

First Monday



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

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

I hope you had a wonderful Independence Day. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

On June 30, President Bush signed HR 2642, which contains legislation being called “The New GI Bill for the 21st Century.” This is an important piece of legislation that has the potential to replicate the life-changing educational benefits that were available to World War II veterans. Because the bill is so new, we don’t yet know just how it will be administrated, but below are some of the benefits we believe will be available to veterans.

- In-state tuition and fees
- \$1,000/month housing/living allowance for those serving 3+ years of active duty
- \$1,000/year for books and supplies for full-time students
- \$100/month for tutoring, up to \$1,200
- \$2,000 one-time-fee for licensing/certification
- Delimiting date to use benefits expanded from 10 years from date of discharge from active duty to 15 years
- Transfer of educational entitlement to spouse for veterans who served 6 years and promise to serve an additional 4 years
- Veterans serving 10 years may transfer educational entitlement to children
- \$1,200 enrollment fee for participation has been eliminated
- 36 months of entitlement (4 years’ university attendance with summers off, or 3 years straight through.)

George Pfeifer is MSU Billings’ new head men’s basketball coach. Pfeifer comes to MSUB after three years at the University of Idaho where he served one year as assistant coach and two as head coach. Prior to Idaho, Pfeifer was the head men’s coach at Lewis-Clark State College from 1989-2005 and the assistant coach from 1987-1989. During his time at LCSC, Pfeifer guided the Warriors to six NAIA national tournaments. In his last two seasons at LCSC, he went 31-6 and 25-9 in 2003-04 and 2004-05, respectively. Pfeifer was voted conference coach of the year four times at LCSC.

We are deeply grateful to all donors; your generosity makes a huge positive difference for students. Here are some of the gifts received during June.

- **Nan Friesen ('67)** pledged \$75,000 to establish the Nan & Ben Friesen Scholarship Endowment, making an initial donation of \$10,000. The first scholarship will be awarded in the 2009/2010 academic year to a full-time female English education major who is a Montana resident.
- **First Interstate BancSystem** donated \$10,000 to the College of Business Faculty Excellence Endowment. A one-to-one matching contribution from **First Interstate BancSystem Foundation** was allocated to the COB Faculty Excellence Fund to be used during the 2008/2009 academic year..
- **The Heisey Foundation** gave \$9,459 for the 2008/2009 Heisey Foundation Scholarships, to be awarded to upper class students from specific counties in north central Montana.
- **Montana Watercolor Outfit** contributed \$2,500 for the Art Department.
- An **anonymous** donor added \$2,000 to the Geoffrey A. Fishbaugh Memorial Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to male elementary education students who have been admitted into the teacher education program and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- **PEO Chapter BL** donated \$1,500 toward the PEO Chapter BL Norma Johnson Memorial Scholarship. Three women returning to college have been selected to receive these memorial scholarships. Those chosen are Amber Kelly-Nash, Angela Cravens and JeaLinda Patton.

The following individuals and businesses made commitments toward the new soccer complex during June.

- **Magic City Soccer** pledged \$10,000, making an initial payment of \$2,000.
- **Chemwest Systems Inc.** paid \$4,000 toward a pledge.

New findings indicate that Americans increased their philanthropic giving last year, for the first time giving more than \$300 billion in charitable contributions. Giving increased by 3.9 percent last year, despite rising gas prices and a year-end dip in the stock market, to \$306.4 billion. The findings, announced in late June, were based on research by Indiana University's Center on Philanthropy for Giving USA Foundation's annual philanthropy report.

Amid the good news were troubling signs: Giving by individuals, by far the largest source of income for nonprofit organizations, rose last year but didn't keep pace with inflation. The same was true for gifts from corporations. A survey of nonprofit leaders that accompanied the giving report showed concern that giving this year might be adversely affected by the economy and sliding stock market. Giving USA officials say even in lean years, though, charitable giving tends to be resilient, dropping little more than 1 percent.

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

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