From the Chancellor

There is certainly a lot going on around here! As we all know very well, April is a busy month as we head toward the conclusion of spring semester and the academic year. Adding to this, we also begin planning for next year. Speaking of planning, while I know this is a very busy time, I want to draw everyone’s attention to the upcoming Strategic Planning Open Forum set for Friday, April 25, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in Brown Dining Room. All students, staff, and faculty are all invited to share thoughts on the initiatives that are emerging from the strategic planning process thus far. The agenda includes a very brief overview, group discussions, and opportunities for everyone to share their ideas and provide input in various ways. If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to review the related information at www.umcrookston.edu/stratplan in advance of the open forum. Again, we know this is busy time, but we hope to engage lots of folks at this stage of the planning process.

As we conclude the academic year, I want to bring an upcoming change to your attention. You may recall as we prepared to advertise for our new vice chancellor, we narrowed the portfolio of the Office of Academic Affairs in order to allow for the new vice chancellor to focus on critical academic areas and accreditation. When these changes were made, we knew we would reevaluate the portfolio once the new vice chancellor was fully engaged and had the opportunity to learn more about the institution. Based on discussions with a number of folks, including the strong support of both Vice Chancellor Keinath and Associate Vice Chancellor Phaiah, the decision has been made to return the Academic Assistance Center under the umbrella of Academic Affairs. Along with this, a name change of the unit to the Academic Success Center will reinforce the focus on student success. Over the past year with Associate Vice Chancellor Phaiah’s support and leadership, communication and collaboration have been strengthened, and the dedicated staff members have continued to provide outstanding student support. I want to thank him and Interim Director Kim Cousins for their outstanding work in this area.

Finally, as if this spring semester has not already been busy enough, we just completed our regular three-year audit. I am glad to report that the campus did very well with relatively very few negative “essential findings,” many of which have already been corrected or will be over the next few months. Please note that these regular audits, while very time consuming, do provide the opportunity to improve our operations, and I am certain this will be the outcome. The auditors made a point of telling me that our staff and faculty were exemplary in helping them while also continuing with all the regular and important day to day work. Completing the regular audit is an arduous task, and I want to thank everyone who was involved, with a special thanks to Director of Finance Tricia Sanders and her staff, who invested many hours in this very successful outcome.

I wish everyone all the best as you prepare for the final weeks of the academic year.

Sincerely,
Featured Events & Activities

Earth Day Performance: “Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau,” Tuesday, April 22 – 12:30 p.m., repeated at 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

University of Minnesota Crookston Alumni Association (UMCAA) Board Meeting, Wednesday, April 23 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 116 Kiehle

Bone Marrow Donor Registry Panel Discussion, Thursday, April 24 – 4 to 5 p.m., Evergreen Hall Classroom

Student Awards Night, Thursday, April 24 – 6 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, reception follows in Kiehle Rotunda

Open Forum on UMC’s Strategic Planning Process, Friday, April 25 – 1:30 to 3 p.m., Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center

Alpha Lambda Delta Hosts 4th Annual Pi Run, Saturday, April 26 – 8 a.m. to noon, Highland School, 801 Central Ave N., Crookston

Crookston High School “Blast to Bede” After Prom Party, Saturday, April 26 – 11 p.m. to 4 a.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

UMC Aviation Club Fly-In, Drive-In Breakfast, Sunday, April 27 – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Crookston Municipal Airport, 26305 Airport Road SW

UMC Community Band and UMC Choir Concert, Sunday, April 27 – 3 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

Special Presentation: “Taking Shape: 3D Printing,” Monday, April 28 – 6 to 8 p.m., Peterson Classroom, Heritage Hall, free and open to the public

Bone Marrow Donor Registry Drive, Tuesday, April 29, and Wednesday, April 30 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, open to the public

Equity and Diversity Certificate Training Session 9: “Understanding Disability and Advancing Access,” Friday, May 2 – 8:30 a.m. to Noon, Bede Ballroom

Equity and Diversity Certificate Training Session 10: “GLBTQ Identities and Communities,” Friday, May 2 – 1 to 4 p.m., Bede Ballroom

Last Day of Spring Semester Classes, Monday, May 5
New Student Merit Scholar Brunch and Registration Day, Monday, May 5 – 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Sixth Annual Fiesta in the Spirit of Cinco de Mayo, Monday, May 5 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

Final Exams, Tuesday, May 6, through Friday, May 9

Riverland Tourism Conference “Developing Tourism in NW Minnesota... One Story at a Time,” Tuesday, May 6 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, registration is $35 per person

Commencement Ceremonies for the Class of 2014, Saturday, May 10 – reception for online students 9 to 11 a.m., pre-ceremony reception for all 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., commencement ceremonies begin at 2 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 –

UMC will serve as the host site for a number of camps and conferences—sponsored by University units as well as other organizations—over the summer. Anyone looking for information about these events is encouraged to refer to the following online resource: www.umcrookston.edu/camps.

Academic Affairs –

Members of the campus community—staff, faculty, and students—are encouraged to share their thoughts on the strategic initiatives emerging from the strategic planning process at an open forum scheduled for Friday, April 25, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center. The agenda will include a very brief overview, round-robin small group discussion, and “input cards” for individuals to share their ideas and feedback on the three proposed strategic initiatives. All faculty, staff, and interested students are encouraged to review the information at www.umcrookston.edu/stratplan.

The Academic Assistance Center (AAC) will get a new name—Academic Success Center (ASC)—and will return to Academic Affairs after the end of the current semester. The name change reinforces what has always been and will continue to be the focus of the center: student success. During the year in which the AAC has been a part of Student Affairs, communication and collaboration with other Student Affairs units have been strengthened. With support and leadership from Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Peter Phaiah, AAC interim director Kim Cousins and the dedicated staff
have studied the impact of GNED 1000 on student success and retention, built a strong cross-functional approach to serving students, and continued to provide outstanding student support. The search for the next director of the ASC will begin within the next few weeks.

**Student Affairs & Enrollment Management –**

Results of the recent student elections for positions on the executive board of the Crookston Student Association (CSA) are as follows: President Justin Goodroad, Vice-President Emily Campbell, Secretary Monika Sweet, S.P.A.C.E. Chairperson Emily Goff, Senator Brennan Andreas, Senator Younghwa “Gabriella” Byeon, Senator Delaney Kohorst, Senator Kole Pederson, and Senator Josee Plante. The positions of treasurer, Regent’s representative, and Student Senate Consultative Committee Representative are currently awaiting appointment or vacant. Six additional senators will be elected in fall semester 2014.

The annual Student Awards Program will be held Thursday evening, April 24, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event recognizes student leadership and accomplishment over the academic year through the presentation of various student achievement awards. Among the awards presented are the highest student honors, Man and Woman of the Year. The entire campus community is encouraged to attend. Family and friends of students are warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be served in the Kiehle Rotunda following the program.

The final two training sessions for the U of M Equity and Diversity Certificate will be offered on Friday, May 2, in Bede Ballroom. The training helps participants develop tools necessary for advancing equity and diversity in all aspects of their personal and professional lives. These sessions are free and open to students, faculty, staff, and members of the local community. Workshop Session 9: “Understanding Disability and Advancing Access” will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to Noon, and Workshop Session 10: “GLBTQ Identities and Communities” will be offered from 1 to 4 p.m. From noon to 1 p.m. a “meet and greet” luncheon will be held to welcome Stef Wilenchek, the new director of GLBTA programs for the Office of Equity and Diversity at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Wilenchek will visit the campus that day and take part in the training sessions. Questions should be directed to Lorna Hollowell at 218-281-8580 or lhollowe@umn.edu.

Admissions and the Student and Family Experience will host the New Student Merit Scholar Brunch and Registration Day on Monday, May 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. This event is for invited admitted students who are receiving merit scholarships and their families. Approximately 40 new merit scholars are expected.

**Thomas Vedebraaten has been hired as a parking enforcement officer** by the Office of Residential Life & Security Services. He will begin his duties on Monday, April 28.

**International Programs –**

The Confucius Institute Satellite Office based at UMC will host the first-ever Northwest Chinese Teachers’ Workshop on Saturday April 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Teachers of Chinese language courses in Moorhead, Fargo, Grand Forks, and the surrounding area will use this time to network, share ideas, and learn more about offering successful Chinese language programs in Northwest Minnesota.
Applications are still being accepted for the Internationalizing Teaching and Learning faculty cohort offered through the U of M’s Global Programs and Strategy Alliance, and applicants from Crookston are encouraged. Interested faculty should contact Mary Katherine B. O’Brien, assistant education specialist, Dean’s Office, Global Programs and Strategy Alliance, phone: 612-625-9520, e-mail: obrie713@umn.edu.

Technology Support Services –

Over the past several years, the campus has experimented with convertible tablet computers (2-in-1 devices) through pilot programs where many of the faculty and some staff members have participated. Technology Support Services has plans to continue and expand its pilot testing of various convertible and detachable tablet designs for next year. This pilot will invite interested faculty and a small group of students to participate. Faculty will have three devices to choose from next year. An online form will be available soon to select a device for next year. All three options will have Windows 8.1 and Office 2013 installed.

Option 1: the new standard issue computer, the HP Elitebook 840. Based on responses received from a technology survey this winter, the top suggestions were addressed with the 840, including its ultrabook design, lighter weight, and longer battery life.

Option 2: a new second generation of the HP Revolve 810 that some faculty member are currently testing. This new model has an upgraded screen that allows vastly improved writing capabilities.

Option 3: a new enterprise class detachable keyboard model from HP. Although consumer models have been available for some time, a new enterprise class machine, due out this spring, will be used in the pilot. Enterprise devices meet military standards (MIL-STD) for ruggedness, a standard used in all UMC’s notebook computers.

A small pilot group of approximately 20 students will help test the convertible and detachable devices (options 2 and 3 above). There will be a first and second choice; however, an equal number of students will test each of the two devices. Interested students will be asked to complete an online form (available soon) to be considered for the pilot program. If selected as a participant, each student will need to agree to be issued a convertible or detachable device to be used in place of a standard issue computer, and he or she must be willing to participate in data gathering during the pilot to help better understand the value of the devices. Watch for more updates coming soon.

University Relations –

Printing and Design Services on campus will move to regular reduced summer staffing beginning on Wednesday, May 14.

- Graphic Designer Patti Tiedemann will be off for the summer after Tuesday, May 13. Campus units needing design work for a summer project should contact Patti immediately as design work will not be supported on campus after May 13 until she returns on Monday, August 11.
• In the print shop, Linda Wilkens will be on staff and will be able to assist with printing (but not design) needs through Friday, June 13. Linda will be off starting June 16 through the entire month of July. She will be back and able to print on Wednesday, August 6.

• Editor and Photographer John Zak typically will be on campus only one day a week (and for scheduled registration days and as needed) starting Monday, May 19 through Monday, August 18.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Andrew Svec at asvec@umn.edu or 218-281-8438. As always, if any unit or individual requires consultation for printing or design needs while staff members are off for the summer, he can assist with identifying off-campus vendors.

Athletics –

Dan Weisse has been hired as the Golden Eagles' head men's basketball coach. He comes to UMC after a stint as an assistant coach at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) under head coach Chad Walthall, but he has been coaching in the Red River Valley for the past seven seasons. Weisse was the lead assistant and recruiting coordinator for the MSUM Dragons and helped a squad to an NCAA Division II tournament berth, where they picked up their first NCAA tournament win since 1965. In addition to earning a tournament berth, the Dragons hosted their first NSIC tournament game since 1994 and achieved their first national ranking in program history. Last season Weisse helped the Dragons to a 21-8 record and a berth in the NSIC Championship. Learn more. www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2014/4/15/MBB_0415140032.aspx

The Golden Eagle Football Team will hold its spring game on Sunday, April 27, at 1 p.m. at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, N.D. The game will be a mixture of drills and game-like situations and will be in a Maroon vs. Gold format. The event is free and open to the public.

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

Student Clubs and Organizations –

The Fourth Annual Alpha Lambda Delta Pi Run (3.14 miles/5K) will be held on Saturday, April 26. Registration and check-in begin at 8:30 a.m. at Highland School, 801 Central Ave N, Crookston, Minn. Start time for the Pi/3 (1.05 mile) kids fun run is 9:30 a.m. Start time for the 5K and 10K runs is 10 a.m. These events are open to the public who may run or walk; walkers with strollers are also welcome. There are several variations of the registration fee (e.g. UMC students pay only $10). All registered runners will receive a Nike Dri-Fit short sleeved technical shirt. Learn more and register online at www.theirationalrace.com. Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society will donate proceeds from this run to support the Polk County Historical Society's Carnegie Library Renovation Project Fund.

The SRM 3003 class and the UMC Archery Club will host the First Annual Shoot for the Stars Fundraiser on Saturday, April 26. The event will be held at the Crookston Gun Club from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost of the event is $5 per person and includes a complementary lunch. All proceeds of the event will go to support the UMC Archery Club.

The annual spring Fly-In, Drive-In Pancake Breakfast will take place on Sunday, April 27, at the Crookston Municipal Airport. The event, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., is hosted by the University
of Minnesota Crookston Aviation Club and Crookston Aviation. Cost is $8 per person, PICs flying in and children under 6 are free.

**The University of Minnesota Crookston Choir under the direction of Associate Professor George French will be joined by the U of M Crookston Community Band under the direction of TJ Chapman for a spring concert on Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the concert.**

**Campus and Community**

The public is invited to attend "Taking Shape: 3D Printing" on Monday, April 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Peterson Classroom of Heritage Hall. The event, which is free, is hosted by 360-degrees Manufacturing and Applied Engineering ATE Regional Center of Excellence, together with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies (CRES) at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Attendees will have the opportunity to see 3D printers in action and learn about the potential of this emerging technology to print a multitude of 3D objects, including such things as art, jewelry, personalized dolls and action figures, mechanical parts, medical devices, implants, and even food. Learn more. [http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2014/04/3d-printing-event-to-be-held-a.html](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2014/04/3d-printing-event-to-be-held-a.html)

The U of M Crookston will host a bone marrow registry drive on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 29 and 30, in Bede Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. For those looking for more information prior to the drive, an informational session will be held April 24 in the Evergreen Classroom at 4 p.m. These events are open to all of the Crookston community. The goal of this registry drive is to get 75 people on the Be The Match Registry®, the largest and most diverse bone marrow registry in the world. Those who are between the ages of 18 and 44, and especially those who come from a diverse background, are all prime candidates for the registry. For more information, contact Lisa Loegering, assistant director, community engagement, at 218-281-8526 or loege005@umn.edu.

The Sixth Annual Fiesta in the Spirit of Cinco de Mayo will be held on Monday, May 5, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public. Local musician Tony Diaz and singer Bryan Sanchez will be the featured performers. The event will also honor Father Mario Prada, who served as the director of International and Multicultural Programs at the U of M Crookston from 1988-2005 and who presently serves in the for Diocese of Crookston and works tirelessly as an advocate for the Hispanic community. The fiesta is sponsored in part by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grant by the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment from the Minnesota State Legislature. Other sponsors include the U of M Crookston Career Development and Counseling Department and the Concerts and Lectures Committee.

The Extension Regional Office in Crookston at Valley Technology Park will serve as a host site for a live symposium webinar of the Extension Center for Youth Development entitled “Social and Emotional Learning: Assess It to Address It” on Tuesday, May 6, from 8:45 a.m. to noon. The live session will take place at the U of M TCF Stadium, where approximately 250 people will attend in person while another 250 people attend online. The Crookston community location allows a group of local colleagues to view the live presentation, ask questions through a chat pod, participate in audience polls, discuss audience questions, and network with local colleagues. The symposium will feature Gil Noam of Harvard University and Kimberly Schonert-Reichl from the University of British Columbia. The event is free, but registration by Friday, May 2, is required. Register by sending your
name, organization name, e-mail address, and phone number to Extension Educator Margo Bowerman, mbowerma@umn.edu, 218-281-8695.

The Riverland Tourism Association will host a tourism conference entitled "Developing Tourism in NW Minnesota... One Story at a Time" on Tuesday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The day-long seminar is designed to provide tourism education in Northwest Minnesota. A wide variety of sessions focusing on marketing, tourism development and digital trends will be presented. The cost of the conference is $35, which includes registration, lunch, and breaks. Contact Riverland President Laura Anderson at 218-686-9785 or trfcvb@mncable.net to register. The event is made possible by the financial support of the Northwest Regional Sustainable Partnership.

Accolades

The annual North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) judging conference was held April 10-12 at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville. The team from the University of Minnesota Crookston won sweepstakes in the four-year college division for the second year in a row. Contests included ag business, ag mechanics, quiz bowl, horticulture, ag computers, crops, among others. An awards banquet concluded the competition. More details about the individual contests and results will be available soon.

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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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