From The Chancellor

“So what do you do in the summer?” That’s a common question asked by folks who think we must be lonely on campus when “all the students are gone.” I always do my best to explain that we are still very busy with the myriad of our responsibilities and that summer is a busy time for a college campus. Since our last E-Update, much has happened related to UMC, both on- and off-campus. Following are a few highlights.

The Board of Regents met on June 11-12, and a major topic of discussion was the annual budget. While the Regents eventually passed a tuition increase for both residents across the U of M system (an increase of 1.5%, which will be completely covered for over 40% of our students by increases in the various student-aid programs) and non-resident students at the Twin Cities campus (an increase of 7%). Here on the Crookston campus, non-resident tuition will still match the resident tuition rate.

Many Regents expressed great reservation in increasing tuition this year, and many other options were discussed. It was mentioned that this reluctance came from their engagement with state officials and the public. While we will continue to look for ways to operate more efficiently, it is very difficult to provide a quality education to students without these increases, as our percentage of the state budget simultaneously continues to decline. This reality again stresses the critical importance of our on-going efforts in recruitment and retention. Clearly outcome metrics, such as the 4- and 6-year graduation rates, will be increasingly important to both the Regents and state legislators, and I would anticipate that all campuses will be asked to substantially increase these numbers over the next few years.

Also, related to UMC, we were very pleased that two new majors were approved. The first is Exercise Science and Wellness, which will use the new Wellness Center as a laboratory, and the second is the Medical Laboratory Science which we will offer in collaboration with the University of North Dakota.

Closer to home, we are seeing a lot of change and activity on our campus. As is true every summer, our flowers are so very beautiful, and I hope everyone takes time to enjoy them. Our grounds continue to attract attention throughout the region, and almost every day I see folks moving through the campus looking at the gardens. We are all grateful for the good work of our grounds staff and the many others as they make the campus look so gorgeous every summer. This year has been especially challenging for them due to construction almost everywhere you look. The electrical infrastructure project is certainly a major disruption, but it will be very reassuring to begin the winter with a reliable electrical system that we know will be safe for the next 50 years or more! And, of course, the Wellness Center construction continues to progress, although slightly slowed by the early wet weather. It will be great fun to see the walls go up soon, and we remain on schedule for fall 2016.

Finally, we were visited this past weekend by our oldest alumni – our Aggies from the Northwest School of Agriculture. It is such a pleasure to host them each year at their annual reunion, and they had
nothing but great things to say about the grounds, the Wellness Center, the food, and how welcome they felt on campus. As I have stated before, in many ways the reputation of an institution of learning is based on the reputation of our alumni, and we can be extremely proud of all that our Aggies have accomplished. We are also extremely thankful for their generous support as we continue to build on the strong foundation they helped to create. I want to again thank our colleagues in the Development & Alumni Relations Office along with many others across campus for their work in providing such a warm welcome for these alumni in the true Northwest Minnesota tradition. Thank you.

Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston

**Featured Events & Activities**

**Independence Day Floating Holiday, Friday, July 3** – classes excused, campus offices closed

**UMC Booth at the Polk County Fair, Thursday, July 9, through Sunday, July 12** – noon to 6:30 p.m. daily, Industrial Exhibits Building #2, Polk County Fairgrounds, Fertile, Minn.

**UMC Hosts Rotary District 5580 Camp RYLA, Sunday, July 12, through Saturday, July 18**

**25th Annual Teambacker Golf Classic, Saturday, July 18** – 9 a.m. registration, 9:45 tournament orientation, 10 a.m. shotgun start, teams of five, 18-hole Texas scramble, cost $95 per person, Minakwa Golf Club, Crookston

**Robotics Camp (for students in grades 4-6), Monday, July 20, through Friday, July 24** – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, 212 Dowell Hall, cost is $250 (+$165 if staying on-campus)

**New Student Advisement and Registration Day, Friday, July 24** – 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., check-in at Sargeant Student Center

**Football Camp (for students in grade 9-12), Sunday, July 26** – 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., UMC Sports Center, cost is $20

**Last Day of Classes for Summer Session 2015, Friday, July 31**

**9-Month Faculty and Staff Appointments Begin, Monday, August 17**

**Classes Begin for Fall Semester 2015, Tuesday, August 25**

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](http://www.umcrookston.edu/today) or review our news page at [http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news](http://blog.lib.umn.edu/umcweb/news). Learn more about events across the entire University of Minnesota system via Brief: [http://brief.umn.edu/](http://brief.umn.edu/).
Around Campus

Academic Affairs –

Two new academic majors for the U of M Crookston were approved by the Board of Regents at its June 2015 meeting: Exercise Science & Wellness and Medical Laboratory Science. Both culminate in a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree and are administered through the Math, Science & Technology Department. The two new majors will be available to students beginning this coming fall semester 2015. Over the summer, UMC is working to finalize a consortium agreement and partnership with the University of North Dakota (UND) through the Western College Alliance of Medical Lab Science (WCAMLS). The UND medical laboratory science program is approved by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). Websites are currently being developed for each of UMC’s new majors.

Sameer Abufardeh has been hired as an associate professor, tenure track, in the Math, Science & Technology Department. He holds a Ph.D. in software engineering from the North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo. He also earned an M.S. in computer science from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn., and a B.S. in computer science from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill. Abufardeh has taught in the NDSU Department of Computer Science since 2005. His areas of research interest include global and multilingual software development, software testing, and security. He will begin his responsibilities on August 1.

Student Affairs –

The next New Student Advisement and Registration Day is set for Friday, July 24. The day’s schedule begins with check-in at 8:30 a.m. followed by a welcome session in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. U-Card photos, information sessions, meetings and registration with academic advisors are scheduled throughout the morning, with lunch and campus tours rounding out the day through 2 p.m.

Development & Alumni Relations –

More than 160 people attended the annual reunion of the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA), held on campus on Saturday, June 27. In addition to commemorating the 50th anniversary of the graduation of the Class of 1965, Top Aggie Awards were presented to LeRoy Sondrol 1955, William "Buzz" Baldwin 1965, and Larry Wilkins 1965.

The 25th Annual Teambacker Golf Classic will be held Saturday, July 18 at Minakwa Golf Club in Crookston. Registration begins at 9 a.m., and the tournament begins at 10 a.m. In celebration of the 25th anniversary, all proceeds from this year's tournament will benefit the Marv and Diane Backmeier Athletic Scholarship. Special thanks are offered to the members of the 25th Annual Teambacker Golf Committee: Jerry Hasbrouck, Adam Maruska, Ray Dusek, Chris Fee, Mark Lyczewski, Matt Hann, and UMC staff members. The tournament is an 18-hole Texas scramble with teams of five; cost is $95 per person. To register, contact Garret Kollin at 218-281-8434 or koll0131@umn.edu.

Register to win a 2015 Yamaha golf cart customized in maroon and gold. Tickets are now being sold by Teambacker members at $25 per chance, with the drawing being held on July 18 following the Teambacker Golf Classic. Proceeds will benefit both the Marv and Diane Backmeier Scholarship and
Mark Olsonawski Scholarship. Ticket holders need not be present to win and are responsible for any applicable taxes.

University Relations –

University Relations will, again, sponsor a booth promoting the University of Minnesota Crookston at the Polk County Fair from Thursday, July 9, through Sunday, July 12, in Fertile, Minnesota. Individuals from University Relations will staff the booth. Additional faculty, staff, and alumni volunteers are welcome to help support this booth over those four days. Typically, the booth will be open for staffing from Noon to 6:30 p.m. each day. Individuals interested in helping for a 2- or 3-hour shift should contact Andrew Svec via e-mail at asvec@umn.edu or by phone at 218-281-8438 with the time they would like to be there.

University Relations has launched a new website for news releases for the U of M Crookston: http://news.crk.umn.edu/. This is UMC’s first site developed in the new U of M Drupal web environment. It features current news and events as well as a searchable archive of news releases dating back to 2009.

Athletics –

Golden Eagle Baseball player Jesse Jennings, a recent graduate in criminal justice from Robbinsdale, Minn., has been named to the Capital One Academic All-America® Second Team for his standout performance in the classroom over his career at the U of M Crookston. He was one of 33 players selected to the Capital One Academic All-America Division II Baseball Teams by members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Jennings maintained a 3.93 grade point average and graduated with high distinction in May. He plans to enroll in William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minn., to pursue his Juris Doctor (J.D.).

Sustainability –

The UMC Center for Sustainability is working collaboratively with UMC Facilities and Operations, Sodexo, UMC Dining Services, the Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC), and Terry Nennich, a recently retired Extension expert, to finalize plans for the construction of a high tunnel greenhouse on the Crookston campus. The addition of a high tunnel is a highly desirable next step for the UMC campus produce garden, since it will extend the production season by roughly six weeks in both spring and fall. Additionally, the facility will add another educational resource for the UMC horticulture program—especially for the food production aspect, which is now the most rapidly expanding facet of horticulture programs across the nation. Current plans call for a 26-by-72-foot structure to be built parallel to the existing production greenhouses on land managed by the NWROC. Once plans are finalized, construction could be completed in August.

U of M System

Recently, a number of U of M faculty members discovered information about their identities had been used to file fraudulent 2014 income tax returns. The U investigated the cases immediately and did not
find any indication that their information had been inappropriately accessed. While the individuals in this case appear to be the victims of organized criminal acts, the situation is a reminder of the role we all play in protecting our personal information. If you or anyone in your unit suspects they are a victim of identity theft, email abuse@umn.edu and visit identitytheft.gov to learn about immediate action steps.

Campus and Community

Terri Heggie has been hired as a community program assistant at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the Red River Valley, located on the U of M Crookston Campus. Heggie comes to UMC after working at Someplace Safe, a crime victim advocacy center for Pope County in Glenwood, Minn. She previously worked for Polk County Social Services in Crookston. Heggie began her work at UMC on June 11.

Over the summer UMC will serve as the host site for a number of camps and conferences sponsored by University units as well as other organizations. In the month of July, the following camps are scheduled:

- **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Camp**, July 12-18, locations across campus
- **Robotics Camp** (for students in grades 4-6), July 20-24, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, 212 Dowell Hall, cost is $250 (+ $165 if staying on-campus)
- **Football Camp** (for students in grade 9-12), Sunday, July 26, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., UMC Sports Center, cost is $20

Anyone looking for information about these events is encouraged to refer to the following online resource: [www.umcrookston.edu/camps](http://www.umcrookston.edu/camps).

Research

Gyungyoun "Ann" Baek, a recent UMC biology and health sciences graduate, is continuing research this summer examining plant extracts that might possess antibacterial activity. Working with Associate Professor Venuopgal Mukku, Baek is focusing on a promising molecular structure derived from the seeds of the purple-headed sneezeweed. This summer the two are working to publish some of what they have gleaned from their research before Baek moves on to the next steps for her medical degree. Learn more: [http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/undergraduate-research-gyungyoun-ann-baek](http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/undergraduate-research-gyungyoun-ann-baek).

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