

DATE: June 20, 2018

TO: Board of Regents

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

RE: Campus Report for the July 12-13, 2018 Board of Regents' Meeting

- FVCC held its [50th commencement](#) ceremony on campus May 18 and recognized **368 graduates**. FVCC alumna and astrophysicist **Dr. Sarah Rugheimer**, a graduate of Harvard University and a current Simon Origins of Life Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, delivered the commencement speech. Dr. Rugheimer will begin the Glasstone Research Fellowship at Oxford University this fall.
- FVCC held a [groundbreaking ceremony](#) for the new **Library & Learning Commons** on May 21. Construction of the \$3-million facility is supported by a lead gift of \$2.5 million from the Broussard family, along with other generous gifts from community members.
- The [Broussard family](#) of Kalispell was honored with FVCC's prestigious **Eagle Award** during the 23rd annual President's Dinner on May 21. The Eagle Award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the college. Also at the President's Dinner, **Donna Lawson** of Bigfork was honored with the 2018 **Montana Mentor Award**.
- FVCC President **Jane Karas** held her annual **Community Conversations** across northwest Montana in June to share information about current issues and activities affecting the college and to receive feedback from community members. Conversations were held in Bigfork, Kalispell, Lakeside, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby and Whitefish.
- FVCC's **Mask & Hammer Theatre Club** [built the sets](#) for Whitefish-based Alpine Theatre Project's (ATP) summer season. ATP is a professional theatre company featuring performances by Broadway artists.
- FVCC's Director of Global Programs, **Gerda Reeb**, travelled to Japan for two weeks in June to participate in **TeamUp**, a campaign funded by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and facilitated by the **United States-Japan Bridging Foundation** to create global partnerships and increase the number of U.S. and

Japanese undergraduate and graduate students studying in each other's country.

- FVCC Associate Professor of Plant Biology **Mirabai McCarthy** was honored on May 23 at the 30th annual [Merrill Presidential Scholars Convocation](#) luncheon at **Cornell University** for her influential role in mentoring **Nicolas Glynos**, a 2016 graduate of FVCC who transferred to Cornell and graduated this spring in the top 1% of his class.
- In honor of the life and legacy of FVCC Founder **Bill McClaren**, friends and family members organized a memorial 5K run and walk on June 10. Proceeds from the event support the construction of a new College Center.
- FVCC's **Campus Farm** hosted a family-friendly event on May 5 to celebrate the planting season. Students and instructors from FVCC's Agriculture program gave tours of the farm and led hands-on activities designed to teach participants how to build fertile soil and construct a low-cost hoop house.
- FVCC and the **Crown Guitar Workshop & Festival** kicked off the Crown's 9th annual season with a concert on campus May 19. Proceeds from the concert benefit the Crown Guitar Scholarship Fund #Why I Play and the **FVCC ONE Campaign** to build a new College Center.
- Teacher's Academy for **K-12 educators** was held for two weeks in June on the FVCC campus to offer teachers an opportunity to earn college credits and satisfy OPI renewal requirements.
- 390 **7th- and 8th-grade girls** from schools in Flathead, Lincoln, Lake and Sanders counties participated in the **Expanding Your Horizons** program at FVCC in May. Women employed in STEM professions introduced the girls to a variety of STEM fields, including health care and natural resources, through interactive presentations and hands-on activities.
- **David Long** and FVCC chemistry students travelled to the French Polynesian island of **Mo'orea** in May to research ocean pH levels in collaboration with UC-Berkeley's Richard B. Gump South Pacific Research Station.
- Approximately 70 students presented their research, portfolios and projects during the annual **FVCC Student Research Conference** on May 11. Project topics included agriculture, biology, botany, ecology, biotechnology, natural resources, mathematics, chemistry, physics, energy policy, history, photovoltaics and more.

- FVCC's **Art Department** held its annual Big Night on June 14, a culinary event to raise funds for student scholarships for the college's [Semester in Venice](#) program.
- FVCC's **Foundation**, in partnership with the **Bibler Foundation**, hosted spring tours and a Mother's Day brunch at the [Bibler Home and Gardens](#) in May to raise money for student scholarships.
- FVCC's **Music Department** and the **Sons of Norway** hosted a concert on campus May 25 celebrating Scandinavian composers and culture.
- World-renowned classical pianist **I-Heung Lee** performed with FVCC Music faculty in a concert on campus on June 8.
- FVCC's **Early Childhood Center** held a graduation ceremony on May 24 for the first cohort of students who participated in the **STARS Preschool Pilot Program**.