Construction Begins on Five-Acre Solar Array West of Campus

Construction began last month on a 5-acre, 1.1-megawatt solar array west of the recreational trail that borders the west side of campus. It will be capable of supplying approximately a third of the energy needs on campus.

The array will have a number of advanced features, including panels that track the movement of the sun and a battery system that will store power for use when the sun isn’t available and during times when there is “peak demand” (such as a hot summer day).

During times of peak demand, not only is electricity from the power company more expensive, it also raises the basic rate the customer pays throughout the year. The utility company offers lower rates to customers who are able to reduce their consumption during peak demand – which will also save the university money.

The array is being installed by Ideal Energy, a highly successful company founded by alumni Troy and Amy (Greenfield) Van Beek. It will be the first solar and storage, large-scale battery project in the Midwest.

The project, which will cost over $2 million and will be owned by an independent company, is being funded by private investment and by a loan from MUM that was made possible by donations, including a $100,000 grant from the Wege Foundation.

The panels in the array will move 120 degrees each day to track the sun’s movement across the sky. Each row of panels can move independently to maintain an optimal angle to the sun.

Student Adventure Quest a Sensation, Halloween Dance Next

A student-organized adventure quest in May was a huge success, involving over 150 students, and now the next event, a Halloween-themed “PLUR” dance, is being planned for later this month.

The “To Catch a Thief” Mystery Dinner Party in May entailed 1930s dress, live jazz, Italian cuisine, and then magic and a puzzle journey as teams raced each other to be the first to catch a secret thief in each group.

Based on the plot from last fall’s MUM Quest, faerie mischief was very much afoot due to a portal the students accidentally opened. A three-minute video showing the fun is available at tinyurl.com/y7n8fxvn. As before, the goal was to foster camaraderie among the diverse student body while competing in teams to score the most points.

The next event will be a Halloween dance based on PLUR culture: a philosophy of peace, love, unity, and respect that entails music, dance, bright colors, self-expression, exchanging bracelets with strangers, and...
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

feeling of connection to one’s “tribe.”

These immersive dance experiences first appeared in 1980s London as a fusion of Spanish, British, and American parties. The MUM event will highlight top dance tracks from Ethiopia, Korea, America, and around the world.

Being planned by student Haley Spitzfaden, alumnus Chris Grace, the MUM Flow Arts Club, and Student Activities, the Halloween dance party won’t include puzzles, but will be a shared journey, like the Celtic adventure of the first quest, Mr. Grace said. “This will be a journey through music and PLUR culture—love-based socializing in an expressive environment.”

Each element of the event will be specialized: the sound system, light shows, flow art performers, chill-out room, masseurs, and music.

“We want to create a space for MUM students to bond with each other in a context that they understand, in a safe and sober environment uniquely conducive to group connection among consciousness-oriented participants,” Mr. Grace said.

The event will be Saturday, October 27, at the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center and will be for MUM students only, with no cover fee. Doors will open at 8:00 p.m. for body painting and bracelet making, with the Call To Adventure video kicking off the event at 8:30 p.m.

The first students to arrive will have access to costumes at the event, or they can make their own at home to compete in a costume contest for cash prizes. ■

FROM THE FOUNDER

“T

he living of Being cannot be described. Description cannot give a complete exposition of that state. It can only be lived.

If someone is asked to describe the taste of what he has been eating, it is impossible for him to put the exact taste into words, even though he was able to taste the food perfectly well. Similarly, Being is lived in life and is a state of experience, but it cannot be described.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

Faculty Present at Ayurveda Conference in Paris

MUM vaidya Dr. Manohar Rao and emeritus professor David Orme-Johnson gave presentations last month at a symposium on Ayurveda held in Paris, with Tony Nader, MD, PhD, giving the opening address welcoming attendees.

“It went well and was very inspiring,” Dr. Orme-Johnson said. “There is much research being done, and Maharishi Ayurveda clinics are springing up around Europe. Maharishi Ayurveda is rising to be recognized as the most sophisticated and effective healthcare system in the world.”

Dr. Manohar spoke on the deep principles of Ayurveda and their authenticity in the Veda and Vedic literature.

Dr. Orme-Johnson gave an overview of the research on the Transcendental Meditation technique, emphasizing its benefits for reducing stress and improving health, including reducing aging, substance abuse, PTSD, and heart disease.

Dr. Nader gave an overview of Ayurveda on how it complements and extends modern medicine by providing effective diagnostic tools and treatments for chronic diseases that current medical practices haven’t been able to alleviate.

In addition, the Fourth International Ayurveda Congress, held days earlier in the Netherlands, also featured Dr. Nader, and was honored by the presence of Shripad Naik, India’s minister for ayurveda and yoga, along with a delegation of senior officials from his ministry.

While in the Netherlands, Minister Naik paid his respects to Maharishi at the Maharishi Peace Palace where Maharishi lived. While there he was briefed about Maharishi Ayurveda®, the Transcendental Meditation technique, and other educational and healthcare programs. ■

Professor Lu Presents on Outsourcing at Vietnam Conference

Professor Lu Hanhong explained how companies can assess and select offshore software development centers at a conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, last month.

He presented a “maturity model” for assessment based on the best practices of three well-known international banks that use offshore developers in various countries and time zones. He said the model can be used in any industry.

The event was the Conference on Business and Economic Studies. In addition to being MUM faculty, Mr. Lu is currently a PhD student at the National Taiwan University of Technology. ■

Now Hiring

Fairfield-based Sidha company is looking to hire part-time help. Friendly, clean, Maharishi Vastu® work environment. Dome attendance is encouraged and supported. Comfortable, flexible hours, starting as early as 10:00 am. Must have own transportation. Easy work: Packing, shipping, labeling, etc. Also looking for someone with interest in herbs to help make products. Please call (641) 472-3443.

The Review

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Students Enjoy Summer Internships in Poland, India

Sustainable living students went far afield this past summer, with Edwin Soto teaching organic agriculture to students in India for two months and Jesse Bryant working at an ecovillage in Poland for four weeks, helping to construct a building, working in a greenhouse, and more.

Mr. Soto’s work was in conjunction with the Advaith Foundation, which has established a school in Bangalore for over 200 impoverished K-12 students, providing them not only with an education but also food, clothing, and everything else. He taught the students how to grow organic vegetables as part of the school’s agriculture program.

In Poland Mr. Bryant spent most of his time the first two weeks helping to construct a building made of timber, straw, and clay at the Bhrugu Aranya ecovillage, working alongside a half dozen volunteers from around Europe.

His third week there entailed working with the tomato plants in the greenhouse and creating and preparing new garden beds in the village garden. He also learned how to prepare seeds using cow manure as a paste to cover the bean seeds.

In the fourth week his activities included helping to set up a greenhouse and learning a Vedic ritual that has benefits for personal health and wellness, as well as creating ash that increases beneficial microbiology in the soil.

“I think that the internship served my studies very well, and it may indeed be the perfect ending note to my degree in sustainable living,” Mr. Bryant said.

Dr. A. Thimmaiah, who heads the organic agriculture program at MUM, also traveled abroad this summer, heading to Italy to give a series of talks and workshops on regenerative organic agriculture over a three-week period.

“The local government of the town, which is near Milan, was very influenced by these workshops,” Dr. Thimmaiah said.

While in Italy he also toured organic farms and organized internship opportunities for students. In addition, he planned an exchange with the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Polenzo that would entail those students coming to MUM to learn agriculture, and MUM students going to Polenzo to take gastronomic courses.

“There’s a growing awareness in Italy about the safety of food, and many farmers markets sell organic food,” he said. “There’s a lot of interest in biodynamic agriculture and low-cost farming practices. Many organizations, farmers, and the provincial government are keen on regenerative organic agriculture.”

Indian Government Sponsors Faculty at NY Yoga Conference

Three faculty gave presentations at the 1st International Yoga Conference in New York City in June, with all expenses paid by the Indian government.

The event coincided with the 4th Annual International Day of Yoga and featured 20 speakers, including 10 from the U.S., most of whom had some affiliation with MUM. The theme of the conference was “Yoga and its Multi Dimensions: From Science to Spirituality.”

The conference brought together eminent yoga experts, scholars, and practitioners from India and other countries to discuss and share their ideas on yoga and its applications, the scientific and medical benefits of yoga, philosophy, and multiple theories and practices.

Speakers from MUM included Anil Maheshwari, speaking on the peace-creating effects of the group practice of the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi programs®; Fred Travis on the neuroscience of higher states of consciousness, and Karen Aoki on MUM’s doctoral program in reading the Vedic literature to culture the nervous system to maintain samadhi and enrich all aspects of life.

The presentations by Dr. Maheshwari and Dr. Aoki can be viewed at tinyurl.com/yc2bv23e beginning at the 46.08 marker. Dr. Travis’s presentation can be viewed at tinyurl.com/y86vg9tg beginning at the 1-hour marker.

Other speakers connected to MUM included Alarik Arenander, Peter Scharf, Mario Orsatti, and Gary Kaplan.

10 MBA Students Receive Scholarships

The Institute of Management Accountants recently awarded 10 MBA students the prestigious Certified Management Accountant Scholarship Award.

The students were nominated by the MUM accounting department. The scholarships provide financial support for free access to CMA study resources and waivers for both registration fees and first-attempt exam fees for this two-part certification.

“We’re delighted to see another group of our MBAs achieving this scholarship support toward becoming CMAs,” said Andrew Bargerstock, chair of the accounting department.

The students are Taingleap Chheang, Erdeneybamba Erdenebileg, Maryam Ismail, Dauson Kamara, Hiruy Kihishen, Miyukhim Thea, Gashaw Agegne, Kushal Koirala, Rojina Shrestha, and Munkhbayar Battogtokh.

The Institute of Management Accountants has 100,000 members in 140 countries worldwide.
New Documentary Features Faculty Researchers

A feature-length documentary on leadership that was released in July includes faculty researchers Fred Travis and Robert Schneider.

Titled *Make Me a Leader*, it focuses on how leaders can optimize brain and body performance to thrive in the 21st Century. It has been playing at various film festivals and has won several awards.

The film’s producer/director is Silvia Damiano, a scientist, educator, author, speaker, coach, award-winning leadership specialist, and filmmaker. She is also the founder and CEO of About My Brain Institute.

She practices the Transcendental Meditation technique and had her EEG taken when she was on campus two years ago to do the interviews.

More information can be found at aboutmybrain.com/makemealeader. That page includes a trailer as well as articles about Dr. Travis and Dr. Schneider. It also includes an article on Harald Harung, who is also interviewed in the film and who coauthored with Dr. Travis several studies on world-class performers.

The full movie is available on the above web page. The $15 cost includes a free ebook titled *7 Well-Being Strategies for Optimal Brain & Body Performance.*

Faculty Art Exhibit in Unity Gallery

Current artworks by art department faculty are now being exhibited in Unity Gallery in the MUM library.

The show features paintings by Gillian Brown, Gyan Shrosbree, and Sean Downey, sculpture by Jim Shrosbree, and sculpture and drawings by Dale Divoky.

The exhibit will run through October 27.

Gallery hours are Monday–Friday, 9:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., and Sunday, 7:15–9:00 p.m.