

**DATE:** April 28, 2017

**TO:** Board of Regents

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

**RE:** Campus Report for the May 24-25, 2017 Board of Regents' Meeting

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- FVCC celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with **Founder's Day on** April 7. An estimated 900 people attended the event, where FVCC co-founder **Bill McClaren and his wife Lois** were presented with the **Montana Mentor Award**. The celebration continued the following day with the **Golden Anniversary Gala**, a sold-out culinary event that raised money for student scholarships.
- Flathead Valley farmer and rancher **John Bowdish** was honored with the **2017 Distinguished Alumni Award** at the annual FVCC Alumni & Friends Luncheon in March. The award is given annually to an individual whose career achievements, service to others and passion for FVCC rise above the rest.
- FVCC held its **49<sup>th</sup> commencement** ceremony on May 12 and recognized 379 graduates. Former FVCC student and graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy **Major Jason Curtis** delivered the commencement speech. In addition to completing multiple combat missions in the Middle East, Major Curtis was an F-16 pilot for the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds for three years.
- FVCC honored 24 **Practical Nursing** program graduates during a traditional pinning ceremony on May 12.
- **Stephanie Wallace** of Kalispell, **Kelly Stimpson** of Bigfork and **Pete Akey** of Whitefish were voted by acclamation to fill three vacant positions on the FVCC **Board of Trustees**. All three positions will expire in May, 2020.
- Approximately 60 percent of the new **student housing** units have been reserved for the coming fall semester. Construction remains on schedule to open in August. The Board of Trustees voted to name student housing "**Founders Hall**" in honor of the visionary men and women who started the college 50 years ago.
- FVCC's **Biology and Natural Resources** departments hosted the third annual **BioBlitz** on campus in May. Faculty, students and community members canvassed FVCC's 206-acre campus to identify as many plants, birds,

amphibians, insects, fish, mammals, fungi and other species as possible in a three-hour period.

- FVCC's Art Department hosted a student show opening and awards ceremony in May. In addition, the **FVCC Art Club** held its annual Mother's Day Sale. Proceeds from the sale benefit club activities and support the artists.
- The public was invited to experience life as a college student for a day as part of "**Experience FVCC**," a free program open to high school students and anyone who is considering a career change. Twenty-five people participated in the inaugural event on April 21 and received a comprehensive view of FVCC's academic programs, student services, facilities, organizations and activities.
- **Jacqueline Elm**, a first-generation student at FVCC, has been selected as a **2017 Newman Civic Fellow**. Elm was chosen for the honor based on her work to support grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. She is one of 273 students from across the nation who will participate in this year's fellowship.
- The **Museum at Central School** in Kalispell held an opening on April 11 for FVCC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit, which will remain on display to the public until this fall.
- FVCC's **Veterans' Association** collaborated with the **Society for Human Resource Management** to host a free event in April for military veterans to learn strategies for easing the transition from military service to civilian employment.
- FVCC's logger sports team hosted the annual **Stumpjumper Days** competition on campus in April, attracting teams from six western colleges and universities.
- In partnership with **AAUW** and the **Women's Foundation of Montana**, FVCC hosted "**Smart Start**" in April, a free workshop to teach people how to negotiate a fair salary.
- FVCC's **Theatre and Music** departments produced the 1960 musical "**Bye Bye Birdie**" in April in honor of the college's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.