Welcome to the 2013-2014 academic year! Welcome back to faculty and staff who have been away. I also want to offer a special welcome to our new faculty and staff. Since last fall we have over 40 new employees on campus. I hope each of you have found or will find this campus and community as welcoming as I have in my first year as chancellor. As you know, we have a wide range of workshops and other activities planned for this “opening week.” I won’t be able to mention them all here, but I hope you will attend as many as possible.

Since commencement, the campus has had a constant presence of heavy equipment, work trucks, clutter in the hallways, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, painters, carpet layers, gardeners, and other disruptions and sometime inconveniences. At times it has looked like a war zone! But the work is mostly coming to a close, and we ask your patience this week as the workers make their final push to completion.

As most of you know, Director of Facilities and Operations Rich Connell resigned his position as director this summer. We did all we could to retain him, and we were sad to see him leave. Summers are always very busy for Facilities, but the added stress of losing a supervisor has been hard on this unit. I want to personally thank everyone in Facilities & Operations for their great work this summer and for their “can-do” spirit during this challenging time. I also want to especially thank Brenda Bozyk, Nell DeBoer, Doug Langer, Rusty Remick, and Tricia Sanders for stepping up as a leadership team during this interim time.

We will begin a national search shortly for our new facilities director with a broad net of advertisements and some assistance from folks in the system office. We will not settle, but will work hard to find an excellent person for this important position. In the interim, we have asked the system office for a loan of someone to help us manage the remaining projects over the next few weeks. They have identified someone for our consideration, Greg Berger. By all accounts he is highly regarded, and we will look forward to welcoming him to the campus as he considers this short-term opportunity.

Looking forward to the next year and beyond, we have a lot of reasons for optimism, including our people, our facilities, improved state budget, our attention to quality, and our resilience. Even with budget challenges, we will find ways to make investments toward a goal of continuous improvement.

The focus of this year’s Chancellor’s Retreat, held in Grand Forks to limit cost, was on enrollment management. As I noted in an earlier E-Update, the retreat was highly successful. At the end of two days we came up with a few strong priorities.
We will grow as a strategic priority. This is with both on-campus and online students. This is a bold aspiration while there is a decline in high school graduates and more online competitors, but we believe we can do it. We discussed a yet undetermined critical mass of on-campus students to maximally use the present facilities. We also will engage in active planning for strategic growth in the online student population. We plan to charge a group to engage in these planning discussions shortly.

We will retain and graduate more students as a strategic priority. This is an area we believe is ripe for substantive gains. We will learn more about why students stay and why they leave. Again, we will charge a workgroup to focus on this important topic with the goal to produce a strategic plan in this important area.

The third area that rose to the top for further discussion is our breadth of academic programs in attracting and retaining students and the critical role academic advising plays in retention and graduation. Vice Chancellor Keinath, who was a wonderful contributor to the discussion after only 16 days on the job, rightfully wants to discuss these issues further with the faculty and others before proceeding with strategic planning, but these will be upcoming themes of discussion during the academic year.

While we want to move these areas forward due to the urgency of our aspirations for growth, we will also be discussing how to best engage in broader campus strategic planning later this academic year. Also, as mentioned in the last E-Update, we wanted to know more about how the strategic planning process on the Twin Cities campus might impact our campus work. Based on the strategic planning retreat I attended a couple of weeks ago, it appears that their process will be focused on the TC campus itself—a large enough task with the many schools and colleges—although we will certainly look for areas of connection and alignment. Since it clearly will not be a system-wide strategic planning process, we have the liberty to lay out a process that will work well for us. So, more will follow on campus strategic planning.

We will discuss the budget situation in more detail at the upcoming meeting of the Campus Assembly, but our budget is in good shape due to the recent growth we have experienced and the careful management of our resources. The system allocation was $191,000 less this coming year than it was last year, but we have been able to compensate for this using tuition revenue increases we accumulated with growth. On a positive note for our students and their parents, tuition was held constant for next year. We will also have the opportunity to obtain some Minnesota Discovery, Research, and InnoVation Economy (MnDRIVE) research funds for the campus and I know Vice Chancellor Keinath will be investigating that possibility with the faculty.

Our institution has shown an amazing resilience and the ability to change. It has had to. We have evolved to stay current and to find our place in the 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. And our innovative approach to our academic programs.

Our aspirations for growth will be part of this change, and this will be part of our evolution. As we evolve, we must, however, keep our eye on a number of factors moving forward. First and foremost is quality. We must strive for excellence in everything we do, and particularly in our academic programs—both on-campus and online. Also, we must keep an eye on costs. The costs for students and their parents is the big issue facing higher education. We must also focus on assessment as, increasingly, the public wants to be sure there is value returned on their educational investments. Graduation rates will
be, I believe, increasingly be the metric by which we are judged, and we are already seeing that play out in the state allocation process. “Show me the graduates!” is the rallying cry in the Statehouse. Finally, placement—in jobs or graduate/professional school—must remain a focus. This is a great strength of UMC and something we should be proud of with our traditions in experiential learning, our required internships, our PIACs, and our remarkable placement rate.

Thank you again for all your excellent work for the campus and our students. I anticipate a great year at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Again, I look forward to working with you as we embark on a journey to take UMC to higher levels of excellence.

I hope you all have a wonderful year.

—Fred
Fred Wood, Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston

Featured Events & Activities

Diversity Certificate Workshop 4: Communicating on Issues of Equity and Diversity Tuesday, August 20 – 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Academic and Non-Academic Department Meetings, Tuesday, August 20 – Noon to 2 p.m., Agriculture & Natural Resources Department - UTOC 120; Business Department - Alseth Business Boardroom, Dowell 116; Liberal Arts & Education Department - Kiehle 116; Math, Science, & Technology Department - Dowell 208; Non-Academic Departments - meetings will be held in respective office areas across campus

Diversity Certificate Workshop 5: Engaging Universal Design Concepts to Increase Access, Tuesday, August 20 – 2 to 5 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Peterson Classroom AV Demonstration, Tuesday, August 20 – 2:30 to 4 p.m., Peterson Classroom, Heritage Hall

Diversity Certificate Workshop 6: Educating about Equity and Diversity: Facilitating Challenging Conversations, Wednesday, August 21 – 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Peterson Classroom AV Demonstration (Repeat Session), Wednesday, August 21 – 9 to 10:30 a.m., Peterson Classroom, Heritage Hall


UMC Faculty and Staff Golf Scramble, Thursday, August 22 – 3 to 5 p.m., Minakwa Country Club, 901 Fisher Avenue, Crookston

New Student Check-In for Residence Halls, Friday, August 23 – 8 a.m. to 12 noon, check-in at Centennial Hall main desk
Library Open House, Friday, August 23 – 1 to 2 p.m., UMC Library

Orientation Convocation, Friday, August 23 – 3:15 to 4:40 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

New Students Meet Crookston Through Service, Saturday, August 24 – 8:30 a.m. to Noon, students meet at 8:30 in Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center, to find their work site in Crookston

First Day of Classes for Fall Semester 2013, Tuesday, August 27

Mary Tyrrell Health Walk for Scholarships, Wednesday, August 28 – 5 p.m., Parking Lot E adjacent to Ed Widseth Field, $25 for adults, $10 for students 18 and younger, open to the public

Labor Day Holiday, Monday, September 2 – 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 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

Academic Affairs –

Les Dillard has been hired as a lecturer for the aviation program in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department. He comes to UMC from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for which he served as a wildlife biologist and pilot based in Bettles Field, Alaska. His aviation credentials include FAA Commercial Pilot (Single and Multi-Engine Airplane) with Instrument Rating; FAA Gold Seal Flight Instructor (Single and Multi-Engine Airplane) with Instrument Rating; and FAA Advanced Ground Instructor. He holds an M.S. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point. His bachelor’s degree is in biology from the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill.

Sheila Hanson, Ph.D., has been hired as a lecturer in the Business Department. She comes to UMC from the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus, where she served as a project manager for a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded randomized clinical trial of a parenting intervention with 400 military families. She also has served as a senior market research and outreach associate for the Energy & Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota (UND) in Grand Forks. She holds a Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning - Research Methodologies and an M.S. in Teaching and Learning - Research Methodologies, both from UND. Her bachelor’s degree is in marketing from UND.

Megan Kragness has been hired as a lecturer for the business management program in the Business Department. She previously served as a manager of student finance at Rasmussen College in Moorhead, Minn. She holds an M.S. in Human Resource Management from the University of Scranton, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and she earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration management from Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minn.
**John Weir** has been hired as a lecturer for the health management and applied health programs in the Math, Science, and Technology Department. He comes to UMC with experience as founder and CEO of Northern Star Management Consulting, LLC, and independent consulting firm specializing in health care administration. His academic experience includes serving as program chair and faculty member in the Master of Science Health Services Management Program for Argosy University’s campus in Eagan, Minn. He holds an M.S. in Organizational Leadership from Saint Bonaventure University in St. Bonaventure, New York, and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

**Student Affairs –**

This year **employee meal rates and options** have been modified. All regular UMC employee meals purchased in Brown Dining Room will be $5.50. Employees also may purchase Eagles Bucks through the Eagles Nest cashier and have these funds serve as a declining balance on their UCard. There is a $20 minimum, however employees will receive 10% additional Eagle Bucks ($110 of EB for $100) when at least $100 is placed onto their card in a single transaction. Eagle Bucks can be purchased using cash, check or credit card and need to be spent in the semester in which they are purchased.

The Office of Student Affairs will have a limited number of **meal and beverage tickets available each week for faculty members to engage students.** It may be more productive and less formal for a faculty member to discuss advisement, careers, or academic issues over a cup of coffee or other beverage in the Eagles Nest or a meal in Brown Dining Room. Faculty members wishing to utilize this offer should contact Debi Chandler at ext. 8572 or dbrule@umn.edu in advance to submit a request for two beverage or two meal tickets. Debi will assist the faculty members and confirm the availability of the tickets and pick-up. This new initiative will evolve based on utilization, funding, and assessment.

The **Tri-Valley Heartland Express (T.H.E.) Bus** will once again be available for U of M Crookston students and employees this fall. Individuals can ride the bus for free anywhere in Crookston when they show/swipe a valid UCard. The cost is $2 per ride without a UCard. One bus will be assigned to campus, and it will have regularly scheduled pick-ups and drop-offs (refer to the flyers posted on campus). Call the bus dispatcher at 218-281-0700. If the UMC bus is busy, one of the other buses will be utilized. Riders are advised to plan ahead and call to make reservations in advance whenever possible.

Effective July 1, 2013, there was an official change to the UMC Post Office policy pertaining to packages being sent from campus. The change has been approved by the Chancellor’s Cabinet. **The UMC Post Office will now charge a $10 handling charge in addition to actual shipping/mailing charges for items brought to the UMC Post Office unpackaged but which need to be mailed out.** This handling charge will cover the cost of packaging materials and staff time. No such charge will be added to packages which are already properly prepared and ready for mailing. Please contact Ken Mendez in the Post Office with any questions on the policy change.

**Brooke Novak** has been hired as a transfer counselor in the Office of Admissions. Brooke is a 2013 graduate of the U of M Crookston with a bachelor’s degree in communication. She is originally from Dahlen, North Dakota.

**Center for Adult Learning (CAL) –**
Jake Sanders, former Golden Eagle athlete and member of the U of M Crookston class of 2012, has been hired as a student personnel coordinator for the Center for Adult Learning to facilitate the Achieve More Pilot Program. Achieve More is funded by a recent grant through the Northwest Minnesota Foundation in collaboration with the Center for Adult Learning. Jake will coordinate and manage Junior Achievement and College and Career Preparation 101 in three local school districts: Fisher, Fertile-Beltrami, and Win-E-Mac. Goals of Achieve More include improving on-time graduation rates in high schools, increasing the number of local college students obtaining two- and four-year degrees, and better preparing students for careers and post-secondary educational success. Achieve More was a successful pilot program in the Crookston School District during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Facilities & Operations –

As faculty and staff return to campus this week, they will notice there is still work to be done in completing a few projects prior to the start of classes. Dowell Hall first floor bathrooms are scheduled to be completed before the end of this week. Skyberg Hall bathrooms are scheduled to be completed mid-week. Brown Dining Room is scheduled to be completed mid-week, but it will have additional work done over the winter/semester break. Dowell Hall lab carpeting is scheduled to be completed before the end of this week or early next week. The UTOC fire and life safety project is on schedule with the final completion date near the end of the month. The Facilities & Operations crew has been busy over the summer waxing floors, cleaning classrooms, and assisting in construction projects across campus. We ask your patience as they work to finish things up this week. Questions or concerns should be directed to Tricia Sanders or Nell DeBoer.

Alumni & Development –

In the first six weeks of Fiscal Year 2014, UMC has garnered nearly $200,000 in total gift production with more than ten months remaining in the current fiscal year. Thanks to all alumni and donors for their continued support and investments in the University of Minnesota Crookston. For further information on philanthropic opportunities, please contact Corby Kemmer, director, Development & Alumni Relations, at 218.281.8434.

Everyone is invited to remember Mary Tyrrell, a devoted and wife, mother, and nurse, who gave tirelessly in support of student-athletes at the U of M Crookston, and help raise awareness of heart disease during the third annual Mary Tyrrell Health Walk for Scholarships, scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, at 5 p.m. in Parking Lot E near Ed Widseth Field. Registration is $25 for adults and $10 for students 18 and under. All registrants will receive a t-shirt designed especially for the walk. To register or for more information about the walk, contact Tricia Sanders at 218-281-8326. Learn more. http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2013/08/third-annual-mary-tyrell-heal.html

University Relations –

Faculty and staff are encouraged to make the UMC Today Page their default web browser page: www.umcrookston.edu/today. The UMC Today page aims to provide the campus community with an overview of each day’s events happening on campus. It also features quick links to the U of M
Crookston’s social media sites. Events can be submitted to the web calendar by clicking on the “Submit an Event” link located immediately below the day’s events listings.

**Athletics –**

**Liam Higginson** has been hired as an assistant athletic trainer. He comes to UMC from the University of North Dakota (UND), where he served as a graduate assistant athletic trainer for the women's soccer and softball teams. Higginson, originally from Thunder Bay, Ontario, earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology with a major in athletic therapy from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is currently finishing his master’s in kinesiology at UND. Since 2011 he also has worked as a certified athletic therapist for the Manitoba Soccer Association.

**Mike Clark** and **Levi Bullerman** have been hired as assistant football coaches for the Golden Eagles Football Team. Clark will coach quarterbacks and wide receivers and serve as video coordinator while Bullerman will coach the defensive line and serve as the team's equipment manager. Clark comes to the Golden Eagles after serving as linebackers coach from the Sacramento Mountain Lions of the United Football League (UFL). Prior to that, he spent two years with the National Football League (NFL), first working as a defensive quality control coach with the Oakland Raiders during the 2010 and 2011 seasons and then serving as a defensive coaching assistant with the Arizona Cardinals in 2012. Clark earned his bachelor’s degree in exercise science from Arkansas State and holds a master's in higher education administration from the University of Texas. Bullerman comes to UMC from Presentation College, where he spent the past two seasons as an assistant football coach for the Saints, working primarily with the team's linebackers and special teams. He helped lead Presentation to the most wins in an inaugural season by a NCAA Division III football team in 2011. In 2012, he helped the Saints' defense rank in the top 15 in NCAA Division III in fumble recoveries. Bullerman earned his bachelor’s degree in physical education from Southwest Minnesota State University.

**Media Services –**

**Over the summer audio visual technology was upgraded in three Dowell Hall classrooms: DH 121, 125, and 301.** Several classrooms were also upgraded last summer: DH 206, 220, 225, Owen 205. Faculty and staff who need more detailed info on classroom equipment are encouraged to check the Media Services Support and Manuals web page at [http://www1.crk.umn.edu/services/mediaservices/support/](http://www1.crk.umn.edu/services/mediaservices/support/). New faculty and staff should start by checking out the “General” classroom guide. Please try to find time to test your laptop and AV setup before first classes. Questions should be directed to Media Services in 155 Kiehle Building. Individual appointments can be arranged in the actual classrooms.

**Campus and Community –**

New students and interested faculty and staff will assist with several community service projects on the morning of Saturday, August 24, as part of **Meet Crookston Through Service**. Volunteers will meet in Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center, at 8:30 a.m. for their project assignments, which include helping teachers prepare classrooms at Washington Elementary School and Highland Elementary School; cleaning kennels and walking dogs at the Crookston Humane Society; trimming
trees at local parks; packing boxes at the North Country Food Bank; and assisting with work at local historical museums, among other projects across the community.

University of Minnesota System

Read University of Minnesota system news at Brief online: www.umn.edu/twincities/faculty-staff/brief/.

Accolades

**Federal Law Enforcement: A Primer**, a book co-authored by Jeff Bumgarner, Ph.D., associate professor, criminal justice, UMC Liberal Arts & Education Department, was recently published by Carolina Academic Press. Co-authored with Charles Crawford of Western Michigan University and Ronald Burns of Texas Christian University, the book serves to fill a gap in criminal justice literature by examining federal law enforcement from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Learn more. http://www.cap-press.com/books/isbn/9781611630763/Federal-Law-Enforcement

Head Women's Equestrian Coach Brooke Leininger has earned the distinguished United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Silver Medal, a lifetime achievement award. To achieve the USDF Silver Medal the rider must obtain four scores of 60 percent or higher, two at the fourth level from two different judges and two different rides, and two at Prix St. Georges from two different judges and two different rides. Leininger was the Prix St. Georges champion at the Bara Trac II Dressage Show, held in Mason City, Iowa, on August 3-4, where she earned the final score necessary for the honor. She was riding her mare Godiva.

The University of Minnesota Crookston Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society has been named the North Central Section Student Chapter of the Year. Rochelle Renken, president of the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society, will present a certificate to a UMC delegation at the organization’s awards ceremony at the 74th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference set for January 26-29, 2014, in Kansas City, Missouri.

The University of Minnesota Crookston has been named one of 155 colleges the Princeton Review has chosen for its "Best in the Midwest" section of its website feature "2014 Best Colleges: Region by Region." The feature is posted online at www.princetonreview.com/best-regional-colleges.aspx. It identifies schools that the education services company recommends as "regional bests" across four locales: the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and West. In total, 643 schools received this designation for 2014.

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