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**LEADERSHIP LETTER**

**From the Chancellor**

Welcome Back!

I am excited to welcome you back, whether in person or virtually. Many of you are now hearing for the first time all

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the plans for occupancy, spacing, masking, distancing, etc. and this may feel overwhelming or perhaps a little out of control. All summer a dedicated team has worked on our plans for re-opening. We've been in constant consultation with experts across the University of Minnesota system to vet and refine our plans based on science. Many of us have come to learn about air-exchanges in HVAC systems, microbiology, epidemiology, the psychology of behavioral patterns of 18-22 year olds, among other topics. Rest assured that although nothing will ever be perfect, the plans in place are based on scientific principles. We are so fortunate to have many of the world's leading experts on these topics within the University of Minnesota system to guide our decisions. If you ever have questions about why we are COVID-19 practices may be different from other institutions, please reach out to me and others of the leadership team and ask.



It is only human to want to get back to “normal” as soon as possible. Instead, I invite you to consider that one of the lessons learned over the past five months is that in-person time with others is precious. We will push all members of our campus to carefully follow the core guidelines:

- Screen before you come to campus and stay home if you might be ill
- Maintain six feet physical distance whenever possible
- Always wear a face covering inside or when in close proximity to others outdoors, and
- Engage in hygiene practices including frequently washing/sanitizing your hands and avoiding touching your face.

Also, we will ask you to work from home whenever possible. Not only is this still a part of the Governor's mandate, it will help us to ensure that we retain some of our precious in-person time with students. Because so many of our offices are just one person deep, even a small outbreak on our campus could force us to make difficult decisions to further limit in-person time.

Trips to campus should remain as measured as possible. While many of you have elected to teach in person, as soon as you are done with the class, please try to leave the building. Unless there is some significant reason not to, please hold office hours virtually.

Some of you who are in “student facing” positions are also obviously in the building. We have tried to create plans for alternating weeks of in the office and then at home. Our goal

is to keep our occupancy rate (and thus our density) as low as possible. As one who has done numerous feasibility studies for motel/hotel/venues where the goal is occupancy of

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80-90 percent, this hurts my hands to type our goal of occupancy at 40-50 percent. But science tells us less density lowers the incidence of the spread of COVID-19. Our responsibility is to do all we can to lower the incidence of spreading this disease until a vaccine is readily available.

So as we embark upon a new adventure, please remember to keep a smile on under the mask, keep your distance from others physically while being kind through words and actions. And make sure to take care of your mental health as well as your physical being.

Let's all do what we can to stay safe and be well.

Chancellor Mary

## CAMPUS UPDATES

### Fall 2020 Opening Week Session

Today, Monday, August 17, faculty and staff gathered with leadership for a campus update and training.

The presentation slides can be found [here](#).

The recording of the campus update and training can be found [here](#).

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### E-mail Signatures

According to the University of Minnesota University Relations department, all U of M employees should use a standard signature in their email. Please use the suggested template below, when creating your signature to ensure campus consistency.

Example:

**Employee Name**

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Position | Department |

215 Kiehle Building, 2900 University Ave, Crookston, MN 56716

UMN Crookston Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)

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### **Athletics Update**

The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference's Board of Directors has canceled NSIC fall competition & championships, and has suspended all athletic competition through December 31, 2020. This decision is in light of the NCAA Board of Governors' decision to direct all institutions and conferences to meet specific requirements to conduct fall sports and the NCAA Division II Presidents Council's announcement that all NCAA Division II fall championships are canceled.

The NSIC recognizes the value an NCAA championship experience provides for student-athletes and this was a factor in the analysis. However, health and safety concerns prevailed in the league's decision.

The full story is posted on Golden Eagle [sports.com](http://sports.com)

<https://goldeneaglesports.com/news/2020/8/13/general-nsic-cancels-fall-competition-championships-suspends-all-sports-competition-through-december-31.aspx>

Decisions are still being considered for the ACHA for hockey and IHSA and NCEA for equestrian.

### ***Trap Shooting Update***

Trap shooting is continuing their fall season as this sport allows for the shooters to be socially distanced.

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### **Wellness Center Updates**

The Wellness Center hours will be from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed Saturday and Sunday.

Members and students will be required to sign-up online for a one hour time slot with eight people maximum per hour.

More details coming soon.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Alumni Feature: Alison Stone Pokrzywinski

"I chose UMN Crookston because it was a small school with a good agricultural program," says 2006 alum Alison (Stone) Pokrzywinski. Alison works for Nuseed Americas as the North American



Product Manager for sunflowers and canola. UMN Crookston was far enough away from home that she didn't want to go home every weekend but close enough that she could drive there if needed. UMC's big bonus was that it was part of the University of Minnesota system.

Pokrzywinski met her husband, Jared at UMN Crookston. They reside in Devils Lake, N.D., and have two children (Rylan 2, and Magdalene 2 months).

Majoring in ag business with a minor in agronomy was the right path for Pokrzywinski. Immediately after graduation, she took a job with CHS Northern Plains in Eureka, S.D., as a sales agronomist. After helping growers with their corn, soybeans, and wheat recommendations for five years, she realized she had a passion for working with sunflowers and wanted to help provide solutions for that crop specifically. It was then she took a graduate research assistantship position with the USDA-ARS Sunflower Unit in Fargo, N.D., and received her master's degree in plant breeding at North Dakota State University (NDSU).

Being a part of the University of Minnesota system was an important part of her decision making process to attend UMN Crookston. "It was a small school that had all the resources of a large University campus," she shared.

## FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES

### Welcome

- Paul Landvik, Dining Services, UMN Crookston
- Laeela Steinmetz, Dining Services, UMN Crookston

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## EVENTS

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