The power of words to cause harm or heal wounds goes without saying. Ancient Greek statesmen built much of their philosophy of government around the ability to sway opinion via the power of their oratory. One of the most famous slogans of the Second World War was “loose lips sink ships,” an exhortation to keep any military secrets civilians may have inadvertently learned close to the chest, lest they aid and abet military secrets civilians may have inadver-
tently learned close to the chest, lest they aid and abet the government around the ability to sway opinion statesmen built much of their philosophy of government around the ability to sway opinion. From that small edit, a whole new chapter in Fort Lewis’ 101-year educational journey has sprung. Matriculating students in the fall of 2013 will include Teacher Leadership Option candidates amongst their numbers, and with that enrollment, Director of Teacher Education Dr. Richard Fulton’s twenty-year-long quest to add gradu-
ate degrees to the offerings available at FLC will come to a satisfying conclusion.

It’s no accident that the first graduate degree offered by Fort Lewis should be in Teacher Education. “We did a large amount of research on what was needed in the teaching community around the Four Corners before we put the wheels in motion to create our degree,” said Fulton. “Teachers at all levels in our region represent an untapped market. There’s at least 2500 full-time educators within 150 miles of FLC, and at least one-third of them are Fort Lewis alumni, or at least have roots at the College. In some schools, such as Escalante Middle School in Durango, or Kemper Elemen-
tary in Cortez, over 50% of the faculty received their undergraduate degree from FLC.”

Although many of these educators already have master’s degrees in their field, many do not. The teachers who earned degrees while simultane-
ously working at being educators were forced to either cram their coursework in during the summer breaks or earn an online degree, choic-
es less than optimal for most people. Melissa Stordeur, Program Graduate Manager, commented, “so many of the teachers we spoke to felt that online coursework did not enable the kind of learning that face to face classes do. We tried very hard to make sure that our degree was a true online hybrid that offers at least 30% face-time with professors and other students so that candidates can learn from each other as well.

The program is also designed specifically to create a sense of responsibility and ownership in education. “We want to attract teachers who want to make a difference in children’s lives and communities,” said Melissa. “This degree is for educators who want to have a broader effect on their schools by using what we’ve taught them to refine and perfect their curricu-
lums and practices, not clock in so that they can move up the pay scale simply because they have the proper credentials,” Richard explained. Besides encouraging students to spread the wings of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout their communities, Richard and Melissa are interested in making sure the program itself is culturally relevant. Field trips to nearby Hispanic and Native American neighbor-
borhoods and schools are a fully integrated part of the curriculum, not only so students can see what practices work well in these diverse populations but also, but because some of those students themselves will be teaching in them.

Of the first cohort of accepted MAE applicants, one is Native American. Fort Lewis’ long, state-
mandated practice of tuition-free enrollment for First Nation people is expected to be power-
ful recruiting engine as the program becomes better known throughout Indian Country. “Already we are seeing quite a lot of interest from Native communities,” said Fulton.

Historically speaking, the idea of a gradu-
ate program serving the Four Corners is not new. The need for such a degree has long been regionally acute. President Jones remembered being frustrated that graduate degrees were offered by rival schools. “Often times, Adams State College in Alamosa would make use of our faculty to offer their Master’s Degree in Teach-
er Education, and capitalize on our regional needs. I kept saying to myself, this isn’t how it’s supposed to be!”

Jones himself helped further cement insti-
tutionalization of the program by contribut-
ing substantial funds towards a scholarship program specific to graduate candidates. As a longtime board member of Durango’s First National Bank, Jones was offered $1,000 in charitable donation for every year he’d volun-
teed. This added up to around $15,000.00 directed towards the MAE degree program.

“That was a fantastic start, and we’re so grate-
ful,” said Richard, “but the reality is that so many of our applicants are and will be coming out of situations where $10,000 in tuition fees are coming out of salaries that may only be in the low thousands. It’s a real stretch for some, and that financial burden is the number-one reason potential students choose not to enroll. We can offer only small scholarships right now- around one thousand dollars each. As the number of enrolled candidates expands, the need for scholarships will only grow.”

Besides funding candidates, the graduate program also is technology hungry. “I like to say that our program is both high-touch and hi-tech,” said Melissa. “We’ll have a set of iPads in the classroom for use in collaborative learning and to make use of online resources. So much of tomorrow’s education will be accomplished via these types of systems. But again, this focus on technology is not cheap. Every donation we receive going forward will ensure that much more can we offer our students in real terms.” Indeed, the focus on digital learning is so strong that Melissa worked closely with Kelly Stanley, Fort Lewis College’s Director of E-Learning, in fitting together the intricate layers of institutional brick-
work needed to create a stand-alone program. Collection of information, programming, software, hardware, timelines and fee structures are only some of the architecture that had to be either adapted or created from scratch.

In addition, the program is designed so that there is flexibility of outcome, meaning that candidates could choose to receive a degree, a certificate, or a proof of professional development, depend-
ing on their needs. After the initial offer-
ning, FLC received 21 applications for entrance into the program, of which 17 were admitted. True to the research-based expectation, all of the accepted candi-
dates were teachers working in the Four Corners region, including educators from Durango, Mancos, Cortez, Ignacio, and Farmington. The program has enrolled teachers from preschools, elementa-
ary, middle and high schools, and even a few from Animas High School, a public charter school in Durango that will graduate its first class this year – overall a very diverse groups of candidates. Without a doubt, FLC’s flagship master’s degree program is likewise destined for great things.

Donations to FLC’s new Master’s Degree in Educa-
tion can be made via a secure online server at apps.fortlewis.edu/makegift. For more information about donation options, please contact Fort Lewis College Foundation Executive Director Margie Deane Gray at gray.margie@fortlewis.edu, or call her at 970.247.7177.

“I kept saying to myself, this isn’t how it’s supposed to be!”

Joel Jones, FLC President 1988-1998

Any contributions you can make will help make the FLC College Foundation the regional philanthropic leader in support of higher education and the community it serves. Your contributions will be used to support the very best in education and to promote excellence in teaching and learning. The College Foundation has been the leader in the region in raising funds for scholarships and other educational needs. Whether you would like to support the college’s endowed scholarships or other initiatives, you can do so in a variety of ways.”

After growing up in the Washing-
ton D.C., area, I worked at Cobeg Silver Camps as a summer camp counselor in 1980-82. I found a way to return as a teacher in Cortez in 1987 and have been in Western Colorado since then. My wife and I live in Mancos. My daughter, Ria, is go-
ing to be a senior next year at Fort Lewis College as an Environmental Studies ma-
tor, and my son will be a sophomore and Business major at Western Colorado University. I am serious about public school reform to bring more engagement, increased relevance and high standards to public education. Fort Lewis has great people to work with, our community is excellent to be involved with, and everyone is excited about starting the college’s first graduate program!”

Melissa Stordeur
Acting Assistant Director for the University Honors Program.

Joel Jones

Dr. Richard Fulton

My family was inter-
ested in moving out to West and my husband was offered a position with a local company (Southern Ute Growth Fund). My former position at the Uni-
versity of Louisville, Kentucky, was a tenured position at the Uni-
versity of Louisville, Kentucky, was the Assistant Director for the University Honors Program.

Assisting individu-
als with their happiness, awareness, knowledge, and success is my passion. I strongly believe that education is a key component in the realiza-
tion of these goals. I love working on a college campus where people share creative ideas, diverse perspectives, and resources to motivate and support one another as they attempt to make their communities a better place for themselves and those who follow in their footsteps. People at FLC are committed to doing a great job. The development of the graduate program has been a team effort not only in the Department of Teacher Education but also across campus. It is a privilege to work with hardworking and dedicated colleagues.

Melissa Stordeur
Legacy of Preservation

To the casual observer, dinosaurs, Charlie Brown, Santa Claus and 19th century steam-powered locomotives may not seem to have any connection. But then, Al and Carol Harper, owners of Durango’s D&SNGRR train line are hardly casual observers of history. A more apt description of the couple might be known advocates of our shared past, or more specifically, dedicated preservers and boosters of it.

Carol’s appreciation of the antique locomotive part of their interests comes completely naturally. Her grandfather, father, and brother were all railroad engineers. In fact, her father’s work extended into Hollywood movies, where he helped to create western films starring John Wayne and other cowboy heroes of the silver screen. This deep appreciation for rail made it easier for Carol to take a large, risky leap into the unknown when Al was approached by a group of investors trying to start a railroad in Florida, where he had a successful real estate company. In order to rescue the struggling Florida train project, Al contacted Charlie Bradshaw, the then owner of the Durango and Silver Narrow Gauge Railroad in Durango. In a nutshell, Bradshaw was impressed with Al, and offered him enough funding to save the Florida train if Harper bought Bradshaw’s railroad in Durango as well.

“I’ll never forget,” said Al, “I called Carol and said, ‘okay, I have the money, but do you want to buy a train in Colorado?’ She’d never been here. She said, ‘what does it involve?’ I told her we would need to mortgage everything we had to afford it. She said, ‘If you want to do it, I want to do it!’”

With a background in financial planning and work as a stockbroker, Carol became president of American Heritage Railways, the family holding company that controls not only the D&SNGRR, but the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad in North Carolina, and Rail Events, Inc., a third company dedicated to coordinating licensed special events, promotions, merchandise and related activities to railroad operators throughout the United States and Canada.

“Carol does so much,” said Al. “She sets the company policy, determines how we’ll treat our people, how much they’ll get paid, their benefits...she makes sure that we do everything that we can do for them and still make a profit for the corporation. She also invests a lot of those profits back into capital improvements and upgrades. With 600 employees and interests across the country, it’s a big job.”

The couple’s plans for their company is tightly hatched to promoting a deep appreciation for the history of America as expressed by technological innovation. Towards that end, they commissioned local sculptor Dave Claussen to create a copy of a Curtiss Pusher biplane that crashed in Durango during a demonstration flight in 1913.

“The plane came in on the train and left on the train,” said Al. “It set a record at the time for the highest flight. Of course it helped to be taking off at 6500 feet already.”

“Carol and I are very active in making sure that the museum is a real prize for the community,” Al continued. “We have to get families and especially children interested in history, because the existence of things like the train will be threatened as the Boomer generation goes away. It’s key that we get the next generation interested, and we do that by using things where they can have fun, like the Polar Express or Charlie Brown.”

Besides their commitment to local history, both Carol and Al are wonderful supporters of many non-profits in the community, such as the Fort Lewis College Foundation. Al currently serves on the FLC Foundation Executive Board of Directors. During his tenure on the board, Al served for more than three years as an officer. The couple are strong advocates of the Athletic Department, the School of Business, the Center of Southwest Studies, the Theatre Department and a number of academic departments. We are indeed fortunate that they have helped us reach success now and will help into the future.

AL and Carol’s links to FLC also play a role in promoting the region’s charms. A new booklet will soon be available for rail tourists that outlines the fascinating geology visible during the train’s climb into Silverton. Written by FLC Geoscience professors David Gonzales and Lauren Heershap, and photographed by local artist Marc Saphir, the book will add a new chapter to the Harper’s legacy of historical preservation.
Fort Lewis College is worth investing in; I firmly believe that. I see the amazing work our faculty and staff do for our students and for society. I see the lives of our students changed for the better as a result of being a part of the Fort Lewis College family. The credit for the positive difference FLC makes for so many is thanks to all of those who believe in and support the College.

We have a number of exciting initiatives going on now, or being planned for the near future. One is the continued work toward building a new Geosciences, Physics and Engineering building on campus. These are three of our most popular degree programs and are all in need of upgraded facilities to match the quality of the education they provide. The new building will greatly enhance the ability of our faculty to teach and our students to learn.

I have also had the great privilege of traveling over the past few months to meet with alumni, government officials, and representatives from other colleges and universities. These trips are designed to spread and enhance the reputation of Fort Lewis College, strengthen relationships with our alumni, and build new partnerships with other higher education institutions. They also offer new opportunities to our students.

During recent trips to the United Arab Emirates and Japan, I was pleased to meet with many of our alumni and see the wonderful careers and lives they have built for themselves. I also met with representatives from universities in the UAE and Japan to discuss ways that they and Fort Lewis College can work together in the future. I was very happy to meet more than a dozen of the 26 Japanese students who will be attending FLC next year.

Fort Lewis College is a remarkable place, one in which I believe wholeheartedly. I hope that you will join me in investing in an exciting and successful future for this wonderful institution.

Dr. Dene Thomas
President, Fort Lewis College

That said, we also have our share of challenges. We rank fairly low among colleges similar to Fort Lewis College in the size of our endowment, and we have a continuing need to raise money for the Foundation’s general fund. Accordingly, we are about to embark on a significant capital campaign whose success will depend on our ability to raise money as well as the continuing generosity of our donors. Fort Lewis College has grown significantly in the past century and now occupies a unique place among four-year colleges in Colorado and the rest of the country. How Fort Lewis College fares during its next 100 years will depend to a great degree on what the Foundation can do now to keep our beloved institution vibrant and growing. Please help to whatever extent you can.

Let me extend a special invitation to any of our readers who haven’t been to the campus for a while. You might be surprised at the programs, activities, and special events taking place these days at Fort Lewis College. This is a very happening place, so come on up. Talk to the students. Sit in on a class. Listen to a musical performance, attend an athletic event, or tour the Center for Southwest Studies. I like to walk through the new Student Union building just to observe the students. They represent the future, and the future looks bright.

Terry Bacon
Board Chair, FLC Foundation

Update from the Board Chair
Dr. Terry Bacon

A rendering of the proposed new Geosciences, Physics and Engineering building as seen from above, including a view of the observation deck.

These are exciting times for the Fort Lewis College Foundation. We emerged from the recession in better shape than most college foundations, and with the record-breaking rise in stock prices during the past quarter we have substantially increased our invested assets. Consequently, we have been able to fund scholarships for more students, provide more grant money to Fort Lewis College faculty members for research and academic support, and sustain our support for college athletic programs. Our campaigns to increase support from FLC alumni and build our legacy giving program are meeting our expectations, and we are fortunate to have an active and committed board as well as an outstanding foundation staff.

Update from the President’s Office
Dr. Dene Thomas

Fort Lewis College is a remarkable place, one in which I believe wholeheartedly. I hope that you will join me in investing in an exciting and successful future for this wonderful institution.

Dr. Dene Thomas
President, Fort Lewis College

Let me extend a special invitation to any of our readers who haven’t been to the campus for a while. You might be surprised at the programs, activities, and special events taking place these days at Fort Lewis College. This is a very happening place, so come on up. Talk to the students. Sit in on a class. Listen to a musical performance, attend an athletic event, or tour the Center for Southwest Studies. I like to walk through the new Student Union building just to observe the students. They represent the future, and the future looks bright.

Terry Bacon
Board Chair, FLC Foundation
DAVINCI, The School of Creativity and Innovation, emphasizes creative thinking and problem solving through an arts-infused curriculum—and it wasn’t easy to get it that way. Krista, along with several other DHS teachers began the process of envisioning, “our ideal high school experience” during the 2010-2011 school year, to build a more cohesive learning experience for 9th and 10th grade students.

“Some kids would go through ten to twelve teachers, having to learn each person’s style and quirks. It made for a bad learning experience,” explained Krista.

By 2012, all the planning had paid off, and Durango High School opened its current four Small Learning Communities. The idea is to enable students to learn using techniques that best suit their abilities, styles and interests.

Standing up such a program is intensive, and requires hundreds of hours of time. Such work does not mesh well with the few options previously available to high school teachers wanting to pursue a graduate degree.

“I got my MFA from Adams State,” said Krista, “and that meant hours of travel, expensive hotel rooms, and a lot of wasted time that could have been spent working here. Although it was a fantastic experience, I’m so glad that FLC is now offering an MAE. It’s a very practical program for folks like me.”

Dr. Richard Fulton, the architect of Fort Lewis’ MAE degree made sure to consult with regional teachers as to what would constitute the best way to structure such a program. Krista was among those surveyed. “Richard understood that a lot of us were passionate about teaching, and not necessarily interested in administration. The program supports our pedagogy in that it encourages change from the inside—teacher-led innovations that make sense for our community of learners.”

FLC launched its master’s program at exactly the time Krista needed it, and in that way she feels very lucky. “It was total serendipity. I got my BFA at the Fort, and to come back to it to work on my second graduate degree is both exhilarating and a little scary. But I wouldn’t want to be doing it anywhere else. Fort Lewis is such a gem of a school.”

If Krista’s experience is any example, the FLC MAE degree is an idea past due, already paying dividends back to its core constituency.
Class of 2013

Spread: Graduates hurl their caps in celebration. Legend has it the tradition began in 1912 at the United States Naval Academy.

Inserts: Students wait in line to enter Whalen Auditorium, while the clock tower stands as a symbol of passage.
H.C. President Dene Thomas huzzahs the students as faculty march into graduation.
Theatre graduates Erin O'Connor and Ammond Swofford revel post-ceremony on a glowing spring day.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FOUNDATION'S VIDEO MASH-UP OF FLC CLASS OF 2013
Danielle VanZeebroeck

Featured Scholar
Dr. Doug Lyon

Dean of the School of Business Administration, (SOBA)

Dr. Lyon in his element- surrounded by data

Doug Lyon likes to tell prospective students and their parents, “I’ve come 75 years in life in 30 years...all the way from Camp Dormitory in 1982 to the Dean’s office in the Education and Business Hall in 2012. I love to be able to talk to people about the Fort Lewis story—about the school family.” Of course, there’s a bit more mileage under Doug’s hood. Graduating in 1987 with an accounting degree from FLC, Doug spent 12 months in his junior year on an exchange program in Japan. “I was always interested in languages. I would have double majored in Russian if the Fort would’ve had a program.”

After graduation, Doug earned a Master’s in International Management from Thunderbird, and became a Certified Public Accountant. He then spent time working in professional positions in Denver and California. Marriage and children were in the cards, and with them, a desire to return to Fort Lewis College. The new family moved to Lexington, Kentucky so Doug could pursue a Ph.D. in management strategy at the University of Kentucky. “The ultimate goal of moving to Kentucky was to get a doctorate, come back to Fort Lewis, and get on the faculty. That was the plan. Being here is something that [my wife] Chris and I have been working on for decades.”

Utah State University provided employment for four years. Then, on a trip back to Fort Lewis, the couple was alerted to pair of faculty openings that fit their resumes. Both were hired, and immediately began to set down deep roots in the community, all the hard work having paid off.

Besides working as faculty at the Fort, Doug was elected to two well-received terms as a Durango City Councilor, and served as Mayor in 2007 and 2012. Doug is bullish about the future of the School of Business Administration. “We’ve hired five new faculty members this year, and our new program in business analytics has everyone excited!” The program makes use of cutting edge information technology to find patterns that can be monetized in one form or another.

“We have wonderful professional development opportunities for our students. In fact, last year we had 100% placement of our accountancy graduates. Our tourism program includes internships in the tourism industry. Living in Durango— a world-class destination, it’s easy for our students to both obtain and capitalize on real world industry experience.”

Although the path back to the Fort was winding, the Lyons now have yet another reason to call FLC home: Raleigh Lyon, their oldest daughter, will matriculate to the Fort in the fall of 2013, majoring in biochemistry and of course, accounting. From “75 yards to a full circle, the Lyon’s family ties to Fort Lewis continue to grow and flourish.

Dr. Hannula instructing a student

Featured Scholar
Dr. Kim Hannula

Associate Professor in Geosciences & Assistant Dean of Natural and Behavioral Sciences

Generally speaking, pollution is not a desirable thing. However, in Dr. Kim Hannula’s case, dredging smelly water samples as a child from the pea green surface of Lake Sebasticook, Maine’s second most polluted body of water, inspired a lifetime of research in the great outdoors. “I was fascinated by the idea of being a part of trying to solve the problem with the water— to make it better,” she recalls. “Then I got into rocks in college.”

While attending Carleton College in Minnesota, Kim realized that her hometown geology was huge! That, plus the fact that geologists get to go outside a lot more, swayed me into the profession.

Kim further refined her preferences to focus on metamorphic rock— the types of rock that undergo a profound change deep within the earth. “Sedimentary rocks, (ancient sands or waterbeds that solidify over time), like they had in Minnesota, became boring to me. They were flat. I liked the Maine rocks because they spoke about the tremendous forces called plate tectonics that set them on a vertical plane.”

That interest brought her to Colorado as an undergraduate to study formations near Salida. Graduate school at Stanford, field work in Alaska, and a final specialization into geological mapping as a structural geologist followed. After teaching in Vermont for a time, Hannula secured a job at FLC and has been faculty in the Geosciences since 2000.

Asked about the nature and quality of the geology program at FLC, Kim is unequivocal: “Our program is rigorous. For instance, I had to memorize 25 different types of minerals as an undergrad, but our students are expected to memorize three times as many.”

Contributing to departmental robustness is the amazing geology around Durango. “Schools tend students here from all over the country just to see things that our graduates examine routinely as freshmen.”

As good as the FLC program is, there are some sizable stumbling blocks. The current facilities are old, undersized and missing much needed equipment. “We can’t get what we need because the equipment is old, undersized and missing much needed equipment. We can’t get what we need because we have no space to put it!”

Yet, despite these issues, Kim has no doubt that FLC graduates have bright futures. “Our graduates are getting jobs in industry that are normally reserved for those with master’s degrees.”

Clearly, Colorado’s majestic peaks are good for much more than tourists and skiers— they also inspire scholars of the first order.

Why did you major in Geosciences? I always had a fascination for the sciences, energy, and natural resources. I wanted to be the person to find the raw materials that are used to power our economy and life in the way we know it. It’s like finding buried treasure!

I love this area, every weekend was filled with adventure! Being in the geology department, I was surrounded by down-to-earth active people. We did all: ski, climb, bike, hike, raft, and camp (all while nerding out on rocks of course)!”

Hometown: Prior Lake, Minnesota

Major: Geology

Year: 2012

Position: Consulting Exploration Geologist, Ridge Resources LLC, Durango
Fireworks viewed from the Fort Rim are a treat not to be missed for the 2013 Fourth of July celebration.

Update from the Alumni Relations Office Dave Kerns

How fortunate Fort Lewis College is to have a tremendous number of passionate alumni! This passion sets us apart from the alumni base at many colleges and universities. We have a strong connection to our academic departments (Chemistry professors and alumni connect on Facebook), our sports teams (the 1949 Old Fort football team holds an annual reunion), and our dorm building from freshman year (the "Sheridan C in ’73" gang meets regularly). I am so lucky to be a part of these traditions and learn about how our alums like to get together.

Once alumni are connected to Fort Lewis they seem to gravitate toward events and participate in social media engagements. When we announced that the Geology Department is going to run a Grand Canyon alumni trip with some of its current professors the trip sold 22 seats in the first few days! A recent Facebook alumni survey is receiving positive response, and Jennifer Portert has been hired to build alumni engagement through social media channels.

Our greatest challenge is that we have current e-mail addresses for fewer than 50% of our total alumni group. This means that less than one-half of the people - our friends, teammates, roommates, neighbors, and lab partners - that we knew while in college are receiving monthly updates and other information sent via e-mail. We have just launched a "Rediscover Your Fortitude" campaign to help with this issue, and will be reaching out to you for accurate e-mail contact information. This will improve our communication with you and help us build stronger connections with each other as Fort Lewis College alumni.

I enjoy hearing about gatherings of Fort Lewis alumni you know of around the country, and hope I can join you whenever possible. If you are in Durango on the 4th of July, you and your family are invited to come up to the lawn next to the FLC Chapel to play some games, have a picnic with some of your fellow alums and watch the fireworks from the best view in town!!

Sincerely,

Dave Kerns
Director of Alumni Relations

B oth of my daughters studied hard in college with the hope of graduating and finding jobs in their majors that would not only challenge them but lead them down the road to future success. Similar to Fort Lewis College graduates they found a rocky economy that diverted them from following their chosen path, and it continues to lead them in unexplored directions. That can be a bit scary.

As a parent it is difficult to see my daughters distressed, frustrated and disappointed when there is seemingly nothing on the horizon for them. Like most parents I am distressed, frustrated and disappointed by the lack of opportunities for them. That was until I read a draft of a commencement speech my younger daughter wrote and e-mailed me to review. Reading it totally changed my perspective on the journey ahead for our Fort Lewis graduates.

Yes, at the ripe old age of twenty-four my daughter Elizabeth was invited to be the keynote speaker at Durango High School’s Class of 2013 graduation. I must admit that I was surprised when she told me of the honor.

I asked myself, why would they want someone so young speaking to the graduating class? someone who hasn’t had the chance to "make it" yet? I always assumed that commencement speakers were already at the top of their game, not just starting the game. What I didn’t realize was that Elizabeth had indeed made it, just in a different way, like many others she followed.

The theme of her address was Live Like This. Elizabeth was surprised when she told me of the honor.

Yes—living in the moment, enjoying and appreciating what life hands out and doing something about it, even if it isn’t in the game plan. Living in the NOW—it’s so easy to forget that we really should be living for every moment of the NOW, instead of hiding from it or being frightened by it. We should be ready to jump at combination of all three, every time you stop for life and follow that unexplored road—not just willy-nilly but not with fear either.

That’s what the Fort Lewis graduates of today are doing...keeping their passions alive by staying in constant touch with where the realities of life lead them. They just have to be willing to take that jump into the unknown and be open to the outcome. Fort Lewis attracts that type of student.

The College is like that, too. Whether you live in Durango or only visit it and the College campus once in a while, as my daughter says, “There is a humor and a sense of camaraderie that is unique and particular to the place.” Whether you came here for the excitement of learning, the excitement of the mountains, the excitement of the river, or a combination of all three, every time you stop for more than a moment to appreciate your past life as a Fort Lewis student or as a current resident of Durango you Live Like This. “Living fully means living presently.”

Pass it on!

Warmly,

Margaret Deane Gray
Executive Director, FLC Foundation

The theme of her address was Live Like This.

Yes—living in the moment, enjoying and appreciating what life hands out and doing something about it, even if it isn’t in the game plan. Living in the NOW—it’s so easy to forget that we really should be living for every moment of the NOW, instead of hiding from it or being frightened by it. We should be ready to jump at
Mr. Smith Comes to Durango

John L. Smith, New FLC Head Football Coach
Is In It For the Love of The Game...and Always Has Been.

Life goals are often set early in childhood, and the inspiration for John L. Smith’s lifetime career in football was no exception. “When I was just in 5th grade or so, I remember my brother’s football coach—a big, burly guy—encouraging the kids to play their best. I remember thinking ‘that’s what I want to be.’” At the core of John’s ambition is a constant love of the game that sustained his drive to coach through college quarterbacking, a degree in Physical Education from the University of Montana, many universities around the nation, and a stint in the big leagues with the St. Louis Rams. John is realistic about life in the NFL: “It was great to work at that level, but the emphasis is not so much on the game but on the business of football. If a guy is let go or traded, it’s a business decision, not a decision based on what is best for that young man.”

Among the items needed is an artificial turf playing field, improved stadium lights, and weight rooms. Underneath all of the work is a constant focus on academics. “Players coming to a Division 2 program will just have less chance of going on to play professionally—that’s the way it is. So we have to make sure our guys are focused on getting a degree. FLC is a great match for students who want to play for the love of it, while being serious and practical about their careers after college.”

And we’re serious about that, too,” emphasized John.

Visit www.goskyhawks.com, like them on Facebook at facebook.com/FLCAthletics or follow them on Twitter @FLCSkyhawks.

Soaring Hawk Update

Jeff Jantz
Director of Gift Planning

The Soaring Hawk Society is experiencing steady growth–there are now 55 individuals and couples who have notified us that Fort Lewis College is in their estate plans! We are grateful for the way their planning is building a strong future for generations of Fort Lewis College students, and hope you will consider this step if you have not already done so.

You are always welcome to contact me (jantz_j@fortlewis.edu or 970-247-7069) if you want to discuss your plans or need more information.

Jeff Jantz
Director of Gift Planning
Lewis Wittry, outgoing Vice President of the ASFLC, gets a hug on April 27th as Fort Lewis College graduates its class of 2013. See pages 11 & 12 for more images.