



## CAMPUS WEEKLY

University of Minnesota Crookston

### Leadership Letter

#### From Chancellor Holz-Clause

Welcome Back

We are very excited to have everyone back on campus. Soon our students come too. This feels a little like getting ready for the holidays and the anticipation of good things to come.



For those of you who were not around this summer, it was indeed a busy one. We've dedicated much of this issue to updating you on all the things that happened over the summer. We will be publishing this update every week on Tuesday, so please let Cassandra know what is happening and what you want to communicate with others. One thing we are not going to do anymore (for those of you who were here last year) is to bombard you with emails every hour on the hour. Check out the home page every day or the electronic monitors if you want to get updates.

I hope many of you were able to attend the Welcome Back luncheon on Monday with the updates on our strategic plan and three priorities. Just to recap they are:

- Campus Enrollment Management—Recruitment and Retention
- Diversity, Equity and Belonging
- Golden Eagle Pride/Relationships and Engagement

Too often strategic plans become something we talk about, but fail to execute. We need to focus on these and determine how each one of us can take responsibility -- both personally in our jobs every day and through the work of our departments and others on our team.

So in case you missed out on Monday, everyone is asked to create their own personal goals that support these strategic initiatives and each department will also write their collective goals to work toward achieving this important work. You heard an update on what some possibilities could be and what we as an organization will collectively be doing.

Now it is time for all of us to focus and finish.

It is going to be a great year. Probably the best ever.

Glad we are all on this journey together. A victim mentality may reside at other places -- but not here.

We hold our future in our hands. Let's make it great!

Chancellor Mary

## Campus Announcement

### **Campus Wide Student Feedback**

Providing students with the best possible student experience remains a constant at the University of Minnesota Crookston whether it is online or on campus. Exit interviews with seniors along with focus groups with online students provided both insight and valuable commentary on the learning experience.

Click [here](#) to read an in-depth review of the feedback.

Use the following to format your e-mail signature

Name

Title |

Department | Department website

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## Transition Crookston and Welcome Weekend

Please be sure to look over the schedules for [Welcome Weekend](#) and [Transition Crookston](#) !



## Awards and Recognition

### Volleyball Team Academic Award

The University of Minnesota Crookston volleyball team led by Sarah Rauen, is a recipient of the **2018-19 AVCA Team Academic Award** and has been recognized as achieving a Top-25 Team GPA in NCAA DII Women's Volleyball. Congratulations!

This award honors teams who have matched their dedication to the sport of volleyball with excellence in the classroom. Meeting the award standards is an accomplishment of which your school and team can be very proud. It is our hope that teams will set the AVCA Team Academic Award as an annual goal to achieve.

# Faculty and Staff Announcements

## Welcome

- Rachel Reichel, UMN Crookston Athletics
- Andrew Gjerswold, UMN Crookston Athletics
- Cory McNeil, UMN Crookston Athletics,
- Maggie Mills, UMN Crookston University Relations
- Denise Affeldt, UMN Crookston Early Childhood Development Center
- Maxwell Casper, UMN Crookston Athletics
- Kyle Halfpop, UMN Crookston Athletics

## Farewell

- Amrita Shenoy
- Kim Gillette
- Blake Smith

## Department News

### Admissions

Slate Pre-evaluation Process for Advisors:

- With the transition from Salesforce to Slate a new process for academic advisors to complete pre-evaluations for prospective transfer students has been developed. This will be implemented September 1.

Campus Experience:

- The faculty portion of the prospective student visit is invaluable and we want to ensure that we are offering visit times that work for faculty while still meeting the schedule needs to keep our visits consistent. Faculty will have flexible time slots available to meet and visit with prospective students and families.

## **Athletics, Recreation, and Wellness**

Returning and new students, along with faculty, staff, and fans will be treated to the addition of brand new bleachers at Lysaker Gymnasium. The state-of-the-art bleachers were installed this summer and will help foster a great fan experience at Minnesota Crookston men's and women's basketball, and volleyball games. The project includes 224 seat backs.

Lysaker Gymnasium also received an upgrade to the sound system. NLFX Professional out of Bemidji, Minn., installed a state-of-the-art system that includes new speakers, amplifiers, and a Crestron 3-Series Control System.

In addition, Lysaker Gymnasium was also equipped with a state-of-the-art camera system by Keemotion. The solution will provide automated HD live streaming for volleyball, men's and women's basketball. The cameras will also provide state-of-the-art technology for officials for basketball to review plays by seeing all angles and zoom in on specific areas of the court. Keemotion's technology includes easily accessible coaching technology for the men's and women's basketball and volleyball programs.

The Minnesota Crookston baseball field has continued to undergo improvements as they have had a field irrigation system installed. They are in the process of raising money to install a new grand stand behind home plate.

The department has seen the addition of head coaches for women's soccer (Kyle Halfpop), trap shooting (Andy Gjerswold), and men's and women's cross country (Steven Krouse), along with the addition of assistant coaches for baseball (Max Casper), football (Cory McNeil, Patrick Johnson, Jr., Derek Bakken, and Michael Day) and softball (Meghan Boston).

We continued to expand our services in athletic training, as we signed a contract with the College of St. Scholastica to provide two intern trainers. In addition, we added Rachel Reichel as assistant athletic trainer.

The training room added new training tables to help complete a project to fit the

training room with state-of-the-art equipment to provide a high level experience to our student-athletes.

The department added Minnesota Crookston alum Kolby Castillo to the new position of assistant event management and intramural coordinator. In addition, in January we added Hunter Plante as assistant marketing and communications director. We also added a new compliance director.

This summer has seen the addition of two sports at Minnesota Crookston as we look to continue to expand our offerings to our students. We added men's and women's cross country teams that will compete in the NSIC beginning this season. In addition, we have added a club trap shooting team that will compete in the USA College Clay Target League. The club team will be run like the program's other intercollegiate athletic offerings and is available to both men and women looking to compete in trap shooting.

In January 2019, the Athletic Department became Athletics, Recreation and Wellness. It acquired the Wellness Center to help lead all students and employees to a more active lifestyle. For University employees, spouses, and alumni, there will be a price reduction in membership as well as the ability for annual payroll deduction memberships. Group fitness classes for students and employees are continuing to be explored with local group fitness instructors. This will expand an employee's opportunities to receive wellness points toward their insurance.

UMC students will be welcomed back to another year planned with intramurals and activities. The major event to kickoff the fall will be fall rec fest. This will take place on Thursday, September 12th from 5-8 p.m. The student interns have also been hard at work with ideas for sport leagues, traveling trophies, and ways to expand exposure for the 7 dimensions of wellness which include: physical, emotional, spiritual, career, intellectual, environmental, and social.

### **Business and Liberal Arts and Education Departments Unit**

The Unit for the Business and Liberal Arts & Education (LAE) Departments became official this summer, with Kevin Thompson as Unit Head. The joining of the two departments into one new academic unit as well as the creation of the Department Chair position created the opportunity to determine how our old way of doing things could change in the new structure. Kevin met with Kara Bowen (Business) and Mark Huglen (LAE), the two Unit Department Chairs, over the summer to talk about responsibilities, processes as well as prepare for Opening Week. In addition to this work, the departments spent the summer responding to other changes and preparing

for the new academic year:

- Jacoba de Boer, LAE Online Advisor, accepted a position at UND. With her departure in June, Michelle Beeghly provided exceptional support to Jacoba's advisees, before those students transitioned to Denise Greene, the new Professional Advisor in the Academic Success Center.
- Julie Sandman, Lisa Sparby and Josh Lunak, the Business Department Online Advisors, also transitioned to their new Professional Advisor role in the Academic Success Center.
- Adjunct instructors were hired and contracts sent out for the fall courses.
- LAE student Olivia Puttin (Communication) and Business student Greg Johnson (Sport and Recreation Management; Marketing) delivered speeches at the August 9 UMC Farm to Table event. Both students were selected by their department faculty.
- Work continued on advancing the ACBSP Accreditation materials in the Business Department.
- Special thanks to all our faculty in their responsiveness and assistance throughout the summer as we prepared for the fall semester.

## **Business Office**

The happenings in the Business Office:

- We spent most of June doing FY20 budget prep and budget entry.
- The end of June to mid-July is spent doing FY19 year end clean up and close out of the fiscal year.
- We also spent time working on the open audit issues.

## **Facilities and Grounds Department**

Facilities activities around campus this summer:

In addition to the items that are in the student section here are some items that are behind the walls and under the ground:

We have replaced the emergency transfer switch that serves the Kiehle data center. This will help with emergency power reliability for the data center.

We continue to work on the underground electrical grid stabilization/upgrade project.

This year we had new transformers installed at the Early Childhood Center, the Heating Plant, Sargent Student Center, Kiser and parking lot C. There were also new conductors and secondaries run to Sargent, Kiser, and the heating plant. There are two more phases until this project is complete.

Irrigation was installed on the baseball field.

Temperature and fan controls will be upgraded in Sahlstrom Hall first floor this August (work may still be going on when you arrive back). This should help alleviate issues in the first floor offices.

We also performed all of our normal project work, cleaning carpets, finishing floors, many painting jobs, as well as most of our annual maintenance on our mechanical systems as well as maintaining all of the annual, shrub and perennial beds on campus.

## **Human Resources**

Human Resource functions during the summer

Welcome back faculty and staff.

During the summer, the Office of Human Resources has been busy on the following key functions.

- We have worked closely with departments on the Crookston campus to fill a position vacancies. As of August, most searches have successfully concluded.
- Many job family market refinements are near completion in order to ensure salary levels are competitive with market rates.
- A number of Human Resource policies have been reviewed. The policy receiving the most attention was University's Family Medical Leave policy. Modifications to the FMLA policy became effective on August 1.
- The University continues to be actively engaged in contract negotiations with both the Teamsters and the AFSCME unions to reach a negotiated agreement.

## **Information Technology Department**

Laptop Computer Rollover status/update:

A new laptop fleet arrived in July as part of the laptop rollover. UMN Crookston IT support staff have been busy preparing the new HP Elitebook x360 1040 G5 fleet.

This 14-inch, 2-in-1 device is capable of being used as a traditional laptop or converted into tablet form. We began issuing laptops in late July on campus and to anyone able to come to campus. Distribution will continue as students, faculty, and staff return for fall semester.

#### Systemwide Network Infrastructure Upgrade status/update:

The next phase of the systemwide network infrastructure upgrade began this summer and should be completed summer 2020. In May, UMN Crookston IT staff developed a building cutover prioritization schedule to replace all network switches across campus and began the work in late July. Priority for the project will be given to residential life and academic buildings. This upgrade is a vital next step to improving performance, availability, and reliability of our network services. While we are committed to minimizing service outages as much as possible, small disruptions may be experienced as new switches are deployed.

#### Systemwide Transition to Canvas LMS:

The campus transition to the new systemwide digital learning management system, Canvas, was largely completed last spring with remaining course and non-course sites moved this summer. As the Canvas transition winds down, UMN Crookston academic technology support staff will shift their support focus to topic specific training to introduce new and unique features delivered through the Canvas along with supporting instructional course development.

#### Systemwide Transition to Zoom online meeting tool:

A UMN systemwide transition to Zoom, an online meeting tool replacing WebEx, was officially launched on April 1, 2019, across the System. UMN Crookston IT support staff are helping end users transition from WebEx, which will be retired September 2, 2019. Training will be provided early this fall. Another exciting deliverable is Zoom Rooms for conferencing and instructional spaces—more to come on that development this fall.

#### Media Services Projects:

Media Services staff are working with admissions and alumni to determine the AV needs and installation of AV equipment in the Kiehle 116 “Welcome Center”. In addition, Media Services staff will also be working with athletics reviewing bids for a new sound system and removal of the old sound system in the gym.

#### NETS Campus Projects:

Summer projects for NETS included the installation of a Cisco Room Kit Mini video conferencing system with a Sony 65" Display in the Kiehle 116 “Welcome Center”. NETS will also be installing the first Zoom Room in Kiehle 141 for testing the new

service and will reassign the current Kiehle 141 Cisco video conferencing system as a portable cart available for use on campus.

## **Student Success**

In an effort to better communicate about what occurs with our students, Student Success will be providing training opportunities for faculty and staff to learn about APLUS and how to utilize it as an early intervention method for our students. Training opportunities will be announced within the coming weeks.

We have earned the designation as a First Forward institution through the Center for First-Generation Student Success. First Forward recognizes colleges and universities that are committed to ensuring their first-generation college students are successful. We are one out of 80 institutions across the United States to be part of this inaugural cohort! Over the summer two UMN Crookston representatives, Vice Chancellor John Hoffman and Lamesha Brown attended the First Generation Student Success Conference and the First Forward Pre-Conference Workshop to start our goal-setting process and learn about various ways of building connections among our first-generation population. This year, Student Success will plan more programs both for first-generation college students and for staff and faculty who are committed to their success. Soon, we will send out an email to staff and faculty to learn about those of you who identify as first-generation and how you might want to engage with us as we center the experiences of our first-generation students.

Planning is also underway for our Multicultural Education efforts! You can look forward to active and passive programs during each of the heritage/history months and events that allow the campus community to have both introductory and in-depth conversations about topics related to our diversity, equity, and belonging strategic priority. If you would like to know more about these efforts let us know!

## **University Relations**

Department Update from University Relations

Over the summer, we finalized the merging of University Relations with Development & Alumni Relations and become University and Alumni Relations.

On June 3, UMCunofficial was suspended and information will be concentrated in the events calendar and through the Campus Weekly. Cassandra Morthera will be managing the campus calendar as well as the Campus Weekly.

Recent grad Maggie Mills joined us this summer and she will be staffing the Welcome Center for Admissions located in Kiehle 116 as well as managing the social media accounts for the campus. Kiehle 116 has been transformed as the Admissions (and development and alumni) welcome center. The room has undergone a big makeover.

Work continues on the development of our new website including our move to Drupal 8. If you want to learn more, visit the web development [blog](#).

A University of Minnesota System [landing page](#) was launched in July. Check out the System video featuring the five campuses created by videographer David Cowardin from UMN Duluth.

## Events



### Opening Week Faculty/Staff Luncheon

Welcome back! Join us for a luncheon to hear updates from Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause and enjoy time reconnecting with colleagues before the start of fall...

Mon, Aug 19 11:30am



### Faculty/Staff Golf Scramble

Relax and play a round of golf with your co-workers and compete for bragging rights and the coveted UMC Golf Trophy. Tee times begin at 2 p.m.

Thu, Aug 22 2pm •  
[Minakwa Golf Course](#)

## All Events

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