From the Chancellor

This certainly is an eventful time in both our professional and personal lives as we bring a busy fall semester to a close with all the usual end-of-the-term tasks along with a number of additional projects that were occurring this semester. One of the many issues that required considerable effort was the review of the tobacco policy. The timing of this review was important since the Twin Cities campus was considering a multi-campus policy that might align with our needs as well. As described in greater detail in the administrative affairs section below, after considerable input our review concluded that this was indeed the case for the near term and that joining this multi-campus policy will also serve us well in the future. I want to thank the members of the ad-hoc committee—Alexmai Addo, Mary Boateng, Donald Cavalier, Nell DeBoer, Thomas Feiro, Rae French, Kimberly Gillette, Stacey Grunewald, Kristie Jacobson-Jerde, Dale Martinson, Ken Myers, Lisa Samuelson, Monika Sweet, Andrew Svec, Gary Willhite, and Chair Peter Phaiah—and the entire campus for engaging in challenging discussions with highly passionate and widely varying perspectives in such a professional and collegial manner.

The recent Board of Regents meeting was relatively uneventful. Of note was a Moody’s presentation which described the challenges that are facing all of higher education. The presentation also highlighted, however, that the University of Minnesota has a strong rating due, in part, to the careful management of funds and distinctive specializations. The presentation stressed that successful campuses will need to find competitive advantages, specialties, and revenue diversification to meet the projected challenges in enrollment, federal funding, state support, and tuition limits. Additionally, there was a Board of Regents work session on ensuring access to and excellence at the U of M. Among the Board’s priorities for 2013-14 is to "develop a tuition and financial aid philosophy that reinforces the twin objectives of excellence and access and directly guides the president’s related strategies." There will be more to come as discussions continue in this area. Related to enrollment, prior to the meeting Director Thorson, Vice Chancellor Keinath, and I engaged with our counterparts in robust discussions about system-wide enrollment management. We will continue these discussions, but I was heartened by this first conversation of how we can work together as a system to meet our various enrollment goals. (Note: for more details about the information discussed at the Board of Regents meeting go to www1.umn.edu/news/news-releases/2013/UR_CONTENT_465596.html.)

As the semester winds down, I want to offer my congratulations to the many students who will graduate this fall and who we hope to see again at Commencement in May. And, as the busy year draws to a close it is good time to consider the blessings we have at UMC. There are so many. I wish each and every one of you a peaceful and wonderful winter holiday, and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Sincerely,
Featured Events & Activities

Fall Semester Final Exams, Monday, December 16, through Thursday, December 19

UMC Campus Community Faculty and Staff Holiday Luncheon, Friday, December 20 – Noon to 1:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Christmas Eve Holiday, Tuesday, December 24 – campus offices closed

Christmas Holiday, Wednesday, December 25 – campus offices closed

New Year’s Eve Holiday, Tuesday, December 31 – campus offices closed

New Year’s Day Holiday, Wednesday, January 1, 2014 – campus offices closed

First Day of Classes for Spring Semester 2014, Monday, January 13

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 –

Faculty and staff from across the campus community are invited to attend the annual UMC Holiday Luncheon in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, on Friday, December 20, from Noon to 1:30 p.m. This includes faculty and staff from UMC, the NWROC, Extension, the NWRSDP, and the NW AHEC. A complimentary meal of pasta with sauce and meat options, Italian vegetables, breadsticks, and assorted beverages will be served. Contact Melissa Parkin, Dining Services, with special dietary needs. As in years past, attendees are asked to bring a dessert to share. Faculty and staff who are interested in participating in the optional "white elephant" gift exchange should bring a wrapped or bagged gently used "garage sale quality" item or inexpensive gift.

The campus-wide review of the U of M Crookston’s Smoke and Tobacco Free Campus Policy, which first went into effect on January 1, 2009, has been completed. After a campus-wide survey, an open
forum, and several meetings with students, faculty, and staff groups soliciting feedback of the policy, the Chancellor’s Administrative Cabinet has unanimously agreed to continue a tobacco-free policy while aligning with the U of M Smoke and Tobacco-Free Campus Policy recently approved by U of M President Kaler’s policy committee. The policy is under a 30-day review and is available online at www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Operations/Safety/SMOKEREV.html. This policy, which will also be adopted by the Twin Cities, Duluth, and Rochester campuses effective July 1, 2014, prohibits the use of all tobacco products as well as smokeless or e-cigarettes in all facilities and on all University property owned or maintained by the University. As it applies to the Crookston campus, this new policy will include the following adjustments:

- It will prohibit tobacco use at the campus main entrance, since the University maintains the property directly up to U.S. Highway 2.
- It will allow for the use of tobacco in scientific studies, Native American Ceremonies, and theatrical performances with prior approval.

The Chancellor’s Administrative Cabinet also decided that UMC will join the Twin Cities campus in allowing use in enclosed, privately-owned vehicles, as they are not University property. Campus resources will not be used to build structures for tobacco use, and educational methods and programming will continue in order to discourage the use of tobacco.

On January 8, 2014, the Crookston campus will go live with a new U of M system-wide event and room scheduling software program called Ad Astra (Astra). All current data and reservations from the S.U.R.E. System will be migrated into Astra, and all future scheduling needs for events, spaces, classrooms, and fleet vehicles will be scheduled through Astra. Training has been conducted for key schedulers and approvers. A campus-wide demonstration is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2014 from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. for individuals who want to learn how to request a space, equipment, or vehicles through Astra. An online video, a campus-specific guide, website, and other tutorials will be available as well as future training sessions, as needed.

Academic Affairs –

The process has begun to recruit and select new department heads for the Business Department and Math, Science and Technology (MST) Department. The search committees, with Ron Del Vecchio (MST) and Soo-Yin Lim-Thompson (Business) serving as chairs, have received search training, drafted vacancy notices, and developed recruitment plans. Vacancy notices will be posted in early January 2014. Vice Chancellor Barbara Keinan plans to appoint new department heads by the end of Spring Semester.

At the December 2013 meeting of the U of M Board of Regents, approval was granted for the UMC Business Department to offer a new Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in entrepreneurship and to offer that major both on-campus and online effective spring semester 2014. Making use of existing courses and resources, the entrepreneurship major will focus on the recognition of business ideas and potential entrepreneurial ventures, as well as applied creativity, small business finance, and strategy development.

Approval was also granted by the Board of Regents for the UMC Agriculture and Natural Resources Department to offer a new area of emphasis in ecological restoration within the current natural resources major. Students enrolled in this emphasis will be able to assess causes of land degradation and plan restorative actions.
Ranjit Riar, Ph.D., has been hired as a lecturer in agronomy within the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department. He holds a doctorate in crop science with a concentration in crop physiology, production, and management from North Carolina State University (NCSU) in Raleigh, North Carolina. He also holds an M.S. in agronomy from Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, India. Riar comes to UMC after several years at NCSU, where he served as a graduate research assistant as well as a post-doctoral research associate. His responsibilities will begin on January 10, 2014.

Student Affairs & Enrollment Management –

Starting January 1, 2014, any campus events or meetings where all the food is not provided or catered by UMC Dining Service will be required to complete and submit a food permit in order to serve food or refreshments on University property. This is a University of Minnesota policy. A campus-wide e-mail will be sent out providing more details and a sample of the permit form. Training will be conducted in January for student clubs and employees who usually host events with food and refreshments.

One of the outcomes from this summer’s Executive Committee Retreat was the formation of the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee (SEMC). Early this fall the charge and membership of this committee were established, and the first official meeting was held in October. This group reports to the Executive Committee and is co-chaired by Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Barbara Keinath and Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Peter Phaiah. SEMC is charged with guiding the development, communication, implementation, assessment, and refinement of a strategic enrollment management plan and with establishing enrollment strategies and tactics to shape the enrollment for UMC to meet both short term and long term goals and outcomes.

SEMC manages two workgroups: the Recruitment Workgroup and the Retention Workgroup. The Recruitment Workgroup serves as an advisory group for the director of admissions and enrollment management to help establish a comprehensive strategic recruitment action plan with tactics, goals, outcomes, and assessment tools to recruit students who will successfully persist toward their academic and career goals and graduate. This workgroup will make reports to SEMC, which will be sent forward to the Executive Committee via semester reports. The Retention Workgroup, comprised of the existing Campus Assembly Retention Committee and other key campus constituents, has adopted the original charge of the Campus Assembly Retention Committee in an effort to provide leadership for campus retention and student persistence initiatives. Its duties are to identify, prioritize, implement, and evaluate strategies and tasks that will strengthen and improve retention and student persistence rates. The Retention Workgroup will gather and report retention and graduation data, as well as evaluate initiatives and participate in AQIP improvement projects related to retention and will submit reports to both Campus Assembly and the Executive Committee. Each SEMC workgroup can form various work teams to focus on specific initiatives. Additional faculty and staff members and students may be recruited to assist the work teams as needed.

Facilities & Operations –

David Danforth has been hired as the director for the Facilities and Operations Department. He comes to UMC from the Twin Cities campus, where he most recently served as a facilities management team manager and supervised maintenance personnel for approximately 2.4 million square feet of University of Minnesota facilities including athletic venues, residence halls, and research, classroom, and office space. He has
also held positions at the U of M as an operations supervisor for facilities management and a manager of environmental services for University of Minnesota Hospital. He has also worked with Collective View/Xcel Energy serving as a member of a four-person team providing facilities management to a multi-facility, multi-state 2.4 million square foot operation. Danforth holds a B.A. from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. He began his responsibilities at UMC on Monday, December 16.

**Otter Tail Power Company** recently issued a $21,599.97 Commercial Design Assistance (CDA) incentive payment to UMC for collaborative work on energy efficiency strategies in the newly constructed Heritage Hall. The CDA program provides incentives to eligible building owners and their design teams to exceed Minnesota's energy code requirements in the building design and construction process. Electricity consumption savings are projected to exceed 327,000 kwh with demand savings of 76 kw resulting in projected energy savings of more than $11,000 per year. [Learn more.](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2013/12/university-of-minnesota-crooks-19.html)

**Library Services –**

Before the start of spring semester in January, the libraries of the University of Minnesota will launch a new discovery system that provides significantly greater capability for searching digital and print resources. This tool represents a major enhancement to the libraries’ current catalog, and an increase in the materials a user can find. The new catalog will feature a search interface that will allow users to search the majority of articles and other materials currently licensed by the UMC Library as well as its books and other holdings. When used for searching articles, this new tool will be similar to Google Scholar, yet will offer greater capability to filter (for example, users can limit a search to only peer-reviewed articles, print collections, or specific databases) and will provide direct links to UMC’s licensed full text. Try the new catalog (test system) at [http://primo.lib.umn.edu/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=CROOKSTON](http://primo.lib.umn.edu/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=CROOKSTON).

**Technology Support Services –**

The annual primary data center maintenance outage, which impacts most University technology systems, is set for Saturday, January 4, 2014, starting at 6 a.m., with restoration beginning on Jan. 5, 6 a.m. It is expected that all affected services will be restored by noon. The outage is required in order to perform necessary maintenance, testing, and repairs to facility infrastructure, and involves a complete shutdown of the main data center, resulting in interruption to IT services during that time. For more information, go to [https://groups.google.com/a/umn.edu/forum/#!topic/it/1_NAph_uAhw](https://groups.google.com/a/umn.edu/forum/#!topic/it/1_NAph_uAhw).

**Drupal orientation training** is available through Technology Training and Usability Services and offers more information about the U's new system-wide, enterprise-level content management system. When Drupal is implemented in 2014, University of Minnesota colleges, departments, units, and student groups across the U will be able to use it to create and maintain web content. An orientation session will be offered December 19, from 2 to3 p.m., 402 Walter Library, and remote participation will also be available. For registration (which is required) and more information, go to [www.oit.umn.edu/training/courses/drupal](http://www.oit.umn.edu/training/courses/drupal).

**Alumni & Development –**
There is still an opportunity for 2013 calendar year-end giving. The Office of Development and Alumni Relations offers its sincere thanks to all University of Minnesota Crookston supporters for their continued generosity.

**When making gifts from an IRA to a qualified charity before December 31, 2013,** plan owners must be at least 70½ years of age at the time of the distribution. The rules only apply to outright lifetime charitable transfers from IRA owners made directly by the IRA administrator and made payable to the benefiting non-profit organization. Only owners of traditional and Roth IRAs are eligible. The law allows for an exclusion from gross income of up to $100,000 per year for otherwise taxable distributions, and the distribution must be made to a qualified charity. The law only applies to gifts made during tax years 2012 and 2013, and it expires December 31, 2013; there has been no legislation extending the provision beyond that date. For further information contact Corby Kemmer, director, Development & Alumni Relations, at 218-281-8434 or ckemmer@umn.edu.

**Athletics –**

**University of Minnesota Crookston volleyball player Brittany Looker,** a junior majoring in health sciences from Rochester, Minn., has been named to the All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) First Team. Looker is only the second player in the history of the program to earn All-NSIC First Team honors joining Joan Ebnet, who was All-Conference First Team in 2003, 2004, and 2005. Looker has been named to the All-NSIC team each of her three seasons at UMC. She was an All-NSIC Second Team pick as a sophomore and an All-NSIC Honorable Selection as a freshman. She is the first player in Coach Lee Anderson’s seven years to earn All-NSIC First Team honors.

**Mike Fritze has been hired as head football coach for the U of M Crookston Golden Eagles** after serving in an interim capacity since July 15. Fritze, who was hired as defensive coordinator in January, stepped in as interim head coach after Paul Miller announced his leave of absence due to health concerns. Prior to his arrival at UMC, Fritze spent the previous 32 years at Apple Valley High School in Apple Valley, Minn., where he was the head football coach for 18 seasons. The St. Paul Pioneer Press named him Coach of the Year for leading Apple Valley to state in the fall of 2012. Originally from Hayfield, Minn., and a graduate of Winona State University, Fritze and his wife Kris have three adult children and one grandson. Learn more.

To view all results and upcoming athletic events, visit [www.goldeneaglesports.com](http://www.goldeneaglesports.com).

**Sustainability –**

Among the projects funded through the U of M's Institute on the Environment in its fall 2013 round of mini-grants is a $2,520 award to fund a project submitted by Dan Svedarsky, Ph.D., professor and director of UMC’s Center for Sustainability. Svedarsky will work with Crookston Students for Sustainable Development (CSSD), the Crookston Students Association (CSA), and other partners to host a monthly series of "Garden Suppers" involving expert speakers and to host a Gardening 101 program—all in pursuit of identifying student and community partners in establishing a campus garden. IonE Mini Grants are designed to encourage collaboration among faculty, staff and students across University of Minnesota disciplines, units and campuses on environmental themes. View the full
list of funded projects at [http://blog.lib.umn.edu/ione/eyeonearth/2013/12/mini-grants-fund-research-and-more.html](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/ione/eyeonearth/2013/12/mini-grants-fund-research-and-more.html).

**Campus and Community**

The University of Minnesota’s Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (NW RSDP) seeks innovative ideas that hold the potential to improve food access and availability, that strengthen community food systems, or that connect people and nature or sustain natural resources on working lands in Northwest Minnesota. Seed funding is available to support projects that leverage active citizenship and create a robust partnership with the University. The Idea Brief is the first step; selected projects will be asked to submit a proposal. Briefs for ideas in the listed areas are due January 23, 2014, and will be reviewed by work groups in February. Recommendations will be forwarded to the NW RSDP board for its March meeting. Learn more about the work in natural resources, sustainable agriculture, and local food systems along with information about each of the focus areas at [http://blog.lib.umn.edu/rspd/northwest](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/rspd/northwest). Contact Linda Kingery for more information at 218-281-8697, kinge0002@umn.edu.

**University of Minnesota System**

Minnesota’s latest budget forecast projects a $1.08 billion budget surplus at the end of the current biennium. The budget forecast also shows that the state has the capacity to issue up to $1.2 billion in additional debt. This will be important when legislators discuss and determine the size of the bonding bill in the upcoming legislative session. The U of M is requesting funding for six projects totaling $232 million. Learn more at [http://govrelations.umn.edu/capital-request.html](http://govrelations.umn.edu/capital-request.html).

**Accolades**

The 2013 U of M Crookston Collegiate Crops Team recently placed third in both national competitions held in Kansas City, Missouri, and Chicago, Illinois, in November. The three-member team included Amanda Crook, a senior from Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, double majoring in agronomy and agricultural business; Betsy Thoreson, a senior from Climax, Minn., majoring in agronomy; and Rachel Elshaug, a junior from Grand Forks, N.D., majoring in agronomy. The team was coached by Rob Proulx, lecturer in agronomy for UMC’s Agriculture and Natural Resources Department. Crook also earned an All-American award from the American Society of Agronomy, which is awarded for scores of 570 (95%) or better, for her seed analysis scores in both Kansas City and Chicago. Learn more, [http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2013/12/collegiate-crops-team-from-um.html](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2013/12/collegiate-crops-team-from-um.html).

"Federal Law Enforcement," an encyclopedia article authored by Jeffrey Bumgarner, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice in the Liberal Arts and Education Department, was recently published in *The Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, edited by Jay Albanese and published by Wiley-Blackwell. Bumgarner also served as an associate editor for the encyclopedia.

Alvin Killough, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, and Eryn Killough, teaching specialist, both in the Liberal Arts and Education Department, have co-authored an article with L. Hill and C.L. Edwards. “Exploring the Cultural Context of Tobacco Use for Prevention among Ethnic Groups of African Descent” was recently published in *The International Journal of Science Commerce and Humanities*. 
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.umcrockston.edu/admin/chancellor/eupdate. If you have any questions regarding the information in this news update, please send them to urmc@umn.edu.

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