



Dhawa (Monk) Gurung from Nepal, is creating a sand mandala, stop by the west side of the International Lounge between April 11-20. Unable to visit, consider watching this on live stream <http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/0s711>.

LEADERSHIP LETTER

From the Vice Chancellor

Before coming to Crookston, I worked as a faculty member in graduate preparation programs for people who wanted to work in higher education as faculty, student affairs educators, or administrators. I recall advising students to avoid making big decisions in the “A” months (April and August) because they tend to

be highly stressful times of year in our line of work. It is difficult to make our best decisions when we are tired or stressed.

For a number of people within our community, April coincides with their observance of Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. While often referred to as a religious holiday, Ramadan is a unique observance that involves fasting, prayer, and reflection focused on themes of charity, empathy, and connection to others. The physical disciplines of Ramadan can be tiring or stressful, but their purpose is to enhance personal development and the ability of individuals to manage the stresses of life. Speaking for myself, it is an opportunity for me to learn from others whose spiritual and religious experience extends beyond my own.

For example, one of my former students recently shared a social media post that connected her observance of Ramadan with the observance of earth month. She cited a verse from the Qur'an that directs people to "eat and drink from the provision of Allah, and do not commit abuse on the earth, spreading corruption" (2:60). She reflected how she used to read the verse as instructing her not to commit abuse toward others while living on earth, but she now reads it as also encouraging her to avoid excess that would harm the earth itself. Extending this to our campus, this might be a call to engage in Ecochallenge 2022, a program designed to advance sustainable development work here in Crookston. More information about this program is listed under "events" below.

This is just one example of connecting a spiritual practice to education and our shared work to make the world a better place. Similar connections exist for significant Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, and Sikh holidays observed in April. Whether you engage in Ramadan or one of these other religious observances yourself or if you learn from others in our community who do, it is a great reminder for all of us to focus on being grateful and mindful of learning from others as we finish the school year.

John Hoffman

Accolades

Jacob Isaacs, Director of Student Success/Advising recently participated in the 2022 Central States Communication Association (CSCA) Annual Convention in Madison, Wisc.

(https://www.cscs-net.org/aww/CSCA/pt/sp/convention_overview). March 31-April 3, 2022

Panel presentations included:

"Re-connecting the network: Re-asserting the collective strength of community college communication faculty to position ourselves for the future". Co-Presenter (with B. Belter-Roberts, K. Weismann, M. Krzmarzick, & M. Yaroslaski). Central States Communication Association 2022 Annual Convention, Madison, WI (03/22).

"Shared governance: What role do we play as instructors at our institution and how does this impact our ability to re-connect with students?" Co-Presenter (with M. Yaroslaski, K. Omachinski, H. Nesemeier, & M. Yaroslaski). Central States Communication Association 2022 Annual Convention, Madison, WI (03/22).

“Taking our lessons from COVID to re-connect with students in the face-to-face environment”. Co-Presenter (with S. Mirviss-Jossart, K. Omachinski, M. Yaroslaski, & H. Nesemeier). Central States Communication Association 2022 Annual Convention, Madison, WI (03/22).

“The tyranny of the urgent’: Re-connecting as a profession when there is no time to do so”. Co-Presenter (with H. Nesemeier, S. Mirviss-Jossart, D. Wendt, T. Robinson, & A. Brown). Central States Communication Association 2022 Annual Convention, Madison, WI (03/22).

Isaac’s recently completed a year’s term as Chair of the Community College Interest Group within CSCA and has been elected to a one-year term as Chair of the Adjunct/ Temporary Faculty Caucus within the organization. He will serve as Past-Chair of the Community College Interest Group and Chair of the Adjunct/ Temporary Faculty Caucus until the 2023 annual convention in St. Louis, MO.

Rutherford Johnson, Ph.D., Business Lecturer, recipient for the ACBSP Teaching Excellence Award, Region 4.

The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs ([ACBSP](#)) is built on the significance of the classroom teacher to the mission of degree-granting institutions, the Teaching Excellence Award is an annual award that recognizes individuals each year who exemplify teaching excellence in the classroom. Johnson, Business lecturer, is the 2022 recipient chosen within each of the eleven ACBSP regions around the world. The selection process evaluates nominees based on a series of criteria, teaching philosophy, and recommendation from university administration.

CAMPUS UPDATES

In the Spirit of Cinco de Mayo, Friday, April 22, volunteers needed

On behalf of the In the Spirit of Cinco de Mayo committee, I am inviting you and your team members to volunteer a bit of time. We need assistance in serving food from 4:30-7:30, volunteering with crafts and greeting guests. Please consider [signing up](#) for a one hour slot, encourage your peers to join you for :30 minutes to one hour on Friday, April 22. We appreciate your time and of course your consideration.

EVENTS

Earth Week, April 18 - 25, presented by Crookston Students for Sustainable Development

Check out the [Events Calendar](#) for activities around campus all week.

Join the Ecochallenge 2022, small steps lead to big change.

[Ecochallenge](#) is a platform to educate, entertain, and engage the community on ways to drive sustainable habits. Building a more sustainable world and healthier planet can’t be done alone. Ecochallenge provides the support and resources to transform behaviors at work, school, and beyond. Consider [joining Shelby Engle’s](#) team.

Library Services

Join us Thursday, May 12 from 2-4 on the second floor of the Library to celebrate Krista Proulx’s retirement.

Horticulture Department

Join the U of M Crookston Horticulture Department for the 48th Annual Bedding Plant Sale. There is a great selection of flowering annuals, vegetables, strawberries, and herbs. All are welcome, payment

accepted includes cash or check.

Highlights

Wongdue Sangbo Gurung, a Buddhist monk from Nepal, will create a Tibetan Buddhist tradition, a sand mandala.

Join the campus community and watch him create the sand mandala in person or online at <http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/0s711>. The creation of the sand mandala will commence Monday, April 11 in the west side of the International Lounge within the Sargeant Student Center. Special tours will be offered Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 from 10-2. Parking will be available in Lot "A". This is free and open to the public.