

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: July Report

Date: June 13, 2008

- FVCC student **Nicole Therrien** received the **Montana Section of the American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award** for her presentation involving research she and three other FVCC students conducted on changes in protein shapes. The award of \$750 will cover travel expenses for Therrien to attend a national meeting of her choice. She competed against students, including many seniors, from numerous four-year colleges and universities throughout the state and was the only student who competed from a two-year college.
- This fall, FVCC will host **Fulbright Scholar and Associate Professor Ruicheng Pei from Liaoning University in Shenyang, China**, providing area high school students with an opportunity to complete the first year of college-level Chinese through the FVCC Running Start program. The six-credit classes will introduce the basics of the Chinese language, culture, geography, social humanity, cuisines and modern development.
- FVCC metalsmithing students **Bernie Tarnow, Vivian Goodnight and Sharlene Leonard** were honored with distinction for their designs selected for publication in the June 2008 issue of *Jewelry Artist* magazine. The winning designs were entered in a challenge issued by the national publication.
- A design submitted in the **2008 Northwest Montana Fair art contest** by FVCC student **Claire Nelson** was selected as the winning entry out of approximately 20 submissions. The design represents the theme of this year's fair, "A Squealin' Good Time," and will be featured on ticket buyer brochures, six area billboards, 3,000 posters, the cover of 5,000 premium books as well as other promotional fair materials. It also will advance to a national competition where it will compete with other award-winning fair poster designs from across the country for a national award.
- Five FVCC students—**Jessica Szalay, Lindsey Heldstab, Garret Lommatsch, Brendan Hardy and Elizabeth Moonen**—competed in the **2008 Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference** in Reno, Nev., May 7-11. Four of the five students placed in the top 10 in their categories with Lommatsch and Hardy placing first in the Small Business Management Team event, Heldstab placing third in the Production Keyboarding event and Lommatsch placing third in the Human Resources Management event. Approximately 1,100 students from across the nation participated in the conference.
- The FVCC Art Department opened an exhibit featuring the works of famed artist and journalist **Ted Lee Crail** June 11. The exhibit titled, "**How I Deserted the Wild Horses and Adopted Pop Art,**" features story board panels of Crail's digitally manipulated works from a lifetime career of photojournalism. The exhibit showcases images and stories of A-list celebrities, such as Zsa-Zsa Gabor, Liza Minnelli, Woody Allen, Don Rickles, Micky Spillane and Greer Garson, and will be on display through July 23 in the FVCC Student Art Gallery in FVCC's Arts and Technology Building.

- Six FVCC students were named summer 2008 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union's Community Pride Scholarships**. Shawdee Dillon, **Krista Andrews, Natalia Korchmar, Karen Middleton, Carrie Potter and Cassie Roberts** received scholarship awards ranging from \$200 to \$400 in awards totaling \$1,800 for the summer semester.
- **FVCC Theatre** closed its inaugural 2008-09 season with the hilarious rock musical *The Rocky Horror Show*. Directed by FVCC alumna Taskar Duffner and Musical Director and FVCC alum Kurt Duffner, the show sold out of all performances and starred a cast and crew of more than 30 FVCC students, alumni and Flathead Valley community members.
- Flathead Valley Community College **graduated its 40th class** consisting of **215 students** from both the Kalispell and Lincoln County Campuses May 16 during the college's **spring 2008 commencement**. FVCC awarded **233 degrees and certificates** consisting of 145 Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees, 64 Associate of Applied Science degrees and 24 certificates. Keynote speaker was 1992 FVCC alumna Jean Adams, Fergus County Deputy County Attorney and Human Resources Director. During the ceremony, FVCC President Jane Karas presented the third annual **President's Mentor Award** to **FVCC Board of Trustees Chairman John D. Engebretson**. The award was created to honor a community leader who every day inspires us with their leadership, vision, integrity and passion and exemplifies the meaning of the word mentor.
- FVCC welcomed former **U.S. President Bill Clinton** on campus May 13 for a **"Solutions for America"** rally he presented for the community. Over 3,000 area residents united for this historical outdoor event that took place in the campus arboretum. Spectators stood in line in the chilly, rainy weather for hours for the opportunity to hear from our country's 42nd president. Following his address, he stayed for approximately two hours shaking hands, visiting with community members and signing autographs.
- Four FVCC students—**Jordan Allen, Roddy Hill Jr., Nicole Allen and James Allen**—placed in the top 10 in the postsecondary education Combination Welding, Extemporaneous Speaking and Prepared Speech competitions at the **Montana Association of SkillsUSA 37th Annual State Leadership and Skills Conference** at Montana State University-Northern in Havre April 7-9. Jordan Allen placed first and Nicole Allen placed second in both the Prepared Speech and Extemporaneous Speaking competitions earning them with invitations to represent the state of Montana and FVCC in the Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Mo., June 23-27. More than 380 students from three postsecondary institutions and 34 high schools from across the state participated in the conference.
- Flathead Valley Community College held its **Annual Student Awards Reception** May 6. **Ninety-five students** were recognized for receiving private donor scholarships totaling **over \$113,000 in scholarships** for the 2008-2009 academic year.
- The FVCC Foundation presented three awards at the annual **President's Donor Dinner** May 15. **Attended by nearly 140 guests**, the dinner recognized and thanked members of the President's Club who play a vital role in the lives of FVCC students while helping to strengthen the economic future of Northwest Montana through their investments in FVCC students and programs. The awards included: **FVCC Foundation Community Leadership Award**—presented to FVCC Board of Trustees Chairman John D. Engebretson; **FVCC Foundation Friend and Volunteer Commitment Award**—presented to Foundation Associate Board Member Mary Gibson; and **FVCC Foundation Friend and Volunteer Commitment Award**—presented to Tom Sliter.

- FVCC President Jane Karas honored **Paul Thomas Williams** with the college's prestigious **Eagle Award** for the 2007-2008 academic year during the annual President's Donor Dinner May 15. The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to FVCC. Williams served on the FVCC Foundation Board from 1999 until his death in 2007. Throughout his service, he headed a sub-committee on planned giving, raised awareness of the benefits of endowed philanthropy and served as Foundation Board treasurer and chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee. His efforts led to an agreement with the Montana Community Foundation promoting the advantages of the Montana Tax Credit and charitable planned giving for donors in the Flathead Valley as well as an increase in the Foundation's assets from just over \$1 million to nearly \$6 million today.
- FVCC President Jane Karas launched the college's seventh annual **Community Conversations** June 10 at the FVCC Kalispell campus and in Bigfork. The conversations provide Karas the opportunity to share the college's present and future activities, including programs and planning for the future, to invited community members while welcoming guest feedback. During June and July, Karas will host a total of 11 conversations throughout the FVCC service region from Eureka to Polson.
- The FVCC Foundation hosted 288 guests to spring tours of the **Bibler Home and Gardens** May 9-12, generating **\$3,427** to fund FVCC student scholarships and programs. The Foundation introduced the tours May 8 with a special reception that provided guests with an exclusive tour of the Bibler Rug room showcasing the Bibler's collection of fine Persian rugs. The Foundation will host a kick-off reception of the Bibler Home and Gardens summer evening tours July 28, tours July 29-August 1 and an exclusive Tour of the Roses August 15 and 16.