

The *Women* for FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Summer 2016



CONVERSATIONS IN PHILANTHROPY: MULTI-YEAR GIFT SUPPORTS W4FSU AND WLI

The 2016 Backstage Pass to the Very Best of Florida State helped attendees discover many new things about the outstanding academic and entrepreneurial opportunities Florida State students are engaged in daily. While the breakfast business meeting provided a time to update W4FSU members on past successes and future initiatives, it was a surprise announcement that set the tone for 2016 and beyond. Janet Stoner, chair of the Women for FSU Philanthropy Committee, revealed that Katee Tully and Helen Levine ('79, '81, '87) would continue their investment in FSU with a new multi-year gift to W4FSU.

The gift includes both a contribution to the Women for FSU endowment fund as well as support to our partnership

with the Center for Leadership and Social Change in sponsoring the three-day Women's Leadership Institute. With this gift, Tully and Levine become the presenting sponsors for WLI starting this fall and continuing through 2019. The mission of WLI is to provide a leadership training experience for female students. This sponsorship reflects Tully's lifelong involvement in leadership and diverse community capacity building as well as the couple's commitment to giving young women the opportunity to learn about themselves and develop as leaders. At the closing dinner of Backstage Pass, FSU President John Thrasher thanked Tully and Levine for their commitment to and love of FSU.

Dr. Laura Osteen, director for the Center for Leadership and Social Change and coordinator of WLI said, "The gift from Katee and Helen ensures the stability of the Women's Leadership Institute and allows us to provide a life-informing experience for young women at FSU. I am grateful to Women for FSU and Helen and Katee for creating this impactful partnership of change and optimism."

Stoner joined in her thanks and appreciation of the gift and reminds all Women for FSU members that there are many ways to offer financial support as we focus on our new goal of growing the endowment to \$500,000 in support of Women for FSU and WLI. ✨

—Alicia Crew



*Helen Levine and Katee Tully
with FSU President John Thrasher*



Women for FSU members attend the annual Backstage Pass

From the Chair

"We never know how high we are
Till we are called to rise;
And then, if we are true to plan,
Our statures touch the skies--"
—EMILY DICKINSON



Sherrill Ragans

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Executive Committee chair at this exciting time in W4FSU's history. It is amazing to see close up that W4FSU does indeed "touch the skies." We have grown over the years—from a small group of supporters to our current membership of more than 800 women. W4FSU's first meeting occurred at the "instigation" of Penny Ralston, former dean of the College of Human Sciences, and Joyce Miles, a member of the college's development board. When Joyce joined the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees in 2007, she secured Foundation support to begin the organization that has become W4FSU. Support for W4FSU has continued to grow, and University presidents and first ladies are among those that have been strong advocates for the work of W4FSU.

Since 2007, the hands of many women have reached to "touch the skies" on behalf of W4FSU—and you are among those women! As you have honored our commitment to ENGAGE, INVEST and CELEBRATE, W4FSU has increased in numbers and influence. This newsletter honors many accomplishments, and I promise our successes will make you proud to be on this journey.

Each of you have contributed in remarkable ways to the success of W4FSU, and I thank you!

It is my pleasure to announce that Cassandra Rayne Gross will serve as 2016-2018 chair of the Executive Committee. You know Cassandra as the exemplary leader of the Program Committee, which has planned and executed, with the committed and hard-working FSU Foundation staff, our recent Backstage Pass events. W4FSU has been true to plan and will indeed "touch the skies" every day in our efforts to support FSU.

With appreciation and best wishes,

—Sherrill Ragans
Chair, Executive Committee

SEVENTH ANNUAL BACKSTAGE PASS: AN ENTREPRENEURIAL WEEKEND



Entrepreneur-in-Residence Richard Benham speaks at the Advocacy Center reception.



Law Student MaryCatherine Crock (standing) argues her case in the mock trial demonstration.



College of Business entrepreneurial students answer questions about their businesses.



Attendees joined in vocal exercises and sang at the College of Music.

WOMEN FOR FSU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Florence Ashby
Lynn Bertram
Sarah Coakley

Alicia Crew
Cassandra Rayne Gross
Julie Granger Kritz

Annie McFarland
Sherrill Ragans
Pat Ramsey

Marilyn Spores
Janet Stoner

HONORING OUR 2016 GIFT OF WISDOM AWARD WINNER



Gift of Wisdom recipient Joyce Miles with FSU President John Thrasher.

Congratulations to Joyce Berry Miles, the 2016 Women for FSU Gift of Wisdom Award recipient. As a leader promoting systemic change in the educational arena, Miles has presented nationally to more than 5,000 participants and has co-authored career textbooks for use in secondary family and consumer sciences classes.

In 1965, Miles received her Bachelor of Science in Consumer and Family Sciences from Purdue University. In 1973, she received her Master of Science in Vocational Education from Florida State University, and in 1988, she completed additional graduate coursework in Home Economics at Florida State. She went on to become president of her own consulting and training company, Joyce B. Miles & Associates, a leadership development group.

When Miles joined the Florida State University Foundation Board of Trustees, she knew exactly what her “service project” would be. She wanted to create a new organization within FSU that would be uniquely for women who have a connection to Florida State. As a member of the Women of Purdue, she had personally witnessed what can happen when a university acknowledges the impact women can have when their participation is encouraged. What

better place to make this happen than at the university formerly known as the Florida State College for Women!

The initial step in her mission was to share her vision with the president of the FSU Foundation. This took place at her very first board meeting in 2007. She only asked for two things: his endorsement of the idea and the appointment of a staff person with whom to work. The rest, as they say, is history.

The blueprint of what was to become Women for FSU was developed on the deck of her beautiful home overlooking the mountains of Maggie Valley, N.C. The first organizational meeting in 2008 was hosted by First Lady Virginia Wetherell, facilitated by Miles and attended by more than 70 enthusiastic women. These women became the founding members of Women for FSU.

We owe Joyce Berry Miles much for dreaming the incredible dream of creating Women for FSU. Miles understood that women give when they have passion and purpose. Women for FSU provides that purpose. ♀

—Fanchon “Fancy” Funk

OUR TURN TO GIVE BACK

Do you remember your first semester on campus? What a thrilling time, a rite of passage as well as a significant challenge. The transition from the life of a high school senior to that of a college freshman is a lot to deal with—applying for financial aid and housing, registering for classes and navigating an unfamiliar campus can be intimidating and even overwhelming. While many traditional undergraduate students rely on their families for financial and emotional support, first-generation college students don’t always have the help and guidance needed for this adjustment.

As Women for FSU members, we know there is much to be proud of at Florida State University, and the Center for Academic Retention & Enhancement program is one of those things. Founded in 1968 as Horizons Unlimited, CARE is the product of a merger in 2000 that combined Horizons Unlimited with other campus outreach programs, such as Multicultural Student Support Services, Minority Academic Programs and the Summer Enrichment Program.

CARE provides transition, engagement and academic support services for traditionally underrepresented and disadvantaged populations at Florida State. I was most impressed to learn that outreach begins years before it’s time to apply to college. CARE’s mission stresses the importance of

academic retention and graduation of undergraduate students who have been disadvantaged by either socio-economic issues or educational circumstances. The numbers show just how impressive CARE students are—90.5 percent of CARE students maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

While visiting the CARE website (care.fsu.edu), I saw a familiar face featured on the CARE Hall of Fame. At last year’s Women’s Leadership Institute, I enjoyed sitting with Yasmeen Battle, a first-generation college student who was filled with enthusiasm for FSU and the Women for FSU. Below is an excerpt from her Hall of Fame essay, which beautifully expresses the impact that her involvement with CARE has had on her undergraduate experience:

“After my experience in the CARE Summer Bridge Program, I decided to pursue involvements that were committed to service and leadership...I became a CARE Ambassador because I wanted to impact students the same way I was impacted. CARE is constantly investing in students that ultimately invest back into the center through service and leadership. CARE will provide students with every resource, opportunity, connection, motivation and encouragement. It is up to that individual to use it and make a difference at Florida State University. (story continued on back)



Yasmeen Battle

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT W4FSU.ORG



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FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
2010 LEVY AVE., BLDG. B, STE. 300
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32310

When I received the opportunity to represent CARE and Florida State University at Harvard University, I was reminded of my transition from low-income student to Yasmeen Battle, the graduating senior. It is because of my foundation with CARE that I have learned I am not defined by my race, gender or income, but rather my drive, dedication and ambition to succeed.”

When I learned about the CARE program, I was struck by how well it coincides with our Women for FSU values of mentorship and philanthropy. We strive to make connections between our members and the many programs there are to discover on campus. Like CARE, we endeavor to open doors, and it is our hope that one of the programs we highlight—like CARE—will inspire you to learn more and get involved. The sentiments shared by Yasmeen Battle are such a beautiful reminder of how transformative a college education can be. We are proud to know that FSU has developed such a nurturing support system for our first-generation students.

—Sarah Coakley



Janet Stoner

CELEBRATING OUR OWN: STONER HONORED AS TRAILBLAZER

W4FSU Executive Committee member Janet Stoner was recently honored as a trailblazer by the Oasis Center for Women & Girls. Recognized in March—Women’s History Month—Stoner was Texaco’s first female engineer and the first woman to be named to the global corporation’s executive committee. W4FSU commends Janet Stoner for her professional accomplishments.

—Laura Glenn