

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

Campus News Archive

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

8-11-2006

Mythbusters coming to UMM

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

Recommended Citation

University Relations, "Mythbusters coming to UMM" (2006). *Campus News Archive*. 818.
https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/818

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus News, Newsletters, and Events at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Campus News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.

Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Mythbusters coming to UMM

Summary: Can six packs of Pop Rocks and six cans of soda make your stomach explode? What happens when you strap a JATO rocket to the roof of a '67 Chevy Impala? The popular Discovery Channel series, "Mythbusters," is coming to UMM.

(August 11, 2006)-Can six packs of Pop Rocks and six cans of soda make your stomach explode? Is it possible to get stuck on an airplane toilet? What happens when you strap a JATO rocket to the roof of a '67 Chevy Impala? You may have seen the investigation of these legends and more on the television program, "Mythbusters." Now, the popular Discovery Channel series is coming to the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Newcomers to the show, Grant Imahara and Kari Byron, will take the Edson Auditorium stage at 7:30 p.m. September 1. The event, part of Welcome Weekend at UMM and a presentation of Wolfman Productions, is sponsored by the Campus Activities Council Convocations Committee. Mythbusters is free and open to the public.

Kari Byron

While Kari Byron was studying film and sculpture at San Francisco State University, her parents were wondering what kind of job she'd actually end up with in the real world. She'd be writing, directing and starring in B-level schlock-horror films one day the next she'd be sculpting intricate model dragons for Dungeons & Dragons fans. All proved to be perfect training for the world of Mythbusters. After graduating, Kari began her career as an artist, working in sculpture and painting and holding successful exhibitions at some of San Francisco's leading galleries.

Byron's sculpting skills led her into the world of model-making and toy-prototyping: a job with Jamie Hyneman at M5 Industries. It was here that Kari got her first big break with the Mythbusters team. An erratic fencer and knife thrower, she has been chased by machine-gun-toting Egyptian police for painting a mural in Dahab, has trekked in the Himalayas, and has scuba-dived in most of the world oceans.

Grant Imahara

Electronics and radio-control specialist Grant Imahara is a former animatronics engineer and model maker for George Lucas' Industrial Light & Magic, where he worked on such movies as "The Lost World: Jurassic Park," "Star Wars: Episode 1 - The Phantom Menace," "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," "A.I.: Artificial Intelligence" and "The Matrix Reloaded."

In addition to operating R2-D2 (one of only a handful of official operators), Imahara has another claim to beloved-character fame: developing a custom circuit to cycle the Energizer Bunny's arm beats and ears at a constant rate. He's responsible for all the electronics installation and radio programming on the current generation of bunnies, even serving as the bunny's driver and crew supervisor on numerous commercials.

While he earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California, Imahara picked up many of his mechanical skills from the machinists at the ILM model shop, many of whom date back

to 1986's Howard the Duck. He's also the author of the book, Kickin' Bot: An Illustrated Guide to Building Combat Robots. His own machine, Deadblow, is a BattleBots champion that continues to strike terror into the hearts of fellow competitors.

Other Welcome Weekend 2006 activities include:

Thursday, Aug. 31, 5:30-7 p.m., East Side Park: Chamber/City Welcome Picnic

Friday, Sept. 1, 11 p.m.: Campus-wide capture the flag

Saturday, Sept. 2:

2 p.m. Campus Mall: "MeandYouCrew, Kanser and The Crest"

UMM football vs. Lawrence University, 7 p.m., new football stadium

Black Student Union Welcome Back Dance, 10 p.m., Oyate Hall

Sunday, Sept. 3:

UMM LAN Party, 2 p.m. Oyate Hall

The Real Deal Game Show, 8 p.m., Oyate Hall

"King Kong" and UMM student made films, 10 p.m., Campus Mall

Monday, Sept. 4:

11:30 a.m. Picnic on the Mall with KUMM music, carnival games and Improv Club

Welcome Weekend is presented by UMM Campus Activities Council, Black Student Union, Sodexo Campus Services, Computing Services, Computer Science Club, KUMM, Meiningens, the Improv Club and the Morris Area Chamber of Commerce.

Photo: Kari Byron

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.