

## Professional Development Committee Annual Report 2011-2012

**Members:** Katharine Barrette, Rod Corbett, Enrique Avila-Lopez, Janet B Miller, Elaine Mullen, Jodi Nickel, Jennifer Pettit, Melanie Rathburn, Alice Swabey

### Activities 2011-2012

The following professional development activities have been offered by the MRFA Professional Development Committee for the year 2011-2012:

#### **Spring Retreat: “CONNECT: Colleagues, Students, Community” – May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16th, 2012**

This year’s Spring Retreat for faculty will be held at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis. We have over 160 faculty currently registered for the retreat, offering 22 concurrent sessions and three plenary sessions including keynotes Dave Meslin and Calgary Mayor Neheed Nenshi on Day 1 followed by a Pecha Kucha 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 2012:**

##### **“An Inquiry Into the Future of the Book” - February 22<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**

This year’s PD event was a half-day panel presentation featuring several faculty and two students speaking on the future of books, textbooks and e-publishing. Panelists included Richard Harrison from English, Randy Connelly from Computer Science, Alice Swabey from the Library, David Clemis from History and students Michaela Kemp (B.A. English) and Shiv McFarlane (B.S.C. Computer Science).

Attendees included nearly 60 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.

#### **Get Cracking - Breakfast Discussion Series 2011-2012:**

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.

Topics included:

- *Etextbooks*
  - October 14th, 2011
  - 25 faculty attended
- *Taming your email!*
  - November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011
  - 19 faculty attended
- *Full Professors?*
  - February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012
  - 20 faculty attended
- *Budget Cuts?*
  - March 23, 2012
  - 14 faculty attended

#### **“PD Pages - Books & Banter & Beverages” – October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 & January 24<sup>th</sup>**

We kicked off the first year of our successful faculty bookclub with discussions of the books:

- *Drive: the surprising truth about what motivates us* by Daniel H Pink
  - *The Spirit Level: why equality is better for everyone* by Richard Wilkinson & Kate Pickett
- Approximately 15-20 attendees stopped by to have a drink and informally discuss these books and how they relate to our work as faculty. Free copies of the books were given to early registrants and the conversation was lively!

#### **“Let’s Chat About Some Apps” – January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

The MRFA PD Committee hosted this roundtable show and tell of the best apps in use across the institution for teaching, productivity and more. Attendees brought their devices and apps and a list of the apps was shared

amongst participants as well as those who could not participate but expressed interest. Approximately 20 members attended.

**“Text Education” – March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Two roundtable discussions on student reading at MRU, challenges, concerns, suggestions and strategies were hosted by Margy MacMillan, Karen Manarin and Cari Merkley. Demand for registration was so high that the second date was added, in total 45 members participated in these excellent discussions.

**ACIFA Innovation in Teaching Award Nomination:**

This year the MRFA PD Committee was proud to support the nomination of Dr. David Finch for the Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association Innovation in Teaching Award. The nomination was a wonderful representation of Mount Royal; David’s innovative and client-focused approach to transforming the course *Marketing 4259* into a fully-functioning marketing agency, *Marketing 4259 Inc.* creates an unparalleled experiential learning opportunity for his students, both in the classroom and beyond. In addition to providing students with real-world, high-stakes experience of working collaboratively, facing challenges, and developing professional confidence, Dr. Finch has worked to secure internships with client companies, each client selecting one student as an intern to support the implementation of the project. We were all very impressed, as was ACIFA; he was the runner-up for the award and we are very proud of our nominee.

**Looking Ahead 2012-2013**

The Professional Development Committee continues to provide a variety of PD opportunities each year to MRFA members, including the annual retreat, workshops, panels, discussion groups and more. Participation in MRFA PD events continues to grow as we have seen an increasing numbers of existing faculty members at events throughout this year. We look forward to more outreach to our newer faculty colleagues, as well as opportunities to expand our reach with new themes, topics and professional development offerings in the coming year. We continue to work collaboratively with other groups such as the Academic Development Center and with colleagues across the institution to foster excellence in teaching, offer professional development opportunities, and to bring new and existing faculty together to discuss important and emerging issues informally. Our work continues to highlight the achievements, expertise and knowledge of Mount Royal faculty and to foster our institutional culture of collegiality.

Respectfully submitted, *Katharine Barrette, Chair, MRFA PD Committee*

