From The Vice Chancellor

Searches are underway at many levels of the University of Minnesota, which means that a lot of us are thinking a lot about leadership. At the University level, which candidates for Board of Regent vacancies will provide the best leadership? AT UMC, where we have several searches underway, we are looking for the best leaders for academic departments, academic programs, and the new Center for Rural Economic Development. What kind of leadership is wanted and needed from the people we choose for these positions? What makes an effective leader?

We at the University of Minnesota are not alone in our interest in leaders and leadership. A lot of people have written a lot of books about leadership. (A keyword search for “leadership” in the Books section of Amazon.com results in 129,906 hits.) The “modern” era of Western thinking and leadership began in the 1840s with the “Great Man” theory, the central tenant of which was that leaders are born, not made. Categories of leadership theories that have arisen since then include trait, behavioral, contingency/situational, transactional, transformational, servant, charismatic, and, even, dark leadership. Within each of these categories, many different streams of research exist. Elements of each of these schools of leadership thought continue to hold some sway yet today.

As many of you heard me say during my on-campus interviews in May 2013, my own thinking about leadership has been heavily influenced by the work of James MacGregor Burns on transformational leadership. In contrast to transactional leadership (you do something for me, I give you something you value), transformational leadership focuses on leaders and followers in a relationship that elevates both to a higher level in pursuit of a noble purpose or endeavor. If we can all agree—and I think we can—that education is a noble endeavor, then transformational leadership has a perfect home in the University of Minnesota.

Leaders do need followers, and followers do need leaders. Leaders are not necessarily those with the title of regent, department head, professor, or director, but we do look to these people—and everyone on campus—for leadership.

Bringing this all back to our own campus, I am pleased to report Dr. Kevin Thompson has accepted the position of department head of the Business Department. Starting immediately, the word “interim” is no longer part of his title. Thank you for your patience as we worked over a period of several months to find the very best person to provide leadership for the department. Kevin has proved to be a very capable leader, one who cares about the Business Department and all of UMC. With his leadership, the Business Department is poised for growth on campus and online, as well as for even greater presence and excellence.

Barbara Keinath
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Minnesota Crookston
Featured Events & Activities

Support the U Day at the Capitol, Thursday, February 12 – 1 to 3 p.m., Minnesota State Capitol Complex, St. Paul

Professional Development Day, Monday, February 16 – classes excused, campus offices open

Thursday Commons: “Discover York,” Thursday, February 19 – Noon to 2 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Confucius Institute’s Chinese New Year Celebration, Thursday, February 19 – 5 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, open to the public, $5 admission

“Discover York,” Encore Performance, Thursday, February 19 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

Arizona Alumni Social, Friday, February 20 – 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., ViewPoint Resort, Mesa, Arizona, $15 per person

A Night of Expression: “Spirit of the 1920s,” Monday, February 23 – 6 to 8 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, admission $7 for students, $10 for non-students

Brown Bag Discussion for Faculty and Staff - Topic: Academic Dishonesty, Tuesday, February 24 – 4 p.m., Bede Ballroom, rooms A & B, Sargeant Student Center

Soup and Substance: LGBTQ Issues, Wednesday, February 25 – Noon to 1 p.m., Bede Ballroom, rooms A & B, 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: http://brief.umn.edu/.

Around Campus

Administrative Affairs –

Monday, February 16, will serve as a professional development day for UMC faculty and staff members. Classes will be excused. Campus offices will remain open, but some may have reduced staffing if staff members are taking part in professional development activities. The theme for the day is LEAP (Liberal Education and America's Promise) high impact educational practices. Larry R. Peterson, Ph.D., director of accreditation, assessment, and advising, at North Dakota State University, will give a keynote address at 9 a.m. The address will be followed at 9:45 a.m. by a discussion, “Backward Design,” led by Kate Martin, assistant director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the U of M Twin Cities, and Mary Katherine O'Brien, education program specialist for the U of M’s Global Programs and Strategy Alliance. Roundtable sessions will continue the discussion at 11 a.m., 12:45 p.m., and 1:45 p.m. All activities will take place in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center.
**Academic Affairs –**

**Kevin Thompson, Ph.D., has accepted the position of department head of UMC’s Business Department.** He has served as interim department head since August of 2014, and his new title is effective immediately. Thompson holds the rank of associate professor with tenure and has been employed as a faculty member at UMC since August 2005. Prior to that, he worked for Eli Lilly and Company designing and implementing performance improvement initiatives for employees. He holds a Ph.D. in adult and postsecondary education from the University of Wyoming in Laramie; an M.A. in organizational communication and training from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana; and a B.A. in communication from the University of North Dakota.

**Academic dishonesty is the focus of the second of spring semester’s brown bag discussions for faculty and staff on Tuesday, February 24, at 4 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, rooms A and B.** Facilitators Megan Bell and Tim Dudley will lead the session, an open discussion of concerns and approaches for addressing dishonesty. Light snacks will be served.

**Eight members of the UMC community are preparing for participation in the Higher Learning Commission’s Strategy Forum, scheduled for February 18-20 in St. Charles, Illinois.** UMC’s team consists of Chancellor Fred Wood, Vice Chancellor Barbara Keinath, Director of Institutional Effectiveness Sue Erickson, CIO Jeff Sperling, Student Activities Director Lisa Samuelson, Interim Business Department Head Kevin Thompson, and faculty members Rob Proulx and Jitendra Singh. An essential element of the AQIP accreditation pathway, the Strategy Forum follows on the heels of the Systems Portfolio and the Systems Appraisal Feedback Report. The group will focus on turning the feedback from the Systems Appraisal Feedback Report into actionable strategies. Knowledge management and campus culture for continuous improvement have been identified as top priorities.

**Student Affairs –**

**A delegation of UMC students will take part in Support the U Day at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul on Thursday, February 12.** The bus will depart from the Sargeant Student Center at 4:30 a.m. Check-in for students from all five campuses of the U of M will take place at 10:30 a.m. at Coffman Student Union on the Twin Cities campus, followed by lunch and “Kickoff with Kaler” featuring U of M President Eric Kaler. A forum with state legislators and Governor Mark Dayton is set for 12:30 p.m. at the Capitol, followed by meetings with legislators until approximately 3 p.m. For more information or to register, go to [http://mslc.umn.edu/support-the-u-day.html](http://mslc.umn.edu/support-the-u-day.html).

**The African-American man known as York was a slave and a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to find a route from the frontier to the Pacific Ocean.** His story, as portrayed by A. Hasan Davis, is the centerpiece of “Discover York,” set for Thursday Commons, February 19, from Noon to 2 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. **An encore performance will be offered at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium.** Both performances are free and open to the public. Davis, a motivational speaker, historical performer, and juvenile justice advocate, holds a Juris Doctor and served as commissioner for the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice. This program is sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Programs.
Black History Month culminates with “A Night of Expression: The Spirit of the 1920s” on Monday, February 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event is open to the public. Admission is $7 for students and $10 for non-students. Sponsored by the Black Student Association, the event will showcase talent and history featuring UMC students and special guests. Hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, and conversation will follow the event.

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to take part in Soup and Substance on Wednesday, February 25, from Noon to 1 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, rooms A and B, when the topic will be LGBTQ issues. Knowledge, real-world experiences, and opinions will be shared.

International Programs –

The Confucius Institute at the U of M Crookston will present a Chinese New Year Celebration on Thursday, February 19, at 5 p.m. in Bede Ballroom. The event is open to the public. Admission is $5 per person and includes activities, dinner, and performance. The event will focus on Chinese culture including folk songs and dance, Chinese instruments, traditional customs in arts and crafts, children's games, food, and entertainment.

Library –

During the month of February, the UMC Library will display recent scholarly works of UMC faculty and staff. Stop by to see the wide variety of interests UMC faculty and staff are pursuing within their academic fields.

Development & Alumni Relations –

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to take part in the 2015 Faculty and Staff Fund Drive. Proceeds will go toward endowment of the Ramona Mendez Scholarship, but donors may designate their gifts to other scholarships if they choose. Gifts of any amount are deeply appreciated as well as tax deductible. Check out the “We Are Family” family tree on display in the Eagles Nest February 9-23.

Chancellor Wood and Corby Kemmer, director, Development & Alumni Relations, will serve as hosts for the annual Arizona Alumni Social on Friday, February 20, at the Terrace Green, ViewPoint Resort, in Mesa, Arizona. The event takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes lunch at noon for $15 per person. Reservations may be made with Sue Dwyer at 218-281-8401 or Mary Lou (Baird) Dostal ’54 at 480-354-8568.

University Relations –

An open forum to preview a new design for UMC’s official website and to provide feedback is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, from 12:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to attend.
Golden Eagle Women’s Basketball player Katrina Moenkedick, a junior from Perham, Minn., majoring in applied studies, was named Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) North Division Player of the Week after averaging a double-double of 16 points and 11 rebounds in UMC’s wins over University of Sioux Falls on February 6 and Southwest Minnesota State University on February 7. Moenkedick, who has earned the honor twice this season, helped the Golden Eagles claim sole possession of third place in the NSIC North as they improved to 10-8. She is also approaching the 1,000 point milestone, as she currently has 984 points in her career at UMC and ranks ninth all-time in school history.

The University of Minnesota Crookston Football Team has announced the signing of 28 student-athletes to national letters of intent or offers of admission to join the Golden Eagle program. The signing class is the second under Head Coach Mike Fritze. View the roster at www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2015/2/4/FB_0204150504.aspx.


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 of the U of M’s PeopleSoft systems is planned for April. The systems interruption, or cutover period, when PeopleSoft and related systems will be unavailable or view-only, is expected to begin on April 10 and last approximately 10 days. Many activities need to happen between now and then, including additional testing, business process changes, and cutover preparation. Additionally, these new dates will affect registration across the U of M system. Please note changes to class registration dates, http://blog.upgrade.umn.edu/2015/02/changes-to-class-registration-dates.html

Here are ways to prepare for this transition:

- Visit www.upgrade.umn.edu for more information.
- Find training at The Upgrade’s Education & Training page, (http://upgrade.umn.edu/training/upgradedevelopment.html)
- Get support from your network of Advance Team members. (http://upgrade.umn.edu/advanceteam)
- Sign up for The Upgrade Newsletter. (http://upgrade.umn.edu/news.html)

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