Student Government President Attends Washington, DC Leadership Event

T. Chevonne (Chevi) Height, president of Student Government, was one of 100 undergraduate students selected to attend the recent Forté Women of Color College Leadership Conference in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the conference was to empower women of color in male-dominated science and technology areas, as well as in business. She was selected based in part on an essay that she wrote.

The speakers were high-powered professionals who inspired confidence in attendees. Practical breakout workshops ranged from learning to shake hands in professional situations to public speaking. Leadership skills included healthy work relationships, learning to empower other people, and retaining one’s own voice.

Each participant gave a presentation during the breakout sections, with Ms. Height winning a bookbag for giving the best presentation in her group.

“We had to do a mock interview for a position and basically give a personal infomercial about ourselves – why you are who you are,” Ms. Height said. She said the conference helped her realize how much she’s already grown in confidence.

The goal of the conference was to help the students have more confidence in themselves as a minority and to help them realize that “you never have to leave a part of yourself behind if you want to be successful,” Ms. Height said.

A five-acre solar array that will provide a third of the electricity needed to power campus is expected to be ready to go online in December.

$200,000 Grant to Support Study of MUM Solar Array

In addition to providing a third of the electricity on campus, MUM’s new 1.1 megawatt solar array will offer the state of Iowa an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of an innovative combination of solar power and battery storage, thanks to a $200,000 grant.

Funded by the Iowa Economic Development Authority and awarded to the Fairfield Economic Development Association (FEDA), the grant will compare the performance of MUM’s solar/battery system with that of Fairfield’s Agri-Industrial Plastics Company.

The study, which will be conducted by FEDA and Ideal Energy, will evaluate return on investment, operation and maintenance issues, battery performance, and effectiveness of solar tracking.

MUM’s system will track the movement of the sun across the sky and reorient the panels to get the maximum effect. This tracking yields up to

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25% more energy than a fixed array.

The campus array will be connected to a vanadium flow battery to store energy. This approach offers almost unlimited energy capacity by using larger electrolyte storage tanks. It’s safe and non-flammable, and the storage capacity doesn’t degrade over its 25-year lifespan.

It is the largest solar/battery storage project in Iowa.

The lithium ion battery in Agri-Industrial’s system is suited for high fluctuations in energy use. It can deliver large amounts of energy in a short time, and may be less expensive than vanadium flow. However, its capacity declines over time.

A state-level committee will evaluate the findings of this research project and consider how to widely apply the lessons learned.

Iowa is already a leader in renewable energy. The state’s large wind farms rank second in the nation, and there is now also a push toward solar energy.

The advantage of battery storage is that the stored electricity will be available at night and at other times when there is little sun. In addition, the system will cut down MUM’s energy costs by reducing electricity consumption during peak usage times, such as summer afternoons.

Those peak charges determine the rate a customer pays, and can increase costs 30–70% for the entire year. Battery energy storage systems automatically detect when power usage exceeds a predetermined threshold and then switch to batteries until the additional demand is over.

Then when demand is lower, the batteries recharge.

The 35 batteries for the MUM array will be at the solar field itself, with a battery and inverter at the end of each row of solar panels.

The array is connected to MUM’s power substation on the east side of the Recreation Center.

The solar arrays and battery storage systems for both MUM and for Agri-Industrial are being installed by Ideal Energy, a Fairfield-based company founded by alumni Troy and Amy (Greenfield) Van Beek. It is one of Iowa’s leading solar energy firms and is the first in the state to design and build combination solar and battery systems.

The MUM solar array is expected to go online in December. There are tentative plans to inaugurate the array with an event that may include Nobel laureate Rajendra Kumar Pachauri and Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds.

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FROM THE FOUNDER

“In the relative field of life there is either activity or passivity. Absolute Being belongs in its essential nature neither to the field of activity nor to the field of passivity. Any state of life which belongs neither to activity nor passivity lies outside relative existence and naturally belongs to the field of absolute Being, and that which belongs to the field of the absolute Being gains the status of absolute Being itself. For nothing other than Itself can be It.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

President Hagelin, Dr. Schneider Give Keynote Addresses at Zen Conference

In yet another example of the rising interest in higher states of consciousness and human potential, MUM president John Hagelin and Professor Robert Schneider were recently invited to speak at the interdisciplinary Global Zen Consciousness Conference in Atlanta.

They were invited along with other thought leaders because both are well known for their integration of modern science and traditional spirituality.

The conference was organized by the Shaolin Chan [Zen] Foundation, which hopes to “create a worldwide revolution by combining the spheres of science and Eastern philosophy to help humanity realize that at the deepest sub-nuclear level and at the innermost consciousness level we are all one.”

“This was a breakthrough event, with both the modern and ancient corroborating each other in an authentic and science-based manner,” said Dr. Schneider, dean of MUM’s College of Integrative Medicine.

Dr. Hagelin spoke about the physiology of consciousness. Dr. Schneider discussed the physiological correlates and practical health benefits of these higher states from the Vedic medicine perspective.

There were a number of presentations on traditional Chinese spirituality, martial arts, and medicine related to higher consciousness, with many Chinese visitors in attendance.

“It was reminiscent of the Natural Law Party, which brought together people with different perspectives who shared a common ground,” Dr. Schneider said.

There was also extensive discussion of “synthetic consciousness” – focused on the issue of whether artificial intelligence could embody human consciousness and even achieve higher states of consciousness.

In the vein of artificial intelligence and robotics, one of the presenters was Sophia, a human-like, AI-driven robot.

“I made the point that the human nervous system is uniquely designed to reflect the highest state of awareness, Cosmic Consciousness,” Dr. Schneider said.

The Review

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PhD Student Accepts Position with Top Accounting Firm

PhD candidate Han Wan, from China, recently accepted a job offer as Staff Accountant in the Assurance Department with Ernst & Young in Hong Kong.

She expects to complete her doctoral dissertation in time to graduate in June 2019.

Ms. Wan is a prior graduate of MUM’s MBA accounting program in 2014, and has taught accounting courses for the MBA program.

She is a Certified Management Accountant. In 2017, she received an Outstanding CMA Student Award from the Des Moines chapter of the Institute for Management Accountants.

New Approach to Maharishi AyurVeda Consultations

A new kind of Maharishi AyurVeda® consultation is now available to the public at MUM’s Wellness Center in the Women’s Peace Palace on the west side of Highway 1.

The new approach is a complete integrative consultation, with a full analysis from the modern medical perspective along with a full Maharishi AyurVeda assessment of any imbalance.

They are one-hour consultations with a licensed medical doctor and an experienced Vaidya (Ayurvedic doctor). The cost is $250.

In addition, consultations are available for $75 with MUM’s master’s students who are studying Maharishi AyurVeda and Integrative Medicine.

The client will have his or her pulse taken by the faculty (including both a doctor and Vaidya), and several master’s students.

“Most find that process itself very blissful,” said Paul Morehead, who directs the program.

Then two students interview the client to take the person’s health history. The students write up their recommendations and present them to the faculty, who refine the recommendations.

The students then meet again with the clients to explain the recommendations.

To book an appointment, please call 641-472-7000, ext. 3406, or email appointments@mum.edu.

Running Club Wins Medals

The MUM running club won a total of eight medals at the 14th Annual Lacey-Keosauqua State Park 5K/10K Run/Walk in mid-October.

“The weather was in the low 40s with slight winds, but the major hills of these races make for very challenging courses,” said coach Peter Mannisi.

Coach Mannisi won the overall 10K race in a time of 48:59 and won the medal for the 65+ age group. MUM student Virginia Laguna won a second-place medal in the female 20–34 10K competition in a time of 1:13:44.

Earning first-place medals in the 5K race were Maharishi School PE teacher Zara Colazio in the 20–34 women’s competition in a time of 26:49, and Maharishi School student Miles Falk, who won first place in the under 20 division in a time of 23:21.

In addition, second-place medals in the 5K went to Maharishi School student Dominic Depoux (under-20 age group) in a time of 23:22, Bruce Preston (35–49 division) in 24:58, MUM student Daniel De Carvalho Guimaraes (20–34 division) in a time of 28:30, and David Magill (65+ age group) in a time of 34:00. Katalin Kiss did the two-mile trail walk.

For more information about the club, contact coach Mannisi at petermannisi@yahoo.com or club president Virginia Laguna at vlagunas@mum.edu. The club’s Facebook page is www.facebook.com/MUM running club.

Receive Campus Events via Email

To be added to the mailing list, send an email to domenews@mum.edu.

Low-Cost Taxi Service

Cost: $2 each way within city limits. Call to schedule: 1-800-227-6390 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday–Friday.
Diane Frank to Offer Poetry Reading

San Francisco poet and novelist Diane Frank will be on campus Monday, November 5, to offer a poetry reading at 7:45 p.m. in room 12 of the Sustainable Living Center.

Also reading will be alumnu Rustin Larson, whose poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, and staff member Bill Graeser, who has published in the *North American Review*.

A former MUM faculty member, Ms. Frank has authored seven books of poetry, two novels, and a recent travelogue. *Blackberries in the Dream House*, her first novel, won the Chelson Award for Fiction.

She will read from her new book of poems, *Canon for Bears and Ponderosa Pines*, and from her recently published *Letters from a Sacred Mountain Place: A Journey through the Nepal Himalayas*.

Both are available on Amazon.

Aroma Therapy Course To Be Offered

Beginning November 30 with a free introductory lesson, an 18-hour course on Maharishi Aroma Therapy will be offered by Diane Malaison, a senior Maharishi Aroma Therapy consultant who has been teaching Maharishi Aroma Therapy internationally since 2011.

Maharishi Aroma Therapy creates balance and health through the use of essential oils that contain powerful health-promoting properties. This course will be taught in Festival Hall and is limited to 15 students. The fee is $350, which covers all course materials including samples of many hydrosols and essential oils. The free lesson is also available online. For more information, visit mum.edu/aromatherapy.

Geoffrey Baker Benefit Exhibition and Sale of Paintings

Paintings by the late Geoffrey Baker will be on exhibit November 1–21 in Unity Gallery in the library, with all proceeds going toward scholarships for students enrolled in the new MA in Studio Art program.

The opening reception will be Thursday, November 1, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Works are also available for purchase online at http://www.unitygalleryiowa.com through December 31.

Professor Baker taught art at MUM for nearly 30 years, while also producing a body of delightful paintings. Later in life he found an eager market for his work at a prominent gallery in Washington, DC. The MA in Studio Art is a one-year program primarily oriented toward developing a portfolio. Students receive extensive individual feedback, including from visiting artists.

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

For more information, send an email to art@mum.edu.

Receive *The Review* via Email

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