$100,000 NEH Matching Grant to Bosnia Memory Project

Fontbonne’s Bosnia Memory Project recently experienced a celebratory moment that, according to Dr. Ben Moore, will enable the project to support a variety of growth opportunities for the Bosnian community.

The Bosnia Memory Project received a $100,000 matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The project is one of 34 institutions — and the only one in Missouri — to receive one of its inaugural Humanities Access grants. “This award is of tremendous benefit to our work with the Bosnian community,” said Dr. Moore, Fontbonne English professor and the project’s guiding light. “It’s establishing an enduring record of Bosnian genocide survivors, especially those living in metropolitan St. Louis.”

In FCC’s first award cycle in 2008, the two-year-old Bosnia Memory Project received one of our initial awards. FCC members learned that there are more Bosnians per capita in St. Louis than anywhere else outside Bosnia and came to know the incredible work of Ben Moore and his dedicated volunteers and the St. Louis area Bosnian community. During subsequent award cycles, FCC members voted three more times to support various aspects of this important project, for a total of $18,500 to date.

The NEH Humanities Access program offers grants of $50,000 and $100,000 to enhance and support existing cultural programs for youth, communities of color, and economically disadvantaged populations — targeting groups that have historically lacked access to the humanities. In order to receive the full amount, Fontbonne and the Bosnia Memory Project must provide matching funds raised from non-federal, third-party donors. We’re hopeful generous friends of Fontbonne and the Bosnian community will step up to provide these matching funds. The Humanities Access grant, along with these matching funds, will specifically assist the Bosnia Memory Project in expanding its current work with Affton High School to other schools, by providing means and equipment for students to collect additional oral histories and primary archival materials. The funds will also allow the Bosnia Memory Project to reach new audiences through public events that raise awareness about Bosnia.

To learn more about the Bosnia Memory Project or to make a contribution to the match, go to www.fontbonne.edu/bosnia

Dr. Moore shares the good news of the $100,000 NEH grant awarded to the Bosnia Memory Project.
Collaborative Lab for English/Communication Students

Nearly a year ago, two seldom-used rooms on the third floor of the East Building began undergoing physical refurbishment. That’s when Dr. Kristen Norwood applied for and was given an FCC award to turn the ignored space into a place for students to gather — and especially to give English Communications majors and faculty a place to congregate and create. Kristen also envisioned an environment where staff could create and edit digital artifacts, conduct scholarly research, practice presentations, record lectures for online classes and collaborate.

Today, the multi-use departmental space is warm, inviting and a popular community spot. It’s home base for two relatively new innovative majors — Strategic Communications and Strategic Writing — both of which require the latest software, offering cutting edge education for the entire department. Known as ENCO Lab, this area also provides much needed recording space to assist the Bosnia Memory Project with recording interviews. And it is a central location where anyone can practice, record and view speech presentations.

Today, English majors are more often encouraged to pursue a minor specialty in healthcare, technology or to train in the theories behind social media and audience positioning. So ENCO is a busy place — a gathering space for students who might be doing podcasts, tweeting, practicing a presentation, checking out video equipment for a class project, working on an ENCO Lab Chromebook or creating brochures, Public Service Announcements or advertising.

According to Department Chair Heather Norton, English and Communication enrollment increases every semester. “We very much appreciate having a program that attracts the interest of potential students.” And there is more to come: word is that a new campus digital publication is in the works!

NEW MEMBER: Mary Grace - Ready to Make a Difference

A chance encounter with Jan Reilly and Karen Gedera on the Fontbonne parking lot, prior to the All Souls Mass last November, convinced Mary Phelps Grace ’87 to join our sisterhood. Their glowing words about FCC were reinforced when Mary met other FCC members inside. The appeal was irresistible. “I had reached a place where I was ready to be part of something bigger and to make a difference,” Mary says. “It sounded like an opportunity to pay back for what Fontbonne means to me. I had not been a good student, and attending Fontbonne really changed my life. It made me want to learn and to ‘be better.’ And there were so many phenomenal teachers,” she says, citing Sr. Stephanie Stueber in particular.

Mary, a Human Resource Major, is Youth Services Specialist at the Grand Glaize Branch of St. Louis County Library. In this capacity, she plans toddler through high-school level reading programs, for youth in the Manchester area. She notes the goals of these programs are totally educational, yet they are structured to be great fun. “Young people truly miss the world if they don’t read,” she says.

Mary and her husband, process engineer Terry Grace, have three adult children: Evan, Emily and Lydia. Their idea of great family fun together is to pull out the old-fashioned board games — such a refreshing idea in this age of technology and electronics! FCC is a bit old-fashioned, too — embracing those same “giving back” principles that attracted you, Mary. Welcome to the club!
NEW MEMBER: Candance Hurd - New Way of Giving

Candance Hurd is enthusiastic about the Fontbonne Community Connection. A conversation with Carol Spehr, at the Founders Day Award ceremony in December, seemed a call to a new kind of giving. “Carol made me promise to visit the FCC webpage”, she says, “which further encouraged me. I’ve always considered myself a giving person, and I think God wants to take me to a new way of giving, networking and connecting with others — especially women. FCC gives me a new way to experience relationships.”

A native St. Louisan and 2012 Fontbonne graduate with a BA in Human Services, Candance is currently pursuing a 2018 Master of Science degree from Fontbonne. Her field, Instructional Design and Technology, is focused on education programming and curriculum development.

In addition to her graduate studies, Candance has just begun part-time work as an Instructional Design Intern at St. Louis College of Pharmacy. She’s also a free-lance sign language interpreter and she’s on the Fontbonne Alumni Board. Add to that, she’s a single mom who’s very proud of her two high school age sons, one of whom heads to college this fall. So this lady is busy!

It’s clear family is high priority for her. She likes to plan regular family activities and team-building projects, and she looks to travel for both fun and ministry. “I want to help others, as I have been helped, and I want to be a good disciple,” she says. Her dedication and enthusiasm seem perfectly suited to the highest hopes of the FCC. We warmly welcome Candance to our sisterhood!

Our Spring Celebration: A Decade – A Difference

This celebration of a tenth birthday is as big a deal as one would expect for any very special ten-year-old. On April 28, FCC members and guests will assemble to enjoy an evening reception recognizing ten years of shared accomplishments, achieved because of our common philanthropic journey.

During the past decade, 126 projects, programs and initiatives have touched lives far beyond the Fontbonne campus and St. Louis community, and have even extended to other countries. The power and impact of faculty, staff and students, supported by this giving circle of women, is cause for us to recognize and celebrate a decade of difference and positive change.

Events Committee Co-Chairs Sandy Lehrer and Maggi Wester and their committee members have planned a fitting celebration to reflect this milestone in FCC commitment to Fontbonne. The atmosphere in Medaille Hall’s Arnold Memorial Center will be highly charged, reflecting the excitement of our shared accomplishment and expectation for the future.

And, yes, there will be a cake! Mark your calendar today, to celebrate the joy of giving together and being together. More information will be forthcoming.

Please Consider Paying Forward

As we approach FCC’s tenth anniversary celebration, please consider sharing the rewarding experiences we have enjoyed with women who could strengthen our circle — taking it to a new level in the next decade. Since we all have women friends for whom the financial commitment precludes membership, FCC has a long-established Sponsorship Fund. This fund enables a current member to make an anonymous contribution, of any amount, towards a partial or full membership. Paying forward shares what we love and strengthens our impact.

To learn more about how to pay it forward, contact Laura Farrar in Advancement: lfarrar@fontbonne.edu or (314)-889-4712
Teaching Women How to Negotiate for Fair Pay

Many women in today’s workforce would love to have attended one of Christine Keller’s Start Smart Workshops. Christine, Director of Career Development at Fontbonne, is seeing to it that young women who take advantage of these workshops structured for graduating students can effectively negotiate salary. The project was awarded FCC funding to train facilitators, who will work in pairs for three years on the Fontbonne campus.

The goal is simple — teach women how to negotiate and thereby decrease the gender wage gap.

If you Google “gender wage gap,” you will see that some call it a myth, invented by women. According to Christine — and to the American Association of University Women (AAUW) who created the Start Smart program — this is no myth. “The pay gap is real.”

An AAUW study conducted in 2015 found that women one year out of college are paid only 80 percent of what their male counterparts receive. For a college graduate, the personal consequences of this gender wage gap are that she may lose $1.2 million over her working lifetime. That’s where Start Smart workshops come in. They are designed to teach young women to negotiate their starting salary and narrow the gap early.

“The FCC award allows us to give women knowledge and tools for economic justice,” said Christine. “It also gives our community the opportunity to discuss the gender wage gap and let our men know that they can be powerful advocates for the women in their lives.”

Fontbonne’s Career Development Office has trained facilitators who offer the workshops to women, giving graduating students the ability to improve their lifelong earning potential, articulate their value, and build confidence in their negotiation style. Fifteen women attend 2-hour workshops, made possible by FCC funding that will eventually impact more than 300 women. Here’s what we know: Negotiating salary does more than simply net a woman more money in the short term. It leads to important long-term financial advances that are difficult to come by any other way. At Fontbonne, women are becoming empowered advocates when it comes to salary, benefits and promotions.

A Presentation You and Your Guests DON’T Want to Miss

You and your guests, are invited to hear Christine Keller present information about Start Smart workshops, which aim to teach women – of all ages – how to negotiate for fair pay. Her presentation, on Wednesday, April 5, from 5:30-6:30, will explain how the gender wage gap exists and how salary negotiation lessens the gap. Christine will also briefly discuss the main goals of the 2-hour Start Smart workshop and Fontbonne’s role as a Start Smart campus.

Start Smart Enables a Woman to:

- Negotiate her starting salary and narrow the gap early
- Improve lifelong earning potential
- Articulate her value
- Build confidence in negotiation style
- Sharpen budgeting skills

Christine Keller also teaches other career-focused classes, for both women and men, including this resume workshop for education majors.
Heartwarming Testimony at Wydown House: Making a Difference

FCC’s Fall Membership Evening at Wydown House is an evening of enjoyment on so many levels. And this autumn evening felt like a harbinger for FCC’s 10th anniversary, just five months away. Fifty FCC members and guests savored the last light of the autumn day on trees whose leaves were still holding on tight.

Dr. Pressimone and Cathy, an FCC member and our hostess, greeted arrivals in the foyer of their home, on this November 4th evening, when there was a great deal to fit into two hours.

Events and Membership Committee members had completed everything in their playbook: wine uncorked, table with an array of heavy hors d’oeuvres and dessert treats, chairs in neat rows, and several invited guests — joining with members to hear irresistible outcomes from awardees whose projects FCC members had voted to fund.

Dr. Guanyu Tian and Computer Science graduate student Hanqing Zhao mesmerized us with the important advances FCC funding has provided for their department’s Mobil App Lab, stressing its significance in today’s world of pervasive cyber threats. We were also exceptionally proud to hear Speech and Language Clinic Director Barb Meyer and Instructor Amanda Alton, praise the effective and avant-garde advances made by the FCC funded program, aimed at adults experiencing aphasia or other neurological conditions. A high point of the evening was Randy Miller’s delightful and heartwarming presentation, demonstrating how effective the program has been for him — and expressing his overwhelming appreciation.
Giving Society Donors Delight at Holiday “Thank You” Tea

Lord Michael and Lady Catherine Pressimone hosted a lovely Holiday Tea on December 4th to recognize members of Fontbonne’s LePuy, Lyon and Legacy Giving Societies (which include Fontbonne Community Connection members) for magnanimous support of the University. Medaille Hall’s Arnold Memorial Center was festively decorated for the holiday with beautifully set tables, laden with traditional teatime fare that included scones with Devonshire cream, lemon curd and a host of savory and sweet delights. The Mustard Seed Theatre’s “All Is Calm” a cappella cast opened the evening and set the tone, as guests joined in singing traditional carols to welcome the season of blessings and love.

FCC Goodies Fuel #GivingTuesday Donors

On the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, Fontbonne participated in #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving. For the second consecutive year, the Fontbonne community greatly surpassed goals — raising $40,280, with 385 donors participating, the largest number to date.

#GivingTuesday is fueled by the power of social media and the collaboration of generous people in communities around the world. This year at Fontbonne, campus donors were also fueled with homemade cookies, brownies, gooey butter cake and other scrumptious edible giving incentives. The FCC Membership Committee supplied bags of baked goodies, along with information about FCC, at the designated “Power Hour” of giving, 3-4 p.m. That’s when many chose to make pledges to Fontbonne and pick up a few nibbles at the same time. Hope to have attracted future FCC members — and cinch requests for FCC goodies at future #GivingTuesdays. That’s just how the cookie crumbles!
Message from the Chair

A Decade – A Difference – and three months doth a difference make! Since the Fall Newsletter, EAC (Executive Advisory Board) has been awurhl in activities. Working closely with Fontbonne Archivist and FCC member Catherine Lucy, the Archives and History Committee continues the nitty-gritty work of preserving FCC’s legacy. In November, the Awards Committee opened our 2017-18 awards season; final applications will be available for our April on-line review, May Round Table Discussions, and June voting. Bylaws Chair Barb Atteln and her Ad Hoc Committee are collecting and formulating volumes of procedural information into a quick guide for future FCC leadership.

Meanwhile, the Events Committee is creating a memorable Tenth Anniversary Gala which will include a tour of FCC-funded campus projects. We strongly encourage you to entice your spouse and/or a prospective member to witness FCC’s amazing accomplishments.

Marathoning along, the Membership Committee continues efforts to secure FCC’s funding capability. Their “sweet” baked contributions to Fontbonne’s Giving Tuesday raised FCC campus visibility. Sustainability efforts to recruit younger members precipitated Career Development Director Christine Keller’s April 5th presentation about her 2016-17 award Teaching Women to Negotiate for Fair Pay. Know someone who’s interested in this issue? Invite her! Marathons reap benefits and so have Membership’s efforts: Meet Mary Phelps Grace and Candance Hurd in this issue and Theresa Bryant Blaskiewez in our Spring Newsletter. Welcome, Mary, Terry, and Candance!

FCC Liaison Laura Farrar is working with the Public Relations Committee and EAC to transfer all Blackboard materials to our website. More information/instructions to come. PR is preparing Tenth Anniversary materials and has collaborated on the Communications Department’s late February alumni publication, TABLEAUX. Trumpet, please! FCC is featured in this winter issue! It is a must read for us and for every female who loves Fontbonne. Toot your horn for FCC!

Finally, kudos to member Laura O’Hara, recipient of a 2016 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award.

Happy Spring!

Maggie Gunn Fowler, FCC Chair

Upcoming Events

February, 2017
8 – EAC Meeting, 8:45-11:00 am

March, 2017
1 – Ash Wednesday
8 – EAC Meeting, 8:45-11:00 am
20-24 – Spring Break

April, 2017
2 – Final Award Applications due 8:00 pm
5 – Negotiating for Equal Pay, 5:30 pm
7 – Fontbonne Day
12 – EAC Meeting, 8:45-11:00 am
13-14 – Easter Break
28 – 10th Anniversary Celebration, 5:30 pm

FCC 2016-2017 Officers & Committee Chairs

OFFICERS
Chair: Maggie Fowler
Vice Chair: Mary Schenkenberg
Corresponding Secretary: Jan Reilly
Recording Secretary: Barb Atteln
Treasurer: Joan Kelly

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Archives & History: Nina Bryans
Awards: Liz Glaser
Bylaws: Barb Atteln
Events: Sandy Lehrer & Maggi Wester
Membership: Mary Lee Walter & Becky McDermott
Public Relations: Anita Lamont & Joan Falk
FCC Historian: Sr. Jane Hassett, CSJ

FCC Staff, 2017 Winter Newsletter
Anita Lamont & Joan Falk, Editors
Barb Atteln
Mary Lee Walter
Laura Farrar
Maddie Redohl, Student Intern

They’re Off and Running ...

Awards Committee Chair Liz Glaser reports that 41 Preliminary FCC Award Applications were submitted by the Friday, January 27, deadline.

The next deadline is for Final Applications:
5:00 pm, Friday, April 7.