EVERY ACCOMPLISHMENT STARTS WITH A DECISION TO TRY

There once was a woman who was a devoted Fromm Institute student. Not an unusual statement about someone here, is it? Back in the ‘90s she discovered what so many of you have, that the Fromm Institute is a ‘cool school’ and, because she thrived here, she attended for more than 14 years.

She had a particularly unique brand of enthusiasm that fell somewhere between Sally Field at the Oscars (“You like me. You really like me.”) and Donna Summer singing “Bad Girls” (“toot-toot, yeah, beep-beep”). The latter attribution is particularly appropriate since she also taught disco dancing for seniors at the local YMCA. Yes, long after Travolta and the Bee Gees had faded away, she had them ‘doin the hustle’ on Grove Street — and she loved making that happen.

To say she was a ‘character’ is not meant to demean the intensity of her dedication and her commitment to Fromm. We’re all just a bunch of wonderful characters, each with our own quirks and every one of us similar in different ways. Today, if you look around Fromm Hall, our hundreds become a crazily diverse cast of those characters, all dedicated to a similar purpose.

Exuberantly generous with her time and treasure, her energy and her enthusiasm for the organizations and people she loved, she included the Fromm Institute in a bequest from her estate — a final ‘thank you’ gesture that was received, most gratefully, just as this session was beginning. You didn’t know it, but as you came to school in January, I could see little bits of her in you. She was there as you headed for your classes and as you got ‘into them’ as the session evolved. As I watched you and felt her ‘echo,’ I just couldn’t get it out of my mind how her intention, pledged years ago, was doing so much to empower us today. With her help, honoraria for professors she never encountered were being paid and organizational costs for things she would never benefit from were being financed.

These moments were both tender and inspirational and brought to my mind words that she lived by and spoke so often that I still remember them today. They were with me as I saw her in so many of you at the start of school this session, and they are worth sharing as this 2016 Winter Session is just a few days from becoming our history.

“Every accomplishment starts with a decision to try,” she would say, and her achievements, like yours, began with that moment of determined commitment. “After all is said and done,” she would remind me, “our legacy is nothing more than what we accomplish today.”

As this session ends, I share her spirit and this acknowledgement of her generosity with you as a reminder that it all starts with that simple decision to try. Hoping that you will once again, I look forward to April and another round of accomplishments here at the Fromm Institute.

Robert Fordham, Executive Director

FROMM LEGACY SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO A SPRING BREAK BRUNCH

Have you ever thought that you might like to leave an estate gift to the Fromm Institute? The nearly 100 members of the Fromm Institute Legacy Society would love to share a morning and brunch with anyone who is considering such. If you’d like to attend, just come to the Fromm Office and let Scott Moules know of your interest. The Society will be gathering during Spring Break from 10 to Noon on Tuesday, March 29.
THE ALFRED & HANNA FROMM SOCIETY

The Alfred & Hanna Fromm Society is a community of donors who have dedicated charitable gifts of all sizes from their estate plans in order to provide a strong future for the Fromm Institute. Through the generosity of these donors, financial support has been offered (Society Members) and received (Society Alumni) as a final gesture passing from one generation to the next.

The Fromm Institute deeply appreciates the living legacy that these donors have made. When you look at their names, on our Atrium wall, you’ll hear their strong voices of remembrance, care and nurturing that offer vivid memories of the past and righteous stewardship of the future.

As they have remembered their beloved lifelong learning community with their philanthropic manifestations, they reignite our commitment to it. With purposeful intention, they remind us of the good we can do long after we have “graduated.”

“EVERYONE’S ENTITLED TO YOUR OPINION”

Of course, that’s not how the oft spoken adage goes, but in the case of our Course Evaluation process, when so many rate our faculty and their classes similarly, it quite accidentally turns out to be true. Please don’t let that stop you, though, because we truly need your thoughts. Your opinion counts, both singularly and collectively, in a process that helps the Fromm Institute measure the 2016 Winter Session’s success.

The Course Evaluation form is now on the information table in every classroom along with a box for their return. They’re also at the Welcome Desk. These generic evaluations ask a simple task of all enrolled in a particular course. First, tell us which one you’re evaluating. Then, rate the course content and professor’s style of presentation. Using the same numerical scale, offer your overall opinion explaining why you evaluated this course the way you did. Then, turn it over. On the back, you can register your feedback about the Fromm Institute in general.

Remember, the evaluation process lasts through the end of our “Make-Up” Week which concludes March 8. Don’t wait until it’s too late! As you can imagine, evaluations are only effective if everyone presents an opinion, even if it is similar to that of others. Please be among the many who’ll help us assess our Institute.

COURSE EVALUATIONS AVAILABLE NOW!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

The 2016 Spring Course Catalog will be on-line and on its way through the U.S. Mail on Tues., Mar. 8, after 5 p.m. Spring Pre-Enrollment, that time when everybody has an equal chance of getting all their first choice classes, runs from Wed., Mar. 9 through 3 p.m. Fri., Mar. 11. After that the general Enrollment Period runs from Mar. 14 to Apr. 8. Spring Classes begin the week of Mon., Apr. 11 and end the week of Tues., May 31. “Make-Up” Week when classes cancelled by holiday or a faculty commitment/illness meet one more time will be June 6 through 9. Holidays during the Spring Session are Thursday, May 19 (USF Commencement) and Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day). Remember that the Fromm Institute Office and the USF Campus is closed on Good Friday, March 25.

SHORT “MAKE-UP” WEEK MARCH 7 & 8

“Make-Up” Week, that time scheduled for classes cancelled by a holiday or faculty absence has only two days this session. All Monday courses meet on March 7 and Professor Evers’ “Visualizing Love in the Renaissance” meets for the last time on Tues., Mar. 8. If neither apply, then your last classes will be Tues., Mar. 1, Wed., Mar. 2 and Thurs. Mar. 3.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION CONCERT AT NOON ON MARCH 1

A FISA sponsored concert will be held on Tues., Mar. 1 at Noon in the Maraschi Room featuring a Woodwind Quintet from the SF Conservatory of Music’s talented students. Bring your lunch. Cupcakes will be on hand for those who have paid their $5 voluntary dues.

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