



First Monday



From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, December 6, 2004, 8:00 a.m.

On November 16, Montana State University-Billings, in partnership with Montana-Dakota Utilities and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, demonstrated a cutting-edge source of fuel cell energy. The first of its kind in Montana, the Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Fuel Cell holds great promise of a new energy source for the future. The fuel cell is located at the Billings Armed Forces Reserve Center. Brian Gurney, Energy Program Manager for MSU-Billings' Center for Applied Economic Research, will monitor and evaluate the production of the fuel cell over the course of the next year.

We are grateful to the many donors who made gifts during November. A few are listed here.

- **Dick and Cheri Cox** contributed an additional \$40,000 to the **Walter and Charlotte Pippenger Innovation Award Endowment**. Created by the Coxes two years ago, the endowment honors Cheri's parents and will provide an annual monetary award to recognize the Montana State University-Billings faculty or staff member/s who exhibit the most successful and innovative program or project to significantly enhance undergraduate teaching and student success. Such improvement may occur through curricular revisions, retention efforts, community-university partnerships, community-based learning, demonstration of "best practices" in teaching, civic engagement, technology applications, service learning, cooperative education, or outcomes-based assessment. Dick and Cheri, along with Les & Janet Cox, Shaun & Andrea Cox, and Sherry Cox, also fund the **Winston and Helen Cox Fellowship**, a monetary award bestowed annually upon the outstanding junior faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- **Daimler Chrysler Corporation** donated a fully loaded 2004 Dodge Durango valued at \$30,000 to the College of Technology (COT) for instructional use by the Automotive Technology Department. Working with new vehicles keeps COT students current with industry standards for computer diagnostics, suspensions, steering, brake systems and engines. The Automotive Technology Program is part of the Computer Technology and Transportation Center at the COT. The Auto Tech program is NATEF and ASE certified in eight areas of instruction. Graduates find employment at auto dealerships, specialty shops, government motor pools and fleet maintenance organizations.
- **Scott Stratford** added \$7,374 to the **Mary Maxon Stratford Education Endowed Scholarship**, established in memory of Scott's mother, a 1938 graduate of Eastern Montana Normal School. The scholarship is awarded annually to a freshman education major with a minimum 3.5 GPA and the top essay explaining her interest in becoming a career educator.

- **The Homer A. & Mildred S. Scott Foundation** pledged \$2,000 for the **Homer A. & Mildred S. Scott Foundation Scholarship**, which benefits a full-time student pursuing a business, banking, or accounting major. This gift is in addition to the Scott Foundation's \$75,000 three-year grant awarded for the College of Business Faculty Initiative earlier this year.
- **Dr. Joyce Ley ('66)** pledged \$7,500 to the People, Pride & Promise Campaign. Her gift will benefit the College of Education Dean's Discretionary Fund, the College of Education Student Scholarship Fund, and the Annual Unrestricted Fund. Joyce is director of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. She lives in Portland, Oregon.
- **Laura Odegaard ('79)** made an additional gift of \$1,150 to the **Laura Odegaard Scholarship**. The scholarship benefits a female nontraditional student enrolled full time and holding a 3.0 GPA. Laura is a realtor with Prudential Floberg and an MSU-Billings Foundation trustee.
- **Pat Jaffray** pledged \$3,500 to the College of Technology Endowment Fund. Pat is the president of Professional Nursing Personnel Pool in Billings, a long-time supporter of the University, and an energetic volunteer for the MSU-Billings Foundation.
- **David Johnson** gave \$2,100 to the **Carolyn C. Johnson Memorial Scholarship**. The scholarship, established in memory of Dave's wife Carolyn, is awarded to a single-parent student pursuing a four-year degree.
- **Ruth Kronmiller** added \$4,965 to the **Ruth Hveem Kronmiller Endowed Scholarship**. The Kronmiller Scholarship benefits a student enrolled full time in the College of Arts & Sciences or the College of Technology who maintains as 3.0 GPA.
- **ExxonMobil** again contributed \$2,000 to the ExxonMobil Math & Science Education Scholarship Fund.

Two MSU-Billings science faculty members, **Dr. Dan Gretch and Dr. David Butler**, and some of their students, are able to take part in new biomedical research thanks to a \$16.6 million statewide infectious disease research project funded by the National Institutes of Health. For Butler and Gretch, their contributions to the project mean doing detective work on infectious diseases that have puzzled physicians and veterinarians alike. Gretch's research focuses on Chronic Wasting Disease in deer, a major concern for wildlife managers and hunters. Butler will research complex microbiotic substances called biofilms. Microorganisms that lead to many stubborn infections organize themselves into biofilms, forming a protective coating resistant to conventional antibiotics. Between Gretch and Butler, about \$2 million is coming to MSU-Billings for original research.

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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