Second Annual Solis Festival Coming Saturday, May 25

The second annual Solis Festival, featuring vendors, music, games, and more, is returning to Maharishi University of Management on Saturday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

As last year, the venue will be the amphitheater and grounds east of the Argiro Student Center.

“We invite you to join us in bringing the community together for a fun day in the sun,” said student Luna Pinder, who is organizing the festival. “This free event will be great for anyone looking to enjoy their Memorial Day weekend without breaking the bank.”

The festival will feature music, tasty food, and a wide variety of vendors. As of mid-April, over 70 vendors were already signed up, offering a range of products, services, and information, such as art, jewelry, food, ceramics, woodwork, and handmade crafts.

In addition, there will be yard games, face painters, kids area, bounce houses, free cotton candy, and an outdoor projection videogaming station – ensuring entertainment for all ages.

This festival is being organized and fundraised by a group of MUM students who want to bring the community together by celebrating the sun, warmer weather, and the transition from spring into summer.

“We also aim to support local artists, craft workers, and businesses by providing a way to showcase and sell their products,” Ms. Pinder said. “This festival aims to create an environment for inspiration, awareness, and fun.”

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Nobel laureates, poets laureate, Fields Medalists, and winners of the Pulitzer Prize, Turing Award, and National Book Award.

“T’im over the top!” Professor Shrosbree said. “It’s hard to quantify the enormous rush of gratitude and appreciation. This award affords freedom to create, so it is a chance to explore materials and size as well as some travel related to my studio practice.”

He said the award is also a benefit to the art department and the university.

“The benefit naturally spills into the art department and to the university as a whole because it stimulates and underlines the value of what is termed ‘research’ in an academic setting. That value is that each achievement can open the door for more and greater things to happen both personally and for the community of scholars.”

Professor Shrosbree has worked in a variety of media, but has focused on sculptures formed out of simple, yet idiosyncratic materials.

Many of his pieces are meant to be hung on a wall and often have drawn lines or colored shapes placed behind and/or around them. In addition, many have physical connections, like wire, uniting the form and the wall through suspension, tension, and/or balance.

His free-standing sculptures typically incorporate custom pedestals, trivet-like platforms, and/or cloth coverings. His disparate materials may include fake fur, nylon, a piece of blanket, and natural or painted wood.

Professor Shrosbree considers his studio to be a space where the most common things can be transformed into art.

His sculptures, paintings, and works on paper have been exhibited nationally and internationally, and are included in such collections as Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Detroit Institute of Art, Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Des Moines Art Center, Mint Museum, and the University of Iowa Museum of Art.

His most recent one-person show was offered by Augsburg University in Minneapolis in March.

FROM THE FOUNDER

"T"he system of Transcendental Meditation is a method for sharpening the mind to its ultimate point of refinement. It is a process which makes active the latent levels of the subconscious mind and which develops hidden faculties, bringing out into life the inner happiness of the soul and improving every aspect of a man’s thought, speech, and action, for his own good and that of society as a whole.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

New Continuing Ed Course Focuses on Food & Consciousness

A new four-week Continuing Education course by visiting professors John and Sara Konhaus will explore the interrelationship between consciousness, food, physiology, and our environment.

It will be offered both in Dalby Hall and online Monday, May 27, through Thursday, June 20, and will meet Monday–Friday, 1:30–3:30 p.m. for live lectures and evenings 8:00–9:00 p.m. for workshops, videos by Maharishi, and discussion.

Those interested can register for all four weeks or for individual, week-long segments.

The course provides deep insight into the subtle, dynamic, and interactive relationship between one’s own consciousness, feelings, thoughts, and perceptions, and the conscious and lively intelligence of one’s environment.

The topics for each week are:

Week 1: Ensouling the Environment — Reconnecting humanity and nature from their common source in consciousness

Week 2: Maharishi Vedic Organic AgricultureSM and Environmental Relationships — Awakening a new paradigm in food production and environmental sustainability through Consciousness-BasedSM regenerative agriculture

Week 3: Consciousness, Food, Physiology, and Enlightenment — Growing food that nourishes full human development

Week 4: Natural-Law-Based Sustainability — Global program for sustainable agriculture and environmental balance.

Note that this is a more advanced course for Governors, Sidhas, and those Meditators who are conversant with many of the terms and concepts used in Maharishi Vedic ScienceSM.

For those unable to attend the course in Dalby Hall, all classes will be streamed live and will be available for later viewing for up to one year. Viewers will also be able to participate via live chat.

“This course will add a new dimension to our understanding of the role that consciousness plays in farming, food production, health, and environmental relationships,” said John Konhaus, PhD. “It will provide a new perspective on the world around us.”

Dr. John Konhaus and Dr. Sara Konhaus worked with Maharishi on Vedic agriculture and environmental management for over 10 years, as Maharishi revived and developed this knowledge from its ancient roots.

For information and to register, see mum.edu/mvoa.
Mr. Shields finished in a time of 24:48. In second place was club coach Peter Mannisi with a time of 24:56. Other club members who participated included Patrick Martin (30:09), Ben Gare, who was an original founder of the MUM running club in September 2008, in a time of 31:43, and Dulce Noj (32:11). All those completing the 5K were awarded medals.

Next up for the club will be the Komen Southeast Iowa Race for the Cure in Ottumwa on May 11, part of a national event that raises funds for breast cancer research.

The club is also planning to run in the Gothic House 5K on June 8 in Eldon.

For information about the running club, contact club president Kirby Shields at kshields@mum.edu or coach Mannisi at petermannisi@yahoo.com. The club also has a Facebook page www.facebook.com/MumRunningClub.

**Film by School Alum Camie Mullenneaux Airs on TV**

Maharishi School alumnus Cameron (Bargerstock) Mullenneaux had a feature-length documentary film air on the World Channel last month that was broadcast locally by Iowa Public TV.

The film, titled *Exit Music*, tells the story of Ethan Rice, a 28-year-old man with cystic fibrosis during the last year of his life in upper New York state.

After the film’s world premiere at the 2018 Hot Docs Film Festival in Toronto, Guy Lodge wrote in *Variety* magazine that “*Exit Music* covers the spectrum with grace, good humor, and no emotional filter. It’s an unabashed tear-jerker that earns its saltwater through candor rather than undue manipulation.”

In summer of 2018, Ms. Mullenneaux was nominated for an Emmy for a short film entitled *Angélique* in the category of Most Outstanding Feature Story for a News Magazine.

Ms. Mullenneaux graduated from Maharishi School in 2004. She received an MFA in filmmaking from Wake Forest University and currently lives in San Francisco.

**New Online MFA in Creative Writing Coming in 2020**

Next year MUM will launch a low-residency MFA program in creative writing with specialization options in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

Each semester will begin with a 10-day residency on campus, and culminate with a fifth residency at the end of the program. During the semesters, students will take classes online with published poets and writers who will also serve as mentors. The program will be directed by long-term faculty Nynke Passi.

“Just like the popular low-residency David Lynch MFA in screenwriting, the MFA in creative writing will provide a safe, nurturing, and inclusive learning environment supported by faculty committed to bringing out the best in their students,” Ms. Passi said.

During the residencies, the workshops will cover topics such as the creative process, transformational narrative, experimentation with form, and the journey from writer to author. During the semesters, students will work on material that will eventually be part of their thesis project. They will also read extensively and produce critical essays.

At the end of the program the students will submit their thesis—a book-length manuscript of publishable quality. They will also write a critical introduction to it, exploring their creative process in a scholarly context.

In addition, the students will develop a social media platform and a strategic marketing plan that will help them launch themselves as authors.

**Giant Garage Sale Fundraiser**

Help Maharishi School students go to the world Destination Imagination competition. The giant garage sale fundraiser continues Saturday, May 4, 1600 S. Main St.
Unity Gallery Exhibit by Susan Metrican

A new exhibit at Unity Gallery in the library is featuring works by artist Susan Metrican, a Thai American drawn to images and objects that resonate across disparate cultures and time periods.

“I’m interested in imagery that is ‘culturally familiar’ through its connection to folktales and shared traditions, particularly imagery that evokes a reverence for rural life,” she says in her artist’s statement.

The exhibit, titled Neighbor Bridge Neighbor, will run through May 18. The library hours are Monday–Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 7:15 to 9:00 p.m.

For information, email art@mum.edu, or see www.unitygalleryiowa.com.

Poetry Reading by Sasha Parmasad

Sasha Kamini Parmasad, an award-winning author with an MFA from Columbia University, will share poems from her book, No Poem (Yuganta Press), on Sunday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m. in Festival Hall.

Her book was inspired by her experience of living and working on campus several years ago.

“Each poem rises from silence and invites you in – invites you into yourself, into the magic and mystery of your world, into the silence that is louder than the words,” said Fred Travis, professor of Maharishi Vedic Science.


Chamber Singers to Present Mother’s Day Concert

The Chamber Singers of Southeast Iowa will present their spring concert, “We Lift Our Hearts,” on Mother’s Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Main St. in Fairfield.

This year’s program includes exuberant African and contemporary rhythms; songs celebrating music and singing; sacred works from three world religions; songs of love from many countries and cultures; and a mix of musical styles.

“Taken together, these choral selections celebrate life itself, both its divine source and its worldly expressions,” said Elaine Reding, musical director of the Chamber Singers.

Guest percussionists and instrumentalists will accompany some of the songs, and a trio of piano, flute, and cello will present classical interludes to the choral works.

“This concert uplifts our hearts and highlights the tender and celebratory flavors of Mother’s Day,” Ms. Reding said. “The program takes us from the desert sands of Namibia across Africa to the eastern shores of Kenya, from sacred multipart masterworks of Europe to choral flavors of the Middle East, from Baltic introspection to Parisian dance halls and on to Broadway.

“These songs embrace the pulse of the spirit that connects us to heaven, earth, and one another, each song conveying its uplifting message through its own unique musical style and cultural context. Praise, love, joy, and appreciation flow through this program, and we are eager to share these beautiful songs with our entire community.”

There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be deeply appreciated. For more information, please call (641) 472-1539.

MIU 40th Reunion

Members of the MIU graduating classes of 1978 & 1979 are invited to attend a reunion September 6–8. For information, email Peggy O’Neill at yopeggy@aol.com.