

First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, January 5, 2004, 8:00 a.m.*

Happy New Year! Here are a few highlights from December 2003.

MSU-Billings Foundation Trustee Kim Gillan was honored on December 4 in Washington, D.C. for her efforts to curb drunk driving. A Montana legislator, Kim received the Legislator of the Year award from the National Commission Against Drunk Driving for her sponsorship of new DUI legislation during the 2003 Montana Legislature. Congratulations, Kim!

MSU-Billings Freshman Named to Women's Soccer All-Region Team. On December 10, Ally Taylor, a freshman midfielder at Montana State-Billings, was named to the 2003 National Soccer Coaches Association of America West Region Second Team. Taylor was the Yellowjackets' leading scorer this fall and becomes the University's first all-region selection. "It's a great honor for her to have been chosen as one of the top 22 players in the West Region," said Yellowjacket coach Don Trentham. "From top to bottom, the West Region is the best soccer region in the country."

New Campaign Gifts.

Sincere thanks to the following donors for their gifts and pledges to the *People, Pride & Promise* Campaign during December.

- **Jane Howell, director of the MSU-Billings Library, and Dr. Joseph Howell, professor of mathematics and chair of the Department of Mathematics,** have committed \$50,000. \$10,000 will benefit the Annual Drive over the next five years, and \$40,000 has been placed in trust by the Howells, with 50% of the trust proceeds directed to the Library Endowment Fund and 50% designated for a Mathematical Studies Scholarship Endowment.
- **Jennifer Brevik Corning ('83) and Steve Corning** contributed \$10,000 to establish the Steve and Jennifer Corning Scholarship Endowment. Jennifer, an Art Department alumna, is a member of the MSU-Billings Foundation Board of Trustees. Steve is owner and president of the Corning Companies, specializing in property development and commercial real estate ventures.
- **Wells Fargo Bank and Wells Fargo Private Client Services** have pledged \$130,000 to benefit scholarships, the Annual Drive, and Wine and Food Festival initiatives. Thanks to Patrice Elliott, president of Wells Fargo Bank, and Howard Vralsted, recently retired president of Wells Fargo Private Client Services, for securing this pledge.
- **Dr. Joseph Michels,** dean of the College of Business, contributed \$12,000 to benefit the Library Acquisition and Development Endowment, a permanent fund that provides annual revenue to enhance the collections of the MSU-Billings Library.

- **Dr. Gary Gray**, athletic director, has pledged \$10,000 over five years. Twenty percent of Dr. Gray's gift will go to the Yellowjacket Booster Fund, with 80% designated for the Yellowjacket Athletics Endowment.
- **Erna Abrahamson** added \$7,500 to the Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund in memory of her late husband, John D. Abrahamson, a 1931 graduate of Eastern Montana Normal School. Erna has contributed \$13,500 to this fund since November 2001.
- **Royal and Norma Johnson** added \$2,500 to the Royal and Norma Johnson Endowed Scholarship Fund, to which they have given \$12,500 since December 2001.
- **Viola Abrams** invested \$2,261 in a gift annuity that will fund an endowed scholarship in memory of her parents, Charles and Dora Hout. Including Viola's previous investments, the fund now totals over \$14,000.
- **Ken and Lena Heikes** gave an additional \$1,250 to the Kenneth W. Heikes Family Endowed Scholarship Fund, which now totals \$42,500.
- **David Hood**, associate professor of political science, contributed \$5,300 to the Model United Nations Endowment. An annual program, the Model U.N. brings 150 high school students from Montana and Northern Wyoming to MSU-Billings each spring. Participants assume the roles of diplomats as they consider contemporary problems and learn about different cultures, policies, global issues, and the mechanisms for peaceful resolution of disputes. As diplomats working in an international forum, Model U.N. students thoroughly research their countries and the issues under discussion. Perhaps of greatest importance is that students learn the skills of compromise, negotiation and consensus building. The 2003 Model U.N.'s Security Council focused on "The Israeli-Palestinian Dispute," while the General Assembly's issue was "Protecting the Rights of Women and Indigenous Peoples."

Yellowjackets Upset Second-Ranked Humboldt State 79-78. MSU-Billings Men's Basketball team stunned No. 2 Humboldt State in a one-point thriller December 29, hitting fourteen 3-pointers and shooting 54-percent from behind the arc. The Yellowjackets (5-2) had five players in double figures led by Cameron Munoz's 18 points. All three of Munoz's field goals were 3-pointers and he connected on a perfect 9-of-9 from the foul line. Six of his free throws came in the final 1:50 as the Lumberjacks (9-2) were forced to foul after MSUB built a late 71-66 lead.

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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