Students in Global Solutions Track Planning “Trash Fashion Show,” Greenhouse Project, and More

The seven first-year students who opted to take the Global Solutions track that entails learning by doing have a number of projects under way, including a “trash fashion show,” a regenerative agriculture greenhouse, and dumpster documenting.

“This approach is unique in a campus setting,” said student David Ford. “All the students are equally involved in each other’s education. We’re focused on solutions that have impact both locally and globally, recognizing that our actions can create a chain reaction in the entire ecosystem.”

Taught by Professor Mark Stimson, the course is focusing on the environment, with weekly field trips and a range of projects students hope will make a difference. Along the way, they learn writing, critical thinking,

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and other knowledge that the other first-year students are gaining in a traditional classroom setting.

The trash fashion show, scheduled for Friday, December 6, at 8:00 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater, will feature clothes made entirely of non-recyclable waste. The purpose is to heighten awareness of waste, especially single-use products, said Emily Burchett.

The students will distribute a handout at the event that will help people become aware of unsustainable fibers and other materials and learn steps they can take.

The students are also in the process of taking over a greenhouse located at Schaus-Vorhies Manufacturing that's heated by waste heat from the factory. Founded to provide produce for area schools, it had fallen into disuse.

The project, headed by Mr. Ford, will be ongoing, including teaching regenerative agriculture to local high school students and teaching MUM students about medicinal herbs.

They are currently planning their first crop and expect to have an open house in December.

The dumpster documenting project entails sorting trash from a dumpster to identify the things that could have been recycled. The students will discuss their findings during the fashion show and post photos online and on social media.

Students Nikki Gardener and Emma Meek are heading a project to clean up two areas bordering campus that are littered with cigarette butts. They are building trash cans for the areas in order to inspire people to keep it clean.

Also in the works is a project to build houses for bats, owls, and bees, all species that have positive effects on the environment.

The students have also gone on weekly field trips, including an organic dairy, a regenerative farm, and the Pathways to Regeneration conference in Ohio.

“The conference provided a more profound connection for me to the natural world and the knowledge and wisdom of mother earth herself,” said Melissa Jones.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“T
his restful alertness of the nervous system is a state of sus-
pension wherein the nervous system is neither active nor passive. This state of no-activity and no-passivity is the state of Being. This is how the nervous system is brought to the level of Being, and coming in tune with Being, the nervous system reaches the level of limitless energy and eternal existence of Being.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

President Hagelin Fills In for Nobel Laureate at Physics Conference

A recent high-level physics conference was left without a keynote speaker when Nobel Laureate Murray Gell-Mann passed away several months earlier, resulting in the organizers inviting President John Hagelin to give an address in his place.

Dr. Hagelin was asked to summarize the work of Professor Gell-Mann on quantum mechanics, and to add his own insights as well.

The conference, entitled “Copenhagen II — 100 Years Later: Re-Envisioning Quantum Mechanics,” was held at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Dr. Hagelin worked intensively to research and prepare his presentation, explaining the still-unresolved enigmas of quantum mechanics and wave-function collapse by showing, in mathematical detail, that the universal wave function (of the unified field) is fundamentally a field of consciousness.

To this end, he had to explain in detail the sequence of the emergence of consciousness laid out in Maharishi’s Aparushya Bhashya – which coincides in mathematical detail with the sequential emergence of the universe as found in string theory.

“It was a 90-minute tour de force,” Dr. Hagelin said. “I really worked hard to create an unassailable and compelling visual presentation and proof. The whole audience seemed quite stunned to see that a cogent case could be made for what they must have thought was an im-

Global Climate Strike

Zombie March

December 6, noon, at Plant (the former movie theater at 121 W. Broadway Ave.). Come as a zombie or come to strike. All brains are welcome!

Organized by the student Sustainable Living Committee, in conjunction with Plant and Climate Action Iowa, to bring awareness to the climate crisis.

The Review

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Transcendental Meditation®, Maharishi Yoga, and Maharishi University of Management are protected trademarks and are used in the U.S. under license or with permission.
MUM Earns Distinction for Quality Education from Accreditors

A four-year initiative to improve MUM education through rigorous assessment of student achievement has come to fruition, with MUM’s accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission, awarding MUM a certificate for successfully completing the Higher Learning Commission Assessment Academy.

The overall goal is to continuously improve the student learning experience, based on measuring the degree to which students achieve specified learning objectives at each level.

This work takes place on three levels: the institution as a whole, academic programs as a whole, and individual courses.

Essential Learning Outcomes

Starting at the top, the institution as a whole, faculty have developed a set of nine Essential Learning Outcomes, core skills that each student is expected to develop regardless of their major. These include skills in development of consciousness, health, holistic thinking, creativity, critical thinking, communication, problem solving, holistic thinking, teamwork and leadership, and local and global citizenship. Faculty are developing performance indicators for each outcome and methods for teaching them.

At the program level, each academic program has its Program Learning Outcomes, which support the overall Essential Learning Outcomes along with specific program objectives.

Student Learning Chart

At the individual course level, a key innovation is the Student Learning Chart, which is at the front of every syllabus. The chart clearly shows students three things: “This is what you’ll learn to do,” “This is how you’ll learn it,” and “This is what will show you’ve learned it.”

Over the four-year Assessment Academy, faculty have been trained in developing learning outcomes for their courses and programs, assessment techniques for measuring student achievement, and curriculum maps that display the courses in the program and their relationship to each other.

Annually each academic program prepares a report describing the success of the students in meeting the program learning outcomes. In addition, a team of 12 faculty assess the quality of the senior projects regarding holistic and critical thinking, and quality of writing.

“We’ve really committed to systematically improving student and faculty learning universitywide,” said Craig Pearson, vice president of academic affairs. “In addition to this systematic assessment, we’ve appointed a dean of assessment, established annual cash awards for achievement in assessment, and have created a new website with assessment resources.”

Accreditation visit in May

MUM is in the Higher Learning Commission’s “Open Pathway,” a track that requires a Quality Initiative during years 5 through 9 of the 10-year accreditation cycle. MUM’s successful participation in the Assessment Academy met the requirements for the Quality Initiative as the university prepares for the 10-year accreditation evaluation scheduled for May of 2020.

Leading the Quality Initiative were Dr. Pearson, Chris Jones, Jane Schmidt-Wilk, Paula Armstrong, Isabelle Matzkin, Ben McClendon, and Sue Brown. They presented the results of their four years of work at a final “Results Forum” of the Assessment Academy in St. Charles, Illinois, earlier this month, along with all the other schools that had participated in the Assessment Academy during this same period.

Presentation well received

“We received many compliments on our presentation materials from Assessment Academy leaders and from faculty from other schools,” Dr. Pearson said. “We’ve achieved a great deal, and we’re really proud of it. It doesn’t stop here though. Continuous improvement means continuous, and we plan to keep building on our work in our service to students.”

109 More Computer Students Arrive

Enrollment in the MS in computer science is projected to hit record levels this academic year, with 109 more students arriving earlier this month. This follows the enrollment of 130 students in August.

The department is receiving more than 1,000 applications a month and is anticipating enrolling a total of about 450 students this academic year, which would eclipse the previous record of 381.

The current group hails from 29 countries, including 33 from Ethiopia, 13 from Mongolia, 12 from Egypt, 11 from Vietnam, and 9 from Uganda.

The robust interest worldwide is credited to word-of-mouth and effective social media marketing via Facebook, said Elaine Guthrie, administrative codirector of the Computer Professionals Program.

“These large enrollments are due to the outstanding work of everyone in Computer Professionals Admissions, with ongoing attention and encouragement from President Hagelin,” Ms. Guthrie said.

In addition, Ms. Guthrie and Professor Greg Guthrie, a founder of the program, have travelled extensively in recent years to alert computer students and professionals of the opportunities at MUM.

In December they traveled to Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey. And early this fall they traveled to Tunis, Algeria, Morocco, and Egypt.

In each country they not only promote the program but also meet with embassy officials to introduce them to MUM and the Computer Professionals Program.

Low-Cost Taxi Service

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9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday–Friday.
New Professor to Offer Courses on Honey Production, Agroforestry

Courses Open to Public

Caroline Akachuku, a visiting expert on honey production and agroforestry, will be teaching three courses second semester that will be open to the public.

Dr. Akachuku is at MUM on a one-year sabbatical from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture in Nigeria. In addition to teaching courses, she will be engaging undergraduate students in her research on pollen count in honey samples from various regions of Iowa to identify honeybee plant preferences.

In the January block (Jan. 13–Feb. 6), she will offer a course on sustainable organic agroforestry food production systems. Agroforestry, her primary area of expertise, entails growing trees or shrubs around or among crops or pastureland, which helps increase biodiversity and reduce erosion.

She will teach organic honey production in the June block (May 25–June 18). The course will include background information on honeybees; instruction on beekeeping tools and equipment; production and processing and uses of honey and other honeybee products; pollination; and more. The course will include fieldwork and laboratory study.

In the April block (March 30–April 23), Dr. Akachuku will cover the ethnobotany, chemical composition, and ecology of forest food plants in various tropical and temperate ecological zones around the world.

For more detail on the courses, see the MUM catalog at www.mum.edu/catalog.

The cost for each course for those who aren’t currently students is $700.

Chamber Singers to Present Holiday Concerts

The Chamber Singers of Southeast Iowa will present an array of ancient and modern choral works at their annual holiday concerts on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Main.

In addition to pieces by Renaissance and Romantic masters, this year’s program features acclaimed choral works by renowned present-day composers. Arnesen, Gjeilo, Sametz, Chilcott, and Hogan take their places alongside Victoria, Hassler, and Mendelssohn in a concert program that features diverse musical styles: world music, gospel, spirituals, carols, motets, canons, and an oratorio chorus.

The melodies of these works, coupled with their rhythmic variety, inspire joy, reverence, wonder, upliftment, and celebration – a rich emotional tapestry characteristic of the holiday season.

A talented instrumental quartet, featuring guest artists on piano, flute, percussion, and bass, will play excerpts from a classical/jazz suite to complement the singing and will accompany some choral pieces.

“We are fortunate to be able to share these beautiful choral works with our wonderful Fairfield community,” said Elaine Reding, music director of the Chamber Singers. “Each song enlivens a different aspect of the holiday spirit and brings the blessings of its own cultural and historical richness to singers and audiences alike. We hope everyone will join us for a fulfilling evening of song!”

Come celebrate the holidays with the Chamber Singers on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church.

There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering at the door will be deeply appreciated.

For more information, please call (641) 919-1952.

Information about Fairfield

fairfieldinfocenter.org
Arts & entertainment, businesses, celebrations, clubs, events, food, housing & lodging, jobs, health services, parks, shopping, tours, and more!

Annapurna Menu

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