From The Chancellor

It is our campus tradition to host a retreat on a specific topic each summer. This past week (July 28-29) our retreat at the Crookston Inn and Convention Center focused on the issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion. I can think of no topics more important for our campus—both now and in the future. Put simply, we cannot reach excellence as a campus if we don’t reach excellence in these dimensions as part and parcel of our efforts.

The attendees included members of the Executive Committee along with others who are involved with campus diversity efforts and support. In order to have a varied perspective in our discussions, 50 individuals were invited to the retreat, and 45 were able to attend. Administrators, faculty, and staff representing many departments on campus were present, along with alumni and students. While the perspective of everyone was important, I want to express a special thanks to alumnae Alexmai Addo, Ruth Navarro, and Katya Zepeda and current student Tareyn Stomberg for attending and for their valuable contributions to our discussions. I also want to thank our facilitators from the Twin Cities campus who did an outstanding job led by Anne Phibbs of the Office for Equity and Diversity along with Jody Gray of the Library, and Mari Magler of the Disability Resource Center. In addition, I want to provide a special thanks to our own Sue Erickson, Lorna Hollowell, and Gail Myers, who provided insightful presentations related to our campus.

To provide a brief overview of the retreat, the presentation topics this year were:

- Session I – Diversity, Inclusion, Engagement, and Leadership
- Session II – Equity, Diversity, and Communication: From the Interpersonal to the External
- Session III – Understanding Disability: Access and Accommodations
- Session IV – Next Steps for UMC: Where We Are and Where We’re Going

Good and challenging discussions were held around these topics leading to both internal/personal reflection as well as external/group reflection on how we can improve our campus and community culture to ensure that all members are welcomed and respected. The retreat, while providing us with an important start on these issues, is just the beginning of what will be an intentional and focused ongoing effort throughout the upcoming year. I hope each member of our campus community will join in this vital effort. I urge you to please join us during opening week at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18, for a brief recap of the retreat along with discussion of next steps on our collective journey of continuous improvement in these critically important areas. Thank you.

Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston
Featured Events & Activities

**Ox Cart Days 5th Annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony, Wednesday, August 12** – 3 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free and open to the public

**UMC University Relations Hosts the Ox Cart Days Ice Cream Social Featuring Music by the Woodpicks, Wednesday, August 12** – 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free and open to the public

**Champions of Change 50/50 Free Throw Contest Sponsored by United Way of Crookston and UMC Men’s Basketball, Wednesday, August 12** – 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Lysaker Gym, UMC Sports Center, $2 entry fee

**UMC in the Ox Cart Days Torchlight Parade, Saturday, August 15** – 7 p.m., North Broadway, Central Avenue, and Barrette Street, Crookston

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

**New Faculty and Staff Orientation with Campus Tour, Monday, August 17** – 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., meet in Kiehle 116

**Welcome Back Luncheon for Faculty and Staff, Monday, August 17** – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

**Faculty and Staff Academic and Non-Academic Departmental Lunch and Meetings, Tuesday, August 18** – Noon to 3 p.m., various locations across campus

**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**

**Administrative Affairs** –

**All UMC employees are invited to attend the Welcome Back Luncheon on Monday, August 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center.** New faculty and staff will be introduced, and Chancellor Wood will offer remarks as the campus prepares for the new academic year.

**Faculty and staff academic and non-academic departmental lunch meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, from Noon to 3 p.m. in the following locations:**

- Agriculture & Natural Resources Department, UTOC 120
• Business Department, Alseth Business Boardroom, Dowell 116
• Liberal Arts & Education Department, Kiehle 116
• Math, Science & Technology Department, Dowell Hall 100

Non-academic departments may choose to meet during this time as well. Please check with your department to confirm time and location.

**Academic Affairs –**

Professor Harouna Maiga, Ph.D., has agreed to serve as interim department head for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department and will begin serving in that capacity on Monday, August 10. He has been a member of the faculty in that department since 2001, and prior to that, he served several years as an associate professor and Extension educator for University of Minnesota Extension. This summer, he has been working with colleagues at the University of Segou in Mali, assisting them in developing a research program involving cassava, also known as Brazilian arrowroot, manioc, and tapioca, as a feed crop for livestock. The campus community offers its sincere thanks to Professor Ron Del Vecchio, Ph.D., for his long-standing leadership of the UMC Agriculture and Natural Resources Department. He will be stepping down from the department head position but will remain on the faculty in the areas of animal and equine science.

**Student Affairs –**

With the departure of Carola Thorson as director of UMC’s Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management, Bill Cleveland has accepted the position of interim director of admissions. He currently serves as the transfer admissions coordinator for the U of M Twin Cities, where he has worked in admissions since 2008. He has extensive experience with freshmen, transfer, and international students there. He graduated from the College Of Liberal Arts at the U of M Twin Cities with two bachelor’s degrees in child psychology and sociology of law, criminology, and deviance, and he completed an M.A. in higher education from the College of Education and Human Development also on the Twin Cities campus. Cleveland will begin serving as interim director of admissions at UMC on Monday, August 10. When a new director is hired, Cleveland will return to his position at the Twin Cities campus.

There has been a delay in the planned move of the Office of Admissions from its present location in Owen Hall Suite 170 to its new space on campus in the location formerly occupied by the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI); this area is now designated Admissions. The relocation has been delayed due to challenges with the delivery and installation of furniture and will likely not occur until sometime in September. The campus community will be notified when the move takes place. AURI offices and staff are now located in the Valley Technology Park building, just north of campus.

**International Programs –**

In May, ten U of M Crookston students traveled to Italy as part of a study abroad experience with Professor Rachel McCoppin. The group explored several locations including Rome, Pompeii, Florence, Venice, Pisa, and Tuscany over a span of eighteen days. Learn more. http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/students-study-abroad-italy
Library –

Keri Youngstrand has been hired as an assistant librarian in the UMC Library. She holds a Master of Science in library and information science from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and a B.A. in English from Jamestown College, Jamestown, North Dakota. She comes to UMC from Dickinson State University, where she served as head of technical services. Prior to that, she served as a digital library coordinator and archivist for the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State. She began her responsibilities at UMC on August 3.

Facilities staff at the University of Minnesota Crookston recently landscaped an area outside the Library in memory of Librarian Jim Carlson, who passed away in August 2014. The area, a collaborative effort between the Library, Facilities & Operations, and the family of Carlson, includes a picnic table that looks out on the Campus Mall making it a beautiful spot to enjoy lunch, study, or take in the view.

Media Services –

Mike Hanson has been selected by the Northwest Educational Technology System (NETS) Executive Committee to serve as the next director of the NETS Regional Network following the retirement of Jeff Sinks, who held that position for several years. Hanson has served NETS over the past 20 years as the NETS videoconferencing applications programmer. He began his new responsibilities on Monday, August 3. NETS is a consortium of public colleges that jointly govern and manage the telecommunications infrastructure serving the northwestern Minnesota region. The U of M Crookston is a member of that consortium, and network offices are located on campus in the Kiehle Building complex.

Development & Alumni Relations –

With the departure of Corby Kemmer as director of UMC’s Office of Development & Alumni Relations, a recruitment advisory committee has been established by Chancellor Wood to assist with the selection of a new director. The committee will consist of Stephanie Helgeson, director of athletics (co-chair); Jan Sickbert, associate vice president, development, University of Minnesota Foundation (co-chair); Kevin Thompson, associate professor and department head, Business Department; Andrew Svec, director of communications, public relations, and marketing; and Alysa Tulibaski, student and family experience coordinator. Theresa Nyberg, a talent acquisition manager with the University of Minnesota Foundation will assist the committee. A search will begin soon for the director of development and alumni relations position. In the interim, both Chancellor Wood and Jan Sickbert will meet regularly with the staff of the UMC Office of Development & Alumni Relations.

This year’s annual Mark Olsonawski Scholarship Golf Tournament, held June 25 at Two Rivers Golf Club in Hallock, Minn., raised a record $3,700 dollars, and the 25th Annual UMC Teambackers Golf Classic, held July 19 at Minakwa Golf Course in Crookston, raised more than $4000. The funds raised support athletic scholarships at UMC. In addition to the amount raised from the tournaments, an additional $2,450 dollars will go to the Mark Olsonawski Scholarship from the raffle of a maroon and gold golf cart, which was won by long-time UMC donor Ed Odland at the 25th annual UMC Teambackers Golf Classic at Minakwa Golf Club in Crookston, Minn. Another $2,450 dollars raised by
the golf cart will go to the Marv and Diane Bachmeier Scholarship. Thanks go to all participants and sponsors.

University Relations –

**Judy Baatz has been hired as a copy center equipment operator in UMC Printing.** She holds a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in graphic design with and emphasis in print production from Bemidji State University and has experience working at Brandner Printing in Crookston and at *The Crookston Daily Times*. She also has worked as an administrative assistant and graphic designer. She will begin her duties at UMC on August 10.

**Terry Tollefson has been hired as an audio/visual media producer for University Relations.** He holds an M.A. in communication from the University of North Dakota (UND) in Grand Forks and a B.S. in communication from the U of M Crookston. He has significant experience with photography—both traditional and digital—and has won regional awards for his nature photography. He also has taught communication courses as well as publication design, graphics, and digital imaging courses at UND and UMC. He will begin his duties on Monday, August 17.

**UMC will, again, have an entry in the Ox Cart Days Torchlight Parade on Saturday, August 15, at 7 p.m.** Chancellor Wood, Golden Eagle student-athletes and coaches, and Regal the Golden Eagle will march in the parade handing out athletics schedules, flying discs, and candy. Any and all faculty, staff, and alumni are welcome to join the group. Contact Andrew Svec ([asvec@umn.edu](mailto:asvec@umn.edu) or 218-281-8438) for more information.

**Members of the University Relations staff of the U of M Twin Cities visited and toured the Crookston Campus on Friday, July 31.** The group included Ann Aronson, deputy chief of staff to President Kaler and chief marketing officer; Chuck Tombarge, deputy chief of staff to President Kaler and chief public relations officer; Laura Johnson, account services director for University Relations; Steve Henneberry, assistant director, University News Service; and Evan Lapiska, director of public relations.

Athletics –

**The U of M Crookston has earned the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) 2014-15 Sportsmanship Award.** NSIC Commissioner Erin Lind presented UMC Director of Athletics Stephanie Helgeson with the award at the recent NSIC 16th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet. The NSIC Sportsmanship Award is voted on by NSIC head coaches and a Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Criteria are based on the sportsmanship of players, fans, staff and coaches at each opposing NSIC institution. Sportsmanship is defined as "A set of behaviors to be exhibited by student-athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and fans in athletic competition. These behaviors are based on values including respect, civility, fairness, honesty and responsibility."

**Golden Eagle Football Player Drew Selvestra, a senior from Eagan, Minn., majoring in criminal justice, has been selected to the USA College Football D-II Pre-Season All-American Honorable Mention Team.** Selvestra is the first Preseason All-American pick for the Golden Eagles since Richard Haley was named Beyond Sports College Network (BSN) Pre-Season All-American Second Team prior to the start of the 2012 season.
Kamille Wahlin has been hired as assistant athletic director/senior women's administrator in charge of marketing and promotions. Wahlin, a native of Crookston, has spent the past two seasons as an assistant coach for the UMC Women's Basketball Team and will remain in that role, in addition to her new responsibilities. She will also be the advisor for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and NCAA Champs/Life Skills program. Wahlin earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Iowa. She is currently working toward a master’s degree at the University of North Dakota. Learn more.

Two new assistant football coaches have been hired to fill vacancies on the Golden Eagle Football coaching staff. Dave Volk will serve as assistant coach for running backs and tight ends, and Tom Miller will serve as assistant coach for safeties. Volk comes to UMC from NSIC rival Wayne State College in Nebraska, where he spent two seasons as a graduate assistant for the Wildcats, working with the offensive line. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska in psychology and a master’s degree from Wayne State in sport management. Miller comes to UMC after one season at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he worked as the team’s linebacker coach and video coordinator. He earned his bachelor’s degree in exercise science with an emphasis in sport management from Ripon College in Wisconsin, and he is working on his master’s degree in coaching and athletic administration from Concordia University-Irvine.

Campus and Community

The U of M Crookston will serve as a major site for activities related to Ox Cart Days 2015 on Wednesday, August 12.

- The 5th Annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. During the program, a select group of local veterans will be honored. The event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Crookston in collaboration with the University of Minnesota Crookston.

- University Relations will host the annual Ox Cart Days Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, August 13, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Peterson Gazebo on the Campus Mall (rain site: Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center). Members of the campus and the Crookston community are invited to enjoy free ice cream courtesy of UMC Dining Services while listening to live music by the Woodpicks, a regional acoustic band that plays gospel, bluegrass, country, and Americana music. At 5 p.m. the first clue for the 2015 Ox Cart Days Medallion Hunt will be announced. The UMC Bookstore will be open until 5:30 p.m. that evening and will have special T-shirts on sale for only $6.99. Discounted tickets for the Minnesota State Fair will also be available to purchase at the Bookstore.

- From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. that afternoon, the Golden Eagles Men's Basketball Team and United Way of Crookston will host the Champions of Change 50/50 Free Throw Contest in Lysaker Gymnasium. A $2 entry fee allows participants to shoot until they miss with 50% of proceeds going to United Way of Crookston and 50% going to the first place finisher.
• RiverView Health’s 2nd Annual Ox Cart Days Dodgeball Tournament will follow at 5:30 p.m. in Lysaker Gym.

Research

Seniors Emmett LaCoursiere, an animal science pre-vet major from Red Lake Falls, Minn., and Michael Laurich, a biology major from Lansing, Ill., are working with Assistant Professor Tim Dudley to use math and physics modeling to predict chemical behaviors in the study of benzimidazoles and what happens when these molecules are altered. The research has implications in the field of animal science as it relates to pharmaceutical use in the medical treatment of animals. Learn more.  

Senior You Bin Lee, a biology major from South Korea, and Associate Professor Brian Dingmann have been at work in the lab this summer testing concentrations of antibiotics. As bacteria become more resistant to the current antibiotics, the quest for antibiotics to take their place in the fight against infection becomes increasingly important. Dingmann and Lee have been working on proof of concept procedures that use a 96 well susceptibility test and varying concentrations of antibiotics. Lee and another student, Bryant Hamilton, will soon start testing bacteria that have shown potential to produce antimicrobial products in these tests. Learn more.  

Under the guidance of Teaching Specialist Karl Anderson, Senior Lydia Hegge, from Mentor, Minn., is looking for rare bacterial species from the order Actinomycetales in soil and water samples collected locally. They are noteworthy for their potential to produce antibiotics. Isolating, characterizing, and testing a new species that possesses antibiotic properties could help in the fight against deadly pathogens that are resistant to current antibiotics. Hegge and Anderson are working on the microbiology portion of the ongoing antibiotic research of Associate Professor Venuopgal Mukku. Learn more.  

Lais Garcia, a student from Brazil studying at the U of M Crookston, has been working with Assistant Professor Abdorrahman “Abdo” Alghamdi examining the stress level in horses as part of a research project that began last January. The research may help faculty determine how equine science class schedules should be arranged to minimize or prevent injuries and over stress on the horses. Learn more.  

Student Stories

Senior Laura Neville, a management major from Green Bay, Wis., is spending her first summer in Crookston working to complete her internship at the Crookston Chamber of Commerce. Learn more.  

Over this summer, senior Tiffany Muellner, a natural resources wildlife management major from Sauk Centre, Minn., is working with Laura Bell, a lab services coordinator within the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, and Professor John Loegering. Muellner has spent time bird mapping, working with researcher data, and helping maintain the Red River Valley Natural History Area. Learn more.
When senior **Rikki Roscoe**, a communication major from Big Stone City, S.D., visited the University of Minnesota Crookston for the first time, she knew two things for certain. She wanted to play golf, but more importantly, she wanted to study within the area of communication. Learn more.

**Accolades**

**Online degree programs in communication and in information technology management offered by the University of Minnesota Crookston have been ranked among the best online bachelor’s programs by Nonprofit Colleges Online, an online learning resource.** The two degree programs were recognized recently with the 2015-16 “Students Before Profits Award.” Learn more.

In May 2015, **Associate Professor John Loegering, Ph.D., and Professor Dan Svedarsky, Ph.D., contributed to a segment about local viewing of the greater prairie chicken for the TV series “The Minnesota Traveler.”** The episode, which features the Crookston community, will air three times on Fox Sports North and Fox Sports Wisconsin. The first airing of the 30 minute show will be on Sunday, August 9, at 8:30 a.m.; then repeated on August 12 at 8:30 a.m., and again on August 14 at 4:30 p.m. on Fox Sports North and 6 p.m. on Fox Sports Wisconsin. The episode will be aired again three times in November. **Director and producer John McCally worked closely with the Crookston Convention and Visitor’s Bureau (CVB) to tell the story of what a traveler may experience when they visit Crookston.**

****

**Publication notes:** *E-Update* is published twice each month August through April and once each month May through July. Issues are posted online at [www.umcrookston.edu/admin/chancellor/eupdate](http://www.umcrookston.edu/admin/chancellor/eupdate). If you have any questions regarding the information in this news update, please send them to urumc@umn.edu. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.