

First Monday



From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, February 2, 2004, 8:00 a.m.

Faculty Note: Dr. Matthew Benacquista, Professor of Physics, is on sabbatical and is currently a Fulbright lecturer in Italy. He was a visiting scholar at Penn State this past fall semester. Dr. Benacquista recently organized and presented at a workshop on Globular Cluster Dynamics and Gravitational Radiation. His paper on “A Simulation of the LISA Data Stream from Galactic White Dwarf Binaries” was published in the January issue of *Classical and Quantum Gravity*.

Many thanks to the following donors:

- **Dan Rust ('77)** has made a \$10,000 pledge to the People, Pride & Promise Campaign. \$4,500 will benefit the MSU-Billings Tennis Program, \$4,500 has been restricted to the College of Business, and the remaining \$1,000 will benefit the Annual Drive for Excellence over the next five years. Dan, an insurance agent with State Farm Companies, lives in Bozeman and is a member of the National Campaign Leadership Council.
- **Dick & Cheri Cox** added \$5,000 to the Helen & Winston Cox Innovation Endowment, which now totals \$25,880. The Helen and Winston Cox Innovation Award honors members of the MSU-Billings community who successfully implement innovative programs that significantly improve the quality of undergraduate education.
- **Dr. Wayne Hansen ('52)**, contributed \$5,000 to establish a gift annuity that will benefit the MSU-Billings Foundation General Endowment. Dr. Hansen is a former member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and is the owner of Wayne L. Hansen, D.D.S. in Billings.
- **Dr. Linda Raedeke** has given \$5,000, to be matched with an additional \$5,000 from ChevronTexaco, for a total of \$10,000 to benefit the College of Technology. Linda is a member and past chair of the College of Technology National Advisory Council and a member of the National Campaign Leadership Council. She is Group Manager of Integrated Lab Technologies for ChevronTexaco and lives in Berkeley, California.

Dr. Dan Zirker, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, shared a recent note from **Stephanie Morrison ('02)**, who is currently pursuing her **Ph.D. in physics at the University of Notre Dame**. Excerpts from Stephanie's letter underscore the superb undergraduate education she received at MSU-Billings:

I've been here at Notre Dame for the past year and a half in pursuit of a Ph.D. in physics....One of the most interesting aspects of continuing my education in a different environment has been discovering how my undergraduate preparation compared to that of other graduate students. Of my incoming class, I was one of only two students who graduated from a state university. Although initially intimidated, I am impressed with the excellent education I received from MSU-Billings! My mathematics core, augmented with several physics independent studies, provided the necessary tools to succeed in a physics graduate program. I encourage the students of MSU-Billings to recognize the solid undergraduate education available to them, and then to take that background, along with their personal potential, and go out for an academic joy ride!

2003/2004 Annual Drive for Excellence is successful. Director of Annual Giving Jill Krueger, and Scholarship Administrator Susan Rhodes report that the Annual Drive has exceeded its goal with over \$714,684 committed by alumni, community members, businesses, civic groups, and university employees to support scholarships, academic programs, and equipment needs for the 2003/2004 academic year. A special thank you to **Bill Brown**, who, in his third consecutive year as Annual Drive Chair, has provided outstanding leadership for the 125 volunteers who conduct the community portion of the Drive. Jill Krueger will begin the Alumni Phonathon in early February, with an additional goal of \$52,000.

Stanford Fellowship. I am pleased to have been selected as a Fellow for the 2004 Stanford University Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. As one of 50 Fellows, I've been awarded a \$6,000 scholarship toward the tuition for this intensive study program for nonprofit executives. I'm confident this high-level training will benefit my efforts for the MSU-Billings Foundation.

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.