Welcome from Our President

If you’re like me, you can’t believe how quickly this summer is going by! Summer 2019 is fast coming to a close and the University Women’s Club board is gearing up for a fantastic year ahead. My goal for the coming year is to bring together our members from across campus and our various interest groups as we invite women throughout the UT community to join us in celebrating the University’s rich traditions, interesting research, engaging teaching, and inspirational public service activities.

We’re looking forward to reconnecting with UWC members and meeting potential new members at our Welcome Back Reception, Friday, August 23, 4 – 6 p.m. in the Communications Building lobby and patio in Circle Park, with free and handy parking right in front of the building. Enjoy good food, interesting conversation, and a great start to your weekend by bringing another UWC member or prospective member with you!

We’re excited to announce that we have a fantastic NEW venue for our 2019-2020 luncheons: Church Street United Methodist Church, 900 Henley Street, at the intersection of Cumberland and Henley, right next to campus, across from the Knoxville Convention Center. We’re looking forward to free, close-up parking, a beautiful, sunlit meeting room, fascinating speakers, and a new caterer!

Join us for fun, food, and fellowship at UWC luncheons on our usual schedule: the second Friday of five months: September 13, October 11, November 8, February 14, and March 13. Our Spring luncheon will be held April 10 at the Cherokee Country Club.

And of course, we’ll kick off the holiday season in December with UWC’s traditional holiday reception at McClung Museum, hosted by UT’s Provost David Manderschied. Stay tuned for the specific date! If you have questions or suggestions about University Women’s Club, please don’t hesitate to contact me: regdean@utk.edu or 974-1547.

UWC Welcome Back Reception, Friday, August 23

Make your plans to attend the UWC’s reception on Friday, August 23, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will gather at the Communications Building lobby and patio in Circle Park. There will be convenient parking available on Circle Park in front of the Communications Building.

Not only will we have the pleasure of reconnecting with UWC friends after the summer, but the Welcome Back Reception is also a perfect opportunity to introduce a friend to the UWC.

Make your reservation with Donna Eason (607-6179, easongirl1961@gmail.com) by August 20.

Check Your Email for UWC Meeting Announcements

This year the UWC will email all meeting announcements rather than sending postcards (except for members who do not use email). This change will save both money and time. If you have a new email address, please be sure to update it on your membership renewal or by getting in touch with Membership Chair Donna Eason.
2019 – 20 UWC Board Members*

President: Regina Dean 250-2585 regdean@utk.edu
First Vice President (President-elect): Dava Shoffner 966-9202 dhoffner@charter.net
Second Vice President/Website: Megan Venable 591-5912 mvenable@tennessee.edu
Immediate Past President: Sharon Smith 705-2912 svcsmith@yahoo.com
Secretary and Holiday Event: Stacy Palado 974-2143 spalado@utk.edu
Treasurer: Natalie Smith 979-739-5457 nataliesmith64@hotmail.com
Membership, Newcomers & Recruitment: Donna Eason 607-6179 easongirl1961@gmail.com
Hospitality: April Massengill 300-4412 amoore9@tennessee.edu (flowers: Kathy Lasater 966-5009 Drkathyl@aol.com)
Programs and Interest Groups: Nancy Howell 661-0091 nhowell@utk.edu
Historian & Publicity: Audrey Duncan 588-8371 audreyaduncan@comcast.net
Spring Luncheon: Debbie Woodiel 922-6210 woodield@utk.edu (venue: Raisa Killeffer 523-8833)
Newsletter: Lisa Carroll 776-6944 lcarroll@icx.net
*All phone numbers are in area code 865 unless otherwise indicated.


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Scholarships to UT 1,009.00
Memorials to UT Libraries 45.00
Honoraria to UT Libraries 300.00
Total Expenses: $5,078.03
Balance on Hand 7/9/2019 $1,250.56

Scholarship Fund Balance
7/1/2018 1,728.00
Through UWC 1,009.00
Checks to UT via treasurer 1,630.00
Contributions directly to UT 298.00
Scholarship Fund Total as of 7/9/2019 $4,665.00
Pending 2 scholarships to be awarded at $1,500 each, balance for 2019-20 $1,665.00

Certificate of Deposit as of 7/9/2019: $4,507.21

Chancellor Plowman Will Speak to UWC on September 13

On September 13 our first UWC luncheon speaker is Dr. Donde Plowman, UT’s new Chancellor. Dr. Plowman began her duties July 1, returning to UT from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she was Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer. Before serving as Dean of UNL’s College of Business Administration, Dr. Plowman was head of the Department of Management at UT’s Haslam College of Business. As UT Knoxville’s ninth chancellor, Dr. Plowman will take UT into its 225th year this fall.

Dr. Plowman received her doctorate in strategic management from the University of Texas at Austin, her master’s in higher education administration from the University of North Texas, and her undergraduate in English from Southern Methodist University. She is married to Dr. Dennis Duchon, who is Chair of the UNL Department of Management. They have two grown sons.
After the Co-eds Came to Campus: The Progress of Women at UTK and the Role of Martha Lee Osborne

By Audrey A. Duncan, UWC Historian

In July of 1880, Judge Oliver P. Temple, a member of the UT Board of Trustees, moved to appoint a committee to consider the “propriety of admitting females” to the University. The motion failed.

Although women were being educated elsewhere in the nation’s colleges—at Oberlin, for example, since 1833—Southern social attitudes still held that educated women somehow lost their femininity and tainted their purity.

When Dr. Charles Dabney became president of the University in 1887, he was sympathetic to the coeducational cause. Influenced by Angie Warren Perkins (wife of engineering professor Charles Perkins) who was herself educated at Wellesley College, Dr. Dabney stated that there was no law to prevent women from joining the university. Hence, in 1892, four women were admitted, and the next year the trustees approved a general admission policy. A male student bemoaned the consequences of the move with this bit of doggerel:

So now the men all stay at home,  
And nurse and sweep the floor;  
No longer are there “lady” cooks,  
As in the days of yore.

Thus all these honors, all these crimes,  
All this male degradation  
Are due in part—indeed they’re all—  
To this co-education.

However, not all male students thought that way, to quote another student: “male and female students got along very well, there was no resentment over the presence of girls. Indeed, we highly approved of them.” Courting was a problem however, because there was no campus housing for the women, so they lived in town. Since the city street cars stopped running at 10:00 p.m., the men who stayed out late dating, or “tantalizing” as it was called then, often had to walk back to campus.

The women also ate in a private dining room with the professors. In 1899, accommodations were provided on campus for, by then, 12 students. In 1901 a women’s dorm was completed, Blount Hall.

In 1895, the first B.A. degrees were conferred on women. In 1898, Mrs. Perkins was named Dean of Women (without pay). A regular dean, Florence Skeffington (who taught in the English Department) was named in 1900. Then 1909 brought two milestones: the first woman to receive an M.A. and the first to graduate with a law degree. In 1921, the College of Agriculture graduated its first woman. By then, 37 women were enrolled as undergraduates, and five had already received bachelor’s degrees.

The role of women has progressed gradually over the years, both in student attendance and faculty positions, culminating in the success of women such as Pat Head Summitt, Joan Cronan, various deans of Agriculture, Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and this year the new Chancellor, Donde Plowman. Looking at today’s statistics: the student population averages 50% female with some fluctuations. The teaching and research faculty is 45% female.

One pioneer in the advancement of women at UTK is also a revered member of the UWC, Martha Lee Osborne, a delightful nonagenarian, who regularly attends the monthly luncheons and also participates in several interest groups. Martha Lee’s longtime experience as a faculty member tracked closely with the progress of women’s inclusion in many aspects of the university.
Martha Lee came to UT in 1954 after chairing the English department at Fairfax Hall, a small college in Virginia. She joined the English Department as an instructor under the chairmanship of John Hodges. She taught while also continuing her own studies, eventually completing a Ph.D. in philosophy. She met and married Durant da Ponte, a professor in the department, and they had two children, a boy and a girl. In 1964 da Ponte was killed in a plane crash while the children were very small.

Once she had taught six years as an instructor, and had married, Martha Lee ran into two problems: instructors could not continue into a seventh year, and by the rules forbidding nepotism, married faculty members could not work in the same department. Alvin Nielsen, the Dean of Liberal Arts, met with upper administration many times trying to solve this issue, but to no avail. Eventually, she was given the opportunity of joining the small Department of Philosophy where she was to spend the rest of her career. In the late 60s, she also remarried, to John Osborne, a professor of German, with whom she had another son.

She formed many lasting friendships, including one with a Chinese man who taught her Chinese. She progressed far enough to present a poem in Chinese at a conferences, much to the audience’s delight.

Today Martha Lee resides at Northshore Heights Residential Facility and delights in having company, or a ride to an event.

**Natalie Rice to Speak on Russian Propaganda at UWC October 11 Luncheon**

Natalie M. Rice, Ph.D. is a 2012 alumna of the UT College of Communication and Information (CCI) doctoral program. She is currently a research consultant at UT’s Baker Center Institute for Nuclear Security (INS), where she conducts research on global security, anti-Americanism, and issues related to Russia and the former Soviet Union. Natalie also graduated from CCI’s Master’s program with a concentration in Journalism and Electronic Media. She holds a B.A. from the Department of Social Communication at the Belarusian State University (Minsk, Belarus). Natalie has published on global security and public policy topics with a special focus on anti-Americanism, nuclear security, mass media, and public opinion in the former Soviet region.

To learn more about UWC activities—past, current, and future—go to our website: universitywomensclub@utk.edu
University Women’s Club (UWC) Membership Form for
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Please complete the following for publication in the UWC Yearbook:

Name:_________________________________________________________________________
Address:________________________________ City:________ State: ___ Zip:_______
Phone:______________(home)/______________(mobile) Email: __________________________

Publish phone/email in Yearbook: (circle one) yes/no

How would you prefer to receive notices of meetings, events, other? (circle one): USPS/Email/Both

What is your connection to the University of Tennessee System?
____________________________________________________________________________________

YOUR UT Campus, Department and/or College: ________________________________
YOUR SPOUSE OR S/O UT Campus, Department and/or College: ______________________

CURRENTLY AT UT (circle one) yes/no RETIRED (circle one) yes/no

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES: $16 per year for General Members and $8 per year for Retired/Honorary Members

Make check payable to UWC and mail it along with this Membership Form to UWC, P.O. Box 10438, Knoxville, TN 37939.

Please check here if you want a printed copy of the yearbook: □

Or if you would like to receive a pdf file of the yearbook by email, check here: □

Interest Groups

I am interested in one or more of the following interest groups affiliated with UWC. Please have the leader of the group(s) I have circled contact me.

BOOK REVIEW (DAY) DINNER GROUP
BOOK REVIEW (EVENING) TOPIC LUNCHEON GROUP
CROQUET WATER AEROBICS
DAY TRIPPERS

To join or renew online, go to: https://universitywomensclub.utk.edu/membership/
Support UWC

The University Women’s Club was founded in 1912 by Katie Anderson Ayres, wife of University of Tennessee President Brown Ayres.

More than 100 years later the mission of the organization continues—to foster community among University women and to support education.

I would like to support the mission of UWC by making a gift to:

**UWC SCHOLARSHIP FUND** in the amount of: (check one):

$15: _____ $25: _____ $50: _____ $75: _____ $100: _____ Other (please specify amount): $_____

Your gift to the Dollars for Scholars Fund will help support at least two students each year. The UWC Scholarships go to students who are returning to UTK after a gap in their college careers.

**OTHER GIFT** (please specify): $____ in honor of/in memory of ______________________________

Make your check payable to UTFI, c/o University Women’s Club, and mail to UWC, P.O. Box 10438, Knoxville, TN 37939. If your gift is for the scholarship fund, write “UWC Dollars for Scholars” in the memo on your check. You may also contribute online. Go to [http://giving.utk.edu/uwc](http://giving.utk.edu/uwc)
2019-20 UWC Interest Groups

UWC members may join any interest group as part of their membership. Interest groups meet in both daytime and evening hours. Interest group members must be current on their dues. Please check with Interest Group Chair, Nancy Howell (661-0091, nhowell@utk.edu) to find out which groups are seeking new members.

Book Review—Daytime. Participants meet in members’ homes on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. The December meeting is a luncheon. The May meeting is also a luncheon to select books for the next year. Contact: Carole Lundin 560-9522 or calundin@att.net

Book Review—Evening. We meet monthly year-round, usually at Caroline Buckner’s home at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday. Members submit book suggestions for the coming year, with books selected at our August meeting. Members volunteer to review a selection. We have over 20 members – very large for a book group – but if you’re interested, contact: Mary English 584-2747 or menglish@utk.edu

Croquet. Our new interest group is off to a good start with a dozen members. On the first Sunday afternoon of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. the group plays croquet on the lawns of the home of Audrey Duncan. After the games, players enjoy a repast of cucumber sandwiches with lemonade or wine. Beginners are welcome. Contact: Audrey Duncan 865-588-8371 or audreyaduncan@comcast.net

Day Trippers. Members get together to go on trip to local interest sites that can be done in one day from Knoxville. Contact: Joan Clevenger 233-0777 or joan.clevenger@aol.com

Dinner (International) Group. Composed of members, individually or with spouses or partners. The group meets monthly in a member’s home, usually the evening of the 2nd Saturday of the month to enjoy food from a menu chosen by the host. Each member brings a dish and recipes are supplied by the host. The activities also include a holiday brunch in December and a night out at a local restaurant. Contact: Julia Malia 673-6184 or jmalia@utk.edu

Topic Luncheon Group. Meets at the Cherokee Country Club on the first Thursday of the month (except August) for lunch and a presentation. This year’s topic is “Great Women of the World, Past or Present.” Each member presents a short program on the main topic, followed by a discussion. When all members have had a chance to present a program, a new general topic will be chosen. Contact: Audrey Duncan 588-8371 or audreyaduncan@comcast.net

Water Aerobics. Participants are led through an easy, but active water aerobics workout each Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the UT Student Aquatic Center pool, September through April. Membership in the Aquatic Center is not required. Swimming expertise is not required. A small, one-time donation (usually about $25 each semester) pays for a lifeguard for the season. Parking permits are available through UT. Contact: Judith Jennings 522-3452

Playing croquet on Audrey’s lawn
Mark Your Calendar for Future UWC Events

September 13: Dr. Donde Plowman, UTK Chancellor

October 11: Dr. Natalie Rice, UT’s Baker Center Institute for Nuclear Security. Topic: Russian Propaganda

November 8: Luncheon meeting. Speaker and topic TBD

December: Holiday Reception, McClung Museum, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (date TBD)

February 14: Luncheon meeting. Speaker and topic TBD

March 13: Luncheon meeting. Speaker and topic TBD

April 10: Spring Luncheon, Cherokee Country Club

Note: All 2019-20 luncheon meetings are at our NEW meeting location: Church Street United Methodist Church, 900 Henley Street. We will continue to meet from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.