

First Monday



*From the desk of: Marilynn Miller, President and CEO
Monday, September 6, 2004, 8:00 a.m.*

Fall semester classes will begin Wednesday, September 8th. The faculty have been on campus since August 24th, and students began arriving the first few days of September. The Foundation has been delivering checks from donor-designated funds to many University projects and programs, and scholarship recipients have been streaming into our office to finalize the paperwork for their scholarship awards. Montana State University-Billings is once again buzzing with the excitement and anticipation of a new academic year. It's an exhilarating time to be on campus. If you live in the Billings area, I encourage you to stop by to enjoy the beautiful grounds and the vibrancy of student and faculty activity.

Our sincere thanks to those who made commitments to the People, Pride & Promise Campaign for Excellence during the past month:

Winifred M. Griffith was the librarian at Eastern Montana College from 1966-1979 and passed away at the age of 89 in January 2004. Her husband John predeceased her. In August, the Foundation received \$415,000 from Winifred's estate to establish the John F. & Winifred M. Griffith Endowed Scholarship. Winifred's estate documents directed that the scholarship fund be used to assist sophomore, junior, senior or graduate students who demonstrate exceptional academic and leadership skills. Endowed gifts remain intact, with their annual investment earnings used in perpetuity, so Winifred's final gift to MSU-Billings will provide access to higher education for many students in the years to come.

The Haynes Foundation granted \$104,000 to fund scholarships for the 2004/2005 academic year. Haynes Scholarships benefit residents of the state of Montana who are enrolled in an undergraduate program and maintain a 3.4 GPA. This grant will fund 52 scholarships of \$2,000 each to help students cover the costs of tuition.

The Homer A. & Mildred S. Scott Foundation of Sheridan, Wyoming has awarded a \$75,000 grant to the MSU-Billings Foundation to benefit the College of

Business (COB) Faculty Excellence Fund. This fund is critically important as the COB, under the leadership of Dean Joe Michels, pursues national accreditation.

Family and friends continue to send donations in memory of **Carol Bryn Nelson** to benefit the C. Bryn Nelson Memorial Scholarship Fund. As you may recall from last month's newsletter, Carol, or "Bryn" as many knew her, was a 1976 EMC alumna with degrees in Elementary & Special Education who taught for 25 years. Bryn passed away at the age of 50 in May 2004. To date, nearly \$15,000 has been given in Bryn's memory and deposited in a permanent, endowed fund to benefit students pursuing an Education or Special Education degree at MSU-Billings.

Scholarship is the largest category in the \$21 million People, Pride & Promise Campaign, with a goal of raising \$7.6 million in new scholarship funds. Last month I wrote about two of the six areas of scholarship priority: Chancellor's Excellence Awards, and Scholarships for Traditional and Non-Traditional students. Two others are:

1. **Graduate Fellowships and Scholarships** that support highly talented graduate students and fellows. Graduate students play an essential role as they pursue their advanced degrees by assisting faculty in research programs, engaging undergraduate students in research activities, and providing academic guidance to undergraduates.
2. **Non-Resident Scholarships** to attract out-of-state and international students, thus encouraging a diverse student population. The University seeks diversity in the richest and broadest sense: geographic, intellectual, ethnic and gender.

The MSU-Billings College of Technology (COT) has received approval from the Board of Regents to begin offering an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Computer Programming Applications Development this fall. According to COT Dean John Cech, "This program was created as a direct result of requests from local and regional information technology industries."

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 Montana State University-Billings Foundation to advance the cause of philanthropy.

Montana State University-Billings Foundation ▲ 1500 University Drive ▲ Billings, MT 59101
Phone: 406-657-2244 ▲ Fax: 406-657-1600 ▲ E-mail: foundation@msubillings.edu