



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
CROOKSTON

# REGAL'S SCOOP

#IAMCROOKSTON

## 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.

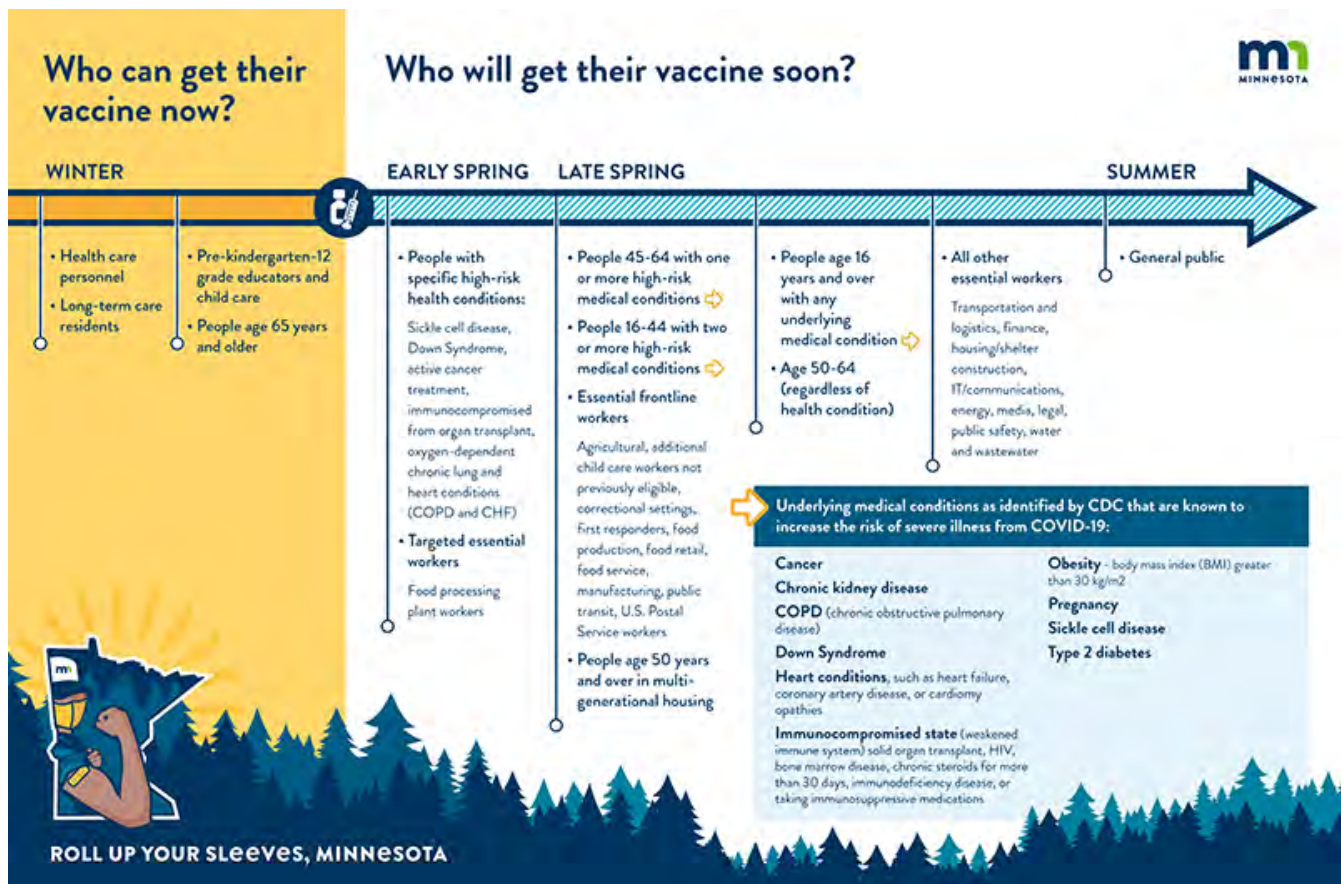
### Women's History Month

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 to attend the various sessions and speakers to learn more about the impact women such as Michelle Obama and many others have and continue to have on our history and our lives today. Here is the schedule. ([Events Page](#))

### 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 able to have either a public clinic sponsored by Polk County Health or through the University of Minnesota. However, at this time because of limited supply, those are not confirmed.

### 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.

### 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](https://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 Center for the Study of Global Change; Global Rights for Women. The virtual event is free, [registration is requested.](#)

### Sustainable Menstruation

March 4 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](#).

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11HMhcMrmt45wZj4Bz8XISxEjyPtMxMaaBvENMoizk-g/edit?ts=60342c63&gxids=7628>

## 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.



## Farewells

Cassandra Morthera Navarrete - February 9

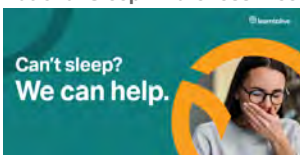
Vicki Gustafson - February 14

Jeff Knack - February 19

Amy Lubarski - February 24

## 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.

## **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.

In Reining, [Rae Ann Michel](#) (Sr., Monticello, Minn.) had a good ride and was close to upending Amber Van Sebrook, but fell 69.6 to 67.5. The Golden Eagles picked up a win in the Reining as [Adrienne Schaunaman](#) (Sr., Aberdeen, S.D.) picked up the 68-67.5 win over Jenna Waddington.

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. Schaunaman 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 Querry (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 Querry 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](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.

**CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS**

**CAMPUS UPDATES**

## Outreach & Engagement

In an effort to increase the use and visibility of the [Events Calendar](#) and the [Today page](#), the Campus Weekly, Regal's Scoop, and News from the Nest are under review for alignment and efficiencies in communication. Unity of these messages could focus on internal and external events both on campus and within the greater Crookston community, activities, and messaging. Continue to upload your events and activities and if you have questions, information, accolades, updates, or ideas on effective methods for internal campus communication, contact Michelle Christopherson [mchristo@umn.edu](mailto:mchristo@umn.edu).

## Budget Information and Update

We have received the FY22 Compact and Budget Planning Guidelines and the budget will focus on what it will take to maintain current operations (including pandemic recovery where relevant), rather than considering opportunities to expand activities or scope. The biennial budget request to the state, approved by the Board of Regents in October of 2020, contained one item: "Accelerate Success" – core mission support and an emphasis on advancing a component within the system wide strategic plan that is key to the state. We have been asked to reassess our original three and six percent reallocation submissions and how much of those targets have been implemented. We then need to submit a third set of options totaling nine percent. Our Budget and Compact meeting is scheduled for April 6.

## Registrar

Fall 2020 graduates and students named to the fall semester 2020 Chancellor's List and Dean's List were announced recently by the Office of the Registrar.

[UMN Crookston Fall 2020 Graduates Announced](#)

[UMN Crookston Fall 2020 Chancellor's List](#)

[UMN Crookston Students Named to Fall 2020 Dean's List](#)

## Enrollment Management

The Office of Admissions has further integrated our Crookston-Morris collaboration with project teams. Our project teams involve one to two staff members from each office who are leading initiatives to grow our fall 2021 classes. These teams are focused on priority areas such as RaiseMe (our microscholarship programs), transfer students, influencers (parents/guardians and high school counselors), visits/events, and multicultural recruitment. In the short amount of time we've been working together, we have since held High School Counselor focus groups, launched a financial aid and FAFSA completion night, participated in a scholarship competition among educators, and created a Transfer Tuesday monthly event. We look forward to more collaborations with Morris that will grow our Fall 2021 classes.

## Student Success Center

Extending the Classroom evening study groups are back. Study groups are led by veteran tutors who are familiar with the classes. If you would like a

Google Calendar reminder for these groups, please add your name to the [Interested in Extending the Classroom List](#) and select the appropriate group you'd like to join. Even if you forget to sign-up on the form, we'd love for you to attend. For questions, contact [umctutor@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umctutor@crk.umn.edu).

### **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available at no cost to all (online and on-campus) students, [sign-up for a tutor](#). You can meet with your tutor in person or via Zoom or Google Meet. If you have any questions, contact Josh Parrill or Kelsey Torgerson via email [umctutor@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umctutor@crk.umn.edu) or [kwatkins@crk.umn.edu](mailto:kwatkins@crk.umn.edu) or refer to the [tutor request instruction video](#).

### **Writing Center**

The [Writing Center](#) is available to all students (on campus and online) who want to discuss their writing projects. You can choose to schedule a live consultation (in person or via video conference) or use our asynchronous email feedback. Services are free and the Writing Center is located in Owen Hall 170. This [Writing Center instruction video](#) walks you through sign-up steps to meet with our staff. Note our new hours for this semester: Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CT. If you have any questions, please email [umcwrite@crk.umn.edu](mailto:umcwrite@crk.umn.edu).

### **Athletics**

The University of Minnesota Crookston western equestrian team hosted a pair of home shows Saturday, February 20 and Sunday, February 21 at the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC). The Golden Eagles competed against the University of Minnesota and North Dakota State University. UMN Crookston earned reserve high point team honors on Sunday. [Alyssa Evavold](#) (Sr., Battle Lake, Minn.) earned High Point Rider during Saturday's show, while [Olivia Becker](#) (Jr., Deer Park, Wis.) was named Reserve High Point Rider on Sunday.

The Golden Eagle western equestrian team heads to Brookings, S.D. February 26 and February 27 for a NCEA doubleheader both days against South Dakota State University and Delaware State University.

The UMN Crookston men's basketball team ended their 2020-21 season last weekend. The Golden Eagles fell 95-71 and 109-85 to Bemidji State University. UMN Crookston ends the season with a 2-14 mark. The Golden Eagles have a young core returning as their only graduate in 2021 is Ibu Jassej Demba (Birmingham, England).

The Minnesota Crookston women's basketball team also ended their 2020-21 season last weekend. The Golden Eagles came within a last second shot of Bemidji State Friday, but fell 79-77. UMN Crookston was defeated 79-65 Saturday after cutting the deficit to five heading into the fourth quarter. The Golden Eagles also have a strong core returning. They graduate seniors Abby Guidinger (Waukesha, Wis.), Ashley Freund (Jordan, Minn.), and Jennifer Lax (Sleepy Eye, Minn.).

The Golden Eagle softball team went 1-1 on Saturday with a 3-2 win over Bemidji State and a narrow 1-0 loss to Northern State University. UMN Crookston is currently 2-6. They were led in the win over the Beavers by Jordan Peterson, going 2-of-3, while Rachel Jones went 2-of-3 with her first career home run. UMN Crookston heads to Kansas for the Washburn University Invite this weekend. The Golden Eagles will play University of Central Missouri and Rockhurst University February 27 and McKendree University and Emporia State University February 28.

The University of Minnesota Crookston women's tennis team hosted Southwest Minnesota State University and Minnesota State University, Mankato Sunday, February 21 at Choice Health and Fitness in Grand Forks, N.D. The Golden Eagles showed improvement as they were able to take eight games off the Mustangs in singles and doubles, a marked increase from their previous matches. UMN Crookston took three games from the Mavericks in doubles, and 11 games in singles showing another improvement. Minnesota Crookston fell 7-0 in both matches. UMN Crookston will travel to Winona, Minn., February 27 and 28 against Upper Iowa University and Winona State University.

The University of Minnesota Crookston hockey game scheduled for Saturday, February 20 was canceled due to COVID-19 protocols. The Golden Eagles had previously canceled the game for Friday, February 19. UMN Crookston is looking for a later date to possibly reschedule this weekend's games against North Dakota State University.

Minnesota Crookston returns to the ice Friday, February 26 and Saturday, February 27 on the road at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, N.D. The Golden Eagles are currently 2-7 in their first season back on the ice.

## **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 classes and supervised student teachers." Neet came to UMN Crookston for a couple of reasons, better pay and benefits. Crookston was getting ready to develop four-year degrees and she had the experience needed at that level. "When I came, I was the only woman teaching that had a 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.

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