From the Chancellor

This past week we were visited by three strong candidates for our vice chancellor position. While support was expressed for each candidate, there were also concerns expressed regarding fit. It was decided that the search committee will continue their recruitment efforts with the aid of the search consultant. We hope to have another group of candidates visit the campus before the end of the term, so please watch for more information from Co-Chair Bill Peterson regarding possible visits later this semester. As I mentioned in a recent e-mail, I want to thank all of those who were involved in the visits in various ways, especially the search committee and those who provided feedback. Importantly, each candidate who visited the campus expressed how welcome they felt and how favorably impressed they were with UMC. Related to recruitment, our campus will be visited by a number of candidates for our director of admissions and enrollment management position in the near future. Please do welcome these candidates by attending sessions, and also please provide your input. Thank you for your efforts in recruiting the strongest candidates for these important positions.

As you may have heard, Governor Dayton recently released his bonding proposal, and it did not include specific funding for our proposed wellness center. While disappointing, this was not a surprise as we had heard our project might be removed since the capital bonding bill was reduced from the initial version. I was able to speak with Senator Stumpf earlier this week. While he will continue to advocate for funding the project this year, he stressed that our advocacy efforts have been productive, and he remains confident that it will be funded in the near future. I want to again thank all those who have been involved in working on and advocating for this important project.

While on the topic of capital projects, Director of Facilities Rich Connell is working on his “summer list” of projects, which includes a number of safety related upgrades, HVAC work, accessibility improvements, and aesthetic enhancements among other things. As summer approaches, Rich will be informing those who will be directly impacted by this work in order to help minimize disruption and avoid surprises.

The end of Spring Semester is always a busy time for all of us. In addition to the rush to finish the academic year, there are also numerous events and activities, and this will certainly be true this spring! Many of the April events are listed below, and I encourage you to attend those you can; I will use this opportunity to highlight just a few events. Next week we will be joined by a number of U of M Regents along with President Kaler and members of his executive team. Presently, Regents Cohen, Omari, and Devine are planning to be on campus on April 17 to tour the campus and host an open forum. I urge you to attend the forum as part of our efforts to welcome these important visitors. The next day, on April 18, there will be related activities when President Kaler arrives with additional regents and other senior administrators. These activities include student office hours with the President, the dedication of Heritage Hall, and the inauguration ceremony and reception. I encourage you to meet with the
regents, the president, and all of the visitors during these events. Collectively, we want to welcome our visitors and help them clearly understand the critically important role we play within the system and within this region. We have much to be proud of, and this is a great time to demonstrate the wonderful things that are happening at UMC! Thank you for your involvement in these activities and for your commitment to our mission every day.

Finally, I want to congratulate the students, faculty, and staff involved with UMC’s NACTA team for their sweepstakes win at the national judging conference at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. It’s great to have the sweepstakes award back on the Crookston campus. There are certainly many excellent things going on at UMC!

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

**Featured Events & Activities**

**What’s on Wednesday: Magician Norman Ng, Wednesday, April 10 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium**

**Fifth Annual Fiesta in the Spirit of Cinco de Mayo, Friday, April 12 – 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. - art demonstrations, silent auction, drum circle, Sargeant Student Center and Owen 270; 4:30 to 7 p.m. - Mexican dinner, Brown Dining Room; 7:30 p.m. - Danza Mexico Cuauhtemoc, Kiehle Auditorium; 9 to 11:30 p.m. - family dance with Z Martin Entertainment, Bede Ballroom; all events are free and open to the public**

**Music on Monday Featuring Jeffrey James, Monday, April 15 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center**

**Open Forum with Members of the U of M Board of Regents, Wednesday, April 17 – 3 to 4 p.m., Bede Ballroom C, D, E**

**What’s on Wednesday: Campus Showdown, Wednesday, April 17 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium**

**Dedication of Heritage Hall, Thursday, April 18 – 10 a.m., Heritage Hall lobby**

**Inauguration Ceremonies for Fred E. Wood as the Fifth Chancellor of the U of M Crookston, Thursday, April 18 – 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, open to the public**

**Inauguration Reception for Chancellor Fred E. Wood, Thursday, April 18 – 2 to 5 p.m., Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center, free and open to the public**

**Alpha Lambda Delta Hosts the Third Annual Pi Run/Walk, 5K, 10K, and Fun Run, Saturday, April 20 – 8:30 a.m. registration, 9:30 a.m. Fun Run, 10 a.m. 5K and 10K race, registration $20 for adults, $5 for students and children**

**Pancakes and Ponies Fundraiser, Sunday, April 21 – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC), $7 for adults, $5 for UMC faculty, staff, students, $3 for children**
**Student Awards Ceremony and Reception, Thursday, April 25** – 6 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

**18th Annual Teambacker Fun Nite, Friday, April 26** – 5:30 p.m. social and hors d’oeuvres; 7:30 p.m. games, tickets are $50 per person

**Alpha Eta Rho Fly-In/Drive-In Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, April 28** – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Crookston Municipal Airport, $6 advance/$8 at the door for adults, $3 for children ages 4—12, children 3 and under are free

**Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Sunday, April 28** – 2 to 3 p.m., Prairie Room, 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://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 –**

Three members of the **U of M Board of Regents** will host an open forum on Wednesday, April 17, from 3 to 4 p.m. in Bede Ballroom rooms C, D, and E. Regents scheduled to attend include **Chair Linda Cohen, Thomas Devine, and Abdul Omari**. Students, staff, faculty, and the public are all welcome.

On Thursday, April 18, **Heritage Hall**, the newest residence hall on campus, will be officially dedicated and named at 10 a.m. in the main lobby of the building. Prior to the dedication, tours of the building will be given starting at 9 a.m. All are welcome.

**Inauguration ceremonies for Fred E. Wood as the fifth chancellor of the University of Minnesota Crookston** will be held on Thursday, April 18, at 12:30 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. U of M President Eric Kaler and several members of the U of M Board of Regents are scheduled to attend the ceremonies. A public reception will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. in Sargeant Student Center. The entire campus community and the public are invited and encouraged to attend these events. To sign an online guest book, visit www.umcrookston.edu/inauguration.

**Academic Affairs –**

**Jana Brekken** has been hired as an executive office and administrative specialist for the Business Department. She began her responsibilities on Monday March 25. Jana earned an A.S. degree in occupational therapy from Northwest Technical College and attended the U of M Crookston prior to that. She previously served as a receptionist and provided support services for Northwestern Mental Health Center in Crookston and has also served as the manager for JJ’s Bodyshop in Crookston.
Student Affairs –

It’s students versus faculty and staff at the annual Campus Showdown on Wednesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event, sponsored by the Crookston Student Association, pits these two campus groups against each other in various contests all in the name of fun. The winning team will walk away with bragging rights for the year and the highly coveted "Golden Boot" travelling trophy.

The annual Student Awards Program will be held Thursday evening, April 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event recognizes student leadership and accomplishment over the academic year through the presentation of various student achievement awards. Among the awards presented is the highest student honor, Man and Woman of the Year. The entire campus community is encouraged to attend.

Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society will welcome initiates during a ceremony held Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center. Chancellor Wood will speak. Eligibility for membership in the national honor society for first-year students is based on a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better during the first term or year of college while a student is enrolled full-time. Less than 20% of college freshman achieve this high level of academic performance. All are welcome to attend and congratulate this year’s inductees.

Development & Alumni Relations –

The annual Teambackers Fun Nite will take place on Friday, April 26, at the Crookston Eagles Club. Tickets are $50 per person. To purchase tickets, contact Bill Tyrrell, director of athletic fundraising at 218-281-8436. All proceeds will support athletic scholarships at UMC. The evening begins with a social at 5:30 p.m. featuring hors d’oeuvres and drinks. Following the social at 7 p.m. are games, drawings for prizes, raffles, and both live and silent auctions with the final drawing for $1,000 taking place at 10:30 p.m. Learn more.

Athletics –

Mike Fritze and Robby Case have been hired to serve as assistant football coaches. Fritze, a long-time Minnesota high school coach who spent the last 18 seasons as the head coach at Apple Valley High School, will serve as defensive coordinator and coach the defensive line. Coming to the Golden Eagles with experience at the NCAA Division I level and last serving as the assistant offensive line coach at New Mexico State University in 2012, Case will coach the fullbacks and tight ends for the Golden Eagles. Fritze and Case replace Ty Knott and Andrew Higgins, who left to pursue other options. Learn more.

Campus and Community

Katie Schneider, a 2012 graduate of the U of M Crookston from Delano, Minnesota, and former community adviser, has begun a one-year AmeriCorps VISTA appointment in UMC’s Office of Community Engagement. She will assist with community service and service-learning efforts as well as
coordinate service days such as Meet Crookston through Service, National Youth Service Day, and MLK Day of Service. Learn more. http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2013/04/alumna-katie-schnieder-12-join.html

The Fifth Annual Fiesta in the Spirit of Cinco de Mayo will be held Friday, April 12 from 3:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on the campus of the University of Minnesota Crookston. All activities are free and open to the public. Events will be held across campus and include a Northwest Arts Exhibit in the Prairie Room, a Silent Auction in the Northern Lights Lounge, a drum-making and rhythm activity for young children in the Eagles Nest, a drum circle for all ages, a free Mexican dinner in Brown Dining Room, a performance by Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc in Kiehle Auditorium, and a family dance in Bede Ballroom. View the full schedule of events. http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2013/03/fifth-annual-fiesta-in-the-spi.html

Alpha Lambda Delta will host the Third Annual Pi Run on Saturday, April 20. Entry fees are $20 for adults and $5 for students. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Carnegie building near the Crookston Public Library. The Fun Run begins at 9:30 a.m. and the Pi Run and 10K at 10 a.m. The race will follow a similar route as the 2012 Ox Cart Run hosted by the Crookston Running Club. For a registration form or more information, visit www.theirationalrace.com or call 218-281-8432. Awards will be presented to the top three overall female and male finishers.

University of Minnesota System

State Relations Update: The Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee recently released its omnibus finance bill; the House will release its bill next week. The Senate committee also held a hearing on metrics that the University of Minnesota and MNSCU system would need to meet to receive 5 percent of their state budget allocation. The U's metrics focus on graduation rates, STEM degrees, administrative costs, and invention disclosures. Learn more. http://govrelations.umn.edu/state-relations.html

Accolades

Students from the University of Minnesota Crookston came away big winners at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Judging Conference, held April 3-5 at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. The NACTA team from UMC won the four-year college sweepstakes along with first-place finishes in the contests in ag business, computers, and meats. Eleven teams and 29 students from UMC competed against teams from fifteen other 4-year colleges and universities from across the country at the annual competition.

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