Professional athletes zip around FLC’s stoplight corner as they begin the first stage of the USA Pro Cycling Challenge Race, which began in Durango this past summer.
Surmounting a Pro Challenge
by Shan Wells
Photos by Scott Graps and Paul Boyer

Few cities in America can lay claim to being truly mad for cycling. Durango could be placed near the top of the list. If any further proof was needed, one has only to look at the energy, enthusiasm, time, money, and effort both the city and Fort Lewis College put into making sure the entire world would tune in to a beautiful ‘Cycling Village’ on August 20th 2012, ready for both polite company and serious competition.

The USA Pro Cycling Challenge is an annual multi-day professional road bicycle stage race that has taken place in Colorado for the last two decades. The event was the fourth and even Hawaii, along with its mother state, Colorado. In its day, the race was the fourth largest such event in the world, and the largest such staged event for women competitors.

As the Pro Challenge developed, many of the ‘Coors’ veterans joined forces with new race promoters to fill out the gaps in knowledge and make sure some of the earlier race mistakes, (such as the time Boulder Police attempted to stop a finish line sprint due to a traffic cone issue), were not repeated.

In 2009, former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter and former golden boy Lance Armstrong collaborated to promote the return of world-class cycling to Colorado. By 2011, the race route was picked, the teams confirmed, and the event was on.

Beginning in Colorado Springs, the competitors wound their way up over 8 days of arduous stages, peaking out around 12,000 feet. Then they sped downhill for a big finish in downtown Denver. While this year’s event mounted a similar challenge in terms of altitude, the race navigated through a larger swath of the state, which is how Durango entered into the picture.

In the fall of 2011, Durango was invited to submit a proposal to host a stage of the 2012 race. Following this invitation, longtime Durango resident and FLC booster Fritz Geneser met with FLC President Dan Thomas to suggest a way that the two entities could come together and create a strong proposal.

“The opportunity was too good to pass up,” said President Thomas. “Fort Lewis had worked with the city previously on joint ventures, such as the construction of the Smith Sports Complex. A collaboration on getting the Pro Challenge here offered the opportunity to show the world just how wonderful Durango really are. "The opportunity had mounted for what promised to be an unprecedented level of interest in the region, and preparations on the Fort Lewis College campus reached a fever pitch.”

Teams of volunteers dragged templates up and down the front hills windy road, painting vivid blue and yellow FLC logos, slogans, and other generous encouragements on the pavement. Unfortunately, an uncooperative rain squall erased a good portion of their work, which was then furiously remade the night before the race.

Vast logos were also painted onto the athletic field for the cameras mounted on helicopters to catch, and the entire campus quad transformed itself into a multicolored fair of bike vendors, booth, food and general cycling-based revelry.

Estimates of crowd sizes range from 11,000 to 13,000 spectators on race day. A good portion of that number were Durango locals, who embraced the event with all the enthusiasm traditionally reserved for a good street party. However, a substantial portion were visitors, indicating that the race’s PR strategies, while not living quite up to the 20,000-25,000 people hoped for, definitely had a positive impact.

Regardless of expectations, the energy on race morning was electric. No less than three helicopters whirred nosily overhead, competing for the best camera angles. In Buckley Park, a huge jumbotron screen boomed out the pronouncements of the cycling world’s assembled punditry in between aerial shots of the San Juan Mountains, gloriously dressed in their bright green monsoonal gowns.

Main Avenue was compressed to a narrow corridor by steel barricades behind which the crowd cheered and whooped while professional photographers struggled to find fortunate spots to capture the action.

The race began with a lap up and over College Rim, down the backsides of College Heights, and along Florida Road, past a newly installed $25,000 public sculpture celebrating cycling, then back to Main Avenue. Spectators were amazed by the speed at which the competitors managed this sprint, arriving back at the starting line in just over 15 minutes. From there the cyclists blazed westward to Telluride, the remainder of the race and athletic glory.

Metrics collected by various organizations over the course of the year showed Durango and Fort Lewis received well over $11 million dollars worth of free advertising as the Pro Challenge was communicated to the wider world. Yet, for Fort Lewis, the gain was even greater, and perhaps more personal. As a school whose cycling team has won 20 national championships, it was deeply meaningful to have such a prestigious cycling event begin at its doorstep, and include among the competitors and FLC alumni, Tom Danielson.

Danielson graduated from FLC with a degree in business but went on to carve out a successful career as a professional bicycle competitor. He finished the Pro Challenge in 7th place overall.

In an interview with the Durango Herald before the race, Danielson said, “Last fall, when I went back, there were incredible vibes in Durango. I really had a motivating week when I was there... everyone was... so gracious. For me, I spent a big part of my cycling life in Durango. That’s where it all started for me in terms of the road.”

Danielson’s comments go to the heart of the matter. They illustrate that our community’s obsession with cycling goes beyond mere boost

Durango, with Fort Lewis as its nucleus, has become a powerful athletic incubator whose true potential is only just now becoming clear.

A multicolored string of racers spread out in the first lap of the race, which took them around the FLC rim, down College Heights and back to Main street on Florida Road.

A family of bike-enthusiasts examine huge logo painted in field chalk on the grass near the route.
These are very exciting times at Fort Lewis College. In last year’s FLC Foundation Annual Report, I talked about our recently approved Strategic Plan for 2012-2016. We have made good progress, and I’d like to take this opportunity to highlight some of it.

**Strategic Plan Goal #1: Increase Student Success**

Fort Lewis College professors must not only excel in their disciplines as scholars, but also stay attuned to the latest research on teaching and learning in order to best serve their students. Two of them are noted below:

We are proud of Dr. Maeil Boxer, who was named as one of 12 “emerging scholars” by the national magazine *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. Dr. Boxer was commended for her research on Native American museums and how they are revising the ways in which Native Americans have been portrayed. Dr. Boxer was also commended for her high academic standards and work with FLC students.

We are also proud of our Featured Scholar this year, Dr. Erin Lehmer, whose research on mice and the Sin Nombre virus (see page 9), is nationally known. Her work with undergraduates as student research illustrates our commitment to Native American students to achieve a college education. I have no doubt that all Native American students at Fort Lewis College hold their education with a very high value, if not price.

The academic year of 2011/12 launched a new form of Career Services at FLC. After much research and debate the offices were decentralized and located within each of the three schools on campus in three separate offices. The three coordinators, Pat Dummer, Jill Kolodzne, and Tana Verzuh met on a weekly basis throughout the year to coordinate on the overall goals of Career Services and to collaborate on events and workshops. (see page 8)

**Strategic Plan Goal #2: Develop Selected Programs in Areas of Strength**

A major accomplishment in this area, one that is also a major evolution for Fort Lewis College, is the addition of a Master of Arts in Education: Teacher Leadership degree program. This is the first time that Fort Lewis College has offered a graduate degree and it is one that is certainly needed. In a time when teachers are being scrutinized, perhaps more than ever before, it is vital for our Teacher Education students to have the opportunity to benefit from additional education beyond their bachelors’ degrees. We have also found that a significant number of teachers living in this area would be interested in coming to Fort Lewis College to continue their education and progress farther in their careers.

**Strategic Plan Goal #3: Implement Pedagogically Appropriate Technologies for the Curriculum and the Population that the Courses are Currently Served**

Fort Lewis College is moving ahead with online instruction. Several pilot hybrid courses have been developed, courses that use e-learning technology and face-to-face instruction. We have allocated funds and we are in the process of hiring an E-Learning Director.

Departments on campus are also working to integrate the latest technology into their programs. Our School of Business Administration, for example, in response to feedback from business leaders in the community, is working on new ways to give their students the technological skills they need to succeed in their careers. These new developments include courses in business analytics, including data mining and econometrics, and applied computer science that will offer business and product development, innovation and programming skills.

**Strategic Plan Goal #4: Enhance the Comprehensive Undergraduate Enrollment Management Plan**

To illustrate the success we’ve enjoyed working toward this goal, I point to the enrollment increase FLC had this year. On-campus enrollment rose 2.35 percent over 2011, a number which exceeded the Strategic Plan’s goal of 2 percent. In what turned out to be a very challenging recruiting year around the state, our on-campus freshman enrollment was up 80 students, or 10.3 percent, which bodes well for next year. Also increasing were the number of transfer students enrolling at FLC, up 10 students over 2011, and concurrent students, up 21. In terms of ethnicity, the two biggest changes from 2011 were in on-campus Hispanic and Native American enrollment. Hispanic enrollment jumped by 56 students and Native American students increased by 23.

**Strategic Plan Goal #5: Continuously Assess the Efficiency and Effectiveness of All Programs and Services at Fort Lewis College**

Part of accomplishing this goal is to plan for the fiscal sustainability of Fort Lewis College in the future. As you may know, state support of higher education has fallen over recent years. In response, we have both budgeted and allocated resources very judiciously while at the same time investing in programs and initiatives that will pay dividends for FLC in terms of academic success for our students and enhanced recognition and reputation for the institution. I am pleased to say that Fort Lewis College is on stable financial footing now and we are poised to reap the benefits of our investments in the future.

**Strategic Plan Goal #6: Capitalize on Fort Lewis College’s Location**

The Downtown Welcome Center opened Memorial Day Weekend, and just in our first weekend, we received indications of interest from six potential students and twenty-six alumni. City/College cooperation is beneficial to all of us here in Durango, such as the Smith Sports Complex, which was named for Duane Smith and dedicated this fall.

The August 20, USA Pro Cycling Challenge was: “It all starts here.” And it really did. The spirit, the excitement, the activity, and the publicity for Fort Lewis College were spectacular. How can we count the value of the TV, radio, and print coverage? We could not have afforded to purchase it. As I noted in my convocation address, “it was thrilled to be able to ride in one of the cars that traveled with the riders on their 126-mile race to Telluride. To be in the gap, with the breakaway group just ahead and the peloton just behind was a thrill. Fort Lewis College was chosen as the Cycling Village, and this honor meant that the best professional cyclists in the world would call FLC home, thus making us the center of the cycling world, at least for a few days. This was particularly appropriate given that FLC boasts the #1 collegiate cycling team in the nation. The world was watching as the race began and the College was featured prominently. It’s a safe bet that millions of cycling fans across the globe now know the name Fort Lewis College.

Finally, in an effort to give our students, as well as the surrounding community, the opportunity to experience the political process up close, we extended invitations to all the political parties to make Fort Lewis College one of their campaign stops. To our delight, we welcomed First Lady Michelle Obama, U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner, and Congressman Paul Ryan to campus. The rallies they held drew thousands of visitors to campus as well as media exposure on national outlets.

These are indeed very exciting times at Fort Lewis College. As I look forward to what we have planned for the future, the sky is the limit as to the heights this Campus in the Sky can reach. Go Beavers! Go Aggies! Go Raiders! Go Skyhawks!

Sincerely,

Dr. Dene Thomas
President, Fort Lewis College
Dear friends, You receive the Foundation Report because you believe in our mission—Enriching educational and cultural opportunities at Fort Lewis College by encouraging and stewarding gifts for scholarships, programs and facilities—we are so appreciative. We promise that your donations will be used wisely, just as you want. We take your belief in us very seriously.

This has been a successful year for the College. A number of important events (the US Pro Cycling Challenge, representatives from three political parties on campus raising awareness on issues important to all of us, recognition in Forbes Magazine as one of the country’s Best Colleges and recognition as the national champions for the eighth straight year in mountain biking), were covered nationally on television and radio and in magazines and newspapers around the country. These events have put us on the map, even more than we have been in the past. It is wonderful that we are being recognized in ways that make us shine as an institution, especially as our outstanding students continue to excel in both academics and sports. You may not know that our women’s basketball team had the highest GPA nationally of any team. You may not know that our women’s basketball team had the highest GPA nationally of any team.

Many thanks for your wonderful support year after year. We wouldn’t be the excellent college we are if not for you. For those of you who are first-time donors, thank you for becoming part of the Fort Lewis family; we are so appreciative. We promise that your donations will be used wisely, just as you want. We take your belief in us very seriously.

We want to continue our position of being a top academic institution that also excels in athletics—a wonderful combination of mind and body. Besides offering spectacular natural splendor, cutting edge education and small class sizes, FLC now also makes sure that graduates have matters of etiquette well in hand prior to launching into the “real world.” Such things as how to pass the condiments, what constitutes “business formal” attire, and how to shake hands may seem like small stuff next to having good grades, a sharp resume, and good internship prospects, but they really are not. “In today’s market, graduates hunting for a good position need all the advantages we can give them,” said Pat Dommer, one of the troika of Fort Lewis Career Service Coordinators that includes Tana Verzuh and Jill Kolodzne.

Each school at Fort Lewis has its own coordinator, specializing in providing the type of counseling and help that is particular to Business & Teacher Education, Natural and Behavioral Sciences, and Arts, Humanities, and the Social Sciences. Services extended to students include resume help, career counseling, job searches and many other helpful assists.

This particular arrangement, matching advisors to professions, is a new innovation at Fort Lewis. Previously, one department tried to be all things to all students, resulting in less than optimal results. In 2010, the entire department was decentralized, a move that has garnered thumbs up from students, staff and faculty.

“Getting that first job after graduation has never been easy, and that is even more true today. That is why I’m so pleased with the revamped Fort Lewis College Career Services program. Having a dedicated Career Services counselor assigned to each school offers invaluable, personalized guidance to our students. That kind of help gives our students a leg up not only finding that first job, but on setting themselves up for successful careers,” said Fort Lewis College President, Dene Thomas.

Beyond learning that it is inappropriate to drink when you’re being toasted, graduates are also encouraged to apply one of the many internships that have been cultivated by FLC Career Services over the years.

“We are seeing a resurgence of employers looking for interns,” said Tana, “The recession seems to be easing somewhat, but it’s still a competitive market, and employers are still wanting applicants that have real world experience.”

Several federal land agencies, Mercy Hospital, Mercury, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Indian Health Services and San Juan Basin Health are among the many employers that have set up productive internship programs with FLC Career Services, who are always on the lookout for new opportunities.

“Absolutely, employers should call us if they have a need or desire for students to help them out,” said Pat. “It’s great to be able to offer that sort of custom help to students,” added Tana.

Employers interested in getting more information about setting up an internship program can contact Pat, Jill, or Tana at: dommer_p@fortlewis.edu, jkolodzne@fortlewis.edu, or tverzuh@fortlewis.edu.

Career Service Coordinators Pat Dommer and Tana Verzuh. Jill Kolodzne is on maternity leave.

### Statement of Financial Position 2012

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### FLC Profiles

Tana Verzuh
Pat Dommer
Jill Kolodzne

Career Services
**Erin Lehmer**  
**Featured Scholar**

F or Dr. Erin Lehmer, an assistant profes- sor in the Fort Lewis College Biology Depart- ment, being open to new opportunities was what helped guide her to where she is now. She wanted to work with animals, wanted to work outside, but also wanted to be able to do lab-based research. Luckily, she was receptive when one of her professors offered her a bit of advice.

"The professor that I was working with suggest- ed a field called physiological ecology," she recalls. "Essentially, I could collect samples from animals living outside, then bring these samples back to the lab to complete my research."

Dr. Lehmer earned her bachelor’s degree in biology and graduated Cum Laude from Fort Lewis College. From there, she earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in physiological ecology from Colorado State University.

She returned to Fort Lewis College, this time as a professor, where she has enjoyed the College’s focus on teaching and on teaching through research. Her research has been focused primarily on the world of wildlife disease and how that world comes into contact with humans.

"The most practical way to prevent human infec- tion with wildlife disease is to first understand the ecology of wildlife, then to understand how alterations in wildlife habitats could change the ways in which wildlife interact with humans, creating opportunities for the emergence of novel infectious diseases," she says.

Currently, Dr. Lehmer’s research is focused on Sin Nombre virus (SNV), a deadly hantavirus that is common in the Durango area. Dr. Lehmer’s work has not gone unnoticed. Her research examining a link between increased prevalence of hantavirus and how it relates to Sudden Aspen Decline has been featured nationally in outlets like ScienceNews, US News and the New York Times.

The recognition is gratifying, but for Dr. Lehmer, the real reward is the experience and confidence her students get out of this research work. She counts herself lucky that she’s been able to work with undergradu- ate students who possess the smarts and work ethic that allows them to do graduate student-level research. She is thrilled when her students present their findings and have their own eureka moment.

All of her own work in and out of the classroom has certainly been worth it for her students, FLC, and the scientific community, and the recognitions are appreciated, though not always expected.

"I was really surprised," she says of being named the Fort Lewis College Featured Scholar. "It’s nice to be recognized for something you love to do."

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**Update From Athletics**

**Chris Aaland**  
**Assistant Director of Athletics for Communications**

The Fort Lewis College cycling team continued its national dominance by winning its seventh straight USA Cycling national championship in mountain bike racing last month. The Skyhawks won their 20th overall national championship in the disciplines of mountain biking, road racing and cyclo-cross.

The Fort Lewis College men’s cross-country team tasted also national success. With its sixth-place finish at the NCAA Division II National Championship on Nov. 3, the Skyhawk men’s cross-country runners were the highest of any men’s cross-country runner to compete at the league championships. He received the inaugural RMAC Summit Award, presented to student-athletes with the highest GPAs.

The Cyclo-Cross team sets its sights on the 2013 USA Cycling Cyclo-Cross National Championships, which will be held Jan. 9-13, and men’s and women’s basketball were each picked fifth in their respective pre-season RMAC coaches’ polls.

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

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**FLC National Mountain Biking Champions, 2012**

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**Megan Striede**  
**Athletic Student Scholar**

Hometown: Mesa, AZ  
Major: Exercise Science  
Year: Junior  
Sport: Soccer  
GPA: 3.88

I get into soccer when I was three years old and started playing competitively at the age of seven. Throughout my life has always been the one thing I knew I could shine. Even when I was struggling through big obstacles I had to take my stress and worries out through soccer. It was the best support system I could have ever asked for.

My teammates are one of my biggest reasons for being on this team. I know a lot of people say that their team “is a family” but I’m being honest when I say that this year especially I have never felt more close to a group of girls and could call us a family in every way.

I came to attend FLC because of athletic and academic scholarships, but I also wanted to be close enough to home where my family could come and see me play. I didn’t want to be at a big school. You get to know people on a much more personal level at FLC, and everyone is genuinely interested in what’s going on in your life.

One professor in particular, Mary Ann Erickson, has really been like a mom in my home away from home here in Durango. She has always given me an open door to talk about what ever I need.

The most difficult thing about playing sports while going to school is how many classes I miss. Fridays especially are usually tests or review, and missing those makes it hard.

To keep my grades up, I stay diligent with assigned reading, getting any missing notes, and doing homework. Any homework that I can do, I do, even if it is optional.

Post graduation, my plan is to go to gradu- ate school. I have always loved the east coast, but right now my biggest target is UC Denver. A lot of the players I talked to about getting into UC Denver, or UC Berkeley and UC San Diego, all said it was the right choice.

I would be happy to work in the medical field especially got my DPT (Doctorate of Physical Ther- apy) through the graduate school I attended.
How to Dress up A Village Marketing FLC to the World

T
he USA Pro Cycling Challenge race, this past August in Durango, presented a fantastic opportunity for Fort Lewis to dress up and put on a show.

During August of 2012, Google Analytics recorded 5,960 visits to the Durango Pro Challenge Website. Countries represented by visits included the United States (9,442), India (20), United Kingdom (15), Canada (14), Mexico (9), Germany (5), Netherlands (5), Saudi Arabia (5), and Italy (4).

Articles that ran in the U.S. print media numbered 201. Online Clips numbered 155, and U.S. broadcast stories numbered 356. If FLC and Durango had to buy that amount of advertising, the total bill would have come to around $1.5 million dollars.

Obviously, the world was watching, and it fell to Elizabeth Bussian, FLC’s Marketing Business Coordinator, Terry Richardson, Environmental Health & Safety Director, and Duran Owen, Assistant Director for Conference Services, to make sure that what the world saw looked sharp.

Basically, I assembled a dream team,” said Steve Schwartz, Vice President for Finance and Administration. “I needed some serious planners, and these three fit the bill.”

Longtime FLC booster Meredith Mapel of Durango Coca-Cola was also a large part of the planning. She contacted Elizabeth early on, and quickly became invaluable to the effort, helping to organize cheering squads, move material and manpower, and even getting downtown and dirty stenciling field chalk logos on the front hill along with FLC art professor Chad Colby.

“It rained the night before the race and melted everything we had painted,” recalled Elizabeth. “My daughter called her teammates on the Durango High School cross-country team, and I called Meredith. Together, we were able to get them all repainted by midnight.”

Besides chalked logos, properly dressing up the campus required planting hundreds of flowers in the roundabouts near the school, assembling volunteer bags, printing shirts and other products, setting up tents not only in Durango, but also in Telluride and Denver at the finish line; creating 150 press kits, printing campus banners, and organizing radio events.

By race day, the FLC “Cycling Village” was all dolled up and ready to strut its stuff. “Our goal was a visually stunning event that was operationally excellent,” said Schwartz. “And that’s exactly what we got.”

I grew up in Ignacio. Most of my friends were the children of people whose ancestors were from rural New Mexico, and from the Southern Ute Reservation. The Spanish Trails Fiesta is a very fond memory. The city, county, and fiesta committee would plan a great parade, a rodeo and a carnival came to town which kids loved. People dressed up in grand regalia. There was something for everyone.

My work ethic was instilled by my parents at a very early age. Working in my fathers’ service station, I learned to give change at very early age. Working in my fathers’ service station, I learned to give change at very early age. Working in my fathers’ service station, I learned to give change at very early age.

Durango as we know it today is different than during my youth, as you might expect. The town was much sleepier then. Before Purgatory Ski resort opened, many businesses closed during the winter.

Walker’s Meat Market sat on the corner of Main and College Drive, and a gas station was directly across the street.

I quit high school and joined the United States Air Force when I was seventeen. After that, I worked at Durango High School as a janitor. I took classes at night and passed my G.E.D.

In the fall of 1970, I enrolled at Fort Lewis. I was like a fish out of water. In the first class I was with students who I had met at Durango High school.

My first class was English. The professor asked us to write a sentence about our thoughts on the upcoming year. I wrote a poem, I love poetry, I had an English professor, Lyle Howard, who assigned poetry to be recited in class. After my recitation he said, “You made my day!” His comment was instrumental in boosting my confidence.

One of the best things that I ever did was marrying a young woman from Cortez. Without my wife Ilean and her support, it would have been impossible to accomplish so many goals. While I was in college, she read my textbooks and discussed them with me. We studied the assignments together. I graduated in four years from FLC. Not too bad for a person with dyslexia.

My college years were the best time in my life, but the real credit goes to my wife, my family, the students of Durango High School, my FLC professors, and the citizens of Durango who showed support and respect for me. I thank them all. Both of my children graduated from FLC, and I currently have a granddaughter enrolled there.

I am honored to have been on the Fort Lewis College Board of Trustees since its inception.
We all know that Fort Lewis College is a special place, offering students personalized attention, unparalleled beauty, and a fun, supportive Durango community. Thankfully more young people are discovering this for themselves, and I’m happy to share that enrollment is up at FLC for the 2012-2013 academic year! Through our Alumni Ambassador Program, FLC alumni made over 600 calls to prospective students during this last recruiting season, offering to answer questions, sharing their perspective on life as a Fort Lewis College student, and generally giving the personal touch that FLC is known for. Thank you to all FLC alumni who participate in this valuable program – you are directly supporting new student recruiting at Fort Lewis College!

We are always looking for more participants to have some fun and help expand this effort. Visit www.fortlewis.edu/alumni for additional details. Scholarships help attract high performing students, assist underserved students with college accessibility, and support retention – focusing on their studies. Scholarship fundraising remains a focal point of the alumni association. Consider supporting scholarship funding at Fort Lewis College, knowing that every dollar you give will benefit college students directly. One way to support scholarship funding is through the recently introduced 16 Cent’s Program. This program allows donors to break an annual donation into smaller monthly payments, and with a minimum gift of $5 per month, or 16 cents a day; the hope is that this program offers a way for most people to participate. However you choose to support FLC and the students we serve, we sincerely appreciate your involvement, and realize that this wouldn’t be the same place without you! Visit the alumni homepage listed above to learn how you can sign-up for the 16 Cent’s Program, and rest assured your generosity will be put to good use!

Lastly, I wanted to share with you that due to some profound changes in my personal life this past year, the time has come for me to leave Durango, and thus Fort Lewis College. I have enjoyed my time here immensely! The opportunity to work with current students, the wonderful faculty and staff, and our alumni community is one I will cherish always. I can assure you that I will remain an active alumnus and supporter of FLC, and will help guide the way for the next director to hit the ground running and further develop the important initiatives underway. I have been blessed to talk with FLC alumni living all over the country, and to a person, they have all recalled their overall experience here with positive feelings. There are many alumni who feel that their time at FLC was transformational, and helped them discover their own personal path to success in life after college. I leave you with the thought that we can all do our part to serve as unofficial ambassadors of Fort Lewis College. Whether it’s by helping support scholarships, attending events, or simply talking to the neighbor kid about FLC, your continued involvement helps immeasurably in ensuring the future strength of this wonderful institution.

Rosa Nelson
Director

Alumni Award Winners

Every year, the FLC Alumni Association honors outstanding alumni during homecoming week. We host an alumni awards ceremony to present the recipients with their awards, introduce them to the FLC community, and listen to stories about their adventures as a college student and the role that FLC played in their personal and professional development. Going through the process of selecting our annual award winners is not an easy task! We have so many accomplished individuals who once walked our beautiful campus in the day, and it becomes a challenging endeavor to narrow down the list of potential award recipients. However, with the help of dedicated staff members of the alumni association board of directors, that is exactly what we have done.

Congratulations to our first ever winner of the Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award, Sheikh Adel Aujan. Sheikh Aujan has been widely praised for his work through Aujan Industries, one of the Middle East’s largest beverage manufacturers and distributors. In addition to being a successful businessman, Sheikh Aujan also invests his time and energy into bringing sustainable economic and social prosperity to Africa’s east coast.

Tom Danielson is the Distinguished Alumni Award winner for the School of Business Administration. Many of you know Tom as one of the top road bike racers in the world! Tom is a big fan of Fort Lewis College, where he transitioned from a top mountain bike racer to the road bike while riding for the FLC Cycling Team. Tom loves the Durango area, and was named honorary mayor of Durango this year! The Distinguished Alumni Award winner for the School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences is David Cole. David graduated with a BS in Geology from Fort Lewis College and an MS in Geology from Colorado State University, and has travelled the globe as an exploration geologist for several years. He is currently the President and CEO of Eurasian Minerals, a successful exploration drilling company with projects around the world.

Katherine D. McLaughlin is the Distinguished Alumni Award winner for the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. She is well known locally as Kay, she has been a successful business owner in Durango for 30 years, offering locals and visitors alike a wonderful and unique shopping experience at her business, Dietz Market. One of her pieces, an impressive iron rooster known as ‘the mayor’ was even on hand to congratulate her at the awards ceremony!

Former two-term alumni board president and passionate alumnus Andy Chase is the Community Leadership Award winner for 2012! Andy was very active while a student, holding leadership positions within many student organizations including ASPFLC student government. Since graduating, Andy has had a successful career in the business world, currently serving as a National Account Manager for Mercury Systems, a Durango based company. Andy has organized and facilitated over 25 FLC and alumni events, and has played an essential role in developing our Denver and Front Range alumni communities.

Update from Alumni

Ross Nelson
Director of Alumni Relations

Congratulations to our first ever winner of the Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award, Sheikh Adel Aujan. Sheikh Aujan has been widely praised for his work through Aujan Industries, one of the Middle East’s largest beverage manufacturers and distributors. In addition to being a successful businessman, Sheikh Aujan also invests his time and energy into bringing sustainable economic and social prosperity to Africa’s east coast.

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William Camp is the winner of the Bob Lundquist Award for Staff Service to Alumni. Will has served as the Coordinator of Field Experience in the Teacher Education program here at FLC since 2005. He has supported countless FLC alumni in pursuing a career in public education. Prior to that, Will shared his unique passion for education with students of all ages as a teacher in Austria, Italy, and all over the western United States.
Maria Cristina Grabiel y de la Guardia passed away Monday, October 15, 2012. Maria Cristina was born in Havana, Cuba, and emigrated to the U.S. as a child. She came to Fort Lewis College in 1999 after retiring from the position of Dean of Students at Winthrop University in North Carolina. She served FLC in several capacities from 1999 to 2010, including as Coordinator for Judicial Affairs (1999-2002) and as the Director of the Program for Academic Advancement (2002-2008). She officially retired from FLC in 2008 but continued to work with El Centro de Muchos Colores as co-creator of the campus of difference diversity education program known as Code Red.

In 2010 she was honored to present the Hall Convocation address to new freshmen and transfer students. Maria Cristina also used her prodigious talents teaching English as a Second Language at the Durango Adult Education Center, volunteering as a Spanish/English translator for the Masonic Lodge.

Remembering Clay Bader & Robert DeGuelle

Longtime FLC Booster Clay Vern Bader died Friday, Aug. 24, 2012, at his home. He was 91.

Clay was born July 4, 1921, on the Old Fort Lewis College campus, where his father, Ernest H. Bader, was the college dean. The current Bader dormitories on the present FLC campus are named in his honor.

Clay graduated from Durango High School in 1939. After graduating from Colorado State College, he was drafted into the Navy to fight in WWII. Clay and Jean Kelly were married in 1943, a union that was to last 68 years.

Clay moved to Mancos following his return from the war, and began ranching. During that time, he served as a Montezuma County Commissioner, and was a 33rd degree member of the Masonic Lodge.

Former Fort Lewis College wrestler, football player and assistant football coach Robert Arthur DeGuelle died Saturday, May 5, 2012, in Lakewood, Colorado. He was 59.

Born on March 29, 1953, in Grand Junction, Colo., Robert’s family moved to Durango in 1963, where he spent the rest of his life. He graduated from Durango High School in 1971 and from Fort Lewis College in 1975 with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

“He was a successful businessman and a great family man. At the end of the day, that’s what we want our players to strive to be — successful in their personal and professional life. He was a great example of both,” said FLC head coach Robert “Bobbie” DeGuelle.

Robert was a strong supporter of Fort Lewis Athletics. His charitable donations allowed for numerous improvements and purchases in the program.

Two of FLC’s “Grand old men” passed in 2012. They will be missed.
The FLC Quad buzzes with energy on race day during the USA Pro Cycling Challenge