



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CROOKSTON



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LEADERSHIP LETTER

From the Vice Chancellor

Snow has arrived, and with it the change in wardrobes, coats, and shoes. While I always find that there's something magical about the first snow of the season, I know it can be challenging for some members of our community who do not have experience with the colder weather. For those of us who are more

seasoned with the winters of the Northern Plains, now is a good time to check in with students who are new to the region to offer a helping hand and advice for the change in seasons.

Give to the Max Day, Thursday, November 18

Give to the Max, is a day that brings the UMN Crookston community together to support meaningful causes. I encourage you to consider making a [gift](#) this year, and support whatever area is meaningful to you. One of my favorite funds, the UMC Area of Greatest Need Fund, is our focus this year. This fund provides critical support to the university and its students in times of need. Gifts of all sizes are needed and appreciated! Give on November 18 [here](#) or stop by the office in Kiehle 115.

Kiehle Murals

Earlier this year, I convened a committee of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and representatives from Tribal Nations in the region to vet options and propose recommendations to address concerning aspects of the Socha murals in Kiehle auditorium and further explore options to showcase the rich history, knowledge and advancement of indigeneous people of the Northern Plains.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, the Federal Art Project, a part of the Works Progress Administration, provided work relief for artists. One of the projects was the murals installed in Kiehle Auditorium. The murals were a gift from the Northwest School of Agriculture's class of 1932, officially unveiled 79 years ago on November 7, 1942. The artist, John Martin Socha, was a graduate of the University of Minnesota.

I acknowledge the significance of the Socha murals, notably the content of the lower panels of the murals that artistically celebrate the values of hard work, free enterprise, and invention as well as the importance of the agricultural industry to the region. However, the prominent panels to the upper left and right of the auditorium stage include imagery that is problematic. The large left-hand panel portrays the arrival of Europeans with a sword drawn foreshadowing war and conquest to come. The panel to the right portrays the Old Crossing Treaty signing in which Ojibwe people ceded over 11 million acres of land to the United States. The treaty signing followed some of the darkest moments in Minnesota history including the Dakota Conflict, the largest mass execution in U.S. history, and executive orders authorizing bounties for Indian scalps.

As noted on our [website](#), we recognize the murals are an example of how the histories, lived experiences, and contributions of Indigenous people and people of color in the U.S. have been overlooked, silenced, and oppressed. Further, Kiehle auditorium is not a museum-like area that members of our campus community can avoid. Classes and major campus events compel students and members of our community to go into the auditorium. For this reason, UMN Crookston is exploring options for how to address the murals. The murals committee referenced above vetted a wide range of alternatives and proposed recommendations for senior leadership within the University of Minnesota. In the coming weeks, there will be opportunities for our campus community to provide input and share feedback regarding the murals.

Sincerely,

John

CAMPUS UPDATES

Eagle Essentials, donations wanted

Do you have gently used, like-new outdoor clothing items that you would be willing to donate? (scarves, hats, gloves, coats, boots etc.) Drop off at Sargeant 145J, and know monetary donations too may be accepted through the business office, specifying that it is for Eagle Essentials. Funds will be used to purchase these items and food staples. Questions or inquiries can be directed to [Erica Claybrook-Cookman](#).

Computer Help Desk

Shopping online securely, soon millions of people will be looking to buy the perfect gifts for the upcoming holiday season, and many of us will shop online. Unfortunately, cybercriminals will be active as well, creating fake shopping websites and other online shopping scams to steal your information or money. The November 2021 edition of the "OUCH!" newsletter shares guidance on how you can find good deals without becoming a victim. Remember that some gifts may be Internet-enabled. View Mozilla's [_privacy-not-included site](#) for guidance on which devices are safer than others.

EVENTS

Give to the Max Day, is a day that brings the UMN Crookston community together to support meaningful causes. Consider making a gift this year. We encourage you to support whatever area is meaningful to you, the UMC Area of Greatest Need Fund is our focus this year. This fund provides critical support to the university and its students in times of need. Gifts of all sizes are needed and appreciated! Give on November 18, by clicking [here](#) or stop by Kiehle 115.



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Research Day, Thursday, November 18, noon to 1:50 p.m.

Venue: Bede ballroom and virtually, log on [here](#). Presenters: Bianca Turman (student, HSSE), John Lacoursiere (student, MST), Dr. Mohammad Hossain (MST), and Dr. Rutherford Johnson (Business).

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Night, Thursday, November 18

Join the UMN Crookston [men's basketball](#) team as they host Faculty and Staff Appreciation on Thursday, November 18 against Northern Michigan. The UMC Teambackers will be giving away \$150.00 in Crookston Chamber bucks at halftime.

Starting a business in Minnesota; Free training, November 18

Starting a company is risky, register for this free training as the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosts "Starting a Business" in Thief River Falls at the Pennington County Offices, basement conference room, 101 Main North, Thief River Falls. Registration for the FREE workshop, slated for 11:30 a.m. can be done [online](#).

United Way of Crookston and UMC Teambackers and SAAC partner November 20

Join the United Way of Crookston in bringing a canned item for free admission to the UMN Crookston hockey game on [November 20](#), puck drops at 2pm. Student Athletic Advisory Committee and UMC Teambackers are volunteering to raise funds locally. All chuck-a-puck and 50/50 proceeds to benefit the Crookston United Way.

UMN Crookston Fall Music Concert - Monday 11/22, 7:30 p.m. Kiehle Auditorium

The University of Minnesota Crookston Band, Choir, and String Ensemble will present a joint concert on Monday Evening November 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kiehle Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Gary Senske Court Dedication, Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Social: 5:00 p.m. in Evergreen Grill, Dedication: Half-time of the men's game. Alumni who attend the events will receive free admission to the game vs the Beavers. The University of Minnesota Crookston will hold an [official dedication](#) of Gary Senske Court at Lysaker Gymnasium Tuesday, November 23. Prior to the 2020-21 season, the court was named in honor of legendary Minnesota Crookston men's basketball Head Coach Gary Senske.



Golden Eagle Pep Band

The Golden Eagle Pep Band is a volunteer group of student musicians that enjoy playing live music at UM Crookston Athletic events in support of Golden Eagle Athletics. Rehearsals will be held on Monday evenings 11/29 and 12/6, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in Kiehle 236, the UMN Crookston Music Room, with additional rehearsals for spring to be determined. If you play an instrument and are looking to blow off some steam before finals grab your instrument and come join us! Contact TJ Chapman, tchapman@crk.umn.edu, for more information or if you need assistance obtaining an instrument.

Student Health

MDH COVID -19 Free Rapid Testing Site

[Crookston Armory](#). Walk-ins welcome, or pre-register [here](#).

Open: Thursdays and Fridays, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

COVID Booster shots now available

Polk County Public Health is encouraging everyone age 12 and older to get vaccinated. For more information about booster eligibility, visit the [CDC website](#).

Free Mental Health First Aid workshops, virtual by Clover

- Youth Mental Health First Aid (for people of all ages who work with youth): November 17, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Participants can register [here](#).

[Mental Health First Aid](#) is an evidence-based training program that teaches people how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges. [Clover](#) is a non-profit with a mission to improve the mental health of the community through advances in policy, workforce, and training. Registration is required. Spots are limited.

HIGHLIGHTS

Accolades



*Torch & Shield
Thank you*

On Wednesday, November 3, the 2021 Torch & Shield recognition event was held on campus to recognize and celebrate our generous donors and supporters. The event included a program in Kiehle Auditorium featuring scholarship impact stories delivered by three students (Mercedes Coan, Sandra Yerges, and Silas Xia), the Torch & Shield Award presented to this year's award recipients (Jason Brantner, Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust, and Lyle Westrom), and a presentation highlighting the significant results of the University of Minnesota's 10-year Driven Campaign. In addition to the program, the event also included a social in the Kiehle Rotunda and elegant dinner in a beautifully transformed Brown Dining Room.

A heartfelt Thank You from University and Alumni Relations to our entire UMN Crookston team, particularly those listed below, for making this year's Torch & Shield recognition event a huge success!

Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause

Maureen Aubol

Amy Arndt and the Sodexo Dining Services team

Laura Bell, Teresa Helgeson, and the Horticulture Club

George French and the UMN Crookston Choir and String Ensemble

The Facilities team

John Normandin and James Pogatshnik from Media Services

Michelle Christopherson

Stephanie Helgeson

Chris Winjum

Many student volunteers