



From our National President

Dear Sisters,

I want to express a huge "Thank You" to all of you for your gracious support of the work we enjoyed this year for the students at FHU. Once again we were able to work together to exceed our yearly budgetary goals. Please give attention to the article entitled "2022-2023 Year-End Report." The Year-End Financial Report will be presented in detail at our fall meeting.

Our Fall National Meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, September 9, at 10:30 a.m. at the Hardeman House. Because this is the 60th year since the FHU Associates was established, we are planning a special birthday party at the fall meeting. I hope all of you will be making your plans to attend this meeting.

I ask that you remember the national officers as we make plans for the coming year. Please contact me or one of the other officers if you have suggestions or concerns for our fundraising activities for the 2023-2024 year.

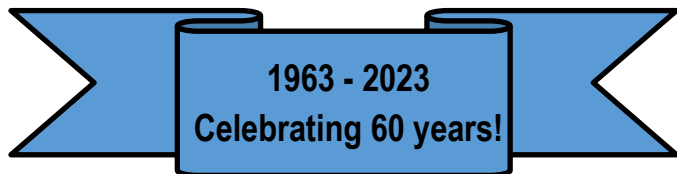
--Diane Smith, FHU Associates' National President



Fall National Meeting
Saturday, September 9, 2023

10:30 a.m. at the Hardeman House

Brunch will be provided, meeting will follow.



[CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP or email us at associates@fhu.edu by Friday, September 1.

THANK YOU to our 2023-2024 National Officers!
We are pleased they have agreed to continue for a second term.

President	Diane Smith (Chester Co.)
Vice-President	Bonny Moore (Huntsville)
Secretary	Robin Hulen (Music City)
Treasurer	Ashley Smith (Chester Co.)

2022-2023 Year-End Report

In last year's report we were very excited to announce that our 2021-2022 giving total was the highest amount of regular funds given since 1982—a total of \$115,190.79. THIS year's report is even more exciting!!! Our giving for 2022-223 totaled \$120,723.64—\$5,532.85 OVER last year's record-breaking totals!

And, since the FHU Associates committed to giving \$250,000 to fund a new diversity endowed scholarship, we have given \$101,358.08—\$1,358.08 AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

FHU Associates are awesome! Thank you for your good work. Thank you for your love for our university students. We cannot wait to see you in August!

—Debbie McLaughlin, FHU Associates' Executive Coordinator

2022-2023 Financial Highlights

TOTAL TO ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS:	\$ 65,042.92
TOTAL TO ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS:	<u>\$ 55,680.72</u>

TOTAL ASSOCIATES' GIVING 2022-2023:	\$120,723.64
TOTAL LIFETIME GIVING AS OF 5-31-23:	\$4,268,231.17

The detailed year-end financial statement will be provided at our fall national meeting on September 9.



Magnolia Associates gave their first donation check for student scholarships!

2022-2023 FHU Advancement Awards

The FHU Office of University Advancement recognizes the valuable contribution of the FHU Associates over the years. Because of the hard work and selfless attitudes, the Associates are directly responsible for more than \$4 million given to the university over the past 60 years.

The Office of University Advancement honors two special members of the Associates each year who have distinguished themselves in areas of service. The LaVonne B. Scott “Heart of a Servant” Award and the “Leap of Faith” Award were conceived as a way to honor exemplary service and to say “Thank you” for the great work that the Associates as a whole (and these two members, in particular) are doing. The “Heart of a Servant” Award is named in honor of LaVonne Scott who continued to work tirelessly for the mission of the FHU Associates until she was in her 90’s. This award is given to an Associate who exemplifies the heart of a servant – who is happy to work at projects (even in the thankless jobs), who is excited about our mission, and who does not ask for recognition, but who deserves to be honored.

The “Leap of Faith” Award is given to the Associate who is an innovator, an encourager – an Associate who, perhaps, is responsible for getting a new project off the ground or who came up with a “big new idea” and had the courage to follow it through. This award honors the Associate who says “We can do that!” The Leap of Faith award was re-named this year to honor Martha Alls—an Associate whose 50 years of service exemplified these ideals.

LaVonne Scott “Heart of a Servant” Award – **Clydeen Puryear**

Clydeen Puryear truly exhibits the Heart of a Servant. Clydeen’s great attitude, full commitment to our mission, and quiet wisdom set her apart and makes it clear why she received multiple nominations for this award. “Think of a back-breaking, behind the scenes, but critical job and you’ll likely find Clydeen doing it with a smile—her husband, Gary, by her side making everyone laugh.”

Martha J. Alls “Leap of Faith” Award – **Debby Gibbs**

Debby Gibbs is this year’s recipient of the Martha J. Alls “Leap of Faith” Award. Recently updated to honor the legacy of Mrs. Martha, this award is given to an Associate who is an innovator and encourager, often credited with a “big new idea” and the courage to follow through. Debby recently started our Associates chapter in Tupelo, MS area because of a love of FHBrew coffee and she’s been “all in” from day one.



“She jumped right in to support Christian education, Freed-Hardeman, and our students with zeal and love. She’s led her chapter with efficiency and excitement which still encourages us all. We are so thankful for all she has done and are looking forward to what she continues to do as an Associate.”

Join us in congratulating Clydeen and Debby!



Each spring, Associate members from all chapters are invited to submit nominations for Advancement Awards to Kyle Lamb at klamb@fhu.edu. The Office of University Advancement chooses recipients from the available nominations, and the awards are given at the spring national meeting.

National FHU Associates' meeting—Friday, April 21, 2023 @ the Hardeman House

Compiled by Melissa Hopkins, Chester County Chapter Secretary for Robin Hulen, National Secretary

Diane Smith, President, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Kyle Lamb presented the advancement awards. He thanked everyone in the Associates for the impact they have on the students and the University.

The LaVonne B. Scott "**Heart of a Servant**" Award is given to an Associate who exemplifies the heart of a servant - who is happy to work on projects (even in the thankless jobs), who is excited about our mission, and who does not ask for recognition, but who deserves to be honored. This year's award goes to Clydeen Puryear for her "great attitude" and hard work with the Barbecue Festival and fall and spring rummage sale.

The "**Leap of Faith**" Award is given to the Associate who is an innovator, an encourager - an Associate who, perhaps, is responsible for getting a new project off the ground or who came up with a "big new idea" and had the courage to follow it through. This year the award is being renamed to the Martha J. Alls "**Leap of Faith**" award. Debby Gibbs is this year's award recipient for her tireless work in starting the new chapter in Tupelo, the Magnolia Chapter.

Connie Pritchard led a prayer before the meal. After the meal, Diane Smith, President, called the meeting to order. She introduced the members of the Magnolia chapter and other guests. Lynne Golson led a prayer.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORTS

Ashley Smith, Treasurer, presented the Minutes on behalf of Robin Hulen. No corrections were reported. Debby Gibbs motioned to accept the Minutes and Debbie McLaughlin seconded the motion. There was no opposition.

Ashley Smith then presented the financial report. Ashley explained some of the recent events and the money we have received or made. Makin' Music weekend brought in \$1,000 but it only shows that we made \$138. A lot of the money gets split up into different projects, so it does not show in a general National account. At Lectureship we made over \$20,000! This was our best year ever! We presented \$35,000 to FHU during lectureship week, which brings our year-to-date total to \$48,000 given to FHU. Our annual goal is \$65,000. We still currently have \$27,000 in our account, so we have enough to meet our goal. Motion to accept the financial report by Gwyn McDowell and Connie Pritchard seconded the motion. None were opposed.

LECTURESHIP RECAPS

Diane Smith shared some recaps from the Lectureships. All together we served 1,283 meals, which was 212 more than last year. We had so many volunteers from the different chapters that helped with the Lectureship kitchen, including many students who received scholarships. If you add all the people who made food at their home and sent it to us to the number of workers, we had around 100 people helping with this event. It was a big success.

Debbie shared information about the coffeehouse during Lectureship. She said they always have such great camaraderie with everyone who works and it's always a joy getting to see all the guests that come through. The coffeehouse made \$9,000 and sold many of the new mugs. Overall, we made \$21,908 during lectureship, which is over \$4,000 more than in previous years.

NEW BUSINESS

Debbie McLaughlin discussed three new items: 1. The University will rename the Associates' Science Center to Associates' Health Science Center. 2. Starting on June 1, the FHU bookstore will be run by FHU again instead of being outsourced to another company. They will also open an online store that will include Associates' products. They are currently being sold on a different website, but will now be available in the same place online. We will also have some products for sale in the physical store. 3. The house next door to the Hardeman house has been torn down and the lot will be seeded with grass.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship - Debbie McLaughlin gave out a list of our scholarship recipients at the last meeting in February. It included the students' names and where they are from. We wrote little cards to each of the scholarship recipients at the last meeting. There are a total of 42 recipients. Three of them receive the regular endowment scholarship and one of them receives the new diversity endowed scholarship. One endowed recipient is graduating, so there will be one opening. Financial aid makes the decision on who will receive the scholarship.

Membership - Lynne Golson shared that there are five levels of membership: Annual, Silver Life, Patron Life, Diamond Life, Gold Life, and Platinum Life. If anyone wants to increase your membership, she can help. Two associates have reached milestones this year: Donna Steele and Christy Hardin have both reached Diamond Life membership, which means a lifetime total of \$1000 has been given.

Hardeman House - Laurel Sewell reported that the Hardeman House has had frequent bookings. Many are not associated with FHU. Sylvia Scott spent the night and let us know about small details that we corrected (bedside lamp, hooks in the bathroom, extension cords, rusty sink). Laurel mentioned the need for fee changes which have been the same for a long time.

Debbie has made a proposal for a new fee schedule. Some of the changes include half-day rentals only for Monday - Friday as well as the fee changes. Laurel Cottage is for overnight stays, and the Hardeman House is for events. Overnight stays are only for FHU guests and would require a \$50 budget transfer from whatever department has hosted the guest to cover expenses. Debbie opened the floor for discussion about whether to use this new schedule and maybe start around June 1, 2023. There was a lot of discussion and questions about the new fee schedule, including questions about cleaning fees, deposits, and the contact points that we have for locals who do not associate with the university. Motion to approve the new fee schedule by Gwyn McDowell; Seconded by Lynne Golson. All in favor, none opposed. *Minutes are continued on the next page...*

Stay in touch.

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Minutes, continued...

Connie suggested charging more for yearly dues. Can it be available online? If paid online, the money would go directly to National/scholarships instead of the local chapters.

National Projects - Connie Pritchard informed us that the mugs and tote bags are our newest items. Grocery totes and tea towels were donated to us. The lecture-ship booth went well with all the help she got. Tote bags should sell more once they are online.

Nominating - Connie Pritchard mentioned that the current national officers have decided to stay on for one more year. Asked for other nominations. Motion to accept - Chris Smith. Seconded by Tracie Shannon. All in favor, none opposed.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Magnolia - Debby Gibbs reported on the Magnolia chapter. They had a Pictures and Cookies with Santa event that was very successful. It made \$1100. They talked about doing a project in the fall over the last two meetings. They also helped with Merry Market and the coffeehouse at Lectureship.

Chester County - Connie Pritchard reported on the Chester County chapter. Makin' Music was last weekend and the National products made \$780, Chester County products made \$298. Our next event is the tea party in May. The Rummage sale was very successful and made \$17,000 in the spring and \$20,000 in the fall.

Shoals - Diane reported for the rest of the chapters. This is the Shoals' first year to have a chapter. They have around 10 members. They will have their first event, a Children's Tea Party, on April 29, 2023, at the Florence Boulevard Church of Christ. So far they have sold 38 tickets which means they expect around 78 people (one child and one adult per ticket).

Perry County - They are planning to reorganize their chapter to get younger people involved and more active in the future. They are planning a Tea Party in the summer or fall. They also sell pecans.

Crockett County - In some meetings they each bring a dish for a potluck, then pay \$1 each to eat. One month, they had an In-House Bake Sale. Another month they had a White Elephant Sale, with a weather calendar another month. In April and May, they will give memorial gifts for their parents. At their April meeting, they discussed making a \$1,000 contribution to the National Office. They also plan to make a \$50 contribution in memory of Martha Alls. Throughout the year, they sold Happy Home flavoring and Rada products.

Music City - The chapter primarily supports the University through financial and in-kind donations to support the larger national fundraising efforts (such as Lectureship Kitchen and materials needed for the Hardeman House). They have been supporting (and have plans to support this year) the FHU reception and alumni and friends event at the annual Connect Conference held at the Crieve Hall Church of Christ building this summer.

PCE CONFERENCE

Debbie McLaughlin gave us the status of the PCE Conference, which is where similar fundraising groups from our sister schools have the opportunity to network and share successes. This group has not met since 2019. We are hosting the conference for this year, June 1st -3rd. The theme is "It Only Takes a Spark". We have several speakers confirmed, including John McCall (design manager for Disney, son-in-law of Laurel Sewell) and Brad and Kristi Montague. For FHU Associates, the registration fee is \$50, which covers all your meals. The registration link was sent out to all members (click on the toggle "I am an FHU Associate" to get the FHU Associate rate).

Closing remarks - Ashley Smith reminded us that Associates' nametags are \$10 and can be ordered at any time. They can be worn at different events. The new social media committee was approved at the last meeting in February for a trial period of one year. They are in charge of putting things out on social media for others to do. Marah Collins is heading up the committee. She has assembled a group that are very talented: photographers, writers, and graphic designers. Let her know if you have events that need to be posted. They would like to do historical posts, events, who we are, and what we do. The meeting was adjourned.

Congratulations to our new SHOALS CHAPTER on a successful first project!

President: Sarah Kershaw
Vice-President: Cayron Mann

Secretary: Anne Ridinger
Treasurer: Judy Meeks



Children's Tea Party

STORY TIME, CRAFT, PHOTO
BOOTH & TEATIME

Saturday
April 29, 10am-12pm, Come & go
Florence Boulevard Church of Christ

\$10 per child includes 1 adult:
Buy tickets by April 20. See a
Shoals-FHU Associate

Event organized by FHU Associates of the Shoals.
Proceeds benefit FHU Student scholarships.



