

## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Jane Karas, President  
Flathead Valley Community College

**Re:** May Campus Report

**Date:** April 30, 2010

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- Approximately **130 students** from FVCC, Flathead High School and Glacier High School, including members of The Scholars Program at FVCC's first class, gathered on the FVCC campus April 30 to present research projects during the college's first **Scholars Conference on Student Research**. The event provided participating students the opportunity to present their research, portfolios and projects to members of the community. A total of 59 student presentations were delivered and 54 research posters were showcased during the event. **Dr. James McKusick**, dean of the Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana, kicked off the event with an opening address. The event concluded with a reception followed by closing remarks from **Dr. Ilse-Mari Lee**, director of The University Honors Program at Montana State University.
- The FVCC Board of Trustees, FVCC President Jane Karas and the college faculty recognized its first **Emeritus Honorees** at a special celebration April 30 on the college campus. Ten of the college's most outstanding retired full-time faculty and administrators were recognized with the unique and special honor for serving FVCC with distinction over a lengthy career.
- FVCC student **Garrett Peebles** will venture to NASA's Johnson Space Center Houston in May to participate in the **National Community College Aerospace Scholars pilot program**. Seventy-six college students from 28 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico were chosen to participate in the program with Peebles being the only student selected from Montana. To qualify, Peebles composed an essay and designed a space rover through a series of online assignments that involved budgeting and planning a space mission. Peebles is studying to earn an Associate of Science degree with plans to study mechanical engineering at Montana State University.
- **FVCC President Jane Karas** was elected to serve on the **American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors**. Her three-year term will begin this July.
- **Jerome and Rebecca Broussard** were honored with a **Council for Resource Development Benefactor of the Year Award** during the annual CRD conference in Washington, D.C. The Broussards were recognized for their \$1 million endowment scholarship fund, the largest gift ever received by the FVCC Foundation. The Broussards were one of 10 benefactors in the nation who were presented the notable award.

- Enrollment at Flathead Valley Community College for fiscal year 2011 totaled **2,076 full-time equivalent** students. **Headcount** for the year totaled **4,153** students.
- American Sign Language Instructor **Toni Cancilla** took a group of 70 students to a performance at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) in Great Falls April 14. FVCC students and graduates of MSDB **Justin Kauffman** and **Jeanette Kauffman** performed at the event.
- FVCC welcomed its **largest group of new Phi Theta Kappa members** during the international honor society's **spring induction ceremony** March 9. **Sixty-seven FVCC students** were inducted into the Alpha Iota Pi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa by PTK President Douglas Steiner.
- The **FVCC Logger Sports Team** placed first at its **Stumpjumper Days** home competition April 17. placed second at the Logger Olympics at The University of Montana and placed second at the Association of Western Forestry Clubs Conclave at Colorado State University. The team will conclude its season by competing in the Lumberjack Classic at the University of Idaho and by providing demonstrations for the community at the Family Forestry Expo in Columbia Falls.
- FVCC welcomed **170 local third grade students** to its annual **Seussville University**, a day-long celebration of Dr. Seuss that promotes literacy. Activities included classes in art, music, math and science, storytelling and a theatre production, each of which will carry a theme centered on a specific Dr. Seuss book. Approximately 40 FVCC students participated in the event through the Service Learning program which connects FVCC students with local community service projects.
- The **FVCC Green Team** hosted a week of festivities in celebration of **Earth Week** April 19-22. Members of the community were invited to participate in numerous free activities including lectures, film viewings, campus clean up day, carbon footprint exercises and a pledge tree.
- FVCC has partnered with **Nourish the Flathead** to develop a **one-acre community learning garden** on its campus providing Flathead Valley community residents the opportunity to rent garden plots. For its first season beginning this summer, Nourish the Flathead will offer 15 4X8-foot composted and ready-to-plant raised beds through a lottery system. Participants will have access to water, tools and consultation from a garden manager, will be able to participate in two educational gardening workshops and will receive discounts on heirloom seeds.
- FVCC teamed up with **The University of Montana's O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West** and the **National Park Service** to host the two-day symposium, "**History and Memory in Glacier National Park's Centennial Year 2010**," April 23 and 24 on the FVCC campus. The event was free to the public and featured presenters who addressed a variety of topics from "Living and Working in a Man's World: Women and Glacier National Park 1918-1988" to "How the Blackfeet Became the Guardians of Glacier."
- **FVCC Art Department faculty and students** donated multiple pieces of art to be auctioned off at the 15th annual Flathead Food Bank Soup Supper fundraiser April 9. Works include jewelry, ceramics and paintings among others. Proceeds from the auctioned items and the event will benefit Flathead Food Bank programs.
- FVCC Ceramics Instructor **David Smith** and his works were featured in the February 2010 issue of **Ceramics Monthly**, a national ceramics magazine.

- The FVCC Multicultural Club presented a “**Taste of Hawaii**” event April 9 on the college campus. Community members were invited to the event that featured live dance performances by the Halau Ka Waikahe Hula Malie Dance Group, light refreshments, Hawaiian photographs and teachings of Hawaiian culture traditions.
- FVCC and its **heavy equipment operator students** have been named **Rails to Trails of Northwest Montana Group Volunteer of the Year** for their contribution to the organization’s 10.4-mile Ashley Creek to Kila Project. Under the direction of **instructors Robert Allen** and **Bob Arrabito**, the students contributed a total of 1,549.50 hours to the project, saving Rails to Trails of Northwest Montana \$31,506.97 in labor costs.
- **Flathead Valley Community College Theatre** presented the cult classic “**Evil Dead: The Musical**” during the month of April deemed the most technically challenging production in the history of FVCC Theatre. The show followed another historical production, “**Cabaret**,” FVCC Theatre’s largest coordinated effort in the company’s history. The production consisted of a talented powerhouse of 45 actors, two professional designers, a 10-piece orchestra, a full production staff and various community contributors.
- FVCC welcomed national speaker, **Dr. Brian R. Strohmeier**, corporate laboratory operations manager at R.J. Lee Group, Inc. in Monroeville, Pa., to present a free lecture, “**Naturally Occurring Asbestos: A Recurring Analytical and Public Policy Challenge**,” to the Flathead Valley community April 15. His lecture, sponsored by the American Chemical Society, addressed some of the key issues involved with the current debate concerning naturally occurring asbestos and the proposed improved analytical methodologies for dealing with the issue.
- **FVCC Political Science Instructor Jeremy Fritz** presented a free lecture, “**Elections and You**,” for the community April 8. Sponsored by the college’s Continuing Education Center and Student Teams for Election Assistance in Montana (STEAM) program, Fritz’s presentation on the election process addressed the history of political parties and their roles, the electoral college, terms of office, state and local election processes, rules and regulations of polling locations and campaign fundraising. Local candidates and Flathead County election officials were present to address questions and welcome comments.
- FVCC introduced its first cultural immersion program in **Bali, Indonesia**, this spring. Participants were able to earn up to 19 credits while studying on the island and exploring its famed beaches and tropical forests. Students immersed themselves in the island’s unique culture while participating in various activities including touring temples, staying in residences in Ubud, participating in Balinese art workshops, attending dance performances, watching agricultural demonstrations and trekking through the island jungles.
- The FVCC Early Childhood Center staff, students and parents celebrated **Week of the Young Child** April 12-17. The Center’s infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers were honored through their art work on display at two exhibits in Kalispell and their participation in a parade at Kalispell Center Mall.

- The **FVCC Ambassadors and Alumni** hosted a **spring luncheon** March 18. A panel of Scholars Program students presented to the crowd of 80 guests who attended the event catered by the college's first-year culinary arts students.
- Members of **FVCC Campus Corps** joined FVCC students and community members April 10 to construct two sheds to benefit Flathead Valley Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers gathered for **Habitat for Humanity Shed Building Day** to construct two eight-by-12 sheds to be raffled. Proceeds will benefit the community-based organization that seeks to provide affordable housing for low-income Flathead Valley residents who are currently living in substandard housing.
- FVCC celebrated **National TRIO Day** March 3. The event featured information on the various TRIO programs, presentations by students, award presentations, an opportunity to learn about and meet the TRIO staff and a declaration of TRIO Day on the college campus. Awards of recognition were presented to **Mary Howard** of the Student Assistance Foundation and FVCC Counselor **Russ Lamson**.
- FVCC welcomed home Art Instructor **John Rawlings** and five students who ventured to **Venice, Italy**, this spring for the college's second **semester abroad program**. The program allows up students to earn up to 18 college credits by participating in a program of study that encompasses language, cultural and art history, watercolor and special courses on the theatre of Venice.
- FVCC hosted its 18th annual **Honors Symposium** themed, "**How to Change the World**," this spring. The lecture series was free to the public and featured a wide spectrum of viewpoints from local, national and international experts who will addressed topics ranging from "Economic Realities in a Changing World" to "How Social Entrepreneurs are Changing the World."
- To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Glacier National Park, FVCC Librarian, Montana historian and long-time seasonal ranger at Glacier National Park **Michael Ober**, recently authored the photo-documentary "**Glacier Album: Historic Photographs of Glacier National Park**." The book showcases a collection of hundreds of black and white photographs of Glacier National Park's earliest years. Most of the images taken largely by ordinary park visitors capture roughly the first 40 years of the park and have never been seen or published until the release his book.
- FVCC's Cultural Affairs Office and Phi Theta Kappa honor society joined together to present the college's inaugural **Foreign Film Festival**. The event featured six foreign films to promote cultural diversity and global awareness to the Flathead Valley community.
- Director, Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning **Brad Eldredge** presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual **Flathead Forecast Breakfast** on the FVCC campus January 27. His presentation focused on employment trends and projections and the economic outlook for Flathead County.
- FVCC Korean Culture and Language Instructor **Jaekyung Bae Willows**, formerly of the Korean Educational Development Institute, teamed up with several Korean residents of the Valley to present a free event on Korea for the Flathead Valley community March 8. The event featured a presentation on Korea's culture and people, live Korean music by the Deer Park Junior High School advanced band, an authentic food sampling and a traditional dress exhibition.

- FVCC hosted the traveling exhibit, “**Land of Many Stories: The People and Histories of Glacier National Park**” for the public to view in celebration of Glacier National Park’s centennial. Sponsored by the FVCC Library, the free exhibit illuminated the Park’s cultural and natural wonders, explored the many ways people have used and enjoyed the area from pre-European contact to present day and illustrated how the Park has remained the same for its visitors even though it has experienced numerous changes over the years.
- Flathead Valley Community College presented its **16<sup>th</sup> annual Senior Institute** this spring. The program involved a series of 14 credit classes with subjects ranging from ceramics, crime prevention and Korean culture and language to gardening, computers and line dancing just for seniors 62 years of age and older. More than 240 area seniors participated in the program, making this year’s Senior Institute the largest in the college’s history.
- The FVCC culinary arts program launched its third season **Chef’s Table** dinner series January 29. The event enables **first-year culinary arts students** to complete their first-year internships on campus while preparing, plating and serving hors d’oeuvres and a three-course meal for patrons every Friday evening for 14 weeks this spring. The event takes place in the college’s instructional kitchen and involves instructor and world-trained **Chef Howard Karp** introducing each course and how it is prepared.
- Natural Resources Instructor **Christina Relyea** served as the guest of honor at the **Society of American Foresters Annual Dinner**. Relyea was presented a \$500 scholarship to award to a natural resources student.
- The “**Amelia Earhart Plunging Mood Bra**,” created by **FVCC Art Instructor John Rawlings**, is one of 27 original, one-of-a-kind art bras created by Flathead Valley artists touring the Flathead Valley and the state of Montana as part of the **Artful Bra Project**. The exhibit showcases unique, entertaining, humorous and beautiful works of art to increase public awareness of breast cancer, memorialize those lost to the disease and honor survivors. After the conclusion of the tour in August 2010, the bras will be auctioned to benefit Save-a-Sister, a collaborative program between Northwest Healthcare at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, North Valley Hospital and the Flathead City and County Health Department.
- The FVCC Foundation established **14 new scholarships** during 2009. Nearly **\$305,000 in private donor scholarships** were awarded to **256 students**.
- Four FVCC students were named spring 2010 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union’s Community Pride Scholarships**. **Thomas Klein, Sarah Hazen, Amanda Kiefer** and **Kiley Theis** received \$400 scholarship awards for the spring semester