

# First Monday

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*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO  
Monday, May 1, 2006, 8:00 a.m*

**Montana State University Billings' 79<sup>th</sup> Commencement** will take place Saturday, May 6, at Metrapark. Eight hundred and fifteen degrees will be conferred: 300 from the College of Arts and Sciences, 176 from the College of Technology, 152 from the College of Education, 94 from the College of Business, and 93 from the College of Allied Health Professions.

**2006 Wine & Food Festival is May 15-20.** MSU Billings Foundation's Wine & Food Festival has become the signature spring event in Montana and the region. This year's celebration of fine wines and foods will feature winemaster Jan du Preez, of Serengeti Wines and Leidersburg Wines of South Africa; and winemaster Barry Bergman, of R.H. Phillips of Esparto, California.

A week of fabulous cooking schools, wine seminars, and gourmet dining will culminate in two grand evenings of glamour and fun on Friday and Saturday, May 19-20, under the huge, elaborately-decorated party tent on the MSU Billings campus. On Friday, May 19, wine lovers will be treated to samplings of more than 100 wines. Top restaurants and caterers will provide hors d'oeuvres while party-goers browse dozens of items in the silent auction. On Saturday, May 20, the grand finale gala will be celebrated with a champagne reception and silent auction followed by an elegant, gourmet dinner and live auction. For a description of the entire week's events, visit [www.winefoodfestival.com](http://www.winefoodfestival.com). For tickets, stop by the MSU Billings Foundation at 2615 Virginia Lane; or call 657-2244 or (toll free) 1-888-430-6782.

Financial supporters of the 2006 Wine & Food Festival include partners Briggs Distributing Company, Wells Fargo Bank/Wells Fargo Private Client Services, Computers Unlimited, Billings Gazette Communications, Sodexo, and the MSU Billings Foundation; and sponsors Albertsons, Fortin Enterprises, and Underriner Motors—Bill and Mary Underriner.

## **Recent gifts and grants.**

- The College of Technology was notified by the National Science Foundation that it will receive a \$546,000 grant to support the conversion of the process plant technology program to include a distance learning option.
- **Tim & Kathy Schruth** pledged \$25,000 toward the Tim & Kathy Schruth Endowed Scholarship to benefit students in the College of Business.
- **Dr. Gary Behm** has committed \$20,000 to benefit the music department.
- **Patricia Jaffray** sent \$4,000 for the College of Technology endowment.
- **Bob & Joan Carr** have pledged an additional \$3,000 toward the Bob & Joan Carr Endowed Scholarship. This gift will bring the Carr's scholarship to endowed status.

- **Faculty members of MSU Billings College of Education** have established the Geoffrey A. Fishbaugh Memorial Scholarship Endowment in memory of Geoffrey Fishbaugh, a 17- year old Billings Central Catholic High School junior who died on March 1, 2006, as the result of a tragic ski accident. Geoff's mother is Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, interim dean of the College of Education.

**Our master of science in athletic training program has earned accreditation** by the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Athletic Training and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. The master in athletic training program is a good next step for students with undergraduate degrees in physical education, health, exercise physiology, pre-occupational or physical therapy, or education. Students in the master's program take the next academic step toward an occupation in hospital clinics, college athletic programs, or industrial settings. Mike Diede, director of the program, earned a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University, a master's in sports medicine from Indiana State University, and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Arizona.

Of all the athletic training programs in the United States, only a handful offer a master's degree that positions graduates to sit for the exams to become certified athletic trainers. The only master's program in the northern Rocky Mountains is at Montana State University Billings. According to the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, there are 15 entry-level master's degree programs in the country and the nearest one to Billings is the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

**College Bowl team takes regional title.** By defeating 11 other teams in the Region 14 College Bowl tournament in Boise, Idaho, the MSU Billings team became regional champs once again, as they have three of the past four years. MSU Billings dominated the regional tournament by winning 10 of 11 games. Members of the team are Jed Barton, Erin Fladmo, Kristin Peterman, and Yacine Zerizef.

Called "The Varsity Sport of the Mind," College Bowl has a long and illustrious history among exceptionally bright students. It is the world-famous game of questions and answers played by two teams of competing students and had a long run of television specials back before "Jeopardy" or other popular game shows came into being. Also, the questions are much more difficult, which makes returning as regional champ even more remarkable.

**News Flash:** I just learned that the team finished the national College Bowl competition in Connecticut as 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation by beating a number of academic powerhouses including Ohio State, Bucknell, Seaton Hall, and Northwestern. UCLA was the national champion.

**Prefer e-mail?** If you would prefer to receive *First Monday* electronically, please contact administrative assistant Shannon Behounek ([sbehounek@msubillings.edu](mailto:sbehounek@msubillings.edu)).

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*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](mailto:foundation@msubillings.edu)