

First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, May 5, 2008, 8:00 a.m.*

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

A new, \$300,000 state-of-the-art computer lab in McDonald Hall was dedicated on Thursday, April 24. Students, faculty, business leaders and donors joined Dr. Gary Young, College of Business dean, and Dr. Jenny Leonard, assistant professor of information systems, to tour the specialized lab, which was made possible through \$150,000 in gifts from local businesses plus a \$150,000 matching grant from the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

The lab contains a multimedia center, 30 computer stations with webcams, a recordable white board, a large-format printer, and a stand-alone server and networking system, all of which will provide interactive and collaborative opportunities to give students the capabilities to help businesses manage today's complex technology needs.

Private donors to the computer lab were:

- Western Security Bank
- MDU Resources Foundation
- Nance Petroleum
- Computers Unlimited
- NorthWestern Energy
- Rimrock Foundation
- Zoot Banking Systems
- Ed and Becky Garding

MSU Billings softball player Shay Oberg was featured in the April 22, 2008, edition of *USA Today*. The article highlights her overcoming the obstacles of playing softball without a left hand. Oberg, a junior, is hitting .259 with three home runs and 12 RBI for the Yellowjackets.

Educators can earn certification to teach online. MSU Billings now offers a Certificate in Online Teaching within its Master of Education, Educational Technology Option. The certificate is designed not just for K-12 or college educators, but also for business and industry leaders who provide training online. “There’s a specific ‘cybergogy’ in teaching online and we’re going to help people understand and master that,” said Dr. Christy Low, assistant professor of educational theory and practice and an expert in education technology. Earning the certificate will require 21 credits in courses that address developments in education technology, pedagogical instructional design, adaptations for diverse learners in an online environment and assessing online learning outcomes.

During April:

- **First Interstate Bank** donated office furniture and equipment valued at \$20,629. The furniture/equipment has been placed in some of the temporarily displaced McMullen Hall offices around campus and will be incorporated back into the final McMullen Hall remodel.
- **ConocoPhillips** contributed another \$10,000 to the College of Technology Lockout/Tagout training station. The station will be used in the Process Plant Technology program to train students on proper safety protocols to be used in the workplace during maintenance. The training station is currently under construction and is scheduled for completion by fall semester 2008.
- **Brown’s Auto Service Inc.** has pledged \$7,500 to the soccer complex.

MSU Billings “Soccer Home for the Billings Community” was tabbed the best community-engagement project in the Great Northwest Athletic conference by the NCAA. “Soccer Home for the Billings Community” refers to the newly renovated home of the MSU Billings men’s and women’s soccer teams, which is also available for community teams. It is a state-of-the-art, artificial turf, soccer-only field, the largest and the only one of its kind in Montana. In addition to the Yellowjackets, local organizations such as Magic City Soccer Club and Yellowstone Soccer Association will use the field. Local high school teams have also been invited to play on the field, which is located on the MSUB College of Technology campus in west Billings.

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