

# To Be a Yellowjacket

2021-2022 MSU BILLINGS FOUNDATION & ALUMNI ANNUAL REPORT



## A New Chapter

New leadership at the MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni

## Wine & Food Festival

Celebrating 30 years of impact and looking toward the future

## Endowments for Student Success

How true friendship and tragedy inspired philanthropy

## Oral History Project

Partnering with Publishing Concepts to preserve MSUB's history for generations to come

## 50 Years of Title IX

Celebrating the establishment of gender equality in education



## Mission

Founded in 1968, the Montana State University Billings Foundation & Alumni advances the goals of Montana State University Billings through the solicitation, investment, and stewardship of financial support. The foundation promotes philanthropy, campus and community partnerships, and educational opportunities.

## Vision

The Montana State University Billings Foundation & Alumni will reduce financial barriers to a quality education, enhance the campus experience, and encourage the growth of Montana State University Billings.

## Philanthropic Donor Rights

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is essential to the quality of life. To ensure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the nonprofit organization and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

1. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
2. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgement in its stewardship responsibilities.
3. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.
4. To be assured gifts will be used for the purposes for which they are given.
5. To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.
6. To be assured that information about their donations are handled with respect and confidentiality to the extent provided by the law.
7. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
8. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization, or hired solicitors.
9. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from the mailing lists and organization may intend to share.
10. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful, and forthright answers.



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## The Yellowjacket Spirit

There have been a lot of changes in the world in which we live in today – impacting our daily lives. This is especially true for our students, donors, faculty, staff, volunteers, friends, and families – in essence, our Yellowjacket communities, and beyond. Our Yellowjackets have courageously worked through the trenches of life through hard work, perseverance, and passion. They have a strong drive for achievement regardless of background, status, or situations. In short – our Yellowjackets have **grit**.

The path isn't always easy. Our students are the first in their families to seek higher education: they are parents; they are re-entering civilian life; many experience financial difficulties, an uncertain economy, and balance busy work schedules, caregiving, and classes. You'll see in these pages - they earn every step they gain. Their tenacity is strongly met by the opportunities **YOU** create with your financial support of scholarships, educational programs, and campus facilities. Your commitment and generosity create a ripple-effect through campus that changes students' lives, our communities in which we serve, and beyond.

This annual report celebrates your commitment to higher education and illustrates the impact you have made over the last year. If you've seen our Annual Report in the past, you'll notice in this report that the entire honor roll of donors has been retired. In the interest of serving students and furthering your generosity, we have been able to cut this report in half – saving time, energy, and money – furthering your dollars.



## A Message from Our Leadership

Students are at the heart of everything we do. MSU Billings provides access to education and ensures student success. This would not be possible without the support of faculty, staff, students, board members, and community members who provide opportunities for our students to succeed, which impacts our communities and beyond.

As you will read in this report, our students have grit and determination to make a difference in their lives, and you make their hopes and dreams a reality through your generous support.

This past year has been nothing short of exhilarating. Our students, faculty, and staff have had many successes. From scholarly research, publications, and reaccreditations to recognition for outstanding service and accomplishments, we are excited to share all we have accomplished last year starting with The Wine & Food Festival. It was a great success, netting over \$300,000 in funds toward student scholarships. This fall, MSU Billings saw an increase in first-time freshman, military-affiliated, Hispanic and Native American student enrollment.

The groundwork for success is not just our amazing students, faculty, and staff, it also includes you. Your volunteerism, philanthropic visions, and for some, your connection with your alma mater. All gifts make a difference to advance our goal of student success. On behalf of the university and our students, we are beyond grateful for your continued support.



*Stefani Hicswa, PhD*

**Chancellor**  
Montana State University  
Billings

*Donald Roberts*

**Chair**  
MSU Billings Foundation &  
Alumni Board of Trustees

*Krista Montague*

**President & CEO**  
MSU Billings Foundation  
& Alumni



**MSUB NEWS HIGHLIGHT:  
MSU BILLINGS CHANCELLOR HICSWA  
APPOINTED TO ACCREDITATION BOARD**

*Read the story online!*



# MSUB Qu

**AVERAGE AGE:**



**23.7**



**34.4**

**Undergraduate: 23.7**

**Graduate: 34.4**

**Overall: 24.7**

**DEGREES  
AWARDED IN  
2021 - 2022 AY**



**AA, AAS, AS: 202**

**B, BA, BFA + 1  
more: 415**

**CAS + CER: 48**

**M, MED, MS: 110**

**Total: 775**

# Quick Facts

## RESIDENCY STATUS



**3,668**

**In-State: 3,668**

**Out-of-State: 379**

**International: 65**

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



**65 students from 27 countries**

## GIFTS RECEIVED



**\$2,537,117**

**Total Donors: 2,821**

**Largest Gift: \$330,570**

**Smallest Gift: \$5**

**Every Gift Counts!**

### MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni staff

*Krista Montague '99 & '18, President & CEO*

*Abby Moerkerke, Director of Alumni Relations*

*Jon Egeland '89, Vice President of Finance*

*Jeff Clarke, Controller*

*Kelly Schrock, Director of Special Events*

*Nick Schmidt, Assistant Athletic Director for External Relations*

*Sarah Haight '17, Director of Development – Academics & Programming*

*Tracy McLuskie '21, Executive Assistant*

### MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni Board of Trustees

*Donald Roberts, Chair, Retired, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon/Former State Legislator*

*Dave Warne '72, Past Chair, Retired, SD2 Educator & District Manager of Brenntag Pacific*

*Joanne Sheridan '76, Vice Chair, Retired, CPA/MSUB Professor of Accounting, Emeritus*

*Tom Potter, Treasurer, VP of Middle Marketing Banking, Wells Fargo*

*Kay L. Berry '83, Secretary, Retired, SD2 Educator*

*Jani McCall '75, Consultant/Owner, Consulting With Communities, Inc.*

*Karen Moses, Retired, SD2 Support and former SD2 School Board Member*

*Buddy Windy Boy '06, Product Improvement Engineer, Market Rite Lines Equipment Co.*

*Alan Bryan, Attorney, Crowley Fleck PLLP*

*Brittany Cremer '06, AVP, PR and Communications Manager, First Interstate Bank*

*David E. Wanzenreid, Consultant/Adjunct Faculty Member/Former State Legislator*

*Krikor Jansezian, Ph.D.*

*Merry Lee Olson '70, CEO, Institute for Management Solutions*

*William Henry, Business Consultant, Be Better World, LLC*

*Krista Montague '99 & '18, President & CEO, MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni*

*Dr. Stefani Hicswa, Chancellor, MSU Billings*

*Dr. AJ Otjen, Professor of Marketing, MSU Billings*

*Anne Cole, Instructor of General Education/Writing/Psychology, MSU Billings City College*

### MSU Billings Chancellor's Cabinet

*Stefani Hicswa, Chancellor*

*Sepehr Eskandari, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

*Kimberly Hayworth, Vice Chancellor for Student Access & Success*

*Leslie Weldon, Interim Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance*

*Michael Bazemore, Athletic Director*

*Maureen Brakke, Director of University Communications and Marketing*

*Krista Montague, President and CEO of the MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni*

*Kathy Kotecki, Dean of Students*

*Paula Highlander, Director of Human Resources*

*Jennifer Lynn, Academic Senate Chair and Professor of History*

*Joann Stryker, Director of Institutional Research*

### ASMSU Billings Mission Statement

*"The Associated Student of Montana State University Billings, as a committed organization, will provide professionalism and leadership to fulfill student needs and will do our best to make noticeable differences on our campus for the students of MSU Billings."*

### ASMSUB Cabinet

*David Russell, President*

*Brianne Humphrey, Vice President*

*Isaiah Gallogly, Business Manager*

*Kolten Unrein, Student Resolution Officer*

*Vice Chancellor Kim Hayworth, Advisor*

*Dr. Paul Pope, Faculty Advisor*

*Christine Whitlatch, City College Advisor*

# Be Bold



Krista Montague

## A New Chapter - New Leadership at the MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni

December 2021, the Montana State University Foundation & Alumni Board of Trustees announced the hire of Krista Montague as Interim President and CEO after former President and CEO, Bill Kennedy, announced retirement. After three short months, the board welcomed Montague as permanent CEO. In her first five months as permanent President and CEO, she has provided stability and vision, assembled a dynamite team, collaborated with Chancellor Stefani Hicswa to identify leadership funding priorities, and implemented a fundraising strategy for the upcoming year. MSUB Chancellor Stefani Hicswa adds, "I am excited to work with Krista in this capacity. Her background and experience are a perfect fit. The MSUB Foundation & Alumni are in great hands with Krista at the helm."

Montague is a Yellowjacket through and through. Starting as a student-athlete, she spent 25 years on campus. As an alumna twice over, she concluded her tenure as MSUB's Director of Athletics for nine years. She attributes her academic success to scholarship support. More importantly, she embodies the Foundation's mission. The Foundation exists to advance the goals of MSU Billings by generating philanthropic funding.

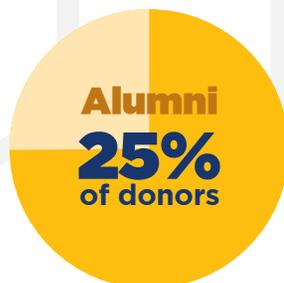
Board Chair, Don Roberts, states "She comes in with a great deal of prior experience and has both an undergraduate and graduate degree from MSUB. Krista is an accomplished member of the Billings community, and we feel she will add encouragement to the scholarships and other financial support systems that can be provided by the MSUB Foundation. She knows that the ability to

provide financial assistance to students at MSUB can be a paradigm changer for their lives, and she is able to recognize what this can mean for the future of the Billings community. We're looking forward to working with her in the future."

The Board of Trustees is confident in Montague's commitment to serving the best interests of our institution, ability to continue to grow the organization, and lead with transparency, accountability, and integrity. In July, the board also welcomed nine new trustees to serve three-year terms. The board's role is to oversee the Foundation, advocate for MSUB, and advance its mission by seeking and securing private support.

During Montague's time as MSUB's athletic director, she oversaw a budget that relied heavily on fundraising to help support 16 varsity sports. She also oversaw the completion of a seven-year partnership with Avitus Group, securing the naming rights of MSUB's softball field through 2024. The Annual Yellowjacket Athletics Dinner Auction and Golf Tournament saw great success under Montague's leadership, with proceeds benefitting scholarships for student-athletes. Montague was also successful in negotiating and helping raise funds to expand and improve the MSUB weight room, soccer field, team locker rooms, and fitness center. Her contribution to the community includes service to various national, state, and local organizations.

Who is Donating?



## Visit Billings is Now Autism Certified

In April, Visit Billings was designated by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) as a Certified Autism Center™ (CAC), bringing Billings one step closer to achieving the designation of Certified Autism Destination (CAD).



Read more online.

## New Institute for Neurodiversity & Applied Behavior Analysis

Montana State University Billings also announced in April the launch of the Institute for Neurodiversity and Applied Behavior Analysis at the Montana Center for Inclusive Education (MCIE) on university campus. The Institute will serve children in the region with mental, social, and behavioral differences associated with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities, similar mental health disorders, and other behavioral disabilities, by providing direct and telehealth clinical support. The Institute will focus on providing high-quality ABA services to guide families toward a better quality of life.



Read more online.

*"Neurodiverse children, specifically children with autism, can thrive when provided services early in life. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is an individualized evidence-based treatment that improves life outcomes of children by teaching important skills, such as communication, social skills, and life skills."*

Krystin Hussain, Program Director, The Institute for Neurodiversity

# Event Highlights

## Perfect Pairings

Acclaimed artist, Kira Fercho, and owner of Bistro Enzo Restaurant, Tyler Samson, teamed up in February to raise dollars for scholarships at MSU Billings. Hosted at Enzo Bistro & Wine Bar, attendees enjoyed fine wine by Jackson Family Farms; light music by Locha, a local music duo consisting of two MSUB students; and a five-course meal. Samson and his staff created the perfect ambiance and experience while Fercho showcased her fantastic art and made available for purchase. Along with the proceeds from the event, Fercho generously donated half of the purchase price of sold paintings in support of student scholarships. This one-night event of art lovers and MSUB supporters raised a little over \$28,000.

Fercho first attended MSUB in 1998 at the age of 17. After completing her art degree and teaching certificate, she returned to pursue a graduate degree in Mental Health & Rehabilitation and graduated in 2011. Fercho has worked as a full-time artist since 2012 and has donated one painting a year to support the institution. Fercho, who completed her degree with the help of scholarships, estimates that she had nearly 70 percent of her education covered through art and academic scholarships.

During the event, MSUB Chancellor Stefani Hicswa and President & CEO of the MSUB Foundation Krista Montague, shared short stories of their acceptance of scholarships in their undergrad and graduate programs. Hicswa, Montague, and Fercho all noted that a college education would have been out of reach if not for scholarships. Fercho explained, "Coming from Shepherd, MSU Billings helped me gain an affordable education that opened opportunities. Some of the tools and networking I gained there helped me become an internationally known artist. Many happy hours were spent in the painting studio there."



Kira Fercho



Montague shared her gratitude to those who helped the event come to life again this year. "We want to sincerely thank Kira Fercho and Tyler Samson, along with the entire staff at Enzo Bistro & Wine Bar, for the generosity in hosting a wonderful evening to support student scholarships at MSUB. It is heartwarming to hear Kira's story and how receiving a scholarship impacted her life tremendously. MSUB has many students in need of financial assistance, and Kira recognizes this from her own experience and now gives back through her art, which is so meaningful and inspiring."

## Science Expo

MSU Billings hosted the 30th annual Science Expo in March of 2022. The event is aimed for children, K-12, to get them excited about the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program. The Science Expo is a priceless opportunity to allow children to explore the world around them through the discipline of science and start them on a lifelong love of scientific inquiry. Watch for more details to support or attend the 2023 event.



## 'Jacket Giving Day

In conjunction with MSU Billings, the MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni hosted the fourth annual 'Jacket Giving Day in March of 2022. 'Jacket Giving Day is an online crowdfunding event that brings student programs and projects to live, advancing student success at MSUB. The community generously contributed to 32 unique programs and projects, raising over \$83,183 and bringing over 860 new donors to MSU Billings. In 2023, the countdown of 1,927 minutes of online fundraising — in honor of the institution's founding date — will begin at 9 a.m. March 23 and ending at 5:07 p.m. March 24.



# Where are Donations Used?



**\$1,058,049**  
Scholarships Awarded  
in 2021-2022



**\$869,465**  
Campus Projects



**\$450,154**  
Campus Community



**\$232,323**  
Academic Programs



**\$135,532**  
Alumni Relations



*"The cost of college can often discourage students from pursuing higher education, but with the help of this scholarship, some of the stress from cost will be eliminated."*

Hannelorre Myrick,  
Freshman, Business  
Administration



Make a gift today!

# Celebrating 30 Years of Impact and Looking Toward the Future

Marking the 30th anniversary, the 2022 Wine & Food Festival did not disappoint. The event raised over \$300,000 during the three-day event of world-class cuisine, fine wine, live and silent auctions, and more, boosting the overall amount raised to date to \$7.1 million. Thanks to staff, volunteers, vendors, and generous donors, the MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni will be able to help make a positive impact on MSUB students through scholarships.

The culmination of the events was the appearance of world-renowned Winemaker, **Rick Sayre from Rodney Strong Wine Estates in Healdsburg, California**, during the Winemaker Symposium. Although no stranger to the event, Sayre captivated guests with his winemaking knowledge from around the world including Sonoma County and Rodney Strong Vineyards.

For the second year in a row, MetraPark hosted the signature “Fine Finish” event in the Montana Pavilion. The crowning hour of the Saturday occasion featured the incredible story of tragedy and triumph of MSUB student, Tessa Butt. Butt expressed her heartfelt gratitude for scholarship support she received as a student at MSU Billings. Her story inspired others to help raise thousands in scholarship funds for MSUB students like herself.

Tessa, 38, took the non-traditional path to higher education; marrying a wonderful man and had 4 beautiful children. Her plan was to go back to school when her youngest started kindergarten. However, in 2017, Butt’s husband was diagnosed with a terminal illness that gave her family seven weeks before he passed away. Butt was inspired by the amazing people she met during this journey and knew in her heart she wanted a career in nursing.

Butt grew up in a divorced home with one sister, attending her senior year of high school living in an apartment providing for herself. She is a first-generation student within her immediate family. When she began her higher education journey in 2018 at MSU Billings, she could only afford to take one or two classes at a time – not having the resources available to take time off work to attend full-time. As a single parent working and attending nursing school, Butt courageously took the leap to pursue higher education.

Her hard work has definitely paid off as she completed her fourth semester of the ASN program in May and plans to graduate this coming fall.

**\$7.1 M** (net)  
**Raised Over 30 Years!**

“Tessa’s story is inspiring. She has not only beaten the odds to get to where she is today but proved what scholarship dollars can do to impact the life of a student. We are proud that Wine & Food Festival creates significant support for MSUB students like Tessa each year and are so grateful for our supporters and donors who believe in the mission of our university to deliver transformative education which empowers students to succeed,” said Krista Montague, President & CEO.

*“The 30th Wine & Food Festival was a fantastic celebration of fine wine, delicious food, and exceptional fellowship. Our volunteers once again delivered a magical celebration, and our guests were extremely supportive and generous with the end result providing assistance for our students.”*

Jeanne Moller



**CHECK OUT OUR PHOTO LIBRARY FROM WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL 2022**

Photos by Miranda Murdock Photography



Tessa Butt

*“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.”*

Tessa Butt

## 2022 Partners:

Briggs Distributing  
Computers Unlimited  
Wells Fargo  
Fortin Foundation of Florida

## 2022 Sponsors:

Albertsons  
Billings Gazette Communications  
Underriner Motors  
Heins Creative  
Travel Café  
EconoPrint  
Party Solutions





Jeanne Moller



Kelly Schrock



## New Leadership of Wine & Food Festival Follows Jeanne Moller's Retirement

Talk with anyone around town about the MSU Billings Foundation's Wine & Food Festival and undoubtedly, the name Jeanne Moller will come up. Her name is synonymous with the premier event that spans three decades. The idea of serving the university that served her was only the beginning of what became her life-long career. The MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni, her coworkers, volunteers, and friends bid her farewell as she retired in June after 28 glorious years – passing on the baton to Kelly Schrock, the Foundation's new Director of Special Events. The 30th celebration was Moller's final festival, and she adds that it was a great way to note on a hallmark year.



The Foundation welcomed Kelly Schrock at the end of July. She will be responsible for planning and implementing the Foundation's signature fundraiser, the MSU Billings Foundation Wine & Food Festival, and other special events. Schrock previously served as Development Coordinator at RiverStone Health Foundation for eight years. She managed annual fundraising campaigns, three major special events, and external communications. Schrock holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in management and marketing from the University of Montana. "Kelly's background in marketing, volunteer management, and donor development makes her a great fit for this role," said Moller. "I am very excited to join the MSUB Foundation team," Schrock said. "Jeanne Moller has done an amazing job with the Wine & Food Festival, and I look forward to continuing the growth of this community event on the foundation she created."



**Save the Date!**  
**Wine & Food**  
**Festival 2023 is**  
**May 18-20**



*Get more info online!*

# Being Part of a Team



## 50 Years of Title IX

### Celebrating the Establishment of Gender Equality Both On and Off the Field

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This amendment specifies that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance” in an effort to bring equity between men and women in education. Prior to the law, only 300,000 females were competing in high school and college sports; by the 40th anniversary of the law in 2012, over 3 million females were competing in sports across the country with more than 190,000 at the college level (six times as many as in 1972).

The state of Montana was historically a leader in female athletics (especially basketball), dating back to the early 1900’s, and after the passage of Title IX, MSU Billings continued this strong commitment to gender equality. In 1973, the first Yellowjacket Women’s Basketball team took the court. The women’s basketball team has been successful since they started – making their first National Tournament Appearances in 1975; and winning their first Conference Championship in 1977. MSU Billings continued to expand their women’s sports offerings with track and field in 1976, even though it was dropped in 1983, it was again reinstated in 2007. In 1997, cheerleading made its start under coach Dani Ruoff, competing in their first competition in 2003. Additional teams added included Women’s Swimming (1964-1971), Volleyball (1984), Tennis (1996-2015), Cheerleading (1997), Golf (2002), and Cross Country (2002). Yellowjacket athletics has also been a trailblazer in collegiate sports in the state of Montana. MSU Billings was the first university in Montana to offer women’s soccer (1996), softball (2002), and triathlon (2019).

When Krista Montague, current President and CEO of the MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni, was Athletic Director for MSU Billings, the athletic department added women’s triathlon as its 16th varsity sport in 2019; broadening its array of NCAA Division II sports programs, totaling 9 women’s sports of the 17 offered at the university. “We are committed to gender equality at MSUB, as outlined in our strategic plan, and we are proud to offer this growing and unique opportunity of a multi-sport future for female athletes,” said Montague at the time. “We are excited to be a trailblazer for women and help grow this sport [triathlon].”

Help MSU Billings celebrate the establishment of Title IX and the continuation of women’s sports at the university by attending upcoming games.

## 2021-2022 Athletics Stats

### 234 Yellowjacket Athletes

109 from Montana  
106 From other states  
19 International

### Cumulative Student-Athlete GPA 3.2

### 37 athletes with a perfect 4.0 GPA

### 99 Academic All-Conference selections

### 70 athletic & academic special recognitions

### Only NCAA Division II school in Montana

### 2,300 hours of community service performed in the greater Billings Community

Ranked in the top 10% in Division II schools for community service hours

### 1,563 athletic donors in 21-22

### Over \$372,000 in philanthropic athletic giving in 21-22

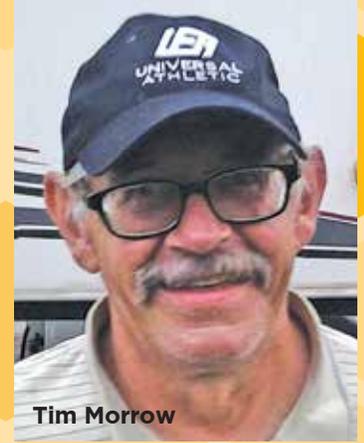
### 19 active athletic endowments valued at over \$1.3 million

### 167 Varsity Club members:

Varsity Club: 7  
Varsity Club Hall of Fame: 147  
Varsity Club - New Graduate: 13

Your investment in Yellowjacket Athletics instills confidence and advances its mission to facilitate positive, competitive, and successful academic and athletic experiences for each student-athlete.

Make a gift today!



Tim Morrow

## Remembering Tim Morrow

Montana State University Billings alumni Nick ('73) and Linda ('68) Cladis generously donated a gift of \$25,000 to establish an endowment in honor of their dear friend, Tim Morrow ('73). This endowment will provide a \$1,000 scholarship for any first or second-year Yellowjacket student-athlete in good standing with a minimum GPA of 2.75 and a full-time student.

“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” said Nick Cladis about his 58-year friendship with Morrow.



Read more online.

“I am beyond blessed to have been offered such an impactful scholarship. Not only am I fulfilling my goal of playing college golf, but with your generosity and the generosity of other scholarship donors, I can now do so with the same if not a greater passion and commitment than before.”



Haylee Adams, Freshman, Nursing, Women’s Golf



CHECK OUT OUR CURRENT SPORTS SCHEDULES!



# Become a Yellowjacket

When you give the MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni a gift, you choose what your gift supports: specify a college or fund, or contribute to current leadership priorities. Together, we can ensure a bright future for MSU Billings and its students.

## Did You Know?

### You can set up recurring donations

Recurring donations can be set up on a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual basis to automatically withdraw from your credit card or bank account.

### You can pledge a gift and pay over time

A pledge is a promise to donate a specific sum to the MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni. You determine the amount, what area your gift supports, and fulfill the pledge later, either with one payment or with multiple payments at a frequency you choose. The Foundation will send a pledge reminder each time a payment is due.

### Your organization might match your gift, doubling the impact!

Many companies offer a matching gift plan that doubles, triples, or even quadruples your impact to encourage philanthropy among employees and their spouses. Contact your employer's HR department to ask if you can take advantage of matching gifts.

### Give a gift, create a legacy

Planned giving allows philanthropic individuals to make a significant charitable gift during a donor's life or at death as part of their financial and/or estate plan. Giving in this way is easy to do and may offer additional benefits such as tax savings.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT PLANNED GIFTS**

**MAKE A GIFT TODAY!**



## Rollover Your IRA for Good

By taking a distribution from your IRA this year, you will likely pay more in taxes and may even reach a higher tax bracket. Rolling over part of your IRA's "required minimum distribution" or "RMD" to a charity like ours can help reduce your tax bill while supporting our cause.

Double the Benefits! An IRA charitable rollover gift can benefit both you and our mission! Contact your IRA administrator to get started with your gift. While you will not receive an income tax deduction, you will not pay taxes on any distributions made to us. Please also inform us of your plans so that we use your gift for the causes that mean the most to you.

## Tragedy Inspired Philanthropy

Roberta Ann Boyd Stewart spent her childhood years in Billings, Mont., and graduated from Billings West High School in 1965. Her 30-year banking career began when she went to work for Midland Bank. Over the years, Midland Bank became US Bank. Roberta eventually retired from US Bank in 2001 as a Branch Manager and VP.

Never one to "simply retire to the easy life," Roberta tackled a new adventure by taking a part-time job at MSU Billings within the College of Business (COB). Roberta was challenged to learn all the duties independently as there was no one to train her. However, this was not a concern for Roberta; she found many ways to re-organize and streamline the duties to make it more efficient.

Roberta assisted as an advisor, friend, and the face or voice of the COB for students. Roberta was usually the first person to contact students, and she was the last person encouraging them to get their graduation applications in on time. In many cases, students transferred into the COB, and Roberta had to bring on her sleuth skills to track down missing transcripts, study plans, and other vital information for students to graduate on time. She made each student feel like they were her only concern.

She was always smiling and never viewed any situation as a problem. Instead, she saw it as a challenge and an opportunity to improve the process. She never gave up on students and encouraged them to fulfill their ultimate potential by completing their degrees. Roberta served the COB for nearly 12 years.

Roberta passed away Sept. 15, 2021, after a courageous battle with cancer. The Roberta Stewart Memorial Endowed Scholarship was established in 2021 by her friends, family, and colleagues to honor her memory and carry on her work of getting students across the finish line, diploma in hand.

The Roberta Stewart Scholarship Endowment will provide encouragement and financial support to degree-seeking students who are pursuing a Bachelors degree in Marketing, Management, or General Business from the College of Business with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

*"Roberta was always willing to step outside of her job description to help faculty members, or the dean, and most importantly, take students from the state of being lost, clear through graduation. Roberta's dedication to helping students is why it was so fitting that her close friends created the Roberta Stewart Scholarship Endowment."*

Ed Garding, Interim Dean, College of Business

## Montana Charitable Endowment Tax Credit

The Montana Charitable Endowment Tax Credit (MCETC) is a credit against state income tax liability in the amount of 40% of the present value of any planned gift to a permanent endowment of a Montana charity up to a maximum amount of \$10,000 per year per individual taxpayer. (Applies to individual or business entity taxpayers.)

The MCETC is also available to businesses as a credit against state income tax liability in the amount of 20% of the present value of an outright gift by a business entity to a permanent endowment of a Montana charity up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year per taxpayer. (Applies to corporations, small business corporations, partnerships, or limited liability company taxpayers.)

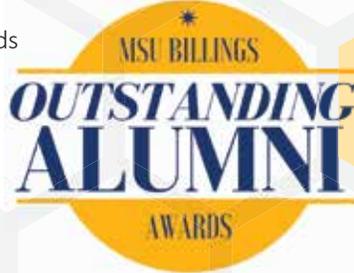


Roberta Stewart

# Be Extraordinary

## Exceptional Alums and Friends Honored in Awards Ceremony

The 2022 Outstanding Alumni Awards celebration honored alumni and friends who have made exceptional contributions to society, their profession, and their alma mater. Held April 23, 2022, at the Northern Hotel, Billings, Montana, awards in five categories were presented.



### Distinguished Alumni

**Julie Seedhouse**, Class of '89 & '10; Real Estate Broker, Century 21 Hometown Brokers

**Dave Cobb**, Class of '86; K-12 Executive Director

### Recognition for Exceptional Achievement

**Pryor Orser**, Class of '90 & '95; Head Coach, Colorado School of Mines

**Alex Tyson**, Class of '95; Executive Director, Visit Billings

### Ronald P. Sexton Award for Professional Commitment

**Stephanie Cowen**, Class of '95; Director, Student Service at MSU Billings City College

### Rising Star

**Kassie Runsabove**, Class of '07; Program Officer, Montana Healthcare Foundation in Bozeman, MT

### Friend of MSU Billings

**John & Claudia Decker**; Briggs Distributing

More than 200 MSU Billings and Eastern Montana College graduates have been recognized with Outstanding Alumni Awards since the first ceremony in 1982. We are proud to honor these exceptional members of the Yellowjacket family.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR 2023 AWARDS CEREMONY ON OCTOBER 7, 2023.**

*Make your nominations today!*

### Alumni Advisory Board

**Sarah Gunn '17**, Chair

**Hannah Olson '16 & '20**, Past Chair

**Alisha Breen '18**

**Jenna Buksch '15**

**Josey Smiedala '19 & '21**

**Kim Chouinard '03 & '08**

**Mandi Graham '12**

**Mary McClarty '85**

**Rob Pedersen '90**

**Sean Phelps '87 & '01**

*Alumni Giving Facts*



**560**

**Alumni Donors**



**\$527,653**

**Alumni Contributions**

## Oral History Project

MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni has partnered with Publishing Concepts LP (PCI) to gather stories and memories that bring the Yellowjacket experience to life. Share reflections and help preserve MSUB's history for generations to come in support of MSUB's centennial celebration in 2027. PCI will contact MSUB alumni directly through postcards, emails, and phone calls. There is no cost to share. Final publication in book and digital formats will be available for purchase August 2023.



**YELLOWJACKET ORAL HISTORY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship

Each year, the alumni association awards renewable scholarships to MSU Billings students who are related to alumni. Alumni Association Board members select recipients, and two \$1,000 awards were disbursed in the 2021-2022 academic year to the following recipients:

**Peyton Romero**,  
*Psychiatric Rehabilitation, College of Health Professions & Science*



**Peyton Romero**



**Lindsey Schell**

**Lindsey Schell**,  
*Nursing, City College*



*Read online.*

**STUDENT'S GRIT TAKES HER TO THE FINISH LINE**

## Buy Alumni Swag Today!

Take your wardrobe to the next level with MSUB alumni gear! The MSU Billings Foundation & Alumni receives a portion of each sale, which benefits alumni outreach and programming.



# Giving Priorities

*When our students cross the finish line, diploma in hand, it's a win for every aspect of our university; the communities in which we serve, and most importantly, our new alumni. Our students have made the decision to start the race but need your help to cross the finish line.*

## Chancellor's Excellence Awards

Since 2002, the Chancellor's Excellence Awards have been awarded annually to incoming Montana State University Billings first-year students who exemplify the institution's core values of academic excellence, demonstrated leadership, and service to others — skills necessary to impact an evolving global community. The MSU Billings University Honors Program receives an increasing number of applications for our most prestigious scholarship. In 2021, 48 students applied; but only enough funding was available to support three of these exceptional incoming students. Our goal is to enhance the existing Chancellor's Excellence Award endowment to \$2.5 million. At that level, 20 award recipients would receive \$5,000 per year for up to four years or until the completion of their bachelor's degree.



**IN HER OWN WORDS:  
CHANCELLOR'S EXCELLENCE  
AWARD WINNER  
SHANNON RENEY**



## Finish Line Scholarship

Too many students drop out for lack of financial support, leaving with student debt and without a degree. The Finish Line Scholarship honors their determination while removing that last financial hurdle between them and their graduation ceremony. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to support this graduation initiative. When MSU Billings students cross the finish line, diploma in hand, it's a win for everyone: our student completion rate; campus vitality; community engagement; and most importantly, our new alumni.

## Yellowjacket Access Scholarship

The Yellowjacket Access Scholarship is a retention initiative that strategically targets students whose persistence is most impacted by financial need. This scholarship provides additional aid and gives reassurance and a sense of confidence that we are with students all the way. We want to raise \$200,000 — that's 200 students who will be \$1,000 closer to crossing the finish line, diploma in hand.

## MSUB Student Crisis Fund

This fund allows us to help currently enrolled students on the path to academic success during a personal and unexpected crisis or hardship. Whether they need to replace personal belongings after a devastating fire, cannot afford necessary prescriptions, or are unable to pay for an emergency medical procedure, we can provide emergency funds they need to get them back on their feet.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU  
CAN SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND COLLEGES AT MSUB!**

## Amy Sexton - Leading by Example

In addition to Amy Sexton receiving the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Leadership Award, she was also the keynote speaker at the 95th annual Montana State University Billings commencement ceremony. Sexton graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - Accounting and minors in mathematics and honors studies. She served two terms as the Montana University System Student Regent where she was a strong advocate for student success. She was the first student to be selected as Student Regent from an MUS regional campus in over ten years. This past spring, she was named Chair of the Two-Year and Community College Board of Regents Committee, which is a rare appointment for a student regent. Highlighting a few of Sexton's impressive achievements, she served as the President of MSUB's Accounting Club, was the sole student representative on the Montana Society of CPAs Board, previously served in MSUB's student government, served on the Accounting and Financial Women's Alliance LEAP Council, was Co-Chair of the College of Business Advisory Board, and worked at MSUB's Academic Support Center as a supplemental economics instructor, while working and taking classes full-time, maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Sexton now works as a Senior Accountant with a CPA firm in Chicago. She will be studying for the CPA exam and hopes to get licensed within one year. Sexton will also be applying for a Marshall Scholarship in the hopes of studying economic history at The University of Oxford. Her contingency plan is to start an MBA program in the next 3-5 years.



Amy Sexton

*"Attending MSUB taught me that it's never too late to reinvent yourself. Pursuing educational goals was the best way for me to create positive change in my life. MSUB provided access to a high-quality education and the perfect extracurricular opportunities to complement that education. I feel prepared to pursue the life I always dreamed of."*

Amy Sexton

## OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

**Outstanding Undergraduate Student Leadership Award:**  
James Unzaga | Amy Sexton

**Golden Merit Award:**  
Dylan Miller | Shannon Remy



*"I sincerely thank all members of this organization for your generosity and support as I transition into college. This scholarship will greatly assist me as I work towards my higher education and dreams."*

Kaden Roberts, Auto Collision Repair

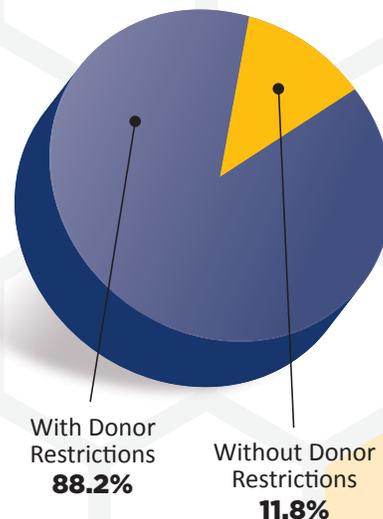
# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021

	2022 Total	2021 Total
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$1,001,263	\$1,404,831
Contributions receivable.....	1,518,788	1,614,500
Accrued investment income.....	17,426	15,847
Marketable equity securities.....	35,300,691	39,203,238
Other.....	110,350	159,429
Property and equipment, net.....	898,260	949,550
<b>Total Assets.....</b>	<b>\$38,846,778</b>	<b>\$43,347,395</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Accounts payable.....	\$435,420	\$480,562
Note Payable - PPP Loan.....	0	150,000
Line of Credit.....	158,304	0
Student scholarships payable.....	856,650	1,150,815
Assets held in trust.....	2,032,276	2,336,707
<b>Total Liabilities.....</b>	<b>\$3,482,650</b>	<b>\$4,118,084</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Net assets without donor restricted		
Undesignated.....	\$2,332,700	\$2,885,511
Board designated.....	2,684,741	2,917,390
	5,017,441	5,802,901
Assets with donor restrictions.....	30,346,687	33,426,410
<b>Total Net Assets.....</b>	<b>\$35,364,128</b>	<b>\$39,229,311</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets.....</b>	<b>\$38,846,778</b>	<b>\$43,347,395</b>

## 2021-2022 CONTRIBUTIONS:

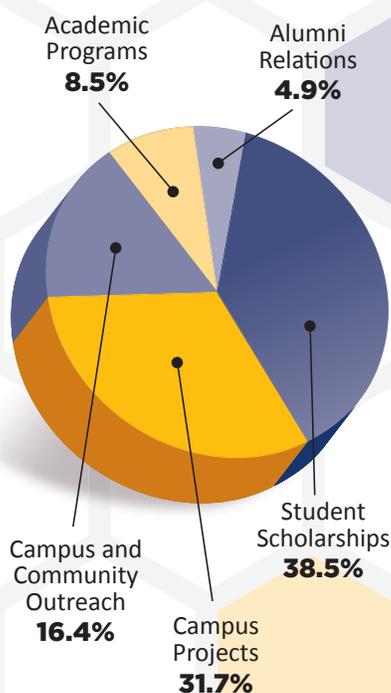


## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021

	2022 Total	2021 Total
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE:</b>		
Contributions and Grants.....	\$2,537,117	\$2,479,220
In-kind contributions.....	3,692	105,951
University Contract.....	224,990	215,000
Interest and dividend income.....	147,188	493,071
Rental revenue – net of rental expenses.....	477,450	484,255
Other revenues.....	160,064	222,458
<b>Total Public Support and Revenue.....</b>	<b>3,550,501</b>	<b>3,999,955</b>
<b>PROGRAMS AND EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Programs:</b>		
Student scholarships.....	\$1,058,049	\$1,802,601
Academic programs.....	232,323	207,822
Campus projects.....	869,465	4,163,650
Campus and community outreach.....	450,154	491,105
Alumni relations.....	135,532	112,220
<b>Total Programs.....</b>	<b>\$2,745,523</b>	<b>\$6,777,398</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
General and administrative.....	\$429,986	\$318,951
Investment management and audit.....	171,204	167,048
Facilities and maintenance.....	32,400	36,000
Fund raising.....	282,664	259,138
Cultivation and stewardship.....	218,404	169,710
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$1,134,658</b>	<b>\$950,847</b>
<b>Total Programs and Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$3,880,181</b>	<b>\$7,728,245</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets Before Investment Gain (Loss).....</b>	<b>(\$329,680)</b>	<b>(\$3,728,290)</b>
Unrealized and realized net gain (loss) on investments.....	(\$3,535,503)	\$7,579,787
<b>Change in Net Assets After Investment Gain (Loss).....</b>	<b>(\$3,865,183)</b>	<b>\$3,851,497</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year.....</b>	<b>\$39,229,311</b>	<b>\$35,377,814</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year.....</b>	<b>\$35,364,128</b>	<b>\$39,229,311</b>

## HOW PROGRAM DOLLARS WERE SPENT IN 2021-2022:



Financial Information is a summary of the auditors report provided by Eide Bailley, CPAs.

# Thank You for *Becoming* a 'Jacket for Life!

Each year, hundreds of Yellowjackets embark on new journeys after completing degrees at MSU Billings. As students, your gifts helped them focus on academics while alleviating the financial stress of pursuing a higher education. Your generosity today means these future leaders are equipped to make tomorrow brighter for all of us.

As alumni and supporters like you spread out across the globe to make a difference in communities worldwide, they sometimes lose connection with MSU Billings. If you or someone you know is a graduate, past volunteer, retired faculty, or other friend of our university, reconnect with the MSUB Foundation.

Thank you for being a part of the Yellowjacket family.

**SIGN UP FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES, OR UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TODAY!**

[msubfoundation.com/connect-with-us](https://msubfoundation.com/connect-with-us)



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**Be Brave.  
Be Bold.**  
*Become.*

