
University Farm Circle

UFC

Founded 1914

How UFC Started

Three years after the University Farm School opened in Davis in 1909, newly arrived dormitory matron Mrs. Kate Fizell began inviting other women to her sitting room to get acquainted.

These informal get-togethers grew into regular social gatherings of about 25 faculty wives, school employees, relatives of faculty, and local mothers of students—all connected with the school.

On February 13, 1914, these women adopted a constitution and became the charter members of University Farm Circle, the University of California's oldest continuing support group.



friendship • enrichment • scholarships

Since its inception, University Farm Circle (UFC) has adjusted its program and activities to meet the needs of its members. The Constitution and By-laws have been revised many times, and membership has been opened to non-university affiliated members. Several attempts to change the name have failed, and while UFC's purpose has been restated in up-to-date language, the original intent still guides us: to promote and maintain the traditional friendly spirit associated with the University of California, Davis.

Support to Students

Helping students has been important since UFC's beginning. In 1915, Farm Circle established the Student Loan Fund. In those early days, members helped students in times of illness or need and provided a home away from home during holiday seasons. The organization also helped fund a gymnasium, band uniforms, and students' emergency health care.

Fundraisers throughout UFC's history have supported students in many ways. One of the most successful early fundraising events was the 1918 Jitney Fair, which included casinos, boxing, and wheels of fortune. Over several years, these fairs raised many hundreds of dollars. Money was also raised through Christmas card sales, card parties, plays, and "motion picture" benefits.

Today, member donations, a portion of member dues, growth of the endowment, and more fundraisers add to our endowment to fund scholarships.

Scholarships

UFC first began awarding scholarships in 1937. In 1959, following the death of Marion Freeborn, the wife of the first chancellor and a president of UFC, these awards were named in her honor. Beginning in 1980 – 81, re-entry women also became eligible for these scholarships. Upon the closure of the Kate Fizell Loan fund in 2008, one of the scholarships was designated the Kate Fizell Founder's Scholarship.

The Blanche L. Price Scholarship was established in 1997 with an estate gift of \$15,000 designated by her niece, UFC past-President Elizabeth Sagehorn. This endowment's earned interest provides scholarships to women who display leadership, service, and evidence of overcoming a disadvantage (including financial).

In 2008, upon the death of UFC past-President Carol Lee Coss, her family and friends established a scholarship in her name. This endowment's earned interest provides scholarships to students majoring in the arts who display creativity and community involvement or participation in extra-curricular activities.

Scholarships are presented annually at the Scholarship Reception and Fall Welcome to junior, senior, and re-entry students demonstrating high scholastic achievement, leadership, community service, high goals, and volunteerism. Each year, the recipients' names are engraved on plaques that are permanently displayed in the Memorial Union.

UFC Endowment

In 1995, the UFC Scholarship Endowment was established with the initial seed money coming from two silent auctions. Nine Holiday Home Tours, numerous other fundraisers, successful programs, generous donations by members, and capital gains have substantially increased the fund. Interest earned is used for the Marion Freeborn and Kate Fizell undergraduate and re-entry scholarships.

UFC Services and Highlights

1932—UFC sponsored a student wives group, which became a chapter of University Dames in 1959.

1935—UFC assisted in securing student employment and sponsored a Uniform Student Wage Scale.

1939—UFC furnished many books for the new UCD library browsing room.

1975—UFC members were instrumental in establishing the Volunteer Services Department at UCD Medical Center. It included the Gift Shop, which has become the main source of funds for the UCDCM Volunteer Services.

1976—UFC members started the Sabbatical House Listing Service.

1983—UFC members put together a large historical display for the 75th Anniversary of UC Davis.

1995 to present—UFC members actively fundraise for the Scholarship Endowment.

2010—UFC published *The Circle/ The History of University Farm Circle* by Judy James Wydick.

2014—UFC celebrated 100 years with many events, including marching in the UCD Picnic Day parade.

Programs

Social activities have always been an important aspect of Farm Circle. Local talent provided lectures, travelogs, and plays. Lecture topics included husband and wife property rights (1923), “corrective cultivation” of the body (1935), and civil defense techniques with emphasis on blackout warnings (1941). During both world wars, money normally spent on refreshments was donated to the Red Cross and to war relief.

Today, programs are presented throughout the academic year. Among them are luncheons, coffees, lectures, and trips. At the annual Scholarship Reception and Fall Welcome, members learn about the year's programs, sign up for special interest sections, and meet the scholarship recipients.

The traditional Candlelight Dinner in December was initiated in 1926, when the evening of fellowship included a lovely buffet and the singing of Christmas carols. In 1932, the cost was 25¢ per person. Variations of this celebration have evolved over the years to include dinner, festive decorations, and holiday entertainment. The UFC year ends with its annual meeting at a spring luncheon.

Newcomers Group

One of UFC's most valuable contributions to the community has been welcoming newcomers. Since 1959, UFC has provided this special service to women new to the community or new to UFC. They are invited to orientation programs, get-acquainted coffees, and tours of the area. Informal social gatherings enable new members to meet a broad cross-section of women associated with the university and the community.

Interest Sections

In 1962 UFC introduced special interest sections, which have become very popular. Currently there are over 70 sections. Members may sign up at the Scholarship Reception and Fall Welcome or during the year for sections such as Antiquing, Bird Watching, Book Clubs, Bridge, Bunco, Eating Out, Foreign Language Conversation, Gardening, Gourmet Groups, Hiking, Literary Ladies, Mah-jongg, Photography, Resources, Sketchbook, Skiing, Stitchery, University Connections,

Walking, Wine Tasting, Writer's Workshop, Yoga, and more. New sections are formed as new interests arise.

Membership

Membership in this non-profit 501(c)(3) organization is open to anyone supportive of UC Davis. Members vary in their degree of participation. While many are interested in the intellectual and social activities, others with limited time join in order to support our active scholarship program. All are welcome!

How to Join

Please download and complete a membership form from our website:

www.ufcdavis.org

Mailing instructions appear on the form.

UFC Mission Statement

Friendship:

Welcome newcomers to the campus and community

Enrichment:

Provide programs and activities to meet the needs and interests of its members

Scholarships:

Assist students through scholarships