From the Chancellor

“What a great day!” was commonly heard on Monday of last week. Thankfully the weather, something we talk about often up here in northwest Minnesota, was almost perfect. However, the reason for the comment did not only stem from the beautiful day.

One of the major reasons was the long-awaited ceremonial groundbreaking for the Wellness Center. It was a wonderful event with a number of speakers including U of M President Eric Kaler, Senator LeRoy Stumpf, Representative Deb Kiel, Regent Tom Devine, and CSA President Justin Goodroad. Following the outstanding speeches, we had a number of pictures and opportunities for everyone to “dig in” as part of ceremony. Seeing so many people with shovels in hand was a highlight for me since this really has been a team effort. This could not have occurred without the efforts of Chancellors Sargeant and Casey. Nor could it have happened without the efforts of numerous staff members over many years, including Stephanie Helgeson, who has seemingly been there from the beginning. It would not have happened were it not for the community and business leaders who provided their support. It also would not be possible without the many letters from staff, faculty, and students, or if the students had not taken many important steps, such as visits to St. Paul and instituting a student fee.

As I said in my remarks that day, this entire effort has been called the model of capital project advocacy – the Crookston Model. I continue to recall the first day of fall semester instruction at UMC in 2012 when a group of students stopped me to express that a Wellness Center was their top priority, and together we made it happen. I want to again thank everyone for their efforts, large or small, recent or in the past, that assisted and all those who, as I mentioned in my remarks, helped to “loosen the pickle jar.” Thank you, one and all, for helping this become a reality.

The opportunity to announce a major gift toward the project and to honor Les and June Nielsen was another wonderful aspect of this great day. The Nielsens share our recognition of the importance of all dimensions of wellness, of improving student success, of creating a community asset for the region, and they sincerely appreciate the critically important role of higher education in making the region, the state, the nation, and the world a better place. As native northwest Minnesotans (their families have been in this region for generations), they understand the importance of this university to the region and of this facility to our students. Due to their long term connections to the campus, they also understand the great value of this small campus in helping students succeed. They see education as the “silver bullet” for a better world for all, and we proudly share that vision with them. We are extremely appreciative and grateful for their generous investment in supporting this transformational project, and we are honored to name the lobby in the memory of their son.
It was also a great day because of the many visitors to the campus, including President Kaler who, in addition to his duties at the events, took the time to tour facilities, meet with students, and hold an open forum with faculty and staff. As I drove him back to the airport, he made a point of telling me that the day had gone extremely well during all the events. He also noted that “there are a lot of great things happening at Crookston.” It is good to have his support.

It was indeed a great day, but is was also a complex day of detailed and tight logistics. While I won’t be able to mention everyone involved, it is important to specially recognize at least a few. I want to thank Elizabeth Tollefson and Andrew Svec for all their work in obtaining so much great media coverage. I want to thank Corby Kemmer and Sue Dwyer for all their work on the gift announcement event. I want to thank Dave Danforth, Brenda Boyzk, Nell DeBoer, and all the folks in facilities and grounds for having the campus look so very beautiful for our visitors. I want to thank Melissa Parkin and the dining staff for all their work in serving a delicious meal, ingredients for which were grown right here on campus. I want to thank John Normandin for a day of perfect technology. And finally, I also want to thank Chris Winjum for all his efforts leading up to this important day and throughout the entire day’s events. Thanks again to all who were involved and who attended these wonderful events.

There are indeed lots of great things happening at the University of Minnesota Crookston, and it was indeed a great day for the campus!

Sincerely,
Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston

**Featured Events & Activities**

**The Confucius Institute Presents an Evening of Chinese Dance and Music, Tuesday, September 30 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public**

**Speaker Mary (Noe') Sass on Immigrating to the U.S. from Hungary and Experiencing W.W.II through the Eyes of a Child, Wednesday, October 1 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center, free and open to the public**

**Soup and Substance: The Ethics of Hunting, Wednesday, October 1 – noon to 1 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free**

**What’s on Wednesday (W.O.W.): Comedy Magician and “Balloon Freak” John Cassidy, Wednesday, October 1 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium**

**Thursday Commons: Strategic Planning Update Session, Thursday, October 2 – 12:30 to 2 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center**

**UMC Celebrates International Day of Non-Violence, Thursday, October 2 – 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. presentation, reception, and panel discussion, Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center; 6 p.m. free showing of film “Gandhi,” Kiehle Auditorium**
UMC Turf Club Hosts the 11th Annual Carl Spackler Open Golf Tournament, Friday, October 3 – 3 p.m. Minakwa Golf Course, Crookston, 9-hole, 4-person teams scramble, cost is $35 per person, open to the public

A Taste of Europe: Western Europe, Monday, October 6 – 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Brown Dining Room, students may use meal plans or cash, faculty $5.50, others $7.80

Admissions Hosts Experience UMC Horticulture Day, Saturday, October 11 – 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., check-in at Sargeant Student Center

A Taste of Europe: Eastern Europe, Monday, October 13 – 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Brown Dining Room, students may use meal plans or cash, faculty $5.50, others $7.80

UMC Hosts Minnesota Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Regional Conference, Tuesday, October 14 – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium and Bede Ballroom

What’s on Wednesday (W.O.W.): Homecoming Coronation and Comedy, Wednesday, October 15 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

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 –

Students, faculty, staff, and all members of the campus community are invited to attend Thursday Commons on October 2 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in Bede Ballroom for the Strategic Planning Update Session. Attendees will learn what has been done working toward the strategic planning goals and will be asked to think about what they can do to contribute to the overarching strategic planning goals of increasing recruitment, retention, and graduation rates. The session will involve reporting on projects as well as interactive discussions on additional ideas and collaborations.

The University of Minnesota Crookston College Advisory and Advancement Board (CAAB) will meet on campus on Friday, October 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Alseth NWSA Business Boardroom, 116 Dowell Hall. The group will get updates on Academic Affairs, strategic planning and economic development, the plans for the Wellness Center, and initiatives of the Office of Development & Alumni Relations. CAAB serves the campus by seeking ways to improve student and alumni success, to provide excellent high priority programs and initiatives, to actively support advancement, and to enhance UMC partnerships and service to the community, region, and beyond. Learn more at www.crk.umn.edu/alumni/caab.
Student Affairs & Enrollment Management –

Special guest speaker Mary (Noe’) Sass will tell her story of living through WWII through the eyes of a child on Tuesday, October 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center. An immigrant from Budapest, Hungary, she has survived the war, survived cancer, and in December 2013, she was chosen as one of the most inspirational people of Grand Forks, ND, by the Grand Forks Herald, who featured her in a cover story. Part of European American Heritage Month, this event is sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Programs. Hungarian food will also be served in Brown Dining Room that day over the lunch hour. Students may use their meal plan or pay cash; Faculty and staff cost is $5.50, and all others pay $7.80.

Comedy magician and “balloon freak” John Cassidy will perform on Wednesday, October 1, at 7 p.m., in Kiehle Auditorium. Cassidy is a professional comedian, magician, and balloon artist who holds several Guinness World Records for balloon sculpting speed. He has appeared numerous times on television as either a stand-up comedian, magician, or as a Guinness Book of World Records celebrity. His performance is sponsored by Student Programming and Activities for Campus Entertainment (S.P.A.C.E.).

In celebration of Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday, also recognized in his honor as the International Day of Non-Violence by the United Nations, a series of events commemorating his life will take place on Thursday, October 2. These events are free and open to all. From 3:30 to 4 p.m. in the Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center, Associate Professor Venu Mukku will give a presentation on the life of Gandhi. Refreshments will be served from 4 to 4:30 p.m. A panel discussion will be held in the Northern Lights Lounge from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on the topic "Gandhian values and their relevance to modern society" moderated by Lora Hollowell, director, Diversity and Multicultural Programs. The day will conclude with the showing of the movie “Gandhi” from 6 to 9:30 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. Free pizza and refreshments will be served in the Rotunda at intermission of the film.

"A Taste of Europe" will be offered Mondays throughout October in Brown Dining Room in observance of European American Heritage Month. Monday, October 6, features foods from the UK, Ireland, France, and Germany; Monday, October 13 features foods from Russia, Bulgaria and other eastern European countries. All are welcome. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Individuals may purchase their food at the door in the usual manner. Students may use their meal plan or pay cash; Faculty and staff cost is $5.50, and all others pay $7.80.

Facilities & Operations –

Faculty and staff who use UMC fleet vehicles are reminded to refuel these vehicles just before or when returning them to campus so they are fully fueled and ready for the next group/person to use. Individuals who do not know how to refuel at the University pump are encouraged to see Brenda Bozyk or Dave Danforth, who will demonstrate how the pump works. Also, if anyone has a vehicle reserved and discovers they no longer need it, notify Brenda at ext. 8483 so the vehicle reservation can be released and others may use it.
Environmental Health & Safety –

In June, UMC’s Department of Environmental Health & Safety applied for a grant from Greater Northwest Emergency Medical Services to place additional Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) on campus. In July, the campus was awarded five free AEDs to be placed in buildings that are utilized by the general public. The new AED’s are now in Kiehle Building, Sahlstrom Conference Center, Sargeant Student Center, Sports Center, and Heritage Hall by the Peterson Classroom. In addition, the existing AEDs from these buildings were then moved. As a result, the campus now has an AED in every residence hall on campus. Training is also a requirement of the grant. A one-hour "awareness level" training session will be made available to small groups (6-10 employees) during November and December. Those interested in setting up a date and time for training should contact Tom Feiro, Environmental Health & Safety, at ext. 8300 or tfeiro@crk.umn.edu.

Development & Alumni Relations –

Special thanks goes to all those involved in the planning and implementation of last week's press conference and ceremonial ground breaking of the Wellness Center. The campus also offers sincere gratitude to Les and June Nielsen for making a $1 million transformational investment in the Wellness Center in memory of their son, Mitch Lien Nielsen, for which the lobby of the facility will be named.

The UMC Alumni Association Board will meet Wednesday, October 1, at 6:30 p.m. in Kiehle 116.

Teambackers will host the Football Tailgate on Saturday, October 4, in Evergreen Grill beginning at 11 a.m. All members and non-members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Consider joining Teambackers in support of student-athlete scholarships. For more information contact Stephanie Helgeson at 218-281-8422 or Corby Kemmer at 218-281-8434.

Athletics –

Golden Eagle women’s golfer Katie Sheetz, a junior from Grand Rapids, Minn., won the individual title at the Bemidji State University Invitational on Friday, September 26, as she continued her strong play at the Bemidji Town and Country Club. Sheetz has won the last two titles at the amateur Birchmont Tournament on the golf course. The Golden Eagles placed second to Bemidji State University in the three-team tournament by just eight strokes. Sheetz shot a 77 for the round in order to capture the title.

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

Campus and Community

Approximately 100 high school students involved in Minnesota Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) will take part in their annual regional conference on campus on Tuesday, October 14. Their events and meetings will be held in Bede Ballroom, the Prairie Room, Kiehle Auditorium, Owen 118, and Kiehle 105 and 116. The conference starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. FCCLA is a student leadership organization that focuses on youth, peer education and family. FCCLA
empowers young women and men to be active leaders in their family, school, and community by addressing important personal, family, work and societal issues.

**Accolades**

Four UMC faculty members in the Liberal Arts & Education Department have co-authored a textbook, *Public Speaking Workbook*, which was recently published by Kendall Hunt, Dubuque, IA. The four are Associate Professor Kevin D. Thompson, Professor Mark E. Huglen, Lecturer Megan N. Bell, and Assistant Professor Lynnette Mullins.

William Christopher Brown, Ph.D., lecturer in the Liberals Arts & Education Department, recently had an article published in *albeit*, an online journal “that strives to fill the academic space between scholarly journal articles and teaching documents.” His article is entitled "Homo Ludens and the Society of the Chivalric Spectacle in George A Romero's Knightriders." It is available online at [http://albeitjournal.com/homo-ludens-and-the-society-of-the-chivalric-spectacle-in-george-a-romeros-knightriderswilliam-christopher-brown](http://albeitjournal.com/homo-ludens-and-the-society-of-the-chivalric-spectacle-in-george-a-romeros-knightriderswilliam-christopher-brown).


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