Our campus has the well-deserved and long-standing reputation of being friendly and welcoming to visitors of all types. This has been evident all summer during numerous visits by students, families, and community members, as well as staff from the Twin Cities campus. We consistently hear that our campus is beautiful and also that people feel very well treated during their visits. This is important since we know how essential each visitor is to our success in both the short- and longer-term.

Our capacity for welcoming new folks and visitors was certainly proven during our recent opening week. In addition to the usual activities related to welcoming many new staff and faculty along with our new students, we also had visits by President Kaler, Regents Anderson and Hsu, Representatives Kiel and Fabian, and Senator Stumpf. Wow! It certainly was a busy week!

By all accounts our recent visitors had excellent experiences. President Kaler enjoyed meeting with groups of staff, faculty, and alumni. He also liked joining our student athletes in helping new students move into the residence halls and enjoyed spending time at the golf tournament and social. Throughout his visit he expressed his continuing support for our campus and our many initiatives. (It was also very nice of him to express his thanks in a letter to the editor in The Crookston Times.) In addition, two of the three recently elected U of M Regents were able to join him at some of these activities while also participating in their first tour of the campus. They were extremely impressed by the beauty of the campus, our strongly student-centered mission, our online efforts, and our distinctive role within the system. It was nice to hear from President Kaler and the Regents that “great things are going on here at Crookston.”

During the president’s visit to Crookston and the region, he also spent time with numerous legislators. He focused on making a compelling case for the University’s capital bonding needs by using many UMC examples. We were also able to thank the legislators for their support for the improvements in our electrical infrastructure and the Wellness Center (which is now on schedule after a wet spring). Speaking of visits by legislators and capital improvements, you may know that we also hosted a visit by members of the Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee on August 12, and we expect another large group of legislators on September 30 when members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee are scheduled to visit the campus.

It takes many people working many hours to make these visits successful. This includes not only the folks who meet directly with the visitors, but also the many folks involved with logistics, arranging rooms, preparing and serving meals, maintaining the beautiful grounds, making sure the facilities are in top shape, providing tours, giving ad-hoc presentations, and on and on. It also depends, importantly, on many folks who are especially friendly and welcoming during these visits. Thanks to all of you for continuing the great tradition of making sure UMC remains “the friendly and welcoming campus!”

Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston
Featured Events & Activities

Annual Campus-Community Picnic, Wednesday, September 2 – 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, free for UMC students, faculty, and staff

Performance by Grammy Award-Winning Musician Mike Farris, Wednesday, September 2 – 7:30 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

Involvement Expo, Thursday, September 3 – noon to 2 p.m., outdoors near the south entrance of the Sargeant Student Center (rain site: Bede Ballroom)

Labor Day Holiday, Monday, September 7 – classes excused, campus offices closed

Inspirational Speaker and Comedian Marti MacGibbon, Tuesday, September 8 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free and open to the public

Stunt Comedian Wacky Chad, Wednesday, September 9 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free for UMC students

Golden Eagle Soccer Home Opener vs. Northwest Missouri State University, Friday, September 11 – 3 p.m., UMC Soccer Field

Golden Eagle Football Home Opener vs. University of Sioux Falls, Saturday, September 12 – 1 p.m., Ed Widseth Field

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://news.crk.umn.edu/news.
Learn more about events across the entire University of Minnesota system via Brief: http://brief.umn.edu/.

Around Campus

Academic Affairs –

The University of Minnesota Crookston is seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The University will host a visit November 9-11, 2015, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. The University of Minnesota Crookston has been accredited by the Commission since 1964. The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation. The public is invited to submit comments regarding the University. Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. All comments must be received by October 9, 2015. Comments must be in writing and should be sent to:

Public Comment on University of Minnesota Crookston
The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission’s website at www.hlcommission.org/HLC-Institutions/third-party-comment.html.
Student Affairs –

The annual Involvement Expo will be held Thursday, September 3, from noon to 2 p.m. outside the south entrance of the Sargeant Student Center (rain site: Bede Ballroom). Students will have the opportunity to meet representatives from the many campus clubs, organizations, and community partners. The event is sponsored by Student Activities.

A series of events is scheduled at UMC for Recovery Month, a national observance that spreads the positive message that chemical dependency treatment is effective and people can and do recover. All events are free and open to the public. They include:

- Grammy-Award Winning Musician Mike Farris, Wednesday, September 2, 7:30 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium
- Inspirational Speaker Marti MacGibbon, Tuesday, September 8, 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium
- The documentary “The Anonymous People,” Wednesday, September 16, 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium
- Former Major League Baseball Player Darryl Strawberry, Wednesday, September 23, 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium
- The inspirational band One Ten Ride, Wednesday, September 30, 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

Recovery Month events are made possible through cosponsorship by the Glenmore Foundation, the UMC Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) education program, the UMC Career Development and Counseling Department, UMC Concerts and Lectures, UMC Campus Ministry, and RiverView Recovery – a division of RiverView Health.

“Stunt comedian” Wacky Chad will perform on Wednesday, September 16, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. Part of the What’s on Wednesday (WOW) Series, the performance is free for UMC students. Wacky Chad's award winning pogo stick skills, jokes, and antics have been seen on TV's “America's Got Talent” as well as at the Superbowl. The event is sponsored by Student Programming and Activities for Campus Entertainment (SPACE).

Matthew Torgerson has been hired as assistant director of student activities and recreation. He holds an M.S. in curriculum and instruction from the Department of Teaching and Learning at the University of North Dakota (UND) in Grand Forks and a B.A. in music from the University of Minnesota Morris. He has also served as a team leader with Target in Grand Forks and a director of music for the Clearbrook-Gonvick School District. He will be responsible for advising the student programming board (S.P.A.C.E.), managing the Sargeant Student Center Information Desk, working with student clubs and organizations, and coordinating collaborative programming with other campus units.

Carrie Diaz-Narvaez has been hired as an intern counselor for Career Development and Counseling Services. She is a graduate student in the counseling program at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, and she is an alumna of the U of M Crookston with a B.S. in communication. She will serve as an intern counselor for this academic year and will also coordinate LGBT services for the campus. Her office hours will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Individuals who wish to set up an appointment with her may do so by calling Nataki Morris at ext. 8586.

Nataki Morris has been hired as a principal office and administrative specialist for Career Development and Counseling Services. He is a recent graduate of the U of M Crookston with a B.S. in management and a minor in music. A former student-athlete at UMC, he is also currently a volunteer assistant coach for the Golden Eagle Football Team.
Melissa Dingmann, director of financial aid, and Michelle Christopherson, director of the Center for Adult Learning, will present at Next Step Night at the Crookston High School on the evening of Monday, September 14. Dingmann will speak with students and parents about financial aid, and Christopherson will speak about concurrent enrollment options. Next Step Night is a new kickoff event to provide information about post-secondary options to high school juniors and seniors and their parents. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. and running until 8:30 p.m., the event will consist of four twenty-minute information sessions.

Technology Support Services –

Members of the campus community are reminded to be watchful for e-mails containing potential “phishing” or other internet scams. Phishing is a fraudulent attempt aimed to get individuals to share personal or financial information which can lead to identity theft or data breach. Typical phishing attempts ask individuals to update or verify user account information or to click on a link or attachment within an e-mail. Some of these requests appear very authentic, but it is best not to respond and just delete the message. The University of Minnesota and most any legitimate organization will never ask individuals to validate personal information in this manner. Phishing attempts may be reported to phishing@umn.edu, or contact the UMC Computer Help Desk with questions at 218-281-8000. For updates of current phishing incidents and tips to avoid phishing scams visit http://phishing.it.umn.edu.

The U of M Office of Information Technology (OIT) recently updated the system-wide Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources policy. Members of the campus community are encouraged to review this updated information at http://policy.umn.edu/it/itresources.

Development & Alumni –

The Office of Development & Alumni Relations will host the annual Fall Alumni Social on Monday, September 14, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Dr., Chaska, Minn. A tour of the Arboretum will take place at 6 p.m. All alumni, faculty, and staff are invited to this event. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP via e-mail to Garret Kollin at 218-281-8436 or koll0131@umn.edu.

University Relations –

Members of the campus community are reminded to direct all news releases, event information, photos, and other communication meant for external audiences through University Relations. This also ensures appropriate formatting, consistent University branding, optimal timing, sharing on official social media sites, and overall coordination of information and event promotion for the campus as a whole. Those who have information they wish to share with the public are encouraged to complete the news release web form at www.umcrookston.edu/newsreleaseform. It is most helpful to have the finalized information (who, what, where, when, why, costs, sponsors) for events and activities sent to U Relations staff at least two weeks prior to the event or activity; greater lead time is helpful. Please note: public news releases are not generated for every event or activity held on campus. If the event is primarily intended for students and the campus community, information will be kept internal. In these cases events will be included on the UMC Today Page web calendar and promoted internally. For more information, contact Elizabeth Tollefson at ext. 8432, ltolles@umn.edu or Andrew Svec at ext. 8438, asvec@umn.edu.
Athletics –

Megan Rinke has been hired as an assistant athletic trainer. She will work primarily with the volleyball and baseball teams and will also help with strength and conditioning efforts for UMC’s athletic programs. Rinke comes to UMC from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn., where she earned her Master of Science in athletic training. While at St. Scholastica, she worked with the school's football, women's basketball, and baseball teams, facilitating rehabilitation programs and performing injury evaluations. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in health and human performance from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Campus and Community

Student Affairs, Dining Services, University Relations, the Crookston Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, and the Retail Merchants Association will co-sponsor the annual Campus-Community Picnic on Wednesday, September 2, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. UMC students, faculty, and staff are invited to stop by for various food and samples from many Crookston restaurants and establishments. This event is free to the campus community. Additionally, several local businesses and organizations will have informational tables set up in the Northern Lights Lounge of the Sargeant Student Center.

Accolades

Megan Luxford, UMC’s College in the High School coordinator in the Center for Adult Learning, has been elected secretary of the Minnesota Concurrent Enrollment Partnerhsips (MnCEP). MnCEP is a statewide association of concurrent enrollment providers that supports and facilitates NACEP standards-based practices, professional development, research, and program administration and advocates for concurrent enrollment with stakeholders and legislators in Minnesota.

Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities and Operations Gary Warren was inducted into the inaugural Itasca Community College Sports Hall of Fame class on Thurs., Aug. 20, 2015. He was one of seven individuals and two teams honored by the college for their athletic excellence and their representation of Itasca Community College well after their athletic careers were completed. Warren has served as an assistant athletic director at UMC for the past seven years; prior to that he was head men's hockey coach for the Golden Eagles from 2001-2009.

Associate Professor Alvin Killough, Ph.D., was one of eleven employees from across the U of M system nominated to receive the 2015 U of M President’s Community-Engaged Scholar Award earlier this year. Awarded through the University’s Office for Public Engagement and the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs annually, the award recognizes one individual who has demonstrated a longstanding academic career that embodies the University of Minnesota’s definition of public engagement. The 2015 award winner was School of Public Health Professor Kathleen Call; the other nominees were named Community-Engaged Collegiate Recipients. View videos of each of the nominees at www.engagement.umn.edu/2015-university-minnesota-presidents-community-engaged-scholar-award-finalist-videos.

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