FCC Vice Chair JoAnn Donovan emceed the formal portion of the event, during which Dr. Pressimone gave a short update on the University and two award recipients expressed their gratitude by briefly discussing their FCC-funded projects. The first presenter, Dr. Yi Yang, of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, reviewed her students’ participation in various cybersecurity competitions, such as the recent Global Hack VII in St. Louis. Global Hack brings together developers, designers, entrepreneurs and technologists, to build innovative solutions that solve real world problems. The goal for 2018 was to reshape the experiences of foreign-born individuals and communities. The Fontbonne team was a finalist with an application to match immigrants with ideal host families. Dr. Yang also addressed future competitions that may involve security issues in coding or hacking. She thanked the FCC for this and several previous awards which enhance Fontbonne’s reputation and student retention. The second presenter was Professor Dena French of the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Department. She spoke of her Cardinal Glennon Nutrition Program

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at the Pediatric Clinic on the SSM DePaul Health Center campus in Bridgeton. This project not only provides practical internship experience for FCS graduate students, but also teaches nutrition and healthy eating strategies to clinic clientele, 70% of whom receive Medicaid benefits. FCC-funded activities, such as “Taste Test Thursdays” and Saturday group sessions, feature produce samples and giveaways, as well as interactive and hands-on learning, using recipes that clients take home. Bonus: Prof. French introduced many of us to purple heart radishes for the first time!

The evening concluded with a drawing for a basket of goodies, provided by the FCC Events Committee and won by FCC member Sue Wallace. Both members and guests left well-satisfied by the examples of the FCC mission in action.

FCC Expands Enjoyment at Mustard Seed Theatre

A year ago April, Fontbonne’s Mustard Seed Theatre had its debut as the first professional theatre in St. Louis to offer theatre-goers assistive Hearing Loop Technology. FCC, along with an initiative called Loop the Lou, provided the funding to offer this special listening accessibility to patrons, at every production on the Mustard Seed stage. Ever since, rave reviews have come from patrons using the loop technology.

Ardent St. Louis theatre-goers Tom and Cathy Sakiyama are grateful for the Loop experience. Tom praised it saying, “The device allows us to enjoy virtually every word and nuance. A theatre’s sound technology influences what we choose to see. Mustard Seed’s Hearing Loop Technology conveys to the community that they really want everyone to come and enjoy a play.”

The next performance at the Mustard Seed is “Well,” March 1-17.

MST Patrons Tom & Cathy Sakiyama
Celebrating Out-of-Town FCC Members

As we approach our Million Dollar Milestone, FCC reflects on the expansive nature of our women’s giving circle — and how much more we hope to grow. Our out-of-town members experience the bonds that draw all of us together in support of the Fontbonne mission and of the hopes, dreams and aspirations of faculty, staff and students. We encourage all members to contact out-of-town friends who could enjoy the pleasure of reconnecting while doing great good for Fontbonne. There’s no substitute for your own personal conversations about the joy it gives you to belong to this sisterhood. Here are a few comments from members across the country who find FCC richly rewarding:

**Paula Montie Bakula** - Rock Island, Illinois:
I was attracted to the idea of a strong connection to Fontbonne and making a difference by offering opportunities that might not have been possible otherwise. I hope others take advantage of involvement that FCC presents. It’s a way that we “out-of-towners” can participate from a distance. I’ve utilized the teleconferences for roundtables prior to voting on proposals. It amazes me how the college has changed while remaining true to itself.

**Judy Baechle Benevento** - Bettendorf, Iowa:
The FCC offers a terrific way to become more connected. This targeted giving helps me learn what new programs faculty and staff are considering and then actually influence the funding of them.

**Lucy Meyer Hahn** - Boise, Idaho:
Shortly after graduation I married, moved to Boise and began teaching, feeling thoroughly prepared by Fontbonne in both faith and career. Yet I felt far removed from campus till my 50th class reunion, and joining FCC in its second year. Yes, the financial commitment is a challenge, but giving back to the school makes it so worthwhile. Reading through the proposals and voting for the ones that I like best is rewarding. I’ve strengthened my connection to Fontbonne, renewed friendships, met new people, and know that I am helping others. I’m thoroughly hooked.

**Fran Geluso Muskopf** - Puyallup, Washington:
My experience long ago at Fontbonne was very rewarding. One reason I support the FCC is because the selection process is well-organized, transparent and inclusive, allowing all members to review applications and participate in decision-making. The FCC officers reach out to me often. I feel well connected to the organization even though I live out of town.
FCC Welcomes Mary Bokamper Sharek ’69

A long-time supporter of Fontbonne, Mary Sharek had read about FCC in various publications and realized she really wanted her donations to be focused on this initiative. She is excited about this way of giving back to Fontbonne for the many blessings she sees as flowing from her college experience.

With a major in Spanish and minor in Education from Fontbonne, Mary subsequently attended the University of Missouri, obtained a Masters in Spanish and taught in grades 7-12. After she took time off to raise their son and daughter, her husband suggested she join his profession, professional financial planning, noting her excellent qualifications as a teacher could make a real difference in changing people’s lives. She obtained her Certified Financial Planner license and spent 30 years in that profession, before retiring 6 years ago.

Mary also noted an extra blessing which Fontbonne facilitated — her daughter Lisa (Fontbonne ’01, ’05) met her future husband as both were enrolled in summer school graduate class.

Mary and her husband, Ron, have been very active at Ascension Parish in Chesterfield for many years. And they frequently indulge their passion for travel, both nationally and internationally. In fact, the interview for this article was conducted as they were in Florida, amidst excursions to DisneyWorld, Kennedy Space Center and other area attractions.

Mary, we look forward to getting to know you at spring activities, roundtables and during the voting process. We’re delighted you’re helping FCC reach our Million Dollar Milestone!

FCC “Tuesday Talk” Features Our Own Gale Rice

On January 15, Dr. Gale Rice, Dean of the College of Education & Allied Health Professions as well as an FCC member, gave FCC members a multi-faceted look at the many programs and courses in these fields. Her presentation enriched our ongoing listening sessions with various Fontbonne leaders and administrators. Our appreciation for the good works that our FCC awards can support and for Fontbonne’s excellent faculty and staff has been greatly enriched by these presenters. We are grateful for their generous time and enthusiastic dedication.
November 2, All Souls Day Mass of Remembrance, Doerr Chapel

Our prayers, songs, memories and conversation brought peace and joy to our hearts, as families and friends celebrated the lives of dearly departed FCC members. After Mass in the chapel, we renewed friendships and shared stories of our loved ones.

Lyon Society Holiday Tea Celebrates the Season of Giving

Festive attire, cocktail hats and fascinators were on display, as FCC members joined other Lyon Society donors and board members on December 2, for the annual Holiday Tea, in a brilliantly decorated Medaille Hall. An International variety of teas complemented tasty fare — such as cakes, scones, tarts and fruit — with Lord and Lady Pressimone presiding over the event. Fontbonne choir and student instrumentalists provided a joyous musical program, under the direction of music instructor Nick Moramarco. Everyone in attendance took delight in such a fitting opening to the sacred holiday season!
The quiet of our recent “Winter Wonderland” snowfall prompted my personal reflection of gratitude and optimism for the FCC. I'm excited to celebrate our “Out-of-Town” FCC members, featured in this issue. Let’s all encourage this segment of our membership to grow, as we approach our Million Dollar Milestone of giving. And I warmly welcome our new member, Mary Bokamper Sharek ’69, profiled on page 4. Thank you, Mary, for joining our FCC Giving Circle.

The final weeks of 2018 were especially busy. At our Wydown House event on October 26, two awardees showcased their programs with great enthusiasm, demonstrating the value of FCC awards to Fontbonne University and to the community. The November 2 Mass of Remembrance at Fontbonne’s Doerr Chapel was inspiring, as we celebrated the lives of FCC dearly departed members. The Holiday Tea, hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Pressimone in early December, launched the festive season with elegant flair and much enjoyment.

As we march forward in the new year, I’m very excited about this award cycle, when we’ll reach our Million Dollar Milestone. Please invite your friends to join the FCC and be part of this historic event. We will be sending you information on new membership initiatives, hoping to increase our membership as we approach this voting cycle.

In closing, we hope to have a few dedicated FCC tables at the Fontbonne Prom Gala on May 18. It should be great fun for all and would give excellent exposure to FCC. If you’d like to be part of an FCC table at this event, please contact Wendi Valenti: wvalenti@fontbonne.edu (314) 889-4712. As always, thank you for supporting the FCC mission.

Joan Kelly, FCC Chair