

THE MESSSENGER

FOR FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

FACULTY/STAFF NEWSLETTER FOR FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

DECEMBER 2010



**CONGRATULATIONS ON ANOTHER YEAR IN THE BOOKS
AT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE**



WENDLAND SENDS THE
GRADS OFF
PG. 8

MOTIVATING A CHANGE
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The Messenger is published for the faculty and staff of Fort Lewis College and is produced by the Public Affairs Office.

To submit an idea please contact Mitch Davis at 970-247-7401 or davis_m@fortlewis.edu. Please submit ideas by the 15th of the month prior to desired publication date.

To view *The Messenger* online, visit www.fortlewis.edu/news/messenger.aspx.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WINTER 2011 NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

New Student Orientation for the winter 2011 term will take place on Friday and Saturday, January 7-8, 2011.

For more details, please go to the [Orientation website](#).

We normally see 100 to 130 new students participating in Winter Orientation, and it can be difficult for some to begin mid-year. So please keep that in mind.

Let's take this opportunity to greet our new community members with warmth and enthusiasm.

2011 IMAGES OF THE SOUTHWEST: JURIED PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College, in partnership with the Durango Arts Center, announces a call for entries for the 2011 Images of the Southwest: Juried Photography Show. This year's theme is Animals Rule!

All submissions must fit the theme, whether pet or predator, fur or feathers, tracks or tails.

Submissions accepted at the Center's exhibit gallery during regular business hours, March 14 - 19, 2011, with the final deadline at 4pm on March 19. Photographers from all levels are welcome to enter. See <http://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/pdfs/JuriedPhoto2011.pdf> for rules and entry form, or call x7456 for more information.

STUDENT EXERCISE TESTING: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers needed for exercise testing and prescription for the Exercise Testing and Prescription course offered in the winter of 2011.

The students will be doing exercise testing in the areas of aerobic fitness, muscular strength and endurance, body composition and flexibility. They will then use the results to develop an exercise program for you taking into consideration your own personal goals. This is a great opportunity for the students to learn and practice the skills that they will use in the future. The results are confidential.

Depending on how you work it out with your students, there is a time commitment of about 2-6 hours over the course of the semester. If you know anyone off campus who would like to take advantage of this opportunity please let me know. Please email me at knightmalo_m@fortlewis.edu if you would like to participate. Anyone who has participated in the past is welcome to participate again. If you have volunteered in the past, but we ran out of students please note that in your email. Also please note any special conditions or considerations that can help me match you with the appropriate student group.

END OF THE YEAR MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT THOMAS

A look back at the past semester

by Dene Thomas



As 2010 draws to a close, I want to share with you my thoughts on this tough yet exhilarating fall semester here at Fort Lewis College. No president wants to start a new position with budget cuts and protests. But every president wants to be at an institution with faculty who are committed to their students and who believe in their mission, as it is clear to me that you do. I am glad that I am here, and I feel that we have weathered challenges and moved forward. Allow me to reflect on some of the successes and challenges.

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Enrollment and Retention Increases

For the first time since 2007, student enrollment at Fort Lewis College went up. The official number for on-campus learners in fall 2010 was 3,762, an increase of 77 students over fall 2009. Beginning this year, we will be counting extension learners as part of FLC's total enrollment number. With the extension learners added to the count, 3,864 students are earning a Fort Lewis College degree.

The College's long-standing commitment to educating Native American students remains strong. We now have 889 Native American students, including extension learners, earning a degree through Fort Lewis College. That's the most in the College's history.

To go along with the increased enrollment, the retention rate at FLC is also on the rise. Fall 2010 saw the freshman retention rate go over 62 percent. This retention rate increase, as well as the enrollment increase, leads me to believe that the decision to raise the admission standards is beginning to yield positive results. Since the new admission standards fully went into effect in 2008, we've seen an increase in academic preparedness among our students. Bringing in more academically prepared students is, I believe, boosting the educational reputation of Fort Lewis College and helping to keep more students here as they work their way towards their degrees.

I wish to thank and applaud everyone who has helped in the recruitment and retention of our students. Special thanks are due to Carol Smith and her Enrollment Management staff and Andy Burns and his Admission team.

Academic Program Review

When I chose to take the job as president of Fort Lewis College earlier this year, I knew that the academic program review and the proposed budget reductions to the academic programs would be a difficult undertaking. Though the non-instructional areas of the College absorbed the majority of the total \$4.5 million reduction to the College's general fund, those areas could not bear all of the cuts.

Over the past few months, faculty, staff and students have had the opportunity to participate in the academic program review. My thanks go out to everyone, especially the faculty members of the Functional Area Review Groups and the Organization

Task Force, who helped provide me with the insights and information needed to make some very difficult decisions. The suggestions of the Organization Task Force allowed for a third of the academic program cuts, \$192,000, so that direct instruction was further spared, ending up with a total of \$408,000. The Organization Task Force report contained a number of possibilities that were not taken at this time, but that will be reviewed for further efficiencies. Their work will continue to influence organizational decisions.

I wish to make clear that there are no bad academic programs at Fort Lewis College. The three academic programs that are to be discontinued as a result of the budget reductions (Agricultural Science, Computer Science Information Systems, and Southwest Studies) are staffed with high quality faculty and populated by high quality students. In the end, however, as a result of the academic program review, it became clear that these programs are in a state of enrollment decline in numbers of majors and graduates, in retention rates, and in future job outlook, to name a few factors.

Though it is difficult to let these three programs go, they are not ending right away. The decision to teach-out Agricultural Science for one year and Computer Science Information Systems and Southwest Studies for two-years gives our students time to either graduate or choose a different path. We have worked directly with the affected faculty and staff to try to make accommodations where possible, and the teach-out allows time for those we cannot accommodate to make career decisions. But the process is a painful one. While the positions of most faculty and staff have not been directly affected, it is sad for me to see the effects of the program changes.

The New Gender and Sexuality Center

Students and faculty brought me their request for a Gender and Sexuality Center at the first Fireside Chat, in September, and they followed up their request with a meeting setting forth the reasons for the request. Their request made sense, and I made a tour of campus, looking for possible locations. I invite everyone to come and check out 710 Berndt, complete with its rainbow curtains and dance floor!

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President Thomas with Governor Bill Ritter during the governor's visit to Fort Lewis College in December.

Cooperation with the City of Durango

Anyone who has entered campus from the roundabout has seen the new sidewalks. They look great, and they are being used! Soon to come, with the GoCo grant the City of Durango has received, are new athletic fields that will be shared by the city and the College. Cooperation is especially important in this time of financial belt tightening.

Campus Energy

Fort Lewis College is a campus with a history of strong opinions and involved students, and I support their rights to express their feelings, in print and in person. I have been frustrated by my lack of ability to provide students with what they consider to be adequate answers because of legal restrictions with personnel matters. I appreciate their strong feelings and wish I could have done better with them.

On the positive side of those strong feelings, I have to say that I am proudest of the 1,400 students and faculty and staff and community members who gathered on Tuesday, November 9, for the FLC Peace Rally. I want to thank those who gathered with me on the morning of November 9 to collectively make the fastest plans possible for the afternoon's rally. We managed to change the focus from the Westboro protestors to our own positive rally. Thanks, too, to everyone who marched with me to the football

stadium, to those who spoke with me in support of all people of good will, to those who held real and symbolic candles, and to those who swayed together to the Beatle's "Let It Be." A special thanks to Sage Grey for respectfully telling me that my suggestion of "We Shall Overcome" was a bit old-fashioned and for suggesting "Let It Be." He was right!

FLC Talent

The music and theatre performances this semester, by students and faculty, have been outstanding. I so much appreciate the quality of culture that exists here – and the quality of culture that our faculty and Concert Hall are able to bring in. The Merling Trio tops my list of performances brought in from outside, but our own students' band and choir performances were stellar.

In addition, 2010 was yet another banner year for Fort Lewis College Athletics.

I am deeply appreciative to FLC Cycling Head Coach Shriver and Team Manager Hagen for the work they have done with the FLC Cycling program. Once again, we are the program to beat in collegiate cycling after securing the top spot in the 2009-10 National Collegiate Team Division I rankings. The Fort Lewis College team earned a fourth place finish at the Collegiate Road National Championships and third at

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the Collegiate Track National Championships before heading to California to successfully defend their Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championship. Just this month, the team walked away with a hard fought second place at the USA Cycling Cyclocross National Championships.

The 2009-10 FLC Women's Basketball team went farther than any women's basketball team in school history, advancing all the way to the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championship Game. Head Coach Kellogg and Assistant Coach Mattio did a remarkable job in building a team that has brought national attention to Durango. Showing no sign of slowing down after losing four starters, the 2010-11 team is ranked #3 in the USA Today/ESPN Division II Coaches Poll. I love to see the Skyhawk spirit and Blue and Gold pride that resonates these days in Whalen Gymnasium.



Finally, the 2010 FLC Women's Soccer team also blazed a new trail of success this year. It took the defending NCAA Division II national champion Grand Valley State University to end the #3 ranked Skyhawks run at their own national title in the NCAA Division II Women's Soccer National Championship quarterfinals. Coach Clarke, the 2010 NSCAA/Mondo Women's Soccer Central Region Coach of the Year, and Assistant Coaches Padgett and Baker are to be commended for building a team that was not only a winner, but also a wonderful ambassador for Fort Lewis College.

A Bright Future

Despite the challenges that we are facing, I am filled with optimism about the future of Fort Lewis College. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education accepted our Financial Accountability Report with accolades. The Joint Budget Committee commended

us for our planning and straightforward presentation. The Board of Trustees supports us and appreciates our positioning as a selective and strong public liberal arts institution.

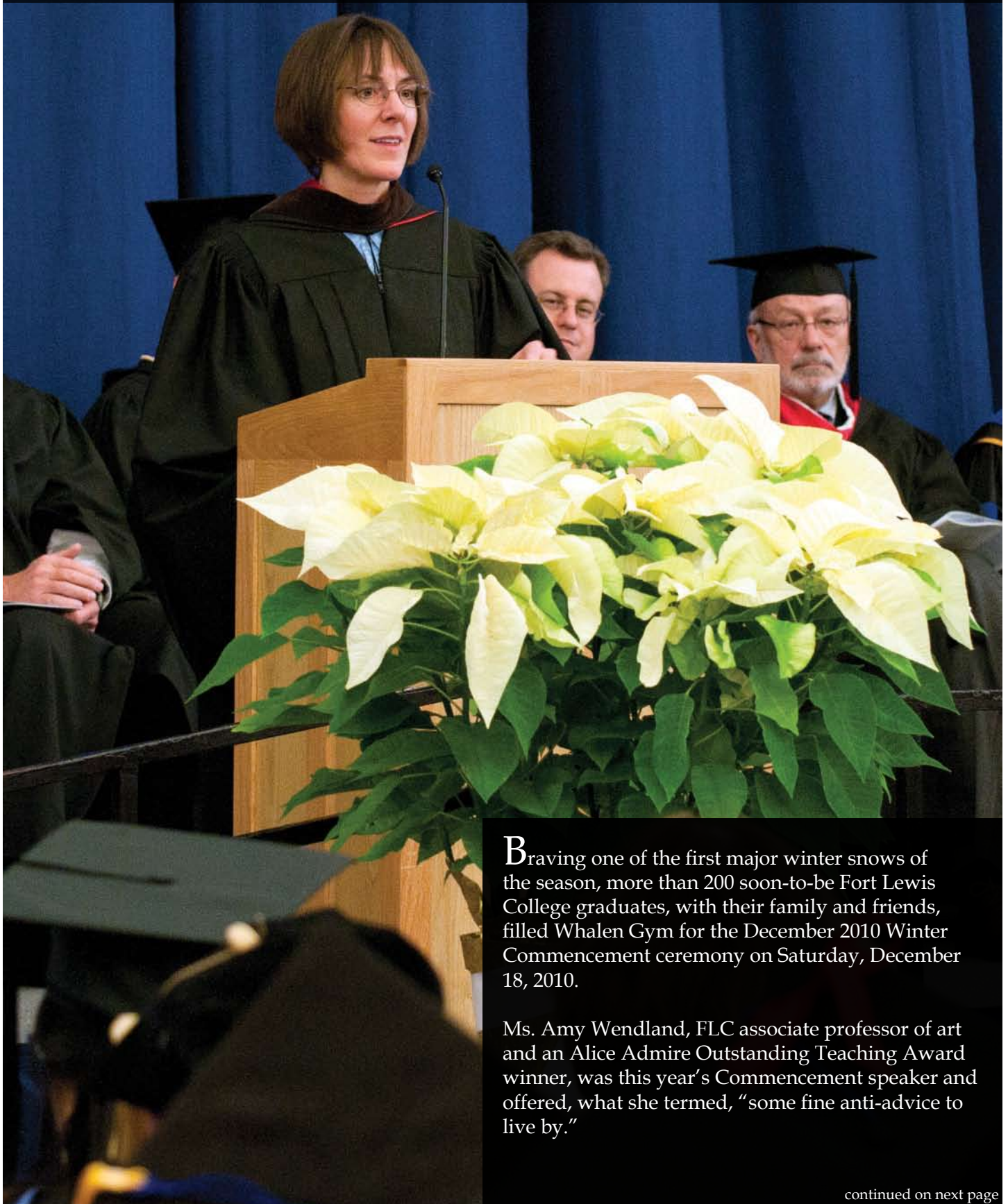
I am so grateful to all of you who dedicate your time and energy to making this College the quality place that it is. I wish us all the best of luck as we move together into a new year.

Dene Thomas
President

THE "ANTI-ADVICE" COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Professor Wendland offers a different perspective during graduation speech

by Mitch Davis



Braving one of the first major winter snows of the season, more than 200 soon-to-be Fort Lewis College graduates, with their family and friends, filled Whalen Gym for the December 2010 Winter Commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 18, 2010.

Ms. Amy Wendland, FLC associate professor of art and an Alice Admire Outstanding Teaching Award winner, was this year's Commencement speaker and offered, what she termed, "some fine anti-advice to live by."

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“So here’s what I’m supposed to tell you: think big - dream big dreams; reach for the stars -- the sky is the limit; and live each day as if it were your last. Rubbish,” she said.

One-by-one, Ms. Wendland went through each of these clichés so often heard at Commencement ceremonies.

“Cliché number one: think big – dream big dreams. I’m here to tell you, think small, get your head out of the clouds and start paying attention,” she explained.

“My freshman art majors come to college wanting to make big and important art. They’re not as excited by the many small steps it takes to acquire the skills you need to create a magnum opus. Of course you need to see the big picture. And hopefully you are ambitious and idealistic enough to dream great dreams. But it’s the little steps, the small disciplines mastered, the kindnesses when you’re really not feeling very kind – those are the things that add up.”

According to Ms. Wendland, this advice can be applied in the pursuit of many goals, even one as noble as desiring peace in the Middle East.

“Once again, start with a tiny task: turn off your cell phone once in a while,” she encouraged the graduates. “Learn how to talk to people face-to-face. Look across the counter at the person who’s checking out your groceries. Ask them how they’re doing. Commiserate on the Broncos terrible season. If you can’t make South City Market or Walmart a better and more humane place, you have no business telling Israel and Palestine how to make nice.”

Cliché number two: reach for the stars, the sky’s the limit. From Ms. Wendland, the graduates got a different mantra: reach for the handrail and know your limits.

“Handrails aren’t something you consciously notice until you lose your balance and start to fall head-over-teakettle down the stairs,” she said.

“But that’s the whole point. We take handrails for granted. We don’t notice that they help us keep our balance. They allow us to pull ourselves up, and help guide our steps down.

“You’ve been given that kind of help and support in school. We didn’t walk up the stairs for you – you

climbed them yourselves. But faculty, parents and staff have been there to help you nearly every step of the way.

“Now you’ll have to seek out your own support systems. Sometimes you’ll need a cheerleader, someone who believes in you, believes in your talents and vision. Other times it won’t be so nice. Remember, handrails work on the way up and the way down. Sometimes you’ll need a reality check, some harsh critical feedback to get you back on track. Either way, harsh or helpful, grab that rail and use it to pull yourself up, to regain the balance you need.”

“Time to address the last cliché: live each day as if it were your last. Hah! To that I say, live each day as if it were your first.

“Not naked, bald and shrieking (although I suppose that could be fun if you’re into that kind of thing), but alive with hunger and wonder and the need to be loved. After all, this is Commencement – a true beginning, not an ending. I guarantee if this were the last day of your life you wouldn’t choose to be swathed in a polyester gown listening to yet another pontificating academic.”

“Today is the 15,936th day of my life,” Ms. Wendland said in conclusion. “If you’re 22 then you’ve been alive for roughly 8,000 days. Let today be a new beginning – live today as if it were your first.”

Congratulations to all of the newest Fort Lewis College graduates.

MUCH MORE THAN A CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Dr. Burke's students use what they learn to help their schoolmates

by Mitch Davis



Hands-on learning opportunities have always been an important part of a Fort Lewis College education. Yet not all hands-on learning has the potential to hit as close to home as Dr. Brian Burke's Motivational Interviewing Practicum.

Dr. Burke, associate professor of psychology and the 2010-11 Fort Lewis College Featured Scholar, designed this unique practicum to give his students the chance to put into practice one of his primary areas of research: an evidence-based counseling technique known as motivational interviewing.

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Through the skills they learn, Dr. Burke's students are doing more than just conducting mock counseling sessions with their classmates; rather, they are reaching out to their fellow students outside of class who are in need of help after committing violations of the College's drug and alcohol policies, struggling with their math class, or thinking about quitting smoking.

Motivational interviewing, which was developed two decades ago by Dr. Bill Miller at UNM in Albuquerque, is a communication style that encourages counselors to explore and elicit the client's own reasons for wanting to change rather than pushing the counselor's agenda.

"It's really just a form of client-centered talking," says senior Scott Wilson. "You let whoever you're talking with direct the conversation. You're never forcing anything on them. Your job as a motivational interviewer is to guide them as they work through their ambivalence about change."

For Dr. Burke's students who have already had sessions with fellow students outside of the classroom, like Scott and junior Cassidy McElroy, the experience has been a special one.

"It's very rewarding knowing that you could have made a difference with somebody. It's all about them," says Cassidy. "You're not telling them what to do, but you're helping them realize what and how they might decide to change to make their own lives better."

For senior Jennifer Irvin, her motivational interviewing skills have been a great help even in her everyday interactions. In her job at the College's IT helpline, she sometimes finds herself dealing with a co-worker who is upset after a difficult customer service call.

"It's really helpful to be able to sit and talk with my co-workers one-on-one to get them to a point where they're able to talk about what happened, not feel threatened and deal with their current problem to be able to reorient and get back to work," she explains.

The work these students are doing is truly a benefit to the College, but, first-and-foremost, it is a different way for them to learn.

"I definitely expected a more traditional classroom environment: here's your book, learn this, go on," Cassidy says of her expectations of learning at Fort Lewis College. "But it's definitely surprised me how hands-on FLC has been. I think you learn more from hands-on work than just a textbook."

"This is a very small class," Dr. Burke says of his practicum course, "It's generally for students who are a little more academically mature and, more importantly, socially mature because I put my psychologist license on the line in a sense when I send my students out there. So the students get closely supervised by me, by Kristen D'Acquisto [FLC Student Wellness coordinator] and also by Mimi Gates, who works in the FLC Counseling Center. They both deserve immense credit for setting this class up and making it run."

The good work of Dr. Burke and his colleagues are helping these practicum students look beyond their academic careers and see the possibilities for the future.

"I was attracted to this class because I knew I was going to get skills for being a social worker in the future, and I have," says junior Alicia Durkin. "I have gained some skills that I know I'm going to be able to use in my career."

"Right now my mom is a social worker back in South Dakota on our reservation and they need a lot of help back there. So I probably will end up working for the reservation doing family social work."

Aware of the high quality education he's receiving, Scott is quick to point out just what makes the degree he's working towards so valuable.

"It's actually the whole Psychology Department," he says. "Their standards are really high and they help us get our standards up that high too. The professors really care a lot about what their students are doing, what they're involved in, how much they learn. It's an amazing department."

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Save the Date

Fort Lewis College Centennial Opening Celebration

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

4 p.m.

Whalen Gym

Please join us in kicking off Fort Lewis College's 100th year as a public educational institution with a special birthday party for the College.

The party is for students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members... EVERYONE!

More information to follow.



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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

NEW NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

The Native American Center is pleased to announce that starting December 1, 2010, Kim Coufal will join our staff as the Native American Center academic counselor.

Kim received her bachelor of arts in Human Services from the University of South Alabama and her master's of arts in Educational Leadership in Higher Education from New Mexico State University. For the past 5 years, Kim worked at San Juan College in Farmington, NM, in the capacities of academic advisor, program coordinator for the Advising and Counseling Center, Adult Basic Education program developer, intervention specialist for at risk students, and most recently as the director of Admissions.

Kim's passion and experience will be a great asset to the Native American Center and we hope all will join us in welcoming her to campus and the community. Kim can be reached by phone at ext. 7395.

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE'S JOHNSON TO APPEAR IN CACTUS BOWL

by Chris Aaland

Fort Lewis College wide receiver Justin Johnson has been selected to participate in the 17th Annual Cactus Bowl at 7 p.m. (CST) on Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, in Kingsville, Texas.

Johnson, a 5-foot-11, 185-lb. senior from St. Augustine High School in San Diego, Calif., led all Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference players in receptions (89, 8.9 per game) and receiving yards (1,242, 124.2 per game) during 2010. As a senior, he was named to the Daktronics All-Super Region #3 second team, the All-RMAC first team and the Preseason All-RMAC team.

He led the entire NCAA Division II in receptions per game (11.8) in 2009, a season that saw him earn second team All-RMAC honors.

"He's an outstanding football player who deserves all the recognition he gets," said first-year Skyhawk head coach Cesar Rivas-Sandoval.

Fort Lewis finished the season with records of 3-7 overall, 3-6 in the RMAC, good for a sixth-place tie. The Skyhawks lose just 10 seniors to graduation.

The last Skyhawk to appear in the Cactus Bowl was linebacker Mark Meng in January 2009. Meng is now the linebackers coach and film coordinator for Fort Lewis.

The Cactus Bowl is an all-star game featuring NCAA Division II senior football players and the proceeds from the game will once again go to the Shiners Hospital for Children. The Cactus Bowl has been played in Kingsville, Texas, since 2001. It previously was called the Snow Bowl and played in Fargo, N.D. Since the game's inception in 1994, there have been over 100 players that have been signed by NFL teams after playing in the Cactus Bowl.



Among this year's 88 selections include seven Harlon Hill Trophy regional finalists and three national finalists, including quarterbacks Blake Bolles (Northwest Missouri State), Zach Amedro (West Liberty) and Eric Czerniewski (Central Missouri).

For more information on the Cactus Bowl, visit the internet at <http://www.cactusbowl.org>.

CLARKE CHOSEN AS NSCAA/MONDO CENTRAL REGIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

by Chris Aaland



Fort Lewis College head women's soccer coach Damian Clarke has been named the 2010 NSCAA/Mondo Women's Soccer Central Region Coach of the Year. This is Clarke's second straight year earning the award.

"Damian is probably one of the finest coaches in women's soccer," said FLC Director of

Athletics Kelly Higgins. "He's built a program from the ground up the right way. He's very deserving of this award and the deep run into the NCAA Division II championship this year proves that worth. I'm proud to have him as a member of our coaching staff."

"There's no way that these awards come to a coach without players who create the success," said Clarke. "Obviously, having your peers recognize you is a very big honor. Thank you to all of them."

The Skyhawks were ranked in 11 of the NSCAA's 12 national polls this season, attaining a program-high No. 3 ranking. FLC finished No. 7 in the final NSCAA/HendrickCars.com poll, released earlier this week.

Fort Lewis, which advanced to the NCAA quarterfinal round before falling to the eventual national champion Grand Valley State, posted an

18-3-2 record in 2010. FLC won its first-ever Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference regular season championship, posting a league record of 12-1-1.

During Clarke's four years at the helm of the Skyhawk program, his teams have posted an overall record of 62-18-10 (.744) and a RMAC mark of 37-11-6 (.741). Both are the highest standards in the program's 17-year history. In addition to this year's RMAC regular season title, his teams won the RMAC tournament in 2007 and 2009. Fort Lewis has qualified for the NCAA Division II playoffs in three of Clarke's four seasons.

His student-athletes have reaped the benefits of his coaching. During Clarke's four years as head coach, his Skyhawks have earned four All-America awards, 18 all-region honors and 21 All-RMAC recognitions. Clarke-coached players were chosen as RMAC Defensive Player of the Year in 2009 and 2010.

His team has also excelled in the classroom, with players earning one Academic All-America distinction, two academic all-region honors and 31 RMAC All-Academic awards.

In addition to being the NSCAA/Mondo Central Regional Coach of the Year in 2009 and 2010, Clarke was also chosen as RMAC Coach of the Year in 2009 and RMAC Co-Coach of the Year in 2010.

Coaches who achieved remarkable results during the 2010 NCAA intercollegiate soccer season have been named by their peers as NSCAA/Mondo Regional Coaches of the Year. The selections were made through voting by members of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

The Regional Coaches of the Year will be joined on the ballot for the NSCAA/Mondo National Coach of the Year by coaches from each of the four national championship semifinal teams. Winners of the national award will be announced at the annual NSCAA Awards Banquet, which will be held Friday evening, January 14 at the Hilton Baltimore in conjunction with the 2011 NSCAA Convention.

