

MMC

From Page 1

views by mid-November," he said. "We hope to make the appointment as soon as Jan. 1. If things go well, we should have a new president by mid-January."

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Krause has pledged not to be a caretaker during his interim tenure, and he's making good on his word.

This week, MMC is launching a fund drive to renovate Marian Auditorium, the college's fine arts center. He hopes to raise the needed money in the next few months.

The 700-seat facility hosts plays, concerts, lectures, the annual Chataqua and even South Dakota Supreme Court sessions. The auditorium also provided a temporary home for St. John's Lutheran Church, which underwent year-long renovations after suffering arson.

Krause has ordered a full inspection of Marian Auditorium to determine the facility's needs.

"I have met with an acoustical engineer about the availability of sound. The engineer will give us advice on how to improve our acoustics," he said. "We also plan to add new, wider seats. And

we plan to upgrade the light board and replace the sound system. We need to do this all at once."

MMC officials don't want the Marian renovations to interfere with campus activities, Krause said.

"We likely won't do the actual work (on the auditorium) until next spring," he said. "We think we can complete the project during down time."

The college is also moving forward with converting the old library into a science center, Krause said. The college's science courses are currently taught on the third floor of Bede Hall. The building, one of the oldest structures on campus, also houses classrooms and administrative offices.

The new science facility will provide room for more biology and chemistry courses, along with making possible more nursing programs, Krause said.

"We are remodeling the interior of the old library rather than constructing a new building," he said. "But we will still need to provide infrastructure, like gas, water and ventilation hoods. We want to make upgrades to modern equipment. And we need new tables, which is a pretty big expense."

In addition, MMC and the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) of Yankton are starting a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program. The state board of nursing could approve the program by January, Krause said.

"There is a real need for LPNs in hospitals and nursing homes," Krause said. "We want it that (students) are certifiable to become employees at the end of 18 months. If they choose, it can fit in with becoming an RN (registered nurse)."

MMC also plans to expand its graduate programs in nursing and teacher education, he said.

The Yankton campus is seeing physical changes, Krause said. MMC is replacing a section of its entrance road and is looking at new signage for the back side of campus.

The MMC soccer program, which has used the Human Services Center fields, will move to a new field by the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) headquarters. The college has ordered a new scoreboard for the soccer field.

At MMC's Sioux Falls campus, the nurse anesthesia program has moved to a renovated building formerly housing a call center. The upgraded facility offers new laboratories.

Classes have begun in the new facility, with an open house and ribbon cutting planned for Oct. 13. Bishop Paul Swain of the Sioux Falls Diocese has been invited to offer a blessing on the new building.

MMC also plans to add programs at its Watertown campus and increase its enrollment of about 300 students, Krause said.

"In the past, many of our students in Watertown were part-time students," he said. "Now, we are seeing a number of students who are going full-time."

A POSITION OF STRENGTH

MMC enters the fall semester on a strong note, Krause said. The college has filled all its faculty positions and needs one part-time staff member.

"A lot of times, you are looking for three or four individuals at this time of year to make your faculty complete," he said. "That's a real plus to have everyone on board. It makes it much easier to finalize your planning for fall."

The job market remains tight for higher education, Krause said. One MMC faculty vacancy drew 75 applicants, higher than normal, he said.

MMC has recovered many of its losses from the economic meltdown of the past two years, Krause said.

"We took a hit with the stock market. But the markets are back, and we have made good investments," he said. "Our donations are ahead of the last two years. And we are looking to cultivate corporate donors and expand grant writing."

As far as this fall's enrollment, Krause said it's too early to know final numbers. MMC typically gets late registrants, including a number of transfer students, he said. Many of the transfer students are looking for a different envi-

ronment or a college closer to home, he added.

However, he looks for MMC to maintain or even surpass last year's total enrollment of 1,000, with about 500 at Yankton.

"We are marketing and recruiting in a broader territory," he said. "The majority of our students come from within a 100-mile radius. We are beginning to recruit students from a statewide area, like South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota."

As part of his interim presidency, Krause is working to strengthen ties with the surrounding area. MMC will reach out even more to Catholic schools and parishes, he said.

"We want to maintain a strong relationship with all the churches in the diocese and also northeast Nebraska," he said.

Krause also wants to continue building a strong relationship with the Yankton business community.

"Having a college puts Yankton a leg up on other communities," he said. "It's an important draw when you are recruiting employees or businesses."

The future looks bright, and MMC can play a vital role, Krause said.

"There are a lot of opportunities for us to serve the region," he said. "We want Yankton to continue seeing the value of Mount Marty in its environment."

GIVE

From Page 1

Repairs are targeted to begin at the end of July, so the challenge to the community comes at a perfect time for the theatre.

"We need to raise \$75,000 to do the roof properly," Lambertz said. "As of Monday, before the donation, we have raised \$31,000. The money has been raised in grants, the city and county have contributed and other personal donations. If the community steps up and matches the \$20,000, we would be above our goal for stage one."

Stage one will include removing the existing roof structure and exposing the beams. Any beams that have water damage will be replaced.

"We need to get the project going in July because we have been told that the roof will last 5-7 years longer if we install when it is hot out, rather than waiting until this fall," Lambertz said. "We have not taken bids yet because we need to have the funding in place, but once everything is ready it will go quick."

Ness said he hopes that the community recognized the jewel that the theatre is to the Yankton area.

"People are very committed to theatre in Yankton and that is a big plus," he said. "If we can get others in the community to be involved and expand the theatre — get more people interested in theatre — that is only a good thing. These projects take money

and I am hopeful that people in the community will recognize the strength that we have with this asset and will donate money to help keep the theatre in good shape and operating within the community. We will have a lot of fun if they do."

Ness encourages everyone to enjoy the theatre opportunities present in the community. When

he was asked who he expected to step up and meet the challenge however, he had a humorous take on it.

"Fork over the dough," he said. "I don't care if it falls from the sky. I don't expect anyone else to fork over 20 grand, but there are people in the community who will fork over a little bit and if enough people do it will add up to \$20,000."

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