MUM Partners with Peace Corps to Offer MA Degree

Students can now earn an MA in sustainable living while also participating in the U.S. Peace Corps, thanks to a new partnership between MUM and the Peace Corps Masters International Program.

In the two-year MA in sustainable living, students spend half of their time in class during their first year and the other half doing local field work in sustainability. They then spend a second year doing individual sustainability projects in community building.

MUM students will now have the option of fulfilling their individual field experience in the Peace Corps. They join the Peace Corps at the beginning of their second year at MUM for a two-year tour of service in their assigned country.

The MA in sustainable living launched this fall, with a hands-on approach and an orientation toward those who want to make a change in the world.

Robert Abreu, a 2013 sustainable living alum who served in the peace Corps in Namibia, feels that MUM students are well suited for the peace Corps.

"MUM students will bring out the best in their communities by bringing the inner to the outer and working from a meaningful level of thought and action," he said.

The new MA program is oriented both toward revolutionaries — those who imagine new realities and design creative solutions — and toward transformers — those who recognize the value of current structures and strive to work at high levels within existing organizations to create change from within.

Students Apprentice with Leaders of Maharishi’s Organizations

A group of 15 students and alumni traveled to Vlodrop, Netherlands, this summer to apprentice under leaders of Maharishi’s worldwide organizations in preparation to assume major leadership responsibilities in the future.

As members of Enlightened Leadership International (ELI), the MUM group was among 83 worldwide members who spent 10 days meeting with officials to learn about various areas of administrative responsibility, such as education, communication, and culture. They listened to presentations and had the opportunity to ask questions in order to thoroughly understand each area.

They then selected specific areas to work in and created teams. They then began working on projects.

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According to Adrienne Schoenfeld, founder and executive director of ELI, the focus of the ELI Mentorship and Apprenticeship Programme is to form a relationship between the senior and junior leaders.

“The two groups worked in perfect harmony to achieve maximum growth,” Ms. Schoenfeld said. “It was a pivotal moment in our organization. Maharishi’s knowledge is in good hands for generations to come.”

The ELI apprentices are working with Ministers of the Global Country of World Peace, the umbrella organization for Maharishi’s teachings worldwide, and also with Rajas, who lead the Transcendental Meditation organizations in specific countries.

The teams formed this summer each have 10–15 members and are continuing to meet twice a month with the various Ministers and Rajas via videoconference. They are also continuing to grow their teams by adding ELI members worldwide who weren’t able to attend the apprenticeship in the Netherlands.

Student Andrew Rushing met with Raja Howard Chancellor to discuss how to make the Maharishi PurushaSM program accessible to young men by bringing back the option for a more active Purusha lifestyle for those who want to be on the Purusha program, but also engage in activity.

“Working with Raja Chancellor is fascinating,” Mr. Rushing said. “He is an exemplar of Maharishi’s knowledge and has a very progressive way of thinking.”

Maharaja Adhiraj Rajaram, who heads the Global Country of World Peace, addressed the group and encouraged the young leaders to follow their hearts.

“You are a great asset to the movement, both the directors in the field, of course, with their great experience and their ability to make all of these things actually happen in the field,” he said. “And also the new generation, the Enlightened Leadership, and that is very powerful and very important for the movement because the continuity has to be there, and also because time changes.”

FROM THE FOUNDER

“B ut the light is only for those who don’t want to be remaining in darkness. Those who want to be in darkness, they must remain in darkness and face the consequences of tumbling down everywhere in the darkness. So, you have a choice, you have a choice, because your own Self is the Light of God, which is almighty, which is everywhere, omnipresent.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, April 2, 2003 press conference

New Courses in Philosophy of Science, Astronomy This Fall

Due to the central place physics has in the integration of science and spirituality, MUM is strengthening the physics program, with two new courses being offered this fall: philosophy of science and astronomy.

Students who want to understand clearly the nature of the scientific method and who are interested in topics such as the relationship of science and religion will have an opportunity to learn about this and more in the philosophy of science course taught in the October block by professor David Scharf.

Dr. Scharf holds a PhD in the philosophy of science from Johns Hopkins University, where he specifically researched the foundations of physics. His current research is on the mind/brain interaction and how it relates to the immortality of the soul.

Other topics in the course will include the scientific study of consciousness and a fascinating experiment known as the quantum eraser.

This course, which doesn’t have any prerequisites, satisfies both the undergraduate distribution requirement in the humanities and the requirement for a course in creative and critical thinking. It also counts toward the minor in physics.

In December, space scientist Ashley Deans will teach a course on astronomy and cosmology that will give students the opportunity to learn about astronomical observation and the evolution of the universe.

Topics will include Kepler’s and Newton’s laws, sky charts, the sun and planets, the search for exoplanets and extra-terrestrial intelligence, stellar formation and evolution, relativity, black holes, pulsars, quasars, galaxies, the big bang and inflation, the search for dark matter, dark energy, and current theories of the past and future of the universe.

The course will be algebra-based, with MATH 153 as a prerequisite.

Students have the opportunity to earn a minor in physics or to take the physics track in the math major.

“Physics looks at the deepest level of nature, and the ultimate nature of reality is quite different from what had been expected,” Dr. Scharf said. “The implications are profound. In the physics program we study this exciting area without getting too technical.”

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Journal Highlights
Lean Management Implementation

An article summarizing a step-by-step project to improve lean processes at MUM was recently published by the peer-reviewed journal *Quality Assurance for Higher Education*.

Written by Andrew Bargerstock, director of the MBA program, and department administrator Sylvia Richards, the article describes how the business department’s academic assessment process was streamlined and simplified by conducting a kaizen (process improvement) event using the classic Lean Six Sigma methodology.

The specific application was the report completed at the end of each course by faculty in the business department in order to improve the quality of individual courses. Due to a lower than expected compliance rate, dean Scott Herriott had targeted this process as a good pilot study for a kaizen event.

Ms. Richards oversaw the two-week project to improve the process, with the result being that compliance rates improved dramatically.

Maharishi Institute
Graduates Succeed in Job Market
BY LIVIA COLE

Last December the second class of students graduated with MUM business degrees from the Maharishi Invincibility Institute (MII) in Johannesburg, South Africa, with 97% of the 46 graduates finding employment.

In fact, they’re in demand, and the companies who hire them praise their hard work, commitment, initiative, and solutions-driven nature.

One of the world’s largest management consulting and technology services firms has hired 17 graduates so far, as well as 10 student interns.

“The head of one of the client areas said that the MII students just shine; they are head and shoulders above graduates from other universities, said Taddy Blecher, founder and co-director of the MII.”

The leader of the division who did the technical interviews said that in 19 years he has never interviewed such excellent candidates coming from either a university or directly from the job market. This company now has requested to hire an additional 100 MII students in the short term to work in their business-process outsourcing division.

Another large multinational company initially hired seven MII graduates, three of whom have won the employee-of-the-month award. The company now employs 21 MII graduates.

“These are the kinds of graduates that Consciousness-Based education continues to develop,” said Dr. Blecher.

MII, established in 2007, offers students 86 credits of coursework and a work-study program to help fund their tuition and gain practical skills. Students then enroll at MUM for the final years of their degrees and receive online instruction from MUM faculty, earning bachelor’s degrees in business.

MUM hosts Deep Green Symposium and Colloquy

Two events this past summer brought together experts who share a deep respect for nature and the Earth, and a desire for a more holistic approach to making the world a better and healthier place to live.

The University’s first annual Colloquy on Deep Sustainability, hosted by the Sustainable Living Department, featured 20 top experts from around the country to participate in a discussion about the future direction of sustainability initiatives.

Deep sustainability is a worldview that moves sustainability beyond energy efficiency and substituting newer technologies for older technologies. It takes a more fundamental and holistic approach and challenges people to rethink the fundamental nature of their relationships with each other and with the entire Earth — and redefines what it means to be truly human.

The Fourth Annual Deep Green Symposium, hosted by the Management Department, featured 16 invited speakers, including two from Harvard University, one from India, and many from MUM and around the country to present their research and perspectives on sustainability.

The speakers presented their research from philosophical, organizational, and technical perspectives. Faculty members Lonnie Gamble and Travis Cox defined deep sustainability as going beyond efficiency and substitution. Instead, it’s based on a worldview that uses ecology as a metaphor rather than the machine, holism rather than reductionism. It complements science with many ways of knowing and is grounded in an experiential and intellectual understanding of the unity that underlies the surface diversity of life.

Greg Thatcher
Offering Exhibits

Greg Thatcher, former Maharishi School art teacher, will have three major one-man shows this fall.

He is currently exhibiting his English Work at Southeastern College in Burlington until October 2. A gallery walk and reception will be held on Friday, September 25, at noon. The gallery is located at 1500 West Agency Rd. in West Burlington, Iowa.

The next show will be at the University of Iowa Hospital Museum in Iowa City from the beginning of November. And a third show will open at the Blanden Memorial Museum in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Volunteers Invited

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program), a service organization for adults age 55 and over, invites community members to volunteer their time for as little as one hour per week.

If interested, contact John Miller, Jefferson County RSVP Coordinator. Call (641) 919-4242 or email j.miller@wapellocouw.org. See www.wapellocouw.org/rsvp.
Director of Chinese Association Visits MUM

Kong Lingtao, executive director of the SinoAmerican Friendship Association and a 76th-generation descendent of Confucius, visited MUM this past summer at the invitation of faculty member Shi Ye (Linlin).

In a meeting with University officials, Mr. Kong explored collaboration opportunities on various levels, including recruiting students from his schools in China and UK, cultural exchanges, student and faculty rotation, and more.

Mr. Kong is also founder and chair of the Confucius International Education Group (CIEG); vice president of the China Planning Association; and chairman of the Research Association of Chinese Traditional Business Organizations’ Culture.

Mr. Kong also had lunch with Mayor Ed Malloy and a dinner with Jeffrey Abramson, chair of the MUM Board of Trustees, MUM Executive Vice-President Craig Pearson, and Maharishi School Director Richard Beall at the home of Trustee Bob Daniels.

After his stay in Fairfield, Mr. Kong continued his trip to Chicago accompanied by Linlin. They had a web conference meeting with more than 40 employees from one of his campuses, in which Mr. Kong spoke highly of MUM and Maharishi School. He announced to his executive team that CIEG would have various collaborations with MUM and Maharishi School in the near future.

New Books Explore Spiritual Awakening and Enlightenment

Two books detailing the growth of spirituality and enlightenment via the Transcendental Meditation technique have recently been published.

*Awaken To Your Divinity: Creating Your Emotional Fitness: The Missing Link to Spiritual Growth* is a 172-page book focused on spiritual growth and the idea that humans are divine beings in human form, with the purpose of experiencing and growing in the physical world.

Authored by MUM adjunct professor David Lee Sheng Tin, PhD, and available on Amazon, the book shows the important role emotions play in enhancing health and spiritual growth. Dr. Lee explains how transcending via the Transcendental Meditation technique is the key to awakening one’s spiritual nature.

Also available is *The Transcendental Meditation Technique The Journey of Enlightenment*, by Ann Purcell, a full-time teacher of the Transcendental Meditation® technique since 1973.

Through her own experiences and those of Transcendental Meditation practitioners throughout the world, Ms. Purcell explains the secret to personal fulfillment, spontaneity, inner peace, and balance.

The book is available at the University Store in the Argiro Student Center.

Free Tennis Workshop for Students

Students interested in learning to play tennis are invited to take a Saturday afternoon workshop that meets on three consecutive Saturdays in upcoming blocks.

To sign up, email kdaley@mum.edu.

Blue Zone Celebration: Free Movie and Popcorn

Celebrate Fairfield’s becoming a Blue Zones community with a free movie (*McFarland USA*) and free popcorn.

Fairfield Central Park, Saturday, Sept. 19, 7:30 pm.

Birthdays

*The Review* will be publishing birthdays again this year so that everyone can be honored on his or her birthday.

To omit your birthday, e-mail jkarpen@mum.edu, or call 472-0778.