IACBE Reaffirms College of Business Accreditation

The high quality of MUM’s degree programs in business was reaffirmed late last month, when the Board of Governors of the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE) approved them for continued accreditation.

The accredited programs include the BA in business, the PhD in management, and the master’s in business administration, with tracks in accounting and sustainable business.

The accreditation follows a self-study and a site visit report completed in 2018. Self-studies are required every eight years to continue this specialized accreditation for business education, said Dennis Heaton, dean of the College of Business.

Professors Bruce McCollum and Scott Herriott were the main organizers of the self-study, which covered outcome assessment, strategic planning, curriculum, faculty, and scholarly activities.

Accreditation is a quality-assurance process in which an institution or an academic unit within the institution voluntarily undergoes an external and independent appraisal of its educational activities.

The IACBE has accredited more than 1,800 business and business-related programs worldwide. A main feature is that every academic program has a plan for assessment of student learning outcomes and makes a report each academic year.

“The yearly outcomes-based assessment processes for IACBE helps us compare results to goals as a basis for designing improvements,” Dr. Heaton said. “Each year we review how we have implemented these improvements.”

Top Local Bands to Headline Solis Festival Saturday, May 25

A day of entertainment, vendors, games, and fun is coming Saturday, May 25, with a full day of live music planned for the outdoor amphitheater located east of the Argiro Student Center.

Headlining the free entertainment will be Skunk River Medicine Show and Never Knows Best.

The Skunk River band performs vintage acoustic blues and ragtime, with Tom Morgan on acoustic guitar and six-string banjo and George Foster on electric and acoustic bass guitars, as well as percussion.

Never Knows Best, out of Keosauqua, Iowa, and now based in Fairfield, plays eclectic alternative rock. The band includes Levi Sherrod on drums and guitar, Lucas Sherrod on bass, Carson Schuck on lead guitar, and Curtis Oliver on rhythm guitar, with all of the members contributing to the vocals.

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Other groups performing during the day will include Baraka, Fairtown Ramblers, and Foliba, as well as solo artist HypeLord, who will kick things off at 10:00 a.m.

Baraka features faculty and alumni, including Amine Kouider, Younes Kouider, Karen Aoki, James Moore, and John Estrin. The Fairtown Ramblers will entertain with their unusual instrumentation: guitar, banjo, violin, clarinet, and flute.

Foliba will perform authentic West African drumming. This type of drumming is known to carry linguistic meaning in the local languages, with different phrases having different literal and/or figurative meanings. Drums historically are part and parcel of special occasions and especially everyday tasks. There is a direct interaction between the drum sounds and dance steps. This type of drumming has even been used to communicate over distances.

The members of Foliba have learned the art from master drummers from West Africa.

Also performing will be HypeLord, the stage name for student Josh Habick. He has put together a set specifically for Solis that he calls “Low Key Hype,” which is a mix of EDM, Hip Hop, and some fresh throwbacks.

“It starts off pretty chill and, as the name suggests, low key, but gradually transitions into a more ‘hyphy’ vibe towards the end,” Josh said. “I figured since I’m going on at 10:00 a.m., I should make it an easy transition for everybody who’s just waking up, but by the end of my set I’m gonna make sure everybody’s wide awake for the rest of the performers.”

The festival will include over 70 vendors offering a range of products, services, and information, including jewelry, food, clothing, ceramics, woodwork, and handmade crafts.

New this year will be “bounce houses” for the children and an outdoor projection videogaming area.

Organized by students, the Solis Festival celebrates the sun, warmer weather, and the transition from spring into summer.

FROM THE FOUNDER

“Speech is the expression of one’s state of evolution. One word from the mouth of a man reveals his inner quality. The softness of speech gives an expression to the culture of the heart, and the logic, imagination, or creativity expressed through the speech reveals the culture of his mind.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Science of Being

Dr. Schneider Addresses Doctors on the Role of the Mind in Aging

Hundreds of medical doctors specializing in age-management medicine learned about the role of the mind in modulating the aging process thanks to a plenary address by Robert Schneider, MD, FACC, dean of the College of Integrative Medicine.

At a conference of the Age Management Medicine Group held last month in Miami, Dr. Schneider explained how stress, such as anxiety, depression, and social isolation, accelerates the aging process by causing physiological damage, including inflammation and free radicals. These in turn damage telomeres, parts of the DNA that protect cells from premature aging.

“The doctors were very interested to hear how the mind-body connection can speed up or slow down the aging process,” said Dr. Schneider. “I explained that one needs to manage the mind to manage the aging process.”

Dr. Schneider then spoke about the research on the Transcendental Meditation® technique showing that it mitigates a range of physiological conditions associated with aging.

For example, it reduces harmful free radicals, lowers blood pressure and other cardiovascular risk factors, and increases telomere repair. He then pointed out that indeed research shows reduced mortality rates in subjects who practice the Transcendental Meditation technique.

“The contribution of lifestyle to aging is becoming a major theme in contemporary medicine, so these physicians were fascinated to hear how Transcendental Meditation can modify aging,” Dr. Schneider said. “This was the only session to show research on how science supports the mind-body connection. My talk spoke to their desire for evidence-based recommendations in mind-management medicine.”

Medical doctors can now become certified in age-management medicine. The physicians at the conference received continuing medical education credit for participating in Dr. Schneider’s presentation.

Information about Fairfield

fairfieldinfocenter.org
Arts & entertainment, businesses, celebrations, clubs, events, food, housing & lodging, jobs, health services, parks, shopping, tours, and more.

The Review

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Major Renovation to Improve Appearance, Traffic Flow in Argiro Dining Hall

Major renovation of Annapurna Dining Hall currently under way will improve the traffic flow in the serving area and greatly improve the appearance.

The biggest change for diners may be the two new double-sided serving lines that will combine in each line what had been separate stations: main dish station, Ayurvedic station, and soup/dhal station.

Improved traffic flow
These two lines will be in the main serving area and will help prevent the bottle-necks that would sometimes occur at the Ayurvedic and soup/dhal stations, said Lisa Harwood, assistant director of food services.

In addition, the salad bar and drinks are being moved from their current locations to the west side of the dining hall to be adjacent to the main serving area. Diners will move through the two main serving lines and then through the drinks and salad bar stations.

“People will no longer have to walk back and forth,” Ms. Harwood said.

The L-shaped condiment partition will be removed, and a station with drinks will be placed where the soup/dhal and tap water stations currently stand.

The salad bar is now a double-sided serving line along the west wall where the fruit station had recently been located. Tables have been moved to make room for it and relocated to where the salad bar had been.

The deli bar will continue to be a separate station in the main serving area.

Improved appearance
Another major focus is to make the serving and dining area more pleasing. This will include walling off two service areas used by dining hall personnel.

One new wall will hide the warming ovens and other facilities on the north side of the serving area, and the other will separate the dish-return area from the dining room.

“We had a lot of comments from students and faculty about having dirty dishes in the dining area,” Ms. Harwood said. “People don’t want to feel they’re eating in a dirty-dish room.”

Other improvements will include repainting the serving area and adding hoods over the toaster and panini maker to keep the walls from being stained.

The renovation will also include a multilayered, industrial-strength floor for the serving areas that will maintain its integrity and appearance. It will go atop the current floor and will include an underlayer of concrete board and a finish layer of porcelain tiles.

The renovation was planned by a professional interior designer in conjunction with the directors of food service.

School Students Qualify for National Rocket Competition

Two Maharishi School rocket teams will be heading to a competition May 18 held just outside Washington, DC, that will pit their rocket-building skills against other teams from around the U.S.

The teams qualified for the national finals in the Team America Rocketry Challenge by designing, building, and flying rockets that met rigorous altitude and flight duration requirements through a series of certified launches.

The national competition will require that their rockets carry three raw eggs and reach an altitude of 856 feet before returning the uncracked eggs to Earth – all within 43 to 46 seconds. In addition, the rockets must have two parachutes.

The students include Elan Jenkins, Thu Tran, Drishikaa Thimmaiah, Adel Cynolter, Grace Xie, Veer Malik, Deepika Vempati, Shristi Sharma, and Vaisnavi Mohanraj.

Over 70 vendors will be offering their goods and services at the Solis Festival happening all day on Saturday, May 25, on the grounds east of the Argiro Student Center. Pictured above are two of the vendors offering clothing and food items at last year’s Solis Festival.
Students Build Tiny House During April Course

A group of ambitious students spent the April block actually building a 10 ft. by 20 ft. tiny home.

They learned all phases of construction, including drawing plans, site work, ordering materials, rough framing, siding, electrical, plumbing, and insulation.

By the end of the course the house was about 70% complete, said Professor Eric Hoffmann.

“Most of the students had never touched a hammer,” he said. “They caught on quickly and showed enthusiasm. It’s a professional-quality building.”

The class included eight full-time students and five who took the course through Continuing Education. One of the latter students, Doug Greaser, was so pleased with the house that he has purchased it.

A number of students are hoping to help finish the house as an internship. Work that remains to be done includes installing the roof, finishing the interior trim, installing cabinets, putting in flooring, and finishing the electrical work.

“The tiny house course was very fun and exciting, even the smallest minute details,” said student Malcolm Minter.

Mr. Greaser has tentative plans to locate the house in Abundance Ecovillage north of Fairfield.

The course took place in Utopia Hall, a large storage building on the northwest corner of campus.

Mr. Hoffman said that building a tiny home is, for all practical purposes, the same as building a larger home.

School Students to Perform Saturday

Maharishi School’s Destination Imagination teams will host their annual Showcase, Dinner & Silent Auction on Saturday, May 18.

The event will feature performances by all six of Maharishi School’s teams, which all qualified for the Global Finals competition in May.

The evening will also include an a la carte dinner available for purchase and a silent auction.

Doors at Maharishi School will open at 6:15 p.m. with performances beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Admission to the event is $5 for students, $8 general, and $20 for families. Tickets can be purchased online at maharishischool.org/di2019 or from any DI student.

Destination Imagination is an international creativity competition.