

## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Regents

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

**Re:** March 2011 Campus Report

**Date:** February 4, 2010

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- FVCC English Instructor **Lowell Jaeger** has been selected as a recipient of the **2011 Montana Governor's Humanities Award**. The award honors Montana citizens who have contributed to the humanities and the citizens of Montana with their teaching, scholarship, public outreach and support. Jaeger is one of six Montanans who will be presented the award at the state capitol on February 24.
- FVCC instructors **Roddy Hill, Tim Creighton** and **Hugh Naldrett** and electrical technology students **Mick Lewis, Hal Treat** and **Mark Bowman, Sr.** renovated an empty tractor trailer into a **mobile welding classroom** containing 10 welding stations. The trailer is housed at the FVCC Lincoln County campus to train Libby residents and others in Lincoln County to become American Welding Society certified welders. Those who pass the program will be certified welders and eligible to be considered for employment at **Stinger Welding Inc.** in Libby. Stinger projects to potentially hire as many as 150 welders by fall 2012.
- Under the direction of Physics Instructor **Jim Boger**, FVCC will be the first institution in Montana and the first institution outside of the state of New Mexico to participate in the **All Sky Camera Network**. The program, developed and operated by New Mexico State University, involves a nationwide system of cameras to **track, monitor and analyze atmospheric meteor events** to assist satellite operators in separating natural and man-made events.
- Chemistry and Mathematics Instructor **Janice Alexander, Ph.D.**, traveled to South Africa in October to participate in the **Women in Higher Education Professional Delegation to South Africa** initiative. Under the auspice of People to People Professional Ambassadors program, the 12-day mission involved visiting various universities to speak with faculty and students and collect information pertaining to what South African people expect of the higher education system and the main issues facing South African women in higher education today.
- FVCC has been selected as one of 40 community colleges to pilot a new **Voluntary Framework of Accountability** designed to redefine what "success" means for two-year institutions nationwide. The VFA represents the first national system to provide accurate data, operational

transparency and the ability for colleges to benchmark student progress and completion data against peer institutions.

- The FVCC Art Department presented a special one-day showing of **ARTiFACT**, a Master of Fine Arts thesis exhibit featuring work by FVCC Professional Goldsmithing Instructor **Karen Chesna McNeil**. ARTiFACT featured a series of mixed media sculptures and sculptural jewelry exploring the theme of mystery, the unknown and the unknowable. Chesna McNeil received a Master of Fine Arts in sculpture/metals at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco in December.
- The FVCC Foundation awarded four **Enhancement Grants** to FVCC faculty members to provide their students with more sophisticated learning experiences. The **Experimental Agricultural Site Development** project will enable FVCC to experiment with wine grapes and explore the viability of developing a viticulture program while assisting the college in the further development of its agriculture program. The **Northwest Regional Scholars Conference on Student Research** project will expand the successful Scholars Conference on Student Research that debuted this spring on the FVCC campus. Through the grant award, FVCC will introduce the **“I-Best” Program** to better serve adult basic education students who tend to be underprepared for college-level courses. And the **Research Mentoring and Presentation Experiences at FVCC** program will fund travel expenses for chemistry students, under the instruction of **Paul Martino, Ph.D.**, to attend the 2011 American Society for Mass Spectrometry Conference in Denver where they will present their **groundbreaking research in protein folding**.
- FVCC’s 2009-2010 **student built house** was showcased in the **2010 Flathead Valley Parade of Homes**. The 1,700-square-foot home was constructed by FVCC building trades students under the direction of Building Trades Program Instructor/Coordinator **Greg Waldrop**. The three-bedroom, two-bath home was built under the National Association of Home Builders Green Building Guidelines and was constructed from recycled materials and contains multiple green, energy-efficient features.
- Ceramics Instructor **David Smith** is one of 18 artists invited to participate in a traveling exhibition featuring works by Montana ceramic artists. The national traveling exhibit will open in June at the Missoula Art Museum. Other works by Smith will be exhibited in a solo show at the Clay Studio of Missoula during the month of July. In addition, one of Smith’s pieces will be on exhibit at the **National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts Biennial Show** at the Tampa Museum of Art in Tampa, Fla., January 29-April 24. Smith is among 45 artists out of more than 1,000 applicants whose works will be showcased in the national show. Lastly, Smith was asked to present demonstrations and a presentation at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, as a visiting artist.
- FVCC Natural Resources Instructor **Christina Relyea, Ph.D.**, **traveled to Haiti** where she joined a team of volunteers who spent eight days operating a medical clinic and providing food aid, water education and water purifying tablets to the people of Haiti. Relyea shared her experience through a free lecture, **“Hope for Haiti-Hope for Humanity,”** she presented to the

FVCC community November 17. Relyea also is incorporating the natural resources knowledge she gained into her classes.

- The Flathead Valley Community College Foundation's **Festival of Flavors 2010** fundraising event was a tremendous success, raising **record net proceeds of approximately \$50,000** for student scholarships and programs at FVCC. The 10-day festival comprised of 12 events highlighted nine of the Flathead Valley's finest chefs and FVCC culinary arts students and culminated with a grand wine tasting event.
- The FVCC Foundation held its **17th annual Scholarship Award Luncheon** to honor scholarship donors and student scholarship recipients for the 2010-2011 academic year. The luncheon welcomed a **record crowd of 222 guests** and provided an opportunity for private scholarship donors to meet the student scholarship recipients. Donors were acknowledged for contributing **over \$316,700** in private donor scholarship awards helping **257 students** attend college. Student scholarship recipients **Brandon Olesen, Katy Steiner, Amber Harrell** and **Ernie Cottle** addressed guests with their personal stories and the positive impact the scholarships have made on their lives.
- The FVCC College Republicans welcomed **Montana Senator Bruce Tutvedt** on campus December 8. The senator's presentation about his role in the government was open to FVCC students, faculty and staff and the community. The next day, **U.S. Senator Jon Tester** visited the FVCC campus and met with students in one of the college's American Government classes. On January 19, the FVCC College Republicans hosted **Kalispell Mayor Tammi Fisher** on campus for a presentation she delivered for the campus community.
- FVCC hosted Montana West Economic Development's **Future of the Flathead Breakfast** January 26. Executive Director, Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning **Brad Eldredge, Ph.D.**, delivered a presentation on how inflation affects the local economic outlook.
- FVCC has teamed up with the **Flathead Building Association** to present an **entrepreneurial realities seminar** for distressed builders, contractors and related businesses. The seminar, funded by the Coleman Foundation and Parkside Federal Credit Union, will be offered in spring and fall 2011 and is part of the **Program Development at the Center for Community Entrepreneurship Education** project coordinated by Business Instructor and Program Director Chris Hanchett.
- **Chef's Table** opened its fifth season January 28 featuring 10 new FVCC culinary arts students delivering exceptional cuisine, service and entertainment to patrons. Under the instruction of world-trained **Chef Howard Karp**, the program enables first-year students to complete their first-year culinary arts internships while showcasing their skills and talents to community members and visitors to the Valley. Patrons who attend Chef's Table enjoy light hors d'oeuvres followed by a three-course dinner prepared and presented by the students. This season, the program will introduce four themed dinners—Taste of New Orleans, Taste of France, Family Style Italian Night and Taste of Mediterranean.

- The **Hockaday Museum of Art** has teamed up with the FVCC Continuing Education Center to present the **2011 Art Film Series** on the FVCC campus this spring. The Hockaday also is exhibiting the metal works of FVCC Adjunct Art Instructor **Wayne Hammer** through March 17.
- FVCC hosted the **2011 Northwest Montana Regional High School Business Professionals of America Conference** January 10. Under the leadership of FVCC Business Instructor **Brenda Rudolph**, the conference consisted of over 50 competitions in a variety of business subjects. Approximately 170 students from 10 high schools in the northwest region of Montana competed in the conference.
- Six FVCC students were named spring 2011 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union's Community Pride Scholarships**. **Seth Bergman, Jesse McCafferty, Jennifer Skillings, Lynn Dawson, Gavin Lommatsch** and **Presley Pritchard** received scholarships totaling \$1,700 for the spring 2011 semester at FVCC.
- FVCC applauded its **largest group of new Phi Theta Kappa members** during the international honor society's fall induction ceremony October 6. **Seventy-seven students** were inducted into the Alpha Iota Pi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.
- FVCC Adjunct Art Instructor **Josh Mohler** and his wife Mandy, who recently returned from earning masters degrees at The University of Northampton in England, shared the adventures they experienced together on Cyprus, the Island of Aphrodite, during a free presentation they delivered for the community December 3. Their studies began with nine months on the island of Cyprus where they attended the Cyprus College of Art and then completed their degrees in Northampton.
- FVCC **men's and women's cross country teams** placed high at the **Spokane Marathon** on October 9 and 10. **Mark Fallon** competed against more than 800 runners in the 10K and took second overall. **Shawn Callan** placed 14th overall out of 1,000 runners in the half marathon. **Clayton Hamilton** finished first in his age group in the half marathon. The women's cross country team entered two teams, the Talons and Fly Like an Eagle, in the Spokane Marathon Relay. The Talons came out on top, and Fly Like an Eagle finished fifth overall.