**Computer Science Enrollment Approaches 1,100, with Nearly 1,700 MUM Students Overall**

The arrival last month of 73 students from 19 countries to study toward an MS in computer science boosted the total enrollment in the Computer Professionals Program to a record 1,083. In addition, overall enrollment at MUM scaled new heights with 1,698 enrolled in all MUM offerings.

This year the Computer Professionals Program is celebrating its 20th anniversary, and the success of the program was recently recognized by BestComputerScienceDegrees.com, which rated the program as one of the most advanced computer science departments in 2016.

Beginning with 14 students in 1996, the program has grown rapidly thanks to internet and social media marketing, but especially due to word of mouth.

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New Study: Role of Transcending in Cognitive Development

A new paper by Professor Fred Travis in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences discusses how specific experiences help promote cognitive development at various stages as one grows, culminating in the experience of transcendence as a driver of further development once an individual reaches the adult stage of rational thought.

Citing research on cognitive development, Dr. Travis outlines how nurturing caregiving is crucial in the first two years, and how language learning is the driver of cognitive development for ages three to 10. During the teen years, problem-solving has been shown to be the driver.

In Piaget’s classic model of cognitive development, the final stage is adult abstract reasoning, which is characterized by hypothetical deductive reasoning.

However, Dr. Travis suggests that a further stage of development can be achieved and that the driver is transcending thought, which can result when practicing meditations in the automatic self-transcending category, the main practice in this category being the Transcendental Meditation technique.

Building on research of the late Skip Alexander, Dr. Travis suggests that to go beyond hypothetical deductive reasoning, one needs to transcend language. Quoting Dr. Alexander, Dr. Travis writes, “An intervention to transcend language may be as necessary to cultivate higher states of consciousness beyond ordinary waking, as language learning was to developing adult thinking.”

Dr. Travis writes that in practicing the Transcendental Meditation technique, one transcends thinking and explores the source of thoughts. And just as research has shown that any experience changes the brain, so does this experience of transcending thinking “change one’s experience of inner self and therefore transform how one experiences the world.”

He then cites studies showing that the practice of the Transcendental Meditation technique does indeed have an effect on cognitive development.

Research on children has found greater psychological differentiation, general intelligence, self-concept, analytical ability, and general intellectual performance compared to controls.

Studies on adults have found growth in ego development, higher moral reasoning, a more stable sense of self, greater openness to experience, and lower anxiety.
Professor Steve Nolle was recently awarded his fourth patent related to optimizing performance for broadband cable data, voice, and video networks.

Professor Nolle teaches modern programming practices, software engineering, enterprise architecture, and computer networks.

Running Club Wins Timed Team Award for Sixth Time

Earlier this month the MUM running club participated in the Komen Southeast Iowa Race for the Cure in Ottumwa, and for the sixth time won the timed team award.

This award is for the team with the five combined fastest times of all clubs entered in the 5-kilometer race.

MUM’s combined time was 1:52:57. Leading the way for the club was Vinodshanker Thimmaiah, an expert on biodynamic agriculture, enrolled 11 students, including four who came from California, New York, and Colorado just for this course.

The speakers discussed the goals of biodynamic agriculture and the role of their associations, including setting standards and offering certification.

Biodynamic agriculture is similar to organic, but adds a number of elements. It emphasizes treating animals, crops, and soil as a single system; local production and distribution; use of compost additives and field sprays; and planting according to phases of the moon.

“What I tried to convey is that for agriculture to be renewed in our time, we need to transcend the tendency to view nature as a kind of machine that we can take apart and tinker with to satisfy human desires,” Mr. Karp said. “In order to overcome this habit, however, we must come to recognize and discern how spirit is working in all things — minerals, soils, plants, animals, people, regions, climates.”

The course, taught by Professor A. Thimmaiah, an expert on biodynamic agriculture, enrolled 11 students, including four who came from California, New York, and Colorado just for this course.

As part of the course the students planted rice in a garden in front of the Sustainable Living Center using the System of Rice Intensification, which dramatically increases yield while also reducing the amount of water needed.

Each of the 10 lessons includes a pre-recorded video lecture by Dr. Finkelstein, readings, and Maharishi tapes.

Also included in this course is Dr. Finkelstein’s 500-page doctoral thesis. “Universal Principles of Life Expressed in Maharishi Vedic Science and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.”

See www.mum.edu/online or email de@mum.edu for more information.

Library Upgrades Internet

The MUM library has recently upgraded its internet network switches from 10 Mbps to 1 Gbps, thereby allowing the library to take greater advantage of MUM’s 1 Gbps connection.

This should result in significantly improved performance when accessing the internet via library computers and via the library’s WiFi network. The upgrade was done by Vlad Slavskii, a computer science student.

Online Course on World Religions

A 10-lesson online course that explores the universal principles of life that are expressed in Maharishi Vedic Science, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam will begin in June with a free live introductory webinar with Professor Evan Finkelstein on Monday, June 6, at 7:45 p.m.

This non-credit online course covers the development of higher states of consciousness and their expressions in scriptures, and higher states of consciousness experienced and expressed by the saints.

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Heads of Biodynamic Ag Associations Speak to Students

Robert Karp, co-director of the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association, and Jim Fullmer, co-director of the Demeter Association, both recently spoke to students in a course on biodynamic agriculture.

The speakers discussed the goals of biodynamic agriculture and the role of their associations, including setting standards and offering certification.

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Professor Steve Nolle was recently awarded his fourth patent related to optimizing performance for broadband cable data, voice, and video networks.

Patent number 9,300,489, Channel Assignment Based On Subscribed Service Level, provides a way to predict traffic generated by cable modems and to balance the traffic of thousands of cable modems across hundreds of broadband channels.

This approach can be used in a cable modem termination system to balance large volumes of high-speed data, voice, and video traffic.

Professor Nolle worked with a team to patent this invention when he was a senior software developer responsible for the load balancing software subsystem on the Arris C4 Cable Modem Termination System.

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Chamber Singers Present Silver Jubilee Concerts

To celebrate their 25th anniversary this spring, the Chamber Singers of Southeast Iowa invite everyone to join them on a Silver Jubilee World Harmony Tour across seven continents on Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sondheim Theater.

In this worldwide choral adventure, each song captures the cultural essence of its region of the globe. The Chamber Singers will explore the music of 17 countries, including Peru and Brazil, many European and African nations, and Asian countries such as Inner Mongolia, Thailand, India, and China. These diverse and uplifting choral selections will be complemented by guest instrumentalists and dancers. Taken together, these musical traditions give voice to the entire family of nations.

The Chamber Singers began in 1991 as the MIU/MUM Chamber Singers, and more than 70 faculty, students, and staff have sung in the group. In 25 years of community concerts, the Chamber Singers have performed over 500 choral works from 40 countries in a wide range of vocal styles.

Come celebrate a world of song in one concert — and a 25-year choral tradition in Fairfield. Tickets are $10 for general admission and $6 for students with ID at the Sondheim ticket office.