

First Monday

*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, November 7, 2005, 8:00 a.m.*

Hurricane Tax Package Contains Opportunity for Donors to MSU-Billings.

The tax relief package passed by Congress to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina provides an opportunity for generous individuals to access historic tax reductions. It allows donors who make cash gifts by the end of the year to deduct 100% of their adjusted gross incomes, double the normal limit of 50%. Qualifying gifts must be made between August 28, 2005 and December 31, 2005. Congress approved the charitable tax provision because it feared that Americans had given so generously to help disaster victims they might cut back on their contributions to other organizations, including universities.

“After 9/11, there was an outpouring of giving to charities involved in responding to that tragedy, but unfortunately, many other charities saw a significant downturn in donations,” Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa said. “My hope in passing this provision is that Americans’ generosity for those harmed by Hurricane Katrina won’t mean a tradeoff for other important charitable work in this country.” (New York Times, October 27, 2005)

To utilize this one-time provision in the tax code, donors are taking this opportunity to make larger gifts than previously planned for this year, and/or to pay off multi-year pledges before December 31. Moreover, IRA withdrawals by those 59½ or older qualify for the 100% deduction.

Because Montana adheres to federal taxation statutes, Montana taxpayers may also access the 100% deductibility opportunity on their state tax returns. To determine how this tax break can work for you, please talk with your tax advisors.

For additional information about this unprecedented opportunity, please contact me, Kathie Riggs, or Dick Buckley at 657-2244 or 888-430-6782 (toll free), or email foundation@msubillings.edu.

MSU-Billings Receives ‘Best College’ Ranking By *U.S. News & World Report*.

For the sixth consecutive year, MSU-Billings has been ranked as one of the nation’s “Best Colleges” by *U.S. News and World Report* for undergraduate through master’s level academics. MSU-Billings achieved the national ranking in the category Best Universities-Master’s for the West region third tier of the United States.

New MSU-Billings Allied Health Professions Dean Took Reins in October.

Dr. David Garloff, formerly the associate dean of clinical affairs at the College of

Osteopathic Medicine at Des Moines University in Iowa, has been appointed the first permanent dean of the College of Allied Health Professions.

The College of Allied Health Professions is the newest of six colleges at MSU-Billings. It was approved by the Montana Board of Regents two years ago. There are 18 faculty and staff members in the college. Key program areas are athletic training, health and human performance, and rehabilitation and human services. Students in those programs take courses to graduate as health educators, trainers, rehabilitation counselors, mental health counselors, drug and alcohol counselors, adult education professionals, psychologists, and human services professionals.

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of MSU-Billings, many thanks to the following donors:

- **An anonymous couple** has once again given \$10,000 for the Homesteaders Scholarship, which benefits students from selected Montana counties. Since 1995, this generous couple has contributed more than \$100,000 for scholarships.
- **PEO Chapter S** gave \$10,000 to add to the Helen Bressler PEO Chapter S Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is awarded to a non-traditional, female education major.
- **Jackets & Company** added \$9,700 to the Edna Frost Bookstore Scholarship Fund. The fund, established in memory of a former manager of the campus bookstore, provides two semesters of tuition assistance for one male and one female full-time student.
- **The Homer A. & Mildred S. Scott Foundation** pledged \$2,000 for the Homer A. & Mildred S. Scott Foundation Scholarship, which benefits a full-time student pursuing a business, banking, or accounting major.
- **The Montana Society of CPAs** pledged \$1,000 to the Anthony Gerharz Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is awarded to a student pursuing a degree in accounting who holds a cumulative GPA of 3.0. Over \$11,000 has been given to the scholarship fund since 1991.
- **The Montana Women's Run** donated \$2,300 to the MSU-Billings women's cross-country team, the only women's collegiate running program in the area. The Lady Yellowjackets compete in NCAA Division II and are a member of the Heartland Conference. The gift from the Montana Women's Run goes to the program's scholarship fund.
- **Nels Christiansen** made a gift of \$1,000 to the Coaches Memorial Bust Fund in honor of former coach Mike Harkins. The fund was established by former Yellowjacket athletes to honor past coaches and commission busts in their likenesses to be displayed in the main foyer of the Physical Education Building. A bust of former coach Robert Lee was installed and dedicated in August 2005. To date, \$4,751 has been raised to commission a bust of Coach Harkins.

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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