



\$1M Milestone Achieved!

FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Our 13th Year of Supporting Academic Hopes and Dreams



\$1M Milestone Makes Annual Meeting a True Gala

FCC's Annual Meeting on July 11 was a celebration of FCC going above the Million Dollar mark in philanthropic giving. This year's breakfast meeting was held in Medaille Hall, with purple and gold everywhere. Thanks to DeDe Caspari and the Events Committee for arranging delicious breakfast fare, summer flowers and lively decor. Centerpieces featured million-dollar bills, plenty of gold confetti — and purple plastic hand-clappers (so we wouldn't wear out our own hands clapping for all those winning Awards.) This year we were able to fund 17 of the 22 proposals submitted.

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FCC Vice-Chair JoAnn Donovan greeted members and extended Chair (and European traveler) Joan Kelly's message, and Sandy Lehrer touched hearts with an inspirational prayer. Dr. Pressimone updated us regarding activity at both Fontbonne's Wydown campus and at the new West campus. Maggie Fowler gave a delightful slide show review of this FCC year and Wendi Valenti explained the new FCC online Membership pages. After the slate of new officers was accepted and committee chairs for the year announced, the fun-filled award program began. Attached to members' chairs were purple souvenir tote bags, some containing the description of an award winning project. As each award was announced, the hand-clappers came into play. The final award was to fund a new costume for FBU's Griffin mascot, who had made a surprise visit and broke into wild excited dancing at that news. With that, the song "Gloria" began playing (emblematic of celebration in St. Louis, ever since the Blues won the Stanley Cup) and the over \$1M cumulative total in awards flashed on the screen.



Jan Reilly gave an official toast to all the heroines in the room, whose contributions over the years have made so many dreams come true. Then came a video clip from Fontbonne's PROM event, featuring Dr. Pressimone, celebrity Tish Haynes Keys from *The Voice* and FBU Freshman Grace Sellers, singing the very appropriate song, "A Million Dreams." Member reflections followed, each sharing what it has meant to be a part of this group. Comments ranged from the impact possible when resources are pooled together to the pure joy of like-minded women trying to make a difference in this world. After applauding the CSJs present, whose spirit is FCC's driving force, we gathered for our annual group photo and more joyful conversation — except when the shutter was clicking. SMILE!!!



ALL Awards Celebrated — 2018 Aphasia Award Highlighted Here



Dr. Eaton at an aphasia clinic session

The first six weeks of summer is busy time for the Awards Committee. They've wrapped up the 2019 process, which culminated in communicating members' funding priorities for this year's Awards. In addition, they have also received the final reports from our 2018 Award recipients. Perhaps this last task is the most rewarding, since these reports demonstrate the remarkable impact FCC's funding has had on the University Campus and beyond. Every one of the 2018 awardees could be highlighted here, for the ways they and FCC have made a difference. In the interest of space, we highlight one – The Effects of Amplification on Persons with Aphasia -- submitted by Dr. Eaton for the Communications Disorders and Deaf Education Department.

Unfortunately, many of us may have friends or family members with aphasia. We know too well the effects they can experience in comprehension and their ability to speak. Because of the pairing of Fontbonne's Communications Disorders and Fontbonne's Deaf Education programs, our staff was uniquely positioned to recognize similarities found in persons who experience hearing loss and in persons with aphasia. This unique pairing raised the question: If we help people with hearing loss better comprehend and speak by amplifying the sound, could we do the same with persons with aphasia? Until this FCC 2018 funding, there had been no research available regarding how amplification might affect both comprehension and speech in people with aphasia.

FCC funding has enabled the Communications Disorders Department to make significant gains in our understanding of the use of sound amplification (hearing aids) for people with aphasia. Our funding helped collect data from 9 adults with aphasia and 5 healthy controls. Results show that amplification is extremely beneficial for SOME, but not all, participants.

These preliminary results were presented in April at the Missouri Speech Language and Hearing Association Conference in Osage Beach, MO. There was great enthusiasm among fellow researchers. The Department will continue to collect data from more participants, in order to identify patterns that differentiate those who do benefit from those who do not. Fontbonne hopes to publish this research in peer-reviewed journals and gain exposure in the professional community. Once again, FCC has sown the seed and nurtured a significant difference in the lives of many.



Randy and Chelsea practice communication skills

World Citizen Kathy Tanner, in Her Own Words...



Four formative years at St. Joseph's Academy were followed by four inspirational ones at Fontbonne. Sr. Jane de Chantal had a lasting impact on my sophomore year by organizing a semester abroad in Lyon, France. Looking back on that experience, I guess that was the birth of my quest to become a "citizen of the world."

I was armed with majors in Social Studies and French, and certified in both Elementary and Secondary Education, but 1972 saw a glut of teachers and few job opportunities. So, it was on to graduate school at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna, Italy, and Washington, DC. I knew then that Italy would define my future, and I returned to Genoa with a

Fulbright English teaching stint at a local high school. Later, I returned to my Johns Hopkins alma mater to do Student Services and Alumni Affairs, on both the Bologna and Washington campuses. Most of my career was spent in Human Resources at the World Bank, an International Financial Institution in Washington, DC, traveling often to our offices worldwide, especially in Africa.

Married for 41 years to Franco Di Benigno, 2 step-kids, 3 grandchildren, 2 great-grandkids. Retired to Tucson, Arizona, but spend 3-4 months a year at our house in Franco's tiny hometown in the Abruzzo region of Italy. We enjoy extraordinary culinary experiences, good wine, great company, music, theatre and travel.

Fontbonne has soared to new heights I never would have imagined when I left in 1972. It is an honor to be associated with a university that seeks excellence, maintains solid values and is propelled by innovative students, faculty and staff. I am very much looking forward to participating in the Fontbonne Community Connection.

Annual Meeting Capitvates Jackie Nowak Winks

Jackie Nowak Winks graduated from Fontbonne in 1954 with a degree in Sociology. She then worked for the Missouri Division of Welfare for two years, and following that, spent five years with the Red Cross Home Service. After that her four daughters kept her busy at home in Highland, Illinois. She now has eight grandchildren. When her husband died about thirty years ago, she received a lovely letter of condolence from Sr. Stephanie Steuber, which she has treasured all these years. Jackie has fond memories of Fontbonne, especially the tea dances in Medaille ballroom. She loves the Sisters of St. Joseph and is a classmate and friend of Sr. Mary Catherine O'Gorman, an FCC member.



After being widowed, Jackie joined several clubs for socialization: the Highland Women's Club, the Highland Senior Citizens' Center, and the local Farm Bureau. She also discovered a love of playing bridge — like so many young women, she learned to play during college at Fontbonne.

Jackie has come to reunions and homecomings at Fontbonne and was able to attend the FCC Annual Meeting this year. After hearing about all the projects that had been funded, she decided to join FCC. She was impressed with the friendliness of the women in the group and looks forward to more events.

FCC ANNUAL ALL-MEMBER PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday, August 7, 2019 ~ 9:00 - Noon in the DSAC/Caf'

Join the excitement of selecting goals and making plans for
Growing Beyond Our \$1M Milestone!
Share your ideas for plans, events and activities for our most successful year ever. General discussion plus break-out sessions into committee areas. Coffee and social time included, as well.

Contact kkinney@fontbonne.edu or 314-889-1403 to register

Focused Attention & Lively Discussion Animated Our Spring Roundtables



Message from the Chair



Summer brings us to the end of the 2019 FCC year, and what a year it has been. We achieved the very significant milestone of \$1 Million of Giving since FCC was formed. We are all very proud of this incredible accomplishment and what it has meant to the Fontbonne Community. Kathy Tanner and Jackie Winks, our most recent new members, have become part of our

continuing efforts at such an exciting time — WELCOME!

On July 11, FCC held our Annual Meeting & Awards Breakfast, with 45 individuals attending. For the second year, the meeting was open for prospective members to witness the excitement that characterizes this meeting and the Awards announcement. Seventeen projects were chosen, with \$100,324 being awarded this year.

With our new FCC year under way and new slate of Officers and Committee Chairs in place, the Annual All-Member Planning Meeting on August 7 is an excellent opportunity for all members' voices to be heard — and for members not yet on a committee to obtain a better understanding of each committee. Your participation is extremely important, so please attend.

FCC will have a special presence at Fontbonne's Homecoming, October 4-6, with an information table at the Friday Night Cocktail Party and enthusiastic cheers at the Sunday Brunch, where Dr. Ben Moore will receive the FBU Founders Award. He is the Director of the Bosnia Memory Project, which FCC has assisted with funding in past years and which is an outstanding example of the kind of project FCC loves to support. It will be a delightful experience to hear Dr. Moore's acceptance of this honor.

This year for the first time, the Awardee Celebration is open to all members. Mark your calendars for October 9, and don't miss this opportunity to hear Awardees' personal enthusiasm for their projects.

Note, we will be sending FCC Membership renewal notices earlier, so members can more easily renew by their anniversary dates. Thank you for supporting FCC.

Joan

Joan Kelly, FCC Chair

Coming Events

August 2019

8/7 - Annual All Member Planning Meeting, 9-noon, DSAC

September 2019

9/11 - EAC Meeting, 8:45-11, AB 224

October 2019

10/4-6 - Homecoming Weekend
10/9 - EAC Meeting, 8:45-11, AB 224
10/9 - Awardee & All Member Celebration, 11-noon, Médaille

November 2019

11/1 - FCC Mass of Remembrance, 11:45 Doerr Chapel
11/13 - EAC Meeting, 8:45-11, AB 224

FCC Officers 2019-20

OFFICERS

Chair: *Joan Kelly*

Immediate Past Chair: *Maggie Fowler*

Vice-Chair: *JoAnn Donovan*

Recording Secretary: *Nancy English*

Corresponding Secretary: *Barb Atteln*

Treasurer: *Paula Bakula*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives & History: *Nina Bryans*

Awards: *Susan Lenihan and Mary Lee Walter*

Bylaws: *Barb Atteln*

Events: *Mary Grace and Jan Johnson*

Membership: *JoAnn Donovan*

Communications: *Joan Falk*

FCC Historian: *Jane Hassett, CSJ*

2019 Summer Newsletter Staff

Joan Falk, *Editor*

Barb Atteln

Maggie Fowler

Donna Gunn, CSJ

Mary Lee Walter

DeMarcus Davis, *Student Intern*

