Nearly 300 New Students Includes 64 in Online Master’s Programs

Enrollment in MUM’s online master’s programs is increasing sharply, with 64 new students this fall.

The biggest jump was the online MS in Maharishi AyurVedaSM and Integrative Medicine, which accounted for 50 new students. Other new online students included 11 in the MA in Maharishi Vedic ScienceSM and 3 in the MBA.

There are now over 100 new and continuing students in the online master’s programs. Plus, there are 18 students in the low-residency MFA in screenwriting, which is mostly taught online.

“We’re pleased to see interest picking up in our online offerings,” said Rod Eason, vice president of enrollment management and marketing. “Integrative medicine is becoming an important component in medical treatment, and we expect to eventually have hundreds enrolled in this program.”

Overall, 293 new students registered. As usual, the largest number of entering students – 96 – came for the Computer Professionals Program. Enrollment of new undergraduate students was 65.

Total enrollment for Fairfield campus stood at 628 early this month. The grand total enrollment stood at 1,718, including 137 at Maharishi Invincibility Institute in South Africa and 807 Computer Professionals students who are in the practicum phase of their degree program working at companies around the U.S.

MUM students this fall come from 78 different countries.

Students will enter a magical realm for two hours this Saturday as they participate in the inaugural MUM Quest, a live-action adventure. Modeled after Harry Potter’s Triwizard Tournament, MUM Quest will also take place in February and June next year.

194 Students to Take Part in Adventure Quest Saturday

Excitement is building as 194 students, divided into six teams, prepare to participate in a live-action adventure quest this Saturday, September 24 – the first of three such events this academic year.

Modeled after Harry Potter’s Triwizard Tournament, MUM Quest will plunge students into a magical realm for two hours, during which the teams work together to save Fairfield.

Created by student Haley Spitzfaden and recent alumnus Chris Grace, the event will be fun for students while fostering team-building skills and school spirit. “It’s an opportunity to come together, work together, and create an identity together,” Ms. Spitzfaden said.

It will begin at 5:00 pm with introductory information the teams need to succeed in the quest, and then they’ll be sent off. They’ll have two hours – until the last ray of sunlight – to complete the quest.

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While reluctant to give away details, the organizers are spending the $5,000 they raised on magical settings and props, including hiring a number of builders and craftsmen to work on some of the 22 projects involved.

At the root of it all is a powerful imagination—and the creativity to realize that imagination. “Imagine that you wanted 12 pink elephants for the adventure,” Ms. Spitzfaden says. “We envisioned things that are impossible, and then figured out ways to make them possible.”

Mr. Grace explains that the students are heroes in the adventure, and like the classical adventure quest described by Joseph Campbell, they cross a threshold from the familiar to a supernatural and magical reality more wonderful than the normal world. Then after experiencing multiple adventures in a different realm, they come back enriched.

The story that underlies the quest is set in Fairfield and covers various events in the town’s history, going all the way back to the seventeenth century.

“To be believable, the quest is in familiar places,” Mr. Grace says. “We’ve created something more, something magical in the real world.”

The teams have been organized to include members from disparate groups on campus, and these teams will remain together for each of the three quests, with the two remaining quests planned for February and June.

The teams compete to earn points, and the team with the most points at the end of the June quest will win a trophy called the MUM Cup at a big celebration in the student lounge in Argiro.

While most of the points will be earned from the quests, team members are also able to earn points by participating in “side-quests” such as the QR code challenge, attending Student Congress meetings, and participating in the competitions offered in the MUM App.

MUM’s School of Business has received a USDA Rural Business Development grant for $46,500 to provide free seminars and workshops for businesses in Jefferson County.

This program is designed to offer technical assistance, training, education, and mentoring to help develop or expand small and emerging private businesses in rural areas.

The project will include 15 one-hour seminars and 20 four-hour workshops taught by MUM faculty members and invited guests.

These education and training programs will be open to the public and will be publicized via emails, ads, and posters.

According to David Goodman, the grant administrator, the topics to be covered will help entrepreneurs formulate successful business proposals and improve the ability of small businesses to conduct their business successfully.

Area entrepreneurs and small businesses are being surveyed regarding the topics for the seminars and workshops.

Dr. Goodman said the grant will aid economic development and help create and retain jobs in Jefferson County.

Partners on the project include the Fairfield Economic Development Association, the Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfield CoLab, SCORE, the Fairfield Entrepreneurs Association, and Pathfinders RC&D.

For further information or to suggest topics for the seminars or workshops, please contact Dr. Goodman at (641) 451-1793 or biztraining@mum.edu.
Student Attends Ukraine Peace Congress

In her student government role as president of World Congress, Haley Spitzfaden traveled to Ukraine—by herself—last June to attend the Peace Congress organized by the Global Union of Scientists for Peace, headed by MUM President John Hagelin.

Along with the other 500 attendees, which included generals, government ministers, academicians, researchers, and other professionals, Ms. Spitzfaden learned about Consciousness-BasedSM approaches to peace.

“It was incredible, so inspiring,” she said. “They weren’t skeptical at all. The people of Ukraine need this so badly.”

She said that the speakers, both from MUM and others, including a Nobel Laureate, all recognized that there was a need for a shift in paradigm.

One general said, “You can’t wash away blood with more blood.”

Ms. Spitzfaden will give a presentation to the community in October about her experience.

MBAs in Top 10th Percentile in Global Simulation

A team of MBA accounting students recently finished in the 92nd percentile in an online decision-making simulation that involved 1,125 master’s-degree-level teams worldwide.

The team included John Ortaliza (Philippines), Rithy Um (Cambodia), and Elias Mengistu (Ethiopia).

This is the 12th consecutive time that at least one group of MBA students from MUM has finished in the top tenth percentile since they began participating in the simulation in 2011. Other U.S. universities that finished in the top 10th percentile in this window of the competition included Brigham Young University, Indiana University, University of Georgia, Drake University, Ohio University, and Seton Hall University.

In the Capsim Capstone Simulation points are earned through well-defined metrics in four areas of performance: customer, financial, internal business processes, and learning/growth.

The students manage short-term and long-term metrics across eight rounds of decision-making, with each round representing one year. This entails using their knowledge of marketing, finance, operations, human resources, accounting, problem-solving, and data analysis. Team performance depends on their ability to analyze data and financial statements across eight years of business activities.

While not a real-time competition per se, the ongoing simulation allows MBA teams to compare their performance with other MBA teams who have participated the previous six-month period from the end date of the last round of decisions.

Novel by Alumnus Nathaniel Campbell Receives Praise

MUM alumnus Nathaniel Campbell's debut novel, published in July, was number one on the Chicago Tribune's "The ultimate summer reading list."

Titled Found Audio and published by Two Dollar Radio, it was reviewed twice by Publisher's Weekly, which called it a "bona fide literary page-turner" and included it in their list of "Writers to Watch Fall 2017." Kirkus Reviews described it as "A dizzying epistolary novel about dreams, perception, and the human psyche."

"I'm very surprised and grateful," said Mr. Campbell of all the praise and national attention the book has received.

The publisher describes the book as a cerebral thriller that takes readers on a journey around the globe in search of the legendary city of dreams, based on a series of mysterious audio recordings by an adventure journalist.

Mr. Campbell graduated from MUM in 2008 with a BA in literature. For the past six years he worked as manager of the MUM Press Marketing office. His short stories have been published in literary journals since 2012.

Found Audio is available in independent bookstores and on Amazon.

Book on Big Data by Dr. Maheshwari Now Published in Chinese

Professor Anil Maheshwari's book titled Data Analytics Made Accessible has now been published in a Chinese edition by a top tech publisher in Taiwan.

Originally published by McGraw-Hill in the U.S., the book gives a concise and accessible overview of data analytics and provides a toolset of the major data mining techniques and platforms.

It has been a top seller on Amazon, as has his book Big Data Essentials, which covers big data tools such as MapReduce, Spark Streaming, Hadoop, and NoSql.

Because his books have become prominent in the field of big data, he has been invited to give presentations at schools such as James Madison University in Virginia, and his videos for promoting the books have earned thousands of likes on Facebook.

MUM Film MFA Selected as One of Top 7 in U.S.

The film production track in the David Lynch Graduate School of Cinematic Arts was recently selected as one of the top seven accredited programs in the U.S. by the website Wiki.ezvid.com.

Ezvid Wiki is among the top 4,000 websites in the U.S., and their videos have been viewed over 120 million times. The film production page lists the seven schools selected and includes a video that briefly presents each of the programs.

The page can be viewed at wiki.ezvid.com/in/master-s-programs-in-film-production.
Campus AmeriCorps Team Wins Award

The Green Iowa AmeriCorps team based on campus this past year was given an award in July for their partnership with MUM in creating a Leadership in Sustainability certificate.

They won AmeriCorps’ Service Year Alliance Higher Education Award for Innovative Campus-Corps Partnership.

Green Iowa AmeriCorps is committed to environmental stewardship through residential energy efficiency service, environmental education, and community engagement.

The AmeriCorps team on campus worked with MUM to create a certificate program that allows corps members to use their Segal Education Award to participate in an eight-week program to earn a Leadership in Sustainability certificate.

The certificate involves coursework in leadership, sustainability, permaculture, and green entrepreneurship; introduces members to apprenticeships, work placement, and future career opportunities; and ends with a two-and-a-half-week field experience on the big island of Hawaii, where MUM has a satellite campus.

This certificate program is an inventive way to create new opportunities for corps members and to assist MUM with developing sustainability-related programs at the new satellite campus.

School Student Wins Top Award at Global Science Event

In June Maharishi School student Pranav Chhalliyil attended the 2017 BioGENEius Challenge in San Diego, winning first place in the Gene Pool competition for his oral hygiene research.

The BioGENEius Challenge is an international competition that included the top 15 students from the U.S., Canada, and Germany.

The Gene Pool event, similar to the hit TV show “Shark Tank,” gave the students just 60 seconds to explain to the judges and audience who they are, the problem their research solves, and why the rest of the world should care.

Pranav’s pitch was judged to be one of the top three, qualifying him for the final round of judging. This time the format was a two-minute presentation along with a question-and-answer session. The judges described him as charismatic and gave him the top award in Gene Pool.

Pranav’s research was also the national winner and an international finalist in the Global Health Care Challenge part of the competition.

5 Units Left in MUM North Campus Village Phase 5

2 Bed/1.5 Bath Townhomes

- Two story MSV homes from 1060 to 1260 sq. ft.
- Two bedrooms and full bath upstairs, kitchen/dining/living & powder room on main floor
- Very energy efficient
- Base price $121,750
- Upgrades Available

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- 1000 sq. ft.
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Birthdays

Notice

The Review will be publishing birthdays again this year so that everyone can be honored on his or her birthday. To omit your birthday, e-mail jkarpen@mum.edu, or call 472-0778.