**Women’s Club at UCF, Inc.**

**Fall Meeting**

**September 14, 2015**

**11:30 – 1:30**

**Fairwinds Alumni Center**

**UCF Campus**

Members and their guests enjoyed socializing and visited the Interest Group displays as well as displays for our two scholarship fund development events, “Steppin’ Out for Scholarships” and the Clothing Sale. Members contributed food to the Knight’s Pantry, a student-run organization which supports students in need.

President Sarah Magann opened with words of welcome. She thanked members for their contributions to Knight’s Pantry and the Fairwinds Alumni Center for co-sponsoring the meeting. Club members, Nancy Marshall, Ann Simpson and her planning committee, were recognized for their extra efforts in coordinating the event.

Ann Simpson, vice president of Membership introduced First Lady, Martha Hitt, as well as new members that were present. They were: *Christine Buchelli, Gail Dressel, Anna Habowski, Joanna Hayes, Teresa Riedel, Jen Rupert, and Anne Stark.* Members were given the opportunity to introduce their guests.

Tony Sterling and Cindy Holden, Orlando Dance Club members, performed the first of two ballroom dances to promote “Steppin’ Out for Scholarships”.

A preset lunch of chicken and tropical fruit salad along with rolls and a dessert of three mini mousses was served. Iced tea and coffee were offered.

In keeping with our theme this year, “Engaging with the Community”, our featured speaker was M.C. Santana, Ph.D. who spoke on the topic of community building through volunteerism. Dr. Santana, Director of the Women’s Studies program at UCF and Women’s Club member, drew on her own experiences as a single mother balancing a professional life and her desire to carve out time to support her interests. Dr. Santana suggested first identifying a passion. Efforts to volunteer time in support of this passion can develop by taking small steps. Club members with gratifying volunteer involvement and those who aspire to be more involved were asked to share their experiences. It was recognized that the Women’s Club at UCF offers many opportunities to volunteer. Dr. Santana was given a gift of appreciation.

After another dance demonstration, Sarah Magann enthused about the Club hosted event “Steppin’ Out for Scholarships” to be held on Thursday, November 12, 2015 from 6 to 10 pm at the Crystal Ballroom, Casselberry. Opportunities are available for members to volunteer by soliciting auction items, coordinating food, etc.

Sarah Magann introduced board members: Lynn Moharam, secretary; Ann Simpson, vice president, membership; Dell Shadgett, special counsel to the president [unable to attend]; Ruthie Rieder, newsletter chair; past president, Mary Meeker; Beth Barnes, parliamentarian; and Jennifer Rupert, website liaison.

Scholarship chair, Maggie LeClair, introduced 2015-16 scholarship recipients. Melissa Wyckstandt and Forrest Hardy, recipients of the First Ladies undergraduate scholarships, offered brief remarks. Graduate scholarship recipient, Nicole Phansteil, will be invited to make remarks at our spring meeting.

Maggie recognized, Dr. Lara Williams, Department of Anthropology for bringing the needs of homeless students to our attention. Women’s Club members contributed to a recent need.

Judy Simonet, interest group chair, encouraged members to sign up for interest groups which are the heart of the Club. Interest group calendars will be posted on the website.

Kathy Weise, treasurer, clarified the restrictions of our IRS 501(c)(6) status. If members wish to make charitable contributions, checks can be made to the UCF Foundation.

Roberta Shoopman and Maria Martinez will again chair the Clothing Sale. A date in February TBD. Members were encouraged to begin saving their “gently used” and new contributions.

Karen Monteleone, UCF Foundation liaison, offered her support to Women’s Club members with Foundation interactions.

Sarah Magann announced future events: Steppin’ Out for Scholarships November 12; Holiday Tea December 7 2-4 pm; Cookie Exchange December 17; Clothing Sale TBD. She encouraged us to continue engaging with the community through the many opportunities offered by the Women’s Club. Three lucky individuals at each table went home with a plant in a black and gold pot. The plants were grown by students in the Horticultural program at Lyman High School and the teacher, Alex Azcona was extremely helpful to the planning committee with the table design.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Moharam

Secretary