

First Monday

*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, August 7, 2006, 8:00 a.m*

The MSU-Billings College of Technology held a groundbreaking celebration on Monday, July 24, 2006 for the new health science and general education building. The \$9 million, 47,500 square foot building is the first new building to be added to the COT campus since it was established in 1969. It is being constructed on 6 acres between Shiloh Road and Central Avenue on the western edge of the COT campus. The building will house the medical administrative assistant, medical assistant, medical coding and insurance billing, paramedic, practical nurse, radiologic technology, surgical technology, and fire science programs. It will also have eight laboratories, 11 classrooms, faculty offices, a covered bay with an ambulance for the paramedic program and a bay to house the fire science program's wildland fire response truck.

The 2005 Montana legislature approved the sale of \$9 million in bonds for the building. Local residents and businesses contributed more than \$600,000 toward the purchase of the land. They include Billings Gazette Communications/Lee Enterprises Foundation, The Judith C. and Sam E. McDonald, Jr. Family, Stillwater Mining Company, Gary Hines, Lew Hines, Tom Hines, Big Sky Economic Development Authority, Big Sky Economic Development Corporation, Bottrell Family Investments LP, Underriner Motors – Bill and Mary Underriner, and Wyo-Ben, Inc.

Dr. Gary Young, an award-winning and published business educator from Tennessee, will become the next dean of the College of Business. Young comes to MSU-Billings from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tennessee, where he has been dean of business since 2000. He previously served as dean of the school of business administration at the University of Tennessee, Martin. He is a graduate of Tennessee Technological University, has a master's degree from Clemson University, and a Ph.D. from Louisiana Tech. At Carson-Newman, Young enhanced the curriculum, increased enrollment, and helped raise \$7 million for a new business building. His writings on economics, trade, and the entrepreneurial spirit have been widely published and he has been honored for his leadership with national accreditation bodies for colleges of business. Dr. Young will begin his tenure at MSU-Billings in December 2006.

Our deep gratitude goes to the following recent donors:

- **Jim Haar of High Tech Construction and Steve Langlas of Langlas & Associates, Inc.** have each pledged \$100,000 at \$20,000 per year for five years for students in the new construction-carpentry program starting at the College of Technology this fall. Montana needs hundreds of additional carpenters now, and the Department of Labor forecasts that thousands more will be needed in the next 8 years. The COT construction program will produce skilled carpenters knowledgeable in building codes, blueprint reading, estimating, site layout, concrete work, framing, finish work, and more.

- The **Winifred M. Griffith Estate** sent a final distribution of \$40,000 more for the John F. & Winifred M. Griffith Endowed Scholarship.
- **Western Security Bank** contributed \$30,000 toward the College of Business Management Information Systems Lab.
- **The Heisey Foundation** sent \$9,755 for scholarships for upperclassmen who graduated from specific high schools in north central Montana.
- **Linda Swift** pledged another \$5,000 to the College of Technology Faculty Excellence Fund for Process Plant Technology. Linda has secured a matching gift from ChevronTexaco to add \$5,000 more to the fund.
- **Pat & J. Reuss** pledged \$5,000 to the MSU-Billings Honors Scholarship Endowment Fund.
- **Melina Hawkins and Terry Broderson** donated \$2,000 to the Viola Raitt Memorial Scholarship Endowment and \$242 to the Diesel Technology Scholarship.
- **Marilyn & Don Floberg** gave \$2,000 to the Chancellor's Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment.
- **Stockman Bank** gave \$1,575 for the Dan Fleury Construction/Stockman Bank Scholarship for students in business or industry programs at the COT.
- **James Jubb, Joe Michels, and NorthWestern Energy** each donated \$1,000 for scholarships.
- **Montana Watercolor Outfit** donated \$1,000 to the Art Department Scholarship.
- **The Cobb Foundation** gave \$1,000 for a scholarship to benefit a junior or senior Montana student.
- **Douglas & Kathleen Yates** donated \$1,000 to the Alumni Association.

Montana State University–Billings will join the Great Northwest Athletic Conference effective July 1, 2007. The Yellowjackets will join Central Washington, Western Washington, Seattle Pacific, Seattle University, Saint Martin's, Northwest Nazarene, Western Oregon, the University of Alaska Anchorage, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, bringing membership in the conference to 10 institutions. The addition of MSU-Billings will renew a conference rivalry between it and the rest of the GNAC. The nine current members were all members of the PacWest Conference along with MSU-Billings for three seasons (1998-99 to 2000-01) before forming the GNAC. MSU-Billings is currently a member of the Heartland Conference and will continue to compete in that conference during the 2006-07 season before joining the GNAC as a member for the 2007-08 sports season.

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.

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