



# engaged

a newsletter from the Montana State University-Billings Foundation  
for Alumni & Friends

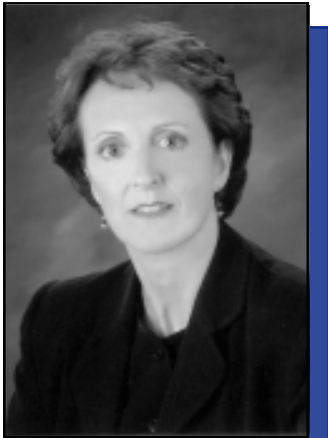
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## A Letter from the President

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Marilynn Miller, President & CEO  
MSU-Billings Foundation

Welcome to the first issue of *Engaged*, which the MSU-Billings Foundation will publish twice a year. This small newsletter is a special report for the alumni and friends of Montana State University-Billings who generously provide financial support to help the University carry out its mission of changing lives through higher education. You've demonstrated your interest in MSU-Billings, and we want to keep you informed. You'll receive *Engaged* in addition to the Foundation's Annual Report and the University publication, *Connections*.

In each issue of *Engaged*, we'll share a few stories that exemplify the essence of those things we at the University and the Foundation celebrate every day: the outstanding quality, achievement, and determination of students like the two featured in this issue, Judy Bacon and Jacquelyn Weitz; the philanthropic spirit of donors like Elma Epstein, who demonstrate their commitment to higher education and MSU-Billings by contributing to a bright future for others; and special opportunities for you to reconnect with the University, such as the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion coming up in July.

It is my hope you will take a few moments to enjoy the stories in this and subsequent issues of *Engaged*. I hope you'll think of us between issues, as well. Please know we think of you often, with deep, abiding gratitude.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Marilynn Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

## Elma Epstein: Profile of a Pioneer



*Elma Epstein and husband, David in 1976 (above). Upon her graduation from Eastern Montana Normal School in 1932 (right).*



**E**lma (Rautio) Epstein, a 1932 graduate of Eastern Montana Normal School (currently Montana State University-Billings), was a true Montana pioneer. Even though she passed away in January, 2002, Elma's legacy remains through a generous bequest.

Born in Roundup in 1910, Elma spent her childhood on the prairies near Miles City. Later, she moved to Billings and took a position with the P.D. Moss family in what is now the Moss Mansion Museum. Once in Billings, Elma enrolled at the new Eastern Montana Normal School, becoming one of its first students.

Elma's education was just beginning when she graduated from Eastern Montana Normal School in 1932. Following her marriage to David Epstein in 1936, she settled in Glacier County and began a long, adventurous

teaching career. Her life was dedicated to educating children, as she taught for many years in the rural schools of northern Glacier County and later, at the Anna Jeffries Elementary School in Cut Bank until her retirement in 1975.

Through her will, Elma left bequests to numerous charities in Glacier County and across Montana including one to her alma mater, Montana State University-Billings. Elma made this bequest because she treasured her education and her experiences at Eastern Montana Normal School. This is remarkable when you consider that she graduated from the Normal School seventy years ago. Elma's bequest of approximately \$20,000 to the Montana State University-Billings general scholarship fund insures that deserving 21<sup>st</sup> century MSU-Billings students will have treasured educational experiences, much like Elma, many years ago.

*Montana State University-Billings Foundation thanks those who have chosen to support MSU-Billings and its students through charitable bequests. For more information, or to let us know you have remembered the University in your will or other estate plan, please call Marilyn Miller or Jon Egeland at (406) 657-2244 or (888) 430-MSUB.*



## MSU-Billings Students: --- *making an impact in the community*

*Montana State University-Billings offers its students the chance to experience an education not only with peers their own ages but also to learn in the classroom setting with individuals outside their age group. Students at MSU-Billings range in age from 16 to 72, and so have the opportunity to learn not only from their instructors, but also from the life experiences of their classmates. These two stories feature a non-traditional student and a traditional student. Both students have 4.0 GPA's, are scholarship recipients, determined to succeed in their chosen fields, and exemplify the very best in MSU-Billings students.*



### A New Direction - Judy Bacon

“I will not let my personal adversities keep me from achieving my goal. I am committed to reaching a point in my life that I might be able to contribute back to the Montana community what I was given, and hopefully more.”

When we change direction in our lives, it is sometimes a choice, but often dictated by outside circumstances. A car accident was the defining moment that changed Judy's life. After recovering from a head injury, she determined that a career change was necessary.

With the help of the Montana Center on Disabilities Undergraduate Scholarship, Collegiate License Plate Endowed Scholarship and College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Excellence Award, Judy began her education at MSU-Billings. She has excelled to the point where she is referred to by biology instructor Dr. Carl Castles as “one of the most valuable members of my research team.”

Upon her graduation in 2003, Judy plans to pursue a career as a clinical laboratory scientist or histotechnologist. She says it best in her own words, when she states, “I know I am able to succeed at whatever I attempt with the caring guidance of my outstanding faculty, the proficiency of the university administration, and the goodwill and generosity of scholarship donors.”



### Notes of Success - Jacquelyn Weitz

Jacquelyn Weitz makes beautiful music. She has played the piano since she was three years old. She has performed with the Billings, Bozeman, and Helena Symphony Orchestras. After winning first place in both the statewide and regional divisions of the Music Teachers National Association Competition, she was one of only seven finalists chosen from across the country to compete at the national level.

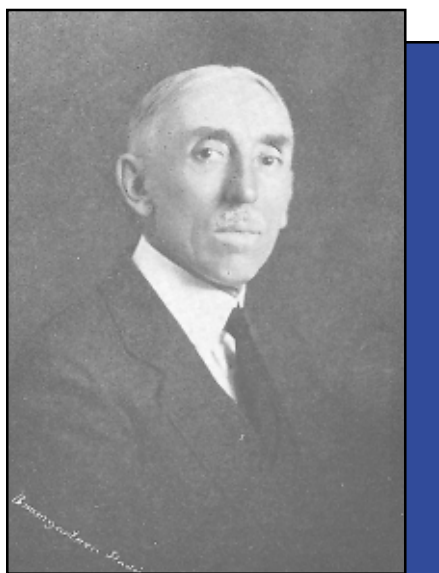
She recently took second place at the Bartok-Kabalevsky-Prokofiev International piano competition, where she was also awarded the First Place Outstanding Musician award.

Jacquelyn has been studying with MSU-Billings piano instructor Dorothea Cromley for the past two years. The Connections program allowed her to participate in college classes at MSU-Billings and receive credit, even though she hadn't yet graduated from high school. With Ms. Cromley's guidance and her own determination, she plans to “become one of the best pianists in the world.”

After her spring 2002 graduation, Jacquelyn will continue studying at MSU-Billings. She has been awarded the Gail L. Maryott Music Scholarship and the Haynes Foundation Recognition Scholarship. She plans to pursue a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Piano Performance. Ms. Cromley states that Jacquelyn is “one of the best students I have encountered both musically and intellectually.”

# Come Back to Where It All Began

## *MSU-Billings All School Reunion 2002*



*Dr. L.B. McMullen, first President of Eastern Montana Normal School (MSU-Billings) in 1935*

**R**elive the nostalgia of Eastern Montana College/Montana State University-Billings, the camaraderie of bygone days, and catch up with old friends at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary All School Reunion 2002. Mark your calendar for **July 26-28, 2002** and plan to be on campus for this historic weekend with friends and classmates. The entire weekend is filled with spectacular events: decade events, Outstanding Alumni Awards banquet, barbeque, casual gatherings with friends, bell rededication and Alumni 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gift ceremony. MSU-Billings Professor Sue Hart will be signing her historical book, "Yellow-Stone and Blue: MSU-Billings, the First 75 Years" during the weekend. You won't want to miss any of it!

Registrations are still being accepted. Call the Alumni Association Office at 406-657-2244 or toll free at 1-888-430-6782 to receive a registration brochure. Or, check out the website ([www.msubillings.edu/alumni](http://www.msubillings.edu/alumni)) for a registration form and to find out which of your classmates have already registered.

Plan to join us on the campus of MSU-Billings in July to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our campus and enjoy the great times you had as a student. It will be a weekend you won't forget! See you at the Reunion!



*1927 faculty of Eastern Montana Normal School*

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