



## ***U of M Crookston Campus E-Update***

an internal administrative news digest

[www.umcrookston.edu](http://www.umcrookston.edu)

May 16, 2013

### **From the Chancellor**

Commencement was a wonderful day for the campus and our students! The graduates and their guests seemed to greatly enjoy the ceremony and the related pre- and post-activities. I deeply appreciate the many staff and faculty who attended, and I am extremely thankful for all of those who were involved in organizing the various events. A special thanks to all the members of the Commencement Committee and committee co-chairs Laurie Wilson and Andrew Svec for leading the efforts, support teams in Facilities, the Office of the Registrar, Dining Services, Media Services, Student Affairs, and University Relations. I also want to thank our musicians and vocalists, including Brooke Hamilton for beautifully singing the National Anthem, and a Touch of Brass and the UMC Choir under the direction of Associate Professor George French for their wonderful contributions to the event. Special thanks go to Assistant Professor Lynette Mullins for her excellent work in carefully reading the names of our graduates. This is so very important for them, and I know this involved considerable homework and literally walking the line-up of students practicing their names. Thank you one and all for a great event. If only the emcee could have followed the program... (ha ha).

The search for a director of admissions and enrollment management was successfully concluded, and I am very pleased to share that Carola Thorson will be joining us on June 17 in that position. She will be a great addition to our campus, and I look forward to working with her. My thanks go to the search committee under the leadership of co-chairs Melissa Dingmann and Sherry Just.

On a related note, we will have two excellent candidates for the vice chancellor of academic affairs position visiting the campus this week. I urge everyone to attend the appropriate sessions and welcome the candidates to campus. Please be sure to provide feedback on each candidate to the committee immediately following their visits as your input is important to the process, which will need to move quickly. I would like to again thank the search committee under the leadership of co-chairs William Peterson and Carol Carrier for their continuing work on this critically important search.

The recent Board of Regents meeting went very well and our campus was highlighted in various ways. First, my congratulations to Associate Professor Alvin Killough on his promotion with tenure which was approved by the Board of Regents. This is a great milestone in the professional life of a faculty member, and so please join me in congratulating him. The Board also approved our new bachelor's degree program and minor in finance along with our new minor in humanities.

Our Wellness Center project continues to have the Regents' clear support, and we remain hopeful that at least the design funds for this transformational project will be approved in the final bonding bill. The news on the U's state allocation also remains good, and we should soon learn the final outcome.

Both President Kaler and the Regents repeatedly and publicly stated how impressed they were during their recent visit to the Crookston campus and how welcome they felt. A highlight for me was Regent Cohen's comments about how impressed she was with the faculty and staff's cohesion and dedication to our campus and our students. I fully agree and could not have said it better.

Finally, I want to thank those acknowledged for their years of service at Tuesday's Faculty and Staff Awards Day and Year-End. I wish all the best to those who are retiring or moving on to other opportunities. Special thanks go to those who were presented distinguished service awards. The award winners are noted in the Accolades Section below. The service that all of these individuals have provided to the campus is commendable and helps underscore what a special place UMC is.

Summer is now around the corner. (Some might say it is here with the temperature already approaching 90!) I wish everyone a great summer and hope each of you can use the time to renew and refresh as well as to complete projects and do a bit of catch-up following a busy spring. While Commencement is my favorite day of the year, my other two favorite days—housing check-in and the first day of instruction—will be here before we know it. Enjoy your summer!

–Fred  
Fred E. Wood, Chancellor  
University of Minnesota Crookston

## **Featured Events & Activities**

### **Contracts for Nine-Month Appointments End, Sunday, May 19**

**The Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies (CRES) Hosts an Entrepreneur and Small Business Exchange, Tuesday, May 21** – 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free and open to the public

**UMC Hosts Graduation Ceremonies for the Crookston High School Class of 2013, Friday, May 24** – 7 to 9:30 p.m., Lysaker Gym, UMC Sports Center

### **Last Day of May Term Classes, Friday, May 31**

**UMC's College in the High School (CIHS) Annual Workshop, Monday, June 3** – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center

### **Classes Begin for Summer Term, Monday, June 10**

### **Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) Alumni Reunion, Saturday, June 29**

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For details on these and a comprehensive listing of other events or to discover what's happening this week, visit UMC Today at [www.umcrookston.edu/today](http://www.umcrookston.edu/today) or review our news page at <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news>.

Learn more about events across the entire University of Minnesota system via *Brief*: [www.umn.edu/twincities/faculty-staff/brief](http://www.umn.edu/twincities/faculty-staff/brief).

## Around Campus

### Administrative Affairs –

**Two candidates for the position of vice chancellor for academic affairs will interview on campus this week.** **Patricia Rogers**, Ph.D., visited campus on Wednesday, May 15, and **Barbara Keinath**, Ph.D., will visit on Friday, May 17. An open forum with each candidate will be held on the respective dates at 8:30 a.m. in 207 Dowell Hall. All faculty, staff, and any students are encouraged to attend. For more information, including the candidates' CVs and full interview schedules, go to [www.umcrookston.edu/vcsearch](http://www.umcrookston.edu/vcsearch).

A special farewell reception was held on Wednesday, May 15, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Bede Ballroom. Members of the campus and community offered well wishes to three retirees, **Tom Baldwin**, **Vicki Svedarsky**, and **Mike Vivion**, and two department heads moving on to other opportunities, **Jack Geller** and **Adel Ali**. The campus community wishes each of them well on their future endeavors.

### Academic Affairs –

**A new major in finance offered by the University of Minnesota Crookston was approved** at the May meetings of the Board of Regents. The finance major is available both on-campus and online through UMC's Business Department. A **minor in finance** is also available. A **minor in humanities** offered through UMC's Liberal Arts and Education Department was also approved at the May Board of Regents meetings. This brings UMC's academic offerings to 28 majors, 20 minors, and 11 majors offered online.

**Megan Pederson** has been hired as an online student support teaching specialist for the Business Department. She has served as an admissions counselor in UMC's Office of Admissions for the past two years. She will begin her new duties in the Business Department on Wednesday, May 22.

### Student Affairs –

**Carola Thorson has been hired to serve as director of admissions and enrollment management** for the U of M Crookston. She comes to UMC after serving as director of undergraduate admissions at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn., where she also held positions as senior associate director of undergraduate admissions and as a graduate admissions counselor. Prior to that she served as assistant director of admissions at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. Carola's undergraduate degree is in mass communications and English writing from Concordia College in Moorhead, and she is completing her final coursework in May for a master's degree in leadership from Augsburg. She is scheduled to begin her work at UMC on Monday, June 17.

The **Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships is busy awarding summer aid** for those students enrolled. Faculty and staff should remember that full-time enrollment for summer semester is 12 credits. Half-time enrollment is 6 credits and is needed for federal loans.

Starting this summer and next fall, the campus will be issuing **new University ID cards that contain a smart chip that will allow greater functionality** for faculty, staff, and students. The card will look very similar to current cards but with the addition of the smart chip and an electronic signature. This phase-

in will start with all new on-campus students and employees. These new cards will also be issued to students who will live in the residence halls where new proximity card readers are installed. A plan will be developed to transition the rest of campus over the next year or so. The plan is to have employees and students exchange their old cards for the new smart cards free of charge. Employees and students who have lost their cards may have to pay a replacement fee in accordance with University policy. More information will be forthcoming.

The Crookston campus along with the other U of M system campuses will soon begin utilizing a **new software program for event and classroom scheduling and reservations: the Ad Astra System**. UMC will officially go live with this new software at the end of May, transitioning away from the S.U.R.E (Meeting Room Manager) system currently used. The Ad Astra System offers greater functionality, especially on the reporting side, and will handle classroom assignments, event reservations, equipment reservations, and fleet vehicle reservations. Personnel access to the system will be very similar to the current system. Basic training for key users and managers has already taken place, and other users will receive general information, instructions, and training sessions as needed.

### **Center for Adult Learning –**

The University of Minnesota Crookston's **College in the High School (CIHS) program will host its annual workshop for participating instructors, counselors, and principals** on Monday, June 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center, and other rooms on campus. The workshop consists of collaboration and information sessions, professional development, and peer-faculty breakout sessions. UMC's CIHS program serves roughly 40 regional school districts in Minnesota.

### **Facilities & Operations –**

**Over the summer Facilities & Operations staff will be busy with a number of campus projects.** A major project will be a comprehensive study and analysis of the campus electrical system. Other projects include:

- Continued work to upgrade the HVAC systems in Kiehle Building
- Installation of a fire sprinkler system and fire separation/prevention work in UTOC
- Installation of a fire sprinkler system and new acoustic ceiling tiles in Sahlstrom Conference Center
- Renovation and reconfiguration of rooms 107,111, and 115 in Sahlstrom Conference Center
- New carpeting, LED lighting, and acoustic ceiling tiles in Brown Dining Room
- Renovation of restrooms in Dowell Hall to bring them up to ADA code
- Renovation of restrooms in Skyberg Hall
- Addressing the lighting and AV control panel issues in Kiehle Auditorium
- New carpet and wood accent work in the Eagles Nest, Sahlstrom Conference Center
- New paint in 121 and 125 Dowell Hall

### **Technology Support Services –**

Recently, members of the **Enterprise Systems Upgrade Program (ESUP)** leadership team traveled to the Morris and Crookston campuses to meet with program participants and campus leadership. The discussions and listening sessions yielded helpful insights and some immediately actionable items to improve program operations. Faculty and staff across the U of M system are encouraged to check the ESUP website for news regarding the program: <http://upgrade.umn.edu/>.

**ESUP's Portal Team** is gathering opportunities and needs for the new system portal and wants to hear from the University community about some of the ideas already collected. The team will use the survey responses to prioritize opportunities and begin design work. Faculty, staff, and students are asked to complete a 10-15 minute online survey by May 20. The survey can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/portalsurvey2013>. Topics covered include mobile functionality, checklists, grants management, events calendars, and drag and drop graphics.

### **Alumni & Development –**

**Teambacker Fun Nite**, held April 26, raised approximately \$19,000 in support of student-athlete scholarships. Thanks to all who attended this event.

**Ruth Navarro**, '13, has been hired as a summer employee in the Office Development & Alumni Relations. Ruth will begin June 3 and work through early August. She will assist with the Northwest School of Agriculture Reunion on Saturday, June 29, among other things.

Faculty, staff, alumni, and friends are encouraged to take part in the four **Teambacker golf tournaments**, scheduled for the following dates this summer:

- Mark Olsonawski Golf Tournament, Thursday, June 27, Hallock, Minn., 10 a.m. start
- Heart of the Valley Golf Tournament, Thursday, July 11, Ada, Minn., 1 p.m. start
- UMC Teambacker Golf Classic, Saturday, July 20, Crookston, Minn., 10 a.m. start
- Highway 2 Golf Classic, Saturday, July 27, Fosston and Erskine, Minn., 10 a.m. start in Fosston

### **University Relations –**

**Alexmai Addo**, a communication major from Minneapolis, Minn., has been hired as a student communications assistant in an internship for the UMC Office of University Relations. She will begin her duties on Tuesday, May 28, and work through August 16. Her responsibilities will include assisting with news releases and feature writing; hosting Insight, a weekly radio program; coordinating UMC's Ice Cream Social for Crookston Ox Cart Days; assisting with the Northwest School of Agriculture Reunion on June 29; and assisting with public relations activities through UMC's booth at the Polk County Fair in July.

**A photo gallery from Commencement Ceremonies for the Class of 2013** is now available online at <http://www1.crk.umn.edu/events/commencement/2013/>. Video of the event will be posted within the next two weeks.

### **Athletics –**

The University of Minnesota Crookston recently released the names of students on the **Athletic All-Academic Team for 2012-2013**. Forty-six Golden Eagle student-athletes were recognized. To make the list, student-athletes must have a 3.2 GPA or higher and letter in the same sport for two years or more.

[View the full list.](#)

[http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2013/5/2/GEN\\_0502132108.aspx](http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2013/5/2/GEN_0502132108.aspx)

Golden Eagle Baseball players **Ryan Paasch**, a junior from Sauk Rapids, Minn., and **Josh Brehmer**, a junior from Roseville, Minn., broke campus records in baseball near the end of the recent season. Paasch now has 50 appearances in his career, which surpassed the previous record of 47 appearances set by Ben Lazzari from 2009-12. Brehmer set a campus record for hits at 117, moving past Devin Croal's previous record 107 hits earned during 2009 and 2010. Brehmer has one year remaining in the maroon and gold and is also approaching the campus record for most at bats, most games started, most games played, and most total bases.

Twelve University of Minnesota Crookston student-athletes have been named to the **Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Spring All-Academic Teams**:

- Baseball - **Jesse Jennings**, a sophomore from Robbinsdale, Minn., and **Jordan Prill**, a senior from Melrose, Minn.
- Softball - **Shelby Hollinger**, a sophomore from Neudorf, Saskatchewan, Canada, **Stacey Marcum**, a senior from Merrill, Wis., **Josee Plante**, a sophomore from Manitou, Manitoba, Canada, and **Brooke Vathauer**, a sophomore from Crookston
- Men's Golf - **Jesse Roscoe**, a sophomore from Big Stone City, S.D., and **Zach Cymbaluk**, a sophomore from Crookston
- Women's Golf - **Kelly Gustafson**, a junior from Hermantown, Minn., **Kari Bodine**, a senior from Babbitt, Minn., and **Mary Mikutowski**, a sophomore from Stillwater, Minn.
- Women's Tennis - **Casey Paris**, a junior from Fairmont, Minn.

To be eligible for this honor, the student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or higher, must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing, and must have completed at least one full academic year at that institution.

## Extension

**Margo Bowerman has been hired as an assistant professor for youth development by University of Minnesota Extension.** She is based at Extension's Regional Office in Crookston, located in the Valley Technology Park building on the north edge of the U of M Crookston campus. Margo was born and raised in rural, upstate New York. She holds her undergraduate degree in biology from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, N.Y., and a master's degree in wildlife ecology from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry from Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y. Prior to accepting her new position with U of M Extension, Margo worked for Cornell Cooperative Extension in Orleans County, N.Y., as the 4-H team coordinator for 13 years. While there she developed a strong foundation in youth development while managing a 4-H club program.

## Campus and Community

The Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies (CRES), based at UMC, will host the inaugural **Entrepreneur and Small Business Exchange** on Tuesday, May 21, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Bede

Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. This event is free and open to the public; registration is requested. Intended for individuals who are thinking of starting a business or who own an established small business facing new challenges, this event will connect attendees with other entrepreneurs and small business owners in the region to learn from their success and experience. For more information or to register, go to [www.umccress.org](http://www.umccress.org).

**Erica Hamre began her appointment as director for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** of the Red River Valley on April 15. Erica comes to UMC after serving as the wellness director for Villa St. Vincent in Crookston. She earned a bachelor's degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead, and is currently working to complete an M.B.A. in the area of health care at the University of Mary, Bismarck, N.D.

## Accolades

Individual faculty and staff recognized with awards at the **Faculty and Staff Awards Day and Year-End Celebration** on Tuesday, May 14, included:

- **Rachel McCoppin**, associate professor, Liberal Arts & Education Department – Distinguished Teaching Award
- **Michelle Christopherson**, director, Center for Adult Learning – Distinguished Professional and Administrative (P&A) Award
- **Linda Wilkens**, Copy Center Operator, UMC Printing & Design – Distinguished Civil Service and Bargaining Unit Award
- **Ken Bulie**, lecturer, Business Department – Outstanding Service Learning Faculty Award
- **Josh Parrill**, student personnel coordinator, Academic Assistance Center – Outstanding Community Service Award
- **Melissa Parkin**, catering supervisor, Dining Services – Builder of Diversity Award

The entire campus community was also thanked for its overall support for students with disabilities.

**Marty Breaker, a teaching specialist in the Business Department, was recently certified as a volunteer ombudsman with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)**, a Department of Defense agency. This designation allows him to work with veterans and employers in Minnesota to provide information regarding the rights and benefits of veterans as provided for in the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). He is also available to talk with any employers, civic organizations, or other interested groups about USERRA.

**The second edition of *Food Plant Engineering Systems*, a textbook written by Christo Robberts**, program director, manufacturing management, was recently published by CRC Press of the Taylor & Francis Group. [Learn more.](#)

<http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781439848098>

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**Publication notes:** The *E-Update* is published twice each month August through April and once each month May through July. Issues are posted online at [www.umcrookston.edu/admin/chancellor/eupdate](http://www.umcrookston.edu/admin/chancellor/eupdate). If you have any questions regarding the information in this news update, please send them to [urumc@umn.edu](mailto:urumc@umn.edu).

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