The End of the Year Means Awards Season at Fort Lewis College

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DATE: April 19, 2010

TO: ALL FACULTY AND STAFF

FROM: Brad Bartel, President

SUBJECT: SUMMER HOURS

Beginning Monday, May 3, 2010, College offices can begin the summer hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Although this adjustment is meant as a benefit for employees, please remain cognizant that we must first and foremost serve the students’ needs. Offices such as Financial Aid, Records, Housing/Residence Life, Admission, and the Cashier’s Office that provide assistance to walk-in students should post their service hours.

This summer schedule will continue through Friday, August 27, 2010. Regular office hours will resume Monday, August 30, 2010, due to the orientation schedule. The first day of classes will be Monday, August 30, 2010.
**The Work-Life Wellness Year End Wrap Up**

The year in review dedicated to our mission:
The mission of the Work-Life Wellness Committee is to inspire, motivate, and validate the well-being and morale of the whole self within the Fort Lewis College community. The committee serves as an advocate and advisory group for work-life policies and programs, including those which support a healthy balance between work and family.

- 11 teams and 52 individuals successfully completed the 19th Annual 4For Being Fit competition. The “Dream Team” again took the traveling trophy with “Write On” only 100 minutes behind. All successful participants received increments of 10-19 “Old Fort Farm Bucks” to be used at the Old Fort Farm stand this summer.

- The 12 Days of Wellness challenge celebrated victory for 34 college employees who chose either a one month membership at the Student Life Center or a mock-T with the first-ever “Work-Life Wellness” title.

- 2009-2010 marked a new commitment for FLC Wellness by taking on the role of carrying on with the very important work of the Family Responsive Task Force. FLC Wellness is now officially: Work-Life Wellness and we will advocate for work-life policies and programs that support a healthy balance between work and family.

- Our Spring into Wellness challenge recognized the success of 37 colleagues who earned “Durango Farmers Market Bucks”.

- A mid-year luncheon coinciding with Snow Down events especially honored the winners of the hunt for the Hairy Coconut.

- Other campus events supported and sponsored by Work-Life Wellness included: Climbing High and Women are Doctors.

- Finally, the annual Wellness Finale attendees enjoyed grilled veggies and James Ranch cheeses with an orange blossom punch to end the wellness year.

More chances next year to join in the fun of contributing to well-being in our workplace…

Your Work-Life Wellness Committee
TO: All Faculty

FROM: Steve Roderick, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: May Commencement, 2010

DATE: April 26, 2010

Commencement Ceremonies for the 47th Baccalaureate class of Fort Lewis College will be held on May 1. **The first ceremony will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the second will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Whalen Gymnasium.**

Faculty robing and a coffee/roll reception will begin at 7:30 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. ceremony and at 10:30 a.m. for the 11:30 ceremony in the Vallecito Room. Programs will be on your chair in the gymnasium.

After the ringing of the bell (forty-seven times) by the Student Body President, the platform party and faculty will enter the Gymnasium and move to the platform and the faculty seating areas respectively. Led by the Student Marshals the students will then be directed to their assigned seating section.

The recessional will be led by the platform party, followed by the faculty, and then the graduates. A reception for graduates, families and friends, and faculty and staff will be held immediately following each ceremony in the Student Life Center.

The **8:30 a.m. ceremony** will include students graduating with majors in Accounting, Adventure Education, Athletic Training, Business Administration (all options), Computer Science, Economics, Exercise Science, Interdisciplinary Studies, Marketing, and Psychology.

The **11:30 a.m. ceremony** will include students graduating with majors in Agricultural Science, Anthropology, Art (all options), Biology (all options), Chemistry, English, Environmental Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies, Geosciences, History (all options), Humanities, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Music, Native American & Indigenous Studies, Philosophy, Physics (all options), Political Science, Sociology (all options), Southwest Studies, Spanish, Student Constructed Majors, and Theatre.

We encourage each of you to attend both ceremonies. We will have a large number of Winter and Summer Term graduates participating, and we know they would appreciate seeing their favorite professors at Commencement.
Dr. Byron Dare to Give Spring 2010 Commencement Address
Dr. Dare retiring after more than 25 years at Fort Lewis College
by Mitch Davis

For a man who was elected “class clown” upon his graduation in 1965 from Granada Hills High School in Los Angeles, it might come as a surprise to his former classmates that Fort Lewis College Professor Emeritus of Political Science Byron Dare has spent his professional life thinking, writing, and teaching about some fairly weighty issues.

His publications include “The Internet as Healer: Reinventing Memory and Brotherhood Among Vietnam Veterans in Cyberspace” (Doshisha American Studies 43, 2007); “Assessment as Ideology: Reagan’s Revenge” (Bulletin of the Federation of Small Anthropology Programs, 1998); “Ideals and Reality: Classical Leisure and Historical Change” (In Leisure and Ethics: Reflections on the Philosophy of Leisure edited by G.S. Fain, 1991); and the work that many Fort Lewis College students have read, and for which Dare served as lead author, Concepts of Leisure in Western Thought (Kendall/Hunt 1997).
But don’t get the mistaken impression that Dare is an unapproachable intellectual. He was nominated for the Alice Admire Outstanding Teaching Award three times and was the recipient in 1986. Students from a wide variety of majors regularly seek him out for advice and conversation. Because of this commitment to and involvement with students this is Dare’s second Commencement address as he was asked to do the honor by both the Classes of 2000 and 2010.

Dare admits he wasn’t the best student in high school, nor all that productive initially as a college student. After two failed attempts at post-secondary studies, he joined the Army in 1967. After serving with the Honor Guard in Washington, DC he volunteered to go to Vietnam where he served as a machine-gunner with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. He was wounded in May 1968, and spent the next year recuperating in army hospitals during which time he decided to reinvent himself as a serious college student.

In 1969 he enrolled in Los Angeles Pierce College to pursue journalism, but soon transferred to the University of Southern California to complete his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in political science. His doctoral dissertation, “Marxist Revisionism: Ideological, Political and Socio-Economic Factors Contributing to the Thought of Bernstein, Lenin and Kautsky,” received the Best Dissertation Award from the Western Political Science Association in 1983 and was a nominee that same year for the American Political Science Association’s Gabriel Almond Award for best dissertation in the field of comparative politics.

During his college years, Dare served as a Watts Labor Community Action Committee instructor from 1971-73. He was a teaching assistant at the University of California-San Diego and at USC from 1973-76; a lecturer at Pierce College from 1975-78; and a lecturer at both USC (1981-82) and Cal State Northridge (1975-84). He was nominated for the California State University and Colleges Trustees’ Outstanding Professor Award for 1983-84 and received the Distinguished Professor Award from California State University at Northridge in 1982. He left the California State system in 1984 when he took a position at Fort Lewis College as Assistant Professor of Political Science.

During his distinguished career at Fort Lewis College, Byron Dare has devoted considerable energy and commitment to his students as well as to his colleagues through extensive faculty governance participation and leadership. He chaired the Honors Council, the Rules Committee, and the Faculty/Staff Awards Committee, and for more than a decade served as chair of the Department of Political Science and Philosophy. He chaired the Faculty Assembly for four years, and was elected President of the Faculty Senate for three terms. He served on the Governance Task Force in 2002, and was the faculty delegate to write the independence legislation for Fort Lewis College when it separated from the Colorado State University system.

Perhaps the most meaningful work for Dare was his involvement in a variety of General Education reform initiatives. He was co-author of a successful National Endowment for the Humanities grant to develop the Human Heritage course sequence that focused on culture change over time as reflected in diverse human experiences and themes. Elements of this interdisciplinary course-building experience were incorporated into the Thematic Studies general education program, which has since been transformed into the Education for Global Citizenship (EGC) liberal core education requirement.

Dare’s commitment to educating students and the public for global citizenship has been articulated locally, nationally, and internationally. In 1997 he was an invited participant in the symposium “Clashes of Vision: Sizing and Shaping Our Forces in the 21st Century” sponsored by the Washington, D.C. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) that included international scholars, active-duty and retired military officers and government officials. In 1998 he served as a consultant to the CSIS joint-military symposium, “Dueling Doctrines and the New American Way of War,” and moderated a session called “Continuity and Change in the Nature of Warfare: Cultural Perspectives.”


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The result of his sabbatical year in 2004-2005, spent partly in Quito, Ecuador, resulted in works that looked at political phenomena in both southern Colorado—“Winning at the White Man’s Game? Prosperity, Cultural Integrity, and the Struggle for Sovereignty for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe” (2004, co-written with K. Fine) and “The Rebellion of Quito, 2005: A Critical and Historical Analysis” (2005). In 2006 he traveled to Kyoto, Japan, to serve as a guest lecturer at the Doshisha University Graduate School of American Studies.

His main educational focus regarding global citizenship remains at Fort Lewis College, where he regularly teaches Movements of Resistance, an EGC course that gives students important interdisciplinary tools for understanding how local level groups respond to conflict and violence generated across the globe. He is currently focused on United States veterans’ transition to college, serving on the FLC Veterans Advisory Council, as advisor to the FLC Veterans Club, and as instructor of the new FLC course focused on veterans’ issues: “Soldiers to Scholars.”

Byron Dare has served on the Board of Directors of the Kenya-based Maasai Education Discovery (founded by Kenyan FLC graduate Ledama Olekina) and the Vietnam Era Veterans Association of Durango, Colorado. His two children and three grandchildren live in Durango, where Dare also lives with his wife, Anthropology department chair Dr. Kathleen Fine-Dare.
Students who study exercise science at Fort Lewis College are putting themselves in a position to succeed in their careers and their lives. This is due to the high quality of the Exercise Science Department, the high quality of the department’s faculty and staff, and especially to the high quality of Dr. Paul Petersen.

Dr. Petersen leads the Exercise Science Department as department chair, where he also teaches as a professor. Over his time as the head of the department, he has helped shape his students into good professionals and good people. Though sometimes the results of his work are delayed as it takes time for students to establish themselves in the world, the payoffs are there.
One example is a former student that Dr. Petersen wasn’t absolutely sure would even graduate. In fact, this student had to take Dr. Petersen’s class five times before finally making it through and graduating.

“He finally got through,” Dr. Petersen says. “I don’t know who was prouder, his dad or me.”

The student went on to become a successful business person and today owns his own business.

“That is very rewarding,” the professor says, “and that’s why we’re in this business.”

Dr. Petersen grew up in Iowa and earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Northern Iowa. After a few years of teaching in public schools in Iowa, he decided to restart his own academic career and earned a master’s degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He continued to teach in the public school system in Nebraska for a year before moving back to Iowa to teach and coach at Upper Iowa University. Finally, he made the move to Fort Lewis College where he served as the head wrestling coach and assistant football coach, and taught in what was then the Physical Education Department.

After a few years he decided to focus his energy on teaching rather than coaching and earned a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico. He returned to Fort Lewis College and in 1999 became chair of the Exercise Science Department, which had changed its name from the old Physical Education Department ten years earlier. More change — positive change — was on the way for the department with Dr. Petersen at the helm.

“We evolved with an attitude in exercise science that we felt like we really needed to emphasize the ‘science’ in exercise science,” he explains. “Essentially we’re in a field where we can cause changes in the human body and if you don’t know how the body functions it’s pretty hard to initiate those changes.”

That description might bring to mind career paths in personal or athletic training, and students who study exercise science at Fort Lewis College can certainly do those things, but exercise science has evolved and grown over the past decade. Thanks, in large part, to Dr. Petersen’s efforts, students can now choose to earn a degree in exercise science, athletic training or adventure education. Also available is a program that Dr. Petersen was instrumental in starting: sports administration.

As the educational variety has increased, so have the options for students graduating with an exercise science degree. Careers such as teaching or starting and running a company are now within the grasp of exercise science majors.

For students who wish to continue on to graduate school, the options open up further. For example, with the science background offered in a program like the exercise physiology option of the exercise science degree, students can look into careers in the medical field.

The same options for success are also available to students who enter the Adventure Education program at Fort Lewis College, a program that Dr. Petersen helped create.

“[President] Bartel had asked me to take a leadership role in that and we developed that program and hired the right people,” he says. “I think it’s been a success in terms of the numbers of new students it’s brought to Fort Lewis.”

When the Adventure Education program was created, there were some with misperceptions of what the program would do. For example, would it be simply a camping for credit course with little in the way of real educational or career possibilities? The answer is an emphatic “no.”

“I have challenged people that [think adventure education is camping for credit] to go over and watch one of those classes,” Dr. Petersen responds, “and if you aren’t as impressed as I am by the engagement they have and the philosophical foundations of what they do, then I’m not going to change your mind.”

The first graduates of the young Adventure Education program will soon make their way across the stage at Commencement. Along with the exercise science graduates, there are many Fort Lewis College students who owe much of their current and future success to Dr. Paul Petersen.
How I got interested in art? I think that’s because my older sister was the smart one and my younger sister was the cute one and I had to be good at something,” jokes Amy Wendland, associate professor and chair of the Fort Lewis College Art Department.

That sense of humor shows through in her classes, as well as her own art, which she continues to produce and use to tell stories. Speaking of stories, the one that tells of how she arrived at where she is now could probably inspire enough art to fill a gallery.
A lifelong lover of art, she naturally considered studying art in college, which caused a little hesitation in her parents. She recalls a conversation she had with her father. “It’s time for a real discipline now,” he said to her, “a serious thing.”

In the end her parents supported her and Ms. Wendland turned a study of art into “a serious thing.” She attended school in Minnesota for a time before transferring to the Rhode Island School of Design. Upon graduating, she began a career as a commercial artist and designer, but eventually found herself wanting to learn more about her craft, especially three-dimensional art. So she returned to school at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she earned a master’s degree in sculpture and an MFA in graphics.

Along with her degrees, her return to school yielded something she didn’t expect: a love of teaching. During her time as a graduate student, she took a job as a teaching assistant for the tuition reimbursement it offered. It wasn’t long before this experience shifted her focus from the commercial art world to the academic art world.

One of her first teaching experiences was what one might call a baptism of fire.

“I had the worst teaching slot you could possibly get: 4:30 - 7:30 p.m., a three-hour class, all freshmen,” she recalls. “I taught in a room with no windows—an art class in a room that has no windows—during the freshmen mandatory dinner hour time, so they couldn’t even eat dinner because they had to come to my class.”

“I had no idea what I was doing except that I loved art and I knew roughly what they were supposed to learn,” she continues. “It was so exciting.”

After finishing her graduate studies, Ms. Wendland found a home at Fort Lewis College. True to the liberal arts tradition here, students who take Ms. Wendland’s class can expect guidance that spans more than just the discipline of art. For example, whether artists like it or not, business sense is a valuable tool for their careers.

“If Fort Lewis College’s art business major had existed when I went to school, that’s what I would have taken,” she says.

“Students will leave here with a portfolio geared toward their target audience. They will leave with sample contracts, sales agreements, ways of figuring out whether they should charge by the hour for their artwork or if it’s by the job, when it’s appropriate to do one, when it’s appropriate to do another, a breakdown of annual expenses and how to categorize that stuff,” she explains, adding that, “I think we’re not doing the students a service unless we tell them how they can use these art skills out in the real world.”

Armed with those skills, her art students are finding work, and not always as commercial artists. Her students are finding success as museum curators, gallery owners, and consultants, to name a few professions. That kind of openness to different opportunities is something Ms. Wendland understands very well.

“If you had told me I was going to be a teacher, I would have just howled. I would have just laughed,” she says. “So you never know where people are going to go.”
For Dr. Erin Lehmer, an assistant professor in the Fort Lewis College Biology Department, being open to new opportunities was what helped guide her to where she is now. Although she knew she wanted to pursue a career in biology, she had a hard time narrowing down her interests. She wanted to work with animals, wanted to work outside, but also wanted to be able to do lab-based research. Because she was preparing to enter graduate school, she knew that she would have to focus on just one of these areas of study, which would ultimately shape the path of her career. Luckily, she was receptive when one of her professors offered her a bit of advice.

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“The professor that I was working with suggested a field called physiological ecology where you study the physiological process of wild animals,” she recalls. “Essentially, this area of study would allow me to fulfill all of my interests; I could collect samples from animals living outside in their natural environments and bring these samples back to the lab to complete my research.”

She started her undergraduate education at the University of Utah, but found an opportunity to come to Fort Lewis College as part of a student exchange program. Again, her plans changed.

“That exchange program was only supposed to be for a semester, but I liked it so much at Fort Lewis that I decided to stay.”

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

During her own education, she had the opportunity to do both teaching and research, two disciplines that she wanted to continue to pursue when she chose to return to Fort Lewis College as a professor.

Fort Lewis College offers Dr. Lehmer wonderful opportunities to offer her students a mix of learning in smaller classes with learning by doing research, something not always available at other schools.

“The obvious difference is that, at a bigger school, the undergraduate classes are huge, maybe a hundred to over four hundred students, so even seniors are going to be in very large classes,” she says. “Likewise, because larger colleges and universities have so many students, it can be difficult for them to offer labs with their science courses, and generally, if labs are offered, they are taught by teaching assistants. At Fort Lewis College, most of our classes are well below thirty students and most of our science classes have labs that are taught by professors.”

Getting the opportunity to learn and do research is one thing, but the quality of those experiences makes a huge difference as well.

“Students at Fort Lewis College get more individual attention and because of this individual attention, they are able to achieve a higher level of learning and a more comprehensive understanding of the material,” Dr. Lehmer explains.

“Built into our curriculum, every biology student is required to complete a year-long senior thesis project, which is an independent, self-directed research project. It’s almost like doing a master’s degree in a year.”

“As part of this research, each student is required to design their own study, collect their own data, and present their findings. In contrast, undergraduates who seek out research opportunities at larger institutions usually have limited opportunities for hands-on data collection because graduate students usually fulfill this role. Fort Lewis College students are given opportunities as undergraduates that they would never be given at larger universities.”

For example, a group of her students recently developed and completed their own research project, which they went on to present at both regional and national scientific meetings, winning numerous grants and awards.

“That,” Dr. Lehmer says, “is really rewarding.”
Mr. Tom Whalen
Outstanding Staff Award
by Mitch Davis

“He’s here for the students. That’s what really struck me. That’s what he’s psyched to do.” So says Brett Davis, coordinator of Fort Lewis College’s Outdoor Pursuits program, about Assistant Coordinator Tom Whalen. “His passion and his strength is really educating students.”

Mr. Whalen has spent decades working in the outdoors and, for the last ten years, he’s directed his wealth of experience toward teaching Fort Lewis College students about the environment around them.

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“His experience level is unparalleled in terms of what we do in the outdoor industry,” says Mr. Davis. “It shows every day in the way he interacts with students and the way he works with colleagues.”

“The trials and tribulations that he’s been through personally, he brings that to the table and helps mentor students through their experiences,” says Jeff Dupont, the College’s director of Recreational Services.

The Fort Lewis College Outdoor Pursuits program has risen to become one of the premier recreational and educational programs in the region. That rise is due, in large part, to the efforts of Mr. Whalen.

For five months, while the program was in between coordinators, Mr. Whalen took on the responsibility of running Outdoor Pursuits himself. The program could have easily suffered, but it didn’t miss a beat. Nor was there a letdown during the potentially awkward period when he “trained” his new boss after Mr. Davis was hired.

Mr. Whalen involves himself in every aspect of Outdoor Pursuits, including the often tedious, behind-the-scenes organizational and logistical work. This attitude leads to much more work and responsibility for him, but making sure the students have a positive experience is, and always has been, his top priority.

One example of Mr. Whalen’s willingness to take on what needs to be done is his work to insure that Fort Lewis College can continue to utilize public lands as classrooms. Due to rising concerns over permits and the use of public lands, restrictions may someday be placed on organizations like the College as it tries to make use of the natural resources of this area. Such restrictions would cripple programs like Outdoor Pursuits as much of what they aspire to teach is done through experiential learning in the outdoors. Mr. Whalen has taken up the charge to make sure this doesn’t happen.

In a letter to the College, Mr. Davis stated that, “as the driving force for our peer Colorado institutions, Tom has spent countless hours on the phone with state officials and worked unwaveringly to bring together all involved agencies to help orchestrate a solution to this ever important issue.”

Another improvement that Mr. Whalen has helped bring to Outdoor Pursuits is the acquisition of a lease for a hut owned by the Colorado Trail Foundation. The hut is located in the backcountry near Lake City and is a perfect fit for a base camp for program trips and other projects.

Upon learning of the hut’s availability, he contacted the Colorado Trail Foundation and made them aware of the College’s interest in taking over the property’s lease. His efforts, combined with the efforts of others, have been instrumental throughout the College’s negotiations. If acquired, Outdoor Pursuits will take over management of the property during the summer of 2010.

“Tom’s done an amazing job here and he’s grown and helped this program, taking it to different levels,” says Mr. Davis. “It’s been really good for our students and really good for the College.”
The Registered Student Organizations Awards were held on April 20 to celebrate excellence in student organizations and clubs. The event is run by the Terry R. Bacon Leadership Center, and the participants were fortunate enough to hear some remarks from Dr. Bacon before the awards were given out.

Below is the introduction that each award winner received during the ceremony.

**Outstanding Member: Irene Yazzie**

Irene is a first year member of FLC-AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society). Irene is always the first to volunteer and is a very active member of the organization. Irene wrote a grant letter that allowed all organization members’ voices to be heard, and as a result of Irene’s Leadership AISES was awarded 7,000 dollars in grant funding. Irene played a big role in the AISES region III conference. Irene helped plan the event, designed the programs, planned the academic bowl, introduced the guest speaker, and helped throughout the two day event. Irene is a graduating senior majoring in cellular and molecular biology. Congratulations Irene Yazzie on your nomination for Outstanding Member.

**Outstanding Officer: Will John**

Will has been a part of AIBL for three years and has given a great deal of time to the club. In the three years he’s been with the club he has been a member, secretary and the club’s president. He has led AIBL to second place in the business plan competition, as well as second place in the Chapter of the Year competition. With Will’s leadership AIBL has also worked with the elders of Make-a-Difference Day for the last two years!

**Outstanding Officer: Wes Graham**

Wes has demonstrated ongoing commitment and energy as president of Uniting Students thru Wellness. He has been flexible to the needs and demands of the organization; he has helped motivate fellow members to participate; he is receptive to feedback, and has a unique ability to see things from other people’s perspectives. Wes also shows that he cares a lot about the organization and makes efforts to ensure it continues even after he graduates.

**Outstanding Advisor: Gordon Herrick**

Gordon Herrick is a freshman math professor here at Fort Lewis College. Gordon Herrick has advised Master Plan Ministries for numerous years. Gordon Herrick shows a great commitment to the organizations and his students. Gordon Herrick is always approachable and friendly.

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**Outstanding Program: Master Plan Ministries’ Trash Club**

Trash Club is a weekly event hosted by Master Plan Ministries. Trash Club has been gathering trash from the residence halls for the past 10 years. Volunteers go through the residence halls knocking on doors and take out students’ trash, as well as taking recycling to the recycling bins. It gives members of Master Plan Ministries a chance to meet students who are not involved with in MPM and give those students an opportunity to hear what they are about. Trash club is doing membership recruitment every week as well as keeping the residence halls free of trash by providing a valuable service to the residents.

**New RSO of the Year: East Africa Service Project**

East Africa Service Project is a student-led initiative that is dedicated to the sustainable development of communities and the empowerment of individuals. They have created their own website promoting their values and ideals. They have organized numerous large collaborative events/programs such as Ted-X, Dance Co-Motion special productions, concerts, etc in order to fundraise money to donate towards their numerous causes, such as medical supplies for clinics, laptop computers for clinics and much more.

**Outstanding Service to the Community: Club del Centro**

The goal of this organization is to give back to the community-globally and locally. This organization successfully accomplished that goal throughout this year. Globally this organization has raised $250 to donate to the Samaritan’s Purse, a non-profit organization. The money went towards creating a fresh water well in a country of need. Locally this organization has raised $400 to go towards creating a local food bank to help Hispanic families. This Fort Lewis College organization has also taken efforts to raise money and donations for La Casa Hogar Los Gorriones, an orphanage in Peru. This year is the very first year that the club will be sponsoring the Cinco de Mayo celebration. Congratulations on receiving the Outstanding Service to the Community award Club del Centro.

**Collaborative Program of the Year: Pump it Up**

Over 400 students participated in the Pump It Up event that became a huge collaboration between Cooper Hall, West Hall, the apartments, Rec Services, Uniting Students thru Wellness, ROCA, the Leadership Center and the Athletic Department. This event was a late-night Friday program that supported alternative activities free from alcohol and other drugs. It brought out the ‘kid’ in everyone and smiles were to be had in every direction one looked. Pump It Up had four large ‘bouncy’ games that students could have some good laughs on, including a bungee/football race, a Velcro wall, an ultimate fighting champion ring and a race course. I think this program was very effective in helping students find a ‘place’ on campus to have fun, make new friends, bond to the educational experience and participate in something that reduces stress and elicits laughter.

**Outstanding RSO of the Year: Wanbli Ota**

Wanbli Ota’s mission is to incorporate a higher level of understanding of the Natives here on campus, as well as provide a sense of community for incoming freshmen and transfers. Wanbli Ota is known on campus for its big event Hozhoni Days, however Wanbli Ota does so much more including Southern Ute Halloween Festival, Native American Basketball Tournament, Indian taco and soup fundraisers, Village Gatherings, sponsors floats for area Native parades, Native American Centers Welcome Back BBQ, as well as many other activities. The Wanbli Ota activities cross state and tribal borders; they reach out to families, children, faculty, and fellow students. Wanbli Ota is proud to represent the 120+ Native nations from across the United States.

**Freshman/Sophomore Leadership Award: Aubree Sorteberg**

Aubree has been recognized for her positive attitude and perseverance. She fought through working three jobs, an overloaded schedule, and being sick large portions of the fall semester. Last year Aubree successfully orchestrated the Backyard Garden Giveaway contest. Her creativity has added greatly to the Environmental Center during her two years of dedicated work. This year she became the coordinator for the Education and Outreach time in the Environmental Center. Congratulations on your nomination for the Freshman/Sophomore Leadership Award, Aubree Sorteberg.
**FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE LEADERSHIP AWARD: KODY ROPER**

Kody joined Uniting Students thru Wellness during the first two weeks of school and also joined the Senate during the beginning of the second semester. He is a freshman who has consistently demonstrated very effective leadership skills. He is an open minded individual, who is also not afraid to take risks and question others if their words or actions seem out of line. He is a down to earth leader who cares deeply about the College and the well-being of his peers. I have two great examples the show Kody’s exceptional leadership. 1) Kody planned and promoted an educational campaign addressing the risks of secondhand smoke. He developed a new social norms message for this campaign using the catch words “Sometimes it seems like everyone smokes… but they’re not.” He also developed an effective social norms message for the Uniting Students thru Wellness sexual health campaign during Valentine’s Day. 2) Kody was also a strong advocate against HB 1067, which, if passed, would have affected funding the College receives from the state of Colorado for out-of-state Native American students.

**FORT LEWIS COLLEGE LEGACY AWARD: SARAH NORTH**

Sarah, the former president of Dance Co-Motion and current member has made considerable contributions over her years of participation. Sarah held the performance expectations of members high and has added to the betterment of the club and its members’ experiences. Sarah confronted challenges with extreme professionalism and maturity. Sarah has also been positive and helpful with the great variety of club members. Sarah also brought guest artists each semester from the professional dance community making them available to all FLC students and Durango community members. Congratulations on your nomination for the Fort Lewis College Legacy Award, Sarah.

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Legacy Award winner and Dance Co-Motion member, Sarah North


Awards & Recognitions

Campus Writing Awards Competition Winners
I’m pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 Campus Writing Awards Competition. The winning student authors receive a $50 honorarium and recognition at the Honors Convocation ceremonies. Their essays will be published on the Library’s “Digital Commons at Fort Lewis College,” which can be found at: http://digitalcommons.fortlewis.edu/communities.html. Students with honorable mentions will also be recognized at Honors Convocation.

I’d like to thank the judges and all the faculty members who submitted essays to this year’s competition. Please consider submitting exceptional student papers for the 2010 Competition when the call goes out. You can find out more about the contest at this link: http://www.fortlewis.edu/academics/school_arts_sciences/writing_program/contests.html.

Best,
Stephanie Vie, on behalf of the Writing Board
Assistant Professor, Composition and Rhetoric
Writing Program

2009 Campus Writing Awards Winners

• Composition 125/126/150

First place: “Education for a healthy world: inspired by information or relationships?” by Brittany Meyer (nominated by Ayla Moore, COMP 150)

Honorable mention: “Humans and Wildlife, an Intertextual Conversation” by Kristina Bell (nominated by Bridget Irish, COMP 125)

Honorable mention: “Morality, Naturally” by Chase Nesbitt (nominated by Molly Costello, COMP 150)

• Freshman/Sophomore Academic Writing

First place: “Lady Macbeth’s Morality” by Erin Rupert (nominated by Kathryn Moller, THEA 240)

• Freshman/Sophomore Professional/Technical Writing

First place: “The Costs of Immigrant Health Care to the US Health Care System” by David Barger (nominated by Stephanie Vie, COMP 252)

Honorable mention: “Building an Affordable Durango House” by Andrea Rossi, William Hodkin, and Jennifer Ulrich (nominated by Stephanie Vie, COMP 252)

• Junior/Senior Academic Writing

First place: “Byzantine Diplomacy” by Ian Vance (nominated by Michael Martin, HIST 359)

• Junior/Senior Professional and Technical Writing

First place: “The Effects of Sudden Aspen Decline on Avian Biodiversity in Southwestern Colorado” by Sara Bombaci (nominated by Julie Korb, Senior Thesis project)

Honorable mention: “Effects of Cobble Mulch on Yields of Hopi Pink Flour Corn, Zea Mays, in Southwestern Colorado” by Ben Wolcott (nominated by Julie Korb, Senior Thesis project)
GRANT AWARD WINNERS

The Office of Sponsored Research and Federal Relations is delighted to recognize the following FLC faculty and staff members who have received grant or contract funding since January 15, 2010:

• Cynthia Dott, Associate Professor, Biology, “Current & Retrospective Analysis of Tamarisk,” $250,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado Region for eighteen months.

• Gigi Duthie, Director, Continuing Education, “Nonprofit Management Certificate Program Student Scholarships,” $5,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Higher Education Development Grants and Scholarship Fund for one year.

• Gigi Duthie, Director, Continuing Education, “Nonprofit Management Certificate Program Student Scholarships,” $20,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Higher Education Development Grants and Scholarship Fund for one year.

• Rick Gore, Associate Professor / Area Coordinator, Accounting, “Financial Literacy at Durango High School,” $1,500 grant from the Ballantine Family Fund for one year.

• Marianne Hardy, Director, Educational Talent Search, “Talent Search Computer Scholarship,” $1,000 grant from the Ballantine Family Fund for one year.

• Joe Keck, Director, Small Business Development Center, “Southwest Regional Council,” $50,000 award from the El Pomar Foundation for one year.

• Joe Keck, Director, Small Business Development Center, “2010 Public Service Results Initiative,” $4,750 grant from La Plata County for one year.

• Beth LaShell, Instructor, Biology and Agriculture, “Professional Training for Developing a Hands-On Organic Weed Management Learning Center for Commercial Market Gardens in Local Communities,” $47,985 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program for one year.

• Alan Lephart, Landscape Designer, Exercise Science, “Hansen Body Modeling,” $598 grant from the Judy Peck Foundation for one year.

• Marcus Renner, Director, Environmental Center, “Environmental Center Capacity Building,” $5,000 grant from the Coutts and Clark Western Foundation for one year.

• Carol Smith, Dean, Enrollment Management, “Program for Academic Advancement Emergency Fund,” $500 grant from the Southern Ute Gaming Grant for one year.

• Susan Wanatka, Director, Campbell Child and Family Center, “Campbell Center Shade Structure,” $5,000 grant from the Boettcher Foundation Early Childhood Capital Fund for one year.

Please contact these faculty and staff members directly for more information about a particular grant award.

Know of an award or recognition? Send it to davis.m@fortlewis.edu for inclusion in The Messenger.
Skyhawk golfers score big in conference awards
by FLC Athletics

The Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) has recently released the award winners for the 2009-10 golf season. Fort Lewis was able to place three players on the All-RMAC teams as well as snag the Coach of the Year honor.

Bud Andersen receives his first Coach of the Year honor after leading his team to one of the most successful seasons in FLC Golf history. The Skyhawks went on to win the Air Force Invite and recently took 3rd in the RMAC Spring Championships. They will be heading to the Super Regionals on May 3-5 in Palm Springs, CA. for the second consecutive year.

The All-RMAC teams are selected by players’ combined score in the RMAC Fall and Spring Championships.

Junior Gavin Lyons led the Skyhawks in the RMAC Awards, earning a spot on the All-RMAC 1st Team with a score of 296, only five strokes behind the 3rd place finisher. Other juniors that earned RMAC honors were Devin Schreiner and David Schroeder. Schreiner, a Durango native finished the RMAC tournneys with a final score of 299 and Schroeder, who was also named to the RMAC Spring All-Tournament team concluded with a 300 which earned them a spot on the All-RMAC 2nd Team. Rounding off the awards was junior Michael Adams who was placed on the All-RMAC 3rd Team with a score of 303.

Lone Senior, Doug Manske was just short of being placed on the All-RMAC 3rd team regardless of his impressive play throughout the season.