

# THE FOUNDATION

Sept 2020

## Inside

*Wine & Food Festival may be on hold until 2021, but MSU Billings students need your help today!*

## Coming Up

- **Sept. 1-30** - Raise Your Bid Card Campaign
- **Sept. 24** - Estate Planning Seminar
- **Oct. 1-31** - Kira Fercho's art on display at North Acre Real Estate
- **Oct. 6** - Harvest Festival
- **Oct. 15** - Estate Planning Seminar
- **Oct. 17-Nov. 8** - Kira Fercho art auction benefitting the MSUB Foundation
- **Nov. 3** - Office closed for Election Day



*Photo courtesy of Miranda Murdock Photography*



Carrie Smith  
Class of 2020

"I could not afford to pay for any of my education on my own. Scholarships were vital to me in order to complete my degree."

## Gratitude from a Graduate

In 2009, I started working as a behavior specialist for children that have severe emotional challenges. Through that experience, I further developed my passion for working with children with special needs, and I decided to return to school to pursue a degree in education.

I was a MSUB student from May 2017 to May 2020 when I received a bachelor's degree in special education and elementary education. As a student, I was a lucky recipient of a Wine & Food Festival scholarship, which was a tremendous blessing for a single mom of three amazing daughters!

As my time at MSUB progressed, I started to run out of financial aid options. I had no idea how I was going to pay for school and keep a roof over our heads. I seriously considered giving up many times throughout my last three semesters. Thankfully, with the support of my amazing professors, my family and friends, and the gift of scholarships, I was able to push through and finish my education. I showed my daughters that it's never too late to pursue your goals and achieve your dreams. Without the blessing of the Wine & Food Festival and other scholarships, I never would have been able to achieve my dream of becoming a special education teacher. I will forever be grateful for all the support I received at MSUB.

I would sincerely like to thank all of the donors and alumni that contribute to scholarships every year! Without people like you, many students like me would be unable to attend college.



The annual Wine & Food Festival has netted more than \$6M for Montana State

## A Note from Bill Kennedy: The show must go on for MSU Billings students

Another year is beginning at MSU Billings, but with a different twist. Our spring fundraiser, the May Wine & Food Festival event, was postponed and rescheduled for Oct. 9-10 due to the coronavirus pandemic. We have been working with the health department, and the steering committee decided to cancel the event. We will still have a safe Wine & Food Festival in 2021!

How does canceling the Wine & Food Festival for this school year impact our students? At the 2019 festival, the scholarship lot auction raised \$180,000 for student scholarships. This cancellation left us without obtaining matching

dollars of \$125,000 from the state of Montana, which would provide 250 of our students with a \$1,000 scholarship. We need your help! We have kicked off the "Raise Your Bid Card Campaign" to raise \$180,000 to put toward scholarships for the 2020-21 school year. We have already raised \$95,000 and are asking for your help to raise the rest.

COVID-19 has affected our students – not just in how classes are being delivered, but also employment opportunities that help pay their tuition. Some students now have to make the difficult decision to stay out a year or continue

## Know More About Your Estate

As a service to you, the MSUB Foundation is hosting a free estate planning series with Montana estate planning expert, Dr. Marsha Goetting. Dr. Goetting will take you through a three-course informational series on the broad aspects of estate planning, wills, trusts and gifting. Plus, you'll learn how to approach important and tough conversations with your family regarding the issues of ownership and the nuances of equal versus equitable. She will discuss the details of 529, medical savings, TOD and POD accounts, too. This series is offered in-person and online, and participants may take one, two or all three classes.

Don't miss this special opportunity to know more about your estate and plan your future. Join Dr. Goetting Sept. 24, Oct. 15 and Nov. 12 from 3-4 p.m., with a question and answer session to follow from 4-5 p.m. RSVP to reserve your seat or retrieve details to access the virtual presentations online today at [www.msubfoundation.com/seminar](http://www.msubfoundation.com/seminar). Questions? Contact Lauren Logan at [llogan@msubillings.edu](mailto:llogan@msubillings.edu) or call (406) 657-2246.

## MSUB Welcomes Students to Campus

With measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, MSU Billings welcomed student Yellowjackets back to campus this fall Aug. 19,

Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Success Kim Hayworth said, "It has been strange not having students on campus since March, and we are looking forward to seeing MSUB full of student life again."

Campus was buzzing with student activities during Welcome Week, including a band and barbecue hosted outdoors. Efforts to maintain social distancing are in place, and wearing face coverings is expected in accordance with the University's Back to Business Fall 2020 Action Plan released in July, found online at [www.msubillings.edu/covid19central](http://www.msubillings.edu/covid19central).

## You're Invited to Harvest Festival

Join the MSUB Foundation for seasonal food, beverages and music on Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 4-7 p.m. This is a family-friendly event with social distancing in mind, and it is subject to change or cancellation. RSVP to [llogan@msubillings.edu](mailto:llogan@msubillings.edu).



## University Billings students since the first event was held on campus in 1993!

their education and ask for our help.

Please help our students and contribute to this important scholarship drive! Give today at [giving.msubillings.edu](http://giving.msubillings.edu), or use the enclosed envelope to mail your gift to:

**MSU Billings Foundation**  
**Re: Raise Your Bid Card Campaign**  
**1500 University Dr**  
**Billings, MT 59101**

Thank you for your loyal support for the Wine & Food Festival and MSU Billings students.

"Even though the annual Wine & Food Festival is canceled, MSUB students still need your help this year. Thank you for showing them you care with your gift."

**Bill Kennedy**  
President & CEO



# Corks & Cuisine

## Updates from the MSU Billings Foundation's annual Wine & Food Festival

*Raise your bid card for Montana State University Billings students!*

**Make a matched gift by Sept. 30 at [giving.msubillings.edu](http://giving.msubillings.edu).**

Although we will not come together this year under the festival tent, our Yellowjackets need scholarship assistance now more than ever! We are counting your support for students like these.



"I was a MSUB student from May 2017 to May 2020 when I received a bachelor's degree in special education and elementary education. As a student, I was a lucky recipient of a Wine & Food Festival scholarship, which was a tremendous blessing for a single mom of three amazing daughters!"

**– Carrie Smith, Graduate from Billings, MT**

"Because of your generous scholarship, I will be able to (for the first time) attend school without focusing on loans; which takes a large amount of stress out of my life. Also, I hope you will know that you have had and will continue to have a massive impact on my educational success and future career success."

**– Daniel Lurie, Senior from Roundup, MT**



"I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to receive this scholarship. I know that words alone can do no justice in praise for your generosity, and I only hope that one day I can pay it forward. Thank you for deciding assistance in education was important, and thank you for enabling me to continue my journey!"

**– Morgan Luther, Senior from Lewistown, MT**

*Thank you for your continued support of the annual Wine & Food Festival!*



**[www.msubfoundation.com](http://www.msubfoundation.com)**

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