



First Monday



From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Friday, March 4, 2005, 8:00 a.m.

First Monday on Friday! I've asked Joy Hayworth, Campaign Associate, to mail my newsletter a few days early this month so, in case you haven't heard about our terrific Wine 101 seminar and you'd like to attend, you'll still have time to get tickets.

- **Wine 101**, the popular two-evening seminar inaugurated in 2001 as a prelude to the Wine and Food Festival, will take place on March 8 & 9. Guests will learn the basics about wines, practice the art of wine tasting by sampling fine wines, and enjoy delicious foods to experience the pleasures of wine and food pairing. Call 406-657-2244 for tickets.

Many thanks to the following donors:

- **Rocky Mountain Bank** has committed \$50,000 to be paid over five years. \$5,000 of the bank's total gift will benefit an unrestricted fund, and \$45,000 will establish the Rocky Mountain Bank Endowed Scholarship for students with financial need and academic merit. Danny Skarda, president of Rocky Mountain Bank, is an MSU-Billings Foundation trustee and a member of our National Campaign Leadership Council (NCLC).
- **Mike ('73) and Judi Hickey** pledged \$25,000 to be divided between an unrestricted fund and the College of Business Endowment. Formerly with Tractor and Equipment Company (T & E) in Billings, Mike and Judi moved to Seattle several years ago where Mike was Executive Vice President of NC Machinery, the parent company of T & E. After retiring, Mike and Judi moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, where they now live. Mike is a member of our NCLC.
- **Albertson's, Inc.** committed \$5,000 as a Corporate Sponsor for the 2005 Wine & Food Festival.
- **Ken & Lena Heikes** gave \$1,500 to the MSU-Billings Retiree Endowed Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will benefit an undergraduate student who is a child, grandchild or legal ward of retired employees of Montana State University-Billings.
- **Tractor & Equipment Co.** gave an additional \$1,310 to the Tractor & Equipment Company Endowed Scholarship Fund, to which they have been contributing for several years.

New Athletic Conference. Dr. Gary Gray, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, announced February 3 that Montana State University-Billings will join the NCAA

Please Turn to Reverse Side ⇔

Division II, Texas-based Heartland Conference beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year. MSU-Billings, which currently competes in the Pacific West Conference, has been an NCAA Division II member for over 25 years. The move will assist in cost containment, since Yellowjacket teams will no longer incur rising travel costs to Hawaii. Also, women's basketball—one of the University's most successful programs—will have a conference affiliation and conference schedule for the first time since 2000-2001.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game! On February 9, Dr. Gray announced that baseball will become MSU-Billings' thirteenth varsity sport beginning with the 2005 fall semester. The Yellowjacket baseball team will begin official competition in the Heartland Conference with the 2006 NCAA spring championship season.

Dr. Suneetha deSilva, an associate professor who specializes in Early Childhood Development and Special Education in the MSU-Billings College of Education, addressed the national PBS "Ready to Learn" seminar, February 3 & 4 in Baltimore, Maryland. National PBS was interested in a project Dr. deSilva initiated at the Crow Reservation, in partnership with Montana PBS, which donates books that MSU-Billings students read onto tapes, first in English, then in Crow. The books and tapes are placed at the MSU-Billings Even Start Family Literacy program at Crow Agency and circulated throughout the reservation.

The 2005 Alumni Phonathon is currently under way. Jill Krueger, Director of Annual Giving, trains and supervises MSU-Billings students as they call alumni across the nation to update alumni information and request support for the University.

Yellowjacket Hall of Fame. On February 12, Montana State University-Billings inducted five former student-athletes and a former coach into its Athletics Hall of Fame and Distinction. The new inductees are:

- Robert Anderson ('72)—Men's Gymnastics
- Robert Barber ('96)—Men's Soccer, Tennis, and Volleyball
- Fred Harrison ('69)—Men's Basketball
- Lori (Fries) Henrickson ('85)—Women's Basketball
- Frank McCarthy—Former Coach, Women's Basketball (1989-1999)
- Amy (Winslow) Pfeifle ('00)—Women's Basketball

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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