Recent Grads to Helm Student Support Services

Leslie Doyle ('16) and Sascha Kyssa ('12) have recently been named associate directors of Student Support Services, and will play a major role in helping students deal with any issues that may arise.

Jonathan Shapiro, who is retiring and who has helped hundreds of students over many years, will continue as director and will remain in an advisory role.

Both step into the position already having shown remarkable ability in MUM staff positions that involved working closely with students.

“Students feel comfortable with them,” said vice-president Rod Eason, who oversees student services. “They’re able to relate to students on a peer-to-peer level.”

Both Ms. Doyle (student satisfaction and retention specialist) and Mr. Kyssa (director of student activities) will now be included in the broader responsibilities of the office of student support services.

Both Ms. Doyle and Mr. Kyssa have been training under Dr. Shapiro for a number of months, and both have applied to master's degree programs in social work.

Mr. Kyssa studied sustainable living, and has been overseeing student activities, the student lounge, and Vishwashanti Cafe for three years. Ms. Doyle studied physiology and health and is a certified wellness consultant.

Students Enjoy Fall Semester Studying Sustainability in Hawaii

Hawaii is proving to be an ideal setting for studying sustainability, with the first group of students participating in MUM’s new semester-long program ecstatic about what they experienced and learned. “Every day I had the thought, ‘man this is a blessing,’” said student Danny Flynn.

The students were based at the Kohala Institute on the Big Island, where new buildings and a dorm have been constructed to host MUM’s program. Lunch and dinner were catered by a nearby vegan restaurant.

The Big Island is home to many sustainable farmers and homesteaders, intentional communities, and craftsmen, as well as native Hawaiians who are maintaining their ancient culture. Thanks to the many connections Professor Lonnie Gamble has made on the Big Island, the students were able to spend much of their time learning from these local specialists and doing service work in their enterprises.

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Mr. Flynn, for example, spent a week at the Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture, a sustainable farming operation that focuses on living off the land and growing food that’s nutritious, safe, and good for the environment.

“They’re passionate about nutrient density and soil regeneration,” Mr. Flynn said. “Their attitude is, ‘Let’s make the next generation healthy and happy, and stop feeding them unhealthy food.’”

He helped with composting, mulching, planting, and transplanting, as well as with their beehive, dairy, and agroforestry operations.

Among the many people who hosted and involved the students was a man who heads a company that has the world’s largest compost pile. He purchased a former sugar cane plantation that had for decades piled their waste. Realizing this could be valuable compost, he invested over $10 million in renovating buildings and creating a business focused on education and distributing compost.

Mr. Flynn spent a week working with the owner, including learning carpentry skills when he helped build a shed.

Mr. Flynn said that because of the students’ enthusiasm for learning, they attracted notice from those on the Big Island involved in sustainable enterprises, who then sought out the students, eager to share their knowledge.

For example, a local woodworker heard about the students and invited them to visit. He ended up becoming a guest faculty and together with the students started a new maker space business.

The students also met with Hawaiian elders and learned about their traditions of honoring the land and life.

In addition, they were hosted for a week by an intentional community focused on nonviolent communication.

The primary objective of the group of students who recently returned was to establish these relationships and to develop a detailed curriculum for the students who will be heading to the Big Island in the spring, as well as for future groups.

MUM students can earn a minor in sustainable living by enrolling in the semester in Hawaii.

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FROM THE FOUNDER

“If you can attend to consciousness, your attention on consciousness wakes up consciousness to its own creative potential. It wakes up within itself through Transcendental Meditation and the Yogic Flying procedures—all those of which we have been talking. Attending to consciousness is the only way of doing less and accomplishing more.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, October 26, 2005 press conference

Dr. Bargerstock Publishes Book on Implementing Business Planning

As an MBA student, Professor Andy Bargerstock noticed that courses in business strategy didn’t explain how to connect planning and implementation—a gap he addresses in his new book published by Business Expert Press.

Entitled Mastering Leadership Alignment: Linking Value Creation with Cash Flow, Dr. Bargerstock’s book describes how to use value chain analysis, employee engagement, and well-chosen financial metrics to connect business planning with implementation. This keeps priorities in focus while improving cash flow.

The book was coauthored with consultant Jahn Ballard, who has developed a systematic methodology for guiding organizations to higher levels of success.

“After years of trying to figure out how to connect planning and implementation, I discovered the work of Ballard,” Dr. Bargerstock said. “It was the solution to what I called ‘the missing methodology.’”

The book provides step-by-step procedures on how to involve senior leadership in effectively maintaining the organization’s strategic goals while improving the approach to management.

These procedures are called the Ballard Alignment and Reporting Disciplines. They are: 1) Mapping the value creating activity cycle, 2) Conducting 3 bottom-line analysis, 3) Linking constraints and KPIs to financial drivers, 4) Engaging and aligning leaders first, then staff, and 5) Monitoring and reporting performance.

The process begins with the CEO applying the first three disciplines to his or her inherent knowledge about how the organization creates value for customers.

The CEO then brings the chief financial officer into the dialogue in a skillful manner, then gradually engaging the entire senior team. This engagement is a necessary precondition for rolling out the methodology organization-wide.

Ultimately, all employees join the process and offer their input for identifying and solving problems in order to improve critical business processes.

The goal of this process, which is called Mastering Alignment, is to create organization-wide consensus about how to be successful and build long-term customer loyalty.

Print and ebook versions are available on Amazon. For more information, email andyb@mum.edu.

The Review

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$50,000 Grant Supports Faculty Development

MUM faculty are honing their knowledge and skills thanks to a $50,000 grant from the Wege Foundation.

Awarded last year, the grant has now funded 17 faculty, who have enjoyed opportunities ranging from attending state-of-the-art conferences to purchasing needed hardware and software.

Data analytics is currently a hot topic, with Anne Dow and Habte Gebrehiwot attending a conference on data analysis and statistics. Naveed Abbasi attended a workshop where he learned to use SAP Analytics as well as SAP Enterprise Resource Planning.

Media and communications faculty Gurdy Leete and Gabe Romero attended industry conferences focused on topics such as computer graphics, augmented reality, animation, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence.

Equipment purchases have included burners and a safety system for a new high-temperature kiln for ceramics, as well as hardware and software for research on the Maharishi Effect.

Other areas of research supported by the grant include lean management, principles of Maharishi Vedic Science\textsuperscript{SM} in both theory and application, creating a sustainability education curriculum for grade school students in Kenya, and the effects of Maharishi Vastu\textsuperscript{R} architecture on a building’s inhabitants.

The Wege Foundation grant has also supported faculty giving presentations at national conferences and workshops, including Paul Corazza on “The Axion of Infinity, QFT, and Large Cardinals,” Dinesh Gyawali on the effects of Ayurveda medicines on cardiovascular risk factors, and A. Thimmaiah on Mahabharata Vedic Science and agriculture.

Faculty also attended professional workshops to develop their skills and knowledge. Matthew Beaufort became proficient in the new area of “team-based learning,” Dina Chammas learned about topics such as renewable energy, green building, and energy conservation, and Bei Liu learned about new and upcoming learning management systems and best practices in presentation media and instructional design.

And Leah Waller attended the largest literary conference in North America, affording her the opportunity to network with and learn from writers, teachers, students, editors, and publishers.

Professor Shrosbree Receives Prestigious Art Fellowship

In November and December art professor Jim Shrosbree enjoyed a residency fellowship at MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, NH – the oldest artist residency in the U.S.

Mr. Shrosbree’s stay was fully supported and afforded him the opportunity to spend five weeks creating art without interruptions or distractions.

Artists from various disciplines – writers, visual artists, dancers, filmmakers, poets, and playwrights – are awarded a fellowship to attend, creating a rich cross-disciplinary exchange. The sole criterion for acceptance is artistic excellence.

“The residency is an award that allows an artist to be totally taken care of to the degree that lunch is delivered to each private studio every day,” Mr. Shrosbree said.

This is the third residency of this kind that Mr. Shrosbree has been awarded in the last four years. His previous two residencies were at Yaddo Artists Colony in Saratoga Springs, NY. Yaddo is nearly as old as MacDowell, going back 100 years.

Edgar Allan Poe wrote “The Raven” while in residence there.

Mr. Shrosbree said that both MacDowell and Yaddo are set on several hundred acres of wooded land with ponds. The artists’ studios are set in the woods. Dinners are a community affair, offering rich cultural exchanges. In the evenings artists present their work in the form of readings, musical performances, film screenings, and open studios.

In March Mr. Shrosbree will also have a residency and exhibit at Two Coats of Paint in Brooklyn, NY. And last April and May he had a one-person exhibit at Paul Kotula Projects, in Detroit.

Unity Gallery to Feature Paintings by John Schlue

Large-scale geometric paintings by John Schlue will be on exhibit in Unity Gallery February 17–March 17.

The opening reception will be Friday, February 17, from 7:00–9:00 p.m. in Unity Gallery in the MUM Library.

The exhibit, titled *EatChewAlive*, comprises nine paintings, five of which measure 7’ x 7’. They draw upon geometric patterns, op-art, craft materials, Americana, and mythological themes.

Mr. Schlue’s works use oil paint and acrylic felt to create surfaces with depth and saturation. He applies each piece of felt – often numbering in the thousands – by hand.

MUM Doubles Internet Bandwidth

The campus connection to the internet was recently doubled to 500 Mbps, which will help avoid occasional slowdowns.

“This increases the number of people who get satisfactory performance,” said Tom Hirsch, chief information officer.

He reminds users that the campus network and internet is a shared resource and invites them to use discretion when downloading large files.
Chamber Singers to Offer Screening of Carnegie Hall Debut

The Chamber Singers of Southeast Iowa, which includes MUM students, faculty, and staff, were invited to perform at New York City’s Carnegie Hall last month.

To celebrate their success, they will host a community gala appreciation evening Sunday, February 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sondheim Theater at the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center.

The free event will include a presentation about the trip, a DVD screening of their concert, and a reception.

The Chamber Singers were part of an international choir of 180 that debuted “Requiem” by Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen. They were accompanied by a full orchestra, 24-piece percussion ensemble, virtuoso trumpets, and a guest soloist.

Maharishi School to Present Theater Cavalcade

A variety of performances, from choral reading to short plays to readers theater, will be offered by Maharishi School students Friday and Saturday, February 24 & 25, at 8:00 p.m. in Spayde Theater on campus.

Admission is $10 and $8 for students and for MUM/Maharishi School faculty and staff. Tickets are available from the performers and Thymely Solutions.

New Short Course: Dharma Parenting

Dharma Parenting offers a uniquely individual approach to raising a happy and successful child. The word “dharma” means a way of living that upholds the path of evolution, maintains balance, and supports both prosperity and spiritual freedom.

Professors Keith Wallace and Fred Travis combine knowledge from modern science, Maharishi AyurVeda®, and their personal experience to show how to unfold the full potential of your child’s brain, as well as how to nurture his or her inherent brilliance and goodness.

To register and learn more about the book by Dr. Wallace and Dr. Travis, see www.mum.edu/mum-online and click on “Short Courses.”

Annapurna Menu

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