

Faculty Activities

Dr. Ranell Mueller, Psychology

Dr. Mueller has joined a once-a-month online research forum with the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. Benjamin Rose is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to assist older adults in living longer and healthier in their homes. Jessica Bibbo, senior researcher at Benjamin Rose, and long-distance colleague of Dr. Mueller is starting a human-animal interaction online group for researchers and students who study human-animal interactions. Dr. Mueller has graciously accepted the invite to be a part of the group, beginning in early 2026.

Dr. Marty M. Mullins, History and Honors

Dr. Mullins will represent FVCC at the Assoc. for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies* ([ASEEES Convention](#)) in Washington, DC later this month. She is presenting a paper titled, "East or West?: Slovakia's Position in Europe, Past and Present," as well as chairing another panel and attending the annual meeting of the [Slovak Studies Association](#), on which she serves as a Board Member. She is grateful for support from FVCC's adjunct professional development fund.

*As the premier membership organization in the world with over 3,500 members, ASEES supports teaching, research, and publication relating to the study of the region and has cultivated the field's intellectual landscape for seventy years through its chief publication, *Slavic Review*, its Annual Convention, its book prizes, and its organizational newsletter.

Janice Heil, PT, M.A., Physical Therapist Assistant

The PTA program started October events with the Night at the Broussard on October 2nd which showcased the nursing and health science students at FVCC. All of the PTA students participated in this community event. Over 100 community members participated in this event where they watched a simulation of a real patient experience as a patient traveled from the scene of an accident, then went to ER, surgery, ICU, rehab unit, outpatient doctor's office and PT and home. This event highlighted FVCC programs of Nursing, Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedics, Medical Lab Technologists, Physical Therapist Assistants, Surgical Technologists, Radiologic Technologists, Medical Assistants, Medical Coders and Phlebotomy.

Also in October, the program found out that their 2025 PTA graduates all passed their national licensing exam that they took in July and October. One hundred percent of the students who took the exam passed and all of them are working. The national pass rate is 80.4%. The graduated students are working in the following locations: Cabinet Peaks (Libby), Ortho Rehab (Dillon and Bigfork), Logan Health Inpatient PT (Kalispell), and Mountain Physical Therapy (Kalispell). Students need to receive a score of over 600 to pass, the national mean score is 648.1 and the FVCC PTA students' mean score was 685. Congratulations to their hard-working students and thank you to their community partners for hiring their PTA students!

Lastly, at the end of October, the program formally celebrated National Physical Therapy month with an event in Blake Hall where they offered 5-minute massages, grip testing, blood pressures, provided educational materials and gave away some treats and prizes.

Christopher Sherman, Welding and Fabrication

Chris attended an AWS (American Welding Society) CWI (Certified Welding Inspector) training seminar from Oct 5th-11th in Tulsa, OK, and took part C of the CWI Exams. He will be taking Part A, and B exams respectively on Nov. 14th and 21st in Helena, MT.

Dr. Janice Alexander, Chemistry and Forensic Science and Dr. Jessica Ennist, Chemistry

For the National Science Foundation Scholarship in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics(S-STEM) Grant, Dr. Alexander and Dr. Ennist serving as co- Principal Investigator and Principal Investigator nominated students Tim Shevtsov, Thomas Konopka, Conrad Beck, and Mary Gibson for travel awards to the S-STEM Scholars Meeting hosted by the S-STEM Resource (S-STEM Rec) and American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). All four scholars were selected and awarded full travel awards. The 2025 S-STEM Scholars Meeting took place in San Diego, CA, from October 2–4, 2025. “This meeting was for S-STEM scholars to engage in professional development sessions, a career and education fair, poster presentations, and networking opportunities to connect scholars with peers, employers, and graduate programs.”

Amy Chisholm, Music

Amy was able to attend the annual Montana Music Educators Association Conference. The conference included a full array of sessions on a wide spectrum of topics. Here are some of [Amy's top take-aways](#)

Dr. Jacoba Rock, Social Work

Dr. Rock attended the national Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) conference, where she presented with colleagues and students on topics of forensic social work and disability. She was also inducted into the national Women's Council.

David Hembroff, M.S., M.Ed., Lt Col USAF (ret), Physics

David attended and presented at the 2025 MFPE Educator Days professional development on October 16. The presentation was on bringing science teaching best practices into the High School and Middle School Physics/Physical Science classrooms "Million Dollar Science Activities on a Dollar Store budget." He also chaired the Montana Science Teachers' Association annual in-person meeting.

Karla Ryan, M.S., Anatomy and Physiology

Flathead High School teachers Kaylee Fox and Hawkin Ruis brought students from their IB Sports, Exercise, and Health class to campus for our A&P- student-for-a-Day field trip. Students participate in a 45–50-minute lecture of their teacher's choice. This lecture covered muscle-related terms, muscle anatomy, and muscle function. Once the lecture was complete, students transitioned to the A&P department where they were split into groups and assigned current A&P student mentors. The mentors helped the high school students learn practical material on models and cadavers for 1-1.25 hours.

Karla hosted another similar field trip last week. The field trips have become very popular with local and distant high schools. In the past, they have had students from Eureka, Troy, Libby, and Thompson Falls attend. All field trip spaces were filled within 24 hours of posting them.

Nicole Sanford, M.A., Music

The FVCC Music Club took nine music students (thirteen students originally signed up, but due to unforeseen circumstances were not able to attend) to the Montana Music Educator's Conference in Great Falls October 15-17. The students attended courses, watched a host night concert, and took back educational and inspiring ideas for their future music careers.

- On Monday, October 27 the FVCC Music Program hosted a Middle School Choral Festival on campus which included six local middle school choirs, Nathan Connell as the accompanist, and Jenanne Solberg as the guest clinician. There were 96 middle schools in the 3 pm concert on the McClaren Hall stage.
- On Friday, November 7th at 3 pm, Jordan Neiman (Adjunct instructor, Music, Piano) performed chamber music on MTPR.

Laura VanDeKop, M.S., Mathematics

Laura attended the 2026 MFPE Educator Conference in Missoula, 10/16-10/17. She attended the Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics sponsored sessions and presented a session on "Polypad in the Math Classroom." Polypad is a free, virtual math tool. It has geometry, fractions, probability, algebra, and numeracy tools within it (including some music options).

Dr. Katie Clarke, Communications, Teaching and Learning Center Committee

The Teaching and Learning Center book club, co-led by Morgan Ray (Library Director), Dr. Eliza Sorte-Thomas (Education Faculty), and Dr. Katie Clarke (Communication Faculty), partnered with Humanities Montana to host Chris La Tray, author of Montana's 2025 One Book selection *Becoming Little Shell: A Landless Indian's Journey Home*.

On Tuesday, November 4th, Mr. La Tray presented a free community lecture in AT 139 to an audience of 150 attendees, including K-12 educators who earned continuing education credits for their participation. The following day, Mr. La Tray joined FVCC faculty and staff for a special book club session, which filled to capacity.

Both events were inspiring and thought-provoking, providing educational enrichment while strengthening connections on campus and between FVCC and the broader community.

