Spring Enrollment of New Undergrads Increases

A new marketing team at MUM is beginning to show results, with 49 new undergraduate students enrolling this spring compared to 30 for spring semester of last year.

“We didn’t have as much time to build up the number of applicants last spring,” said Gwen Stowe, co-dean of admissions and marketing. “A year ago we were still getting organized with lots of changes, but now things have gelled more.”

Credit also goes to the team in admissions.

“We have a very smooth-running team,” said Mariam Daudi, director of admissions. “Admissions is a complicated process, and the team makes a big difference.”

Although MUM has large numbers of graduate students, a special focus in recent years has been to attract more undergraduates.

In this new group, 10 are students who haven’t attended university before, 33 are transfer students, and 6 are returning to MUM after having been away. This is in keeping with a trend to enroll large numbers of transfer students who haven’t been completely satisfied with their education elsewhere.

The new students come from 26 different states.

The spring entry also saw an increase in accounting MBA students, with 15 new Accounting Professionals students compared to 7 a year ago.

As usual, the Computer Professionals Program enrolled a large contingent: 77 new students from 27 countries.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Another $100,000 will go toward MUM's plans to provide a third of the electricity on campus via a solar array that will be one of the largest in Iowa. “This will help move the university toward energy self-sufficiency and position us as a leader in sustainability,” Dr. Pearson said.

Improving education is also a major focus, with $100,000 earmarked for faculty and staff development, such as attending professional conferences on state-of-the-art knowledge and bringing in outside experts to speak to classes and the community. Other initiatives include support for research and writing books.

In addition, $17,500 will go toward helping create interdisciplinary learning communities – a new approach to education that helps students synthesize knowledge and develop critical thinking skills. The funding will support the development and implementation of an innovative new first-semester program designed to enhance student learning and student satisfaction, as well to support the development of upper-level courses based on the same model.

Again this year funding will go toward the purchase of locally grown Maharishi Vedic Organic Vegetables, with $25,600 designated for this purpose.

The grants also include $45,000 for improvements to faculty on-campus housing and $36,000 for Maharishi School to support program and instructional development.

“We’re especially grateful to Trustee Laura Wege and Dr. Chris Wege for inspiring and helping facilitate these grants from the Wege Foundation,” Dr. Pearson said. “The foundation has helped support and improve the university across the board – endowment, academics, facilities, energy, communication, and more.”

The Wege Foundation, based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has as its mission “Planting seeds that develop leaders and improve the university across the country.”

Wege Foundation gifts to MUM now total over $1.3 million. For more information, see wegefoundation.com.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“W

hen the thought has been transcended and the mind reaches the transcendental state, it arrives at a state of suspension and silence and gains the full awareness of pure consciousness. This is a positive experience. Although it is not an experience of any outside object, it is an experience of its own kind where the experiencer is left by himself.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

Maharishi Academy in Rishikesh Being Restored

Indian government officials are marking the 50th anniversary of Maharishi’s teacher training course with its famous attendees by restoring his former academy in Rishikesh and promoting it as a tourist attraction.

Weeks of celebratory events are taking place, beginning with an official opening to the general public on February 19. At the inauguration ceremony, government officials had high praise for Maharishi’s teachings.

Pujya Swami Chidananda of Parmarth Niketan spoke about the need to follow Maharishi’s vision and said it was necessary to restore Rishikesh to its former status so people from all over the world could come to meditate and “Just be.”

The government expects thousands of visitors a day in peak season.

Fifty years ago Maharishi’s Rishikesh academy was flourishing as an international center for meditation courses. Most notable among ashram celebrities in 1968 were The Beatles, Donovan, Mike Love of the Beach Boys, and Mia and Prudence Farrow.

Maharishi had leased the property overlooking the Ganges River from the Forest Service. He let the lease expire in 1980 because the land wasn’t in accordance with Maharishi Vastu® principles, the city of Rishikesh was becoming a busy tourist center, and the cost of the lease was very expensive.

The academy was abandoned and fell into disrepair, reverting back to jungle, monkeys, elephants, and other wildlife. In the past decade Forest Service officials noticed a growing, nostalgic interest in the former academy and decided to put Maharishi’s legacy on display, spending millions of rupees to landscape the academy and renovate the buildings.

They also invited MUM to contribute to the events, including furnishing artifacts from MUM’s historical archive.

The events going on include a film festival being held March 12–18 that features several films about Maharishi, the Beatles, Prudence Farrow Bruns, Jim Carrey’s commencement address at MUM, and more. The festival is dedicated to spirituality and the development of consciousness. More information can be found here: goo.gl/gXSsCo.
Students’ Literary Magazine Published

BY LIVIA COLE

The first issue of the students’ literary magazine, *Metafore*, has now been published online and features an accomplished group of international writers, including the American transcendentalist poet Erik Pankey of George Mason University who has published over 10 books of poetry.

It can be viewed online at https://www.metaforemagazine.com.

The inaugural issue also features ceramic artwork by Nicole Winning, a graduate of the MA in Maharishi Vedic ScienceSM at MUM.

Created by students in MUM’s BFA in creative writing, the magazine publishes poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

The idea to create the journal started with creative writing student James Davidson, who noticed a new trend in literary publishing: in addition to MFA programs, now BFA programs are publishing literary journals. So he conceived the niche literary publication in line with MUM’s unique Consciousness-BasedSM approach.

“We hope to connect writers with awareness and experience of the transcendent with an appreciative audience,” Mr. Davidson said.

One of the goals is to include diverse literary voices – including the marginalized – and use literature as a tool for humanizing different communities.

*Metafore* is listed on several writing resource websites, where writers can learn about the journal’s guidelines. Submission is open to anyone except current students.

MUM students who constitute the editorial board include Mr. Davidson, editor-in-chief and poetry editor; Dylene Cymraes, fiction editor; Tamlin Day, creative nonfiction editor; Hallei Halter, editor; and Margaret Ventsias, fine art editor.

Legacy Campaign Receives $7 Million in Pledges

A new campaign that invites MUM supporters to give bequests has already reached $7 million in pledges in recent months.

“We’re very grateful for the response we’ve received,” said Brad Mylett, vice president of development. “These precious gifts as they continue to grow will help ensure a foundation of stability that will keep MUM strong and viable for generations.”

Donors are making gifts to MUM via wills, charitable trusts, life insurance, annuities, real estate, and other means. According the MUM’s Legacy Giving website, these gifts can offer financial benefits, such as avoiding capital gains taxes on donations of stocks, bonds, and real estate.

Those interested in planning a gift can now take advantage of MUM’s professional advisory committee that’s composed of trust officers, attorneys, accountants, financial planners, real estate brokers, and others who specialize in estate planning.

For more information, see mum.giftlegacy.com.

Maharishi School Named Iowa’s #3 Private High School

Niche.com has ranked Maharishi School #3 out of 33 private high schools in Iowa and #2 out of 19 private K–12 schools.

The rankings are based on an analysis of academic and student life information from the U.S. Department of Education, as well as test scores, college data, and ratings of users of the website.

The website gave Maharishi School an A in academics, an A in college preparation, and an A- in diversity and clubs and activities. They ranked Maharishi School as the #2 most diverse high school out of 46 private high schools.

Daniel Zhu Named National Merit Finalist

Maharishi School senior Daniel Zhu was recently designated a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

He earned this distinction by first being among the top 16,000 of the 1.6 million students nationwide who took a qualifying test – thereby being named a semifinalist. And now, based on his meeting high academic standards and other requirements, he has been named a finalist.

Finalists compete for more than 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth $32 million offered by the National Merit Scholarship Program, corporations and businesses, and the colleges that the students will be attending.

Receive Campus Events via Email

Send an email to domenews@mum.edu to sign up to receive campus events and announcements via email.

MUM Online

Vastu Green

In four comprehensive lessons, you’ll learn basic principles of Maharishi Vastu architecture and how to apply them. See www.mum.edu/mum-online/noncredit-courses. If you have questions, please email de@mum.edu.
Annapurna Menu

Find the dining hall menu online at mum.edu/menu

ChangeMaking Conference Planned for April 6-7

A conference featuring speakers who are “changemakers” – those who help make radical improvements in the lives of others – is scheduled for April 6–7. Among the noted presenters will be Father Gabriel Mejia, renowned for his work in rescuing children from the streets in Colombia.

Entitled “ChangeMakers: Disruptors Transforming the World for Good,” the event coincides with ChangeMaking Month (March 15–April 15), which is being organized by students and will feature a range of activities, workshops, and facilitated sessions to help crystallize individual students’ passions into their personal missions.

The goal of ChangeMaking Month and the ChangeMakers conference is to help students explore how they can harness their unique talents and transform them into concrete ways to make a difference in the world. The theme is, Transform Yourself, Transform the World.

Father Mejia’s 52 centers have rescued and rehabilitated over 100,000 children from the streets of Columbia’s cities. His work has been documented in the award-winning film Saving the Disposable Ones. A secret to his success has been introducing the children to the Transcendental Meditation® and TM-Sidhi® programs. At the conference Father Mejia will be joined by changemaking leaders from the David Lynch Foundation’s inner-city programs in Chicago, as well as other speakers to be announced.

The ChangeMakers event is the first in a series expected to draw national attention to MUM. The series is a partnership between the David Lynch Foundation, MUM, and Student Government.

Gallery Exhibit by Hilary Nelson

New faculty member Hilary Nelson is exhibiting her work in Unity Gallery through March 25.

Professor Nelson received her BFA in 2013 after having graduated in 2007 with a BS. She then went on to earn an MFA in painting and drawing from the University of Iowa School of Art and Art History.

The exhibit, titled Condition Clear, will run through March 25. Gallery hours are Monday–Friday, 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Sunday, 7:15 to 9:00 pm. Unity Gallery is located in the MUM library building.

Rec Center Recycles Shoes, Tennis Balls

The MUM Recreation Center now collects discarded athletic shoes and tennis balls to send to recycling companies that use the materials to create various products.

Discarded athletic shoes are sent to the Nike Reuse-a-Shoe program, which transforms them into Nike Grind, a material used to create athletic and playground surfaces and more.

Green bins on the tennis courts are now available for collecting dead tennis balls. When full, the bins are sent to RecycleBalls, which has a method for removing the felt from the balls and creating a “crumb rubber” product used in a wide variety of green solutions.

“This is a great addition to the MUM Rec Center that will prevent balls from going into the landfill and allow them to be reused,” said Soren Pearson, Recreation Center office manager.