MAHARISHI UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY REPORT
2013-2014

First year of David Lynch Film program a success
Dr. A. Thimmaiah’s truly sustainable agriculture
Building an adobe house in the Texas desert
First cohort of graduates in South Africa

JIM CARREY DELIGHTS GRADUATING STUDENTS
In 2014 we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the arrival of Maharishi International University on the campus of the former Parsons College. On September 3, 1974, Maharishi sent a telegram to mark the occasion.

Maharishi University of Management represents, in one institution, consciousness, creativity, academic excellence, and high quality of life for students and faculty.

Every student develops holistic brain functioning through the simple and effortless technique of Transcendental Meditation® and its advanced techniques. Twice a day, every student takes a dive within to experience the treasure house of creativity, intelligence, and energy, which is the Self of everyone.

The daily routine at Maharishi University of Management is far from the stress and strain of conventional education. The student’s daily routine is restful, balanced, joyful — and academically effective and exciting.

Students from 80 countries are experiencing this good fortune every day, and living together in harmony as a world family, which is the natural outcome of their personal development through the Consciousness-Based educational approach.

In fact, the atmosphere here is so rich, visitors say they can feel it even 30 miles away as they drive towards Fairfield. “Know Thy Self,” said the oracle of Delphi. At Maharishi University of Management this is the watchword. This is the education for enlightenment, education to achieve the highest ideals of human life, and to usher in a golden time for humanity. This system of education was designed by the great sage and teacher who is its founder, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

We warmly invite you to come to visit us, and talk to the students, faculty, and researchers, as well as to our alumni who are highly successful entrepreneurs. You are very welcome any time.

Dr. Bevan Morris

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DONATION ADDS 99 ACRES TO MUM WEST OF CAMPUS

MUM’s 270-acre campus was expanded by 37% thanks to a donation that allowed the purchase of 99 acres immediately west of campus bordering the Fairfield loop trail.

A generous donation by MUM Trustee Ramani Ayer and his wife Louise funded the purchase. The land had already been included in the University’s long-term master plan, which shows it being used for new buildings and for a possible solar array that would power campus.

The southern portion has a slope well suited to solar panels. The land could also be used for organic farming.

An immediate benefit of the donation is the possibility of building a massive solar array that would generate between 4.5 and 5 megawatts of power, enough to provide electricity for the whole campus.

IBM SELECTS MUM TO PARTICIPATE IN ACADEMIC INITIATIVE PROGRAM

IBM has selected Maharishi University of Management to participate in its Academic Initiative program, which helps teach students market-ready skills by providing free software and access to hardware, and training for university faculty.

An immediate benefit of the program this past year was a free campus-wide site license for IBM’s data-mining software — an increasingly important skill in the era of “big data.” It is being used in courses on data mining and on statistics, as well as by PhD students and MUM faculty for statistical analysis in their research.

This software system, called SPSS Modeler, is the industry-leading statistics and data analytics platform. It can be used to analyze extremely large data sets to generate insights in real-time for better decision-making.

Faculty member Anil Maheshwari oversaw the extensive application process for the Academic Initiative program and went to Iowa State University to participate in a one-day training session on SPSS Modeler offered by IBM.

UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZED AS GREEN COLLEGE

Two organizations have recognized Maharishi University of Management’s commitment to sustainability.

In August 2013 the University was included for the first time in the annual “Sierra Club Cool Schools” competition winners. The selection of 165 cool schools was based on a comprehensive survey that collects data on every aspect of campus sustainability, including curriculum, renewable energy infrastructure, waste management, bike and pedestrian friendliness, campus dining, and community outreach.

The University was not only selected again in 2014, but also, for the second year in a row, had a perfect score in the food category — higher than any other college or university. The rating was based on criteria such as local purchasing, percentage organic, vegan option, trayless dining, no use of trans fats in frying, and composting of food waste.

In addition, the University was included in The Princeton Review’s Guide to 332 Green Colleges, which salutes colleges demonstrating a strong commitment to the environment and sustainability.

Schools were selected based on the “Green Rating” scores tallied in 2013 for 832 schools. The rating is based on data from an annual survey conducted among hundreds of school administrators about their schools’ environmental and sustainability-related policies, practices, and academic offerings.

CONGRESSMAN DAVE LOEBSACK VISITS CAMPUS

Iowa congressman Dave Loebsack visited MUM’s Sustainable Living building in December of 2013 during a tour of southeast Iowa industries and people working in the green sector. He spoke with faculty, staff, and students and heard about the building’s efficiency and net zero energy design, its teaching structure, and the benefits of the use of principles of Maharishi Vastu architecture. He praised the work being done by the Sustainable Living program and the University.

PROFESSOR GAMBLE SELECTED FOR “GREAT COURSES” SERIES

Sustainable Living faculty member Lonnie Gamble has been selected to offer a course on sustainability as part of the nationally-known series called “The Great Courses.”

His 12-lesson course, “Fundamentals of Sustainable Living,” will be featured in a catalog that goes to 50 million people with courses by 200 professors from top universities around the country. A sample lesson recorded in Washington, DC, on the topic of solar energy can be seen at tinyurl.com/lyz4vk. Other lessons will cover sustainable food, water, transportation, buildings, heating, cooling, and kitchen appliances. The final taping of the 12 lectures was in December in Washington, with the course expected to be released in July of this year.

The course identifies him as a professor at Maharishi University of Management teaching in the Sustainable Living program.

The first sample lesson includes brief footage about the Sustainable Living Center, Abundance Ecow Village, and Mr. Gamble’s off-the-grid home.
FACULTY MEMBER PETER FREUND DISCOVERS LOST VEDIC TEXTS

An extremely rare Vedic text, with only one known copy in the world, is among a number of ancient texts that have been discovered, transcribed into classical Devanāgarī script, and posted online by MUM librarian Peter Freund.

The adventure began when Dr. Freund undertook a project to revive ancient Vedic texts that are mostly part of Shiksha, the branch of Vedic literature that deals with correct pronunciation and recitation. He had started by obtaining photographs of texts from libraries around the world, thanks in part to a Kickstarter project. Some of these texts are so old they are written on palm leaves.

Using an index, he identified some manuscripts in a library in Mysore, India, and obtained photographs of them. The text he was seeking, called Veda Shiksha, was one of 25 different Shiksha texts in a large bundle of palm leaves written in Telugu script.

The Mysore librarian apparently didn't want to go to the trouble of figuring out which palm leaves had the Veda Shiksha, since the text didn't have a colophon or any clear notation indicating its starting and stopping points, so she sent me photographs of the entire bundle,” Dr. Freund said.

After Dr. Freund and his colleague Vivek Vaidyanathan had transcribed, proofed, and edited the Varna Shiksha text, they discovered that it was entirely different from the Veda Shiksha they had been seeking — one that had been lost. “This was a highly fortuitous accident, which has left us in possession of one of the greatest treasures of Vedic literature,” Dr. Freund said.

Varna Shiksha offers a deep understanding of the science of phonology, and explains the special characteristics of the different letters of the alphabet. As he transcribes the texts, Dr. Freund says, how speech is made of particles of infinity. Dr. Freund said his discovery of Varna Shiksha may be the most important new discovery in the field of Shiksha in 150 years. This discovery has not been the only one! Dr. Freund has discovered that bundled with requested texts are other texts not previously recognized. In essence, he has recovered texts that had been lost.

For example, Dr. Freund discovered Varuna Upapurana, which contains 10 delightful stories of the exploits of Lord Shiva. While some of these stories are present in other Vedic texts, others do not appear elsewhere.

Other texts brought to light from ancient manuscripts include Atreya Shiksha, Vyāla Shiksha, Vaiśishṭha Shiksha, Yohi Prapta Shiksha, and Pinda Lakshnam.

INTERNATIONAL VEDIC ASSOCIATION HOLDS CONFERENCE AT MUM

More than 100 Vedic scholars and others interested in Vedic studies, both from Fairfield and from out of town, came together at MUM last summer for a conference on “Vedic Living in a Modern World” cosponsored by the World Association for Vedic Studies.

The 120 presentations, panel discussions, and plenary talks covered topics such as higher states of consciousness, the importance of asanas, principles of management, Vedic insight into quantum theory, Consciousness-Based education, Sthapatya Veda, Maharishi AyurVeda®, the effect of the Transcendental Meditation technique on gene expression, and the mathematics of pure consciousness.

The conference brought together “a diverse group of people who share a profound respect for and love of the holistic knowledge and life-supporting culture of ancient India,” said Peter Scharff, co-chair of the conference.

Among those presenting were 75 scholars from out of town, including from Canada and India, and another 20 from India via Skype.

CRAIG PEARSON PUBLISHES BOOK ON EXPERIENCES OF ENLIGHTENMENT THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Henry David Thoreau described moments when “we become like a still lake of purest crystal,” moments of “serene and unquestionable wisdom.” The English poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson described experiencing a “state of transcendent wonder, associated with absolute clearness of mind.” Thomas Merton, the 20th-century American writer and Trappist monk, described moments during which “our soul suddenly awakens us to a new level of awareness,” making the ordinary waking state seem “like sleep” in comparison.

Throughout history, great men and women have described exalted experiences of extraordinary wakefulness, freedom, and bliss — as different from our ordinary waking experience as waking is from dreaming.

In his new book, The Supreme Awakening: Experiences of Enlightenment Throughout Time — and How You Can Cultivate Them, Executive Vice-President Craig Pearson brings together an extraordinary collection of these experiences — and he shows how these experiences can be understood in terms of Maharishi’s model of higher states of consciousness.
Maharishi University of Management got more than the best-ever commencement address when actor Jim Carrey visited for a week in May. He offered a warm embrace of the University, and in turn, the University showed deep appreciation for his counsel to the graduating students, his commitment to bettering humanity, his clear understanding of Maharishi’s knowledge — and his humor.

During the commencement ceremony, the University presented Mr. Carrey with an honorary doctorate in recognition of his many contributions (see sidebar on page 12). His visit included a meeting with film students, a tour of the Sustainable Living Center, and planting rice seedlings in a plot in front of the building.

FAMED ACTOR
JIM CARREY
OFFERS HUMOROUS AND WISE
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS,
MEETS WITH STUDENTS

Funny and profound
The highlight of Mr. Carrey’s visit was his funny and profound commencement address, which was included in the Los Angeles Times list of this year’s best graduation speeches. It made news worldwide, including a touching one-minute clip on CNN Headline News. The same clip posted on YouTube was viewed around 8 million times within six weeks. His entire address, which is also posted on YouTube, had been viewed over 2 million times within two months. Some 65 million people have viewed all or a portion of the address.

Mr. Carrey’s now famous advice that was highlighted in the widely viewed clip came in the context of a moving story about his father, whom he admired and who himself could have been a professional comedian but who became an accountant to support his family. His father eventually lost his job, causing the family to struggle for a number of years.

“I learned many great lessons from my father, not the least of which was that you can fail at what you don’t want, so you might as well take a chance on doing what you love,” Mr. Carrey said.

He said one can act out of fear or out of love, and he urged the latter. “Fear is going to be a player in your life, but you get to decide how much. You can spend your whole life imagining ghosts, worrying about your pathway to the future, but all there will ever be is what’s happening here, and the decisions we make in this moment, which are based in either love or fear.”

Actions based on love
As a young child he watched the effect his father’s love and humor had on the world, and he thought, “That’s something to do, that’s something worth my time.” He ultimately decided the purpose of his life had always been to free people from concern, as his father had done.

Mr. Carrey chose to act based on love, and offered his personal experience as proof that it can work. “What we really want seems impossibly out of reach and ridiculous to expect, so we never dare to ask the universe for it. I’m saying, I’m the proof that you can ask the universe for it — please!”

He closed by advising the students, “You are ready and able to do beautiful things in this world and after you walk through those doors today, you will only ever have two choices: love or fear. Choose love, and don’t ever let fear turn you against your playful heart.”
The graduating students cheered his wise words, and the packed house in the Maharishi Patanjali Golden Dome laughed heartily at his every quip and humorous aside. But, going well beyond a counsel-filled commencement address, in the middle part of his talk Mr. Carrey showed his deep understanding and appreciation of Vedic wisdom.

With honesty and sincerity he acknowledged that achieving his dreams and living at the top of the entertainment world is gratifying but ephemeral. "Everything you gain in life will rot and fall apart, and all that will be left of you is what was in your heart. . . . I am at the top of the mountain and the only one I hadn't freed was myself, and that's when my search for identity deepened. I wondered who I'd be without my fame."

The answer is the peace that lies within. Acknowledging the students’ familiarity with the transcendent, he said, "But you guys are way ahead of the game. You already know who you are and that peace, that peace that we're after, lies somewhere beyond personality, beyond the perception of others, beyond invention and disguise — even beyond effort itself."

Going beyond ego

With a clear appreciation of the difference between ego and the Self that underlies it, Mr. Carrey told the graduates, "Ultimately, we're not the avatars we create. We're not the pictures on the film stock. We are the light that shines through it. All else is just smoke and mirrors. Distracting, but not truly compelling. . . ."

"My soul is not contained within the limits of my body. My body is contained within the limitlessness of my soul — one unified field of nothing dancing for no particular reason, except maybe to comfort and entertain itself. As that shift happens in you, you won't be feeling the world, you'll be felt by it — you will be embraced by it. . . ."

"No matter what you gain, ego will not let you rest. It will tell you that you cannot stop until you've left an indelible mark on the earth, until you've achieved immortality. How tricky is the ego that it would tempt us with the promise of something we already possess."

Practice of the Transcendental Meditation technique

Mr. Carrey is well familiar with that "something we already possess," having learned the Transcendental Meditation technique in the late 1990s during the
Jim Carrey presented with honorary doctorate

In recognition of his significant lifetime achievement and the joyful gifts he has given to the world, the University Board of Trustees awarded Mr. Carrey the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts Honoris Causa.

His extraordinary achievements include appearing in 40 films, his award-winning children’s book, an art exhibit that received rave reviews, two Golden Globe best-actor awards, and his humanitarian efforts, including The Better U Foundation, which addresses global food security and helps rice farmers earn a better living for their families by supporting the System of Rice Intensification.

In receiving the award, Mr. Carrey said he was astounded at the honor and expressed his effusive gratitude, joking all the while.

He concluded by saying, “All I feel right now is that I’m looking at and am with and am connected to a large body of people who have been treated really well and who mean to treat the whole world the same. And who really truly seem full and open and alive. I can’t tell you how wonderful it is to be in the same room with that feeling. I live for it. I’m so happy to be here... Thank you so much. I love you all so much.”

Filming of the movie *Man on the Moon*, about the life of comedian Andy Kaufman, a teacher of the Transcendental Meditation technique. He has also supported the David Lynch Foundations’ initiatives to bring this technique to at-risk young people, veterans with PTSD, and women and children who are survivors of domestic abuse.

His children’s book, titled *How Roland Rolls* and published in 2013, is about a wave named Roland who’s afraid that when he hits the beach his life will be over. But then, going deep, he realizes he’s not just a wave — he’s the whole ocean. It teaches, in a delightfully simple way, the essential truth of Vedanta, the timeless wisdom of India.

“Mr. Carrey’s wisdom, deep clarity, and compassion — as exemplified in his profoundly charming book — has captured and inspired many of us in this meditating community,” said Dr. John Hagelin, MUM faculty member and Trustee. “The classical message of Vedanta, of enlightenment and universal love, so charmingly told and accessible to children, is a precious contribution to humanity in its own right.”

Meeting with students

Mr. Carrey’s visit to the community wasn’t his first. He also came in 2013 to take advantage of the Maharishi AyurVeda treatment offered by the Raj in Maharishi Vedic City. His visit this year included meeting with film students, planting rice seedlings, touring the Sustainable Living Center, attending the Awards Ceremony, using MUM Library resources, visiting MUM’s EEG lab, and more.

Students and faculty in the David Lynch MA in Film had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Carrey in the Maharishi Patanjali Golden Dome for about 40 minutes.

“It was a great interchange and a fantastic experience,” said faculty member Gurchy Leete. “And he’s funny all the time, yet insightful and kind. He was very encouraging and very interested in the students.”

The evening before graduation Mr. Carrey attended the annual awards ceremony, during which the outstanding student from each department receives an award.

**Planting rice seedlings, visiting brain center**

The week following graduation he had a brief tour of the Sustainable Living Center and planted some rice seedlings in a plot in front of the building. His Better U Foundation teaches rice farmers internationally an approach to rice cultivation called the System of Rice Intensification that results in much greater yields.

The head of Mr. Carrey’s foundation was also on campus, and there may be opportunities for collaborations between MUM students and his foundation.

During Mr. Carrey’s visit to MUM’s Center for Brain, Consciousness, and Cognition, Fred Travis explained how emotions guide decision-making, and how transcendence during Transcendental Meditation practice gives a stable basis for planning and relationships. And he showed Mr. Carrey the brain patterns during Transcendental Meditation practice and eyes-open tasks that demonstrate how quickly practitioners master transcending, using the natural tendency of the mind to take attention from thinking to pure consciousness.

“From the moment he arrived, Jim began to feel the special nature of MUM and really enjoyed it,” said Craig Pearson, executive vice-president. “He was eager to experience many facets of the University.”

And thanks to Mr. Carrey, millions more people worldwide are now aware of Maharishi University of Management.

Visit tinyurl.com/ou5kaqv to view the “Better U Foundation Video Tour” and see the students, faculty, and administrators talking about this unique opportunity.

“Thanks to Mr. Carrey, millions more people worldwide are now aware of Maharishi University of Management.”

**A TALK LACED WITH ANTONICS AND HUMOR**

To appreciate the humor and antics and facial expressions that suffused his talk, one must view the video of Jim Carrey’s address. But here are examples of the ever-present quips.

“I am here to plant a seed today, a seed that will inspire you to move forward in life with enthusiastic hearts and a clear sense of whole-ness. The question is, will that seed have a chance to take root, or will I be sued by Monsanto and forced to use their seed, which may not be totally Ayurvedic?” (laughter)

“I want to thank the trustees, administrators, and faculty of MUM for creating an institution worthy of Maharishi’s ideals of education. A place that teaches the knowledge and experience necessary to be productive in life, as well as enabling the students, through Transcendental Meditation, an ancient Vedic knowledge, to slack off twice a day for an hour and a half! (laughter) — don’t think you’re fooling me!!! — (applause) but, I guess it has some benefits.”
LIKE GETTING A JUMBO JET AIRBORNE

GRADUATES OF FIRST DAVID LYNCH MA IN FILM COMPLETE THEIR FILMS

Twin Coral and Melodia Morales had worked on their film for nearly nine months, so wouldn’t it be just a bit nerve-wracking at their first private screening for an audience of 35 people? “No,” says Coral. “We weren’t nervous. We were confident, and knew our audience would relate to what we were trying to do. We were excited. I’d call it ‘happy butterflies’.”

And what a lot of work that film was, with a cast of 23 actors and 11 crew members. They produced 20 minutes of a 50-minute pilot episode for their MA thesis project, a sci-fi thriller TV series.

Finding a concept for the film Titled The Scribbler, the series is about a young woman who can write the future, Melodia says. “She realizes her ability makes her very powerful and humanity’s fate rests in her hands. She quickly becomes a priority target to the underground government, and is forced to do the unexpected.”

The concept was Melodia’s idea. The first step was to get it approved. Students come into the program already as experienced filmmakers, and the program aims to give them a period of months to focus on a major project. Along the way they get feedback from faculty who have extensive professional experience as well as tips from Hollywood pros and even David Lynch himself. The concept must be good, must be something they feel deeply passionate about, and must be workable.

The students meet with the faculty several times to discuss their concept, and once it’s approved, the real work starts.

The immense task of planning a film

After all, where do a couple of young filmmakers find a cast of 23 actors and a crew of 11? A script has to be written, locations found, sets designed, costumes made, actors and crewmembers prepped, and funds raised on websites such as Kickstarter. Then the students need to decide what role they’ll play on their own film. Will they produce it, direct it, do the camera work, edit it, do the sound, create the visual effects, design the set? One or two people can’t do everything.

Coral and Melodia served as directors and producers, did some of the camera work, and edited their final product. They relied on other students to do most of the filming and special effects.

Then there’s scheduling the camera. Although a few students used their own cameras, the Morales twins, along with most of the other students, opted to use the department’s Red One camera, a high-end digital camera widely used in Hollywood that mimics the quality of the best cinema cameras. Having one camera entails more scheduling.

So it takes a tremendous planning effort, with all the students playing various roles on their own film and the films of the others. Their film projects also involve undergraduate students and actors from the community, the region, and even Los Angeles.

The students are graded partly on helping with other students’ projects. They need to do most of the work on their own film, but rely heavily on others. In addition to working on their own film, Coral and Melodia helped out in two other films by playing roles such as actresses, camera operator, boom operator, assistant director, sound assistant, and sound mixer.

Once all the actors are lined up and the crew in place, then the shoot is scheduled, typically over a period of 7–15 days. Everything has to go like clockwork, because the next project is scheduled and waiting in the wings. It’s not so different from Hollywood, when the production schedule is constrained by budget and by the other commitments of all the actors and crew.

Like getting a jumbo jet airborne

Faculty member Stuart Tanner, an award-winning documentary filmmaker for the BBC, the Discovery Channel, and other top outlets, acknowledges the huge complexity of film and making it all work together. He compares it to a jumbo jet.

“It’s like a big long runway, with the plane gradually starting off slowly, trundling along the runway, picking up speed. You think, is this thing really going to take off? It’s like a jumbo jet, having trouble picking up speed, seems to be missing an engine, then suddenly the thing takes off, and you can see everyone working together. The whole thing is like, wow, this is like a real film set. Wow, it works. Then, these amazing things happen; it all makes sense. It can be a real challenge getting the jumbo jets off the runway, but when they take off, it’s fantastic.”

Coral and Melodia agree about the challenges. “Sometimes it was hectic but we always felt we were seeing the big picture in the end, and constantly had the silence within,” Coral says. “We had something to go back to, where we felt stable. Understanding that knowledge is structured within us, we knew things would work out. We had total faith. Failing wasn’t an option. If we didn’t have the Transcendental Meditation technique, we would have been really stressed out.”

High-quality films

According to department administrator Eden West, the first year of the program was a great success. The 15 students in the program wrote, filmed, post-produced, and exhibited their films.”

MAHAVISHI UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT
and edited 12 films ranging from short films and TV pilots to feature films. “The students produced the most amazing footage,” she said.

“The David Lynch MA program has encouraged the ambitions of each student, pushing us and our projects well beyond what we thought possible, but knew we were capable of,” said student McManus Woodend.

Their films ranged from a full-length mockumentary comedy feature film to an action-packed TV pilot with superheroes fighting bad guys. Most of the films were dramas 20–30 minutes long.

Freedom regarding type of film
According to Professor Tanner, the students are free to choose whatever type of film they want to work on. In fact, they aren’t even required to do their own film, having the option of focusing on some other role, such as being director. But most chose to do their own film, with several of the films being a collaboration between two students.

“The important thing is, whatever one does, it’s an expression of one’s own working creative voice or realization in the form of film. What matters is, does it work? Do people walk away and remember it? Has it spoken to them, resonated with them?”

He says the students made a wide variety of films on a range of subjects, with varying tones. Using a favorite metaphor of filmmaker David Lynch, who says that ideas are like fish and that one needs to go deep to “catch the big fish,” Professor Tanner says, “Catching your own big fish, there’s a big trick to that, following all the way to completion.”

Receiving advice from David Lynch
A highlight of the year was a two-day visit with award-winning filmmaker David Lynch himself in his Hollywood Hills home studio, where parts of his film Lost Highway were shot. The students showed David a trailer of their films and had morning sessions with him in which they had the opportunity to ask questions. He shared practical and inspiring thoughts about the world of film and media and about consciousness.

“David talked about everything, how to direct, working with performers, lights, sound, music,” Professor Tanner said. “There are so many elements that work together and all of them have to work; the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. David gives his full attention to every part.”

“It was truly a master class in film,” said faculty member Gurdy Leete.

Professor Tanner said that whatever David has to say sinks in deeply and sparks ideas in students. “He speaks from a deep level; it communicates. It’s like nectar, it’s a very real experience. That’s what a master in any field gives to you. It helps you see your way forward, to clarify your vision and understand the path you tread to the palace and the stops along the way. David Lynch has got to the palace. There are very few filmmakers like that.”

Meetings with insiders in Hollywood
In Los Angeles the students also met with Lisa Wilson, who has worked on the distribution of many films, including Academy Award winners On Golden Pond, Crash, and Hugo. At Sony Studios they attended a private preview screening of What About Love, starring Sharon Stone and Andy Garcia. The director of the film, Klaus Menzel, met with the students before the screening to discuss the industry in a panel discussion that also included the producer of Crash, Mark Harris, and the associate producer of Die Hard, Beau Marks, who teaches at UCLA.

In addition, the group had lunch in Santa Monica with John Raatz, the marketing manager for Jim Carrey. And they met with Peter Farrelly, writer and director of Jim Carrey’s forthcoming film, The Big Fix.

Hollywood pros visit campus
In addition to their LA trip, the students also had contact with Hollywood pros who have visited campus or called the students via Skype.

John Raatz, who is also a representative for Martin Sheen and Madonna, came to campus to give the students a two-day workshop on transformational media, which focuses on raising awareness. He was also the marketing genius behind the film What the Bleep Do We Know! and he and Jim Carrey are co-founders of the Global Alliance for Transformational Entertainment. Carrey himself met with the students for about 40 minutes the day before his address, answering their questions and showing a sincere interest in their work.

Also visiting campus was Bill Borden, a producer for 34 movies, such as Mission: Impossible; III. He told behind-the-scenes stories of what goes on during the production of a film, such as the challenges of dealing with the various personalities.

Ron Peterson, author of the book The Language of Screenwriting, met with the students on campus and continued to work with some of them by phone during their writing process. He emphasized the importance of having a good story written in proper screen format to translate onto the screen, and how carefully thought-out sequencing is what creates great movies.

Director/screenwriter Jeremy Kagan, whose hit movies include Heroes, The Big Fix, and The Chosen, spoke to the students via Skype. His message was: maximum commitment, minimum attachment. Have a vision but let go when it feels right.

And producer Joanna Plafsky, who helped inspire David Lynch to lend his name to the program, has played a key role in organizing the students’ connections with the Hollywood professionals, raising funding for their projects, and more.

“We’re not just about making films”
Overall, it was a successful inaugural year for the David Lynch MA in Film. And while the faculty and Hollywood noise so you can hear yourself and your heart can respond to those deep creative impulses. It leads you somewhere. Where you do is follow it. It’ll take you down a glorious woodland path. But if you’ve got a lot of noise, it’s easy to get lost. TM makes sure the noisy brass band doesn’t follow you down the woodland path. All you should be hearing is the gentle sounds of a breeze or a flute in the distance.”

Lynch MA administrator Eden West, who has a film background, played the lead in several of the students’ films.

Where do you find film actors in Fairfield?
Coral and Melodia Morales involved 23 actors in their film. And that was just one of the 12 films the students produced. Where did all the actors come from?

Fortunately, Fairfield has long been known for its very active theater groups, with many very experienced professionals in town. And some of them also have film experience.

The actors came to the students’ films from all over the country, with varying tones. “There were 13 of us looking for film actors in Fairfield?” said student McManus Woodend.

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Preparing a rice patch for Jim Carrey
Dr. Thim quickly calculated how long it takes to grow seedlings: there was just enough time. He hurriedly found a source for organic rice seeds, ordered them, soaked them overnight in water as soon as they arrived in order to sprout them, and then planted the seeds. He and others also quickly prepared a small plot in front of the Sustainable Living Center, using their compost for the soil.
On May 23 the seedlings were about 5 inches high, just right for transplanting. Jim Carrey came to the Sustainable Living Center and, along with a small group of people, planted about 70 seedlings in the precise fashion prescribed by the System of Rice Intensification while Dr. Thim explained the details of how the system works.

That is quintessentially Dr. Thim, one of MUM’s newest faculty members, who comes to the University by way of India and Bhutan. He received his PhD in biodynamic agriculture in 2000 and was the first person in India to create a consulting business helping farmer groups, corporations, and international organizations embrace truly organic sustainable agriculture.

Meeting with Maharishi
He also connected with Maharishi. Early in his consulting career, he was contact- ed by officials working for Maharishi in Holland about a technical feasibility sur- vey for growing Ayurvedic herbs in In- dia. They felt Dr. Thim would be a good person to advise Maharishi. Dr. Thim spent a month with Maharishi in 2000, discussing various farming projects as well as Maharishi Vedic Science and Vedic agriculture. Dr. Thim was familiar with Vedic agriculture, having grown up on a farm in India and having received his doctorate in biodynamic agriculture, which he says is largely rooted in Vedic agriculture.

Over the years Dr. Thim was con- sulted several other times, such as when a Maharishi Vedic Organic Farm was begun in Brazil. But a relationship wasn’t really established until the paths of Dr. Thim and University officials converged in the tiny Himalayan King- dom of Bhutan.

Assisting the Kingdom of Bhutan
The country was modernizing and try- ing to figure out how to provide for its people. Larger scale agriculture was needed, but what approach should they take? The tendency was to go toward conventional agriculture, but such an approach is hardly feasible in a country where fertilizer and pesticides and her- bicides would have to be trucked high into the mountains.
Bhutan sought out Dr. Thim in In- dia. He convinced officials that conven- tional wouldn’t work and that the best route was sustainable organic agricul- ture. But this approach involves simple

Weeds are not the enemy — Dr. A. Thimmaiah’s vision of truly sustainable agriculture
One doesn’t expect to see a rice patch in Iowa. But there it is, flourishing in front of the Sustainable Living Center. The small 6 x 12-foot plot, which uses the innovative System of Rice Intensification, is expected to produce around 75 pounds of rice. And when it’s harvested, a significant portion of that rice will be sent to actor Jim Carrey, who helped plant the seedlings.

When it was announced that Mr. Car- rey would be coming to campus to give the commencement address — and that he was bringing the director of his Better U Foundation, John Jolliffe — faculty member Dr. A. Thimmaiah (known by everyone as Dr. Thim) sprang into action. He had met Mr. Jolliffe four years earlier, and he knew the foundation promoted the System of Rice Intensification. He thought, what better way to honor Jim Carrey for his charitable foundation, which helps rice farmers greatly increase crop yields, than by giving a demonstration?
He proposed to Jim Carrey’s manag- er that Mr. Carrey visit the Sustainable Living Center and plant seedlings dur- ing his visit. And to Dr. Thim’s surprise, Mr. Carrey said yes.

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That is quintessential
and practical techniques that must be learned. The Bhutanese government asked Dr. Thim to train around 30 agriculture extension people in these methods in his project sites in India. They went back to Bhutan to apply them, but weren't completely successful. “They just didn't have the confidence,” Dr. Thim says. “It was all new to them, and they weren't entirely convinced.”

So Bhutan hired Dr. Thim through the Netherlands Development Organization to go there for two years and help implement this new approach to agriculture. Dr. Thim wrote detailed training manuals. “They were simple, detailed instructions, just like cookbooks,” he says. The manuals helped. As did his presence onsite.

But there was resistance. Most specialists in agriculture have been trained in conventional practices and are skeptical of the organic approach. Yet, as Dr. Thim knew, not only is conventional agriculture not sustainable, it simply isn't logistically possible in Bhutan, especially given the expense of trucking in fertilizer and pesticides.

So Dr. Thim stopped referring to it as “organic agriculture,” thinking this would help break down some of the resistance. Instead he called it “sustainable agriculture.” That was better — but still there was resistance. So he decided simply to call it “low-cost agriculture.” That worked.

Leaving Bhutan to teach at Maharishi University of Management

Meanwhile, the University had been making contacts in Bhutan, with Bhutanese officials visiting campus, and President Bevan Morris and Faculty visiting Bhutan. The country, in its goal of modifying, realizes the special challenges in Bhutan. The country, in its goal of modifying, realizes the special challenges in Bhutan. The country, in its goal of modifying, realizes the special challenges in Bhutan.

One thing led to another, and President Bevan Morris invited Dr. Thim to come for a month in May 2013 to share his knowledge. Dr. Thim enjoyed his experience on campus and was impressed with the community. University leaders were equally impressed with Dr. Thim and invited him to join full-time faculty. He accepted, and arrived in March 2014 to head up the track in organic agriculture in the Sustainable Living Program.

Weeds are not the enemy

On a late summer day, standing by his rice patch impeccably dressed in a shirt and tie, Dr. Thim doesn’t look like a farmer. He looks more like a consultant. But soon you realize his connectedness with the rice patch and with all the other edibles growing around the Sustainable Living Center. He hands a visitor a cherry tomato, and then another, explaining that it tastes best when fully mature.

Then he finds a weed among the rice plants. He pinches it instead of pulling it out by the roots. “Here, eat this,” he says. “It’s lambs quarters. It’s quite nutritious. We refer to these as weeds, but we can harvest them and eat them right along with the rice. That’s why I pinch it rather than pulling it out by the roots. That way it can grow back and provide more food.”

And then he pinches a dandelion leaf. “Here, eat this. Dandelion is very nutritious and excellent if you’re having stomach problems. It’s the best remedy for digestion problems.” Then he points to some amaranth. “We didn’t plant that. We found it growing up in our compost pile, and now it has spread. We’re letting it grow because it’s very nutritious.”

“This gets to the heart of Dr. Thim’s vision. ‘Weeds are not the enemy,’ he says. “Everything has a use. If the weeds aren’t beneficial and excellent if you’re having stomach problems. It’s the best remedy for digestion problems.” Then he points to some amaranth. “We didn’t plant that. We found it growing up in our compost pile, and now it has spread. We’re letting it grow because it’s very nutritious.”

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Deep sustainability

His passion is deep sustainability — farming that is “of the farmer, by the farmer, and for the farmer.” All of the needs of the farm, whether seeds, fertilizer, or natural pesticides, are met within the farm itself. It uses the least outside inputs, yet is commercially viable. “The farmer is connecting with his own land,” says Dr. Thim, whose expertise includes adopting farming methods that are appropriate to particular locales.

He says that most farm income today goes toward seed, chemicals, and manure, typically resulting in debt and trying farmers to the factory approach. Farmers give up and move to the city. “That’s not sustainability,” he says.

Biodynamic farming

The Sustainable Living program is initially focusing on organic farming. Dr. Thim says. Students gain hands-on experience on campus farming plots, in-spread or sprayed on fields.

“Biodynamic is in line with the rhythms of nature, and the quality it produces is very high,” Dr. Thimmaiah said. “It’s all about harmony with nature.”

Because of the University’s association with the national biodynamic organizations, he says, students may have the opportunity to do internships on biodynamic farms. He also envisions the opportunity for students to become certified as biodynamic consultants or inspectors.

Maharishi Vedic Organic Agriculture

Ultimately the curriculum will progress to Maharishi Vedic Organic Agriculture, which integrates Vedic concepts into farming and is currently being developed in conjunction with experts in Maharishi Vedic Organic Agriculture.

The overall curriculum will be broad, considering global scenarios related to sustainability and organic agriculture, as well as being focused on what students can do in their own locality, giving them plenty of hands-on experience.

Do less and accomplish more

As he talks about his vision of agriculture, Dr. Thim refers to Maharishi’s principle of “do less and accomplish more.” An intelligent approach to agriculture, he says, makes use of everything in the environment. Nothing is wasted. The result is more food, with less effort, as well as agriculture that is more environmentally friendly instead of destroying the soil and water. This is truly sustainable agriculture: better for the farmer, better for the people the farmer feeds, and better for the environment. “Smart farming is the wave of the future,” he says. It’s an urgent need, and Dr. Thim is determined to make it happen.
The rice patch honoring actor Jim Carrey in front of the Sustainable Living Center is flourishing thanks to the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). This approach, which was developed by a Jesuit priest in Madagascar in the early 1980s, typically doubles yields while using just an eighth of the amount of seeds and 50–70% less water compared to conventional rice farming.

Because the seedlings still have their most dynamic growth phase ahead of them, and because they have more space, and because the roots are less damaged at this earlier phase, what happens next is remarkable. The seedlings propagate. More stalks, called “tillers,” start to appear alongside the one or two that were planted. Dr. Thim bends down to one of the plants and counts the tillers: 34. The conventional approach would produce only 7–15 additional tillers per hill.

He explains that rice is a grass and that it can be grown in Iowa just as any other vegetable or grain. It only needs intermittent rain. However, it does need one or two additional weedicings during its growing period, as compared to once for conventional. Also, the younger plants are more delicate than those transplanted when more mature, requiring more careful handling.

“I think of SRI not as System of Rice Intensification but as System of Root Intensification,” Dr. Thim says. “We should be able to do this with any kind of crop. If you take care of the roots, the plants will flourish.”

Why isn’t this practice more widely used? Conventional approaches are entrenched, and the industrial machinery is built specifically for that approach, thereby resisting innovation.

But, as Dr. Thim points out, this sterilization goes against the nature of agriculture, which has always been experimental. The local environment always has its particular characteristics, and truly sustainable agriculture must constantly be adapted to that environment.

As an experiment, Dr. Thim plans to incorporate companion planting into the System of Rice Intensification. He will widen spaces between the rows and then plant beans between the rows of rice plants. The fast-growing beans would provide a ground cover to help keep out weeds, fix nitrogen in the soil, nourishing the rice. And the farmer would enjoy an abundant harvest of both beans and rice.
“Charity did amazingly well,” said professor Mark Stimson. “She had never done any of this, but by the end of the first week she was doing professional quality work.”

“I loved it, absolutely loved it,” Charity said.

Charity and her classmates were building a tiny house, a home that’s typically 100–200 square feet. Sustainable Living students have now built three tiny houses over the past two years, plus an adobe house in a Texas desert.

**Learning to build one’s own home**

These projects are valuable on a lot of levels, Mark says. On a personal level, the students learn how to build their home and live with a low carbon footprint. The tiny-house movement is growing in the US because people find they can live mortgage-free in a comfortable, affordable, energy-wise home.

“The goals of the tiny-house movement include building your own house, living mortgage-free, simplifying your lifestyle, and lowering your energy and environmental footprints, while still having all the amenities,” Mark says.

In earlier times, before the 19th century, people were more self-sufficient and typically built their own houses, he said. That began changing in the last 200 years, as housing construction evolved into a series of specialties, such as carpenters, plumbers, and electricians.

“People have lost self-sufficiency and self-reliance,” he said. “Part of the goal of the tiny-house movement, and the Sustainable Living program, is to regain that self-reliance so that people can build for themselves.”

**Skills ranging from drafting to specialized math**

The students built their first house in the spring of 2013. During the course, which covered much of what an architecture student would learn in the first semester of an architecture program, the students learned the elements of building, the principles of structure, and the drafting skills necessary to create a plan for a house, as well as the ability to use a range of tools.

Each student drafted a complete plan for his or her own house, including floor plans, elevations (side views), and structural diagrams. In addition, the class as a whole built the frame of a tiny house.

Mark paid for the materials and moved their tiny house to his property in Texas, where he completed it and where it serves as part of his new desert retreat and ecology station project.

The students found the course challenging, Mark said, because they had to learn specialized math skills and new concepts and terminology.

“For the most part, they came through with flying colors,” he said.

**An adventure in the Texas desert**

If learning to design and build a house is challenging, building an adobe house
features

in the remote Texas desert takes it up another notch.

But that’s exactly what a group of 12 intrepid students did in the fall of 2013, building an adobe house measuring 14 by 14 feet on the land owned by Mark that’s adjacent to Big Bend National Park — and 80 miles from the nearest town on a road too rugged for ordinary cars.

Every aspect of the construction required learning new skills. The students began their work on campus, creating a plan and estimating the amount of materials they would need. They prepared and canned all their food in advance — itself a learning exercise in planning and execution. They traveled to the site via the Sustainable Living department bus powered by biodiesel fuel that was made by the students and staff member Steve Fugate.

Made of 850 adobe bricks

Once on site, the students identified some suitable soil for bricks near the construction site and learned to sift it, moisten it with water, and then use forms to create the bricks. Once skilled, they were able to make a brick in less than a minute.

They fashioned 850 adobe bricks, but then the bricks, all 17,000 pounds of them, had to be carried up a long hill. Forming a chain, the students accomplished the task easily.

They created a frame of posts and beams using dead spruce trees harvested beforehand on campus, then topped the structure with a waterproof thatched roof made of river cane.

A transformative experience

“The students had a transformative experience,” Mark said. “They’ve never seen anything like this desert, with its vast scale. The heights and distances reset your perspective on things.”

Building sustainable communities

In addition to learning practical construction skills, the students had the opportunity to experience an extraordinary landscape that includes deep vertical canyons, distant mountains, rock outcroppings dating back 500 million years, fossils, petrified wood, and a hot spring on the Rio Grande. Plus the occasional tarantula and scorpion.

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A wide-ranging curriculum

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The structure is used as a bunkhouse for visitors to his desert site, intended as a retreat for campus groups and students in other departments, as well as Sustainable Living students.

A success story

The students appreciate the way the program combines vision and information with hands-on skills. And this combination has led to some fascinating careers for alumni.

Graduates Vincent Baraoel and Nelin Loiselle, for example, formed a consulting company called Above Green that helps contractors earn certification for complying with green building standards.

Another graduate, Troy Van Beek, started his own business called Ideal Energy, which he runs with his wife, Amy, and Robbie Gongwee, also MUM graduates. He began by offering a service that helped people make their homes more energy-efficient. But a major focus is now on installations of solar panels. In the summer of 2014 they did one of the largest solar installations in Iowa, a 300-kilowatt solar array for a building in Ft. Madison.

Charity says the tiny house course was just what she wanted. Her father is a carpenter, and she had been thinking she would like a career in designing and building homes. But she had no experience, and the hands-on approach to both designing and building was just what she was looking for.

“It’s a whole new ballgame when you’re actually doing it,” she says. “This class really helped out my goal and helped me put me on the proper path to have the career that I want.”
Ibrahim Bakunda is among many of the students at Maharishi Invincibility Institute in Johannesburg, South Africa, who have come from exceedingly difficult circumstances. After a number of family members were killed, he and his brother escaped the war in Burundi, walking and hitchhiking half way across the continent to South Africa.

They settled in Cape Town and lived by earning small amounts of money on the street guiding cars to parking places. Ibrahim struggled but was able to learn English and graduate from high school.

But instead of a beginning, it was an end. There were no jobs, and no opportunities for him to go to university. He had no money, and higher education is expensive. Financial aid is available only to South African citizens. Fortunately, though, he heard about an institution of higher education that welcomes intelligent, ambitious, young people from all walks of life: Maharishi Invincibility Institute.

He enrolled, and thrived. His is a mission to train 100,000 young leaders

Maharishi Invincibility Institute is the only avenue open to refugees such as Ibrahim, and to young people from orphanages, safe houses, shantytowns, and South Africa’s impoverished townships.

South Africa has 52 million people, but only 13 million have jobs. Yet ironically many jobs go unfilled because there aren’t enough skilled workers to fill them. The crux of the matter is this: more of the impoverished unemployed young people need to be educated. The alternative is ugly; many end up on the street and make their way in life via crime, contributing to the country’s serious crime rate.

The mission of the Institute’s co-founders is to change this: Richard Peckye and Taddy Blecher have worked for two decades together to assist youth such as Ibrahim. And they are succeeding in ways that seem miraculous. Their goal is to provide education and skills while also helping individuals develop from within through the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi programs.

So far, schools they’ve started have trained over 14,000 students — young people who would otherwise have had no hope. Their aim is 100,000.

Their vision is audacious, and success is tangible — so much so that Taddy has attracted private support from donors and corporations around the world: Oprah Winfrey, Sir Richard Branson, Bill Gates, the Rockefeller Foundation, and some of South Africa’s largest mining companies.

Earning a BA from MUM

And now, thanks to MUM, students at the Maharishi Invincibility Institute can earn a bachelor’s degree from an American university — an astonishing opportunity, beyond these students’ wildest dreams.

MUM has partnered with Maharishi Invincibility Institute since 2008, and the first class of 27 students graduated last December. Executive Vice-President Craig Pearson traveled to Johannesburg to give the commencement address and award the degrees.

The students take their initial coursework (86 credits) from faculty at the Institute. They then enroll with MUM for their final two years of coursework (42 credits), with MUM faculty delivering instruction online and onsite in Johannesburg. They receive a BA degree in business administration.

“It was among the most inspiring two weeks of my life — I had no idea how moving it would be,” Dr. Pearson said.

Starting with nothing

In 2000 Taddy and Richard initially helped found CIDA City Campus, which became a household name throughout Africa and even gained attention around the world: Oprah Winfrey, Sir Richard Branson, Bill Gates, the Rockefeller Foundation, and some of South Africa’s largest corporations.

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by getting a tax write-off than by selling it for the amount they were asking. Maharishi Invincibility Institute had its building.

Ironically, since students at the school have now been practicing the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi programs for a number of years, the situation in downtown Johannesburg has improved. Crime has plummeted, and the insurance replacement cost of the building, which can accommodate even more students.

A new structure has been created in which the students “learn and earn.” Beginning with their second year at the school, the students work four hours a day at Invincible Outsourcing, a call center housed in the same building. They spend another four or so hours focusing on their Consciousness-Based education studies. The call center gives them valuable work experience and helps pay their expenses.

The money from donors that had previously been for scholarships is now in the form of loans. By working at the call center, the students pay back 50% of the loans by the time they graduate. Then after they graduate, they are placed in jobs and pay the equivalent of $60 per month toward the remainder of their loans. They all succeed in getting jobs, and the payment amounts to just a tenth of their salary initially and then within a couple years a twentieth. That money they repay goes into a fund to help support other students.

The call center has been growing in success. One of their contracts is with the South African government to call over 10,000 businesses to gather information related to the country’s National Business Awards. This contract was won for a second time in 2014, based on the students’ success in 2013. Another remarkable trend is that over 50% of the Maharishi Invincibility Institute’s staff are former graduates from the first Consciousness-Based education institution that the cofounders started, many of whom have been working in the economy for up to a decade.

These outstanding individuals have in many cases sacrificed up to 80% of the top salaries they were earning in the corporate world to return and give back to other youth from backgrounds similar to their own.

Peter Mabila, the academic coordina- tor of the Maharishi Invincibility Institute, is a case in point. He was the human resources director at Sabi Sabi, one of South Africa’s most award-winning safari destinations. Four years ago he gave up his job to help other youth from his community just outside the nature reserve to have the same opportunities he had.

Transforming the South African economy

Maharishi Institute’s vision goes far beyond helping the young people it educates. Their overarching — and urgent — goal is to transform South Africa by helping the country to become more prosperous and by helping to create greater coherence in the country.

First, there are the broad ramifications of a newly employed, tax-paying graduate who is the first in the family to be educated and who otherwise wouldn’t have been able to work. Each graduate who has a job is typically the family’s only breadwinner and supports 5 to 10 other people. That means that the 14,000 young people who have been trained in Tadd’s and Richard’s schools are now supporting a total of well over 75,000 family members.

“That’s a tremendous return on investment,” Taddy says. “The return is 5,700 times the amount invested.” Training 100,000 young leaders for the country will help to support over 1 million people. Taddy estimates that these 100,000 graduates, rather than being unemployed, will together earn about $50 billion over their working careers.

Of the 52 million people in South Africa, only about 5.9 million pay taxes. That means a very small tax base is supporting all the public services such as roads and hospitals. Each newly educated and employed young person is a boon to the economy. Instead of being a drain, these young people are helping to raise the standard of living in South Africa.

A vision of peace

But more than that, the Maharishi Invincibility Institute has a vision of peace, one that it shares with the late Nelson Mandela. When Mandela was released from prison, Taddy says, the African National Congress was ready for bloodshed. They imagined taking over and having a country without white people. But Mandela was conciliatory, despite having spent so many years in prison. His goal was to have everyone get along — even to the point of turning against his own party, the ANC. And while his extraordinary leadership helped the country escape bloodshed, at the same time it perpetuated and enormous economic inequality in society was leading to increasing crime. Johannesburg had the highest murder rate of any city in the world.

Helping the country economically wasn’t enough. These young people needed transformation from within. The greater mission that was inspired by Maharishi would be to help create coherence in the country.

To help accomplish this mission, the students at the Institute learn the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi programs. In addition, the Institute has also been involved in programs to teach the Transcendental Meditation technique in public schools in inner city townships in Johannesburg and Durban.

The country has already been experiencing the benefits. The murder rate for the whole of South Africa has fallen 50% in the past decade according to United Nations research. Businesses are returning to downtown Johannesburg, and the city’s murder rate has dropped over 70%, such that Johannesburg, which used to be known as the “murder capital of the world,” is no longer among the 50 cities in the world with the highest murder rate.

Speaking of their vision for prosperity and peace, Taddy says, “When Maharishi spent six months speaking to us and guiding us in 2007, we never could have imagined what he was creating for South Africa, and the amount of good fortune that would come. The time is here now to enroll the genius inside everyone in the country through Consciousness-Based education. We dream of this every day.”

And Taddy is effusive in his gratitude toward Maharishi University of Management for inspiring and enabling these young leaders to achieve their dream of a university education.
This year in my role as president of the University, I traveled to 40 countries, speaking about Consciousness-Based education and its rich benefits for the student and for creating a peaceful, harmonious, and prosperous world. And everywhere I traveled, I found people transforming their countries through this approach.

Thailand: 400 blissful girls
In Thailand, I visited the 400 students of the Dhammajanee Witthaya School and their marvelous principal, the Buddhist nun Acharn Yai. More than 300 of the girls are practicing the Transcendental Meditation-Sidhi Program™. I found that just speaking with them creates waves of bliss. The school will soon expand to 1,000 students, large enough to create peace for the whole of Thailand.

Also in Thailand, I was able to spend time with the Reverend Koji Oshima. Originally from Japan, the Reverend Oshima has introduced the Transcendental meditation program to 4,200 monks in Thailand and Sri Lanka. These monks, who had been struggling with concentration forms of meditation, are now enjoying new experiences of nirvana — the fourth state of consciousness, Transcendental Consciousness.

Cambodia: Continuing transformation of the country
When I was in Cambodia, in Phnom Penh, I heard about how the graduates of Maharishi Vedic University of Cambodia have risen to become leaders in business and education. They are viewed as superior in depth and knowledge to other university graduates.
South Africa: Impoverished students enjoy Consciousness-Based higher education

I found another remarkable story unfolding in South Africa. I visited the Maharishi Invincibility Institute in Johannesburg, where I found 500 students, along with faculty and staff, filling the institution with happiness and hope for all of Africa.

These students come from very poor backgrounds. Almost all of them are from the townships on the outskirts of the city, and they would not have had any chance of a college education. Yet now they are rising rapidly in academic achievement and confidence, and their support for each other is overwhelming. Some 200 of them have advanced to the Transcendental Meditation-Sidhi program. Their group practice fills the building with bliss. The goal is to have 730 students practicing this program, to create coherence for all of South Africa’s 53 million people.

The leaders — Dr. Taddy Blecher, our alumna Annie Blecher, and Dr. Richard Peycke — have shown incredible creativity and fortitude in creating such a powerful institution out of almost nothing. And now the Maharishi Invincibility Institute is attracting increasing corporate support.

It is my great honor, everywhere I go, to represent the extraordinary success and research findings about Consciousness-Based education and its power to create a peaceful and healthy society in every nation.

After 34 years as Maharishi University of Management’s president, I am ever more inspired by our own students from 80 countries around the world and by our sister institutions in 53 countries. The future of the world is indeed very bright through this system of education for enlightenment that our founder, His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, introduced to the world 43 years ago.
Who will lead Maharishi’s organizations decades from now? That’s a question Adrienne Schoenfeld asked herself.

Those heroes who currently hold leadership roles typically spent a significant amount of time with Maharishi in the late 1960s and 1970s. This was a time of learning, of networking, of taking responsibility. Many of these young people became leaders, opening centers and even becoming national leaders in their home countries. Now, 40 years later, many from this generation still lead the organizations that Maharishi founded.

In response to her question, Adrienne had the idea to train a new generation of leaders, to give them a similar experience of going deep into Maharishi’s knowledge, spending time with current leaders, networking with each other, and gradually stepping into new roles.

She brought the idea to President Dr. Bevan Morris, and he said, “Do it.”

The next generation
Thus began the Enlightened Leadership Program on campus in early 2013. This successful program has now expanded internationally and culminated this past September when 124 young leaders from 40 different countries converged on campus to attend the week-long Next Generation Course, which included afternoon and evening meetings with Maharaja Adhiraj Rajaaram.

The course had many of the elements of Maharishi’s courses to train teachers in the 1970s that involved thousands of young people. Most importantly, it was a time to ask questions, to deeply understand Maharishi’s knowledge and the organizations that bring it to the world.

“The best part for me was being able to spend time with Maharaja and having the opportunity to ask questions,” said Andrew Rushing, a third-year MUM student and member of Enlightened Leadership International. “Everyone was introduced to him individually and had the opportunity to ask anything on our minds. It was impressive how beautifully he answered each one of us.”

Amine Kouider, an MUM Alumnus from Algeria, echoed this sentiment. “I loved the Maharaja course,” he said. “It brought deep answers to a lot of questions I had about knowledge and the structure of the movement.”

And he especially valued the opportunity to be with other young leaders. “It’s so rare that the young generation has such a beautiful opportunity to be together. Feeling our energy moving forward was extremely inspiring.”

The Enlightened Leadership Program
The first step came in 2012 when Adrienne began organizing the Enlightened Leadership Program at MUM, which brings young leaders together weekly over an eight-month period to discuss Maharishi’s knowledge related to leadership and how to implement those principles into fresh, innovative concepts and courses for University growth.

About 80 have now participated.

“The Enlightened Leadership Program is one of the most exciting things to happen at the University in the last few years,” said Craig Pearson, MUM executive vice-president. “It provides a more structured pathway for young faculty, staff, and students to engage with senior leaders of the University and of Maharishi’s organizations worldwide — to hear about their experiences with Maharishi and their experiences in leadership roles.”

Enlightened Leadership International
The Enlightened Leadership Program was quickly successful and soon expanded internationally. A new organization, Enlightened Leadership International, was inaugurated and is now in 40 countries. It includes about 300 young leaders worldwide, referred to as Global Ambassadors.

The program brings together young Meditators and Sidhas in their countries, and each week they connect by conference call with the young leaders at MUM. “All of those participating are thrilled to support each other through this network,” Adrienne said. “Maharaja covered the concepts and courses for University growth, as well as network and socialize, meet with current leaders of Maharishi’s organizations, learn principles of Maharishi’s knowledge, and interact with Maharaja Adhiraj Rajaaram.”

The first summit, held in Turkey in January 2014, included five students from MUM.

In the summer of 2014, 10 members of Enlightened Leadership International from MUM traveled to the Netherlands, where they joined 30 other participants from 18 countries. They participated in the National Directors Conference and were introduced to Maharaja, the Rajas, and other leaders.

In addition to these international meetings, members of Enlightened Leadership International have organized regional events in their countries, beginning at Maharishi University of Management in the summer of 2013 with the “Experience the Self” course. Similar events have been organized in countries such as Hungary, Australia, and The Netherlands.

Next Generation Course
The highly successful international meetings with Maharaja led to the idea of having an even larger gathering, culminating in September’s week-long Next Generation Course. On the heels of that course was a three-day weekend course that involved 84 young leaders from the MUM and Fairfield community. Again, everyone participating could ask questions on any subject.

“The participants had the opportunity to go deeply into knowledge,” Adrienne said. “Maharaja covered the full range, from experiences of higher states of consciousness to our own unique patterns of reality, to Vedanta and administration. He was very open, authentic, and caring. It had a profound effect on all of us.”

A second Next Generation Course is planned for 2015, and smaller summits are planned in Vladrop and Bali. “This is the future of Maharishi’s organization,” Ms. Schoenfeld said. “Everyone is so bright and enthusiastic and filled with love for Maharishi’s knowledge and each other. The time they spent with Maharaja increased their desire to do more, to take more responsibility. This next generation of leaders has all the qualities the previous generation possessed. They’re passionate about ensuring that everyone in the world has access to Maharishi’s programs and technologies.”
DR. HAGELIN PRESENTS ON PHYSICS AND CONSCIOUSNESS

Physics professor and University Trustee Dr. John Hagelin, who directs the University’s Institute of Science, Technology and Public Policy, continues to promote the knowledge and experience of consciousness, speaking at many events this past year.

At the preeminent biennial conference on consciousness at the University of Arizona titled “Toward a Science of Consciousness,” Dr. Hagelin presented calculations using String Theory and M-Theory that demonstrated the role of superstrings and higher-dimensional space-time wormholes in the underlying brain dynamics of consciousness. The presentation also illuminated how these core, quantum-scale phenomena of consciousness relate to brain-scale cognitive functioning. At the prestigious Science and Nonduality Conference in San Jose, Dr. Hagelin gave a featured talk on “Higher States: Harnessing the Power of Consciousness to Fulfill Your Desires and Change the World.”

In addition, Dr. Hagelin spoke to the Hacking Consciousness course at Stanford University about the layers of creation and the Unified Field. The audience included Stanford professors and students, Google engineers, and Fortune 500 CEOs. Professor Tony Nader, Craig Pearson, Fred Travis, and University architect Jon Lipman also gave presentations in this course.

Dr. Hagelin and his Institute continue to work closely with the David Lynch Foundation’s outreach projects, with Dr. Hagelin giving keynote talks at major fundraising events involving some of the country’s most notable thinkers and celebrities, including music producer Rick Rubin, Dr. Mehmet Oz, Arianna Huffington, Ringo Starr, Hugh Jackman, Candy Crowley, Lena Dunham, and many more.

DR. SCHNEIDER SPEAKS AT TOP US MEDICAL SCHOOLS

The medical community continues to show keen interest in the connection between mind, body, and heart — and the effects of the Transcendental Meditation technique.

In the past year, Robert Schneider, MD, FACC, director of the University’s Institute for Natural Medicine and Prevention, was invited to present to faculty, physicians, scientists, and students at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Yale, the University of Maryland, the Cleveland Clinic, the University of Michigan, and the University of Iowa, with forthcoming presentations scheduled at the University of Chicago, Stanford, and the American Heart Association. He also taught a weekend course on Total Heart Health to 80 graduate students at the Graduate Institute in Connecticut.

More than ever before, the current generation of physicians and health professionals appreciates the new science of how the mind and brain affect the cardiovascular system and health, Dr. Schneider said. They are eager for innovative solutions to chronic medical problems, notably heart disease.

The presentations are typically known as “grand rounds,” in which visiting professors who are leaders in the field of medicine speak to medical faculty, residents, interns, and medical students about state-of-the-art medical advances as part of their ongoing medical education.

Dr. Schneider is recognized internationally as a leader in mind-body medicine and integrative medicine practice, research, and education. This recognition is based on his team’s extensive published research, grant support from the National Institutes of Health, and expert consultations to policymakers, including the U.S. Congress, a White House Commission, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and other agencies.
LANDSCAPE PHOTOS BY KEN WEST USED ON SET OF PUBLIC TV

The long-running Public Television show Market to Market is now incorporating 4-ft by 6-ft, backlit reproductions of Ken West’s Iowa landscape photographs on its set. Market to Market, which is produced by Iowa Public TV, has been on the air for 40 years and is exclusively broadcast weekly on PBS in 20 states.

ACHIEVEMENT OF MUM STUDENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

A case study by adjunct professor Mohan Gurubatham showing the progress of MUM’s corporate MBA students at Neotel in South Africa was published in Proceedings of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The paper illustrates how Dr. Gurubatham’s approach of active learning combined with practice of the Transcendental Meditation technique helps students develop higher order thinking.

BRAIN INTEGRATION CORRELATES WITH GREATER CREATIVITY

A study by Fred Travis and collaborator Yvonne Lagrouen on production engineers published in Creativity Research Journal found that creativity may depend on greater brain integration.

ARCHIVELY BOOK EXPLORES UNDERSTANDING OF CONSCIOUSNESS

A new book from MUM Press presents the proceedings of a 2012 symposium of faculty and Maharaja Adhiraj Rajrajan (Professor Tony Nader, MD, PhD) that explored how the most advanced developments in their disciplines are illuminated by Maharishi Vedic Science, the science and technology of consciousness. The disciplines include physics, mathematics, medicine and physiology, management and law, sustainable living, education, literature, art, creative musical arts, and exercise and sport science. The book can be ordered at mumpress.com.

ACHIEVEMENTS - FACULTY

DR. SCHMIDT-WILK RECEIVES AWARD

Professor Jane Schmidt-Wilk received an award for exemplary performance as Editorial Board Outstanding Reviewer from the editorial team of the journal Academy of Management Learning and Education. She serves as a peer reviewer for the journal, evaluating manuscripts that have been submitted and recommending whether they merit publication. She has been on the editorial board for seven years and has served as a peer reviewer for two years.

RESEARCH ON COMPUTER VISION

The Fairfield Rotary Club honored management professor Andy Bargerstock by naming him a Paul Harris Fellow “in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.” Among other initiatives, Dr. Bargerstock has been involved in a project to build a well for a community of 10,000 people at the base of the Himalayas in Chitwan province in Nepal.

RESEARCH ON HIGHER STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

A paper by Fred Travis that gives an overview of studies on individuals experiencing higher states of consciousness as a result of practicing the Transcendental Meditation technique was published by the New York Academy of Sciences in a special volume titled Advances in Meditation Research: Neuroscience and Clinical Applications.

IMPROVEMENT IN PTSD IN JUST 10 DAYS

Congolese war refugees who learned the Transcendental Meditation technique showed a significant reduction in post-traumatic stress disorder in just 10 days, according to a study published in the Journal of Traumatic Stress. The 11 subjects were then tested again after 30 days of practice and were found to be nearly free of symptoms.

REDUCED TEACHER STRESS AND BURNOUT

A study coauthored by Sandy Nidich and published in The Permanente Journal found that the Transcendental Meditation technique substantially decreased teacher stress and burnout in 40 teachers and support staff at the Bennington School in Vermont, a special in-residence school for students with behavioral problems.

IMPROVED GRADUATION RATES IN SCHOOLS

A study coauthored by Sandy Nidich published in the June 2013 issue of the journal Education found that the Transcendental Meditation technique was associated with higher graduation rates compared to controls. Analysis of school records of 235 students found a 15% higher graduation rate for the entire meditating group compared to non-meditating controls.

PROFESSOR MAHESHWARI PUBLISHES E-BOOK ON DATA MINING

Professor Anil Maheshwari, who heads the graduate program in Management Information Systems at MUM, published a concise, 150-page e-book textbook for the Kindle platform on the topic of big data and data mining. He also has a contract to publish a print edition of his textbook, titled Business Intelligence and Data Mining. In addition, he is working with IBM to have his textbook incorporated into the course materials for their industry-leading data mining software and coursework.

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ON LINE, THE LONG-RUNNING PUBLIC TELEVISION SHOW MARKET TO MARKET IS NOW INCORPORATING 4-FT BY 6-FT, BACKLIT REPRODUCTIONS OF KEN WEST’S IOWA LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHS ON ITS SET. MARKET TO MARKET, WHICH IS PRODUCED BY IOWA PUBLIC TV, HAS BEEN ON THE AIR FOR 40 YEARS AND IS EXCLUSIVELY BROADCAST WEEKLY ON PBS IN 20 STATES.
MBA ACCOUNTING STUDENTS CONTINUE TO GARNER NATIONAL RECOGNITION

If any more evidence were needed that the accounting MBA program is preparing students for success, this past year’s results — from national awards to top scores in a business simulation — again show students are getting a top education.

TWO NATIONAL HONORS FOR LINLIN SHI

PhD student Ye Shi (Linlin) received the 2013 Lean Enterprise Institute’s Annual Lean Accounting Student Award, which recognizes students who have been actively engaged in research, education, and the development of lean accounting.

Linlin completed her MBA in accounting in 2011 and the Postgraduate Certificate in Lean Accounting in 2012, after which she began her PhD work. As a PhD student she teaches courses in the Lean Accounting Certificate program.

In collaboration with Dr. Andy Bargerstock, she has developed case studies to illustrate how to implement kaizen methodologies to improve accounts payable processing. One of their case studies won an award in a national competition: the 2014 Carl Menconi Award for Best Case in Ethics from the Institute of Management Accountants.

TOP SCORES IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SIMULATION

MBA teams excelled in an international business simulation again this year. A team from MUM finished #1 out of 101 graduate-level teams for the six-month period ending July 21. The other four MUM teams that competed finished in the top 10% of 179 teams overall, including schools such as the University of Maryland, University of Texas – Dallas, and Drexel University.

This was the third time in the past four years that a team from MUM has come out on top in a Capsim Foundation Simulation, an international online resource for learning decision-making in business. The July results come on the heels of another strong finish for the six-month period ending March 19, 2014, with all three teams that competed finishing in the top 10% of 179 teams overall, including schools such as the University of Maryland, University of Texas – Dallas, and Drexel University.

The simulation results are scored based on formulas for both short-term and long-term performance on metrics related to financial results, customer satisfaction, internal business processes, and learning & growth.

STUDENTS EARN TOP HONORS AT MEDIATION TOURNAMENT

Two teams of students participated in the 12th Annual Peacemaker’s Invitational Mediation Tournament at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, with Matt Rees winning the award of top mediator in conference-style mediation and the team comprising Mr. Rees, Nicholas Coelho, and Brando Piggue earning second in the mediation category.

The same team also did well at the International Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament at Drake Law School. They qualified for the semifinals and finished 13th out of 40 teams. Mr. Coelho took 4th place in the individual mediator category out of 120 mediators. The team members were students in Vicki Alexander Herriott’s mediation and negotiation class.

PHD GRADS PUBLISH DISSERTATIONS

Two recent PhD grads have published their dissertations. Ayako Huang (PhD 2012) and her dissertation advisor Scott Herriott published a paper in Journal of Management Policy and Practice that investigated the role of social norms in the governance of licensing deals. Manjunath Rao (PhD 2013) and his dissertation advisor Andy Bargerstock published a paper in Management Accounting Quarterly that found that the level of lean accounting support (i.e., the maturity of lean accounting implementation) lags behind the degree of lean operations implementation.

STUDENT PRESENTS AT CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABILITY

MBA student Brando Piggue presented his research on sustainable communities at the 5th Regional Conference of the Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability in Decorah, Iowa. After taking courses on metrics for sustainability and sustainable community development, Mr. Piggue focused on indicators for a sustainable community as his capstone project. Working under professor Ayako Huang, he used interviews with experts and archival data to investigate how sustainable indicators are chosen, focusing on the cities of Seattle and Fairfield.

RUNNING CLUB MEMBERS WIN RACES

The running club, one of the most active clubs on campus, continued to do well in races this past year. Jason Miller was the star, taking first in the mile run in Fairfield’s annual Turkey Trot (5.09), as well as being the overall winner of the annual 5-kilometer Lacey-Keosauqua Park Race (19.2). His victories also included a first-place finish in the Trojan Dash two-mile obstacle course at Waterworks Park. In addition, he was part of a three-person relay team that won the third annual 15.9-mile Loop Trail Run, along with teammates Ezana Adugna and Vinodthan Nayagar (2 hours).

Also winning first place in the 5k Turkey Trot was Ezana Adugna (18.54), the overall male winner, and Luis Correal, winner of the 20–29 age group (24:13).
**MAHARISHI SCHOOL OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT**

**ACHIEVEMENTS - MAHARISHI SCHOOL**

**TENNIS TEAM WINS THREE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Maharishi School boys tennis team won the state 1A singles, doubles, and team championships, setting a record by being the only team in the state to have won three “triple crowns.”

Winning the singles championship was 11th-grader Sam Stickels. Solaris Nite and Surya Sawhney, both 12th graders, won the state doubles championship. Also playing in the state championship match were 10th grader Chandre Morales and 12th graders David Fleshman and Girindra Selleck.

**SCHOOL STUDENTS PERFORM AT STATE SPEECH FESTIVAL**

Competing against 20,000 other Iowa students, yet again Maharishi School students were among the best in the state, with three groups receiving the coveted honor of an invitation to perform at the culminating all-day celebration at the Iowa High School Speech Association Festival.

The pieces selected for the festival were a one-act play and a choral reading, both directed by Maharishi School speech program director Brendan Thomas, as well as a solo mime by Jaya Muehlman, directed by Jan Thatcher.

**TOP HONORS AT EASTERN IOWA SCIENCE FAIR**

Maharishi School students came away with the top honor in both the junior and senior divisions at the Eastern Iowa Science Fair. Bimba Sreeratha, grade 11, and Pranav Chhayillil, grade 7, each won the grand prize in his division — the first time Maharishi School students have won the championship at both levels. The wins earned them a free trip to Los Angeles to compete at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, the largest international pre-college science competition.

Bimba’s research, entitled “Save Real Objects as a File,” focused on designing affordable 3-D scanning technology. Pranav Chhayillil’s re-search, entitled “The Effect of Bed-time Brushing on Oral Bacterial Count Analyzed Using Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) Method,” was designed to bring awareness of the importance of bedtime brushing quality on oral hygiene.

**EVERY TRAVIS RECEIVES NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP**

Maharishi School student Avery Travis was named a finalist in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program and was awarded a National Merit Scholarship by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. She has enrolled at Middlebury College in Vermont.

**SIX FIRST-PLACE FINISHES AT STATE CREATIVITY COMPETITION**

Six Maharishi School teams won their categories in the Destination Imagination state creativity competition, qualifying them to compete at the international competition in May in Knoxville, Tennessee, where all six teams scored in the top 20 in their categories, finishing as high as 8th place.

An international non-profit, volunteer organization, Destination Imagination aims to be the global leader in teaching the creative process from imagination to innovation. The program encourages teams of students to have fun, take risks, focus, and frame challenges while incorporating STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), the arts, and service learning.

**MAHARISHI SCHOOL FEATURED ON CANADIAN TV SERIES**

A Canadian film crew spent four days in the community filming for an hour-long TV episode on Maharishi School that was aired as part of a TV series titled Schools Like No Other. The series is featuring 26 unique schools from around the world and is being aired across Canada on TV 5 network.

The crew filmed classes at Maharishi School, interviewed teachers, and focused on two particular students: Middle School student Daniel Zhu and Upper School student Dia Huggins. They filmed a Vedic Math class, a pottery class in which Ms. Huggins was making ceramics, and an active-learning class in which the students were trying to decipher a code that would reveal the location of a treasure. They also filmed the students in their meditation halls, the Men’s Dome, campus, and homes built according to Maharishi Vastu architecture.

**SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN QUIZ BOWL**

A Maharishi School team of Samanthza Bell, Alex Hoffmann, Dia Huggins and Nathaniel Zhu won the Southeast Iowa Super Conference Quiz Bowl championship. The questions covered biology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, art history, American and world literature, geography, algebra, geometry, and calculus.

**SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN ART AWARDS**

Eight Maharishi School students came away with awards at the Southeast Iowa Super Conference Art Competition, which comprises 25 schools. Award winners included Zhe Zhang, first place in drawing; Amanda Valentine, first place in photography; Ellie Mason, second place in photography; Loreena Hansen, honorable mention in photography; Alina Knight, honorable mention in photography; Chandre Morales, second place in sculpture; Crisy Corazza, first place in the judges’ category; and Rain Spotted Elk, honorable mention in the judges’ category.

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It is the distinct pleasure of MUM’s Alumni Association to introduce Josh Wilson as the new Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Jada Foster as the new Director of Alumni Outreach.

Josh Wilson holds a B.S. in Sustainable Living from MUM. After graduating in 2012, he worked as the Director of Student Activities, tirelessly planning and executing numerous successful social and cultural events on campus. His desire to support graduates as they transition into their respective careers and his enthusiasm for maintaining a strong relationship between alumni and the University led to his current position with the Alumni Association.

Jada Foster completed her B.A. in Media and Communications at MUM in 2013. Her passion for connecting with graduates, inspiring them to find work they love, and supplying them with the tools necessary to fulfill their desires made her the perfect fit for the Director of Alumni Outreach position—a position in which her adeptness at social media management and creative communication are put to good use.

Josh and Jada are both fully committed to maintaining positive relationships and increasing engagement with MUM graduates. They’ve increased the Alumni Association’s social media presence by 200 percent since entering their respective positions, thanks to their strategic implementation of 360Alumni, Facebook, LinkedIn, and the new and improved alumni website, alumni.mum.edu.

Several additional milestone events highlighted the creativity and accomplishments of the literature faculty, students, and alumni.

Over Labor Day weekend 2013, alumni descended on Fairfield to attend the literature reunion. The reunion lured alumni with the promise of creative immersion through master classes taught by past and present faculty, as well as the opportunity to reconnect with former classmates and other literati. In close collaboration with former and current faculty, the Alumni Association spearheaded the organization and marketing of the weekend.

Several additional milestone events highlighted the creativity and accomplishments of the literature faculty, students, and alumni.

Several additional milestone events highlighted the creativity and accomplishments of the literature faculty, students, and alumni.

In order to accommodate the outpouring of inspiration and expression, the reunion’s poetry reading had to be expanded to two locations. After the library closed, the festivities continued at an after-hours open mic at Cafe Paradiso, where poets and writers captivated a packed house late into the night.

Spanning memories and experiences of graduates from 1981 to 2006, the reunion brought alumni and faculty from as far as California, Oregon, Texas, Canada, and South America.

By Megan Robinson ’95

www.mum.edu/litreunion

MUM graduates can register for the Alumni Network at: mum.360alumni.com

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

OF THE LITERATURE PROGRAM

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

OF THE LITERATURE PROGRAM
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We’ve also made available an ebook of essays by students in the senior capstone course about their MUM experience.
www.mum.edu/why-study-here/what-students-say/capstone-course-comments-ebook/

Sign Up for Visitors Weekends

Those interested in becoming students at MUM can sign up for the monthly Visitors Weekends.
www.mum.edu/visitors/welcome.html

Join the Invincible America Assembly

Take a break from your activities and enjoy extended practice of the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhi programs in the Golden Domes.
invincibleamerica.org