

Memorandum

To: Board of Regents

From: Jane Karas, President
Flathead Valley Community College

Re: September 2011 Campus Report

Date: August 26, 2011

- Flathead Valley Community College received a gift of **\$4 million** from the **Broussard Family**, the **largest gift ever given to the college**, to build a **Nursing and Health Education Center** as a tribute to the late Rebecca Broussard. The facility will house classes and labs for FVCC nursing programs as well as other health sciences programs. It also will include a student health clinic to provide affordable basic health care services to FVCC students. The Broussard's gift will cover the majority of construction expenses for a proposed \$5 million building on which the college plans to break ground in the spring of 2012.
- FVCC **graduated its largest class** in the college's 43-year history May 13 during the college's **spring 2011 commencement**. FVCC awarded **438 degrees and certificates** to **388 graduates**. Among those who graduating were the **first Scholars Program graduates** comprised of 13 students. **Displaced workers** who attended FVCC for retraining comprised **25 percent** of the graduating class. The college welcomed National Campus Compact President **Maureen Curley** as commencement speaker. During the ceremony, Curley recognized FVCC practical nursing student **Katherine Emerson** with the **Newman Civic Fellow Award** from Campus Compact. Emerson was one of 135 students across the nation presented with the national award that recognizes inspiring college student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country. FVCC President **Dr. Jane Karas** followed by recognizing **G. George Ostrom**, a pioneer in Montana's broadcasting industry, with her sixth annual **President's Mentor Award**.
- Chemistry Instructor **Paul Martino, Ph.D.**, and five FVCC students attended the 59th Annual **American Society for Mass Spectrometry Conference on Mass Spectrometry and Allied Topics** in Denver June 5-9 to present posters on their groundbreaking protein folding research efforts conducted at FVCC.
- Husband and wife award-winning national journalists **Maury Povich** and **Connie Chung** kicked off Flathead Valley Community College's inaugural **President's Lecture Series** as they presented "**A Conversation with Maury and Connie**" for the community July 26. The event was free and open to the public and featured a dialogue centering on the truth in journalism.

- FVCC said farewell to former longtime Trustee **John D. Engebretson** who passed away peacefully July 24. Engebretson served on the college's Board for nearly 20 years and will be remembered as an outstanding leader and advocate for the college and the local community.
- Following approval from the Board of Regents, FVCC received approval from the Montana Board of Nursing to establish an **Associate of Science degree in Nursing** beginning in January 2012. The two-year program will prepare students to take the national certification exam for registered nurses.
- FVCC President Jane Karas has been invited to serve on the American Association of Community College's **21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges** supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Nearly **170 students** from FVCC and Whitefish High School gathered on the FVCC campus May 6 to present research projects during the college's second annual **Scholars Conference on Student Research**. The event provided participating students the opportunity to present their research, portfolios and projects to members of the community. Close to 50 student presentations were delivered and more than 70 research posters were showcased during the event. **Dr. James McKusick**, dean of the Davidson Honors College at The University of Montana, kicked off the event with an opening address.
- The Corporation for National and Community Service named Flathead Valley Community College to the **2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll** for its support of volunteering, service learning and civic engagement. The honor roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement. During the 2009-2010 academic year, 457 FVCC students provided more than 10,144 volunteer community service hours; 10 service team members volunteered over 8,000 hours of service; and 106 Campus Corps members provided 42,668 service hours. FVCC is one of two postsecondary institutions in Montana and among 641 colleges and universities in the nation recognized with the honor.
- FVCC students **Becca Eisenman, Michelle Seymour, Erik Emery, Katy Steiner, Kyle Koslosky, Anmol Manchala** and **Jim Boer** were appointed to serve as **liaison officers** for the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation** ministerial meetings in Big Sky. Approximately 1,500 delegates from the 21 APEC economies across the globe convened to engage in high-level trade negotiations.
- Construction of a new **underpass tunnel** connecting the FVCC campus and the Kidsports Complex was completed in May. The tunnel provides a **pedestrian/bike path** beneath U.S. Highway 93 and a **safer pedestrian crossing** and will allow for the future development of the proposed east/west trail systems.
- FVCC has committed to a five-year lease agreement with **Kalispell Regional Medical Center** for **16 apartments** to rent as student housing units on the KRMC campus. This partnership will provide opportunities for students to have **access to affordable housing** near the college

campus. The apartments are in walking and biking distance to campus and are situated on the Flathead County Eagle Transit Line.

- FVCC has entered a **right of way agreement** that involves the Montana Department of Transportation purchasing 8.8 acres of college property to construct a **Reserve South road**. Construction is anticipated to begin this fall.
- Construction of FVCC's new **Maintenance & Storage Building** began July 18. The building will free up two of the Occupational Trades Building bays currently used for storage so they can be used for teaching occupational programs. The building is expected to be completed by November.
- FVCC honored its **largest class of practical nursing students** for successfully completing the two-year Associate of Applied Science degree program May 13. Seventeen students from the Flathead Valley, Lincoln County and Billings were honored during the college's fourth annual pinning ceremony.
- FVCC President Jane Karas hosted her tenth annual **Community Conversations** in June. The conversations provide Karas the opportunity to share information on the college's activities and to encourage feedback from community members on how the college is meeting and can better meet their needs. Karas hosted a total of seven conversations throughout the FVCC service region from Eureka to Lakeside.
- FVCC President Jane Karas presented **Bill McClaren**, the last living founder of Flathead Valley Community College, and **his wife, Lois**, the college's prestigious **Eagle Award** for the 2010-2011 academic year at the 16th annual President's Donor Dinner. The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to FVCC. Karas attributed the McClarens' role in the creation and development of the college and recognized them for their outstanding contributions that have greatly influenced the college's continued success.
- The FVCC Art Department raised funds to create **three \$4,000 student scholarships** for its **2012 Semester in Venice program** during its **Big Night** fundraiser. The gala was comprised of an Italian-inspired dinner created by **FVCC culinary arts students** and instructor **Chef Howard Karp**, a showing of the hit comedy/drama film "Big Night", a no host bar with specially selected Italian wines to complement dinner, an Italian-themed live auction, a Venice photo exhibit by Photography Instructor **Peter Hertlein**, paintings and a journal exhibit by 2011 Semester in Venice students and presentations by Semester in Venice alumni.
- FVCC English Instructor **Lowell Jaeger's** book, *We*, received a **Literary Merit Award** from the **2011 Paterson Poetry Prize**. The book received national attention last year as well when celebrated radio personality Garrison Keillor read one of the book's poems on National Public Radio's show, "The Writer's Almanac."
- Six FVCC students were named summer and fall 2011 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union's Community Pride Scholarships**. **Dezirae Fletcher, Wade Robinson, Tamara Gilham,**

Heather Ellsworth, Jillian Hamilton and Ashley Larson received scholarship awards totaling \$2,100.

- FVCC launched its first **Conquering Learning in Math Bootcamp (CLIMB) Montana**, a pilot program developed to help students achieve their education more efficiently and effectively as they train and prepare for new careers. Twenty-two pre-nursing and pre-paramedic students participated in the two-week program developed and delivered by FVCC Math Instructors **Don Hicketier, Linda Soper, Laura VanDeKop and Pete Wade**. The program was funded by a **U.S. Department of Labor Strengthening the Indigenous Nursing and Emergency Workforce Community Based Job Training Grant**.
- The FVCC Foundation hosted **464 guests** at the spring and summer tours of the **Bibler Home and Gardens** in May and July, generating **\$7,480** to fund the FVCC student scholarship program. The spring tours opened with a **Mother's Day champagne brunch** prepared by **FVCC's culinary arts students** under the direction of instructor **Chef Howard Karp**. The summer tours kicked off with a special event featuring the unveiling of "**Fertile Ground**", a new painting of the Bibler Gardens by renowned Bigfork, Mont., artist **Nancy Cawdrey**.
- FVCC welcomed **Erich Jonas**, creator of the "**Original Egg Game**," to campus May 10 for a free interactive presentation he delivered for the community. Over the last 15 years, Jonas has worked with educators and students resulting in his creation of the cultural exchange activity that is practiced in 14 nations across the globe. The game is performed to transcend differences in language and culture with the ultimate goal of uniting people around the world.
- FVCC jewelry arts students **Jessica Kuchynka, Nathaniel Gilham and April Russell** had their jewelry design renderings published in the July 2011 issue of *Lapidary Journal's Jewelry Artist magazine*. The national publication is the leading source of information, supplies and services in the jewelry, bead and gem industries.
- FVCC placed first in the adult division for the sixth consecutive year and won its fourth "**Best in Show**" for its pirate ship float themed "Find Your Treasure at FVCC" in the **2011 Northwest Montana Fair Parade**. FVCC students, alumni and employees constructed the float and participated in the parade.
- FVCC hosted Montana **Shakespeare in the Parks'** production of *Much Ado About Nothing* August 17. FVCC was one of 60 venues throughout Montana, northern Wyoming, eastern Idaho, eastern Washington and western North Dakota that welcomed Montana State University's College of Arts and Architecture's outreach program.
- **Kootenai Valley Federal Credit Union** in Libby presented FVCC's Lincoln County Campus a **\$500 scholarship** to be awarded to a student taking classes at the **Lincoln County Campus** during the spring 2012 semester. To date, the credit union has provided scholarship awards totaling \$1,750 to the Lincoln County Campus.

- FVCC graphic design student **Amanda Black** won the **logo design contest** for **Montana Helical Piers**. The Kalispell company selected Black's design among 17 student submissions and presented Black with a \$250 award. Black graduated from FVCC with an Associate of Applied Science degree in graphic design in May.