Dear Members

Message from the President

As a mother, I’m constantly looking for life lessons I can share with my three daughters. And I’m fortunate to say that the Women’s Giving Circle continues to provide me with these opportunities.

I try to talk about the Women’s Giving Circle as much as possible around my girls, so they understand and see the power of giving. I want them to know that girls and women can be leaders and have the ability to help others in need.

One recent opportunity I had for this was at the first home football game this season. My girls – ages 8, 12 and 13 – were so excited to attend the game and see where the Tiny Tusks tent was located.

(If you’re unfamiliar with Tiny Tusks, it’s a grant proposal that was funded in 2018 that gives moms a private, comfortable place to nurse, pump or change a baby’s diaper in an otherwise public setting.)

Seeing the impact of the Women’s Giving Circle in the community is very heartwarming. And it’s incredibly rewarding to see our contributions, work and deliberations doing good.

There are a lot of great proposals currently being reviewed for 2019, and I am very excited for the upcoming voting event on Nov. 1. Thank you for being a part of this amazing group and for lending your voice and financial support to so many important causes.

Caroline Rochelle,
President

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Meet A Member: Margaret Reid

University of Arkansas Professor Margaret Reid came to the U of A in 1993 and has witnessed the university’s transformation over the years. Throughout her career, she has remained interested in women’s issues, particularly the role of women in philanthropy, and has had the opportunity to experience this firsthand through the Women’s Giving Circle.

“Women play an important role in giving – from their thoughts and energies to their financial contributions,” Reid said.

Reid particularly enjoys reviewing the grant proposals that come in each year and says she can’t pick a favorite proposal that’s been funded, because her interests are so broad. She has a long history of reviewing the grants submitted to various other community-based organizations and is involved in related efforts to strengthen nonprofits’ efforts to become high performing organizations.

“I encourage my colleagues to join the Circle, because it’s a wonderful way of contributing to enhancing the university’s strategic goals and aspirations,” she said.

“In addition, the voting event each year is a great opportunity to get to see people who we sometimes only see once a year. And, of course, it’s enjoyable coming to a consensus.”

Reid is a full professor in the political science department of the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. Her research focuses on gendered workplaces, complexities involving the implementation of multi-actor policy partnerships and sustainable community development (both domestic and international). In her spare time, she enjoys reading historical mystery novels and taking advantage of the many walking trails around the region.

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Caroline Rochelle,
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Member Awards & Recognitions

Congratulations to Dina Wood, who was named Outstanding Fundraising Executive, and Ted and Leslie Belden, who were named Outstanding Philanthropists, for the 2019 National Philanthropy Day Awards by the NWA Association of Fundraising Professionals.

A round of applause goes to Mary Purvis, who was inducted into the Northwest Arkansas Business Journal’s 5th annual class of Women in Business.

Please toast Suzanne McCray for receiving the first service award from the National Association of Fellowships Advisors. Did we mention the award was named after her as well?

Gather your book club and get ready to read a copy of Kristin Kaufman’s new book, Is This Seat Taken? No, I Saved it for You: Inspiring Life Lessons from Everyday Experiences.

Give three cheers for Julie Cromer, who was named the next Director of Athletics for Ohio University. She joined the Bobcats as Ohio’s first female athletics director in university history on August 31.

Have a special recognition or award you would like to share with the group? Email wgc@uark.edu to be included in the next newsletter.

Student Profile: Anna Kate Dooly

Sophomore Anna Kate Dooly had a great freshman year, and she is happy to be a recipient of the Women’s Giving Circle Founders Endowed Advance Arkansas Scholarship for the second year in a row.

“I loved my freshman year so much more than high school,” she said. “I made lots of friends, and I loved the dorm I stayed in (Hotz Hall). It was a great community.”

Dooly is double majoring in history and French and picked up a minor in art history recently as well. She is also an ambassador for the Honors College.

The scholarship support she has received has allowed her to focus on her studies and become involved in extracurricular activities without worrying so much about her college finances and expenses.

In addition to her work as an Honors College ambassador, Dooly was an "A" Week leader for freshmen this summer and was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society for her grades and campus involvement.

She is working toward a study abroad opportunity in France next summer, which would be particularly beneficial for her major. Ultimately, she says she’s interested in pursuing graduate school and might like to become a museum curator one day.

“I’m very thankful for what this scholarship has done for me and my education,” she said.
Women’s Giving Circle in the News

Women’s Giving Circle Grant Recipient to Host First Patent Bootcamp

Fay Jones School’s Summer Design Camp Expands. Fayetteville Camp, Adds New Locations

Safe Ride Program Resumes Service for Students. On Campus and in Fayetteville

Summer Camps Provide Science and Engineering Experiences to Students Across Arkansas

U of A School of Nursing to Set Up ‘Tiny Tusks’ Breastfeeding Support Tent at Home Football Games

Recruitment Recaps

This spring, the Women’s Giving Circle held a Spring Luncheon at Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs. Guests received updates on programs funded through the years and heard from Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design professor Alison Turner about the Design Camps funded by the WGC. The camps continue to add locations across the state and now offer opportunities in Fayetteville, Bentonville, Little Rock, Hot Springs, Wilson and El Dorado. Design Camps aim to provide general design education to young students and other community members. Even if those who attend camp don’t choose design as a career path, they often come away with a broader appreciation of it in their lives.

Founder and lifetime member Harriett Phillips hosted a group of friends in her Little Rock home to learn more about the Women’s Giving Circle. Guests were shown photos and given updates on the programs that had been funded over the years, demonstrating the Circle’s impact both on campus and throughout the state. Special guest Sonya Schmidt Murphy, CEO of Camp Aldersgate, spoke about how important the treehouse and amphitheater are to their campers. The Women’s Giving Circle funded the completion of the amphitheater and stage in 2005 with a $15,000 grant.

Harriett, along with fellow lifetime member Charlotte Downs, shared their passion for the group and how they feel empowered as members, reminding guests that when smaller gifts from multiple women are combined, the impact is huge.

Harriett’s recruitment event can easily be replicated to encourage new membership. Hostesses need only provide a home and guest list, and the Women’s Giving Circle staff will do the rest! If you are interested in hosting a pop-up recruitment event, please email wgc@uark.edu.

Save the Date

Women’s Giving Circle Fall Reception
October 31, 2019 • 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Fowler House Garden & Conservatory

Fall Voting Event & Awards Ceremony
November 1, 2019 • 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. • University House