INSIDE

Fresh water sponges live in Minnesota waters and they are under investigation.

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Homecoming 2018
Torch
Volume 50, Number 2, Fall 2018
Torch is a publication of the University of Minnesota Crookston.

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The University of Minnesota Crookston is a public, baccalaureate, coeducational institution and a campus in the University of Minnesota System. The Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) was a residential high school serving students from 1906-68 and the predecessor of the Crookston campus. The Torch is named for the historical passing of the educational torch between the NWSA and the UMN Crookston in 1968.

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.

Printed at Forum Communications Printing in Fargo, N.D.

Printed on recycled and recyclable paper with at least 10 percent post-consumer material using agribased inks.

On the front cover: Students wade in the Mississippi River near Grand Rapids, Minn., in the search for freshwater sponges. Photo by Steve Woit photography.

Note: In the Torch, logos from campus history appear in stories corresponding to the era in which they were in official use according to the years indicated: Golden Eagle logo (1994 to present), Trojan logo (1966-1995), Aggie “A” logo (1906-1966).

#UMNC #UMNproud!

www.umcrookston.edu
It is not surprising Crookston has been more active since welcome weekend back in August. It’s always nice to have the bustle back on campus and around town. We enjoyed a beautiful fall and are looking forward to all the activities winter brings to the region. With a campus community of more than 1,000 students, faculty, and staff in a town of just under 8,000 residents, the UMN Crookston has a noticeable effect on the local community. Crookston is one of only three other communities outside the Twin Cities metro area with a University of Minnesota campus. The others are Duluth, Morris, and Rochester.

According to an economic impact study released earlier this year by Tripp Umbach, the University of Minnesota System contributes more than $8.6 billion to Minnesota’s economy. The economic impact of the Crookston campus alone on the state’s economy is $63.6 million along with a $3.6 million impact on local and state taxes and an employment impact that supports 763 jobs throughout the state. Our campus employs more than 250 faculty and staff directly.

Additionally, the research conducted on campus has been increasing over the past several years and will continue to do so with the new Center for Collaborative Research, a lab that opened this fall. Check out the feature in this issue on the freshwater sponge research taking place on our campus. That research is only one example of the great work being done by our faculty and students.

The events, programming, and cultural activities on campus (so many of which are free and open to the public) have grown in number. Our student-athletes have been working hard and improving in one
of the most competitive NCAA Division II conferences in the nation, the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. It has been fun for me to watch these students excel in the classroom and in sport.

The many endeavors by our students, faculty, and staff included in this issue of the *Torch* demonstrate the theme of this opportunity to elevate the work of the University in a powerful way. Consider the campaign’s theme: Driven. The University of Minnesota Campaign and the implications is has across the system including the power to transform the lives of students and impact the future of the campus. As a unique part of this important capital campaign, this issue of the magazine highlights the learning, research, and outreach that drives us. It is also a reminder of the great value of the institution to the region and beyond and is the reason we continue to encourage you to support our students and the work taking place at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

I ask you to consider giving to our campus as part of the Driven campaign to a project or program that matters to you. From little things like wearing maroon and gold on Fridays (or any other day of the week), to considering financial gifts both large and small for student scholarships, research, programs, and/or facilities.

Please join me, our students, faculty, staff, and alumni in supporting the University of Minnesota Crookston, and show your pride in the maroon and gold! Together we can do great things because together we are Driven.

Sincerely,
Mary Holz-Clause
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Crookston

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**Campus Earns Accolades**

The University of Minnesota Crookston was ranked one of the best in the latest rankings from *U.S. News* released in early September. In the category Midwest Top Public Regional Colleges for 2019, the UMN Crookston ranked in the number two spot. The campus has ranked in the top four consecutively for 22 years.

The Top Public Baccalaureate Colleges category is comprised of institutions focused on undergraduate education and offering a range of degree programs but granting fewer than 50 percent of their degrees in the liberal arts.


**Additional Accolades**

The UMN Crookston has been named one of Money’s Best Colleges for 2018-19. The campus is ranked at number 190 among the list of the 727 best colleges in America. View Money’s full list of best colleges at [www.time.com/money/best-colleges](http://www.time.com/money/best-colleges).

Money analyzed more than 25 data points including graduation rates, tuition costs, family borrowing, and alumni earnings to rank its list of the country’s top values in higher education. The methodology is available at [www.time.com/money/5362601/how-moneyranks-best-colleges-2018](http://www.time.com/money/5362601/how-moneyranks-best-colleges-2018).

The University of Minnesota Crookston has been ranked among the top 100 Baccalaureate Colleges in the U.S. by *Washington Monthly* in its 2018 College Guide. *Washington Monthly* touts its college rankings as an alternative to those done by other organizations in that the focus is on outcomes, and it uses three evaluative data pillars in its methodology: social mobility, research, and public service. The publication includes higher education institutions in four distinctive categories: National Universities, Liberal Arts Colleges, Master’s Universities, and Baccalaureate Colleges. Each category includes both public and private institutions. The UMN Crookston came in at #85 (its highest ranking to date) in its category, Baccalaureate Colleges, and it is the only Minnesota college in the top 100 on that list. View *Washington Monthly*’s full “2018 Rankings—Baccalaureate Colleges” list at [https://washingtonmonthly.com/2018college-guide?ranking=2018-rankings-baccalaureate-colleges](https://washingtonmonthly.com/2018college-guide?ranking=2018-rankings-baccalaureate-colleges)
Searching for sponges in the Mississippi River near Grand Rapids, Minn.
The haunting tremolo of loons flying overhead sets the backdrop high above them, but their focus is on simplest-of-all animals living beneath the waters at their feet. Wading into the sun-dappled water on this warm July day are Senior Trevor Long, Junior Michaela Lano, and faculty member Karl Anderson. Their careful steps into the rippling Mississippi River soon yield the discovery of the freshwater sponges that brought them to the river.

Freshwater sponges have been filtering the waters of the northland for millennia. What makes the study of these animals significant is their possible connection to the health of freshwater ecosystems in the state. Since spring 2016, four faculty members—two biologists and two chemists—at the University of Minnesota Crookston have been focused on these non-moving invertebrates and what their presence might mean to Minnesota waters.

The work of faculty members Karl Anderson, Anthony Schroeder, Venuopgal Mukku, and Timothy Dudley, along with assistance from a number of undergraduate students, could lead to the discovery of new species; however, most important is the contribution the scientists are making to the DNA sequencing of freshwater sponges. The work will enhance the understanding of freshwater sponges and their habitat, the role they play in the evolutionary cycle, and their presence as a possible bio-indicator of a healthy ecosystem.

**Conducting the study**

Biologists Anderson and Schroeder collect the specimens for labeling and documenting, as well as conducting immediate testing on site. Once they have a specimen and a separate sample of the water, they record location, pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity readings.

The samples collected are stored on ice until they are taken back to the lab usually within 24 to 36 hours. Then, the samples are separated: some for storage and archiving and others prepared for genetic analysis, using molecular biology and other research techniques.

The remaining material is freeze-dried to remove water and the resulting chemical residue is studied by chemists Mukku and Dudley who determine its composition and what it tells them about habitat. They also test to see if what is filtered by the sponge is sequestered in its cells. One significant potential consequence of chemical absorption by sponges is the ability of those chemicals to move up the food chain.

Left to right, Trevor Long, Karl Anderson and Michaela Lano search near Bemidji, Minn. in the Mississippi River.
Previous study

The last documented study of Minnesota’s freshwater sponges took place in the summer of 1970 when a University of Minnesota graduate student began collecting sponge specimens in Itasca State Park near Bemidji, Minn. Today, scientists using technology unavailable in the 1970s are generating new data that could reveal a great deal more.

Sponges, which belong to the phylum Porifera meaning pore bearer, obtain food from the flow of water passing through them. They grow in locations exposed to sunlight with protection from natural predators like caddisflies and crayfish.

There have been approximately 200 species of freshwater sponges identified worldwide and 32 of those are in North America. There is reason to believe genetic analysis could reveal new sponge species in Minnesota along with the two previously recorded.

For undergraduates, like Lano and Long, the study is an opportunity to develop skills in biology and chemistry. The work has spanned majors and involved students in other areas of science, as well as communication making the research an interdisciplinary effort.

The curiosity of scientists is what drives questions and leads to potential solutions. It drives the search for freshwater sponges to unexpected places like Minnesota lakes and streams, and the story they tell may drive decisions in the future about the wellbeing of our waters, our environment, and our lives.

Support for the freshwater sponge project has come from the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, the Math, Science, and Technology Department at UMN Crookston as well as funding from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), and donations from Cabela’s. If you are interested in supporting this research, contact Brandy Chaffee, Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 218-281-8434.

Visit the Minnesota Freshwater Sponge Project website located at http://freshwatersponges.crk.umn.edu/
Michaela Lano holds a freshwater sponge.
Wading Deeper:  
The Quest to Discover

What piques the interest in undergraduate research for senior health sciences major Michaela Lano, Chaska, Minn., is her drive to discover new information. Curiosity literally takes Lano wading into the rivers and lakes of Minnesota in search of freshwater sponges.

Always inquisitive, she came to the University of Minnesota Crookston with an extra year of high school science classes. “My high school had a great science program, and I took all the classes I could because I enjoyed them and knew they would prepare me for college,” Lano says.

“I grew up thinking I would major in biology or the health sciences and eventually pursue a career related to genetics,” she continues. Assisting with the Nature of Life class at the University of Minnesota Itasca Biological Station led to the submission and funding of a research proposal for Lano with classmate Trevor Long.

She keeps meticulous records on her research projects including documentation of the work on freshwater sponges. When Assistant Professor Anthony Schroeder had her read over some of the research papers being submitted to journals for review, Lano found herself drawn to editing first and then into the research itself. This experience sparked the idea of combining two things she loves—science research and writing and editing.

She will put those writing and editing skills to use when it comes time to publish the research she has been an integral part of. Meanwhile this focused young woman hones her leadership skills as president of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Club on campus.

A larger school may not have given Lano the opportunity to work on multiple projects with faculty and being involved is important to her. “Students need to find something on campus that brings them here, and then, something that keeps them here,” she says. “At a small school you can take advantage of all kinds of opportunities. Research keeps me here and makes my student experience rewarding while preparing me for the future.

“The highlight of my undergraduate career has been the chance to work closely with the science faculty,” she says. “I know I can approach them when I have questions, or someday perhaps, ask for a letter of recommendation.” She plans on pursuing scientific writing as a career partially as the result of her research position. However, if she decides to attend graduate school, genetics is the first area of study she would investigate.

What excites her most right now, however, is the chance to be part of the possible discovery of a new species of freshwater sponge, and Lano is willing to go deep to find it.
Citizen science is scientific research conducted, in whole or in part, by amateur (or nonprofessional) scientists. (Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizen_science)

While spending time on the river doing what they love, Aaron and Teresa Alto noticed “mystery blobs” beneath the water’s surface.

“We love to snorkel downstream from the dam in Grand Rapids, Minn., where the water is shallow and where we have come to appreciate the great diversity of the river’s ecosystem,” Aaron says. “Snorkeling gave us our first look at freshwater sponges in Minnesota, although, we didn’t know what they were at the time.”

After reading about the work of UMN Crookston faculty Karl Anderson and Anthony Schroeder and the study of freshwater sponges in the July/August 2017 issue of the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, the Altos recognized what they had been observing for some time.

“With the encouragement for citizens to report any possible sponges they might have seen, we sent an email to the address provided in the article,” Teresa recalls. “It put us in touch with Karl Anderson and we were able to meet him at the river to show him the sponges in the Mississippi River in Grand Rapids.

“Once we noticed them while snorkeling, we noticed them while we were paddling and walking near the river’s edge,” she continues. “Summer 2017 was a year of low water levels on the river allowing for a greater number of sponges to be visible.”

The couple mentors a 12-year-old boy who enjoys snorkeling and river activities, so they are passing along their love for the environment to the next generation.

You can be involved too. If you locate what you suspect may be a freshwater sponge in a Minnesota lake or river, contact umcspongersrch@crk.umn.edu or call 218-281-8240.

Visit freshwatersponges.crk.umn.edu for more information.
Faculty and staff came back last fall to the opening of a new research space at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The Center for Collaborative Research (CCR) opened on Tuesday, August 14 to an enthusiastic crowd of faculty and staff who had looked forward to its opening since the project received funding in fall 2017.

The CCR is the first self-contained facility on the Crookston campus allowing work in analytical chemistry, microbiology, and molecular/cellular biology to be carried out from start to finish. It supports much-needed laboratory space vital to faculty research.

Included in the lab’s equipment are a biological safety cabinet suitable for working with level 2 pathogens such as methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and for applications in cell culture and toxicology; gas chromatographer – mass spectrometer; an ion chromatography (IC) instrument designed to separate, identify, and quantify charged particles (or ions) in water (or aqueous) samples; rotary evaporator; and a total organic carbon analyzer.

Faculty members adapted class syllabi to include experience using the new instruments and allowing the lab to have the greatest impact on undergraduates in the classroom and as part of research projects.

Background

Countless hours were spent by faculty designing a lab that would encourage collaboration and shared use of equipment. This laboratory will enable the training of even more undergraduate students, provide infrastructure support for submitting external grants and recruit faculty interested in pursuing research in an undergraduate setting. The project was one of 13 funded through the U of Minnesota’s 2017 Research Infrastructure Investment Program. It will benefit scientists in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department and the Math, Science and Technology Department at the UMN Crookston as well as the Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC).

The grant award from the Research Infrastructure Investment program and a match of the same from the University of Minnesota Crookston provided a total of $576,722 to convert and equip the space in 107 Sahlstrom Conference Center.
Generations of families have walked the halls of our campus, first as Aggies, then Trojans, now, Golden Eagles. What’s important to know is there are specialty scholarships available for students of alumni. On average, 14 students each year, who are descendants of alumni from the NWSA era to present, benefit from the generosity of donor contributions, preserving and celebrating our shared legacy through scholarships.

When your children and grandchildren begin the process of selecting a college, UMN Crookston will welcome them home.

Hunter Baldwin 2019
Golden Eagle Baseball

Brent Baldwin 1990
Trojan Basketball

William Baldwin 1965
NWSA Aggies
Investing in the future
Did you know the University of Minnesota Crookston is part of the U-wide System Driven Campaign?

The University of Minnesota Crookston requires strategic investment at this time of growth to meet the changing educational, economic, and cultural needs of students, faculty, campus, and communities.

As we continue through this historic fundraising campaign, the support of philanthropic partners will help us achieve these outcomes:

- Provide world-class education to more students
- Increase capacity for the highest levels of excellence in teaching and learning
- Ensure an outstanding experience for students, faculty, alumni, and community

$13 MILLION
U of M CROOKSTON
OVERALL CAMPAIGN GOAL
with 3 focus areas

OUR VISION
A campus committed to a promising future for students and dedicated to strengthening the vitality of Northwestern Minnesota, the state, and beyond.

$4 MILLION
SCHOLARSHIPS
We will increase enrollment and access for more students by growing scholarship opportunities.
On our campus, learning takes place in the fields, barns, wellness center, classrooms, gardens, greenhouses, stables, rivers, labs, athletic fields, community—it’s endless. Innovative spaces and leading-edge technology are the cornerstones to generations of hands-on learning—our unique place in education.

$2 MILLION
PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH
We will cultivate greater opportunities for exceptional teaching, learning, and research within and beyond the classroom.

$7 MILLION
PLACES AND SPACES
We will continue to modernize the campus to deliver even greater value and experiences to students, alumni, and community.

Driven.
The University of Minnesota Campaign
Homecoming was held September 28-30, 2018, with several alumni gatherings including the Class of 1968 and 1969 who celebrated their 50th anniversary reunion. The theme for the week was “There’s No Place like Homecoming.”

One of the highlights of the weekend is the annual Alumni Awards Celebration. The 2018 honorees include this year’s Outstanding Alumni Award recipients: Nancy Capistran ’71, ’92, ’01; Wayne Freimund ’81 and Peggy Lee Hilton ’68. Inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame were Ken Bond ’96, football and Chancellor Emeritus Charles H. Casey.

**OUTSTANDING ALUMNI**


She holds three degrees from the University of Minnesota Crookston and could be identified as a Trojan or a Golden Eagle. Nancy Capistran graduated with associate degrees in laboratory technology and accounting and completed her bachelor’s degree in 2001 in food processing management in 2001.

From 1990 to 2007, she served as a lab technician on campus responsible for lab preparation and set-up, along with supply ordering and budgeting. Following her time at the UMN Crookston, she worked in the Cathedral Parish office until 2010.

Her career also includes her partnership in the Capistran Seed Company and countless hours of volunteer work. She has devoted time to serving on a number of boards, including the Care and Share Board of Directors. Capistran was recognized with UMN Crookston Faculty/Staff Volunteer of the Year in 1999; Villa St. Vincent Champion Award for Outstanding Advocacy in the Elder Care Industry in 2015; and the Rotary Distinguished Professional Community Service Four-Way Test Award in 2016.

**Wayne Freimund, Ph.D. 1981, Presented by Tom Ryan 1980**

Earning his degree in natural resources in 1981 from the University of Minnesota Crookston Technical College, Wayne Freimund headed to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities to complete his bachelor’s degree in recreation, park, and leisure studies. He completed his master’s degree in wildland management from West Virginia University before earning his doctorate in forestry back in Minnesota.

He began working at the University of Montana in 1993 eventually becoming chair of the Department of Society and Conservation. He has long worked on efforts focused on the management and preservation our National Parks. His research included the study of the effects of mass transportation on national parks specifically related to climate change and the monitoring of visitor perceptions of soundscape resources.
While at the University of Montana, he worked on a cooperative program in protected area management with the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, which expanded to include the University of Namibia and the Copperbelt University in Zambia and Monash, South Africa.

Freimund is currently professor and chair for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at Clemson University.

**Peggy Hilton 1968, Presented by Gene Dufault 1963, 1968**

Graduating with the first class from the University of Minnesota Crookston Technical College, Peggy Hilton recently returned to address the Class of 2018 as the keynote speaker at commencement last May.

Graduating with high distinction, Hilton earned her associate degree in business, specializing in legal secretarial. She started her 30-year career in Crookston working as a legal secretary and paralegal and went on to work for noteworthy law firms in the Twin Cities and in Seattle.

In 1998, she retired early in order to thru-hike the 2,660-mile Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada with her husband, Jim, on his seven-month sabbatical. Hilton has been a competitive runner and has engaged in extensive mountain climbing and hiking adventures. She works at staying physically active and continues to challenge herself mentally with a Norwegian language class and as much reading as time permits.

She, and several of her classmates, have been successful in bringing their friends and fellow classmates back for homecoming reunions in 2008, 2013, and in 2018 to celebrate their 50th anniversary year.

**ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

**Charles H. Casey, D.V.M., Presented by Stephanie Helgeson**

Chancellor Emeritus Charles H. Casey began his appointment at the University of Minnesota Crookston on September 12, 2005. Prior to his appointment he served as dean and director of the University of Minnesota Extension Service. From 1979 to 1991, he was a member of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents and from 1989-1991 served as chair.

He earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Minnesota. Early in his career, Casey served as a captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps in Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. Following his military service, he worked for 27 years as a practitioner in rural veterinary medicine and was a partner in the Dodge Veterinary Clinic in West Concord and Dodge Center, Minnesota.

In 2007, while serving as chancellor, Casey reaffirmed the UMN Crookston commitment to Division II and the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). The decision, made by Casey, took place after careful review of a report presented by the 18-member Crookston Campus Athletic Review Committee following five months of data collection and analysis. This pivotal reaffirmation decision was designed to support both academics and athletics in order to provide a complementary relationship that serves all students.

**Ken Bond 1996, Presented by Ryan Mullikin 1994**

As a sophomore, Kenny Bond was named to the 1992 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-American Football Second Team. He was the tenth Fighting Trojan to earn All-American honors since the program began in 1966.

Bond served as team captain of the first four-year football team at UMN Crookston along with teammates Jesse Maruska and Derrick Sanders. He led in all-time sacks in a game with four in an October 1992 match-up with Mount Senario.

He earned Most Valuable Player in 1992. He was known for his athleticism as a player but also for his ability to lead by example and elevate his teammates.

Bond currently works to provide real estate services to residential sellers and buyers in Miami and the South Florida market.

To view all the highlights from homecoming, visit the website at www.crk.umn.edu/homecoming

>> HOMECOMING 2019 IS SEPTEMBER 27-28
The campus was the perfect environment for me,” Freimund says. “I was eight hours away from my home in Rochester, Minn., and discovered an accessible, demanding, and patient faculty and staff who built relationships with students—something I have tried to emulate throughout my entire career.”

Following graduation, he headed to the University of Minnesota College of Forestry and then transferred to the College of Education to finish his bachelor’s degree in recreation, park and leisure studies. Freimund was on his way. An assistantship took him to West Virginia to complete a master’s degree in wildland management, and then, he went back to the UMN to earn his doctorate in forestry.

Not many campuses can claim an educational legacy quite like the University of Minnesota Crookston. Depending on the era, students could earn a high school diploma, an associate degree, or a bachelor’s degree on campus or online. This unique history is a testimony to the way need shaped each transformation.

When Wayne Freimund 1981 came to the University of Minnesota Crookston Technical College as a first generation college student, he was interested in majoring in natural resources. However, he was unsure where an associate degree would take him, but this first step led to his own transformation and to a career he loves.

“The campus was the perfect environment for me,” Freimund says. “I was eight hours away from my home in Rochester, Minn., and discovered an accessible, demanding, and patient faculty and staff who built relationships with students—something I have tried to emulate throughout my entire career.”

Following graduation, he headed to the University of Minnesota College of Forestry and then transferred to the College of Education to finish his bachelor’s degree in recreation, park and leisure studies. Freimund was on his way. An assistantship took him to West Virginia to complete a master’s degree in wildland management, and then, he went back to the UMN to earn his doctorate in forestry.
All the while, Freimund gained valuable experience working for organizations like the Wilderness Inquiry where he became acquainted with the social values of nature and enjoyed getting people outdoors. Ongoing research work with the National Park Service that started when he was pursuing his doctorate remains a passion to this day.

In 1993, he joined the faculty at the University of Montana in Missoula and continued work with the National Parks including working internationally with some 15 to 20 different countries. The love he has for his work and for students is evident when he reflects on his career path.

Freimund was chair of the Department of Society and Conservation at the University of Montana and served twice as the director of the University of Montana Wilderness Institute and co-director of the International Seminar on Protected Area Management.

Published and recognized many times during his career, Freimund received the prestigious Benton H. Box Award from the Clemson University Institute for Parks. The award recognizes individuals for a lifelong body of work helping to manage and preserve local, state, and national parks.

As an award recipient, Freimund attended ceremonies in South Carolina, which in turn, opened the path to his current position as Chair of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management Department for Clemson.

In September, Freimund was recognized with the Outstanding Alumni Award at the homecoming Alumni Awards Celebration at the UMN Crookston. It was a chance to bring Freimund home to the northwest corner of Minnesota and the campus that gave him his start.

Freimund came back to Crookston when he was at the University of Montana to learn more about the digital environment when the campus became one of the first to issue laptops to students and faculty. He taught a synchronous online course with Associate Professor Phil Baird at the UMN Crookston giving him experience in distance learning.

Campus Social Media Directory

Enjoy social media with us! Use the hashtag #UMNCrookston to search for news about the campus or to share what makes you #UMNproud!

Facebook
facebook.com/umncrookston
facebook.com/umncrookston.homecoming

Google+
plus.google.com/umncrookston

Instagram
instagram.com/umncrookston

Linkedin
z.umn.edu/umncrookston

Pinterest
pinterest.com/umncrookston

Twitter
twitter.com/umncrookston

YouTube
youtube.com/uofmcrookston
At any given moment, Junior Jordan DeBoer could be standing on a spot where his great grandmother, alumna Una Briden DeBoer 1922, stood 96 years ago. DeBoer transferred to the University of Minnesota Crookston in the fall of 2017—exactly 100 years after his great grandfather, Veral Gibbons, came to the school in 1917.

His family’s legacy on the campus spans the Northwest School of Agriculture (1906-68), the University of Minnesota Crookston Technical College (1966-93), and the University of Minnesota Crookston. Deeply rooted in farming, his love for agriculture is obvious from the moment you meet DeBoer.

“There is a story about the artist Terry Redlin being known for staring out the window daydreaming about the great outdoors,” DeBoer says. “It earned him the nickname ‘Windows Redlin.’ I do the same thing, only I daydream about being in the field.”
This passion for agriculture knows no bounds. DeBoer enjoys every aspect it seems and its influence is evident in his decision to major in agricultural communications at UMN Crookston.

An opportunity to job shadow at Red River Farm Network (RRFN) last winter, encouraged by speech instructor Jacob Bell, led to an internship at the radio network this summer and a chance to visit with farmers across the region.

“The best part of my internship was talking with farmers,” DeBoer says. “It also gave me a chance to try my hand at broadcasting.”

His interest started with a book by Orion Samuelson entitled You Can’t Dream Big Enough. A broadcast script is included in the book. “I wondered when I was reading the script what it would sound like if I recorded it, so I tried,” he says. “After listening to my recording, I wondered if I might have a voice that worked for radio.” It certainly seems to be the case and that idea came as a surprise to him.

“I didn’t particularly like public speaking in high school,” he recalls. “But, it turned out to be one of my favorite classes in college. I never would have expected that.”

His summer gave him several opportunities to share with listeners the new major at the University of Minnesota Crookston, agricultural communication, and interviews with faculty and Chancellor Mary Holz-Clause that aired on the network. It also brought him back to campus to cover FFA INTENSE, a college and career exploratory experience for high school students.

When he has the chance, the work on the farm he most enjoys is digging ground in the fall and running the rotobeater during sugarbeet harvest.

DeBoer likes to think about the generations who came before him who farmed the land. “It is farmers who make the Red River Valley what it is,” he says.

He isn’t sure what the future holds for him whether it takes him back to a life that is focused on agriculture or perhaps on to the seminary. His agricultural communication degree will prepare him well for whatever he chooses to do.

His final years at UMN Crookston will have him considering his options, but one thing is sure, he will carry his love for agriculture with him regardless.

And, it will keep bringing him back home to family and to the land he has come to care so deeply about.

Una Briden DeBoer grew up near Waterloo, Iowa until she was about eight years old, and the family moved to Minnesota. She graduated in 1922 from the Northwest School of Agriculture, predecessor of the UMN Crookston. She was active in the Home Economics Club and served as class vice president as a junior. Her senior thesis, required for graduation, was titled “Clothing of Today.” Many of Una’s descendants attended the University of Minnesota Crookston, and Jordan DeBoer is one of them.
The civil rights movement had a lot of trailblazers from Rosa Parks on a Montgomery, Ala., bus to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Jackie Robinson breaking the baseball color barrier. But at a junior college located amongst the fields of sunflowers, beans, and sugar beets of the fertile Red River Valley of the North, the path was first trudged by Lloyd Mayes, who came to Minnesota Crookston to play basketball for Head Coach Marv Bachmeier. Mayes, a native of Washington, D.C., first arrived in Crookston, Minn. It wasn’t always easy for Mayes being the first African-American student on a mostly-white campus, but to this day he is still forever grateful for the opportunity he received at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

“The education I received at Minnesota Crookston was critical,” Mayes said. “It inspired a lifelong chance to learn, which I still cherish to this day. My experience has continued to make me continuously hungry to learn. When I first got here I had bleak outlook on my Washington, D.C. education but once I came here, I quickly figured out how suited I was for education.”

One pointed experience he had to showcase how suited he was for education came in the class of Larry Remele.

“Mr. Remele asked us to write a two page paper and I can’t even remember what the topic was. That was the first class of the year and in the second class we turned in the papers. Our third class, he handed back the papers, and told everyone you have until the next class to re-submit your paper, because the only paper in this group that is college level is Mr. Mayes’ paper.”

In addition to education though, Mayes wanted to make sure he had a good time along the way, as well.

“Campus life was fun,” Mayes said. “In college, you have to be dedicated to athletics if you’re an athlete as well as academics. But, you also have to have some fun and enjoy college life. Having fun is a big part of the relationships that you make while you’re in college, and the memories that you hold onto when you are done. For me, it was a two-year experience, and I wanted to make sure I enjoyed the entire experience…athletic…academic and social.”

Having fun would often come with challenges though. Mayes was told not to date because of how that might be received in the community. “I had a high GPA, and we were winning, yet, I was told I shouldn’t date because of other peoples’ perceptions. It made me feel like I was less than a complete student. So, at first, I didn’t date. I spent my downtime, weekends and many late nights in the gym and the library, studying,” Mayes said. “I don’t drink, I don’t smoke and I didn’t bring a bad rap to the University. Still, I wasn’t supposed to enjoy a social life, like any other student. So, for me, I felt it was another form of segregation on a campus that was supposed to be inclusive and not exclusive. So I took issue with that.”

Ultimately, Mayes decided to stand up for what he believed in and for what he thought was right.

“My parents always said, If you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything,” Mayes said. “If I wanted to go on a date, and someone was nice enough to say yes to that date, then I was going to go on the date. I didn’t look to harm or insult anyone, but I wasn’t going to be harmed or insulted, either.”

There was one memory Mayes had during his time at Crookston, Minn. where he was confronted. It happened during a Sunday night at Maple Lake when he went to a dance with friends.

“A gang of bikers had a problem with me and were trying to start trouble,” Mayes said. “One guy approached and tried to provoke me, with all of his boys lurking in the background. I was there with four football players from New Jersey and these two sisters. I figured my safety might be in danger and I knew there was going to be a problem during or after the dance. The guys from Jersey and I squared off with the bikers and after some pushing and shoving one of the guys made a call back to campus for

LLOYD MAYES
Part II: Continued from the Summer Issue of the Torch magazine.
some reinforcements. I wasn’t intimidated and I wasn’t going to be. I figured, I walked onto the campus at Minnesota Crookston and I had every intention of walking off the same way. About 20 cars of reinforcements arrived from campus and while the situation came dangerously close to exploding, after that night, I realized that while some people on this campus might not have liked me, I knew a lot of them had my back if things got crazy.”

Though he did run into some tough times, it was the relationships forged during his time at Minnesota Crookston that defined his collegiate experience, including that with Athletics Director Hersch Lysaker.

“My relationship with Hersch Lysaker endured the entire time I was here, and beyond that,” Mayes said. “I completed my education at American University, then played basketball in Europe for years and always kept in contact with Hersch. We often saw each other and went to dinner when he visited Washington, DC.”

One enduring memory Mayes had of Hersch came following an athletics banquet in which Mayes was the emcee.

“During my first year, I was the emcee for the athletic awards banquet, and I also received a lot of the awards for basketball, and track and field,” Mayes said. “After the banquet though, a guy I was close to came to my room and said other athletes were talking about me because they said that I received these awards so that I would come back next year. I said, ‘wait a minute, we won almost every game in basketball, we were conference champions in basketball and track and I had the highest GPA of any athlete playing two sports… I was crushed.’ Because of that, I boxed up my awards and told Hersch that if I don’t deserve these, then give them to someone who does.”

It was later on when Mayes was at American University that he received Lysaker’s response.

“He sent me all those trophies back and said ‘Mayes, you have to accept the things that you earn and don’t worry about the stuff people say. Take the credit for what you did.’ My time at Minnesota Crookston was at times bittersweet, but in the end I was really glad I came here, and I really enjoyed my time here.”

Mayes also made lasting bonds with other students at Minnesota Crookston, including with his freshman roommate Rich Wehking, who played football for the Trojans.

“My roommate my freshman year here would leave the room when I would come in,” Mayes said. “Rich was a football player, and I was a basketball player. I had practice and when practice was over I would go back to my room. When I walked in, he would leave with his friends. The only time we were in the room physically for two months was when we were sleeping. One day I asked him, ‘Rich, why do you always leave when I walk into the room?’ The words he said were profound and I never forgot them. He said ‘I didn’t want to disturb you.’ I responded and said. ‘If you leave the room every time I walk in, we would never get to know each other. After that, we engaged and talked a lot. Sometimes, I would even talk him to sleep. We did get a chance to share what both of our lives were about.”

Though Rich was not his closest friend on campus, the bond has continued to this day with Rich returning to the Minnesota Crookston campus in April of 2017 to watch Mayes give a speech to the current student-athletes.
Another close friend he made on campus was Cary Geller of Fargo, N.D, the only Jewish student on campus at the time.

“Cary came to my room when Rich was gone and said, ‘I have never known a black person, and I have always been curious, but I just want to talk and learn about you. That statement is something I respected. His curiosity led to areas where we could connect. He became my closest friend, and we became inseparable. He didn’t shy away from being my friend. And then there was Vinson Leslie, my roommate my second year. Vinson was black, an ex-Marine, from South-side Chicago and, like me, from the urban inner-city. He played football and had a very outgoing personality. Vinson was and is a great friend and his friendship made our time together at UMC fun. We still communicate regularly.”

Mayes made so many connections at Minnesota Crookston, from Wehking to Geller to former Trojan and NFL player Jim LeClair to former basketball player Bruce Bakke to Vinson Leslie.

“My friendships with all of those guys were worth maintaining,” Mayes said. “There were so many guys who I loved up here. I had a lot of fun during my two years at Minnesota Crookston.”

When it comes down to it, the story of Mayes through his time at Minnesota Crookston and into his professional career has been about learning. Whether it was picking up French, Italian, and German playing basketball overseas or constantly learning from education programming he continues to watch today. Mayes has constantly focused on learning and making his own path. He wasn’t going to let any preconceived notions about who he is define him. He defined himself at Minnesota Crookston through his personality, and willingness to embrace a different setting and different people.

In the end, it all comes back to something his mom wrote in one of his autograph books when he was younger.

“Son, love many, and trust but a few, and always paddle your own canoe.”

Mayes has continued to “paddle his canoe” through life and pick up great life lessons and experiences along the way, including during his two years as the first African-American student and student-athlete at Minnesota Crookston, 50 years ago. The path he first trudged set up a path that would be followed by many students of different races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.
Amber Oestreich is an overachiever. She holds two jobs, is pursuing her BS in International Business, and recently fit in a study abroad trip to South Africa. She shares how she juggles her responsibilities and what her future may hold.

“I absolutely love having my education online,” Oestreich says. “It allows me to have the flexibility to do my work in my own time and to explore topics that I am interested in more in-depth.”

Why an Online Degree?
Oestreich initially attended a traditional campus in New York City where she pursued her love of music. While working with some of her favorite musicians was rewarding, she found “attempting to work on coursework during soundchecks and shows” wasn’t really sustainable.

“UMN Crookston stood out to me because it is part of the University of Minnesota system, and the descriptions of the programs and their flexibility really fit what I was looking for,” she explains.

How She Does It All
Oestreich decided to commit to her studies and moved back to Minnesota, where she works full time at IKEA and also holds a part-time job at Papa John’s. “In my current situation, no day is ‘typical.’ My work schedules significantly vary week-to-week, which leaves me spending nearly all of my free time working on my classes. I will admit, it is extremely difficult to balance my time, but I know that the hard work will pay off in the end!”

Like many students, Oestreich had to develop good time management skills and go beyond what is required in order to understand the material. “I have to rely on myself to read my textbook and conduct any additional research necessary. Although this does pose a challenge at times, the professors are always just an email away when help is needed.”

Her advice to stay ahead of the game? “Use a planner. In the majority of classes, due dates for all assignments are given at the beginning of the semester, and using a planner helps to keep everything organized and ensures that due dates are not missed.”

Spreading Her Wings
Another benefit of attending the UMN is the opportunity to study abroad, even as an online student. Oestreich didn’t think she would be able to make it work, but after speaking with her boss and reaching out to her professors, she was able to make that fantasy a reality.

Oestreich recently returned from Cape Town, South Africa, where she learned about the country’s rich history and practiced her intercultural communication skills. Her group worked with the Amy Foundation, which provides education opportunities for children through in-school support, after-school programs, and summer camps.

“The main goal of the trip was to study technology and communication in South Africa. It is clear that in some ways they are years behind what we see here in the US; however, they have some pretty unique approaches to deal with the limited resources they have.

We visited a company called GoMetro, which has created a system for people to email their boss if their train or bus is delayed (an extremely common occurrence there), which has helped individuals keep their jobs.”

The students also witnessed cases of extreme poverty, which motivated Oestreich to do more to help them. “It really was an amazing experience, and I’m so grateful I had the opportunity to do it.

“I have always had a passion to learn about other cultures and to travel. I am really excited for what my future holds with my international business degree and have really enjoyed all my coursework.”
Jerry Jansen 1972, Sauk Centre, Minn., recently retired to their cabin in Sauk Centre. He’s interested in reconnecting with lost former friends. Connect with him and touch base again at jansenjc@hotmail.com or 320.255.5314. Jerry is still married to Carol, with five living married children and 12 grandchildren. They continue to work in music and marriage ministry.

David Richter 1977, Bethel, Mo. visited campus September 12, 2018. During his visit, he stopped in the Development & Alumni Relations Office and we located his name on the Man & Woman of the Year plaque from his graduating year.

Mary (Schroeder) Koval 1985, Acworth, Ga., is the proud owner and photographer of MKoval Photography in Aragon, Ga.

Amy (Loomer) Longtin 1999, West Fargo, N.D., Tharaldson Hospitality Management, was recently selected as a participant in the Women’s Leadership Program, a unique six-month program dedicated to expanding personal, professional, community, and health leadership skills for women of all ages and backgrounds in the Greater Fargo area. Amy is also a mentor for UCodeGirl and part of the Women In Technology Fargo chapter.

2000s

Rob Baumgarn 2000, Willmar, Minn., was hired to lead the newly formed City of Willmar Recreation Department. He previously served for three years as the manager of the Willmar Civic Center along with a nearly 18-year career with Willmar Community Education and Recreation.

Ryan Palm 2000, Crookston, Minn., was recently announced by Bremer Bank as the new Market Manager and Ag Team Lead at the Crookston location. Life-long resident of Crookston, Ryan started his career with Bremer Bank in 1998 and has over 17 years of lending experience.

2010s

Jessica (Schein) Althoff 2010, Cannon Falls, Minn. is employed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as an area trails supervisor. She and her husband, Kevin, reside in Cannon Falls.

Kelsey (Palmer) Johnson 2010, Thief River Falls, Minn., is the new Roseau High School assistant principal and Communication Education director. She most recently served as Lincoln High School’s technology integration specialist and taught elementary students, also in Thief River Falls, for...
the previous seven years. Kelsey and
husband, Zach, are parents of Odin, 4,
and Augusta, 2.

Mitch and Kelly (Jurgens) Bakken
2013, Fisher, Minn., enjoyed an August
camping trip at Schmidt’s Landing Resort
and Lakeside Suites on Big Stone Lake.
Resort owners are Adam 2005 and Jenny
(Martinson) Koplin 2007, Big Stone City,
S.D., who purchased the resort and took
possession February 1, 2018.

Brandon and Rowenna (Fillmore)
Janisch 2014, Ashland, Wis., were
married August 12, 2018. She has been
employed at a veterinary clinic for
almost four years and is now the Human
Resources Manager and Brandon is
a contractor doing home building and
remodeling.

Amber Edblom 2017, Crookston, Minn.,
was recently hired as a lab services
coordinator for the Agriculture & Natural
Resources Department at the University
of Minnesota Crookston.

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: rose445@umn.edu or complete the
form on line at: www.umcrookston.edu/
alumni-donors and click “keep in touch.”
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.)

Brandon and Jill (Zelinsky) Raff 2011, Saint Paul, Minn., were married October 5, 2018, at
the Varsity Theater in Minneapolis. Jill is employed by Medtronic and Brandon is a senior
consultant at Aon, both located in Minneapolis. Alumni attending the wedding included
front row from left: Eric Dearden 2012, Jason Servaty 2011, Erik Nockleby 2010, Jill Raaf;
Eric Morgan 2012, Jenna (Dolence) Tschirgi 2009, Kelsey (Van Ackeren) Stewart 2010,
Jamie (Zelinsky) Quenzer 2011, and Gina (Jaroszewski) Schmidt 2011. Back from from left:
Mike Larsen 2011, Broderick Schmidt 2013, and Laurie Tyson 2013.

Ben and Alyssa (Newburg) Datres 2015 and 2016, Hopkins, Minn., were married August
25, 2018 in Park Rapids, Minn., with a number of alumni in attendance. Pictured front row
from left: Karli Savaloja 2015, Kalya Corneliusen 2016, Nou Cha 2015, Ashley Hoyle 2016,
Megan Betcher 2015, and Sam Haugen 2014. Back from left: Jordan DuVall 2014, Allie
Dohmeier 2015, Catie Brown 2016, Tony Long 2016, Alyssa (Newburg) and Ben Datres,
Michael McMahon 2016, Trina Weisel 2017, Art Schilling 2016, Jake Arvidson 2015, and
Chris Winter 2014.

Lindsey Paul 2017 and Kasey Flaagan were married on July 21, 2018. They celebrated their
special day with University of Minnesota Crookston alumni and current students.
Pictured left to right: Shayla Burns 2015, Erin Schwarz 2017, Austin Koenig 2016, Andrew
Wallace 2016, Casey (Cashman) Wallace 2016, Stephanie Pearson 2016, Jasmine Vorlicek
2017, Ross Anderson 2016, Mike Paulson 2015, Lindsey (Paul) Flaagan 2017, Brady Gillespie
2015, Kasey Flaagan, Joe Arnold 2017, Austin Dierks 2017, current student Caitlin Michaels,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beatrice “Betty” Nisbet</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>East Grand Forks, Minn.</td>
<td>August 1, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Skaar 1941 Adv</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thief River Falls, Minn.</td>
<td>September 26, 2018</td>
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<td>Ira Mjelde, 1948 Adv</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alhambra, Calif.</td>
<td>October 13, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verne Matson 1949 Adv</td>
<td></td>
<td>Edmonds, Wash., formerly of Fosston, Minn.</td>
<td>September 3, 2018</td>
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<td>Charles Armstrong 1955</td>
<td></td>
<td>Crookston, Minn.</td>
<td>August 6, 2018</td>
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<td>James Roberts 1955</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lengby, Minn.</td>
<td>July 1, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duane Opdahl 1962</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fertile, Minn.</td>
<td>September 6, 2018</td>
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<td>Jimmie “JC” Coauette 1965</td>
<td></td>
<td>Crookston, Minn.</td>
<td>July 24, 2018</td>
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<td>Lowell Lerud 1965 and 1968</td>
<td></td>
<td>Twin Valley, Minn.</td>
<td>July 22, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen Sjostrand 1965</td>
<td></td>
<td>Loomis, Calif.</td>
<td>July 23, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Jaros 1968</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grand Forks, N.D.</td>
<td>July 4, 2018</td>
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<td>Howard Person 1976</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thief River Falls, Minn.</td>
<td>October 1, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Fern 1979</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bismarck, N.D.</td>
<td>April 24, 2018</td>
</tr>
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<td>Kyle Quittschreiber 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>Frazee, Minn.</td>
<td>August 24, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ann (Klipping) Solie</td>
<td>1986 &amp; 2006</td>
<td>Crookston, Minn.</td>
<td>October 4, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Fog</td>
<td></td>
<td>Emmetsburg, Iowa, and formerly Waseca, Minn.</td>
<td>June 23, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marvin Mattson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fertile, Minn., and formerly Crookston, Minn.</td>
<td>September 22, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Aspevig</td>
<td></td>
<td>Helena, Mont.</td>
<td>October 2, 2018</td>
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**Study Abroad**

“Studying abroad not only allowed me to face my fears, but also made me see the world in a whole new way,” says University of Minnesota Crookston animal science major Lexie Ogdahl, ’19, who literally took the leap of a lifetime — bungee jumping — during a learning abroad trip to New Zealand. The experience shaped her future. “I now say ‘yes’ to things I would have easily said ‘no’ to before.”
### 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Justin Knebel Ice Fishing Tournament ........... Feb. 2
- Arizona Alumni Social .................................. Feb. 15
- Arizona Alumni Brew Bash and Golden Eagle Basketball Watch Party ................. Feb. 16
- Teambacker Fun Nite ...................................... April 26
- Commencement for the Class of 2019 ......... May 4
- MinnTucky Derby ............................................. May 4
- Olsonawski Golf Tournament, Hallock .......... June 13
- NWSA Alumni Reunion ....................... FRIDAY, June 28
- Teambacker Golf Classic, Crookston ............. July 19
- Farm To Table ............................................ Aug. 9
- Homecoming .............................................. Sept. 27-28

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**We’re soaking it all up.**

At the U of M Crookston, our faculty and students are using new research techniques to examine freshwater sponges, which may offer clues for keeping Minnesota waters healthy.

#UMNdriven