

Faculty Activities Report

April 2025

Katie Clarke, PhD, Assistant Professor, Communication and Conrad Rauscher, MA, Associate Professor, English, Division Chair, Humanities

Dr. Katie Clarke and Conrad Rauscher went above and beyond to support our Honors Program students at the Western Regional Honors Conference in Denver, April 3rd -5th. From guiding student research to providing mentorship and encouragement, their dedication made it possible for students to grow academically, gain confidence in public speaking, and connect with peers from across the West. They created meaningful learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Ranell Mueller, MFT, PhD, Assistant Psychology Professor

On April 3rd, Dr. Mueller invited Glacier Village management and members to her Psychology of Aging class. Manager, Jennifer Prunty, and four members visited the class discussing the logistics of the program and how the program has benefited their mental, social, and biological health. Students are now aware of and will volunteer in the program in order to give back to their community as well as to become more integrated into the valley's aging population. Dr. Mueller intends to become a permanent member of the program and will continue to engage with them and educate others about their presence and work in the valley.

Philip C. MacGregor, PhD, Professor, Computer Applications and Accounting

Dr. Phil MacGregor attended a conference entitled “Google Cloud Next 2025”, April 9-11th. It covered Artificial Intelligence, Quantum computing, encryption, security for large and small organizations, and compliance.

IT and Security students attended a presentation by Brian Cassidy, Montana Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Commander, on April 15th here at FVCC that was set up for Janice Alexander's Forensics students. It included a lot of IT-related content and was a great opportunity.

Carlin C. Phillips, MS, Assistant Professor, Substance Abuse

Carlin applied for her addiction counseling license in March. She is planning to start doing the internship hours at an inpatient addiction treatment facility in Columbia Falls this summer. She told herself, when she began teaching full-time, that she would pursue this additional license after receiving tenure.

Janice Heil, MA, Associate Professor/Program Director, Physical Therapist Assistant

The 2024 Graduating Physical Therapist Assistant Class had a 100% pass rate on the National Licensing Exam per the Federation of State Board of Physical Therapy. One student, Natalie Bartsch of Conrad, MT, received a perfect score. All five graduates are working throughout Montana, in Havre, Butte, Whitefish, Polson, and Kalispell. The national pass rate is 79%.

Dr. Jacoba Rock, L.C.S.W., M.S.W., Adjunct Faculty, Social Science

Last week, Jacoba presented at the Resilience Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, on a trauma-informed support group that Jacoba developed and co-facilitated for higher education faculty and staff. The title of the presentation was "Being the change: Centering resilience in a trauma-informed community of practice for higher education faculty and staff." At the same conference, Jacoba sat on a career panel called "Finding your path: Diverse careers in resilience research."

Separately, Jacoba presented at the Social Work Distance Education (virtual), on "Inclusive and creative approaches to group projects." Thanks to FVCC for supporting this new adjunct instructor by sending them to Nashville to connect with other higher education folks!

Victoria Nytes, PhD, Social Sciences, Adjunct Professor

Victoria Nytes attended the Organization of American Historians Conference held in Chicago, IL, April 3-6th. She took part in sessions on Asian American History, America 250, and various discussions on teaching American History in 2025. The opportunity to engage with scholars from across the world and learn from their work is invaluable to the work she does in the classroom. In particular, a session on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and assessments in history classes led to a great discussion on the pros and cons of AI use. This session made Victoria reconsider some of the work that she assigns in class to both take advantage of AI and also grow students' awareness of AI. A personal favorite of hers was a session with the authors of the textbook that she adopted last fall for HSTA 111, The New Civil Rights Reader. Learning the process the authors used in selecting the documents along with different ways to analyze the sources, will again benefit the students in her class in Fall 2025.

These are difficult times for those who work in the history profession, and this conference provided the opportunity to learn from others and reaffirmed Victoria's love of American history and sharing that love with students. She appreciates the support FVCC provides for Faculty and Adjuncts to participate in Conferences such as this. Victoria has submitted a proposal to present on Teaching Indigenous History at next year's OAH Conference.

Nicole S. Sanford, MA, Associate Professor, Music

Events from the Music Program:

- February 28 – The Vocal Jazz Ensembles performed at the Senior Institute luncheon
- Saturday, March 1 – The Music Club went bowling
- Friday, March 7 – Afternoon Student Recital at 2:00 p.m. in Swank Recital Hall
- Tuesday, March 18 – The FVCC Music Program hosted the Middle School Orchestra Festival where 270 string players from Whitefish Middle School, Kalispell Middle School, and Corvallis Middle School had rehearsals throughout the day with guest clinicians Jenanne Solberg (Whitefish) and Ryan Davis (Missoula), campus tours, and a 3:00 p.m. concert in McClaren
- Friday, March 21 – Afternoon Student Recital at 2:00 p.m. in Swank Recital Hall
- April 1 – five faculty members, along with one alumni, performed in the Faculty and Guest Artist Recital. It was a night of classical music, but with humor since it landed on April Fool's Day.
- Amy Chisholm adjudicated at the high school District Festival on April 12th

- Thursday, April 17th – Nicole set up recruitment materials at the Career Fair at the Fairgrounds on behalf of FVCC and the Music Program

Marty Manor Mullins, Ph.D. Adjunct Faculty, History & Political Science

Dr. Marty Mullins represented FVCC at an international humanities conference at the University of Vienna in February 2025. Her paper, titled “Rebranding from Above and Below: Eastern Slovakia’s Hungarian and Greek Catholic Minorities,” will be included in a forthcoming publication compiling all participants' works.



Andrew Walls, PhD, Assistant Professor, Business

Dr. Andrew Walls attended DigiMarCon Northwest 2025 on April 7 - 8, 2025. DigiMarCon Northwest 2025 was a premier conference focused on digital marketing, media, and innovation, bringing together industry experts, marketers, and entrepreneurs. The event covered a wide range of topics, including:

- Digital Marketing Strategies: Content marketing, SEO, social media, email automation, and influencer collaborations.
- Emerging Technologies: AI in marketing, metaverse and Web3 applications, and voice/visual search optimization.
- Data-Driven Marketing: Customer data platforms, ROI measurement, and predictive analytics.
- E-Commerce & Branding: UX/UI design, omnichannel marketing, video marketing, and personal branding.
- Entrepreneurship: Budget-friendly startup marketing and scaling campaigns globally.

The conference also provided recommendations for educators, suggesting hands-on projects, real-world case studies, and emerging tech demonstrations to bridge theory and practice in undergraduate marketing and entrepreneurship courses. Three detailed assignments were proposed, focusing on AI-powered campaigns, low-budget social media strategies, and debates on metaverse marketing.

DigiMarCon Northwest 2025 emphasized cutting-edge insights and practical applications, making it a valuable resource for both professionals and educators aiming to prepare students for modern marketing challenges.