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Crookston Campus E-Update

an internal administrative news digest

October 9, 2007

From the Chancellor

This week's announcement of official enrollment for fall 2007 brings very good news for the University of Minnesota, Crookston. While the overall increase of 8.5 percent is impressive, the 35-percent increase in freshmen is particularly encouraging. We have more new international and online students as well – key to being up nearly 90 students over fall 2006. This is the first increase in students since 2003, and I want to thank the entire campus community for their combined effort for this achievement.

There were many activities during Homecoming week including recognition of Athletic Hall of Fame inductees at the Friday night banquet. New members include Luther Huggins, Janice (Gubbels) Millard, Steele Senske and Chancellor Emeritus Don Sargeant. Doug Aretz and Richard Magnusson were recognized as Outstanding Alumni. Minnesota State Senator Keith Langseth also was recognized for his service to the University of Minnesota and the Crookston campus with the presentation of the Torch & Shield Award. Congratulations to all these individuals.

During the last week of October, my wife Barbara and I will be leading a delegation on another trip to China. We will be following up on the work of faculty and staff that was done during their trip last May. Our objective will be to sign articulation agreements that will eventually result in additional Chinese students coming to the Crookston campus. We will also explore the potential for faculty exchange and study abroad opportunities for students.

I'm very pleased to have all AFSCME staff back at work on campus. AFSCME staff members are valued and important campus community members, who contributed to the increase in enrollment as well.

October also is the time for the United Way fund in Crookston. Last year, the campus was particularly generous to the Crookston community. Associate Vice Chancellor Peter Phaiah, Department Head William Peterson and Counselor/Assistant Education Specialist Laurie Wilson have agreed to provide leadership for the 2007 fund drive on campus. I'm confident faculty and staff will continue to support this important community effort.

Chuck

– Charles H. Casey, Chancellor
University of Minnesota, Crookston

Featured Events & Activities

Secrets Behind Facebook and MySpace, October 10 – Learn more about these sites for social networking at 7 p.m. in the Kiehle Auditorium. Also taking place that evening is **Dancing Around the World with You** at 7 p.m. in Bede Ballroom.

Faculty In-Service Day, (No Classes), October 12 – Faculty workshops run from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Bede Ballroom on a variety of outcome-based subjects, including student rating of teaching, matching teaching to learning goals and advising.

Mr. UMC Contest, October 17 – Join us on campus at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium to see who is crowned the next Mr. UMC. Enjoy the talent and interview competitions.

Torch & Shield Recognition, October 23 – Attend this special donor recognition event beginning with registration and a reception at 5 p.m. and program at 6 p.m. in Bede Ballroom. Dinner follows the program in Brown Dining Room in the Sahlstrom Conference Center (*by invitation only*). For information, contact Rose Ulseth at 218-281-8439 (rulseth@umn.edu).

All-Campus Advisory and Program Improvement Audit Committee Meetings, October 23 – Committee members will meet on campus at various locations. For more information about the purpose of the committees, visit www.umcrookston.edu/piac/allcampus.htm.

We look forward to seeing you. For more details or to discover what's happening this week, visit UMC Today at www.UMCrookston.edu/umcnews or review our news page at www.UMCrookston.edu/umcnews/stories.

Around Campus

Academic Affairs – The Early Childhood Education Program had a pre-site visit from Richard Simms of the Minnesota Board of Teaching in September, and faculty members are busy planning for the complete program review November 11-14. The goal is to secure institutional licensure, a requirement in order to offer education degrees through the Crookston campus, and program approval to deliver degrees in our birth thru third grade education program. We currently deliver the early childhood education degree in cooperation with Bemidji State University.

Two national searches will be conducted to fill the department chair positions being vacated by Bill Peterson and David DeMuth. Committees will be formed by the end of this week and will begin developing position descriptions. An urban forestry emphasis in Natural Resources is being considered by the Board of Regents at their October meeting. Searches for nine tenure-track faculty positions are underway.

Student Affairs and Enrollment – More than \$400,000 will support students this year through the Founders Free Tuition Program and more than \$80,000 through the new Federal Academic Competitiveness and SMART Grants. The Financial Aid Office has set up nearly 200 work-study positions on campus. At this time, all funds have been allocated.

Service Learning will host the fall Community Dialogue on November 2 from 9 to 11 a.m. in Bede Ballroom E. This is a chance for community members to identify their needs and for faculty to explain their curriculum goals and solicit service-learning projects for their courses. Some of the community suggestions could be incorporated into appropriate projects for service learning, community service, Meet Crookston through Service or National Youth Service Day. Past Community Dialogues have resulted in projects such as the Crookston Campus Mentoring and Caring program; marketing research; Web site development and promotional materials for many nonprofit businesses; and partnerships with local non-profits for collaborative events.

Finance & University Services – The search committee for the director of facilities is updating the job description and plans to advertise for the position in the very near future. A table-top emergency management activity will be held on November 15. This event will provide administrators and the campus community an opportunity to review potential campus emergencies and assess our readiness. The U of M Department of Emergency Management has secured 20 tone alert radios for distribution on the Crookston campus. These radios will

broadcast information distributed through the Crookston Fire Department about emergencies on campus and in the local area. The locations for these radios are currently being reviewed.

Development & Alumni Relations – We look forward to seeing you on October 23 for the annual Torch & Shield Award Banquet, honoring individuals who have made distinguished contributions to higher education and the campus. The Torch & Shield is the highest honor bestowed by the campus and we are proud to present them to Robert Jones, U of M senior vice president for system academic administration; Cindy Bigger, alumna and Regional Extension educator; Jon Evert, coordinator of Rural Life Outreach in Northwest Minnesota; and Ardell Knudsvig, Crookston campus director of Student Outreach for Applied Science and Technology. Please contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations to make reservations and purchase tickets at 1-800-862-6466 x8439 (rulseth@umn.edu).

Join us for an alumni/friends social in Hallock, Minn., on November 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Caribou Grill. More details to come; visit our Web site for updates <http://www.umcrookston.edu/alumni/index.htm>. Thank you to all donors, friends, alumni and supporters for your continued contributions toward the University of Minnesota, Crookston and its students. Your giving is sincerely appreciated and continued support is critical.

University Relations – Campus marketing and recruitment representatives have developed an integrated marketing plan that calls for enhancements to the Web and degree program publications as well as strategic Internet marketing for targeted academic programs. The billboard on Highway 2 east of town will be updated in mid October and includes the newly established campus brand: Small Campus. Big Degree. This brand will be incorporated into recruitment messaging as we move forward. An additional \$39,000 has been designated to support Web development, billboard design and placement, marketing consultation and support and evaluation of strategies. A new 30-second video, produced in house and featuring students, is online at <http://salmon.umcrookston.edu/export/video/inventyourself-01.mpg>.

Facts and figures about the Crookston campus are found online at http://www.umcrookston.edu/relations/facts_figures.htm. Plans to celebrate the state's sesquicentennial in 2008 continue with special speakers slated for fall convocation on Oct. 24 and women's history month next semester.

Athletics – Late last month, the Golden Eagle women's soccer team engaged in community service activities at Washington Elementary School by playing soccer and giving a few soccer tips to students. This past weekend Assistant Athletic Director Natasha Kuhle, along with men's basketball student-athlete Joey Kollar and women's basketball student-athlete Treasure Clemons attended the NCAA Leadership Academy in Dallas, Tex. Congratulations go out to student-athletes Katie Cheline, a sophomore on the women's basketball team, and Bryce Cummings, a sophomore on the men's basketball team, who were named Female/Male Newcomer of the Year this past year.

Publication notes: The *E-Update* is published twice each month August thru April and once each month in the summer, May thru July. [Issues are posted online.](#)

If you have any questions regarding the information in this news update, please send them to urumc@umn.edu.