

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006, members of the Beardsley Society met at the Student Union Building on the MSU-Billings campus for the Beardsley Society Appreciation Luncheon. Hosts were Ken and Lena Heikes of Billings, co-chairs of the Beardsley Society.

The Beardsley Society is named for Charles Beardsley, the first male graduate of Eastern Normal School in 1929. His generous estate gift, planned in advance and valued at more than \$500,000, is providing scholarships for students studying art, music, or Native American studies at Montana State University-Billings.

In gratitude for the philanthropic legacy of Charles Beardsley, in recognition of his deep commitment to humankind, and with the desire to honor all individuals who have made plans to benefit Montana State University-Billings and its students, the MSU-Billings Foundation has established the Beardsley Society for other donors whose motivations emulate Charles' example.

Forty-eight Beardsley Society members were present for the lunch and presentations by Dr. Ron Sexton, chancellor of Montana State University-Billings, and Marilyn Miller, president and CEO of MSU-Billings Foundation.

Dr. Sexton discussed the transformational changes to the university brought about by planned gifts and the *People, Pride and Promise* Campaign. He commended Beardsley Society members for their roles in bringing about those positive changes.

Marilynn Miller began by thanking Beardsley Society members for their planned gifts, then shared statistics illustrating growth of the foundation over the past six years.

- Named endowments in 1999 totaled 76; today there are 167.
- In 1999, privately-funded scholarships numbered 592; during the past academic year, 847 were awarded.
- The dollar value of privately-funded scholarships distributed in 1999 was \$432,256; during the last academic year, privately-funded scholarships amounted to \$931,014.

In addition to these extraordinary milestones made possible by all donors over the years, Marilyn applauded members of the Beardsley Society, in particular, for their phenomenal philanthropy: Beardsley Society members themselves have contributed \$5,386,713. One Beardsley Society member asked how to make additional gifts. In short, "Call or stop by the Foundation!"

Ken Heikes introduced all attending Beardsley Society members and once again thanked them for their legacies of philanthropy. As the meeting adjourned, members gathered for a group picture and received mementos and Beardsley Society certificates.



Beardsley Society members who attended the luncheon are Bill and Amy Brown, Dick and Jeanne Buckley, Bob and Joan Carr, Dan Carter, Victoria Cech, Julie Coleman, Marilyn and Don Floberg, Judith and Ave Forseth, Ed Garding, Paul and Patti Gunville, Joel Guthals, Dr. Wayne Hansen, Jerry and Connie Hanson, Ken and Lena Heikes, Jean Horst, Joe and Jane Howell, Pat Jaffray, Curt Kochner and Susan Thomas, Bill and Connie Lowe, Jeannie McIsaac-Tracy and Nate Tracy, Dr. Joe Michels, Dr. Ken Miller, Fred Miller, Marilynn Miller, Bruce Parker, Larry and Pat Petersen, Kathie Riggs, Bev and Sig Ross, Mike Ross, Dr. Deborah Schaffer, Dr. Rachel Schaffer, Melanie Schwarz, Dr. Ron Sexton, Sandy Wong.

Membership in the Beardsley Society requires a gift be made through a planned giving method: a gift annuity, charitable lead or remainder trust, life estate agreement, bequest through living trust or Will, or life insurance products. MSU-Billings Foundation can provide information about gifts that qualify donors for membership in the Beardsley Society. Information about the Montana tax credit for endowment gifts is also available through the foundation. Contact MSU-Billings Foundation at 406-657-2244 or email [foundation@msubillings.edu](mailto:foundation@msubillings.edu)