



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

# YELLOWJACKET

Foundation Newsletter

July 2022

## Inside

*Contributing to the Goal  
of Higher Education*

## Coming Up

- August 5 - Jacket Scramble Golf Tournament
- August 26 - Fan Fest
- September 5 - Labor Day, offices closed
- September 7 - Classes Begin
- September 8 - MSUB Night at the Mustangs



*The official newsletter of*

montana state university  
**BILLINGS**  
FOUNDATION & ALUMNI



## Contributing to the Goal of Higher Education

*During our fine finish event at the 30th anniversary of the Wine & Food Festival, our student speaker, Tessa Butt, expressed her heartfelt gratitude for scholarship support she received as a student at MSU Billings.*

My name is Tessa, I am 38, a mother to 4 children, and a non-traditional college student. I did life backwards and married a wonderful man and had 4 beautiful children. I loved everything about being a mom and was blessed to stay home with them while they were young. My plan was to go back to school when our youngest started kindergarten because at that point, what was I going to do all day and because of the person I am, I knew I would need a new purpose in my life. However, in 2017, my husband was diagnosed with a terminal illness that gave us 7 weeks before he passed away. During this time, I met the most amazing people. Because of this, my heart

chose a career in nursing so that I could be that person for someone else and their family. To carry a burden that is not your own and to walk alongside those that suffer goes beyond measure. I grew up in a divorced home with one sister and attended my senior year living in an apartment providing for myself. I am a first generation to attend a college university within my immediate family. When I first went back to school in the fall of 2018 here at Montana State University Billings, I could only afford to take one or two classes at a time. I did not have the resources available to take time off from work to attend class full time. Scholarships give students like me opportunities that we ourselves could not attain alone. Scholarships that are made available by you directly impact quality of life. As a single parent of four, attending nursing school, and working, my time was very limited



**Tessa Butt**  
Nursing

*"When I walk across the stage with honors, I will walk with your vision and loved ones in my heart and be forever grateful."*



**Your generosity has provided over \$7.1M over 30 Wine & Food Festivals in support of**

### Build it Billings, Buy a Brick - Built!

We are excited to announce the exterior donor wall recognizing the many students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends who support the Yellowstone Science and Health Building and MSUB has been built! Make sure to visit campus and check it out. Did you miss leaving your mark on this project? Not to worry - commemorative bricks are still available for purchase. We have less than 100 openings left before they're gone! Buy an engraved and personalized 4" by 8" brick for \$250 or an 8" by 8" for \$500. The brick can be engraved with a personalized message of your choice containing up to three lines, with 18 characters per line. Your support with the purchase of a brick will enhance the student experience. Not only have you helped build a better MSU Billings, but you are leaving a permanent legacy in our community. We are grateful for the difference you are making in the lives of our students!



*"Tessa's story is inspiring. She has not only beaten the odds to where she is today but proved what scholarship dollars can do to impact the life of a student."*

**Krista Montague**  
President & CEO

or non-existent. There were days I would look at my schedule and cry. How was I going to be in multiple places at once, attain my education, and be good at it, and be there for my children? In May, I completed my 4th semester of the ASN program and plan to graduate in the fall. I do not stand here because of my good grades or perseverance; I stand here because of you. Your generosity, your humbleness, and sacrifice transforms the future. It changes the future of people like me. It eases the burdens of attaining a college education. It allows the workforce to grow and communities to prosper. MSUB's long-term vision of scholarship investment is powerful. You are directly contributing to change and change that impacts generations to come.

*Support  
scholarships  
today!*



Tim Morrow ('73) was a native of Helena, where he was a standout three-sport athlete at Helena High School in football, basketball, and track and field. After graduation in 1968, he would enroll at (then) Eastern Montana College where he played football for the Yellowjackets as a member of the 1968, 1969, and 1970 teams. After graduation, Morrow moved back to Helena where he launched a successful sales career for Farmers Insurance. He passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in September of 2018 at the age of 69 just a week before his 50th high school class reunion.

Montana State University Billings alumni Nick ('73) and Linda ('68) Cladis generously donated a gift of \$25,000 to establish an endowment

## Remembering Tim Morrow

in honor of their dear friend. "We were friends since grade school," said Nick Cladis about his 58-year friendship with Morrow. "He was an incredible athlete but always very humble about his talents and had a unique ability to bring people together. I never knew anyone who didn't like the guy, and his sense of humor and friendship meant a lot to me. I wanted some way to keep his memory alive and to be able to help current and future Yellowjacket student-athletes in his name seemed like a perfect way to do that."

The Tim Morrow ('73) Scholarship Endowment will provide a \$1,000 scholarship for any first or second-year Yellowjacket student-athlete in good standing who applies via the MSUB Scholarship application system starting in the 2022-23 academic year with a minimum GPA of 2.75 and a full-time student.



"With how expensive college can be, having scholarships to lessen the expense is beyond helpful. It encourages me to go to college and keep working in school for what I hope to achieve in my life. Without this scholarship, my academic career may have been cut short, or I would have limited supplies due to expenses. I am so very grateful that I have been chosen to accept this scholarship, and I will embrace it in every way I can."

-Halle Bacon, HHP Health & Wellness

"This scholarship bridges the cost so I can continue focusing on learning from and enjoying my classes instead of my focus being on how I can afford it. For that reason, every scholarship matters and I recognize that generosity when people fund scholarships."

-Presley Anderson, Political Science



# Corks & Cuisine

## Results Are In!

Thanks to all who attended Winemaster Symposium, Wine & Food Pairings, and the Fine Finish May 12-14, 2022, in support of our 30 year anniversary. This year, your support has raised over **\$300,000!** Your support and dedication to the Wine & Food Festival have raised over **\$7.1 million** (net) and engaged thousands of friends with MSU Billings through classes, tastings, dinners, and auctions.

Thank you for raising your bid cards to support MSU Billings students! Your generosity and support makes access to a high-quality education at MSU Billings possible for our students. It is a priceless gift that changes lives.

**\$7.1M**

Net raised through  
30 festivals



Check out photos from  
this year's festival!



## Thank you, Jeanne Moller!

Jeanne Moller ('84), retired from the MSU Billings Foundation at the end of June 2022. We wish Jeanne Moller farewell as she passes on the baton and moves to a new chapter of her life. Moller said she is grateful for the opportunity to serve and support the students at MSUB. She has always served others and contributed to the betterment of MSUB students' lives.

Moller said her retirement is bittersweet because, on the one hand, she will miss all the volunteers, some of whom are family members she jokingly said she recruited over the years. On the other hand, she will see some of them as she has developed some life-long friendships along the way. "I feel so fortunate to have the friends I do, many I got to know working on the wine fest. They made my work enjoyable and easier," she said.

"Although I have only worked directly with Jeanne at the Foundation for five months, I have always admired her work with the Wine & Food Festival through the years I spent on campus. She will be the first to give all the credit to everyone around her, which certainly is appropriate since it takes many wonderful people and volunteers to pull off this signature event. I am proud of how she humbly and gracefully manages it all and leads the charge to bring it all together. Many, many students will feel the impact of Wine & Food Festival scholarships for years to come, and I want to thank Jeanne for her role in that and congratulate her on a job well done. We wish her all the best in retirement," said President & CEO of the MSU Billings Foundation, Krista Montague.

*Interested in becoming a Wine & Food Festival volunteer?  
Email us at [info@msubfoundation.com](mailto:info@msubfoundation.com)*



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