



First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, November 6, 2006, 8:00 a.m*

Several new academic programs requested by Montana State University-Billings were approved by the Montana Board of Regents in October:

- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
- Bachelor of Science in General Science
- Bachelor of Science in General Science with a teaching option
- Associate of Applied Science in Computer Programming and Application Development
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with a general business option
- Bachelor of Science in Reading and Elementary or Secondary Education

The College of Technology (COT) is one step closer to helping licensed practical nurses become registered nurses. In late October, the education committee of the Montana State Board of Nursing accepted the COT's proposal to extend its nursing program so LPNs can earn two-year RN degrees by completing two additional, highly-focused semesters. The committee's decision allows the COT to begin formal program approval processes with the Montana Board of Regents and the Board of Nursing. John Cech, dean of the COT, said the proposed program is a 72-credit nursing curriculum. After four semesters, students may choose to take the LPN exam and go to work as LPNs, or they may attend two more semesters for two-year RN degrees. LPNs who are now working and meet certain requirements also may take the last two semesters for their RN degrees.

Students may be able to enroll for the first semester of the LPN program as early as fall 2007. The two-semester LPN-to-RN program may begin in the spring of 2008. The Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education estimates that the demand for nurses will increase by 33% in the near future.

Every gift is appreciated and put to good use. Here are a few from October:

- **Dr. Gary Young**, the incoming dean of the College of Business, pledged \$13,000 to establish the Dr. Gary Young Business Faculty Enhancement Endowment (\$10,000) and to benefit the music department (\$3,000).
- **Carolyn C. Westvelt** created the Carolyn C. Westvelt Endowed Scholarship with a \$10,000 gift. The scholarship will be awarded to a non-traditional, female, elementary education major who is a Montana resident.
- **The Dickerson/Knight Access to Education Scholarship Endowment** for non-traditional women received a gift of \$15,000. Over a few years, the same two anonymous donors have built this endowment to \$93,000 by using gifts of appreciated stock.

- **Crowley, Haughey, Hanson, Toole & Dietrich P.L.L.P.** sent \$5,000 to be divided among the Library Excellence Endowment, the Undergraduate Non-Traditional Scholarship Endowment, and an unrestricted fund.
- **Chemwest Systems, Inc.** contributed \$2,800 to Yellowjacket Athletics for the women's soccer program.
- The auto tech program at the COT received vehicles from **Teal & Temple McLean** (a 1999 Mercury Sable) and **David Gurchiek** (a 1989 Toyota pickup SR5 X-cab).
- **David Kem** pledged \$2,500 to the Florence Steele Kem Scholarship. David has been funding this scholarship for many years in honor of Florence, his mother. A Montana education major with financial need will receive the scholarship.

Mmm, Yum. Tickets are now available for the Red Lodge Master Wine Class to be held on Saturday, November 11, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Bridge Creek Backcountry Kitchen and Wine Bar, in historic downtown Red Lodge. Guests will spend the afternoon exploring delightful Syrahs from all around the world with instructor Peter Christ, wine connoisseur and owner of Bridge Creek Backcountry Kitchen and Wine Bar, and enjoying delicious food created by Chef Eric Trager. For tickets, call the foundation at 406-657-2244 or stop by 2615 Virginia Lane any weekday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

The MSU-Billings Foundation Board of Trustees recently elected officers and new trustees. The new officers are:

- Chair, **Dave Warne**, branch manager, Brenntag Pacific;
- Vice-Chair, **Sharon Peterson**, associate director, Leadership Montana;
- Immediate Past Chair, **John Decker**, president/owner, Briggs Distributing Co., Inc.;
- Secretary, **Joel Guthals**, president, Guthals, Hunnes, Reuss & Thompson, P.C.;
- Treasurer, **Jerry Thomas**, director of business development, Transtech Center, Inc.

The new trustees are:

- **Nate Tracy**, solutions specialist, Computers Unlimited
- **Deborah McDonald**, civic leader
- **Brad Anderson**, owner, Hospitality Concepts, LLC
- **Tim Schruth**, first vice president, UBS Financial Services

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

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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