From The Vice Chancellor

Academic year 2014-2015 is rapidly coming to an end. Students are submitting final projects and papers. Faculty members are immersed in grading. Final exams begin in one short week. Year-end celebrations are in full swing, and students are being honored for their accomplishments and contributions. Commencement, the biggest year-end celebration of them all, is on the minds of seniors and their families. After that, there is the “real world” of jobs or advanced study (and, for the rest of us, summer break and, perhaps, a change of pace).

Another reflection of the normal cycle of the academic year is that searches for new faculty members are bearing fruit. Five individuals have “signed on the dotted line” to accept their offer to join UMC. (See announcements below in the Academic Affairs section.) Other candidates are considering offers, and still others will be on campus for interviews in the remaining weeks of the semester. As your schedules permit, please continue to make the interviews and public presentations a priority. Search committees and department heads value your input!

Thinking in academic years is as natural as breathing for those of us in higher education. Sometimes, however, thinking about the calendar year brings a realization that the academic year does not.

Calendar year 2015 is such a year. Given the number and importance of accreditation events, 2015 is a big year in UMC’s accreditation cycle with the Higher Learning Commission:

- In February, eight of us attended and successfully completed the AQIP Strategy Forum. Upon returning to campus, we continued our work on the AQIP Action Project we drafted while we were in St. Charles, Illinois.
- The AQIP Steering Committee was revitalized with a new charge and membership that reflects expertise across the broad range of the campus and aligns with the six AQIP Categories.
- This coming fall, on November 9-11, we will host a team of HLC Peer Reviewers for our Comprehensive Quality Review (CQR), the campus visit and review that takes place every eight years. CQR precedes the Reaffirmation of Accreditation decision to be made by the Higher Learning Commission on calendar year 2016.

Preparation for CQR is already underway on many fronts. A small group of staff has begun work on the Federal Compliance Report that is due in advance of the CQR. Faculty members are reviewing assessment data and writing reports on plans to improve learning.
My thanks to all of you who are engaged in these activities. We will continue to highlight them as we move through 2015 toward the CQR and, ultimately, reaffirmation.

Congratulations to all graduating seniors! Best wishes to all students, faculty, and staff as you wind down the academic year.

Barbara Keinath  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
University of Minnesota Crookston

**Featured Events & Activities**

**Speaker and Arctic Adventurer Lonnie Dupre, Tuesday, April 28** – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

**Dinner Theater Production: “The Complete Works of Shakespeare: Abridged,” Wednesday, April 29** – Dinner at 6:15 p.m., performance at 7 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, reservations required, $15 per person for adults, free for UMC students on meal plan, $5 for UMC students not on meal plan, contact George French at 218-281-8266 or gfrench@umn.edu

**Employee Engagement (E2) Survey Results Session for Faculty Members, Thursday, April 30** – Noon to 1:45 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

**Open Forum Discussion on Campus Information Technology Needs, Friday, May 1** – 10:30 to 11:45 a.m., Bede Ballroom, rooms A and B, Sargeant Student Center

**Final Friday Funday, Friday, May 1** – Noon to 4 p.m., Campus Mall

**May Day and International Worker’s Day Gathering and Treats, Friday, May 1** – 1 to 2 p.m., Peterson Gazebo, Campus Mall

**Dinner Theater Production: “The Complete Works of Shakespeare: Abridged,” Friday, May 1** – Dinner at 6:15 p.m., performance at 7 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, reservations required, $15 per person for adults, free for UMC students on meal plan, $5 for UMC students not on meal plan, contact George French at 218-281-8266 or gfrench@umn.edu

**Induction Ceremony for Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, Sunday, May 3** – 3 p.m., Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center

**Last Day of Classes for Spring Semester 2015, Monday, May 4**

**Scholarship Brunch and Registration for New Incoming Merit Scholarship Recipients, Monday, May 4** – 8:30 a.m. to Noon, Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

**Final Exams, Tuesday, May 5, through Friday, May 8**

**Employee Engagement (E2) Survey Results Session for Staff Members, Tuesday, May 5** – Noon to 1:45 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center
Grad Dance Featuring Music by DJ Jesse Adelman, Fubonic Productions, Friday, May 8 – 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Crookston Eagles Club, 105 S. Broadway, Crookston, admission is free for graduates and $5 for others

Pre-Ceremony Reception for Online Graduates of the Class of 2015, Saturday, May 9 – 10 to 11 a.m., Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center

Pre-Ceremony Reception for the Class of 2015, Saturday, May 9 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sargeant Student Center and Sahlstrom Conference Center

Commencement Ceremonies for the Class of 2015, Saturday, May 9 – 2 to 4 p.m., Lysaker Gymnasium, UMC Sports Center, doors open at 1 p.m.

First Day of Classes for May Term 2015, Monday, May 11

Faculty and Staff Awards Celebration Luncheon, Tuesday, May 12 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

New Student Advisement and Registration Day, Friday, May 15 – 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., check-in at 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

Commencement –

A special reception for online graduates hosted by the Center for Adult Learning will be held on Saturday, May 9, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center, prior to the full general reception for all graduates. Members of the faculty, staff, and administration are welcome and encouraged to attend. It is anticipated that nearly 200 online students will graduate this semester, and nearly 50 of these students have indicated plans to attend commencement ceremonies on campus.

An outside photographer has been contracted to take individual and small group photos of graduates on Saturday, May 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in rooms A and B of Bede Ballroom. A few weeks after the ceremony, a proof of these photos and an order form will be e-mailed to each graduate. At that time, they may order photos from the photo studio.

The pre-ceremony reception for the Class of 2014 will be held on Saturday, May 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Sargeant Student Center. The entire campus community and family and friends of graduates are encouraged to attend and wish the graduates well. The doors to Lysaker Gymnasium will open at 1 p.m. The ceremony will be streamed live online at http://www1.crk.umn.edu/services/mediaservices/live/.
Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2015 begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 9, in Lysaker Gymnasium, UMC Sports Center. The honorable Regent Peggy Lucas will confer degrees on behalf of the U of M Board of Regents. U of M Crookston alumnus and entrepreneur David Ekman, 1981, will give the commencement address. Graduating senior Justin Goodroad, Crookston Student Association (CSA) president, will speak on behalf of the Class of 2015. This event marks the 107th graduating class since the very first in 1909 (under the banner of the Northwest School of Agriculture) and the 48th graduating class as an institution of higher learning. It also marks the 21st anniversary of the granting of the first bachelor’s degrees on the Crookston campus. The commencement program is now available online at www.umcrookston.edu/events/commencement/2015/index.html.

A special reception for international student graduates will be held on Saturday, May 9, immediately following commencement ceremonies in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. All are welcome. The reception is hosted by the UMC Office of International Programs.

Administrative Affairs –

On May 1, May Day and International Worker’s Day, members of the U of M campus community are invited to stop by the Peterson Gazebo on the Campus Mall (alternate location International Lounge) from 1 to 2 p.m. for lemonade and cookies. May Day has many meanings going back centuries, but it is also International Worker's Day and is celebrated around the world. It began with the struggle for the eight-hour work day in the U.S. Throughout the 19th century, the struggle to shorten the workday was a central issue for workers and was at least as important as the fight for higher wages. May Day 1886 saw a national wave of strikes involving more than 500,000 workers who fought so "that eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor." It is important to celebrate and remember those activists who worked to protect worker rights. This campus event is sponsored by American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Clericals, AFSCME Technicals, Teamsters, the University Education Association (UEA), and the U of M Crookston.

Academic Affairs –

Dani Johannesen has been hired as a tenure-track assistant professor in composition for the Liberal Arts & Education Department. She has served as a composition lecturer at UMC since fall semester 2012. She earned her Ph.D. in English with a specialization in creative writing from the University of South Dakota (USD) in Vermilion and her MA in literature from Northern Arizona University. Prior to her employment at UMC, Johannesen taught composition, introductory literature, and creative writing courses at USD. Her new status at UMC will begin this coming August.

Arlene Marquez has been hired as a tenure-track assistant professor in animal science for the Agriculture & Natural Resources Department. She holds a Ph.D. in animal well-being, physiology, and behavior as well as an M.S. in animal science, both from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. She earned a B.A. in animal health management and an Associate Degree in veterinary technology from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. She is currently a research associate at Texas Tech and will begin her responsibilities as a faculty member at UMC this coming August.

Francis Boateng has been hired as a tenure-track instructor in criminal justice for the Liberal Arts & Education Department. He successfully defended his dissertation earlier this semester and has been awarded a Ph.D. in criminal justice by Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. He earned an
M.A. in criminal justice from Washington State and a B.A. in political science and information studies from the University of Ghana in Legon, a suburb of Accra, Ghana. Boateng will begin his responsibilities as a faculty member at UMC this coming August.

Rick Abrahamson has been hired as a lecturer in horticulture for the Agriculture & Natural Resources Department. He holds an M.S. in soil science from North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo, N.D., and a B.S. in horticulture with a minor in business administration, also from NDSU. He currently serves as a horticulture technology instructor at Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls, S.D. Abrahamson will assume campus garden oversight duties at UMC in mid-June and begin his responsibilities as a faculty member this coming August.

Nathan Purrington has been hired as a lecturer in agricultural systems management for the Agriculture & Natural Resources Department. He holds a Master of Education in educational leadership from Tri-College University in Fargo, N.D./Moorhead, Minn., and a B.S. in agricultural education with a minor in science from NDSU. He also earned an A.A.S. in greenhouse management and landscaping from the U of M Crookston. He returns to UMC after several years as teacher for the Ada-Borup Public Schools in Ada, Minn., where he has taught agriculture and junior high technology. He has also served as the school’s FFA advisor and as a substitute principal. Purrington will begin his responsibilities as a faculty member at UMC this coming August.

Kelsey Watkins has been hired as a master tutor for math and science in the Academic Success Center. She holds an M.S. in atmospheric and oceanic sciences with delta teaching emphasis from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and a B.S. in atmospheric sciences with a mathematics minor from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, N.D. She began her responsibilities at UMC on April 20.

An induction ceremony for new members of Alpha Lambda Delta, the first-year honor society, will be held on Sunday, May 3, at 3 p.m. in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center. All are welcome. Chancellor Wood will speak, and refreshments will be served. Eligibility for membership in Alpha Lambda Delta is based on a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better during the first term or year of college while a student is enrolled full-time. Nationally, less than 20% of college freshman achieve this high level of academic performance.

Student Affairs –

Results of the recent student elections for positions on the executive board of the Crookston Student Association (CSA) are as follows: President Tareyn Stomberg, Vice-President Delaney Kohorst, Secretary Cassie Hagg, Senator Mitchell Barthel, Senator Joe Fey, Senator Ndidiamaaka Kerr, Senator David Melichar, and Senator Bailey Wolf. The incoming S.P.A.C.E. Chairperson, Megan Schultz, was elected in January. The positions of treasurer and Regent’s representative are currently awaiting appointment. In fall semester 2015 four additional senators will be elected and a representative for the U of M Student Senate Consultative Committee will be appointed.

Many fun and free activities for students are planned as part of Final Friday Funday on Friday, May 1, from noon to 4 p.m. on the Campus Mall. Activities include the Alcatraz Obstacle Course, the Vertical Rush, a mechanical bull, a bungee run, carnival and yard games, and a photo booth. There will also be popcorn, slushies, root beer floats, and tacos in a bag. The event is sponsored by S.P.A.C.E., Crookston Student Association, Student and Family Experience, Student Athletic Advisory Council, Residential Life, and Learning Abroad.
Monday, May 4, is the annual Scholarship Brunch for incoming Merit Scholarship recipients. Approximately 50 new students who have earned UMC Merit Scholarships will be recognized and will register for fall semester 2015 classes that day. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with the brunch, followed by a program at 10 a.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The program will feature guest speakers Danielle Johannesen, lecturer and honors program coordinator; Matt Borowicz, graduating senior; and Mikaela Trowbridge, 2015 Student Orientation Staff (SOS) leader.

Human Resources –

In the fall of 2014, the University of Minnesota conducted the second Employee Engagement (E2) Survey. Results of the Crookston responses will be presented and discussed at two lunch meetings. A session for faculty members will be held on Thursday, April 30, from noon to 1:45 p.m., and a session for staff members will be held on Tuesday, May 5, from noon to 1:45 p.m. Both sessions will be held in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, and a buffet lunch will be provided at noon. Presentation of the E2 survey results will begin at 12:15 p.m. A summary of the E2 results for the Crookston campus is available at www.umcrookston.edu/humanresources/e2.html.

Technology Support Services –

On Friday, May 1, Associate CIOs Brittany Lloyd and Tom Auld, representatives from the U of M Office of Information Technology, will visit the Crookston campus. Members of the UMC campus community are invited to attend an open session from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. in Bede Ballroom, rooms A and B, to engage in a discussion of information technology needs at the University. Attendees may come and go as their schedules allow. This marks the “input” phase of the IT governance cycle where they actively solicit and listen for various IT needs across the U of M system. Refreshments will be available.

International Programs –

On Saturday, May 2, teachers of Chinese language who live and work in the region will meet at UMC for the 4th Northwest Minnesota Chinese Teachers Conference. The conference will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Minnesota Room, Sargeant Student Center. Participants will meet to share teaching and classroom management strategies, resources, and testing information and to learn about updated regulations governing their work. This event is sponsored by the UMC Confucius Institute Satellite Office. For more information, contact Chunhui Wang at wang4854@umn.edu or 218-281-8551.

Development & Alumni Relations –

Grad Dance 2015 featuring the music of DJ Jesse Adelman of Fubonic Productions will be held Friday, May 8, from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Crookston Eagles Club, 105 S. Broadway in Crookston. This event is open to all students, faculty, staff, family, and friends. Admission is $5 per person and free to members of the Class of 2015.
University Relations –

As UMC Printing & Design Services moves to regular reduced summer staffing, Graphic Designer Patti Tiedemann will be off for the summer after Tuesday, May 12. Campus units needing design work should contact Patti immediately as design work will not be supported on campus after May 12 until she returns on Monday, August 10. Contact Patti at 218-281-8402 or ptiedema@umn.edu. 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 12. 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 –

University of Minnesota Crookston student-athletes Matt Borowicz, a senior football player from Stephen, Minn., majoring in health sciences, and Ashley Martell, a senior women's basketball player from Somerset, Wis., majoring in health sciences, have been named NSIC Honor Student-Athlete Award winners for UMC. Both student-athletes were in consideration for the 2015 Dr. William Britton Scholar-Athlete Award and 2015 William R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award. Learn more. www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2015/4/23/FB_0423154815.aspx

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

Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC)

Associate Extension Professor Jochum Wiersma of the NWROC is a collaborating participant in a grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture received by the owners of Far North Spirits in Hallock, Minn. The three-year grant of $188,495 will study several varieties of winter rye, a small grain that is a key ingredient in many high-proof spirits. Wiersma’s role will be to evaluate the agronomic and yield performances of U.S., Canadian, and European rye varieties and hybrids across Minnesota in collaboration with Extension Educator Doug Holen, and Assistant Professor Scotty Wells and Professor Craig Sheaffer, two faculty members in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics on the St. Paul campus. The latter two researchers will focus on the suitability of the same varieties and hybrids for cover crop and forage use. The study is a joint effort between the distillers, Far North Spirits, three Minnesota farmers, the NWROC and the U of M. The project will also involve the barley and malt lab in the Department of Plant Sciences at North Dakota State University in Fargo.

Campus and Community

UMC’s Music and Theater Program will present a dinner theater production on Wednesday, April 29, and Friday, May 1, featuring the comedy “The Complete Works of Shakespeare: Abridged” in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. Dinner will be served beginning at 6:15 p.m. followed by the performance at 7 p.m. each evening. Reservations are required and available for $15 for an Italian buffet and the show by contacting George French at 218-281-8266 (gfrench@umn.edu). For those who prefer to attend the theater performance only, the cost is $5 for adults, and admission is free for UMC students. No reservations are required to attend the play only. The three-person cast includes U of M Crookston students Michael Laurich, a senior majoring in biology from Lansing, Ill.; Alex Conwell, a
post-secondary enrollment options student from Red Lake Falls, Minn.; and Ryan Rynda, a junior majoring in software engineering from Argyle, Minn.

**Accolades**

Numerous awards were presented at the annual Student Awards Program on the evening of Thursday, April 23. The top student awards, Man and Woman of the Year, went to Justin Goodroad and Mary Mikutowski. Goodroad is a graduating senior from Lindstrom, Minn., majoring in horticulture. Mikutowski is a graduating senior from Stillwater, Minn., majoring in biology and health sciences. Awards for faculty and staff selected by students included the following: Outstanding Educator, Rachel McCoppin, Liberal Arts & Education Department; Most Supportive of Students, Terrill Bradford, Agriculture & Natural Resources Department; and Outstanding Service to Students, Chancellor Fred Wood.

Three UMC seniors presented undergraduate research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), held April 16-18 at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Wash. Brooke Vatthauer, a biology and health sciences major from Crookston, and Rochelle Herzog, an animal science major from Randall, Minn., presented “HPLC Fingerprinting of Biologically Active Extracts from Streptomyces” and Taoqin Shen, an early childhood education major from Hangzhou, China, presented “Using the Integrated Curriculum Approach to Teach Language and Culture.” The students were accompanied by UMC advisors Venu Mukku, associate professor of chemistry; Brian Dingmann, associate professor of biology; and Soo-Yin Lim-Thompson, associate professor of education and interim department head for the Liberal Arts & Education Department.

The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships offers thanks and congratulations to Mary Feller, financial aid officer and scholarship coordinator, for completing a year of service as the chair of the Corporate Support/Development Committee for the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators.


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