Affordable Housing Now Available on Pandit Campus

Due to a reduction in the Maharishi Vedic Pandit project, housing on a section of the Pandit campus in Maharishi Vedic City is now being renovated to create affordable short- and long-term accommodations for Invincible America Assembly (IAA) participants, including those not receiving a grant.

The newly assigned section of the campus has been designated IAA Northwest Campus. Ten buildings, each containing four 2-bedroom suites, have been renovated and are beginning to fill up. These suites are ideal for short- and long-term stays on the IAA.

In addition, renovation has begun on the first four of 50 two-bedroom cottages suitable for affordable IAA retirement accommodations. Named the “IdeaLife Assembly,” this will be available soon.

“Everyone remarks on the deep, quiet happiness they feel, even just walking around on this campus and more so in meditation,” said Hinton Clabaugh, manager of the new campus.

The campus includes a small lake, walking trails, meeting halls, a dining hall, and a recreation center. The halls for group program are particularly comfortable. The IA Assembly fee including accommodation for a 2-room suite is $385 per month, long term, including utilities and Internet. The IdeaLife Assembly fee, including accommodation for a private 2-bedroom cottage, is $440 per month, plus utilities. The price is slightly higher for short-term assembly participation.

Contact campusmanager@tm.org or (641) 451-7331 for more information.

Students to Produce Web TV Series in New Track in Film MA

Applications are streaming in from highly qualified students for the forthcoming TV track in the David Lynch MA in Film, during which they will collaborate on producing a web-based TV series.

Among the teachers in the new track will be Hollywood producer Bill Borden, whose 35 movies include *Mission: Impossible III* and *La Bamba*, and screenwriter Ellen Sandler, whose credits include co-executive producer of the popular TV series *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

The program will launch in February, with approximately 25 students expected to enroll. Each student will write, direct, and produce a seven-minute episode. Toward the end of the three-semester program, the students will head to Los Angeles to pitch their completed series.

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The first semester will focus on screenwriting. During the latter part of the semester, the students will have seminars on acting, directing, and producing. They’ll also work on preproduction.

In the fall semester next year they will film their episodes, and will then finish editing them during spring semester 2017.

Toward the end of the spring semester, they will head to Los Angeles to meet with David Lynch and to pitch their TV series to distributors, agents, and studios.

“This program is unusual because there’s a possibility their series could get picked up by one of the many companies such as Amazon that now offer streaming video,” said new faculty member Michael Barnard, who is heading the program. “In other filmmaking programs, students do a thesis film, but they rarely get picked up.”

Screenwriting will be taught by Ms. Sandler with assistance from Dorothy Rompalske. Ms. Sandler was nominated for an Emmy for Everybody Loves Raymond, and has written for many other primetime network television comedies, including ABC’s Coach. She has created original television pilots for ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox Family, Oxygen Network, and the Disney Channel.

She is also the author of The TV Writer’s Workbook: A Creative Approach To Television Scripts.

Ms. Rompalske, an adjunct professor of screenwriting at Brooklyn College in New York, wrote the script for “Cinema Combat: Hollywood Goes To War” that aired on the AMC cable network.

Her credits include the episode “Quitting Cold” for the NYC-based television series Here is New York, which received an Emmy for screenwriting.

Mr. Barnard, the program director, has created hundreds of films, many of which have won awards in various festivals and competitions. His films include documentaries about Maharishi and the Transcendental Meditation® technique.

Producer Bill Borden is scheduled to come to campus once a month for several days to work with the students. And filmmaker David Lynch will occasionally connect with the students via Skype.

St. Maarten Medical School Adopts Consciousness-Based Education

MUM is now partnering with a second medical school in the Caribbean, which in this case will entail the school’s entire curriculum being designed to offer integrative medicine and Consciousness-Based™ education.

American University of Integrative Medicine on the island of St. Maarten has signed a memorandum of agreement with MUM, and officials from the school visited campus earlier this month to finalize the details of the collaboration.

That collaboration will entail three facets. The first will be a seven-year BS-MD program that will include three years of study of pre-integrative medicine at MUM and then four years at AUIS.

“It will be seamless, with the students learning about Maharishi AyurVeda® and integrative medicine here on campus for their BS degree and then continuing their Consciousness-Based education for their MD degree at AUIS,” said Robert Schneider, MD, dean of the Maharishi College of Perfect Health.

The students will then go on to their residency training in the US that’s required of all new MDs.

MUM will be enrolling students for this new pre-integrative medicine track starting next February.

The second facet of the collaboration will be for students who have done their undergraduate work elsewhere. AUIS, which has over 300 medical students, is collaborating with MUM to orient their curriculum to Maharishi AyurVeda and integrative medicine. All medical students entering AUIS beginning the fall of 2016 will take the new curriculum.

The third facet of the agreement entails students from AUIS coming to Fairfield during the clinical rotation period of their medical degree for two of their rotations. All students will be required to take an integrative medicine rotation in the Maharishi AyurVeda clinic and a medical research rotation at MUM’s Institute for Natural Medicine & Prevention.

AUIS came under new ownership about two years ago, and was renamed American University of Integrative Medicine, Dr. Schneider said.

“The new owners decided on their own to offer a holistic approach to medical education, as reflected in their name,” Dr. Schneider said. “Then they learned about MUM’s ongoing MD/MS program, and immediately decided they wanted to collaborate with us to bring the knowledge of total health to their students.”

FROM THE FOUNDER

“Immortality is your birthright, because the Unified Field is administering life in the universe. All life — today, tomorrow, next year, next century, the next millions of years — the same total natural law is the driver of everyone’s life, the same total natural law. This natural law means an agency, an intelligence, which is invincibly, all the time, existing in a progressive manner.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, April 18, 2007 press conference

Ken Daley, faculty, and Kesha Nelson, staff, recently attended the annual meeting of a regional council focused on eliminating health disparities among minorities during which they received awards for their leadership and service on the council.

Mr. Daley is a member of the 28-person Heartland Regional Health Equity Council (RHEC), one of 10 regional councils nationwide, and Mrs. Nelson is a former co-chair of the council.

The purpose of the annual meeting was to set goals for the coming year. Some of the projects that came out of the meeting include a toolkit for organizations and cities to measure whether services provided are culturally and linguistically appropriate, webinars on obtaining health insurance, and blogs related to health equity issues.

The Heartland RHEC includes Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. The mission of the regional councils, which partner with the US Department of Health and Human Services, is to promote health equity through the creation, promotion, and integration of policies and programs to eliminate health inequities.

School Student Wins Science Award

Maharishi School ninth grader Pranav Chhalliyil continues to collect awards for his science project on oral health.

In addition to winning the top award in the junior division at the state science fair last spring, his project was selected as the best in Iowa by the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge, a major national science competition that entails creating and submitting a video in which the student presents his or her project.

Mr. Chhalliyil’s study involving 88 subjects sought to identify the best cleaning methods for oral hygiene.

He tested eight methods by performing one type of cleaning and then measuring the amount of bacteria in the mouth the next day. He found that the two best methods were teeth brushing plus tongue cleaning, and finger rubbing plus water swishing.

He said that the latter approach is ideal for developing countries because it is easy, convenient, and cost effective.

He was also among the 300 semifinalists in the Broadcom MASTERS national science competition that were selected from the 60,000 students who participated nationwide. He plans to continue research on the role of oral cleansing.

Student Software Competition to Promote Maharishi AyurVeda

Computer science students will have the opportunity to win significant cash prizes by participating in a competition over winter break that will entail creating new tools such as smartphone apps for promoting Maharishi AyurVeda worldwide.

Called DevFest, the competition will be open to students in the Computer Professionals Program and others. It will be a carefully structured seven-day on-campus event, and the activities will range from generating ideas and teaming, to developing the solutions and evaluating outcomes.

“We are very excited about bringing this new kind of a learning technique to MUM,” said professor Anil Maheshwari, the lead organizer. “The DevFest will also help develop new tools and channels to make Maharishi AyurVeda more accessible to the world.”

All Computer Professionals students who choose to stay on campus during the Christmas break will be invited to participate, with about 150–200 expected to be involved.

IBM Gives Free Access to Artificial Intelligence System

IBM’s Watson famously beat the Jeopardy quiz show’s world champion in 2011, and now IBM has made this same intelligent system available to MUM for free as part of the University’s existing relationship with the company.

Called “Watson Analytics,” this platform is being customized for application in a range of fields, such as medical diagnosis and forecasting consumer demand. It is able to understand natural language and uses “machine learning” to analyze large amounts of unstructured data.

“We are excited to have the use of this cutting-edge system for all faculty and students, and are planning to use it in the future offerings of the Big Data Analytics courses,” said Professor Anil Maheshwari, who arranged for this free offer.

Library Refurbishing Includes Circulation Desk, Signage

Recent upgrades in the library to make it more appealing to patrons include a refurbished circulation desk and new carpet. In addition, there are also plans to upgrade the signage to make it easier to find books.

The original counter top of the circulation desk had deteriorated, and has now been replaced by carpenter Larry Queen with a muted blue counter top. He also sanded and refinished the wood grain paneling on the sides of the desk, restoring the natural luster.
AmeriCorps Offering Free Energy Audits

Green Iowa AmeriCorps volunteers are offering free energy audits again this year, as well as free or low-cost weatherization. The service is available to everyone in Jefferson County. The audit entails checking a home to see how tight it is and to determine where cold air is getting in and warm air escaping, such as cracks, windows, doors, and outlets.

Then the volunteers fix the leaks, such as putting weather stripping around doors. This weatherization is free for those with a low income, and low cost for others, typically costing less than $25 for materials.

Those interested in receiving a free energy audit can call 641 472-7000, ext. 4212 or email greeniowamum@gmail.com.

Chamber Singers to Present Holiday Concerts

The Chamber Singers of Southeast Iowa will present this year’s holiday concert, “A Gift of Song,” on Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13, at 8:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 South Main Street.

In their 24 years of performing, the Chamber Singers have sung more than 500 choral works from 40 countries, in styles ranging from Renaissance polyphony to classical works to modern pop and vocal jazz settings, with a wide range of world music included.

This year’s holiday offering continues this global tradition of song. Popular carols in arrangements from England, France, Spain, and Sweden are juxtaposed with less familiar but equally sublime works from Estonia, Israel, and the U.S.

Lively, rhythmic American gospel and dance-like numbers from Jamaica and Sierra Leone celebrate the holidays, while more contemplative and devotional works by both Renaissance and modern composers draw out the deep meaning of the season.

“We are so fortunate each year to be able to share beautiful musical gems with our Fairfield community,” says Elaine Reding, music director of the Chamber Singers. “Each of these songs embodies a unique combination of cultural and musical characteristics, and together they inspire a rich emotional experience of the holiday spirit around the globe. We look forward to presenting a wonderful evening of song for our audiences.”

Everyone is warmly invited to join the Chamber Singers on December 12 and 13 for “A Gift of Song.” For more information, call 472-1539.

There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering will be appreciated.

Campaign Inspires Group Program Worldwide

The MUM branch of Enlightened Leadership International has launched a social media campaign called #take20 that has spread all over Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The goal is to inspire all Meditators and Sidhas to harness the maximum power of natural law together in groups around the world.

Within days over 1,300 Meditators and Sidhas had joined the Facebook group #take20 for World Peace, which posts the locations and times in cities around the world for group practice of the Transcendental Meditation technique and the TM-Sidhi® program. It has also garnered attention from those who don’t yet practice the Transcendental Meditation technique. See www.facebook.com/groups/take20.

This campaign is using the hashtag #take20 on social media sites.

Everyone is invited to share the information about the #take20 campaign with all Transcendental Meditation centers worldwide so they can post program times and locations on the Facebook page directly. Or they can send this information to ELI at take20@ELInternational.org.