



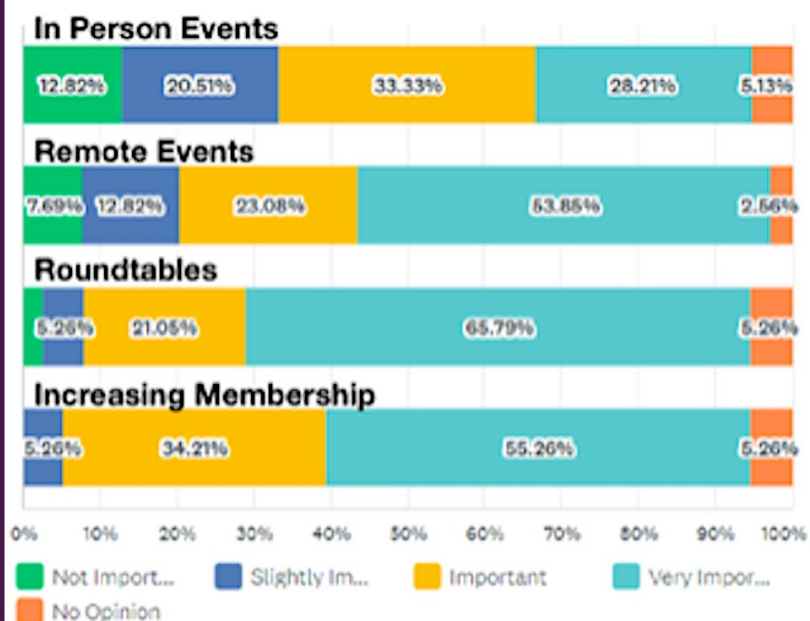
Beyond Our \$1M Milestone FONTBONNE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Celebrating Our 15th Year of Supporting Academic Hopes and Dreams

JOIN US TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

FCC Annual Planning Meeting
Wednesday, August 9, 2023 - 10 am CDT
East Building, Room 254, or via Zoom

Our upcoming Annual Planning Meeting offers an exciting opportunity for each FCC member to contribute her unique perspective and suggestions for FCC's future growth. Click [HERE](#) to check out responses from our recent survey — with 50% of members participating — which will help us come up with innovative ideas for transforming FCC into its most vibrant future. Then join us on August 9 at 10:00 CDT for a hybrid meeting. Register [HERE](#) to attend in person or via Zoom. Each of us has a responsibility to participate and share. In a brainstorming session, when an idea is voiced, it becomes a pebble dropped in the water. The ripples spread and grow, as we connect ideas and dream of ways to build a future for the FCC.



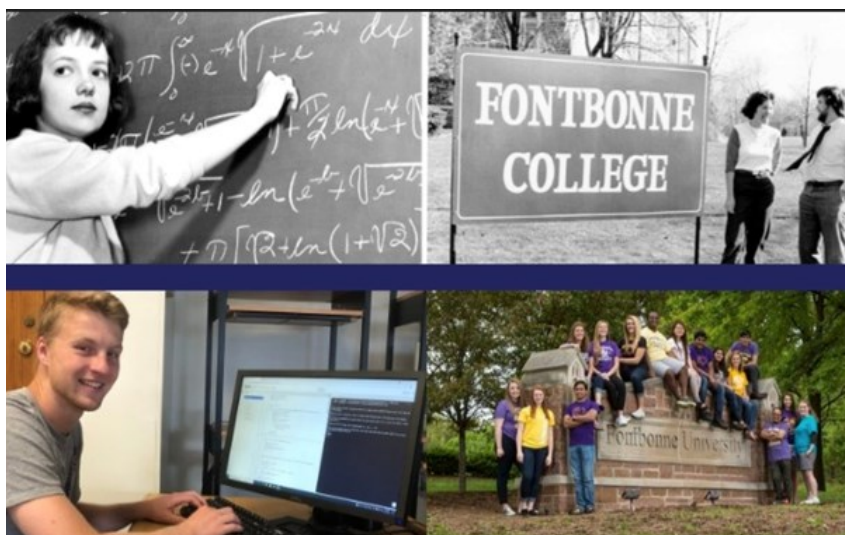
These ideas stood out as important to members surveyed and will be further developed at the Planning Meeting:

- Increase membership to provide more funds for awards.
- Explore ways to attract younger members who graduated in the last 40 years, possibly a junior membership with reduced dues.
- Return to in person social events, when possible.
- Showcase awards and demonstrate how they have benefitted Fontbonne University.
- Continue to focus on our vitally important Roundtable discussions to prioritize awards.
- Discover ways to grow/adapt/change for the best possible future.

We're counting on YOU! Plan to attend the Annual Meeting and participate in the future of the FCC.

FCC's Summer Event: Fontbonne Then and Now

Fontbonne Provost Adam Weyhaupt and FCC member Mary Lee Walter '68 hosted an FCC Zoom event on July 14, 2023, comparing Fontbonne in the 1960s to Fontbonne now. There were many differences — in majors offered, in composition of faculty, in student body and in student needs. What clearly has not changed is the underlying charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph, though not a single CSJ is presently teaching at Fontbonne. Many current faculty are CSJ Associates, having received special formation and training to carry on the CSJ mission of Service to the Dear Neighbor. Sr. Linda Markway is also on campus as part of the Advancement Team, and she enthusiastically interacts with students/faculty/staff alike.



Some 42 undergraduate degrees and 19 graduate degrees are offered — and now the EdD and MFA terminal degrees. (Terminal degrees are the highest level of a degree possible.) A wide variety of programs are available, and Fontbonne has given considerable thought to all changes made. As the world changes, so must education, yet Fontbonne has been careful to transform within long-valued principles. A strong liberal arts focus still characterizes the campus.

Adam pointed out that “liberal” means “freeing” and noted that, even though fields change, a strong base in communication, writing and critical thinking enables successful negotiation of those changes.

Today’s students are less likely to identify as Catholic or with any other faith. Many work full or part-time *AND* struggle to attend classes. Some have increased mental health issues, especially following the pandemic. A world of Internet information is at their fingertips, yet they must develop their own inner resources, talents and interests to be successful. Fontbonne has always been excellent in providing extra encouragement and assistance for all such challenges.

One big change is that many students are scholar-athletes. They would like to continue participating in their sport beyond high school, while also seeking a college program focused on academics. Fontbonne is uniquely able to provide that opportunity. Last year’s addition of the sprint football team led to an amazing 81% of the freshman class being athletes.

FCC members participating in the Zoom session were greatly encouraged and satisfied that Fontbonne remains in good hands. Memories of fond times at Fontbonne animated their conversation, as they expressed love and gratitude for all the CSJs have done over the years, while learning more about specific degrees/programs offered and current happenings at Fontbonne. Click [HERE](#) for a recording of the session.

Strong FCC Presence at Fontbonne Centennial Gala



Bubbling excitement filled the air as Fontbonne University celebrated its Centennial Year with an elegant affair at the Clayton Ritz Carlton, on May 13, 2023. FCC members attending were easily identified by their purple plumeria corsages. Festively dressed students had escorted them from the registration table to receive the corsages from the FCC Chair and Vice-Chair. Our members greeted the guests and each other with much enthusiasm and found opportunities to share their appreciation for Fontbonne and FCC. There was also a table with photos and information about FCC in

the reception area. During the event, the 44 members present were acknowledged and asked to stand in recognition of all that FCC does for Fontbonne — very impressive that well over half the FCC was in attendance at this Gala Celebration!

Of course, we were delighted that the most enthusiastic applause, hoots and hollers of the evening were given when the CSJs were acknowledged — a number of whom are FCC members. The vivacious sisters who encouraged bidding for the Capital Campaign – FCC members Sr. Linda Markway and Sr. Mary Ann Nestel (our newest CSJ/FCC) – helped raise \$620,000, adding to the Campaign's already pledged \$18 million! FCC appreciates and congratulates each member attending the Centennial Gala - for your strong presence and support, which makes such a big difference to Fontbonne!!!



FCC Also Well Represented on the Centennial Trip to France



As an FCC tribute to Nina Bryans, this paver was recently installed in the memorial pathway to the East Building. One of our FCC Founding Five, Nina passed away peacefully on July 29, 2022.



Vibrant CSJ Mary Ann Nestel Is Now Also FCC!!!



Those of you who attended the recent Centennial Gala are already acquainted with our newest FCC member, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel. She was the CSJ who jumped up and interrupted the auctioneer in the paddle raise. She and Sr. Linda Markway led the audience in calisthenics to get their arms limbered up and thus make raising their paddles easier. This will give you some sense of Mary Ann's personality – she is a lot of fun!

Sr. Mary Ann entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1958. She received her BA from Fontbonne in 1963 and her MS from UMKC in 1973. She began her professional life teaching second grade in the inner city but, over time, she realized that more funding was necessary to support education of the disadvantaged. Sr. Mary Ann began writing successful grant applications, which led her to reinvent herself as a fundraiser extraordinaire! She learned much about fundraising from her positions in the Arthritis Foundation and the American Red Cross.

As she continued to direct her efforts to funding education and housing of the less fortunate, she held significant leadership positions in each of these organizations.

Today, Sr. Mary Ann is bringing her unique talents to Fontbonne, serving as a Trustee and member of the Board Committee on Advancement. She also serves on the Boards of St. Louis City Senior Citizens, Books for Newborns, St. Joseph Housing Initiative and is Chair of the Healthworks Fundraising Committee. Sr. Mary Ann, we are delighted to welcome you to FCC.

New Member Joanne Poelker Loftus Eager to “Give Back”

Joanne is a native St. Louisan who graduated from St. Joseph's Academy and then went on to receive her business degree from Fontbonne in 1972. In high school, Joanne was an athlete on several St. Joe teams. However, at Fontbonne, the extent of her involvement in athletics was the traditional flag football game. Joanne and her husband Mike are the parents of Michael and the late Ryan Loftus. Since leaving Fontbonne, she has been in the technology field for 44 years, working with a variety of companies. Joanne is an avid bridge player, but she also loves spending time outdoors.

A dedicated Fontbonne alum, Joanne has participated in a variety of activities since graduating. She's decided that now is an ideal time to “give back” through FCC. Joanne expressed her dedication very nicely when she said, “I am really looking forward to giving back to Fontbonne, hoping to help current students realize what Fontbonne meant to me — and fostering a commitment by them, to help Fontbonne thrive.” We warmly welcome you, Joanne, as together we celebrate and support Fontbonne's growth and continuing development.



Message from the Chair



Welcome to the 2023 – 2024 FCC Membership Year!

As 2023-24 FCC Chair, I am honored to follow immediate Past-Chair, JoAnn Donovan, who dedicated so many hours to keep FCC thriving through COVID-19 and moving forward as the pandemic receded. My deepest thanks, JoAnn, for your mentorship and patience, in leading FCC these last three years! Thanks also to previous Past Chair Joan Kelly, a fount of wisdom for FCC history, who has contributed greatly on our path to so much success. And to Barb Stroer, who has served so well as recording secretary, our sincere appreciation for keeping an accurate record of our meetings.

I'm grateful for the Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) members who will serve in this new membership year. (See officer/chair list to the right.) A special welcome to two new officers – Vice-Chair Alice Bell and Recording Secretary Ann Spall. These talented leaders will help FCC continue to thrive and grow. We also welcome two new members – Joanne Poelker Loftus '72 and Sr. Mary Ann Nestel, CSJ (See profiles on page 4.)

Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy go to the family of long-time FCC member Joan McKinley Newman '66, who passed away in June. And Nina Kassing Bryans '57, one of FCC's Founding Five, is now honored with a memorial paver recently installed on the East Building pathway.

I look forward to a great year with all of you and hope our paths cross in person this year!

Connie

Connie Diekman, FCC Chair



Coming Events (Central Time)

August, 2023

8/9 - All Member Planning Meeting, 10:00 am CT
(Zoom or East Bldg. 254)

September, 2023

9/13 - FCC EAC Meeting 8:45 - 10:00 am CT (Zoom)

October, 2023

10/6 - Awardee & All Member Celebration 11:00 am CT (Zoom or On-Campus)

10/7 - Homecoming

10/11 - EAC Meeting, 8:45 - 10:00 am CT (Zoom)

FCC Officers & Chairs 2023-24

OFFICERS

FCC Chair: *Connie Diekman*

Immediate Past-Chair: *JoAnn Donovan*

Vice-Chair: *Alice Bell*

Corresponding Secretary: *Ruth Ann Kerr*

Recording Secretary: *Ann Spall*

Treasurer: *Kathy Tanner*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives & History: *Nancy English*

Awards: *Susan Lenihan & Mary Lee Walter*

Bylaws: *Barb Atteln*

Communications: *Joan Falk*

Events: *Joan Kelly & Barb Stroer*

Membership: *Lucy Hahn*

Summer 2023 Newsletter Staff

Joan Falk, *Editor*

Barb Atteln

Connie Diekman

Karen Gedera

Lucy Hahn

Joan Kelly

Mary Lee Walters

Wendi Valenti, *FCC Liaison*

Maria Dietrich, *Advancement Intern*