

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: November Campus Report

Date: October 24, 2008

- The FVCC Foundation hosted its inaugural **Festival of Flavors** fundraising event September 28-October 4. Nationally-renowned culinary consultant and former **Galloping Gourmet Graham Kerr** teamed up with the FVCC culinary arts students September 24 to present a gourmet dinner and a town hall lecture on the future of food kicking off the week-long celebration of food. The event consisted of in-home dinners and private restaurant dinners prepared by some of the Flathead Valley's finest chefs, a Sushi and Sake Dinner, a Microbrews, Brats and Blazing Saddles Barbeque event and a Grand Wine Tasting gala. Combined event attendance totaled 374 participants **raising approximately \$30,000 for student scholarships.**
- **Tom McElwain**, of Columbia Falls, was elected to a vacated position on the **FVCC Board of Trustees** October 3. McElwain will serve on the Board until May 2009 and will be eligible for reelection to the Board for a three-year term concluding May 2012.
- FVCC held its **15th annual Scholarship and Awards Luncheon** October 23. The luncheon provided an opportunity for private scholarship donors to meet the student scholarship recipients. Donors were acknowledged for contributing over **\$250,350** in private donor scholarship awards, and **192 students were recognized** for receiving the awards for the 2008-2009 academic year. Special guests included Chief of Staff Jon Selib of the honorable U.S. Senator Max Baucus and Field Representative Amy Croover of the honorable U.S. Senator Jon Tester.
- FVCC recognized **World Food Day** in October to increase awareness and understanding of world hunger. The events, sponsored by FVCC Native American/Multicultural Services, involved providing a free, simple third world meal, a presentation on "World Food Day" by former Peace Corps volunteer Walter Tavaska and a live televised worldwide mini-conference that provided discussion on critical global issues impacting world hunger.
- Photographs captured by FVCC students in the college's inaugural **Nepal cultural immersion study abroad program** during the 2008 spring semester became available for public viewing October 8 in the FVCC Student Art Gallery at a **student art photography show** opening hosted by the FVCC Art Department. The photos portray the people and culture of Nepal. The free exhibit will continue in November at the O'Shaughnessy Cultural Arts Center in Whitefish and will conclude at the FVCC campus in Libby.

- Flathead Valley Community College hosted a **dedication celebration** of its new **Early Childhood Center** October 16. The college was joined by **U.S. House of Representative Denny Rehberg** and **Flathead County Commissioner Dale Lauman** and received messages of congratulations from representatives of **U.S. Senator Max Baucus** and **U.S. Senator Jon Tester**. Congressman Rehberg assisted FVCC President Jane Karas with the ribbon cutting to dedicate the new facility.
- **Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Eric Pei** arrived at FVCC on August 15. He is teaching two semesters of college-level and conversational Mandarin Chinese as well as credit and non-credit classes about Chinese culture, Chinese history and the modern development of China.
- The FVCC Green Team sponsored in-part the **Flathead Valley Climate Lecture Series, “Montana’s Changing Climate: Science, Solutions and You,”** September 25 – October 28. The six-part lecture series was free to the public, and lectures ranged from the effects of climate change on Montana’s natural resources to what the new administration will do about climate change.
- Students earned up to seven college credits while living and studying in **Urubamba, Peru** July 21 – August 12 in FVCC’s **Peru Cultural Immersion Program**. The three-week experience included credit courses in photography and anthropology, hiking in the Andes Mountains, traveling to Machu Picchu, cultural exchange opportunities, community service work, visiting archeological sites and Inca ruins and discovering the wonders of the Peruvian culture.
- FVCC presented **Bryan Bowers**, acclaimed international folk musician, story teller and autoharp maestro nationally in concert September 28. Bowers was the first living member inducted into the Autoharp Hall of Fame.
- FVCC kicked off its first alumni and friends event with the reunion of the **Mountainettes/Mountaineers**, FVCC’s nationally-ranked track and field teams from 1969-1980, July 25 and 26. More than 80 alumni and friends attended the reunion. The weekend was highlighted by coach and student speakers and a mile run at the Kidsport complex.
- **Summer semester enrollment** at FVCC **increased 18 percent** from the previous summer. **Enrollment** for the **fall semester** is **up 6 percent** from last fall.
- **Enrollments in online credit classes** at FVCC **jumped 42 percent** this academic year from the prior year. FVCC offers over 60 online courses and 19 interactive teleconferencing courses this fall, and the majority of students are enrolled in at least one distance education class.
- The **Montana Independent Electrical Contractors** contributed **\$5,000** to the **FVCC Electrical Technology program** to upgrade the electrical bay in the FVCC Occupational Trades Building. The funds will be used to create temporary walls throughout the bay where students can practice pulling wires, installing switches and outlets and running conduit. A gridded industrial ceiling also will be constructed for students to perform industrial lighting installation. More than 40 students are currently enrolled in the program.

- **Governor Brian Schweitzer** presented a **\$166,860** check for a **Community Development Block Grant** to the city of Kalispell and Flathead Valley Community College October 2 at the college's Occupational Trades Building. Kalispell City Mayor Pam Kennedy and FVCC President Jane Karas accepted the check. **FVCC's welding and fabrication program** received **\$154,500** of the grant to fund the purchase Haas lathes and mills, computer-aided machining software and computer-aided design and drawing software. The college expects to train 60 students over two years on the set up and operation of the equipment. This effort will provide trained machinists for business partners Sonju Industrial, Semitool and Plum Creek Timber Company.

- **FVCC College Democrats** hosted presidential candidate **Barack Obama's Senior Domestic Policy Advisor Melody Barnes** October 16 at an **Early Vote Kick Off and Economic Forum**. Free to the public, the event focused the nation's economic crisis and provided ways to encourage economic growth. The student organization also hosted a free **meet and greet session** October 17 that provided community members the opportunity to meet **local democratic candidates** and learn about their political agendas.

- FVCC will conclude its second **"Artist to Artist"** brown bag lunch series November 19 with "Keeping the Vision" presented by artist/quilter Brian Dykhuizen. The series provides information while connecting local artists in the community.

- In celebration of **American Indian Heritage Day**, FVCC invited the community to a free presentation and lecture by members of the Blackfeet Nation September 26. The event also featured a teepee demonstration and gathering and sharing ceremonies.

- **FVCC's Student Senate** sponsored a **Haunted Hayride** for community members October 24, 25 and 31. The Senate also hosted a free **Halloween Carnival for Kids** October 29. Activities consisted of a variety of fun activities such as games, face painting and a cupcake walk.