Website Ranks
MUM #4 on List of Top Environmental Colleges

The website EnvironmentalScience.org recently released their first annual Top Environmental Science Schools rankings, placing MUM #4 in their list of the 50 top colleges.

The purpose of the list and rankings is to help prospective students interested in environmental science identify the school that’s right for them.

The rankings are based on published surveys, student data, and other school and career data collected through sources such as The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and the National Center for Education Statistics. Also figuring into the ranking is the percentage of total students graduating with an environmental science degree.

The top 50 list can be found at www.environmentalscience.org/top-schools.

MUM has also been named a “Sierra Club Cool School” and has been included in The Princeton Review’s Guide to 332 Green Colleges because of the strong commitment to the environment and sustainability.

“This ranking is different from other ratings in that it reflects the degree of a university’s student commitment to sustainability by measuring the proportion that major in an environmental degree,” said David Fisher, chair of Sustainable Living. “In this respect, MUM ranks very near the top, which is an indication of our students’ greater awareness of the planet’s condition and needs than that of students in most universities.”

Faculty Address Delhi Conference to Re-Establish Vedic India

Last month MUM President Dr. Bevan Morris and five faculty members participated in and helped to organize a historic conference to re-enliven the Vedic tradition in India.

The conference was notable for bringing together government ministers, leaders of Indian spiritual organizations, and leaders of Maharishi’s worldwide organizations.

“The purpose was to re-establish ideal Vedic life for India and to connect the Vedic knowledge with modern science,” Dr. Morris said.

Harsh Vardhan, India’s minister of science and technology, addressed the audience and expressed the openness of the Ministry of Science and Technology to consider in detail all scientific evidence on the programs of Vedic science and technology brought out in the conference.

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“The great interest of the Indian leaders was again an extraordinary reaffirmation of Maharishi’s work,” Dr. Morris said. “The coming together of government officials and leaders of India’s spiritual organizations was a watershed for Maharishi’s knowledge. Their intention is to implement this knowledge widely.”

The conference included over 120 delegates from 40 countries as well as 200 delegates from India. Maharaja Adhiraj Rajaraam (Tony Nader, MD, PhD) delivered the keynote address under the auspices and presence of the Shankaracharya of Jyotir Math, Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati. Dr. Nader’s keynote laid the groundwork for a scientific view of the Veda.

In addition to Dr. Morris, faculty presenters included John Hagelin, Keith Wallace, Robert Schneider, Cathy Gorini, Fred Travis, and John Fagan. Also presenting were Trustees Michael Dilbeck, Susie Dilbeck, and Ram Srivastava.

“The conference opened many channels, and there will be substantial follow-up,” said Dr. Schneider, who presented on two elements of Vedic health care: first, a holistic approach to health care that has been validated by modern science and second, initiatives to establish integrative medical colleges and hospitals to implement Vedic health care.

“There was a very warm feeling among all the different types of people, which included swamis, government officials, and leaders of Maharishi’s organizations,” Dr. Gorini said. “It was a great ice-breaking.” Her talk was about zero and how this concept of observing emptiness was an invention of the Vedic tradition.

Dr. Morris introduced the audience to Maharishi University of Management and described how it is a model of modern Vedic living. “The fact that the ideal of Vedic living can be found in the heart of America really excited their imaginations,” Dr. Morris said.

Dr. Hagelin’s three presentations covered Veda and physics; the practical application of Vedic Science for a unified field-based, Vedic civilization; and how the science of Yagya can bring about global transformation through Vedic recitation.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“With the return of Vedic civilization, there will be a return of knowledge-bound understanding, knowledge-bound behavior, knowledge-bound society. Knowledge-bound — that means total knowledge of natural law. Total knowledge of natural law — in the Vedic literature there are forty values of the Veda, which details the forty values of knowledge. Total knowledge has been divided into forty values, and all those forty values become lively in the transcendental consciousness.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, July 17, 2002 press conference

New Meta-Analysis Shows Reduction in Blood Pressure

A new meta-analysis published last month in the Journal of Human Hypertension that pooled data from 12 studies involving 996 subjects found a clinically meaningful reduction in blood pressure associated with practice of the Transcendental Meditation® technique.

The meta-analysis comes on the heels of last year’s statement by the American Heart Association that the Transcendental Meditation technique may be considered by physicians as a treatment for high blood pressure. That statement was based in part on older meta-analyses published in 2007 and 2008. The new meta-analysis includes the latest studies.

“This was a very thorough, high-quality, and fair review,” said researcher David Orme-Johnson. He said that the review found consistent results among the studies when taking into account variables such as age and initial blood pressure. In addition, the review found all 12 studies to be acceptably rigorous.

The subgroup meta-analyses were especially thorough and found some interesting results, such as older subjects showing greater declines in systolic blood pressure, but not diastolic, compared to younger subjects.

For diastolic blood pressure, younger subjects showed a greater reduction.

The meta-analysis was conducted by researchers affiliated with Lanzhou University in China and the University of Southern California.
A record 126 students arrived for the Computer Professionals February entry, helping to boost enrollment at MUM to 1,429 students, which is itself a record. The total number of students on the Fairfield campus as of mid-February was 825. In addition, 511 students are taking courses via distance education.

The large number of distance education students is due to the Computer Professionals program, whose students spend six months on campus before beginning the practicum phase of their studies during which they work at companies around the U.S. while finishing their degrees.

The total enrollment also includes 87 students in South Africa. Students at Maharishi Invincibility Institute (MII) in Johannesburg do their lower-division work through MII and then enroll in the MUM business major for their final two years, taking their courses via distance education.

And finally, the total also includes 24 non-degree-seeking students — those who aren’t in a program but are taking a stand-alone course, typically in the areas of Maharishi Vedic ScienceSM, business, and Maharishi AyurVedaSM.

Graduate students are by far the largest segment of the student body, numbering 1,078. Of those, 783 are enrolled in the MS in computer science.

Of the degree-seeking students, 406 are from the U.S. and 1,002 are from over 80 countries around the world. The recent group of newly arrived computer students included 47 from Nepal.

Currently there are 353 undergraduate students, with Media and Communications being the largest major, followed by Physiology and Health.

The Computer Professionals students hail from 47 countries, with 148 being from Nepal, 125 from Ethiopia, 75 from China, 72 from Bangladesh, 49 from Egypt, 35 from Mongolia, 32 from Vietnam, and 32 from India.

While most of the Computer Professional students come from other countries, currently 44 are U.S. students, including three U.S. citizens and the rest being U.S. permanent residents.

Altogether in all programs, MUM has students from 83 countries, including 329 from the U.S., 161 from Nepal, 145 from Ethiopia, 104 from China, 73 from Bangladesh, 50 from Egypt, 49 from India, 45 from Mongolia, 34 from Vietnam, 31 from the Philippines, 24 from Eritrea, 23 from Jordan, 23 from Pakistan, and 19 from Cambodia.

Professor Mohanraj Publishes Article on Data Security

Computer science professor Renuka Mohanraj has recently published an article on data security. Titled “MANET Routing and Data Security with Multiple Packet Collision Control Using Acyclic Node-Links," the article was published in Computer Science and Applications.

In her article, Dr. Mohanraj looked at security issues facing the transmission of information over mobile networks, such as the security issues faced by users of WiFi hotspots. She describes the complexity of the issues and proposes a multipath secure routing method.

Business Students Win Toastmaster Awards

Two MUM business students received awards at a meeting of the Fairfield Toastmasters Club last month.

MBA student Luke Hillis won an award for his prepared speech “Getting to Bed on Time” and Ivan Garcia for his impromptu talk on the Valentine’s Day theme “Roses or Chocolates?”

Mr. Hillis is a member of Toastmasters. Mr. Garcia and his classmates in a management course on communication attended as guests. Along with Mr. Garcia, three other students bravely volunteered to present during the impromptu talks portion of the meeting.

Both talks will be available at www.youtube.com/user/FFMediaCenter. (Click on playlists in the top menu and then choose Toastmasters and then select the February 10 meeting.)
Students in a course on global sustainability, which includes the study of policy, attended the Iowa Environmental Council’s “lobby day” at the capitol in Des Moines and spoke to lawmakers about environmental policy. They are pictured here with representative Curt Hanson.

Students Lobby Lawmakers in Des Moines

Students in a course on global sustainability traveled to the Iowa capitol in Des Moines last month to lobby lawmakers about environmental policy.

The student’s lobbying efforts were part of Environmental Lobby Day, an annual event organized by the Iowa Environmental Council that this year involved over 250 people and 35 organizations.

“The capitol is currently in its legislative session, and the class members were fascinated by the energy or ‘buzz’ throughout the building,” said John Collins, who taught the course. “They understood the whole process to be Iowa collective consciousness being collapsed into specific legislation and other policy measures.”

The students spoke to various environmental pressure groups and met Senator Bolkcom, the leading environmental legislator. They discussed water issues and a possible increase in the gasoline tax.

Professor Collins said the students weren’t entirely impressed by everything they saw, including what appeared to be wasteful expense and a ponderous legislative system.

“They felt that the capitol isn’t legislating for the changes students want to see in Iowa,” Professor Collins said. “But overall they felt it was a valuable experience, and two students want to look for internships with leading politicians.”

Pocket-Sized Art Now Showing in Unity Gallery

Unity Gallery in the Library is currently hosting We Got Spirit, Yes We Do, an exhibit of pocket-sized artworks by 75 contemporary artists that has been organized by the Madison, Wisconsin-based project space Lovey Town.

The works are presented in a series of miniature exhibition spaces installed throughout the gallery. Viewers who attended the opening had the option of having their photographs taken for paper dolls that have been placed in the tiny galleries along with the artworks.

The exhibit will continue through April 2.