FCC Autumn Celebration at Wydown House

FCC hosted its annual Fall gathering on Friday, November 3rd at the lovely home of President Michael and Cathy Pressimone. Conversation and laughter filled the house, as both long-standing and new members thoroughly enjoyed one another’s company — as well as the abundance of delicious finger foods and desserts, spread across a beautifully decorated table.

Each attendee had the opportunity to win a basket of goodies, provided by the FCC Events Committee. Winner Joann Augsburger Jana was a special guest that evening and has now become an FCC member! Congratulations, Joann, and welcome to our community of women!

Joining the extended Pressimone family were FCC current and potential members and spouses, as well as other special guests, including two FCC award recipients. FCC Chair Joan Kelly and Events Committee Chair Maggi Wester emceed the presentation, and award recipients expressed their overall gratitude and spoke briefly about their FCC-funded projects.

Fontbonne student Madalyn Cooksey presented first, explaining how the 3D printer operates and how it would be used for future projects. She showcased a short video to demonstrate how filament materials could be transformed into various tangible items. Several of those items were passed throughout the crowd, for all to examine. Madalyn stated that one future goal is that students would learn to write original coding, to be input to the 3D printer, so it could design and produce various materials for student use in science classes.

The second award recipient, Dr. Cathy Schroy, spoke about the “Parents as Teachers” program currently in the development stage for Deaf Education graduate students. Cathy explained why this FCC-funded project is so vital in preparing students to conduct home and office visits with parents whose children may be deaf and/or hard of hearing.

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Cathy showed short videos of the classroom setup and of students, practicing with a baby doll, while actors played the role of the baby’s parents. These actors are provided with specific cue cards, created by the instructor, to address specific points the students will need to convey, in a helpful and sensitive manner, in addition to providing accurate resource information to parents in real-life situations.

As the night drew to a close, Mike and Cathy Pressimone excused themselves to attend an opening at Fontbonne’s Art Gallery that evening. Later the same night, Dr. Pressimone participated in a student theater production, where he had a starring role as actor and tenor. Mike and Cathy were not only our most gracious hosts, but they also demonstrated their total commitment to the wide variety of activities on campus, all on this one night! That reminded all of us at the Wydown House event — there to celebrate and recognize projects funded by FCC — that our heartfelt commitment and dedication can impact the entire Fontbonne campus and community, as well.

### Academic Advising Conference Inspires Fontbonne Advisors

Advising students is a major part of teaching at every level of academia. When Lee DeLaet, Director of Academic Advising, learned that the National Academic Advising Association’s National Conference was being held in St. Louis, she submitted a request for an FCC award. Her request was granted and allowed for five Fontbonne faculty to attend the October three-day forum in Chicago, offering discussion, debate and the exchange of ideas pertaining to academic advising.

“The responsibilities that exist for faculty members can be wide-ranging,” Lee DeLaet wrote in her award application. “With limited time and resources, faculty are often called upon to do more with less, and this particular conference can inspire their advising.”

Five faculty members from five departments attended. Dr. Guanyu Tian (Computer Science) has this to say about his conference experience:

“I attended the conference for the first time, and it offered many helpful sessions. Academic advising consists of not only course scheduling, but also many other tasks. Academic and career advising are closely related and it’s best for a student to be advised by both career and academic advisors. This certainly is beneficial to our students. In the past, I had advised my students individually and, having ten advisees, this is time-consuming. I learned that group advising (academic and career) may be beneficial to both advisees and advisor. So I plan to use group advising next semester and invite all of my advisees to a coffee hour, to share with them what they need to prepare when I meet them individually. I have sophomores and senior advisees and will encourage the senior students to also offer advice and tips to younger students. The conference certainly offered me new ideas about academic advising.”
Preserving Fontbonne’s Past: Accessibility for a Digital Future

Archivists today are dealing with disappearing videocassettes. FCC’s initial award for the Fontbonne archives was in 2009. Nine years after authoring her first book, “As Strong as the Granite,” retired archivist and FCC member Sr. Jane Hassett, requested and received FCC funding to digitize the first 29 years of The Font student newspaper.

That year, current archivist and FCC member Catherine Lucy was a member of the library staff cataloging those digital files and making back-up copies for the Fontbonne Library and Archives. This year, Catherine sought to save 48 VHS tapes from the 1980s and 1990s, and received the award from the FCC to save the tapes before their content was forever lost.

VHS tapes in the Fontbonne Library and in our own homes, have a shelf life of 10 to 25 years. Contents of Fontbonne’s VHS tapes provide a glimpse of the university in live action format and showcase faculty, administration and students who left their imprint on the university. Digitization preserves the content of these tapes as historical documentation.

According to Catherine, some of the tapes in the Archives are now 25 years old. She reports that our vendor, after digitizing the videotapes, commented that many of them already had sound and picture issues. The vendor utilizes software to help stabilize images and correct the audio as best they can. Some of the newly created digital files are not perfect, but at least they are audible. Had we had not acted now, some of the tapes would have been lost.

It is important to digitize VHS tapes because, without a VCR, there is no way to play them. VCRs are obsolete. The Archives does not have a VCR to play tapes. It’s also risky to play a tape and hope that it doesn’t break due to its age. We are lucky to now have these video recordings saved as digital files so that they can be viewed at any time through a computer.

Catherine notes that, although the technology hasn’t changed in 8 years, care and maintenance of the digital files has. Archivists are more knowledgeable now about how to preserve the files than even five years ago. This includes making multiple copies, saving them to different devices, and periodically checking their condition through software that monitors their condition and checks for viruses. This is new technology for archives, and usually only larger institutions have the time and financial resources to devote to digital preservation. At Fontbonne, we’re already implementing these procedures to the best of our ability to protect these files for many years to come.

Mustard Seed Theatre Presents

As It Is In Heaven

by Arlene Hutton

2:00 performance on March 25, followed by FCC reception

Invitations will be emailed to all FCC members

The tranquility of women living in an 1830’s Shaker community in Kentucky is threatened by the arrival of newcomers claiming to see angels. The cast is 9 women, and the story includes singing and dance.

Directed by Deanna Jent
Lunch and Celebration for Awardees

The 2017 FCC Award recipients and their primary sponsors celebrated on November 6 at an event hosted by the Awards Committee in AB Hall. Awards Chair Liz Glaser kicked off the program with a Pecha Kucha presentation, congratulating the awardees and providing them the details of expectations for their Final Reports. She encouraged the awardees to use the Pecha Kucha approach (a structured narrated slideshow format) to tell both FCC and others about their project accomplishments. Awards Committee member Nina Bryans facilitated a discussion with the awardees, asking how they came to submit their project proposals and what they hope the impacts will be. The diversity of projects and enthusiasm of the recipients was very gratifying. And the entire Awards Committee provided a sumptuous lunch buffet in the signature style of the FCC — lots of food, beautifully presented. The FCC organization is pleased to enable such worthwhile projects, and we look forward to hearing more about each of them in the future.

Christmas Spectacular Celebrates University’s Giving Societies

FCC members, automatic members of the Lyon Giving Society, were invited to a festive “Christmas Spectacular” in Medaille Hall on Sunday, December 3rd, kicking off the holiday season in a big way. In addition to a spectacular buffet, laden with seasonal delights, guests enjoyed a mini-taste of Mustard Seed Theatre’s holiday production “Remnant” — a post-apocalyptic take on the idea of Christmas holidays. Our hosts President Mike and Cathy Pressimone then led us in a repertoire of traditional carols, bringing the true meaning of the season alive in every heart.
November 1st FCC Mass of Remembrance

The members of the Fontbonne Community Connection meet for a variety of reasons — to share ideas, to celebrate, to learn — and, for the last four years, we have met to remember our dearly departed members at a Mass of Remembrance during the first week of November. This year, twenty-five FCC members joined the Fontbonne community at the All Saints Day Mass in Doerr Chapel. Lori Helfrich, Director of Campus Ministry, welcomed the FCC members and noted that there was a lit candle by the altar for each member of the FCC who had died. We were especially mindful of Janet Zell and Maribell Knickerbocker, who died this past year. Father Speratus Kamanzi, our campus chaplain, spoke words of comfort during his homily, and the beautiful music helped us remember these special women.

After Mass, we enjoyed sharing stories of our sisters in philanthropy, remembered for their generosity, kindness and enthusiasm for the projects funded by the FCC. We expressed our condolences to Janet Zell’s husband, Ronnie, who attended the Mass. A prayer card was given or sent to each of the families, in loving memory of their dearly departed. We are grateful for this opportunity to gather, pray and share sweet memories of our FCC members who have passed away.

Kim Hessler Excited to be a New FCC Member

Kimberly Shea Hessler received her undergraduate degree from Fontbonne in ’98 and a masters from St Louis University in ’01. Kim says she’s passionate about her role at the university, where she has been adjunct faculty for over 15 years. Teaching primarily health and wellness classes, through Fontbonne’s Family & Consumer Sciences Department, much of her work is with online curriculum for education majors. Kim also greatly enjoys her on campus time and interactions with both students and faculty.

In addition, as a consultant for Parents as Teachers National Center, Kim writes curriculum on health and wellness for families with young children, to be used in programs across the United States and internationally. She provides training to educators, administrators and families on issues such as the importance of family meals and how to overcome picky eating.

Kim learned about FCC from fellow faculty member Jaimette McCulley and was further encouraged by Kitty Lohrum, Fontbonne’s VP for Advancement. A major attraction to FCC for her was the group’s collaboration in moving projects forward that support the university’s mission and might not otherwise be funded.

As an avid community and family person, Kim seems a natural for FCC. She and her husband, Ken, are both native St. Louisans and attended high school together. They now live with their two children, Abby (13) and Alex (9), in the Lindbergh school district where they each grew up. Kim and Ken have been foster parenting for two years and, during that time, have welcomed 16 children into their home. Currently, they have two foster daughters living with them, in addition to their natural born children.

Even with such a busy family and professional schedule, Kim finds time most every day to practice yoga, which is another passion of hers. Other free time pursuits include hiking, biking, kayaking and reading! We warmly welcome Kim (and her obvious energy!) to our circle, and we look forward to seeing her at FCC activities this Spring.
For the past few years, native St. Louisan Jennifer Kelly has lived and worked in Chicago. She works for Label Insight, a rapidly growing start-up company. “We offer companies and consumers transparency through data science to help in understanding what's in the products they use and consume.” Jennifer is Manager of Customer Success—an apt title for the enthusiastic young woman.

She has a BS degree from KU and an MBA from Washington U and is a new FCC member, recruited by her mother, FCC Chair, Joan Kelly. And, although Jennifer is not a Fontbonne alum, she has a myriad of ties to the University. She also has a well-founded commitment to women’s philanthropy. Jennifer and her sister Lauren, a Purdue nursing school student, grew up observing their mother make time from a demanding career to share and help others. “She encouraged us to make giving back part of our life. She is a great role model, as is my dad Patrick, a patent attorney.”

“I also learned a great deal about Fontbonne every Thanksgiving. My aunt Mary (Fontbonne’s Dr. Mary Abkemeier) hosted people she knew didn’t have plans, and invited them to share the holiday with our family. Of course, many guests are math scientists, and they’re really interesting and fun to talk with.”

Jennifer continues to serve on the board of Girls on the Run in Chicago and appreciates that the FCC is a women’s giving circle whose mission is to award funding in support of faculty, staff and student goals.

“My Mom is very near and dear to me,” said Jennifer. “She has always talked to us about the importance of giving back and making giving part of life. She’s right, and I look forward to having this special opportunity.”

Jeanine Bubash Pelikan graduated from Fontbonne in ’66 with degrees in French, Spanish and Secondary Education. She received a Masters in Language Arts from Webster University and taught at Bayless High School for 36 years. Admiring that school district’s high quality education, she now volunteers through OASIS at Bayless Elementary School. And with such language abilities, it no surprise that she’s traveled extensively and often—especially to Paris!

Jeanine and her husband Doug, who retired from Boeing as an industrial engineer, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Jeanine loves spending much of her time as a joyful caregiver to Doug—whose significant surgeries the past three years currently confine him to a wheelchair. “I try to be a rainbow in somebody’s cloud,” says Jeanine, quoting Maya Angelou.

Excited by what she calls Fontbonne’s “radiant renovations,” Jeanine wants to be part of the University’s continuing success and says joining FCC gives her the opportunity to target a specific Fontbonne cause. Although Cathy Coco initially introduced her to FCC, Jeanine knows several other FCC members. Intellectually curious, she wants to grow and learn—participating rather than sitting on the sidelines. And she loves our FCC celebrations. Welcome, Jeanine. Your enthusiasm and upbeat attitude are just right for this group!
As winter brought us the joy of Christmas this year, it was such a delight to have four incredible women join this FCC Women’s Giving Circle: Jeanine Pelikan, Kimberly Hessler, Joann Jana, and Jennifer Kelly. Yes, Jennifer is my daughter, and I am so proud that these women decided to join us. Three are profiled in this newsletter, and Joann will be featured in the spring issue.

Our mission of giving this winter was highlighted to over 60 attendees at the Nov 3, Wydown House event showcasing the “Actors as Parents” and “3D Printer” 2016 and 2017 awards. What a great forum for membership recruitment and continued engagement for all members! Additionally, the decisions of our 2017 awards process was celebrated on Nov 6, hosted by the Awards Committee. The membership visibly displayed their enjoyment from giving — and the Awardees, their gratitude for being selected and enthusiasm for their projects.

The Mass of Remembrance on Nov 1 was heartfelt, as the Doerr Chapel was filled with FCC members, their families and students. This recognition of deceased FCC members was a comfort to families — and to our members, as well.

I am looking forward to spring and the excitement it brings with the March 25 FCC Spring event, “As It Is In Heaven” at the Mustard Seed Theatre. The Mustard Seed Theatre has received multiple FCC awards over the years and is an excellent example of our community mission. Please join us for a delightful Sunday afternoon.

Of course, spring also brings the most exciting part of our year, the roundtable discussions, voting process and announcement of awards.

Finally, I want to thank you for all you do in support of the FCC mission and being part of this organization of incredible women.

Joan

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**Message from the Chair**

**Coming Events**

**February, 2018**
- 9 — FCC Notification of Preliminary Application Status
- 14 — EAC Meeting, Fontbonne (location TBA), 9 a.m.

**March, 2018**
- 5-9 — Fontbonne Spring Break
- 14 — EAC Meeting, Fontbonne (location TBA), 9 a.m.
- 25 — FCC attends “As It Is In Heaven” with reception to follow, Mustard Seed Theatre, 3 p.m.

**April, 2018**
- 6 — Final Applications submitted
- 11 — EAC Meeting, Fontbonne (location TBA), 9 a.m.

**May 2018**
- FCC Members Review Applications
- 17 — Roundtable Discussion, DSAC, 9-11 a.m.
- 22 — Roundtable Discussion, DSAC, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 24 — Roundtable Discussion (Virtual), 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 26 — Roundtable Discussion, DSAC, 10-noon

**June, 2018**
- FCC Members Review Applications
- 8 — FCC Voting Deadline
- 13 — EAC Meeting, 200 S Brentwood 8A, 8:45-11 a.m.

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**FCC Officers 2017-18**

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**FCC Staff, 2018 Winter Newsletter**

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