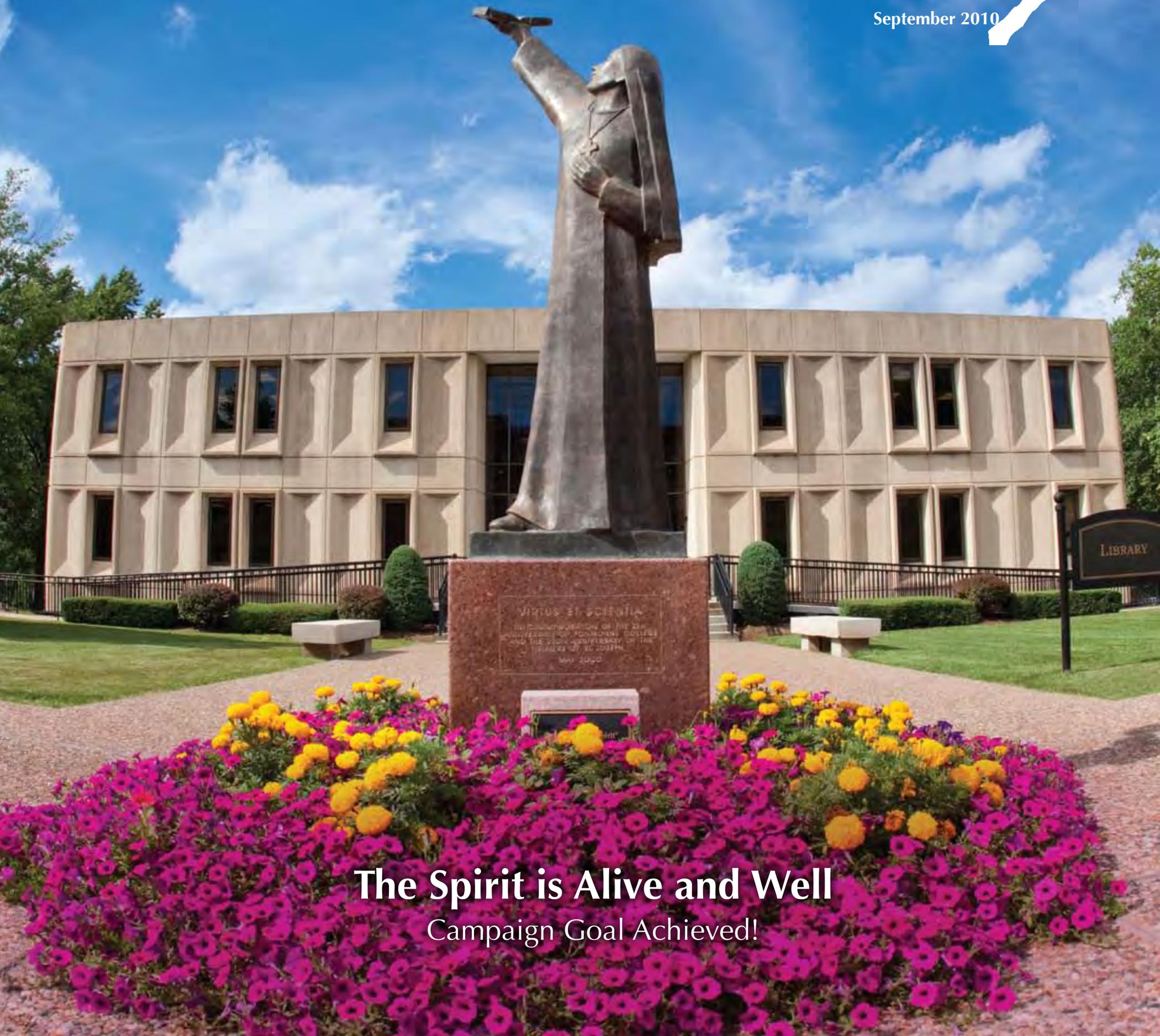


Fontbonne University's tableaux

September 2010



The Spirit is Alive and Well
Campaign Goal Achieved!

CONTENTS

Comprehensive Campaign 2

It's not about the moolah; it's about the mission.

Hugs for Kids 4

Blanket-making venture brings joy to sick kids.

Student's Best Friend 6

Deaf education major finds inspiration from her pooch.

On Point 8

Student ambassadors are on the front line of recruiting.

Teaching Excellence 10

Meet Fontbonne's teachers of the year.

A Lasting Impression 13

Octogenarian remembers good times and gives back.

Pull Up a Chair 14

Alumna spins tales of Irish folklore.

Across the Pond 16

Paris, London, Beijing — a wide world of study.

Sacred Ground 18

Fontbonne group moved by trip to the Holy Land.

In the Big Leagues 20

Young sports management grad lands "dream job."

In a While, Crocodile 22

Check out this blast-from-the-past photospread.

Point & Click back cover

What's going on over at www.fontbonne.edu?

on the cover: The "Founding Spirit" statue, by sculptor and Fontbonne professor emeritus Rudy Torrini, seems a fitting symbol for the recently completed \$20 million comprehensive fundraising campaign.

CREDITS

Tableaux is published by the
Office of Communications and Marketing, Fontbonne University

Editor: Mark E. Johnson

Graphic Design: Helen Seitz; (Stacy Brazier, pages 10-13)

Photography: James Visser; pages 1, 4-10, 14-15, 20-21

Please address correspondence to:

Fontbonne University

Communications and Marketing Department

Attn: *Tableaux*, 6800 Wydown Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63105

phone: (314) 889-1467

e-mail: mjohnson@fontbonne.edu

fax: (314) 719-3655



FSC logo placement



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Thank You



A letter from the President

On behalf of the entire Fontbonne University family — thank you!

This past June, we successfully completed the largest comprehensive fundraising campaign in Fontbonne's history. At the culmination of this five-year campaign, titled *Now ... More Than Ever*, we exceeded our \$20 million goal. You can read more about it on pages 2-3 of this issue of *Tableaux*, but I wanted to take this opportunity to share my thoughts on this transformational endeavor.

The extraordinary support shown for our university during this campaign has left me with profound gratitude for all the donors who made this effort a success. The university also benefited from the collaboration of many who worked on this campaign, from the Advancement Division to the Board of Trustees and Council of Regents to alumni and other committed friends.

It was extremely gratifying to see the unprecedented 100 percent participation by full-time faculty and staff. And it was humbling as thousands of gifts — from seven dollars to seven figures — were made by individuals, corporations and foundations.

The campaign confirmed what I've come to believe during my 15 years as servant-leader president, namely that Fontbonne is special — a unique and truly exceptional institution of higher education. To realize that this belief is shared by thousands of benefactors is a precious gift and a source of great inspiration.

It is now our responsibility to demonstrate a positive significant return on the investment from these benefactors. To that end, and on behalf of our entire academic community, I pledge that we will strive for excellence in all of our endeavors. We will also maintain and enhance Fontbonne as a Catholic institution of higher education where there is an honored place for both faith and reason in the spirit of our founders and sponsors, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

We will remain committed to academic excellence, a philosophy of "cura personalis" — or care for persons, and the conviction that we have a responsibility to encourage all our students to maximize their God-given potential.

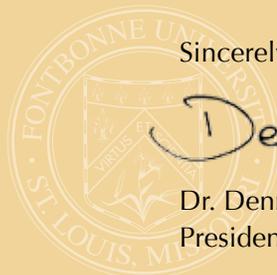
As always, our success — made possible only through the enthusiastic and purposeful partnership of the Fontbonne family — is measured by the quality and contributions of our students as they fulfill their personal challenge to become leaders for a world in need. It is because of these students — and our commitment to them — that we will not rest on our laurels.

Thank you all for your past, present and continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dennis C. Golden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Dennis C. Golden
President, Fontbonne University



WITH LARGEST EVER CAMPAIGN COMPLETE, FONTBONNE LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

by Elizabeth Hise



Bonnie J. Eckelkamp
Civic Volunteer

Fontbonne boardmember

Campaign Co-Chair

“Each individual involved in the campaign has put forth such astounding effort. And in turn, we have seen an outpouring of generosity, not just financially, but with gifts of time and talent. I couldn’t be more appreciative of all of these contributors, from faculty, staff and administration, to friends and supporters.”



Gary E. Krosch
*Senior Vice President,
U.S. Bank of America,
Private Wealth Management*

Campaign Co-Chair

“Fontbonne University’s mission and identity are the very essence of the school. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet imbued Fontbonne with its passion for developing leaders to serve a world in need, and today’s supporters help to carry on that tradition. It is their confidence and contribution that make the mission possible today.”

A quest that began five years ago came to a successful conclusion this summer, as Fontbonne University celebrated the completion of *Now ... More Than Ever*, the school’s largest ever comprehensive fundraising campaign.

The contributions of more than 4,500 Fontbonne alumni, friends, family, faculty and staff, as well as corporations and foundations, totaled \$20,041,000, just eclipsing the campaign goal of \$20 million.

“At the start of this campaign, I stated that the university had never been better positioned for success,” said Dr. Dennis Golden, Fontbonne president. “Five years later, because of the generosity of so many, Fontbonne is stronger than ever before, and in the spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, committed to excellence in all university endeavors.”

Funds raised during the campaign focused on and benefitted myriad initiatives — and will continue to do so for years to come — but the primary focus was the enhancement of the university’s academic environment, modernizing and updating campus facilities and infrastructure, as well as funding annual and endowed scholarships.

With the recent success of the campaign, Fontbonne University is poised to continue welcoming future generations of students to the university family.

AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT

The generosity of gifts throughout the length of the campaign astounded Marilyn Sheperd, vice president for institutional advancement.

“Anyone who knows Fontbonne knows that the quality of our academic programs and offerings are of utmost priority,” she said. “But the outpouring of gifts tells me that our donors have complete faith in us to educate and empower our students.”

Funds earmarked for academic excellence have already gone to work for the university. A generous donation from the Anheuser-Busch Foundation was part of the funding that has made possible the current renovations to the former Science Building, now known as Anheuser-Busch Hall.

One of five original buildings on campus, AB Hall is scheduled for completion in January 2011. Features include contemporary biology classrooms and a new biology laboratory, a state-of-the-art business conference room and student library, new classrooms for business programs, modern laboratories and classrooms for programs in the human environmental sciences department, a new student lounge, a glass-encased stairway tower with a handicapped accessible elevator, and the new Monsanto greenhouse topping the second floor of the south end of the building.

Additional funds are supporting various academic departments, as well as the library, the university’s annual dedicated semester and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Endowed Chair in Catholic Thought.

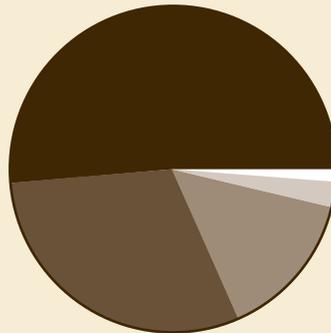
WHAT’S IN A NAME?

A wide variety of gifts have provided new identities for spaces and places around campus. The new names reflect the loyalty and devotion of donors, both past and present.

In addition to Anheuser-Busch Hall and the Monsanto greenhouse, named through a generous gift from the Monsanto Fund, Fontbonne’s business school is now the Bonnie and L.B. Eckelkamp College of Global Business and Professional Studies. Named in honor of two of Fontbonne’s most ardent supporters, the college comprises the university’s business programs, including undergraduate

NOW ... MORE THAN EVER FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

- 51% Academic Excellence
- 29% Scholarships
- 14% Annual Fund
- 5% Endowment
- 1% Athletics



and graduate degrees for traditional and international students, as well as the OPTIONS program, which offers accelerated degrees designed specifically for busy adults.

“The values that this university was founded on — and that guide it still today — are what make a Fontbonne education so vital and complete,” said Bonnie Eckelkamp, a Fontbonne boardmember and co-chair of the campaign. “The women and men who graduate from Fontbonne are well-prepared not only for their careers, but for living a meaningful life with service to others as well.”

Additional named spaces include the Eleanor Halloran Ferry Plaza, the Charles Jeffers Glik Testing Center, the Ann Spiller Student Library, the Katherine Anderle Boos '92 Memorial Garden, and the Eardley Family Clinic for Speech-Language-Hearing. Each named gift serves a vital role in fulfilling the mission of the university.

CREATING SCHOLARS, DEVELOPING LEADERS

Fontbonne’s greatest asset, its students, will experience a direct impact as a result of the campaign. Nine new endowed scholarships were created, requiring a minimum commitment of \$25,000 each, all of which will assist students financially as they make their way through college.

“My scholarship award validates my academic efforts, and it makes my life a little easier because it allows me to devote more time to studying,” said David Dickerson, a Fontbonne education major and an endowed scholarship recipient.

Currently, some 130 students with endowed scholarships benefit from less financial pressure and more freedom to focus on their studies. Scholarships offer a positive example of philanthropy and a strong connection to friends and supporters of Fontbonne who care very deeply about the university and its students. And the recipients epitomize the most important reasons Fontbonne needs those friends and supporters.

“Receiving the scholarship gives me a chance to reflect on how I want to give back to the university and other struggling students after graduation,” Dickerson said. “It makes my life more meaningful because it shows that someone else believes in me.”

This campaign is in the books, but the Fontbonne mission continues. To support that mission, call 314.889.1469, e-mail development@fontbonne.edu or log on to www.fontbonne.edu/giving.



Joseph B. McGlynn Jr.
*Partner,
Kortenhof McGlynn, LLC
Fontbonne Board Chair*

“Fontbonne University doesn’t just produce graduates; it produces leaders. The students of Fontbonne represent the next generation of the St. Louis community. Passionate, ambitious and honorable, these are the individuals who will remain in the area, cultivating the arts, developing technology, and influencing business.”



Daniel J. Ferry Jr.
*Chairman and CEO,
J.A. Glynn & Co.
Most Recent Former
Fontbonne Board Chair*

“Throughout my time at Fontbonne, I have watched as the school has grown, not just in size, but in accomplishment, acclaim and academic excellence. As we look now to the future, I anticipate a continual evolution for the university, one in which students, faculty and staff regularly reach new heights and achieve new and ever-expanding goals.”

a blanket, a hug & a prayer

by Elizabeth Hise

Toni Pagano wears many hats. She is a Fontbonne University alumna and a charter member of the Fontbonne Community Connection, a women's giving circle. She is the wife of Chris, the mother of two sons, S.J., 27, and C.J., 22, and a helping hand for the family's residential construction company, Pagano Land Development.

And as if she has nothing else to do, she's also the founder of Hugs for Kids, a nonprofit organization that, according to its mission statement, makes soft fleece blankets for hospitalized children "who are in need of reassurance, love and that extra 'hug' of support."

Pagano graduated from Fontbonne in 1978 with a degree in business. As a child, she would stare out the window of her mother's car on the way to grade school, watching the women at the then-all-girls college, books in hand, their bouffant hairstyles bobbing as they walked to classes on campus. She wanted to go to Fontbonne when she grew up, she told her mother.

As it turned out, Fontbonne proved a good fit for the Catholic teen, and Pagano has never regretted her decision. She fondly remembers her very best friend, Mary Alice Severino '78, who drove Pagano to and from Fontbonne every day in her orange Maverick. The two also attended Incarnate Word Academy together. Other favorite memories include Russian tea in the business lounge and Friday Liturgies in the chapel with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who were, Pagano said, "what made Fontbonne, Fontbonne."

Fast forward 23 years, which Pagano said have been filled with a successful family business, a happy marriage and two sons. The blanket idea began in the summer of 2001. Under the guidance of her nieces visiting from Phoenix, Ariz., she made the first blanket for her son who was going away to college. "We went out and bought fleece, and right there on that counter, I made my first blanket," she smiled, pointing to an island in her impeccably kept kitchen.

"God just kept tapping me on the shoulder," she said, and because of this, she began making blankets for other friends, family members and people in need of support. Eventually, she began supplying them to children in local area hospitals. The blankets are so soft, they feel like a hug, Pagano said, and they

offer love, warmth and comfort. But, she added, making the blankets is almost just as important as receiving them.

"When people come together, isn't it wonderful?" she asked. "You pray over the blanket first, so you become the guardian angel to that child. Then you give it a hug, and your intent, thought and happiness is squeezed into the blanket."

Each blanket is then tied with braided fleece salvaged from the project and includes a card that reads, "Of my hands and from my heart. Love, your guardian angel."

People from all walks of life, faiths and ages have contributed to blanket-making events, which can be "a form of therapy,"

Pagano said. She has hosted Hugs for Kids events with anywhere from 25 – 1,000 people, some in private homes, some with church groups, some in corporate settings. She typically hosts 25 – 30 events per year. The fleece material used to make the blankets is expensive, so she relies on donations and volunteers to keep Hugs for Kids operating.

"My parents were a blessing — they gave me the gift of service," she said. "They were always serving others. My mother was a Sister of St. Joseph without the vows." She laughed.

Clearly, those childhood lessons have stayed with her. Today, Pagano also donates her time, talents and gifts to future generations of Fontbonne students through the Fontbonne Community Connection, where the member's individual gifts are pooled and then used to support a variety of academic initiatives.

"I am now able to give back what Fontbonne has given me," she said. And for Toni Pagano, that could very well be one of the best gifts of all.



· To become a guardian angel with Hugs for Kids, contact Toni Pagano at 314.974.7300 or at P.O. Box 50046, St. Louis, MO 63105.

· To learn more about the Fontbonne Community Connection, visit www.fontbonne.edu/fcc.



“When people come together, isn’t it wonderful?”



A GIRL and HER DOG: A Tale of Learning and Listening

by Elizabeth Hise

Sophie, a fluffy Maltese-Poodle mix, trots across the Fontbonne University campus, sporting a pink and black collar and a sassy attitude. She recently enjoyed her first taste of fame, thanks to her owner, Fontbonne student and deaf education major Melanie Patcoff, who based her first children's book on the little white dog.

Passionate and focused, Patcoff, 20, exudes enthusiasm — for her field of study, her family, her dog and her life. Her book, titled “Learning to Listen,” is just the first of many planned in a series called “Sophie’s Tales” about a pup, much like Sophie, who receives a cochlear implant. The real Sophie is actually a therapy dog who joins Patcoff on book readings in schools.

Patcoff fiercely believes that children with hearing loss can and should have opportunities equal to those of their hearing counterparts, as well as role models who affirm their differences.

“Children with hearing loss can learn to listen, speak and lead amazing, fulfilling lives,” she said. “People who have a cochlear implant will look different, but the more we raise awareness, the more people can ask questions instead of making fun.”

Patcoff’s passion is personal. Her 14-year-old cousin Julie is profoundly deaf and has bilateral cochlear implants. From a young age, Patcoff witnessed Julie’s struggles, as well as those of Julie’s mom, who also has hearing loss.

“When Julie was diagnosed, my aunt did a lot of research,”

What is a cochlear implant?

A cochlear implant is a device that provides direct electrical stimulation to the auditory nerve. In sensorineural hearing loss where there is damage to the tiny hair cells in the cochlea, sound cannot reach the auditory nerve. With a cochlear implant, the damaged

hair cells are bypassed and the auditory nerve is stimulated directly. The cochlear implant does not result in “restored” or “cured” hearing. It does, however, allow for the perception of sound “sensation.”

How does a cochlear implant work?

Cochlear implants have external (outside) parts and internal (surgically implanted) parts that work together to allow the user to perceive sound.

– Information from the website of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: www.asha.org.



Paticoff remembered. “All of it pointed to St. Louis and to this area. My aunt moved out to St. Louis for three years, until Julie graduated from the Moog Center for Deaf Education. I would come out to visit and was allowed to come to her school. I just thought it was so phenomenal.”

Paticoff credits Moog’s educational program and the teachers who worked with Julie for helping her family maintain their close relationship in spite of hearing loss.

“We wouldn’t have the same relationship,” she said. “I’m so thankful for that. I want to do that for other families.”

And with that goal in mind, in 2008, Paticoff left her hometown of Long Island, N.Y., her tight-knit extended family, and the familiarity of home to come to the Midwest to study deaf education. She began her first semester at another college, but never quite felt like it offered the program and the community she sought. When she reached out to Fontbonne’s department of communication disorders and deaf education, looking for a better fit, she knew she had found it.

“Our program has been preparing teachers for fifty years, and we have graduates in nearly all states and several countries,” said Dr. Susan Lenihan, a Fontbonne professor and the director of the school’s deaf education program. “The field of deaf education has changed dramatically in the last 20 years, but Fontbonne has consistently prepared professionals to meet the needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing using the latest technology.” The department welcomed Paticoff, eager to help her channel her passion into professionalism.

“Mel is an enthusiastic and creative person with a passion for increasing awareness about opportunities for children with hearing loss to develop listening and spoken language,” Lenihan said. “She loves using media to spread the word about cochlear implants and how this technology can provide access to sound for children who are deaf.”

Paticoff has indeed done so much more than simply study deaf education — she has become an active advocate for individuals with hearing loss. In 2009, during the American Speech-Language Hearing Association’s annual Better Speech and Hearing Month, she submitted a video for the group’s inaugural video contest — and won first place.

Her music video, “That’s Just the Way We Hear,” parodies a Jonas Brothers song called “That’s Just the Way We Roll.” Created with the help of her cousins and friends over their 2009 spring break, the video follows Paticoff’s cousin Julie throughout an average day, reinforcing the idea that individuals with cochlear implants can live like anyone else. When Paticoff’s video won the contest, she felt her message and efforts were validated. In 2010, she spearheaded a remake of the video to enter the Battle of the Bands sponsored by DoSomething.org and VH1 Save the Music Foundation. Although her video didn’t win, it helped emphasize the contest’s bigger picture — the importance of a complete music education.

“We tried to make it bigger, better and all ours,” Paticoff said of her latest video. “Our point about music education is that it’s important for everyone, but with hearing loss, it’s so much more important. Some of these kids with hearing loss go to school and aren’t introduced to music. These music programs have to be inclusive of all kids.”

Which brings us back to “Sophie’s Tales,” yet another way Paticoff hopes to raise awareness about hearing loss and increase inclusivity for children who have it. In the first book, Sophie has cochlear implant surgery. In the books to follow, yet unwritten, Paticoff plans for Sophie to adjust to her cochlear implant and learn to process sound and speech.

“Kids today know so much about technology, but why don’t they know about the technology that helps their friend hear?” she asked. She hopes her books and website will help change this, and she plans to spend the rest of her life advocating for children with hearing loss. She’ll attend graduate school — at Fontbonne she hopes — add to the Sophie series every year, and when she completes her degrees, become a teacher. In the long term, she could see herself opening a school for the deaf, possibly on Long Island.

But for the time being, she intends to stay in St. Louis, a place she considers to be a center for knowledge and advancement in the study and practice of deaf education.

“I feel like I came into my own here,” she said. “This is home.” And Sophie, smiling happily in Paticoff’s arms, seemed to agree.

Editor’s Note: Learn more about Paticoff’s mission or purchase a book at www.sophiestales.com.



AMBASSADORS

THE FRONTLINE RECRUITERS

by Elizabeth Hise

When a prospective student arrives on Fontbonne University's doorstep, he or she is greeted by an ambassador. These ambassadors don't wear the ceremonial garb of the United Nations, nor do they have any wealth, power or influence of which to speak. They're current students, generally uniformed in the jeans and t-shirts of college, leaders in their small community, destined for even greater positions and broader possibilities. They're chosen for their enthusiasm, spirit, engagement and commitment. And they represent Fontbonne on the front lines. Meet three of them.



MOLLY STADLER

Molly Stadler has a 60-watt grin and unfettered enthusiasm. A junior advertising major and graphic design minor, she behaves as though she's lived on Fontbonne's campus her entire life. And she loves it.

"It was close to home," the St. Louis native said about deciding to attend Fontbonne. "I knew I didn't want to

leave the area. It felt like home."

She signed onto the ambassador program after receiving an invitation from the admissions department recommending her as an excellent candidate. She has since served as an admissions intern, representing the Fontbonne student body during open house panel discussions, overnight visits and, of course, campus tours. She's also a member of the Griffin Girls dance team and

a Fontbonne Orientation Committee Uniting Students leader, assisting freshmen as they become acclimated their first few weeks on campus.

"When you talk with someone your own age, it helps you relate," she said, relaying the benefits of the ambassador program. She recently hosted a high school student on an overnight visit, a student who decided to attend Fontbonne instead of another top choice because of her stay. Stadler beamed.

"I want prospective students to know how genuine everyone is here. When you're on campus, people stop and talk, they say hello."

And with that, she laughed, waving to a friend down the hallway, and ran to greet him. Even off duty, Stadler still wears the uniform of an ambassador.



JULIE BROWN

Julie Brown ticks off a list of her college activities: “I’m the president of the Fontbonne chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, then there’s basketball, Residential Hall Association and golf. And I was just inducted into Phi Kappa Phi.”

She pauses, then nods. “That’s it.”

But that’s definitely not it. Aside from all of her other responsibilities, Brown fits in a full load of classes, homework and exams — she’s a speech-language pathology major — and somehow, she still has time to represent Fontbonne as an ambassador.

“I toured all the St. Louis schools,” she explained. “The tour is what sold me on this school. I thought it was really important to share that experience with others, since it sold me on Fontbonne.”

Because Fontbonne accepted all of her high school transfer credits, Brown will graduate in three years instead of four. She’s entering what should be her junior year but will actually be the final year of her undergraduate education. Before she heads out into the world to work as a speech pathologist in schools, she hopes to return to Fontbonne as a graduate student in the speech-language pathology program.

“All of the people here seem like my type of people — friendly, nice and welcoming. The professors want to get to know you, and the class size ratio is 14:1. And then there’s the sense of community; it’s a small school, so if you want to get involved, you can get involved.”



Left and above, Bill Boxdorfer leads a tour for a prospective student and his dad.

BILL BOXDORFER

Bill Boxdorfer has been a fan of Fontbonne University since childhood. His grade school basketball coach, Gary Zack, Fontbonne’s vice president of administration and finance, would occasionally drive his team out to practice in Fontbonne’s gym. When it came time for Boxdorfer to choose a college, Fontbonne was top of mind.

“It had a lot to do with athletics — I run cross country and track and field,” said Boxdorfer about his final decision. “And my best friend was coming here. But I really enjoyed my tour. I enjoyed the personal connection at Fontbonne, and that’s what sealed the deal.”

Did he make the right decision?

“I’m loving every minute of it,” he grinned. “The friends I’ve made, the experiences I’ve had, the successes I’ve had. I was

told it would be hard to do a double major, but I’ll graduate in four years.”

Boxdorfer chose to major in both sports management and business administration, a decision that, although academically rigorous, doesn’t seem to negatively impact his extracurricular life. Aside from athletics, he’s a member of the Griffin Gang, an executive board member of the Fontbonne Activities Board and an ambassador.

“Ambassadors are the first people you see at Fontbonne. They tell you their own personal experiences,” he said, adding that these personal encounters reveal a lot about a university.

“Take a tour, meet with counselors, and talk with students so you can get a feel for the university,” Boxdorfer suggested. “All colleges look good on paper. You need to find what fits for you and part of this is touring the campus.”



A *Teacher's* Mind ... A *Student* at Heart

by Elizabeth Hise

Please don't call her Dr. Stoelting; Suzanne is just fine.

The winner of Fontbonne University's 2010 Joan Goostree Stevens Excellence in Teaching award prefers to be on a first-name basis with her students. And not because of any misplaced notions about being a buddy, but because, she said, she's more like them than not.

This assistant professor of sociology believes that learning shouldn't be a solitary experience. "I tell my students that it's you, me and the author of the textbook, and between the three of us, we can get an A," Stoelting, 30, said. "It's a team effort."

Her classes are dynamic, ever-changing. Her worst fear is burning out. And above all else, she believes in the students she teaches.

"I feel like all the students have capabilities and abilities, but it takes certain classes, subjects and environments to make them shine," she said. "I get my biggest reward from the students who feel like school is a chore and teaching them that learning and being smart is actually cool. You learn, not just to get a job, but to become an educated individual."

Stoelting, originally from Springfield, Ill., began her own college experience as a self-admitted "mediocre" student at Illinois College. She played college volleyball and planned to teach high school biology. After two years, she transferred to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where she took her first sociology class. And it changed everything.

"It's a whole new way of thinking," she said, describing her chosen discipline. "It presents perspectives of the world that we are foreign to but live in everyday. You almost feel duped. Are we so ingrained in our own lives to recognize what is really going on? It's like getting glasses, and suddenly, you can see clearly."

Encouraged by one of her sociology professors, Stoelting changed her major. And when she couldn't find a job after graduation, she applied to the school's graduate program in

sociology, landed an assistantship position and, at 23, began teaching her first class — an introduction to sociology course. She was hooked. "I absolutely loved it," she said.

Stoelting taught at SIUC while she earned her master's and then her doctorate in 2008 — a year after she accepted her position at Fontbonne. She readily recognizes the impact that teachers have had in her life, and she strives to provide a similar experience for her own students. Her favorite class to teach is still introduction to sociology.

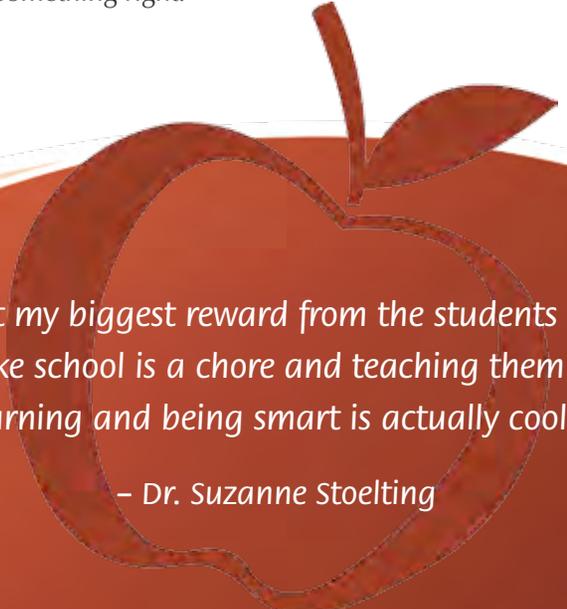
"It's so important to have a full-time professor in lower-level classes. That's where the students get hooked," she said. "Freshmen are, by far, my favorite group of students. Their first exposure to sociology is exciting to see every time."

In addition to her teacher of the year honors, Stoelting was also named director of Fontbonne's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The center provides a collaborative environment for faculty where they can participate in programs and find resources devoted to their professional development. Stoelting will organize and coordinate programs, compile materials, maintain the center's physical location on campus, and generally help herself and her colleagues become better teachers.

"Even if you've been teaching for 15 or 20 years, this is an entirely new generation of students," she said. "As a teacher, you have to keep changing."

Sound advice, it seems, from a teacher who has earned the respect of her colleagues and students alike.

"In a profession that does very little praising, to get an award that's so significant, it was a real honor. I so appreciated it," Stoelting said as she put her hand over her heart. "It affirms that I'm doing something right."



"I get my biggest reward from the students who feel like school is a chore and teaching them that learning and being smart is actually cool."

— Dr. Suzanne Stoelting



Giving Back

An OPTIONS instructor only for the past year, Belinda Farrington is new to the Fontbonne family, but she's made quite an impression.

Honored with the 2010 Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, she has exceeded the high standards of her Fontbonne OPTIONS corporate communication students.

When Farrington joined the faculty, she brought with her a wealth of professional experience. She can boast (not that she does) of a 30-year career in workforce and organizational development and training in numerous fields, including government, gaming and healthcare. But she ultimately decided that she wanted to do more.

"This job has given me an opportunity to give back," she said of her position as an OPTIONS instructor. "I've always talked about wanting to be a mentor — I am touching lives. I've always had encouragement, but a lot of people haven't had that. God doesn't just bless us to be personally blessed, he blesses us to bless others."

Warm, genuine and poised, Farrington is the type of individual you'd want to find at the front of a classroom. She possesses a savvy business intellect, a

heart for her students, and a passion for community outreach. When she's not teaching, she's working as a human resources and ministry development coordinator at her church, Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist.

"Anyone who has the mentality that 'I can't go back to school,' they need to take a look at OPTIONS," she suggested.

"Sometimes, people get intimidated. OPTIONS isn't easy, but the class environment is easy to fit into. You're in a good place where people care, where they'll help and encourage you."



An Exceptional Performance

If you've been reading the news in St. Louis recently, you've probably seen Deanna Jent's name pop up more than once. It seems that every other day, critics give her professional theatre group, Mustard Seed Theatre, thumbs up for one performance or another.

Of course, this is just part of another day at the office for Jent, director of theatre and performing arts at Fontbonne University and artistic director of Mustard Seed.

Jent is Fontbonne's 2010 Scholar/Artist, an award designed to give Fontbonne faculty and staff the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of their peers.

"The Scholar/Artist award is a true honor," Jent said. "I am excited that the storytelling I do through theatre is being recognized, and I hope it brings in more people to see the wonderful performance events we have at Fontbonne."

Those performances range from Mustard Seed plays and discussions to student productions, showcases and one-act festivals. Next year, Mustard Seed performances will include "The Chosen," "Shadowlands," and Jent's

own adaptation of C.S. Lewis' novel "Till We Have Faces." And Jent is clearly energized and excited about each new endeavor.

"I love what I do," she said. "I'm always learning from my students and feeding off their enthusiasm and energy, and when I'm in rehearsal, I'm working with wonderful creative people. I am so fortunate to be able to 'play' when I work."

Grateful for an Education,
Alumna Touts Giving Back

Leaving a Legacy

by Elizabeth Hise



Maurine Gerwig, née Reiser, had one major factor to consider when she chose a university — it couldn't be the same college that her sister attended. So when a high school teacher suggested Fontbonne College (now University), she jumped at the chance to travel from her native Springfield, Ill., to St. Louis, Mo.

The 1950 graduate, now 81, has never regretted her decision. She traveled with a friend whom she had known all her life. The two boarded together in a home off campus for their first year of school, then stayed in a three-person suite in the original Fine Arts building during their sophomore year. And in 1948, Medaille Hall construction was completed, providing the girls with their own brand new single rooms.

"Fontbonne gave me a very good education and background for what I wanted to do," said the former biology major and chemistry minor. "I was very pleased with the time I spent there."

But her experience wasn't simply about schoolwork, she confessed — it was about having a great time, too. She attended dances in the first floor of Medaille Hall, and she had the most fun at College Day, an annual autumn event when students would decorate their cars with Fontbonne colors and flowers, then drive in a parade to Carondelet where they would celebrate Mass.

After she graduated, Gerwig took a year-long internship in medical technology at St. Louis County hospital. She wanted to see the world, she said, so she traveled to Texas to live and work as a medical technologist for the next few years, later moving to the greater Chicago area to take a job in a hospital. Eventually,

she married and had one son, Stephen. Sadly, he was killed in a car accident 14 years ago, and Gerwig's husband, John, passed away in August 2008. Although it's difficult sometimes, she stays busy. Gerwig said she's grateful for a good family, a job she loved and an education that made her dreams possible, so now, she firmly believes in giving back.

Gerwig has committed to a legacy gift for Fontbonne. In commemoration of her family, her gift will benefit a science laboratory in Anheuser-Busch Hall, currently undergoing renovation. For years to come, inquisitive, driven students — much like Gerwig — will walk in her footsteps and remember her legacy.

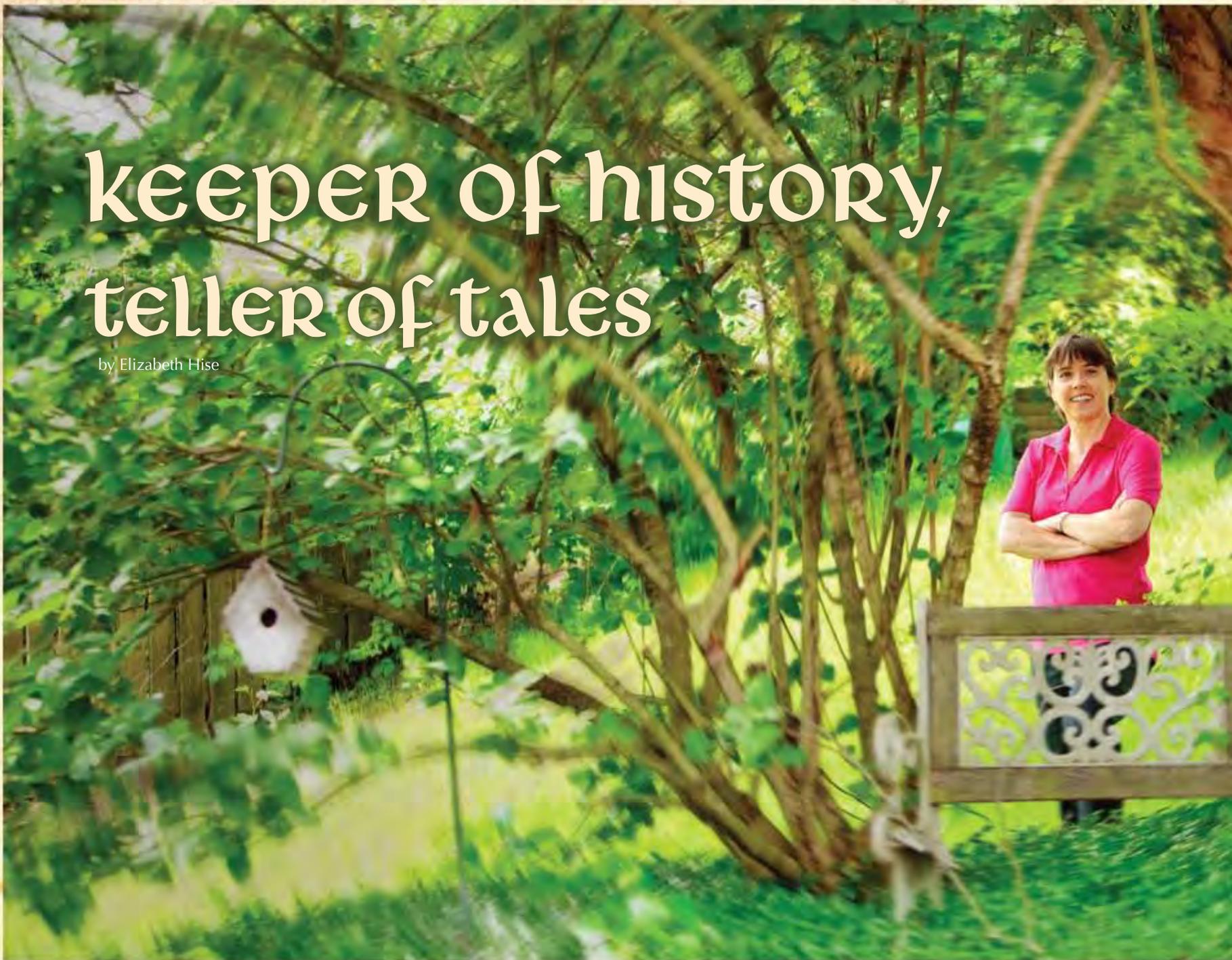
"That's what it's all about," Gerwig said. "You have to give back. The schools need money to help students who can't afford their tuition. As long as you can afford it, you should. I would encourage anyone to go — and to give — to Fontbonne."

Leave your own legacy.

Remember Fontbonne in your will. For more information, contact Jan Sheehan, planned giving officer, at 314.719.3668 or at jsheehan@fontbonne.edu.

keeper of history, teller of tales

by Elizabeth Hise



Gabrielle Woeltje is a natural storyteller. Instantly likeable, this native Irishwoman and Fontbonne University alumna charms listeners with a lilting accent and an endless arsenal of tales.

Woeltje, 49, came to the United States in 1986 for what she calls “the grand adventure.” Born in County Tipperary in the parish of Templemore, she grew up on a farm, the sixth child in a family of 13 children.

“We were our own community,” she said. “Our house was like a train station — it was exciting to grow up there.”

During her childhood, she was always setting off on one experience or another, wandering the fields and forests of her family’s land with a band of siblings, cousins and friends. She combed the woods for signs of the fairies, leprechauns and banshees that populated the legends of her country.



"You can't look at history through the eyes of today, but through the eyes of that time. If we lose this understanding, then we will lose an understanding of the people who came before us."

– Gabrielle Woeltje

"The older generation would sit by the fire and tell stories," she remembered. "In each generation, there is a Seanchaí. My mother was her generation's, and I believe I am mine."

Woeltje explained that when broken down, the Irish word Seanchaí means "old expert," but in essence, the Seanchaí is the storyteller, the keeper of history, legend and lore. Ancient Celtic tales were memorized and shared orally by bards, thus beginning the storytelling tradition.

"In the late 1700-1800s, the people truly believed these stories," Woeltje said, illustrating her point with an anecdote about a man acquitted of his wife's murder because he unequivocally believed she was a witch. "You can't look at history through the eyes of today, but through the eyes of that time. If we lose this understanding, then we will lose an understanding of the people who came before us."

Her passion has led to nearly compulsive writing and researching. By day, Woeltje is a social studies teacher at Holy Redeemer School in Webster Groves, Mo., but she is also a children's book author, a genealogist currently editing a book of clan history, a columnist, a historian and a 2010 Fontbonne graduate with a Master of Arts degree in education with a concentration in the teaching of reading. She has had three children's books published, all in Irish, a language she said, shaking her head, that she sees dwindling in this fast-paced world. Each of the books explores an individual Irish myth or legend — witch, leprechaun and selkie, a mythological creature that can shed its skin as a seal to become human.

"Ireland is losing much of its cultural identity; it's becoming European. I'm a traditionalist," she said. "I like to stick with the old ideas."

And so she does. Her children's books are based on traditional Irish lore, although the stories are her own. She uses her mother's tales for inspiration, such as the threat of a witch in a nearby castle who would put bad little children in a spiked barrel and roll them down a hill into a pit, or the leprechaun who, it was said, regularly climbed the next-door neighbor's chimney.

But as important as the stories themselves are, perhaps even more important is the tradition of telling them. Woeltje's mother, who passed away suddenly this past December, told the stories to Woeltje, sitting at her knee. In turn, she hopes to keep them alive for her own three children, Maeve, John and Éile, and for future generations so that they, too, will remember and connect with their families and their past. And so she keeps writing.

"It's a compulsion," she confessed. "The stories come whether you want them to or not."

Editor's Note: To purchase a book by Woeltje, visit www.forasnagaeilge.ie or www.coislife.ie (look for the button to change the language to English).



Jet-Setting, Fontbonne Style

by Elizabeth Hise

Latoya Thompson felt breathless. For an hour, she sat fascinated as Fontbonne University assistant professor of fashion merchandising, Rogene Nelson, described the study abroad trip to England she took during her own college years, a trip full of fashion, history and opportunity. When Thompson stepped onto an elevator after class and found herself staring directly at a flier for Fontbonne's own London exchange program, she thought it might possibly be a message from the universe.

And she jumped at the opportunity.

Most students plan study abroad trips a year or more in advance. For Thompson, the endeavor was a whirlwind. She began planning in the spring of 2009, and with the help of Gail Schafers in Fontbonne's study abroad office, she found herself in London by the beginning of the fall semester.

"Students can go anywhere in the world," said Schafers, the director of both Fontbonne's study abroad program and the English as a Second Language program. "We can find a program that fits their needs."

In Thompson's case, Fontbonne already had a relationship with the American

InterContinental University in London specifically for fashion merchandising majors like her.

"I think all students should get a chance to take advantage of studying abroad," Thompson said. "I met so many amazing, talented people, and I got to travel over the weekends to places like Paris, Milan and Venice. The professors encouraged us to 'go to London and get inspired,' and so I saw art museums, fashion museums and cathedrals."

Thompson lived and studied in London for 10 weeks, but Fontbonne students have countless choices when it comes to studying

abroad. According to Schafers, the university has three basic options: long term programs, usually lasting for a semester to a year; summer travel; and shorter, faculty-led programs that generally last 10 days to two weeks.

Dr. Gale Rice, chair of the department of communication disorders and deaf education and professor of speech-language pathology, and Dr. Margaret Gray, professor and director of special education, have lead a study abroad program.

For the past several years, Rice and Gray have taken a qualifying group of seniors



At left, Latoya Thompson takes time off from classes to explore the Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris, pausing just in front of the Fountain of the Observatory. Below, Matt Tuggle proudly shows off his Fontbonne pride on the Bund, a walk that runs along the Huangpu River in China. Behind him sprawls the financial district of Shanghai.



and graduate students to Canterbury Christ Church University in England. These students, all enrolled in education, special education, deaf education, early intervention in deaf education, or speech-language pathology programs, attend seminars by faculty and students at the English university. Conversely, Canterbury Christ students also travel to Fontbonne as an exchange site. The students have a singular opportunity to look at their disciplines from a new perspective, and also experience the history and culture of another country.

“It’s a heck of an adventure,” said Schafers about studying in a different country. “We live in a global economy; people should have a global experience. Studying abroad gives you cross-cultural experiences and challenges. It makes you more independent, and you really utilize different skill sets.”

For Matt Tuggle, 21, that meant learning to adapt. The senior business administration major traveled to China for eight days in March 2009 with a group from Fontbonne. He stood a head taller than most of the locals, didn’t understand the language and brought a cell phone

that, as it turned out, didn’t work. But he remained flexible, and instead of feeling defeated, he thrived on a new challenge.

“Mike Seibold talked me into it,” he said, referring to a Fontbonne OPTIONS and business instructor and organizer of the trip. “It ended up being amazing — it was one of the neatest things I’ve done in college.”

The group of 11 students, staff and faculty, including Tuggle, Seibold and Schafers, traveled to Beijing, Shanghai and Xian. Tuggle snapped hundreds of photos, capturing the architecture of the cities, the streets the group explored and the people they encountered during their week away from the states.

“Do it because you have the opportunity now and you may not later,” Tuggle advised students considering studying abroad. “Take the shot while you have it.”

Students take that shot for a variety of reasons, said Schafers.

“Some like to travel — it’s an exciting adventure. Certain people have an investment in specific subjects. For example, they travel to Florence to study art. Some people want to improve their resume, especially for grad school. Others

want to challenge themselves.”

Regardless, she said, Fontbonne tries to make sure that the study abroad programs are affordable and accessible. The university recently entered into an agreement with St. Mary’s University College in Twickenham, London, a historic campus that welcomes international students.

“We’re hoping this is something we can offer students that’s low-cost,” Schafers said. “Some programs can cost \$15,000, but the St. Mary’s program costs around \$10,000. And federal financial aid can be used.”

Schafers ticks off some final words of encouragement for any would-be adventurers: “You don’t have to speak the language if you go to a different country because you’ll have class in English. Studying abroad is about the same cost as tuition at Fontbonne. Some students are intimidated, but that’s why we work with program providers — if you have the initiative, you can do a lot on your own, but you’ll always have someone to rely on.”

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

by Elizabeth Hise

This past spring, several students, faculty members and friends of Fontbonne University traveled to Israel for a nine-day pilgrimage. Sponsored by the university's campus ministry department, participants toured the Holy Land on a spiritual journey, a quest to deepen their faith and broaden their minds.

"I've always wanted to travel to Israel, but I felt like I needed the backing of an institution because I wanted our students to be able to get credit," said Steven Stopke, an affiliate assistant professor in the history, philosophy and religion department, who has extensively studied the history, politics and culture of Israel. "I grew up in a conservative church. To finally set foot on the Holy Land, to come face to face with the places I had read about, really put into perspective what I've studied for 55 years."

Stopke and Sarah Boul, Fontbonne's director of campus ministry, helped coordinate the trip with the assistance of a travel agency. Dr. Dennis Golden, Fontbonne president, encouraged the journey, having traveled to Israel only a short time before the Fontbonne-sponsored trip.

"It was an incredible experience," said Boul. "I was amazed that the three major world religions coexist in Israel, but don't necessarily interact. It has given me a greater desire to do interfaith work, and it has opened my eyes to different spiritual ideas to which to expose our students."

Ideally, Stopke said, students would take a class culminating in the trip, and although only one student took advantage of that opportunity this year, he and Boul are planning a major trip and corresponding class every other year.

Lauren Zak, 20, a Fontbonne religious studies major and practicing Catholic, earned class credit for the trip. She met once each week with Stopke and studied Israel as a special topics class.

"It's the Holy Land," she said. "It's where Jesus lived and where our religion comes from. To be able to go where Jesus lived ... " she trailed off. "How do you know you're not stepping on a rock Jesus stepped on? It's been a dream of mine to travel there."

Although campus ministry has sponsored other international travel to Italy and Ireland, Israel required more from travelers, both mentally and physically, Boul said. "Israel seemed like a cultural, political and spiritual challenge we wanted to expose students to," she added, referring to the country's political strife and cultural and religious conflicts perpetually streaking media headlines. In spite of the challenges, however, Fontbonne had every assurance that the travelers would remain safe.

Stopke said that regardless of their faith, each traveler in their group was moved by the experience.

"One of the things that inspired me is that we celebrated Mass inside the site of Jesus' birth," he said. "My wife and two other ladies realized they were actually sitting on the manger."

Their trip was filled with learning experiences, from a first-hand view of the current political and religious situation, to a tour of the major Christian, Jewish and Islamic landmarks and sites. "I felt a lot closer to God," Zak said. "We got back right before Holy Week. This made Holy Week so different. It brings it to life. It strengthened my faith."

Interested in the next spiritual journey with Fontbonne University in 2012? Contact Sarah Boul, director of Campus Ministry, at 314.719.3663 or by e-mail at sboul@fontbonne.edu.





clockwise, from left:

Through a window in the Dominus Flevit Church on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, visitors can catch a glimpse of the Dome of the Rock. The church remembers the place where the New Testament says Jesus wept, in John 11:35.

Lauren Zak stands outside the Roman Catholic church on the Mount of the Beatitudes, the hillside where it is said Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount.

Fontbonne students, faculty, staff and friends brought a touch of Fontbonne with them on their journey.

People come to the Hagia Maria Sion Abbey, formerly known as the Abbey of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, to remember where Mary the mother of Jesus passed away.

If you've ever seen the movie "Jesus Christ Superstar," you'll recognize the Judas Tree, located in Beth She'an.

This view from the Mount of Olives frames Old City Jerusalem, capturing Mount Zion in the distance.

photos provided by Lauren Zak



THE COMPETITIVE EDGE

by Elizabeth Hise

Next to the Olympia ice resurfacers, the spare arena seats and the electric lifts, down in the belly of the Scottrade Center, you'll find the office of Joe Maier, Fontbonne University graduate and a manager of building operations for the 664,000-square-foot building in downtown St. Louis.



"It's a dream job," said the 23-year-old. "Being a lifelong hockey player and a hockey fan, working for my favorite team is great."

He's referring, of course, to the St. Louis Blues, the National Hockey League team that calls St. Louis — and the Scottrade Center — home. As he walks through the building, he points out the marketing department, the Blues locker room ("It smells terrible right now!"), and proudly, the arena floor he helps maintain.

He arrived at this place, in part, because of the sports management degree he earned from Fontbonne in 2008.

"The sports management degree falls within the Bonnie and L.B. Eckelkamp College of Global Business and Professional Studies," explained Dr. Erin McNary, an assistant professor and the recently appointed director of the sports management program. "We provide students with a strong business

background and then include very sports specific courses." The OPTIONS program also offers a bachelor of science in sports and entertainment management degree. This evening degree program is designed for working professionals interested in pursuing careers in sports and entertainment.

McNary took over the leadership of the program in 2009, after earning her doctorate at Indiana University and gaining practical experience in various university fitness and sports programs, including the University of Illinois, Arizona State University, and the University of Texas-San Antonio. She strives to create connections and build relationships with professionals in the St. Louis community, bringing them to campus to speak and network with students.

"Part of my job is to expose students to a whole realm of possibilities beyond the

big four professional sports — basketball, baseball, football and hockey," McNary said, citing amateur athletic organizations, minor leagues, city parks and recreation departments, the YMCA, campus recreation, and non-profits as just a few of many possible employers of sports management grads.

She's also working to build the reputation of Fontbonne's sports management degree.

"Right now, I'm looking at continuing to enhance the quality of the program," she said. "One of my goals is to get the program accredited through the Commission on Sports Management Accreditation." The commission is a specialized accrediting body that promotes and recognizes excellence in sports management education.

While having an athletics background is certainly not necessary, according to McNary, many of Fontbonne's sports



management students have been athletes their whole lives. “They have a passion for sports. This degree allows them to formalize their passion.”

Rachel Zuellig, a 2010 Fontbonne sports management graduate, was one of those students.

“I wanted to work in college athletics, possibly in events or development,” Zuellig said. “Fontbonne’s sports management classes are oriented toward what you would need to know in the sports world. They help give you an idea of what you might want to do.”

Like so many other graduates right now, Zuellig hasn’t yet landed a job, but she’s interning and volunteering to gain experience in her field and is continuing her search for a position with the right fit. When the economy perks up, she’ll have stints with the St. Louis Sports Commission, the Missouri/Illinois Arch Rivalry game, and the Missouri Valley

Conference on her resume.

“It’s a very competitive field,” Zuellig said of sports management. “It’s becoming more popular and more accepted as a program. There are many people wanting the same jobs. It’s great that it’s offered at Fontbonne.”

To give students an edge in the job market, Fontbonne’s sports management curriculum includes courses in business, sports, health, English and communication. And McNary just received approval to add five new courses to the program, offering a more sports-specific focus, and filling in some curricular gaps, she said. These include social aspects of sports, sports psychology, sports event and venue management, leadership and governance in sports, and the capstone course, strategic management in sports. Students also have the option to minor in an area of interest that compliments the sports management degree.

Maier said that each day on the job, he feels like he uses the knowledge he acquired through his courses at Fontbonne. But perhaps the best counsel he received was the most basic, offered to him by a professor early in his college experience: “The sports industry changes, so you have to be willing to change with it.” Maier has seen the truth of that advice firsthand, and so he remains adaptable and open to possibility.

“I’m still learning so much,” he said of his fledgling career. Maier advises sports management students to look for internships, take chances, and not be afraid to accept opportunities, paid or not. He himself began as an unpaid intern at Scottrade — living proof that sometimes, risk is worth its reward. He added, “You never know where those opportunities will lead.”

Snap Shot

We haven't had the budget to fuel up our time machine, but as promised in our September 2009 issue, we've included more moments in Fontbonne history on the following few pages. We hope you enjoy these stolen slips of time, representing the people and places around the university from the 50s, 60s and 70s.

Editor's Note: special thanks to Dr. Jane Hassett, CSJ, Fontbonne's current archivist and its 11th president.





1968

▼ **SMELLING THE ROSES** The outlook is upbeat on the Fontbonne campus as these five students enjoy the spring air on May Day.

▲ **IN SYNCH** Fontbonne's modern dance group moves in unison as they perform in the university's original gymnasium. (year unknown)

1973

◀ **WOMEN'S LIB** Students Jan McGowen Crowe '74 MA '99 (left) and Marsha Sitton Dedrick '74 celebrate 50 years of Fontbonne at the university's anniversary display.

◀◀ **TO THE NINES** A group of smartly dressed alumnae gather in Fontbonne's dining hall for conversation, connection and cuisine. (year unknown)

1969

► **LIFE, UNSCRIPTED** Elvis Presley. The Vietnam War. Woodstock. 1969 was a tumultuous year, but in its midst, these three Fontbonne friends enjoy a brief respite and some conversation in St. Joseph's Hall.

▼ **ARTISTIC LICENSE** Good technique is always in style, even if striped pants (see second from right) are not. Art instructor Ken Stout prepares his fine arts class for the day. (year unknown)



► **CAKE & PUNCH**

A Fontbonne alumna helps serve refreshments at a formal alumni event. (year unknown)



1976

► **TOP BRASS** Music fills the air as the Fontbonne University Jazz Ensemble performs outside Ryan Hall.





◀ **MAKING A POINT**

Heads bow and pens scribble as an instructor guides students through the day's philosophy lesson. *(year unknown)*



▲ **GOING GREEN** Two Fontbonne students join the environmental movement with Ellen Lissant, a biology instructor, at her home during Earth Day. *(year unknown)*



1958

▲ **SET & SPIKE** The women's volleyball team huddles for a pep talk and a photo, capturing the camaraderie and excitement they shared during their season.

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New Website Offers More to Visitors

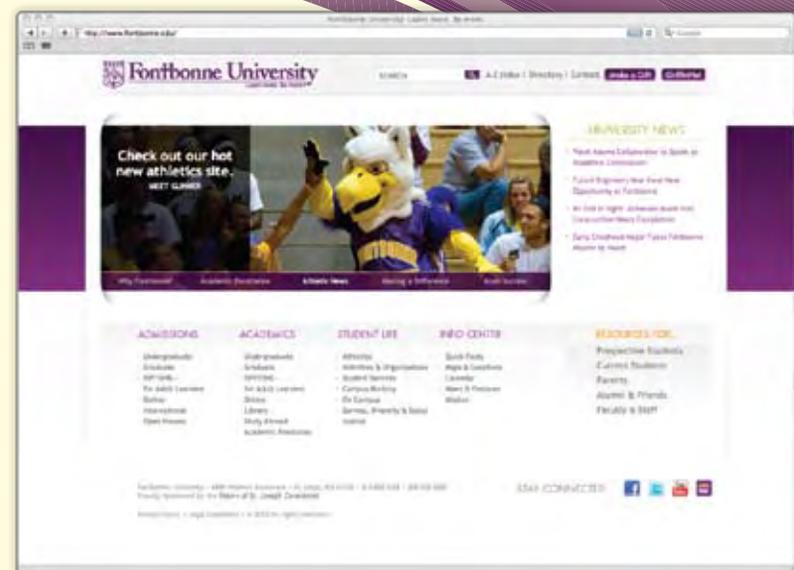
Jump onto www.fontbonne.edu and you'll notice a completely transformed Fontbonne University website. A clean, modern look, streamlined navigation, and easy accessibility characterize the new site, a collaboration between Paradigm New Media Group and Fontbonne's department of communications and marketing.

Although much of the content remains the same, we've reorganized and repackaged many of the pages. Our goal is to make your web visit — whether you're a prospective student, a current student, an interested parent or an engaged alum — informative and accessible.

"We want visitors to be able to find the information they want, when they want it, in as few clicks of the mouse as possible," said Jen Nahlik, Fontbonne's web manager. "The new site is more efficient than the old and much more sophisticated in both aesthetics and function."

On the home page, you'll find resources for alumni and friends, current and prospective students, parents, and faculty and staff. You can read university news, make a gift, check out the calendar of events or, if you're a current student, faculty or staff member, access GriffinNet, the brand new Fontbonne University portal. While the website offers a way for the outside world to learn about Fontbonne, the portal offers internal access; it's a way for the current campus community to stay connected and communicate effectively.

Explore the new site yourself. **Visit www.fontbonne.edu.**



Stay Connected. On each page of the new Fontbonne University website, you can access our social media pages — Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and our student and faculty blogs — and learn about us through conversations, videos, comments and more.

