Solis Festival to Inaugurate MUM Amphitheater

Solis, an all-day festival on Sunday, May 20, featuring entertainment, local vendors, and fun activities, will mark the official inauguration of the new Olson Family Amphitheater on the slope east of the Argiro Student Center.

“The festival will be in celebration of the sun, warmer weather, and the transition from spring into summer,” said student organizer Luna Pinder. “The goal of this event is to provide a day of fun for the whole community as well as to support the local economy.”

A number of performers are now lined up, including the band Never Knows Best and the drum group Foliba. There may be additional openings for performers. Open mic will be offered 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Vendors who have committed include crafts, artists, henna, bakers, massage, woodwork, and jewelers. More vendors can be accommodated.

Ms. Pinder is also seeking donations to put into the free basket raffle. Plus, she is in need of food trucks as well as volunteers to help with setting up and breaking down, as well as manning stations.

Performers, vendors, and volunteers are invited to email Ms. Pinder at apinder@mum.edu.

The amphitheater, funded by Peggy Olson and her late husband Marty, includes tiered seating for over 100 and a stage. Both fiber optic cable and TV cable have been installed.

The amphitheater is the first phase of the development of Younger Park, which will eventually expand to include additional features.

Students will again have the opportunity to participate in a quest adventure, which this time will entail 1930s dress and setting, dinner, live music – and a mystery to solve.

1930s Fantasy Theme Set for Next Student Quest Adventure May 12

Following the successful “MUM Quest” last September, students will again be questing on Saturday, May 12: a fancy-dress dinner party complete with 1930s theme and a mystery that involves the student quest teams competing to catch a thief.

“It’s a whodunit dinner in which students and their friends solve puzzles together to catch a thief while enjoying art, dance, and food,” said student organizer Haley Spitzfaden. “It will be an evening of magic, fun, and bonding.”

The music will be jazz, and the 1930s dress will typically include a fedora hat and gangster look for the men, and pearls, gloves, and feather boas for the women.

“We want people looking nice,” Ms. Spitzfaden said. “Some costume pieces will be provided for people who need something to wear.”

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The heart of the evening will be the mystery, said Ms. Spitzfaden as she explained the scenario: the energy vortex opened up by last fall’s quest also inadvertently created a portal between our world and the fairy world — and those fairies are creating a lot of mischief.

The six quest teams created last fall will compete to see who can solve the mystery the fastest, while enjoying a bonding experience with students who may not usually meet day to day.

The goal of this quest and the one last fall is to foster camaraderie and spirit among the students. The teams earn points based on how they do in the quests. Plus, there have been a number of “side quests” during the year that also confer points, such as attending campus events, scouting campus for five hidden locations, and picking up litter during the ChangeMakers weekend.

So far the Green Team is in the lead, but the Pink Team has moved up fast due to investing time and energy in the side quests, Ms. Spitzfaden said.

Students who aren’t yet on a team can sign up at mum.edu/quest. They’ll then be assigned to a team when they arrive for the 1930s Quest. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 12, in the North Dining Hall in the Argiro Student Center.

The hall will be decorated with a film noir feeling, including a velvet rope at the entrance, candlelight (with electric candles), and streamers. A jazz band will perform live. Food will be provided.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“Planning should be done properly, but there should be a limit to it. The time factor, which is the most valuable factor in life, must not be lost sight of. A higher consciousness should be cultivated to develop a broad vision, foresight, clear thinking, intuition, power of imagination, and precision of thought, all of which form the basis of proper planning.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

MUM Launches New Maharishi Global Archives and Collections

MUM has recently launched a digital repository intended to assemble the complete history and body of knowledge of Maharishi’s international Transcendental Meditation® organization.

The goal is to create, for the first time, an interactive collection that’s available worldwide.

“Maharishi was so comprehensive and prolific in his activities that no single depository or individual has ever had the complete picture,” said Gail Crotta, a volunteer who is helping to create the archive. “We want to collaborate with all the other major depositories, Transcendental Meditation leaders, and private collectors to assemble a complete digital repository of Maharishi’s knowledge and history.”

She said that online collaboration is really the only way to do this. “We will leave all the original material from various collections in place, but share online for everyone to interact with.”

The current archival collections at MUM already include more than 20,000 published items and more than 400 unique primary Maharishi source documents as well as unique recordings not found in other collections. There are even artifacts such as Taste of Utopia bumper stickers and some of the earliest handwritten letters by Maharishi.

Ms. Crotta and Steven Estrada have been volunteering for the past year to catalog, preserve, and protect current holdings and to reach out to anyone willing to contribute and join in research efforts.

Besides sorting through the trove of current material, they have developed appropriate classification systems and archival policies and procedures, and contributed material to the current displays in Rishikesh celebrating the Beatles 50th anniversary there.

The volunteer advisory group over the past year for Maharishi Global Archives and Collections at MUM includes library directors Rouzanna Vardanyan and Peter Freund, Bill Hickey, Michael Barnard, Steve Langerud, and John Boncheff (archivist for Maharishi Foundation.)

“We are all caretakers of Maharishi’s knowledge, and through technology we can create a lasting demonstration of the relevance of his knowledge to future generations, with the historical texts and all recorded information,” said Mr. Estrada, director of MUM Archives.

He said the project will need to attract outside support and funding. For more information or to support the project, email sestrada@mum.edu.
Online BA in Ayurveda Wellness to Launch This Fall

MUM’s online offerings continue to expand, and will now include the BA in Ayurveda Wellness beginning this fall.

The new online program is intended to be a “degree-completion” program targeted toward students who have already finished their general education requirements at another university.

“Online learning is a rapidly growing trend for many universities and opens up the possibility to study for many people who are unable to physically relocate or who are unable to commit full time to their academic aspirations,” said Sultan Salah, director of the BA in Ayurveda Wellness. “Many of our students are adults who are working and have families, and online learning makes it possible for them to continue their studies.”

The program will offer the core of the Ayurveda Wellness curriculum that’s already being offered on campus. Students in the online program will gain proficiency in the practical applications of Maharishi AyurvedaSM in their own lives and in the lives of others.

The program prepares students to be health consultants and educators in the field of prevention of disease and promotion of health.

Mr. Salah said that MUM is currently the only university in the U.S. that offers Ayurveda training as part of an accredited bachelor’s, master’s, or PhD degree.

“Other schools of Ayurveda offer certification courses that can be quite extensive, but none of them have a degree program,” he said. “Our program includes within it a certification program that opens up many possibilities for students to teach and consult using the Ayurvedic and integrative medical knowledge they have learned.”

The online program includes two, two-week clinical residencies, in which the students come to the Fairfield campus for intensive training at the campus Integrative Wellness Center. International students will take this training in their home countries.

While the program is intended as a degree-completion program, students who haven’t already finished their general education work will be able to take advantage of courses that will be offered as part of MUM’s new online BA in Liberal Arts.

The Ayurveda Wellness program integrates modern medicine and science with the natural approach of Ayurveda. The core curriculum covers topics such as the optimal diet and routine for different individuals; beneficial herbal supplements for specific imbalances and organ systems; traditional purification therapies; and principles of biological rhythms and their effects on health.

For more information, see www.mum.edu/online-ba-in-ayurveda-wellness.

Vicki Herriott Named Dean of Faculty

Vicki Herriott was recently appointed dean of faculty by President John Hagelin, replacing Cathy Gorini, who had held the position for 15 years.

Ms. Herriott came to the university in 1984 and has served in a variety of leadership positions – as associate dean of faculty, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, chair of the Student Affairs Council, and, for the past 15 years, chair of the management department.

Dr. Gorini will now shift her focus to teaching, writing, and working on the Journal of Mathematics and Consciousness. A professor of mathematics, she also served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and chair of the Curriculum Committee for 18 years prior to her long tenure as dean of faculty. She has authored two books and edited another.

“We are all grateful for the dedicated and capable service both Cathy and Vicki have rendered for so many years, and grateful for the work they will continue to do,” said Craig Pearson, vice president of academic affairs.

In addition, Carol Passos was recently named director of human resources, replacing Stan Lamotte, who served as director for many years and who has now become the director of human resources at the Maharishi Foundation.

“Ms. Passos has proven herself extremely capable ever since joining the university,” Dr. Pearson said. “We’re very fortunate to have someone with such talent, experience, and wisdom.”

MBA Enrolls Highly Qualified Students

Students enrolling in the accounting MBA program often come to the university already being members of the Association of Chartered Certified Accounts (ACCA).

Recently, five students who are ACCA members or affiliates arrived from Ethiopia, Nepal, China, and Cameroon.

“We continue to attract some of the best accounting professionals worldwide to our MBA Program,” said Andrew Bargerstock, chair of the accounting program and director of the MBA program.

“When ACCA affiliates and members come to MUM, it speaks well of the quality of education and professional opportunities available at our university.”

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Home for Sale

MSV single family home, 2040 Coral Lane.

3 bedrooms, 2½ baths. Mature fruit trees and shrubs. Asking $249,000. Call or text (641) 469-6942.
Advanced Healthy Gut Course Begins May 12

A new three-lesson Advanced Healthy Gut course open to graduates of the Heal Your Gut course offered last fall will begin on Saturday, May 12, at 1:30 p.m. and then will continue on Sunday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. on May 20 and 27.

Taught by Keith Wallace and Andrew Stenberg, the course will explore the newest diets that have been shown to improve mental and physical health. Participants will also learn about new and exciting research on the microbiome, and how diet and probiotics are being used to treat various diseases.

The course will also cover specific ancient Ayurvedic purification procedures and compare them to procedures used by modern health experts.

For more information or to sign up, go to yourhealthygut.eventbrite.com.

Chamber Singers Present Mother’s Day Spring Concert

The Chamber Singers of Southeast Iowa will present their spring concert, “Between Earth and Sky: Songs of Love and Nature,” on Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Main St. – one block from the Fairfield square.

This choral program is suited for the Mother’s Day weekend, featuring songs of love – love of the divine, of nature, and of each other.

Interwoven throughout the concert are elemental themes of earth, air, fire, water, and space that give voice to the beauty of Mother Nature.

The wide-ranging program includes vocal jazz, movie themes, folk songs, madrigals, spirituals, classic hymns, and contemporary compositions. The choral settings are based on inspiring texts and poems that evoke reverence, celebration, passion, joy, and delight.

A guest trio, consisting of Lise Marcell on piano, Donna Nelson on cello, and Professor Karen Aoki on flute, will play two instrumental pieces and will accompany some of the choral selections, along with MUM alumnus Michael Fitzgerald on percussion.

“We are delighted to present this wonderful concert of choral gems to our beloved Fairfield community,” said Elaine Reding, music director of the Chamber Singers. “Our Mother’s Day program reflects the universal love and nourishment that mothers first awaken in us – love that expands ever outward to embrace the whole of nature. The richness and unity of these songs will take everyone on an inspiring musical journey through love’s many expressions.”

Everyone is warmly invited to join the Chamber Singers on Mother’s Day weekend. A generous free-will offering at the door will be appreciated. For more information, call (641) 472-1539.

ChangeMakers Videos Now Available Online

Videos of the recent ChangeMakers conference are now available.

The event, entitled “ChangeMakers: Disruptors Transforming the World for Good,” was attended by over 600 people. It showcased famous innovators and renowned changemakers who are transforming the lives of thousands.

Presenters included the humanitarian and visionary Father Gabriel Mejia, who has rescued 100,000 street orphans from drug-torn families in Medellin, Colombia; renowned disruptive filmmaker David Lynch; Laura Dawn (a founding member of MoveOn.org); and other speakers.

The videos can be viewed at www.mum.edu/changemakers-event-2018.