**From the Chancellor**

The dedication of our faculty and staff to our students never ceases to amaze me. You constantly go above and beyond the call of duty to help mentor and support our students. Case in point, the recent Team UMC Faculty and Staff Fund Drive has been a huge success and has raised over $10,000 this year alone to help endow a student scholarship. This reinforces the fact that UMC is known as a place where the faculty and staff truly care. So to all of our faculty and staff, I urge you to be proud of your efforts in this and all you do. You are truly changing lives in the best possible way. Thank you! I encourage you all to join me and the staff of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations on Thursday, March 13, at 3:30 p.m. in the Prairie Room of Sargeant Student Center when the final grand total of the fund drive will be announced and celebrated. Please note that students will join us to express their appreciation.

Thanks also to everyone who has written a letter to our legislators to request their support for the UMC Wellness Center and that it be included in the Capital Budget for the State of Minnesota. As you know, the Wellness Center is among the projects the U of M has identified in its bonding request, and it is also among the projects Governor Dayton included on his list of capital budget recommendations. If you haven’t already done so, please consider taking a few minutes to write a letter to our legislative leaders to let them know why the UMC Wellness Center is important and needs to be funded. We are already hearing that such letters are getting attention and making a difference. Your letters would be most impactful if they could arrive sometime in the next week, as the legislative discussions have just begun. For the addresses and brief suggestions on the letters, please refer to a recent e-mail from Andrew Svec or contact him directly for additional information. As we know, this will not only be a transformative project for our campus aiding the recruitment and retention of our students, but it will also play an important part in our students’ overall success, health and well-being.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston

**Featured Events & Activities**
CRES Social Media and Website Development Workshop, Wednesday, March 12 – 9 to 11 a.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, $10 registration, open to the public

One Woman Show “They Call Me Q!” Featuring Qurrat Ann Kadwani, Wednesday, March 12 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

Team UMC 2014 Fund Drive Closing Ceremony Celebration, Thursday, March 13 – 3:30 p.m., Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center

Gardening and Local Foods Seminar Supper “Local Foods for Local Eating,” Thursday, March 13 – 5:30 p.m. meal, 6 p.m. program, Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Spring Break, Monday, March 17, through Friday, March 21 – classes excused, campus offices open

19th Annual River Watch Forum, Tuesday, March 18 – 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Sargeant Student Center and classrooms in Dowell Hall

Crookston Chamber of Commerce Career Day for H.S. Juniors, Thursday, March 20 – 8 a.m. to Noon, locations across campus

2014 International Dinner Series: Togo, Monday, March 24 – 6 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, open to the public, tickets (advance only) $15 per person

CRES Speaker: Rabbi Moshe Weiss, Inventor of the Sound Bender Featured on TV’s "Shark Tank," Tuesday, March 25 – Noon, Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free and open to the public

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 –**

The search committees for department heads for the Business and Math, Science and Technology (MST) Departments are in the process of conducting Skype interviews with semi-finalists. Finalists will be invited for campus interviews in April. Searches are also underway for tenure-track faculty positions in accounting, agricultural systems management, and math.

The three working groups that developed through UMC’s strategic planning process continue to draft initial action plans. An overview of the strategic planning process and directions will take place at the spring semester meeting of UMC’s Campus Assembly on April 3. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to review the information and documents posted at www.umcrookston.edu/stratplan.
prior to the April 3 meeting. Thoughts, feedback, and involvement from the campus community will be welcomed.

The Office of Academic Affairs has awarded a total of $150,000 in funding for several submitted proposals to the Academic Affairs Investment Request for Proposals (RFP) based on recommendations made by a review panel of faculty and staff. The RFP was intended to offer one-time funding for items that enhance faculty and undergraduate research capabilities and/or improve the overall academic experience for students. Funded projects are included in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept./Unit</th>
<th>Faculty/Staff Member(s)</th>
<th>Proposal Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ag &amp; NatR</td>
<td>K. Walker, B. Miller</td>
<td>purchase microscopes for student labs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag &amp; NatR</td>
<td>T. Bradford</td>
<td>purchase hematology machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag &amp; NatR</td>
<td>P. Aakre</td>
<td>purchase survey equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>S. Brorson</td>
<td>upgrade and enhance Alseth-NWSA Business Board Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAE</td>
<td>G. French</td>
<td>purchase musical instruments and equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAE</td>
<td>M. Odom</td>
<td>purchase materials for elementary education science curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>O. Williams</td>
<td>purchase multimedia computers, tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MST</td>
<td>B. Dingmann</td>
<td>purchase incubator and imaging station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MST</td>
<td>T. Dudley</td>
<td>purchase multi-function plate reader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MST</td>
<td>C. Sthultz</td>
<td>purchase multi-channel pipettes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jennifer Dillard has been hired as a lab services coordinator for the MST Department. She holds an M.S. in natural resource management with an emphasis in environmental education and interpretation from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point and a B.A. in sociology from the University of California—San Diego. Since September 2013, she has worked as a professional writing center consultant in UMC’s Academic Assistance Center. Prior to that, she worked as an interpretive park ranger for the National Park Service at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve in Bettles Field, Alaska. She began her new duties in the MST Department on March 3.

Moshe Weiss, a St. Paul, Minn., rabbi and inventor of the Sound Bender, a sound amplification accessory for the iPad, will present "Bait and Pitch—How a Rabbi Hooked a Shark and How You Can Too" on Tuesday, March 25, at noon in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The event is free and open to the public. The first 100 attendees will receive a free Sound Bender. Weiss has appeared on ABC Television's business-themed reality show "Shark Tank." The book Shark Tank Jump Start Your Business: How to Launch and Grow a Business from Concept to Cash will be available for purchase, and Weiss will be available to sign copies of the book following his presentation. The event is sponsored by UMC’s Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies (CRES).

Student Affairs & Enrollment Management –

Who is Q, and why do they call her that? Join actress Qurrat Ann Kadwani on a journey of self-discovery as she portrays thirteen characters in 60 minutes during the performance of the award-winning "They Call Me Q!" on Wednesday, March 12, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Programs and the UMC Women's Commission.
Thea Oertwich has been hired as a business analyst I for the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management, a position recently vacated by Erica White. Oertwich is a 2003 graduate of UMC with a bachelor’s degree in information networking management. Since 2007 she has worked as an information technology professional managing UMC’s Computer Help Desk. She began her new responsibilities in Admissions on March 10, but she will be job sharing between the two positions until a replacement is hired in Technology Support Services.

Technology Support Services –

Heritage Hall is experiencing ongoing network issues. Last week network connectivity to the building was lost temporarily. Heritage has had a number of different network issues this winter including cooling problems in its data closet, equipment failure, and intermittent network down time. For the last few weeks the issues have been related to a damaged underground fiber trunk cable, likely caused by freezing, between the main campus entrance and Heritage itself. That area is covered with snow and ice, so getting to the damage is a real problem. Options are being evaluated with the fiber installer, and problems are currently being dealt with on a day-to-day basis. If practical, repair or replacement of the fiber will likely happen over spring break.

Students, faculty, and staff from across the U of M system are encouraged to participate in the annual IT Input Survey available online at http://z.umn.edu/itinputsurvey2014. As part of the IT governance process, results from the survey help determine IT priorities for the year and drive the formal communities of practice that have become valuable opportunities for people to collaborate and make impactful contributions to the University. Broad input is critical to the success of this process.

Media Services –

John Normandin has been hired as a telephone services technician and media services support person, a position recently vacated by John Boucha. Normandin is a 2011 graduate of UMC with a bachelor’s degree in information technology management. Since August of 2011 he has worked as a video conference technician/applications programmer for the Northwest Educational Technology System (NETS) based on campus. He began his new responsibilities in Media Services on March 10. Telephone service needs can be made directly to him at extension 8499 or via e-mail jnorm@umn.edu.

Development & Alumni –

The TEAM UMC 2014 Fund Drive closing ceremony celebration will be held Thursday, March 13, at 3:30 p.m. in the Sargeant Student Center’s Prairie Room. Faculty and staff are invited to join their colleagues in celebration of a successful campus fund drive, which, to date, has raised more than $10,000 and helped surpass the endowment level of a scholarship fund for students. The final tally will be announced at the celebration. There will be refreshments, a short program at 3:50 p.m., and a photo of the group sporting TEAM UMC t-shirts at 4 p.m.

The Spring 2014 annual report edition of the Torch alumni magazine is now available online at http://issuu.com/umcrookston/docs/torch_spring_2014. Print copies will be distributed within the next two weeks. The annual report edition highlights the work of students, faculty, and staff over the previous year to provide a current snapshot of the U of M Crookston.
University Relations –

All faculty and staff (and especially new faculty and staff) are encouraged to have an official photo taken. Contact John Zak, publications editor and photographer, at ext. 8394 or e-mail jzak@umn.edu to set up an appointment to have the photo taken in 120 Kiehle Building.

Athletics –

Golden Eagle Women's Basketball player Katrina Moenkedick, a sophomore from Perham, Minn., majoring in early childhood education, has been named to the All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Second Team. Moenkedick was an NSIC All-Freshman Team pick last season for the Golden Eagles and has shown marked improvement in her sophomore season. The sophomore forward averaged 15.3 points and 7.5 rebounds per game to lead UMC in both categories for the 2013-14 season. Moenkedick was the epitome of consistency, scoring in double figures in 24 of 26 games. She tallied 20 or more points on seven occasions and tallied a career-high 30 points against Upper Iowa University on January 3.

To view all results and upcoming athletic events, visit www.goldeneaglesports.com.

Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC) –

Anne Burke, accounts specialist and safety coordinator, is working in conjunction with Paul Serafini and Tom Feiro to hold annual safety meetings for all NWROC employees. Training will be held on March 26 and 27 for safe practices in lockout/tagout, grain storage, respiratory protection, field and farmstead equipment training, forklift, employee right to know, electrical safety, hazardous waste, lab and greenhouse safety. Presenters include Paul Serafini, Tom Feiro, Jason Brantner and Theresa Helgeson.

Campus and Community

Assistant Professor Eric Castle, UMC Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, and Associate Professor Akosua Addo, U of M School of Music, worked together during fall semester 2013 to offer a distinctive collaborative learning opportunity to students on their two campuses. Addo's Mapping Arts Play class created a digital story and Castle's GIS Applications students added a spatial mapping component designed to enhance that story about children’s play taking place in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood near the West Bank of the U of M Twin Cities. Learn more. http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2014/03/unique-collaboration-across-un.html

Undergraduate researcher Andy Albertsen, a senior from Nelson, Minn., majoring in natural resources, is working with Associate Professor John Loegering on a long-term study of the American Kestrel, sometimes known as the sparrow hawk, that has become a community bird conservation and citizen-science research project. The plan is to place ten nesting boxes in the city of Crookston, some on private property and some on public land. The concept emerged from work with Loegering, the U of
River Watch, which engages students in monitoring their local streams as part of a Red River Basin citizen science network, will host the 19th annual River Watch Forum on Tuesday, March 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Sargeant Student Center and in several rooms in Dowell Hall. High school River Watch teams will present posters of their monitoring and research results and will also visit with resource professionals at concurrent sessions on a wide range of topics. The event is hosted by the International Water Institute and the Red River Watershed Management Board. For more information contact Wayne Goeken at wayne@iwinst.org or 218-574-2622. Learn more at www.iwinst.org/riverwatchforum.htm.

More than 500 high school juniors from several regional schools are scheduled to take part in the Crookston Chamber of Commerce Career Day on Thursday, March 20, from 8 a.m. to Noon in locations across the UMC campus including the Sargeant Student Center, Kiehle Auditorium, Dowell Hall, Hill Hall, and Owen Hall. Approximately 40 local professionals will discuss their careers with these students. The event is sponsored by the Crookston Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.

The University of Minnesota Crookston will launch a project in Mahnomen, Minn., to design a natural play space. Funding for the design project comes from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota's Center for Prevention grant to the U of M's Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP). Eric Castle, assistant professor in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, and Ethan Kojetin, a senior from Atwater, Minn. majoring in horticulture, will assist with this project. A design workshop to engage the community is scheduled for March 24 in Mahnomen starting at 7 p.m. at the Mahnomen Area Senior Center. All are welcome. Contact Tammy Carlsrud at 218-935-2527 for details. Learn more. http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2014/03/mahnomen-minn-to-launch-natura.html

University of Minnesota System

The Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) involved with the management and oversight of the University-wide Enterprise Systems Upgrade Program (ESUP) has identified February 2015 as the optimal time to begin go live activities. The decision to move the launch date back from the original November 2014 date resulted from a February planning retreat, where the EOC identified scope and quality as their key priorities and asked for scenarios that maximized time for quality code development and testing while fitting into the University’s business cycles.

U of M President Eric Kaler delivered his third State of the University address on Thursday, March 6. The transcript of his address is available online at www.umn.edu/president/speeches-and-writing/state-of-university-2014.

Accolades

The University of Minnesota Crookston's online bachelor's degree program in accounting has been deemed a "wise choice" and listed among 25 Notable Online Accounting Degree Programs by TheBestSchools.org. The listing includes 25 programs at 15 colleges and universities across the U.S.
TheBestSchools.org is an online resource for prospective students seeking a college or university degree. To view the U of M Crookston's listing, go to www.thebestschools.org/degrees/degreesaccounting-degrees-25-notable-online-programs/#UMinnesota.

A paper by the Math, Science and Technology Department’s Assistant Professor Omar Al-Azzam, “Flood Prediction and Risk Assessment Using Advanced Geo-Visualization and Data Mining Techniques: A Case Study in the Red-Lake Valley,” has been accepted for publication in the conference proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Applied Computer and Applied Computational Science (ACACOS). The conference is sponsored by the World Scientific and Engineering Academy and Society (WSEAS) and is scheduled for April 23-25, 2014, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Two faculty members in the Liberal Arts & Education Department have earned recent publications:


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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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