University of Minnesota
Crookston

Commencement

MAY 4, 2024 | LYSAKER GYMNASIUM

‘24
University of Minnesota Board of Regents
for the 2023-2024 academic year

The Honorable Janie Mayeron, Chair
The Honorable Douglas Huebsch, V. Chair
The Honorable Mike Kenyanya, V. Chair
The Honorable Mary Davenport
The Honorable James Farnsworth
The Honorable Robyn Gulley
The Honorable Ruth Johnson
The Honorable Tadd Johnson
The Honorable Bo Thao-Urabe
The Honorable Mary Turner
The Honorable Kodi Verhalen
The Honorable Penny Wheeler

University of Minnesota Crookston
Academic and Administrative Officials
(Members of Chancellor’s Administrative Cabinet, Senior Leadership Team, Academic Department Heads, and Chancellor’s Direct Reports)

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• Chris Ehrhart, M.A., Director of Diversity, Equity & Belonging
• Sue Erickson, B.S., Interim Director of Admissions/Director of Institutional Effectiveness
• Sam Gruenberg, M.F.A., Department Chair, Humanities, Social Science, and Education
• Stephanie Helgeson, M.S., Director of Athletics
• Mary Holz-Clause, Ph.D., Chancellor
• Lynsey Huseth, M.B.A., Director of Strategic Marketing and Communication
• Jacob Isaacs, Ph.D., Director of Student Success Center and Academic Advising
• Rosemary Johnsen, Ph.D., Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
• Anthony Kern, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Math, Science, and Technology
• James Leiman, Ph.D., Director of Economic Development and Strategic Initiatives
• John Loegering, Ph.D., Department Chair, Agriculture and Natural Resources
• Ryan Moe, M.B.A., Director of Facilities and Operations
• Kayla Pahlen, B.S., Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships
• Tricia Sanders, B.Acc., Chief Financial Officer, Director of Finance
• T. Dale Scully, M.A., Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
• Teresa Spaeth, Ph.D., Veden Chair, Rural Development/Director of Strategic Initiatives
• Jeff Sperling, B.S., Director of Technology Support Services
• Sharon Stewart, Ph.D., Department Chair, Math, Science, and Technology
• Sok Leng Tan, M.S., Director of Global Programs
• Jason Tangquist, M.A., Registrar, Teaching Specialist, Title IX Coordinator
• Chris Winjum, B.S., Assistant to the Chancellor

The Board of Regents adopted the Regents’ Seal, shown on this page, in 1939 as the corporate seal of the University of Minnesota. The Latin motto, “Commune Vinculum Omnibus Artibus,” means “A common bond for all the arts.” The lamp represents the metaphysical sciences. The telescope represents the physical sciences. The plow represents the industrial arts, and the palette and brush represent the fine arts.
Today, we celebrate the 57th graduating class of the University of Minnesota Crookston as an institution of post-secondary education. This campus has seen many changes including a significant transformation over its history. In the past decade alone, the campus has seen the addition of many new majors as well as the growth of online education. Both are important components of our academic offerings and our role as a 21st century land-grant institution. While the Crookston campus has a proud legacy of growth and change, two things remain constant: a strong affiliation with the University of Minnesota, and the presence of talented, caring faculty and staff members.

On this day, we also celebrate the 116th graduating class of our campus. The very first graduation ceremony was in 1909 when this site was home to the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA), a residential high school. The NWSA opened its doors in 1906 and provided training in the technical and practical business of agriculture, and the art of homemaking. Over its history, 5,433 graduates completed their high school education at the NWSA.

Changing educational needs in the 1960s led to a new role for the campus. In the fall of 1966, classes began for 185 students enrolled at the new University of Minnesota Technical Institute. Associate degrees were offered in three academic divisions: Agriculture, Business, and General Studies. Students of the NWSA and the U of M “Tech” shared the campus for two years.

In the spring of 1968, a torch was passed, figuratively and literally, from the 60th and final graduating class of the NWSA to the first graduating class of the Technical Institute, now a full-fledged System campus of the University of Minnesota. From 1968 to 1994, 4,693 graduates earned associate degrees. The tradition of passing the torch from one class to the next continues to this day as part of commencement ceremonies.

The University of Minnesota Crookston entered the next stages of its evolution in the early 1990s when it earned approval to offer baccalaureate degrees. The campus made national history in 1993 by providing students and faculty members with laptop computers to become the first public “Laptop University.” By the end of the academic year in 1994, 20 students had completed bachelor’s degree requirements, and they were recognized at the 86th commencement ceremonies.

U of M Crookston awarded its first online bachelor’s degree in 2001. At the time, it was known as “distance education.” In some cases, commencement now may be the first time a graduate actually sets foot on the campus, making the event all the more special.

The Crookston campus is one of five statewide campuses of the prestigious University of Minnesota System. With an enrollment of approximately 1,650 undergraduates from more than 41 states and 19 countries, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere, top-level technology, and a distinctive focus on applied, experiential learning.

We take great pride in our students, faculty, staff, and alumni and in their many accomplishments in teaching, learning, research, and service. We are all enriched by the education, experiences, and relationships built here while acknowledging our campus legacy indeed lives in our alumni. This campus will be a memorable touchstone in our graduates’ lives as they go into the world and make good things happen.

Congratulations to one and all!
Prelude and Processional

The audience will rise if able for the processional and remain standing for the National Anthem.

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elgar

The processional is led by Mace-Bearer Kenneth Myers, M.S., and includes Faculty Marshal Philip Baird, M.S., faculty, staff, candidates for degrees, and platform guests.

“The Star Spangled Banner” by Francis Scott Key

Welcome

Land Acknowledgment Statement

Greetings from the University of Minnesota Board of Regents

Keynote Address

Presentation of Candidates

Introduction of Candidates

Conferring of Degrees

“What a Wonderful World”

Congratulatory Remarks from the Alumni Association

Speaking for the Student Body
Passing of the Torch

Madison Elijah
2024-2025 U of M Crookston Student Association President

Closing Comments

Mary Holz-Clause, Ph.D.
Chancellor

“Minnesota Rouser” by Floyd Hutsell
U of M Crookston Graduation Vocal Ensemble
Accompanied by the U of M Crookston Graduation Vocal Ensemble

Recessional and Postlude

George French, Ed.D.
Associate Professor of Music and Theater

March Theme from “Star Wars” by John Williams

The audience is asked to remain in their seats until the recessional has left the gymnasium.

Congratulations Graduates!

STUDENT MARSHALS
Thao Nguyen, Lily Krona, Tori Johnson, Katie Mack, and Jacob Fjeld

Safety and Special Needs
If you have any special needs during today’s event, please contact a University staff person stationed at the exits near the hallway. They can direct you to a variety of University personnel prepared to assist you.

For your safety, please take a brief moment to locate Lysaker Gymnasium’s exits. They are located to either side of the stage which will take you directly outside, and along the west wall which will take you out to the central hallway and then outside.

In the event of an emergency, choose the nearest exit and evacuate the gymnasium quickly and safely. Listen for further instructions from University event staff. Remain outside the building until the “all clear” is given by emergency responders.

Please silence your cell phones and devices
Out of respect for all in attendance and for this important ceremony, please turn off or silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.

* Fall Semester 2023 graduate  |  ** Summer Session 2024 candidate  |  *** Fall Semester 2024 candidate
Students who complete a degree program with a minimum grade point average of 3.90 graduate “with high distinction.”
Students who complete a degree program with a minimum grade point average of 3.75 graduate “with distinction.”
Baccalaureate Degrees will be conferred upon those listed below, subject to the completion of all curriculum requirements.

### HIGH DISTINCTION

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<th>HOMETOWN</th>
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The Faculty Assembly consists of: (a) tenured faculty, (b) tenure track faculty, and (c) faculty and other professional staff who work at least 50% time in credit teaching and 66% time in teaching, research, and service.
MEET THE PLATFORM GUESTS

Alisha (Aasness) Asleson is the president of the University of Minnesota Crookston Alumni Association. She earned a master of education from the University of Minnesota Duluth and a bachelor of science degree in horticulture from U of M Crookston in 2012. Asleson works for BFG Supply Company as the sales manager of their plant division, which serves the green industry including professional growers, lawn and garden centers, landscapers, and indoor growing stores. She is a Minnesota Landscape and Nursery Association (MNLA) certified professional and a University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener. Asleson is the owner of Seeded Designs, a floral design business specializing in full service wedding florals and hands-on educational floral design classes. She is also a teaching specialist and teaches horticulture for the U of M Crookston campus. She resides in Wendell, Minn., with her husband and son.

Julie Borlaug, Principal at Borlaug Consulting - A highly accomplished expert with years of experience, specialization in several fields, and a focus on agriculture. Julie is the granddaughter of Norman Borlaug, American agricultural scientist, plant pathologist, humanitarian, and winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1970. She is continuing the Borlaug legacy and inspiring the next generation by advocating for innovation and technology to end hunger and poverty. Borlaug has developed agricultural partnerships among public, private, and philanthropic groups to expand the mission to feed the world’s hungry. She is always ready for new challenges and changes in the constantly shifting environment brought on by constant global change.

Mary Holz-Clause, Ph.D., began her role as chancellor at the University of Minnesota Crookston in June 2017. During her time at U of M Crookston, she has worked on systemwide enrollment, diversity, inclusion and campus culture, research and outreach, and expanding academic and athletic programs among other initiatives. In 2021, the University of Minnesota expanded Holz-Clause’s position to cover two campuses as acting executive chancellor for both the experiential and online presence of Crookston and a more traditional liberal arts campus at Morris. She served in that dual role for one year. Holz-Clause earned a Ph.D. in agriculture education and technology transfer, a master of public administration, and a bachelor of science degree in agricultural business, all from Iowa State University.

Madison Elijah came to the University of Minnesota Crookston in Fall 2021 from Hebron, Indiana. She is majoring in animal science with a pre-veterinarian emphasis and an agricultural business minor. While on campus, Madison has been involved as a Residential Life community advisor, as president of the Crookston Student Association, cross country team captain, Student Athlete Advisory Committee representative, and working at the Info Desk and barns on campus. She has enjoyed the small campus of Crookston, where she feels she knows all the other students and faculty/staff.

Danielle ‘Dani’ Johannesen, Ph.D., began working at the University of Minnesota Crookston in Fall 2012 and teaches English, Writing, and First Year Experience courses. Her scholarly interests include rhetorical studies, rural and Great Plains literature, popular culture, and creative writing. Johannesen has mentored several undergraduate student research projects, and her students have presented their work at national conferences. Johannesen earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of South Dakota, a master of arts in English from Northern Arizona University, and a bachelor of arts in English from South Dakota State University.
**Rosemary Johnsen, Ph.D.,** came to Crookston in 2022 and served as the division head for Business, Arts, and Education for one year before moving into the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs position. She serves as the chief academic officer and provides overall leadership for academic affairs at the University of Minnesota Crookston, striving toward excellence in teaching, learning, and scholarship across the disciplines. Johnsen is an active scholar and writer, with expertise in crime fiction, 20th and 21st century British and Irish literature, and public scholarship. Prior to coming to the University of Minnesota Crookston, she served as the Associate Provost and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and as a Professor of English at Governors State University in Chicago, Illinois. Johnsen earned a Ph.D. in English Literature, and a master of arts and bachelor of arts degrees both in English from Michigan State University.

**Tadd Johnson** is a senior advisor for government affairs for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians. He is Professor Emeritus of the Department of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Johnson also served the University of Minnesota system as its first Senior Director of American Indian Tribal Nations Relations. His professional experience includes working as a tribal attorney and a tribal court judge. Johnson also served as the Solicitor General and the Director of Government Affairs for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians. He spent five years working with the U.S. House of Representatives, ultimately becoming staff director and counsel to the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs. In 1997, President Clinton appointed Johnson to chair the National Indian Gaming Commission. He is nationally recognized in the area of Native American Law and is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. He received an undergraduate degree at the University of St. Thomas and a law degree from the University of Minnesota.
ACADEMIC REGALIA
Academic gowns date back to the 14th century, when they served two functions of nearly equal importance: the distinctive apparel indicated the academic rank of the wearer, and the long gown kept the scholar warm in the drafty stone halls of the academy. Worn on special occasions, today’s academic gowns are a colorful reminder of the heritage of academic communities. The academic hood worn around the neck and down the back is typically black velvet inset with silk in the colors of the institution that granted the wearer’s highest degree. The lining of the hood reflects different disciplines - for example gold for science, maize for agriculture, tan for business, and white for liberal arts. Dark blue denotes a Ph.D., whatever the field of study. Traditionally, gowns in the United States have been black. In recent years, a number of universities have adopted gowns of distinctive school colors.

THE REGENTS’ MEDALLION
The five-foot Regents’ Medallion is displayed at Commencement and other official events of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. On the face of the medallion is the seal of the Regents. An antique lamp represents the metaphysical sciences; a telescope, the physical sciences; a plow, the industrial arts; and a palette with brushes, the fine arts. The Latin motto, Omnibus artibus commune vinculum, means “a common bond for all the arts.” The seal is also on the inside cover of this program.

INTERNATIONAL FLAGS
The University of Minnesota Crookston places value on diversity and provides students with many opportunities to gain global and diverse perspectives. Many students travel from other countries to the Crookston campus to earn an education and to share their experiences. A colorful reminder of our global society, the flags on display represent each international graduate’s home country or country of origin.

THE MACE
The word “mace” is from Middle English and was originally used to refer to an implement for breaking armor on the battlefield. While that term is still widely known, in this case it has a more peaceful connotation as it refers to the staff carried by a dignitary and signifying authority. As per tradition, since the first graduating class of the University of Minnesota Technical College, U of M Crookston’s mace is carried by the most senior faculty member. This mace is modeled after the one designed by Philip Morton in 1961 and used at the inauguration of University of Minnesota President O. Meredith Wilson. It is made of aluminum and topped with a crystal sphere, which symbolizes the illuminating quality and clarity of thinking that characterizes education. The crystal sphere is topped by a star representing Minnesota, the North Star State.

THE TORCH
A tradition unique to the Crookston campus is the presence of a stylized torch at special ceremonies. The symbolic light of the torch, the light of knowledge that permits understanding, represents the educational philosophy of the University of Minnesota. There are three different torches that play a role in campus tradition. The first is the original torch created by the final graduating class of the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) and passed to the first graduating class of the Technical College in 1968. That torch is on display in the Alumni Room in Kiehle Building.

In 2002, regional artist David Badman designed and handcrafted a new academic torch as a gift to the campus in recognition of its new academic mission as a baccalaureate university. That torch has been present at all commencement ceremonies and other special campus events since that time.

In 2009, Lew Hanson, a former employee, and employee of DeBoer Industries of Crookston created the “Century Torch” to commemorate the 100th anniversary of graduation ceremonies on the Crookston campus. During commencement ceremonies, the Century Torch is passed to the incoming president of the Crookston Student Association (CSA), maintaining the tradition that began in 1968 and acknowledging the history of the campus from its roots in the NWSA to the present. The name of the alumni magazine is, appropriately, Torch.
National Anthem
Star Spangled Banner

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our Flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave,
O’er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

Minnesota Rouser

Minnesota, hats off to thee!
To thy colors true we shall ever be,
Firm and strong, united are we.
Rah, rah, rah, for Ski-U-Mah,
Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!
Rah for the U of M.

Minnesota, hats off to thee!
To thy colors true we shall ever be,
Firm and strong, united are we.
Rah, rah, rah, for Ski-U-Mah,
Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!
Rah for the U of M.

One of five campuses that comprise the University of Minnesota System, the University of Minnesota Crookston now delivers 37 bachelor’s degree programs and 33 minors on campus as well as 19 degree programs entirely online. These degrees are offered in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, business, liberal arts and education, and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,650 undergraduates from more than 19 countries and 41 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree.

www.umcrookston.edu
The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

Disability accommodations will be provided upon request. Please contact a University staff member for assistance.