

Fontbonne University's

# tableaux

Spring 2015



*Family and Forward Thinking  
High on New President's Agenda*

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**On the cover:** President J. Michael Pressimone with his wife, Cathy, and the four of their 12 children who live in Wydown House on a permanent basis: (clockwise, from top left) Grace, David, Maddie and Dominic.

## CREDITS

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SFI logo placement



Have you visited Fontbonne University recently? There's a little something in the air... an energy, maybe, that whispers of possibility and hopefulness and, of course, pride. This small university, as you know well, is a warm and welcoming community, and students, staff and faculty alike are all eager to grow and excited to make a difference on campus and in the community. You could say we're all striving to learn more and be more — individually and collectively.

In this issue of *Tableaux*, we highlight some of the new faces on campus, as well as some familiar ones, that best capture this spirit of growth and expansion. On page 6, you'll meet Dr. J. Michael Pressimone, Fontbonne's new president, who leads the charge with good humor and a steady hand. Joe Deighton, vice president for student affairs, and Jay Johnson, dean of the Eckelkamp College of Global Business and Professional Studies, are featured on pages 31 and 5, and, in their short tenure at the university, are already making their mark. On page 12, you'll reconnect with three alumnae who, in 1970, sought to bring big changes to Fontbonne. Their presence is felt even today. And on page 18, Dr. Kristen Norwood and Tracy Yates discuss the paths they took to their (excellent) teaching careers.

As we look forward into Fontbonne's future, we learn from its past. And we hope you, as a critical part of both, will join us in setting new goals, pushing our limits, and extending our reach in the coming years. We look forward to seeing more of you.



Elizabeth Hise Brennan



*Do you have a story idea? Let us know.  
Email [tableaux@fontbonne.edu](mailto:tableaux@fontbonne.edu) with your thoughts.*

## BOSNIAN DOCUMENTARY MAKES U.S. DEBUT AT FONTBONNE

Bosnian filmmaker, writer and activist Kemal Pervani presented his latest work, "Pretty Village," a documentary on the 1992 Kevljani massacre in Bosnia, at Fontbonne in late October. The film documents the massacre, as well as its continuing effect on people's lives in Bosnia and beyond. The special community screening was the first time the film had been viewed in the U.S.

The event was sponsored by the Bosnia Memory Project at Fontbonne, with additional support from the university's Honors Program and annual Dedicated Semester, as well as from the Bosnian-American Studies program at Affton High School.

## CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS

Throughout the month of October, the department of math and computer science hosted events recognizing Cyber Security Month. Speakers included Matthew Parciak, deputy chief information officer at MasterCard, Erica Wilson, associate vice president of information security at Scottrade, Brian Gant, special agent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the United States Secret Service, and others. The month's events were sponsored in part by the Bank of America Foundation.

## ACADEMIC UPDATES

The department of math and computer science introduced two new graduate certificates, **teaching computer science K-8** and **teaching computer science 7-12**. The certificates were developed to help address an expected lack of computer scientists in the coming years. The department is also launching a new **Master of Science in Computer Science**.

The Eckelkamp College of Global Business and Professional Studies introduced a new **graduate certificate** and a **concentration**, both in **project management**.



## CAREER BOOST

Christine Keller joined the university as the new director of career development. With more than 15 years of experience in academia, Keller assists both students and alumni in the career development process. She holds bachelor's degrees in French and international studies and psychology, and a master's degree in counseling.

## ALUM BECOMES "NEXT GREAT BAKER"

Alumna Lia Weber '12 took home the title of "Next Great Baker" in August on TLC's reality television show of the same name. Weber, who graduated with a bachelor's in business administration, and her teammate, Al Watson, met as coworkers at Wedding Wonderland Cake Shop in Florissant, Mo., and competed against nine other teams for the title, a cash prize and the opportunity to run a Las Vegas bakery owned by Buddy Valastro, the "Cake Boss."



## SOFTBALL HITS TOP 10 GPA

The Fontbonne University softball team celebrated great numbers on and off the field in 2014, coming in at No. 7 in the Top 10 GPA listing of NCAA Division III softball teams with a 3.52 average for the 2013-2014 academic year. Only three other Midwestern institutions made the list. The team scored an overall .355 batting average and .431 on-base percentage, as well as 31 home runs in 41 games. The Griffins finished the season 34-7 with their fifth consecutive St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) Championship and SLIAC Tournament Championship.



## CARONDELET LECTURE SERIES CHALLENGES OVERFLOW CROWD

Fontbonne University welcomed Rev. Bryan N. Massingale, S.T.D., a professor of theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee, to St. Louis in November for its 9th annual Carondelet Lecture Series. Massingale's presentation was titled "Unconscious Racial Bias and the

Challenge of Solidarity: Catholic Social Teaching Post-Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and ..." Co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, the lecture was one of many events, speakers, classes and opportunities that Fontbonne offered students and the St. Louis community as part of the university's fall 2014 Dedicated Semester focused on civil rights. Massingale, who spoke to an overflowing crowd, was introduced by Sister Mary Antona Ebo, CSJ, one of six Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet — and the first black sister — who traveled to Selma, Ala., in 1965 to march for civil rights.

## DAUGHTER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CALLS FOR NONVIOLENCE

The youngest child of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bernice King, spoke at Fontbonne University Sept. 17 calling for a nonviolent approach to discussions of race, civil rights and policing after the death of Michael Brown and the resulting protests and unrest.

King, who is CEO of the King Center in Atlanta, Ga., called together several members of the community including local clergy, political leaders, youth group leaders, as well as St. Louis City Chief of Police Sam Dotson, a Fontbonne alumnus, and Capt. Ron Johnson of the Missouri Highway Patrol, who was tapped to oversee law enforcement agencies at the height of the Ferguson protests. Many Fontbonne students, faculty and staff also attended the event.

“Given our mission as a Catholic university, our fall 2014 dedicated semester on civil rights and our commitment to diversity and open discussion, we felt it was appropriate to welcome this conversation to campus,” Pressimone said. “Our campus should serve as a place that encourages open and honest dialogue on race, and we were pleased to help extend this conversation to the broader community.”



*Fontbonne president Dr. J. Michael Pressimone welcomes Bernice King.*

## UNIQUE BOOT CAMP BUILDS LANGUAGE MUSCLES

During the summer of 2014, several adults ranging in age from 50-70 met on Fontbonne University's campus for the Aphasia Boot Camp. Camp attendees had all experienced language and cognitive changes due to a stroke and had been receiving therapy at the university's Eardley Family Clinic for Speech, Language and Hearing. The department of communication disorders and deaf education provided intensive speech and language therapy intervention three hours a day for four days a week during the six-week camp.

At each session, the group conversed together for an hour, then broke out into individual language and cognitive therapy. Fontbonne speech-language pathology graduate students, whose participation was made possible through funding by the Employee Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis, worked one-on-one with each group member. To contact the Eardley Family Clinic for Speech, Language and Hearing, call 314.889.1407.



## WELCOME ABOARD

Two new members have been named to Fontbonne's board of trustees: long-time banker Allen Grieve and alumna Karen Gedera '65.

Grieve has been in the banking industry for 45 years and has served as senior vice president and division manager of the correspondent banking and commercial services division of the First National Bank of St. Louis since 2002. Additionally, Grieve is involved with the Nazareth Living Center and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet — a connection that brought him to Fontbonne.

Gedera graduated from Fontbonne with a degree in mathematics and began a long career with McDonnell Aircraft, later earning an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis. She has served as chair of Fontbonne's Council of Regents, and she is a charter member of the Fontbonne Community Connection, a women's giving circle. Learn more about Gedera in an article on page 16.



## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEADS GRADUATE ADMISSION AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES EFFORTS

Geralyn (Jeri) Schultz joined Fontbonne University as executive director of graduate admission and professional studies. She oversees the growth of graduate programs, evening and online recruitment and corporate partnerships.

Schultz, who has more than 30 years of experience in the St. Louis business and educational communities, presented this fall “A Strategic Focus on Women, Leadership and Success,” an executive-level graduate course designed and customized to meet the needs of women in diverse leadership positions. The eight-week course brought to campus numerous guest speakers, including prominent women in business like Maxine Clark, founder of Build-A-Bear, and Ellen Sherberg, publisher of the St. Louis Business Journal.



## ■ news briefs

### GLOBAL GRIFFINS

This academic year, Fontbonne welcomed international students to campus from China, Brazil, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, Congo, Mexico, South Korea, Vietnam and more, bringing the university's international population to 186 this spring. In total, Fontbonne's student body represents 33 different countries.



Mike and Cathy Pressimone (front, center) host Fontbonne's international students at Wydown House.

### UNDERSTANDING THE LEGAL PROCESS

Attorneys John Gilbert and Raven Akram of the law firm Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C. were on campus in November as part of Fontbonne's 2014 Dedicated Semester, "Civil Rights: Then and Now."

The visiting lawyers' discussion, "Civil Rights and the Grand Jury Process," covered the Bill of Rights, the rights of protesters and citizens, accountability and excessive force. The discussion was framed within the context of the Michael Brown shooting and the then-pending grand jury decision regarding Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson.

### ALUMS RECOGNIZED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Five Fontbonne University alumni were honored recently with the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Nearly 100 St. Louis-area educators, including Andrew Nieters '07, Michelle Rebollo '13, Paris Bouchard '07, Stacey Wilson '06 and Kay Calcaterra '98, were recognized for their achievements and dedication to the field of education.

Emerson, a St. Louis-based global technology and engineering leader that provides solutions for customers in industrial, commercial and consumer markets, has been a generous donor to Fontbonne, providing nearly \$1 million in gifts to support technology and other initiatives. The university's Emerson Technology Center is named in the company's honor.

## PREPARING PROFESSIONALS: PROFESSOR PRESENTS AT U.N. CONFERENCE

Dr. Janine Duncan, Fontbonne University associate professor of family & consumer sciences, was accepted by the International Federation for Home Economics to co-present, along with four international



Dr. Janine Duncan (second from right) prepares with her fellow presenters at the United Nations.

colleagues, at the 65th annual United Nations Department of Public Information/NGO Conference. The conference took place in August in New York City.

Her portion of the presentation, titled "Focus on Families to Improve Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty by Providing Basic Conditions and Empowerment," focused on preparing professionals for public policy and global engagement and was based on a course she teaches at Fontbonne.

The conference was dedicated to the development and refinement of post-2015 Millennium Development Goals, highlighting the benefits of technology as a tool to help reduce

poverty. For Duncan, it was a thought-provoking experience as an educator.

"The surest way to impede a vision for affecting social change is isolation," she said during her presentation. "Time and again, I hear

students speak about the limitations of the number one — 'I am only one,' they say; or 'How can only one person make a difference?' While we can appreciate student concerns, we can also assist students in making connections. In the classroom this happens in ways that promote both theory and practice. But we need to reach beyond the classroom."

Fontbonne, she said, has the opportunity to teach students to reach farther and do more. Here, through cooperation and collaboration, as well as through the use of technology, faculty, staff and students can think and work locally, but act and create change on a global scale.

# Dean on a Mission

By Dominic Genetti



Jay Johnson has worn many hats over the course of his career in higher education.

His newest venture finds him serving as dean of Fontbonne University's Eckelkamp College of Global Business and Professional Studies. And he's not wasting any time communicating his goals for the college.

"Our initial priority is to refocus our academics," Johnson said. "We want to look at our curriculum and our structure to make sure we're serving our students in the best way possible."

Johnson, a native of Gallatin, Mo., located about four hours northwest of St. Louis, comes to Fontbonne after serving as the MBA director and business, leadership and technology division chair for the graduate school of Friends University in Wichita, Kan. He also previously taught at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., North Central Missouri College in Trenton, Mo., and satellite campuses for William Woods University and Northwest Missouri State University. Outside of higher education, Johnson is vice president of Johnson Land & Development Company in Gallatin. He also operates a family farm in northwest Missouri.

Johnson, who has a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Missouri, replaces Linda Magrath, dean since 2004. Magrath stepped down in order to teach full time. Johnson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing from Truman State University and his master's degree in business administration from William Woods University.

"The people I've met here have been very, very passionate about the students," Johnson said. "The faculty here are very strong, intelligent and talented, and they demonstrate that day in and day out."

Although Johnson has many plans in place for his inaugural year as the new dean, the most notable is his goal to increase the awareness and identity of the Eckelkamp College of Global Business and Professional Studies. Johnson

wants the college and Fontbonne University to become top-of-mind for business degrees and business education.

"We're going to be a leader in the St. Louis market for business education. People are going to see Fontbonne's brand, and they're going to think about business — we are going to be a place we have not been before," Johnson said.

Johnson brings to his new position the ability to create positive change and set goals.

"One of the most important features of a good business education program is student involvement," he said. "Students are going to be more prepared through involvement in student organizations on campus and with internship and job shadowing opportunities off campus."

The college's evening and online courses, offered in flexible formats to those who want to earn an advanced degree or their first bachelor's degree, are beneficial to the public's awareness of Fontbonne, Johnson believes.

"We really try to design a degree completion plan that fits the unique needs of each individual student. We know that the adult student has many other priorities in addition to school," he said. "As people choose to come back to school, we have to treat them with the understanding that they have other commitments such as family and work. Our goal is to see the student succeed in school and their career path."

In his first few months at Fontbonne, Johnson has noticed the university's openness to change, progression and continuity.

"Whether it is a student starting college or returning to get a higher degree, the Eckelkamp College of Global Business and Professional Studies is going to be the first thought that comes to mind. That's not only my goal, but the goal shared by everyone involved with the college," he said. "Once that goal is achieved, we must maintain it and set new goals so we continuously strengthen our image."

# 12 IS NOT ENOUGH

## New president embraces Fontbonne family

By Elizabeth Hise Brennan

Dr. J. Michael Pressimone is good with names. Students, faculty, staff, alumni — if he's met you once, chances are, he knows who you are.

But this shouldn't really surprise anyone. Fontbonne University's new president is relaxed and familiar, preferring "Mike" to "Dr. Pressimone" and more often than not, swinging his office door wide open to visitors — and his four youngest children, who run, walk or bike between campus and Wydown House next door. Already, Pressimone's family is as much a part of the campus community as he is, a fact that is integral to understanding the 14th president of Fontbonne.

Pressimone is, above all else, a family man. He and his wife, Cathy, have 12 children ranging in age from 6 to 31, some biological, some not, but that distinction doesn't really matter to any of them. Walk into Wydown House, and you're immersed in a comfortable, noisy, bustling home, made complete with a one-year-old Great Pyrenees, aptly named Griffin.

The Pressimone family has made it their goal to open their arms and their home to their extended family — the whole of Fontbonne University. This is especially important to Pressimone himself, who nearly didn't continue his college education because of a lack of support, a fact that shaped both his career and his view of higher education.

"In the mid-1970s, I enrolled at a state school," said Pressimone, a Baltimore native. "I was living at home and commuting, and as an undeclared student, I found it a big, impersonal place. During the first semester of my sophomore year, I hoped to declare my major and set up an appointment with the chair of the department. He never showed, and I dropped out of school that same day."

Friends at the local Catonsville Community College, now called the Community College of Baltimore County, persuaded Pressimone to get in touch with an academic advisor there, a man named Bob Lynch. Pressimone credits him with providing the nudge he needed to find his path — the path that would eventually lead him to where he is today.

"The atmosphere was different," Pressimone said. "He really cared and wanted me to succeed. I went from a so-so student to graduating with nearly a 4.0 GPA. I succeeded with good advice and guidance."

Pressimone would go on to graduate with an Associate of Arts degree from Catonsville in 1979 and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Catholic University of America in 1981 — both with honors. By this point, his Catholic faith had been shaped by the Marianist brothers, School Sisters of Notre Dame, and many lay women and men who taught and led the diocesan schools he attended in grade and high school.



All 12 Pressimone children and their families gathered in St. Louis to celebrate the inauguration of Fontbonne's 14th president — their dad.





*The new president has made connecting with students a top priority.*



**“In order to accomplish much and meet our goals, we must be bold. We must go forward with confidence in the quality of our programs and with a clear understanding of the Fontbonne brand.”**

— Dr. J. Michael Pressimone Inaugural Address

“They instilled in me a curiosity about my faith,” he said. “They didn’t give me the answers, but I found enough answers to give me direction.”

Pressimone found a faithful partner in Cathy, whom he met his freshman year of college. They married in 1982 and had seven children over the next nine years, later followed by the unofficial adoption of another daughter in 2003 and the official adoption of four siblings in 2011. As their family grew, so did Pressimone’s career.

“I first thought about becoming a college president in 1985, when I was director of admission at Holy Family University,” he said. “I was working with a consultant who suggested I go into fundraising. So I started working in fundraising at my high school alma mater.”

His position at his alma mater, Cardinal Gibbons High School in Baltimore, as director of development, led to a position as director of annual giving at Western Maryland College, which eventually guided him back to another alma mater, The Catholic University of America.

“I’ve always been aggressive in terms of what I wanted to do next,” Pressimone said. “When I got to Elizabethtown College, I had the most opportunity. I started as a mid-level manager, then became VP after a presidential transition.”

Pressimone spent the next 15 or so years honing his skills as a vice president for advancement at Elizabethtown in Pennsylvania, Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina and finally, Alvernia University, also in Pennsylvania. There, his president encouraged him to set goals for himself, go back to school and earn a doctorate.

“He requested a plan by the end of my first year there,” Pressimone said. “One thing to know about me: If you give me a deadline, I’m good to go. I had my plan in place one

year later. Two years later, I had my master's, and four years later, I had my Ed.D."

At that point, colleges began to see him as a viable contender for presidential positions. He entered into a few different searches, none of which fit just right. Then Fontbonne came along, and the small Catholic institution felt promising. It was also within a day's drive from where the family lived in Reading, Pa., one criterion for moving, said Cathy.

"I had a very positive visit; I felt like I could do some good here," Pressimone said about his interviews at Fontbonne. The university's board of trustees agreed and offered him the position. The decision to accept was ultimately easy to make, even for a family of 14.

"We were all excited," said Clare Pressimone, 5th of the 12 Pressimone children, now teaching English as a second language in Cambodia. "We have known that this has been an ambition of our dad's for a long time. All of us are happy to see him realize his dream."

And see him realize it they did. The Pressimone clan came out in full force on Friday, Nov. 14, for the official presidential inauguration. All 12 children and their spouses, one grandchild, Pressimone's father and Cathy's mother, as well as a contingent of family and friends from around the country celebrated the inauguration with the Fontbonne community.

"When we see our parents succeed, we see our whole family succeeding," Clare observed.

As Fontbonne moves away from the pomp and circumstance of inauguration and faces the future ahead, Pressimone is ready with a plan. And when he has a plan and a deadline, he's good to go.

He wants the university to grow to between 2,100 – 2,200 students, a comfortable number that will allow for innovation and additional growth. He has already restructured senior leadership, pulling his cabinet closer in order to prepare for and address the future. And he wants to take a thorough look at the enrollment process, determining first what Fontbonne's student body should look like, then deciding how to enroll that population. Operational planning, a capital campaign and campus improvements all fill out his agenda for the next few years.

During his inaugural address, Pressimone offered up a rallying cry, a call for the Fontbonne community to live out Fontbonne's mission and vision, one that encapsulates the very reasons why staff, faculty and alumni do what they do to support the university.

"In order to accomplish much and meet our goals, we must be bold. We must go forward with confidence in the quality of our programs and with a clear understanding of the Fontbonne brand. We make a difference in our world, and we see proof in the work of our faculty and the accomplishments of our students who beautifully animate exactly what 'Learn More, Be More®' means."

## WHO IS MIKE PRESSIMONE?

Outside of the office, you might find Fontbonne's new president reading, running or searching for the perfect pizza. Below, he fills in a few blanks, helping all of us get to know the person behind the presidency.

### **Book you'd recommend to a friend:**

#### **"At Home" by Bill Bryson**

*Bryson is one of my favorite authors and this book gives us a unique lens to history through the rooms and windows of an English parsonage.*

### **Tune you'd be willing to listen to on repeat:**

#### **"On Top of the World" by Imagine Dragons**

*In part because I have always liked listening to the contemporary sounds my kids listen to, I have become a fan of modern alternative music. This song has an infectious rhythm and an upbeat lyric.*

### **Favorite St. Louis restaurant (so far):**

*So many to choose from! One of the things I have said since my arrival at Fontbonne is that I will never have to eat at a chain restaurant ever again. Let me offer a couple of responses:*

*Favorite seafood restaurant: Oceano in Clayton.*

*Favorite pub: Market Pub House on the Loop (always a great selection of IPAs on draught)*

*I am still searching for my favorite pizza!*

### **Hobbies:**

*On the outdoor front, I do enjoy running and golf. Given my schedule, I have had little time for golf, but I always try to find time for a run. I also enjoy working with my hands. The swing set in the yard at Wydown House was a nice end-of-summer project. Next up for me is building a set of bunk beds for two of my grandsons back in Pennsylvania. I also enjoy music, I play guitar a little, and I enjoy going to the theatre.*

### **Last theatrical role you performed:**

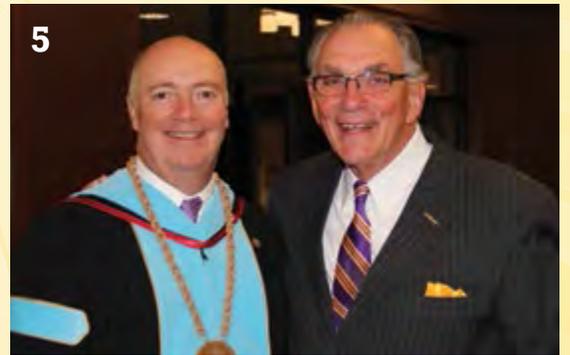
*My schedule over the last few years while completing my doctorate, concluding a capital campaign and seeking a presidency has made it difficult to take on a major acting gig, but I did perform the role of the Pirate King in Gilbert and Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance. My opening song began, "I am a pirate king, and it is a glorious thing to be a pirate king!" This describes how I feel about being the president of Fontbonne University!*

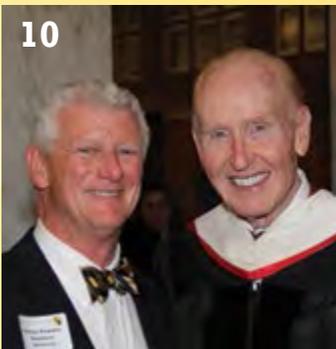
# Founding Spirit. Inspired Future.

## The Inauguration of J. Michael Pressimone



November 14, 2014



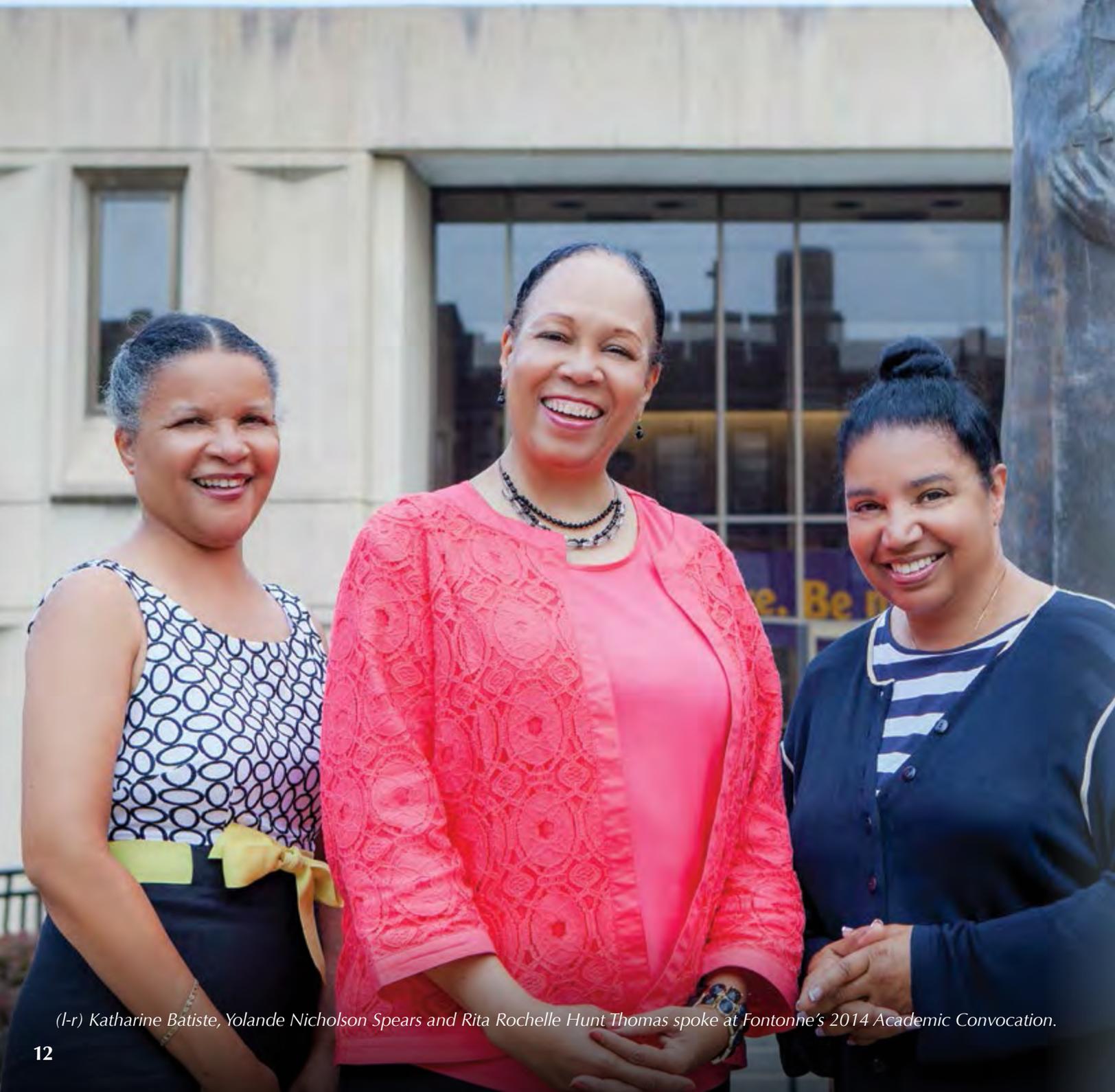


1. Fontbonne's new president, Dr. J. Michael Pressimone, couldn't suppress his excitement as he processed into the Dunham Student Activity Center for the investiture ceremony. • 2. Clergy members of four different faiths offered an invocation: (l-r) Imam Muhamed Hasic, Rabbi Dale Schreiber, Reverend Glenn Miller and Archbishop Robert J. Carlson. • 3. Board Chair Gary Krosch presented Dr. Pressimone with an official presidential medallion, now part of his academic regalia during his tenure as Fontbonne president. • 4. During his inaugural address, Dr. Pressimone said that he and his wife, Cathy, "have a moral obligation to do everything within our power to make sure the university succeeds and thrives." • 5. Immediate Past President Dr. Dennis Golden was on hand to congratulate his successor. • 6. Dr. Pressimone's son Jon, a singer and songwriter, sang the musical response: "I Am Here." • 7. The Saint Louis Archdiocesan Handbell Choir and Peace Brass Choir provided a musical prelude, recessional and postlude. • 8. Guests, including (l-r) Kathleen McMullin, Sr. Eileen Doherty, Francis Pressimone, Cathy Pressimone and Father S. Kamanzi, had the opportunity to attend three receptions on campus, each one showcasing a different college. • 9. Four Pressimone daughters, pictured with their father (center), served as university delegates: (l-r) Joanna Pressimone, St. Michael's College; Rebecca Pressimone, Chatham University; Cassy Pressimone Beckowski, Cabrini College; and Allison Pressimone, Mount St. Mary's University. • 10. Pierce Powers (left), delegate from Rockhurst University, and Daniel J. Ferry, past Fontbonne University board chair and delegate for Benedictine College, were among the many distinguished guests who attended the investiture ceremony and receptions. • 11. Abby Pressimone, Fontbonne sophomore DeMarcus Davis and Carlyn Thompson, a Pressimone family friend, celebrated at the reception in Medaille Hall, hosted by the College of Education and Allied Health Professions. • 12. Prior to the investiture ceremony, Dean Kent, delegate for Mount Mercy University, and Beth Stroble, delegate for and president of Webster University, gathered with other dignitaries and delegates. • 13. Mary Margaret Lazio, CSJ, Sr. Kathleen Karbowski and Cynthia Grieve. • 14. Fontbonne University faculty showcased their work during the reception hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences in the DSAC. Back row, (l-r) Dr. Golden; Dr. Jason Sommer, professor and chair of English and communication; Dr. Pressimone; Dr. Donald Burgo, professor emeritus; Dr. Kay Graves, assistant professor of mathematics and computer science; Dr. Laurel Newman, associate professor of psychology; and Julie Portman, technical services librarian and associate professor. Front row, (l-r) Dr. Ben Moore, associate professor of English; and Dr. Mary Abkemeier, professor and chair of mathematics and computer education.

# Soul Sisters

Eight Women, One Protest: Three Decades Later

By Elizabeth Hise Brennan



*(l-r) Katharine Batiste, Yolande Nicholson Spears and Rita Rochelle Hunt Thomas spoke at Fontonne's 2014 Academic Convocation.*

*Yolande Nicholson Spears, Rita Rochelle Hunt Thomas and Katharine Batiste, all 1973 Fontbonne University graduates, had not seen one another in more than 30 years. As the three women met again in August on the campus of their alma mater, this three-decade gap disappeared as the friends joked, laughed and even danced on the pathways they once walked as students.*

*But these three women did not return simply for a class reunion, nor did they converge on campus to catch up with former professors or schoolmates. They were invited back to speak at Fontbonne's 2014 Academic Convocation, the official start to the school year and the kick off for the university's fall Dedicated Semester focused on Civil Rights: Then and Now, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. Spears, Thomas and Batiste represented the Fontbonne 8, a group of black Fontbonne students who, in 1970, stood up to the university's administration to advocate for civil rights on campus and protest what they viewed as racism at Fontbonne. Although peaceful in nature, their protest shook the campus, and has gone down in the university's history as an event that initiated change at the institution — and continues to do so even now.*

*The story these women share is powerful, and the spirit they possess, even more so.*

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## Beginnings

Spears, Thomas and Batiste were sophomores in 1970, still teenagers as the country continued to grapple with the Civil Rights Movement, the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., riots and protests, and waves of change and integration — as well as resistance to both. They arrived expectantly at Fontbonne, a respected all-girls school, each hoping for the chance to learn, grow and explore more opportunity than their parents before them.

“As we were talking together today, we found that we were often the first or only women in many of our industries,” Spears said. “As we were coming out of Fontbonne, we couldn't have imagined that we would be going the places that we went. Technically, based on our family's backgrounds, there was no way we should have graduated. Fontbonne means a lot to us because of all we've gone through in our lives.”

Spears majored in English and theatre, Thomas in theatre arts, and Batiste in life science. Throughout their first year at Fontbonne, as three of only a small number of black students on campus, they began to notice some troubling trends.

Sometimes, white students would stand up and leave their seats at cafeteria tables when black students would sit down to lunch. Others would get out of the university pool if a black student jumped in. A few white residents refused to live in the same hall as black students. And when they came to campus, black brothers, cousins and dates were often harassed, pushed and frisked by security. Even in classrooms, some professors

made unprofessional remarks about black students, implying they were lesser in intelligence and being, simply because of their skin color.

“Our protest began as a collective thought process among women who were being educated to think and to explore,” said Spears, whom Thomas and Batiste agreed led and gave voice to the Fontbonne 8, a group that also included Coelette Lemelle, Gwendolyn Perry, Sharon Walker, Jeannette Gauda and Antoinette Smith. “Even though we knew we were a part of the Fontbonne community, we also felt as if we were ‘the other.’ And so, during that time, the country was going through civil unrest, and there were so many things that young people around the country were expressing. We were among that population; we just brought it closer to home.”

The women, who carried their own burdens of racism, as well as those of family and friends, tried to express concerns to professors and CSJs who they understood to be sympathetic. But no one quite knew how to change things, they said.

“We felt we had to have a conversation or dialogue,” Spears remembered, with Thomas and Batiste echoing agreement. “Our main interest initially was that we weren't being taken seriously. We were looking at Fontbonne with reverence, as a school that would allow us to become educated. But at the same time, it wasn't in a position or willing to hear about that broader ugliness. So it became a matter of things piling up.”

# The Protest

The word “protest” often carries with it connotations of violence and anger. But for the youthful Soulful 8, the term had a softer, more cerebral meaning. Their goal was to take over the library for one weekend to hold what they thought of as a “retreat.” They hoped to bring attention and awareness to problems they saw at Fontbonne, and they wanted to plan, think, write and ultimately, develop a manifesto that would express their demands and desires for the university community. The final document, their Black Manifesto, could be the catalyst for discussion and consideration.

“We wanted it to be thoughtful, intellectual, peaceful and respectful,” Spears said. “It was important that we do more than have a protest and yell and scream, but that we write it down. We wanted to create a document that we could share with the administration and others so that we could be truthful about what we wanted to express. This is something that we learned as students here — documentation and follow-through. We used all of that to create the manifesto.”

Looking back, all three women laughed at their younger selves, remembering their idealism and expectations. The reality that proceeded, however, became much more charged.

As they recalled, the women planned and prepared, and on a Saturday morning in late October, they walked into the library and asked the librarians if they would leave and hand over the key. For the next few hours, as the eight students sat alone in the library, their expectations were their reality. They talked and wrote and thought, exploring the ways in which Fontbonne fell short, and what the university as a whole could do to improve.



“We wanted it to be thoughtful, intellectual, peaceful and respectful.”

—Yolande Nicholson Spears

“The major things we wanted included the whole idea of being a part of the broader community, having an honest voice, and to ask for change on behalf of the voiceless, which were the black workers on campus,” said Spears, explaining that black workers were paid less than white, and often did not have a place to sit, rest or even eat lunch on their breaks. “We were looking at ways we could impact the workers on campus, and hopefully change their work environment. And at the end, we hoped that by having these things change and this dialogue happen, Fontbonne would actually be seen as progressive and an institution that wanted us here, and that would spur others around the country and world to want to come to this small college of women who were willing to not only have a voice, but have a protest.”

Soon, however, word arrived that the campus administration did not share in their idealism. According to Fontbonne’s official account from that time, by 5:30 p.m., campus administration, perceiving the protest as a threat, had disconnected the phones to the library. By 11 p.m., armed security had been dispatched around the building. Around 300 people gathered outside, supporting the protesters, but left without incident. By 11 a.m. the following morning, parents were notified, and the eight students were unsure whether or not they would be expelled. Eventually, the women were pulled out of the library by police. They were all suspended.



“We were grateful for all the outside support, but we were focused on making a change here at Fontbonne. We knew what we wanted, and I believe that we made an impression on the administration.”

—Katharine Batiste

Accounts of the protest varied. The official report by the dean of students suggested that campus administration felt the protestors were dangerous and threatening. The protesters themselves remember their intentions and actions as polite and respectful. In the week that followed, students, staff and faculty took sides. Many, including the student government, petitioned the administration to revoke the suspension of the eight students. Others felt that their suspension was just for breaking administrative rules.

“This was a civil disturbance,” Hunt said. “In fact, it really wasn’t a disturbance; it was a reawakening of consciousness that we felt every professor, administrator and student should be aware of. It was important enough for us to close ourselves off and to document what we considered our civil rights. We hadn’t been so violent that they needed to bring armed police in to take over the situation. It didn’t merit that.”

But, in spite of their shock at the response of administration and police, the women didn’t lose hope. Many Fontbonne students, staff and faculty expressed their support. Two attorneys volunteered to represent them pro bono, and major leaders like Coretta Scott King and Jesse Jackson expressed solidarity. Other groups sent word that they would provide scholarships for the women to go to other schools.

“But we wanted to do this ourselves within Fontbonne’s parameters,” Batiste said. “We were grateful for all the outside support, but we were focused on making a change here at Fontbonne. We knew what we wanted, and I believe that we made an impression on administration. And we wanted to go back to school! I think that says a lot about our character and integrity, and our appreciation for Fontbonne, and hopefully we made the school realize that.”

Eventually, after meetings and discussions with administration, the Fontbonne 8 were reinstated. Although some were not happy to see them again on campus, they were welcomed and supported by many. And things slowly began to change.

“What changed immediately was the idea of a commission,” Spears said. “A commission was set up to review what we had asked for — policies and procedures — to start looking at admission policies, financial aid, and the social, emotional and technical support side of education that had not been looked at before. It was the beginning of the idea that Fontbonne had to look at the student as a human being and start to respond differently.”

Fontbonne hired its first black female advisor, who served as a liaison between black students and administration. The university created a meeting room for black students — who in turn, welcomed all students. And a dialogue began on campus, followed by a shift in administration.

“They took our requests more seriously after it was all over because they understood that we were not the threat that they thought we were,” Hunt said.

“I think the broader community looked at Fontbonne differently,” Spears agreed. “Other students of color still wanted to come to Fontbonne, and this school actually published and talked about changes it was trying to make on behalf of the protesting students and their requests. And the workers on campus were finally acknowledged. Procedures were put in place to improve their lives and their working conditions, as well as their wages. To us, those things were the jackpot.”

## Today

Throughout the 2014 Dedicated Semester, the Fontbonne community reexamined the Black Manifesto the Fontbonne 8 wrote so many years ago, determining that even more work can be done to make the university a fully inclusive campus, welcoming and supportive to all. President J. Michael Pressimone has made a commitment to increase faculty diversity in order to ensure that all students see themselves represented among their educators.

Spears, Batiste and Thomas are all proud Fontbonne alumnae with successful careers under their belts. Spears is currently the vice president of education and community relations at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford, Conn., and is a national, award-winning published author. Batiste’s

*During their 1970 protest, the Fontbonne 8 developed what they termed their Black Manifesto, a document that laid out their demands and hopes for Fontbonne. Read the complete document at [www.fontbonne.edu/manifesto](http://www.fontbonne.edu/manifesto).*

life has taken her around the world. Her work, always science-focused, has ranged from microbiology and computer science to pharmaceuticals. She currently owns her own sewing and quilting business. Thomas has had a long and storied career in radio and television. She has received the “Best in Music Journalism Honors” from the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers for her more than 30 years of international broadcasting, among many other awards. Numerous interviews from her career with Voice of America are now part of the collection maintained in the National Archives in Washington D.C. Currently, she serves as manager and biographer for her husband, Charlie Thomas, an original member of the famous rock & roll group, The Drifters.



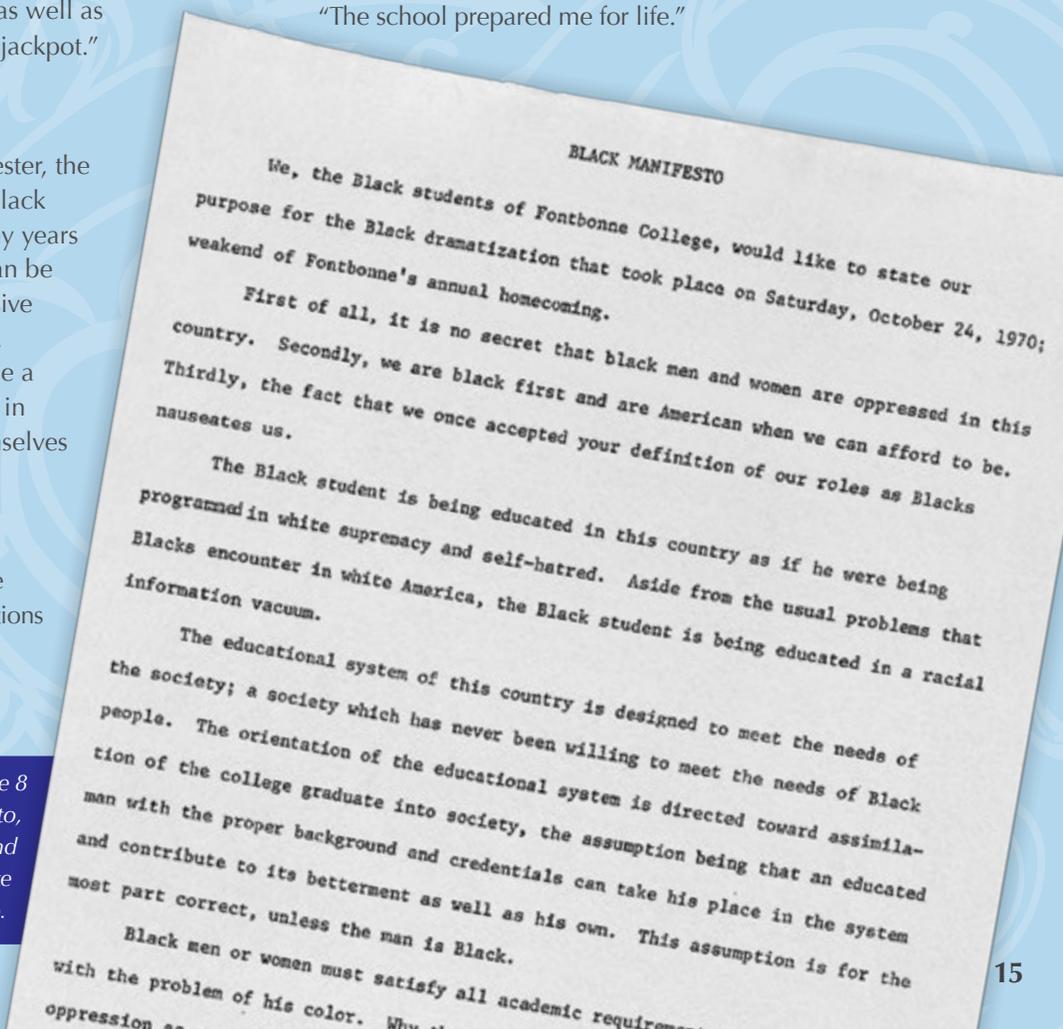
“I think I’ve been blessed, and part of that blessing is being a graduate of Fontbonne. The school prepared me for life.”

—Rita Rochelle Hunt Thomas

None of them would change their experiences at Fontbonne, and all credit the years they spent at their alma mater with making them stronger and wiser.

“I think I’ve been blessed, and part of that blessing is being a graduate of Fontbonne,” Thomas said.

“The school prepared me for life.”



# Creating a Community Connection

By Elizabeth Hise Brennan

*If you've been involved with Fontbonne University in any capacity during the past 10 years, chances are you've met Karen DeGuire Gedera. This sharp, gregarious alumna graduated from the university in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and a minor in biology. A lifelong student of schools founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Gedera chose Fontbonne specifically for its connection to the CSJs. After graduating, she enthusiastically jumped into a successful career in mathematics, later earning an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis. Today, Gedera serves as chair of Fontbonne's Council of Regents, is a founder and active member of the Fontbonne Community Connection, was just named a member of Fontbonne's board of trustees, and continues championing her alma mater as one of its most enthusiastic ambassadors.*



### **What brought you to Fontbonne?**

First, I wanted to stay in St. Louis. I was very young and timid when I was selecting a college, and all of them seemed large and daunting. Although I did look at some colleges outside of St. Louis, I just wasn't ready to leave home. But the number one reason I chose Fontbonne was that it was run by the Sisters of St. Joseph. All the schools I had gone to throughout my life had been run by the CSJs, so Fontbonne just felt right. It was such a beautiful campus; I loved the setting and many of my friends were going there.

### **How did your Fontbonne education prepare you for your career?**

When I graduated from Fontbonne, I knew I loved mathematics, but I did not know what I wanted to do. So I went to local businesses and applied for any job that required a degree in mathematics, including a position at McDonnell Aircraft. I was impressed and thrilled to get an offer from them. I started as a scientific programmer and loved every minute of it. One of the best things that Fontbonne prepared me to do was to think critically and to know how to learn. Although I was still timid socially when I started working, I was confident in my knowledge and able to hold my own professionally. I worked on some of the most exciting, challenging projects you can imagine. We were creating wonderful new capabilities for some very important purposes. The ability to think critically and to continually learn was essential and has served me throughout my career.

### **At what point did you decide to get involved with your alma mater as an alumna?**

Around the time of my 40th reunion, several things happened that led me to greatly increase my commitment and contributions to Fontbonne. Two different people I knew told me they were going to Fontbonne, one as an adult learner and the other as a traditional student, and both raved about their experience. Then someone from the advancement office contacted me and invited me to lunch, asking me to commit to the capital campaign. Shortly thereafter, another advancement officer hosted a group of Fontbonne supporters to discuss how we felt about the university. We all loved it and believed it was a hidden jewel. We wanted to find a way to increase its visibility but struggled with just how to do this.

### **You were a charter member of the Fontbonne Community Connection, a woman's giving circle. How has this group changed the giving landscape for alumna?**

Being a part of the Fontbonne Community Connection has been one of my most rewarding endeavors. I love having a direct say in determining where my contributions are being used. And in the course of making this determination, I am

learning a lot, not only about Fontbonne, but about a whole spectrum of subjects. I think this degree of involvement in the university, understanding not only its needs, but the dreams of the people of which it is composed, really changes how I feel about giving to it. I feel like a part of it. And as corny as it sounds, I feel like I have come home to my family. Because Fontbonne always did feel like home when I went there.

### **Why do you give back to Fontbonne?**

We all know that education is an investment in the future. Others invested to create the place we call Fontbonne. I benefitted from this and feel it is my obligation to continue to maintain this investment for others to get the same benefit I did. But on a more immediate and urgent note, I think the future of education is at a crossroads. I am confident, however, that there will always be a need to educate students to think critically, to act ethically and to assume responsibility as citizens and leaders. Computers won't do this alone. Only institutions will do this. And Fontbonne does it very well, so I intend to do what I can to see that it continues to do this far into the future.

### **You are the chair of Fontbonne's Council of Regents. What does this group do, and what is your role?**

The council serves as an important liaison between Fontbonne and St. Louis businesses and community organizations. Our members are leaders in their respective organizations and are not necessarily familiar with Fontbonne and its capabilities. So our first step is to get better acquainted with the university. As chair, I hope to bring to this group the same energy and commitment to Fontbonne that the FCC has.

### **What do you want current students to know about their future role as alumni?**

First, promote Fontbonne to others. Let others know about your experience at Fontbonne and recommend it as a great place to receive your degree. Second, start an ongoing program of financial support that is commensurate with your financial situation. Although you may only be able to give a very modest amount, especially in your early years, every amount matters, and collectively these modest amounts make a huge difference to Fontbonne. And finally, stay connected with Fontbonne — it is a great family!

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**To learn more about the  
Fontbonne Community Connection,  
visit [www.fontbonne.edu/fcc](http://www.fontbonne.edu/fcc).**

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# Striving *for* More

By Dominic Genetti

*"I think humility and pride are both really good things to have as a teacher. And you need a little bit of both."*

Most teaching careers begin not long after college graduation. New teachers lay the foundation for a lifelong journey of comforting, inspiring and developing young minds.

Kristen Norwood's teaching career began a little differently though. At age 12, it began in a swimming pool, of all places.

"I first knew I liked to teach when I volunteered for the American Red Cross Learn-To-Swim Program as a swimmer's aid. I really liked the experience of helping people improve and seeing their skills develop," she explained. "I found out that I loved preparing plans and lessons. I really liked to figure out how to teach something, how to break it down, and how to organize and make things fun."

Norwood, an assistant professor of communication studies, was named Fontbonne University's 2014 recipient of the Joan Goostree Stevens Excellence in Teaching Award, the university's highest teaching honor awarded annually to one full-time faculty member. She was officially recognized in May at Fontbonne's annual Honors Convocation.

"I think humility and pride are both really good things to have as a teacher," said Norwood, whose laid-back personality and bright smile are hard to miss when she talks about the career she loves. "And you need a little bit of both."

Norwood's professional career began at the University of Arkansas, where she attended graduate school. She had strong interests in writing and language, and she wanted to try her hand at being an author. But instead, her interests helped mold her into a communications professor.

"In my master's program, I was thrown into teaching with no preparation. I graduated with my undergraduate degree six months before, and all of a sudden, I was a teacher," she said. "I loved it right away, especially the interaction with students."

In 2010, Norwood earned a Ph.D in communication studies from the University of Iowa.

The 2013-2014 academic year was Norwood's first at Fontbonne, and she found it challenging — something she certainly appreciates about the job. She admits being her own worst critic, and she continually strives to be the best at what she does. By doing so, Norwood said she grows and improves herself. Winning the teaching award — voted on by students — certainly didn't hurt either.

"I am very grateful for the award. These students know that I care, and they know that I'm trying to help them get better and get smarter and succeed," Norwood explained. "Students appreciate people who are really putting themselves into teaching. I want to make the experience of my classes not only fulfilling and fun, but useful for students."

## Finding Her Passion

By Dominic Genetti

Inspiration can come from anywhere. A childhood illness might lead to medical school. A family parish could inspire the priesthood. A lemonade stand may shape a young entrepreneur.

Tracy Yates' inspiration came from the echoing sounds of footsteps.

"When I was in elementary school, I loved the sound of the teacher walking down the hallway," Yates recalled. "I thought to myself, 'I want to be that person who is walking down the hallway, coming to class and teaching the kids.' I had a lot of wonderful teachers, including one in elementary school and one in high school, both of whom I try to emulate today as a university professor."

Yates, an instructor in Fontbonne University's department of behavioral sciences, received the 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award for Part Time Faculty. She holds a bachelor's in education and a master's in clinical



psychology — a combination of interests born from her student teaching days.

"I realized early on that some of the kids in the classroom had learning and behavioral disabilities that impeded their ability to get an education," she said. "I thought having an understanding of the psychological side of learning and behavior would benefit me as a teacher."

When Yates began at Fontbonne in 2007, the university's atmosphere and students immediately intrigued her, she recalled.

"My biggest source of pride comes from when I see students figure out their passion," she said. "I can think of a few students who, in the course of speaking with me about what I do, say, 'You know what I really need to do...' or 'I think I could...' And I help them find a way. And that is what makes me happy. They have that 'Ah-ha' moment. And they take what you're teaching and apply it."

# WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

## Meet the Class of 2018

By Dominic Genetti

With the 2014-2015 school year in full gear, the Fontbonne University community has embraced its newest members — the class of 2018.

Some of these students have come to Fontbonne for personal attention and numerous educational opportunities, others chose the university as the place to continue their athletic careers, and still others arrived at the corner of Big Bend and Wydown to enhance their Catholic faith through service, community and social justice. *Tableaux* talked to a handful of these students to learn why they chose Fontbonne, what they're looking forward to, and who they want to be when graduation arrives.

 To see the VIDEO versions – and to hear from other freshmen – go to [www.fontbonne.edu/2018](http://www.fontbonne.edu/2018).

### JOHN HOOPER • Sunset Hills, Mo. Marketing

The small-school environment and the fact that everyone was so positive and nice when I came to visit Fontbonne really appealed to me. Within an instant, it felt like family here, which was perfect for me.

My sister majored in marketing, and she told me she loves what she does. At the same time, I was being recruited by Fontbonne to play lacrosse. Once I saw all the potential I had here, I knew it was a place where I could not only get a great education and lay the foundation for a marketing career, but I could grow as an athlete.

I want to be more of a well-rounded person when I graduate. I'm excited to learn all aspects of marketing, so when I do get a job after school, I can maybe start out in sales, travel the world for work and play a big role for my company.

### ISABEL HOTOP • Perryville, Mo. Dietetics

Being from a small town, it's exciting to attend Fontbonne in a bigger city like St. Louis. When I came to visit, I just knew this was the place for me. The granite buildings really caught my eye with their traditional collegiate appeal on the outside and their modernization on the inside. They show an unchanging tradition and continuity. Also, given Fontbonne's size, the fact that it's a Catholic institution and that the chapel is available for all to use whenever they need to reflect — it all pulled me in.

I'm really into nutrition. Being an athlete on the softball team, I like to make sure I eat really healthy so that I play well on the field. That, combined with my mom's interest in gardening, drew me to major in dietetics.

Although I'm not entirely sure which direction of dietetics I want to go in just yet — I'm still considering using this major toward getting into medical school and becoming a doctor — getting a degree in dietetics was the best way for me to lay a foundation for the career path I will eventually choose.



**JACOB LENDY • Chicago, Ill.**  
Speech-Language Pathology

I knew Fontbonne was well-known for speech-language pathology. I've always been interested in working with people with special needs, and I really want to work with kids. I want to help them get through language barriers.

Having been recruited to come and play volleyball with my brother, it's exciting to be on a campus that's very close-knit. Almost every school talks about how it's very family-like, but I noticed right away that Fontbonne not only wants you to be part of a family and community, it instills the importance of both.



**KIM VAN NGUYEN • St. Louis, Mo.**  
Biology

I'm the first person in my family to go to college, so this is a very exciting time in my life. I stayed in town because I want to be with my family. I'm very close to them, and the fact that Fontbonne is such a family-oriented school has become very important to me. It has such a diverse student community. I came from a very diverse school and being around fellow students from around the world is very important to me personally.

Learning about the human mind and how it works in a high school class made me very interested in becoming a psychologist one day. Luckily, I had a high school teacher who told me to get

**STEPHEN LENDY • Chicago, Ill.**  
Special Education

I have a cousin with autism. I was always around him, and I was always learning from him. He's inspired me to go into special education. The small school atmosphere of Fontbonne was something I knew would benefit me as I study and go on to enter an important and valued field. You have to have the skills and ambition right out of the gate, and a school of a larger size just wouldn't allow that for me.

A lot of schools try to appeal to you through promises of family, community and tradition, and sometimes, once you go and visit, or once you look into the school, there doesn't seem to be much consistency with what they're telling you. When Fontbonne showed interest in me and my brother coming and playing volleyball and getting the degrees we wanted, all of the descriptions I heard about Fontbonne being family-oriented, students being part of a community, and the school being rich in traditions were strongly evident.

I want to be a special education teacher, and I really felt after my visit that this was the best environment to learn in, grow in and ultimately lay the foundation for my career.

**FANNIE TERRELL • Baton Rouge, La.**  
Professional Writing/Fashion Merchandising

My mom is from St. Louis, and she mentioned Fontbonne when I started my college search. The moment I went to the website I was hooked. I knew I had to come and visit, but I knew deep down this was the school for me. I was looking for a school that was small and Catholic so I could keep up with my faith. I saw it and found it in Fontbonne. It's a family here; I love it. The neighborhood Fontbonne is in is amazing. The college campus area is beautiful.

I love the small classes. I have only eight other students with me in most of my classes. You get the one-on-one attention from your professors, and I feel much more confident asking questions in such a small class setting. I certainly am seeing a change in myself already. I'm more brave.

My passions lie in writing and fashion, so I have hopes of working at Cosmopolitan or Vogue some day. Because my major and minor are very prominent Fontbonne programs, I know I'll get to where I want to be and what I want out of a career.

my undergraduate degree in biology and then go to medical school. Fontbonne has me set up perfectly for that path, and the personal attention I received to get here has made jumping into college life easier.

I want to be out there making a change in the world. Fontbonne has already taught me that change doesn't have to be big or worldwide, or even in the news. It can be very small within a community.

I'm looking forward to going through college with all of my fellow students, getting to know everyone and succeeding together.

# GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

By Dominic Genetti



Members of the class of 1964 came together to celebrate their 50-year reunion at the Reunion Mass and Golden Arcade Circle Induction during Fontbonne's 2014 Reunion Weekend.

It was the 1960s. America was on the verge of change, and normalcy would soon take on a new definition.

"Looking back on everything, I can see such a difference between now and then," remembers Elizabeth Vernile Scherz, a member of the Fontbonne University class of 1964 and the 2014 Golden Arcade Circle. "The silver lining was getting an education from Fontbonne. They provided the knowledge my classmates and I needed for the future."



In 1961, President John F. Kennedy's motorcade passed Fontbonne during a trip to St. Louis.

In the early 60s, these students witnessed America's youngest elected president take office, Roger Maris break Major League Baseball's home run record, and rock 'n' roll begin to define their generation. By the middle of the decade, the Vietnam War had escalated, the Beatles had invaded

America, and, just a few months after the most famous civil rights speech in history, that same young president was assassinated. You could say that this generation was built to withstand change.

"When I was at Fontbonne, I wasn't sure of myself. The Fontbonne professors — who were mainly the Sisters of St. Joseph — embedded in me that I was smart and I could do anything," Kathleen Woodworth, a 1964 graduate, said. "I remember being in Ryan Hall hearing someone talking about a literature class. Because I took that course, I was inspired to become a teacher."

Woodworth found success in teaching and later, real estate, because of the skills she learned at Fontbonne.

"My experiences here developed who I am and the knowledge I have today," Woodworth added.

## The Swinging Sixties

At the time, Fontbonne University was Fontbonne College, a women's school specializing in elementary education, deaf education and speech-language pathology among other programs. Students had rules to abide by, set in place by the sisters.

"We were required to wear caps and gowns at convocation and during dinner in the dorms," Ruth Ann Kerr, a member of the class of 1964, recalled. "We were allowed to date, but we had to get our permission slips to Sister Terresine by Thursday night — not to mention be back before our midnight curfew on Fridays and Saturdays."

Scherz remembers when students weren't even allowed to wear pants. A uniform dress code required students to wear proper skirts and dresses.

## 50 Years Later

Fontbonne retains a strong bond with its 50-year classes, including those from the early 1960s, which have most recently celebrated their Golden Anniversaries. These alumnae can see the development and expansion the institution has undergone in half a century — becoming a university, becoming co-educational, and becoming a leader in a variety of majors and programs. Because of their lifelong dedication, they serve as strong ambassadors for their alma mater.

“Fontbonne’s Golden Arcade Circle members are invaluable to the university,” said Michelle Siegel, director of alumni relations at Fontbonne. “They are not only ambassadors and champions, but they provide continued financial support for the generation currently enrolled at Fontbonne. The class of 1963, for example, created an annual scholarship for deserving students.”

“I’m very thankful I had the opportunity to get an education from Fontbonne. I feel like God really led me there,” Scherz said. “There were people there who helped me out and knew that I could make it through. That’s where God wanted me to be.”

Each year, Fontbonne’s 50-year class is officially honored during the university’s Reunion Mass and Golden Arcade Circle Induction, held on Sunday morning of Alumni Reunion Weekend. Members of the class of ’64 gathered at Fontbonne this past October to celebrate their own.

“This anniversary and reunion has really been about renewing old friendships,” Woodworth said. “When you go to a quaint, small school like Fontbonne, you make a lot of friends. Everyone at some point or another goes their separate ways and you just lose touch. This allowed us to rekindle those friendships.”

“This 50-year class reunion, like all 50-year reunions here at Fontbonne, is a testament to the continuity of the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and their mission,” Kerr said.

“You couldn’t wear tennis shoes either,” she said. “Being from south St. Louis, I had to take the bus to campus, and sometimes that could take a while — especially if the weather was bad in the winter. So I would wear slacks on the bus and change as soon as I got to campus.”

After graduation, many Fontbonne students became wives, mothers and professionals, all against the backdrop of a country consumed with social change.

“The women’s rights movement was just gaining traction by the time we graduated,” Kerr said. “It was largely unidentified — but looming — and presented messages that were largely outside of our vocabulary.”

“I remember when nearby Washington University students burned down the ROTC building,” added Woodworth. “Throw that in with civil rights and the women’s movement, we were entering an interesting world after graduation.”



Students gather at a Republican rally on campus in 1961.

## FUNDED FOR THE FUTURE

*In 2014, the class of 1964 celebrated their Golden Anniversary in a relatively new way — with contributions to an endowed scholarship, which will help future students take the same path many alumni have traveled.*

*The scholarship, which helps set a precedent for future classes, is funded through money raised by alumni celebrating their 50th anniversary. The classes of 1964 and 1965 have helped establish this tradition, while hopefully inspiring future endowed scholarships. Fontbonne then awards these scholarships annually to deserving students in need of financial aid assistance.*

*Ruth Ann Kerr '64 sees the scholarship as another testament to the mission of both the sisters and the university instilled into all Fontbonne family members.*

*“The scholarship testifies to our faith in Fontbonne as an outstanding, mission-based university that empowers its graduates to greatness,” she said. “It’s an opportunity to thank the school for all it has done for us and guarantees that the value system and intellectual gifts we received will continue.”*

# Drawing a Better Future

By Elizabeth Hise Brennan

Mario Carlos stands in front of the tiny classroom, a charcoal pencil in hand and a patient grin on his face. His students, five young boys around the age of 10, are focused on their own pencils and drawing boards. Today, Carlos is teaching the last of a series of classes on self-portraits, and soon, the young faces at desks around the room begin to appear on the sketch paper before them. Prior to their first class, these students thought they could never learn to draw.

Carlos, a Fontbonne University instructor of fine arts and a 2003 MFA graduate, is a volunteer at the Emerson Academy Therapeutic School in North St. Louis. Emerson is a program of Annie Malone, a well-known St. Louis nonprofit. The school provides an alternative learning environment for students in grades K-12 who have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). Although Emerson offers both academic courses and unique educational and experiential learning opportunities like their year-round garden project, the art classes provide a new and different way for students to learn and grow.

"The students don't have a regular art teacher," Carlos explained. "I'm trying to help fill that void. I think our classes together are a good way to help them express their feelings. It's an outlet for them."

The students at Emerson all need extra support in a variety of ways. The school educates about 35 students during each school year, many with behavioral concerns, and all can benefit from a small, therapeutic school setting, according to DeWayne Campbell, Director of Educational Services.

"We're trying to expand the curriculum, and we needed something therapeutic for the kids, something elective," Campbell said. "The kids didn't know how they could do this. Most at first said, 'I can't draw.' But Mario made them feel comfortable."

For Carlos, the experience is a chance to use his own skills to help the community.

"I've always wanted to volunteer," he said. "I like helping underrepresented students. I try to find something good in everyone, no matter how limited they may be."

On a typical day, Emerson students begin the morning in their homerooms where they work on reading. At 9 a.m., they have breakfast, a hearty meal cooked onsite to help them focus. High school students switch classes throughout the day, and everyone participates in recreational opportunities three times each week. The Emerson team treats each student like their own, said Niecy Davis, Annie Malone's Special Events and Marketing Coordinator. Staff and teachers all work to make sure the curriculum is challenging, creative and developmental.

"Our ultimate goal is to help students transition back into a traditional educational setting," Davis said. "We just want to give these kids a fighting chance at life."

The art classes, taught this summer with tentative plans to continue the program, added something special to the curriculum — an extra boost of self-esteem.

"The self portrait is special because it's them," Carlos said. "As an artist, it's easier to connect with, figuratively. In this case, it's even better because it's their own portrait."

Both Carlos and Campbell, who earned his master's degree in education from Fontbonne in 2008, credit their alma mater with the skills they need to work with students.

"The education I received has greatly impacted what I do and the services we provide at Annie Malone," Campbell said. "My education has really afforded me the opportunity to provide quality services to kids."

Indeed, can there be a better benefit to a degree?



^ Cynthia Chafi, a Fontbonne ceramics student, assists the art class at Emerson Academy.

Mario Carlos '03, a Fontbonne fine arts instructor, >> works with Emerson Academy student Paul Conyears.





# Continuing the Mission

By Dominic Genetti

In 1836, the six Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in St. Louis from Lyon, France, to teach the deaf and serve the dear neighbor. Nearly a century later, the sisters established Fontbonne University where they continued their mission of teaching and serving.

It is the spirit of those sisters that gives Fontbonne its identity, definition and legacy. And each year, the university community presents its Founders and Alumni Awards to those who live out the sisters' mission and the mission of Fontbonne University.

This year, the 2014 Founders Day Celebration and Alumni Reunion Brunch and Awards Ceremony were combined, bringing the Founders Day celebration back to Alumni Reunion Weekend and honoring all of the distinguished awardees together.

"Our honorees truly reflect the mission of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and our university," said J. Michael Pressimone, Fontbonne president. "They are all selfless, dedicated, faithful advocates of helping others in so many aspects of life. We are honored to include them in the distinguished history of previous awardees."

## FOUNDERS AWARD RECIPIENT

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### Mary Charity Dalton, CSJ

Dalton, a resident of the Nazareth Living Center in Oakville, Mo., has been with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet since 1950. She was a staff and faculty member at Fontbonne for 27 years teaching speech, theater, voice and dictation. Since retiring from Fontbonne, she is an active volunteer working with organizations and groups that include the Fontbonne Alumni Spirituality Committee, Sacred Heart Radio, Ronald McDonald House, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, and the Immigrant and Refugee Women's Program.

"I'm very touched that I've been chosen for the Founders Award," Dalton said. "It is humbling to be recognized for living the mission of my congregation of sisters and Fontbonne University — where I've seen so much transition and success in making education and the lives of students reach fulfillment."

## FOUNDERS AWARD RECIPIENT

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### Bonnie Eckelkamp

Bonnie Eckelkamp, a native and resident of Washington, Mo., served on Fontbonne's board of trustees for nine years and co-chaired the university's \$20 million comprehensive campaign. Eckelkamp and her husband, L.B., named and helped fund Fontbonne's Eckelkamp College of Global Business and Professional Studies. She also chaired a \$3 million fundraising campaign for St. Francis Borgia Parish in Washington, and she has been involved with the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation and the Saint Louis Art Museum, where she is a member of the Friends Board.

"I was surprised when I heard I had been chosen. It's very flattering," Eckelkamp said. "One of the primary focuses at Fontbonne is giving to community. That's what drew me to become a board member initially and ultimately stay involved in many other capacities. I grew up in a Catholic family where we learned the value of giving back, and Fontbonne is an incredible institution that thrives on value and virtue."

<< 2014 Founders and Alumni Award recipients include (l-r) Bonnie Eckelkamp, Jenna Grush '07, Maggie Gunn Fowler '64, Don Gillespie '79, Martha Willis Graham '73 and Mary Charity Dalton, CSJ.

## YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

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### Jenna Grush '07

As a Fontbonne student, Jenna Grush was a member of numerous organizations such as the Fontbonne Activities Board, FOCUS, and Fontbonne in Service and Humility. She was also a member of honors associations Kappa Gamma Pi as an undergraduate, and Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi as a graduate student. Additional involvements included the Human Service Club, the Fontbonne Commuter Advisory Board, the Fontbonne Mission and Heritage Committee, and the Fontbonne Student Government Association.

Grush's involvement and experience compliment her community work as past secretary of Fontbonne's alumni board, past chair of Fontbonne's Graduates of the Last Decade alumni committee, past Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteer and past Amate House volunteer. Despite these commitments, Grush has found time for six Fontbonne service trips during which she served as a leader, planner or volunteer. Today, Grush is the assistant director of admissions at Fontbonne, recruiting and enrolling new students.

## SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD

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### Don Gillespie '79

For 34 years, Don Gillespie has been a special education teacher working with children who have behavioral disorders. For more than 17 of those years, he has served as an alternative classroom teacher. From his own childhood experiences, he developed an interest in human behavior. He used his knowledge to develop relationships with students who were neglected, becoming a father figure, giving them money for lunch and clothing, and providing them with the motivation to prove doubters wrong.

Gillespie ran the Let's Attend to Education Program (L.A.T.E.) for at-risk students who could not deal with the normal daytime routine of the classroom, and earned the teacher of the year award at Northwest High School. Since the alternative classroom and night programs began, Gillespie has helped over 45 at-risk youth graduate from high school.

## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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### Martha Willis Graham '73

For 27 years, Martha Willis Graham has worked in education for Kansas City (Mo.) Public Schools. She has been the state national representative for the American Federation of Teachers, a grade level and professional development chairperson, a sponsor to the National Elementary Honor Society, Bridging the Gap Lynne Laughlin Volunteer Award winner and Junior Achievement of Mid-America Teacher of the Year Award winner.

Graham balances her career with her volunteer activities. Included in these are the Fontbonne University Kansas City Alumni Chapter, the Kansas City Mayor's Task Force on Racism, and the sponsorship of children in Rwanda through the Imana Kids Program. She also volunteers for the KC Middle School of the Arts Parent Advisory Program, is chairperson of the HOPE organization, and works with Phi Delta Kappa Sorority Inc. Additionally, Graham is a member of the Pastoral Council at St. Therese Little Flower in Kansas City.

## SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AWARD

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### Maggie Gunn Fowler '64

Following her graduation from Fontbonne with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Drama, Maggie Gunn Fowler served as a papal volunteer high school teacher for two years in Belize. She taught English, religion and sewing, and she directed drama activities after school. Fowler was later chair of the St. Joseph's Academy speech and drama department from 1966-1970. She then embarked on a career in fund development, including the position of director of development at Fontbonne from 2004-2005.

Throughout family, community and professional endeavors, Fowler has maintained her service to Fontbonne. She has balanced volunteer work for her parishes, children's schools and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Motherhouse. Fowler is a charter member of the Fontbonne Community Connection, a women's giving circle. She is especially active on the membership committee, serving the past two years as co-chair.



# Forever Purple and GOLD 2014

Fontbonne University alumni gathered on campus in October to remember and reconnect with longtime friends and their alma mater. The Griffins who gathered met the new university president, revisited important events in Fontbonne history, toured the campus, and celebrated Alumni and Founders' Awards recipients. Here are some of the weekend's highlights.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2015 REUNION WEEKEND!  
OCT. 2-4: BACK TO THE FUTURE**



## CATCHING UP

(l-r) Ida Berresheim CSJ '60, Mary Carol Anth CSJ '57, Betty Baerveldt Glickert '51 and Ann Pace CSJ '62, member of the board of trustees, reconnected during the Reunion Brunch and Alumni Awards Ceremony.



## YOUNG ALUMS

Sara Hermann '09 (left) and Mary Gould Papulis '10, friends since their time at Fontbonne, helped plan the Sip, Savor and Socialize event.



## TASTY TREATS ON THE GO

New this year, three food trucks — St. Louis favorites — rolled onto campus to feed hungry alumni and their guests at the Griffin Alumni Picnic Bash.



**FONTBONNE PRIDE**

The family of Martha Willis Graham '73 (seated on right) gathered to see her accept the 2014 Professional Achievement Award.



**CLASS OF 2004**

(l-r) Jesse '03 and Monica '04 Walter and Sarah '04 and Chris Deckert celebrated Monica and Sarah's 10-year reunion at the Sip, Savor and Socialize party.



**DEDICATED AND DEVOTED**

Christina Anderson '03, president of the alumni association board of directors, congratulated Maggie Gunn Fowler '64, recipient of the 2014 Service to the University Award.



**CLASS REUNION**

Members of the class of '73 gathered together to catch up and celebrate at the All Alumni Party.

# WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Leave a legacy that will have an impact for generations to come. A bequest through your will or trust pays rich dividends by helping ensure the future of Fontbonne University's educational mission.

You can give:

- a percentage of your estate
- the residue of your estate
- a specific asset

Remember, for bequest purposes, legal and tax advisors will need our legal name:

**Fontbonne University,  
St. Louis, Missouri.**

For more information,  
call (314) 719-3668 or  
email [jsheehan@fontbonne.edu](mailto:jsheehan@fontbonne.edu).

If you've included Fontbonne in your will or trust, please tell us so we can make sure your specific wishes can be met. Just clip out this form and mail it to the below address, or fill out an easy online version at [www.fontbonne.edu/legacy](http://www.fontbonne.edu/legacy).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of your estate gift:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We respect your privacy! This information is kept strictly confidential.

**Mail to:**

Fontbonne University  
Attn: Jan Sheehan  
Planned Giving Officer  
6800 Wydown Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
or fax: (314) 719-3658



# New University, Familiar Ground

By Dominic Genetti

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Fontbonne University's location and appearance were, of course, new to Joe Deighton when he came aboard as vice president for student affairs in July. But, the university's mission and values were already familiar characteristics to the 48-year-old.

"I was immediately attracted to the university because it's an institution sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet," Deighton said. "I previously worked at Avila University in Kansas City, which is also sponsored by the CSJs."

Deighton took over for Randi Wilson, who retired after 22 years with the university. Before arriving at Fontbonne, Deighton held the same position at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., where he also served as dean of students. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Finance from Walsh University in Canton, Ohio, and a Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

"When you're new to an institution, you bring fresh eyes and your own past experiences to the table," Deighton said. "A lot of good things are already happening here. I plan to partner with the great people in the student affairs division and across the entire university to continue to make campus life better for our students."

Deighton believes in a strong and transparent relationship with the student body. He also wants to develop new opportunities for student engagement. Case in point: the newly established Campus Ministry Leadership Scholarship.

"This was a unique opportunity to create a scholarship and to get new students immediately involved and engaged in campus ministry," Deighton said. "A scholarship like this will help students grow and provide a forum for them to share their talents and gifts with the entire Fontbonne community."

Since his arrival at Fontbonne, Deighton has settled into the St. Louis area with his wife and two sons. Deighton and his family decided to leave Alabama in order to return to the Midwest and be in service to the students of Fontbonne University.

"I'm loving it. I feel great about this city and the university," Deighton said. "The campus community truly cares for the students here and wants the best for them."



# ■ class notes

## 1950

**MARY ENSEBERGER COSTIGAN '52** and her husband, Paul, a professor emeritus at Quincy University, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 21, 2014. They have five sons and nine grandchildren. Children, grandchildren, relatives and friends descended on Quincy, Ill., in August to help them celebrate.

## 1960



When members of the class of 1961 are not smiling for the camera, they are exchanging Christmas cookies (a 51-year tradition), traveling, doing lunch or dinner, or entertaining others. Pictured left to right, longtime friends **CAROLYN CARROL ZWART '60**, **MARILYN MONTILEONE DELL'ORCO '61**, **JOAN SCHAFERS NEUMARKER '61** and **RUTH KLOUD POLITTE '61**, still love to get together.

**JOAN WHITTEMORE. CSJ. '67** recently published the following works: "A Guide to Ospedali Research," a compendium; "So You Want to Learn to Sing!," an e-book; "Porpora's Magnificat in A Minor," a choral music arrangement, and "Maestra — The Legacy of Fiora Corradetti Contino," a biography.

**ELAINE BELOVICH '68** retired after nearly 20 years from her position at Mineral Area College in Park Hills, Mo. She lives in Ste. Genevieve, Mo.

## 1970

**ELAINE RYNDERS '73** is a physician's assistant with St. Anthony's Physician Group in Alton, Ill. She retired from the United States Air Force as a lieutenant colonel after 21 years of service.

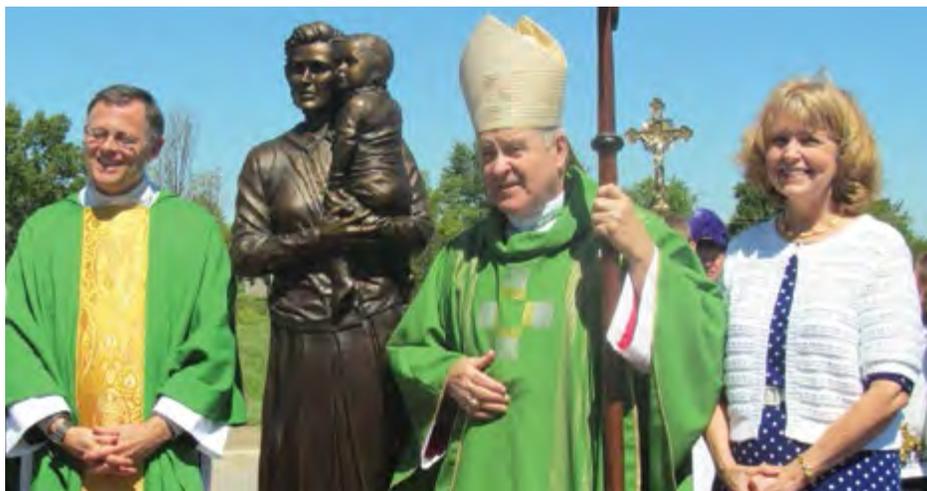
**NANCY BOOS GEORGEN '76** was named to the Fontbonne Board of Trustees. She is a principal at Moneta Group LLC and a co-founder of Retirement Plan Services LLC. Georgen contributes to the St. Louis community through her current work as a board member for Nonprofit Services Center, her membership on the COCA Investment and Endowment committee, and her service as past board chair of Crossroads College Preparatory School.

**BETTY MILLER AMELOTI '77** won the Alumni Refer-a-Friend contest in support of Fontbonne's fall preview day. Amelotti will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card for referring a prospective student to Fontbonne.



**DON GILLESPIE '79** retired after 35 years at Northwest High School in Dittmer, Mo. He is noted for his work with students at risk. In 2014, Gillespie was recognized with Fontbonne's Alumni Award for service to the community.

## 1990



**JULIE MEDER SESTI BFA '91, MA '95** (pictured above, right) has created many public sculptures since leaving Fontbonne. On Sept. 7, 2014, St. Louis Archbishop Robert J. Carlson (above, center) and Pastor Father Timothy Elliott (above, left) celebrated Mass at St. Gianna Church in Wentzville, Mo., and the Archbishop then blessed Sesti's new bronze sculpture of St. Gianna and Child. St. Gianna, who died in 1962, was a doctor, wife and mother, and is a patron saint to people in the medical field, families and the unborn.

**CARMEN HORNBERGER '93 MM '00** was elected to the Fontbonne University Alumni Association. Hornberger is a senior business systems consultant for Wells Fargo Advisors.



**MATT WALLACH '94, '01** recently left Energizer Holdings Inc. to accept a position as director of shopper marketing business leadership at Momentum Worldwide, where he leads Smucker's portfolio of brands.



**SUSAN LABOMBARD '95 AND KAREN HERMANN '96** were married on May 21, 2014, in Rock Hall, Md. Hermann, who received her law degree from George Washington University School of Law in 1999, is a mergers and acquisitions attorney at Crowell & Moring in Washington, D.C.

LaBombard is a nonprofit grant writer and fundraising consultant. They have resided in Old Town Alexandria, Va., since 1996.

**PATRICIA COLEMAN '97**, CEO of Behavioral Health Response Inc., spoke in April 2014 to Fontbonne students about empowerment, mental health, diversity and business.

**KRISTY DANIELS-JACKSON '97** was hired as the first African American district coordinator of gifted education for the Webster Groves (Mo.) School District. She is the publisher of a curriculum program called the "Captain MAP" testing program.

**TIM KERTZ '99** has earned Wells Fargo Advisors' "Premier Advisor" designation for the third consecutive year. He is senior vice president at Wells Fargo in Osage Beach, Mo., where he lives with his wife, Elizabeth Beckel Kertz '99, and their three children.

**PEGGY SHEPARD '99**, a paralegal at the Jacksonville, Ill., office of Ramelkamp Bradney, is now one of only 38 PACE Registered Paralegals in the state credentialed through the National Federation of Paralegal Associations.

**KEM M. SMITH BBA '99, MA '01**, a local author, held a book signing of her debut fiction novel, "She's Got Her Own," at K.I.S.S. Fitness Studio in Florissant, Mo.

## 2000

**SARAJENI HAMMOND MBA '00** was featured in a St. Louis Business Journal cover story titled "Goal Keepers: The Power of Positive Peer Pressure." She is the director of talent management, global supply chain, at Monsanto, and has been recognized numerous times for leadership and involvement in the St. Louis area.

**JACKIE POLYS '02** recently published her first children's book, "Ralston the Rally Squirrel." Visit [mascotbooks.com](http://mascotbooks.com) for more information.

**CAROLYN VAN HEE '02, '06** married Marcus Gildehaus on Aug. 16, 2014. She is a reading intervention specialist at Hanna Woods Elementary School in the Parkway School District in St. Louis County.



**LINDSAY LEHMANN CLEMENS '04, '05** was elected to the Fontbonne Alumni Association. She is a teacher at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis.

**CARRIE FLAVIN WENBERG MM '06** joined St. Joseph's Academy as a development specialist for alumnae programs.

**LESLIE MARECEK THOMAS '07** and **JIM THOMAS '06 MBA '08** proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Molly Geneva Thomas, born Oct. 24, 2014. The family resides in Sunset Hills, Mo.

**JASON BUHLINGER '07** was promoted to manager of financial advisory services at Brown Smith Wallace LLC. Additionally, he was named to the St. Louis Business Journal's 2014 "30 Under 30" class.

**BRIAN FOGERTY '09**, a player on the men's basketball team from 2005-2009, was inducted into the 2014 St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Hall of Fame.

**SARA HERMANN '09** was elected to the Fontbonne Alumni Association. Hermann currently works for Mehlville (Mo.) School District as a second-grade teacher.

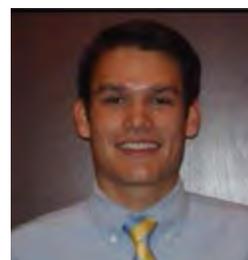


**LISA JACKSON '09** married Tim Straszacker on Nov. 15, 2014. She is currently employed as a nanny, and he is an engineer with Horner & Shifrin in St. Louis.

## 2010

**STACEY CIOLEK '12** married Brian Hendrixson on March 8, 2014, at River City Casino in St. Louis.

**CAROLYN COMPTON '13** is the neighborhood advocate for the Central West End and Forest Park Southeast neighborhoods in St. Louis.



**DUSTIN GRAVES '14** was elected to the Fontbonne Alumni Association. He is currently working on an MBA at St. Louis University.

**CHELSEA HEJNAL '12** married Justin Jones in May. She works in occupational therapy at NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jonesboro, Ark.

**KELLY HERBST MS '10** married Ryan P. Mullherin on Sept. 27, 2014. She is a speech-language pathologist in early childhood with the Hazelwood School District in St. Louis County.

**DUTCH KNICKMEYER '05** is a middle school science and math teacher in the Sullivan (Mo.) School District.

**MELANIE PATICOFF '11** has launched a new magazine for children with hearing loss, Hearing Our Way, the first magazine of its kind. Visit [www.HearingOurWay.com](http://www.HearingOurWay.com) to learn more.

**LARA VONNAHMEN '11** is a logistics petty officer in the US Navy. She lives in San Diego and works in the mailroom aboard the USS Regan.



## SEND US YOUR NEWS ... AND PHOTOS!

If you've recently moved, married, had a baby or changed jobs, or you have other information to announce, we welcome your news.

**We also welcome your photos!** Email your information and photos to the Alumni Office at [alumnievents@fontbonne.edu](mailto:alumnievents@fontbonne.edu) or mail to Office of Alumni Relations, 6800 Wydown Blvd., St. Louis, Mo., 63105.



# *in memory*

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**MARY CRIMMINS FISHER '32**

*of Tiffin, Ohio  
December 1, 2013*

**MARY RUOFF, CSJ '48**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
February 23, 2014*

**JOANNE CENTO BLASE '60**

*of Ballwin, Missouri  
January 20, 2014*

**JANET FLOOD TOLAND '69**

*of Elkhart, Indiana  
March 6, 2014*

**HELEN KLEIR YOUNGHOUSE '40**

*of Florham Park, New Jersey  
March 23, 2014*

**HELEN CATALDI CATANZARO '50**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
December 11, 2013*

**JUDITH REINHART DREYER '60**

*of Northfield, Illinois  
May 24, 2014*

**CHRISTINE RUHMANN PAFFRATH '70**

*of Tacoma, Washington  
January 20, 2014*

**MARGARET MILLER SIEVERS '41**

*of Chesterfield, Missouri  
February 12, 2014*

**DOROTHY FRIES LUDOLPH '51**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
July 22, 2014*

**JOAN BANACH TILLMAN '61**

*of Black Jack, Missouri  
June 19, 2014*

**LESLIE BRYAN GRAVES '71**

*of Columbia, Missouri  
March 28, 2014*

**MARJORIE BOEVING BELKNAP '43**

*of Poplar Bluff, Missouri  
October 30, 2014*

**SHIRLEY WILSON BUB '52**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
November 9, 2014*

**NANCY NABBEFELD JERSA '61**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
March 18, 2014*

**NANCY BARTON '72**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
April 26, 2014*

**OLIVETTE KISSEL MORAN '43**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
July 28, 2014*

**JAMES LORENE HOGAN, CSJ '52**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
June 5, 2014*

**MAUREEN DONELON WEHNER '64**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
January 6, 2014*

**DIANNE PETERSEN STRUTYNSKI '75**

*of Lake Saint Louis, Missouri  
February 17, 2014*

**JOAN SANDERS '45**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
January 2014*

**CECILIA SULLIVAN, CSJ '54**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
November 7, 2014*

**MARY FAHEY '67**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
March 23, 2014*

**RICHARD CAHILL '92**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
October 18, 2014*

**ANNA SMITH HERBST '46**

*of Farmington, Missouri  
February 1, 2014*

**MARY DRAKE DINEEN '56**

*of Belgrade, Montana  
November 9, 2014*

**JOYCE NEELEY KINDER '68**

*of Aiken, South Carolina  
November 7, 2014*

**YOVANDRA "VAN" CLARK '05**

*of Ballwin, Missouri  
November 11, 2014*

**MARY MONAGHAN, CSJ '48**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
March 2, 2014*

**MARGARET WITTMANN BOLL '58**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
February 4, 2014*

**SHERRY SUGG DRURY '68**

*of Morganfield, Kentucky  
June 10, 2014*

**ROSEMARY MAY RING '48**

*of Kirkwood, Missouri  
June 9, 2014*

**MARGARET SCHMIDT, CSJ '59**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
November 7, 2014*

**JEAN MEIER, CSJ '69**

*of Saint Louis, Missouri  
May 22, 2014*

## ■ faculty notes

**Mark Douglas**, associate professor of fine arts and chair of the department of fine arts, in December participated in the Scope International Contemporary Art Show, an exhibition showcasing artists from nearly all continents.



**Judith Failoni**, professor of education and special education, served as an instructor in summer 2014 for MOSAIC, a consortium of colleges that includes Fontbonne. She spent five weeks in Paris teaching a course titled "Paris Culture: Sights, Sounds, Tastes!"

**Dr. Cheryl Houston**, professor and director of dietetics, has been named a Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, an honor that recognizes distinguished academy members for their service to the dietetics profession and their commitment to the improvement of the nation's health through food and nutrition.

**Dr. Susan Lenihan**, professor and director of deaf education, partnered with Carlos Benitz-Barrerra MA '11 (of Spain) and Evelyne Mayer MA '08 (of Germany), both graduates of the program, on a paper titled "Global Partnerships in Professional Preparation of Family-Centered Early Interventionists."

**Joseph Mannion**, lecturer in the Eckelkamp College of Global Business and Professional Studies, presented in October a workshop at the Association for Applied Sport Psychology titled "It's Not Brain Surgery: Using Neuroscience to Inform Practice, Educate Clients, and Expand Sport Psychology Service Delivery to Executives."

**Dr. Stephenie Paine-Saunders**, assistant professor in the department of biological and physical sciences, is completing a sabbatical at Washington University School of Medicine department of developmental biology, exploring the role of glypican, a protein, in the development of zebra fish.



**Dr. Benjamin Moore**, associate professor of English and communication, developed an inter-institutional agreement with Affton High School in which Affton students participate in the Bosnia Memory Project through a course granting college credit from Fontbonne. This past summer, Moore addressed the Annual Conference of the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences in St. Louis with a presentation titled "Such an Unusual World that We Live In: Confronting the Bosnian Genocide in St. Louis." Additionally, the Bosnia Memory Project collaborated with Friends of Bosnia and the International Institute to host the traveling exhibit "Bosnian Born," which featured work by Bosnian artists from around the world.

**Mary Beth Ohlms**, assistant professor and chair of the department of family & consumer sciences, gave a presentation titled "Camp F.R.E.S.H.®: Fostering Cultural Competence in Middle School Children" at the 2014 Missouri Association of Family & Consumer Sciences State Meeting.

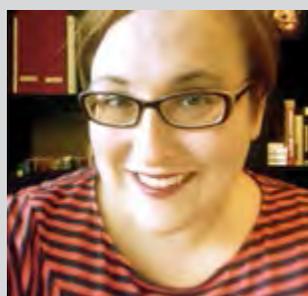


**Dr. Lynne Shields**, professor and director of graduate studies in speech-language pathology, hosted a one-day workshop on Fontbonne's campus in October with support from the Fontbonne Community Connection, Friends: The National Association of Young People Who Stutter, and the Stuttering Foundation.

**Dr. Gale Rice**, dean of Fontbonne's College of Education and Allied Health Professions and chair of the department of communication disorders and deaf education, presented a paper titled "Academic Content of Educational Goals and Objectives for Children Who Use AACs" at the 16th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communications in Lisbon, Portugal. She partnered with two Fontbonne graduates, Julie Griswold and Molly McCarthey, who completed the master's program in speech-language pathology in May 2014.



*Rice awards a camper during Fontbonne's biannual Augmentative and Alternative Weekend Family Theater Camp.*



**Corinne Taff**, assistant professor of history, philosophy and religion, presented in October a paper titled "To Visit Orphans: The Evangelical 'Orphan Care' Movement and Implications for American Empire" at the Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association Conference in Indianapolis. In November, she presented another paper, "Haiti's 'Halo': Celebrity Earthquake Relief, Race, Empire, and Meanings of Haiti," at the Haitian Studies Association Conference at the University of Notre Dame.

*continued >>*



In October, Jack C. Taylor Library representatives made presentations in break-out sessions at the annual Missouri Library Association Conference in Columbia, Mo. **Peggy Ridlen**, instruction librarian, and **Jane Theissen**, learning commons librarian, presented "Putting It All Together: A Framework for Addressing the New ACRL Information Literacy Standards." **Julie Portman**, technical services librarian, helped present "And the Oscar Goes To ... The Nighthawks: Special Collections Internships," a discussion about the internship process with reference to Portman's sabbatical at the Art Institute of Chicago. **Mark Glenshaw**, daytime public services manager, presented "Stu-jitsu: the Gentle Art of Supervising Student Workers."

**Dr. Guanyu Tian**, assistant professor in math and computer sciences, presented in October on his partnered work, "Reroute on Loop in Anonymous Peer-to-Peer Content Sharing Networks," at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Conference on Communication and Network Security.



**Dr. Daryl Wennemann**, associate professor of philosophy, attended in September the 6th annual Beyond Humanism Conference at the University of the Aegean in Lesbos, Greece.

An article co-authored by **Dr. Yi Yang**, assistant professor in the department of math and computer sciences, titled "Enhanced Source Location Privacy Based on Random Perturbations for Wireless Sensor Networks," was accepted by the International Journal of Software and Informatics Special Issue on Information and System Security.

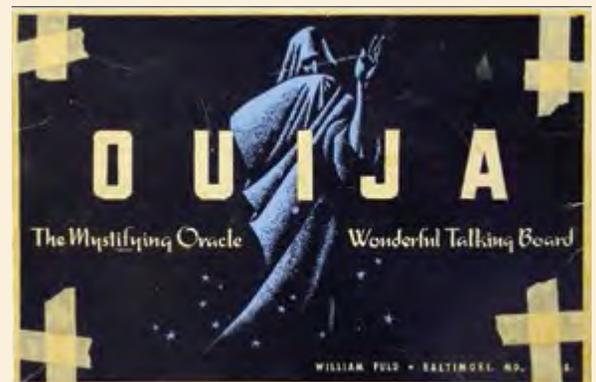
## FONTBONNE FINE ARTS PROFESSOR CHOSEN TO REPRESENT "STATE OF THE ART"

**Tim Liddy**, Fontbonne University associate professor of fine arts, was chosen in 2014 as one of 102 artists around the country to represent American art in the 21st century. Curators chose from a pool of 10,000 artists across America, narrowing that number down to 1,000, which they visited in-studio, before choosing the final 100. Curated by the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art in Bentonville, Ark., the new exhibition, titled "State of the Art," is a "one-of-a-kind exhibition that draws from every region of the U.S., offering an unusually diverse look at American art," according to the website.

In his exhibited work, Liddy, a painter, craftsman and draftsman, developed a series of hyperrealist paintings that feature the lids of vintage board games, images that remind the viewer not only of specific times in history, but reflect the nuances of a generation — and serve as "reminders of the rules of life."

Additionally, Liddy is currently creating 10 football-themed game boxes commissioned by the Kansas City Chiefs for their Art Program Collection.

State of the Art ran through Jan. 19, 2015. After its closing, the exhibition will tour major museums across the world for three years.





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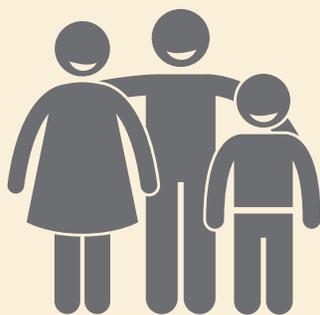
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# A Message from the President

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Greetings from Ryan Hall, a place that has become my office home. I have had the great pleasure of getting to know Fontbonne as a newcomer, much like our freshmen and other new students have done over the past several months. With each passing day, the halls, offices, classrooms and other nooks and crannies of the university have become familiar to me. This is a warm and welcoming place. My many friends and family members from out of town who attended the inaugural week activities in mid-November all commented on the beauty and warmth of our campus. But you already know this; you have first-hand experience as alumni and friends of Fontbonne.

I have come to know many of you since I began my tenure here on July 1. More so than the buildings and our beautiful physical environs, I have learned about the beauty of Fontbonne through its people. The stories of alumni, faculty, staff, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, emeritus faculty and others paint a more complete picture of the university. These moments of sharing fill me with deep reverence for our rich history, as well as hope for the future. The work we have been doing here since 1923 is as vital today and important to our future communities and our country as it was when the sisters first taught here. A Fontbonne education makes a difference!

This is made possible in part because of the generous support of many donors who provide unrestricted gifts, scholarship and program support, and investments in capital projects. I thank all of you who have been able to make gifts to support the university. Our need for philanthropic support will continue to grow. We have hopes, aspirations and plans for the future that we will discuss in future *Tableaux* issues. Because we are grounded in a rich CSJ heritage, please know that we will use contributions wisely as we plot our future course. And understand that there are other ways to support Fontbonne as well — a prospective student referral makes a wonderful contribution.

So please continue to spread the good news of Fontbonne in 2015 and beyond, knowing that our future is bright. When you are in the neighborhood, please stop in for a visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J. Michael Pressimone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

J. Michael Pressimone, Ed.D.  
President

# A Message from the Board Chair

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This November, the Fontbonne University community made history. We officially welcomed Dr. J. Michael Pressimone as the university's 14th president, only the second married, male president in the school's 92 years. Already, Mike has initiated an atmosphere of warmth and transparency, and he is eager to work with all of us to help usher the university into a new era of growth.

As the chair of Fontbonne's board of trustees, I welcome you, Fontbonne's alumni and friends, to join us as we consider the future of the university. It is vast and boundless, indeed, and with your help, we hope to grow in numbers as well as in academic offerings, real-world opportunities and critical connections.

As a tight-knit, Catholic, liberal arts university, Fontbonne serves an important niche in the St. Louis educational landscape. Here, students have found the tools, support and resources they need to find their potential and lead fulfilling lives personally and professionally. But we can always do more. Already, we are working to expand our offerings in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, areas that will need qualified professionals in the coming years. We are offering higher quality, more flexible programs for our adult population, while developing key relationships with corporations both local and beyond. We are providing more and better opportunities for our undergraduate students to connect with the university and with each other. And we are reaching out to wider, broader audiences to tell them about Fontbonne and all that we offer.

Your partnership is critical to this vision of growth, and we invite you to take part in it. As Fontbonne's greatest ambassadors, your support and representation in the community will help us make the university even more valuable to future generations.

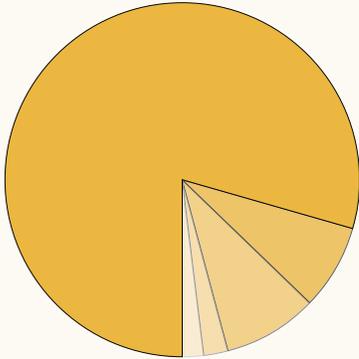
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary E. Krosch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

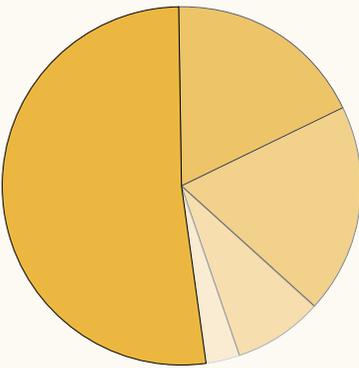
Gary E. Krosch  
Board Chair

# STATEMENT *of* ACTIVITIES

for fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014)



REVENUE	2012-2013	2013-2014	
tuition and fees	\$ 33,313,194	\$ 32,470,441	
less institutional financial aid	7,940,542	8,107,349	
<b>net tuition and fees</b>	<b>\$ 25,372,652</b>	<b>\$ 24,363,092</b>	<b>79.7%</b>
gifts and grants	2,708,121	2,327,182	7.6%
auxiliary enterprises	2,484,298	2,675,624	8.7%
endowment and investments	589,592	710,810	2.3%
other sources	126,426	508,641	1.7%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 31,281,089</b>	<b>\$ 30,585,349</b>	<b>100%</b>



EXPENSES	2012-2013	2013-2014	
instruction & academic support	\$ 17,077,493	\$ 15,725,841	51.9%
student services	5,369,738	5,511,017	18.2%
institutional support	5,401,429	5,668,225	18.7%
auxiliary enterprises	2,432,840	2,449,886	8.1%
other scholarships & fellowships	759,652	922,380	3.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 31,041,152</b>	<b>\$ 30,277,349</b>	<b>100%</b>



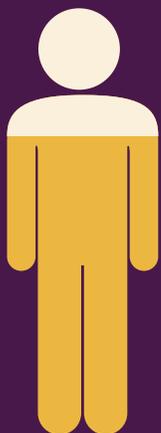
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Thank you for your generosity and dedication to Fontbonne University. For the very first time, the honor roll of donors will be featured solely online instead of in print. This change will help us be more environmentally friendly and cost-conscious, while giving the honor roll new life in a digital format.

Featured below, a visual snapshot broadly represents the many gifts you gave during the 2014 fiscal year, from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. We are so grateful for each of them, as well as for you, our donors and supporters.

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donor**

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# BACK TO THE FUTURE

***Alumni Reunion Weekend 2015!***  
**SAVE THE DATE: OCT. 2-4**

*ALL alumni are invited to attend. Questions? Call the alumni office at 314.889.1403*