From the Chancellor

Spring semester is here! I have always especially liked the spring semester with all of the special events that are scheduled as we head toward the major one which concludes the academic year: Commencement. There will be many events including those in the performing arts, athletic competitions, and many other activities that I will be experiencing for the first time at UMC. I look forward to attending as many as possible, and I hope you will also take the time to attend campus events whenever you can. I know our students especially appreciate the attendance of the faculty and staff at these activities.

As with most campuses, the spring also will include a number of events to better understand and celebrate the multiculturalism that makes a college campus so special, including our celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. later this month. These programs and celebrations are important as we collectively work together to ensure that we have an inclusive campus for all of our students, staff, and faculty, and especially for those who have historically been excluded or marginalized in our society. Please make a special effort to attend these important events.

As you may have heard and to the great relief of many, our new residence hall opened just a few days before the term began. A few finishing aspects still need to be completed, but the new hall is already proving to be a wonderful place for our students to live and learn. I am pleased to report we will not have any students staying in hotel rooms this semester. Construction on the new classroom/lecture hall will continue through the spring, and it will be available for instructional activities by the beginning of fall semester. Plans are to hold an official ribbon-cutting event for the new hall and to offer tours of all the residence halls on April 18, which is the same day as the campus inauguration event. I hope you will take the opportunity to see how this new residence hall adds yet another excellent dimension to the outstanding array of on-campus residence opportunities we provide our students.

During the holiday I had a chance to reconnect with many folks who asked me about working at UMC. (And of course they also asked about the weather!) As I patiently responded to each inquiry, folks commented about how much I seemed to like being here (yes, that includes the weather!) and how proud I clearly am of our campus. As I spoke about UMC and the surrounding area, it was evident that what makes a place really special is the people who work and live there. I spent some time reflecting on this and about what is so special about the people of this campus, community, and region. I came to the conclusion that it is because the people here “care.” We care about our students and UMC. We care about our community and our region. You can find places with a more diverse geography or warmer weather, but you won’t find better people. I am honored to work with you.

I hope each of you has a great spring semester.
Featured Events & Activities

Flexible Comedy Featuring Jonathan Burns, Wednesday, January 16 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday, Monday, January 21 – classes excused, campus offices close

Northern Valley Community Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Monday, January 21 – 11 a.m. Unity Walk (rally at the steps of Grand Forks Central High School, 115 North 4th Street); 11:30 a.m. arrive at the Empire Arts Theater; Noon – Program at the Empire Arts Theater (415 Demers Ave.); 1 p.m. – Community Social, free and open to the public

U of M Legislative Briefing, Wednesday, January 23 – 5 to 7 p.m., McNamara Alumni Center, Minneapolis, with broadcast downlink in 116 Kiehle on the Crookston campus

Ag Arama Chili Feed Hosted by the Animal Science Association, Friday, January 25 – 5 to 7 p.m. in University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC), $5 per person

38th Annual Ag Arama Events, Saturday, January 26 – animal showmanship contest - 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; agricultural industries show - 9 a.m. to noon; awards show and coronation - 1 p.m.; games and competitions - 2:30 p.m.; UTOC, free and open to the public

38th Annual Ag Arama Dinner, Alumni Social, and Dance, Saturday, January 26 – dinner 6 to 7 p.m.; alumni social - 6 to 8 p.m.; dance featuring the band Silverado - 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; all at the Crookston Eagles Club

11th Annual Winter Job and Internship Fair, Wednesday, January 30 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Special Presentation: “Aldo Leopold - A Standard of Change” Thursday, January 31 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

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://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.

Around Campus

Administrative Affairs –
Sue Erickson has been hired as the director of institutional effectiveness for the U of M, Crookston. She holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of North Dakota (UND) and a B.A. in mathematics from the University of Minnesota, Morris. She comes to UMC from UND, where she most recently served as a research analyst managing campus-wide assessments and compiling survey data for key reports. She also has experience with PeopleSoft and budget and data analysis. She is scheduled to begin her duties on campus on Monday, February 4. In this position she will work with faculty, staff, and administration in the areas of institutional data and surveying as well as assessment and UMC’s projects and measures in the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP).

**Academic Affairs –**

With approval by the Minnesota Board of Teaching in December 2012, the U of M, Crookston now offers a bachelor of science degree in elementary education among its academic programs in the Liberal Arts & Education Department. The major, which was approved by the U of M Board of Regents earlier in 2012, is a career-oriented program that prepares students to be effective teachers of young children from kindergarten through grade six. Students have an option to double major in elementary education along with early childhood education, which includes the birth through grade three licensure already available on the Crookston campus. UMC’s elementary education major has three academic core areas of required coursework—education core, family core, and elementary education core.

**Mehdi Mekni** has been hired as an assistant professor of information technology management in the Math, Science, and Technology Department. He holds both a Ph.D. and M.S. from Laval University in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. His research interests include multi-agent geo-simulation (MAGS), virtual environments, spatial cognition, sensor webs, agile software development methodologies, and serious games. He served as a post-doctoral fellow for the National Institute of Scientific Research (INRS-ETE) at the University of Quebec and has also served as a research scientist and project manager for Fujitsu Consulting Canada.

**Christopher Shultz** has been hired as an assistant professor of biology in the Math, Science, and Technology Department. He holds a Ph.D. and an M.S. in biological sciences from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. He comes to UMC from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he served as a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. He has also served as an associate researcher at Centre d’Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive in Montpellier, France. His research experience includes study of the ecology and evolution of saprotrophic fungi associated with forest litter and the influences of global change in fungal community structure, a field experiment to examine the role of a genetic resistance and a riparian habitat, as well as collaborative research with a geologist and social scientist to examine the link between local ecological knowledge and scientific molecular knowledge on the identification of morels.

**Maria Lucio** has been hired as a lab services coordinator for the Math, Science, and Technology Department. She began her responsibilities in late fall semester 2012. She holds a B.S. degree in biology from Bemidji State University. She comes to UMC from Advance Services Inc., in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, where she worked with the Health Center at Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska as a customer service representative for immunizations as well as with patient scheduling, chart updating, and community education.

**Several new articulation agreements have been implemented by the Business Department** at the U of M, Crookston. Agreements were signed recently with Minnesota State Community and Technical
College in Moorhead, Minn., and Anoka Technical College in Anoka, Minn. These bachelor of science degree options at the U of M, Crookston are available to students both online and on-site. Learn more. http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2013/01/u-of-m-crookston-business-depa-3.html

Student Affairs –

With the opening of the new residence hall at the start of spring semester, there is no need for the campus to lease extra rooms at the local hotel or to provide bus shuttle service to and from that off-campus facility. The University has discontinued its service agreement with Tri-Valley Heartland Express (T.H.E. Bus/Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.) for a dedicated bus. However, the campus has agreed to cover the $2 per ride fee for its students utilizing T.H.E. Bus for local Crookston transportation during the 2013 spring semester. Students wanting a ride simply need to contact T.H.E. Bus dispatcher at 218-281-0700 to schedule a pick-up. Students are required to present their student ID card to the driver at the time of pick-up to get the free ride. This service will be offered Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Students needing rides on a regular basis can schedule advanced, routine pick-ups. If students are interested in future discounted or free bus transportation, they are encouraged to make a request through the Student Fees Committee.

The first Northern Valley Community Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, co-sponsored by the U of M, Crookston, will take place in Grand Forks, N.D., on Monday, January 21. The events are free and open to all. Transportation will be provided from UMC to the event in Grand Forks; please be prepared to leave the Sargeant Student Center by 10 a.m. Activities begin at 11 a.m. with a unity walk from Central High School to the Empire Arts Center, where a program begins at noon with Chancellor Fred Wood bringing greetings on behalf of UMC. The celebration is hosted by the Era Bell Thompson Multicultural Center at the University of North Dakota (UND), in partnership with the UMC Office of Diversity & Multicultural Programs, the Grand Forks Air Force Base, UND's Black Student Association, the UMC Black Student Association, and others.

The Office of Diversity and Multicultural Programs, in collaboration with the Office of Diversity and Equity on the Twin Cities campus, will offer sessions of U of M Basic Equity and Diversity Certification Training on the Crookston campus on Monday, February 18, and Tuesday, February 19. The training is open to faculty, staff, students, educators, and select community partners. While the first session is the basis and frame of the training, individuals can select which sessions, in which order, and when to take them. Individuals are not required to take all the sessions that are offered on a particular date, and they can pick and choose according to their interest. Each session is stand alone and registration is free. The following sessions will be offered:

  - Session 1: Being an Ally in the Work of Equity and Diversity – Monday, February 18, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
  - Faculty Session: Equity and Diversity in the Classroom – Monday, February 18, 12:00 -1:30 p.m.
  - Session 2: Leadership in the Context of Equity and Diversity – Monday, February 18, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
  - Session 3: Working Effectively in Groups and Diversity Committees – Tuesday, February 19, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Register online at http://umncrookston.us2.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9MhSTxUf5isKdJyt.

Technology Support Services –
Undergraduate degree-granting programs are invited to submit proposals for transformational enhancement of their curricula and pedagogy using existing or emerging digital technologies and associated pedagogies. Programs may request up to $35,000 for each of up to two years of support. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Thursday, January 31. Learn more at Enhancement of Academic Programs RFP. http://digitalcampus.umn.edu/transform/rfp.html

The Academic Technology Showcase: Innovation in Teaching, Learning, and Research will highlight how members of the University community are using technology to drive innovation. Faculty, instructors, researchers, and students from all campuses of the U of M are invited to submit applications and to present at the event. The application deadline is Wednesday, February 20. The showcase takes place April 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Coffman Union on the Twin Cities Campus. Learn more at www.cehd.umn.edu/showcase.

The University of Minnesota is now offering online technology training courses. Faculty, staff, and students can log into the new ULearn website (www.oit.umn.edu/training/online-training) and register for various sessions. Topics range from Google Drive Apps to iPad sessions. Some of these courses are hands-on others are strictly informational. Sessions offered include:

- GGL131 - Working with Google Drive, Documents and Presentations
- GGL141 - Working with Google Drive, Spreadsheets and Forms
- IPD101 - Basic iPad Concepts and Setup
- IPD121 - Note-taking on the iPad
- IPD131 - Sketching and Wireframing on the iPad
- IPD141 - Presenting with the iPad
- IPD151 - Video Creation with the iPad
- XL211 - Creating Basic Charts in MS Excel 2010
- XL221 - Choosing a Chart Type to Effectively Interpret Data with MS Excel 2010
- XL231 - Using Conditional Formatting to Effectively Display Data with MS Excel

For more information or for help registering contact Thea (Holen) Oertwich at tholen@umn.edu.

Development & Alumni Relations –

Fish for prizes and support scholarships during the 3rd Annual Justin Knebel Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament on Saturday, February 2, at Zippel Bay Resort on Lake of the Woods, Williams, Minn. Tickets are available for $20 by contacting Alysa Tulibaski at 701-215-4300 or Bill Tyrrell at 218-281-8436. Tickets are also available at Zippel Bay Resort, 6080 39th St. NW, Williams, Minn., 800-222-2537. Registration, limited to the first 150, begins at 10 a.m. on the ice at the tournament site with fishing from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the first person to catch a fish, along with prizes for the largest walleye, northern, sauger, and perch caught during the tournament. The registration fee also includes a $5 raffle ticket and road access fee. Additional raffle tickets will be available at the gate. All proceeds from the tournament support the Justin Knebel Memorial Scholarship Fund at the U of M, Crookston. Learn more at www.umcrookston.edu/justinknebel.

University Relations –

The University of Minnesota, Crookston recently began a new TV ad campaign which consists of four different 30-second spots that highlight the various majors the campus offers through each of its four academic departments. The campaign is geared toward recruiting traditional, on-campus students, and
it follows a similar template to that of the TV ad campaign of January-February 2012. The ads were developed with the Grand Forks-based agency SimmonsFlint and will rotate equally from January 14 through the end of February on the following television stations: KVLY and KXJB - Fargo/Moorhead/Grand Forks; WDAZ - Grand Forks/Northern Red River Valley into Manitoba; KQDS - Duluth/Superior; KDLH and KBJR - Iron Range/Duluth/Superior. The ads will also air in March on KSTC to a statewide audience including the Twin Cities Metro during the Minnesota State High School Basketball Tournaments. View the ads at UMC’s YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/uofmcrookston.

University of Minnesota System

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to help support the U by attending the 2013 U of M Legislative Briefing on Wednesday, January 23, at 5 p.m., McNamara Alumni Center, on the Twin Cities campus. Held annually, the legislative briefing serves as the U’s kickoff to the legislative session, which began January 8. The evening features a reception and dinner, while University officials introduce the U’s proposed legislative agenda and discuss the political landscape with attendees. For registration and more information, go to http://supporttheu.umn.edu/events/register-2013-legislative-briefing.html. The event will also be broadcast live to the U of M campuses across the state. On the Crookston campus, the event can be viewed in Kiehle 116. Light hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

Campus and Community

A campus legacy continues with the 38th annual Ag Arama, a weekend of events hosted by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department scheduled for Friday and Saturday, January 25-26. The theme for this year’s event is “Where I Come From,” and the event is dedicated in honor of Kent Freberg, a long-time faculty member in the department. On Friday evening, the Animal Science Association will sponsor a chili feed from 5 to 7 p.m. in UTOC for $5 per person. Most activities take place on Saturday, January 26, in the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC) and the event is free and open to the public. Animal showmanship contest will take place from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. From 9 a.m. to noon, an agricultural industries show features some of the latest in agricultural equipment. Coronation of Ag Arama royalty takes place at 1 p.m. followed by the presentation of specialty awards and the sweepstakes presentation. Several games and competitions, including men's and women’s crosscut saw contests and log splitting, begin at 2:30 p.m. In the evening, a dinner will be served at the Crookston Eagles Club from 6 to 7 p.m., along with an alumni social from 6 to 8 p.m. also at the Eagles. Cost of the dinner will be $11 for walleye and $9 for Swiss steak. Capping off the weekend will be a dance featuring the band Silverado from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Eagles; admission is $8.

Individuals interested in learning more about trapping in Minnesota or in earning certification are invited to take part in the Trapper Certification Series, held on Monday and Wednesday, January 28 and 30, from 6 to 9 p.m. in Owen Hall 222. The final session, a field day, will take place on Saturday, February 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Red River Valley Natural History Area located near the U of M, Crookston campus. The certification course, limited to 20 participants, costs $15, and those interested should register with Laura Bell at 218-281-8131. Teaching the sessions will be Terry Wolfe, a retired wildlife biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The first session of the 2013 Local Foods College, a series of eight sessions designed for farmers to increase the capacity of farm operations by building production, business, and marketing skills, will be
host on the evening of Tuesday, January 22. Host sites will include 105 Kiehle Building on the U of M, Crookston campus as well as site in Bagley, Baudette, Bemidji, Fergus Falls, Moorhead, Park Rapids, Staples, and Thief River Falls. The series will continue on Tuesday evenings through mid-March. Registration is free, $25 for printed materials for the entire series, and $15 for the Beginner Growers Manual. Session topics include: Beyond the Soil Survey Book; Efficient Irrigation; Weed Suppression and Control; Seeds and Seed Selection; Business Planning; Working Together for a Regional Food Hub; Preservation; and Farmers Markets and Merchandising. The Local Foods College is part of a movement to strengthen local and regional food systems. It is sponsored by University of Minnesota Extension and the Statewide Health Improvement Program. To learn more, visit http://localfoods.umn.edu/college or call 888-241-0781.

Accolades

U.S. News and World Report has ranked the University of Minnesota, Crookston among the nation’s “Best Online Bachelor’s Programs” for 2013. The U of M, Crookston was ranked at #60 out of the 247 higher education respondents in this year’s survey. Rankings were based on factors such as graduation rates and academic and career support services offered to students among others. The campus ranked especially high in the sub-category Student Services and Technology coming in at number 18. The U of M, Crookston currently offers ten degree programs entirely online (these degrees are also offered more traditionally on-campus as well) and serves more than 700 degree-seeking online only students. For more information about the rankings methodology, go to www.usnews.com/education/online-education/bachelors.

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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. If you have any questions regarding the information in this news update, please send them to urumc@umn.edu.

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