

ACADEMIC COMMUNICATOR

A Publication of the Madonna University Office of Academic Administration

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The science faculty has challenged itself to transform the way science is taught at Madonna University



MCGREGOR FUND PROJECT: TRANSFORMING SCIENCE EDUCATION

With \$250,000 in funding from the Detroit-based McGregor Fund, the College of Science and Mathematics has challenged itself to revolutionize the way science is taught at Madonna University. Science continues to be a key component of a liberal arts education and a necessary knowledge base for an informed citizenry, especially today as society confronts controversies about climate change and genetic engineering to name a few. The faculty is committed to engaging students with 21st-century science in its new state-of-the-art green science building. Under the leadership of **Dr. Ted Biermann**, Dean of the College, and mathematics instructor, **Dr. Susan Toma**, the project will initiate strategies to achieve this goal:

- Bringing in science education consultants to assist the faculty in designing curricula and engaging students in active learning
- Sponsoring collaborative faculty-student re-

search in such diverse areas a fresh water ecology, forensic science, microbial diversity, and water filtration and purification

- Purchasing needed equipment for research and teaching
- Redesigning General Education courses to make science relevant to non-specialists
- Offering professional development opportunities for the whole faculty and staff through the University's "One Community, One Book" reading and discussion program
- Providing additional support services for academically challenged students so that they can be more successful in introductory-level science courses.

"As the University celebrates the opening of its new science and media building" remarked **Dr. Ernest Nolan**, Provost and VP for Academic Administration, "we need to focus on how it will affect student learning and the quality of the student's experience here at MU."



Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant Completed

Another cause for celebration at Madonna University is the successful completion of the \$1.5 million challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation for the new science and media building. The University raised \$3.25 million by December 31, 2009, with the help of a generous planned gift of more than \$2 million from an anonymous donor. The building has the distinction of being Livonia's first LEED-certified green building and has been awarded the gold level for its many green features.



Madonna University Makes an Impact Worldwide with International Ventures

Since 1989, Madonna University has had an international presence, offering its programs to foreign nationals on-site in other countries. It began by exporting its master's degree programs in business leadership and educational administration to sites in Taiwan. Ten years later, in 1998, it shifted its focus to mainland China, where it recruited students for the master's in international business in Shanghai. Currently, the School of

Business, under the leadership of **Dr. Stuart Arends**, cooperates with the Shandong provincial public health bureau to offer a master's degree in health care administration in the City of Jinan, southeast of Beijing. A program is also developing in Hebei Province in the coastal city of Qinhuangdao to start in fall 2010.

Since 2005, the University has cooperated with the World of Knowledge Management Training Center in Dubai, United Arab Emir-

ates, to enroll Indian expatriates in online programs in undergraduate and graduate business. Currently over 200 students are enrolled. The latest venture is the establishment of a new college, London American City College, in Ras Al Khaima, where MU will serve as the bachelor's and master's degree provider. Representatives from the College, **Dr. Matthew Paulson**, President, and **Dr. Mohammed Kaup**, Dean, visited the MU campus in January 2010.

Nursing Faculty Members Obtain Grant to Fund Collaborative Healthcare Efforts

Nursing faculty members **Sue Hasenau**, **Teresa Thompson**, **Diane Burgermeister** and **Nancy O'Connor** secured a federal educational training grant for the new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, with the help of Corporate and Foundations Director **Lisa Comben**. The three-year Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant, totaling more than \$700,000, will fund collaborative efforts between the nursing departments of Madonna University and the University of Detroit Mercy, aimed at resolving local and national healthcare disparities, while improving healthcare quality and safety. The new alliance will enhance the delivery of the DNP programs of both universities. "By joining forces we will maximize economic resources and provide an enhanced level of higher education," said **O'Connor**, chair of graduate nursing and DNP program director.



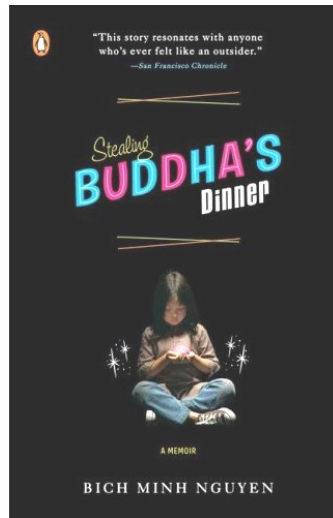
JobCHEER targets the job search needs of displaced workers by directing them to job postings, workshops, counseling, education for retooling, and other resources to improve an unemployed worker's employability.

Ford Motor Company Fund Supports MU's JobCHEER Office and Website

The Ford Motor Company Fund is cooperating with Madonna University to sponsor **JobCHEER** (an acronym for Job Clearing House for Education and Employment Resources) with a grant of \$15,000. JobCHEER consists of a website and physical office that provides services for displaced workers. The center, located in the School of Business building at the corner of Schoolcraft/I-96 and Levan Road, features computer workstations, job posting boards, and reference materials. JobCHEER consolidates a range of job search resources offered by the University, including career counseling and workshops about resume writing and interviewing skills. The website and center also post other events and resources that will help to improve an unemployed worker's employability.

“ONE COMMUNITY, ONE BOOK” JOINS THE GREAT MICHIGAN READ FOR SPRING 2010

Madonna University will join the Michigan Humanities Council’s **Great Michigan Read** by adopting Bich Minh Nguyen’s 2007 novel, *Stealing Buddha’s Dinner: A Memoir*, about the coming of age of a Vietnamese immigrant in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Nguyen was just eight months old when her father brought her and her sister out of Vietnam in 1975 during the fall of Saigon. This story of her growing up develops themes of loss and identity as she nego-



tiates the “blond-haired, blue-eyed” culture of Middle America, her step-mother’s Latino heritage,

and her grandmother’s traditional Vietnamese values, culture, religion, and cuisine. An ad hoc committee of faculty colleagues—**Dr. Marjorie Checkoway, Dr. Karen Obsniuk, Dr. Robert Cohen, Dr. Ann Russell, Dr. Pat Hanson, Dr. Veronica Riha, Dr. Cathleen Andonian, and Dr. Ernest Nolan**—will offer small group discussions sessions on Friday, April 9, 2010, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Copies of the novel were purchased through a \$500 grant from the Michigan Humanities Council.

Contact k.eck@madonna.edu to join the discussion groups on April 9th.



The Great Michigan
READ

 Michigan Humanities Council
Michigan People. Michigan Places

FACULTY PROMOTIONS AND CONFERRAL OF EMERITUS STATUS

The Faculty Affairs Committee recommended the promotion of the following full-time and adjunct faculty members, who were approved by the Board of Trustees on January 27, 2010:

- **Dr. John Critchett** (accounting) from associate to professor
- **Dr. Andrew Domzalski** (MATESOL) from associate to professor
- **Dr. Laurie Kaufman** (literacy education) from associate to professor
- **Corinne Kee** (nursing) from instructor to assistant professor
- **Kevin King** (sport management) from instructor to assistant professor
- **Gail Lis** (nursing) from assistant to associate professor
- **Dr. Jill Robinson** (learning disabilities)

from associate to professor

- **Dr. Cathleen Andonian** (ESL) from adjunct assistant to adjunct associate professor
- **Michael Koch** (business) from adjunct associate to adjunct professor
- **Thaddeus Nowak** (accounting) from assistant to associate professor
- **Sheila Reaves** (paralegal studies) from adjunct assistant to adjunct associate professor

The committee also approved nominations from the College of Business and College of Social Sciences to grant Professor Emeritus status to retired faculty members **Dr. Anita Herman** (former chair of the gerontology department) and **Dr. Robert Kimball** (former dean of the College of Education).

Lebanese American Chamber of Commerce Honors Madonna University

At the Golden Cedar Awards held on January 29th, 2010, at the 42° North Restaurant in the Detroit Renaissance Center Marriott, Madonna University was recognized by the Lebanese American Chamber of Commerce for its “valued partnership” with the Chamber. Featured entertainment included a music video of SLS student, **Kaitlyn Mann**, signing an Arabic song, produced and directed by **Dan and Suzanne Boyd** of the MU television studio.



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*Student Success Is Our
Greatest Achievement!*

Winter Semester 2010 Datebook

- **New Faculty Orientation Sessions -**
February 12 and April 23
9:00 – 1:100 a.m.
- **Web Registration Begins -**
March 1
- **Spring Vacation -**
March 8 – 13
- **Easter Recess—** April 2 — 4
- **End of Winter 2010 Semester -**
April 24.
- **Commencement Ceremony -**
May 2



University Accomplishments

King-Chavez-Parks Se- lect Student Support Services Grant:

Under the leadership of **Ann Lampkin**, Director of the Center for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, the University received a Continuation Grant of \$134,475 from the State of Michigan to

support tutoring, counseling, and other services for academically disadvantaged and low income students. Given the present financial situation of the State, many speculate that this may be the last year of funding for this initiative.



Chris Benson Recognized as Outstanding First- Year Student Advocate:

Associate Dean of Advising and the First-Year Experience, **Chris Benson**, was selected as one of ten individuals, nationally, who have been designated as Outstanding First-Year Student Advocates by National Resource Center for The First-Year Experi-

ence and Students in Transition. She will be recognized at the 29th Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience, to be held in Denver in February, where she will also deliver a presentation. Chris has been instrumental in the start up of the Office of the First-Year Experience, and her dedication to engaging students in the collaborative studies program, along with her solid grounding in the research literature of first-year programs, learning communities, and student retention, make her a valuable institutional resource and inspiration to her colleagues.



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