From the Chancellor

“So how does UMC do it?” This was the question I was asked directly following the Board of Regents meeting last week. The impetus for the question was President Kaler’s report of yet another in a long tradition of UMC student team success in an annual competition. As you can read below in the Accolades Section, we recently had two student groups win competitions. Congratulations to both the students and the advisers! It is not only remarkable how often our students succeed in these regional and national competitions, but also how well they do against schools many times our size. As one student remarked last year, “We may be small, Chancellor, but we are mighty!” Indeed, we are, but how does this happen?

I began my response by complementing our students. I mentioned how committed they are and how they take advantage of the many opportunities, how much they enjoy the competitions and how they work so very hard to do well. While all that is accurate, the truth is also that this happens because our faculty and staff are so committed to our students’ success. They take the time to help our students prepare for these competitions and regularly accompany our students to the competitions, as well. You don’t often see that level of commitment elsewhere. Thank you to each and every adviser and faculty member who takes the time to help our students. It is yet another reason UMC is so special.

During the meeting of the Board of Regents, the UMC Wellness Center was approved as part of the U’s capital proposal, which will be presented to Governor Dayton for consideration. The Regents also approved our current on-campus major in sport and recreational management for offering online, bringing our number of online degrees to twelve. As we well know, these online programs have been extremely important for our enrollment growth. Again, I want to thank the faculty members who have been so instrumental in advancing these academic programs as well as the staff who have provided support. We should all be very proud and appreciative of their collective work in offering such high quality online academic programs and support services. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston

Featured Events & Activities

What’s on Wednesday (W.O.W.): Illusionist Joseph Tran, Wednesday, October 16 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium
Admissions Hosts MEA Campus Preview Day, Thursday, October 17 – 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Admissions Office, 170 Owen Hall

Fall Semester Convocations, Thursday, October 17 – 12:30 to 2 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

Admissions Hosts MEA Campus Preview Day, Friday, October 18 – 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Admissions Office, 170 Owen Hall

Homecoming Bonfire (Rescheduled from October 4), Friday October 18 – 8:30 p.m., north edge of LeClair Practice Field

Admissions Hosts Campus Preview Day, Saturday, October 19 – 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Admissions Office, 170 Owen Hall

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, October 21-25

European Heritage Expo, Monday, October 21 – 4 to 6 p.m., Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center

CRES Speaker: Chuck Runyon, Co-Founder and CEO of Anytime Fitness, Tuesday, October 22 – Noon to 1:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free and open to the public

Policy, Procedure, and Paperwork Seminar for Faculty, Tuesday, October 22 – 3 p.m., 108 Hill Hall

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 –

Kathryn Brown, vice president for human resources at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, and Patty Franklin, associate to the vice president, will visit the Crookston campus on Friday, October 18. With a relatively short window of time available, the two will meet with the UMC Executive Committee to discuss system-wide HR initiatives that have an impact on UMC as well as other topics such as HR strategic initiatives and a spans and layers update.

Within the next two weeks, students, faculty, and staff will see an e-mail encouraging them to complete a survey which will help guide the UMC Wellness Center Steering Committee. In addition to the survey, all interested students are encouraged to attend a focus session to provide additional input regarding the UMC Wellness Center to the members of the steering committee. Sessions are
scheduled in Kiehle Auditorium on Monday, October 21, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for any students and from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. specifically for student-athletes.

**Academic Affairs –**

At the October 2013 meeting of the U of M Board of Regents, approval was granted for the UMC Business Department to offer its current bachelor’s degree program in sport and recreation management online. Course offerings will begin spring semester 2014.

More than 20 UMC faculty members and department heads participated in a research focus group on October 8. Designed to provide information to University-wide strategic planning being led by Vice President for Research Brian Herman, the focus group drew participants via interactive television from UMD, UMR, and UMM as well as UMC. In response to several questions, faculty members discussed what they value about the University’s research and research support, offered suggestions for improving support for research and research capacity on the System campuses, and described the challenges to conducting transdisciplinary research. Faculty members also discussed the need to continue support for creative works and scholarship that might not typically be considered when thinking about research. When asked what more Vice President Herman and his team could do, UMC was joined by faculty members from the other U of M system campuses in urging him and his team to visit the statewide system campuses for further conversation and to tour research facilities.

Approximately 60 faculty members spent Friday, October 11, in Heritage Hall’s Peterson Classroom updating and improving program-level student learning outcomes. Assessing student achievement of learning outcomes is a key element of improving teaching and learning as well as a requirement for accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. Departments and programs will continue to work on learning outcomes in preparation for Spring Semester Professional Development Day, scheduled for February 17, 2014, which will focus on developing assessment plans. The goal is to have 100% of programs report updated student learning outcomes and 100% of programs report on their assessment plans by May 15, 2014. Many faculty members commented that they appreciated the dedicated time to work on student learning outcomes. They also enjoyed working collaboratively with faculty from the programs across departments. The Assessment Committee, comprised of faculty members Marilyn Grave, Marcella Melby, Eric Castle, and Lacole McPherson, planned and led the day. Special thanks to Sue Erickson, director of institutional effectiveness, to Tom Sondreal for assistance with the technology, and to Dining Services/Sodexo.

All faculty members, and especially new faculty, are encouraged to attend the Policy, Procedure, & Paperwork (PP&P) Seminar on Tuesday, October 22, at 3 p.m. in 108 Hill Hall. Hosted by the Office of the Registrar, this seminar offers an opportunity to learn about current policies, procedures, and the paperwork and forms relating to many of the most common academic requests. An array of policies and procedures will be covered. There will also be time for questions.

Anytime Fitness co-founder and CEO, Chuck Runyon, will speak at the University of Minnesota Crookston on Tuesday, October 22, at noon in Bede Ballroom. This event is free and open to the public. The first 300 attendees will receive a free copy of his book, Working Out Sucks, and he will be available to sign books after his presentation. Runyon, who co-founded the fastest growing fitness franchise in the U.S., will speak about the four phases of being an entrepreneur, Level 5 leadership, and ROEI—Return on Emotional Investment. The event is sponsored by the Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies (CRES).
Student Affairs –

Fall Semester Convocation is set for Thursday, October 17, at 12:30 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. Crookston Student Association (CSA) President Alexmai Addo will serve as emcee. The keynote speaker will be Bill Peterson, professor and department head for the Math, Science, and Technology Department. Vice Chancellor Barbara Keinath and Chancellor Fred Wood will recognize student academic achievement, the Residential Life Highest GPA Award and CSA “of the Month” awards will be presented, and varsity coaches will recognize their respective teams and deliver season updates. Music will be provided by the UMC Band and Choir under the direction of Associate Professor George French. There are no classes scheduled on Thursdays from Noon to 2 p.m., so make plans to take part in this event.

UMC will observe National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week with a series of events October 21-25. Events include a display of the Impact Wall in the Northern Lights Lounge on October 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; speaker Sgt. Jesse Grabow of the Minnesota State Patrol with a smashed patrol car on display outside the Sargeant Student Center on October 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; impaired driving simulations on the Campus Mall with officers from the Crookston Police Department on October 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and mocktails in the Northern Lights Lounge on October 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Technology Support Services –

An online orientation seminar for VoiceThread, an interactive media tool integrated into Moodle, is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The seminar covers the basics for having online conversations around media using VoiceThread, which allows faculty members to upload a variety of media, including video, slides, and images; share this thread with others; and asynchronously comment via text, video, or audio on various parts of the media. The seminar is limited to 46 attendees. Register via a link at http://blog.lib.umn.edu/elsie/elsiespeaks/2013/10/academic-technology-tools-anno.html.

Lynda.com, a library of online training videos, is available at no cost to current University of Minnesota students, faculty, and staff systemwide on all campuses. It provides access to nearly 2,000 courses for all skill levels in more than 140 specialties. This includes an entire online course on using Moodle 2.4 available at www.lynda.com/tutorial/134923?org=umn.edu. The Office of Information Technology (OIT) has its regular line-up of courses and tutoring listed at www.oit.umn.edu/training/courses.

Alumni & Development –

The staff of the Office of Development & Alumni Relations offers thanks to the many alumni, faculty, staff, community members, and friends who came together to make Homecoming 2013 a successful and memorable weekend. Photos from the various events are posted on the UMC Homecoming Facebook page: www.facebook.com/umcrookston.homecoming.
**Athletics –**

**Golden Eagle Women's Soccer player Lexie Gauger**, a freshman goalkeeper from Green Bay, Wis., majoring in criminal justice, has been selected as the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) **Goalie of the Week** for her role in UMC's recent win over Minnesota State University Moorhead and a tie at Northern State University. Gauger recorded 13 saves, allowed only one goal, and picked up her second career clean sheet as the Golden Eagles picked up four points on the road this past weekend. UMC topped MSU Moorhead 2-1 in the battle for the Highway 75 Rivalry Rock on Saturday, October 12, and settled for a hard-fought 0-0 double overtime tie at Northern State on Sunday, October 13.

The **Western Equestrian Team** opened up the 2013-14 season with a pair of home shows at UMC’s University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC) October 12 and 13. The Golden Eagles opened up Saturday’s show with two competitive performances in the Reining and Open Horsemanship classes from **Caitlin Kelley**, a senior from White Bear Lake, Minn. majoring in equine science, and **Mitzi Marlin**, a senior from Nowthen, Minn., majoring in agricultural business. Marlin finished second in a very deep Open Horsemanship class and Kelley finished third in her Open Horsemanship class. **Amberly Pesall**, a sophomore from New Brighton, Minn., finished her Advanced Horsemanship class in second place, and **Danielle Schelonka**, a freshman from Randall, Minn., won her Intermediate II Horsemanship class. Several other riders continued the strong showing for UMC. Learn more. [www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2013/10/14/EQUESTW_1014132005.aspx](http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2013/10/14/EQUESTW_1014132005.aspx)

**Campus and Community**

The University of Minnesota Crookston will again participate in the annual campaign for the United **Way of Crookston**, which will run through Friday, October 25. Employees will receive their United Way packets from their team captain and are asked to return their sealed envelopes to their team captain by October 25, even if they do not contribute to the campaign. All employees are encouraged to give what they can towards the $11,000 campus goal. Last year UMC raised $10,607. Any amount donated will benefit the community and help UMC obtain 100% participation in this campaign. As an incentive, everyone who donates to this year’s campaign will be entered into a drawing for the following prizes: iPod Nano (16 GB), iPod Shuffle (2 GB); UMC sweatshirt, or $25 Eagle Bucks. By giving to the United Way of Crookston, contributions stay in the community helping 36 individual campaigns. Gifts are tax deductible. As in the past, the Minnesota Environmental Fund will also be integrated into the campaign.

**University of Minnesota System**

An **Employee Engagement Survey** was sent to benefits-eligible faculty and staff systemwide via e-mail on October 14 from the Hay Group, the external vendor administering the confidential survey. Completion of the survey will help the U to fulfill its research and teaching mission by using feedback to create a workplace in which people thrive. Employees are encouraged to complete the **Employee Engagement (E2) Survey** by November 1. Results will be shared in early 2014 and will guide action plans developed by campus leaders. Learn more at [www1.umn.edu/ohr/e2/index.html](http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/e2/index.html).

Read University of Minnesota system news at **Brief** online: [www.umn.edu/twincities/faculty-staff/brief/](http://www.umn.edu/twincities/faculty-staff/brief/).
Accolades

At the annual conference of The Wildlife Society in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the team from the U of M Crookston student chapter prevailed in the Wildlife Quiz Bowl contest on Wednesday, October 9, upsetting the dynastic team from Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. With a final score of 105 to 100, UMC beat Humboldt State in the last few seconds on a herpetology question. UMC just started offering a class in herpetology this fall. A perennial favorite, HSU has been in the final round every year for the past twelve years, winning nine times. HSU actually has a year-long credit-bearing class dedicated to winning this event. Team Captain Matt Toenies lead Jennifer DuBay, Alisha Mosloff, Jacob Nelson, and Emily Trappe through the four rounds of competition against 16 other teams from across the country. Faculty members Vanessa Lane and John Loegering coached and supported the team.

A group of U of M Crookston horticulture students attended the annual conference of the Mid-America Collegiate Horticulture Society (MACHS), held this year at University of Wisconsin, River Falls on October 4 and 5. UMC’s team of Ashlynn Hartung, Catlin Kersting, Mitchell Sledge, and Tim Staudahar took first place in the competition, beating Iowa State’s team, which came in second, and third-place Colorado State. Ashlynn Hartung and Tim Staudahar placed first and second, respectively, in individual competition. Other UMC students attending MACHS included Sarah Lanners, Ashley Radke, and Amanda Thompson. The students were coached by Theresa Helgeson, lab services coordinator for the horticulture program. MACHS is comprised of horticulture clubs from universities and two-year colleges in twelve states across the Midwest. Learn more. [Link](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2013/10/um-crookston-horticulture-stud.html)

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