

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

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

Re: May 2012 Campus Report

Date: April 27, 2012

- FVCC President **Jane Karas, Ph.D.**, was elected **chair-elect** of the **American Association of Community Colleges Board**. President Karas was invited to join the **U.S. Department of State** in Beijing, China, to explore the expansion of educational partnerships.
- **Anmol Manchala** became the first student in FVCC history to be awarded the **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship** awarded to our nation's top community college students. A native of India, Manchala was one of 60 community college students in the nation to receive the award valued **up to \$30,000 per year** that will assist her with the necessary expenses to achieve a bachelor's degree at any four-year college or university of her choice in the United States.
- Students of **The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC** delivered a special presentation of the **100th Anniversary Titanic Dinner** featuring an expanded seven-course meal inspired by the last meal served in the ship's first-class dining saloon on April 14, 1912. Patrons came dressed in black tie and period attire to help support the campaign to construct the college's new Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science. Proceeds from the event netted over **\$80,000**.
- FVCC paramedicine student **Corey Ledbetter** was presented the **Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellows Award** by FVCC President Jane Karas, Ph.D., at the college's commencement exercise May 11. The national award recognizes inspiring college student leaders who have worked to find solutions for challenges facing their communities and who demonstrate a personal commitment to creating lasting change to better their communities while making the most of their college experiences. Ledbetter was among 162 college students across 32 states honored with the award.
- The Corporation for National and Community Service named FVCC to the **2011 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll**, the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement. FVCC was among 642 colleges and universities in the nation recognized with the honor.

- The FVCC Foundation has raised approximately **\$875,000** in gifts and pledges for the new **Rebecca Chaney Broussard Center for Nursing and Health Science**. The college is scheduled to break ground on the new building May 22.
- **FVCC's Logger Sports Team** outscored 13 teams to secure its **second consecutive national championship** title at the 73rd annual Association of Western Forestry Clubs Conclave in Los Molinos, Calif., and also brought home the **Top Sportsmanship Award**. The team recently completed an undefeated season and holds the most national championship wins, making it the most successful logger sports team in the nation.
- FVCC launched **Project: CAP (College Acceptance Program)** at Columbia Falls High School (CFHS) this spring. Over the course of this semester, CFHS juniors and seniors were given the opportunity to attend up to eight workshops to receive assistance with completing FAFSAs, college applications, scholarship applications and major and career searches.
- The FVCC Art Department hosted its largest **Student Art Show**, featuring hundreds of works by FVCC students enrolled in art classes. The spring show kicked off with an Art Department Open House featuring live demonstrations by FVCC Art Department faculty and students.
- FVCC celebrated **National TRiO Day** and honored supportive reading and math skill building instructors **Roger Brewer** and **Margaret Scott** with certificates of appreciation. Recently, FVCC TRiO Counselor **Russ Lamson** was elected president and FVCC Disabilities Services and Assessment Specialist **Anna San Diego** was elected secretary/treasurer of the Montana Chapter of ASPIRE TRiO Association. Both will represent TRiO at the state level beginning in October.
- FVCC **chemistry students**, under the instruction of instructors **Mariusz Gajewski** and **David Long**, teamed up with Columbia Falls-based company **Zinc-Air, Inc.** to conduct undergraduate research on elements within Zinc-Air batteries and their potential to reduce battery degradation. The students presented their findings at the **Montana Academy of Science and American Chemical Society Meeting in Miniature Conference** in Butte this spring.
- The **Ambassadors and Alumni of FVCC** held its spring luncheon March 15. The event featured a panel of FVCC engineering and physics faculty, engineering alumni and engineering students. 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient **Margaret LeKander** presented the **2012 Distinguished Alumni Award** to surveying graduate **Ryan Mitchell**, Kalispell branch manager of Robert Peccia and Associates. The students of The Culinary Institute of Montana at FVCC prepared lunch for nearly 120 guests who attended the event.
- The FVCC Board of Trustees, FVCC President Jane Karas and the college faculty recognized the college's newest **Emeritus Honorees**, retired counselor **George Shryock** and retired vice president of instruction **Kathy Hughes**, at a special celebration May 4 on the college campus. The unique and special honor was presented to them for serving FVCC with distinction over their lengthy careers.

- FVCC Art Instructors **John Rawlings** and **Susan Guthrie** and Theatre Instructor **David Ackroyd** and a group of students ventured to **Venice, Italy**, this spring for the college's fourth **semester abroad program**. The program allows students to earn up to 22 college credits by participating in a program of study that encompasses language, art, Italian culture and theatre courses.
- The **FVCC Student Built House** is complete and is up for sale. The three-bedroom, two-bath, 1,400-square-foot system-built house was constructed by eight building trades students and is the second transportable home constructed by the college's building trades program in its 16-year history.
- The **FVCC President's Lecture Series** continued this spring with presentations by award-winning journalists and father and daughter Flathead Valley radio icons **George Ostrom** and **Wendy Ostrom-Price** and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* National Economics Writer **Michael Kanell**. The college also partnered with the **American Association of University Women** Kalispell branch to present a free screening of the award-winning documentary, "**Miss Representation.**"
- Ceramics Instructor **David Smith** and his most recent article were published in the May/June 2012 issue of *Pottery Making Illustrated*, a leading worldwide ceramics magazine.
- Mathematics Instructor **Don Hickethier**, Ph.D., and Chemistry Instructor **Janice Alexander**, Ph.D., were accepted to the **Montana NASA EPSCoR Faculty Connections Program** and received travel fellowships to spend up to a week at a NASA research center. Dr. Hickethier was recently elected to the Board of Directors of MCTM (Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics).
- Surgical Technology Instructor **Erin Howardson** was the first online student to receive the **Montana State University-Billings Communications and Theatre Graduate Student of the Year Award**. She was presented the award at the university's convocation April 27.
- Surveying Instructor **Dave Dorsett**, along with six of his current students, attended the annual **Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors Conference**. Of the 225 conference participants, 52 were graduates of the FVCC surveying program.
- Emergency Management and Paramedicine Program Director **Kris Long** was featured in the spring 2012 issue of *Flathead Living* magazine as a "**Hometown Hero.**" Long was instrumental in the college's establishment of its emergency management program, the first of its kind in the state of Montana.
- FVCC welcomed **234 local third grade students** to its 10th annual **Seussville University**, a day-long celebration of Dr. Seuss that promotes literacy. Activities included art, music, math, storytelling and a theatre production. Approximately 25 FVCC students participated in the event through the Service Learning program which connects FVCC students with local community service projects.

- FVCC was awarded a **\$60,126 Acce\$\$ Grant** from the Student Assistance Foundation at the college's Board of Trustees February meeting. FVCC President Jane Karas accepted the check presented by Student Assistance Foundation Outreach Manager **Liz Foster**. The grant assists students whose unmet needs create barriers that prevent the students from continuing their education. Since the program's inception in 2000, the organization has awarded \$411,272 to FVCC.
- FVCC hosted its fifth annual **College for a Day**, welcoming **over 750 local high school students** to campus. Students experienced the college classroom setting, met college instructors and explored the diverse career options available in the workforce. **Parkside Federal Credit Union** sponsored the day-long event and donated four \$250 college scholarships for a drawing that the students entered to win.
- **Senior Institute** returned for its 18th year, welcoming **nearly 260 senior citizens** 62 years of age and older. The program involved a series of credit classes with subjects ranging from drawing, U.S. economy and computers to line dancing, creative writing and philosophy and film.
- FVCC welcomed **55 new Phi Theta Kappa members** into its Alpha Iota Pi Chapter during the international honor society's spring induction ceremony March 12. Each student obtained at least 12 credit hours from FVCC while earning a minimum grade point average of 3.4.
- The FVCC Renewable Resources Club hosted **Earth Matters Week** April 16-21 for the community in celebration of Earth Day. Activities included a campus cleanup, workshops and a family carnival featuring Smokey the Bear, Woodsy Owl, educational games, art from recycled materials, environmental trivia and fun facts, interpretive nature walks and live music from Tra La Gael.
- FVCC welcomed **Flathead High School** and **Glacier High School** students on campus April 3 for an **"Evening of Fine Arts"** gala. The community fundraiser organized by the Kalispell Education Foundation involved the students showcasing their works of art and talents from musical numbers to theatre performances. **FVCC's culinary arts students** prepared and served appetizers and desserts to event patrons. Proceeds from the event will benefit students at Kalispell Public Schools and the Flathead Valley Community College Art Department.
- FVCC hosted the eighth annual **College Goal Montana**, a program that provides students who want to attend college and their families the opportunity to obtain assistance in applying for financial aid. FVCC's Financial Aid staff assisted 115 individuals in completing Free Applications for Federal Student Aid on February 8 and 12.
- Flathead Valley Community College Theatre concluded its spring season with its second biennial **10-Minute Play Festival**. The event featured 12 original 10-minute plays selected from more than 500 submitted scripts from authors across the nation and the globe.

- FVCC instructor and archaeologist **Dr. E.B. Eiselein** presented an **Armchair Archaeology Series** for FVCC students and the community this spring. Comprised of three free lectures, the series featured topics centering on Montana's Indian history, the history of tobacco and Egyptian pyramids.
- FVCC's Multicultural Affairs Office hosted a number of free events for the community this spring. Among the presenters were **Navajo traditionalist Courage Benally** who presented a lecture and performed a traditional hoop dance, and Islamic chant specialist **Khaled Zaki** and an Islamic scholar **Irfan Khan**, both of Seattle, who delivered a musical performance and lecture on their experiences as Muslim Americans.
- Members of FVCC Campus Corps joined FVCC students and community members April 16 to construct a shed to be raffled as a fundraiser for Flathead Valley Habitat for Humanity. This is the third year volunteers gathered for **Habitat for Humanity Shed Building Day**, an effort involving the construction of one 8'X12' shed to be raffled off with proceeds benefiting the community-based organization that seeks to provide affordable housing for low-income Flathead Valley residents who are currently living in substandard housing.
- Flathead Valley Community College's Many Voices Press and Humanities Montana welcomed **Professor Lisa Smith** of The University of Montana for two presentations she delivered April 23. Smith's presentations, "**Shakespeare's Sonnets**" and "**The Poetry of War**," were open to FVCC students and the community.
- FVCC welcomed **Dick Termes**, internationally-acclaimed artist and creator of **Termespheres**, for a free presentation he delivered for the community May 3. While visiting the Flathead Valley, Termes taught workshops on cylindrical perspective and three-dimensional geometry to math and art students at FVCC, Flathead High School, Glacier High School, and Kalispell Middle School. A collection of Termespheres were on display for public view in the FVCC library.
- FVCC's **Farm-to-School program** partnered with Nourish the Flathead, Purple Frog Gardens, and Northland College of Ashland, Wis., to host a community seed swap and potluck April 23 and free screening of "Cafeteria Man" as part of an **Alternative Spring Break** focusing on sustainable agriculture in the Flathead Valley. On April 21, the Farm-to-School program partnered with the Center for Restorative Youth Justice, Montana Academy, Nourish the Flathead, and Montana Conservation Corps to host **Global Youth Service Day** featuring a series of youth-oriented volunteer events, food and garden workshops and art projects in the Flathead Community Garden on the FVCC campus.
- English and Theatre Arts Instructor **Brian Bechtold** and Multicultural Affairs Coordinator **Mick Stemborski** led a group of students during FVCC's second **London spring break tour** March 23 through April 1. Students earned three college credits while touring the city's landmarks and historic sites. Bechtold serves on Shakespeare Oxford Society's Board of Trustees based in Yorktown Heights, New York.

- The Flathead Valley Community College Foundation has announced the establishment of the **Scott Vallely Soldiers Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund** to support veterans and their immediate family members who are pursuing studies at FVCC. The fund honors **Private First Class Scott Paul Vallely** and his service to our country.
- The FVCC Continuing Education Center welcomed Salish Kootenai College adjunct instructor **Jim Rogers** who presented a free community lecture on the **National Geographic Society's Genographic Project**. The five-year study by the National Geographic Society and IBM intends to examine 100,000 DNA samples of indigenous peoples from across the globe to help explain how humankind populated the earth.
- The FVCC Career Center held its final of four **Employer Meet-n-Greets** April 11. The piloted program provided area businesses and organizations opportunities to showcase their businesses or programs and network with FVCC students and alumni seeking information about future career opportunities. Overall, **35 local employers** participated in the program.
- FVCC's **Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society** partnered with Soroptimist International of Kalispell and Rotary International to welcome Montana's first "**Do You Know Lacy?**" community training that teaches how to prevent, recognize and respond to domestic minor sex trafficking. The training, hosted by Shared Hope International, was precluded by two free screenings of the documentary, "Sex + Money" and was attended by law enforcement, educators, social service providers, youth advocates and concerned community members from across the state.