

President's Message

Dear Women's Club Members and Friends:

I am honored to serve as President for the Women's Club at UCF for the 2016-2017 year! This vital and vibrant organization has been working for the benefit of UCF for almost 50 years. We are fortunate to have many members from the early years still active in our Club. By offering numerous ways to get involved with other dynamic women, we continue to attract new members – this past year we added over 20 new members – and currently have 136 members on our roster.

Your Executive Board and Committee are busy planning another interesting year for the Club. Several years ago we developed a Club "motto" which we are dusting off for this year's theme: "Moving Forward by Giving Back." We want to continue to expand our membership and encourage all our members to give back to our Club by getting involved.

Sunshine

At our Spring Luncheon Meeting we honored Bette Boston for her years of service to the Club in many capacities, most recently as Sunshine chair. We are pleased to announce that Gail Dressel has agreed to serve as Sunshine chair going forward. If you become aware of a member needing a little sunshine (cheer/get well/sympathy), please contact Gail and she will ensure the member receives a card from us. Her contact info may be found in the membership directory on our club website: <https://womensclub.cos.ucf.edu>

Spring Luncheon Meeting Tabletop Discussion Results

As part of "Moving Forward by Giving Back", at our Spring Luncheon Meeting we asked for your input on potential new Interest Groups. We are pleased to let you know that we will introduce four new interest groups as a result:

Art & Antique Lovers: Christine Bucheli, chair

Spectator Sports Fans: Merrell Bailey, chair

Stand Up Paddle Boarding Adventures: Anne Taylor, chair

Tech Klutz to Tech Gifted: Janice Brodie, chair

We are grateful for the interest in these new groups and especially to the ladies who volunteered to chair them (several of whom are relatively new members)! Later this month our website will be updated with specifics about these new interest groups. There will also be information and sign-up sheets available at our Fall Luncheon Meeting in September. In the interim, please go to our club's website for contact information for these ladies in the membership directory section.

Yoga and Photography were two other potential interest groups that received several votes at the Spring Luncheon Meeting, but we would need a volunteer to chair them in order to move forward. Last fall, another new interest group, Campus Break, which focuses on topics of interest to working woman, was started by Heather Gibson. We now have over 20 interest groups offering a wide variety of opportunities for fun and fellowship!

We also asked for your input at the Spring Luncheon Meeting about possible events to help with our scholarship development efforts. Our annual clothing sale received the largest number of votes and will continue under the capable leadership of Roberta Shoopman. Please start saving your “gently worn” clothes to donate for that event. We are working on finalizing dates in February 2017 and will keep you informed.

Traditionally, the club has also sponsored an additional activity each year to raise scholarship funds, such as an auction. It was important to the Board this year that we seek input from the membership at large on what that might be. Activities such as a dinner dance or wine event received several mentions in the discussion groups but, following the clothing sale, the next most largely supported item by the answers at the Spring Luncheon Meeting was “Just Write a Check.” To respond to this input from the membership, the Board discussed several approaches and decided that we will sponsor a “Non-Event Event” later this year. Stay tuned – more to come on this in the months ahead!

Fall Luncheon Meeting

The Fall Luncheon Meeting for the membership has been scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2016, at Fairwinds Alumni Center on the UCF Campus. We are pleased to share that our guest speaker will be the UCF Foundation CEO, Michael Morsberger. We also hope to have one or more of our scholarship winners present to speak about the significance of our scholarships to them.

You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food to this meeting to help stock the UCF Knights’ Pantry, which was created to help students in need.

Interest groups will again be highlighted at this meeting and you will have the opportunity to sign up to attend as many groups as you wish – another opportunity to get involved and meet other members who share common interests. This meeting is also a great time to invite friends to attend, become acquainted with the club and consider membership in this great organization!

Holiday Events

We will join with members of Town and Gown at the Burnett House in December for a Holiday Coffee to benefit the Coalition for the Homeless.

Later in December we will have our annual Holiday Cookie Exchange, chaired by Ranetta Guinn and hosted by Board member, Jen Rupert. This is always a fun event, filled with wonderful food, recipe exchanges and fellowship!

Invitations with specific dates will be sent in the fall for these two “members only” events.

Membership Renewal

Our new fiscal year begins July 1st and a reminder notice for membership renewal will be emailed shortly beforehand.

I’m looking forward to another busy year for this club – one filled with opportunities to help our scholarship efforts, as well as grow personally through our involvement with interesting and exciting club activities. Let’s “Move Forward by Giving Back” in 2016-2017!

Best regards,

Kathy Weisé