John Fagan Named Dean of Sustainability

John Fagan has returned to MUM after his recent career as an entrepreneur and expert on biosafety and food system sustainability, and has been named dean of the School of Sustainability.

Dr. Fagan began his career researching genetic links to cancer — research funded by millions of dollars in grants. He joined faculty in 1984 to head a PhD program in physiology and molecular biology while continuing his research. He eventually realized that his research using genetic engineering could cause more harm than good, and in 1994 he returned over $600,000 in grant funding to the National Institutes of Health.

He then became deeply involved in the global scientific debate on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and founded Global ID (then Genetic ID), which pioneered genetic testing methods for GMOs.

Global ID made news worldwide in 2000 when their testing discovered Kraft Food's taco shells contained GMO corn not approved for human consumption.

The company was sold three years ago and his rejoining MUM coincides with the launch of four new sustainability programs: the semester in Hawaii, the Regenerative Organic Agriculture Certificate Program, a set of community-based water courses, and a University and Community-Wide Sustainability Initiative.

Because of this significant expansion in offerings, the Department of Sustainable Living has now been designated the School of Sustainability.

Continued on Page 2

Alumna Artwork Now Being Sold by National Chain

By Livia Cole

A poster illustrating the alphabet that was created by Genevra (Daley) Bell ('09) is now being sold by the national chain Pottery Barn Kids after being one of the winners in a contest earlier this year. Pottery Barn stores specialize in home furnishings.

Ms. Bell’s “Animalphabet” poster was one of 7,320 submissions to a competition sponsored by the Minted website and the Pottery Barn Kids and Pottery Barn Teen chains. Out of those submissions, 31 were selected for national sales.

In her poster, each letter of the alphabet is accompanied by a cute drawing of an animal, with the animal’s name and other details corresponding with that letter of the alphabet. For example, to illustrate the letter “K,” Ms. Bell drew a koala in a kilt flying a kite.
This success is just one facet of Ms. Bell’s successful business that she launched over three years ago. She sells cards, calendars, and prints at craft shows and in retail stores around the Midwest. In addition, she sells her work through her website genevrabell.com.

A unique and particularly successful facet of her business is her custom portraits of pets, done on commission.

Ms. Bell, daughter of professor Ken Daley and Juliette Daley, earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts with an emphasis in ceramics. Although her clay pieces were also vehicles for illustration, she didn’t imagine she would one day make a living drawing animals.

After graduation she moved to England and worked in a pottery studio. When the studio closed, she began to paint instead. Not long after, a Fairfield gallery invited her to exhibit 15 animal portraits — which all sold the opening night. The success of that show turned her focus towards illustration.

In 2012, Ms. Bell and her husband moved back to Fairfield. She currently works part-time as a teaching assistant and administrator for the art department in addition to doing her artwork.

“My education was paramount to where I am and where I am going,” she said. “My experience in the art department was amazing, and that’s why I wanted to come back. I appreciated my education even more when I started working here in the classroom.”

She said she finds that her artistic and entrepreneurial activities are complementary. In addition to illustration, she does graphic design, logos, and window displays. She has also sold her ceramics at art shows.

“I really enjoy the business side, having an online store, and doing customer service,” she says.

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FROM THE FOUNDER

“This togetherness of unity and diversity is the discovery of the ultimate reality of life from the physical, objective, scientific approach. Physics, chemistry, and biology — all these different physical sciences — have succeeded in probing into the ultimate reality which has been proclaimed from the innumerable past by the Vedic text.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Feb. 1, 2006 press conference

MUM Sustainable Living Center Outperforms Expectations

BY LIVIA COLE

Because of its outstanding performance, MUM’s Sustainable Living Center has caught the attention of an organization called Getting to Net Zero, which keeps track of ultra-efficient buildings and their energy usage.

According to their calculations, the Center’s net Energy Use Intensity (EUI) was -0.5 in 2015, indicating that the building produced 5 percent more energy than it used. Net EUI is a measure of energy use per square foot per year minus renewable energy production. They said that the Center is among the highest-performing buildings they had encountered, especially given our harsh climate.

Net zero energy is a sought-after goal for many buildings in the world that rely on exceptional energy conservation and on-site renewable generation to meet all of their heating, cooling, and electricity needs. 2015 was the only year consistent data tracking was available at the Sustainable Living Center, but according to estimates, the building was even more efficient in previous years, producing as much as 30 percent more energy than it used.

“There are very few buildings in the world that can say they are net zero, and most of those are in climates that are far less demanding than ours,” said professor David Fisher. “That’s what makes the building so remarkable energywise.”

The building’s electricity comes from two sources: solar photovoltaic panels and a wind turbine. The heating is provided by solar hot water heaters. The heating and cooling are also supplemented by geothermal tubing. The building is currently grid-tied, feeding the excess capacity back to the MUM electrical grid for use by other buildings and drawing from the grid in times of insufficient production. The overall energy consumption of the building, however, is negative.

“There are a lot of systems in the building,” Dr. Fisher said. “It’s a living and growing demonstration building. I believe we could do even better.”

Ideal Energy, the local, alumni-owned company that installed the photovoltaic solar panels, is currently researching the feasibility of a battery-supported, off-the-grid system.

The Schwartz-Guich Sustainable Living Center, completed in 2012, includes classrooms, offices, labs, and a workshop. Other features include earth block walls for thermal mass, daylighting, and an exterior south wall that’s a greenhouse for passive solar heating.

The Review

Editor: Jim Karpen
Contributing Writer: Livia Cole

Maharishi University of Management
1000 N. 4th St., MR #694
Fairfield, IA 52557

jkarpem@mum.edu
641-472-0778
www.mum.edu/review

Published biweekly during the academic year.

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Running Club Wins Keosauqua Race

Last month three members of the MUM running club won first-place medals at the 10th annual Lacey-Keosauqua Park races.

On a sunny fall day the club took on the challenge of the major hills in Keosauqua Park. Vinodthan Nayagar, a long-time star runner for the club, was the overall winner of the 5K run, with a time of 22:29. He also received the first-place medal in the 20–34 age group.

New student Zara Colazio was the second overall female finisher in the 10K in a time of 54:29 and won a first-place medal in the 15–19 age group. Club coach Peter Mannisi came in second overall in the 5K in a time of 22:57 and won a first-place medal in the 65+ age group.

The club is now starting its ninth year, having been founded in September 2008 by students Minca Borg and Ben Gare and coach Mannisi. Since that time the club has won 200 medals overall, as well as over 40 trophies and over 30 turkeys in runs and turkey trots at various locations around the state.

For more information about the club, contact club president Sara Meador at sarameador66@gmail.com or coach Mannisi at petermannisi@yahoo.com. Or see the “MUM running club” page on Facebook.

New MUM Alumni Website Launches

Last month the MUM Alumni Association launched a new website design at alumni.mum.edu.

The impetus behind the redesign was a desire to focus the site’s content more centrally on alumni news, as well as present a visual upgrade that is more in tune with the MUM.edu parent site, said Paul Stokstad, alumni coordinator.

Features of the new site include:
• An alumni showcase that presents alumni publications, websites, art galleries, and achievements
• A crowdfunding section to support viral engagement in campus upgrades
• A career support section
• An all-new job board that exclusively lists jobs offered by MUM alumni
• A visual calendar
• “Know More” and “MUM Online” sections that support alumni learning wherever they are
• Alumni updates and submission form (including photo submissions).

Mr. Stokstad said that this site launch is just the beginning of a new suite of services for alumni that will be rolling out in the coming weeks, including subsections to serve specific groups such as Computer Professionals grads and an updated alumni card.

Staff Member Earns Second Place in State Poetry Competition

A poem by campus locksmith Bill Graeser recently won second place in the adult category out of 1,258 entries in the Iowa Poetry Association’s annual poetry contest.

His poem, entitled “Raining Manure,” was based on his experience driving a manure spreader when he was working with cows at the Livingston Manor Capital of the Age of Enlightenment.

Contest judge William Reyer, a professor of English at Heidelberg University in Ohio, characterized the poem as “agrarian realism with gentle humor — a poem that yields several levels of truth!” He also said that the poem had a well presented narrative with a fine stanzaic structure to support the “story.” He said the poem is “lovely and affirmative,” and likened it to the work of Willa Cather.

In 2012 Mr. Graeser won the Norman Thomas Memorial Award in the same contest.

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Books on Big Data by Dr. Maheshwari To Be Published

In June one of the top publishers of academic books contacted professor Anil Maheshwari to express interest in publishing print editions of his two bestselling ebooks on big data that are available on Amazon.

McGraw-Hill will be publishing the two books later this month as part of their series on data science. They have also contracted with Dr. Maheshwari to write two additional books for the series.

Dr. Maheshwari’s ebook titled Data Analytics Made Accessible, first published as an ebook in 2014, has ranked #1 on Amazon.com among ebooks in the Data Mining category. It’s a concise and accessible overview of data analytics and provides a tool set of the major data mining techniques and platforms.

In addition, in June of 2016 he published Big Data Essentials, which has ranked as high as #8. It covers big data tools such as Hadoop, MapReduce, Spark Streaming, and NoSql databases. The book also contains two primers on cloud computing and data mining.

His books also rank #1 and #6 in the Information Management category.

“I’m delighted that, thanks to McGraw-Hill, this book will be able to help students around the world understand this hot topic,” Dr. Maheshwari said.

Last month Dr. Maheshwari gave presentations and workshops on data science at three universities in India. He said the presentations and his book were well received.

Dr. Maheshwari’s most recent ebook, published last month on Amazon, is Transformative Leadership: Spirit in Action. It provides a model for how to become a transformative leader and shows how sustainable leadership develops from the level of consciousness of the leader.

Dr. Maheshwari’s book includes stories of three well-known transformative leaders and offers case studies of Gandhi, Lincoln, and Steve Jobs.
New Book: Photos and Text from Vedic India Conference

The historic International Conference to Re-Establish Ideal Vedic India that took place in February 2015 has now been captured in a 200-page book that includes the full text of many presentations and summaries of the others, as well as hundreds of photos and slides.

The book captures the shared commitment to enliven Vedic civilization in India so that India once again becomes a lighthouse of knowledge for the world.

The keynote speaker was Professor Tony Nader, MD, PhD, who brought home the reality that the human physiology reflects the Veda and Vedic literature in every cell, organ, and system.

His talk, included in its entirety in the book, created a bridge of understanding between the Vedic reality of life and the perspective of modern science.

Other presentations illustrate how the conference spanned the spectrum of Vedic and scientific knowledge, from the quiet words of the Shankaracharya of Jyotir Math, to the dynamic presentations of quantum physicist John Hagelin.

It’s available in the University Store and online at tinyurl.com/z4govhd.

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