

First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, May 3, 2004, 8:00 a.m.*

Campaign Kick-Off. Watch your mail for news of our gala People, Pride & Promise Campaign Celebration on Friday, June 25, 2004. We'll invite a couple hundred of our closest friends to help us announce the campaign to the media and celebrate our progress toward the \$21,000,000 goal. It's going to be a great party!

Commencement 2004. The 77th Commencement took place on Saturday, May 1. Eight hundred and sixty-nine students graduated from Montana State University-Billings, ready and well-equipped to take on the world! Commencement is my favorite event each year—it provides tangible reminders (869 of them) of why we believe so deeply in higher education and support of MSU-Billings students. I gain inspiration and renewed commitment from graduation each year.

Wine and Food Festival. Foundation staff and hundreds of volunteers are preparing for the 12th annual Wine and Food Festival May 10-15. Jeanne Moller, Foundation special events director, forecasts the best Festival ever, with the Guest Chefs Dinner featuring California's Gastronomically Correct Chefs; Winemaster Dinners with Patty Bogle of Bogle Vineyards and Harry Wetzel IV of Alexander Valley Vineyards; six cooking schools throughout the week; the Wine 401 seminar; wine and hors d'oeuvres under the big tent on Friday evening; and the grand finale: Saturday night's champagne reception, gourmet dinner, and auction. Several cooking schools are sold out, but there are a few tickets still available for other events.

New Gifts. Thanks to the following donors who made commitments during April.

- **Computers Unlimited** contributed \$10,000 as a Corporate Partner of the 2004 Wine & Food Festival.
- **Ed Garding ('71)** committed \$10,000 to be given in May 2004 for the College of Business (COB) Faculty Excellence Endowment Fund. Ed, an executive vice president at First Interstate BancSystem of Montana, was keynote speaker at a COB alumni event on April 22.

- **Sharon Peterson** pledged \$5,000 to the People, Pride & Promise Campaign. Sharon, associate director of Leadership Montana, is a member of the MSU-Billings Foundation Board of Trustees and a division chair for the Annual Drive for Excellence.
- **David Kem and Judith Raines** of Houston sent \$2,500 for the Florence Steele Kem Scholarship they have been funding since 1996 in honor of David's mother, **Florence Steele Kem ('31)**, of Columbus, Montana. David and Judith have thoughtfully made arrangements through their estate plans so the scholarship will continue after they die.
- **Gene Arnold/State Farm Insurance** contributed ten IBM laptop computers to the College of Technology for use in the auto collision and repair program.
- **Sodhexo** pledged \$75,000 to support the Wine & Food Festival, MSU-Billings Foundation outreach events, and renovation of the coffee shop in the liberal arts building.

“Teaching as a Second Career” is proportionately MSU-Billings’ fastest growing program. The two-year curriculum offers graduate and undergraduate programs designed for individuals with associate degrees or 60 college credits who wish to become certified elementary school teachers. Both the graduate and undergraduate tracks are also available online to allow "site-bound" students to earn degrees or certification.

Jacquelyn Weitz, a 20-year-old MSU-Billings piano performance major, is one of 24 pianists chosen from hundreds of applicants worldwide to participate in the Young Artists Program at the prestigious Van Cliburn Institute in Fort Worth, Texas, for four weeks of intense study and performance, May 30-June 27. Jacquelyn’s first week will find her in a concerto competition.

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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