



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CROOKSTON

CAMPUS WEEKLY UPDATE

#IAMCROOKSTON

LEADERSHIP LETTER

From the Chancellor

With gratitude

I can't thank you enough for all the work you have done to support our students, pivot with plans, and being so flexible in all you have done. It has been an interesting academic year to say the least. Your commitment and dedication has made us a strong and thriving university. I have the utmost and sincere gratitude to you for your work.

Like me, I assume many of you are excited for commencement and celebrating our students' successes. Our numbers for fall are looking strong, and as we all know, retention is important to our success. Your last departing words and encouragement to the students may be just what is needed to get them to come back.

Title IX

Effective today, May 4, Jason Tangquist will serve as UMN Crookston's Title IX Officer for any concerns from students. He will also temporarily serve as the Title IX Officer for employee complaints until our new human resources director begins and can assume those duties.

Summer Communication with Students

Summer is a critical time for enrollment at UMN Crookston. Over the past several years, we have increased our overall enrollment through carefully planned strategies to reduce "summer melt." If you have communications you would like to make with new incoming students, please coordinate with Jessie Hanson and Brooke Novak to ensure our messaging to students is clear and consistent.

Summer is also an important time for our retention efforts with current students, and it is another area where we have made gains over the past two years. To help coordinate communications with returning students, please reach out to Josh Parrill, acting director of the Student Success Center.

With gratitude for your service and caring.

Chancellor Mary

EVENTS

Campus Post Office

Many offices will close with reduced hours for the summer. Note the changes below, as the mailroom operates, effective May 10.

- Department mail/packages can be picked up in the mailroom (Sargeant Student Center 127C) between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily.
- Large packages will be delivered to the offices only after we are informed by the administrative assistants to have the office open.
- When you are expecting important and timely packages, please notify the mailroom prior to the delivery date. It is much easier to track packages beforehand, than after.

UMN Advocacy Action is needed

Please contact your legislator today and ask them to fully fund the U of M's budget request in the higher education budget bill.

COVID-19 Community Testing Sites

Here are some helpful links from the Department of Health to share with your communities:

- 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>

Horticulture - AgNatR Department

Campus Community Annual Bedding Plant Sale

Online shopping and pick-up available. Scan the QR code or click [here](#) to begin shopping.

Eagle Bucks

Attention students, don't forget to use up those Eagle Bucks before the end of the school year at the following: Hong's, Caribou/C-Store, and the Evergreen Grill. On-campus venues close for the semester May 7.

On campus venue hours remain through May 7:

- Brown – 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.
- Eagle's Nest – 7-11 a.m. (hot breakfast served 7-9 a.m.)
- Evergreen – 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

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.

Business Affairs Office

Parking permits for 2021-2022 will be available for purchase beginning in August 2021. Watch for an email from [Renee Mulcahy](#), finance professional, at the beginning of August.

CLICK FOR ALL EVENTS

— FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES —

Global Programs and International Student Services

International Student Dinner and Sashing Ceremony 2021

Five UMN Crookston seniors and twelve study abroad students were sashed at the International graduation and sashing ceremony, last Monday. Each year the UMN Crookston seniors get their sash and wear this during commencement ceremonies. Sashing is an annual event recognizing students' international travel. Sam Hassan (Fall '20) and Rose Kanssole (Spring 2021) also were recognized.



From left: Lauren Green went to Ireland, Stephenie Severson went to Belize, Kiana Johnson went to Belize, Charli Schocker travelled to Ireland, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, and Rose Dittman went to Ireland.



From left: Yutong Lei (China), Jianglong Huang (China), Keyu Lai (China), Kimie Shiozawa (Japan), Jassey Ibu (United Kingdom?), Peiyue Shen (China), Shuyu Wang (China), Rose Kanssole (Burkina Faso), Sam Hassan (Pakistan), Katie Emmett (Ireland), Manpreet Singh (India), Marshall Mbanga (Zimbabwe), Absent: Yilin Che (China), Hongkai Chen (China)

Student Success Center

Apply to be a tutor; both on-campus and online students. Qualifications, pay rate, benefits, expectations, and the link to apply can be found on the [Tutoring](#) website under Apply to be a Tutor. For questions contact Josh or Kelsey at umctutor@crk.umn.edu.

Outreach and Engagement

The Office of Outreach and Engagement teamed up with facilities and grounds to beautify a bit of downtown Crookston. Flower beds and hanging baskets are part of the Crookston Chamber of Commerce and City of Crookston's beautification efforts. Pictured below are Ryan Lisell, gardener; Rebecca Sanders, building and grounds worker; Michelle Christopherson, director of

outreach and engagement; and student Jear Flage, horticulture/turf management intern.



Facilities and Operations

Cooler temperatures will be arriving next week within campus facilities. The boilers will begin to lose pressure as the seasons transition and on-campus classes cease. Buildings will start to cool by early next week. Plan to dress accordingly as rooms will be cooler.

Residential Life

Summer Rental Information; short and long term rentals

Contact Sandy Desrosier, residential life program assistant, sandrad@crk.umn.edu or 218-281-8531. Rates: \$369/month each - single bedroom in a shared two bedroom apartment for two residents. (Options: May only, May-June, May-July, May-August) or \$750/month - entire apartment for one resident, and \$15/nightly rate in May and August.

Wellness Center

Wellness Center summer hours begin Monday, May 10. Hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Agriculture Education - Agriculture and Natural Resources

UMN Crookston ag education students recently recognized by the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC) as two 2021 Minnesota Teach Ag Ambassadors. Sophomores Britton Fuglseth and Faith Kowalke were chosen along with four others from Minnesota institutions that train future agriculture teachers. To learn more click [here](#).

UMN Crookston Ranked 5th in the Minnesota Schools Eco-challenge

Congratulations to Jayce Lewis, Ben Lee, Delainey Lancaster, Alyssa Stillman, Brooke Benson, and Gabby Blomdahl who were UMN Crookston winners of the [Earth Month Challenge](#). As one of Crookston's best water bottle users and/or campus eco-challenge members we collectively saved 670.89 kWh electricity, 7.06 lbs of ocean pollution prevented, 35.31 lbs waste diverted and 517.88 lbs CO2 emissions saved.



Student Success Center

UMN Crookston Earns ACTLA Online Tutoring Program Certification

UMN Crookston, one of only three institutions nationwide, has earned certification through the Association of Colleges for Tutoring and Learning Assistance (ACTLA). UMN Crookston was recognized at the virtual ACTLA national conference earlier this month and the campus tutoring program is now serving as a resource for other universities as they work to expand and improve their online tutoring offerings. During the virtual conference, Josh Parrill, tutor program coordinator and Kelsey Torgerson, academic advisor, had the opportunity to share with other institutions what earning this certification means to them and to share their

experience. You can watch their short video [linked here](#) as Josh and Kelsey, along with the other two institutions, shared their insights.

Assistant Professor Abdulaziz Ahmed, Ph.D., business department, delivered the virtual keynote at the inaugural [International Congress of Artificial Intelligence in Health](#) in 2020 in Izmir Hosted by Izmir Bakırçay University and Izmir Provincial Health Directorate with the contribution of International Artificial Intelligence in Health Association, the theme was Artificial Intelligence Applications in Health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ahmed presented one of the research papers titled "A Machine Learning Framework for Predicting Long-Term Graft Survival After Kidney Transplantation"

Faculty Staff [2020](#) and 2021 Awards

- Distinguished Staff Service Award went to two individuals; Renee Mulcahy and Tammy Stoe
- Distinguished P & A Award, Courtney Bergman
- Distinguished Teaching Award, Leslie Lekatz, Ph.D.
- Distinguished Faculty Service Award, Tim Dudley, Ph.D.
- Distinguished Scholar Award, Venu Mukku, Ph.D.

Faculty & Staff Crookston Student Association Awards:

1. Mohammad Hossain, Supportive of Students Award
2. Kristie Walker, Outstanding Educator Award
3. Brooke Novak, Service to Students Award

10 Years of Service

Courtney Bergman.....Business
Leah Stroot.....Agriculture and Natural Resources
Mandy Gudvangen.....Agriculture and Natural Resources
John Normandin.....Media Services

20 Years of Service

Harouna Maiga.....Agriculture and Natural Resources

25 Years of Service

Mark Huglen.....Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education

Retirees

Bob Bouvette, Jason Brantner, Peggy Chaput, Tim Danielson, Cordelia Frentz, Stacey Grunewald, Mark Hanson, Dale Kemble, Tim Menard, Barry Stephens, Pamela Sullivan, Patti Tiedemann, Elizabeth Tollefson, Terry Tollefson, Val Uttermark, Nancy Vraa, Neal Vraa, Gary Willhite, Hal Mickelson, Karen Miller, Gail Myers, Rhonda Pahlen, Lucille Payment, Dennis Regan, Joan Reitmeier, James Schaar, and Hugh Stadem

Athletics

The UMN Crookston baseball team played their final regular-season games at home picking up the sweep of Bemidji State University. The Golden Eagles are 22-6 (17-6 NSIC), have won five-straight games, and are second in the NSIC standings. They have qualified for the NSIC Tournament for the fourth time since 2016 and need just two wins to secure a top four seed in the tournament. The top four seeds will host the first round of the NSIC Tournament Thursday, May 13, and Friday, May 14, in a best-of-three series at home sites. The winners of those four games will advance to compete in Sioux Falls, S.D., May 19-21. The Golden Eagles trek down Highway 2 to face the University of Minnesota Duluth, Wednesday, May 5, at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. UMN Crookston will wrap up the regular season Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8 at Minot State University.

The Golden Eagle softball team will wrap up the 2021 season Saturday, May 8, at 12 and 2 p.m. against the University of Mary and Sunday, May 9, at 12 and 2 p.m. versus Minot State University. The games will be the final home games at the UMC Softball Field. Seniors Darian Pancirov, Cassie Querry, and Katie Humhej will be honored prior to Saturday's games. The Golden Eagle graduates will also have their degrees conferred during this time. Minnesota Crookston currently has an 8-30 (4-20 NSIC) mark coming into Saturday's games.

HIGHLIGHTS

UMN Crookston's Degrees Impact Northwest Minnesota; Graduates Staying for the Regional Workforce.

"Our graduates can go anywhere, we have students that come from other areas of the country, those specific to our region, and we have established ourselves as having a strong agriculture program, agronomy programs broadly," said UMN Crookston Agronomy Lecturer, Rob Proulx, Ph.D. But it isn't just Crookston's agronomy graduates who have become pretty well embedded in

a lot of the different companies in this region, particularly American Crystal Sugar. Proulx said it isn't just the ag degrees that continue to make an impact on the region, it's a variety of degrees, and in this case, ag touches everything. "One concrete example is American Crystal Sugar Company. Of their agriculturist staff, something like a-third of those individuals have come through the UMN Crookston agronomy program," said Proulx. Ryan Wall, American Crystal Sugar factory manager echoed Proulx's comments about the graduates. He stated there are mid-level managers with a bachelor's degree in manufacturing management, communications, and agronomy to name a few.

"Agriculture touches everything from family farms to food production," said Wall. Employees at American Crystal Sugar have the ability within the company to take on many roles and responsibilities. "A lot of people that work here like daily challenges. They take on different things and it is why we are able to keep people at American Crystal Sugar," he said. Tommy Smith 2016, communications and American Crystal Sugar technical writer says the days typically switch up and you never know what you're going to be thrown each day. "It's what I love about being here, it changes constantly," he said. Smith went on to say he never imagined working in agriculture as a student-athlete while at UMN Crookston.

Wall explained the University of Minnesota Crookston, while important to the region, is a collaborating partner as are other educational institutions like the Crookston High School and local partnering two year schools. "American Crystal Sugar has strong roots, believes in its employees, and values safety, integrity, quality, teamwork, and accountability.

Branden Kuersteiner 2016 and packing warehouse supervisor says Crystal's core values result in being the best sugar company in the world. "My road on how I got here is a little different than many. To make a long story short, I am from Upstate New York and got my associate's and bachelor's degrees in music. After college, I traveled to Tennessee and Colorado and joined a band. I met my wife while on the road and she is from Crookston. "American Crystal Sugar was the first job I got when I moved here. I needed to figure out what I wanted to do and was hired as a packaging operator, a packaging technician, a mechanic, worked in the factory as a shift administrator, and am now packaging supervisor," Kuersteiner said. He double majored in manufacturing management and quality management, "thankfully I was able to do it asynchronously (not happening real time) as I was on a rotating shifts." Kuersteiner went on to earn a master of science in finance. "It (my career direction) didn't go anything like planned. Up to age twenty-five it was a pretty predictable life but after that, was very different." He too went on to say he liked the variety each day brings, "a normal day, there isn't a typical day, just to give you an idea."

Kyle Baril 2017, assistant packaging warehouse supervisor, agreed the flexibility of the manufacturing management degree allowed him to complete his education online while continuing to work along with family obligations. Baril said he did things a little backwards by hitting the job market right off the bat. "I started at Crystal Sugar and then made a decision to go back to school. They have a tuition reimbursement program that gave me a headstart to get me back to school and once I did, things just started clicking. He held a variety of roles his first three years and then, while going to school, a position opened up for assistant packing warehouse supervisor. He applied for it and said his education, he believed, gave him a leg up. Baril has been with the company for eight years and the second four years of his career has been in a supervisory role. "You know I applied and have been in a management role ever since." He said the hands-on learning at UMN Crookston was key, "I was able to apply what I was learning directly to the job I was doing," Baril said.

Travis Pederson 2009 and American Crystal Sugar senior agriculturist said while regional farmers up and down the Red River Valley are becoming more integrated, there are still challenges for agribusinesses. Pederson, from Cando, N.D., arrived at the Crookston campus to play hockey and study agronomy, "I knew agriculture was in my future. "As an agriculturist, I work with 30 farms. There are 24 (agriculturists) of us in the company working with sugarbeet farmers helping make decisions on field locations, varieties, and chemicals. Aiding in the management of harvesting sites with employees to bring the crop in is always changing," he said.

"The University of Minnesota Crookston prides themselves on their experiential, hands-on learning. From the agronomy side, it is such a great experience. The classroom size, the hands-on learning, and the classroom settings were all a huge factor in why I am successful today," said Pederson.



(Tommy Smith 2016 Communication alum, American Crystal Sugar Technical Writer)
