Three Student Films To Be Shown

Three films by undergraduate and graduate students will be screened this month in the Art Center Theater.

First up, on Saturday, June 16, at 7:30 p.m. will be the MFA thesis films of Cody Olivas and Amine Kouider. On Wednesday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. undergraduate students Lauren LeBritton and Kishan Thijm will present their semester-long film project *The Playhouse*. Plus, at that event Ashia Fredeen will show the trailer for *Heroes of Fairfield*, for which she was the assistant director.

*Land of Nothing*, a 24-minute film by Mr. Kouider, is a surrealist journey of self-discovery about a heartbroken and failed poet who stumbles into a mysterious world of pageantry and disguises. To escape he must become a poet again. The lead actress is Laëtitia Eïdo, star of the hit Netflix show *Fauda*.

*Apotheosis*, a 28-minute film by Mr. Olivas, is a psychological thriller about a young artist discovering herself.

Inspired by real-life events, *The Playhouse*, a 30-minute film written and directed by Ms. LeBritton and produced by Mr. Thijm, Ms. LeBritton, and Gregory Matos, is about a student-run theater company, *The Playhouse*. After the town decides to sell the property, *The Playhouse* members organize strategic and mischievous plans to divert the buyer. Despite their efforts, the buyer cunningly demoralizes the young thespians. In an effort to save their theater company, *The Playhouse* puts their hearts into an epic play for the whole town.

The screenings will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the filmmakers.

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Graduation Speaker: Former Government Official Scott Gould Encourages Public Service

Scott Gould, former deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Administration and current CEO of Mountain Lake Associates, LLC, will encourage MUM graduates to volunteer for public service at the upcoming 2018 commencement ceremonies.

“I’m eager to encourage graduates to consider a career that serves people, whether serving in the military, working in federal, state, or local government, or working with a nonprofit,” said Dr. Gould, a Cornell graduate who holds an MBA and an EdD from the University of Rochester.

Dr. Gould is a prime example of service. In addition to being a teacher of the Transcendental Meditation technique, he is a 26-year veteran of the Navy Reserves and has held top positions in the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Treasury.

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He also has a background in the medical industry, having been executive vice president of Medical Affairs at CareFirst, Inc., BlueCross BlueShield. His current focus is a startup, Mountain Lake Associates, a medical services firm that helps government providers such as the Veterans Administration offer better care by designing standardized programs that are easier for patients to use who have complicated or delicate conditions.

These programs use integrative medical approaches to achieve better outcomes at a lower cost. This approach includes Transcendental Meditation as an adjuvant therapy that patients choose to learn on a volunteer basis.

Recently Dr. Gould has been working to make the Transcendental Meditation technique available to veterans who are suffering from alcohol and opiate addiction.

“Scott is dedicated to promoting the Transcendental Meditation technique for its profound therapeutic value,” said Jamie Grant, executive director of institutional programs for the Maharishi Foundation, the organization that teaches Transcendental Meditation in the U.S.

Dr. Gould’s public service also includes being a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

He is a board member of the Partnership for Public Service. In addition, he is a former member of the Council on Government Transparency and Accountability and a former member of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Overseers.

Dr. Gould’s extensive business experience includes being a vice president at IBM Global Business Services.

Dr. Grant said he is an ideal person to focus on developing new therapy programs because of his detailed knowledge of government institutions and his understanding of how business works.

Commencement will be held on Saturday, June 23, at 1 p.m. in the Maharishi Patanjali Golden Dome.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“Thus we find that the regular practice of Transcendental Meditation, together with natural, unstrained activity in life, is a shortcut to the creation of a state of consciousness where absolute Being and the relative field of life are lived simultaneously and the one is not a barrier to the other.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

New Reference Guide Summarizes 227 Books by Maharishi

PhD alumnus Lee Fergusson has recently published a book that summarizes each of 227 books by, or attributable to, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, published between 1955 and the present.

Each entry includes a quote, brief description, key words, and other important content. The book also contains a 57-page bibliography of related published documents and a 94-page index to all the key words, phrases, and themes found in Maharishi’s published literature.

“The purpose of this guide is to provide the reader-researcher with information and background material on the published works of Maharishi and to furnish an appropriate context in which this significant body of work can systematically be accessed and comprehended for future scholarly benefit and for the propagation of Maharishi Vedic Science and Technology,” Dr. Fergusson said.

The topics explored by Maharishi since the mid-1950s include detailed investigations into the Veda and Vedic Literature, consciousness, natural law and the laws of nature, physics (particularly unified field theories), chemistry, physiology, mathematics, law, justice, rehabilitation, education, health and ageing, government, business and industry, management and leadership, economics, and agriculture, among many other academic and applied disciplines.

Dr. Fergusson’s new book also includes a bibliography of published literature by Maharishi and others.

The book is available for $65, which includes shipping. To purchase A Re-search Guide to the Literature of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, send an email to editors@maharishivedicresearch.org.
MUM Data Science Program Named Best in Iowa

The data science track in the MS in Computer Science was recently named the best master’s program of its kind in Iowa.

In its first annual review of all 290 accredited schools in the U.S. offering similar grad degrees, the website DataScienceGraduatePrograms.com found MUM to be among the very best, giving the program the #1 spot for Iowa in its list of Top Data Science Graduate Programs for 2018.

The program launched in the fall of 2017 in response to industry demand for expertise in areas such as big data, data mining, and machine learning.

The judges looked for courses such as inferential and descriptive statistics, linear and logistic regression, time series and forecasting, and probability theory.

Also important were factors such as a multidisciplinary approach. Plus, the reviewers looked for coding courses in languages such as Python and Java, and data analysis techniques such as data mining, machine learning, and advanced visualization. The credentials of the professors and placement of graduates were also considered.

Other schools receiving the award for their state included Stanford, Carnegie-Melon, and Brown University.

School Tennis Team Earns Second at State Competition

Continuing a tradition of being one of the best teams in the state, Maharishi School’s boys tennis team made it to the state championship match late last month, losing to their perennial rival from Dubuque.

It was the team’s 14th appearance in the final – a state record.

The team also had a second-place finish in the separate state doubles competition, and a seventh-place finish in state singles.

The doubles team of Kai Vessey and Devan Burke qualified for state by winning the district championship, and then winning three matches at state before losing a very close match in the final.

Daniel Zhu, the #3 player on the team, won the district competition and competed in singles at state, losing in the second round to a seeded player, and then winning two matches in the consolation round to earn seventh.

The other players on the team, in positions 4, 5, and 6, were David Zhang, Bhanvi Allison, and Karthik Vempati. Ms. Allison played on the boys team due to there not being enough players to field a girls team this year.

MBA Student Earns Prestigious SAP Certification

MBA student Khoa Nguyen recently passed one of the most challenging certification exams related to business process integration.

The certification is offered by SAP, the world’s leading multinational software corporation that makes software to manage business operations and customer relations.

Professionals skilled in applying SAP software in large corporations are highly sought worldwide.

Specifically, Mr. Nguyen, who is from Vietnam, passed the SAP TS410 exam, which is typically taken by SAP consultants and project managers. According to SAP, this exam verifies that the candidate has the core knowledge about business processes and their integration using the SAP S/4HANA 1610 software.

“Khoa’s accomplishment comes from a combination of his prior work experience and the SAP classes he has taken at MUM,” said professor Naveed Abbasi, who is the director of the SAP Finance program. “We look forward to more students passing these exams very soon.”

Recently an SAP executive spoke to MUM’s MBA students and faculty during an hour-long conference call.

Brian Burke, who manages IBM’s worldwide relationship with SAP, spoke about how to pursue jobs in SAP Finance – and about the big wave of SAP upgrades needed before 2025, when SAP expects all of its 40,000 corporate customers to migrate to the next generation of its enterprise resource planning platform called S4 HANA.

The worldwide job market for SAP consultants and specialists is strong. In his one-hour conference call, Mr. Burke provided step-by-step instructions about how to conduct a job search using the “SAP insider” website. And he emphasized the importance of earning various SAP certifications.

Dr. Gyawali Presents at Conference on Integrative Medicine

Dinesh Gyawali continues to bring awareness of Ayurveda to the medical community, most recently presenting at a conference on integrative medicine in Baltimore last month.

Integrative medicine combines research-based alternative approaches to health care with modern medical approaches.

Dr. Gyawali gave a poster presentation on the effect of Ayurvedic medicine on cardiovascular risk factors.

Supported by the National Institutes of Health and other leading institutions, this is one of the biggest events in integrative medicine.

“It was a great opportunity for me to represent Ayurveda,” Dr. Gyawali said. “It has given me confidence and widened my perspective on how the world views Ayurveda and its approaches. Even though the word Ayurveda was not as dominant as Yoga and other alternative approaches, I could see Ayurvedic principles underlying most of the presentations and talks.”

Dr. Gyawali’s participation was supported by a grant from the Wege Foundation.
Plant Propagation Workshop To Be Offered

A hands-on workshop covering the propagation of fruit trees and garden plants taught by visiting horticulture expert Yashaswini Sharma will be offered on five consecutive Saturdays June 30–July 28.

The course will focus on techniques of plant propagation, nursery techniques, seed treatments, and nursing of seedlings. Skills will include plant propagation by grafting, budding, and layering.

Participants will learn to select the easiest and quickest methods of propagation for both home and commercial applications, taking into account the optimum environmental conditions for plant production (temperature, humidity, light, and water requirements).

The hands-on training will include propagation and nursery techniques, study of propagating media and seed treatments, and propagation by making cuttings, layering, grafting and budding, and using specialized structures.

The course will meet on Saturdays from 1:30–4:30 pm. Participants will earn a certificate. The fee is $150.

To sign up, email your name and the course title to sustainableliving@mum.edu or ysharma@mum.edu. Or call (641) 472-7000, ext. 2139 (Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Dr. Sharma, a visiting research scholar in the Sustainable Living Department, will lead the workshop. She is currently conducting postdoctoral research on medicinal herbs. She has been involved in research and extension activities for more than 10 years and has been teaching horticulture courses and hands-on training on plant propagation techniques the past five years.

Exhibit of BFA Student Art to Open June 15

An exhibit of art by students graduating with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts will open on Friday, June 15, with a reception at 7:30 p.m. in Unity Gallery. The exhibit will run through June 24.

This year’s candidates for the BFA degree are Bryle Ariaga, Robin Fields, Caroline Lichucki, and Nate Pinder.

Unity Gallery is located in the MUM library. Hours are Monday–Friday, 9:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m., and Sunday, 7:15–9:00 p.m.


Art Sale Benefits MUM, DLF

Paintings of Maharishi, David Lynch, Bob Roth, John Hagelin, and Fred Travis by top Hong Kong artist Michael Andrew Law (Law Cheuk Yui) will be available for purchase at discounted prices during a benefit exhibition in June.

All proceeds from the sale will go to MUM and the David Lynch Foundation.

For information, see cutieshowroom.com.

The exhibit is located in the GateRidge Court office building on the west side of campus in Suite 205. Hours June 3–29 will be Sunday–Friday, 3–4 pm, or by appointment.