Women’s Club at UCF, Inc.

Spring Meeting

11:30-1:30

Rio Pinar Country Club

April 20, 2015

President Mary Meeker welcomed everyone and introduced special guests, Mrs. Beryl Colbourne, former First Lady, the wife of Dr. Trevor Colbourne, former president of UCF and Maggie LeClair introduced Dr. Bruce Whisler, founder of the Marilyn Whisler Scholarship in memory of his wife, a former member of the Women’s Club. All members who brought guests introduced them.

Ann Simpson, Membership Chair and Vice President, introduced a new member, Jackie Hughes.

Mary asked all past Women’s Club presidents to stand and be recognized and all of the “Originals”, founders of the Women’s Club, were recognized.

A delicious luncheon of a fresh Greek salad with grilled chicken, rolls and chocolate cake was served.

UCF President, Dr. John C. Hitt presented a speech, ***Black, Gold, and Bold:*** ***The Future of UCF***, which aligned with our club’s theme, “Exploring Our Diverse Cultures” as the new campus will make higher education available to many diverse cultures in our community.

Highlights of Dr. Hitt’s speech included the following points about UCF:

* Member of the Alliance, an organization of large universities who are using other predictors of success besides family income.
* Partnering to open the Florida Advanced Manufacturing Research Center in Osceola County- a $138 million initiative which is to predicted to have a huge impact on our region.
* Partnership with USF and FIU, in the Florida Consortium. Statistics show that one half of the BA degrees granted in the state of Florida are from these three universities and seventy percent of minorities in the universities attend these three universities.
* A downtown campus in partnership with Valencia State College hopes to open (depending on state funding decisions) with 6,000 students and have 13,000 in five years.
* The College of Engineering students began a project on their own time to develop and manufacture with a 3-D printer, prosthetic arms for children.

On behalf of the Woman’s Club, Mary thanked Dr. Hitt with a donation to the Mary G. Hitt Scholarship fund which Dr. Hitt and his wife, Martha, established in honor of his mother. She also thanked his team for their helpful set up of equipment and preparation for President Hitt’s speech.

Maggie LeClair introduced Pamela Batlemento, our Graduate scholarship winner this year. Pamela, a mother of four children, and a 4.0 student as an undergraduate and graduate student, shared her education story. She is enrolled in the School of Psychology and has an assistantship. She thanked the Women’s Club for our support with this scholarship.

Maggie LeClair, who chaired our on-line auction and Roberta Shoopman, who chaired the Clothing Sale, described our scholarship support activities. The on-line auction earned $3,500.

The Clothing Sale earned $4200 and received $1,000 in donations. We earned $1,000 more than last year and sold over 1600 clothing items. The remaining clothing donations were given to the Hope Thrift Store in Oviedo, Knights’ Pantry, the UCF Theatre department, a Winter Park Nursing home and it was noted that a large number of shoes were purchased to be sent to Haiti.

The members of the Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 year were recognized and thanked for their service by Mary:

Ann Simpson, Vice President and Membership Chair, Kathy Weise, Treasurer, Debby Manuel, Secretary, Maggie LeClair, Scholarship Chair, Nancy Marshall, Immediate Past President, Beth Barnes, Past President and Parliamentarian, Dell Shadgett, Past President and Historian, Sarah Magann, Website Chair, Bette Boston, Sunshine Chair, Judy Dzuiban, Newsletter Editor, Judy Kuhn, Interest Group Chair, and Roberta Shoopman, Clothing Sale Chair.

Nancy Marshall, Nominating committee chair presented the slate of officers for 2015-2016:

Sarah Magann – President

Ann Simpson – Vice President

Secretary – Lynn Moharam

Treasurer –Kathy Weise

The motion was made that we accept the slate by acclamation by Maggie LeClair with a second from Judy Kuhn. The members voted unanimously to accept the slate of officers, and they were sworn in. Mary welcomed Sarah as the new president and turned the gavel over to her.

Sarah Magann presented a gift of thanks to Mary Meeker for dedicated service as president. She announced the new Board for 2015-2016.

Other Board members for the 2015-2016 year include:

Mary Meeker – Immediate Past President, advisor

Maggie LeClair – Scholarship Liaison for the UCF Foundation

Karen Monteleone – volunteered to be Develop Chair of the Scholarship Fund

Dell Shadgett – Historian

Beth Barnes – Parliamentarian

Roberta Shoopman – Clothing Chair

Bette Boston – Sunshine Chair

Judy Simonet – Interest Group Chair

Jennifer Rupert – volunteered to be Website Chair

We still need a newsletter editor.

Sarah had Interest Group chairs stand and identified each by subject and thanked them for their work this year.

Sarah announced that Beth Barnes was representing President Hitt in receiving recognition for UCF from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Communication Effectiveness.

The theme for the Women’s Club for next year will be Engaging with the Community.

Sarah reviewed the components of the website and announced that the the membership enrollment period begins July 1 and ends October 1. Renewal of membership reminders will be coming and she extended an invitation to both our guests and members to join or to renew.

The centerpieces were given as door prizes to members who had a special notation on their program.

Sarah thanked Ann Simpson and her committee of Kathy Weise, Judy Kuhn, Roberta Shoopman and Maria Ramirez for a wonderful Spring Meeting.

We adjourned at 1:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Manuel, Secretary