

# First Monday



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*From the desk of: Marilyn Miller, President and CEO  
Monday, June 2, 2003, 8:00 a.m.*

**The National Campaign Leadership Council (NCLC) of the People, Pride, & Promise Campaign for Excellence** held their second annual meeting May 16, 2003. Campaign Co-Chairs Bruce Parker and Pat Davison led seventeen NCLC members and eleven University and Foundation administrators, including Chancellor Ron Sexton, through a review of progress since the campaign's January 2002 starting date, and planning for the coming year's campaign activity. NCLC members from Montana were joined by Council representatives from Maryland, Arizona, California, and the Honorable Conrad Burns, United States Senator from the State of Montana, who flew in from Washington, DC. After the meeting, Council members and their spouses joined 800 other partygoers for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine and Food Festival tasting event on campus.

The five-year comprehensive campaign remains in the silent (or nucleus) phase, during which the campaign quietly progresses through the leadership gift process, testing the viability of the \$21 million goal prior to public announcement of the campaign effort. Excellent progress has been made during the campaign's first eighteen months, and NCLC members are enthusiastically optimistic that, with your help, the People, Pride, & Promise Campaign will be a great success.

**Sincere thanks to Joel ('73) & Cindi ('75) Peterson** of Woodbridge, Virginia for their \$25,000 pledge to the People, Pride, & Promise Campaign. \$10,000 of the Peterson's gift will benefit the College of Business Endowment, \$10,000 will be deposited in the Music Department Endowment, and \$5,000 will be directed to the Annual Drive for Excellence for immediate needs. As NCLC members, Joel and Cindi hosted a Leadership Dinner in the Washington, DC area in April 2003. We are grateful for their continued commitment to their alma mater.

**Retired Professor Frederick K. Miller and his wife Marie** have included the MSU-Billings Foundation in their estate plans. The Millers' bequest of \$40,000 will help Montana State University-Billings continue its tradition of access and excellence. Fred taught at Eastern Montana College from 1959 until 1978 and retired as Associate Professor Emeritus from the Communication Arts Department

in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Millers' fine example is a reminder to all of us to remember MSU-Billings when we're writing our Wills or doing estate planning. The Millers will be added to the Foundation's Heritage Circle, which is listed in each annual report.

**MSU-Billings Foundation's Wine and Food Festival 2003 was a tremendous success**, smashing previous attendance and revenue records. Early estimates of net proceeds indicate that around \$230,000 will be available for student scholarships and technology and program enhancements. Last year's net was \$205,000, and the record, set in 2001, was \$215,000. One thousand, three hundred and ninety-six people took part in week-long festivities including the Guest Chefs Dinner, seven cooking schools, Wine Wise Seminar, Wines Around the World Tour, the Friday evening wine and food tasting, and Saturday's grand finale gourmet dinner with live and silent auctions on May 17. In Saturday's live auction, the scholarship lot alone, during which patrons lift their bid cards to make direct gifts for student scholarships, raised \$103,350. The previous record for the scholarship lot was \$79,100. Many thanks to all volunteers and patrons who contributed to the success of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine and Food Festival.

**Yellowjacket Cross-Country Team Posts Nation's Top GPA.** For the third straight year, the Montana State University-Billings women's cross-country team has been honored by the Division II Cross Country Coaches Association for posting the highest team grade point average in the nation. The Yellowjackets, who finished this fall semester with a cumulative 3.82 team GPA, have been on the All-Academic list every year since 1996.

MSU-Billings edged the University of Nebraska-Omaha for the top spot. Nebraska-Omaha had a 3.76 team GPA. Rounding out the top ten were Saint Martin's College (3.64), Truman State University (3.63), C.W. Post (3.62), Indiana University of Pennsylvania (3.59), Edinboro University (3.57), Emporia State University (3.57), Ferris State University (3.56) and Wingate University (3.56).

**Snail mail or e-mail?** If you would prefer to receive *First Monday* electronically, please contact Campaign Associate Joy Hayworth ([jhayworth@msubillings.edu](mailto:jhayworth@msubillings.edu)).

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