

First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, October 6, 2008, 8:00 a.m.*

First Monday is provided to friends of Montana State University Billings Foundation to advance the cause of philanthropy.

These troubled economic times spell trouble for MSU Billings students. Most of our students need financial help to attend. Many of our younger students are from low-income families; some older students are working, single parents; others are keeping up with minimum-wage jobs while trying to attend and pay for college. They want to become educated so they can graduate with leadership skills, advanced reasoning capabilities, the knowledge to make sound judgments, interact productively with other people, and support their families while contributing to the common good.

Often, government aid packages aren't enough to get our students through, so they turn to private lenders to help cover costs. Credit lines are drying up; some of the largest student loan lenders, like Wachovia Corporation and Bank of America Corporation, have stopped making student loans. Students are caught with no place to turn.

Scholarships are a big help. Last year, the MSU Billings Foundation distributed \$1,143,000 in donor-funded scholarships, but, in today's world, more scholarships are needed to help our future leaders finish school. We appreciate our scholarship donors!

We are grateful for these September gifts:

- **Mary Louise Tannehill** left 18% of her estate to MSU Billings Foundation through her Will. The resulting \$83,777 bequest created, in accordance with Mary's wishes, the Tannehill Athletics Endowment for academic scholarships for student-athletes. Mary Louise Tannehill was known to many as "Aunt Mary Lou." I imagine the student-athletes who will benefit from her generosity will think of her in much the same way.
- **Sonja Jones** also remembered the students of Montana State University Billings in her Will. She bequeathed \$25,000 for the R. A. Jones Family Endowed Scholarship. Since 2001, Sonja had provided annual scholarships for MSUB students. By thoughtfully making provisions for her estate to fund a scholarship endowment, her annual gifts to students will continue for future generations.

- **KAKATU Foundation** donated \$15,200 for the Frederick J. Urbaska Baseball Scholarship Endowment (\$10,000) and the Frederick J. Urbaska Baseball Annual Scholarship (\$5,200). Katie and Kris Cummings, the daughter and son-in-law of the late Frederick John Urbaska, directed these funds from KAKATU for the second successive year. While the endowment grows, the annual scholarship helps students immediately. Eventually, the Cummings plan to build the endowment to an amount that will generate enough to pay the annual scholarship.
- **Billings Clinic** donated \$15,000 for five scholarships. Student recipients Shannon Crable, Joel Traywick, Kay Christensen, Anna Warburton and Laura Sorenson were awarded \$3,000 each.
- **Sky Arrow Scholarship Fund** of the Montana Community Foundation gifted \$11,000 for scholarships for Native American students from the Fort Peck Reservation. Recipients may receive the scholarship for up to three years or until undergraduate degree completion, whichever comes first.
- **Bresnan Communications** pledged \$3,000 to sponsor an exciting, new “Iron Chef” type of competitive event for Wine & Food Festival 2009.
- **Charsti Merrill & Vinson Johnson** pledged \$3,000 to the MSUB Tennis and Track & Field Programs. Their daughters, Margot and Micah, are both former MSUB student athletes.
- **CHS Inc.** donated \$2,500 to the College of Technology.
- **Hansen Music Inc.** pledged \$2,500 to the Music Department to carry on the long tradition of giving established by the late Pat Hansen.

55 or over? When you make a donation to the MSU Billings Foundation, you become eligible for a discounted membership to MSU Billings’ popular new Senior Academy, offering unique educational opportunities for adults who are young at heart and enjoy learning. The Senior Academy fosters intellectual stimulation, new interests, and personal development through academic pursuits and provides a community in which to get acquainted and socialize. In this lively learning environment, current and retired MSUB faculty and community experts lead courses and special events. Annual membership for MSUB donors is \$15/individual or \$30/couple. For more information on the Senior Academy, check it out online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/55Plus/>. Use your certificate of donation to access your membership discount by calling the College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning at 406-896-5890.

To make a gift online go to <http://www.msubillings.edu/foundation/> & click “Make-a-Gift.”

Prefer e-mail? If you would prefer to receive *First Monday* and *Corks & Cuisine* electronically, please contact Darla Crumbaker (dcrumbaker@msubillings.edu).