

MRFA Professional Development Committee Annual Report 2013-2014

Members:

Chair: Rod Corbett (ADC)

Treasurer: Katharine Barrette (Library)

Secretary: Sally Haney (Journalism)

Aida Patient (English)

Janet Miller (Counselling)

Jarett Henderson (Humanities)

Eric Roettger (Mathematics & General Education)

Bill Glanzman (Anthropology)

Joe Pavelka (ETOL - Physical Education & Recreation Studies)

Activities 2013-2014:

The following professional development activities have been offered by the MRFA Professional Development Committee for the year 2013-2014:

Fall 2013 Professional Development Event:

On September 19, 2013, the ADC, the President's office, and the MRFA PD committee co-sponsored Carl Honoré to speak at MRU. He gave the keynote presentation at Town Hall meeting titled: "MRU 2020" as well as facilitating a discussion afterwards. In his presentation, Carl spoke to a mixed audience of MRFA members, MRU staff, students and administration about the value of the Slow Movement and how it can relate to our vision of the future.

The date of November 21, 2014 has been set for the Fall 2014 Professional Event.

February Professional Development Day 2014:

"The Courage to Fail" - February 19th, 2014

This year's PD event was a half-day panel presentation featuring several faculty speaking to and sharing experiences of failures in teaching and what they learned from them. Speakers included Miriam Carey from the ADC and Steven Engler from Humanities, with facilitation from Janet Miller from Counselling, Aida Patient from English and Sally Haney from Journalism. Attendees included 36 members who had the opportunity to participate in group discussions and have a Q & A with the panelists, followed by lunch in the Faculty Center.

The date of February 15, 2015 has been set for the February 2015 Professional Event.

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

The 2013 Spring Retreat took place at the Delta Kananaskis in Kananaskis, Alberta on May

14th & 15th, 2013. Twenty-five concurrent sessions included presentations by individual faculty members as well as panels made up of faculty members, administrators, and even several students. Topics ranged from connecting with and engaging our students with innovative teaching strategies, research strategies and teaching with next generation technologies. Over 150 full and part-time faculty members attended the event.

2014 Spring Retreat: “Advocate, Educate, Engage!” – May 12th & 13th, 2014

The 2014 Spring Retreat for faculty will also be held at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis. We have 154 faculty currently registered for the retreat, offering 28 concurrent sessions, 8 ignite style presentations and two plenary sessions including keynotes James Turk on Day 1 and Kate McKenzie 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. For more information go to <http://blogs.mtroval.ca/mrfaretreat/>

Spring Retreat Review

The PD committee will be surveying the membership right after the 2014 Spring Retreat to gather feedback that will be considered in planning of future retreats.

Get Crackin’ -Breakfast Discussion Series 2013-2014:

Four Get Crackin’ breakfast discussions were held in the Faculty Centre on Friday mornings and included breakfast and good, hearty discussions. Attendance was excellent and included new and familiar faces:

- October 25, 2013 on *Get Your Oscar On; Performance in the Classroom* with 16 participants
- November 22, 2013 on *To Friend or Not To Friend* with 13 participants
- January 24, 2014 on *Diversity and YOU at MRU* with 18 participants
- March 21, 2014 on *Your Ideal Retreat* with 12 participants.

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, including the winning nomination:

- The first nomination is from Todd Nickle (Biology), who’s innovation included developing easy to use resources that would help instructors in any discipline to transform their classes into more activity and discussion focused learning experiences. Todd has create a website at <http://easyblogteaching.blogspot.com> that is freely available for anyone to access who is interested. Todd did win this award and will be showcasing this innovation at that annual ACIFA Conference at the end of May.
- The second nomination is from Jim Fischer (Bissett School of Business), who’s innovation was to transform one of the capstone international business courses into an enhanced experiential learning course for finance students that included participating in

an international commodity trading simulation, a field trip to the commodity markets and financial institutions in Chicago, as well as student-led interviews and discussions with experts in the field.

ACIFA Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award:

This year the MRFA PD Committee did not receive any applications from our members for this award so none will be nominated to ACIFA.

Respectfully submitted, Rod Corbett, Chair, MRFA PD Committee