

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, Ph.D., President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: March 2012 Campus Report

Date: February 3, 2012

- The FVCC Foundation surpassed its half million dollar goal by the holiday season for its campaign to raise money for the new **Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science**. The Foundation has raised **more than \$560,000** in gifts and pledges for the new building that is projected to break ground later this spring.
- FVCC's **Running Start program enrollment** has **nearly doubled** from last spring with **199 students** currently enrolled in the program compared to 100 students a year ago. The surge is a result of a pilot program launched this spring that waives tuition and institutional fees for the first six credits.
- FVCC received the annual **Merit Award** from the **National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting** for achieving a **100 percent graduate pass rate** on the **2011 Certified Surgical Technologist examination**, compared to the latest national average pass rate of 56.2 percent. This makes for the sixth consecutive year that FVCC surgical technology students have achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the national certification exam.
- The FVCC Chemistry Department research initiation proposal, "**Improving Zinc Air Productivity in Rechargeable Batteries**," in cooperation with **Zinc Air Inc.**, has been selected for funding by the Montana Space Grant Consortium. The **\$43,795 grant** will support undergraduate research in organic chemistry and electrochemistry for studies on the Zinc Air fuel cell.
- The FVCC Foundation held its **18th annual Scholarship Award Luncheon** October 27 to honor scholarship donors and student scholarship recipients for the 2010-2011 academic year. The luncheon welcomed a **record crowd of 248 guests** and provided an opportunity for private scholarship donors to meet the student scholarship recipients. Donors were acknowledged for contributing **over \$420,800** in private donor scholarship awards helping **287 students** attend college, both records for the college. Student scholarship recipients **Tony Palmer, Shaunda Crutsinger, Tanner Morrison** and **Vera Salo** addressed guests with their personal stories and the positive impact the scholarships have made on their lives.

- On behalf of the **Plum Creek Foundation**, Plum Creek Vice President, Northwest Resources and Manufacturing **Tom Ray** and Director, Human Resources **Kayleen Kohler** presented FVCC President Jane Karas, Ph.D., and the FVCC Foundation a **\$10,000 grant** at the FVCC Board of Trustees December meeting. The grant will help fund the construction of the new **Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science**.
- FVCC launched its **newly redesigned Web site** November 19 to provide future and current students and community members a more sophisticated and user-friendly experience. The new site contains reorganized content to simplify navigation, enabling users to find what they need quickly and efficiently. It also provides more visually-stimulating images, highlighting the college's academic, career and technical programs, campus community, student life and area landscape.
- FVCC recently adopted the **e2Campus emergency notification system** enabling the college to send instant alerts about campus emergencies directly to members of the FVCC campus community. The free service allows FVCC students, faculty and staff to receive alerts via text messaging, email or voicemail.
- FVCC President **Dr. Jane Karas** welcomed **Dr. Deni Elliott**, Eleanor Poynter Jamison Chair in Media Ethics and Press Policy at the University of South Florida, Saint Petersburg, who presented the second part of FVCC's inaugural **President's Lecture Series** November 1. Elliott's presentation, "**Internet Ethics for Everybody**," addressed the role social media plays in providing and collecting information and importance using social media responsibly and respectfully.
- **Chef's Table** returned for its seventh season January 27. The program, under the direction of instructor and world-trained **Chef Howard Karp**, enables **first-year students** to complete their first-year culinary arts internships while showcasing their skills and talents to community members and visitors to the valley. The highlight of the season will be the special presentation of the **100th Anniversary Titanic Dinner** on April 14. Proceeds from the event will support the campaign to construct the new FVCC Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science.
- An article from Mathematics Instructor **Dr. Don Hickethier's** 2010 doctoral dissertation, "Covariant Derivatives on Null Submanifolds," was published this fall in the journal, "General Relativity and Gravitation." Dr. Hickethier was selected as a **2011-2012 Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) Fellow** and was among 73 mathematical science professionals chosen for this year's program and the only fellow selected from a community college.
- Health Instructor **Dr. Linda Hunt's** article, "Understanding and Helping Drivers with Alzheimer's Disease," was published in the November 2011 issue of **Police Chief Magazine**, the official publication of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In addition, she will be providing educational workshops that will address communication and process for assisting drivers with dementia who have committed traffic violations, had accidents, or become lost, to law enforcement personnel throughout Washington County, Ore.

- FVCC students **Ursula DeStefano, Lisa Seelye, Heather Fraley** and **Tracey Lost-Bear**, who participated in the national deficit project, were recognized for their efforts and input by **U.S. Senator Max Baucus** in the *Congressional Record*. Copies of the document, signed by Senator Baucus, were presented to the students at the FVCC fall Scholars Conference on Student Research December 13.
- FVCC Study Abroad Program Coordinator **Mick Stemborski**, Natural Resources Instructor **Christina Relyea, Ph.D.**, and **14 students** participated in the college's **inaugural Ecuador cultural immersion program** offered during the college's winter interim session January 3-15. The learning adventure provided students the opportunity to explore the Galapagos Islands, Amazon Basin and the capitol city of Quito while earning up to six college credits.
- FVCC's Multicultural Affairs Office teamed up with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Community Planning Committee to host the fifth annual **Flathead Valley Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Community Celebration** at FVCC January 17. The free event featured a keynote address by **Rabbi Allen Secher** who shared his story of traveling to the South in the early 1960s to participate in the Freedom Rides and his brief personal encounter with Dr. King; live musical performances by blues guitarist **Andre Floyd** as well as the **Crown of the Continent Choir**; and a video presentation remembering Dr. King.
- The **FVCC Art Department** kicked off its fall **Student Art Show** with an open house November 17. Guests were treated to live raku firing and other demonstrations performed by FVCC art faculty and students. The art show consisted of hundreds of student works including paintings, drawings, designs, ceramics, photography, graphics and jewelry.
- FVCC's Multicultural Affairs Office welcomed Native American couple **Walter "Joe Bear" and Sara Running Crane** who presented a free community event on the FVCC campus December 5. The event was comprised of a fry bread cooking demonstration and a lecture on life on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and the role of serving as a Veteran in the Blackfeet Warrior Color Guard.
- FVCC welcomed alumna and paleontologist **Frankie Jackson** from Montana State University—Bozeman who delivered two free presentations on paleontology and dinosaur egg research in China to FVCC students and members of the community November 15. Jackson provided information on a National Science Foundation grant which funds opportunities for science students attending Montana universities and colleges to obtain cultural and research experience in China.
- FVCC Theatre concluded its fall season with its production of "**Annie: The Musical.**" The show had a sold out run and featured a cast of over 30 FVCC students and community members, including 12 local children. Musical Director and Theatre Instructor **Craig Naylor** recently returned from San Jose State University where he served as guest composer as the wind ensemble prepares his latest composition, "Kiai!"

- FVCC students **Rebecca Hicks, Krista Rodler** and **Jennifer Skillings** were named spring 2012 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union's Community Pride Scholarships**. The students received scholarships totaling \$1,400 for the spring 2012 semester at FVCC.