



A Decade - A Difference FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Celebrating our 10th Anniversary of Giving

“Celebrate Good Times, Come On!”



The threat of rain didn't dampen any spirits at the FCC 10th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, April 28th! Many guests arrived early for the pre-celebration campus tour of projects funded by FCC Awards through the years. Led by FCC members Jan Johnson and Joan Falk, the tour scoped out FCC projects from Archives to Zebrafish.



As Medaille filled with more guests, the air rang with excited exchanges and acknowledgements. Glasses clinked in praise of faculty/staff/student accomplishments, supported by FCC awards. Buffet tables laden with elegant hors d'oeuvres provided a splendid repast, while magnificent floral displays emphasized the festive occasion. A large monitor at each end of the room gave continuous slide show witness to FCC's 10-year history, while a bulletin board held a chronological summary of all 126 awards that have been funded.



By the time the formal program began, the room was vibrating with a spirit of celebration among awardees, faculty, board members and FCC members and their guests. FCC Chair Maggie Fowler welcomed all and invited Fontbonne University President Dr. Michael Pressimone to the podium area hung with gold and purple banners, a huge FCC logo and the words “A Decade - A Difference.” Dr. Pressimone acknowledged the true difference made by FCC's generosity, coupled with the talents and creativity of the Fontbonne community. Deans of the three colleges — Dr. Jay Johnson, College of Global Business, Dr. Gale Rice, College of Education & Allied Health Professions, and Adam Weyhaupt, College of Arts & Sciences — extolled the difference the awards have made in their departments and beyond. And we all look to the future in anticipation of how much more can be accomplished by our continuing support.

In recognition of the “Founding Five” FCC members who brought this women's giving circle to life, a plaque engraved with their names was presented to Nina Bryans, DeDe Caspari, Karen Castellano, Kate Gunn and Carol Spehr. The plaque will hang in Ryan Hall, just outside the chapel, in honor of those who worked so diligently, putting the unique enthusiasm, dedication and generosity of women to work for Fontbonne.

Applause grew and a lovely tiered cake adorned with purple and gold flowers was wheeled out, as the music of “Celebration” rang out loud and clear. Yes, it was definitely a celebration — and a commitment to yet another decade of difference just ahead.



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FCC Members Learn How Funding *Start Smart* Program Helps Young Women Get Fair Pay

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Fontbonne Director of Career Development, Christine Keller, says lessons learned in the FCC-funded Start Smart program can significantly close the gap in the nearly \$500,000 to over one million dollar difference in any woman's earnings over a 40-year career — compared with that of an average white man in the same job and with the same capabilities.



That information blew us away at the April 5th presentation that Christine gave for FCC members and guests. Citing statistics and challenging us to imagine how to decrease those odds, Christine demonstrated how women, who are so often left behind in pay equity, could greatly enhance both salary and benefits offered to them in negotiations. Start Smart arms women participants with a firm grasp of their own strengths, resources to learn what a job “should” pay, and some very specific negotiating skills and practice sessions so they can graciously face employers and convince them to meet well founded expectations.

FCC Weighs in to Pump Up Fontbonne's Fitness Center

The gymnasium at Fontbonne has undergone an evolution. No longer a domain only for athletes and Griffin basketball games, it is a popular fitness destination for students, staff, faculty, and alumni. An FCC award enabled a recent renovation of the gym's Fitness Center that supports health and wellness, making it an even more important part of the University's learning landscape.

The Fitness Center equipment had seen ten years of hard use, and this type of major equipment replacement came at a cost more than the budget could accommodate. Maria Buckel, Director of Athletics, was aware of assistance FCC awards had provided other departments, and she put together a compelling and heartfelt application for funding that launched the Fitness Center into the 21st century.

In addition to the health of the academic community and alumni, the Fitness Center is an important recruitment element for students and student-athletes. Director Buckel knew that some prospective students had ranked their high school's weight room equipment better than the University's. Even more concerning was the poor condition of the equipment.

Today, the equipment is arranged to allow the fitness center space to feel more open. There are two racks of new rubber dumbbells, a state-of-the-art elliptical and treadmill, a new rowing machine and medicine balls. The Center itself gets a workout from early morning, when teams and faculty get in some training time, till students close it down between 10 and 11 p.m.

“Physical activity has a positive impact on the Fontbonne community,” said Maria Buckel. “We appreciate the support and assistance we have from FCC — and the Board of Directors. The students are thrilled to have state-of-the-art equipment. And we are thrilled to have a positive effect on young lives.”



Service & Justice Coordinators Help Build & Sustain Service

One hundred-eighty-one years after the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet arrived in St. Louis to carry out their mission to serve the good neighbor, and 94 years after they founded our alma mater, the spirit of that mission remains vital at Fontbonne.

Today, the need to bring unity and movement toward greater inclusivity, social justice and diversity to our community remains an important legacy for the University. And helping sustain that mission is Fontbonne's recently formed Service and Justice Coordinators, a passionate team of 12-15 students who are successfully helping to integrate service opportunities on campus.

Last year, Claire Elizabeth Gunn, '16, strongly believed that creating a strong, coordinated program of service opportunities would promote more student participation. She enlisted assistance from Leslie Doyle, Director of Service/Diversity/Social Justice, and Lori Helfrich, Director of Campus Ministry, as well as students already involved in service efforts, to expand opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally. Claire applied for and received an FCC award to help bring the plan to life.

"The training and organization of this program strengthens the current service structure as well as promoting further development," said Gunn who is now service and community engagement graduate assistant. "By kicking off a new program, service is being brought back to the forefront of our community — reminding students, faculty and staff of this core value," she said.

Charged with developing and implementing programs, events and service trips to educate the campus community about issues of poverty and social justice, 50 students are participating in various service projects this year, up from 15 — 20 students in the past. In late July, a group of 10 will travel to Gulu Uganda.

Fontbonne's original service projects are still in place and thriving. According to Claire, the annual Christmas drive supported many more families than in the past and has experienced additional local opportunities. Coordinators will help with longstanding campus service projects: World Food Day in the fall, Fontbonne For Families in winter and Fontbonne Day in the spring.

The communication and planning skills that Coordinators are developing make valuable assets to transfer to other academic endeavors on campus and beyond.



Take a Seat at the Roundtable: Number of Award Applications Indicate FCC's Impact Over The Past Decade

May FCC Roundtables provide many interesting insights and learning opportunities for members. Discussions about proposals run the gamut — compelling, provocative, entertaining and never dull. Voting her choices, each woman knows she is making a philanthropic decision that will have a major impact on the Fontbonne campus.



Members received an email from the Awards Committee on May 2nd, with detailed information about simplifications that have been made to the full applications and project summaries. Awards Chair Liz Glaser reports that easy access to both the full applications and the summaries are available on the FCC webpage.

Don't forget that only electronic voting is in place this year and, if this is a problem, help is available for you from an **FCC Voting Buddy**. Simply email a reply to the May 2nd email or contact Liz Glaser at FCC@fontbonne.edu. Dates and times for Roundtables are listed in the FCC calendar in this newsletter.

Apps & Stats for 2017 Awards

- 34 proposals submitted – largest number to date
- \$238,707 requested
- 16 proposals submitted from faculty
- 13 proposals submitted by staff
- 5 proposals submitted by students

New Member Terry Blaskiewicz: Moved by Awardee's Presentation



Terry was a guest of FCC member Carol Sestric at the 2016 Fall Membership meeting at Wydown House. A life-long South St. Louisan, Terry enjoyed the camaraderie and meeting members. However, it was one of the awardees' presentations that evening that impressed and moved Terry.

"Carol Sestric told me all about FCC and invited me to the FCC's 2016 Fall Membership Evening. The presentation by Speech and Language Clinic Director Barb Meyer and Instructor Amanda Alton aimed at adults challenged with aphasia and similar conditions was most impressive. I was convinced by Randy Miller's presentation that FCC is a very worthwhile organization, and I definitely wanted to be a member."

Terry completed a two-year program in Hotel and Restaurant Management at Forest Park Community College in 1970 and received her Associates Degree. She married John Blaskiewicz in February 1971 and put any further education on hold. They became parents of three sons and a daughter. In 1983, when her youngest son was three, Terry enrolled part-time in the Foods and Nutrition program at Fontbonne. It took four years, and she earned her degree and graduated in May 1987 with a B.S. in Food and Nutrition.

While attending Fontbonne, she worked as an assistant to the Home Economists of Laclede Gas Company during their Home Show demonstrations, which led to employment at Laclede Gas as a full-time Home Economist.

Terry's husband ran the John Ramming Machine Co. business for 32 years, while Terry managed their home and growing family. Today, all four children are married and living in the St. Louis area, and Terry and John are proud grandparents of 12 grandchildren, ages 6-14.

They have enjoyed traveling and are 44-year members of St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish, where the couple are ushers/greeters at Sunday Mass. Terry is also an avid genealogist and a member of the St. Louis Jefferson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

New Member Robyn Pilliod: A Desire to Help Change People's Lives

As a long-time neighborhood friend and book club member with Karen Gedera, Robyn Pilliod admired Karen's success in helping other women shatter the glass ceiling, as well as her obvious enthusiasm for FCC. Robyn also knew Mary Schenkenberg from when they both worked at SLUH. And she's attended various Mustard Seed Theatre productions. Wanting to be supportive of her Fontbonne friendships, Robyn accepted Karen's invitation to attend the Wydown House event last Fall — and was especially moved by the presentations of the awardees and of Randy Miller, who extolled the FCC-funded program that helped him greatly following a stroke.

"I like being part of this group that makes dramatic changes in people's lives. And members make the choice about which projects receive awards." Robyn said. "I wanted to get in on this new round of applications."

Robyn is on the Development staff at Danforth Plant Science Center. She had worked as a CPA for Deloitte for 10 years in St. Louis, and then another 10 years for them as a one-week-a-month "commuter" to New York for a Global Learning Project. She has lived most of her life in the St. Louis area, except for short stints in Mexico City and Caracas and when she was in school in Phoenix, AZ.

Her hobbies include reading, supporting the baseball Cardinals and travel. "Short trips or long, I love them all" she says. Robyn has a son and daughter and 3 grandchildren — two under age 1 and a 5 year old — all living in St. Louis.



Message from the Chair



FCC's Tenth Anniversary Gala was a testament to our Founders' vision and commitment to creating women's giving circle that would ultimately connect the entire Fontbonne community. The University's three college deans affirmed FCC's role in gathering the Fontbonne community into an invigorating academic and service-driven environment where students have more opportunities to *Learn More. Be More.* They in turn connect the university – and FCC -- to local and global communities. On behalf of our entire membership and all impacted by FCC funding, **thank you Carol, Dede, Karen, Kate and Nina.** God bless you for the gift

you have given to your fellow members and to the multiple communities we touch.

The gala was the “icing on the FCC Tenth Anniversary cake” thanks to Events Committee Co-Chairs Sandy Lehrer and Maggi Wester, along with FCC Liaison Laura Farrar. Special thanks to PR Co-Chairs Anita Lamont and Joan Falk and to Liz Glazer for their wonderful on-going photo montage depicting membership and award recipients' activities. Thanks also to Advancement staff for their financial and professional support and for serving as the evening's “working crew.” Our gratitude, as well, to the support by Dr. Pressimone and the attending Board members. The gala was, like FCC, “magical!”

The gala is over, but FCC's commitment to Fontbonne is not. Our most important work awaits us – reviewing, discussing and voting on this year's 34 proposals. Please check the Roundtable Calendar on page 6 and the Awards Committee *FCC Voting Buddy* offer on page 4. Rain or shine -- **5:00 pm, June 9 is the absolute Voting Deadline.** Then join us on July 13th for the Annual Awards Announcement Meeting.

Finally, we welcome featured new members Terry Blaskiewicz and Robyn Pilliod, as well as newest members Linda Markway, CSJ, and Fran Muskopf of Puyallup, WA, who will each be profiled in our summer newsletter. We appreciate their FCC-affirming support.

Maggie

Maggie Gunn Fowler,
FCC Chair

Upcoming Events

May 2017

Thursday, May 11—Roundtable 9-11 DSAC Caf'

Thursday, May 18-- Phone-In Roundtable 9-11

Tuesday, May 23 -- 5:30 -- 7:30, DSAC Caf'

Saturday, May 27 — 10 – noon, DSAC Caf'

June, 2017

7 – EAC Meeting, 8:45-11

9 – Deadline for Award electronic ballots, 5 pm

July, 2017

13 – FCC Annual Meeting, 9-11, DSAC Caf'

(Awards and new officers announced)

26 – EAC transition, Library-Stroble Rm, 8:30-12:30

August, 2017

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

FCC 2016-2017 Officers & Committee Chairs

OFFICERS

Chair: Maggie Fowler

Vice Chair: Mary Schenkenberg

Recording Secretary: Barb Atteln

Corresponding Secretary: Jan Reilly

Treasurer: Joan Kelly

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives & History: Nina Bryans & Peggy Ridlen

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, 2017 Spring Newsletter

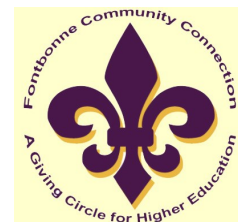
Anita Lamont & Joan Falk, Editors

Barb Atteln

Laura Farrar

Miriam Moynihan

Maddie Redohl, Student Intern



Please Consider Paying Forward

As we approach FCC's tenth anniversary celebration, please consider sharing the rewarding experiences we have enjoyed with women who could strengthen our circle — taking it to a new level in the next decade. Since we all have women friends for whom the financial commitment precludes membership, FCC has a long-established **Sponsorship Fund**. This fund enables a current member to make an anonymous contribution, **of any amount**, towards a partial or full membership. Paying forward shares what we love and strengthens our impact.

To pay it forward, contact Laura Farrar in Advancement: lfarrar@fontbonne.edu or (314)-889-4712