Record 592 Students Graduate in 2018–19
BY LIVIA HORVATH

A record 592 students graduated from MUM this past academic year, coming from 53 countries around the world.

The graduating students included 389 computer science master’s students and 55 students from the Maharishi Invincibility Institute in Johannesburg, South Africa. The largest number of graduates came from Nepal, with 126, followed by the U.S., 102, and Ethiopia, 59.

Chicago educator Nakisha Hobbs gave the commencement address. Ms. Hobbs cofounded and directs the Village Leadership Academy in Chicago, a kindergarten through 8th-grade school with 700 students, whose focus is to transform urban youth into global leaders and which incorporates the Transcendental Meditation® technique.

She is also associate director of the Office of Early Childhood Development in the Illinois Department of Human Services, where she oversees a $1.3 billion budget.

“Nothing in life is ever happening to you; everything in life is always happening for you,” said Ms. Hobbs, offering some of the lessons she learned in life. Based on her experience, she advised graduates to look at adversities as opportunities that are part of life’s adventure.

She also encouraged students to stay true to the desires in their hearts that will guide them towards their destinies.

During the ceremony, MUM President John Hagelin presented Ms. Hobbs with an honorary doctoral degree in education for her lifelong service and groundbreaking contribution to the field of education.

Governor Kim Reynolds Visits Campus Solar Array

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds and Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg visited the campus solar array on August 21 as part of their Building a Better Iowa statewide tour.

They met with representatives from Ideal Energy Solar, a Fairfield-based company founded by MUM alumni Troy and Amy (Greenfield) Van Beek, and with MUM president John Hagelin.

Their visit included a tour of the 1.1-megawatt solar power array and battery storage system that went online last December and that’s owned by investors who sell the power to MUM. Located west of the recreational trail on west campus, the array, referred to as the “MEG’Array,” supplies a third of MUM’s electric power. It includes vanadium battery storage, which enables MUM to make use of stored power during peak usage hours, thereby receiving a lower rate from the utility company.

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President Hagelin took the opportunity to tell the visitors that MUM is home to the first sustainable living major and master’s program, and one of the first regenerative organic agriculture programs in the U.S. He also described the university’s commitment to clean energy and vision of being completely off-the-grid.

During her visit, Governor Reynolds spoke about Iowa’s leadership in using renewable energy. The state gets nearly 40% of its energy from wind turbines and is now exploring increasing the use of solar energy to a similar level.

Because of this interest in solar and its potential effect on economic development, the Iowa Economic Development Authority awarded a $200,000 grant to the Fairfield Economic Development Association to research the MUM array and its economic impact. The research is being conducted in partnership with Ideal Energy and the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

In particular, the Iowa Authority is interested in the array’s battery storage, since it’s one of the first energy storage projects in the entire state.

Since being turned on at the end of 2018, the solar array had produced over 750,000 kWh as of the beginning of September, enough to power 75 homes for a year.

The array and batteries have reduced MUM’s monthly peak demand by an average of over 200kW per month during the highest-cost summer months. These results are already having a big impact on MUMs electricity cost, said Aurelien Windenberger of Ideal Energy.

“We expect even better results in the future,” he said. “This first year was expected to be, and has been, a test year, allowing us to work out all of the different aspects of the system, from optimizing the battery algorithms, to updating our interconnection agreement with the utility company.”

Starting in 2020, he expects annual production of over 1.7 million kWh. “We expect to lower MUM’s peak demand more significantly, which will have a significant benefit on their utility bills.”

Faculty were busy this summer traveling to professional conferences to give presentations in their areas of expertise.

Robert Schneider gave an invited keynote address at the annual convention of the Islamic Medical Association of North America in Utah. He spoke about the role of the Transcendental Meditation technique in cardiovascular health and began his presentation with a quote from Rumi about returning to the “root of the root of your own soul.”

Emdad Khan presented a paper, “Lifelong Machine Learning with Logic, Semantics, and Natural Language Processing,” at the 2019 World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering & Applied Computing in Las Vegas, Nevada. He explained how these techniques can boost the growth of artificial intelligence.

Andrew Bargerstock participated as an investment coach at a three-day investment seminar in Calgary, Canada. This event, which was attended by 1,500 people, was offered by Rule #1 Investing, an Atlanta-based hedge fund founded by best-selling author Phil Town.

Dorothy Rompalske participated in a panel discussion on how to get one’s book published at the annual conference of the University Film & Video Association in Minneapolis. The panel focused on publishing opportunities with Michael Wiese Productions, with whom Ms. Rompalske has recently signed a contract to write a book on how meditation can be used in the creative process of screenwriting. She also appeared on the panel “The Future of Story” at the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis.

Dennis Heaton participated in a symposium titled Managing by the Bhagavad-Gita for Organizations to Become Inclusive at the annual meeting of the Academy of Management in Boston in August. The symposium was awarded Best Symposium Proposal. He spoke about how enlightened leaders go beyond attachment to narrow self-interest to lead organizations and communities toward inclusive well-being.

Alumna Tara De Santis recently released a remix of the song “Gold Roses” by Drake and Rick Ross. See bit.ly/2kx0LoD.

Next month she’ll go to Europe to shoot a music video for some original music. Her first E.P. will be released by the end of the year.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“T he technique for gaining Transcendental Consciousness brings to a conscious level the subtle levels of thought. This is how the whole of the thought process comes within the range of the conscious mind. The conscious capacity of the mind increases to the fullest scope of the mind. This is how it is possible to enable a man to rise up to his full mental potential in thought and action.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being
Cody, a retired Caterpillar Inc. executive, is notable for hosting guest speaker Jim Terpstra on enterprise performance management and total quality improvement.

Finance, human resource management, manufacturing operations management, and marketing, product development, and multi-faceted decisions, including sales teams who guide the decision-making process, are covered. The role of top management executive in making decisions in situations of risk, uncertainty, and quantitative analysis, and decision-making, collaboration, consensus-building, and other aspects of the role are discussed.

The MUM degree program that teaches team-building, collaboration, consensus-building, quantitative analysis, and decision-making in situations of risk, uncertainty, and deadlines is an important third-party assessment of our MBA student development, according to Professor Andrew Bargerstock, who uses the Capstone Simulation offered by Capsim, Inc. in his class on enterprise performance management. MBA teams have been participating in this online simulation since 2010, and in all 20 instances at least one team has finished in the top 10th percentile.

“The Capstone Simulation provides an important third-party assessment of our MBA student development,” Dr. Bargerstock says. “The experience confirms to students the value of the MUM degree program that teaches team-building, collaboration, consensus-building, quantitative analysis, and decision-making in situations of risk, uncertainty, and deadlines.”

In Capsim simulations, students play the role of top management executive teams who guide the decision-making of their enterprise through eight years of multi-faceted decisions, including sales and marketing, product development, manufacturing operations management, finance, human resource management, and total quality improvement.

Dr. Bargerstock’s recent course on enterprise performance management was also notable for hosting guest speaker Jim Cody, a retired Caterpillar Inc. executive and long-time practitioner of the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi® programs. He was the key person responsible for introducing market-driven supply chain optimization and for transforming customer relationship management at Caterpillar in the 1990s and beyond.

Running Club Wins First-Place Medals

The MUM running club competed in two races over the summer, winning numerous medals in both, including first-place finishes.

In August, five members of the club competed in the Old Settler’s 2.2-mile and 10-kilometer runs in Salem, Iowa, winning four first-place medals and one second place.

In the 2.2-mile, Virginia Lagunas won first place in the female 20–29 group in a time of 20:10. Daniel Sterk won first place in the male 40–49 division in a time of 16:50. Rocio Cumpilido was second in the female 20–29 in a time of 27:30.

In the 10K race, club president Kirby Shields was the first-place finisher in the 20–29 male division in a time of 46:18.

Club coach Peter Mannisi won the 70+ division in a time of 46:38.

Competing in June in the 12th annual Gothic House 5K run in Eldon, Iowa, the club also had four first-place winners and one second place.

Leading the way for the club was club president Kirby Shields in a time of 21:20, winning the 20–29 age group trophy. Virginia Lagunas won the female 20–29 group with a time of 27:36.

Daniel Sterk was first in the 40–49 division in 23:18, and club coach Peter Mannisi won the 60+ division in 22:25. Ben Gare was second in the 20–29 division in 34:47.

The next races for the club will be the Washington, Iowa, hospice 5K on September 21 and the Lacey–Keosauqua State Park 5K/10K in October.

For information about the club, contact club president Kirby Shields at kshields@mum.edu or coach Mannisi at petermannisi@yahoo.com.

Students Present Research to Fairfield City Council

MBA students in a course on metrics for sustainability opted to explore as a class project whether the city of Fairfield might gain recognition for the city’s environmental initiatives by obtaining LEED certification through the United States Green Building Council. They presented the results of their research to the Fairfield City Council in June.

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and certification would entail meeting targets in energy reduction, particularly fossil fuels that contribute to greenhouse gases.

More than 90 cities in the country have become LEED certified, including Ottumwa. However, after careful study, the students found that it would be too costly for Fairfield to achieve this. They discovered that LEED certification might be suitable for larger cities with bigger budgets, but not for smaller towns like Fairfield that lack the expensive software necessary to track energy consumption.

Professor Scott Herriott, who taught the class, said that instead of pursuing a LEED certificate, the city may be better served by continuing to set its own sustainability goals.

Nearly 10 years ago the city developed its “Go Green” sustainability plan. Mayor Ed Malloy said that during that period the city has reduced community-wide energy consumption by 8.5 percent.

In addition, the city has conducted energy audits on city buildings to make them more efficient and replaced inefficient lighting and machinery, as well as installing solar panels on some buildings. He said there is now a total of 4 megawatts of solar energy production in Fairfield, comprising residential, manufacturing, and commercial sectors.

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.
Ayesha Sengupta Receives Scholarship to Attend Conference

MBA student Ayesha Sengupta this summer received a $2,500 scholarship to attend the annual Academy of Management conference held in Boston in August.

The award is sponsored by the Fetzer Institute, which has a vision of a transformed world powered by love. To qualify, Ms. Sengupta had to answer questions about her personal interest in topics such as organizational transformation, workplace spirituality, and spiritual leadership development, and explain how attending would help her in her research.

As a recipient, Ms. Sengupta was required to attend the sessions and workshops related to the Management, Spirituality, and Religion Interest Group.

ChangeMakers Videos Now Online

All the videos from the June 8 ChangeMakers event are now available online at www.mum.edu/changemakers2019.

The morning and afternoon sessions can each be viewed as a single video. The topic in the morning was on Transformative Entrepreneurs, and the afternoon featured an event modeled after the TV show “Shark Tank” in which the top five students from a pool of submissions pitched their business ideas.

In addition, the website also includes videos of the individual speakers in the morning. They included:

Kevin Harrington, a famous entrepreneur who appeared as one of the original “sharks” on the “Shark Tank” series,

Kathryn Frazier, known as the “Rock Star Whisperer,” with one of the most successful PR businesses in the music industry, representing artists such as Justin Bieber, Daft Punk, Lauren Hill, and The Weeknd,

Mar Michelle Häusler, a former London financial trader who left the finance world on a quest for a deeper understanding of new ways of economics and money, eventually developing a community currency used in the Amazon jungles that changed the way locals collaborate.

Also available is a video featuring the panel discussion of MUM’s Concept to Market Institute that included two alumni, Professor Cliff Rose, and legendary copywriter Joe Sugarman.

Students Publish Third Issue of Literary Journal

MUM students published the third issue of their online literary journal Metafore in late spring.

Links to the three issues can be found at www.metaforemagazine.com/issues.

This new issue features “flash fiction” (very short stories) as well as short-form poetry contributed by authors from around the country, ranging from students to university professors to widely published writers.

The magazine’s staff comprises Dylene Cymraes, Brian Stair, Candice Rankin, Megann Kammerman, Maggie Ventsias, Professor Leah Waller, James Davidson, Dany Hillman, Lydia Hickman, and Earl Needhammer.

Reunion for Original Transcendental Meditation Teachers September 20–22

A reunion for the original teachers of the Transcendental Meditation technique in the 1960s and 1970s is being held on campus September 20–22.

The event will give participants an opportunity to reconnect, socialize, tour campus, and refresh their practice of the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi programs.

Featured speakers will include MUM president John Hagelin, founding president Keith Wallace, and Bob Roth, CEO of the David Lynch Foundation.

See originals.mum.edu.

Permaculture Course Open to Public

Scheduled for September 30–October 24, the sustainable living course on permaculture design will be open to the public.

Permaculture design is a system for rethinking and redesigning every aspect of human endeavor in terms of sustainability. It is a cross-disciplinary design system that involves architecture and building, agriculture, energy, urban and city design, economics and livelihoods, water, and the aesthetic integration of these in human settlements.

It combines the observation of natural systems, traditional indigenous wisdom, and modern scientific and technological knowledge.

Students learn to design and implement sustainable systems in harmony with the natural world and how to apply these methods and skills to their home property and local community.

Topics include principles and methodologies of sustainable design, how to read the landscape, strategies and tools for urban and rural homesteads, food forests and orchards, greenhouse operation, natural building, and alternative energy techniques.

The cost is $1,000, which includes course fees and an overnight field trip to the Wisconsin farm of Roald Gunderson, founder of Whole Trees Architecture and Structures. Students will visit at least three other farms in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The instructor is Tyler Willey, who has studied permaculture design and has four years of sustainable development experience in Thailand.

Receive Campus Events via Email

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

Birthdays

Notice

The Review will be publishing birthdays again this year so that everyone can be honored on his or her birthday. To omit your birthday, e-mail jkarpen@mum.edu.