



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CROOKSTON

U of M Crookston Campus E-Update

an internal administrative news digest

December 13, 2016

www.umcrookston.edu

Editor's note: this will be the last edition of E-Update for 2016. The next edition will be published on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

From the Chancellor

These past few weeks have been difficult for me. I am very sad to leave the University of Minnesota Crookston, a place and people that I have come to love. I know, however, that the time is right in terms of both the campus and my family.

The campus is in a very good place. Relative to our peers, we are holding our own in terms of enrollment, and the future is bright due to your efforts in retention and with enhanced recruitment efforts. With our faculty's thoughtful creation and review, we offer an enhanced array of majors, both on-campus and online, which match our mission well. Our finances are solid due to careful management and expenditure constraint, along with the increased support we have received from the system. Our campus facilities and infrastructure are in good condition with upgrades in the electrical system, the addition of beautiful residence halls, and the wellness center. And, our relationships with our system, community, and region have been strengthened through the efforts of many, both on- and off-campus.

The interim leadership of the campus is strong and will be an excellent bridge to the new leadership. We are in a good place on all fronts, and I am confident strong candidates will offer to serve as UMC's next chancellor. UMC is such a special place for so many reasons, but especially because of the faculty and staff who work here and the students who study here. As I have said many times, I know of no place where the staff and faculty are more committed to the students and no place where the students are more inspirational. An exceptional chancellor who values these characteristics will be found and will build on these foundations to take the campus to higher levels of excellence.

One of the many great things I love about the people who live here is the high value they place on family. Folks here understand that family is arguably the most important aspect of our lives. As you know, my family needs me to return to California. If my mother were alive, she would be pleased that I came to Crookston, where she was born, and that I was fortunate enough to connect with the great people in the region, including extended family members. She would, however, now be proud that I was returning home to support my family. Thank you for your understanding and support of this decision.

I want to wish you all farewell and the very best in the future. I know you will stay committed to UMC and to our students. Maintain your care for them and this place, and all will be well. Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your chancellor.

Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston

Featured Events & Activities

Final Exams for Fall Semester 2016, Monday, December 12 through Thursday, December 15

Residence Halls Close for Semester Break, Thursday, December 5 – 4 p.m.

UMC Teambackers Basketball Social, Thursday, December 15 – 6 to 7:30 p.m., Evergreen Grill, Evergreen Hall

Holiday Luncheon for UMC, NWROC, and Northwest Regional Extension Faculty and Staff, Friday, December 16 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Farewell Reception for Chancellor Wood, Friday, December 16 – 2 to 4 p.m., Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center

Christmas Floating Holidays, Friday, December 23, and Monday, December 26 – campus offices closed

New Year's Day Floating Holidays, Friday, December 30, and Monday, January 2 – campus offices closed

Campus Residence Halls Open for Spring Semester, Sunday, January 8, 2017, at 1 p.m.

Spring Semester 2017 Classes Begin, Monday, January 9

For details on these and a comprehensive listing of other events or to discover what's happening this week, visit UMC Today at www.crk.umn.edu/today, or review UMC's news page at www.crk.umn.edu/news. Learn more about events across the entire University of Minnesota system via Brief, an online weekly internal news digest, at <http://brief.umn.edu/>.

Around Campus

Administrative Affairs –

Faculty and staff from across the campus community, including UMC, the NWROC, and Extension, are invited to attend the annual Campus Community Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. A complimentary meal of pasta with sauce and meat options, Italian vegetables, breadsticks, and assorted beverages will be served. For any special dietary considerations, contact Victor Obisakin, Dining Services, at obis0001@umn.edu or ext. 8544. Individuals who are interested in participating in the "white elephant" gift exchange should bring a wrapped or bagged gently used "garage sale quality" item or inexpensive gift.

A Farewell Reception for Chancellor Fred Wood will be held on Friday, December 16, from 2 to 4 p.m., in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center. Students, faculty, staff, and community members are all welcome to attend. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Fourteen UMC faculty members have been selected to participate in the UMC Leads program. As part of a cohort leadership program through the Leadership and Talent Development Office within the U of M Office of Human Resources, UMC Leads is designed to create a culture of leadership at the University of Minnesota Crookston by assisting faculty in the development of leadership skills, capacity and readiness so they are positioned to move their programs, department and the campus forward. The program kicks off on January 19, 2017. Congratulations to the following faculty members (listed alphabetically) selected to participate in the program.

Kara Bowen
William Chris Brown
Katy Chapman
Brian Dingmann
Heidi Guggisberg-Coners
Megan Kragness
Grace Menze
Venu Mukku
Rob Proulx
Ranjit Riar
Margot Rudstrom
Matt Simmons
Kristie Walker
Oxana Wieland

Academic Affairs –

Soo-Yin Lim-Thompson, Ph.D., professor and head of UMC's Liberal Arts & Education (LAE) Department, has been appointed interim vice chancellor for academic affairs, effective January 1, 2017. The most senior of the academic department heads, she has been a faculty member, program leader, and respected UMC colleague for more than 30 years. Student Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness will continue to report to Barbara Keinath in her role as interim chancellor in order for Soo-Yin Lim-Thompson to be able to focus on leadership of the Office of Academic Affairs. An interim department head for LAE will be announced within the next few weeks.

UMC is participating in the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Persistence and Completion Academy, a 4-year program designed to assist the campus on implementing programs and improving processes that will enable students to successfully complete their bachelor's degree. The initial step in the process is to develop a book of data to inform conversations around student persistence, which Academy directors call the "Data Book." Faculty and staff members may download a copy of UMC's Data Book online at www.crk.umn.edu/media/pc-academy-databook2016, and they are encouraged to peruse the information. Questions, comments, and insights may be shared with any of the members of UMC's Persistence Academy team: Melissa Dingman, Sue Erickson, Ken Myers, Sharon Stewart, Jason Tangquist, Stacie Varnson, and Eddie Walker.

Technology Support Services –

As a reminder, the University IT community strongly encourages faculty, staff, and student employees to opt in to a service that adds an extra layer of security for your personal W-2 and Direct Deposit information. The service, known as **Duo Two-Factor Protection** (Authentication) for W-2 and Direct Deposit, is offered free of charge and can help reduce the risk of your personal information being compromised should someone learn an employee's University Internet password. Learn more at <https://it.umn.edu/news/duo-opt-in>. Contact the UMC Computer Help Desk with questions at 218-281-8000.

Athletics –

Twenty-seven UMC Golden Eagle student-athletes have earned Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Fall All-Academic honors during the 2016 season. Ten football players, nine soccer players, and eight volleyball players garnered the award for the Golden Eagles. To be eligible for this honor, a student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or better, among other criteria. View the complete list at www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2016/11/30/football-27-umc-student-athletes-earn-nsic-fall-all-academic-award.aspx

Campus and Community

All are invited to attend two offerings of the Crookston Community Christmas Stable Service or "Living Nativity"--one Saturday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m., and one Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m.--at the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC), located on the north end of the University of Minnesota Crookston campus. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering is accepted at the door. There will be free parking. The event is sponsored by the Crookston Community Wandering Vine Ministry, the Cooperative Campus Ministry, and Trinity Lutheran Church of Crookston, with other churches and organizations participating.

University of Minnesota System

U of M President Eric Kaler has named Allen Levine, a former dean of the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences, as interim vice president for research. Levine, who will not seek the position permanently, will step in for Brian Herman, who resigned from the job early in November. Currently a professor in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition and an adjunct psychiatry professor, Levine will take over the position effective Jan. 1, 2017 until a permanent replacement is chosen. Executive Vice President and Provost Karen Hanson and Medical School Dean Brooks Jackson will co-chair a national search to find a permanent replacement for the position. The process will launch in January.

Accolades

The University of Minnesota Crookston was presented with the Large Business of the Year Award at the Crookston Chamber and Visitors Bureau Celebration and Awards Night, held Saturday, December 3, at the Crookston National Guard Armory. Chancellor Fred Wood accepted the award on behalf of the campus.

A number of the University of Minnesota Crookston's online programs have earned national rankings from various organizations and online resources.

- **UMC's online degree program in Information Technology Management is listed among the top 30 (at number 27) "Best Value Undergraduate Computer Science Programs" for 2017 by Value Colleges.** The list is available online at www.valuecolleges.com/rankings/top-50-online-computer-science-programs-2017.
- **UMC's online degree in Management is listed among the top 50 (at number 45) "Best Online Business Administration Degrees" for 2016-17 by College Choice.** The list is available online at www.collegechoice.net/rankings/best-online-business-administration-degrees.
- **Best Choice Schools has listed UMC among the "20 Best Online Schools for Marketing" for 2016-17 (at number 14) for its online degree program in Marketing -- list available at www.bestchoiceschools.com/rankings/online/marketing -- and among the "20 Best Online Schools for Accounting" for 2016-17 (at number 12) for its online degree in Accounting – list available online at www.bestchoiceschools.com/rankings/online/online-schools-accounting.**

Student Stories

What's the connection between a horse, a trumpet, and a flute? **At the University of Minnesota Crookston, it's Senior Hannah Van Dyke, and all three have played a central role in her academic career.** [Learn more.](http://www.crk.umn.edu/news/senior-hannah-van-dyke)
www.crk.umn.edu/news/senior-hannah-van-dyke

Music might be his minor, but it has played a major role in the life of Junior Henry Soung. The communication major from St. Paul, Minn., grew up playing piano, and while he left it as a teenager, it is once again an important part of his life. [Learn more.](https://www.crk.umn.edu/news/junior-henry-soung)
<https://www.crk.umn.edu/news/junior-henry-soung>

Publication notes: E-Update is published by the Office of University Relations at the University of Minnesota Crookston approximately twice each month except for May, June, July, and December, when it is published only once. Issues are posted online at www.crk.umn.edu/units/university-relations/campus-e-update. If you have any questions regarding the information in this news update, please send them to urumc@umn.edu. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.