U of M Crookston Campus E-Update
an internal administrative news digest
www.umcrookston.edu
September 17, 2013

From the Chancellor

We’re Number 1! We’re Number 1! The University of Minnesota Crookston is indeed ranked as the Top Public Regional College in the Midwest in the most recent U.S.News and World Report Rankings that came out last week. It is an outstanding recognition of the great work that you all do every day. What was particularly gratifying to me is that this higher rank was in part the result of a greater focus in their rankings methodology on outcome measures rather than input measures. We should be focusing on our students’ success here at UMC, and so I am very glad that U.S.News weighed this “value added” more heavily. Of course, this does remind us that we can just as easily move down the rankings next year should they shift their methodology, which they are apt to do. However, let’s all enjoy being #1 while it lasts!

You may have heard that we were also ranked as one of the safest public colleges in Minnesota by StateUniversity.com and as a “Best College in the Midwest” by the Princeton Review. Again, all of this is testament to the great students, staff, and faculty at UMC. Of course, we already knew this to be the case, but it is nice for others to know it too.

These accolades were certainly a part of my discussions at the recent meeting of the Board of Regents. During the presentation of the annual accountability report, I told brief stories of a few of our students that highlighted our modern land grant mission, our student-centered focus, and our commitment to diversity and internationalization. The stories resonated with the Regents based on the many positive comments that followed. It is easy to tell great student stories when you have great students working with committed faculty and staff.

During another part of the meeting the Regents approved the Wellness Center as part of the U’s capital request. They continue to express great support for our project, especially those who visited our campus in the last year. On a related note, I have recently discussed the project via teleconference with the staff of the Governor’s Office and of the Minnesota Management and Budget Office, and I am told our project appears to be garnering support. The next major steps occur this Wednesday when we will be visited by members of the Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee and related staff. Following that Senator Terri Bonoff, chair of the Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, will visit the campus on Wednesday, September 25. I want to thank in advance all the folks who are involved in these critical meetings. As we learned from last year, these are but a few of many crucial steps that are required for final approval. Let’s hope that this is the year when this transformational campus project is funded.

Sincerely,
Fred Wood
Chancellor
Featured Events & Activities

College Outdoor Skills Day, Wednesday, September 18 – 4:30 to 7 p.m., Crookston Gun Club Highway 75 and 240th Street Southwest, free and open to all regional college students

World Flutist and Cultural Storyteller Gary Stroutsos, Wednesday, September 18 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

Thursday Commons: Faculty Presentation “Internationalizing Teaching and Learning: Engaging Students in Collaborative Groups,” Thursday, September 19 – 12:30 to 2 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, open to all faculty and staff

Intercultural Simulation “Barnga,” Thursday, September 19 – 2:30 to 4 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free and open to all interested students

Soup & Substance Community Dialogue: “The New Generation Gap,” Tuesday, September 24 – Noon to 1 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, RSVP to Katie Schneider at schne616@umn.edu

Open Forum with Minnesota State Senator Terri Bonoff, Wednesday, September 25 – 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

What’s on Wednesday (W.O.W.): “Girls Fight Back” Personal Safety Seminar, Wednesday, September 25 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

Outstanding Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet, Friday, October 4 – 6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program, Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, tickets $20 per person, reservations required, contact Rose Ulseth, rulseth@umn.edu or 218-281-8439

Campus Preview Day for Prospective Students Hosted by Admissions, Saturday, October 5 – 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., check-in at Sargeant Student Center

UMC Homecoming Parade, Saturday, October 5 – 10:30 a.m., around the Campus Mall, free and open to the public

Homecoming Soccer vs. University of Sioux Falls, Saturday, October 5 – 11 a.m., UMC Soccer Field

Homecoming Football vs. Bemidji State, Saturday, October 5 – 1 p.m., Ed Widseth Field

Homecoming Volleyball vs. MSU Mankato, Saturday, October 5 – 4 p.m., Lysaker Gymnasium, UMC Sports 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 –**

The Minnesota State House Capital Investment Committee will visit the U of M Crookston on Wednesday, September 18, as part of a multiple day tour of Northern Minnesota visiting communities that have capital requests. Approximately 24 legislators and members of their staff will arrive on campus at 5:30 p.m. that evening with interest in learning more about UMC’s requested Wellness Center. The Committee will then have dinner and hear two other presentations in Bede Ballroom before departing at 7:30 p.m. State Representatives Dan Fabian of District 01A and Debra Kiel of District 01B are also expected to attend.

**Minnesota State Senator Terri Bonoff**, chair of the Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, has launched a listening tour of college campuses throughout Minnesota to receive input from students and related communities on higher education issues. Senator Bonoff, as well as a number of other legislators, will visit nearly 20 college campuses, including four University of Minnesota system campuses. Senator Bonoff will visit the Crookston campus on Wednesday, September 25. From 12:30 to 1:30 she will host an open forum for students, faculty, staff, and community members in Bede Ballroom followed by a campus tour with Chancellor Wood. State Senator LeRoy Stumpf of District 01 is also expected to attend.

**Academic Affairs –**

The University of Minnesota Crookston has joined the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) as an institutional member. Assistant Professor Venu Mukku, who is already an individual member, will be joined by three UMC faculty members as institutional representatives: Professor Sharon Neet, Associate Professor Brian Dingmann, and Assistant Professor Katy Smith. The mission of CUR is to support and promote high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship. Learn more at www.cur.org.

The 2014 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) will be held at the University of Kentucky, Lexington from April 3-5, 2014. Online abstract submission begins September 30 and will close on December 6, 2013. Faculty members are asked to encourage their research students to submit an abstract for oral or poster presentations. For more information, please visit www.cur.org/ncur_2014.

**Student Affairs –**

Tim Menard has been hired as a counselor in the Career Development and Counseling Department. He earned his bachelor’s degree in humanities/pre-med from St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minn., and completed graduate studies in clinical psychology at Antioch University in Seattle, Washington. He then went on to operate a private practice for 25 years specializing in addiction therapy, LGBT related issues, crisis and life transition issues, loss and grief counseling, and life coaching to facilitate vocation
direction for persons experiencing career change. He also has worked with community-based and hospital-based agencies as a medical case manager for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Since 2008 he has served as an admissions counselor for the University of Minnesota Crookston.

**Recording artist Gary Stroutsos, master of the Native American flute and cultural storyteller,** will perform on Wednesday, September 18, in Kiehle Auditorium at 7 p.m. A reception will follow the performance. The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Programs.

**The Office of Community Engagement will host the first in its new dialogue series called Soup & Substance on Tuesday, September 24, from noon to 1 p.m. in Bede Ballroom. The topic will be “The New Generation Gap.”** Soup & Substance is an ongoing dialogue on currently trending topics which affect the campus and community. These events are intended to provide open dialogue. Everyone will be welcomed into a safe space in order to provide opinions, gain knowledge, and share real world experiences. RSVP to Katie Scheider at schne616@umn.edu. A light lunch will be served free of charge.

UMC will host **Girls Fight Back** on Wednesday, September 25, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public. Girls Fight Back is a live seminar with a goal of teaching women of all ages the basics of personal safety and self-defense. Delivered in a format that blends straight talk and comedy, the presentation has been seen by over one million women since 2001. Men are welcome too. Learn more at www.girlsfightback.com. This event is sponsored by S.P.A.C.E. and Student Health with refreshments in Kiehle Rotunda following the program.

Four new staff members have been hired to work in Dining Services. **Anita Baskerville** will serve as a junior food service worker, **Christina Blair** will serve as a food service worker, and **Deborah Ramberg** will serve as a junior cashier/food aide. Additionally, **Matt Hesby** will serve as a temporary and casual worker on an interim basis.

**International Programs –**

The Internationalizing Teaching and Learning (ITL) Team from the Twin Cities campus will present "**Internationalizing Teaching and Learning: Engaging Students in Collaborative Groups**" during Thursday Commons on September 19 from 12:30-2 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The session will focus on the integration of domestic and international students in group projects, and is open to all faculty and staff. Member of the ITL team also will offer drop-in course consultations for any U of M Crookston faculty members to discuss specific courses, academic programs, or the work of internationalizing teaching and learning. This drop-in hour will be held that same day from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Bede Ballroom. Faculty members are encouraged to stop by during that time.

The Internationalizing Teaching and Learning (ITL) Team will offer the **intercultural simulation Barnga for interested UMC students** on Thursday, September 19, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in Bede Ballroom. Barnga is a simulation for heightening awareness of in-group/out-group dynamics and how formal and informal "rules" are communicated and enacted. Snacks will be provided.

**Facilities & Operations –**
Abdou Niang, a senior from Dakar, Senegal, majoring in accounting, was unanimously voted Student Worker of the Quarter by the Facilities & Operations Department’s building and grounds team. He was recognized for his “great work ethic and can-do attitude.” He worked full-time this past summer and will remain with the department part-time through the school year.

Alumni & Development –

The Outstanding Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet will take place Friday, October 4, with 6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner, and 7 p.m. program in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The 2013 Outstanding Alumni honorees include Eugene Dufault ’68, Timothy Rhonemus ’84, Susan Jacobson ’87 and ’96, and Tyler Gove ’94. The 2013 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees are Michelle (Johnson) Allen ex.’88, Craig Talberg ’91, and Karla(Thormodson) Isley ’98. Tickets are $20 per person, reservations are required. Contact Rose Ulseth, rulseth@umn.edu or 218-281-8439, by Wednesday, September 25.

The Office of Development & Alumni Relations invites all alumni and friends back to campus for Homecoming 2013, Friday and Saturday, October 4 and 5. A special gathering for members of the classes of 1968 and 1969 will be held on Friday, October 4, at 9 p.m. at Minakwa Country Club in Crookston. Saturday, October 5, features the annual Homecoming Parade at 10:30 a.m. around the Campus Mall. William "Bill" Peterson, professor of mathematics, will serve as the parade’s grand marshal. Immediately following the football game against Bemidji State (at approximately 4 to 4:30 p.m.) there will be a social for all alumni and friends at I.C. Muggs in Crookston. View the full schedule of events for Homecoming 2013 at www.umcrookston.edu/homecoming.

University Relations –

Students, faculty, and staff are reminded to direct all news releases, event information, photos, and other communication meant for external audiences through the University Relations Department. Andrew Svec, director of communications, public relations, and marketing, and Elizabeth Tollefson, assistant director of communications, have the expertise and established connections to local and regional media to help maximize promotion and to disseminate information through the proper channels. Working with them also ensures appropriate formatting, consistent University branding, optimal timing, sharing on official social media sites, and overall coordination of information and event promotion for the campus as a whole.

Athletics –

Golden Eagle student-athletes Chelsea Wiesner, a senior volleyball player from Rochester, Minn., and Evan Lunda, a freshman golfer from Centuria, Wis., have been named the first-ever UMC Teambackers Student-Athletes of the Week. The new weekly honor will recognize a male and female student-athlete who stands out for their performance either on the court, in the field of play, or in the classroom.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and fans of UMC Golden Eagle Athletics are encouraged to check out the Golden Eagle Athletics YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/goldeneagleathletics. The channel
offers interviews with student-athletes and coaches as well as Regal’s Rundown, a new behind-the-scenes feature hosted by UMC student Josh Brehmer.

The UMC Athletics Department will again host the **Youth NFL Football League** this fall on Monday nights from September 16 through November 4. The league consists of area third and fourth graders from around Northwest Minnesota. Twelve teams will take part in the league in 2013 with six teams playing at 6:30 p.m. and the next six at 7:15 p.m. at Ed Widseth Field. Each team is coached by a current Golden Eagle football player. The Super Bowl for the Youth NFL Football League will be held on Monday, November 4, at 6 p.m. at Ed Widseth Field.

### Campus and Community

College students from around the area are invited to attend **College Outdoor Skills Day on Wednesday, September 18**, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Crookston Gun Club, located north of Crookston on Highway 75 and 240th Street Southwest. The event is free, but interested students are encouraged to pre-register. The event is designed to help college students experience new outdoor activities or sharpen the outdoor skills they already have. Programs offered throughout the evening include fly-fish casting, target archery, slingshots/wrist rockets, rifle shooting, and trap shooting. A free meal will be provided courtesy of the West Polk Deer Hunters. For more information or to register, contact Laura Bell, lab coordinator and naturalist at the U of M Crookston, at 218-281-8131 (lbell@umn.edu).

UMC’s Office of Community Engagement and Office of Diversity and Multicultural Programs will cohost a “**Tent City**” **program** on Friday, September 27, beginning at 5 p.m. and running through 6 a.m. Saturday morning, dependent on weather conditions. The event is meant to help raise awareness of homelessness in Minnesota and will include the following:

- 5 to 6:30 p.m. – FREE Spaghetti dinner served at the Care and Share 220 3rd St. East, T.H.E. Bus will provide transportation

- 6:30 to 7 p.m. – “Homeless is My Address... Not My Name,” Audio/Visual Exhibit – 101 S. Broadway, downtown Crookston, attendees should bring their cell phones.

- 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Cardboard Shelter/Tent Building on the Campus Mall (cardboard will need to be gathered by students; e-mail schne616@umn.edu if assistance is needed or ideas on where to get boxes. Duct tape and newspaper will be provided). Shelter/tent judging will take place at 8:30 p.m.

- 9 p.m. – Bonfire, Story Sharing, and Reflections on the Day on the Campus Mall

### University of Minnesota System

The University of Minnesota will seek funding from the Minnesota Legislature for six capital request projects: Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR); renovation of the Tate science and teaching building; a new St. Paul microbiology research building; the U of M Crookston Wellness Center; laboratory improvements; and a new Duluth chemistry and material sciences building. Recently, two staff members from Governor Mark Dayton’s office toured projects on University’s Twin Cities campus and listened to projects presentations from the Duluth and Crookston
campuses. Office of Higher Education Director Larry Pogemiller, Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner Jim Schowalter, Minnesota Management and Budget Assistant Commissioner Margaret Kelly, and several Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner staff members have received similar tours and presentations. Learn more. http://govrelations.umn.edu/capital-request.html

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

**Accolades**

The recently released 2014 U.S. News “Best Colleges” rankings place the University of Minnesota Crookston in the number one spot in the category Top Public Regional Colleges—Midwest. The rankings for 2014 mark the 16th consecutive year the Crookston campus has appeared in the top four and signals a return to the top spot moving up from number two in 2013. The exclusive rankings, available at usnews.com on Tuesday, September 10, will be published in the September issue of U.S. News & World Report, available on newsstands on Tuesday, September 24. Learn more. View the rankings at http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/rankings/regional-colleges-midwest/top-public.

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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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