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LEADERSHIP LETTER

**From the Chancellor**

We can officially say it is spring. Take time to enjoy the warm days. I am a gardener and love to watch plants come to life. To me, watching the perennials pique through the soil and begin to emerge is such a

celebration of life. I lived in California for three years. While it was delightful to not have closets of coats and various versions of winter gear, the joy of spring was not as profound. When you always have birds and flowers around, there is not the dramatic metamorphosis as what our spring brings.

I am saddened to read yet again, where racism and sexism (what [Tchen, Lee, and Choimorrow describe as racialized misogyny](#)) are gripping our nation. The horrific murders in Atlanta are another low point in a 12-month span when anti-Asian hate crimes have increased by 149% (Source: California State University's Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism) and already in June 2020, three in ten Asian Americans had reported experiencing racial slurs or jokes since the start of the pandemic (Source: Pew Research Center). The prevalence of racial slurs have increased since then, including incidents on our own campus. All of this is unacceptable, shocking, and awful.

Additionally, 10 people were killed in a mass shooting at a Colorado grocery store yesterday afternoon. This included the police officer reported to have been the first to arrive at the store. While the details of this shooting are still unfolding, we extend thoughts and prayers to families and friends who lost loved ones in this tragedy. There is much work yet to be done.

As you heard we are planning in-person commencement. As I mentioned in the Town Hall last week, we are excited to celebrate with our students. Details will begin to emerge after April 5. This is the deadline where students need to let us know about their plans. Once we have a firm number of how many will walk, we can put our action team in full deployment.

I hope those of you who wanted to get the COVID-19 vaccine are able to schedule an appointment. As of Thursday, March 19, higher education is now in the Minnesota Department of Health Tier 2 to get access to the vaccine. But prior to this announcement our friends at RiverView reached out to us to let us know they would have vaccinations for any of our employees. We are deeply appreciative of RiverView for sharing this precious gift with us. As you have noted, Nan Widseth informs you when she learns of vaccination availability. At this time the most consistent locations providing vaccinations are [Thrifty White Pharmacy](#) (Moderna, 2 vaccines) and [WalMart](#) (Johnson and Johnson 1 vaccine), both located in Crookston. Appointments can be scheduled on their websites. It is not required of course, but if you would share with Nan when you have received the vaccinations, it helps her track ensuring all receive the vaccine if they want to get it.

Until next week.

Chancellor Mary



Mark your calendars for the final dinner in the International Dinner Series, March 29. This is a free and engaging experience featuring a meal from Mainese Mutake, a transfer student from Rwanda majoring in software engineering. Monday's dinner features a vegetable potage soup that is healthy, warming, and soul-satisfying. [Register today](#) to receive weekly recipes to pick up supplies at the grocery store and make these wonderful meals in your home. The [2021 Dinner Series](#) will begin at 6 p.m. via Zoom.



#### **No Hassle For The Tassel '21 - Virtual Event For Grads Save 20%**

Graduates, mark your calendar for [No Hassle For The Tassel](#). The U of M's official "one-stop" source for graduation services and products. To order your cap, gown, and tassel, go to [www.crookstonbookstore.com](http://www.crookstonbookstore.com) and click on Graduation. You will receive 20% off on the following days: March 24, 25, 26, and April 7. Graduating students an email was sent Monday with more information on how to attend and what to expect. If you have any questions, contact the Bookstore 218-281-8335 or email: [umcbooks@umn.edu](mailto:umcbooks@umn.edu)

#### **Commencement ceremony planned for May 8**

Commencement ceremony (or ceremonies) will be held Saturday, May 8. Details are yet to be determined. For detailed information about Commencement, visit [Commencement 2021](#) which is being updated often.

#### **UMN Crookston Faculty Teaching Showcase**

The [Center for Educational Innovation](#) invites you to join the University of Minnesota Crookston faculty teaching showcases. These sessions are a showcase of how people have navigated and overcome various teaching challenges and are not intended to be a showcase of technology uses. As you begin to plan and think about what fall 2021 teaching might look like for you, these sessions may give some ideas to help move your plans forward.

Faculty and adjunct instructors, [register today](#) to attend one of these sessions:

- March 23 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- April 13 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

#### **Fulbright Program launches the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program for the 2022-2023 academic year.**

Celebrating [75 years](#) of international impact, the [Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program](#) offers teaching and research awards to U.S. citizens in more than 130 countries. Application Deadline: September 15, 2021. Do you know someone who could benefit from a Fulbright U.S. Scholar award? Refer a colleague by filling out this [form](#).

#### **Ranch Riding and a Trail Clinic**

Join Jenna Mickelson, local AQHA Professional Horseman, Judge, and Trainer, for a Ranch Riding Saturday, April 17 from 9 a.m. 4 p.m. and Sunday, April 18 from 9 a.m. 4 p.m. UMN Crookston students can audit for no cost. There is a reduced rate to ride in the clinic for UMN Crookston students, faculty, and staff. You may ride/borrow a UMC horse for the clinic. The reduced rate is \$100 per day for the clinic. Learn more on the [Events Page](#).

**CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS**

# CAMPUS UPDATES

## **Holz-Clause agrees to serve as Acting Executive Chancellor for Crookston and Morris campuses.**

Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause has agreed to assume the role of Acting Executive Chancellor for the University of Minnesota Crookston and Morris campuses for a two-year term to support Acting Chancellor Janet Ericksen of Morris starting this summer. More about this collaboration can be found [here](#).

## **Student Health Services**

### **COVID-19 vaccinations**

COVID-19 vaccine available now at RiverView Health for UMN Crookston employees. Please contact Amy Seaver, RiverView Clinic director, at 218-281-9751 to schedule an appointment. The vaccine is from Pfizer and a second dose will be scheduled 17-21 days after the first dose.

### **COVID-19 Update**

#### **Area COVID-19 Vaccine sites:**

**Altru Clinic:** Community members can contact COVID hotline (701-780-6358) or visit MyChart to be included on the vaccine waitlist.

**RiverView Health:** Community members can call the vaccination hotline to get on the vaccine waitlist: 218-470-7983

**Walmart:** <https://www.walmart.com/cp/flu-shots-immunizations/1228302>

**Thrifty White:** <https://www.thriftywhite.com/covid19vaccine>

**White Earth Reservation:** [https://whiteearth.com/news/275/white\\_earth\\_reservation\\_covid-19\\_vaccine\\_eligibility\\_and\\_schedule](https://whiteearth.com/news/275/white_earth_reservation_covid-19_vaccine_eligibility_and_schedule)

[Minnesota Department of Health Vaccine Locator](#)

As you are vaccinated, please contact Student Health, [Nanette Widseth](#). Nan is compiling a confidential list of employees and students who have received the COVID vaccine. This is your private medical information, and it will be up to you if you share the information with her. It will only be used to determine vaccination rates on our campus.

**UMN Crookston partners with Northwest Mental Health Center for comprehensive psychiatric assessments and psychiatric medication management services.** A collaborative agreement with the Northwest Mental Health Center, starting tomorrow, will provide comprehensive psychiatric assessments, medication monitoring and consultations, along with medication education, and coordination of care with primary care providers. Students can make appointments by calling Health Services at 218-281-8512. Learn more, by clicking [here](#).

[Sign up today for the Blood Drive](#) slated for April 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Give blood, be tested for COVID-19 antibodies, and become a plasma donor for COVID patients.

## **International Travel while on University Business**

The University has extended the restriction on [University-purpose international](#) travel until April 30, 2021. We continue to monitor public health guidance in anticipation of possibly removing the restriction in late spring or early summer. There continues to be an exception process available for faculty, staff, and graduate students who must travel internationally as part of their University research or scholarship. This restriction applies only to international travel for University purposes and not to personal travel. Specific guidance on international travel is available from the U.S. Department of State.

## **Community Resiliency Resources**

We continue to find ourselves amidst other ongoing challenges in our community and nationally. Remember the University has many resources to help you navigate through such challenges. They include:

- [Student mental health resources](#)

- Faculty and staff mental health resources

- Opportunities for support and discussion related to the Derek Chauvin trial and programs that highlight and encourage reflection and expression through Voice, Art, and Community such as last week's poetry reading and discussion with Nikky Finney (watch the program on YouTube).

### **Technology Support Services**

Identity theft happens and the latest issue of OUCH outlines ways in which you can protect yourself.

March 2021 edition of the "OUCH!" If you suspect that your identity has been stolen, follow the checklist provided by the FTC at <https://www.identitytheft.gov/>. Other items for consideration include:

- Just because someone receives email that appears to come from you does not necessarily mean your account was hacked. It's easy to spoof the From or Sender address of an email. Change your password if you are concerned at <https://my-account.umn.edu>.
- Running anti-virus to clean up a device after a malware infection will typically not catch all of the malicious files; the best way to be sure is to wipe the device and reinstall from scratch.
- Regular, automated backups should be part of your strategy to protect yourself and your data.
- Don't take action at the request of an email; be suspicious of anything an email asks you to do (click, open, download, login, etc.)

Email scams (phishing) containing fake UMN login pages are surfacing again. For more detail, see two new Phishing blog ([z.umn.edu/phishing](http://z.umn.edu/phishing)) articles:

Example 240: Fake UMN Login Pages Are Back!

Example 241: Fake UMN Google Login Pop-ups

### **University announces return to campus for fall semester**

The University has announced all of its campuses are planning to return to fully on-campus operations this fall. Returning to campus operations that will be more similar to those seen before the pandemic, including coursework and activities, will be consistent with state guidance and public health considerations related to the pandemic as autumn draws closer.

**Preventing Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, and Retaliation.** This online module, required for all employees and student workers, is part of the ongoing President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct (PIPSM). All employees and student workers will be required to complete this module by May 27, 2021. This system wide effort addresses these urgent public health issues and is one of many important steps the University is taking to create an equitable and inclusive culture and climate where all can thrive.

### **University Relations**

#### **Primary Communication Related Roles/Flow**

- Shawn Smith (50% time)
  - First point of contact for University media relations and social media
  - Lead writer for student and alumni stories
  - Torch editor, editing of Torchlight, Spotlight, Campus Weekly updates
  - Communication Director for all athletic related news, sports, and information
- Michelle Christopherson (50% time)
  - Lead writer of hard news releases and community engagement pieces
  - Lead writer of faculty and academic programs related stories, articles to boost Search Engine Optimization, special events

- o Editor for Campus Weekly updates, the University event calendar, and Today page information
- Brandy Chaffee
  - o First point of contact for Chancellor's Office and UMN TC related communications, and liaison with UMN System communications cohort
  - o Lead strategic marketing cohort (including Jessica Hanson, Janessa Quanrud, Shawn Smith, Kelsey Engelstad) and efforts - point of contact for advertising/marketing related requests, liaison with UMN System marketing cohort
- Kelsey Engelstad
  - o Leads graphic design and brand standards for the campus.
    - For design or design with printing requests, contact [Kelsey](#)
    - For print only requests contact [Judy Baatz](#)

### **Athletics**

The UMN Crookston baseball team has continued their phenomenal start to the 2021 season. The Golden Eagles have a 7-0 record, marking the best the program has had during the NCAA Division II era. Minnesota Crookston opened conference play Saturday and Sunday in Winona, Minn. The Golden Eagles picked up 10-0 and 12-11 wins Saturday, and a 14-9 win on Sunday. UMN Crookston is currently at the top of the NSIC standings. They are tied with Minnesota State University and Minot State University in first with a 3-0 NSIC mark.

The Golden Eagles have been led by Brock Reller (Sr., OF, Grand Forks, N.D.). Reller has earned back-to-back NSIC Player of the Week honors. He was also named National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Central Region Player of the Week for the week of March 6-13. Reller is hitting .345 on the season with a league-high seven home runs. The Golden Eagles have been led on the mound by Jake Dykhoff (Jr., RHP, Wadena, Minn.). Dykhoff pitched a 10-0 shutout on Saturday. He limited the Warriors to just four hits with 10 strikeouts and just two walks.

UMN Crookston will play University of Sioux Falls at The Birdcage in Sioux Falls, S.D. Thursday, March 25 at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. The Golden Eagles will then travel to Fayette, Iowa for three games on the road against Upper Iowa University.

The University of Minnesota Crookston hockey program has officially been invited to join the Western Collegiate Club Hockey Association (WCCHA) as a full member beginning with the 2021-22 season. The Golden Eagles have graciously accepted the membership offer. The WCCHA has been one of the premier leagues in ACHA Division II. During the 2019-20 season, the WCCHA qualified four teams for the ACHA Division II National Tournament.

UMN Crookston will be a member of the Northwest Division. The WCCHA includes club teams for Bethel University, Gustavus Adolphus College, the University of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota Duluth, Minnesota State University-Mankato, North Dakota State University, Saint John's University, St. Cloud State University, St. Thomas University, the University of North Dakota, Winona State University, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The Golden Eagles will join the Northwest Division with Minnesota, North Dakota State, St. John's, North Dakota, St. Cloud State, and Bethel. The Southeast Division will consist of St. Thomas, Wisconsin, Minnesota State, Minnesota Duluth, Gustavus Adolphus, Winona State, and Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The Minnesota Crookston volleyball team played their first official NCAA match since the 2019 season last Friday. The Golden Eagles played a hard-fought match and dominated the second set with a 25-18 victory. The Golden Eagles were led by Lauren Wallace (R-Jr., OH, Bloomington, Minn.) with 16 kills, while

Mara Weisensel (Fr., MH, New Ulm, Minn.) added eight kills. Natalie Koke (R-So., S, Caledonia, Wis.) led the way with 30 assists. Madison Klimek (Fr., DS, Oakdale, Minn.) paced the Golden Eagles with 20 digs.

The Golden Eagle tennis team returns to the court Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28 against St. Cloud State University and University of Minnesota Duluth in Duluth, Minn. UMN Crookston has been led at No. 1 singles by Tasha Achermann (Fr., Motley, Minn.), while Michelle Swyter (Jr., Perham, Minn.) has competed at No. 2 singles.

The UMN Crookston western equestrian team will wrap up their 2020-21 season Friday, March 26, Saturday, March 27, and Sunday, March 28 at North Dakota State University. They will compete in two IHSA shows at NDSU, before concluding the regular-season with the IHSA Regional Championships Sunday. The rest of the IHSA postseason has been canceled for 2021.

## — FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES —

### Obituary

Cleon Melsa, former assistant professor in the Math, Science, and Technology Department passed away Thursday, March 18. A memorial service celebrating Cleon's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 9, 2021, at the First Presbyterian Church in Crookston, Minn, with a time of visitation one hour before the service. <https://www.stenshoelhoucke.com/obituary/DrCleon-Melsa>

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Alumni

#### Changle Li

Written by Ethan Christopherson

*Software engineering grad Changle Li “misses the snow” all the way from China as the University of Minnesota Crookston helps him capture two promising internships.*

Changle Li, a transfer student from China and UMN Crookston graduate, recently discussed the numerous opportunities and “technical skills” that the University of Minnesota Crookston equipped him with, first with his positions at the United Nations International Institute of Global Health and then as a data analyst at Mitsubishi.

“Definitely, yes!” Li says as he describes how the University of Minnesota Crookston’s software engineering program and its professors from the business department helped guide him through various studies on campus that aided him when landing these large-scale internships. On top of that, he is also working towards his masters degree in public health at the University of Tokyo.

“The things I have learned and accomplished at UMC have impacted me a lot, that’s why I’ve had such a great experience in the job force early on,” Li notes. “I had no specific background before I came to UMC. My recommendations from UMC helped me get into the masters program in Tokyo, so yeah, I love UMC a lot.”

Li’s path to Crookston began at a California community college. After his two years out West, he was looking to move on and excel in his desired field, but there was one issue holding him back.

“When I was looking to transfer from a community college to a major university, almost all of the tuition prices around my area were ridiculously high. So, after searching for prestigious universities with reasonable tuition I came across a slogan that stood out to me: Small Campus. Big Degree,” Li recalls.

Li liked the sound of that. "On larger campuses you don't get the chance to consistently work with professors," he says.

One of his favorite experiences in the Business Department involved the Harvard Case Study that students had an opportunity to be a part of, in collaboration with their professors. "When I was at UMC I spent a lot of time with the business department professors," Li recalls. "They provided me with more knowledge about the business, marketing, and financial side of things."

Asked if he could sum up UMC in one word, Li didn't hesitate: Opportunity.

After completing his masters program in Tokyo in 2023, Li says his dream job is to become an investment banker.

