

## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Regents

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

**Re:** November 2011 Campus Report

**Date:** October 21, 2011

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- The Flathead Valley Community College Foundation's **Festival of Flavors 2011** fundraising event was a tremendous success, raising **record net proceeds of approximately \$60,000** for student scholarships and programs at FVCC. The 10-day festival, comprised of 13 events, highlighted eight of the **Flathead Valley's finest chefs** and **FVCC culinary arts students** and culminated with a grand wine tasting event.
- FVCC's 15<sup>th</sup> **Student Built House** was delivered to the happy new owners, **Scott and Michelle Hadwin**, of Kalispell. This was the first year the college's building trades students constructed a system-built house comprised of two halves measuring 1,400 square feet each. Nineteen building trades students, comprised of high school students enrolled in the college's Running Start program and students ranging in age from mid-30s to 60s who were displaced from their previous jobs, spent last fall and spring semesters constructing the house.
- **Chef's Table** opened its sixth season September 16 featuring six new **FVCC culinary arts students** and five senior sous chef 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 three themed dinners—Taste of Hawaii, Japanese Night and Spanish Night.
- Education Instructor **Marlyn James** was awarded a **\$33,000 Best Beginnings grant** to enhance classroom education for current and future early childhood education students. James will present at the annual National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference in Orlando in November.
- **The Scholars Program at FVCC** welcomed **21 new students** during an induction ceremony September 13. The program, now in its third year, is comprised of 42 students. **Ivan Lorentzen**, Scholars Program director; **Dr. Kristen Jones**, vice-president of instruction and student services; **Dr. James McKusick**, dean of the Davidson Honors College at The University

of Montana; and **Benjamin Woody**, former FVCC Scholar student, addressed the students during the ceremony.

- FVCC Graphic Design student **Amanda Haynes** volunteered her time and videography skills to produce the Flathead Valley Community College “**Pink Glove Dance**” video as a service learning project to help raise breast cancer awareness. Thirty-five groups consisting of **approximately 270 FVCC students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni** participated in the effort. The video is available online on the college’s YouTube channel and Facebook page.
- Sixteen FVCC students teamed up with eight Montana Conservation Corps members and other volunteers to lend their time, hands and skills to the Flathead Food Bank and Second Helping Thrift Store in celebration of the 21<sup>st</sup> annual **National Make a Difference Day** October 22. Activities included sorting, stocking and renovating office spaces. The local event was sponsored by the United Way and the United Way Volunteer Center, in cooperation the Montana Conservation Corps and Montana Campus Corps-Service Learning at Flathead Valley Community College.
- In celebration of **American Indian Heritage Day**, FVCC welcomed **Tim Lehman**, professor of history at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, for a free presentation, “Voices from the Little Big Horn,” he delivered for the community September 23. Lehman used popular culture records to explore the traditional myth of Custer’s Land Stand, offering a fresh interpretation using recent battlefield archaeology and a new appreciation of Indian accounts.
- FVCC welcomed acclaimed author **Willard “Bill” Wyman** October 10 for a free public reading and book signing of his latest novel **Blue Heaven** that is set in the Flathead and Mission Mountains. Lowell Jaegar, FVCC English instructor, author and editor of Many Voices Press, joined Wyman as the event emcee and by read a sampling of his latest collection of poems.
- The FVCC Art Club welcomed visiting artist **Jeff Brown**, ceramics and two-dimensional design professor at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La., to the FVCC campus. During his visit, Brown presented demonstrations to ceramics classes and delivered a free presentation for the community September 29.
- The **Diamond Creek Singers** and the **Whirl Wind Dance Troupe** presented two free performances of **Native American song and dance** at FVCC September 30. The events provided the young Native Americans of Helena the opportunity to share their cultures through song and dance with the Flathead Valley community.
- FVCC hosted Montana **Repertory Theatre’s** production of **Writing Wild: The Adventures of Jack London** October 21. FVCC was one of 49 venues throughout Montana that welcomed Montana Repertory Theatre’s Educational Outreach Tour.