From the Chancellor

Welcome to spring semester 2015! I have always enjoyed the beginning of the spring term with the addition of new students, the launch of new courses, and the new calendar year. This spring, with the Regents approval at their final meeting of 2014, we have two new majors: English and International Business. The addition of these majors will add to our continuing efforts to recruit and retain our students. This spring will also include the commencement of construction of the new Wellness Center, which was also given final approval by the Regents. It all promises another exciting season at UMC!

I hope you had a terrific winter break with friends and family. Over the holidays Mary and I visited our daughter who is serving in the Peace Corps in Swaziland, in southern Africa. I was reminded how very fortunate we are to live in a country with strong systems of education. As we know, developing countries face many challenges, and education, in many forms, is crucial to determining solutions. During the visit, I was able to spend time with young students who aspire to attend college and who hoped to do well on their exams so they might be among the very few who will be admitted to college. It was hard for these students to imagine a place where attending college is available to so many, as it is here. The experience made me very proud of the special role UMC plays for so many students, from both the region and from all over the world. I look forward to continuing this important work with you this spring.

Sincerely,
Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston

Featured Events & Activities

Spring Semester 2015 Classes Begin, Monday, January 12, 2015

Northwest Service Cooperative High School Knowledge Bowl Competition, Tuesday, January 13 – 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Bede Ballroom, Prairie Room, Eagles Nest Area, Kiehle 116, Kiehle Auditorium

W.O.W. (What’s on Wednesday): Magician Brian Miller, Wednesday, January 14 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday, Monday, January 19 – campus offices closed, classes excused
Northern Red River Valley Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Monday, January 19 – 10:30 a.m., Unity Walk from Crookston Inn to Kiehle Auditorium; 11 a.m. Celebration Program, Kiehle Auditorium, followed by lunch in Brown Dining Room, free and open to the public

UMC Alumni Association (UMCAA) Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, January 20 – 6:30 p.m., 116 Kiehle Building

Service Learning Brown Bag Lunch Discussion on Reflection, Friday, January 23 – Noon to 1 p.m., Bede Ballroom, all interested faculty and staff are invited

UMC Career and Counseling Services Hosts the 13th Annual Winter Job and Internship Fair, Wednesday, January 28 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Ag Arama 2015, Friday, January 30, and Saturday, January 31

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: http://brief.umn.edu.

Around Campus

Academic Affairs –

Two new majors have been added to the list of academic offerings at the U of M Crookston following approval by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents at the December 2014 meeting. A major in International Business will be added to the degree programs in the Business Department, and a major in English will be offered in the Liberal Arts and Education Department. Both new majors lead to Bachelor of Science degrees, and International Business will be available to students entirely online as well as on campus. Students will also have the option for a minor in each area. The programs are available to students effective spring semester 2015. Learn more, http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news/2014/12/international-business-and-eng.html

Student Affairs –

Aaron Meyer has been hired as a residential life coordinator for the Office of Residential Life and Security Services. Originally from Hillsboro, North Dakota, he holds an M.Ed. in counseling as well as a bachelor’s degree in psychology, both from Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He began his duties at UMC on January 5.

Magician, comedian, mind reader, philosopher, and musician Brian Miller will perform on campus on Wednesday, January 14, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. Miller's act combines magic, comedy, mind reading, puzzles, games, and live music into a one-man, vaudeville-inspired variety show. He also uses guitar looping technology to create his own backing tracks live in front of the audience. Sponsored by S.P.A.C.E., the event is free.
The 2015 Red River Valley Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is scheduled for Monday, January 19. The event is free and open to the public. The day begins at 10:30 a.m. with a unity walk. Individuals who wish to take part in the unity walk should park in Lot G near Kiehle Building and gather in the Kiehle Rotunda between 10 and 10:15 a.m. Shuttles will take participants to the starting point at the Crookston Inn, 2200 University Avenue in Crookston. They will walk as a group north to the U of M Crookston’s Kiehle Building via the walking/bike path. At 11 a.m. a program will begin in Kiehle Auditorium, followed by a free lunch social in Brown Dining Room. This event is a collaboration among the University of Minnesota Crookston, Northland Community and Technical College, and the University of North Dakota. All are welcome. For more information, contact Lorna Hollowell at lhollowe@umn.edu or 218-281-8580.

Business Affairs-

The IRS has announced changes in the standard business mileage rates for calendar year 2015. As of January 1, 2015, the standard business mileage reimbursement rate for personal vehicle use on approved University business has risen from 56 cents to 57.5 cents per mile. (See the Rates section of the Administrative Policy: Traveling on University Business.) The standard mileage rate for moving expenses is now 23 cents per mile as non-taxable and the remaining 34.5 cents per mile as taxable. Business mileage incurred in 2014 but reimbursed in 2015 should be reimbursed using the 2014 mileage rates. The Employee Expense Worksheet (UM1612) and the Moving/Relocation Expense Documentation Form (UM 1357) are being updated to reflect the changes to the mileage rates. Learn more. www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Finance/Travel/TRAVEL.html

Technology Support Services –

U of M faculty and staff can download Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus for personal use on up to five devices at no charge. Learn more and download the software. http://it2.umn.edu/services/all/computer-device-support/purchasing/software/office/index.htm

Media Services –

James Pogatshnik has been hired as a telephone and media services technician in Media Services. He holds an A.A.S. degree in audio production and engineering from the Institute of Production and Recording in Minneapolis, Minn. He comes to UMC from the University of North Dakota, where he most recently served as an instructional support technologist working with students, faculty, and staff. He also works as a freelance producer and audio engineer. Pogatshnik began his duties December 15.

Development & Alumni Relations –

The UMC Alumni Association Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, January 20, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Kiehle 116. Board members include Lauralee (Nicholas) Tupa ’05, president; Alisha Aasness ’12, vice president; Linda (Knutson) Morgan ’85 & ’09, secretary; Chris Awender ’11; Jess Bengtson ’10; Megan Luxford ’14; Eric Morgan ’12; Greg Nathan ’98; Brooke Novak ’13; Amy (Nelson) Sperling ’02; and Bill Thielke ’94.
University Relations –

Corky Miller has been hired temporarily to fill in part-time for John Zak while John recovers from a medical issue. Miller, who worked for a number of years in UMC Media Services and retired in 2011, will work Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in January and into February until John Zak is able to return. He will assist with photography and visual media projects and will be based in Kiehle 120.

Athletics –

Twenty-four Golden Eagle student-athletes were recognized on the 2014 Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Fall All-Academic Team. The NSIC had 624 student-athletes earn NSIC All-Academic honors for the 2014 fall athletic season. To be eligible for this honor, the student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team, must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or better, must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at her/his institution (true freshmen, red-shirt freshmen and ineligible athletic transfers are not eligible), and must have completed at least one full academic year at that institution. The listing of UMC student-athletes is posted at www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2014/12/16/FB_1216142640.aspx.

U of M Crookston football player Greg Lofquist, a senior from South St. Paul, Minn., majoring in criminal justice, has been named to the Third Team of the 2014 Don Hansen NCAA Division II All-Super Region Three Squad. Lofquist was an All-NSIC North First Team pick and a Beyond Sports Network All-Super Region 3 Second Team selection. He led the Golden Eagles with 160 tackles—the most tackles a player has ever had in a single-season at UMC. He surpassed the previous mark set by Neil Austin in 2001. Lofquist's 98 tackles were also a single-season record, as were his 62 solo tackles. Lofquist led the NSIC in tackles on the season and was third in the nation in total tackles.

The UMC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) recently raised $2,816.10 for fellow student Brady Schmidt, who has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. SAAC members collected pledges prior to the Men's and Women's Basketball games against St. Cloud State on December 6 from people who agreed to donate a designated sum per point scored by both the men's and women's teams. Thanks to strong scoring, especially by the Golden Eagle Men's Basketball team, SAAC was able to raise the money to help offset treatment costs for Schmidt, who has worked in several capacities for the Athletics Department.

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

“The Upgrade” a.k.a. The Enterprise Systems Upgrade Project (ESUP)

The Upgrade, originally planned to launch in mid-February, is now expected to launch in March or April. Announcement of the new implementation dates is expected by January 28. The delay will allow for the resolution of issues uncovered in testing and integrating the 2015 tax updates from Oracle. Final end-to-end testing will take a few weeks. When determining timing for such a large program, several factors are considered, from payroll periods to student registration to grant processes and more. For more information about the Upgrade, go to http://upgrade.umn.edu/.
Campus and Community

The 2015 Local Foods College is a series of eight sessions designed for gardeners and farmers who are part of the growing community-based food system. The first session of the series will be held on the evening of Tuesday, January 13, and will continue on Tuesday evenings through March 3. The series will be available via webinar, so participants can join at home or at one of several locations throughout northern and central Minnesota. Registration is FREE with print-your-own materials. Session topics include: Natural Soil Fertility; Vegetable Production Tips and Tricks; Marketing and Business Planning; Pollination; Deep Winter Greenhouses; Growing in Small Spaces; Food Hubs and Farm to Bottle. Local Foods College is supported by University of Minnesota Extension, the Statewide Health Improvement Program, and Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education. For more detailed information and registration, go to http://localfoods.umn.edu/college or call 888-241-0781.

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 2015. The U of M Crookston was ranked #34 among the 215 schools in this year's survey, up from last year's 64th place. Since _U.S.News & World Report_ began publishing rankings of institutions offering online degrees in 2012, the U of M Crookston has ranked in the top quartile in each of the listings. It is one of only two Minnesota colleges ranked in the top 100, the other being Concordia University - St. Paul. Rankings were based on student engagement (40 percent); faculty credentials and training (20 percent); peer reputation (20 percent); and student services and technology (20 percent). The full listing is available online at www.usnews.com/online.

The University of Minnesota Crookston is listed among the top 10 of the 50 Most Affordable Public Schools for Out-of-State Students by AffordableColleges.com, a web resource intended to provide prospective college students with the most accurate and relevant information on making higher education more cost-effective. On the list, UMC ranked #8. The organization factored average tuition and institutional financial aid rates into the rankings. The complete listing and methodology are available at www.affordablecolleges.com/rankings/public-schools-for-out-of-state-students.

An article by William Christopher Brown, lecturer in the Liberal Arts & Education Department, was recently published. "The Parrhesiastic Game in Geoffrey Chaucer’s Tale of Melibe" appears in _Limina: A Journal of Historical and Cultural Studies_, volume 20, number 2 (2014). It is available online at www.limina.arts.uwa.edu.au/volumes/20.2/brown.

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