

First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, June 1, 2009, 8:00 a.m.*

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

The 17th Annual Wine & Food Festival was a wonderful success, netting more than \$260,000 including nearly \$118,000 for scholarships. Nearly 1,500 guests enjoyed the week-long festivities that culminated with a gourmet dinner and live auction Saturday, May 16. During the Saturday auction, guests have opportunity to “bid” gifts to scholarships. Again this year, generous supporters of higher education raised their bid cards to help students realize their dreams of attaining a university education. Among the top “Lots of Scholarships” bidders in the 2009 Wine & Food Festival auction were:

- **Deborah V. McDonald** - \$25,000
- **John & Claudia Decker; Nicki & Rick Larson; Dick & Sheri Cox** - \$10,000 each
- **Amy 1982 & Bill Brown; Mike Ross & Lisa Larr; Bruce C. Parker; Michael & Cara Schaer; Dr. Ronald (1959, 1964) P. Sexton** - \$5,000 each
- **Curt Kochner & Susan Thomas** – \$2,500
- **Larry & Pat Petersen** - \$2,000
- **Stella Fong & Dr. Joseph Dillard** - \$1,500
- **Michael & Annette Barber; Kay (1983) & Daniel Berry; Dr. D’Ann Campbell & Dr. Richard Jensen; John (1985) & Victoria (2006) Cech; Sharon Ille (1966); Bernie (1984) & Lynn Harrington (1980), Dr. Kathleen Ryan; Curt Starr and Dr. Lottie Eaton; Dr. Mary Susan & David Fishbaugh; Marilynn Miller; Rich & Laurie Weigel; Cy (1971) Jamison; Bill & Mary Underriner** - \$1,000 each

Hundreds of others bid from \$100 to \$900 each for a total of \$117,850.00 raised in the scholarship auction lot.

Many thanks to these additional May donors:

- **The Jeffrey M. Edgmond Family** gave \$50,000 in memory of Jeff Edgmond. At the family’s request, the Library Excellence Endowment received \$25,000 and the

MSU Billings Music Department received \$25,000 to establish and maintain the Jeffrey M. Edgmond Resource Center.

- **Bighorn Corporation** donated a Chevrolet pickup valued at \$3,550 for use by the automotive technology students at the College of Technology.
- **Carina R. Lange** pledged \$2,500 plus to the College of Business Faculty Excellence Endowment Fund (\$2,250) and unrestricted (\$250). First Interstate BancSystem Foundation will match Carina's gift dollar for dollar.
- **Susan M. Fachini, Assistant Chief of Police at MSU Billings** donated \$2,100 to establish the Assistant Chief Susan Fachini Criminal Justice Professional Development Scholarship.
- **St. John's Foundation** donated a total of \$3,500 to the St. John's Home Scholarship Fund.
- **CEI – Electrical Contractors and Therapy Associates Inc.** each gave \$1,500 to the upcoming Autism Conference.

MSU Billings students won first place in the university division of the American Indian Business Plan Competition at the American Indian Business Leaders national conference in Arizona recently. The winning team, whose members are Mary Alice Walker, a member of the Winnebago tribe in Nebraska; Curtis Walette, a Northern Cheyenne; Karis Jackson, a Crow/Hidatsa; and Angela Deputee, a Crow, developed a solid plan for a business that will promote awareness and pride in American Indian culture and make money at the same time.

The students created a business called NDN Translations to produce unique t-shirts. The front of each shirt carries a single word or phrase in a specific tribal language with an arrow pointing to the back for the translation. Statements like "Nanomonestot-se" and "Sho Dah Gee" on the fronts make viewers want to follow the arrows to the back for the translations of "Make peace" in Northern Cheyenne or "How are you doing?" in Crow.

With a mission/vision statement, financial breakdown, marketing plan, a local economic development component converting an unused building in Lane Deer into their shop, and the enthusiastic support of the Northern Cheyenne tribe, the four young entrepreneurs impressed the judges.

Dr. A.J. Otjen, assistant professor of marketing and advisor to the MSU Billings chapter of AIBL, said the first-place finish shows not only that MSU Billings students know how to apply their education, but that they can work as a team for a positive outcome.

To make a gift online go to <http://www.msubillings.edu/foundation/> & click "Make-a-Gift."

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