

First Monday



From the desk of: Marilyn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, April 5, 2004, 8:00 a.m.

On March 18th, the MSU-Billings Foundation held a Leadership Reception for selected alumni and friends in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area. Hosting that event were **Julie Coleman**, who opened her beautiful Scottsdale home for our gathering, and **Brenda Halpain**. Chancellor Ron Sexton, Campaign Leadership Events Chair Bernie Harrington and his wife Lynn, Jill Hirschi of the Foundation, and I had a wonderful time reminiscing about “the good old days” and talking about campus plans with those who attended:

- **Trent Allen ('81)** lives in Scottsdale and is a financial analyst with American Express.
- **Barbara Beck ('76)**, a publisher, lives in Phoenix and owns B. Beck Ltd. Her friend Les Fukuya accompanied her to the event.
- **Mary Susan Bush** of Rio Verde is a friend of MSU-Billings who established a scholarship endowment in honor of her aunt, Pauline Rich, who was a member of the original faculty and the first librarian at Eastern Montana Normal School.
- **Julie Coleman ('60 & '77)**, a former MSU-Billings Foundation trustee, is a semi-retired financial planner who divides her time between Montana and Arizona.
- **Patricia Drain ('67)**, president of Patricia Drain and Associates, is an author and professional speaker. She and her husband Tom, who accompanied her to the reception, live in Phoenix.
- **Ralph and Sue Glidden**, friends of Montana State University-Billings, owned the Cooke City Store for many years before retiring. Ralph and Sue now divide their time between Scottsdale and Red Lodge.
- **Brenda Halpain ('82)** is controller at Test Advantage, Inc. She and her husband Sean, who also attended the gathering, live in Chandler with their two sons.
- **Pat Hink ('87)** and her husband Mike divide their time between Phoenix and Red Lodge, Montana. Pat owns Nursing Vocational Consultants.
- **Dana Harrington Shepherd ('01)** is a case manager with Catholic Social Services. She and her husband, also named Dana, live in Mesa.
- **Dennis Smith ('70)**, and his wife Mercedes live in Tempe where Dennis is Executive Director of the Maricopa Association of Governments. The Smiths' daughter will be a freshman at MSU-Billings in Fall 2004.
- **Don Speck ('78)** former Yellowjacket basketball player, lives and works in Scottsdale where he is president of Integrated Performance Dynamics.

Recent Gifts. Sincere thanks to the following supporters.

- **An anonymous donor** contributed \$40,000 to the Library Excellence Fund, an endowment that provides annual revenue for the purchase of print and electronic materials and equipment for the MSU-Billings Library.
- **Robert L. Kehoe ('38)** passed away in June 2003 at age 86. Last week, the Foundation received a \$39,000 distribution from his estate. Mr. Kehoe, who lived in Hayward, California, earned a teaching diploma from Eastern Montana Normal School. He had been a faithful supporter of MSU-Billings through the years, and thoughtfully remembered the University in his final plans.
- **The Charles M. Bair Family Trust** awarded \$20,000 to the MSU-Billings Foundation to upgrade the recording studio in Cisel Recital Hall. The new recording technology will facilitate more detailed analyses of students' performances, and will produce high-quality recordings for submission to prospective graduate schools, future employers, and competitions.
- **Ron ('59 & '64) and Marilynn ('60) Sexton** pledged \$50,000 to the People, Pride & Promise Campaign for Excellence. Dr. Sexton is the highly respected Chancellor of Montana State University-Billings, whose vision and leadership have brought transformational change to the campus. Marilynn, the "First Lady of MSU-Billings", is a retired educator.
- **Cy Jamison ('71)**, 1991 Outstanding Alumnus and current member of the National Campaign Leadership Council, committed \$10,000 to fund a scholarship for students from Golden Valley or Wheatland counties. Cy is president of Jamison & Sullivan, Inc., a consulting firm in Washington, DC. He was formerly director of the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management.

Cross-Country Scholars. For the ninth consecutive year, the Yellowjacket men's and women's cross-country teams were ranked in the top 10 nationally for academic achievement among NCAA Division II teams. The men tied for fourth place, with a team GPA of 3.59. The women tied for eighth with a 3.61 GPA.

#1 Cheer Team. MSU-Billings Cheer Team captured first place in the Division II competition in Irvine, California, receiving the highest point scale in the competition.

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