Five to Receive Honorary PhD

The 2019 commencement exercises will honor five individuals who are making extraordinary contributions to humanity.

Those receiving awards are Chris Wege, whose family foundation has contributed over $1.9 million to the university, and MUM Trustee Laura Wege, who has helped facilitate the contributions of the Wege Foundation.

Mr. Wege has played a leading role in many projects initiated by Maharishi, including helping to found the Super Radiance Community in Fairfield and raising funds for the construction of the first Golden Dome. Ms. Wege is an attorney, former TV host, professional mediator, and MUM alumna (MS in psychology).

Commencement speaker Nakisha Hobbs will be honored for her role in cofounding and directing the Village Leadership Academy in Chicago, an elementary school whose focus is “to transform urban youth into global leaders” and which incorporates the Transcendental Meditation® technique.

Navin Doshi, an engineer, attorney, investor, and head of the Doshi Foundation, will be recognized for being a leading proponent of the Vedic heritage of India and its role in the modern world. His goal is to build bridges between East and West.

Deepak Baskota, a former member of Parliament and Minister for Home Affairs in Nepal, will be honored for his work leading that country’s Transcendental Meditation organization. He is also the founder of the first cooperative organic tea plantation in the country, Kanchanjangha Tea Estate and Research Centre.

New “Ken Daley Fitness Center” to Be Christened June 22

A newly reconstructed fitness area in the south end of the Recreation Center is being named in honor of Professor Ken Daley, who will retire at the end of June after 35 years on faculty, including 30 as head of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science.

The Ken Daley Fitness Center will be christened on graduation day, Saturday, June 22, at 10:15 a.m. in the Recreation Center, with the MUM Board of Trustees in attendance. The public is invited.

The event will also honor donors who gave substantial support toward the recent installation of a new playing floor for the four recreational courts in the south half of the Recreation Center that are used for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, soccer, badminton, and other activities.

The new name for the facility as a whole is the Grace Ananda Recreation Center in honor of a major donor.
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The recent reconstruction of the fitness area doubled the size of the weight room, increased the floor in the dance and martial arts room by 50%, and created a separate enclosed area for rock climbing.

Mr. Daley said the weight room is one of the most popular areas and needed more space. Plus, additional equipment is being added, including a True Fitness Stretch Station.

Dance is also popular, and the larger areas for dance and martial arts also have new flooring that is cushioned to make these activities easier on the body.

In the past, the dance area was kept locked because that area also contained the climbing wall, which can only be used under direct supervision. The climbing wall is now in a separate locked area, such that the dance floor is now open for use.

The gymnastics facility has been moved to the Fieldhouse.

During his career Professor Daley taught in a wide range of areas. He taught a required health-related fitness course, and led courses in leadership and adventure sport that entailed outings in various countries around the world. He also led the annual four-day Base Camp outing to the Current River for all new students. Other teaching included internet-related technology courses to education and sustainable living students, and workshops on leadership and group dynamics.

“This honor is a bit of a surprise,” Professor Daley said. “I feel quite touched to be recognized. My time here has been a great blending of personal and professional development. I’m thankful for the great team of people that I’ve worked with over the years.”

Dustin Matthews, who has been on faculty since January, has been training to take Professor Daley’s place. He has a BA in physical education, an MA athletic administration, and an MA in Maharishi Vedic Science℠.

Professor Daley has plans to go sailing on the Atlantic coast but will continue to make Fairfield his home base.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“If education is based on inner values along with information of the outer world, education in any branch of learning will not create mere ability to maintain life by means of a job somewhere but will reveal to the growing man the real significance of inner life. His personality will develop a bold character and brilliance in his career. Every many will be found profusely equipped with the ability to gain great knowledge on every subject.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, *Science of Being*

Paul Fauerso to Offer Free “Greatest Hits” Concert

One of the most beloved musicians to write and perform songs related to Maharishi’s knowledge, Paul Fauerso will offer a free concert on Saturday, June 15, that will feature highlights from his earlier albums as well as a couple of newly recorded songs.

In between songs, Mr. Fauerso will interject stories about his experiences in the early days of Maharishi’s activities to bring the Transcendental Meditation technique to the world.

At the urging of his family and others, Mr. Fauerso has recorded for posterity a new two-CD album of his greatest hits that will be available for purchase.

Songs from the new album that Mr. Fauerso will be performing will include classics such as “Cosmic Consciousness,” “Wholeness on the Move,” “Master of My Heart,” “MIU Is Calling You,” and “Keep It Simple.”

His stories will include incidents that inspired various songs, such as “MIU Blues” being inspired by a question from Bobby Warren whether there would be blues music in the Age of Enlightenment.

Another incident took place when Mr. Fauerso was staying in Vlodrop, The Netherlands, where Maharishi was based. He received a call from Maharishi, who sang the beginning of a song with the lyrics “manage your world” and asked Mr. Fauerso to complete the song.

Mr. Fauerso said Maharishi was directly involved in writing a number of the songs and gave him the title “The Minister of Music and Merriment for the Age of Enlightenment.”

The new album is a family effort, with liner notes by Mr. Fauerso’s son, Neil, and cover art by his daughter, Joey, who is enjoying a career as a noted artist and is on campus this month teaching art.

Mr. Fauerso said that the concert may also include surprise guest performers well known to everyone.

The free concert will be Saturday, June 15, at 7:45 p.m. in Dalby Hall.

Solist Festival Rescheduled

The Solis Festival has been rescheduled for June 23, 10 a.m.—4 p.m. east of the Argiro Student Center. Enjoy vendors, free entertainment, and more.

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School Student’s Science Career Capped by Full Scholarship

After collecting top awards for his scientific research over the past six years, Maharishi School senior Pranav Chhalliyil saw his success culminate with a full merit-based scholarship for all four years to Arizona State University’s accelerated program in neuroscience.

Pranav received the surprise award during the Special Awards Ceremony at the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair last month in Phoenix, Arizona.

His research has focused on dental hygiene, and he has compared the effectiveness of modern methods of oral hygiene with traditional approaches, using controlled experiments and measuring the amount of bacteria present in specimens collected from subjects.

However, his senior year his focus switched to the effect of mulching on soil microbiota. As with his dental hygiene research, he used gene sequencing and looked at the thousands of bacteria and fungi species that resulted in greater diversity in the soil and increased fertility.

For this research and his record of participation over the past six years, the Iowa State Science & Technology Fair this spring named him Honorary Grand Champion. In addition, he was one of five students selected to attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, which brought together 1,800 high school students from more than 80 countries, regions, and territories.

Pranav’s awards this spring also included being named an Iowa Governor’s Scholar and being inducted into the Sigma XI Honor Society, whose members have included over 200 Nobel Prize winners.

He also received a $10,000 scholarship from AXA, a financial services company that offers awards to top students around the country. The award also included a $1,000 grant to Maharishi School.

Pranav has also played an important role in motivating his classmates to do science fair projects, and has used the internet to teach science classes to school students in India.

“Doing projects transforms bookish and classroom knowledge into practical everyday life understanding,” he says. “This helps students to learn the connections among disciplines and helps lead to the sort of holistic knowledge needed to solve the challenges of the world.”

Wege Grant Funds Communications Skills Videos

Those wanting to learn more effective communication skills will soon be able to learn specific techniques thanks to several new three-minute videos commissioned by a grant from the Wege Foundation.

The videos are based on techniques in adjunct professor Bob Boyer’s book Cool Mind, Warm Heart.

Dr. Boyer has taught his techniques to MUM staff and faculty, and Trustee Laura Wege found the knowledge to be so valuable that she urged the university to create these short videos and helped arrange for an $8,000 grant to fund their production.

Professor Amine Kouider and alumnus Matthew Lloyd Wilcox collaborated to write the scripts, with input from Vice President Craig Pearson. MUM students and staff and Maharishi School students appear in the videos and act out specific scenarios that illustrate the techniques.

Mr. Kouider and Mr. Wilcox are producing the videos, and have two ready, with a third in process. These three videos focus on listening skills.

The first video teaches how to summarize. Effective communication entails listening to another person and understanding what is being said. When the listener summarizes what the person has just said, it shows he or she was sincerely attentive, and helps to create a connection. The video explains that real listening encourages the other person to also listen.

This video uses scenarios of a mother and daughter and an office worker and his boss. The viewer sees their interaction, and then a narrator explains what went wrong and how it could be better. Then the scenario repeats but shows how the skill of summarizing facilitated the communication.

The second video focuses on the technique of validating the other person—explicitly naming the person’s feelings and acknowledging they are valid.

In the video, a teacher explains the principle to a student, then shows a scenario in which a mother attempts to validate the feelings of her daughter but ends up talking too much about her own experience.

The video then gives additional scenarios that demonstrate how to effectively validate the feelings of others and provide a safe space for them to express themselves—which in turn allows them to settle down.

These videos are close to being finished and will be made available not only to students and faculty but will be posted online for anyone to view.

A third video in the scriptwriting stage is oriented around the skill of empathizing with another person.

More videos are being planned. A fourth video will go beyond listening techniques and show how to then effectively engage the other person.

“Since working on these videos, I’ve been using some of these skills, and they’ve been very powerful,” Mr. Kouider said.

Commencement 2019

The public is invited to attend the 2019 commencement ceremonies Saturday, June 22, at 1:00 p.m. in the Maharishi Patanjali Golden Dome. Educator Nakisha Hobbs will present the commencement address.

Geoffrey Baker Exhibit

Paintings by the late, long-time art professor Geoffrey Baker will be on exhibit through August 10 at Icon Gallery, 58 N. Main St. in Fairfield. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, noon–5:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 1:00–4:30 p.m.
Construction of 55 More Town Homes Begins in North Campus Village

Low-cost town homes in North Campus Village continue to be popular, with all 57 units in Phase 5 of construction having been sold and construction now beginning on 55 additional town homes.

The low price has been made possible by Iowa’s incentives for home construction and the use of a standardized design by codeveloper BRD Contracting. In the new phase, the price of a one-bedroom, one-bath home will start at $82,500.

This phase will feature a wider variety of options, with some of the town homes having three or four bedrooms and a full basement at a base price of $231,500.

Mid-sized two-story town homes similar to those in Phase 5, with two bedrooms and one-and-a-half bathrooms will start at $115,000.

While Phase 5 had three homes per building, Phase 6 will have a mix of three- and five-unit buildings, some with one story, some with two.

The strong demand is due in part to people from around the country and the world wanting to move to Fairfield to be close to MUM. Many are teachers of the Transcendental Meditation technique who have spent time at the university in the past.

“This is their intentional community of choice,” said Martin Brett, the developer. “They want to live in this community of meditators and live in a home built according to Maharishi Vastu design.”

Mr. Brett and his company, Vastu Partners, have now accepted reservation fees on 20 of the planned 55 homes. He expects to have reservations on all 55 within three to five months.

This will be the final development in North Campus Village. Mr. Brett said any further low-cost developments in the future will depend on whether the state continues to offer the incentives that make it feasible to build them.

North Campus Village is located at the north end of campus within walking distance to MUM and the Domes.

See www.vastupartners.com.