

Michael Garcia (Instructor, Firearms Technology)

In September, Michael Garcia (Instructor, Firearms Technology) attended the Cerakote Certified Applicator training at NIC Industries in Medford OR. This experience provided Michael with the opportunity to learn from the creators, and currently the only manufacturers of Cerakote, which is a protection coating used in firearms technology. This allowed FVCC's Firearms Tech program to revamp current curriculum to follow more in line with what the industry standard would be and improve the education that students receive. This experience also resulted in Michael becoming a certified Cerakote applicator, and the college has now received recognition as being a certified Cerakote applicator. This means FVCC will be recognized nationally and internationally as a location that is authorized and trained to teach and apply Cerakote. Michael will attend their advanced training program in June to receive more Cerakote training as well as Laser Engraving training. The long-term goal is to use laser engraving in Firearms Tech, and in other Trades programs, especially machining and CNC.

Amy Beth Chisholm, BA, BM, MM (Instructor, Music)

The Music Program held a Faculty & Guest Artist Recital on Friday, 9/26. Amy performed at the event, as did her colleagues Anita Hillis, Elizabeth Busch Letourneau, Eunhwa Park, Paul Bruce, and Jordan Neiman (all music instructors) and guest artist Carla Hannaford. The program included works by Dancla, Hubber, Tarrega, Rodriguez, Greig, Barnes, and Bennett.

Jordan Neiman, DMA (Instructor, Music)

Jordan is a member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), the current president of the local Kalispell Area Music Teachers Association (KAMTA) and the president-elect of the Montana State Music Teachers Association (MSMTA). In September, Jordan travelled to Cincinnati to attend the MTNA Leadership Summit as the representative from Montana and forged connections with the national president and the CEO at the conference banquet. Jordan and his new colleagues discussed the state of music teaching today, as well as the future of the national organization, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. Jordan met with leaders from states of similar population sizes, as well as leaders from the Northwest region.

Jordan will be presenting what he learned at the Montana state conference at the end of this month, as well as delivering a presentation about the music of J.S. Bach.

Tim Price (Associate Professor, STEM)

Tim continues to work on the NSF EPSCoR grant known as “SMART FIRES”. SMART FIRES stands for “Sensors, Machine learning and Artificial intelligence in Real Time for Fire Science”. There are currently 4 students involved in undergraduate research, for a total of 13 since the start. This provides them with credit and income. The project has split into two separate directions:

- The original path is attempting to characterize a forest’s health and likelihood of forest fires by analyzing high resolution video and looking for patterns using machine learning algorithms.
- The new path is designing and building a rover to transport a hyperspectral camera being developed by MSU.

