New Online Bachelor’s Programs Launch, Attract Large Numbers for Spring Semester

For the first time MUM is offering undergraduate degree programs online, with around 70 students enrolling in the two new programs that launched this month.

The BA in Ayurveda Wellness and Integrative Health attracted 60 students, and the BA in Liberal Arts enrolled 10.

“We’re pleased to get such a strong response to these two new programs,” said Vanessa Haskins, department administrator for MUM Online. “Online education is the future, and we only expect these programs to grow.”

The program in Ayurveda Wellness is similar to the online master's program in Maharishi AyurVeda and Integrative Medicine, which itself has over 100 students enrolled. Students learn principles of Maharishi AyurVedaSM, a traditional, prevention-oriented system of medicine that addresses the body, mind, and environment of the individual in order to provide a holistic health solution.

Students who complete the BA in Ayurveda Wellness have the opportunity to become a certified Maharishi AyurVeda Wellness Consultant.

“Interest in holistic health and integrative medicine has exploded in recent years, and this program taps into the increasing desire that people have to go beyond the disease-treatment approach of modern medicine,” Ms. Haskins said.

In addition to online instruction, students will come to campus twice during the program for two-week intensive clinical training sessions.

The natural therapeutic techniques offered in the Ayurveda Wellness program include optimal diet and routine for different individuals, beneficial herbal supplements for specific imbalances, traditional purification therapies, and principles of biological rhythms and their effects on health.

The BA in Liberal Arts is primarily intended for students who have earned 60 or more college credits elsewhere and who want to finish their degree. It’s an interdisciplinary program, offering courses in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.

Students with fewer than 60 credits are also welcome to enroll, but may need to take some courses on campus to complete their degree.

“This program is very appealing to those who have earned various college credits but never finished a degree,” Ms. Haskins said. “If they have earned 90 or more credits, they can actually finish their degree in just two semesters.”

She said this program dovetails nicely with the BA in Ayurveda Wellness, since students studying liberal arts will be able to take advantage of the wellness courses to improve their health and well-being.

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while earning credits to finish up their degree.

Ms. Haskins credits the work of the MUM marketing department, which very effectively brought these new programs to the awareness of those who might be interested in enrolling.

In addition to promoting the programs to current practitioners of the Transcendental Meditation® technique, the marketing team also used social media, including announcements on Facebook and Instagram, to reach a wider audience. They complemented this with highly targeted advertising on social media, including video ads.

“I am fortunate to be working with such valuable, hardworking, and committed coworkers from all the departments involved in the spring 2019 entry,” Ms. Haskins said. “They are all a key part of the university’s success.”

In addition to enrolling students in these new online BA programs, MUM Online also, for the first time, enrolled new students for spring semester in the MS in Maharishi AyurVeda and Integrative Medicine. Until now new students had only been allowed to enroll in the fall.

The program enrolled 41 new students for spring semester, adding to the 82 that were already enrolled.

“It’s fulfilling to see this success with our online programs,” said Craig Pearson, vice-president of academic affairs. “It’s been part of the university’s mission from the beginning to extend our Consciousness-Based educational programs worldwide.”

FROM THE FOUNDER

“In all the different strata of vibrating Being. But when the mind of a man is not in direct union with Being, the vibrations of the mind may be out of accord with natural laws. When he is established in cosmic Being, the vibrations of the individual are the vibrations of Being.”
— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

New Track in Sustainable Energy Now Being Offered

From electric cars to wind turbines to solar energy, students studying sustainable living will now have the opportunity to enroll in a new sequence of six courses that will prepare them to work professionally in the field of renewable energy.

The curriculum of the new track has been designed by Ralph Hearn, who received an engineering degree from MUM in the 1980s and subsequently two Master of Science degrees.

Professor Hearn is an inventor and researcher in sustainable energy with over 20 years of experience. He is a former senior scientist in the development of the first electric vehicle for General Motors.

Other faculty will include Tejasvi Sharma, who has just completed his PhD in mechanical engineering at the University of Iowa.

The courses in the energy track focus on solar photovoltaic technology and energy systems of electric vehicle technology, setting students on the path for a career in renewable energy supply and electrical vehicle transportation. This includes areas such as solar thermal energy, solar panel installation and sales, and electric vehicle technical support.

Currently, Professor Hearn is fixing a damaged 2012 Mitsubishi electric vehicle to get it ready for use in teaching the course on energy systems of electric vehicles in June.

“There are 25 computers in the car,” Professor Hearn said. “It’s like a mobile micro-grid. A lot of knowledge about energy conversion, inversion, and distribution is concentrated in an electrical car, including the method used in wind-powered electrical generating systems.”

Professor Hearn likes the idea of using solar electricity to charge electric vehicles so that they aren’t dependent on electricity generated from fossil fuels.

Solar energy courses include Solar Energy Science, Solar Energy Applications, and Sustainable Energy Lab. In the latter course, students will learn electrical fundamentals by doing, with instruction and guidance provided on the spot in the lab. For every energy course, there will be an integration of theory and a hands-on project. The project in the lab course will entail creating a pulse width modulation solar charge controller.

The energy track courses aim to prepare students for the exam offered by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners. Professor Hearn said that courses for the electrical contracting license exam can be offered in the future if there is enough interest, so that graduates will be able to install solar panels on their own, or work as consultants to help companies to become greener.

A recent news report said that the fastest-growing job in eight states is solar panel installation. And in three states, including Iowa, the fastest-growing job is wind turbine technician.

The sustainable energy sequence will begin in block 3 with a course led by Dr. Sharma on heating fundamentals for companies to become greener.

For more information, see www.mum.edu/sustainable-energy.
Student Launches Podcast Club

A new podcast club headed by student Chie Fujihara has launched, with the goal of offering students the opportunity to share inspiring messages and feature interesting persons.

A podcast is an audio recording, typically a conversation, made available for streaming online via a website or podcast archive such as iTunes.

Ms. Fujihara also plans to have a weekly podcast aired on MUM radio station KHOE.

“My mission is to provide our audience with the necessary tools and inspiration to discover their inner purpose,” Ms. Fujihara said. “I learn the best when I have interesting conversations with cool people. That’s the experience I want to share with everyone. The personal connection with each guest will create a stronger sense of community here at MUM.”

The club is currently working to set up the equipment and gather prospective interviewees. Students and faculty who are interested in becoming involved may contact Ms. Fujihara at fujiharachie83@gmail.com.

Solis Festival Being Planned, Vendors Invited

The second annual Solis Festival is currently being planned by students, with 50 vendors having already submitted applications.

Planned for Saturday, May 25, the all-day Solis Festival celebrates the sun, warmer weather, and the transition from spring into summer, said student organizer Luna Pinder. It's also intended to create stronger community bonds.

Held on the grounds east of the Argiro Student Center, it features musical performances in the amphitheater and scores of booths selling everything from food to crafts to jewelry and clothing.

School Student Recognized for Science Achievement

Maharishi School senior Pranav Chhaliyil who has won many science awards now has another to add to his collection, having been named a top 300 scholar in the 78th Regeneron Science Talent Search – the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition.

Mr. Chhaliyil received a $2,000 award, and Maharishi School $2,000. The Regeneron Science Talent Search is sponsored by the Society for Science & the Public and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

In addition, Mr. Chhaliyil was recently named a finalist in the 2019 AXA Achievement Scholarship Program, which awards over $1.4 million in scholarships to young people who demonstrate ambition, determination to set and reach goals, respect for self, family, and community, and the ability to succeed in college.

His recent accomplishments also include giving a presentation at the 2019 International Plant & Animal Genome Conference in San Diego that was attended by over 3,000 leading genetic scientists and plant and animal researchers from around the world.

His presentation, “Effect of Sugar polyphenols on Oral Microbiota,” covered his research showing that the polyphenols in unrefined carbohydrates and sugars serve to inhibit microbial growth and prevent biofilm and dental plaque.

He also gave a poster presentation titled “In vitro Effect of Sugarcane Polyphenols on Oral Microbiota.”

Mr. Chhaliyil has been researching dental health since middle school and has shown that traditional methods of teeth cleaning can be much less expensive and more effective than commercial toothpaste.

Dr. Bargerstock Launches Free Contemporary Music Website

MUM business professor and former radio music host Andrew Bargerstock has launched a new music-streaming website at FringeToastMusic.com. This free music site allows for streaming of monthly playlists through Spotify, new artist spotlights, monthly music reviews from Dr. Bargerstock’s column in the Iowa Source magazine, and periodic interviews with artists.

“After 12 years as a music host on the former Fairfield radio station KRUU-FM, I realized that fans of my Fringe Toast Music program wanted a way to stay connected with my explorations of music from off the beaten path,” Dr. Bargerstock said.

Listeners will find music by singer-songwriters from around the world in genres such as folk, blues, chillout, indie, and alternative.

The website is designed to help users discover new music, discover bands, and listen to new music tracks through shared Spotify playlists.

Users can also subscribe to an email list that alerts listeners when Dr. Bargerstock adds content, including artist spotlights, new playlists, and reviews.

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Students Found Community Recording Studio

What began as a student music club on campus is now also a nonprofit corporation that makes available a complete recording studio to students and members of the Fairfield community.

Located in the science wing of the library, the Fairfield Music Co-Op Ltd features a dedicated computer, 22-channel mixing console, Roland keyboard, midi instruments, electric and acoustic guitars, and more. Software includes Ableton Live and a range of Native Instrument plugins.

According to club president Isaac Reynoso, the studio can be used for anything from recording music and podcasts to making audiobooks.

“Our goal is to create a model for a community-based, publicly funded recording studio,” said alumnus Patrick Taylor, who originally founded the student club.

He said that it’s like a community makerspace, but one that’s dedicated to music.

“Cost is a barrier for musicians and others who want to record, and especially difficult for solo musicians,” he said. “The Co-Op makes equipment available and lets musicians connect with engineers.”

Mr. Taylor emphasized that because of the expensive equipment, it’s not simply a music club where people can hang out. Rather, those wanting to use the studio must approach those involved with a project in mind.

Typically the participants organize their recording sessions via a Facebook chat group. Anyone wanting to record or to help with production is invited to text Mr. Reynoso at (925) 517-3288 in order to be added to the Facebook group chat.

The facility is free for students. Those in the community who want to record may hire an experienced student to serve as sound engineer.

Mr. Taylor said that the Co-Op is a cooperative in a true sense of the word. People bring their equipment and end up feeling comfortable leaving it there, knowing that the space is secure. It adds to the convenience for them and gives everyone an opportunity to use each other’s resources.

Two work-study students who have been hired to oversee and maintain the space are currently setting up a schedule for the Co-Op.

The Co-Op regularly posts videos of musicians using the facility on an Instagram account: @fairfieldmusicco_op. A website is also under construction that will provide information and help organize recording sessions.

Mr. Reynoso, an MBA student who has been the driving force behind the creation of a nonprofit corporation, is currently working on getting federal tax-exempt status so that the Co-Op can receive donations.

The Co-Op remains a student club and now has about 30 members.

“It’s really snowballed,” Mr. Reynoso said. “People share talent and resources. It’s truly been an honor to be part of this project.”