



First Monday



From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, May 2, 2005, 8:00 a.m.

We held three Leadership Receptions for selected alumni and friends during April.

- **April 6: Great Falls, Montana.** Dr. Randy Rhine, Dean of the College of Professional Studies & Lifelong Learning, and Foundation staff Kathie Riggs, Dick Buckley and Joy Hayworth greeted the attendees.
 - **Dennis ('71) & Janis ('71) Conner** hosted the event at Tony Roma's Restaurant. Dennis and Jan met when they were students at "Eastern." Dennis is an attorney and owner of Conner Law Firm in Great Falls; Janis is a community volunteer.
 - **Martha Capps ('90)** works for the City of Great Falls, putting her finance degree to good use.
 - **Joann ('73) & Gary ('77) Thompson** knew each other while attending EMC, met again 35 years later, and were recently married in Hawaii. Joann is program director for Big Brothers & Sisters, and Gary is an attorney with Thompson Potts & Donovan P.C.
 - **Lloyd Fanning ('65)** recently retired from a thirty-five-year career in teaching. She and her husband Francis live in Great Falls.
 - **Vicki Christman ('65)** recently retired from education. She attended the event with her husband Phil, who is an optometrist and owner of Pearle Vision Center.
 - **Tom Storfa ('70)** is vice president of Lumber Yard Supply in Great Falls. He and Dennis Connor were roommates at EMC.
 - **Sonja Jones** spoke of her son and daughter both attending EMC. Sonja has established the R.A. Jones Family Scholarship at MSU-Billings.
 - **Judy Spilde ('62)** is a retired teacher and attended the event with her husband Harold.
 - **Jackie Goldhahn ('81)** is a teacher for the Geraldine schools. She and her husband, Lynn, own a ranch near Geraldine.
 - **Kathy West Jordan** recalled that while she attended classes at EMC for just one year, her experience was a memorable one. She is an insurance agent in Great Falls.
- **April 25: Denver, Colorado.** Provost and Academic Vice-Chancellor Dr. Janie Park, Jill Hirschi of the Foundation, and I welcomed the attendees.
 - **Jim ('64) and Beth Gray** hosted the event at the Wellshire Inn. When Jim and Beth met, she was secretary for Dr. Fred Van Valkenberg and took night classes at "Eastern", and Jim was a full-time student here. Jim is a business consultant, and Beth works at Sir Speedy Printing.
 - **Barbara Curtis ('52)** lives in Lakewood, CO and is a retired elementary teacher. She was joined by her husband, Graham.
 - **Sister Lavonne Guidoni ('72)**, a member of the Sisters of Charity Leavenworth, is Director of Donor & Community Relations for the Mount Saint Vincent Home.

- **Debbie Hjellum ('66 & '79)** is an education attorney for three school districts in the Denver area. She specializes in expulsion and disciplinary hearings.
- **Casie ('95) and John ('96) Nickey** met at MSU-Billings. Casie is completing her Masters Degree in social work, and John works for Level 3 Communications.
- **April 26: Colstrip, Montana.** College of Education Dean George White, and Foundation staff Kathie Riggs, Dick Buckley and Joy Hayworth met with the guests.
 - **Penny Morse ('76)** hosted the event at the Schoolhouse Art Center. Penny is a preschool teacher. Her husband Warren accompanied her.
 - **Chris Scheese ('04)** works for PPL Montana and is also a youth director at Colstrip Alliance Church. He was joined by his wife Dani.
 - **Michelle Petersen ('92)** is a teacher for gifted and talented students in the Colstrip schools.
 - **Ron Grimsrud ('74)** remembers how many veterans attended EMC after the Vietnam War. Ron works for Westmoreland Resources and his wife Linda is a realtor with Castle Rock Realty.
 - **Tammy Raymond ('87)** is a Special Education and Resource Teacher for Lame Deer Schools.

Many thanks to the following donors for their recent gifts:

- **Dennis ('71) & Janis ('71) Conner** gave \$10,000 to the People, Pride & Promise Campaign for Excellence.
- **Melina Hawkins ('79)** has committed a \$10,000 unrestricted gift. Melina is Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships at MSU-Billings.
- **The Helen & Winston Cox Fund of the Montana Community Foundation** directed \$6,000 to the Winston & Helen Cox Fellowship Award Fund. The award annually recognizes an exceptional junior faculty member at MSU-Billings. The 2005 recipient of the award was Dr. Susan Balter-Reitz, Assistant Professor of Communications.
- **Eugene ('68) and Marilyn ('67) Wade** pledged \$5,500 to benefit the Chancellor's Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment, the Undergraduate Non-Resident Scholarship Endowment, and an unrestricted fund.
- **The Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation** sent \$5,000 to for the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Scholarship Fund.
- **Ed Garding ('71)** gave \$5,000 to the College of Business Faculty Excellence Endowment. Ed also submitted a \$5,000 matching gift from the First Interstate Foundation for the College of Business Dean's Discretionary Fund.

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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