



## Beyond Our \$1M Milestone FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

*Celebrating Our 14th Year of Supporting Academic Hopes and Dreams*

### EXPRESS YOUR VOICE AND VOTE! FCC Roundtables and Voting About to Begin

At the heart of our Fontbonne Community Connection women's giving circle is the important process of selecting the projects that will be awarded FCC funding. The Awards Committee invites all members to participate in the voting and roundtable discussions for 2021. Final applications are arriving, with a due date of February 17<sup>th</sup>. The applications (without applicant identifying information), summary statements and information on voting will be available to members by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Virtual roundtables are scheduled for March, with votes due by March 24<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to participate in *at least* one of the roundtable discussions and you are welcome to join as many as you'd like. The roundtable discussion gives you the opportunity to hear what other FCC members think about the applications and to share your views. Members often learn more about a proposed project during the roundtable conversation — and it is also a great opportunity to get to know new and continuing members better.

While the conversation may influence the way you rank the applications, you are always encouraged to vote for the projects that YOU believe will be of the most benefit to Fontbonne University. Don't let "Zoom fatigue" keep you away — FCC's strength depends on your voice and your vote!



**Four roundtables are scheduled in March 2021, as follows:**

- Wednesday, March 3, 9:00-10:30 am
- Tuesday, March 9, 7-8:30 pm
- Saturday, March 13, 10:00-11:30 am
- Thursday, March 18, 5:30-7:00 pm

[Click here to register for any/all roundtables](#)

Voting will end on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 pm.

FCC Awards will be announced in mid-April at the Annual Meeting, date TBA

## Exceptional Year of Persisting, Adapting and Fulfilling Dreams

When the FCC Awards Committee began reviewing awardees' Final Reports from 2019 funded projects, they found several challenges to the execution of those projects in the following school year. First, Fontbonne experienced a serious cyber-attack in the Fall of 2019, and it was some time before everything was up and running again. In March of 2020, the COVID-19 shutdown closed the campus entirely and forced everything to go virtual. Budget cuts and staff reductions added to an already stressful situation. Yet, in reading the final reports from the awardees, the Awards Committee was impressed by faculty and staff resilience, adaptability, creativity, dedication and persistence in the face of obstacles — plus their enthusiasm and gratitude for what they were able to accomplish.



**New equipment/materials:** The Chemistry labs now enjoy new spectrophotometers, and the Anatomy and Physiology labs are using new medical equipment. With one new machine and a variety of hookups, students in Human Physiology will learn to measure blood pressure, pulse, muscle force, EKG and respiratory volume — using themselves or classmates as patients — a clinical routine essential in pre-allied-health curricula. And this same equipment will have broader use in advanced classes. The Bio-Eyes project trained teachers from University City to share zebrafish experiments with their own students — a first in Missouri. As one young student said, “Now I know how it feels to be a scientist!” A collaboration between the library staff and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of Fontbonne allowed new books and materials on diversity and inclusion to be ordered for the library. And the upgraded costume design for the well-received new mascot, Gideon, will be used at many campus functions, bringing an experience of unity and engagement to students and alums alike.



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**New events:** The Collective Memory Art Project was a huge team effort on campus that was, fortunately, held before the COVID shutdown. The resulting Memory Wall was a week-long project that engaged the largest number of students, staff, faculty and community members in recent years, a collaborative venture, ideal for a small campus like Fontbonne. Another project brought high school athletes to campus for diversity and inclusion activities that they could take back to their own high schools.



### **New furniture/renovation of spaces:**

The Kinkel Center and Active Learning Center each are reimagined and redesigned to reflect today's learning needs and to provide comfortable, inviting space for active learning. New furniture for the library is a big hit with students — especially the massage chairs! Sharon McCaslin, who initiated the project, even embroidered a pillow cover for the sofa, designating it as FCC funded. The renovation of the woodworking shop created a beautiful new space that should also encourage prospective art students to choose Fontbonne.



**Glitches:** Not all projects could overcome the obstacles in their path, so a few had to be cancelled or delayed. (Funds from cancelled projects are returned to FCC for use the following year.) Yet, despite all these challenges, everyone persisted. They adapted. They rethought. They carried on. They remained enthusiastic about their projects. The final reports are alive with the sounds of gratitude and dedication!

In these times, FCC's financial support is more vital than ever — for fulfilling the dreams of the Fontbonne community and for recruiting and retaining students. The more members we have, the more funds we can distribute. And each of you is a personal recruiter for FCC. Virtually all new members join because of a personal connection with a current member, after hearing them talk about all FCC accomplishes. So remember to share enthusiasm for your favorite projects with friends, family and classmates.

**Your membership made these projects happen!!!**

## Jane Link, Paying It Forward



Jane Hadank Link graduated from Fontbonne in 1968 with a degree in Education and Art. She married David Link soon after graduation and moved to Morton, IL, where Dave worked for Caterpillar. They have three children (Craig in Seattle, Michelle in SC and Vicki in IL) and seven grandchildren. While Jane was raising her family, she taught/sub at the grade school level. After 30 years in IL, Dave was transferred to Lafayette, IN. There, Jane began a new career, concentrating on her art background. She began a stenciling/faux painting business, a segment of high-end interior design, offering a wide range of luxury paint finishes.

They love to travel and, after Dave retired, they began traveling extensively and have had the opportunity to visit all 50 states. They also enjoy golf, cards and board games. In 2020, a warmer climate attracted them and they moved to Leesburg in central Florida. Jane and Dave wanted to be close to an airport so their grandchildren could easily visit.

During their 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion, Mary Lee Walter began talking to Jane about joining FCC. Jane has always

given to Fontbonne, and she decided this year to accept Mary Lee's invitation. She is looking forward to selecting and donating to specific projects at Fontbonne, now having the advantage of realizing where her donations are helping. Jane is grateful to Fontbonne for her education, particularly because she received a scholarship in 1964 — a great benefit as she was the third of four children going to college. Jane plans to attend her 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion in 2023, which is also Fontbonne's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.







## A Career of Branching Out for Barb Stroer

Barb Scott Stroer graduated from Fontbonne in 1971, with a BA in Deaf Education and Elementary Education. At that time, students in the Deaf Ed program received a full scholarship for senior year from the US Dept. of Education, due to national need for teachers of the deaf, following a Rubella epidemic. After graduation, Barb taught at Central Institute for the Deaf briefly, before pursuing an Audiology degree, with emphasis on Pediatric Audiology. She received an MA from St. Louis University in 1974.

Barb's uncle was an Ear, Nose and Throat doctor, so she had always been aware of the field. She was intrigued at an early age, watching her uncle's cleaning lady use her hearing aid on the phone, holding the phone to her microphone rather than to her ear.

Barb worked at St. Joseph Institute for 18 years. She also worked at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Cardinal Glennon Hospital, helping found the Cochlear Implant program at Children's. She taught Audiology classes at St. Louis University. She also taught Audiology at Fontbonne from 1976 to 1999. Her specialty was Pediatric Cochlear Implants. She was instrumental in including St. Joseph Institute in a large study (out of Indiana University) on cochlear implants for children. She has co-authored book chapters and journal articles. Her expertise led to a job at Advanced Bionics Corporation, manufacturer of cochlear implants. There she gave clinical support to audiologists and surgeons across the country and monitored FDA clinical trials on cochlear implants for children.

Barb and her incredibly supportive husband Chuck, formerly a welder at Mallinckrodt, will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in November. They have two grown children, Christine and Matt, and five grandchildren. Barb and Chuck, both retired now, enjoy taking short road trips and walking and exercising together. In her retirement, Barb realized how much she missed teaching and being involved at Fontbonne. In 2020, she joined Fontbonne's Alumni Board. This past fall, after viewing one of FCC's virtual programs featuring projects we have funded, she decided to join FCC, saying "It gives me the opportunity to be involved in promoting the academic side of Fontbonne and support for the faculty, staff and students."



Welcome, Barb. Your involvement and support in FCC will be greatly appreciated!

## Message from the Chair



I'm excited about voting on awards soon! This is, after all, the reason we joined FCC and the chance for each of us to have our voices heard. The four roundtable discussions scheduled during March are opportunities to amplify your voice and to learn more about proposals. If you're like me, you will come away with a little more

context to inform your vote. The roundtables will be held via Zoom and, hopefully, we can each find at least one that is at a convenient time.

Another part of FCC that is as much fun as voting is learning about the progress of our past awarded projects. Articles in this newsletter demonstrate how past award recipients are quite worthy and appreciative of our assistance. At our annual meeting in April, we will gather to celebrate the announcement of this year's awards.

FCC is more important now than ever because of the unique challenges posed by the global pandemic. So now is the perfect time for us to increase our membership! Telling our friends and classmates about FCC is a great start. Let's share our enthusiasm — and don't forget out-of-town alums who are now able to attend events, meetings, and even serve in leadership roles, virtually. Growing our membership is the way we increase our impact.

In January, at the invitation of Dr. Nancy Blattner, a focus group of FCC members shared their vision for Fontbonne as an aid to the university's Strategic Planning Committee. Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the discussion. And we extend a warm welcome to new members Jane Hadank Link '68, who lives in Florida, and St. Louisan Barb Scott Stroer '71. We look forward to seeing both of you at our events.

*JoAnn*

JoAnn Donovan, FCC Chair

## Coming Events

### February, 2021

2/10 - EAC Meeting, 8:45-11:00 am

2/17 - Deadline for Final Award Application

### March, 2021

3/1 - Voting Begins

3/3 - Virtual Roundtables, 9-10:30 am

3/9 - Virtual Roundtables, 7-8:30 pm

3/10 - EAC Meeting, 8:45-11:00 am

3/13 - Virtual Roundtables, 10-11:30 am

3/18 - Virtual Roundtables, 5:30-7 pm

3/24 - Voting Deadline, 5 pm

### April, 2021

4/14 - EAC Meeting, 8:45-11:00

TBA - Annual Meeting &  
Award Announcements

## FCC Officers 2020-21

### OFFICERS

Chair: *JoAnn Donovan*

Immediate Past Chair: *Joan Kelly*

Vice-Chair: *Connie Diekman*

Corresponding Secretary: *Barb Atteln*

Recording Secretary: *Nancy English*

Treasurer: *Paula Bakula*

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives & History: *Nancy English*

Awards: *Susan Lenihan & Mary Lee Walter*

Bylaws: *Barb Atteln*

Communications: *Joan Falk*

Events: *Mary Grace & Joan Kelly*

Membership: *Lucy Hahn & Maggie Fowler*

## Winter 2021 Newsletter Staff

Joan Falk, *Editor*

Barb Atteln

Sandy Bellon

Susan Lenihan

Mary Lee Walter

Wendi Valenti, *Advancement Liaison*

