From the Chancellor

As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself reflecting on the many aspects of my life for which I am thankful. I would like to provide a brief mention of a few of those related to UMC.

I must begin with the recent Higher Learning Commission visit. It truly takes a large well-functioning team to prepare for such a visit, and, while Vice Chancellor Keinath and Director Sue Erickson played key roles, everyone deserves thanks for all that they contributed to this major effort. As the visit was progressing, the reviewers commented about the beautiful and well maintained facilities, on the dedication of the faculty to the academic mission, and on the remarkable commitment of all the staff to the campus and our students. They also made special mention of our outstanding students and how well supported they feel by all the faculty and staff. Thank you.

One of the central themes of the accreditation visit was the important concept of “continuous improvement.” As part of our continual effort to become better related, employees were asked to complete the recent Employee Engagement or E2 Survey. It was especially important this year as the survey will not be given again next fall. Although we are a small campus within the University of Minnesota system, each of our voices is valued and matters. We are very pleased to report that our staff and faculty responded in very high numbers (84% response rate for faculty, 65% for staff). We will discuss the results of the survey in the spring as we strive to become better through our continuous improvement journey of excellence. Again, thank you.

As I write this my heart is heavy with the strife in the world, especially related to the recent tragedies in Paris. When international events like this occur, it reminds me that all of us throughout the world are interconnected. Events that occur in other parts of the world may not impact us like events in our neighborhood, but they still impact us in very significant ways. I am thankful to work on a campus that draws employees and students from not only across the country, but also from around the world. It reminds me that an important part of our task is to prepare our students to become good global citizens so that they can help create a brighter future for themselves and future generations. Education is key to creating a better world, and I am thankful for all of our work in this important area at UMC. Again, thank you.

Lastly, I am very thankful to have the opportunity to work with all the staff and faculty at UMC. It is amazing what each of you do for our students every day. They are lucky to have you here, and I am too.

Thank you.

Fred Wood
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston
Featured Events & Activities

What’s on Wednesday (W.O.W.): Study Around the World – 7 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Thursday Commons: Fall 2015 Campus Assembly Meeting, Thursday, November 19 – 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Korean Percussion Ensemble Kwanggaeto Samulnori, Thursday, November 19 – 7 p.m., Kiehle Auditorium, free for children, high school students, UMC students, $10 for adults

A Musical Night at the Carnegie featuring the UMC Choir and UMC String Ensemble, Sunday, November 22 – 7 p.m., Carnegie Building, downtown Crookston, freewill offerings will go toward the restoration of the Carnegie Building

Soup and Substance: Human Trafficking, Monday, November 23 – Noon to 1 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Rooms A & B, Sargeant Student Center

Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday, November 26 – classes excused, campus offices closed

Floating Holiday, Friday, November 27 – classes excused, campus offices closed

Home Opening Women’s Basketball vs. Bemidji State, Saturday, November 28 – 2 p.m., Lysaker Gymnasium, UMC Sports Center

Home Opening Men’s Basketball vs. Bemidji State, Saturday, November 28 – 4 p.m., Lysaker Gymnasium, UMC Sports Center

It’s a Wrap: Social Justice and the Role and Impact of Millennials on College Campuses, Monday, November 30 – 3 to 4:30 p.m., Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center

Thursday Commons, Fall Semester Faculty and Student Research Day, Thursday, December 3 – Noon to 2 p.m., Bede Ballroom, 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://news.crk.umn.edu/news.

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

Around Campus

Administrative Affairs –

The fall semester 2015 meeting of the UMC Campus Assembly is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The entire campus community is welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting, but only eligible Campus Assembly members will vote on action items. The Intercollegiate Athletic Committee and the Academic Standards and Policy Committee will bring a motion forward for approval. The agenda is available online at http://www3.crk.umn.edu/academics/campusassembly/Current.htm.
**Academic Affairs –**

**Academic Affairs has initiated searches for several positions.** Searches for faculty for the 2016-2017 academic year include tenure-track positions in Manufacturing Management/Quality Management, Sport and Recreation Management, Management, Communication, Health Management, and Software Engineering. The Agriculture and Natural Resources Department will be searching to fill one position each for Aviation and Equine Science with either a tenure-track faculty member or teaching specialist. Liberal Arts and Education will be searching for a teaching specialist in the Teacher Education Unit. Math, Science and Technology will be seeking to fill an IT specialist position to support the 3D immersive lab and other technologies. And finally, a new research analyst position has been approved in Institutional Effectiveness. This new position will support campus continuous improvement efforts by providing additional data and analytics.

**Student Affairs –**

The next Soup and Substance discussion will be held on Monday, November 23, at noon in Bede Ballroom. The discussion will be a continuation on the issue of human trafficking with a focus on solutions. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome. Soup is provided.

The next discussion in the “It’s a Wrap” series will take place Monday, November 30, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Bede Ballroom, Sargeant Student Center. The topic will be social justice and the role and impact of millennials on college campuses. Students, faculty, and staff are all encouraged to join the conversation, which is sponsored by the Crookston Student Association (CSA), the PEACE Alliance, and the Black Student Association (BSA) in conjunction with the UMC Office of Diversity and Multicultural Programs.

**International Programs –**

Kwanggaeto Samulnori, a Korean percussion ensemble from Seoul, South Korea, featuring breakdancing and the Korean Lion Dance, will perform on Thursday, November 19, at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium as part of International Week. Admission to the program is $10 for adults and is free for children, high school students, and all UMC students. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and tickets will be sold at the door. The performance is made possible through the Northwest Regional Arts Foundation, UMC Concerts & Lectures, the Korean Heritage House in St. Paul, Minn., and UMC’s Office of International Programs.

**Technology Support Services –**

The University’s annual data center maintenance and related service interruption is scheduled to begin at 6 a.m., on Saturday, January 9, 2016. Services unavailable for the duration of the data center maintenance window include Moodle, PeopleSoft, MyU Portal, ImageNow, UMCcontent, Netfiles, files.umn.edu, Data Warehouse, UM Reports, and others. Services that will be available during data center maintenance include email (Gmail), Salesforce (data transfers will occur on Monday), and authentication services. It is expected that all services, including PeopleSoft and Moodle, will be restored by noon on January 10. The annual event is critical to the maintenance, testing, and repair of facility infrastructure, and it requires a complete shutdown of the main data center. Last year’s maintenance was deferred due to The Upgrade, and there are many outstanding needs that must be addressed, including server moves and facility maintenance. Since the data center maintenance window falls the weekend before classes begin at the Crookston campus, faculty and
staff are encouraged to be proactive and plan ahead for their spring semester preparations that utilize the affected services.

The U of M’s Office of Information Technology (OIT) continues to make progress in correcting the spam issue that occurred as a result of the unexpected Gmail outage on October 29. Users have experienced an increased number of spam messages in their inboxes since the Gmail outage. OIT has identified the cause of the issue and is applying increased spam filtering. Users should be noticing a decrease in the amount of spam reaching their inboxes. They are stopping the most harmful messages, and the spam-blocking capabilities will continue to become more effective as they monitor, receive feedback, and adjust filters. To help this process, faculty and staff are encouraged to mark spam messages as spam in their email client. Also, a more permanent fix will occur later in December. Updates will be provided as that project moves forward.

Development & Alumni –

A sincere thank you is offered to all who generously contributed during the "Give to the Max" 24-hour fundraising event last week. The Crookston campus not only met, but exceeded its goal. Going directly into the Student Success Scholarship fund was $3,825. The first $3,000 contributed was matched thanks to the Lawrence Breen Matching Gift Fund, which brings the unofficial total raised to $6,825.

Kari Torkelson ex. '91 will host a meet and greet with the men's and women's basketball teams following the home openers on Saturday, November 28. This event will be held immediately following the men’s game in the classroom in Evergreen Hall and will be an opportunity to meet the players and coaches. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided. All are welcome to attend.

University Relations –

The launch of UMC’s newly redesigned website in the Drupal content management framework will take place in December. The tentative plan is to conduct a “soft launch” on Friday, December 4. At that point faculty and staff would have access to the production site and could go through their unit’s pages and help identify areas that need additional refinement. The public launch and transition to the new site would then take place in mid-December. The planning and related work for the migration to this new format have been ongoing for the past 16 months. The new site will be mobile friendly, featuring responsive design (pages resize to fit various devices). It will feature more integration with PeopleSoft data and improved compliance with accessibility standards. The new site also will feature refreshed images and design that fit within the University of Minnesota brand guidelines and standards along with a strong focus on the recruitment of prospective students. As with any technology redesign and upgrade, the new site will have some navigation changes that may require some adjustment on the part of users before the site becomes more familiar. Students, faculty, and staff are asked for their patience during the transition period.

Athletics –

The U of M Crookston Hunt Seat Equestrian Team performed strongly at a pair of shows at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities this past weekend. The Golden Eagles earned High Point Team honors Saturday. Selena Young, a freshman from Plymouth, Minn., majoring in Equine Science, would have a strong day on Saturday to earn Reserve High Point Rider. Learn more. www.goldeneaglesports.com/news/2015/11/18/EQUESTHS_1118150532.aspx
Golden Eagle football player Drew Selvestra, a senior from Eagan, Minn., majoring in criminal justice, has been named to the 2015 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District Football Team for Super Region 3. Selvestra has maintained a 3.65 cumulative grade point average. His selection marks the third-consecutive year that a UMC football player has been selected Academic All-District, with Matt Borowicz earning All-District honors in 2013 and 2014. Borowicz went on to earn Academic All-America First Team honors in 2014. Selvestra is now eligible to be selected to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Team, which will be released on December 2.

Golden Eagle soccer players Courtney Armborst, a senior from West St. Paul, Minn., and Delaney McIntyre, a senior from Flin Flon, Manitoba, Canada, have been selected to the All-Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Third Team. Armborst is a first-time honoree, while McIntyre garnered All-NSIC Third Team honors in 2014, as well. The two student-athletes helped UMC set program-best marks for overall wins (seven) and conference wins (seven) and make a run for the playoffs for a second-straight season.

University of Minnesota Crookston football player Dre Person, a junior from Detroit, Michigan, was selected as the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Offensive Player of the Week for the week of November 9. Person is the first football player who has earned the award during the 2015 season, joining UMC soccer player Courtney Armborst, a senior from West St. Paul, Minn., as student-athletes to receive the recognition thus far for the 2015-16 sports season. Person was recognized after a career game against Minot State University on Saturday, November 7, where he had one of the best rushing games of any UMC football player in program history. He finished with 215 yards on 22 carries with four touchdowns.

Campus and Community

The UMC Music Department and the Polk County Historical Society will present “A Musical Night at the Carnegie” on Sunday, November 22, at 7 p.m. at the Carnegie Building, downtown Crookston (next to the Crookston Public Library). The event will feature the UMC Choir singing music from “Les Misérables” and other selections. Also performing will be the UMC String Ensemble and the Greater Crookston Area Men’s Chorus. Freewill offerings will be accepted with all proceeds going to the restoration of the Carnegie Building. Hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be served.

Student Stories

DaKota Tilleraas, a junior from Hastings, Minn., majoring in animal science, knows a lot about dogs. Her family breeds Labradors, and her interest in their health and reproduction sparked her desire to become a veterinarian. Tilleraas hopes someday to work in a mixed animal veterinary clinic. Learn more. https://news.crk.umn.edu/news/girl-and-her-dogs

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