

First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, April 7, 2008, 8:00 a.m.*

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

The grand opening and dedication of a new \$11 million, 50,000 square foot Health Sciences building at MSU Billings' College of Technology (COT) took place on March 13 with morning and evening events. During both events, the building's central great room was packed with students, dignitaries, state legislators, county commissioners, city officials, project donors, business people, and area citizens. The morning keynote speaker, Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, told the assemblage that, "This project demonstrates what Montanans can do when they work together."

The facility houses classrooms and laboratories for the rapidly expanding menu of health programs at the COT, including LPN and RN nursing degrees. The building was made possible through bipartisan support and funding from the 2005 and 2007 sessions of the Montana legislature and the governor. Property to site the new building, immediately adjacent to the existing COT campus, was acquired with help from local donors who donated half of the \$1.2 million cost of the land.

The evening keynote speaker, Martin Bean, Microsoft's general manager of worldwide education strategy, said that MSU Billings has created a solution to one of the greatest challenges facing the nation: education that incorporates the latest technology. Bean stated that the new building, and the technology within it, "gives him hope" as the best example of high-tech education he has "seen in a long time."

Donors make a difference! Here are some of the generous gifts received during March:

- The **M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust** awarded \$251,000 for equipment for chemistry and biology labs in the new Health Sciences building at the COT. The funds will purchase the very latest technology for student use, including software for anatomy and physiology simulations, microscopes, centrifuges, medical instruments, a spectrophotometer and other top quality medical and professional equipment.
- The **Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation** contributed \$10,000 for Dennis & Phyllis Washington Scholarships.

- **ExxonMobil** donated \$5,000 to the COT Faculty Excellence Fund for process plant technology.
- **Tom & Jeanne Vogel** donated \$5,000 for men's basketball recruiting.
- **St. Vincent Healthcare** contributed \$5,000 for the "Go Play" social awareness marketing program. The marketing campaign was conceived and executed by students in Dr. Sarah Keller's Media for Social Change classes and Dr. A.J. Otjen's Integrated and Applied Marketing classes. This year's campaign goals are to raise awareness of Billings area trails, motivate people to use pedestrian modes of transportation, and increase the perceived benefits of having trails and bike lanes developed.
- **Pat Jaffray** gave \$4,333.33 to be divided between the College of Technology Endowment and an unrestricted fund.
- **Warren Little** donated \$3,000 to the Bart Bauer Endowed Scholarship for Men's Basketball.
- **Sharon Ille ('66)** contributed \$2,525 to the Ille Family History Scholarship Endowment and the Ille Family History Scholarship.
- **JGA Architects-Engineers-Planners** contributed \$2,000 to be split between the College of Technology and an unrestricted fund.

Wine & Food Festival 2008 tickets go on sale April 14th. Please see the enclosed "Corks & Cuisine" newsletter for details about this fabulous festival in May.

Thanks to all our corporate partners and sponsors of Wine & Food Festival 2008:

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In March, the **Montana Board of Regents approved a new power plant technology program** for the MSU Billings College of Technology. The two-year, pre-apprenticeship associate of applied science degree will eventually accommodate 60 students. Power plant tech students will use a new, state-of-the-art power plant simulator to learn to operate different types of plants.

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