

MRFA Professional Development Committee Annual Report 2012-2013

Members:

Rod Corbett, Enrique Avila-Lopez, Janet Miller, Elaine Mullen, Jodi Nickel, Jennifer Pettit, Bill Glanzman, Eric Roettger and Joe Pavelka.

Activities 2012-2013:

The following professional development activities have been offered by the MRFA Professional Development Committee for the year 2012-2013:

Spring Retreat: “Into the Depths” – May 15th & 16th, 2013

This year’s Spring Retreat for faculty will be held at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis. We have 160 faculty currently registered for the retreat, offering 24 concurrent sessions and two plenary sessions including keynotes Mark Bauerlein on Day 1 and our own Sonya Flessati on Day 2. Presentations by MRFA members, guests and even some faculty-student collaborative teams make for exciting program offerings. The event once again promises to be a fun and informative opportunity for faculty to meet, share and learn from each other.

February Professional Development Day 2013:

“The Future of the University” - February 20th, 2013

This year’s PD event was a half-day panel presentation featuring several faculty and one dean speaking on the future of the university. Panelists included Jeffrey Keshen, Dean of Arts, Steven Engler from Humanities, Maggie Quance from Nursing, Jodi Nickel from Education, Tracy O’Connor from Science and Halia Valladares from Business. The panel was moderated by Janet Miller from Counselling.

Attendees included over 50 members who had the opportunity to participate in group discussions and have a Q & A with the panelists, followed by lunch in the Faculty Centre.

Get Cracking -Breakfast Discussion Series 2012-2013:

Four Get Cracking breakfasts were held in the Faculty Centre on Friday mornings and included Mediterranean style breakfasts and good, hearty discussions. Attendance was excellent and included new and familiar faces:

- October 26, 2012 on *Grading* with 11 participants
- November 22, 2012 on *What does tenure mean?* with 10 participants
- February 1, 2013 on *Academic Freedom* with 19 participants
- March 22, 2013 on *How’s my workload?* with 9 participants.

Stories from the field- in FILM: November 30, 2013

Joe Pavelka and student Mike Overrend shared with us a film that captures the experiences of four student travel excursions to the Amazon, Andes, Athabasca and Nahanni. This event was attended by 10 participants.

ACIFA Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Awards Nomination:

This year the MRFA PD Committee was proud to support one nomination for the Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award:

- Brett MacCollom (Chemistry) was nominated and won the award this year for his research in visualizing molecular geometries with handheld touchscreen devices. Brett has been working with Apple iPad devices and 3D rendering models of molecules to help student understand how the three dimensional geometries of molecules influence the properties of those molecules.

ACIFA Innovation in Teaching Award Nominations:

This year the MRFA PD Committee was proud to support two nominations for the Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association Innovation in Teaching Award:

- The first nomination is from David Finch (Bissett School of Business), whose innovative and client-focused approach to transforming the course Marketing 4259 into a fully-functioning marketing agency, Marketing 4259 Inc. We were impressed with how he creates an unparalleled experiential learning opportunity for his students, both in the classroom and beyond. This also provided students with real-world, high-stakes experience of working collaboratively, facing challenges, and developing professional confidence.
- The second nomination is from Clare Mackey (Interior Design & Art History), whose innovation was using an iPad application to sketch and provide audio feedback to her students through video. This enhanced the feedback student received on the submission of their drawing based assignments. The students found this format of video feedback helpful in understanding the errors and/or omissions in their drawings as well as gaining a better understanding of the instructor's methodology in evaluating their work.

Respectfully submitted, Rod Corbett, Chair, MRFA PD Committee