Student Film Wins Six Top Awards

Last Tree Standing, the thesis film by Agnes (Baginska) Peel-McGregor, recently won six Awards of Excellence at the Iowa Motion Picture Association’s annual awards ceremony – more than any other entry.

The 30-minute film won the top award in the categories of director (short-form), editing (short-form), original score, screenplay, soundtrack audio mix, and visual effects.

The film also received Awards of Achievement, which are given to films nominated for an award, in the categories of best short film, best actor, best actress, cinematography, and voice-over narration.

This awards event was the Iowa premiere of Last Tree Standing, which has also won recognition at international film festivals.

Ms. Peel-McGregor is a 2016 graduate of MUM’s David Lynch School of Cinematic Arts.

Her film is the futuristic story of Treeman, a half-tree, half-man character in the year 2071, when all trees are gone in a dystopian world except for the remnants embodied by Treeman.

The Iowa Motion Picture Association recognizes outstanding creative and technical achievement in Iowa’s moving image production industry. In each category, entries must meet the rigorous criteria of industry judges to receive the Award of Achievement. If the work is outstanding, it meets the criteria to earn an Award of Excellence.

Imminent Solar Array to Provide a Third of Campus Power

Construction is set to begin next month on a 1.1-megawatt solar array that will provide approximately one-third of the electricity used on campus.

A five-acre field of solar panels will be installed on MUM land west of the recreational trail that borders the west side of campus. It will be connected by an underground cable to the university’s substation.

The state-of-the-art solar panels will move to follow the path of the sun during the day. Excess energy will be stored in a battery bank for use during the night and during times of peak energy needs.

“This project is the culmination of years of design, engineering, and planning work by the local Fairfield solar company Ideal Energy together with university trustee Tom Factor,” said Tom Brooks, MUM vice president of operations.
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Mr. Factor is a retired wind energy developer and researcher who has led the development of over 40 utility-scale wind farms. Ideal Energy, a leading solar company headed by MUM alumni Troy Van Beek and Amy Greenfield Van Beek, focuses on smart, scalable solar deployment.

The project, which will cost over $2 million and will be owned by an independent company, is being funded by private investment and by a loan from MUM that was made possible by donations, including a grant from the Wege Foundation.

In addition, the graduating class of 2017 made a donation to the pre-development costs for the project.

The array, which will take about two months to complete, is projected to lower MUM's cost of electricity by about a third over its 25-year life, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The array will be one of Iowa's largest, and the battery energy storage system will be the largest of its kind in the Midwest.

In addition to the new array, MUM has a smaller array on the terrace west of the Men’s Dome, and a solar installation on the roof of the Schwartz-Guich Sustainable Living Center. Plus, a wind turbine south of the Sustainable Living Center also provides power to the campus.

Add these local sustainable sources to the fact that Alliant Energy, which provides electricity to campus, gets about 15% of its electricity from wind farms. The result is that over 43% of the university's electricity will be from sustainable sources once the new array is complete this summer.

MUM continues to progress toward the goal of being a carbon-neutral campus and meeting the commitments the university has made to The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment and to the Paris Climate Initiative.

“This new solar field is a big step forward in that continuing effort to promote life in accord with natural law,” Mr. Brooks said.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“Life in freedom is intended for the human race. If a man is not able to live in freedom, the very purpose of life is not fulfilled. Man is born to live a perfect life, encompassing the values of the transcendental absolute – unlimited energy, intelligence, power, peace, and bliss – together with the unlimited values of the world of multiplicity in relative existence.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

Dr. Gyawali Presents at Texas Ayurveda Conference

Last month Professor Dinesh Gyawali gave a presentation at a conference sponsored by the National Ayurvedic Medical Association, a network of Ayurvedic counselors, practitioners, and doctors in the U.S.

The conference was titled “Ayurveda for a healthy world.” Dr. Gyawali spoke about his research on the effects of Ayurvedic medicine on cardiovascular risk factors.

Conference participants included Ayurveda educators, authors, physicians, and pharmaceutical companies from across the U.S. as well as countries such as Germany, India, Canada, and Mexico.

“I was proud to represent MUM and Maharishi AyurVeda in this forum,” Dr. Gyawali said. “Although many people know us as a pioneer in the Vedic knowledge, we need to be a part of such communities and organizations for our own growth.”

He said that participating in events like this will help MUM become more familiar among those who love Ayurveda and Vedic knowledge.

Dr. Gyawali’s participation was made possible by a faculty development grant from the Wege Foundation.

School Student Wins Science Fair Awards

Maharishi School 9th-grader Shristi Sharma won first place last month in the Computer Science category at the State Science and Technology Fair of Iowa with a project titled “Phishing: Don’t Take the Bait, Protect Your Sensitive Information.”

She also won an Intel Excellence in Computer Science and $200 cash award. Plus, she was invited to attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, PA.

“This is a tremendous honor and opportunity as I envision continuing in this field with a career in programming and cyber-protection,” Ms. Sharma said.

Earlier in the spring she also won awards at the Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair: an Inspiring Excellence award and an Honorable Mention.

Her research entailed sending fraudulent emails to employees at five companies to see whether those companies that had offered training to employees would be less vulnerable. She found that the companies that had previously trained their employees were 4.5 times less likely to fall for the attacks.
MBA Student Earns Recognition

Last month MBA student Merveille Djappi Tiani, from Cameroon, was recognized as the Most Outstanding Accounting Student at MUM by the Iowa Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Mr. Tiani was nominated by the MBA Accounting faculty based on factors such as grade point average, technical capabilities, professional behavior, and ability to collaborate on academic work projects.

Mr. Tiani is a student in the MBA Accounting Professionals program and recently completed eight months of full-time on-campus courses. He will now be transitioning into the curricular practical training phase of the program, which entails acquiring a fully paid practical training internship with a U.S. company.

Javier Ortiz Cabrejos to Speak May 25

Javier Ortiz Cabrejos, who has been responsible for 45,000 students in Peru learning the Transcendental Meditation® technique, will give a presentation Friday, May 25, at 8:00 p.m. in Dalby Hall.

An architect, poet, Transcendental Meditation instructor, and head of the Transcendental Meditation organization in Peru, Mr. Ortiz has been responsible for planning, developing and implementing many Transcendental Meditation-related projects in Latin America the past 25 years.

His first project involved teaching Transcendental Meditation to 200 students in the city of Puno in Peru.

The country continued to be ravaged by terrorism and guerrilla warfare, and in 2006 Mr. Ortiz began to organize groups of Yogic Flying® practitioners in schools, with a large group of 600 established by 2007.

As a result of Mr. Ortiz’s “Projects of Invincibility,” Peru began to grow steadily. Its economy flourished, the country became more optimistic, and migrants began to return to a prosperous country.

Now more than 45,000 schoolchildren have learned to meditate in more than 50 schools across Peru. In addition, some 5,000 children have learned the TM-Sidhi® program.

The transformation of Peru as a result has led experts to refer to it as the “Peruvian Miracle.”

As an architect, Mr. Ortiz has extensive experience with ancient, sustainable architectural systems and will also give a series of two lectures on this topic in Festival Hall on May 29 and 30 at 7:45 p.m.

Running Club Coach Sets Iowa 5K Record

MUM running club coach Peter Mannisi set an Iowa record with a time of 22:36 in the 70+ age category in the 5K race at the Drake Relays last month. The previous record, set in 2014, was 25:07.

He not only bested the 7 runners in his age group, but also the 14 in the 65–69 group and the 16 competitors in the 60–64 group. He was the 45th overall finisher in the race among all age groups, comprising 721 runners.

Other members of the running club also performed well. In the 10K race, Mohamed Elbeshir Abdellah Gharib and Bakytzhan Rustembekov finished 9th and 10th in their age division, both recording a time of 50:12.

In the 5K for the females, Mariam Daudi ran her best race ever in a time of 26:17 and was 7th in her age division (35–39). Kushal Koirala ran a time of 29:44 and was 13th in her age division (25–29). Camelia Rosner finished in a time of 32:59 and was 9th in the 15–19 division. Jackie Cox finished in a time of 33:00 and Minca Borg 43:08.

In the men’s 5K leading the way for the running club was Abdelrahman Abdelrazek, finishing in a time of 21:33. He was the 34th overall finisher and 7th in the 25–29 division. Ahmed Mohamed Ali Abdellah finished in a time of 28:11 and was 14th in his division.

This was the 109th year of the Drake relays track events and the 50th year that the road races have been held. All finishers entered the stadium and ran the final 300 meters on the famed blue oval track.

For more information about the club, contact running club president Virginia Lagunas at vlagunas@mum.edu or coach Mannisi at petermannisi@yahoo.com. Or see the club’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MumRunningClub.

Staff Member Wins Tennis Tournament

MUM internet specialist Paul Stokstad recently won the gold medal in the men’s singles tennis tournament in the 65–69 age division at the Eastern Iowa Senior Games in Cedar Rapids.

He will now head to the state competition in June as he aims to qualify for the national competition to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2019.

The Senior Games also included pickleball, a paddle sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Mr. Stokstad won a silver medal in men’s singles in the 65–69 age division, and a bronze medal in mixed doubles (partnering with Colleen Stone) in the 50–54 age division. The Fairfield contingent brought home a total of 13 medals.

For information about the Iowa Senior Games, see www.iowaseniorgames.org. See www.picklepaul.com/calendar for information about Fairfield pickleball opportunities.

Low-Cost Taxi Service

Cost: $2 each way within city limits.
Call to schedule: 1-800-227-6390
9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday–Friday.

Receive Campus Events via Email

Send an email to domenews@mum.edu to sign up to receive campus events and announcements via email.
A free festival on Sunday, May 20, will feature music, vendors, and fun. Five different bands will perform 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

**Five Bands, Over 20 Vendors Highlight May 20 Solis Festival**

A day of free entertainment and fun is planned for Sunday, May 20, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Five bands will perform in the new Olson Family Amphitheater east of the Argiro Student Center, including Never Knows Best, which hails from Pike County, Missouri, and offers a selection of progressive, ambient, and metal music.

Other bands performing during the day include 3=One, Skunk River Medicine Show, The Classical Jazz Quartet, and Foliba Drum Ensemble. Plus, DJ Sea will provide some music.

Also on hand near the amphitheater area will be 20 vendors offering food, woodworking, henna, massage, jewelry, cosmetics, pulse readings, Ayurveda herbal supplements, tarot readings, and more. The food will include barbecue, vegetarian chili, baked goods, and ethnic cuisine.

"We are celebrating the sun, warmer weather, and the transition from spring into summer," said student organizer Luna Pinder. "The inspiration for this event came from the hopes of bridging the gap between MUM and the community. We also wanted to support the local economy as well as showing love and appreciation to everyone."

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**MUM Online**

**Economic Sustainability**

The pursuit of economic growth has led to an unsustainable economy within an unsustainable society.

Book author and professor emeritus John Ikerd addresses the defining questions of the 21st century: How can we meet the needs of all in the present without diminishing opportunities for those of the future? How can we create a sustainable economy?

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See mumdistancelearning.org.

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**Annapurna Menu**

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