



First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, April 3, 2006, 8:00 a.m*

Tickets for Wine and Food Festival 2006 go on sale April 17 at 8:00 am. Tickets to some events sell out very quickly. To secure your tickets, come to the foundation office, 2615 Virginia Lane, early on April 17 or telephone 406-657-2244. To view all 2006 festival events, visit <http://www.winefoodfestival.com> or, to receive information by mail, telephone special events director Jeanne Moller, 406-657-2244. The festival will take place May 15 to 20.

Many thanks to these generous March donors:

- **The Homer A. & Mildred S. Scott Foundation** fulfilled their \$75,000 pledge to the College of Business Faculty Excellence fund with a final \$25,000 payment.
- **Computers Unlimited** provided a \$10,000 corporate partnership for the 2006 Wine & Food Festival.
- The 2006 Wine & Food Festival also received a \$5,000 sponsorship from **Albertsons, Inc.** out of Boise, Idaho.
- **Nance Petroleum** donated \$10,000 toward the College of Business Management Information Systems Lab.
- **EideBailly, LLP** pledged \$10,000 over 5 years for the EideBailly, LLP Scholarship to benefit accounting students from Montana or Wyoming.
- **The Winston & Helen Cox Educational Excellence Fund** granted \$6,800 for a program that recognizes exceptional faculty.
- **Kathy McIsaac** pledged \$2,500 for a scholarship to students who have demonstrated significant leadership through campus involvement.

The Alumni Association honored seven outstanding alumni during the 24th annual alumni awards brunch March 18th.

- **Jani McCall ('75) of Billings received the Distinguished Alumna Award** for her outstanding personal, professional, and civic contributions while bringing a sense of honor, pride, and recognition to the university.

Jani is a health and human services leader who has dedicated her career to improving and innovating systems of care for children and adults with mental health needs and developmental and behavioral disabilities. She has used her education, intellect and character to move bureaucratic and political mountains on behalf of children and families.

With a reputation for unwavering integrity, Jani is a tireless champion who has facilitated networks where none existed, created services where none were thought possible, and enlisted political support when advocacy seemed absent.

- **Jerry Thomas ('75) of Billings was awarded the Alumni Merit Medallion** for his dedication to the advancement of education as exemplified by his commitment of professional expertise and volunteer service to Montana State University-Billings.

During his career, Jerry has achieved a successful track record of advancing regional economic development through governmental agencies, nonprofit entities, and private business. Jerry always recognized Montana State University-Billings as a key player in the economic vitality of the region and consistently developed partnerships with the university.

Jerry is a founding member of the MSU-Billings Center for Applied Economic Research and past member of the College of Business advisory council and COB development board. He has guest-taught business courses and assisted with student business plan reviews. In addition, Jerry is treasurer of the MSU-Billings Foundation.

Recognition for Exceptional Contribution Awards honor alumni who have distinguished themselves in their fields of endeavor while bringing a sense of pride and recognition to MSU-Billings. The four 2006 Exceptional Contribution Award winners are:

- **Brookney Gondara, Ph.D. ('95 & '96)** of Oregon is a mother, wife, activist, leader, role model and proud Cheyenne. She is a compelling and tireless advocate for women and minorities, especially in higher education. Brook is currently dean of the department of social sciences and business at Portland (Ore.) Community College's Sylvania campus.
- **Denise Goodman ('73 & '79)** of Billings has a passion for giving students of all ages the ability to read well. During more than 25 years of teaching reading, she has consistently integrated innovative methods into her educational approach. Denise helps her charges understand that to become successful in other areas, one must be a successful reader.
- **Kristen Korb ('92)** of Los Angeles is a successful jazz musician and adjunct faculty member at the University of Southern California. She sings in the tradition of Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan, and plays bass with the authority of the legendary Ray Brown, who was featured on her 1996 debut CD *Introducing Kristin Korb*.
- **Tony Smith ('76)** of Billings was one of the first Montanans to become a certified professional photographer. In 2004, based on his proven ability and integrity, he was invited to join the American Society of Photographers. Tony was recently awarded his photographic craftsman degree in recognition of service to his profession.

The **J. Cody Montalban Award for Outstanding Service** is awarded from time to time, at the discretion of the Alumni Association board of directors, for exemplary service.

- **Norma Cleveland ('81 & '99)** of Laurel has demonstrated her dedication to MSU-Billings through thousands of hours of volunteer service to the university and the association. She is the first recipient of this award since it was given posthumously to Montalban in 2001. Norma is an ADT system analyst at St. Vincent Healthcare.

Prefer e-mail? If you would prefer to receive *First Monday* electronically, please contact Administrative Assistant Shannon Behounek (sbehounek@msubillings.edu).

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

Montana State University-Billings Foundation ▲ 1500 University Drive ▲ Billings, MT 59101
 Phone: 406-657-2244 ▲ Fax: 406-657-1600 ▲ E-mail: foundation@msubillings.edu