

First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, June 2, 2008, 8:00 a.m.*

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

Graced by sunshine and nearly 1,500 generous guests, **Wine & Food Festival 2008 netted \$335,000, including nearly \$168,000 for scholarships.** Over its sixteen-year history, the festival has netted more than \$3 million to support the important work of the MSU Billings Foundation on behalf of the university and its students, especially in providing scholarships.

Including proceeds from the 2008 festival, Montana State University Billings Foundation has raised **\$2,952,000 during the past 12 months** for scholarships, university programs, capital projects, and endowed excellence funds. In addition, we have also been notified of \$1.2 million in bequest intentions since January 2008. These figures reflect the support of thousands of generous donors who believe in the value of higher education. I am grateful to each one of you.

Among the top “Lots of Scholarships” bidders in the 2008 Wine & Food Festival auction were:

- **Sam & Judy McDonald** - \$30,000
- **Dick & Cheri Cox; John & Claudia Decker** - \$15,000 each
- **Amy 1982 and Bill Brown; Tim 1973 & Kathy Schruth; Ron 1959 & Marilynn 1960 Sexton** - \$10,000 each
- **Stella Fong & Joseph Dillard; Jim & Janet Haar; Mike 1971 & Joan Matz; Bruce & Joan Parker; Mike & Cara Schaer** - \$5,000 each
- **Marilyn & Don Floberg** - \$4,000
- **Curt Kochner & Susan Thomas** - \$2,500
- **Stacy 1990 & Carrie 1991 Klippenstein; Michael & Linda Overstreet; Larry & Patricia Petersen** - \$2,000 each

Hundreds of others bid from \$100 to \$1,500 each for a total of \$167,750 raised in the scholarship auction lot.

Other gifts received during May include:

- **Westmoreland Coal Company & Penn Virginia Corporation Foundation** sent \$73,000 to establish the Westmoreland Coal Company and Penn Virginia Corporation Foundation Scholarship Endowment.
- **Stillwater Mining Company** gave \$6,360 for equipment for the diesel technology program at the College of Technology.
- **Melina Hawkins** donated \$3,000 to the **Kassandra Thompson-Christopherson Memorial Scholarship**.
- **ExxonMobil Foundation** granted \$2,000 to the Music Department for the piano maintenance fund. The money is a volunteer grant made on behalf of Gary Weitz, who volunteers in the music department.
- **Soccer Source LLC** has contributed \$2,000 to the Soccer Complex.

Dr. Barbara Wheeling, assistant professor of accounting in the College of Business, authored the 336-page textbook “Introduction to Agricultural Accounting,” which has been published by Delmar Publishers. Dr. Wheeling used her farm and accounting backgrounds to create a method to compile and analyze accounting information specific to agricultural operations. Her book is now the only comprehensive agricultural accounting textbook in the United States and is being sold nationally and internationally.

Dr. Linda Christensen, a professor emeritus of special education from the College of Education, recently received the Special Education Lifetime Achievement award from the Montana Council for Exceptional Children. The award recognizes an individual who has made continued and sustained contributions to the education of children and youth with exceptional abilities. Christensen taught for 26 years at MSU Billings and retired last month.

Want to make a lasting imprint on the world? Through a **bequest** to Montana State University Billings Foundation (tax id #81-0301477), the reach of your kindness will extend beyond mortal time constraints to help future students. I recommend that you work with an attorney to prepare your Will, assuring that your loved ones also receive the bequests you desire. If you have already included the MSUB Foundation in your Will, I'd appreciate your giving me a ring (406-657-2244) or sending an email (mmiller@msubillings.edu) to let me know.

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