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— LEADERSHIP LETTER —

From the Vice Chancellor

Perhaps my most cherished blessing is my marriage. Joy and I have been married for more than 18 years, and she is still the person who, more than any other, pushes me to be better. She reminds me every day of the person and leader I aspire to be. She challenges

successes of others. Granted, I often fail to live up to these expectations, but when I do, she's the first to remind me to apologize, own up, and do better next time.

While ours is a great marriage, it took years and hard work to build. Looking back, I am especially thankful for a small men's group that I connected with through church as well as a core group of male friends who helped me through some of the most challenging moments. There were times when I needed to connect with other men to help me become the man and husband I aspired to be.



In a somewhat similar way, our international students have connected with one another for years through the Multicultural International Club (MIC). Last year, we reconstituted UMN Crookston's Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), and we grew participation in the Hispanic Organization for Latin Americans (HOLA). This year, a group of Black students are reforming our Black Student Association (BSA), and the Crookston Student Association is working to update its constitution to strengthen its policies and better support and maintain all our identity-based organizations, a best practice in higher education. These student organizations provide students with essential opportunities to gather with others who share their lived experiences and culture. In addition to these permanent organizations, we currently have 43 student clubs, which enable you to gather around common interests, service activities, or shared career goals. Some may question such groups as a sign of division, but I challenge you to look more deeply--it is through honoring and celebrating unique identities that we unite to build truly equitable and inclusive communities.

Next Tuesday is election day in the U.S., and it is possible that it may be weeks before we determine who is elected to many significant positions including President of the United States. As the results emerge, many of us will need to gather with others who share our political stances, whether left, right, or center. Several of our student affairs staff are organizing watch parties for the election night as well as gathering spaces for the days following the election. These will include separate spaces for Democrats and Republicans as well as a space for independent and centrist students. Our goal in creating these spaces is to lead ultimately to a greater experience of equitable and inclusive community on campus.

Spring Break

Over the past weeks, we have received several questions about spring break and the spring academic calendar. The decision to cancel spring break was not an easy one, but one that we feel is important given significant risks related to the increased student travel

through conservative efforts regarding the health and safety of our faculty, student affairs educators, staff, and students. We also have a high proportion of employees who are in high-risk categories related to the spread and impact of COVID-19. Additionally, faculty in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Natural Science shared particular concern about the potential negative impact of coronavirus outbreaks after spring break on students because of the impact on labs, field trips, and other hands-on learning experiences.

Because local travel is less dangerous than travel beyond the region, we will maintain three-day weekends associated with the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the Professional Development Day on February 15, and the floating holiday on April 2. We will further replace spring break (originally scheduled from March 8-12 with a single day off on Wednesday, March 10, and with two study days prior to finals (April 30 and May 3). That still leaves an extra Tuesday and an extra Thursday in the schedule. We looked at the option of starting classes later or ending the semester sooner, but those moves would have had a negative effect on veterans and students who take out student loans. Instead, we added two days to the calendar, which is within UMN policy. Some faculty will elect to spread out the content for their classes in order to utilize these days while others will elect to provide a Tuesday or Thursday off at some point during the semester.

Protect The Nest

I ask that as a campus we continue to remember the importance of protecting the nest as we enter this final stretch on campus this semester before Thanksgiving. Our campus has done a good job of taking COVID-19 seriously, but we can't let up now. Cold and flu season is starting, and it could mean a spike in coronavirus cases. Please protect yourself and our campus and wear your mask, social distance, and make wise choices.

Vice Chancellor Hoffman

CAMPUS UPDATES

Reminder to apply for the Sexual Misconduct Hearing Committee

About 10 days ago the University community was sent an email asking interested individuals to consider service on the Sexual Misconduct Hearing Committee (SMHC). The SMHC is the University's system-wide hearing body to consider complaints of sexual misconduct involving students, staff, and faculty in accordance with the University's [Administrative Policy on Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and](#)

As this committee is system-wide, I am asking you to please consider applying so that the SMHC will have adequate representation from our campus.

Please review the [SMHC Selection Process and Criteria](#) for more information and apply by Sunday, November 1, 2020, using the [SMHC Application](#). Questions can be directed to smhc@umn.edu.

From the Wellness Center

There are many upcoming events such as volleyball, e-sports, yoga, and ping pong in the Wellness Center. If you wish to sign up for the events, click [here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

Student Stories

Agricultural business major, Roseline Kanssole, shares her story of how she came to UMN Crookston and what has made her experience as a Golden Eagle so special.



The University of Minnesota Crookston received \$1.35 million dollars of High Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) funding in a capital investment bonding bill signed Wednesday by Governor Tim Walz. The bonding bill includes \$38.5 million worth of HEAPR improvements to the University of Minnesota System campuses, research and outreach centers and field stations.

Read the full news release [here](#).

Drive Thru Groceries

Harvest Church Crookston, in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Farmers to Families program, is offering free drive-thru groceries from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, at the Crookston High School parking lot. Each family will receive a box or boxes (depending on family size) of food containing fresh produce, dairy items, meat/protein, and milk. Students are welcome to attend.

Student Feature: Vinayak Sharma

Vinayak Sharma, a native from New Delhi, India, never truly saw himself pursuing his undergraduate career in the United States. Continuing his education in a country other than his own was a thought that had not crossed Sharma's mind until he flew halfway across the world in the 8th grade. Looking back, Sharma appreciates the steps he took that led him to where he is today, and finds it incredibly rewarding.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

From International Programs

We know temperatures will drop rather rapidly in October and catch our international students by surprise, so we organized a shopping trip to Fargo. This was important for our international students so they could get some appropriate winter clothes. New student Maria Bustos, a native of Colombia, will be experiencing her first winter here, so we wanted to make sure she



Week (November 9-13).

Be sure you keep your calendars free for International Week! Brown Dining Room will feature cuisines from: Canada, Japan, Rwanda, Ireland, and India. We planned the event at the end of the week because Diwali Celebration falls on November 14. Mark your calendars for great food and great cultural experiences. One such experience is the creation of a sand mandala which will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day in the International Lounge. Another learning experience is attending a Language Corner where you can speak freely in another language while having coffee/tea and snacks. These language corners will feature: Monday, Spanish; Tuesday, Japanese; Wednesday, French; Thursday, Mandarin; and Friday, Hindi. These sessions will also allow students who speak the language to visit freely and for beginners who would like to learn emergency phrases to practice speaking in a warm and friendly environment.

Maroon and Gold Winner

Congrats to this weeks maroon and gold winner, Eric Morgan! Want a chance to win next week? Simply tag @umncrookston or dm your photo! *You can enter every week in October!



From the Student Success Center

November is Native
American Heritage month,
Join us in person or via
Zoom for a conversation
about Native history and
heritage.



Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat will take place on Halloween from 4 p.m. - 6p.m. There is also a limit to four people around the car at all times and all other social distancing guidelines will also be in play! If you have any questions please let me know!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCVKFI684-sscsF3g4s8gTaYI-aFZkLGfq7kvqepxd0tawvw/viewform?usp=sf_link

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 31

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Join us around the campus mall for some family fun and candy. The first 400 people will receive free trick or treating bags full of candy.

(Toys will be available for kids with food allergies)



REMEMBER TO WEAR MASKS & BE SOCIALLY DISTANT

(Children 5 and under will not need a mask.)

Parking Available in the Kiehle Lot



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