee, assistant professor of mathematics and computer science, who taught at a public university before coming to Fontbonne. "Although it doesn't happen often in mathematics, if an ethics question is raised, we can discuss it in a spiritual setting. I would fear being reprimanded in a public institution," she explains. "Here it's accepted and encouraged."

But teaching in a Catholic context is not mandatory or expected. Patricia Brooke, associate professor of English, says she enjoys full academic freedom at Fontbonne. "Some people might think working here would restrict what I teach. It doesn't," she says.

"Fontbonne is about intellectual and social engagement. It has a social justice mission."

The university does not consider religion when hiring faculty and staff, but does make sure they are aware of and comfortable with its mission.

"A Catholic institution seeks and embraces diversity. It's what allows us to connect and create a broader awareness of life," Sister Barbara says.

Cornwell says he knows plenty of people who aren't Catholic at Fontbonne and thinks it's "cool." "Everyone is really open-minded here. I've learned more about other faiths than I ever have before. I think because this school has a religious affiliation, people are actually more open about different beliefs," he says.

A LOOK BACK

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet founded Fontbonne in 1923 so that women could achieve an education and grow in intellectual and spiritual pursuits. With greater education, believed the CSJs, graduates could better serve a world in need.

E O F F A I T H

by Kylie Shafferkoetter

"It's evident in our faculty; felt in our university prayer; experienced in our service activities; and practiced by everyone, no matter what their position or title," says Sister Barbara. "In one sense, when we rearticulated our Catholic identity we rekindled that passion and reinforced our mission to educate people to serve."

THE STATEMENT

In March, the board of trustees accepted and affirmed Fontbonne University's Statement of Catholic Identity. Approximately 500 words in length, the document clearly declares Fontbonne as a Catholic institution that is all-inclusive and works to recognize the presence of God in all creation and help a world in need.

While the statement's essence might seem simple, its inception was not. A committee of 12 people from senior administration, faculty and staff spent nine months asking important questions and drafting statements.

"But the real work was done by everyone," says Sister Barbara, chair of the task force. "It was the critical reflection and clarifying questions

of students, faculty, staff and administration that transformed our committee drafts into a university-affirmed statement."

In the years following *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, a dense document from the Vatican that, among other issues, urges American Catholic institutions to maintain their identity in the ever increasingly competitive world of higher education, many Catholic schools are reevaluating themselves.

"We wrote the Catholic identity statement to once again say what is foundational to Fontbonne as a Catholic university," Sister Barbara explains.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Clubs and organizations are a perfect way for students to build community on campus, make lifelong friends and discover their individual talents.

"Activities allow students to get away from school, relax and meet new people or build upon existing relationships," says sophomore Nikki Giesler, president of the Fontbonne Activities Board. "Getting involved has helped me become a leader."

Giesler sees the values of the Sisters of St. Joseph manifested in the way students show respect and consideration for one another. "People are so open here. The friendliness and community are my favorite things about Fontbonne," she says.

THE DIFFERENCE

Fontbonne is different from a public institution because it is a faith-based institution of higher education. "What drives us are Gospel values — values that welcome all, without distinction — values that promote service — values that respect people sharing a variety of religious beliefs," Sister Barbara says.

Some staff believe the distinction can even be found in the school's "tag line" — "Learn More. Be More."

"There is a public school that promotes the phrase 'Come here. Earn more.' While that is very practical, *learning* and *being* more are our goals," says Tony Mravle, director of campus ministry.

"We want to help people identify that there is a spiritual side to life that is invaluable. I think there is a misconception that you must be Catholic to get involved," he says.

THE FUTURE

Clearly, Fontbonne will continue to evolve and discover how to serve its community within the original principles of the founding organization ... and welcoming everyone with open arms while it does so.

NEW PROGRAM HAS HIGH GOALS

by Mark E. Johnson

Still a rookie as academic programs go, Fontbonne's sports management major is putting up good numbers. The 25 students in the program this fall represent a 150-percent increase over last year.

"We really didn't know what to expect when we instituted this major," says Charlie Helbling, director of the program. "But we knew this was a relevant major that would help broaden our attraction to students interested in some facet of this industry."

Helbling thinks Fontbonne's program is unique because it focuses on a wide variety of subject matter, including business, science, communication, nutrition and health. In fact, the major is housed within the business administration department. Courses include dynamics of coaching; ethical and legal issues in sports; marketing principles; essentials of human anatomy and physiology; and sports and entertainment marketing. Other courses such as business writing and statistics give students a well-rounded background.

"We take a strong interdisciplinary approach in the liberal arts tradition," Helbling says. "Because there are so many avenues a student can explore within this industry, we feel it's important to provide a diverse curriculum."

Case in point: Fontbonne senior Tom Guinn, who has enough credits to graduate with a communications major but now wants to also get a sports management degree.

"After I completed the requirements for my communications degree I still found myself trying to narrow down what I wanted to do," Guinn says. "I looked at one of the things I love — sports — and started thinking the sports management major, combined with communications, would be a really strong foundation for

a career." The 22-year-old currently coaches soccer at Oakville Senior High School in south St. Louis County and eventually wants to be an athletic director at the college level.

Maria Mahn, a 23-year-old senior at Fontbonne, has designs on a different career path. Currently working at a St. Louis fitness center, Mahn figures the sports management major will give her the business background she needs to pursue a position in the health and fitness industry — anything from management to event planning to sports marketing.

"The program mixes traditional business courses with sport-specific courses and that's been very interesting to me," Mahn says. "Although the sports management degree is not career specific, there are many opportunities out there to pursue. And the required internships are very beneficial to students when exploring what types of jobs this degree can lead to."

For students like Mahn and Guinn, the sports management program has clearly filled a need — and that's good news for a program looking to have a breakout year.

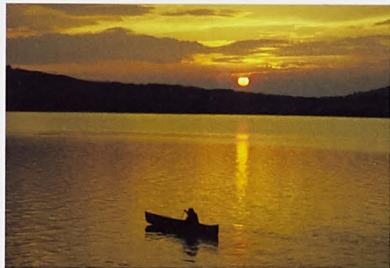
"We want to increase our internship opportunities, expand our curriculum and bring in more speakers from the sports industry," Helbling says. "The positive feedback we're seeing from the students is a great indication of the program's future."

**Senior Maria Mahn says the
SPORTS MANAGEMENT MAJOR
is a great blend of sports *and* business.**

s the
AJOR
ness.



A Passion for Life's Lessons



***Editor's note:** When Charlie Helbling is not busy overseeing Fontbonne's sports management program, he might be found canoeing the lakes and streams of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in northeastern Minnesota or exploring adjacent Quetico Provincial Park in Canada. He's a wilderness ranger and he's also fought forest fires out west. He's turned his experiences into magazine articles and photographs. We wanted to know how this avid sportsman's perspective impacts his role at Fontbonne. In his own words:*

"My current job brings into play many of my interests and strengths — love of sport, an entrepreneurial nature, an academic interest in business, a belief in a strong liberal arts education, enthusiasm for teaching and coaching, and a commitment to help students and athletes achieve their goals.

"I've been able to happily mold my passions into a vocation. When I was a kid I had it all mapped out: I would play pro hockey in the winter, pro football in the fall and pro baseball in the spring and summer. In my spare time I would camp, hike and canoe. The dreams never died, but reality — personal economics and some human limitations — distorted the picture.

"I love the aesthetic aspect of sport — the

architecture of a stadium or the lingering smell of a leather baseball glove, the competition, participation and camaraderie, the fitness, even the business angle. It makes me feel fit and alive.

"Because I embrace the ideal of a sound mind in a sound body, combining academics and athletics seems natural. Our sports management program not only prepares a student academically, but also advocates a healthy lifestyle.

"Feeling passionate about life and one's purpose is of ultimate importance. I have a dream job, and I want Fontbonne students to have the opportunity to find what they feel is their dream job — for many students, sports management provides a means of pursuing their passions."

Anatomy of an Ad

Fontbonne launched the second phase of its “Learn more. Be more.” campaign this fall. Two television spots — along with two radio spots — were produced to attract traditional student prospects. Here’s a behind-the-scenes look at 14 hours of shooting this spring that was boiled down to 60 seconds of TV advertising. To watch or listen to our TV and radio spots, go to www.fontbonne.edu/commercials.

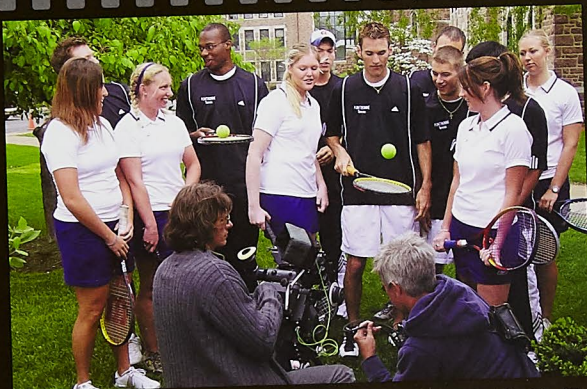


6:30 a.m.
It's early, it's chilly and, amazingly, all 20 students tabbed for this segment show up! The quad is transformed as lights go up and the music is cranked.

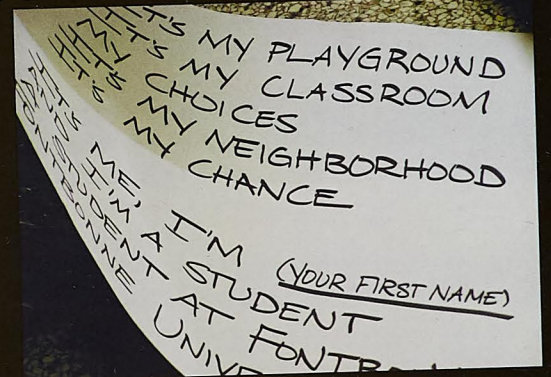


9:30 a.m.
Director and crew set up in a Science Building lab. Against a backdrop of faux skeletons and formaldehyde, students take their turns in front of the camera.

11 a.m.
Members of the tennis team show up at the west arcade. Some candid background shots are captured when students are unaware the camera is rolling.



12:30 p.m.
Following a quick box lunch, the library's normally sedate second floor is now a film location. Amid the book stacks, students deliver lines such as “It's my classroom.”



4 p.m.
An afternoon rainshower scuttles plans to shoot in the Medaille Meadow. The backup plan yields some fun “slice-of-life” footage as students do laundry in a residence hall.



7 p.m.
The Mabee Gymnasium plays host to a TV crew as members of the women's volleyball team get their chance to say “It's my chance!”

9 p.m.
It's a wrap.



INSIGHT on ACADEMICS

by Kit Breshears

A Q&A with Dr. Nancy Blattner

Fontbonne's new **VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN** of academic affairs recently sat down with *Tableaux* to share her thoughts on the Fontbonne **FACULTY**, her academic **VISION** and **DANCING IN THE PARK**.

What was your reaction when you were selected for this position?

I'll tell you first what my husband's reaction was. He got tears in his eyes. He said it was the best Christmas present ever because we'd be able to be together every weekend. For the past two years, I lived 750 miles from our home while I worked in Virginia. As difficult as that was, he's always been nothing but supportive of my career. I also was extremely pleased, of course, about being offered the position. I had prayed about whether this was the right decision for me. When I was offered the position, I just felt an incredible peace about it. I felt very blessed.

How would you sum up your job description in 50 words or less?

Think of going to the arcade and putting 50 cents into that game where you try to maneuver the pliers to pick up

a stuffed animal. Every day is filled with a new challenge — a new opportunity to come up with creative solutions. The days are generally very long and very full. Sometimes the projects are as small as making sure someone is around to clean chalkboard erasers or as important as hiring a new faculty member.

What grade would you give Fontbonne's faculty?

I would give them an A-. And that's not meant to be critical. From what I've seen the faculty here are totally committed to the institution, but we can always strive to do more.

I'm impressed that our teachers can get the highest evaluations from their students while being very active as scholars and researchers in their own disciplines and constantly dedicating themselves to lifelong learning. At the same time, they are committed

to providing service to the campus in a host of ways — from sponsoring student organizations to outreach with students in the St. Louis community.

How does our faculty differ from other schools at which you have worked?

We have a smaller core of full-time faculty. There are benefits to having a small number of full-time faculty — there is a good sense of camaraderie and familiarity. On the other hand, when you have a smaller group of full-time faculty there are fewer people to shoulder the responsibilities that make the institution function.

This year we have a record number of faculty who are up for tenure and rank advancement. I'm excited that we can reward faculty who have invested a great deal in the institution by investing in them.



Nancy Blattner began at Fontbonne July 1 after serving as associate provost for graduate studies and support programs at Longwood University in Farmville, Va. Blattner holds a bachelor of science degree in English and a master of arts from Southeast Missouri State University as well as a doctorate in educational psychology from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She and her husband, Tim, have a home in Cape Girardeau, Mo., but she resides in St. Louis during the work week. The Blattners have three grown children: Kindal in North Carolina, Greg in St. Louis, and Brandon in Cape Girardeau.

What don't people know about you?

I don't think I strike a lot of people as spontaneous because I'm not in a job where that would work as an advantage most of the time. I went to a small, outdoor concert in the park this past summer, and the gentleman who was performing suddenly said, "If you feel like it get up and dance." My husband and I were the only ones who did that and weren't the least bit embarrassed. People clapped and laughed, and we laughed too. There probably was a time in my life when

I would have been too self-conscious to do that, and maybe it's because we've gotten older or we've gotten comfortable with ourselves, but we felt like it was a good thing to do.

I'd like to think I have a good sense of humor, too. Of course, people don't often see that in the role I play. My day-to-day issues — things like balancing budgets, hiring faculty, or revising the faculty handbook — are not topics that really lend themselves to levity. They're reflective and require a serious response.

What goals do you have for Fontbonne?

It might go without saying, but I'm really interested in being a key part of an emphasis on academics. I want to strengthen and solidify our graduate programs by creating a position that would serve to coordinate graduate efforts in a concerted, consistent manner. I'm also very interested in diversifying the faculty on campus. We have a wonderful heritage here of having a large percentage of minority students and I'd like to see that mirrored in some way in the faculty and staff. I'm very committed to that initiative.

What one word best describes you?

Passionate. I feel things very deeply and that is a source of a lot of joy and pleasure.

Who inspires you?

My father inspires me a great deal. He only had an eighth-grade education, but he had the vision that I should have an education. When I was young, it wasn't common for fathers to tell their little girls "you can be anything you want to be." But he did and I owe a great deal to him. My father also taught me about working hard no matter what the job. There were many times, even after I had my education, that I waited tables to make ends meet while I was raising my son. I've never been embarrassed about that.

Award Recipients represent the *Founding Spirit*

Fontbonne University annually honors people for their distinguished service to the greater community. The Founders Awards recognize the recipients' place in a history that dates back to the founding of the Sisters of St. Joseph on October 15, 1650, as well as their commitment to quality, respect, diversity, community, justice, faith and Catholic presence.



Ann Chamblin

by Kylie Shafferkoetter

Ann Chamblin, CSJ '56 *Distinguished Service in Care of the Elderly*

Back in 1996, when most people her age were retiring, Ann Chamblin, CSJ, decided to start Sister Ann's Elder Care, a program where she visited the homes of elderly people who needed help with cooking, cleaning, personal care and, in many cases, loneliness.

Sister Ann's solo effort eventually evolved into CSJ Care and she was named the new ministry's coordinator. In 1997, Sister Ann held interviews in her living room and CSJ Care began with just five sisters. The ministry has grown to employ 30 sisters, representing 11 different communities, who serve approximately 80 older men and women who want to live independently in their own homes.

Though she retired two years ago, Sister Ann volunteers with the elderly for a local hospital and works with the CSJ Associates. "I currently visit with the elderly, helping them fill out forms to get on Medicaid. You'd be surprised how many people aren't in the system. They don't have a social worker and cannot afford food and medicine," she says.

She was surprised to receive the Founders Award for doing what she enjoys to do. "I love working with the elderly even though I'm 74 years old. I'm very grateful for this award," she says. And grateful are the many she has come to help over the years.

Debbie Gilbert Genung '72 *Distinguished Service as a Leader and Volunteer*

Every three minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. Debbie Gilbert Genung knows the reality of that statistic all too well. Both her mother and sister are survivors of the widespread disease.

As a member of the Junior League of St. Louis, Genung helped bring the Komen Race for a Cure to St. Louis, and now it is the third largest race in the nation.

"I loved every bit of energy I dedicated to getting the race here. It was a real sense of accomplishment for all of us who worked on that. The Junior League felt it was an important women's issue that affects all of us," says Genung, who also has co-chaired the annual Survivor's Luncheon, which has attracted 1,000 women for the last three years.

Genung is currently the director of development for Lydia's House, which provides transitional housing and advocacy for abused women and children.

She first became aware of social justice issues at Fontbonne during a class that focused on the civil rights movement. Also at that time, Genung was helping disabled children for a swim program established by her mother, Elizabeth, a physical education teacher at Fontbonne and fellow Founders Award recipient.

On being recognized for her efforts, Genung says, "I'm so honored by the Founders Award. I'm really amazed."

Thomas M. Gunn *Distinguished Service in Local and National Leadership*

Thomas Gunn brought his experience as a top-level businessman to Fontbonne's board of trustees and helped lead the school into the next millennium. During his five years on the board — three as chair — Gunn contributed to many successes in Fontbonne's recent history, including the transition from college to university; the acquisition of the OPTIONS program from a private company;

a new inclusive strategic plan for the school and securing federal funds for the renovation of the East Building into an education center.

"Fontbonne is in my DNA," explains Gunn, whose mother, wife, four sisters and sister-in-law are all alumnae. "I felt it was important to be a part of Fontbonne, especially because of my wife's strong commitment to the school."

Gunn joined McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) in 1975. In 1990, he was named president of McDonnell-Douglas Helicopter Division.

"My business experience directly applied to the needs of Fontbonne to move its entrepreneurial side forward while keeping the values of the university," he says.

Gunn shares credit with his fellow Fontbonne board members. "I accept this on behalf of all those people," he says.

Antoinette Fabbio Pagano '78 *Distinguished Service as Founder of "Hugs for Kids"*

What started out as an arts-and-crafts project with her nieces has turned into a worldwide phenomenon. Antoinette "Toni" Fabbio Pagano made her first blanket with two yards of fleece and a pair of scissors. She then made one for her son, who was heading off to college, another for his friend and then more for the entire family and good friends.

A Eucharistic minister, Pagano brought a blanket to a man with cancer she often visited. She referred to it as a "hug." After making 155 more blankets, she called St. Louis Children's Hospital to see if they needed any donated blankets for their young patients. The idea has since become Hugs for Kids, a non-profit organization that brings a warm "hug" to those in need.



Debbie Gilbert Genung



Thomas M. Gunn



Antoinette Fabbio Pagano



Lana Rae Pepper



Mary Taylor



Suzanne Wesley

The blankets have been known to go as far as Paris, England and army bases in Germany and Japan.

In a two-year period, Hugs for Kids has become an activity for groups as diverse as the Girl Scouts and California-based employees of the Boeing Company. Pagano has received numerous messages of gratitude from parents of sick children who describe how much it meant to know that a stranger cared about their child.

"Each hug is first prayed over and then made by a 'guardian angel,'" says Pagano. The blanket has a prayer attached to it, signed by the person who made it.

Lana Rae Pepper '87

Distinguished Service in Founding and Promoting the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis

You'd never know that Lana Rae Pepper grew up without the theater. The woman who helped found the successful Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, an annual, professional performance in Forest Park, seems to have always had the arts in her heart.

Pepper initially came to Fontbonne as an adult learner but planned on moving to a larger, neighboring school. "By the first day here people already knew my name. I knew I was staying," she says. But it was a theater appreciation class that helped her discover her passion for theater and, later, her major.

She started working on the festival and actually worked for free the first two years. "It was so exciting to be in on the ground floor," says Pepper. "Working on the festival was more than I ever dreamed of. It was the perfect job for me."

In addition, Pepper developed educational programs for the younger audience. She created a mini-play with props and sets that fit into a

van and moves from school to school. Last year, an abbreviated Shakespeare play was seen by 17,000 students.

Although Pepper is no longer the festival's managing director, she is still very involved as a member of the board of directors.

"It was so nice to have recognition from my school," says Pepper of the Founders Award. "It's very special."

Mary Taylor

Distinguished Service as Legal Advocate for Abused and Neglected Children Living in Foster Care in the City of St. Louis

As general counsel for a hospital on the West Side of Chicago, Mary Taylor saw the first wave of babies exposed to crack cocaine come to the hospital in need of medical and foster care. As a result, she soon became a licensed foster parent and has since welcomed 18 foster children into her home.

"As I got more involved I realized that no one was providing legal care for these children," says Taylor, who earned her law degree from Loyola University in Chicago. She now specializes in children's law. "Kids are the best clients," she says.

In 1998, Taylor founded St. Louis City Court Appointed Special Advocates, a unique non-profit organization that recruits, trains and motivates volunteers to serve as advocates for children in foster care and juvenile detention. What started with only Taylor and 20 volunteers has grown to include a staff of 14 and more than 300 volunteer guardians who served more than 1,200 children in 2003.

"The volunteers are amazing because they bring fresh views and ideas to each case," Taylor says. "If we don't push the issues and

the boundaries of what people think is possible then no one will."

In just five years, the organization has been recognized by the Department of Justice, the National Association of Counsel for Children and many local organizations as a leader in child advocacy.

Suzanne Wesley, CSJ

Distinguished Service in Health Care Administration

Suzanne Wesley, CSJ, has spent her professional life caring for others, first as a nurse and now as CEO of Cardinal Ritter Senior Services, senior adult services provider for the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

In her current role, Sister Suzanne is making many changes that help both clients and staff. "It's an opportunity to work with incredibly dedicated individuals empowered and impelled by the same mission."

Sister Suzanne is working to create a collaborative environment that helps her employees help themselves as well as those they serve. She has established GED programs and English As a Second Language tutoring as well as a mandatory class on senior adult ministry to provide them with the knowledge they need to work with the elderly population.

"There is always room for growth and improvement. I'm always looking for better ways to meet their needs," says Sister Suzanne, speaking of both her employees and clients.

Sister Suzanne says it's an honor to work with senior citizens because of "their wisdom, experience and profound faith in God's providence."

COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION:

New Center Gives Students an Edge in the Classroom

With more than 100 people in attendance this September, Fontbonne University dedicated its new \$3.3 million Center for Teacher and Therapist Education (CTTE).

The new 13,000 sq. ft. center is a combination of new and renovated space in the East Building and is now home to a unique collaboration between the education/special education and communication disorders and deaf education departments at Fontbonne. These departments and related clinical facilities — including a speech science lab and audiology suite — are now housed in a common space within the East Building that will help the university better serve its students as well as the broader community.

The center serves as a regional resource for public school districts in addressing the current shortages in special education, deaf education and speech-language pathology. Existing relationships with St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf, the Brentwood School District, St. Louis City schools and the St. Louis County Special School District are especially enhanced.

Fontbonne's new speech-language pathology clinic will continue to serve more than 100 individuals of all ages annually, providing both diagnostic evaluation and treatment services for those who might otherwise go without care. A reading clinic is also in development.



Using visual and tactile cues to facilitate correct speech sounds, senior Michelle Obermark works with Natalie, 4, in the *Dorothy M. and William B. Dallas* speech-language pathology therapy room in the CTTE.



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