

FCC NEWSLETTER



FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION – A WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

CSJ Motherhouse Visit Brings History to Life for FCC Members/Guests



Set on the brow of a hill, overlooking the Mississippi River, the Motherhouse of the

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet has loomed large in this modest South St. Louis neighborhood for 175 years. On a sunny April Saturday, 34 FCC members and guests made their way past the massive stone retaining wall that encloses much of this sacred gathering space of the Congregation of St. Joseph, for a visit with the Sisters and a tour at this historic complex.

Membership and Events committees could not have chosen a more beautiful day for a visit to the St. Louis Province headquarters and the home, where generations of Sisters of St. Joseph novices completed initial formation, lived in community, and trained for ministry.

Following a buffet-luncheon in the dining room, guests toured a rich history – glorious architectural and sacred spaces going back to 1841. On the National Register of Historical Buildings, the Motherhouse is not a museum but rather an evolving sacred space that, for 175 years, has endeavored to meet the needs of God's people.

Sister Laura Ann Gruber, CSJ, our genial and knowledgeable historian and guide, provided an overview of the order's history from LePuy to St. Louis, then led us among artifacts and displays; relating stories and highlighting artesian details and intricacies. Even the floors had a story! The intricate inlaid

flooring of alternating soft maple and harder black walnut, on the first floor and in the library parlor, were combined to resist buckling from dampness and ground water seeping into the stone foundation.

The tour concluded in the beautiful 1889 Romanesque Holy Family Chapel and then we returned to our starting point, eager to hear from five of our FCC sisters, each of whom began her religious life with the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Motherhouse.

Moderating the panel was Sister Mary Catherine O'Gorman, who made her home at the Motherhouse for nearly 20 years on three separate occasions: as a novice, as Provincial and then as personal director for the province. She knows what this historic house means to the sisters who professed their vows on Minnesota Avenue. Despite decades of change, the CSJs ministry and their Motherhouse stand strong.

Sister Jane Hassett entered the order in 1951, after graduating from Maryville College and working for a time. Her memories as an *older* novice at the Motherhouse – "Corridors, endless corridors... to be mopped! And bells. Bells rang for everything. I also recall the peeling room and lots of potatoes!"

Homesickness hit Sister Donna Gunn hard when she left home for the Motherhouse; and her eight siblings were missing her, too. Her sister, FCC Chair Maggie Gunn Fowler, acknowledged that plenty of tears were shed by those left behind. Sr. Donna began to embrace her vocation as she better appreciated that the charism given her by the Spirit was finding true joy in helping others. That was 59 years ago.

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CSJ Motherhouse Visit Continued...



Sr. Mary Charity Dalton was asked what it was like for the sisters after Vatican II. Her one-word response – “Freedom. No more walking in twos, and we could shed the habit, which had seemed to separate us from those we served. We got real!”

The sisters’ hospitality to us was an expression of the cordial charity and charism to which the Sisters of St. Joseph are called – to serve the dear neighbor. To have been guests at the Motherhouse was, indeed, an enriching experience.

Tunnel of Oppression Shed Light on Biased Behaviors

Fontbonne’s first Tunnel of Oppression, an interactive theater experience, where participants walked through rooms containing scenes designed to display oppression of marginalized groups, was a success on every level. The project was a collaborative effort of Leslie Doyle, Director of Service, Diversity & Social Justice; Mary Beth Gallagher, Mission Integration and the Fine Arts Department, and the 67 volunteers who spent countless hours making this emotionally powerful event come to life for participants. The project was funded with an FCC award.

Throughout the day on March 8th and 9th, 436 people (including several FCC members) walked through the tunnel’s six rooms, constructed in Dunham Activity Center, and experienced being the objects of oppression based on

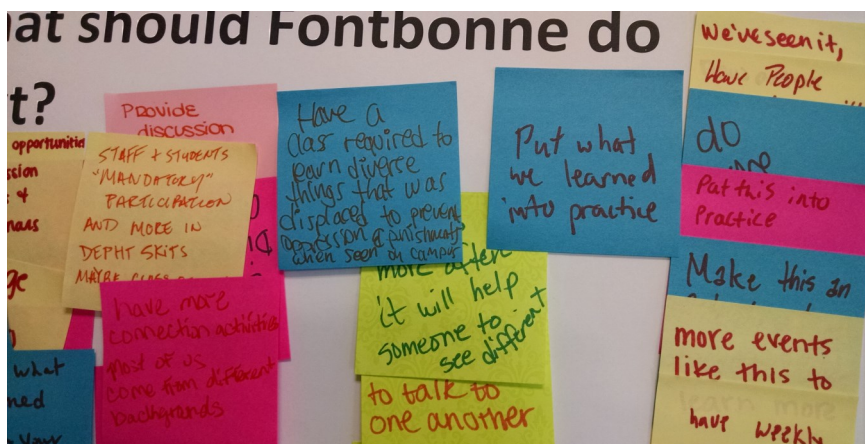
faith and religion, race, disabilities, presumed sexual orientation/identity, body image and country of origin. Reaction from those who experienced the tunnel has been overwhelming. Here are just a few comments:

“I learned how hurtful and uncomfortable it feels, even though my oppression was just a moment.”

“Fits the FBU mission. Pushed us to see things from another perspective.”

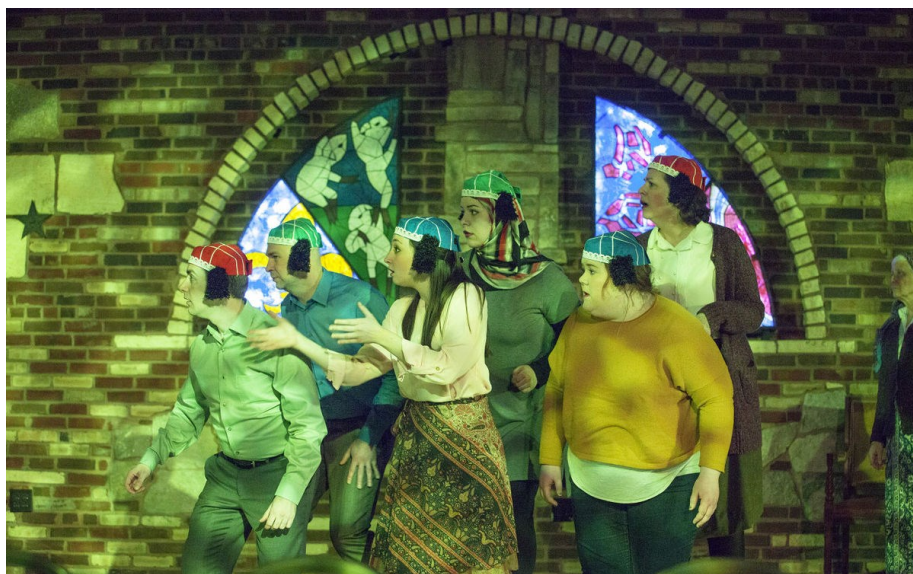
“It bothered me because there’s no reason people should still feel like this.”

“I felt belittled, shamed, embarrassed, judged and misunderstood, as well as put into no-win situations where it would have been impossible for me to succeed.”



L-R Mary Beth Gallagher, Sr. Sandy Straub, CSJ and Sr. Ida Berresheim, CSJ at the Tunnel of Oppression. Participants were asked to write their comments and suggestions.

Mustard Seed Play Shares Stories of St. Louisans Born In Bosnia



Bosnian/American: The Dance for Life is the final Mustard Theatre production for the season. It is not a play created by one person. Deanna Jent, Fontbonne Fine Arts professor and artistic director and playwright spent the past year gathering the stories and interviewing adults who were born in Bosnia but grew up in St. Louis, home to more people of Bosnian extraction than any other city outside of that country.

However, this is not a play created by one person. Dr. Jent collaborated with Fontbonne colleagues Dr. Ben Moore, co-founder and director of the *Bosnia Memory Project* and Assistant Professor Adam Flores, making his professional directorial debut. "This was also collaboration with the Bosnian community who genuinely loved seeing their story being told outside the Bosnian community," said Flores.

Their narrative is interwoven with a Bosnian folk fable about a young sheep who breaks away from the flock to pursue her dream of becoming a dancer, all the while eluding a wolf focused solely on killing it—obvious symbolism for Bosnian extremists bent on ethnic cleansing.

Ben Moore, Deanna Jent, Fontbonne and FCC know the importance of relating the story of the strength, perseverance of the Bosnian community in the Gateway City who adapted and adopted a new life in a new county and revitalized their neighborhoods. "*Bosnian/American: The Dance for Life*" was a perfect medium for sharing that story. According to Flores, FCC support has enabled training for students to work outside the classroom on the Bosnian/American project that laid the collaborative groundwork for creative efforts.

International Excellence Award Goes to Susan Lenihan

FCC member Dr. Susan Lenihan, professor and director of Fontbonne's deaf education program, was selected from a field of international experts to receive a prized award, which recognizes excellence in the field of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI). Susan received the Antonia Branica Maxon International Award for EHDI Excellence at the professional organization's annual meeting in San Diego, CA.

Fontbonne's Dr. Gale Rice and Dr. Jenna Voss, colleagues of Dr. Lenihan and fellow FCC members, praised her professional excellence: "Susan dedicated her career to ensuring that professionals in deaf education and related fields are prepared to serve the youngest children with hearing loss and their caregivers. She awes, inspires, and motivates those of us fortunate enough to work with her every day." FCC salutes Susan and for the honor and recognition she brings to Fontbonne — in her daily work, as well as with this award.



Archivist Catherine Lucy Preserves Fontbonne's Past

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by Sr. Jane Hassett

Catherine Lucy, technical services assistant and archivist of the Jack C. Taylor Library, is a priceless asset for the FCC, particularly its Archives and History Committee.

In the past two years, Catherine has received FCC awards for (1) the digitization of the Fontbonne yearbook collection, to preserve the volumes dated 1927-1962 and make them available online for the extended Fontbonne community, and (2) the digitization of the college newspaper, **The Font**, saving the collection from disintegration. Catherine appreciates the unique character of these publications, which document the lived mission and values of the university's early years.

The Archives and History Committee appreciates Catherine's attention to detail and insistence on accuracy in collecting, organizing and filing the award proposal materials and, most significantly, in recording the detailed financial records of each proposal from beginning to end. This can be a tedious project, which requires familiarity with the funding cycle that dictates when the end of the funding is reached and the financial log is completed.

In a related area, FCC awarded funds in 2009 for "The Bosnia Memory Project," which led to the university becoming a premier site for a collection of primary materials and artifacts related to the horrors of genocidal war. All these items are currently stored in the archives vault. A portion of the Bosnian history became the framework for "Bosnian/American: The Dance for Life," a Mustard Seed Theatre production — another FCC award recipient.

The Fontbonne archives became Catherine's responsibility in 2012. Since that time, she has accomplished many important tasks — from organizing the archival collection, which now has expanded beyond its original space, to pursuing a low-key campaign to publicize the archives as a valuable campus asset. Her campaign has resulted in individuals and departments regularly consulting with Catherine for help on historical matters, accuracy in publications, even correct spelling of proper names. Alumni contact her with questions about a range of subjects. Some are tracing past events, about which they need accurate information for a class history at reunion time. When Catherine is asked for help, those asking can be confident that they will receive correct answers.

Catherine has also indexed the history of Fontbonne that marked its 75th anniversary. **As Strong as the Granite**, published in 1999, appeared without an index, which made the book much less useful than it is with an index.

Catherine is pursuing a master's degree in Library Science that emphasizes archives and records management. She is a member of four professional organizations, local and national. Catherine Lucy's gifts are many and varied. Perhaps they can best be summed up by noting that her availability, her dependability and insistence on accuracy, and her helpful attitude really destroy the old stereotype of a fussy librarian working with dusty books and papers.



FCC Award Roundtables — Spirited Discussion, Fascinating Women

FCC voting is a wonderfully straightforward process. There are no ballots to lose, no endless campaigning and no candidates lobbying for your vote. Only the FCC Awards Committee, inviting you to exercise your vote for the 2016-17 projects submitted for consideration. This year, there are 26 projects seeking award funding — largest number to date. No pressure. However, this happens to be the most important thing FCC members do. It is the reason we exist. It only makes sense that, as part of this important process, we learn as much about our investment as we can and cast an informed vote. The best way to do that — FCC Roundtables.



Liz Glaser and the Awards team, who attend and facilitate Roundtables, look forward to this part of the process. "Members tell us that they learn so much from reading the applications and discussion at the Roundtables," says Liz. The Awards Committee invites members to attend as many as three informative Roundtable get-togethers on campus, or to participate in a virtual conference call. Attend as many sessions as you like (*See Calendar for time/dates.*). Members are voting for the new, the unknown, the small, the overlooked and the unusual but valuable endeavors that often become impactful projects and reflect positively on Fontbonne — such as the incredible Bosnia Memory Project. Participating in an FCC Roundtable means you've got skin in the game. And members say it also gives them a deeper understanding of the University.

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FCC Award Roundtables Continued

Over the years, Mary Ann Capellupo has assessed awards on her own, as well as attending Roundtables. “I like hearing the interesting discussion around the table about projects, rather than making decisions entirely on my own.”

Sue Ebanues always attends at least one Round Table. “And I’m a member of the Awards Committee!” she says. “It’s a great opportunity to get questions answered and to get a more thorough understanding for the funding request. There is always someone at the table who can answer questions, or they will get back to you.”

The youngest FCC member, Melissa Reidelberger, working on a PhD in London, connects to the conference call or listens to the virtual Roundtable replay. I’ve attended Roundtables when I was in St. Louis,” Melissa says, “and being at the table is better than relying solely on what you read.” Daughter of Awards Committee chair Liz Glaser, Melissa says she enjoys reading through all the award requests. “My process is to number each application, write brief notes for each, go back and read those and make my decision. These grants have a big effect on the recipient — and the Fontbonne community.”

On Campus Career Development Prepares Students for Future Employment

by Kathy Miceli

College career development has undergone a paradigm shift in the way career development offices prepare students for the 21st century workforce.

Fontbonne’s Office of Career Development received an FCC award for “Connecting Griffins to Opportunities,” a process to engage Fontbonne students early and often in their career development. The FCC award also is increasing visibility of on-campus recruiting and internship opportunities among upper-class students.

Christine Keller, Director of Fontbonne’s Career Development Center, reports positive results connecting students to opportunities and increasing career readiness. “The FCC award created excitement among students about making connections, and it has helped us increase our presence on campus, and in marketing our office and services,” she said.



The Career Foundations program got off to an impressive start in September. “We handed everyone a fun and colorful business card holder with our new logo on it and encouraged students to begin making connections early. They heard us,” said Director Keller. “First year students were the class with the most attendees at Fontbonne’s Career Fair.

The office of Career Development also utilized the FCC award to establish a permanent location in Medaille’s Arnold Memorial Center, identifying its presence and purpose with a banner and table covering, funded by the award. “Our corner in Arnold Memorial Center makes it possible for us to market our office,” said Christine Keller. “It’s also where we hold daily walk-in hours, and where we reviewed more than 100 more resumes in fall 2015 than the previous fall.” This progress for Fontbonne students is directly related to the FCC award.

Technology solutions also play a large role Fontbonne’s Career Development agenda. In the fall semester, Purple Briefcase, an interactive online job support site and partner for Fontbonne, was introduced to help students stand out, in the very competitive job market and recruitment world and in connecting with employers. This is yet another tool to help students put their best foot forward, when entering the real world, and to gain a competitive advantage in the job market.

To generate interest and excitement for the Purple Briefcase site, the FCC award was again utilized. “We ordered mini paper briefcases filled with sticky notes and handed them out, after presentations during the fall semester,” explained Christine. “To date, 30 percent of students have logged in to Purple Briefcase; over 150 have scheduled appointments through the site and over 160 students uploaded their resumes to apply to jobs, internships, and on-campus interviews.” The FCC award grant to the Fontbonne Career Development Center, indeed, has succeeded in increasing awareness of opportunities available to students and has helped to place them on a path to success.

Campus Tour of FCC Funded Projects Is Powerful Experience

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by Joan Falk

On a bright and beautiful March 11, Fontbonne's tour director extraordinaire Jan Sheehan (aka, Fontbonne's Planned Giving Officer) guided FCC members/guests through many of the on-campus results of past FCC awards. We began in the Library Board Room, enjoying coffee and pastries, introducing ourselves to one another and singing the praises of FCC. Delightfully, there were several new faces!

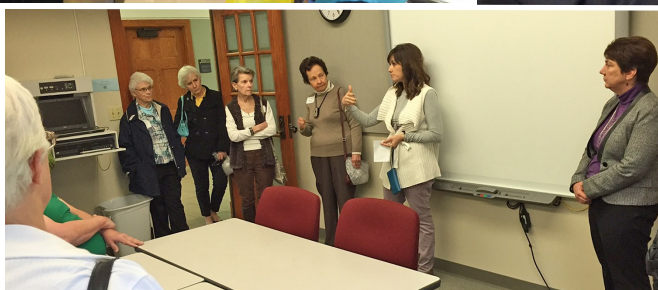
Venturing out, we stopped in front of Ryan Hall, as Jan gave a brief history of the CSJ's arrival in St. Louis and establishment of educational opportunities in this area. On to the Anheuser-Busch (formerly Science) Building to observe the dietetics and fashion merchandising areas, and home of the now-famous "zebrafish" project that FCC sponsored. We were reminded of FCC-funded children's summer camps, where they learned how to grow vegetables and eat healthy where software that offers fashion merchandising students exceptional competence for their professional careers is housed.

In the Fine Arts building we admired the expanded Art Gallery, courtesy of an FCC award, and the theatre's comfortable new seating, also FCC funded, along with multiple awards to produce special theatre projects and art exhibits. Throughout the tour, our guide gave pop quizzes on pertinent trivia and awarded fun trinkets to those who could answer his questions. A can of chicken soup went to the big winner, who knew that donated canned goods is all the admission needed for Thursday night theatre performances!

In the sculpture studio, we had an unanticipated aside — the pleasure of meeting faculty member Scott Beatty, viewing his behemoth manhood statue and hearing of his weekly volunteering with veterans. Fontbonne provides the studio and Scott gives instruction to veterans who benefit by expressing in clay what words have been unable to capture and communicate.

As we wandered the second floor hall of the East Building (formerly Fine Arts), we admired the total renovation of this space, now home to the departments of Deaf Education and Speech Pathology. Each have received FCC awards for various extra programs, camps and experiences. We visited both clinic and classroom spaces and toured a special classroom funded by one of our FCC members, Colette Crowley O'Brien.

Afterward, Jan Sheehan commented, "It's amazing to me to see such a wide variety in FCC funded projects. And most simply could not have happened without that support, which is so significant to our faculty. Their passion for these projects translates to the students, impacting their lives and expanding their interests. FCC powerfully supports Fontbonne's unique ability to form fully educated persons, free of indifference and confident of their ability to make a difference, who quietly go about the business of getting the job done, by affecting the world one person at a time."



Coffee and Conversation Connect New FCC Members to Our Community

by Mary Lee Walter



Kate Gunn once again hosted the welcome coffee for new FCC members at her lovely home. The April 5 get-together was a wonderful experience for members, both current and new, and proved to be an inspiring morning.

Following light refreshments, “FCC member-buddies” introduced each incoming woman, who then told a bit about herself and how she came to join FCC. And because we are St. Louisans, connections were immediately made — mutual acquaintances, work related friends, children — proving once more that St. Louis really IS a small town.

The casual conversation that followed elicited funny anecdotes — as well as heartfelt, spontaneous testimony from current members — about how much FCC has meant to them personally. The commitment to Fontbonne, and FCC support that enables faculty, students and staff to fulfill their dreams, was abundantly clear.

New members asked questions about award voting procedures — how awards are allocated and monitored, the variety of ways to pay dues, and other FCC policies. Current members offered answers and also encouraged incoming members to actively participate in the FCC, particularly by joining in the RoundTable discussions that occur prior to voting.

Membership co-chairs, Mary Lee Walter and Becky McDermott gave each new member an informational folder detailing policies and procedures. Director of Annual Giving, Laura Farrar, explained the new Fontbonne website and Blackboard.

On a personal note, it is important for all FCC members to remember is to talk about FCC with friends and even with casual acquaintances. You never know who might be interested. Word-of-mouth is how this organization came into being, and continues to be the way it grows. Reiterating the Power-of-One that each member experiences can have compelling appeal in bringing more women into the circle, which is essential for making more dreams become possible.



New Member Joan Kelly Makes Her FCC Relationship Official

Although she isn't Fontbonne alum, Joan Haas Kelly surely has impressive Fontbonne connections. Joan has been a member of Fontbonne's Board of Trustees since 2011 and her sister, Dr. Mary Abkemeier, Professor/Chair Math & Computer Science, has taught at Fontbonne for 39 years. Brother Ray A. Haas has served as a member of the Board of Trustees since 1997. Recently, Joan joined the Fontbonne Community Connection as a way to become personally connected to addressing needs on campus with a group of like-minded women.



Growing up in St. Louis in a family of five brothers and sisters, she loved mathematics, a harbinger of an exceptional career and an exceptional student, who graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Washington University with a math degree. After spending time at the WU engineering school teaching computer science, she joined McDonnell Douglas then moved on to British Telecom, Electronics Data Interchange product. Joan then joined MasterCard at its national operations center in O'Fallon for a 24-year career during which MasterCard grew to manage operations in more than 210 countries and territories for approximately 24,000 financial institutions. Joan retired in 2015 as Group Executive, CIO Security Solutions for MasterCard Operations & Technologies, responsible for Enterprise Fraud related products and Authentication Services.

Joan has credited her sister Mary as her STEM education role model. According to Joan, Mary began teaching online math and technology courses in 2000. "Watching Mary encourage students, teachers and parents to enjoy and develop their technology skills was inspirational," says Joan, who was committed to mentoring women in STEM fields at MasterCard.

Throughout her career, Joan was recognized as one of the Top 100 Leaders in STEM by the STEMconnector organization. She was named one of U.S. Banker Magazine's Top 25 Nonbank Women in Finance for two successive years and named one of the Top 25 Innovators in Financial Services by Bank Technology News. The St. Louis community has also been a beneficiary of Joan's time and talents serving on boards including the Washington University Center for the Application of Information Technology and the United Way. Joan and her husband Patrick, a patent attorney, live in Kirkwood. They have two daughters, Jennifer, a business consultant in Chicago, and Lauren, studying nursing at Purdue. Joan is enjoying not working a 60+ hour week and not being perpetually on call.

"I'm looking forward to joining FCC members in learning more about the University. I've already seen how FCC has helped Mary's work with the cyber security curriculum at Fontbonne. I see why my sister has a passion for Fontbonne."

Laura Farrar's Path Heads Straight to Fontbonne — Well, Almost.

Looking back, it seems Laura Farrar was heading towards Fontbonne all her life — though maybe not in a straight line. As a child, growing up in St. Peters, MO, she dedicated herself to the discipline of competitive figure skating. When a serious injury gave her the opportunity to refocus, Laura was ready to embrace a musical calling, particularly in church settings. As a student at St. Louis Christian College in Florissant, where she was studying Music and Theology, her strong faith and attentiveness to the Lord's promptings opened her heart to a summer internship in Arizona in 2010. There, she worked in fundraising and advancement for StreetLight USA, a non-profit organization combating child sex trafficking. At graduation, she accepted a job back in St. Louis, at Covering House — located at the CSJ Motherhouse, at that time. When Laura obtained her graduate degree in Non-Profit Management, she was even more committed to focusing on higher education because, as she notes, "It can have such a positive impact on young people." The opportunity to work at Fontbonne as Assistant Director of Alumni Relations seemed ideal. Once here, she was soon promoted to Director of Annual Giving and named our FCC Liaison.



Laura says the minute she got to campus, she began hearing about FCC, its tangible results in fulfilling faculty/staff/students' dreams and its ripple effect into the community. Laura was especially touched by the presentations given last fall, at Wydown House, by Leslie Doyle's students and by Ben Moore, demonstrating the powerful effect of FCC awards on students and on the larger community.

Laura is inspired by FCC's dedication and grateful for its support of the Advancement Office. She sees how FCC builds morale and inspires the Fontbonne community to dream big dreams. "This is not simply some textbook teaching" she says. "FCC is building a legacy that will impact our community — on campus and beyond — far beyond our lifetimes."

Message From Chair



Spring has sprung and FCC is blooming! We welcome new members Joan Kelly, Jean Fitzgerald and Kim Distefano to our sisterhood. Read about Joan and our recent new member Laura Farrar in this issue; Jean and Kim will be featured in the summer issue. Per our August 13, 2015 Planning Meeting – Membership Committee pollinators will be abuzz with blooming FCC-related camps/activities on campus this summer.

We now venture into our most heartwarming One Woman – One Vote season. Hope you can share in it. We cannot overestimate Roundtable discussions' value as a critical decision-

making tool. If you've never experienced the joy of reviewing the awards with your FCC sisters, while assessing the most effective use of your philanthropic contribution to the Fontbonne community, you are in for a treat! (Roundtable times/dates in Calendar section.)

Whether or not you attend Roundtable discussions, you are a vital partner in FCC collective award decisions. We urge all members to carefully review each proposal, rank them and cast your summary ballot. Add helpful comments for both applicants and the Awards Committee, as they continue to expertly refine this process. All accepted proposals (full applications and summary versions) are now available on Blackboard for your review. A recent email to all members has instructions for access to the proposals.

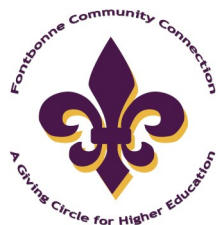
If you – like me – are initially overwhelmed by the sheer volume of award submissions, I offer this suggestion: Print the Summary Report on recycled paper (FCC saves trees!). Then cut out each award, arrange and rearrange for ranking purposes – and cast your ballot by 5:00 pm, June 9th.

Even if you are unable to vote, we genuinely cherish your membership, as your annual dues provide \$1,000 more for FCC to award – and that is sensational!

Finally, mark your calendar for our FCC Annual Members Meeting (July 14th, 9:00 – 11:00, DSAC). The official invitation will be sent to you via email! We have so much to celebrate – the completed 2015-16 awards season, announcement of the new awards and, of course, our sisterhood! Please do try to join the festivities.

Maggie

Maggie Gunn Fowler
FCC Chair



Upcoming Events

May 2016

Thursday, May 12 – Roundtable, 9-11, DSAC Caf
Tuesday, May 17 – Phone-in Roundtable, 9-11
Thursday, May 19 – Roundtable 5:30-7:30, DSAC Caf
Saturday, May 28 -- Roundtable 10-12, DSAC Caf

June, 2016

9 – EAC Meeting, 8:45-11:00
10 – Deadline for Members' Award Ballots, 5 pm

July, 2016

14 – FCC Annual Meeting, 9-11, DSAC Caf
(Awards and New Officers Announced)
28 – EAC Transition Meeting, 8:45-11 (location TBA)

August, 2016

4 – Annual Planning Meeting, DSAC Caf, 8:30-12:30

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

Award Dates

Upcoming Dates for Submission

Final Application

5:00 p.m. Thursday., April 7, 2016

Final Report

5:00 p.m. Friday, July 28, 2017

Additional Dates of Interest

FCC Notification of Status of Preliminary Application

Friday, February 12, 2016

FCC Members Review Applications

May/June, 2016

FCC Voting Deadline

Thursday, June 9, 2016

FCC Staff, 2016 Winter Newsletter

Anita Lamont, Editor

Joan Falk, Kathy Miceli, Sr. Jane Hassett, and
Mary Lee Walter

