



First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, August 1, 2005, 8:00 a.m.*

I hope you are enjoying the summer! It was fun to see hundreds of people toting lawn chairs and blankets to Peaks to Plains Park on campus last Tuesday evening for a Shakespeare in the Parks production of “Taming of the Shrew.” The grassy amphitheater in the park was an idyllic setting for a relaxed, mid-summer, fresh-air theater experience.

MSU-Billings has received a grant to prepare more American Indian teachers. The Montana State University-Billings Montana Center on Disabilities and the newly expanded Bighorn Teacher Projects at MSU-Billings received \$1,140,000 from the U.S. Department of Education to implement Teacher Education for All in Montana (TEAM) at MSU-Billings. TEAM will be a collaboration among MSU-Billings, Little Big Horn College, Chief Dull Knife College, and school districts on or near the Crow and Cheyenne reservations. The grant provides the funding for MSU-Billings, by spring 2008, to graduate 15 certified American Indian teachers who demonstrate a commitment to employment in schools serving these reservations. Currently, American Indian teachers comprise a low percentage of the teaching staffs in Montana schools.

Many thanks to the following donors for gifts they made during the past month.

- **Ben Ripley & Sharon Weatherwax-Ripley ('91)** pledged \$26,000 to establish the Alice J. Ripley Endowed Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will be awarded to an education major in memory of Ben's mother, Alice Ripley. Alice earned a teaching diploma from Eastern Montana Normal School in 1935 and a Masters in Early Childhood Education from Eastern Montana College in 1966. Both Ben and Sharon volunteer many hours of their time each year to the Wine & Food Festival, and a portion of their gift will benefit the Past Chairs Scholarship Lot.
- **Dorothy Metz** pledged \$12,000 over two years to establish a \$10,000 endowed scholarship fund and provide \$2,000 for annual needs. The Metz Family Endowed Scholarship will help non-traditional students with financial need achieve a university education. Dorothy is a member of National Campaign Leadership Council for the People, Pride & Promise Campaign.
- **Bill & Connie Lowe** pledged \$20,000 to the Founder's Way Project. When finished, the completed project will establish walking paths and landscaping to connect Marbara Lane and Normal Avenue to the MSU-Billings campus. The Lowes have been faithful supporters of MSU-Billings and its students for many years. A few years ago, they contributed the leadership gift of \$100,000 for renovation of an existing campus house into a child care center for children of our students. Now named the William R. Lowe Child Care and Enrichment Center, the facility is fully enrolled.

- **ConocoPhillips** pledged \$9,500 to the ConocoPhillips Process Operations Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduate from Billings Senior High School enrolled in the MSU-Billings Process Plant Technology Associates Degree program at the College of Technology.
- **Rockne & Becky Cople** have added \$5,000 to the Dr. C. Rockne Cople Graduate Studies Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a graduate student who holds a 3.25 GPA and is working to obtain a Masters degree in Rehabilitation Counseling or School Counseling.
- **KPMG LLC** made an in-kind donation of office furniture valued at \$3,500 to the MSU-Billings College of Business. The new furniture has improved many faculty and staff offices in McDonald Hall.
- **The Jane Ferguson Memorial Endowed Scholarship** has received over \$4,000 in gifts from friends and family in memory of the late Jane Ferguson, of Red Lodge.
- **M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, Washington** awarded a \$14,000 grant to MSU-Billings. This award will enable Ben Larsen, a science teacher at Billings Senior High School, to form a partnership with MSU-Billings Assistant Professor Dr. James Barron, to conduct research during the next two summers in the MSU-Billings Department of Biological and Physical Sciences. The title of the research to be conducted is Population Ecology of the Short-horned Lizard, *Phrynosoma hernandesi*. The award includes funds to attend two national Partners in Science conferences, where Larsen will share the results of each summer's research.
- **The Student Assistance Foundation** presented MSU-Billings with \$53,700 through the foundation's Acce\$\$ Grant program. Since 1999, the foundation has awarded over \$215,000 to MSU-Billings, and nearly \$2.2 million, statewide, through the Acce\$\$ Grant program. Acce\$\$ Grants are awarded to Montana colleges and universities to help students whose unmet financial need is creating a barrier to continuing their education.

Yellowjacket Athletics. Fall and winter sports schedules are now available on the Yellowjacket Athletics website: www.msubillings.edu/athletics. The first home event of the 2005-2006 season will be August 20, when the men's and women's soccer teams host North Idaho College in an exhibition doubleheader.

Prefer e-mail? If you would prefer to receive *First Monday* electronically, please contact Campaign Associate Joy Hayworth (jhayworth@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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