

News Release

Ceremony Naming Sargeant Student Center at U of M Crookston on Saturday, September 27, 2008, Following Homecoming Parade

By Andrew Svec, Elizabeth Tollefson on Monday, September 15, 2008

Crookston, Minn. (September 15, 2008) – Honoring the past and celebrating the future is the focus of a celebration taking place on the University of Minnesota Crookston campus during homecoming on Saturday, September 27, 2008. The three-year old student center will be named in a special ceremony honoring Donald G. Sargeant, Ph.D., who served as a faculty member from 1970 to 2007 and as chancellor of the Crookston campus from 1985 to 2003. A ceremony naming Sargeant Student Center will be held at 11:15 a.m. in the student center's Northern Lights Lounge with a reception following.



Chancellor Emeritus Donald Sargeant began employment at the U of M Crookston in 1970 as chair of the Agriculture Division and serving as academic dean from 1973-85. The Board of Regents appointed Sargeant chancellor in 1985, a position he held until 2003. The campus continued to grow under Sargeant's leadership and transitioned from a two to a four-year college with the granting of the first baccalaureate degrees in 1993. The Crookston campus initiated a technology strategy that same year which provided all faculty and full-time students on campus with notebook computers, a first in higher education in the United States.

Buildings constructed during Sargeant's service as chancellor included Bergland Laboratory; University Teaching and Outreach Center; Early Childhood Building; the production greenhouses; Westside Apartments, now part of Centennial Hall; and Peterson Gazebo. Renovation of both Owen Hall and Kiehle Building also took place during his tenure and funding was received for a new student center, which opened in 2005.

Over the years, Sargeant worked closely with city and state agencies to secure funding to bring both the Valley Technology Park and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute to campus. He most recently served as the director of international programs, a position he held until 2006. Sargeant and his wife, Mary Beth, reside in Erskine, Minn., and have two sons, Doug and Dan.

The naming of Sargeant Student Center is one of many highlights during the 2008 Homecoming weekend at the U of M Crookston. Other events include an open house at the University Teaching and Outreach Center in honor of their 15-year anniversary on Thursday, September 25. On Friday evening, September 26, Outstanding Alumni and inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame will be recognized beginning at 6 p.m. with a social followed by a dinner and program in the Student Center Bede Ballroom.

The 2008 Outstanding Alumni include Jeff Peterson, ex. '77 and '96; Kirk Schultz, '79; Sherry (Larson) Senske, '90. Inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame are Randy Coauette, wrestling, ex. '75; Bob Clauson, hockey, ex. '82; and the 1989-90 Women's Basketball Team

The events on Saturday, September 27 begin with the homecoming parade around the Campus Mall at 10:30 a.m. followed by the naming ceremony for Sargeant Student Center. UMC Teambackers will host a tailgate with music by the band Four Wheel Drive prior to the 1 p.m. kickoff of Golden Eagle Football vs. Minnesota State University, Moorhead at Ed Widseth Field. At half time of the football game, the outstanding alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized.

For more information on what is happening during homecoming week at the U of M Crookston website.

Today the University of Minnesota Crookston delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations, including several online degrees, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

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