



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

*Celebrating Our 15th Year of Supporting Academic Hopes and Dreams*

### Our Most Exciting Time: FCC Award Announcements

Our Annual Meeting was held Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We gathered to review the past year's activities, receive updates and learn which proposals FCC will fund in 2023-24. Members attended both virtually and in person. The sense of power among us was palpable and made our coming together as FCC Members so exciting. We *can* and *do* make a difference!

FCC Chair JoAnn Donovan welcomed the group and introduced six new members. The opening prayer was offered by Mother St. John Fontbonne, who re-founded the Sisters of St. Joseph after the French Revolution, when religious life had been totally suppressed. Mother reminded us that the sisters were founded to prove women *could* and *should* do all they are capable of doing, and she said: "You, my dear FCC members, are the very embodiment of that mission -- doing all *you* are capable of doing."



FCC member Karen Gedera, Chair of the Fontbonne Board of Trustees, updated us on happenings at Fontbonne -- Centennial activities, successful recruitment efforts (particularly for the nursing and athletic programs) and a new Criminal Justice program focused on social consciousness which highlights Fontbonne's Catholic identity.

One of Karen's more exciting announcements was Fontbonne's creative response to limited dorm space. Housing will be made available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the East Building, providing far more than room and board. With a \$1M matching grant from the State of Missouri (and FCC funding this year to help furnish the space) resident students will be invited from a variety of related disciplines to build a living-learning community (LLC) and, in that context, develop their leadership and interdisciplinary-collaborative skills.



FCC's Membership Committee Co-Chairs Connie Diekman and Lucy Hahn reported that the ambitious goal of this Centennial year to have 100 FCC members by the anniversary has not yet been met. Consequently, adding members has become THE most important goal all of us must address. If we believe FCC gives added value to Fontbonne and, without FCC, much at the University simply could not be accomplished; if we believe there are many more women out there wanting to do all they are capable of doing, yet may not have that opportunity, then we are challenged to invite at least one other person to participate in our inspiring work.

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Since 2008, FCC has funded 231 projects and has given \$1,338,695 to the University. This is a big accomplishment, but we dare not rest on our laurels. We must do all we can to assure this generosity extends into the future.

Think what could be accomplished if everyone reading this Newsletter invited at least one other person to make a significant difference by joining FCC. Awards Committee Co-Chair Mary Lee Walter announced that, this year, \$77,000 will fund 14 new proposals. ([Click for awards list.](#)) We're confident there are women wanting/waiting for an invitation to perpetuate this CSJ ministry.

After awards were announced, Maggie Fowler led us in toasts praising all we have accomplished. Kate Gunn paid tribute to recently deceased FCC Founder Nina Kassing Bryans. Imagine both Nina and Mother St. John smiling down, just waiting for each of us to bring in one more new member for the sake of the Mission!

*Click [HERE](#) for Sister Mary Carol's Annual Meeting comments on plans for*

**SIGNAGE OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY BOARD ROOM  
RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY OF FCC AWARDS**

## **Roundtables Prove Invaluable to Participants**

A recent newspaper article about a local athlete and his family began with an interesting observation. It stated that "the dining room table at the house is round, a detail that is not really meaningful until the family gathers around for a meal or conversation, at which point the table is transformed." With everyone there, "it becomes a sounding board, a roundtable of discussion. It is here everyone is free to speak their mind."

This, however, is not a revelation for FCC members who have known the value of roundtables since the inception of the organization. And with twenty-five proposals totaling \$131,100 to be voted on, this year was no exception. The four 2023 roundtables were hybrid events where attendees had the option of either in person or virtual participation. Updated video technology (the "Meeting Owl") provided an immersive and enjoyable experience for those online, as if they were seated at the table. Recordings of each session were also available to accommodate those who could not attend the sessions in real time.

Based on the varied backgrounds of FCC members, multiple opinions were expressed and discussed as each proposal was addressed. Also, FCC membership includes some of the Fontbonne leadership team, faculty and staff. Their input provided additional insight and impact details for a number of the proposals. Because many FCC members attend more than one roundtable, information could be shared across multiple sessions.

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Also shared were various tips and techniques for evaluating and subsequently ranking the proposals for those who may have found this important activity a bit daunting, while trying to meet the March 23 voting deadline. Nearly thirty members participated in the roundtables and, for future reference, feedback indicates that these sessions proved to be invaluable.

**Your vote is your voice. Being an informed voter cannot be overstated.**

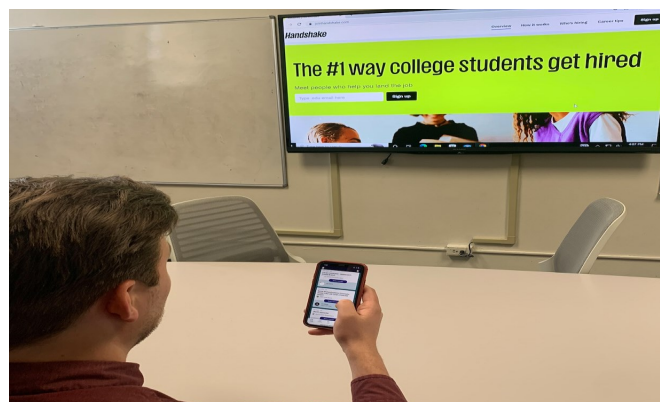
## Preparing Griffins for Professional Success



As Fontbonne's Director of Career Development, Emily Huey has a passion for preparing students for the workforce. She has been committed to providing the tools and guidance to those who are seeking to succeed. In 2022, Emily received an FCC award that embodies her goal, "Every Griffin Career Ready." With the news as a recipient of the award, Emily expressed great excitement and gratitude.

Emily's journey with Fontbonne University began by teaching part time, two years prior to the COVID19 pandemic. At that time, the Career Development Department had minimal resources for workforce development, and the technology was not always user friendly. In October 2021, Emily took on the role as director of the department and set out to create an environment that is conducive for all.

Emily's dream project has changed how students interact. This award provided the department the opportunity to upgrade its technology and resources. The new software platforms streamline accessibility to all prospects and provide a resource for students to improve their soft skills. Emily noted that some students have voiced their frustration about the previous web-based software *PurpleBriefcase*. It was hard to connect with people, and employers found it challenging to log in. They have found the up-to-date site, *Handshake*, to be more user friendly.



Emily has worked diligently to integrate local businesses through partnerships. She formed the Employer & Community Partnership Council (ECP) with Fontbonne alums Marianne Biangardi and Jennifer Bardot. On February 15, 2023, this council hosted an on-campus panel of Fontbonne alums called G.R. I.T. (Growth Resilience Intention and Tenacity). This panel of women in leadership from the St. Louis area business community took time to speak to Fontbonne students, staff and alums about pursuing dreams, in spite of life obstacles. Before and after the event, invitees were able to network with the panel and co-chairs.

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The council Emily has assembled is playing a major role in setting the foundation for new partnerships in the workforce. The co-chairs have connected with their network, to support the department efforts to provide an industry for each of the majors in the University. The council has connected the department with entities such as the Jackie Joyner Kersee Foundation, Enterprise, Northwestern and the baseball team O'Fallon Hoots. The student body, alumni and faculty will also benefit through networking events and panel discussions on campus.

Emily's project will have a wonderful impact on the campus of Fontbonne University. This award will provide resources needed to unify future employees with future employers and possible lifelong mentors. Congratulations, Emily, on all your hard work and your passion for all to succeed.

**THE FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION  
salutes  
FONTBONNE UNIVERSITY  
on 100 years of outstanding education and service  
to the dear neighbor!**



***FCC members attending the May 13 Gala will be given small corsages, indicating their membership and encouraging conversation about ways FCC supports the mission and dreams of Fontbonne faculty, staff and students.***



***In recognition of Fontbonne's 100 years, any new member joining FCC by June 30, 2023, will receive \$100 off the usual \$1,000 membership contribution! Just mention this offer, which will be in the Gala program.***

## Message from the Chair



The FCC 2023 awards were announced at our Annual Meeting in April. Voter turnout was great, as was attendance at the several roundtable discussions held during the weeks before. Many of you mentioned that these discussions are a tremendous

aid to voting. Congratulations to our awardees!

Don't you wish we could fund even more awards? To that end, the board of FCC is currently engaged in discussions about how to increase membership. We will share more information about these plans as the year progresses.

For now, FCC is offering a special discount in conjunction with the Fontbonne Centennial Gala on May 13 at the Ritz Carlton. New members who join by June 30 of this year will receive a discount of \$100 for the first year. Quite a few FCC members will be at the gala to spread the word about the membership discount and about how this phenomenal group of women supports Fontbonne.

In June, each member will receive the annual email notice for approval of the 2023-2024 slate of board officers. As my term as FCC Chair comes to an end, I congratulate all of you for making possible the multitude of awards which go beyond the merely possible, to fund programs that the staff, faculty and students of Fontbonne could only dream about.

**JoAnn**

JoAnn Donovan, FCC Chair

## Coming Events (Central Time)

### May, 2023

5/10 - FCC EAC Meeting 8:45 - 10:00 am CT (Zoom)

5/13 - FCC Centennial Gala at the Ritz - 6pm

### June, 2023

6/14 - FCC EAC Meeting 8:45 - 10:00 am CT (Zoom)

### July, 2023

7/12 - FCC EAC Meeting 8:45 - 10:00 am CT (Zoom)

**June and July events are being developed and will be announced by email to members.**

## FCC Officers & Chairs 2022-23

### OFFICERS

Chair: *JoAnn Donovan*

Immediate Past Chair: *Joan Kelly*

Vice-Chair: *Connie Diekman*

Corresponding Secretary: *Ruth Ann Kerr*

Recording Secretary: *Barb Stroer*

Treasurer: *Kathy Tanner*

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives & History: *Nancy English*

Awards: *Susan Lenihan & Mary Lee Walter*

Bylaws: *Barb Atteln*

Communications: *Joan Falk*

Events: *Joan Kelly*

Membership: *Connie Diekman & Lucy Hahn*

## Spring 2023 Newsletter Staff

Joan Falk, *Editor*

Barb Atteln

Donna Gunn, CSJ

Delah Jones

Wendi Valenti, *Advancement Liaison*

Maria Dietrich, *Advancement Intern*

