Students, Alumni Nominated for Awards at Iowa Film Festival Saturday at Convention Center

On Saturday, March 30, the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center will be this year’s venue for the annual Iowa Motion Picture Association film festival, with films by seven students and alumni being nominated for awards.

In addition, MUM staff member and experienced TV actress Shawn Diddy will emcee the annual awards gala Saturday evening.

“The Playhouse,” a 30-minute movie by media and communications student Lauren LeBritton, has been nominated in the categories of college student production and original music score. She wrote and directed the film, and was also involved with the cinematography and editing. The actors are mostly MUM students. The film is about high school thespians fighting to keep their performance space from being sold to a villainous buyer. The score was created by Aman Charles, a young Fairfield musician.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Media and communications student Ashia Fredeen’s seven-minute film “Words of Art” was nominated in the category of college student production. It showcases the artwork of local artist Chad Starling, who creates his illustrations by writing the same word or phrase over and over again, in various patterns and sizes.

Their films and the other nominated films will be shown during back-to-back screenings starting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. This event is open to the public. Advanced tickets are $20 and can be purchased at impa.tv or at the FACC box office. Tickets sold that day are $25.

Students in the David Lynch MFA in Screenwriting will also be competing for awards, including a promotional video by Shawn Maus in the category of corporate and community marketing. Edward Sovago-Royal will compete in the category of unproduced screenplays.

“Apoteosis,” a medium-length movie by faculty member Cody Olivas, will compete in the category of live action entertainment.

Alumnus Dick DeAngelis (1979), who is producing a series of documentaries on Fairfield, had his film “Heroes of Fairfield” nominated in four categories: direction long form; documentary; soundtrack audio mix; and editing long form, with editing by Amine Kouider.

“The Steng Show,” by Luke Stenger, who studied media and communications, has been nominated in the categories of documentary and web series.

Founded in 1992, the Iowa Motion Picture Association is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the talents and skills of Iowa filmmakers and producers. IMPA participates in regional film festivals, the Iowa State Fair, an annual Golden Globes viewing party, skill building workshops, and the Annual Awards Gala and Celebration.

“This is Fairfield – we are brimming with creativity, which is why we were chosen to host the Iowa Motion Picture Awards ceremony this year,” said Erika Richards, who is coordinating the event for the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“T he power of speech depends on the power of thought, on thorough knowledge of the subject of speech and on purity of heart and mind. It has been seen that purity of heart and mind are gained by increasing the purity of consciousness through the regular practice of Transcendental Meditation.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

New Online Student Portal Goes Live in Major Software Upgrade

As this issue of The Review went to press, a new online portal for students was expected to go live on March 25 that would give easy access to grades and transcript, progress toward their degree, account balance, financial aid information, and more.

The portal is part of a major upgrade of the university’s administrative software that has been three years in the making. The system, called CAMS (Comprehensive Academic Management System), integrates databases used by the registrar, financial aid, student accounts, student life department, faculty, the development office, and housing.

The result is expected to be greater efficiency — and better service.

A good example is the new approach to registering students. In the past, each student would meet with his or her academic advisor to select courses for the coming year. Then the student would have to go to the Enrollment Center and resistor for those courses, often having to wait in line.

With the new system, the faculty advisors themselves are able to register the students online during the initial meeting.

In addition, students in the past had to contact the graduate advisor in the Enrollment Center to see how they were progressing toward their degrees. The graduate advisor had a separate spreadsheet for each student.

Now this information is quickly accessible online to both the students and the graduate advisor. Students can see what courses they’ve taken and what requirements have been satisfied.

In addition, a document-tracking feature makes it possible for students to send and receive official documents.

The new system is also a boon for administrative offices. Staff members in the past would often have to look in several different databases just to get one thing accomplished.

This software upgrade was considered essential, given the strong growth of the Computer ProfessionalsSM program and the increasingly rapid growth of other programs, such as those offered by the Department of Physiology and Health.

Information about Fairfield

fairfieldinfocenter.org
Arts & entertainment, businesses, celebrations, clubs, events, food, housing & lodging, jobs, health services, parks, shopping, tours, and more.
Record Enrollment of New Students Spring Semester

Nearly 300 new and readmitted students enrolled for spring semester — the largest mid-year intake of students in the university's history.

The total includes about 100 Computer Professionals students and 200 degree-seeking students in other programs. The latter figure is double that of the spring entry a year ago.

Much of that increase is due to the rapidly growing popularity of the online programs, especially the offerings related to Maharishi AyurVeda.

As of mid-March a total of 652 students were enrolled on campus and 899 enrolled via distance education, including Computer Professionals in the practicum phase of their program.

School Student Wins eSports Tourney

BY OWEN BLAKE

Competing in an eSports tournament involving 32 students from eight schools in the region, Maharishi School student Sage Cenatori recently came away with the first-place trophy.

Sage was dominant in the multiplayer computer game called Fortnite, generating considerable buzz for moving through the bracket undefeated.

In addition to the trophy, he won a specially designed gaming chair from Bytespeed, the sponsor of the tournament that was hosted by the WACO school district in Wayland, Iowa.

The action entails strategically battling to be the last player alive. Competitors have to protect themselves from their opponents while posturing for the high ground in a small arena. The battles are short, generally lasting about five minutes, but the action is blazingly fast.

Spectators and fellow students huddled close to watch Sage methodically outsmart and outplay his opponents.

Reaction time and hand-eye coordination are only part of the skill set necessary for victory. Much like traditional sports, there is a back and forth between opponents as they learn each other’s strengths and weaknesses and decide how to approach each strategically unique situation. No battle is the same and creativity and flexibility are essential.

eSports are video games that are played professionally and are watched by large audiences online and in person, with over 100 universities and colleges now offering eSports scholarships.

Dr. Schneider Speaks to Hundreds of Doctors at U. of California

The medical profession continues to show increasing interest in the Transcendental Meditation® technique, both for medical care and for physician wellness and prevention of burnout.

Last month Robert Schneider, MD, dean of MUM’s College of Integrative Medicine, was invited to speak to 200 doctors and medical students at the University of California at Irvine on the topic of mind-body-heart.

The invitation came as the medical school is considering making the Transcendental Meditation technique available for physician wellness.

Those attending, either in person or via televideo, received continuing medical education credit as Dr. Schneider explained the role of stress in cardiovascular disease and the research that shows that the Transcendental Meditation technique prevents or treats many of the factors that contribute to heart disease, such as high blood pressure and atherosclerosis.

While at UC Irvine, Dr. Schneider also spoke to over 25 residents and medical students during their morning rounds.

“Physician burnout is now recognized as a major issue,” Dr. Schneider said. “The residents and medical students were keen to stay balanced and healthy as they train in the science and art of medicine. They were receptive and understand from personal experience the importance of dealing with fatigue and stress.”

Dr. Schneider addressed another 50 physicians involved with the Indian Medical Association of Southern California. He described Maharishi’s vision for holistic health care that includes mind, body, and environment — all based on the inner intelligence of the body and the universe.

“These doctors were very interested in how science is now verifying the principles and benefits of their own tradition of Ayurveda,” Dr. Schneider said. “My presentation helped to bridge the gap between modern science and their understanding of ancient Vedic science.”

Dr. Schneider’s other presentations in recent months included a featured presentation last November at the First Ayurveda Symposium in New Jersey cosponsored by the National Ayurvedic Medical Association.

His topic at this event was “mind over aging,” explaining that the mind can contribute to aging but that it can also, via the Transcendental Meditation technique, help one live longer.

In particular, he spoke about behavioral rasayanas — behaviors such as transcending, yoga, and the experience of samadhi that one can adopt that promote greater health and slow the aging process.

He described research showing that stress contributes to aging by shortening the telomeres on the ends of chromosomes and discussed his most recent study that found that the Transcendental Meditation technique helps to repair these telomeres.

Work/Study Position: Food Committee Rep

MUM Student Government is looking for a student to fill the position of Food Committee Representative. This is a Federal Work-Study position that connects Annapurna head chefs and MUM administrators with students. The position entails orchestrating feedback among these groups. Ideally the person would be someone who is passionate about healthy food and enjoys eating at Annapurna. Contact Kirby Shields at kshields@mum.edu.
Public Invited to Enroll in Course on Tiny House Building

A new option is available to those who would like to take a single course in the Sustainable Living Department, including a forthcoming course on building tiny houses that begins April 1.

The fee will be $700 for the four-week course, which will be taught by visiting faculty member Eric Hoffman.

Students will learn all phases of building a tiny home: planning, drawing plans, site work, ordering materials, rough framing, roofing, siding, electrical, plumbing, insulation, finish trim work, finish electrical, and finish plumbing. The course will include working on building a 10'x20’ Maharishi Vastu® tiny home.

Photos and video of a similar house can be viewed at vastucabin.com.

Those who are not currently full-time students will need to apply by going to www.mum.edu/apply. Select “Single Course” for the program, then enter the name of the course when prompted. An admissions counselor will guide the applicant through a brief process. Registration and payment will be handled by the Sustainable Living Department.

No academic credit will be awarded, nor is financial aid available. The $700 cost includes fees for course materials but not room and board.

In addition, participants who don't practice the Transcendental Meditation technique will need to learn either beforehand or upon arrival. The cost is $380 to learn the Transcendental Meditation technique for registered participants.

Other upcoming courses may include permaculture and foraging.

Staff Member Paul Handelman Bequeaths $100,000

Long-time staff member Paul Handelman, who passed away in 2018, left a bequest of $100,000 to MUM.

Mr. Handelman worked at MUM for decades, including in admissions, accounting, and the Department for the Development of Consciousness. A certified public accountant, he also served as MUM’s comptroller.

“Paul was a dear friend and a wonderful colleague for many many years at MUM,” said Brad Mylett, vice president of development at MUM. “He lived a life of dedicated service to the university and to advancing our founder's goals for creating a better world. This final gesture from Paul is a wonderful tribute to his goodness and his love for MUM.”