From The Vice Chancellor

Already, in these first few weeks of the semester, we have heard a good deal of discussion about diversity, inclusion, and engagement across campus. The Tuesday morning session of opening week focused on diversity, inclusion, and engagement. Following that, Chancellor Wood and I spoke about this topic again at department meetings. In one of the departments, we got into quite a lengthy—and good—conversation on the topic. The topic is on the agenda for all Cabinet and most Executive Committee meetings. Residence hall students participated in “Where We Live' Our Journey to Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Competency” on September 10. And several “It’s a Wrap” sessions are planned throughout the academic year.

So many discussions have taken place that some members of the campus community have asked why. Why would we put so much emphasis on diversity on a campus that does not seem to have many diversity and inclusion issues?

Because it is the right thing to do. We live in a very diverse world in which diversity will only continue to grow. According to projections by the Minnesota State demographer, Minnesota’s population will shift from 81.3% White in 2015 to 75.2% in 2035. Nationally, “an estimated 95% of the country’s population gain—a 2,360,000 increase—came from minorities last year” (J. Sanburn, U.S. Steps Closer to a Future Where Minorities Are the Majority, Time, retrieved from http://time.com/3934092/us-population-diversity-census/, September 30, 2015).

In short, even if they never leave Minnesota or the U.S., UMC’s current students will work and live with diversity. This diversity extends well beyond race and ethnicity to include religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, abilities, and so much more. Intentionally working with students and each other to explore this diversity openly—and safely—is one way in which we live out our land-grant mission, model our commitment to diversity, and help students graduate having achieved the diversity core competency.

On a personal level, I also find the diversity of our world and our campus to be interesting and enjoyable. Imagine a world in which we are all alike, and we imagine a very boring world. Exploring our differences helps us learn more about ourselves as we learn more about others. As an undergraduate student, studying German increased my understanding of the English language and exposed me to important and interesting cultural differences. Moving to Minnesota from my native Michigan many years ago, I learned that Minnesotans make “hot dish,” not “casseroles.” In the many management and organizational behavior courses I taught over the years, international and American students brought great richness to the discussions as they shared examples from their own cultures. As vice chancellor, I continue to enjoy learning from others whose backgrounds, experiences, and world views are different from my own.

The conversations are not easy at times. They can be fraught with uncertainty, risk taking, and, perhaps, conflict. But they are also rewarding and, yes, fun. They lead to learning and discovery.
In addition to being the right thing to do, other factors do play a role in our intentional focus on diversity. We have seen a three-year decline in the retention of students of color. We know that the growth in high school graduates over the foreseeable future will all be with students of color, and we would like them to attend and graduate from UMC. And, like anywhere else, we have had some issues on campus. Old-fashioned homesickness and the winter weather were factors for some students of color who left, but conflict stemming from issues of diversity and inclusion was a factor for some as well.

We also hear from students of color that they haven’t experienced racist behavior anywhere on campus or in Crookston. International students tell us that they have great experiences here. We get few, if any, reports of other kinds of biased behavior. In short, UMC is the same mixed bag that exists everywhere.

So, back to the original question about why we have a campus-wide emphasis on diversity, inclusion, and engagement. We are making this a priority because we are committed to helping students learn how to navigate the diverse world in which they live. All of us, as students, faculty, and staff, have some learning of our own to do, so that we can best help each other learn and appreciate not only our similarities, but also our differences. We look forward to having all of you, with your diversity of backgrounds and experiences, join in the effort.

Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Visit
Another topic about which there is lots of conversation this semester is the November 9-11 visit by a team of Peer Reviewers from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), which is the regional body that accredits UMC and more than a 1,000 other colleges and universities in 19 different states. The purpose of the visit is to affirm that we continue to meet the Criteria for Accreditation and support us in our continuous improvement efforts.

Basing decisions in data is an important element of continuous improvement. The student experience is an important element of the Criteria for Accreditation. One way the HLC brings those elements together is by collecting data on the student experience via the pre-visit survey. If you completed that survey earlier this month, thank you!

Over the next three to four weeks, we will work with the visiting team to develop a detailed schedule for their time on campus. We know that the team is interested in assessment of student learning, governance, and strategic planning, but this list will grow. They will want to meet with faculty, staff, and students. As plans emerge, we will share additional information in E-Update.

Barbara Keinath
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Minnesota Crookston

Featured Events & Activities

Sargeant Student Center 10th Birthday Party, Wednesday, September 30 – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., International Lounge, Sargeant Student Center

Inspirational Band: One Ten Ride, Wednesday, September 30 – 7 p.m., Evergreen Grill, Evergreen Hall, free and open to the public
Banned Books Week Event - Panel Discussion: “When Science and Religion Collide: Implications of the Scopes Monkey Trail,” Thursday, October 1 – 12:45 to 2 p.m., Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center

Confucius Institute Satellite Office at UMC Hosts a Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration Open House, Thursday, October 1 – 3 to 4 p.m., Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center

Interfaith Event: "Common Core of All Religions," Friday, October 2 – 9 to 11:30 a.m. poster session; 1:10 to 2:20 p.m. Lecture "Islam, Pluralism and Religions Common Core" by Rory Dickson, Ph.D.; 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Moderated Panel Discussion -- all activities in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Homecoming Coronation and Comedy Featuring Dakaboom, Tuesday, October 6 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium

Homecoming Powderpuff Football Game, Thursday, October 8 – 12:30 to 2 p.m., Campus Mall

Alumni Awards Celebration Banquet, Friday, October 9 - 6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program, Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center, cost is $20 per person, reservations required by October 1

Homecoming Parade, Saturday, October 10 – 11 a.m., around the campus mall, free and open to the public

Homecoming Women’s Soccer vs. University of Sioux Falls, Saturday October 10 – 11 a.m., UMC soccer field

Homecoming Football vs. Bemidji State University, Saturday October 10 – 1 p.m., Ed Widseth Field

Post-Game Alumni Social, Saturday, October 10 – 4 p.m., I.C. Muggs, 1500 University Ave., Crookston

UMC Aviation Club Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, October 11 – 8 to 11 a.m., Brown Dining Room, Sahlstrom Conference Center, free to pilots showing license, $6 advance, $8 at the door

Homecoming Women’s Soccer vs. Southwest Minnesota State University, Sunday, October 11 – 1 p.m., UMC soccer 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

Homecoming –

October 5-11 is 2015 Homecoming Week. Many activities and events are planned for students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the entire community. Visit www.umcrookston.edu/homecoming for all the details.

Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) –

Faculty and staff interested in implementing a continuous improvement project in their area can complete and submit the AQIP Action Project Proposal. The proposal form will be sent to the campus via email within
the next several days. Completed proposals need to be submitted to Sue Erickson, director of institutional effectiveness, on or before October 15. The next subsequent deadline is March 15.

Reminder: Members of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will visit the Crookston campus November 9 through 11 as part of the re-affirmation of UMC’s accreditation.

Student Affairs –

The student body has elected four additional senators to the Crookston Student Association (CSA): Younghwa "Gabriella" Byeon, Dalton Javner, Caleb Rempel, and Trina Weisel. Additionally, Marina Farrow has been appointed as the new U of M Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) representative.

Sargeant Student Center will celebrate its 10th year of operation with a birthday party on Wednesday, September 30, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The campus community is invited to celebrate with cupcakes in the International Lounge. Chancellor Emeritus Don Sargeant and his wife Mary Beth will join the event for brief remarks at 2 p.m.

Homecoming royalty will be crowned at the Coronation and Comedy event on Tuesday, October 6, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium. The event also will feature the comedy of Dakaboom, a music/comedy duo from New York and Los Angeles whose comedy is described as “postmodern vaudeville”—bringing together a cappella, loop stations, stand-up, sketch comedy, crowd interaction, and musical talent. The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by S.P.A.C.E. (Student Programming and Activities for Campus Entertainment).

Golden Eagle Mentors (GEM) on the UMC Football Team created a public service announcement to join the It’s On Us national campaign to prevent sexual assault. View the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWIFifG6Je0.

International Programs –

The Confucius Institute Satellite Office at UMC will host a Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration Open House on Thursday, October 1, from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Prairie Room, Sargeant Student Center. The campus community is invited to stop by for moon cake, Chinese tea, and snacks.

Diversity and Multicultural Programs –

A day-long interfaith event "Common Core of All Religions" will be held in observance of the International Day of Non-Violence on Friday, October 2, In Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The event is free and open to the public, and it aims to help attendees discover the basic common tenets of the world’s major religions. From 9 to 11:30 a.m. a poster session will be held. At 1:10 p.m. a formal welcome and presentation will begin. At 1:30 p.m. Rory Dickson, Ph.D., of the University of Winnipeg will present the lecture "Islam, Pluralism and Religions Common Core." At 2:30 p.m. a moderated panel discussion will feature a number of representatives from various religions and sects including Buddhism, Christianity, Hiduism, Islam, and Sikhism.
Facilities & Operations –

Progress on the construction of the new Wellness Center continues on schedule. Changes are visible on a daily basis as the construction crew takes advantage of the optimal weather. View a live shot looking from the southeast via a construction cam at [www.workzonecam.com/projects/crookston/umcwellness/camera1](http://www.workzonecam.com/projects/crookston/umcwellness/camera1). Photos also are added to UMC’s Facebook page on a regular basis. [View the Facebook photo gallery.](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153924773269128.1073741981.165373324127&type=1&l=ddefb66c82)

Due to Wellness Center construction requiring the use of a crane, the road connection from Centennial Hall and Parking Lot F to the road around the Campus Mall will not be available October 2 through 9. The roundabout at the main campus entrance will remain open, but a flagman will be present to direct traffic during crane lifts. The only section of the road that will be closed is the section by the main entry that turns south to the residence halls. Parking Lot F and the west entrances to Centennial Hall will be able to be accessed from the south service road. Refer to the graphic at [http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/temporary-traffic-impairment](http://news.crk.umn.edu/news/temporary-traffic-impairment).

Technology Support Services –

UMC users are beginning to receive notices from the U of M Office of Information Technology asking them to change their Internet password. This particular request is legitimate and not a scam or phishing. The email originates from the Office of Information Technology (pwxpire@umn.edu) with a subject line that reads “Required UMC email password change.” The text begins with “University Information Security policy requires all Internet passwords to expire one year from the date they are set. You are receiving this notice because the Internet password for account [user name] will expire on [date]...”Annual password expiration is university policy. Faculty and staff are asked to take the time to change their password when they receive this notice. In addition, it is always good practice to type the URL into the browser and not to click on a link within an email. Questions may be directed to the UMC Help Desk at 218-281-8000.

Development & Alumni –

The 2015 Alumni Awards Celebration will be held Friday, October 9, in Bede Ballroom. The event begins with a social at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program and awards presentation. This year’s Outstanding Alumni include Ryan Bakken 1970, Stephanie Helgeson ex. 1991, Angela (Foss) Sundell 1988, and Gary Wagner 1975. Being inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame are Bob Landry 1983, hockey (posthumously); Jason Lindquist 1998, football; Justin Schreiber 2004, football. For the first time ever, the Office of Development & Alumni Relations will present a Young Alumni Award to recognize the achievements of alumni who have graduated within the past 15 years. This year’s recipient is Wemimo Abbey 2013, a business management graduate from Lagos, Nigeria. Cost to attend the Alumni Awards Celebration is $20. To make reservations, contact Rose Ulseth at [rulseth@umn.edu](mailto:rulseth@umn.edu) or 218-281-8439.

University Relations –

University Relations is updating the Experts List to help tell the University of Minnesota Crookston story and to share the collective expertise of the campus with internal and external audiences. Faculty and staff
members are encouraged to provide information about their areas of expertise. Fill out the online form at www.umcrookston.edu/relations/expertfrm.htm. Individuals should include any and all areas and topics they would be comfortable discussing with the media. Those faculty and staff members who are already on the list may make additions or changes to what is currently listed. The current Experts List is posted at http://www3.crk.umn.edu/relations/pdf/Experts_list_2015-16_incomplete.pdf. Please respond by October 9.

Athletics –

The Golden Eagle Women’s Soccer team has been recognized as a 2014-15 Women’s College Team Academic Award Winner by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). This is the third time in as many years that the team has earned the honor. The team’s average GPA of 3.38 is the highest overall of the three-year stretch, and UMC is one of eight NSIC teams to earn the team award.

With the departure of Mike Annese, Bryan Beamish has been promoted to the lead assistant coach for the men’s basketball program, and he will also serve as head women’s golf coach. Beamish is in his second season at UMC under men’s basketball Head Coach Dan Weisse. Beamish holds an M.B.A. from Saint Leo University in Florida, and he earned his bachelor’s degree in interpersonal and organizational communication from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Blaise Davis has been hired as an assistant men’s basketball coach. Davis comes to UMC from Dakota County Technical College (DCTC), in Rosemount, Minn., where he served as assistant coach for the Blue Knights for the past two seasons. During his time coaching at DCTC, he also served as a special education assistant for Minneapolis Public Schools, assisting teachers and administrators in implementing the LifeSkills program at Minneapolis South High School. Davis earned his B.A. in sociology and anthropology from Carleton College in Northfield, Minn.

Kayla Krueger has been named head equestrian coach. She has spent the last two seasons as the assistant coach under Brooke Leininger, who left the head coach position earlier this year. Krueger will oversee both the Hunt Seat and Western Equestrian Teams for the Golden Eagles. She is originally from Walker, Minn., and is a graduate of UMC with a Bachelor of Science in equine science and an emphasis in agricultural business. Prior to becoming an assistant coach, Krueger worked as a horse riding instructor at Camp Birchwood in Laporte, Minn.

Campus and Community

Thirty-two students from the University of Minnesota Crookston helped with bud capping of approximately 4000-5000 red, white, and jack pine seedlings on acreage near the north entrance to Itasca State Park on Saturday, September 26. In total, forty-seven people were involved with the project including one staff person from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, five Minnesota Master Naturalist volunteers, thirty-two UMC students, and nine members of the UMC faculty, staff, or their affiliates. The activity was part of National Public Lands Day, coordinated and sponsored by the Minnesota Master Naturalist Program.

Accolades

A paper by William Christopher Brown, Ph.D., lecturer in composition for the Liberal Arts & Education Department, was recently published. "Will versus Assent in the Albina and Brutus Myths of Castleford's
Megan Bell, Ph.D., lecturer in communication for the Liberal Arts & Education Department, presented recently at the annual conference of the Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota. The presentation entitled "Beyond Words: Using Multimedia Messages to Create Impact" included communication seniors Monika Sweet and Kisun Kim. The conference was held in St. Cloud, Minn., in mid-September.

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