

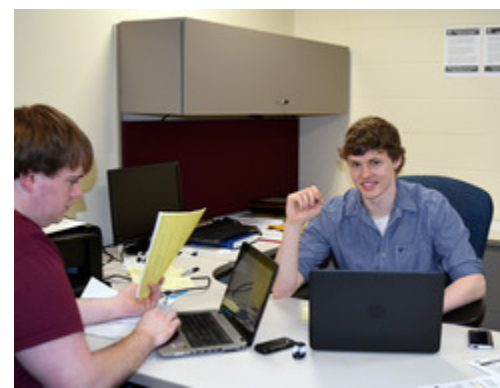
News Release

U of M Crookston Finance Major and Sophomore Hunter Rauvola, Floodwood, Minn., Combines Penchant for Numbers, People

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Thursday, April 9, 2015 University of Minnesota Crookston business student Hunter Rauvola enjoys working with

numbers but chose his major based on a desire to also meet and work with people. The sophomore finance major has been enjoying his classes in business management along with those dealing with tax preparation and finance.

Growing up on a farm near Floodwood, Minn., Rauvola was a three-sport athlete for Cromwell High School, and although he considered playing college sports, an ACL tear during his senior football season began to increase his focus on academics. He attended Lake Superior College as a senior in high school as a post-secondary enrollment option student. "The U of M Crookston accepted my credits and because the campus was transfer friendly, I chose to major in finance here," he says. "My dad went to school in Crookston in the late 1970s when it was a two-year institution, but I really chose the campus because I liked it when I visited, and the staff really worked with me and the credits I had accumulated," Rauvola continues.



A tax preparation class, taught by Associate Professor Scott Leckie, has students preparing taxes for elderly people in the community, for students, and for those who meet the income requirement. Rauvola has been enjoying the work. "I like helping the people who come in and it fits with my interest in numbers and people," he says. "I also appreciate the patience people have with us as we learn to work in a real situation." During tax season, he spent four hours a week working on tax preparation as a service-learning project in the class. Students prepare the taxes and a tax professional reviews them before they are completed for the client.

Lisa Loegering, assistant director in the Office of Community Engagement, has seen the benefits on both sides of this particular service-learning project. "An instructor could use other methods to teach many of the things students need to know when preparing taxes, but what makes this service-learning project special is that students are doing real work and learning valuable people skills as they deal with clients along the way," Loegering says. "This project does what service-learning is designed to do--offer students meaningful community service with instruction and reflection activities that meet course objectives and address community-defined needs. It truly benefits

everyone involved."

Since he came to campus last fall, Rauvola has been active in the Accounting & Finance Society and the National Society for Leadership and Success (NSLS) chapter on campus as well as serving as the chairman of fundraising for Enactus, a campus club that is part of the international non-profit organization that brings together student, academic and business leaders who are committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need.

Kenneth Johnson, management lecturer, has had the opportunity to get to know Rauvola as his principles of management instructor and as an advisor to NSLS. "Hunter has a rare combination of excellent technical skills coupled with phenomenal communication skills," Johnson says. "Because he is so well-rounded, and has such an engaging personality, I see him going far in his future career."

This summer will find Rauvola at work in the Northview Bank in Floodwood, and he hopes to find a home in banking in the future. But, first, he plans to pursue his MBA after completing his bachelor's degree, and as he goes, discovering exactly where his passions lie and where future opportunities might take him.

The University of Minnesota Crookston now delivers 31 bachelor's degree programs, 22 minors, and 36 concentrations on campus as well as 14 degree programs entirely online. These degrees are offered in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

In the photo, at top, are Hunter Rauvola (right) with Senior Ross Siegler working on tax preparation.

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