

First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, August 2, 2004, 8:00 a.m.*

People, Pride & Promise: The Campaign for Excellence at Montana State University Billings will continue through December 2006 to meet our goal of raising \$21 million for Montana State University-Billings. More than \$14 million was committed by many generous donors during the “silent” phase of the five-year campaign, which was quietly started in January 2001. As you know from my July newsletter, the campaign was publicly announced June 25, 2004. The \$21 million goal is comprised of three primary initiatives: Scholarship, Capital Needs, and University Excellence Funds.

Scholarship is the largest campaign category, with a goal of \$7,650,000. Scholarships are important to attracting top students and essential to making college possible for students not able to afford the cost of education. Students cite scholarships as one of the top five factors they consider when choosing a college. Six areas of priority have been identified, two of which are:

1. **Chancellor’s Excellence Awards.** The most prestigious four-year scholarships available to entering freshmen at MSU-Billings, the Chancellor’s Excellence Awards are given to students with high academic ability, leadership skills, and community service experience.
2. **Traditional and Non-Traditional Scholarships.** Cost is a critical issue of access. Need-based scholarships help make college affordable for both the 40% of MSU-Billings students who are of traditional college age (18-22) and the 60% who are non-traditional and may have to balance the demands of families and jobs with their education.

Sincere thanks to the following donors who have recently made commitments to the People, Pride & Promise Campaign.

- **John Cech ('85), Dean of the College of Technology (COT), and his wife Victoria** pledged \$15,000 to benefit the COT Excellence Endowment and Automotive Technology program, as well as the annual fund.
- **Naomi Gajewski** of Alexander, North Dakota, contributed an additional \$13,500 to the L. R. Gajewski Scholarship Fund which benefits junior or senior music majors. Combined with her 2003 gift of \$12,500, Naomi has contributed a total of \$26,000 for the scholarship fund she established in memory of her husband and in honor of her daughter, Lorna Gajewski, an MSU-Billings music graduate.
- **Bev ('91) & Sig Ross** of Billings pledged \$20,000 to benefit the MSU-Billings Foundation’s Operating Endowment and the annual unrestricted fund. Bev is a member of the MSU-Billings Foundation Board of Trustees.

- **ConocoPhillips** committed \$8,400 in scholarships for students in the COT Process Plant Technology Program. The scholarships will provide books and tuition for two students over two semesters.
- **Robert & Joan Carr** pledged \$5,000 to the Carr Endowed Scholarship Fund. Bob Carr is the retired Dean of the College of Technology, currently serving in a post-retirement capacity as Special Assistant to the Chancellor of MSU-Billings.
- **The Lester Miller Family** of Cove, Oregon sent a \$5,000 gift to the C. Bryn Nelson Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Carol Bryn Nelson. Carol, or “Bryn” as many knew her, was a 1976 EMC alumna with degrees in Elementary & Special Education. Bryn taught for 25 years in Browning, Ronan, Libby and Juneau, Alaska. Her philosophy was: “There is not a child without potential, whether in a regular classroom or special education program.” Bryn passed away at the age of 50 on May 26, 2004. The C. Bryn Nelson Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established in her name by her family and friends and will benefit a student pursuing an Education or Special Education degree.
- **Connie VanderJagt ('55)** of Bozeman, Montana, pledged \$5,000 to the annual unrestricted fund.
- **George White, Dean of the College of Education (COE), and his wife Cathey**, Director of the South Central Tech Prep program at the College of Technology, have pledged \$5,000 to benefit the Sports Medicine Scholarship Fund. Dr. White led the COE through a highly successful re-accreditation process that resulted in a stellar review and a National Best Practices Award for the COE.
- **Bruce & Gayle Whittenberg** of Billings pledged \$5,000 to the annual unrestricted fund. Bruce is a member of the MSU-Billings Foundation Board of Trustees.
- **Bob Fouhy ('99)** pledged \$2,000 to the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund and annual unrestricted fund. Bob is the immediate past president of the MSU-Billings Alumni Association.
- **The Montana Community** Foundation has granted \$2,000 to the Montana Center on Disabilities to support a week-long summer camp for disabled youth.
- **Ralph Cook ('72)** of Billings pledged \$10,000 to be divided between the College of Business (COB) Faculty Excellence Endowment and the COB Faculty Excellence Non-Endowed Fund.

New Classes Offered in HHP. Starting with the fall 2004 semester, the Health, Physical Education & Human Services will offer some exciting new classes, including Women's Self-defense, Co-ed Self-defense, Orienteering, Fly Fishing, Co-ed Judo, Tai Chi/Chi Kung, and Rappelling/Rock Climbing. For more information, call Darlene Binkoski at 406-657-2370.

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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