Study Abroad Course in India Planned

Students and others will be able to experience Maharishi’s India, the deep ancient Vedic culture that exists today, on a forthcoming tour Jan. 11 to Feb. 16, 2016.

Leading the course will be Cathy Gorini, dean of faculty, and Tom Brooks, vice-president of expansion.

The six-week course will include a week at the Brahmasthan of India that will entail long meditation, listening to live Vedic performances, and study of Maharishi Vedic Science™. Participants will hear 1,331 Vedic pandits perform Rudra Bhishek.

Students will also have the opportunity to read from Maharishi’s books and from branches of the Vedic literature, including the Ramayana.

Also on the itinerary will be four weeks of travel to sites around India, including Allahabad, where the memorial to Maharishi is located, and the ashram of the Shankaracharya, where Maharishi spent most of his 13 years with guru Dev.

Other highlights will be the beaches of Kerala, with day trips to Kanyakumari, where Maharishi first began teaching, and to Trivandrum, where he gave his first lectures. Other sites will be Varanasi, Sarnath (where Budha gave his first lecture), the Taj Mahal, and Rishikesh.

This will be a fully guided tour with comfortable hotels and healthy food.

An informational meeting and slide show of past trips will be held Wednesday, May 6, at 7:45 p.m. and Thursday, May 7, at 3:00 p.m. in Festival Hall.

See www.mum.edu/academics/other-learning-opportunities to be put on a mailing list for more information.

MUM Launches Integrative Medicine MD/MS Program

After seeking for years to offer a medical degree, MUM will begin collaborating in the coming academic year with a modern medicine school to provide a medical degree in integrative medicine.

Students in the program will receive dual degrees: 1) an MD in conventional medical practice from St. Martinus University Faculty of Medicine in Curacao and 2) an MS in Maharishi AyurVeda and Integrative Medicine from MUM. The four-year curriculum will integrate the two approaches to medicine, with one class period per day on natural and traditional medicine.

MUM faculty will travel to Curacao in the Caribbean to teach onsite; in addition, MUM will be hiring a new faculty member who will be based in Curacao.

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“The students will receive a high level of training in science and in evidence-based approaches to both types of medicine,” said Robert Schneider, MD, FACC, dean of MUM’s Maharishi College of Perfect Health. “They will be well qualified to fill the increasing number of job openings in integrative medicine clinics and centers in the U.S.”

Students who enroll in the program will spend their first two years at the St. Martinus campus studying the basic science courses of medicine. In their third and fourth years, they will rotate through American hospitals for clinical training in specialties such as internal medicine, surgery, family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, and psychiatry. One of their rotations will be the MUM campus clinic directed by Dr. Jim Davis. During the clinical rotations, students will continue their studies to integrate modern medical and natural medical practices via ongoing teleseminars with MUM faculty.

“St. Martinus has a strong track record of training doctors who subsequently practice in the U.S. and Canada,” Dr. Schneider said. “Approximately 97% of their graduates obtain residencies in North America, which is a common measure of success for a medical school. A residency is the last step before licensure.”

Dr. Schneider said that the MUM/SMU program in integrative medicine is unique, and that he feels the integrative medicine specialty will be in great demand whether the graduates pursue clinical practice, academics, or public service/policy.

As the students learn facets of conventional medicine, such as the organ system, each day they’ll spend one class learning how that correlates with Maharishi AyurVeda. The class will also include introductions to other traditional systems.

For example, they’ll learn to treat high blood pressure with pharmaceuticals in their conventional education, and then in their integrative medicine study they’ll learn non-drug methods such as the Transcendental Meditation® technique and other approaches.

To learn more, see the forthcoming announcements at www.mum.edu or www.martinus.edu.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“We are promoting Vedic education for full development of the brain physiology of every individual, so that he may enjoy what life really is. Life of the individual is really cosmic. Life of the individual is cosmic. Consciousness is the instrument which creates and administers and evolves everything of the physical world.” — Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Sept. 11, 2002 press conference

New MA in Sustainable Living Oriented Toward Change Makers

A hands-on approach and an orientation toward those who want to make a change in the world are prominent and unique features of a new MA in Sustainable Living that will begin this fall.

During the first year of the program students will spend half their time in class and half in the community addressing challenges. The second year will be entirely devoted to going out and working on a major project wherever there is a need, with one option being a 25-month hitch in the Peace Corps.

“This really makes the program unique,” said David Fisher, chair of the Department of Sustainable Living, “We have a lot more practical application than other programs.”

Dr. Fisher said local challenges that could be a focus for students might include the city’s recurring wastewater overflows, the housing shortage, the percentage of people in the county living below the poverty line, and the proposed Bakken oil pipeline.

Working in teams of three or four, the students will identify a problem, meet with faculty and a project coordinator to design a strategy for dealing with it, and then go out and tackle the challenge.

In some cases the students will work within structures that already exist, such as collaborating with Fairfield Sustainability Coordinator Scott Timm. Dr. Fisher said organizations that would receive attention could be the hospital, library, or campus. In every case, the goal is to create “deep sustainability.”

“Deep sustainability includes going beyond efficiency and substitution when necessary to radically re-design systems from the ground up,” Dr. Fisher said.

The program is oriented both toward revolutionaries — those who prefer to spend their energy imagining new realities and designing creative solutions to implement them — and toward transformers — those who recognize the value of current structures and strive to work at high levels within existing organizations and structures, creating change from within.

In addition to the hands-on approach, the newly designed courses will focus on collaborative learning rather than the usual lecture method. Students will spend much of their time analyzing and discussing issues that are raised in assigned readings and documentaries.

The Review

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MUM Receives Student Actions Award

Maharishi University of Management has been announced as a recipient of the Silver Level Student Actions Awards for the 2014 fall semester.

The award honors undergraduate schools for student demonstrated leadership, momentum, and impact of green, caring, and healthy actions. Silver Level schools have student leaders committed to student and group activation across campus through focused challenges and delivering on impact targets.

A total of 87 schools were recently recognized for excellence during the fall 2014 semester. The complete list is available on the myActions website at campus.myactions.org/student-actions-awards.

Student Club Focuses on Needs of Veterans

A newly formed student club focused on the needs of veterans has been meeting twice a month and has been organizing community service projects.

Club founder Danny Hitchings said the goal is to help veterans heal and that community service is a part of healing. The projects of the club have included helping to reorganize and clean the Recreation Center weight room.

The initial stage is to bring together veterans who are students or are living in the local community for mutual support and communication. A long-term goal is to look for broader opportunities to support veterans, including helping to introduce them to the Transcendental Meditation technique.

The club meets on the first and third Saturday of the month at 2:30 p.m. in the Trustees Board Room in the Argiro Student Center. Those who are not vets are also welcome. For more information, contact Mr. Hitchings at hitchingsdanny@yahoo.com.

Free Course on Sustainable Development

Green Iowa Americorps is currently offering a free Coursera class on Introduction to Sustainable Development.

This course helps participants understand the key challenges and pathways to sustainable development — that is, economic development that is also socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. Participants meet to watch the Coursera videos and then Sustainable Living students lead a discussion.

The course is meeting every Tuesday evening 7:00–8:00 p.m. through May 5. The meetings are being held in room 12 of the Sustainable Living building.

Those interested can drop in on any class, since each class is being treated as a separate event.

Students in Lynch MA Begin Filming

Students in the David Lynch MA in Film are gearing up to film their final projects, with some even starting production late last month.

In preparation for filming, the students have posted crowdfunding pages about their projects. Each page gives information about the projects and the filmmakers, and typically also includes a video as well as updates on progress.

For a listing of each of the projects, including a synopsis and link to the film's crowdfunding page, see www.mum.edu/support-our-film-troops.

Top CEO Speaks on Conscious Leadership

Scott Brickman, retired chairman and CEO of the largest commercial landscaping company in the U.S. with over 10,000 employees, recently spoke on campus about the “15 commitments of conscious leadership.”

Conscious leadership organizations focus on long-term results rather than short-term profits, Mr. Brickman said. They also value team performance, compassion and caring, training and development, and transparency. Rather than using bonuses to motivate employees, conscious leadership organizations use higher forms of motivation such as intrinsic rewards to leverage each individual’s unique capacities.

“For me true success and happiness is following my own purpose,” Mr. Brickman said. “None of us ever created this business to make money. That was a byproduct of following our values.”

Mr. Brickman also practices the Transcendental Meditation technique, which he described as the basis of everything he practices. “When you know what consciousness is,” he said, “it drives you to a well-rounded life, which is success.”

The Brickman Group was founded in the 1930s by Mr. Brickman's grandfather, and was subsequently headed by his father. But it was Scott Brickman who built the company into the national leader it is today.

He serves as a board member and an advisor to many organizations and has received numerous awards, including Ernst and Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the Society of Financial Professionals National Capital Business Ethics Award.

Mr. Brickman's presentation was part of MUM’s Distinguished Lecture Series. He was introduced by Jeffrey Abramson, chairman of the Board of Trustees at MUM, who had met Mr. Brickman five years ago when the Brickman Group was providing landscape maintenance services for the properties owned by Mr. Abramson's company.
India Conference Videos Now Online

Videos from the recent Vedic India conference are now being posted online.

The videos document the historic 3-day International Conference to Re-establish Ideal Vedic India held in New Delhi February 20–22 that featured many top Indian and international scientists and Vedic leaders.

Videos can be found on the YouTube channel at tinyurl.com/q2afla2, on the website www.vedicindiafoundation.org, and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/foundationforvedicindia.

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 Gems are wonderful gifts of nature that have been created and refined over thousands of years by the immense organizing power of Natural Law. Gems represent the most compact and powerful expression of the intelligence and order of Natural Law. The knowledge of the correct recommendation, type, quality and use of gemstones is now available to create greater harmony in life. Each of the nine grahas (planets), including the two lunar nodes, has a corresponding gemstone. For optimal influence, each gem must meet specific criteria of purity, color, shape, etc. A very small proportion of the gems available today satisfies the required criteria and we offer only those gems that meet these rigorous criteria.