Online enrollment continues to increase, with 83 of the 296 new students this fall enrolled in online programs – constituting over a quarter of the new enrollment.

The online MS in Maharishi AyurVedaSM and Integrative Medicine attracted 49 new students and the MFA in Screenwriting enrolled 23. For both programs, most of the instruction is via distance education, but the students do come to campus once or twice a year for a 7–10-day in-residence course.

As usual, the largest contingent of new students – 101 – enrolled in the MS in Computer Science. Students in that program spend eight months taking courses on campus and then complete their degrees via distance education while working in a paid practicum position at a U.S. company.

At the undergraduate level, 49 new students enrolled. Increasing undergraduate enrollment continues to be a focus of the university, with the intention of making undergraduates a much larger segment of the student body.

As of mid-September there were 1,633 students enrolled at MUM, an increase of 55 students compared to a year ago. This figure includes students on campus as well as those receiving instruction via distance education.

Students this year come from 86 different countries, including 350 from the U.S., 220 from Nepal, 164 from Ethiopia, 132 from South Africa, 113 from Vietnam, 96 from Mongolia, 73 from China, 62 from Egypt, 48 from Eritrea, 36 from India, 22 from Pakistan, 20 from Bangladesh, 20 from Colombia, 19 from Cambodia, and 16 from Uzbekistan.

Screenwriting MFA Brings Renowned Director Susan Seidelman to Campus

Renowned film director/writer Susan Seidelman and Academy Award-nominated screenwriter E. Max Frye were on campus in late August to offer master classes to the 40 students enrolled in the David Lynch MFA in screenwriting.

Both told the story of how they made the transition from studying film production at New York University to becoming successful industry professionals – helping to give the students a clear path to success.

Ms. Seidelman’s many film credits include directing Desperately Seeking Susan, a 1985 hit that starred Madonna and Rosanna Arquette and other actors who were early in their careers, such as Aiden Quinn.

Mr. Frye received an Academy Award nomination for best original screenplay for the 2014 film Foxcatcher.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
The low-residency MFA program, which began in January of 2017, has students come to campus for 10 days at the beginning of each semester, with the rest of their instruction taking place via distance education. In addition to 24 new students, this fall’s on-campus residency included the 16 students who were part of the first group to enter the program.

“It was a very successful residency,” said Dorothy Rompalske, who heads the program. “The students were very happy with the master classes. They learned a lot and had a great time.”

Also teaching classes to the students during the recent residencies were international script consultant Dara Marks and screenwriter/TV writer Roger Wolfsan, whose credits include the TV series Fairly Legal, Saving Grace, The Closer, Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, and Century City.

The program has been receiving large numbers of applicants from experienced writers and this fall limited enrollment to the 24 students who had the strongest portfolios and who did well in the personal interview. Ms. Rompalske said that the program has been getting good word of mouth, and that the master classes by film veterans along with Skype sessions with famous filmmaker David Lynch also add to the appeal.

The focus of the program is storytelling, and students find that practicing the Transcendental Meditation® technique helps them to access their inner creativity to discover those stories that have deep personal meaning for them, Ms. Rompalske said.

“Many other screenwriting programs aren’t attracting as many students as ours,” she said. “We’re unique because we offer screenwriting along with the development of consciousness.”

Join the Healthiest State Walk

The annual Healthiest State Walk is coming Wednesday, October 3. Meet at noon at the Argiro Student Center entrance.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“I

In any social relationship the minds of both parties should be established on the level of Being, or Being should be established on the level of their minds, so that the bliss and contentment of Being are deeply rooted in the hearts of each. Then their behavior produces influences of peace and harmony in the surroundings.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

Dr. Lester’s Research Featured at London Conference

Professor Bruce Lester was one of a small number of experts at a July conference selected for a video interview on their research topics.

At Computing Conference 2018 in London, he presented a paper entitled “Performance of Map-Reduce Using Java-8 Parallel Streams” in which he described techniques to speed up the execution of computer programs by using the multiple processor cores found in all new computers today.

The conference had 568 research papers submitted, of which 193 were accepted for presentation and 18 chosen for interviews. His five-minute video interview about his research, can be seen on YouTube at youtu.be/dWcWA2W0Ppc.

New Study Shows Improved Brain Function

A new study has found that over a four-month period, those practicing the Transcendental Meditation technique experienced significant improvements in psychological distress and brain functioning compared to controls.

This study is the largest randomized control trial on the impact of Transcendental Meditation on brain functioning.

The study, published in Brain and Cognition, involved 96 central office staff at the San Francisco Unified School District. Researchers observed brain patterns of 79 of the subjects using electroencephalogram (EEG) recording.

The primary outcomes in the study were the Profile of Mood States and Brain Integration Scale, which is designed to show the level of connectivity between brain areas. At posttest, the Transcendental Meditation participants showed a significant decrease in mood disturbance, anxiety, anger, depression, fatigue, and confusion, and a significant increase in vigor. In addition, the Transcendental Meditation participants in the EEG-subgroup significantly increased their Brain Integration Scale scores.

These findings are consistent with past research showing a reduced response to stress factors and more integrated brain functioning resulting from Transcendental Meditation practice, said lead author Fred Travis. This and previous studies suggest the experience during Transcendental Meditation affects perceptual processing and supports one’s ability to deal with challenges.

Study coauthors from MUM included John Salerno and Sandy Nidich.

The Review

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New Journal Issue: Mathematics of Pure Consciousness

Papers titled “Geometry For the Artist,” by Cathy Gorini, and “Mathematics of Pure Consciousness,” by Paul Corazza, are featured in the third issue of the International Journal of Mathematics and Consciousness published this summer.

Dr. Gorini's paper explores how topics such as symmetry, perspective, fractals, non-Euclidean geometries, and topology are connected to art and how the understanding of consciousness developed by Maharishi helps one to see connections between art and geometry.

Dr. Corazza offers a mathematical model of pure consciousness. He shows that in a natural expansion of the universe of mathematics by ideal elements, there is a unique set \( \Omega \) whose only element is itself, and which is equal to the set of all possible transformations from itself to itself. All “real” mathematical objects can be seen to arise from the internal dynamics of \( \Omega \).

The articles are available for free online at ijmac.com/papers.

Faculty, Student Win Best Symposium Award in Chicago

Professor Dennis Heaton and Ph.D. student Emanuel Schachinger participated in a symposium last month in Chicago that won Best Symposium Award from the Management Education and Development Division of the Academy of Management.

Their symposium included five presentations on the theme of “Eastern and Western Approaches to Developing Leader Self-Awareness.” The aim was to unite alternative perspectives on definitions, measures, and methodologies for developing leader self-awareness and to understand more fully how leader self-awareness can improve lives, well-being, and ethics.

The paper by Dr. Heaton and Mr. Schachinger described Mr. Schachinger’s proposed research, which tests a theoretical model that they published in a chapter of the 2016 book entitled Educating for Responsible Management: Putting Theory into Practice.

In their research, the scope, span, and depth of thinking about sustainability will be qualitatively analyzed from interviews and journal data. Self-awareness will be measured by the Survey of Peak Experiences – a measure of transcendental experiences – and by measures of ego development and moral development.

Student Wins First-Place Award for Dissertation Proposal


The chair of the awards committee wrote, “Ayesha’s proposal was determined to be of the highest quality, both in rigor and in relevance to the MSR research domain.”

Ms. Sengupta received a $1,200 travel stipend to attend the 78th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management in August in Chicago. At the event she presented her proposal titled, “Awakening Shakti Within: Empowerment from Within to Without.” She also participated in a seminar on researching spirituality in management.

Ms. Sengupta’s research aims to discover the role of spirituality in the lives of empowered women in leadership roles and how it influences their work environment. Her method consists of qualitative case studies of women who have experienced empowerment in their lives and can become empowering leaders for others.

Her dissertation will review prior literature about the concepts of workplace spirituality, women’s spirituality, servant leadership, spiritual leadership, empowerment, and their relationships. The proposed qualitative study will contribute to this literature by bringing personal meaning and experience to these concepts and will seek to suggest practical connections to managerial action.

MBA Student Wins $10,000 Scholarship

MBA Accounting student Merveille Anice Djapi Tiani recently received a $10,000 scholarship for the 2018-19 academic year from the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Scholarship Program, which provides funding to encourage outstanding undergraduate and graduate students to pursue a career in Auditing. Scholarships are one-time awards to help cover tuition, books, supplies, and equipment.

“Merveille Tiani was nominated by the accounting faculty for the scholarship based on his demonstrated excellence academically and his mature technical capabilities,” said Andrew Bargerstock, chair of the accounting department in the College of Business. “During his participation in the MBA, he has consistently shown strong financial analysis skills and collaborated well with other students on group projects. We’re delighted to see that the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board agrees that he is an exceptional accounting professional.”

“When you believe in your dream and work for it, every obstacle becomes an opportunity,” Mr. Tiani said. “I came to the U.S. from Cameroon in order to achieve my dream and one of the main obstacles was the financing of it. But this obstacle has been mostly solved with this amazing scholarship.”

The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board is a nonprofit corporation established by Congress to oversee the audits of public companies and broker-dealers in order to promote investor protection. Under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, monetary penalties imposed by the PCAOB must be used to fund merit scholarships for students in accredited accounting degree programs.
Running Club Wins Six Medals

Six members of the MUM running club participated in the 13th Annual Skunk River 5K Stampede in Ollie, Iowa, last month – with all six bringing home medals.

Winning first-place age division medals were Virginia Lagunas in the female 15–19 age group in a time of 24:15; Abdelrahman Abdelrazek in the 20–29 male division in a time of 21:10; and club coach Peter Mannisi in the 60 + male division in a time of 21:55.

A second-place medal went to Bakytzhan Rustembekow in the 20–29 male division in a time of 22:37.

Third-place medals were won by Mariam Daudi in the female 30–39 division in 27:15 and David Magill in the 60+ male division in 32:09.

The club will have a 10th anniversary party on Sunday, September 30, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in front of the Argiro Student Center by the amphitheater. The club was founded in September 2008 by students Minca Borg and Benjamin Gare and by club coach Mannisi.

Future club events include the Lacey-Keosauqua State Park 5K/10K on Sunday, October 14.

For information about the club, contact club president Virginia Lagunas at vlagunas@mum.edu or club coach Mannisi at petermannisi@yahoo.com. The Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/MumRunningClub.

MBAs Excel Again in Global Simulation

A team of MBA students recently finished in the 97th percentile in a global integrated decision-making simulation called Capstone, competing against 1,113 teams from schools such as DePaul University, Indiana University, Kansas State University, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Massachusetts.

In addition, two other teams finished in the 92nd and 89th percentile.

While not a formal real-time competition, the ongoing simulation allows MBA teams to compare their performance with all the other MBA teams who have participated in Capstone during the previous six-month period.

In the online Capstone simulation, the students manage both 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.

The 97th percentile team consisted of Muykhim Thea and Taingleap Chheang from Cambodia and Erdenebileg from Mongolia. The 92nd percentile team included Runzhao Xie and Lianyan Huang from China, Munkhbayar Battogtokh from Mongolia, and Ravi Sapkota from Nepal. And the 89th percentile team consisted of Habtu Dessie and Hiruy Kihishen from Ethiopia and Rajan Ghimire and Hemraj Adhikari from Nepal.

This is the 18th consecutive time over the past 9 years that at least one group of MBA students from MUM has finished in the top tenth percentile.

Alumna Releases New Song

Recent graduate Tara De Santis has released a new song this month titled “Mauna Kea.” It’s available online at soundcloud.com/officialvedamusick.