



First Monday



From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, April 4, 2005, 8:00 a.m.

New Campaign Leaders. The following individuals have accepted appointment to the National Campaign Leadership Council (NCLC), joining 43 other NCLC members in guiding the success of MSU-Billings' \$21 million *People, Pride & Promise Campaign*, which, to date, has secured \$16 million in gifts and pledges.

- Ashley Burleson: Partner, Crowley Law Firm, Billings
- Joel Guthals: President, Guthals Hunnes Reuss & Thompson, P.C., Billings
- Angela Marshall Hoffman ('92) : Wal-Mart International Trade Director, Cheverly, MD
- Terrie Iverson ('82): Administrative Vice Chancellor, MSU-Billings
- Curt Kochner: Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, MSU-Billings
- Dorothy Metz: Community Leader, Billings
- Patrick O'Leary: Vice President & Financial Consultant, D.A. Davidson & Co., Billings
- Sharon Peterson: Associate Director, Leadership Montana, Billings
- Darryl Rensmon ('99): Chief Information Officer, Morrison Maierle Inc., Helena
- Bev Ross ('91): Financial Planner, Prudential Financial, Billings
- Mike Schaer: President & Owner, Computers Unlimited, Billings
- Danny Skarda: President & CEO, Rocky Mountain Bank, Billings
- Nate Tracy ('94): Solution Specialist, Computers Unlimited, Billings
- Shelley VanAtta: Director University Relations, MSU-Billings

MSU-Billings Hosts NASA. NASA'S Jet Propulsion Laboratory made an inaugural visit to Montana March 15-19, bringing their largest outreach exhibit to the MSU-Billings campus: a 40' x 40' Mission to Mars Exploration Exhibit. The exhibit contains life-size replicas of Spirit and Opportunity, the two Mars Exploration Rovers that are continuing an extended mission on the red planet. The story of the Pathfinder mission was on display, and included a prototype of the Sojourner Rover, which was launched during the late 60's and made a successful touchdown on Mars.

Cheer Team Championship. For the second straight year, the MSU-Billings Cheer Team captured first place in the Division II College Cheer Competition in Irvine, California. "We had a very difficult routine, and the team did a remarkable job," said Cheer Coach Dani Ruoff. Everyone at MSU-Billings is proud of our cheer team!

Head Baseball Coach Named. Chris Brown accepted the offer to become the first Head Baseball Coach at MSU-Billings in three decades. Coach Brown joins MSU-Billings from Bemidji State University, another NCAA Division II institution, where he has been the Head

Baseball Coach since 2002. MSU-Billings announced in February that it was reviving a baseball program that last competed in the NAIA 30 years ago. The program becomes the only NCAA baseball program in Montana. Beginning with the 2006 spring season, the Yellowjacket baseball team will compete in the Heartland Conference. They have a forty-game conference schedule set for their first season of play.

Sam & Judy McDonald hosted a Leadership Event March 15 in Las Vegas. NCLC Events Chair Bernie Harrington ('84) and his wife Lynn ('80), College of Education Dean George White, and Foundation staff Kathie Riggs, Joy Hayworth, and I traveled from Billings to meet with the following guests:

- **Twila Morgan ('93)** is an Assistant Manager for Washington Mutual Bank. She spoke fondly of former professors Dr. Norton Moses and Dr. John Dorr.
- **Roy Eisenman ('73)**, a retired securities broker, says he misses Montana and that his heart is still at EMC. Roy lives in Las Vegas with his wife Monica.
- **Carol Simenson ('98)** shared a memory of eating chocolate covered espresso beans before classes and enjoyed living in the dorms. She is Hospice Program Coordinator for the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System.
- **Jason ('98) & Lisa ('95) Johnston** both remember and appreciate the smaller sized classes at MSU-Billings and getting to know their professors. Jason is a Supervisor at the Tuscany Hotel and Lisa is a Mortgage Underwriter with Republic Mortgage.
- **Karin Ekanger ('83)** is a Reading Specialist for Pearson Scott Foresman Education Publishing. Karin recently completed her Doctorate in Education Administration.
- **Sherry Doom ('68)** moved to Las Vegas a few years ago to purchase and operate a trucking company and a bar. Sherry's daughter, Stasia, who took classes at MSU-Billings before transferring to UNLV, attended the event as well.
- **Dennis Ortwein ('56)** spoke of playing football for EMC and participating in the choir. A retired school administrator, Dennis delighted the group by singing "Rose of Tralee" in his flawless tenor, in honor of St. Patrick's Day.
- **George ('60) and Ruth Pfaff** shared copies of yearbooks they brought to the event. George taught for 25 years and Ruth was secretary at Garfield Elementary and also worked for the Department of Plant & Purchasing at EMC.
- **Norm Clarke** covered EMC footballs games for the Billings Gazette as a young reporter. Norm remembered a watercolor class from Ben Steele and spoke fondly of receiving advice from Dr. Harold Alterowitz that helped him through a rough time in his life. Norm writes the daily column "Vegas Confidential" for the Las Vegas Review Journal.

Prefer e-mail? If you would prefer to receive *First Monday* electronically, please contact Campaign Associate Joy Hayworth (jhayworth@msubillings.edu).

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

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