



## A Decade - A Difference

### FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

— A WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

#### You CAN Hear Them Now... Replacement of DSAC Sound System

For 23 years, the Dunham Student Activities Center has hosted thousands of functions in the Maybee Gymnasium. The Gym is the campus location that is large enough to host substantially scaled events and manage the gathering of hundreds who visit the campus each year. It's an impressive, well-used and well-cared-for facility. However, there was an issue that visitors, recruits, parents, anyone who attended functions in the gym became acutely aware — the sound system was shot. Wiring on the old system was worn out, speakers were broken and the system was so inaudible that outside systems had to be brought in for some public events like graduation.

Although the sound system is important for Fontbonne's student-athlete experience and for visitors attending the Dunham Student Activities Center for games and a myriad of events, the Athletic operation budget takes care of team travel and equipment; it does not fund facility improvements. Applying for an FCC award was an opportunity that Fontbonne Sports Information Director, Danielle Donze thought could meet this challenge. She let FCC members know, in her application, that the goal in having a new, workable sound system was to "display Fontbonne in the most positive way" to the entire community.

Danielle's application made the case, using a survey conducted among nearly 200 faculty staff, visitors, students, parents, alumni and administration. Respondents concurred in their ratings that the sound system needed to be replaced – for many reasons — but the most emotionally charged being that it was an embarrassment that did not project the overall quality of the institution, at hosted events, to potential students and the public at large.

Fast forward to the fall semester, when the first event in the gym after installation, a soccer fundraiser, drew a bevy of compliments. And they haven't stopped. All users of the gym sound system are delighted and amazed, and coaches are thrilled.

"The new sound system has made such an improvement to our gym and audio component at our games this season," said head women's volleyball coach Meredith Heater. "Fans and players are now able to clearly hear the music and announcing, which makes for a much more enjoyable experience."

Lynsey Wehrenberg, senior women's volleyball student-athlete added, "Being able to actually hear and understand announcements during lineups completely changes the atmosphere of our games."





**All Souls Day Mass  
of Remembrance**

Wednesday  
November 2nd  
at 11:45 am  
Doerr Chapel  
Fontbonne University



**FCC FALL MEMBER EVENT  
AT WYDOWN HOUSE  
Launches 10th Anniversary  
November 4, 5-7 pm  
with FCC Awardee Presentations**

## 2016 Awardees Celebrate Opportunities FCC Makes Possible



As FCC begins its 10th anniversary year, the excitement and gratitude expressed by 15 of the 17 awardees, announced July 2016, set the tone for an informal celebratory luncheon with the hard-working Awards Committee.

Nina Bryans coordinated the informal repast in the FBU boardroom, honoring those who presented their cases, to meet needs on campus that could only be fulfilled by FCC support. Today, their projects have begun or are preparing to launch.

In addition to congratulations and lunch, there was business to do, and Awards Committee Chair Liz Glaser served up a brief overview of FCC expectations of award recipients, with special emphasis on submission of final reports and final financial logs. She also encouraged spreading the word about the good the awards are accomplishing, by recipients creating their own Pecha Kucha presentations, and she explained that process.

This gung-ho group, just beginning their projects, follows a decade of previous projects, awarded by “one member, one vote” — 126 projects celebrated and implemented and, thus far, \$715,342 gifted.

This was a festive occasion for the recipients and, perhaps, even more so for committee members attending. “Our awardees are so grateful for the opportunities we afford them that otherwise are not possible — and they told us so,” said Liz. “FCC support is recognized publicly by awardees. They are genuinely thankful and enthusiastic in acknowledging the role that FCC plays in making possible what their projects achieve.”

## For Teresa Braeckel, Philanthropy is an Important Part of Life



The enthusiastic smile you see on Teresa Braeckel's face is present most of the time. Teresa is Fontbonne's Corporate & Foundation Relations Officer, has been in the position for a year and loves what she does.

And what Teresa does is meet with executives and individuals involved in various charitable work in the St. Louis community, as well as develop relationships with those who handle philanthropy for their companies in the metropolitan area, nationally and internationally. She works on all the University's federal grants. It was a grant she was developing with FCC member Dr. Carmen Russell, Chair, Department of Communication Disorders, which prompted Carmen to suggest that Teresa might be interested in joining the FCC. And she was.

Teresa is a newlywed, married a little less than a year to Matthew Amen, who works in the life sciences at MilliporeSigma in St. Louis. They met at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where Teresa earned her BS degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. She is currently working on her Master of Science degree at Fontbonne.

Working with others and making a difference has always been her passion. She is one of those people who make "doing it all" not only work, but make it seem easy. Teresa belongs to and serves on committees for the Junior League of St. Louis, Catholic Charities, Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri, Saint Joseph Parish Cottleville and SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation. She serves on the boards of the Young Friends of St. Patrick's Center and the Young Friends, Mercy Hospital. Her volunteer work fuels her, as does her Catholic faith. That faith drew her to Fontbonne, and now to FCC.

## Villa Jones: Service, Scholarship and Friendship Are in Her DNA

by Kathy Miceli

Villa Jones embodies the spirit and essence of the FCC in her personal life and career. She earned a Master of Science in Communication Disorders degree from Fontbonne University and is a speech-language pathologist at Life Care Center of St. Louis. Villa works with patients between hospital and home, in a rehabilitation setting, where she can provide them physical, occupational and speech therapy. Villa also owns her own business, Successful Speech Services, LLC, a private practice. She is a member of the Missouri Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA) and the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA), as well as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (Gamma Omega Chapter), which focuses on community service and scholarship. She is also a member of Links, Inc. a volunteer organization serving the St. Louis area for nearly 70 years — again focusing on service, scholarship, and friendship — a common thread woven into Villa's life. She and her husband, Darryl T. Jones, have two sons, Darryl T. II and Daniel T. Jones.



Villa's husband is a former member of Fontbonne University's Board of Trustees. He established an endowment in her honor at Fontbonne — the Villajeane Jones Endowed Scholarship — which assists speech and language students based on academic merit and financial need. Kate Gunn brought Villa to the FCC and introduced her to us at the August Planning Meeting. We warmly welcome her to our sisterhood!

## Catherine Lucy Has Been Part of the FCC From the Beginning



New member Catherine Lucy knows the Fontbonne Community Connection's awards program inside and out. As Technical Services Manager and Archivist of Fontbonne's Jack C. Taylor Library, Catherine collaborates with FCC Archives & History Committee — collecting, organizing and filing award materials and detailed financial records — not a career for someone with lesser standards than perfect.

Catherine, who came to Fontbonne in 2009, has implemented FCC awards for digitation to save Fontbonne's 1927-1962 yearbook collection and copies of the college newspaper, The Font 1926-1968, from disintegration. Both are now online — fascinating fun to explore. A native St. Louisan and graduate of Rosati-Kain High School, Catherine received her BA in English and narrative writing at Webster University and considered a career as a published author. However, during a stint in Webster's library, she discovered the joy of working with books.

Catherine worked with Sr. Jane Hassett — who for 15 years was FBU's records researcher, writer and archivist. When Sister Jane retired in 2012, she asked Catherine to take on archivist duties, which she accepted with great skill and enthusiasm. *(Continued on page 4).*

## Catherine Lucy (continued)

Catherine and her husband David have three children – Matthew, Mary and Miranda, ages 9 -14 – so life is busy. Catherine also enjoys genealogy and studying film. She serves as an officer for one of two St. Louis archivist organizations to which she belongs, and she volunteers at her parish, St. Joan and Arc.

“I appreciate the impact FCC has made from the very beginning, 10 years ago,” says Catherine. “This group makes wonderful projects possible and amazing things happen. I’ve seen the lasting effect it can have.”



## Connie McManus: Lifelong Learner Reconnects with Fontbonne

by Rosemary Quigley

Connie Fielder McManus has a long association with Fontbonne and a deep appreciation and love of her alma mater. Although she joined FCC last Spring, we want to officially welcome her with this profile.

Connie graduated in 1952 with a degree in dietetics, at a time when a majority of young women in the U.S. were majoring in nursing and education. After completing a dietetic internship, she became a dietician at St. Luke’s Hospital. Connie then enrolled at the University of Iowa for her Master’s degree in nutrition. There she met history major and New York native, Kenneth D.

McManus, who followed the native St. Louisan back to St. Louis University to get his Masters in geography. Kenneth had a long and successful career in his aeronautical mapping and many happy years with Connie and their two children.

In 1966, Connie returned to Fontbonne and began eighteen years as an instructor of nutrition. Her department chair, good friend and fellow FCC member, Sr. Mary Carol Anth, confirmed that Connie was an “excellent teacher who served the department well and endeared herself to all.” She returned to St. Luke’s and remained there until both she and her late husband retired.

She and Ken loved to travel and did so extensively to many countries in Europe and Asia. Besides travel, Connie enjoys playing bridge, the St. Louis Symphony, visiting friends and classes at Washington University’s Life Long Learning Institute. Connie’s children, Ken Jr. and Margo live in St. Louis, as well as two grandchildren.

Connie looks forward to learning more about FCC and Fontbonne today. So far, she has had wonderful teachers in Sr. Jane, Sr. Mary Carol and Sr. Rita Marie. “FCC events are of great interest to me,” Connie says, “and, certainly, an organization like FCC greatly strengthens the University.”



## A Decade - A Difference FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

The naming process for our celebratory year catchphrase involved a myriad of good ideas. And, in the end, consensus was that brief and direct was the best way to communicate the heart of the Fontbonne Community Connection mission -- to enable the positive effect that higher education has on society, and to help it flourish at Fontbonne University.

Dictionary definitions corroborate the word choice. Without a doubt, FCC gifts do “make a difference, have social impact, a positive effect, enable noticeable change — and matter.” It takes *each* of us to make a difference for *all* of us.

## Cheer Ten Years of Amazing Accomplishments

As we capture FCC’s 10-year milestone in the phrase, “A Decade - A Difference,” we reflect on the important work of award granters and award recipients, and we celebrate the impact of our collective philanthropy — which has set off a phenomenal chain of positive events, rippling well beyond Fontbonne University’s campus.

This is a moment in time to shine a spotlight on FCC accomplishments during the past 10 years. Each year, we received dozens of applications, and each year we have been awed by the depth of desire and commitment, within the Fontbonne community, to provide students with exceptional education. We’ve learned that faculty, staff — and the students, themselves — are passionate to pursue creative and innovative approaches to success. We celebrate the amazing results of those desires, combined with FCC members’ generosity of time, talent and treasure.

From the beginning, there was strategy. The mandate of our FCC mission is to encourage and support the known truth that “higher education has a positive effect on society.” We work together to grow our giving and to support the development of tools and resources for the Fontbonne University community and beyond. And awardees are quick to tell us that our funding has made all the difference.

The FCC looks forward to more member growth – which translates directly to more projects that can be funded. Although we’ve been around for 10 years, this does not mean that enough alums, neighbors and friends know about our giving circle of women philanthropists. This year, especially, we plan to share the stories of our successes publicly, engaging members and award recipients to tell their compelling experiences. The tenth anniversary celebration is impetus to spread the word and get more women involved. There is strength in numbers. The FCC is by no means exclusive. It is by all means inclusive — spread the word!

## A “Do Not Miss” FCC Event – the Annual Planning Meeting

by Sr. Donna Gunn



A friend and fellow FCC member recently called saying she couldn't attend the last FCC Planning meeting. She asked what she missed. What did she miss? O my, where to begin!

She missed meeting Fontbonne's new Resident Chaplain and Theologian, Father Speratus Kamanzi, AJ who opened the meeting with prayer and reflection. She missed Dr. Pressimone's very informative and exciting synopsis of Fontbonne's five-year Strategic Plan. It's clear Fontbonne's "not getting older, she's getting better." Dr. Pressimone shared the campus-wide inclusive process which addressed the University's financial viability over the next five years, its enrollment goals and the goals and objectives for student success and academic excellence. He reminded us of the remarkable diversity already on campus and of exciting new programs. He told about the need within the next five years to replace St. Joseph's Hall. AND we overwhelmingly welcomed his announcement of the University's plans to restore Fontbonne's outstanding Music Department.

Fontbonne's FCC already has an astounding record of sponsoring 126 projects with a total of \$715,342. How do we build on that? What more needs to be done? My friend missed the opportunity to give her unique input about how FCC might best move forward as we celebrate 10 years of existence and experience. We missed her ideas which I know would have added so much. Since 10th Anniversaries are celebrated with "tin gifts", she missed the fun of having interspersed throughout the morning the awarding of attendance prizes – all tin gifts. To her perpetual lament, she missed out on Dollar Tree's best and finest!



## Planning Meeting (continued)

She missed attending her first committee meeting of the year and hearing reports from one another about how we hope to continue our momentum and enhance our success. “We are such stuff as dreams are made on.”

Perhaps she most missed the affirmation of Father Kamanzi. Father talked about a “basin theology,” the pouring forth of blessings and gifts -- which FCC does in abundance. It was clear that Fontbonne has given us and the community so much. Now, empowered by one another’s goodness, we women in FCC give back to Fontbonne. We pour forth our time, our energy, our ideas, our hopes, our talents, our.... It is a Giving Circle which keeps on pouring forth. Perhaps the founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Jean Pierre Medaille, SJ, envisioned it best when he desired a group of women who would do “all that women are capable of doing.” FCC fulfills his hopes.



*The good news is that any members unable to attend can read the account and view the photos, right here in our Newsletter — which continues to enrich the sisterhood of our giving.*

## Deaf Education Students Learn How to Deliver Difficult News

by Mary Lee Walters



*Dr. Catherine Schroy shares script drafts with graduate student, Susan James*

This year’s FCC award to Dr. Catherine Schroy provides her the opportunity to develop a new program to greatly benefit Fontbonne’s Deaf Education graduate students.

The genesis for the program was Dr. Schroy’s dissertation, “Counseling Training for Audiology Students: Using “Standardized Patients” (those trained to portray, in a consistent, standardized manner, a patient’s medical situation). Being familiar with simulation techniques used by medical students preparing for their career, she undertook a similar approach with audiology students, in her previous work at Washington University.

Dr. Schroy is utilizing her FCC award to extend similarly unique experiences to Fontbonne’s Deaf Education graduate students. Scenarios will be scripted for typical interactions between parents and educators of the deaf, giving students an opportunity to practice in a safe environment.

Dr. Schroy helped script real-life situations, which occur when parents of a newly diagnosed deaf child react very emotionally to the diagnosis. In this “actor’s studio,” the student will portray the professional who delivers the diagnosis. The role of parents will be taken by local theater actors, trained to portray a specific scenario for students. For example, a distraught mother devastated at hearing her child’s diagnosis of deafness, a father contesting the diagnosis and vehemently challenging the news-bearer’s professional credibility, or a parent who immediately assumes guilt — “Is it my fault my child is deaf? What could I have done to prevent this?” Or, actors might depict parents who completely shut down upon hearing the diagnosis.

These are real-life scenarios that can and do happen. A diagnosis of deafness shatters parents’ dreams for their child. Becoming better at helping parents deal with one of the hardest things they’ll ever have to hear is the goal. It’s very hard to hear such news and not be totally overwhelmed. Knowing that a parent may not be ready or able to “hear” anything else said, after that news is delivered, helps a student better know when and how to speak — and to say things more than once — so that, eventually, a parent will hear and understand.

Dr. Schroy also developed measurable goals to assess the students’ growth as participants in the scenarios. How long a student waits before presenting a child’s audiogram to the parent can have major impact. As the scientific measurement of hearing, the audiogram is the all too powerful proof that “yes, your child is deaf.” Timing is crucial. The audiogram might be shown a little later, when the parent is more able to listen. Learning to let parents take the lead can provide vital clues about how much they can deal with at one time.

Each scenario is carefully scripted for “actors as parents,” filmed and viewed later by student and instructor, to critique the performance. The actors will also be asked to offer their critiques from the parental perspective.

Dr. Schroy hopes to present this technique at conferences around the country — another example of the ripple effect of FCC awards. She will be reaching beyond Fontbonne students, expanding the program to other students and professionals, and increasing Fontbonne’s reputation in the field of Deaf Education.

## Message from the Chair



*A Decade - a Difference* -- FCC's Tenth Anniversary logo -- says it all! And there's more to come with the announcement of our tenth round of awards at our July 13, 2017 Annual Meeting. As a charter member, I fondly recall our Founders' first "Come Grow with Us" recruiting events with their iris-filled watering can centerpieces. Enthusiasm for the potential of this relatively new concept -- women's collective philanthropy -- was palpable. Within a year our five founders had recruited enough members to fund nine projects for a total of \$34,000! FCC quickly became a model for a successful women's giving circle.

Enthusiasm remains a FCC hallmark. We experienced that organizational zeal at our Annual Meeting and again at our wonderfully collaborative and productive Planning Meeting -- as you can see in Sr. Donna's synopsis. I assure you EAC (Executive Advisory Committee) is committed to creating a memorable year while continuing to protect and grow FCC's assets -- our membership and funding capabilities.

Welcome to our new members profiled in this issue -- Theresa Braeckel, Villajeane Jones, Catherine Lucy and Connie McManus. Thank you for the unique gift each of you brings to FCC. Speaking of gratitude -- exuberant appreciation describes the tone of the September 28th Awards Celebration for our 2016-17 recipients. On their behalf, THANK YOU!

It was exhilarating witnessing FCC funding in action at the Math & Science Department's October 2-3 CANsec Workshop and the Deaf Education Department's October 17th "The Way We Talk" film and discussion with the documentary's author, director, and main character. We will learn about two more awards at our Wydown House event. Hopefully you've given Kathy Kinney your reservation.

FCC personifies the joy of giving. In that spirit of the fast approaching holidays, I offer my best wishes for a blessed, peace-filled and joyous season.

*Maggie*

Maggie Gunn Fowler, FCC Chair

## Upcoming Events

### November, 2016

- 2 -- All Souls Mass of Remembrance 11:45, Doerr Chapel
- 4 -- Wydown House Fall Celebration 5 -7
- 9 -- EAC Meeting, 8:45 -- 11:00

### December, 2016

- 4 -- Lyon/LePuy/Legacy event, Medaille Hall 3-5 (All FCC members will receive invitations)

### January, 2017

- 11 -- EAC Meeting 8:45 -- 11:00
- 27 -- Deadline Awards Letters of Intent Application

## FCC 2016-2017 Officers & Committee Chairs

### OFFICERS

**Chair:** Maggie Fowler  
**Vice Chair:** Mary Schenkenberg  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Jan Reilly  
**Recording Secretary:** Barb Atteln  
**Treasurer:** Joan Kelly

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Archives & History:** Nina Bryans  
**Awards:** Liz Glaser  
**Bylaws:** Barb Atteln  
**Events:** Sandy Lehrer & Maggi Wester  
**Membership:** Mary Lee Walter & Becky McDermott  
**Public Relations:** Anita Lamont & Joan Falk  
**FCC Historian:** Sr. Jane Hassett, CSJ

## FCC Staff, 2016 Fall Newsletter

Anita Lamont & Joan Falk, Editors  
 Laura Farrar  
 Sr. Donna Gunn  
 Kathy Miceli  
 Mary Lee Walter  
 Rosemary Quigley  
 Barb Atteln



## Paying it Forward

FCC members often tell other women about the profound satisfaction of giving, of personally voting on award recipients, and of seeing first-hand how our combined contributions support educational and humanitarian goals that make a powerful difference at Fontbonne and beyond. Sharing these rewarding experiences attracts new members to our circle. By offering something we love to other women we are in essence Paying it Forward.

To learn more about how to pay it forward, contact Laura Farrar in the Advancement office: [lfarrar@fontbonne.edu](mailto:lfarrar@fontbonne.edu) or (314) 889-4712.