From the Chancellor

Welcome to spring 2014! I have always enjoyed the excitement of starting a new semester. It’s a remnant, I suppose, from my time as a college student and the excitement I felt on the first day of class. I enjoyed briefly going over the course materials and syllabus and then jumping into the new material to learn. It seemed like I was going to a new world that I was about to explore. I also equally enjoyed the first day as a faculty member, although I do remember some long nights in preparation for that first class meeting! With this excitement in mind, I want to offer a special welcome to our new students, who at last count numbered 246, and to the 12 or so new faculty and staff members who have joined us since mid-December. Welcome to UMC!

Last week the Executive Committee, along with additional campus leaders, participated in a full-day strategic planning session under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Barbara Keinath. The fast-paced process was designed to identify some key areas of focus and then begin to outline areas of action. As Dr. Keinath describes in the Administrative Affairs section below, the process was very successful, and we will next be discussing these areas with the broader campus community. I urge everyone to become as engaged as your schedules will allow during the semester.

Later this week we will hear from Governor Dayton regarding his recommendations for the state’s proposed capital bonding bill. We are hopeful that our Wellness Center makes his list of recommended projects as the process of creating the final bill begins, although that is not essential. Again, I want to thank everyone who participated in the campus visits and who provided letters of support for this transformational project. Securing this funding remains a very high priority for the campus, and I’ll be making numerous trips to work with our government affairs office to secure this funding. On a related note, we have been continuing our pre-design work for this building project, and the design team plans to be here in the near future to present the latest thinking. I hope you’ll attend this meeting if you can.

Also next week we will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a number of outstanding events including the Red River Valley Celebration in collaboration with UND, a service opportunity at the North Country Food Bank, and a very special presentation by Pulitzer Prize winning author Taylor Branch. I hope you will join me at some or all of these important events.

These are just a few of the things that will be taking place in the first weeks of spring semester 2014. I hope each of you enjoyed a great holiday and that you are ready for what I am sure will be another great semester at UMC!

Sincerely,
Fred Wood
Chancellor
**Featured Events & Activities**

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

What’s on Wednesday (W.O.W.): Comedian Eric O’Shea, Wednesday, January 15 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

Thursday Commons: Spring Semester Faculty Research Day, Thursday, January 16 – 12:30 to 2 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Monday, January 20 – classes excused, campus offices closed

Red River Valley Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., Monday, January 20 – 11 a.m. Unity Walk starting at Grand Forks Central High School, 115 North 4th St., ending at Empire Arts Center, downtown Grand Forks, N.D.; Noon Program at Empire Arts Center; 12:30 p.m. Community Social

UMC’s MLK Day of Service, Monday, January 20 – 2:15 p.m. meet in the Prairie Room for bus ride to the North Country Food Bank; 4 p.m. return for refreshments in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center

MLK Day Speaker Taylor Branch: “Civil Rights Then and Now: Reflections on the King Years,” Monday, January 20 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, book signing following presentation, free and open to the public

Soup and Substance: Poverty in Minnesota, Tuesday, January 21 – Noon to 1 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

UMC Hosts Region I FFA Contests, Wednesday, January 22 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., locations across campus

Animal Science Association’s Ag Arama Chili Feed, Friday, January 24 – 5 to 8 p.m., University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC), open to the public, $5 per person

39th Annual Ag Arama, Saturday, January 25 – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Coronation of Royalty at 2:30 p.m., Awards at 3 p.m., University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC), free and open to the public

Ag Arama Social and Dance Featuring Eagle Creek – Social 5:30 to 7 p.m., Dance 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Crookston American Legion, 102 S Ash St., Crookston, dance open to the public, $10 admission

Music on Monday featuring Nelly’s Echo, Monday, January 27 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., free

12th Annual Winter Job and Internship Fair, Wednesday, January 29 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bede Ballroom, 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 –

On January 7, under the leadership of Chancellor Fred Wood and Vice Chancellor Barbara Keinath, a group of about 25 UMC faculty, staff, and administrators participated in an all-day strategic planning session. The planning approach used was Real-Time Strategic Planning (RTSP), a model developed by David LaPiana to help non-profit organizations develop greater strategic capacity and respond in “real time” to opportunities and challenges as they arise.

The RTSP process moves quickly through development of an “Institutional Identity Statement” that incorporates mission, students and other “customers” served, competitive advantages, funding sources, service region, and programs and services. After drafting UMC’s Institutional Identity Statement, the planning group identified criteria (including mission) for inclusion in a Strategy Screen by which strategies to address opportunities and challenges can be evaluated.

After considering a number of UMC’s current opportunities and challenges, the group formulated three “Big Questions” (as they are called in RTSP) around the following three themes:

1. Achieve and maintain a critical mass of students on campus, while also growing strategically online
2. Galvanize support and nurture a culture of philanthropy among external and internal constituencies
3. Become known as a “go to” resource for the local community, region, state, country, and beyond

Working in small groups, participants drafted strategies to address these questions, reviewed the strategies against the draft Strategy Screen, and began developing action plans on which they continue to work.

The Institutional Identity Statement, Strategy Screen, Big Questions, strategies, and action plans are all working drafts that will be brought forward to the broader UMC campus community for consultation and further discussion over the next several weeks. In addition, strategic planning will be a regular item on the Executive Committee agenda.

Effective Monday, January 13, 2014, transportation within Crookston on T.H.E. Bus (Tri-Valley Heartland Express) will cost $1.00 per ride for UMC students, faculty, and staff with their UCards. The Information Desk in Sargeant Student Center will offer discount bus passes for purchase: $10 cards will have 11 available punches, $20 cards will have 22 punches. Bus schedules are posted throughout campus. This bus is dedicated to transportation services for the UMC campus Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. If the “UMC” bus is busy with regularly scheduled runs, individuals may
call 218-281-0700 to schedule a ride on the next available bus. Please be advised T.H.E. Bus dispatch office closes at 5 p.m., so individuals needing a ride after 5 p.m. should call the UMC bus driver's cell phone at 218-289-4507. This number is only used after business hours. Contact Peter Phaiah via e-mail phaiah@umn.edu with any questions.

Academic Affairs –

Joni Burris had been hired as a lecturer for the Liberal Arts & Education Department and will teach courses in elementary education and early childhood education. She is ABD in the Ph.D. teacher education program at the University of North Dakota (UND) in Grand Forks, and holds an M.Ed. in special education strategist: specific learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders, and developmental/cognitive disorders, also from UND.

Three U of M Crookston faculty members are scheduled to share their current research with the campus community as part of the Thursday Commons Spring Semester Faculty Research Day on Thursday, January 16, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. Faculty Presentations will include (in alphabetical order): Brian Dingmann, Ph.D., associate professor, Math, Science & Technology Dept., "Integrating a Drug Discovery Program into a General Microbiology Course"; Dani Johannesen, Ph.D., lecturer, Liberal Arts & Education Dept., "Bringing Back the Beanstalk: Magical Ruralsim as Cultural Discourse"; and Rob Proulx, M.S., lecturer, Agriculture & Natural Resources Dept., with co-author Michael Knudson, UMC graduate, "Significance of Surface Water in the Terrestrial Water Budget: A Case Study in the Prairie Coteau Using GRACE, GLDAS, Landsat, and Groundwater Well Data."

Three U of M Crookston faculty members have received awards through the Grant-in-Aid of Research, Artistry and Scholarship (GIA) program offered through the U of M’s Office of the Vice President for Research. They are: Omar Al-Azzam, Ph.D., assistant professor, Math, Science & Technology Dept., for developing web-based bioinformatics software tools for genome mapping; Timothy Dudley, Ph.D., assistant professor, Math, Science & Technology Department, for research in theoretical studies of proton-coupled electron transfer in benzimidazoles; and Venugopal Mukku, Ph.D., assistant professor, Math, Science & Technology Dept., for the purchase of a high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) system.

Student Affairs & Enrollment Management –

Tammy Sykes has been hired as director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Sykes had been serving as interim director since the departure of Erica Hamre in mid-October of 2013, but she joined the RSVP office in December of 2012 as a program assistant. Prior to that, she worked as a regional coordinator with Lutheran Social Services for seven years and was the Family Ministries Coordinator at Concordia Lutheran Church for three years. Sykes holds a B.S. in child development and social sciences from North Dakota State University. She began her new responsibilities on Monday, December 16.

New campus-wide policies will be outlined at Club President and Advisor Informational Meetings, scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, at 3 p.m. and Thursday, January 16, at 6 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, rooms C, D, E, Sargeant Student Center. Attendance is required at one of the two sessions offered. For more information, contact Lisa Samuelson, samue026@umn.edu, 218-281-8507.
Business Affairs –

The IRS announced changes in the standard business mileage rates for calendar year 2014. Beginning January 1, the standard business mileage reimbursement rate for personal vehicle use on approved University business will decrease from 56.5 cents to 56 cents per mile. The standard mileage rate for moving expenses will decrease from 24 cents to 23.5 cents per mile. Business mileage incurred in 2013 but reimbursed in 2014 should be reimbursed using the 2013 mileage rates. The Employee Expense Worksheet (UM1612) and the Moving/Relocation Expense Documentation Form (UM 1357) have been updated to reflect the changes to the mileage rates. For more information, see Traveling on University Business, http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Finance/Travel/TRAVEL.html

Alumni & Development –

An anonymous donor provided funding for a system that sounds chimes across the Campus Mall on the hour, and that system is now active. Tom Sondreal of Media Services worked with the Office of Development & Alumni Relations, Student Affairs, University Relations, and Chancellor Wood to bring this aesthetic enhancement to the Crookston campus community. The sounding of chimes is intended to reinforce the collegiate atmosphere for those outside enjoying the Campus Mall.

This Friday, January 17, Teambackers will host a social in Evergreen Grill during the time between the Golden Eagle Women's and Men's Basketball games.

Saturday, February 1, is the Fourth-Annual Justin Knebel Memorial Ice Fishing Tournament at Zipple Bay Resort, Williams, Minn., on Lake of the Woods. Registration is 10 a.m. with fishing from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is $20 per person. For more information, contact Alysa Tulibaski, 218-281-8570, Amber Bailey 218-281-8379, or Bill Tyrrell 218-281-8436. Learn more at www.umcrookston.edu/justinknebel.

Athletics –

Golden Eagle women's basketball player Katrina Moenkedick, a sophomore from Perham, Minn., majoring in early childhood education, was named the NSIC Player of the Week on January 6 after UMC wins over Upper Iowa University and Winona State University. Moenkedick averaged a double-double of 21.0 points and 10.0 rebounds. She finished the weekend shooting 51.8 percent from the field and 82.3 percent from the charity stripe. The honor is the first of Moenkedick's career and the first for the Golden Eagle women's basketball program for the 2013-14 season. Learn more, http://www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2014/1/6/WBB_0106141513.aspx

The University of Minnesota Crookston Women’s Soccer Team earned several distinguished honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) recently. The Golden Eagles earned the NSCAA’s Silver Team Ethics Award for completing the season with no red cards and no more than five yellow cards accumulated during the season. In addition, UMC soccer players Cayla Bendel, a junior from Lakeville, Minn., majoring in natural resources; Erin Mears, a junior from Sioux Falls, S.D., majoring in criminal justice; and Rachel Halligan, a senior from Duluth, Minn., majoring in early
childhood education, were named **NSCAA Scholar All-North Central Region** for their accomplishments in the classroom.

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

**Campus and Community**

While **Monday, January 20, is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** and a holiday where classes are excused and campus offices are closed, several events are planned for the day. All events are free and open to the public. UMC’s Office of Diversity and Multicultural Programs has collaborated with the University of North Dakota to offer the **Red River Valley Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Grand Forks, N.D.** Bus transportation will be provided for UMC students leaving from the Sargeant Student Center at 10 a.m. The event begins at 11 a.m. with a rally and unity walk from the steps of Grand Forks Central High School, 115 North 4th St., to the Empire Arts Center, 415 Demers Ave. A program will begin at noon at the Empire Arts Center, followed by a community social. UMC Chancellor Wood will speak at the program. **Back in Crookston, student volunteers may take part in the MKL Day of Service and should meet at 2:15 p.m. in the Prairie Room,** Sargeant Student Center, for transportation to North Country Food Bank, where they will help with food packing. The day culminates with author and **Pulitzer Prize winner Taylor Branch, who will present “Civil Rights Then and Now: Reflections on the King Years” at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium** on the UMC campus. Branch will also appear at the Crookston Public Library on Tuesday, January 21, at 10 a.m. Branch’s appearance is funded, in part, by a grant from the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council and the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

A **campus legacy continues with the 39th annual Ag Arama** at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The weekend of events, scheduled for **Friday and Saturday, January 24-25,** is hosted by the Agriculture & Natural Resources Department and includes activities for the entire family. Contests in agronomy, animal science, horticulture, agricultural business, and natural resources highlight Ag Arama weekend. These events serve as an opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge and skills while interacting with alumni, faculty members, and others. Ag Arama is planned and operated by a committee of students advised by Terrill Bradford and Brenda Miller, both faculty members in the Department. Most of the activities open to the public take place on Saturday, January 25, in the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOC). [View the full schedule of events](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2013/12/39th-annual-ag-arama-on-saturd.html).

**University of Minnesota System**

**Twin Cities business executive and community leader Kathleen Schmidlkofer has been selected by the trustees of the University of Minnesota Foundation as its next president & CEO.** A graduate of the University’s Carlson School of Management, Schmidlkofer comes to the foundation from GREATER MSP, a private nonprofit organization dedicated to providing public and private sector leadership, coordination and engagement to grow the economy of the 16-county Minneapolis-Saint Paul region. She was executive vice president and a founding leader of the organization. Schmidlkofer will join the foundation on March 3, 2014, taking the place of interim president and CEO, Becky Malkerson, who filled the position upon the retirement of past President and CEO, Steve Goldstein, on February 1, 2013. As announced last spring, Malkerson will continue to lead the development team as executive vice president and chief advancement officer.
On Tuesday, January 7, Governor Dayton visited the Twin Cities campus to meet with President Kaler and discuss the University of Minnesota’s priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The president reviewed the University’s six projects in its 2014 capital request and underscored the need for facilities that meet the needs of today’s students and researchers, in order to strengthen Minnesota’s workforce and industries. The governor reiterated his support for higher education and the University’s capital request. He also made it clear, however, that the state has received an overwhelming number of requests ($3 billion) and that his recommendations will be limited by the state’s available resources. Governor Dayton is required by law to make his recommendations by January 15. View the U’s 2014 capital request at http://govrelations.umn.edu/capital-request.html.

**Accolades**

*U.S. News and World Report* has ranked the University of Minnesota Crookston among colleges and universities offering the nation’s “Best Online Bachelor’s Programs” for 2014. The U of M Crookston was, again, ranked in the top quartile at #69 out of the 283 higher education respondents in this year’s survey. The full listing is available at [www.usnews.com/education/online-education/bachelors/rankings](http://www.usnews.com/education/online-education/bachelors/rankings). *U.S. News & World Report* published rankings of institutions offering online degrees for the first time in 2102, and the U of M Crookston has ranked in the top quartile in each of the three listings. The Crookston campus ranked especially high in the sub-category Student Services and Technology, coming in at number 25, and was one of only two Minnesota colleges ranked in the top 100. [Learn more](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2014/01/again-listed-among-the-nations.html).

University of Minnesota Crookston Collegiate FFA (CFFA) received the A.W. Nolan Memorial Leadership Award at the National Alpha Tau Alpha (ATA) Conclave and the National FFA Convention, held in Louisville, Kentucky, in late October and early November 2013. The U of M Crookston’s chapter was one of five college chapters to earn the "platinum" level, which is the highest that can be achieved. Eleven UMC students attended the conventions, and most also competed in various competitions. The group was accompanied by advisor Lyle Westrom. **Rebekah Landmark**, a sophomore from Montevideo, Minn., double majoring in animal science and agronomy, brought home a second place plaque in the ATA Essay Contest. [Learn more](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2013/12/um-crookston-students-compete.html).

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