



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | CROOKSTON

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U of M, Crookston Campus E-Update

an internal administrative news digest

www.umcrookston.edu

August 21, 2012

From the Chancellor

It has been a wonderful month-and-a-half for me. I offer my thanks to all who have met with me and sent e-mails with words of welcome. I am extremely excited to be here and very honored to be serving as your chancellor. I have met many but not all of our faculty and staff, and I look forward to meeting everyone over the next few weeks and months.

Welcome back to all our returning faculty and staff, and as a “newbie” myself, let me offer a special welcome to our new faculty and staff. Since last fall we have more than 50 new employees on campus. To my fellow new colleagues, I hope you have found or will find this campus and community as welcoming as I have and a great place to work and live.

Looking forward to the next year and beyond, there are certainly many reasons for optimism, including our staff and faculty, our facilities, our enrollment trends, and our attention to academic quality. Even with budget challenges facing higher education across the state, we will find ways to make investments toward a goal of continuous improvement. The state budget allocation is about the same as it was last year, so no decline is good news, but I know President Kaler has made increasing state funding for the University his highest priority.

For fall semester we expect about thirty students to reside at the America’s Best Value Inn just south of campus. I’m told the new residence hall is on schedule to open in December, which will allow us to fully meet the demand for on-campus housing. More students living on campus is good for recruitment, retention, and graduation rates – that is, good for our enrollment.

With our increasing enrollment and the potential of over 700 students living on campus, the need for additional recreational facilities becomes more and more necessary. In my initial discussion with students it is clear that they strongly support a facility for recreation, and there is increasing interest in facilities to promote health and wellness. The wellness and recreation center for the Crookston campus is on the U of M’s bonding request list and will be important to our success recruiting, retaining, and graduating students. I will work hard to continue to advocate for this facility.

Finally, our campus has shown an amazing resilience and strong ability to change. It has had to. We have evolved to stay current and to find our place in the higher education marketplace. Just as this has been so critical in the past, it will be so in the future. We need to maintain our experimental spirit with technology, which has been such an important part of our past and which we know will be increasingly important in our future. We will also need to continue our innovative approach to our academic programs, which includes maintaining our rich tradition as a residential campus that provides excellent experiential-based educational experiences as well as further exploring online learning options.

We are experiencing a change in personnel which will bring new and fresh ideas and perspectives. This includes those we have recently hired as well as those we will hire in the next year. As we move forward, we must remain flexible and adventuresome as we try new approaches. This ability to change is the single most critical component of our success moving forward because rapid change is clearly a part of our society. The public expects change, and they clearly expect institutions of higher education will evolve. We are positioned well for the next step in our evolution, and I look forward to working with you to reach higher levels of excellence.

I wish you all the best as we begin an exciting academic year!

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

Featured Events & Activities

Teambackers 20th Anniversary Celebration and Picnic, Thursday, August 23 – 5 to 7 p.m., Peterson Gazebo, Campus Mall, free for all faculty and staff

Residence Halls Open for New Students, Friday, August 24 – 8 a.m.

New Student Orientation Check-In and Processing, Friday, August 24 – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Rotunda, Kiehle Building

Orientation Convocation, Friday, August 24 – 3:15 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

Meet Crookston Through Service, Saturday, August 25 – 8:30 a.m. to Noon, participants meet in Brown Dining Room at 8:30 a.m. for assignments across the community

Residence Halls Open for Returning Students Sunday, August 26 – Noon

Fall Semester 2012 Classes Begin, Tuesday, August 28

Crookston Chamber/RMA Welcome Back Picnic “A Taste of Crookston,” Thursday, August 30 – 5 to 7 p.m., Brown Dining Room, free for all students, faculty, and staff

Labor Day Holiday, Monday, September 3 – Classes excused, campus offices closed

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 or review our news page at blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news.

Learn more about events across the entire University of Minnesota system via [Brief](#).

Around Campus

Academic Affairs –

The following individuals, new to the U of M, Crookston, have been hired to serve as adjunct faculty members:

- **Perveen Akhter**, Lecturer, Mathematics; Math, Science & Technology Dept.
- **Karl Anderson**, Teaching Specialist, Biology; Math, Science & Technology Dept.
- **Matthew Jones**, Teaching Specialist, Criminal Justice; Liberal Arts & Education Dept.
- **Ashley Leschyshyn**, Teaching Specialist, Sociology; Liberal Arts & Education Dept.
- **Barbara Phaiah**, Teaching Specialist, Spanish; Liberal Arts & Education Dept.

Several **new articulation agreements have been implemented by the Business Department** at the U of M, Crookston. Agreements were signed recently with **Hennepin Technical College**, located in Brooklyn Park, Minn., **Pine Technical College**, located in Pine City, Minn., and **Mesabi Range Community and Technical College** with campuses located in both Eveleth and Virginia, Minn. The articulation agreements allow eligible students with specific associate degrees in business an option to transfer to the Crookston campus to complete a baccalaureate degree.

Center for Adult Learning –

Designed and managed through the Center for Adult Learning, **Achieve More: Junior Achievement and College and Career Preparation 101** is a community pilot project to increase post-secondary enrollment and to improve high school graduation rates. Through an innovative partnership, the U of M, Crookston, will work with the Crookston Chamber of Commerce, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of the Red River Valley, Independent School District #593 (Crookston), the Headwaters Regional Development Commission, and the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to engage young people to connect with relevant occupations, regional and local, and to understand the importance of staying in school and thinking beyond twelfth grade while gaining a better understanding of the workforce. The geographic area to be served by the project includes Crookston, Polk County, and northwestern Minnesota. This model has been created for replication in other northwestern Minnesota districts

Student Affairs –

This summer the U of M, Crookston Office of Student Affairs has been working with Sodexo to incorporate **Erbert & Gerbert's Sandwich Shop and Caribou Coffee** into the Eagle's Nest Convenience Store in Sahlstrom Conference Center. A new half-wall and a series of booths have been added to the seating area of the Eagle's Nest. Plans call for the construction to be completed by the time students arrive for fall semester classes. The UMC community can use cash, check, credit card, Flex Dollars (associated with meal plans) and Eagle Bucks. As always, the Eagle's Nest is also open to the public and visitors. There will be two designated 10-minute parking spaces located in front of the Sahlstrom Conference Center on the north edge of the Campus Mall to accommodate quick pick-up orders. Once classes begin, the planned hours of operation for the Eagle's Nest will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. These hours may be adjusted based upon need and campus input.

In an ongoing effort to be good stewards of the environment and to reduce the carbon footprint of the campus, UMC has been reviewing many food-related strategies. One of the easiest to implement (and

a “win-win” for everyone) is the use of **recycled, reusable beverage containers in the Eagle’s Nest and Evergreen Grill**. New beverage cups that customers can initially purchase and then receive a discount toward future beverage purchases will be available in both areas this semester. Other initiatives being developed include composting, conversion of cooking oil into biodiesel fuel for campus vehicles and equipment, growing produce in a campus garden and greenhouse, and working to bring in more local foods through the development of a local food hub. The UMC Food Committee and UMC Sustainability Committee will work with U of M Extension, Sodexo, and other regional groups on these projects. Please contact [Peter Phaiah](#), 218-281-8505 to learn more or to become involved with these sustainable food initiatives.

Hong’s Chinese Restaurant in Crookston has agreed to develop a punch card for the UMC Community. Students and employees will receive a stamp/punch each time they purchase a meal there. Every tenth meal will be free. Frequent user cards will be available at the restaurant and at Sargeant Student Center Information Desk. They will be distributed at various events on campus. Hong’s will also provide a free beverage with each meal to UMC students who reside at the American’s Best Value Inn during fall semester.

International Programs –

A small delegation of from the **Gyeongin National University of Education in Gyeonggi, Korea**, including Chung Dong Gweon, PhD, president, and Kim Hang In, PhD, international affairs director, will visit and tour the U of M, Crookston on the morning of Wednesday, August 22. The dignitaries will meet with Chancellor Wood, Vice Chancellor Baldwin, Associate Vice Chancellor Peter Phaiah, and academic department heads, as well as staff members of UMC’s Office of International Programs to discuss possible collaborations and exchanges.

Development & Alumni Relations –

All faculty and staff are invited to attend the **Teambackers 20th Anniversary Celebration and Picnic** on Thursday, August 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Peterson Gazebo on the Campus Mall. Attendees will get a preview of the fall athletic teams and listen to student athletes share their stories regarding how Teambackers scholarships have helped them.

Last Wednesday, August 15, Chancellor Wood, Corby Kemmer, and Bill Tyrrell hosted about twenty alumni and friends in a suite at Newman Outdoor Field while taking in the **FM RedHawks** game. Chancellor Wood had the honor of throwing out the first pitch.

University Relations –

Faculty and staff are encouraged to set the **UMC Today Page** (www.umcrookston.edu/today) as their default web browser page. They are also encouraged to “like” the **University of Minnesota, Crookston official Facebook page** (www.facebook.com/umcrookston) and follow the official **Twitter** page (www.twitter.com/umcrookston). The campus **YouTube** channel is (www.youtube.com/uofmcrookston).

An updated version of the Crookston campus **print and web directory of faculty and staff** is in progress. The goal is to have the print version completed and distributed by the end of the first week of classes. The [web directory](#) is being updated as information and photos become available.

UMC's [thirty-second ad showing various experiential learning options](#) is currently appearing prior to feature films at the **Grand Theater in Crookston, the Fosston Theater, and River Cinema 15 in East Grand Forks**. The ad will run through October, and a different ad will run from November through January.

Athletics –

Ed Deugan has been hired as the new head coach of the Golden Eagle Softball Team. Deugan most recently served as the head coach at Southern Wesleyan University, an NAIA-affiliated school in central South Carolina, from 2008-11. He also served as head coach at the junior college level with Andrew College in Cuthbert, Georgia, from 2001-04. He completed his undergraduate degree in history at the University of Iowa and holds a Master of Arts in Athletic Administration from the University of Iowa.

The **Golden Eagle Women's Soccer Team** returns to exhibition action on Friday, August 24, when they travel to Grand Forks, N.D., to face the University of North Dakota (UND) at 4 p.m. The Golden Eagles defeated Jamestown College 1-0 in double overtime on Sunday, August 19. The team's first home conference game is set for Sunday, September 9, at 1 p.m. against Bemidji State.

The **Golden Eagle Volleyball Team** will travel to Big Rapids, Michigan, to compete in the Ferris State Tournament on Friday, August 31, and Saturday, September 1. The following weekend the team will attend the University of Minnesota, Duluth Invitational Tournament.

The **Golden Eagle Football Team** opens its season on Thursday, August 30, at 6 p.m., facing the Winona State Warriors at Verizon Stadium/Maxwell Field in Winona. The first conference home game is set for Saturday, September 8, at 1 p.m. against the Concordia University (St. Paul) Golden Bears.

Health and Wellness –

The University Wellness Program and the Center for Sustainability are teaming up to offer any UPlan medical program member an incentive to bike to work. Through the **ZAP UMC Bike Commuter Program**, bicycle commuters may earn 75 points for their Wellness Points Bank and a \$65 wellness reward after 50 completed rides (before August 31, 2013). The program uses Dero Zap hardware and software to log bike trips, which in return reward bicycle commuting with Wellness rewards and prizes. Riders may bring their bicycles to the Eagle's Nest in Sahlstrom Conference Center on Thursday, August 23, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to have a tamper-resistant, RFID tag installed at no cost, or they should contact [Ben Sullivan](#) in the Center for Sustainability to arrange an alternate time. During their commutes, riders should pass the RFID reader, the metal pole with the solar panel located on the bike path near the entrance to Ed Widseth Field, and their commute will automatically be tracked and recorded. More information is coming soon at www.umcrookston.edu/ZAP. This program was featured on [the WDAZ TV newscast on Monday, August 20](#).

Campus and Community

New students and university faculty and staff will come together to complete community service projects for **Meet Crookston Through Service** on Saturday, August 25. Participants should meet in Brown Dining Room at 8:30 a.m. for assignments across the community. Projects vary, so sensible shoes (no flip-flops) and older clothing are recommended. Projects will be completed by noon, at which time everyone will return to Brown Dining Room for lunch.

Accolades

For a sixth consecutive year, the University of Minnesota, Crookston has been named one of the “**Best Colleges in the Midwest**” according to the nationally known education services company, **The Princeton Review**. It is one of 153 institutions The Princeton Review recommends in its "Best in the Midwest" section of its website feature, "2013 Best Colleges: Region by Region," that posted August 20, 2012, on PrincetonReview.com. Learn more at www.princetonreview.com/best-regional-colleges.aspx.

Two U of M, Crookston faculty members have been awarded promotion to the rank of professor: **Harouna Maiga**, PhD, and **Lyle Westrom**, PhD, both of whom serve in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department.

John Heath, lecturer in the Math, Science & Technology Department, successfully defended his dissertation and earned his PhD in Computational Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in July.

Danielle (Dani) Johannesen, newly-hired lecturer in the Liberal Arts & Education Department, completed her PhD in English from the University of South Dakota this summer.

David Seyfried, program director and faculty member in the Liberal Arts & Education Department, successfully defended his dissertation and completed his PhD in Criminal Justice from the University of North Dakota in July.

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff members who were married over the summer:

- **Mandy (Langlois) Gudvangen**
- **Lacole (Hook) McPherson**
- **Melissa (Stephens) Parkin**
- **Lucille (Nygard) Payment**
- **Natasha (Kuhle) Reiersen**

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

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