Greetings from the UWC
President

2019 was a great year for the University Women’s Club. In the fall our monthly luncheons moved to Church Street United Methodist Church, on Henley Street, right next to campus. UTK’s new chancellor, Donde Plowman, helped us inaugurate our bright, new meeting venue in September. We were honored to be the first women’s group she met with after becoming chancellor in July.

We also expanded our use of digital and social media in 2019. In conjunction with the UTK College of Communication and Information, UWC speaker presentations are now streamed live on our website and archived on UWC’s Facebook page.

I’m also delighted to report that the UWC Scholarship Fund grew by almost $1,000 during UTK’s Big Orange Give in November. This 24-hour online fundraising campaign featured two “match periods” when UWC donations were matched by outside funds so that we netted a total of $950. Now that’s what I call strategic fundraising!! Thanks to all of you who contributed to UWC’s Scholarship Fund during 2019. I encourage all our members to assist with this scholarship for UTK students who return to their education after a gap.

Please help keep the momentum going in 2020!

Regina

Meet Dava Shoffner, Our UWC 2020-2021 President

I am moving into the position of UWC president next year with admiration and awe for what past members and officers have accomplished. They started this organization at a time when women needed better opportunities to be together to share intellectual topics and learn about more than cooking, sewing, and keeping house. Together they maintained an organization that allows all interested women connected with the University of Tennessee to continue meeting and sharing topics that shed light on new and changing aspects of this world we live in.

I have been associated in some way with the University of Tennessee since I was about 10 years old. The university’s 4-H Extension Service gave me many opportunities I would have never had otherwise. Four-H Club camps at UT Martin and Summer Round-up at UT Knoxville gave me many options for growth.

From attending these activities in middle school to taking leadership roles during my high school years, I learned how to speak before large crowds and to organize and plan for a variety of activities. My basic nursing education began at UT Memphis (now known as UT Center for Health Sciences). After a break to have a family, I completed graduate education in Nursing as well as Child and Family Studies at UTK.

I retired eight years ago after teaching nursing at UT Knoxville for about 30 years. During those decades I left teaching for seven years to practice as a Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner in the Knoxville area before returning to the College of Nursing.

My goal for the 2020-2021 year is to keep the UWC strong and to continue to make membership meaningful to university women when so many activities and opportunities are competing for our time. The programs in past years have been superb, and our program chair has already begun to gather ideas for the coming year. We as a board are
working hard to update and revise the Constitution (by-laws) and to review and update the list of responsibilities of each office. The board includes a wide variety of women (both in interests and age!) who are helping us continue to move into a wider use of technology while keeping systems in place for those who would prefer not to depend heavily on computers for communication.

Thanks to those of you who have supported activities of this UWC for many years. I look forward to your continued support and encourage you to attend our meetings and activities.

2019-20 UWC Scholarships
Support Aspiring Architect and Teacher

The two UWC scholarships given in 2019 went to young women who had to defer their college educations immediately after high school but eventually returned to school at UTK to pursue their dreams.

Katie Grostofon had always wanted to be an architect but found the cost of completing the degree program prohibitive. After high school she enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, a choice she describes as leading her to “grow in ways I could not have anticipated.” While stationed in South Korea, she completed an associate’s degree. On her return to the U.S., she decided to pursue the challenge of a full-time program in the UTK School of Architecture and Design.

And it has been a challenge: Katie says she was surprised by the “intensity of the tasks,” but has learned to balance the demands of classes and studio work with the three jobs she has held to acquire the money for the study abroad required in her program.

Katie expects to graduate in 2021 with her B. Arch. and a minor in Industrial Design. She thanks the UWC for our support, which has given her more time to focus on her work. She adds “your gift of goodwill uncomplicates my life a little and eases a burden for my journey ahead.”

Jaime Hendrickson states “I wanted to be a teacher from the time I was a little girl,” but she too had to join the workforce after high school, and her dream of teaching was delayed far longer than she expected—until she reached her mid-30s.

At this point she knew she was unhappy with her occupation and ready to return to school. “I decided to take the leap and go back to college as an adult learner so I could pursue my dream of becoming an educator.”

Despite savings and part-time work, Jaime has had to struggle with financial challenges as a single, non-traditional student and tells us “your scholarship will have a huge impact on my life by making it easier for me to reach my academic goals.” As she finishes her degree, she appreciates the UWC’s help with realizing her dream.

If you want to help more returning students realize their academic dreams, please make a gift to the UWC scholarship. To receive a tax receipt for your contribution, make the check to the University of Tennessee and put “UWC Scholarship Fund” on the memo line.
Spring Luncheons Highlight UT Programs

Speakers for our luncheons in March and February will discuss two well-known programs on our Knoxville campus: UT’s Department of Business Analytics and UT Gardens.

On Friday, February 14, Dr. Melissa Bowers, associate professor in the Department of Business Analytics, will discuss the nationally ranked program in business analytics and statistics. Dr. Bowers is director of the Master’s Program in Business Analytics, recently named one of the top 10 programs in the country by Analytics Insight magazine. She received her Ph.D. from Clemson University and has worked with numerous organizations, including Boeing, Delta Air Lines, the U.S. Air Force and ALCOA.

On Friday, March 13, James Newburn, the interim director of UT Gardens following Dr. Sue Hamilton’s recent retirement, will discuss updates in the gardens. He will discuss featured plants at UT Gardens, which is the state botanical garden of Tennessee and a certified arboretum. Established in 1983, UT Gardens conducts evaluations of plants and is one of the most visited sites on the UT campus. Mr. Newburn has been with UT Gardens since 1992 when he was an undergraduate student. He completed a M.S. in public horticulture in 2008 and oversees daily operations at the garden.

Rose Planting to Celebrate Suffrage Centennial

By Nancy Howell, UWC Program Chair

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of women receiving the right to vote in the United States, University Women’s Club, in collaboration with Dr. Sue Hamilton and UT Gardens, is planting a yellow rose bush in the UT Gardens with a plaque that notes the local connection to the historic vote.

Tennessee became the final state to pass the 19th Amendment on August 18, 2020, meeting the requirement for two-thirds of the states to pass the amendment nationally, when 23-year-old freshman representative Harry Burn, from McMinn County, voted “yes” on his mother’s advice. The letter from his mother, Febb Ensminger Burn, urging him to change his vote is now an artifact in the Knox County Public Library’s Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection.

The yellow rose was a symbol of the Suffrage movement with supporters wearing them to show their advocacy. Those who opposed women’s suffrage wore red roses. Harry Burn kept his mother’s letter in his breast pocket when he cast his vote, even though he was wearing a red rose. Afterward, anti-suffragists hounded him with accusations of bribery, and he narrowly won his second term in the House of Representatives.

Our November luncheon speaker, Robin Goddard of the Ossoli Circle Knoxville Women’s Club, detailed the dramatic vote and the role of local suffragist Lizzie Crozier French, founder of Ossoli Circle. Look for an email or check the UWC website later this spring for the date and time of the rose and plaque dedication.

UWC Silver, China, and Cookbooks: The Search Goes on

By Audrey A. Duncan, UWC Historian

The Faculty Woman’s Club/University Woman’s Club is now into its second century, and I have written about many of the club’s activities over the years but have not reported what they members ate and drank at various lunches and dinners. Minutes from the 1920s state that they bought a silver tea set and some china and produced a cookbook for sale, so I thought that I would tell you what we know about those items.

Until very recently we held the holiday party at the UT President’s house on Cherokee Boulevard; it was really a tea party, and the silver tea service sat at one end of the table and a punch bowl at the other end. The members made all the food and took turns pouring the tea during the reception. The silver tea set played an important part in this event for many a year.

The November 1920 club minutes noted that the silver set had been moved from storage in the library to the home of a Mrs. Turner for easier access. Later it was stored by individuals at their homes for some
years until it reappeared at the annual holiday party at the President's house. When the President's house was closed in 2009, our annual party was moved to the McClung Museum along with the tea set. Many of us remember it from both places. In fact, Betty Craig made covers for each piece and cleaned it before storing it in the McClung vault. Later McClung personnel were unable to locate it, so we searched other locations on campus. Ultimately, during an overall inventory of the vault, McClung personnel found it tucked away in a corner.

The university has agreed to store it in the main library Special Collections, and to keep good records of its location from now on.

The location of the china is still under investigation. After it was moved with the tea set in the 1920s to the home of Mrs. Turner, records from the 1930s show its being stored and locked in the kitchen cabinets at the YWCA, where the club sometimes met. A longtime member, the late Mary Wallace Armistead, told me that, because it had not been used for some years, she had donated the china to the Veterinary College for display in the foyer. If so, no one there had any ideas about it today. I have received other leads from the older members but have not been able to confirm any so far. I will continue to search.

The cookbook has quite a history: there were three editions: 1967, 1982, and 1990, which combined the first two. I have located the second cookbook, *Faculty Favorites* (lent to me by Sara Phillips), and an announcement (on the right) of a dinner held to celebrate the new 1990 edition.

The Faculty Women’s Club cookbooks exemplify how close club members were to each other in those days. In 1967, they decided to give their favorite recipes to one another and print a delightful cookbook called *Recipe Swap*. This first club cookbook had about 178 excellent recipes, many quaint illustrations of sprigs of condiments sketched by Nance Kurka, and “Helpful Hints” scattered among the recipes, like these:

- **Eggs** will beat fluffier if they are allowed to come to cool room temperature before beating.
- **A slice of soft bread** placed in a bag with hardened brown sugar will soften it again in a couple of hours.
- To determine if an egg is fresh, immerse it in a pan of cool, salted water. If it sinks, it is fresh. If it rises to the surface, throw it away.
- Run hot water over a spoon or into a cup before measuring butter or shortening. This will cause the fat to slip out more easily without sticking to the spoon or cup.
- **While baking fruit pies**, if the juice runs out, shake salt into the spills. They will burn to a crisp and can be easily scraped up with a spatula.

In 1982 the Faculty Women's Club published a second cookbook, *Faculty Favorites*, with 156 pages of new recipes that members contributed. The purpose was to highlight the International Festival of Luncheons, held by the club the previous year, and to raise funds for the Student Emergency Fund at UT, which was one of their projects.

The third volume came out in 1990. The club theme for the year was “Our Changing Times: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” This revision of the 1967 and 1982 cookbooks kept the title *Faculty Favorites*’ Book II, but added more recipes, bringing it up to date with the changing methods of cooking—“lite,” microwave, and tailgating. This revised addition was a special project co-chaired by Jean Savage and Eleanor Jaynes.

As I look through the finances, the cookbooks do not appear to have been very successful fundraisers due to the cost of printing. The club sold many copies but paid extremely high printing costs.

If we were to consider publishing a fourth edition, which some members have suggested, I think modern methods would make it much cheaper to print.

If anyone can add verifiable information about the history of these three items, do please contact me.
Members Celebrate at the 2019 Holiday Reception

UWC members and their guests enjoyed another delightful reception at McClung Museum on December 2, hosted by the Office of the Provost and organized by Provost staff led by Heather Cockrum working with the UWC holiday event chair, Stacy Palado. We enjoyed the music performed by Stacy’s father, guitarist Ronnie James Vadala, and were welcomed by Claudio Gómez, the new Jefferson Chapman Executive Director of McClung Museum, and by John Zomchick, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. Dr. Zomchick also provided us with an overview of new goals and developments at the university.

Left: Joan Clevenger and Audrey Duncan, both former UWC presidents
Above: Michelle Reimert with David and Betty Craig (another former UWC president)

Above: Long-time UWC members Raisa Killeffer and Marilyn Dorn with husbands, Albert Dorn and Fred Killeffer
Right: Newly appointed Executive Director Claudio Gómez welcomes UWC members to McClung Museum
Mark Your Calendar for UWC Spring Events

February 14: Dr. Melissa Bowers, Associate Professor, Department of Business Analytics. Topic: “Business Analytics and Statistics”


April 10: Spring Luncheon, Cherokee Country Club

Note: All luncheon meetings are from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The February and March meetings will be held at our new meeting venue, Church Street United Methodist Church.

Parking for UWC Meetings

If you are having health or mobility issues, you may find the walk to Church Street Methodist from the Hill Street parking lots to be challenging. Members who need a shorter walk should use the parking lot just outside the entrance to our meeting room. From Cumberland Avenue, turn onto Poplar Street (the street to the south at the light where Cumberland and Main split). Then take the second left into the church parking area. From Henley Street, turn west onto Hill, right on to Poplar, and take the first right. Although many of these spaces are marked for “special needs,” it is all right to use them for our Friday meetings.

For more about UWC activities—past, current, and future, go to: universitywomensclub@utk.edu