Farewell from Charles H. Casey, D.V.M.

As you know, I announced my retirement as chancellor in January. It is hard to believe that by the time you receive this issue, I will be turning over the leadership of the University of Minnesota, Crookston to my successor. My wife, Barbara Muesing, and I have enjoyed our time in Crookston, and we take with us many wonderful memories. Looking back, my professional career path has been a gratifying one filled with exceptional colleagues, significant challenges, great support, and a deep belief in the future. My leadership has been highlighted by the partnerships with many who shared common goals and were willing to work in tandem in an effort to achieve them. I believe we have accomplished much together.

The campus continues to build on relationships that stretch back to our history’s earliest years—first as an experiment station joined later by the Northwest School of Agriculture, the residential high school located on this site. We are part of a long history of the University of Minnesota and its dedication to serve the state as its land grant institution.

Important relationships, including those with the Northwest Research and Outreach Center, Extension, the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, and the Area Health Education Center, along with serving as a home to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) University Center and the Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies, contributed significantly to our ability to serve as a valuable resource to the residents of northwest Minnesota and beyond. They are possible because we remain dedicated to our land grant mission. The University of Minnesota, Crookston represents one of many resources available to this region through the University of Minnesota.

The strength of this campus rests with our faculty. We have welcomed a number of new and very talented faculty to the U of M, Crookston. They bring new ideas and a fresh perspective as they join a remarkable group of seasoned faculty members who have a depth of experience, a wealth of knowledge, and who demonstrate real dedication to students.

Our network of alumni, donors, and friends has helped strengthen and position the campus for the future. With strong enrollment, both on campus and online; new bachelor’s degrees in biology, criminal justice, environmental sciences, marketing, and software engineering; and the enrichment brought about by greater diversity, the campus has matured significantly even though we are still a young baccalaureate degree-granting institution. I believe under the leadership of President Eric Kaler and the incoming chancellor, this campus will continue to flourish.

As I reflect, I feel a sense of pride in our many successes and a deep sense of gratitude for the support I have received. I will continue to advocate for the University of Minnesota, Crookston whenever the opportunity presents itself, and I will be watching as you partner with others to further develop this great institution.

Thank you for the wonderful memories and the opportunity to work together. I believe the best is yet to come, and I will always be proud of the University of Minnesota, Crookston and the work we did together.

Sincerely,
Charles H. Casey, D.V.M.
Chancellor
Messages from a 2012 Grad

Headed to graduate school at New York University (NYU) in the heart of New York City this fall, Alumnus Nana Boaten ’12 leaves some advice for students. The marketing major from Ghana, West Africa, has learned a lot about life after facing a number of setbacks when he was coming to school in the United States to the heartbreaking loss of his father when he was so far from home.

His passion is to work in a capacity that will help those in poverty or to work in the areas of conflict resolution and governance. However, his legacy to the campus will begin with these very important messages for undergraduates to help them make the most of their college experience:

- “Look for a campus with a culture and people that give you a feeling of community.”
- “Be involved on campus; it’s important.”
- “Do not accept mediocrity. Challenge yourself to be better and if that means you have to compete, then look for the very best people and strive to be like them.”
- “Extra things you do will add value to your life. Do them.”
- “You are here as a student but find things that will blend your student life with what you want to be as a professional.”
- “Learn to lead and work to help others. Learning these skills will help you succeed in anything. Avail yourself of all the U of M, Crookston has to offer.”
- “Everybody counts from the janitor to the chancellor.”

Here are some comments about Boaten by members of the campus community. They reflect both his character and work ethic while demonstrating that he practices his own best advice.

*From Tim Menard, admissions counselor*

“Nana’s innate communication skills in concert with his magnanimous spirit shone brilliantly as he strove to practice the highest possible degree of professionalism during his tenure as our admissions intern. He executed his obligations with humility.

Nana Boaten ’12 is headed to graduate school this fall.
Associate Professor John Loegering, Boaten, and Lisa Loegering at graduation on May 5, 2012.

and passion bringing his best effort to the admission’s team.

“It was a pleasure supervising his internship. In reflection on our work together, I think that Nana’s gift to me and the legacy to our team was his profound sense of courage and faith in the face of a profound grief experienced while he interned. He allowed us to journey with him as he grieved the loss of his father back home in Ghana. For me, witnessing Nana honor the memory of his father at the memorial service he planned and shared with his UMC and Crookston family, was a “mountain top” experience.

“With Nana, what you see is what you get, dazzling smile and spacious spirit!”

From Lisa Loegering, assistant director of service learning

“Nana realizes his purpose in life and has set high goals for himself; he never doubts whether or not he is going to make it. He works incredibly hard and takes advantage of and appreciates the opportunities given to him. At the same time, he has given a tremendous amount back to the community through his community service.

“A driving force in Nana’s success is the desire to make his family proud, but studying so far away from home isn’t easy when life’s tragedies hit—and they have for him. Still, he puts on his smiling face and continues to push hard toward his goals. He’s taught me a lot about goals and persistence.”

Commencement is a celebration of student accomplishment and Saturday, May 5, 2012, held the same excitement it always does. For students, faculty, and staff, graduation is the best day of the year. The future for graduates spreads out before them filled with possibility.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

Read the Torch Online

You can read the Torch, the alumni magazine for the Northwest School of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota, Crookston online by visiting: http://issuu.com/umcrookston or on the U of M, Crookston Web site at www.umcrookston.edu/alumni/torch

If you would prefer to receive your Torch online only, contact Elizabeth Tollefson at 218-281-8432 (ltollefs@umn.edu)
From the Director of Development & Alumni Relations

Thank you Chuck and Barbara

When I first arrived on campus in January 2006, I introduced my young family to Dr. Casey in the hallway outside his office in Selvig Hall. The Chancellor warmly welcomed us to the University of Minnesota, Crookston. During this introduction he was taking a sip of coffee out of the same coffee cup he continues to use today. On the walk back to my office we ran into First Lady Barbara Muesing who also welcomed us to campus and said if you need anything please don't hesitate to contact us. What a fabulous first impression from this couple.

Reflecting back on my six-plus years of working for and with Chancellor Charles H. Casey I can honestly say our relationship was one of candor, trust, respect, and honest feedback. Our relationship became successful because Dr. Casey always saw the big picture, looked forward rather than back, and understood the vital importance of our alumni and donors. He also knew fundraising is a shared responsibility and many play major roles. Dr. Casey was well aware that in this position much of his work relates to development and Dr. Casey's active nature paid major dividends during the most challenging economic times in decades.

The legacy Charles H. Casey has left on this campus is simply astonishing. I'm grateful, as are so many, to have had the opportunity to serve alongside Chancellor Casey and Barbara Muesing on campus, in the community, throughout the state, and nation.

Let me say thank you and I wish both of you health, happiness, success, and relaxation in your next journey.

Sincerely,
Corby Kemmer, director
Development & Alumni Relations

DR. CHARLES H. CASEY
AND BARBARA J. MUESING
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Give a gift to support students and honor the service, leadership, and dedication of Chancellor Charles H. Casey and Barbara J. Muesing.

As Chancellor Casey retires, a scholarship has been established to commemorate the passion both he and Barbara have for students and for higher education.

Consider a contribution to the Dr. Charles H. Casey and Barbara J. Muesing Scholarship Fund. Your gift will support students and honor a legacy!

Send your gift to the Office of Development & Alumni Relations:
Corby Kemmer, Director
Development & Alumni Relations
University of Minnesota, Crookston
2900 University Avenue
Crookston, Minn. 56716
**New Chancellor Announced**

Fred E. Wood has been named chancellor of the University of Minnesota's campus in Crookston. He will take the helm July 2, 2012.

Wood comes to the University of Minnesota from the University of California, Davis, where he has been vice chancellor of student affairs and has held other leadership roles for 26 years.

As chancellor, Wood will be the chief academic and executive officer for the Crookston campus, responsible for leveraging its unique strengths in undergraduate education, applied research and public engagement within the broader mission of the University of Minnesota.

**Faculty and Staff Honored**

The annual Faculty and Staff Day Program was held on Tuesday, May 8, in Bede Ballroom. Faculty and staff from all units across campus attended the luncheon and program that followed. Hosting the event were Rachel Lundbohm, instructor in the Business Department, and Kristie Jerde, assistant director of residential life.

Kenneth Johnson, M.B.A., instructor, Business Department, was presented with the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Donna Larson, accountant, Business Affairs Office, received the Distinguished Civil Service/Bargaining Unit Award.

Two individuals received the Distinguished Professional & Administrative Award: Melissa Dingmann, M.Ed., director, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, and Kenneth Bulie, J.D., C.P.A., lecturer, Business Department.

**Man and Woman of the Year**

Every spring two students are selected as the “Man and Woman of the Year.” The award is the year’s top academic, service and leadership award.

Honors for 2012 go to UMC Man of the Year Austin Czichotzki, a senior from Barnesville, Minn., majoring in communication; and Woman of the Year Kristine Neu, a senior from Pelican Rapids, Minn., who is a double major in horticulture and communication. Czichotzki is the son of Terry and Sandi Czichotzki and Neu is the daughter of Mark and Karen Neu.

**Campus Accolades in 2011-12**

For a fourteenth consecutive year, the University of Minnesota, Crookston has been recognized as one of the top regional colleges in the Midwest in its category for the 2012 edition of Best Colleges by U.S. News Media Group. This year’s rankings place the Crookston campus in the top three public colleges in the category “Best Regional Colleges.”

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is one of the best colleges in the Midwest according to the nationally known education services company, The Princeton Review. This announcement marks the fifth consecutive year the Crookston campus has been recognized.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston has been named among the top 25 in SuperScholar’s “Smart Choice” ranking of schools offering online bachelor’s degrees.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston’s online degree in business management has been ranked among The Best Colleges list of “Top 10 Online Bachelor of Business Administration Degree Programs of 2011.”

The first-ever edition of Top Online Education Program rankings by U.S. News & World Report finds the University of Minnesota, Crookston ranked nationally among the top 40 colleges and universities in two separate categories for its online bachelor’s degree programs.

The U of M, Crookston was listed among the 75 “Best Value Public Colleges” on The Princeton Review website and in USA TODAY.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston was one of five campuses in Minnesota named to the Honor Roll with Distinction as part of the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for 2012.

The University of Minnesota ranked number 2 out of more than 200 colleges and universities across the nation in the not-for-profit category for online education, according to the recently-released 2012 rankings by Guide to Online Schools, a leading college education website.

SuperScholar.org published its first annual “Smart Choice” ranking of the top schools for online bachelor’s degrees in business and business administration. The University of Minnesota, Crookston was ranked number 15 on the inaugural list of the Top 25 Smart Choice Schools for Online Bachelors in Business Administration Degrees.
Crookston Crew Celebrates 30 Years of Tree Planting

It has been 30 years since Phil Baird and Tom Feiro took their first group of students to the Chippewa National Forest to plant tree seedlings for the first time. Baird, associate professor in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department and Feiro, an environmental health and safety specialist at the University of Minnesota, Crookston did not realize they would be making the same trip for 30 consecutive years. This year’s trip, during which 4,000 seedlings were planted, focused on the planting of jack pine, tamarack, spruce, and red pine.

Joining Baird and Feiro on the tree planting adventure on the Deer River Ranger District were more than 20 U of M, Crookston student volunteers who have been known since the 1980s as the “Crookston Crew.” The four-day trip was also an opportunity to visit the site of the earliest plantings by U of M, Crookston natural resource students three decades ago. The “Crookston Crew” has planted some 170,000 seedlings since 1983.

The dedicated volunteers, including students, faculty, staff, and alumni, typically spend the last weekend in April planting seedlings with dibble bars, removing bud caps from saplings that UMC volunteers installed last fall, and camping near the historic Cutfoot Ranger Station.

Congratulations to these dedicated volunteers on their 30 years of tree planting!
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Rob Golembiewski, Ph.D., led the golf and turf management program at the U of M, Crookston from 2006 until 2008 when he accepted a position as an assistant professor and turfgrass specialist at Oregon State University.

On April 1, 2012, Golembiewski joined Bayer Environmental Science based in Columbus, Ohio. He is responsible for direction of technical service activities, including providing scientific expertise to customers in the Midwest region and helping transition new products from development to market.

Golembiewski earned his doctorate in agronomy, specializing in turfgrass science, from Ohio State University and a master’s and bachelor’s from Michigan State University. He and his wife, Wendy, are the parents of two daughters and a son.
TEN POINTS of progress

Charles H. Casey, D.V.M., highlights his years as chancellor at the U of M, Crookston

The University of Minnesota, Crookston has experienced five consecutive years of record enrollment. In September 2011, enrollment of degree seeking students was 1,600, including about 1,140 on campus and 460 online.

Thirty new faculty have been hired over the past 6 years including more than half with terminal degrees. Since 2006, thirty new staff members have been hired as well.

New programs have been added to the curriculum in biology, environmental sciences, criminal justice, marketing, and software engineering along with pre-health sciences and pre-veterinary medicine.

Improved graduation rates mark significant progress toward the goal of graduating 40 percent of our students in 4 years, 50 percent in 5 years, and 55 percent in 6 years. The freshmen retention rate for the class of 2010 is just over 75 percent, which is nearly 6 percentage points over the previous year, and the overall best for the past decade.

Successful recruitment of a more diverse student body has been accomplished by developing and implementing strategies for recruiting across the state and across the country. The campus also welcomed students from more than thirty countries across the globe in fall 2011.

Growth in online programs has surpassed expectations with the addition of new majors, quality online instruction by faculty, effective marketing, and excellent service to online students.

Investments in campus facilities including renovation of classrooms and science labs, along with including the classroom in Evergreen Hall, provide a better teaching and learning environment. Construction of both Centennial and Evergreen halls, and the construction on a new residence hall this spring, has improved student life on campus.

Collaboration with University partners and strengthening relationships with the Research and Outreach Centers, Extension, Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, and Area Health Education Centers has been highly beneficial to all.

Establishment and support of service learning and other community outreach initiatives has been a priority.

The campus is known as a place for people in the community to tap the intellectual capital of the campus.

A budget that included declining state support resulted in big changes in a short amount of time and the campus met those challenges successfully. In Fiscal Year 2006, the state of Minnesota provided more than 60 percent of the operations and maintenance (O&M) budget and tuition revenue contributed less than 40 percent. For Fiscal Year 2012, tuition revenue is contributing more than 60 percent of the O&M budget.

1. Barbara Muesing joined her husband, Charles H. Casey, for his introduction as chancellor in 2005.
2. Interacting with staff and students, Chancellor Casey enjoys a visit in Centennial Hall in 2006.
3. Chancellor Casey hosted a visit by U of M President Eric Kaler in 2011.
4. Students in the White Earth Academy of Math and Science visited campus during the spring in 2008 and met Chancellor Casey.
5. Chancellor Casey visited China several times over his tenure, speaking in Hangzhou at the 30th anniversary of Zhejiang Economic and Trade Polytechnic.
6. Celebrating with students, faculty, and staff in the homecoming parade in 2009.
7. Chancellor Casey and Barbara Muesing pose for their 2009 holiday card with members of the choir and Director George French (seated at the piano).
8. Chancellor Casey encouraged undergraduate research. In this photo, David DeMuth (left) and Chris Anderson, a senior majoring in natural resources from Missoula, Mont., are shown at the U of M Undergraduate Symposium in April 2012.
10. Chancellor Casey and Barbara Muesing are joined by Robert Jones, senior vice president for system academic administration following Dr. Casey's retirement announcement.
11. Chancellor Casey takes a moment to visit with students in the Sargeant Student Center in fall 2011.
"It is so rewarding to watch our students find a position in industry and to see them succeed in their field," Chris Lundby.

Chris Lundby (left) works with fellow U of M, Crookston Alumnus Vick Munsch '79. He is responsible for maintaining the supplies necessary in the Chemistry Department on the Twin Cities campus.

**Chris (Broden) Lundby ’72**

recalls the technical college

Outdoor commencement exercises were once a tradition at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Chris (Broden) Lundby was a member of the first class to celebrate graduation on the Campus Mall. She was one of 127 sophomores in the Class of 1972 at the U of M, Crookston Technical College who would help initiate the custom that continued until spring 1999.

Graduating from Fertile [Minn.] High School, Lundby says her parents encouraged her to continue her education. “I chose the technical college in Crookston because it was close, and I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do at the time,” she explains.

As a freshman, Lundby moved into Robertson Hall. She fondly recalls life in the rather antiquated building including standing in line to use the single pay phone located on each floor and the no men above first floor rule. When she had the chance to move into a brand new dormitory the following year, Lundby, Betty (Hickman) Dowling, and Vickie Rions were excited to share a three-person room in Skyberg Hall. “It was so new and so nice,” she remembers.

Lundby focused on business and secretarial courses and graduated with a double major and a job offer from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. “I hitchhiked to my job interview, and after graduation, I moved to begin my new job in the Office of Research Administration on the Minneapolis campus and later to a position in the Chemistry Department at the University.”

Chris (Broden) Lundby enjoyed singing in the choir and triple trio at the U of M, Crookston and she also enjoyed participating in a small club known as Target Masters. Members gathered for target practice at the armory when it was located in downtown Crookston.
Currently, Lundby is the assistant to the chair of the Chemistry Department, and in many ways, her guidance and experience make her a valuable resource particularly to graduate students and postdoctoral associates.

“One of the things I do is work with the chemistry tenure committee on faculty promotions and tenure and make sure they have the materials needed in that process,” Lundby explains. “But, what I love most is working with graduate students and post docs. I am responsible for the J-1 and H-1B visa applications and I enjoy meeting with the international students who come to the U to study.”

She also enjoys working with the industrial recruitment program. “I coordinate all aspects of this program in the Chemistry Department,” she says. “It is so rewarding to watch our students find a position in industry and to see them succeed in their field. It is particularly gratifying to see them return to be part of this process from the other side of the table.”

Another responsibility Lundby has is to assist the chemistry awards committee as they track award announcements in order to put forth nominations for their internationally known faculty.

This small town girl finds herself at home in the big city. “You learn pretty quickly when you move to a city that it is just made up of many little neighborhoods,” she smiles. “And, your neighborhood becomes home.”

While Lundby says her training on business machines in college was rapidly replaced by newer technology, she admits she really enjoyed her experience on the Crookston campus. “I was thrilled when the Crookston campus transitioned to a four-year institution,” she confirms. “I remember Provost Stan Sahlstrom talking about how much he wanted the campus to eventually offer four-year degrees. I was glad to see the campus make that transition.”

For many alumni, college graduation stands out in memory. A good student experience makes a big difference. and Lundby, like many others, found the U of M, Crookston offered an experience she declares she “wouldn’t trade for anything.”

Business remains a popular major at the U of M, Crookston, to learn more about earning a degree in business, visit www.umcrookston.edu/academics/bus.
Go Fish

"I think you can see why I love my job; I spend my days in places I love, doing the things I love," Jaime Mills.

Giving up was not an option. The 45-minute battle left both sides exhausted, and when it was over, only one was left standing. Reeling in a sturgeon that weighs 150 pounds and is 7.2 feet in length is not easy, but it is exciting. And, for Alumna Jaime Mills '10 this kind of excitement happens as part of her job working for Idaho Fish and Game.

The natural resource major grew up near Bismarck, N.D., and had friends at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. After attending a technical college, Mills transferred to the Crookston campus to pursue a bachelor's degree.

"The best thing about working on my degree in Crookston was the relationships I built with my advisor, Phil Baird, and the rest of the faculty in natural resources, including Dan Svedarsky and John Loegering," Mills says. "They influenced my student experience and made it great." Her experience also prepared her well for work in the field of natural resources.

She began working for Idaho Fish and Game employed part time entering data, but when her current position opened unexpectedly, Mills applied. She loves her current role because it is both interesting and varied. Her days are filled with work in the field, visiting with anglers along the Clearwater, Snake, and Salmon rivers, and writing reports on seasonal information that is supplied to the state for research.

When the opportunity presented itself, Mills took advantage of a chance to help collect genetic samples from sturgeon, pit tag and measure their length and girth, and remove scutes to mark the fish. Scutes, a kind of modified scale located ahead of the dorsal fin, serve as a type of protection for the sturgeon. "We remove a specific scute so we recognize a fish we have captured before."

It took 45 minutes, but Mills reeled in a 150-pound sturgeon.
Another interesting aspect of studying sturgeon is documenting the effect of hooks lost on the river bottom and how they might possibly be harming the fish. "I watched the x-raying of the fish we caught to check the impact of the hooks on these bottom-feeding fish," she shares.

"Involvement in this kind of research is important to help protect and secure the future of the fish.

Mills enjoyed a white water rafting and snorkeling trip for a week on the Selway River in August 2011. "I am starting to reevaluate what I would like to eventually do long term because," Mills says, "the fisheries side gets to do a lot of interesting and fun stuff!"

When she is not in the field she enters the data collected from anglers into a database. "The information we get from anglers is important in our effort to protect species of fish that are endangered," she explains. "The steelhead, which is a rainbow trout, and the salmon are both on the endangered list, and we need this data to understand and protect their populations. Only a certain number are harvested each year.

"I have always wanted to work in the outdoors, and I grew up by a creek near our home," she smiles. "I fished and played every day on that creek, and now I spend my time working on rivers in the beautiful state of Idaho."

Growing up, Mills had 7 pet rabbits, 2 dogs, 3 cats, 2 birds, any strays that found their way to the house, orphaned and injured animals, a pony, and a horse. "My parents said I was interested in animals and outdoors from the time I could walk," Mills remembers. "And, I was always trying to stick something in my pockets. My parents are probably one of the biggest reasons that I have always loved animals and the outdoors." During the summer, Mills goes out on trips to get fish samples. "When we are sampling, we camp and stay out in the field where I spend my free time hiking and fishing," she reflects. "I think you can see why I love my job; I spend my days in places I love, doing the things I love."

Whether Mills is out snorkeling in the river, sturgeon sampling, or managing the staff assisting her in her role, she likes what she does. The best part about her work is the way it aligns with what she enjoys doing when she isn’t working. When Mills’ responsibilities require her to "go fish," she knows she is where she belongs.
"Working with kids and watching them mature as we guide them through school to graduation is rewarding," Sean Safranski.

In his office at Shanley High School in Fargo, Alumnus Sean Safranski ex. '92 enjoys the energy of high school and middle school students.

Principal's Principles

High school principal Sean Safranski ' ex. '92 finds the energy of his students keeps him coming back for more.

The lunchroom on the Shanley High School and Sullivan Middle School campus is filling with noisy, hungry middle school students, and Principal Sean Safranski is right at home in the fray. Laughing and listening to their banter, Safranski is familiar with the ups and downs of growing up and the sometimes complicated life situations his students face. Those very ups and downs are the reason he loves his job and why he feels it keeps him young.

"The benefits far outweigh the challenges in my job," Safranski says, "Working with kids and watching them mature as we guide them through school to graduation is rewarding. Seeing them succeed after they graduate is truly an inspiration."

Safranski didn't always see himself with a career in education. He came to the University of Minnesota, Crookston after graduating from high school in Stephen, Minn., and at the time, he had no idea what he wanted to do. "I loved hunting and fishing, and I knew that I could play football and major in natural resources in Crookston so it seemed like a good place to start," Safranski recalls. "I also knew that I would have to work if I was going to succeed academically, and when my parents were paying for it, I didn't want to screw it up."

He enjoyed his classes in science and the environment and says he appreciated the "unbelievable instructors I had at UMC." His memory brings to mind several: Wendell Johnson, Dan Svedarsky, Marv Mattson, and Phil Baird, but as he reflects, I had so
many great instructors who challenged me and prepared me well for the future.”

Playing football was also something Safranski enjoyed, and when an opportunity to assist with coaching was offered to him at the end of his second year, he accepted. He enrolled at the University of Minnesota to continue his degree and for the next several years, the routine was the same. “I would coach during the fall quarter, and then attend school in the Twin Cities during the winter and spring quarters,” he explains.

With only one quarter left at the U of M, Safranski felt uncertain about what he wanted to do. A talk with Coach Scott Oliver changed the plan. “Scott Oliver said if I knew I wanted to teach, I should get my degree in education,” he says looking back. “I decided to transfer right away and head to the University of North Dakota to get a teaching degree.”

Knowing he wanted to teach and coach at the high school level, Safranski was set. He took the necessary education classes, graduated, and was offered a job teaching earth science at the middle school in West Fargo, N.D. During this time, he also met his future wife, Tonah Paulson, while she was attending college and knew he would like to locate in the Fargo/Moorhead area.

During his five years in West Fargo, he worked on his graduate degree at North Dakota State University. “I took a few classes because my wife was taking graduate classes, and I fell in love with the administrative side of education,” Safranski recalls. “After graduating, a position opened for me at Sullivan Middle School, and until 2008, I was principal there.”

He then moved to his current position at Shanley High School where he continues to guide both his students and teachers. “I believe that the great influence I found at the U of M, Crookston through both coaches and instructors helped me find a good fit in my career,” Safranski says. “I was well prepared for finding my way thanks to that influence.”

Safranski believes that surrounding himself with quality people who cared for him had impact. Now he is the one diligently showing students he cares about them and hoping to instill important values they will use no matter where life takes them.

He’s a principal with principles, and that’s what keeps Safranski grounded, and it reminds him that school work is the kind of work he likes best.

In 1992, Sean Safranski was named Mr. UMC in a revival of the pageant. The Mr. UMC tradition remains a popular event for students at the U of M, Crookston today.

At top: Sean Safranski became principal at Shanley High School in 2008.
A Teaching Legacy

It was fall 1943 when the Miss Margaret Larsen joined the English faculty at the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA). She earned her bachelor of arts degree from St. Olaf College in 1935 and had one year of graduate work completed at her alma mater along with a summer of graduate work at the Duluth State Teacher’s College.

As a college student, Miss Larsen was active in the International Relations Club and several literary and science societies, and she had some library work experience. After a stint as the principal at the Nevis (Minn.) Public School, Miss Larsen would teach fourth year English to students at the Northwest School and serve as the faculty chair. She also was slated to teach history.

When she was hired in 1943, she was one of three hired to teach English. Miss Lois Galle was hired to teach senior English and serve as debate coach and Miss Martha Jean Trengrove to teach freshman English and serve as the drama coach. Trengrove was a student of Anne Simley at Hamline University. Simley had been a member of the English staff at the Northwest School from 1922-1930. Neither Galle nor Trengrove would dedicate themselves to the students at the NWSA in the same way Larsen did. Miss Galle, who passed away in April 2011, left the NWSA to teach English in Grants Pass, Ore., and Trengrove resigned to marry Lieutenant Eugene Mackin who was serving in the U.S. Marine Corps at the time. Both left the NWSA in spring 1944.

Born on April 7, 1912, Larsen grew up in Cottonwood, Minn., where she attended school. Larsen’s students benefitted from her considerable expertise in creative writing which included contributions to both “Contemporary Women Poets” and the “Yearbook of American Poetry.” Her first term at the NWSA, from October 1, 1943 to March 31, 1944, reaped a $1,290 salary. Over the years, she would serve as a faculty class advisor, advisor to the yearbook staff, and use her expertise in journalism to assist with The Rouser, the student-produced newsletter.

The 1950 Aggie yearbook described her this way:
“...A firm believer in the merits of fresh air is Miss Margaret Larsen, who ventilates...
her students' minds by means of open windows and stimulating ideas. She never ceases to amaze her students with her encyclopedic knowledge of her subjects.”

In 1946, she served as the moderator of the Rural School Spelling Contest held during the Red River Valley Winter Shows. During several programs at the Northwest School, Larsen would give readings of her original poetry. She was honored with the Schaefer Scholarship for foreign study by St. Olaf college which enabled her to study in Oslo, Norway from June 21 until August 2, 1952. Following her study, she took an eleven-day coastal tour of Norway.

Known for her sense of humor, students would enjoy both her wit and knowledge in the classroom until 1961. Larsen earned her master of arts in English with minors in history and sociology in 1961 from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. She left the NWSA to teach English in the Virginia [Minn.] Public Schools, and later, to teach in the Division of Language and Literature and serve as dean of women at Valley City State College in Valley City, N.D.

In 1975, Larsen retired and moved back to Cottonwood. Always the history buff, she spent her time working on family genealogy, antique collecting, and family and local history. She passed away on July 26, 1992, but each year at the Northwest School of Agriculture alumni reunion, her former students remember her with fondness.

Larsen was known for inspiring students to follow their dreams. More than a few of her students credit her with encouraging them to attend college and are grateful for it.

The Crookston campus has been home to all levels of teaching over the years, including high school teachers, two-year technical college instructors, and today, college professors. Many of the students on the campus are first-generation college students, and they look to members of the faculty for guidance in the classroom and post-graduation. Faculty members recognize potential, and much like Larsen, they make an impression on their students. They influence, challenge, lead, direct, and leave a lasting legacy.
Never Stop Dreaming

Online graduate Joe Cretesio '11 knows “education creates opportunity.”

The expression “Small Campus,” might refer to the physical size of the University of Minnesota, Crookston. But, for online students, the words “small campus” take on a different meaning. The campus can be located at the kitchen table or a favorite chair in the living room, and it may be across town or across the world.

For 2011 graduate Joe Cretesio, the Crookston campus means a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota, and a chance to dream. “When you wake up in the morning, you need to have dreams,” Cretesio says. “And, you need to remember that age is not a prerequisite to attaining a quality education.”

His positive attitude has carried him through life even when the going was rough. He attended the Palompon Institute of Technology in the Philippines where he earned a bachelor of science degree in marine transportation. In 1989, he moved to California where he worked for Toyota Logistic Services; Asyst Technologies; and KLA-Tencor Corporation, where he worked as a test engineer and was promoted to a field service engineer.

His work took him all over the world including countries in Asia and Europe, and across the United States.

Life took what seemed to be the worst possible turn for Cretesio in 2008, when he was laid off from his job and his marriage ended. He moved to Minnesota with his two children and began working at a printing company as a helper for $8 an hour. “At that time, I did not think about what had been in my past; instead, I was consumed with how we were going to survive from day to day,” Cretesio reflects.

He decided he needed to move his family closer to Minneapolis, and in spite of the recession, he was hired by a pharmaceutical company as a pharmaceutical manufacturing technician in Eden Prairie. After years of working in the semiconductor industry, Cretesio found himself in a completely new line of work.

Never afraid of a challenge, Cretesio decided he wanted to go back to school and discovered the University of Minnesota offered degree programs.
In May 2011, faculty and staff joined online graduates participating in commencement. Joe Cretesio is seated in the front row on the far right side.

online. The bachelor of manufacturing management seemed like a perfect fit, and he was pleased that he could earn a U of M degree. “The people that I worked with at Crookston were so helpful, and I had the support I needed to make the transition to life working full time and attending class,” he admits.

He was able to transfer in credits and began working on his degree in fall 2010 and two years later, he found himself at commencement on the campus to which he had been only virtually connected. He praises the help he received from Christo Robberts, who served as his advisor and taught his favorite class: quality management.

“The class in quality management will serve me no matter where I go or what I do,” Cretesio says. “It is like a guide and a teacher for me in any path I might follow.”

His personal situation changed as well, when he remarried and recruited his wife, Rochen, to pursue a degree online. He understands the life of a working, full-time student and so he is at the ready to give his wife the encouragement and support she needs.

Last October, Cretesio was hired by a biotech company in Chaska as an advanced production technician and is enjoying his new career. His resume and transcript don’t say it, but Cretesio strongly endorses lifelong learning, and one would suspect, this grad will never stop dreaming and reaching to achieve.

Michelle Christopherson, director of the Center for Adult Learning joins Joe Cretesio, his wife, Rochen, and their son prior to commencement in May 2011.
From the Alumni Association Boards

Welcome Class of 2012! You are now a member of the University of Minnesota, Crookston Alumni Association (UMCAA) and both the UMCAA and Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) Alumni Board welcome you.

The NWSA, the residential high school located on this campus from 1906 to 1968, and many of the traditions we celebrate as alumni today were started by students attending the Northwest School. Together we represent the University of Minnesota and proudly wear maroon and gold.

Alumni of the NWSA will be on campus on Saturday, June 30, 2012, during their annual reunion. They have an opportunity to recognize their outstanding alumni during the Top Aggie luncheon. Congratulations to the 2012 Top Aggies: Helen (Rasmussen) Tangen '41, Mark Chisholm '52, and Richard Olson '62.

During the reunion, new board members will be elected at the annual meeting and the alumni association will recognize Barbara (Hylland) Lunsetter '56 and Lowell Hamrick '53 for their years of service on the board. The board is grateful to them for their work as board members. The NWSA reunions continue to bring back hundreds of alumni and they enjoy gathering to reminisce with friends and classmates.

For members of UMCAA, homecoming is the time we want to encourage alumni to come back to campus. Representatives from the U of M, Crookston Class of 1968 are planning already for homecoming 2013! If you wish to plan a gathering for your friends or classmates, consider contacting the alumni office to assist the effort and encourage

NWSA Alumni Association Board members include (back row, left to right): David Haugo '52, Jim Chandler '67, Melvin Larson '55, Lowell Hamrick '53, Allan Dragseth '57, and Don Diedrich '56. Front row: Chuck Holquist '52, Barbara (Hylland) Lunsetter '53, Beulah (Stolaas) Vad '58, Berneil Nelson '42, Jean (Stromstad) Vigness-Parker '55, and Bob Kliner '68.
alumni to attend homecoming on Friday and Saturday, September 21 and 22. Your homecoming reminder postcard will be coming soon and you will want to save the date!

One of the best ways members of the alumni association can assist their board is to nominate exceptional alumni for Top Aggie, Outstanding Alumni, or to be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Contact Rose in the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 218-281-8439 (rulset@umn.edu) or visit www.umcrookston.edu/alumni and select your alumni association to nominate deserving alumni.

We were excited to hear Alumna Jean (Fischer) Whalen ’80 and ’09 speak at commencement on May 5. Her message on writing the “Book of Your Life” was truly inspirational, and as alumni, we were proud to have one of our own address the newest members of the alumni association. Thank you, Jean, for representing all our alumni at the biggest celebration of the year!
Alumni honored at the 74th Annual Honor Banquet

Sponsored by the Red River Valley Development Association, individuals from northwest Minnesota were honored recently as Valley Farmers and Homemakers for the good example they have set with their family life, community service, farming or agribusiness operations, and their efforts to conserve natural resources.

The 2012 honored couples included:

- Lois and Dale Miller '43, Leonard, Minn., representing Clearwater County
- Kathleen and Robert McNamee '53, Mahnomen, Minn., representing Mahnomen County
- Linda and Michael Hanson '74, Goodridge, Minn., representing Pennington County
- Marlene (Noesen) '77 and Greg LeBlanc '78, Crookston, Minn., representing West Polk County

Get social with the U of M, Crookston!

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/umcrookston

Watch us on YouTube: www.youtube.com/uofmcrookston

Join us on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com and search for University of Minnesota, Crookston - Official group

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/umcrookston
1940s

Pat and Gordon Vind ’48, Crookston, Minn., were named Experienced Americans for the month of March 2012, and honored at a reception at the Golden Link in Crookston. The Vinds have been married 53 years and worked in Crookston until retirement. Gordon was a truck driver with Elk River Concrete for 10 years, in maintenance at River View Health for 12 years, and in the boiler house and as a mechanic at American Crystal Sugar Company for 15 years. Pat worked at American Crystal Sugar Company for 30 years as a telephone operator, shipping clerk, and utility clerk. Pat currently stays busy at home and Gordon enjoys his home shop and golfing during the summer months. The Vinds have two children and three grandchildren.

1950s

Maynard Helgaas ’53, West Fargo, N.D., was recently inducted into the North Dakota Agriculture Hall of Fame. Maynard has been involved in the agriculture industry his entire life and currently is the president of Green Vision Group in Fargo, N.D., which investigates and promotes the energy beet industry. Retiring in 1994 after thirty years in the family John Deere dealership in Jamestown, N.D., he went on to serve six years as president of Central Dakota Growers, a seven county greenfield potato project. He’s past chairman of the North Dakota Implement Dealers Association and the North American Equipment Dealers Association. Maynard and his wife, Julie, have seven children.

1970s

Jim Roers ’72, Fargo, N.D., businessman, was appointed to the North Dakota Senate in April to represent District 46. His appointment fills the term of former Sen. Tom Fischer, who died last year; the term ends in December. Jim is president of Roers Development, a Fargo property development company.

Nate Schroder ’78, St. Cloud, Minn., recently combined his spiritual calling with a chance to be in business for himself. He’s been a pastor for a majority of the last 30 years, serving five years in Oregon and 15 years in Iowa before returning to Minnesota. In January 2012 he started his corporate chaplain business and visits employees on the job at specified times least disruptive to workflow. Schroder and his wife of 35 years have four children.

1980s

Jean (Fischer) Whalen ’80 & ’09, Apple Valley, Minn., was the commencement speaker at the U of M, Crookston graduation exercises held May 5, 2012. The Class of 2012 learned how taking advantage of working under a short-term contract for the United Nations as an official court report at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda influenced her life. To view Jean’s commencement address go to: www1.crk.umn.edu/events/commencement/2012/events/.

Jean currently works as an official court reporter in the Second Judicial District in St. Paul, Minn.

Paula (Pfeiffer) Winskje ’83, Sheyenne, N.D., released her first novel in 2003. Her latest novel, The Reverend: Murder in Medora, is the fourth in her Tony Wagner mystery series, and her 11th release. It’s scheduled for May 2012 release, both in paperback and for e-readers. In addition to mysteries, Paula has published romance and family saga novels.

1990s

Theresa Helgeson ’96, Crookston, Minn., recently fulfilled the necessary qualifications to be awarded the designation of Certified Professional (CP) with a Garden Center Specialty by the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA). Theresa is now certified in all three specialties of the MNLA Certification Program: Landscape, Grower, and Garden Center. Theresa is a lab services coordinator in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department at the U of M, Crookston.
E-mail forwarding: If you are interested in reconnecting with a former classmate or acquaintance, the alumni office can help! Although we cannot release e-mail addresses due to privacy issues, we will be happy to forward a message to the person if he or she can be located in our database.

Josh Stromlund '97, Baudette, Minn., was inducted into the Northland Community and Technical College 2012 Athletic Hall of Fame. Josh, a native of Roseau, was an all-state and all-region baseball player at Northland and helped the team reach the state tournament in both 1993 and 1994. He transferred to the U of M, Crookston, where he continued his baseball career and earned his bachelor's degree in environmental and natural resource management. *In the photo 2012 AHOF inductees (l to r) Tom Kays, Kim Jenkins, and Josh Stromlund.*

2000s

Laura Pikop '01, Stephen, Minn., lifelong equestrian, competes in mounted shooting, the fastest-growing equestrian sport in the nation. She read about the sport in a magazine, and found Wild Rice Peacemakers, a mounting shooting club based in Twin Valley, Minn., which is affiliated with the National Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA). Mounted shooting is a timed event in which the rider shoots targets with a revolver from horseback while completing one of 60 patterns. In fall 2012, she was the CMSA Ladies Level 3 national champion; earned top honors in the Ladies Level 4 CMSA national and world mounted shooting competitions, and has now advanced to Level 5 out of six levels of competition.

Photograph by John Brouse of Laura Pikop standing with River, one of her two horses. Information taken from story by Ann Bailey '79 and the Grand Forks Herald.

Laura, an agricultural industry sales and management major, lives on her family's homestead and grows soybeans and wheat.

Lisa (Detloff) '01 and Shane Roers '01, moved to Dickinson, N.D., in August 2010, and started a branch of Roers Construction specializing in commercial and multi-family construction. Shane and Lisa have three boys, Tanner, 6; Parker, 3; and Connor, 3 months.

*Is Your Organization Hiring?*

Advertise your opportunity to current students and alumni through the University of Minnesota, Crookston – Official group on LinkedIn. E-mail Itollefs@umn.edu with details including your contact information.
Rachel Nolander and Kevin Poppel ’03, Lakeville, Minn., were married November 12, 2011, at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Lakeville, followed by a reception at the Little Log House Pioneer Village Hall, Hastings, Minn. Rachel is a dentist at the couple’s dental clinic, Advanced Family Dental, Albert Lea, Minn. Kevin is the senior technical sales manager with the Mosaic Company, Plymouth, Minn. The couple will make their home in Albert Lea.

Christie Chappel ’06, a native of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and former all-region soccer player at the U of M, Crookston, has been hired as an assistant coach for Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill., women’s soccer program. Christie was an assistant soccer coach at North Dakota State University, Fargo, for four seasons, 2008-11. She also coached four seasons with the Red River Soccer Club, working the U13 boy’s and U10 girl’s teams, and named the North Dakota Youth Soccer Association’s Boy’s Coach of the Year in 2008. From 2007-08, she coached at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minn., after a year of coaching at the U of M, Crookston in 2006. At the U of M, Crookston, Christie was twice named first team All-NSIC, as well as earning NSCAA All-Region honors, and went on to shatter UMC’s career records in goals and points scored.

Cody Hill ’06, Sioux Falls, S.D., and Brittany Kranzler ex. ’10 were married May 5, 2012, at Rustic Oaks, Moorhead, Minn. Cody has worked for Monsanto Company for four years, transferring from Glyndon, Minn., to Sioux Falls in June 2011. The couple reside in Sioux Falls where they’ve been busy updating a home they recently purchased.

Outstanding Alumni
Kirk Schultz ’79
Doreen (Johnson) Roy ’81
Gerald Landby ’82

Athletic Hall of Fame
Craig Talberg ex. ’91
Ryan Driedger ’97

Homecoming 2012
September 21-22, 2012
We Want to Hear From You!

To submit an item for the Alumni News Section, send information to:
UMC Alumni Relations
115 Kiehle Building
2900 University Avenue
Crookston, MN 56716
e-mail: rulseth@umn.edu or
complete the form on line at:
www.umcrookston.edu/alumni/
keepintouch.html.
Please include your name, address, phone
number, e-mail, year of graduation/
attendance and information or news you
wish to share (new job, career, family, or
achievements, etc.)

David and Jennifer (Novak) Nelson
'06, Oslo, Minn., shared a photo of their
daughter, Julia, at one week of age. Watch
for Julia in an upcoming "save the date"
homecoming mailing.

Deann (Roers) Dahl '06, West Fargo, N.D., recently hosted a get together at her home. They had a
great time remembering their college years and all the fun times living in Skyberg.
In the photo (l to r): Katie (Delohery) Delong '08, Grand Forks, N.D., children Maddie & Mason;
Katie (Murray) Lund ex. '04, Deann (Roers) Dahl '06, West Fargo, N.D., son Cooper; Jen (Gisch)
Schreiber '07, Moorhead, Minn., daughter Haley; Brooke (Delanghe) Pezdirtz '09, Moorhead, Minn.,
daughter Abigail (held by Katie (Murray) Lund).

Andrew Shae '08, West Fargo, N.D., has joined Western State Bank in West Fargo, as a credit
officer. He previously was an agricultural loan officer with Red River State Bank in Halstad, Minn.

Joe Narlock '09, Grand Forks, N.D., has been a sales agronomist and precision ag specialist at
the Reynolds United Co-op for two years. During the summer, he scouts fields for disease and
insects, makes recommendations, and sells chemicals; in the winter he sells seed and fertilizer
for the next year’s crop.

2010s

Heather Schroeder '11 and Sam Westby '11, Berthold, N.D., were engaged September 2, 2011,
and will be married October 13, 2012. Sam is an agronomist for United Agronomy, LLC, in Parshall,
N.D. Heather is a secretary for Dakota Quality Grain Coop in New Town, N.D.
In Memory

E. C. "Gene" Miller
Crookston, Minn.
February 24, 2012
Superintendent of building and grounds
and instructor, Northwest School of
Agriculture from 1954-1968; Northwest
Experiment Station 1968-1986

Donald Miller
Mesa, Ariz.
April, 2012
Assistant professor of rural
communications in the Agriculture
Division from 1982-1987

Walter Stromstad ’39 Adv.
Beltrami, Minn.
March 27, 2012

Arthur Lee ’41
Erskine, Minn.
February 24, 2012

Gladys (Moran) Roybal ’42
Pueblo, Colo.
March 9, 2012

Harry Swiontek ex.’44
Climax, Minn.
February 11, 2012

Jennette (Johnson) Tollerud ’45
Portland, Ore.
May 8, 2012

Bernadine (Nesland) Breiland ’45 Adv.
Apple Valley, Minn.
February 1, 2012

Rosemary (Altepeter) LaPlante ’45 Adv.
Fisher, Minn.
May 2, 2012

Shirley (Hamre) Sather ’45 Adv.
Holmen, Wis.
January 14, 2012

Roger Ophus ’46 Adv.
Fergus Falls, Minn.
February 5, 2012

Norris Pedersen ’48 Adv.
Mahnomen, Minn.
March 27, 2012

Donald Miller ’49 Adv.
Aurora, Colo.
March 25, 2012

Leroy Krbechek ’52
Salinas, CA
December 13, 2011

Yona (Magnusson) Urness ’52
Nashville, Tenn.
December 6, 2011

John Hoper ’55
Maryland Heights, Mo.
December 9, 2011

Kenneth “Ken” Grove ex.’57
Crookston, Minn.
March 10, 2012

Carroll “Kelly” Nasset ’62
Moorhead, Minn.
June 15, 2008

Alden Carlson ’63
Thief River Falls, Minn.
August 9, 2011

Bruce Buss ex.’68
Blue Ridge, Ga.
February 27, 2012

Allan “Al” Gustafson ’68
Thief River Falls, Minn.
February 25, 2012

Timothy Schultz ex.’78
Grand Forks, N.D.
April 6, 2012

Aaron McColl ex.’94
Bathgate, N.D.
April 30, 2012

REMEMBER THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, CROOKSTON

A will or living trust is a statement about what matters most in your life. It ensures that your intentions are clearly understood and will be followed by those administering your estate.

If you value your experience at the University of Minnesota, Crookston or the Northwest School of Agriculture, you can leave a legacy through a gift to the campus in your will. Your generosity will help further the mission of the University of Minnesota, Crookston to provide education, research and outreach. The following language can be used by you and your attorney in your will:

“I give, devise and bequeath to the University of Minnesota Foundation (percentage, sum or description of property) for the benefit of the University of Minnesota, Crookston.”

If you would like more information, contact Corby Kemmer, director of development & alumni relations toll free at 1-800-862-6466, ext. 8434 or 218-281-8434 (ckemmer@umn.edu).

For more information about giving or to give a gift online, visit www.umcrookston.edu/alumni/giving.html

Excerpted from The Importance of a Will published by the University of Minnesota Foundation.
Congratulations Graduates!
UPCOMING EVENTS

July 12 ......................................................... Golf Tournament, Heart of the Valley Golf Course, Ada, Minn.
July 21 .......................................................... Golf Tournament, Minakwa Golf Course, Crookston, Minn.
July 28 ......................................................... Golf Tournament, Highway 2, Oak Lake (Erskine) and Fosston Golf Courses
September 13-20 ......... Class of 1960 turns 70 Celebration (Contact: Terry Nelson at 541-980-5115)
September 21-22 .................................................................................. Homecoming Weekend
November 6 ................................................................................... Torch & Shield Recognition
November 15 ................................................................................... Fargo Alumni Social

Because
A campus needs room to grow

Increased enrollment means increased demand for housing. A greater number of on-campus students necessitates the construction of a new residence hall. Approved by the U of M Board of Regents in February, the new facility will serve as home to more than 140 students. Construction began in spring 2012 and plans for completion are scheduled for December.

The new hall will be located on the west side of campus across from Centennial Hall. To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu/reslife.