

[View this email in your browser](#)



LEADERSHIP LETTER

From the Chancellor

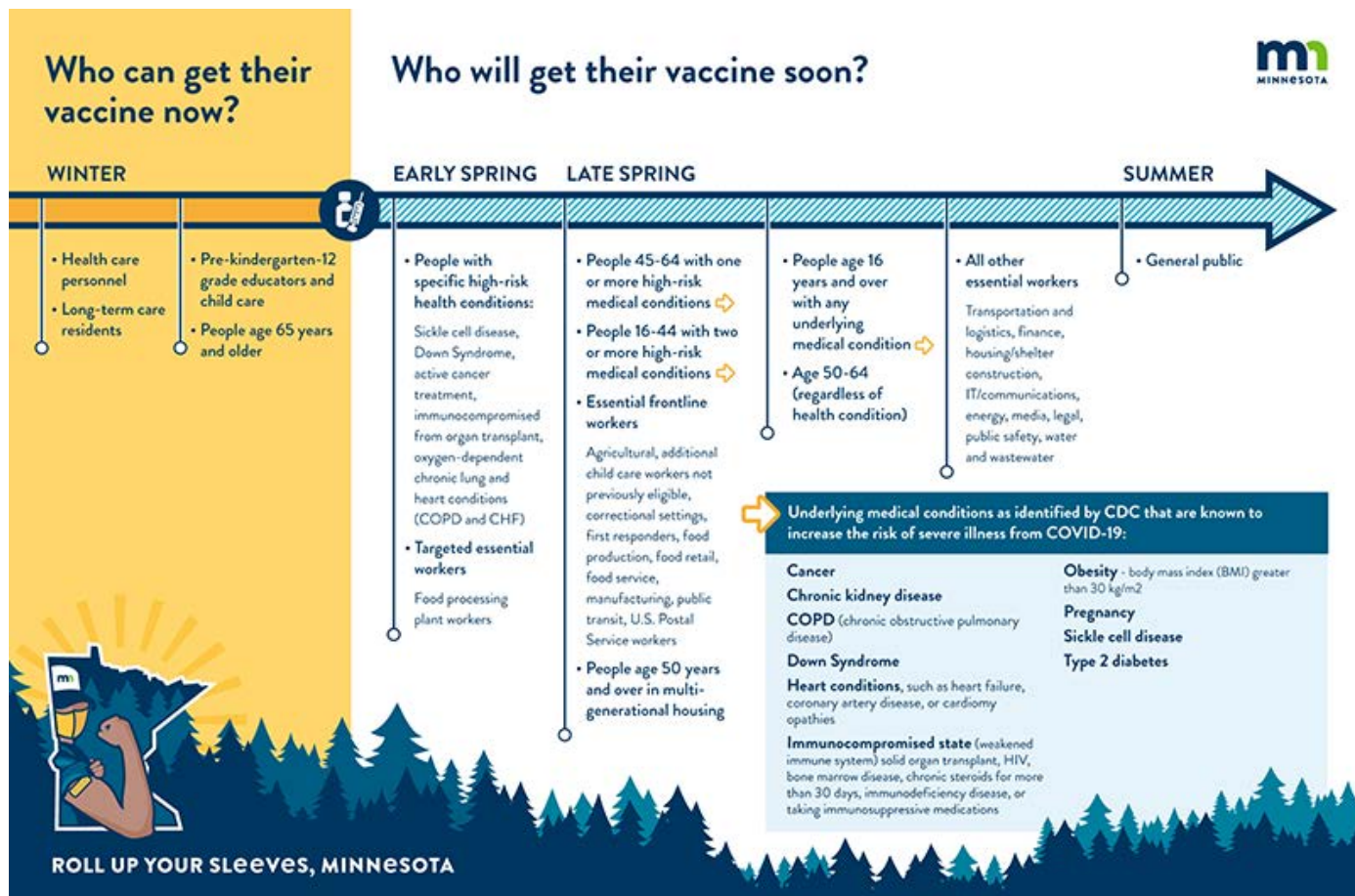
Spring greetings. Well perhaps a little early but for those of you residing in Minnesota it has felt more like spring than it has for quite some time.

Women’s History Month

Tsundoku may not be a term you know. It is a Japanese word that means the pile of unread literature that accumulates. My tsundoku rests in a big basket of books by my bed. Some I’ve purchased, some loaned to me--(Dale Knotek, Regent McMillan, Sharon Neet, and Marsha Odom I will return your books someday); and many of the books are gifts from my children thinking their mom would find this interesting or she should be reading this. Among the books gifted to me by one of my daughters was the biography by Michelle Obama, *Becoming*. To be quite honest, I didn’t know much about our former first lady and have learned much from her perspective of growing up on the south side of Chicago to championing her work while in the White House. This included supporting military families and getting couch potatoes up and moving (before they sprout), healthier eating, and changing the school eating programs to include less salt, sugar, and processed foods. As we embark upon Women’s History Month on campus, I encourage you

COVID-19 Updates

Recently the head of the public pension fund in Canada resigned when it was discovered he made a trip to the United Arab Emirates to get his COVID-19 vaccine while most Canadians continue to wait for their vaccine. Those of us who want the vaccine probably aren't that intense, but I recognize it can be frustrating while we wait. Here is the latest information for Minnesota on vaccine availability. Governor Tim Walz announced Thursday that Minnesota will vaccinate at least 70% of Minnesotans age 65 years and older before expanding eligibility to other groups and aims to reach this goal by the end of March. So far about 70 percent of that group has been vaccinated. Visit the state's [Who's Getting Vaccinated](#) page to learn more about the phases and when you will become eligible.



For those of you who wanted to receive the vaccine and have been able to obtain it, I am doing a happy dance for you. We are communicating as quickly as we know of vaccine availability. To our knowledge, [Thrifty White Pharmacy](#) is the only local pharmacy making the vaccine available. Those 65 and older can make appointments and we've been told in the North Dakota facilities others may be able to book an appointment.

We know anecdotally Minnesotans can get the vaccines in North Dakota. I loved the wisdom of a medical customer service person with whom I spoke to recently. I called to get my name on a list through my medical provider that was booking vaccines in North Dakota. I asked, "can I get on the list, I live in Minnesota?" Her response was, "the virus doesn't care where you live!"

Thanks to our nurse Nan Widseth who contacts people as soon as she learns of the availability of those who qualify under various rules, contracts, etc., to receive their opportunity to get the vaccine.

As vaccine supply increases, it will become easier than ever to get a shot. Until then, it's important to take easy steps to slow the spread of COVID-19. Wear your mask, stay six feet away from others, wash your hands, and get a COVID-19 test if you need one. When it's your turn, get your vaccine.

After you've had your shot, continue following these safe practices to protect others while they wait for their vaccine.

If eligible, here is the [Vaccine Locator map](#) to find nearby vaccine distribution sites, and you may be able to make an appointment to receive a vaccine through the providers listed there. If your health care provider contacts you about making an appointment, or you have another opportunity to get vaccinated, please consider doing that. You can also contact your regular health care provider directly. We hope sometime later this spring we will be

Subscribe

Share ▾

Past Issues

Translate ▾

RSS

Support the U Day

Please mark your calendars for the University of Minnesota's first virtual Support the U Day event on March 4, 2021. Support the U Day is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and others around Minnesota to engage with their elected state officials and advance the University's state legislative request. For more information, [join UMN Advocates](#) and invite your friends, family, and others to do the same.

Stay Social and Stay Engaged

We had a successful social gathering Friday with our alumni and friends from the Northwest School of Agriculture and UMN Crookston. The reunion is held annually in Arizona and this year it was a virtual event. This provided friends to connect and a chance to catch up. Humans are social creatures so reach out to each other and support one another.

Until next week,

Chancellor Mary



International Dinner Series - virtual

Mark your calendars for March 8, 15, 22, and 29 and join the virtual 2021 International Dinner Series reimagined. This will be a free but engaging experience featuring meals from Ukraine, France, and China. [Register today](#) to receive weekly recipes to pick up supplies at the grocery store and make these wonderful meals in your home. Each Monday, the [2021 Dinner Series](#) will begin at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

The Global State of Reproductive Health:

Examining the Intersection of Health Equity, Politics, and COVID-19

Join us Tuesday, March 2 at noon for an International Women's Day webinar series on gender, human rights, and COVID-19. Dr Senait Fisseha, director of international programs for the Susan Buffett Foundation, will reflect on the state of reproductive health globally and will discuss the ways in which the COVID pandemic and other political factors have impacted reproductive health services over the last year.



Connect to your COVID-19 vaccine

The State of Minnesota is committed to the equitable distribution of safe and effective vaccines for protection against COVID-19. As vaccine supply increases and doses become more widely available, opportunities to get vaccinated will expand. [Connect to your COVID-19 vaccine.](#)

COVID-19 Community Testing

Crookston Armory, 1801 University Ave.

Saliva Testing: March 1-2, 8-9 from 12-6 p.m.

To schedule an appointment: mncovidtestingapppt.as.me

Through community testing sites, the state's at-home testing program and other opportunities across Minnesota, accessing a test remains simple and easy. Here are some helpful links from the Minnesota Department of Health:

No-cost State Community Testing Sites: <https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/testing-locations/community-testing.jsp>

Order an at-home test at no cost: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>

Test Location Finder Map: <https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/testing-locations/index.jsp>



You may find more information on the [Protect the Nest](#) page.

Stopping Femicide: COVID-19 Brings Renewed Global Urgency

Register for the Thursday, March 4 International Women's Day webinar series on gender, human rights, and COVID-19. Violence against women is a pandemic within a pandemic, as COVID-19 has exacerbated the severity and frequency of all forms gender-based violence, including femicide. Join us in conversation with global and local activists who have led collective action to raise awareness and create change. Co-sponsored by: Center on Global Health and Social Responsibility; Center on Women, Gender, and Public Policy; Human Rights Program; Women's Center; Interdisciplinary

Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Translate ▼

RSS



Sustainable Menstruation

March 12 at 12:30 p.m., join in a discussion about sustainability in menstruation. What does menstruation have to do with economic inequality, stigma, and sustainability? For more information, check out the [Events Calendar](#).

Impact Leaders

Join your University of Minnesota community for an illuminating virtual conversation between President Joan Gabel and 2020 MacArthur Foundation ‘genius grant’ recipients, Paul Dauenhauer and Damien Fair, as they reflect on their visionary research pursuits, the impact of the MacArthur Fellowship, and how the U encourages creative, trailblazing thinkers. Live, Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Register [here](#).



Financial Aid

2020-2021 Outstanding Student Employee of the Year

Nominations are being accepted for the UMN Crookston Student Employee of the Year. All student employees at the University of Minnesota Crookston are eligible. Deadline to submit is Friday, March 19, 2021. Nominations will be reviewed and a student employee will be selected to be recognized at the April Student Awards Ceremony. The recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship and have his/her name engraved on a plaque that resides outside of the Financial Aid office. Consider nominating a student employee today and let’s celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Complete the following google [form](#).

International Programs

February Fitness Fever

Polk County Public Health’s February Fitness Fever kicked in and UMN Crookston international students joined the activities last weekend in balmy temperatures. A good first winter activity experience for some and definitely one of the perks of living in northern Minnesota. Kimie Shiozawa leads the group down the Central Park hill in the sled and in the second photo, Elina Vlasova (left) and Rose Kanssole took a stroll on the ice skating trails near Castle Park.



CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS

CAMPUS UPDATES

Farewells

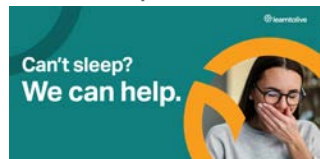
Cassandra Morthera Navarrete - February 9

Vicki Gustafson - February 14

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▾](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▾](#)[RSS](#)

Counseling Services

National Sleep Awareness Week



Attend a live webinar on “Too Many Sheep to Sleep.” Join Dr. Russ and Coach Jess as they explain poor sleep quality, highlight the negative impact of sleep problems, share some tools to help you sleep better, and give you practical strategies you can try out tonight. Sign up anytime between March 1-13, 2021. Full terms and conditions of a sleep challenge can be found [here](#).

Outreach & Engagement

Pine Lake Wild Rice - Agricultural Academy College in the High School

Agronomy lecturer, Sarah Kazmierczak, in collaboration with Crookston High School (CHS) launched a hybrid introduction to basic agronomic principles, Agro 1183-040. This college in the high school (CIHS) course is taught asynchronously this Spring semester. Agro 1183 is an introductory agronomy class providing a unique opportunity to incorporate agriculture, as a pilot course, as an elective at CHS. Students joined Kazmierczak, lecturer Rob Proulx, and Amberly Cox of Admissions Wednesday for a campus experience including a tour of labs and greenhouses. Shown here, Proulx's crop and weed identification class, which is one of the prereq classes for the majority of the core agronomy classes, is one visit made that day. Students not only learned a bit more about UMN Crookston's agronomy degree but also the precision ag program as well.

Technology Support Services (TSS)

Check out the [February 2021 edition of the OUCH!](#) newsletter describing clues that indicate you might have been hacked and, if so, what to do about it. After reviewing the “OUCH! newsletter, check out the recent changes to our [Recognize and Report Email Scams](#) best practices page. We encourage you to share OUCH! with your family, friends, and coworkers. IT staff, please forward to administrative staff, faculty, and other colleagues in your department.



Attention Adobe Creative Cloud Users

If you use Adobe Creative Cloud software, please contact Debi Race (dkrace@umn.edu) to let her know. TSS is working with a vendor on a VIP Agreement for the campus in an attempt to reduce the cost of each license.

Athletics

University of Minnesota Crookston women's basketball player [Jes Mertens](#) (Fr., G, Devils Lake, N.D.) was named to the NSIC North Division All-Defensive Team, and the NSIC North Division All-Freshman Team.

Mertens averaged 10.3 points, 4.6 rebounds, and 3.1 steals per game. Mertens currently ranks seventh in all of NCAA Division II in steals with 50. Mertens is eighth nationally in steals per game. Mertens is the first Golden Eagle to earn All-NSIC recognition since Isieoma Odor was named All-NSIC First Team during the 2018-19 season. Mertens is the 18th player in program history to earn All-NSIC recognition.

The Golden Eagle hockey team moved to 4-7 in their first season back on the ice, as they picked up dominant 8-1 and 5-1 victories over the University of North Dakota club team Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27 in Grand Forks, N.D. On Friday, the Golden Eagles were led on Friday by three goals from Grand Forks-native Cam Olstad (So.), while Jake Sumner (Fr., Alta Loma, Calif.) had 12 saves and allowed just one goal. On Saturday, UMN Crookston was led by two goals from East Grand Forks-native Casey Kallock (D), while Sumner had 27 saves and allowed just one goal. UMN Crookston was ranked 20th nationally in the latest ACHA Division II poll released February 17. The Golden Eagles are slated to take on Minnesota State University Moorhead in Moorhead, Minn., March 5 and March 6.

The University of Minnesota Crookston western equestrian team competed in NCEA matches against South Dakota State University and Delaware State University Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27 at DeHaan Equestrian Center in Brookings, S.D.

In Friday's match against Delaware State, the Golden Eagles fell 7-1 to the Hornets.

In Horsemanship, [Alyssa Evavold](#) (Sr., Battle Lake, Minn.) put up a great ride against Kelsey McArthur but fell 72.5 to 72. In addition, [Jordyn Newberg](#) (Sr., Deer River, Minn.) had a closely contested match-up with Kersten Zehner, following 68.5 to 67.5.

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

The Golden Eagles looked to bounce back Saturday against the Jackrabbits. Evavold had another strong ride in Horsemanship and picked up the 71.5-70.5 win over Kodi O'Boyle. [Olivia Becker](#) (Jr., Deer Park, Wis.) also had a strong showing as she earned the win 68.5-67.5 over Shelby Cochran.

The Jackrabbits controlled the Reining portion of the competition. In a match that didn't count toward the final score, Michel beat Laura Munger, 69-67. Schaanaman was competitive, but fell 69.5-66.5 to Cassidy Gardiner.

The Golden Eagle softball team played four games over the week at the Washburn Invitational Presented by Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center. On Sunday, UMN Crookston made a late rally against McKendree University but fell 4-3. The Golden Eagles were led by Shaelyn Grant (Fr., Grand Junction, Colo.), who went 1-of-3 with two RBIs and a run scored. In the circle, Katie Humhej (Sr., Surrey, British Columbia) allowed just two earned runs on four hits with four strikeouts in four innings.

UMN Crookston fell 18-6 in the second game Sunday to Emporia State. The Golden Eagles were guided by Cassie Query (Sr., Cassville, Pa.), who was 1-of-3 with three RBIs on a three-run home run.

Saturday, the Golden Eagles fell 5-2 to Central Missouri. UMN Crookston was guided by Dana Zarn (So., Winnipeg, Manitoba), who went 1-of-2 with two RBIs. Humhej pitched 5.1 innings and allowed three earned runs on five hits with seven strikeouts.

In the second game, UMN Crookston struggled with errors as they fell 10-2 to Rockhurst. The Golden Eagles were led by Rachel Jones (Fr., Fort Collins, Colo.), who went 2-of-3 with a run scored, while Query was 2-of-3.

The Golden Eagles will open up NSIC play March 17 at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

The Minnesota Crookston baseball team is set to open up their 2021 season this weekend. The Golden Eagles are looking to build on their recent success as they have been to three NSIC Tournaments since 2016. UMN Crookston will compete against Bemidji State University (two games) and St. Cloud State University (two games) in Fort Scott, Kan. March 6-10.

The Golden Eagle tennis team continued to show improvement over the weekend. UMN Crookston fell 7-0 to Winona State University Saturday in Winona, Minn. The Golden Eagles were led by Tasha Achermann (Fr., Motley, Minn.), who won two games at No. 1 singles, but fell 6-2, 6-0. On Sunday, UMN Crookston fell 7-0 to Upper Iowa University. The Golden Eagles were guided by Michelle Swyter (Jr., Perham, Minn.), who fell 6-4, 6-1 in her match at No. 2 singles but had a great match. Minnesota Crookston will next compete March 27 and March 28 against St. Cloud State University and University of Minnesota Duluth in Duluth, Minn.

University and Alumni Relations Update

The I Am Crookston strategic marketing campaign is in full swing. Last fall and earlier this winter we shared several student profile videos which are being used on our website, digital marketing platforms, and as lead-ins prior to virtual social events. You can find all of these fabulous student stories and the reasons they say, "I Am Crookston" on our [YouTube channel](#).

Most recently, we launched several new ads on various digital platforms and local television and radio stations. These ads focus on prospective students and influencers (i.e., parents and grandparents) in our region within approximately 200 miles, highlight a variety of majors, and provide a general awareness to the Crookston campus. These spots will be shared with you in the Campus Weekly updates over the next few weeks. Enjoy a quick view of our first two:

Natural Resources - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vjs1r269ng>

On-Campus Students - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EQi7E__hGI

Facebook boosters prove to be an unexpected success in our campaign and for a shockingly small investment. A "boosted" post is not a purchased Facebook ad. The boost takes a typical post on our [University of Minnesota Crookston Facebook page](#) and turns it into an ad. Boosting may help get more people to react, share, and comment. We may also reach new people who are likely interested in our page or business, but don't currently follow us. This worked perfectly for us due to a thoughtful selection of specific and preferred demographics when setting up the boost. Here's an example...

We posted a video of [Matt Moroz](#), a sophomore studying business management from Edmonton, Alberta, on December 14 which received 20 likes. In January, we re-posted the video and for less than \$10 added a Facebook Boost, which resulted in reaching 3,197 people with the majority of those falling in the 13-24 age bracket. It also received 37 clicks on the YouTube link. The ad targeted people on Facebook in specific age brackets interested in attending college, pursuing a business management degree, or pursuing college golf, as Moroz competes for the men's golf team at UMN Crookston. It attracted inquiries from prospective students, specifically in Canada, and had a reach across all 50 states in the U.S.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sharon Neet, D.A.

She joined the University of Minnesota Crookston in the late 1990s, "just when UMC was shifting from a two-year to a four-year institution," said Sharon Neet, D.A., UMN Crookston history professor, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education department. "I taught three years at Marymount College, a year at Cottey College (Missouri), and six years at Valley City State in North Dakota. I also taught the secondary social science method

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

doctorate. I had tenure at Valley City so I came to UMC with rank and years toward tenure.”

Neet earned an associate of arts degree from Kansas City Kansas Community College and took classes at East Central Oklahoma State and the University of Missouri, Kansas City. She received her a bachelor’s degree in history from Washburn University, a master of arts in history and a specialist in education from Pittsburg State University, and a doctor of arts in history from the University of North Dakota. “All of the degrees were in history and I took political science as second areas,” Neet said. “While I was at Washburn my plan was to be a philanthropist, but my parents had a different idea.” She always planned to study history and a chance at the opportunity to teach college after completing the master’s degree made her pursue teaching.

A full professor with tenure teaching history and political science, Neet says she favors all of it, the classroom, research, and instruction. “I like all of it,” she said. However, this past year of teaching during the pandemic has made her very aware the classroom is much better for her than video online. “Interacting with students makes the subjects more relatable.” Being tenured and getting the full professor rank takes developing research, teaching, and service. It might be a surprise to some on campus she wrote the coaching minor and co-wrote five or six other academic degrees in the past thirty years. “I used to participate in University-wide governance committees and that gave me insights on the Judicial Committee to the tenure and promotion processes. I was the first person from Crookston to serve on the research committee that gave me access to review the research grants and ethical questions in the medical school,” she said.

One of Neet’s areas of expertise and research includes dead socialists. She developed a strong interest in using newspapers for seminar papers at Pittsburg State and indicated they had a very large periodical collection. “I first worked on Black newspapers of the Uplift period (pre-World War I). I found several short run papers that had not been cited in other works. This primary research gave me a publication, conference presentation, and a real interest in newsprint”.



When she studied at the University of North Dakota, she needed a topic and found one in the archives at Pittsburg State. “I asked the curator if they have any interesting newspapers” The answer was yes, and that set her off on studying the [Appeal to Reason](#), a socialist paper that ran from 1897-1922. She read every newspaper to find a topic.

Neet described the newspaper as a propaganda sheet to convert people to socialism. “It employed women as writers, editors, and speakers. They published books and had a speakers bureau. They supported cooperative companies that built airplanes, manufactured food, and founded a People’s College. They even ran a law school to prepare workers to challenge laws and improve working conditions,” she said. “Being socialists put them at odds with the government so I had to study the government’s methods of stopping dissent voices that reached a high point in World War I.” Neet concluded there were many threads to follow.

One important thing the education propaganda of the Appeal taught her was those who hold the power to promote change need the constant pressure of education to make changes to systems. “You have to pick your battles but never forget it is an ongoing struggle to change,” she said.

Neet went on to state she is not a socialist, she only studies them. “Everytime I present, even at history conferences, the first question begins with ‘You socialists believe...’ I then have to spend time explaining I am not a socialist but study them.” At that time she has to go deeper into conversation and suggest one can’t research and devote a great deal of time to a subject that you are a passionate believer in. “Emotion and wanting clouds that ability to see the subject from different viewpoints,” she said.

In March, the Crookston campus and the world will celebrate Women’s History Month. In speaking with Neet she recapped the women’s movement that began in [1908](#) where women united in New York City and marched for better labor laws, conditions, and the right to vote. When asked in what ways have women made an impact on this campus, students, and even the community, Neet said the most impact has been the increase of women in tenure track positions, women with terminal degrees, and women full professors. Retired Business Department Head, Sue Brorson, Ph.D., and I became the first women to be promoted to professor in 1997. We were alone for many years but not now,” said Neet. Today on campus there are three associate professors, four full professors, and seven assistant professors who are female.

