

FOUNDATION REPORT-SUMMER 2013



The Foundation

MASTER'S DEGREE  
OF ARTS IN EDUCATION



# The Foundation

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Annual Report design & photo illustrations by Shan Wells, except where noted.

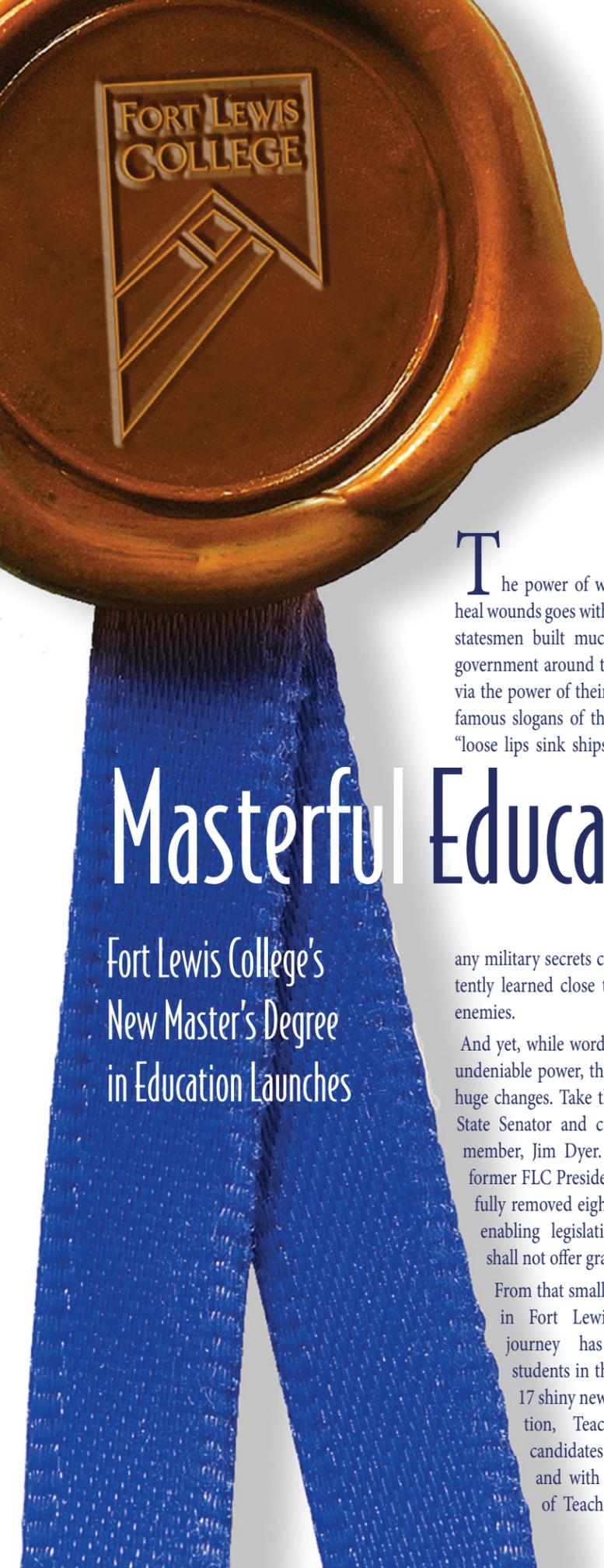
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## Our Mission

Enriching educational and cultural opportunities at Fort Lewis College by encouraging and stewarding gifts for scholarships, programs and facilities-wise investments in the leaders of tomorrow.



FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

# Masterful Education

Fort Lewis College's  
New Master's Degree  
in Education Launches

The power of words to cause harm or to 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 enemies.

And yet, while words, written or spoken, have undeniable power, their absence can also cause huge changes. Take the 1998 action of former State Senator and current Foundation Board member, Jim Dyer. Acting at the request of former FLC President Joel Jones, Jim successfully removed eight words from the college's enabling legislation: "Fort Lewis College shall not offer graduate degrees."

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 17 shiny new Masters of Arts in Education, 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 graduate 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 Richard. "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 Elementary 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 simultaneously working at being educators were forced to either cram their coursework in during the summer breaks or earn an online degree, choices less than optimal for most people.

Melissa Stordeur, Graduate Program 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 50% 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 teach them to refine and perfect their curriculums 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 neighborhoods and schools are a fully integrated part

of the curriculum, not only so students can see what practices work well in these diverse populations of learners, but because some of the 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 powerful recruitment 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 graduate 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 Teacher 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 institutionalization of the program by contributing 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 volunteered. This added up to around \$15,000.00 directed towards the MAE degree program.

"That was a fantastic start, and we're so grateful," said Richard, "but the reality is that so many of our applicants are and will be coming from situations where \$10,000 in tuition fees are coming out of a salary that may only be in the high thirties. 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 we can 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 brickwork 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, depending on their needs.

After the initial offering, FLC received 21 applications for entrance into the program, of which 17 were admitted. True to the research-based expectation, all of the accepted candidates were teachers working in the Four Corners region, including educators from Durango, Mancos, Cortez, Ignacio, and Farmington. The program has enrolled teachers from preschools, elementary, 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 Education can be made via a secure online server at [apps.fortlewis.edu/makeagift](http://apps.fortlewis.edu/makeagift). For more information about donation options, please contact Fort Lewis College Foundation Executive Director Margie Deane Gray at [gray\\_m@fortlewis.edu](mailto:gray_m@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



Dr. Richard Fulton I live in Mancos. My daughter, Rica, is going to be a senior next year at Fort Lewis College as an Environmental Studies major, and my son will be a sophomore and Business major at Western State 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 Asst. Dir. of Teacher Education. My family was interested in moving out West and my husband was offered a position with a local company (Southern Ute Growth Fund). My former position at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, was the Assistant Director for the University Honors Program. Assisting individuals with their happiness, awareness, knowledge, and success is my passion. I strongly believe that education is a key component in the realization 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.

After growing up in the Washington D.C. area, I worked at Colvig 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 Colorado since then. My wife and

# 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 keen 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

## D&SNGRR Owners Al & Carol Harper's Investment in History Pays Dividends to the Community

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 hitched 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.

Sculptor Dave Claussen's replica of a 1913 Curtiss Pusher biplane, complete with manikin pilot, is the newest addition at the D&SNGRR Museum, located at the depot station in Durango.

The piece is an exact working replica, save for the engine, which had to be simulated due to weight concerns for the hanging exhibit.



D&SNGRR owners Carol and Al Harper at Elk Park during Railfest, 2010.



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

## Update from the President's Office

### Dr. Dene Thomas



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.

*Dene Thomas*

Dr. Dene Thomas  
President, Fort Lewis College

## Update from the Board Chair

### Dr. Terry Bacon



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*

Terry Bacon  
Board Chair, FLC Foundation

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.





their time. 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

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.

# Change from Inside

The short explanation for Krista Karpel's decision to apply for Fort Lewis College's spanking new MAE degree is that it was good timing. The longer explanation involves many acronyms, such as IB, EL, DHS and SLC.

Of those, two are especially pertinent: DHS stands for Durango High School, the place where Krista has taught since 1993, and SLC, short for Small Learning Communities. The high school is broken into four of these SLCs, including ATLAS, which is geared towards a rigorous academic experience focused on global awareness, BASECAMP, utilizing active, hands-on learning, and Big Picture, using off-campus internships as an engine for learning.

The final Small Learning Community is DAVINCI, aptly named after the 15th Century polymath famous for his prescient designs of helicopters and calculators centuries ahead of

## High School Art Teacher and MAE Candidate Krista Karpel's Return to FLC is Highly Serendipitous.

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.



Left- A DHS student works on a landscape watercolor during Krista Karpel's Advanced Drawing class.

Right- A selection of self-portraits in black and white from Krista's classes. Self-portraits are a time-honored method of instruction for art students.

FORT  
LEWIS  
COLLEGE

# Class of 2013



Photos: Scott Gryggs, digital alterations: Shan Wells

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.
  - FLC 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.



**Hometown:**  
Granada  
Hills, CA

**Major:**  
Accounting

**Year:** 2013

**Position:**  
Audit  
Associate  
BKD  
Accounting,  
CO Springs



#### Why FLC?

I transferred to FLC from Cal State Northridge, where I'd done two years already. It's a huge school, and I just couldn't get the classes I needed to graduate. I'd been to Durango on vacation, and after Googling various other schools, and comparing them to FLC, I knew that this was where I wanted to be. I mean, going to Durango Mountain Resort after a long week of classes is great for stress relief! Plus, having grown up in a big city, I was wanting a small town and small schools. The teachers were just great—they knew my name after the second day and they made sure that I could get the classes I'd need to graduate in two years. And they were right on the money! Plus I got a great scholarship from the FLC Foundation. That made a big difference to me.

#### Did it take long to find a job after graduating?

I received a job offer during my senior year, and accepted it— that's where I'm going directly after I graduate. The school set up the interviews thru Beta Alpha Psi, which is an international honors business fraternity for accounting, finance and information systems students and professionals. Belonging to it really helped me to make friends at school, and it got me a job before I left!

#### What was the best part of school for you?

I did an independent study during my senior year where I learned about major fraud cases in the US. I wanted to learn about how embezzlers did it so that I could recognize criminal activity better when I saw it.

## Featured Scholar Dr. Doug Lyon

*Dean of the School of Business  
Administration, (SOBA)*



Dr. Lyon in his element- surrounded by data

**D**oug Lyon likes to tell prospective students and their parents, "I've come 75 yards 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 informa-

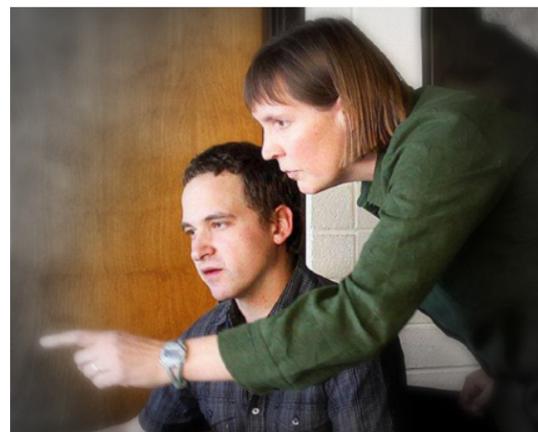
tion collection technology to find patterns that can be monetized in one form or another.

"We have wonderful professional development opportunities for our students. In fact, last year we had 100% placement of our accounting 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: Haleigh 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.

## Featured Scholar Dr. Kim Hannula

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



Dr. Hannula instructing a student

**G**enerally 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 in Newport, Maine was much more interesting than the almost puritanically flat Midwest landscapes around her. "Maine people call everyone not from Maine 'flatlanders.' Compared to Colorado, all they have are little hills, but compared to Minnesota, the hills of

Maine are 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 send 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 we have no space to put it in!"

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.



**Hometown:**  
Prior Lake,  
Minnesota

**Major:**  
Geology

**Year:** 2012

**Position:**  
Consulting  
Exploration  
Geologist,  
Ridge  
Resources  
LLC,  
Durango

#### Why FLC?

What better place to study geology?! Volcanics, metamorphic, igneous, and sedimentary - every basic rock-type is a short drive away and with the top-notch geology faculty, it was a no-brainer. Also, with the small class sizes, I knew I wouldn't get lost in the mix.

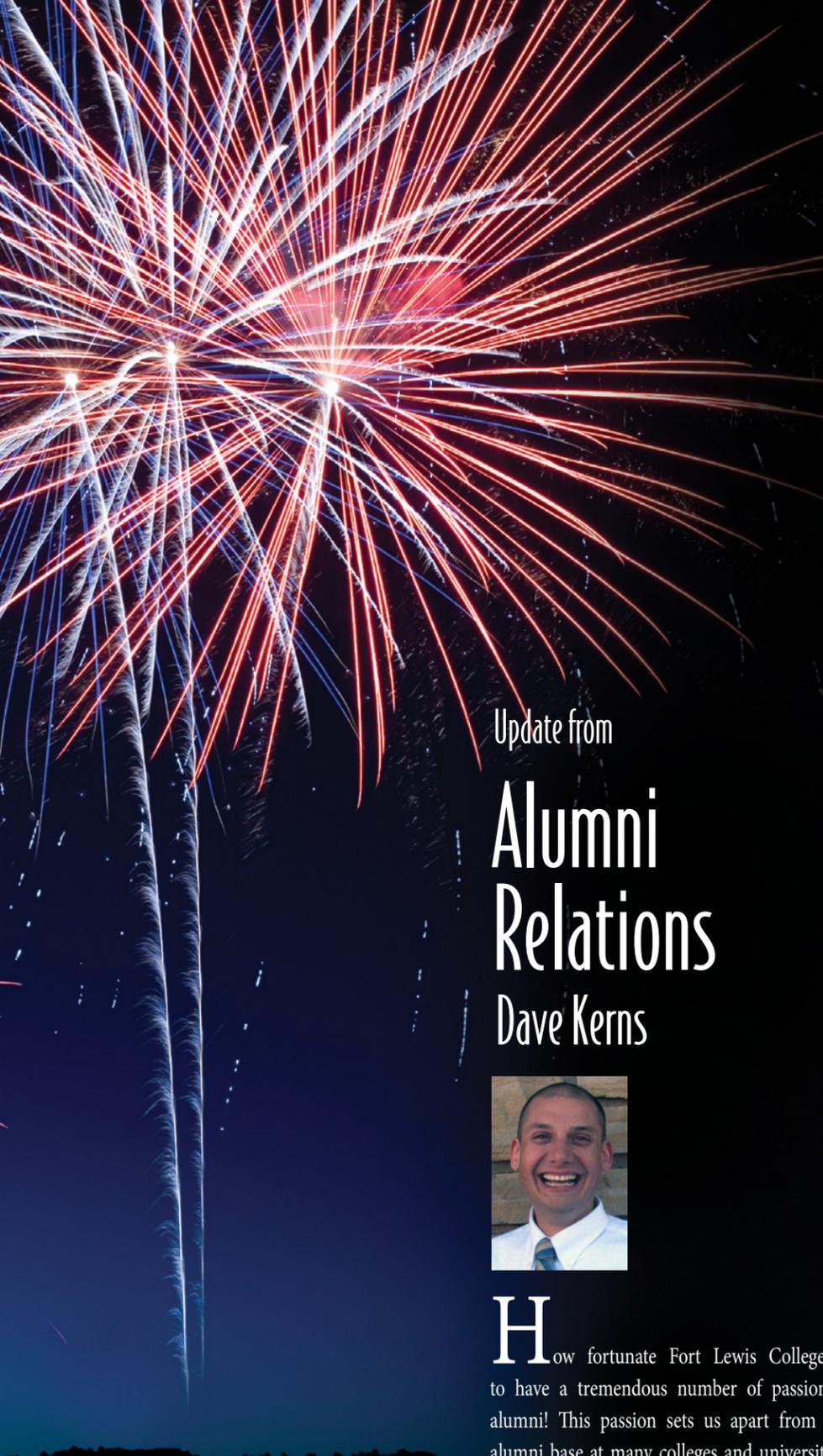
#### Did it take long to find a job after graduating?

I actually started as a Geotech with my current employer, Ridge Resources, LLC, a year before I graduated. The geology department was always very involved and good about pushing students to find industry internships. It was my first internship with Barrick Gold and faculty recommendations, that steered me into the career path that I'm on now.

#### 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 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 it all; ski, climb, bike, hike, raft, and camp (all while nerding out on rocks of course)!



Fireworks viewed from the Fort Rim are a treat not to be missed for the 2013 Alumni Fourth of July celebration.

## Update from Alumni Relations 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 Jenifer Perteet 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

## Update from the Foundation Office Margie Deane Gray



Both 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



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,

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. 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

Pass it on!

Warmly,

Margie Deane Gray  
Executive Director, FLC Foundation

## FLC Voices

# 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. The players are there to get as much money as possible before they are unable to play anymore, and that's a short time for most of them. I don't blame them for that, but I prefer

to coach at the high school and collegiate level, where kids are playing because they love to play."

John's long experience over the years, moving from school to school, is typical of most professional coaches. "It's kind of a gypsy life. You go where there is the best opportunity, or where people are that you know and like to work with."

Both factors were at work in John's move to Fort Lewis. "I'd worked years before with President Thomas and Athletic Director Gary Hunter at the University of Idaho. I knew they were great folks, dedicated to their school and to the programs they loved, so it made it easy to move here. Plus, the mountains are incredible!"

John's plans to get the team to a National Division 2 Championship are based on a three-step blueprint:

1. Recruit great players from the surrounding regions, including all of Colorado, and parts of Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. Texas is also within the area targeted, specifically Amarillo and Dallas. "I'm concerned that players' parents are able to get to Durango easily, since we are remote. Larger metropolitan areas like Phoenix and Albuquerque definitely facilitate that." Native American tribes all across the U.S. are also recruited, and the current team boasts several First Nation members.

2. Maintain quality and consistency in the coaching staff. It's very important that players have a stable base for training and development as they strive to improve their playing.

3. Continue to refine and upgrade facilities. 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 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](http://www.goskyhawks.com), like them on Facebook at [facebook.com/flcathletics](https://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.

The Soaring Hawk Society automatically includes all persons who have indicated that Fort Lewis College is a beneficiary of their charitable gift planning. Examples of gifts of this type to the Foundation are charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts, and naming the Fort Lewis College Foundation as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. The most popular (and simple) way to make a Soaring Hawk gift continues to be naming the Fort Lewis College Foundation as a beneficiary in a will. A specific dollar amount does not need to be named in a will; a percentage with which the donor is comfortable is a great place to start and will grow with an estate over time.

Soaring Hawk gifts are increasingly important to the overall success of Fort Lewis College

in the years ahead. It is no secret that certain revenue streams of the past are decreasing and in some cases, completely gone. Soaring Hawk gifts and the stability of funding they will provide over time are critical to helping even out the peaks and valleys in the natural cycles of other types of funding. Planned gifts are also a great avenue through which to build endowments for the long-term financial strength of Fort Lewis College.

Consulting with highly-qualified financial planning and legal professionals is of the utmost importance in the planning process, and I encourage you to seek this type of guidance. If you have completed gift plans which include the College, we invite you to share those with us and how they represent your dreams for the future of Fort Lewis College. We always enjoy hearing about how Fort Lewis College has made a difference in your life and the lives of others.

The Planned Giving website (via the Foundation website) is a resource always available to you. It is continually updated with recent news and legislation that may affect your plans and the gift calculator is a fun way to look at a variety of gift plans and compare their benefits for you. From the website you can also request e-brochures in topic areas of interest to you.

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

A handwritten signature of Jeff Jantz in black ink.

Jeff Jantz  
Director of Gift Planning



FORT LEWIS  
COLLEGE



## The Foundation

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.