

# First Monday



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*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO  
Monday, November 3, 2008, 8:00 a.m.*

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

**MSU Billings alumni, supporters and friends** are among those who will receive Philanthropy Awards later this month. They include:

- Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser – **Bernie Harrington (1984)**
- Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation – **High Tech Construction**
- Outstanding Philanthropists – **Dr. Walt and Mary (1982) Peet**
- Outstanding Foundation – **The Sample Foundation**

The celebration/dinner, sponsored by the Association of Fund-Raising Professionals, will be Thursday, November 13. Contact Kathie Riggs, 657-2244, for more information.

**We are thankful to all donors.** Here's a description of some gifts received during October.

- **Bart Templeman (1967)** was responsible for securing a grant of \$20,500 from Ironwood Throwers Camp to develop the Yellowjacket Track & Field Program and provide scholarships for javelin, discus, or shotput throwers in the program.
- **High Tech Construction** gave an additional \$20,000 to fund scholarships for students in the carpentry program at the College of Technology. High Tech has given a total of \$60,000 for these scholarships over the past three years.
- **Langlas Construction** also contributed \$20,000 for 2008-2009 carpentry scholarships, bringing Langlas' scholarship contributions to \$60,000 over three years.
- **Dowl LLC** sent \$15,000 for the new soccer complex. This brings the amount of Dowl's contributions to the Soccer Complex Initiative to \$25,000.
- **Gwyn N. Taft (1991), on behalf of Taft Enterprises LLP**, donated a 1995 T600 Kenworth Truck Tractor valued at \$10,000 to be used by the Auto Body Tech students at the College of Technology.
- **To date, the following \$10,000 Corporate Partners** are on board for Wine & Food Festival 2009:
  - **Billings Gazette Communications**
  - **Briggs Distributing Company**
  - **Computers Unlimited**
  - **Sodexo**
- **Morrison-Maierle Systems Corporation** pledged \$7,500 to the Soccer Complex Initiative.
- **The Montana Beef Council** committed \$5,500 for Wine & Food Festival 2009.

- **To date, \$5,000 Corporate Sponsorships** for Wine Fest '09 have been pledged by:
  - Albertsons
  - Fortin Enterprises
  - Gainan's Flowers & Garden Center
  - Heins Creative Inc.
  - Party Time Plus
  - Travel Café
  - Underriner Motors, Bill & Mary Underriner
- **Ann K. Dietrich** donated a 1993 Jeep Cherokee valued at \$4,000 for use in the Auto Tech program.

**The Pension Protection Act** of 2006 permitted individuals to roll over as much as \$100,000 from an individual retirement account (IRA) directly to a qualifying nonprofit without recognizing transferred assets as income. On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed a bill that extends the IRA charitable rollover provision through December 31, 2009. Several MSU Billings Foundation donors have used this bill to their advantage, transferring IRA assets to the Foundation rather than taking the mandatory taxable distribution. A donor, who must be 70 ½ or older to take advantage of this tax incentive, may exclude up to \$100,000 from his/her gross income for each tax year a rollover is completed. Students and donors both benefit!

**A gift of \$5,000 or more by year end to an MSU Billings Foundation endowment fund** can significantly reduce your 2008 tax burden. The Montana Tax Credit for Gifts to Endowed Philanthropy allows individual donors to take 40% of the value of their gift (up to \$10,000 in tax relief) directly off their Montana Taxes. These gifts are also eligible for the federal charitable tax deduction, thus making the out-of-pocket cost of the gift much less than most donors expect. And, we can show you ways to turn your charitable gift into a life income stream that may provide a very attractive alternative to traditional investments. Contact me or Kathie Riggs or Jon Egeland at the Foundation (406-657-2244) to complete your gift and get the documentation you'll need to take advantage of this tax break.

**If you are considering a gift of stock**, Foundation staff can help you determine if, during this volatile market, it will benefit you more to transfer ownership of the securities to the Foundation or sell your stock and contribute all or part of the proceeds.

**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](mailto:dcrumbaker@msubillings.edu)).

**Happy Thanksgiving** to you and yours!

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