



U of M Crookston Campus E-Update

an internal administrative news digest

www.umcrookston.edu

January 11, 2016

From the Chancellor

As I begin the second half of my fourth year as chancellor, I have been reflecting on advice I received from sitting presidents over the years. One of their helpful messages that has proven to be true is that chancellors/presidents spend a great and increasing amount of time obtaining more resources for their institutions. I have certainly found this to be the case. This includes efforts related to the state (e.g. meetings with legislators, other elected officials, and staff members) and efforts involving multiple aspects of philanthropy (e.g. foundation proposals, meeting with business leaders, alumni, and other potential private donors). In addition—and especially important on a small campus—is the critical need for tuition funding and maintaining enrollment. It's evident that today the leader of any campus needs to become even more involved in these areas, and this will only continue due to the increasing pressures on state and federal budgets, and to the related challenges of increasing costs of attendance for students and their families.

With these factors in mind and after careful deliberation with a number of folks, I have decided to make a number of organizational restructuring changes that will benefit the campus.

This column is longer than usual, but I feel it is important for the campus community to understand the context, considerations, and thought that went into these decisions.

The first was announced at the holiday gathering and at the Faculty Assembly in December. As you may know, in addition to his duties as our interim director of admissions, Bill Cleveland was asked to serve as an external consultant to review our organizational structures related to recruitment and admissions. After careful consideration and deliberation, I have accepted Bill's recommendation that we unify the Center for Adult Learning and the present Office of Admissions under a single office.

While this structural model has been discussed for a number of years, the time is now right to make this change, and we wanted to complete this unification before beginning a national search for a new director of admissions who would oversee both efforts. We are presently interviewing search firms to assist with this national search and plan to begin the recruitment process soon. I have also accepted Bill's recommendation that this new director will report directly to the chancellor. This change will be beneficial for the campus in many ways and will provide a structure comparable to many of our peer institutions.

To be clear, the unification is not being driven by a desire for a cost reduction in this important area, although we do anticipate greater efficiencies. It is driven by a desire to improve our effectiveness in a time of substantially increasing competition on the admissions front. In fact, there will eventually be the additional cost of a new position that will be filled once the new director has been hired. Until then, Bill will continue to serve as the interim director of the Office of Admissions, which will include both the present on-campus admissions operation and the online student recruitment efforts.

Since Bill will be working primarily from the Twin Cities campus after Friday, January 15, Associate Vice Chancellor Peter Phaiah will provide assistance as needed to Alisha Aasness, who will serve as the on-campus

admissions team lead, and to Michelle Christopherson, who will continue to lead the online recruitment efforts. Peter, Michelle, and Alisha will continue to work with Bill to ensure recruitment and admissions efforts continue to be successful and function at a high level. I am especially thankful to them and the entire staff for their understanding and patience as we continue to work through the many issues that will, no doubt, arise as we make these changes. Again, I am confident this will be a much more efficient and effective organizational structure during these challenging times for undergraduate admissions, and this change recognizes the increasingly important role that enrollment plays in our institution's long-term financial position.

Enrollment, of course, is not just reliant on successful recruitment but is also strongly dependent upon our successful retention efforts. In addition, as I have discussed previously, metrics around graduation rates have become increasingly important for both the state government and the U of M Board of Regents. As a reminder, a portion of our state allocation is now dependent on reaching certain goals related to these metrics.

To facilitate continuous improvement in our retention efforts, I have decided to reintegrate Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. As many will recall, these were separated before the recruitment of our current vice chancellor in order to provide a greater opportunity to address a number of academic issues, including the need to guide the campus through the recent accreditation visit. Vice Chancellor Keinath has been highly successful in accomplishing these tasks and now is ready to reassume a formal relationship with Student Affairs, although she has been informally involved in many collaborative activities. This reintegration will help our developing retention efforts, which require very strong partnerships between faculty and staff in both Academic and Student Affairs. Effective January 1, 2016, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Peter Phaiah now formally reports to Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Barbara Keinath. In recognition of the importance of Student Affairs to the success of UMC and the life of UMC students, Associate Vice Chancellor Phaiah will continue to serve as a member of the Chancellor's Administrative Cabinet.

With the exception of Admissions, the Student Affairs internal structure will remain largely unchanged. As the Wellness Center approaches completion, the related staffing and operations will require more of Dr. Phaiah's time and attention. Intramurals will also report to Dr. Phaiah through the Wellness Center. Alysa Tulibaski will remain with Student Affairs and report directly to Dr. Phaiah. The internal structure of Academic Affairs will remain unchanged, with the exception that oversight for College in the High School (CIHS) will move to the Liberal Arts and Education Department. Megan Luxford, CIHS coordinator, will continue to support CIHS for all the academic departments while reporting to Professor and Department Head Soo-Yin Lim-Thompson.

I am confident that UMC's historically strong relationship between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs will be strengthened even further by this reintegration, and I know that Drs. Phaiah and Keinath are looking forward to working closely together with all Student and Academic Affairs team members. I want to thank Peter for his patience in working directly with me for the past three years and his on-going efforts to remain connected to Academic Affairs. I also want to thank Barbara for her willingness to return this important area to her portfolio.

Finally, now that Mike Hanson has successfully transitioned to his new role as regional network director for the Northwest Educational Technology System (NETS), the time is right for this position to report directly to the director of Technology Support Services, Jeff Sperling, rather than to the chancellor, as has historically been the case. This move has numerous benefits since they both work in synergistic areas of technology. In addition to supervising Mike, Jeff will also represent the campus on the NETS Executive Committee where he will join the chief information officers of all the other member institutions. I want to thank both Mike and Jeff, and the Executive Committee of NETS, for their willingness and strong support of these changes.

As I mentioned at the outset, these changes will have enormous benefit to the campus in improving our operations on a number of important fronts. I want to, again, thank everyone involved in these units and departments for all their efforts as we institute this organizational restructuring. These changes are among the many we have made and will continue to make on our journey of continuous improvement. As we all appreciate, one of our great characteristics at UMC is our ability to remain flexible and nimble. This will continue to be one of our strongest attributes as we evolve in response to a rapidly changing higher-education environment.

Thank you.

Fred Wood

Chancellor

University of Minnesota Crookston

Featured Events & Activities

UMC Hosts Northwest Service Cooperative High School Knowledge Bowl Competition, Tuesday, January 12 – 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, the Prairie Room, Eagles Nest Area, Kiehle 116, and Kiehle Auditorium

What's on Wednesday (W.O.W.): Singer-Songwriter Javier Colon, Wednesday, January 13 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free for UMC students, faculty, and staff, \$5 for members of the general public

Movie: Ant Man, Friday, January 15 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to UMC students, faculty, and staff

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, Monday, January 18 – classes excused, campus offices closed

Northern Red River Valley Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Monday, January 18 – 10:30 a.m., Unity Walk from Grand Forks Central High School to Empire Arts Theater, Grand Forks, N.D.; 11 a.m. Celebration Program, Empire Arts Theater, followed by lunch, free and open to the public

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Service Event, Monday, January 18 – 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Carnegie Building, next to Crookston Public Library, 110 N. Ash Street

Music with Food and Soul, Thursday, January 21 – Noon to 2 p.m., Northern Lights Lounge and International Lounge, Sargeant Student Center

Thursday Commons: Presentation by Canadian Consul-General Jamshed Merchant, Thursday, January 21 – 12:30 to 1:50 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free and open to the public

Soup and Substance: LGBTQ Topics, Tuesday, January 26 – Noon to 1 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

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 <http://news.crk.umn.edu/news>.

Learn more about events across the entire University of Minnesota system via Brief: <http://brief.umn.edu/>.

Around Campus

Academic Affairs –

The Office of Academic Affairs has received the final report from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) team that conducted the Comprehensive Quality Review visit in November. According to that document, “UMC meets all criteria for accreditation and therefore the team recommends reaffirmation of accreditation.” The team also found that UMC is fully compliant with federal requirements addressed in the site visit. The HLC Institutional Action Council will act on the team’s recommendation at an upcoming meeting. Their action is the final step in the reaffirmation process. The report also offers some suggestions to help UMC advance its commitment to continuous improvement. In particular, they urge the campus to escalate efforts to collect, analyze, and use data to understand trends, set targets, and improve performance in key processes. The full report will be posted soon at www.umcrookston.edu/aqip.

Charitha Hettiarachchi has been hired as a teaching specialist for software engineering in the Math, Science, and Technology Department. He holds an M.S. in information assurance from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn., and B.S. in applied studies from Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka in Belihuloya, Sri Lanka. He also holds a certificate in e-learning and web technologies from the University of Colombo School of Computing in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Hettiarachchi is working to complete a Ph.D. in software engineering at North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D. His dissertation topic is “Requirements of risk-based test case prioritization in regression testing.”

Canadian Consul-General Jamshed Merchant will discuss the symbiotic relationship between the U.S. and Canada, his role as consul-general, and the differences between the U.S. and Canada in their approach to immigration on Thursday, January 21, from 12:30 to 1:50 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. Sponsored by the UMC Business Department, this event is free and open to the public. Merchant began serving as Canada's Consul-General for the Upper Midwest states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota in October 2012. Based in Minneapolis, he leads a team of professionals building two-way trade and investment ties, engaging decision makers and citizens in a wide range of issues important to both countries, and helping Canadians living and traveling in the region.

Student Affairs –

Singer-Songwriter Javier Colon, winner of the first season of "The Voice," will perform at UMC on Wednesday, January 13, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. Admission is free for UMC students, faculty, and staff, and only \$5 for the public. Colon has referred to his style of music as "acoustic soul." He appeared on the first season of NBC's reality talent show "The Voice" and won the competition, receiving \$100,000 in cash and a Universal Republic recording contract. His performance is sponsored by S.P.A.C.E. (Student Programming and Activities for Campus Entertainment).

The 2016 Red River Valley Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is scheduled for Monday, January 18, downtown Grand Forks, North Dakota. A collaboration among the University of Minnesota Crookston, Northland Community and Technical College, and the University of North Dakota, the event is free and open to the public. Transportation will be provided for UMC students from the Crookston campus to the event in Grand Forks. Please be prepared to leave from Sargeant Student Center by 10 a.m. that morning. The day’s events begin at 10:30 a.m. with a unity walk from Grand Forks Central High School, 115 North 4th Street, Grand Forks, N.D. to the Empire Arts Theater, 415 Demers Ave., where a celebration program will begin at 11 a.m. followed by a free lunch social. Following that, UMC students, faculty, and staff are invited to take part in a

service event running from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Building next to Crookston Public Library, 110 N. Ash Street, Crookston. For more information, contact Lorna Hollowell at lhollowe@umn.edu or 218-281-8580.

Jarvis Richardson has been hired as the general manager of UMC Dining Services. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi, and his M.B.A. from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minn. Richardson most recently served as operations manager for the Flint Michigan Services Account of SodexoMAGIC and also served as the project lead for the unit opening in 2014. He has more than twelve years of management experience in support of high-volume food service operations and enhancing quality and customer service. He began his responsibilities at UMC on December 14, 2015.

Business Affairs –

Dana Grunewald has been hired as a student services specialist/executive operations in the UMC Business Affairs Office. She comes to UMC after working as a customer care representative and dispatcher for One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning and Benjamin Franklin Plumbing in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She has also served as a teller at US Bank in Grand Forks and a personal banker at Crookston National Bank in Crookston. She began her responsibilities at UMC on December 7, 2015.

Development & Alumni Relations –

Members of the campus community as well as the general public are invited to fish for prizes while they support student scholarships at the 6th Annual Justin Knebel Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament set for Saturday, February 6, at Zippel Bay Resort on Lake of the Woods, Williams, Minn. Registration begins at 9 a.m. that day, with lines in the water from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. An awards program will follow. Only 200 tickets will be sold. They are available for \$20 in advance. Contact Alysa Tulibaski at 701-215-4300. Tickets are also available at Zippel Bay Resort, 6080 39th St. NW, Williams, Minn., 800-222-2537. Corporate sponsors include Big Bite Manufacturing, Zippel Bay Resort, and Streiff Sporting Goods in Warroad, Minn. A number of other businesses support the tournament through the donations of prizes and monetary support.

Athletics –

The University of Minnesota Crookston Women's Basketball Team began the new year ranked as the national leader for three-point shooting percentage. Starting the new year the Golden Eagles had a 44.0 percent rate and were just ahead of Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) rival Winona State University at 43.9 percent. Rounding out the top five are Quincy University (43.5 percent), Drury University (42.9 percent), and Lubbock Christian University (42.5 percent).

University of Minnesota Crookston women's basketball player Katrina Nordick, a senior from Perham, Minn., majoring in applied studies, was selected as the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) North Division Player of the Week for the second-consecutive week on December 21, 2015. Nordick earned the honor after her performance on December 18, when she helped the Golden Eagles to their third-straight victory as they took down Bemidji State University 81-74. [Learn more.](http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2015/12/21/WBB_1221154440.aspx)
http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2015/12/21/WBB_1221154440.aspx

The University of Minnesota Crookston Baseball Team has added Kyle Isaacson to the staff as a volunteer assistant coach. Isaacson, a former player for Head Coach Steve Gust at Dakota Wesleyan University, comes to

UMC after working as a personal trainer and co-owner of a studio based out of Oak Harbor, Washington. He also served as an assistant coach for Oak Harbor High School and the Oak Harbor American Legion team during that time. [Learn more.](#)

http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2016/1/7/BB_0107164347.aspx

Campus and Community

The Regional Sustainable Development Partnership's 5th annual Local Foods College is an interactive distance learning opportunity for gardeners and farmers interested in community-based food systems. The course will begin January 12 and is a series of eight sessions, meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays until March 1, 2016. The Local Foods College is free, but registration is required. The webinar format is handy for many participants to access from home or office locations. There are also public sites around the state that offer opportunities to network with neighbors. Topics include soil health, how to grow produce, healthy foods access, food business regulations, animals on your homestead, scaling up for markets, and farming in a controlled environment. Learn more by visiting <http://localfoods.umn.edu>.

Accolades

The University of Minnesota Crookston Collegiate Crops Team placed third in both national competitions held in November in Kansas City, Missouri, and Chicago, Illinois. The 2015 three-member team included Abby Sawatzke, a senior agronomy major from Waverly, Minn.; Blake Erickson, a senior agronomy major from Fordville, N.D.; and Blake Greiner, a senior agronomy major from Grand Forks, N.D. The team was coached by agronomy lecturer Rob Proulx, who also serves as advisor to both the Agronomy Club and Delta Theta Sigma. Both third place finishes by the team came behind Kansas State University's first place team, and University of Wisconsin Platteville's second place team, and ahead of fourth place finisher Iowa State University and fifth place South Dakota State University.

Student Stories

Time management can be one of the toughest things to master as a college student, but that is not the case for Delaney Kohorst, a junior from Cohasset Minn., who is double majoring in business management and marketing with a minor in humanities. Kohorst takes her involvement on campus to a whole new level. She is the vice president of the Crookston Student Association, a member of the business club known as Enactus, and serves on both the Homecoming Committee and Crookston Campus-Community Council (C4). [Learn more.](#) <http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/junior-delaney-kohorst-league-her-own>

For Junior Lee Borgerding, a double major in agricultural business and agricultural systems management from Brooken, Minn., planning is important if you are going cover the bases. And Boegerding knows because he has been covering Golden Eagle Athletics announcing, running the game clock, taking tickets, or assisting in whatever capacity they might need him. [Learn more.](#) <http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/junior-lee-borgerding-has-heart-service>

Originally, Senior Austin Lien thought he would spend his days soaring above the field, but his interest in ag-related research is going to keep him much closer to the ground. Lien grew up in Fisher, Minn., and attended the University of Minnesota Crookston first as a post-secondary enrollment option student. After graduating

from Fisher High School, he headed to Duluth to work on a two-year degree in aviation. However, Lien would change his path and finish his associate degree in liberal arts and return to Crookston for a bachelor's degree.

[Learn more.](#)

<http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/senior-austin-lien-ready-graduate-and-get-back-his-education>

Publication notes: E-Update is published approximately twice each month except for May, June, July, and December, when it is published only once. Issues are posted online at 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. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.