Student Finalist in State Business Plan Competition

MBA student Alden Rowe traveled to Des Moines last month to pitch his business plan to three judges after having been selected as one of 13 finalists from colleges and universities statewide in the Pappajohn Student Entrepreneurial Venture Competition.

Competing against three-person teams from schools such as the University of Iowa and Iowa State, he was the only student representing a small school.

While he didn’t win one of the three seed grants of $5,000, he was awarded $500 for being a finalist — and garnered valuable experience.

“It was good to get practice giving a business pitch and to get feedback,” Mr. Rowe said.

He was selected as a finalist based on the three documents required of all contestants: an executive summary, a financial projection, and a business model canvas, which is a strategic management and entrepreneurial tool for designing, challenging, inventing, and pivoting one’s business model.

Mr. Rowe’s business centers around an organic and non-GMO food product for a niche market. His plan was also a finalist in last year’s competition sponsored by the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce.

He is continuing to develop his venture as part of MUM’s Concept to Market Institute, in which students conceive a business, develop a plan, and then take it to market. He hopes to bring his product to market within two years.

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A film by Monica Demes, left, won three top awards, with Ms. Demes taking home the award for Best Director and Sophia Woodward, right, earning the award for Best Actress. At center is Joanna Plafsky, cofounder of the David Lynch MFA in Film.

Student Film Receives IMPA Awards for Best Director, Cinematography, Actress

BY LAURA MUZZARELLI

A film by Monica Demes, a 2015 graduate of the David Lynch MFA in Film, took home awards for Best Direction—Long Form, Best Cinematography, and Best Actress at the recent Iowa Motion Picture Association awards held in Pella.

Ms. Demes herself received the director award, Gregor Kresal, a 2015 graduate of the Lynch MFA, received the cinematography award, and undergraduate student Sophia Woodward received the acting award.

This awards ceremony was the Iowa Motion Pictures Association’s 25th anniversary of celebrating filmmakers of Iowa. The IMPA “recognizes outstanding and technical achievement in Iowa’s moving image production industry.”

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Titled *Lilith’s Awakening*, Ms. Demes’s film is a haunting yet beautiful vampire film, and is the first complete feature-length film produced by a student in the Lynch MFA. Using a service station as a setting, it draws upon the characters of the classic tale Dracula, but uses a female as the character vampire.

More information about *Lilith’s Awakening* can be found online at www.lilithsawakening.com.

In addition, a number of students and alumni won Awards of Achievement in recognition of having been nominated for an award.

Ms. Demes won an Award of Achievement in the category Live Action Entertainment—Long Form.

Undergraduate student Brenton Schwartz earned an Award of Achievement in the Web Series category for his submission titled *Kennedy Hill: The Behind the Scenes Web Series*.

He acted in and worked on multiple behind-the-scenes videos for the series, which was written, produced, and directed by 2015 graduate Jennifer Kachler. Set in the late 1930s, it tells the story of 17-year-old Grace, who discovers she’s adopted.

Current David Lynch MFA student Theresa Carey received an award in the Screenplay—Unproduced category for her script *Swine Heart*.

And student Golnaz Jamsheed received an award in the Student Production—College category for her short film *Avo*, which is the same film that won her a full scholarship to the David Lynch MFA that began in February. Her film tells the story of an Iranian-Armenian boy who experiences the concept of death through his grandfather’s passing.

Students from the first two years of the program are continuing to finish their films and are submitting them to film festivals, so the faculty expect that more awards will be forthcoming.

The David Lynch master’s program originally launched as an MA program, but this year has changed its status to an MFA, given the depth of course work and expansion of the program to three semesters.

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**FROM THE FOUNDER**

“When you meditate, what do you do? The mental activity becomes less and less and less and less and less and less. What are you doing? You are experiencing gross less. You are experiencing less and less and less, and then you are experiencing ultimately nothing. You are blank for all worldly activity concerned; you are nothing. But the knowledge of that nothingness is the potential of everything.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, December 22, 2004 press conference

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**Integrated Medical Degree To Be Offered Starting This Fall**

Late last month MUM signed an agreement with American University of Integrative Sciences (AUIS), St Maarten School of Medicine to begin offering a medical degree this fall that will integrate Maharishi AyurVeda® into the MD curriculum.

Located on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten, AUIS began offering a pilot program with MUM in January to an initial small group of students in which they learned Maharishi AyurVeda and integrative medicine in a concurrent MS course.

But this fall, all AUIS medical students will learn the Transcendental Meditation technique during their first week of school. And all the faculty will also learn the Transcendental Meditation® technique and will gradually be trained in Consciousness-Based® education. Every course will integrate Maharishi AyurVeda theory and practice.

During each course, the students will learn the modern objective understanding of health and disease, and then move to the deeper quantum mechanical level, then to the level of the unified field, where healing ultimately takes place, said Robert Schneider, MD, FACC, dean of the Maharishi College of Perfect Health.

The students will graduate with an MD degree from AUIS and an MS in Maharishi AyurVeda and integrative medicine from MUM.

This is a major step toward establishing a MUM medical school,” Dr. Schneider said.

The collaboration with AUIS will have two programs: 1) students who have completed their undergraduate pre-med studies and enroll directly into medical school, and 2) students who enroll at MUM for their undergraduate degree pre-med studies and after successful completion seamlessly continue into the medical program as part of an articulation agreement between MUM and AUIS. This BS/MD/MS track may be done in seven to eight years.

The MUM faculty member in residence at AUIS is Vaidya Manohar Palakurthi, who is the longest continuously practicing and teaching Maharishi AyurVeda Vaidya. He has practiced and taught Maharishi AyurVeda on every major continent since 1984.

Dr. Schneider said this is the first program in the world to completely enmesh integrative medicine throughout the MD curriculum.
Alumnus Heads Central Bank of Ghana

Abdul-Nashiru Issahaku (MBA, 1992) has been appointed by the President of the Republic of Ghana as the Governor of the Bank of Ghana, with the appointment effective last month.

Dr. Abdul-Nashiru Issahaku also has a doctorate in International Affairs and Development from Clark Atlanta University. He is an international development economist with several years of experience in economic policy management and development, having worked with international and local institutions, including the World Bank; the African Development Bank; the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; the Canadian International Development Agency; and the National Development Planning Commission, Ghana.

Living Soils Course Open to Community

A course being taught May 23–June 16 on natural solutions for soil health is open to the community.

The course, which uses Dr. Elaine Ingham’s scientific approach to soil ecology, will be taught by David Fisher and soil ecologist Molly Haviland.

Topics covered in the course will include quickly building and stabilizing soil humus, increasing nutrient and mineral density in food, and creating robust human microbiomes.

Participants will learn about the communities of soil micro-organisms — the bacteria, fungi, protozoa, beneficial nematodes, and micro-arthropods — that provide plants with the nutrients they need.

Conventional agricultural methods have produced high yields, but damage human and environmental health. The U.S. uses over one billion tons of toxic pesticides each year, polluting air and water and depleting the soil of essential nutrients.

More sustainable farming practices, such as those taught in the living soils course, can create healthy, biologically diverse soil, reverse the effects of industrial agriculture, and move forward with a system that will sustain itself for generations to come.

For more information and to apply, see tinyurl.com/lw68kwv.

Hungary Conference Highlights Faculty Presentation

A forthcoming conference in Hungary on the topic of “Reinventing Europe” has highlighted a paper by faculty Harald Harung and Fred Travis in their widespread promotion of the event.

According to the website, “The Integral European Conference is the prime gathering in Europe for the global integral community to connect, share, and develop a global integral vision together.” It brings together those interested in the integral theory of Ken Wilber.

Dr. Harung will present a paper on “The Secret of World-class Performance,” which describes research he and Dr. Travis have done showing that world-class athletes, managers, and musicians have higher levels of brain integration, psychological development, and consciousness compared to average performers.

The paper explains how the Transcendental Meditation technique develops all three individual performance dimensions plus collective consciousness, which is essential for reinventing Europe.

Computer Science Student Wins Chess Tournament

Computer science student Hari Krishna Bista captured first place in the Fairfield all-community chess tournament held last month on campus.

Colin Hurt, Invincible America Assembly participant, secured second place. Both Hari and Colin tied for top prize with 4 wins out of 5 rounds with Hari winning the tie break.

Computer Professionals student Siken MS Dongol won third place among the starting 12 players who entered and played all five one-hour rounds.

“Hari performed surprisingly well for his chess rating, with a few upset victories over the higher-rated players,” said tournament director John Salerno.

The MUM chess club meets every Sunday evening at 7:30 pm in the Argiro student lounge. All players from beginner to advanced are welcome.

Alumnus Wins Smithsonian Photo Competition

For the second time, alumnus Radim Schreiber has won a top award in the Smithsonian magazine annual photography competition, this time in the Altered Images category for his photo “Synchronous Fireflies,” in which he superimposed images of fireflies flashing in synchrony.

There were 48,000 entries in this 13th annual competition. He also won the top award in the 8th annual competition in the Natural World category for a photo of a firefly.

His recent award-winning photo was taken in mid-June 2014 at twilight in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee. Mr. Schreiber was in almost complete darkness surrounded by fireflies and witnessed an unusual natural phenomenon — fireflies that synchronize.

He used low-light camera technology to take several long exposures over several minutes and merged them together to preserve detail and clarity.

He uploaded it November 2015 and it was selected as Shot Of The Day on December 24, 2015, then Editors’ Pick, Finalist, and now Altered Images Winner.

The winning photos and finalists can be viewed online the Smithsonian website at www.smithsonianmag.com/photocompetition/2015.
Maharishi Vedic Astrology Course To Be Offered

A three-day course on the Maharishi Vedic AstrologySM program will be offered over the Memorial Day Weekend.

The course presents Maharishi's revival of the ancient Vedic science and technology to know future trends in life and prevent problems coming from one's past actions through the Maharishi JyotishSM program and Maharishi Yagya®.

The course will be led by Charles Heath, director of the Maharishi Jyotish program for North America.

The first lesson is on Thursday evening, May 26, at 7:45 in Dalby Hall, and is free and open to the community.

For those taking the entire course, the cost is $75, or $50 for full-time MUM, Maharishi School, and Maharishi Foundation staff or faculty.

Current MUM students as well as Invincible America Assembly grant recipients can attend this course for free due to a generous donation.

For more information and to sign up, please visit the website jyotish.eventbrite.com.

MUM App Available

Search for Maharishi University of Management in the App Store or in Google Play, and download an app that’s filled with info on clubs, facilities, transportation, food services, hours, recreation opportunities, events, maker space, and much more!