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LEADERSHIP LETTER

From the Chancellor

I hope you had a chance to enjoy some of our nice weather before the reality of colder temperatures and snow affect us. As I am sure you are all aware, the cases of COVID-19 have been increasing rapidly. Three weeks ago, we had less than 400 cases in Polk

a per capita basis, North Dakota has the highest affected rates in the U.S. and some of the highest in the world. Remember to use your saliva test if you want to know your infection status. While we may be tired, the virus is not. Don't let your guard down, stay away from large gatherings, and only associate with people in your pod.



On Saturday, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were named winners of the 2020 election for President and Vice President of the United States. Regardless of your political affiliation, if ever there was a time to support our leaders, it is now. In part, this is the case because we are in the midst of a historic pandemic that touches nearly every aspect of our lives, has killed more than 240,000 in the United States, and is having catastrophic economic consequences. Additionally, Kamala Harris will make history as the first woman, Black woman, and woman of Indian descent to hold the office of Vice President of the United States. For women across the country, especially those who are Black or Desi-American, this election marks the shattering of a glass ceiling and opening a door for leadership to future women and women of color—perhaps one of our students here at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

We will hold a Zoom Town Hall for students on Wednesday, November 11, at noon. The agenda will include the protocol for students safely returning to their homes and returning back to campus in January. Details about athletics and those staying over the holiday season will be explained. You are welcome to attend and the session will be recorded. The link for the Town Hall is <https://umn.zoom.us/j/98478807475>.

We've all been touched by the extra kindness or effort our colleagues and students have done for us through this COVID-19 crisis. Everyone can use a little lift so I encourage you to send a note of gratitude and appreciation. What better way to let people know how much you appreciate them than to tell them. Blank appreciation cards are available for you to pick up at the Student Center. After you've written your note(s), you can either put them in campus mail or place a stamp on them and send them to their homes. A small act of kindness on your part can help to lift a burden or brighten a day. If you can't find cards and would like some, contact Chris Winjum and he will make arrangements to get them to you.

On Wednesday we celebrate Veteran's Day. There are more than 7,000 current active personnel in the region along with their dependents and civilian employees who support them. In addition to active duty, reserve, and National Guard members stationed in the region, central and western Minnesota and eastern North Dakota consists of higher veteran rates per capita than many regions in the U.S.[1]. In fact, when veterans under 25

The veteran concentration in Polk County, Minn., and surrounding counties is well above the national median, as high as 25-50 percent in some areas according to the Department of Veteran Affairs. This year we are proud to have more than 40 veterans who are taking classes from us either in person or online. If you have Veterans in your classes –thank them for their service. And if you are a Veteran—thank you.

1. Grand Forks Air Force Base Website. Retrieved from <https://www.grandforks.af.mil/About-Us/>
2. Planning, O. (2010, November 24). Veterans Affairs. Retrieved October 30, 2020, from <https://www.va.gov/vetdata/maps.asp>

Have a great week,

Chancellor Mary

CAMPUS UPDATES

Braver Angels Message

Dear Students, Staff, and Faculty:

The University is hosting gatherings to help us reach across our political differences and move forward collectively. We hope you will join students, staff, and faculty in [With Malice Toward None](#) gatherings developed by the nonprofit and nonpartisan [Braver Angels](#).

The goal of these forums is to engage in meaningful dialogue that facilitates teaching and learning in our University community. There will be two stages and opportunities for engagement. In the first stage, groups of people who feel similarly about the presidential election will discuss how they want to engage with those who feel differently. In the second stage, groups of people who hold differing political views about the presidential election will come together to better understand each other, find common ground, and in the words of Braver Angels, “build the capacity of we-the-people to depolarize our politics and forge a new citizenship.”

Please note these forums are not meant to obscure strong political differences or encourage people to support a particular candidate or party. Instead, they aim to advance dialogue, encourage respect for others, and build connections for civic work across differences.

Development on the Twin Cities campus, will facilitate the gatherings.

For now, [we invite you to register](#) for the initial gathering with people who feel similarly about the presidential election—either a large group University-hosted gathering or a small, self-hosted gathering. We acknowledge some people may be uncertain how they feel about the election because they consider it still unresolved. In that case, please participate in the group with which you most align.

After participating in the first forum, you can decide whether to sign up for a second gathering with those who feel differently about the election. Initial sessions will be held at the following times:

Generally Pleased

- November 16, 7-8:30 p.m.
- November 19, 2-3:30 p.m.

Generally Displeased

- November 17, 3:30-5 p.m.
- November 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

If you are unable to make these forums, but would like to participate in future Braver Angels interactions, please review the [Braver Angels Minnesota](#) website.

Thank you for your willingness to contribute to this critical work.

With appreciation,

Mary Holz-Clause, Chancellor

John Hoffman, Vice Chancellor Academic/Student Affairs

at the invitation of:

Maggie Towle, Vice Provost for Student Affairs

Rebecca Ropers, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs

From University and Alumni Relations

Give to the Max Day

Crookston! Your support will go even farther because of special one-day matches, and all gifts to the U on Give to the Max Day are included in the University-wide Driven campaign. This year, the Crookston campus is focusing on the [UMC Area of Greatest Need Fund](#) among other critical unrestricted funds supporting students and the great work happening on our campus. More information to follow within the next couple of weeks.

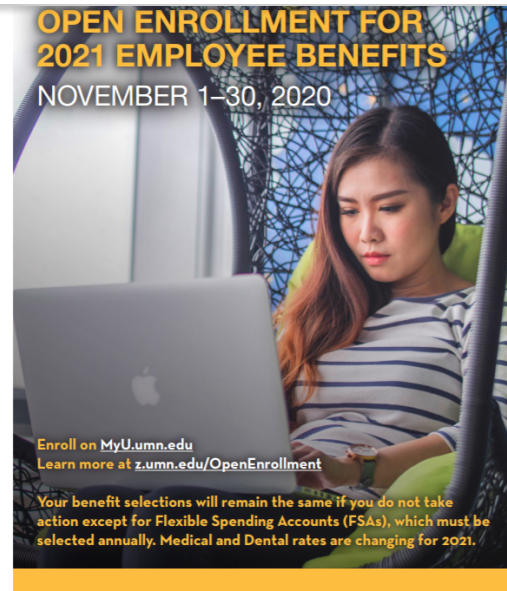
Grateful Voices - Video Series

Leading up to Give to the Max Day, we've prepared a special video series, Grateful Voices, which will showcase the impact giving has on our students and campus. Please enjoy our first two videos in this series featuring Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause and our committed supporters, Paul and Kathy Imle.

Video credits to Maggie Mills, Social Media and Creative Project Specialist



From Finance and Human Resources



Seeking Nominations

[U of M Faculty and Academic Affairs Distinguished Teaching Awards](#)

The University's Faculty and Academic Affairs seeks nominations for two distinguished teaching awards: the Horace T. Morse - University of Minnesota Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education, and the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education.

[McKnight Land-Grant Professorship](#)—Deadline: Tuesday, December 15

The University's Faculty and Academic Affairs seeks nominations for 2021 McKnight Land-Grant Professorships. The goal of the program is to advance the careers of new assistant professors at a crucial point in their professional lives.

Nomination instructions for all of these awards are available at <https://faculty.umn.edu/awards-and-recognition/awards>.

The nomination instructions for all of these awards incorporate two significant changes from previous years; these changes were made before the nomination materials were first posted in July. The changes are (1) an optional one-page statement describing the impact of COVID-19 on the nominee's work, and (2) a request for the nominating letter to include a description of the nominee's contributions to the university's efforts to advance equity and diversity, which is now included among the review and selection criteria.

You are welcome to join the Student Town Hall Zoom on Wednesday, November 11. The purpose is to ensure we are all "on the same page" before students leave for winter break. Details are:

Student Town Hall Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, from Noon - 1 p.m.

Zoom link to join: <https://umn.zoom.us/j/98478807475>

Topics include:

- Rise in infections/information on saliva testing kits
- Steps to take before going home for winter break
- Steps to take before returning in January
- Information for students staying on campus over winter break
- Academic update
- Athletics update
- CSA update
- Q&A from attendees

From Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships had a giveaway in the month of October for students who completed their 2021-2022 FAFSA and/or Specialty Scholarship application. Congrats to the winners of the Amazon gift cards:

- Dustin Haning - IT management online student
 - Marah Mcdougal - marketing on-campus student
 - Shauna Nordlund - health management online student
 - Judy Andrews - accounting online student
 - Madi Mathews - elementary education on-campus student
-

The University of Minnesota Crookston men's and women's basketball teams are currently slated to begin practice for the 2021 season November 27. Information regarding the 2021 NSIC basketball seasons will be available soon. Additionally, the Golden Eagle hockey team is set to start practicing in late December and will begin competition in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) Saturday, January 9, at the University of Jamestown and are slated for a 14-game schedule with eight games played at home at the Crookston Sports Center. Starting during Thanksgiving break, the Wellness Center will be open Monday through Friday 12 to 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Wellness Center will be close on Sunday.

2021 Hockey Schedule

- Saturday, January 9 - at University of Jamestown - TBA - Jamestown, N.D.
- Sunday, January 10 - at University of Jamestown - TBA - Jamestown, N.D.
- Friday, January 15 - vs. Minnesota State University Moorhead - TBA - Crookston, Minn.
- Saturday, January 16 - vs. Minnesota State University Moorhead - TBA - Crookston, Minn.
- Friday, January 29 - vs. Williston State College - TBA - Crookston, Minn.
- Saturday, January 30 - vs. Williston State College - TBA - Crookston, Minn.
- Friday, February 5 - vs. University of Mary - TBA - Crookston, Minn.
- Saturday, February 6 - vs. University of Mary - TBA - Crookston, Minn.
- Friday, February 12 - at Williston State College - TBA - Williston, N.D.
- Saturday, February 13 - at Williston State College - TBA - Williston, N.D.
- Saturday, February 20 - at University of Mary - TBA - Bismarck, N.D.
- Sunday, February 21 - at University of Mary - TBA - Bismarck, N.D.
- Friday, March 12 - vs. University of Jamestown - TBA - Crookston, Minn.
- Saturday, March 13 - vs. University of Jamestown - TBA - Crookston, Minn.

Retirement Gatherings

This message came from Central HR. Please read, be cognizant, and plan accordingly. While we want to honor our retirees, please wait until the time is better or plan a virtual

From Ken Horstman, Interim Vice President for Human Resources

"Over the summer we discussed employee retirement gatherings and whether they could be held on campus while complying with the University's COVID-related health and safety criteria. Given that [Minnesota and the Midwest are seeing an uptick in cases](#), I think it is important to revisit this topic.

The Minnesota Department of Health [Guidance for Mitigating COVID-19 at Higher Education Institutions](#) limits indoor gatherings to 10 people. However, [we encourage student groups under the Maroon and Gold Plan](#) to conduct all activities, events, and meetings virtually. As faculty and staff, we serve as role models to students and we should demonstrate the same behaviors we ask of students by avoiding unnecessary in-person social gatherings whenever possible. Our continued vigilance is needed to control the virus spread as much as possible during the fall and winter. With social gatherings largely held indoors during this time, in-person social celebrations pose an even greater risk for virus spread that we want to avoid.

At the local level, the number of retirements may seem small, but altogether more than 700 faculty and staff are taking advantage of the RIO program. If each of these individuals has nine people at a retirement celebration, it could lead to 7,000 people gathering for retirement events on campus over the next several months. This would run counter to the advice of epidemiologists within our institution to discourage in-person social gatherings.

For now, COVID-19 has disrupted our ability to connect socially and it is disappointing that we are unable to celebrate our colleagues' service to the University, but there are a number of creative approaches that departments can use to recognize people virtually or to plan a future celebration when we are able to do so safely."

— FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES —

Search Committees

HR Search Committee Named

The search for the new human resource director has begun with an anticipated hiring date of mid January. The search committee includes: Mark Huglen (chair), Mark Belanger, Megan Kragness, Derek Martin, Vern Shafer, Leah Stroot, and Kelsey Torgerson

Equine Science Faculty Search:

Marketing Faculty Search:

Eddie Walker (chair), Megan Bell, Rachel Lundbohm, Courtney Bergman, an external faculty (TBD), and a student (TBD)

Healthcare Management Lecturer and Director:

Aziz Ahmed (chair), Vicki Gustafson, Craig Miller, Sharon Stewart, and Sara Seiberlich (student)

HIGHLIGHTS

From International Programs

This year, International Education Week (November 9-13, 2020) will be filled with great activities including international food, snacks, and opportunities to try things outside your comfort zone. Please see which activities you can participate in and check with your professors to see if anything would count as extra credit. You may learn something and have "fun" at the same time. Be sure to check the schedule on the [events page](#).

Veterans Day Student Feature

As Veterans Day is this week, we asked UMN Crookston student Brian Bekkala, a golf and turf management major from Livonia, Mich., a few questions about what Veterans Day means to him. Bekkala served as a combat photographer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2012-2017.

**What does Veterans Day mean to you as a Veterans of the U.S. Marine Corps?**

As a Marine Corps Veteran, Veterans Day means a day to remember service members who served before, during and after my time.

What, as a veteran, do you reflect on during Veterans Day?

On Veterans Day, I think about the people I served with and family members who have served. I try and reach out to see what they are up to, whether that is through a call or a

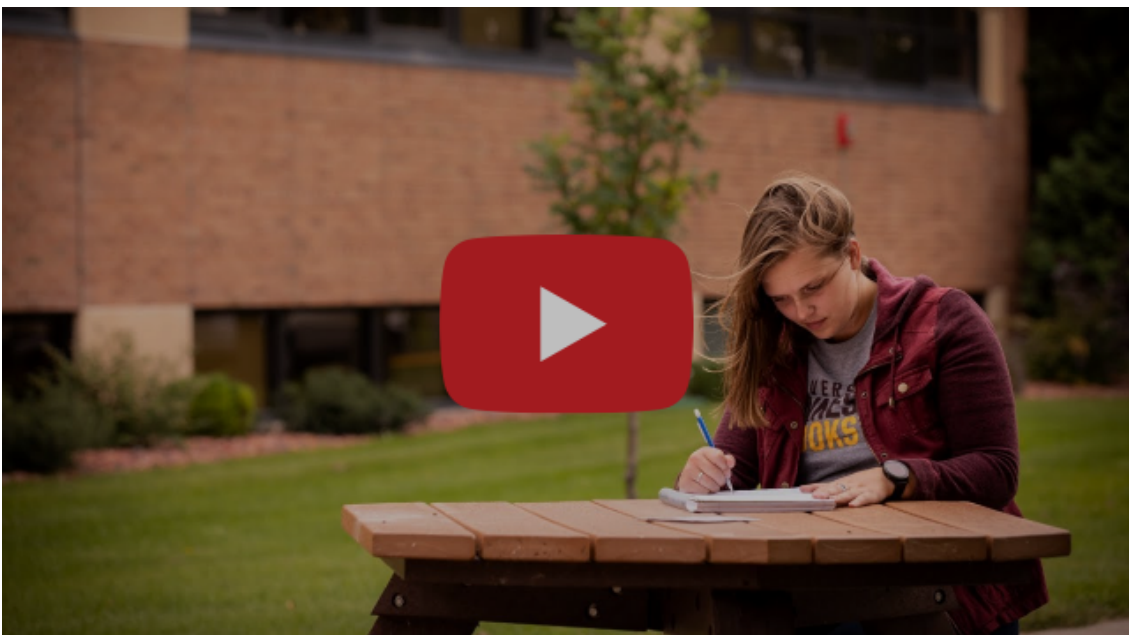
What are you most proud of regarding your time as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps?

I am most proud of helping the people of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands after a typhoon went through the region. I also enjoyed speaking and listening to a group of World War II Veterans. They took me in for a few days and told stories like I was one of them.



Student Stories

UMN Crookston senior Eleora DeMuth, an agricultural education and communication double major from Grand Rapids, Minn., takes us through what makes Minnesota Crookston so special to her and the opportunities she has been provided as a student.



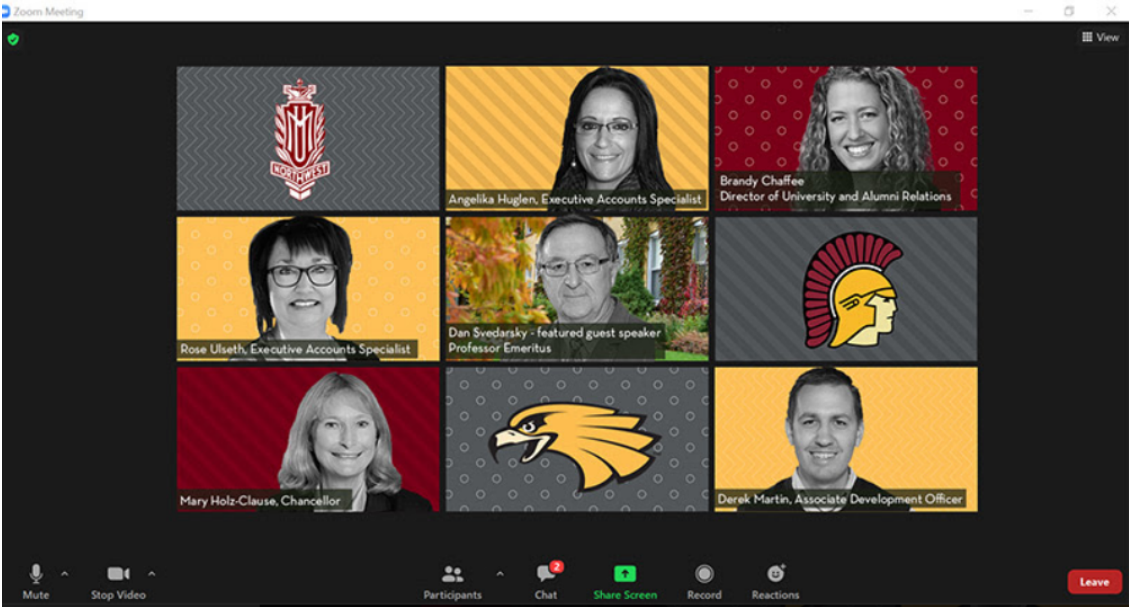
EVENTS

Alumni Social

Join us for a Virtual Alumni Social via Zoom
Tuesday, November 17, 2020 5-6 p.m. CST

Questions? Contact Angelika Huglen at ahuglen@umn.edu.

SAVE *the* DATE



MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION



CONVERSATIONS ABOUT
RACE OVER COFFEE:

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

NOVEMBER 10TH

WHEN: 12:30 PM TO 1:30 PM

WHERE: EVERGREEN CLASSROOM



ZOOM ID: 944 5133 8008



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CROOKSTON
Presents

International
Education
Week

November 9-13, 2020

Learn how to make a
Sand Mandala
every day from 10 - 2
International Lounge



Canadian Lunch Entree: Poutine

Brown Dining Room: 11-1



9

Monday

Spanish Language Corner 1-3

International Lounge (Snacks & beverage included)

Japanese Lunch Entree: Ginger Pork

Brown Dining Room: 11-1



10

Tuesday

Japanese Language Corner 1-3

International Lounge (Snacks & beverage included)

Rwanda Lunch Entree: Ugali

Brown Dining Room: 11-1



11

Wednesday

French Language Corner 1-3

International Lounge (Snacks & beverage included)

Irish Lunch Entree: Kate & Wills Wedding Pie

Brown Dining Room: 11-1



12

Thursday



Mandarin Language Corner 1-3

International Lounge (Snacks & beverage included)

Indian Lunch Entree: Chicken Biryani

Brown Dining Room: 11-1



13

Friday

Hindi Language Corner 1-3

International Lounge (Snacks & beverage included)

**Zoom will be made available for the language
corners upon request**

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

[CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS](#)

