

The MRFA Retreat At a Glance

Day 1: May 12

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Registration, coffee & snacks
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Plenary Speaker: James Turk – Mount Kidd Ballroom
10:30 – 10:45 am	Coffee Break
10:45 – 11:45 am	Concurrent Sessions #1
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions #2
1:00 – 1:45 pm	Lunch in Rockies Dining Room
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Concurrent Sessions #3
2:45 – 3:15 pm	Concurrent Sessions #4
3:30 – 6:00 pm	Recreation Activities
7:00 pm	Banquet – Mount Kidd Ballroom
8:30 pm	Evening Activities: Tunes & Trivia or Table Games
10:00 pm	Party & Dance in the Mount Kidd Ballroom Music Jam in the Wildflower Room

Day 2: May 13

8:00 – 9:00 am	Breakfast in Mount Kidd Ballroom
9:00 – 10:00 am	Introducing...New (or new to you) Faculty Lightning Talks
10:00 – 10:15 am	Coffee Break
10:15 – 11:15 am	Concurrent Sessions #5
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Keynote Session: Kate McKenzie – Mount Kidd Ballroom
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch

Day One: Monday May 12, 2014

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. – Registration, coffee & snacks

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Plenary Speaker – Mount Kidd Ballroom

The future of the University and how we can shape it. James Turk



James Turk, executive director of the CAUT. His most recent book is *Academic Freedom in Conflict: The Struggle over Free Speech Rights in the University*. Prior to his work at CAUT, Jim was an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto, specializing in Canadian Studies, and was Director of the Labour Studies Program at University College. Jim has also been Director of Education for the Ontario Federation of Labour. He is a member of the Board of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; an Adjunct Research Professor in the Institute of Political Economy at Carleton University; and Secretary of the Harry Crowe Foundation. Jim received his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, his M.A. from the University of California at Berkeley and his B.A. from Harvard University. He was a Knox Fellow at Cambridge University.

10:30 – 10:45 am – Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:45 am – Concurrent Sessions #1:

1. **MRFA Advocacy Initiatives**

Gerry Cross, Roberta Lexier and Jim Turk

Join keynote speaker Jim Turk and MRFA President Gerry Cross for a discussion of advocacy and the MRFA. Learn more about advocacy initiatives currently being undertaken by the MRFA. Come prepared to discuss issues or initiatives the MRFA should be working on going forward.

2. **WAVELENGTHS: The Undergraduate Research Spectrum at MRU**

Norm Vaughan, Kirk Niergarth, Rob Platts, and Jerri-Lynne Cameron

Undergraduate student research comes in many colours involving a variety of approaches and formats. This facilitated panel discussion will highlight three perspectives and examples of undergraduate research taking place at MRU that will hopefully “shine the light” on how you can integrate this approach to learning within your own courses or programs.

3. Writing a Contemporary Textbook: The MRU Experience

Randy Connolly, Nancy Ogden, Katja Hoehn, and Cliff Werier

Textbooks are often an integral part of the student experience, but writing a textbook may seem a daunting prospect. In this panel presentation, four MRU textbook authors will cover such issues as: writing a prospectus, the current textbook market, the Canadian market, writing schedules, production issues, and marketing.

4. SO You Want To Be A Chair?

Jennifer Pettit and Halia Valladares

Have you ever considered being the Chair of your academic department or unit? Or do you immediately dismiss the idea? We invite you to this session to learn more about the Chair's position at Mount Royal including the new role description for Chairs, the Chair Support Program, and the numerous satisfactions and challenges of this important position.

5. Dirty Secrets Revealed: journal publishing and marketing, impact factors and access to scholarship.

Margy MacMillan, Kalen Gibb, Richard Hayman, Francine May and Madelaine Vanderwerff

Join us for a spirited discussion of what's happening behind the scenes as journals respond to developments in scholarly communication. How are traditional journals responding to open access, how are they maintaining prestige in a changing environment and how can you really tell where articles will have the widest reach.

12:00 – 1:00 pm — Concurrent Sessions #2:

1. Reviewing peer review – Is it time for a change?

Francine May, Margy MacMillan, Trevor Day and Kirk Neirgarth

Problems with peer review were recently highlighted when a sham paper got accepted to more journals than rejected it. Members of this panel will share their peer review experiences, lead a discussion of what to keep and what to edit out of the process as we know it, and highlight the opportunities that new methods of peer review provide.

2. Student Engagement through Collaboration: Stories from across Campus

Aileen Smyth, Amy Yoshida, Glen Ryland, Kerri Alderson, and Sarah Banting

A panel of Writing and Learning Strategists and faculty from across campus share several ways to collaborate that benefit both faculty and students. Hear specific examples about working with Writing and Learning Strategists to do research, create support materials, and embed services – all with the goal of engaging students

3. A sample of Community Service Learning at MRU

Victoria Calvert, Halia Valladares Montemayor, Roberta Lexier, Cynthia Gallop, Wendelin Fraser and Allison MacKenzie

A brief update regarding the CSL Citation and ADC initiatives this year will be provided, then five faculty from varied programs will discuss their approach to CSL including: their class project, community partners, the impact of the CSL project upon students, and the challenges of managing a CSL based course.

4. In Depth and in Their Own Words – Round 4 Results of the Mount Royal Assessment Seminar

Jim Zimmer, April McGrath and Celeste MacConnachie

The Assessment Seminar is an ongoing, university-wide assessment project in which rich qualitative data about the undergraduate experience of Mount Royal students is collected annually through in-depth one-on-one interviews. The most recent set of interviews involved just over 100 first-year degree students approaching the end of their first year on campus. In these interviews, students were invited to share perspectives on a range of topics including their motivation for choosing MRU and their academic program, the challenges they experienced transitioning to university-level study, and their academic goals going forward. In this session, we'll share findings emerging from the preliminary analysis of our data and engage participants in discussion of possible implications of these findings

5. What's so important about the Collective Agreement? Well...

Gerry Cross and Scott Murray

How does a collective agreement differ from policy? What's so special about our situation here in Alberta? What belongs in the Collective Agreement – and what doesn't? How might the terms and conditions of your employment be different if we did not have a Collective Agreement?

1:00 – 1:45 pm – Lunch in Rockies Dining Room

2:00 – 2:30 pm – Concurrent Sessions #3:

1. Planet, People, Parks and Paths

Gerry Taft

I have just completed 42,000 km trip around the world. As part of the trip I traveled from London to Singapore by train. I traveled with a folding bicycle which I rode over 2500 km along the way. In each place I stopped, I took pictures of people, parks and paths. The theme of my presentation is the good and the bad things human's are doing to the environment – around the world.

2. Student Perceptions of the Use of Learning and Editing Logs to Teach Writing

Sandra L. Braun

This presentation outlines the results of student feedback about the use of Learning and Editing Logs to teach a public relations writing class. Writing forms the basis of success in this field and in many others. Students often come to the class with varying degrees of knowledge and proficiency in writing, which poses instructional challenges. This instructor implemented the use of Learning and Editing Logs to facilitate student learning. This presentation outlines student perceptions of such a tool. Students mostly indicated they felt the tool was useful to them, that they were surprised at what the tool exposed as repeat errors, that it brought their writing deficiencies to consciousness, and facilitated their learning.

3. Student Mentorship at MRU: Preliminary Findings from a Study on the Harry Schaefer Mentorship Program

Jennifer Boman, Leah Hamilton, and Harris Rubin.

This session will describe the goals of the Harry Schaefer Mentorship Program, and some preliminary findings from a study on the outcomes of the Program for both student mentees and their mentors. We will discuss how these findings contribute to our understanding of the value of mentorship opportunities for MRU students.

4. Student conceptions of reading and research – results from the Assessment Seminar

Margy MacMillan

Student descriptions of research and reading provide fascinating insights into challenges they face and strategies they've learned. True, some processes depend on 'least effort' but others indicate a value for and even joy in exploring topics beyond the textbook that tell us how we might (re)kindle their passion for discovery.

2:45 – 3:15 pm – Concurrent Sessions #4:

1. Flipping your class with TED and Google.

Tammy Sherrow, Brenda Lang and Rod Corbett

Join us and see how you can apply easy to use, free tools from TED and Google to flip your classes to improve student preparation before class, engagement during class, and reflective learning following class.

2. Good – Teaching “Diversity” via an on-line course

Liza Choi

Can features of an on-line course leverage transformational change within students? In this presentation, new and innovative on-line tools along with the theoretical aspects behind diversity will be showcased. We will share the transformational journey students are taken on in this course. This session is meant to be interactive.

3. Sparking a passion to learn

Nancy-Angel Doetzel

Students are not just vessels to be filled. They are sparks that need to be ignited. This presentation will address a complementary approach to teaching that assists in sparking a passion for learning, giving a clearer purpose to teachings and helping students to apply theories they learn, by putting them into action. The presentation will also demonstrate ways that an “appreciative inquiry” approach to teaching and learning can assist professors and students to work cooperatively on building community within the classroom

4. GELCs : Integrated-Cluster Foundations

Allison Dube, Glen Ryland, Roberta Lexier, Celeste Macconnachie

The Department of General Education will be piloting the 'Learning Community' concept for our foundation-level students next year. Students will join a cohort of 30 and are offered a multidisciplinary experience - an opportunity to examine a set of related ideas from multiple perspectives under a common theme, with three professors over two terms. Intrigued? Join us for an informal discussion with the GNED instructors who have signed on for this exciting project.

3:30 – 6:00 pm — Recreation Activities:

1. Faculty Field Daze

Jarett Henderson and Jessie Loyer

Did someone say, “faculty potato sack race?” They sure did! What about T-Ball? Plus the perennial favourite: the egg toss. So dig out those vintage tracksuits (no, seriously), and come earn a ribbon (or two) at Faculty Field Daze. Heck, there may even be double Dutch!

2. Get Crafty! Tie Dye T-Shirts!

Charles Hepler and Marianne Wiltse

Come show your psychedelic stuff! Learn the groovy art of tie dying with Charles and Marianne. Bring your own white cotton t-shirt or other garment, we’ll supply the dye and the Dead.

3. Hiking

Jim Fischer

Join Jim Fischer for a 2 hour hike and take in some nice views of the Kananaskis Valley. Bring appropriate footwear for a hike on trails, not paved routes, suitable clothing for the weather, and water. There will be some elevation gain but we’ll keep it to less than 500 feet. Jim is a hiking guide with the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides and the Interpretive Guides Association. Contact Jim at 6835 or jfischer@mtroyal.ca for details.

4. Rock Climbing

Raphael Slawinski

Since the beginning of time humans have had the ambition to conquer what others cannot, to go where others have not and to push themselves to their physical limits. Perhaps there is no better example of this than mankind’s fascination with the incredibly dangerous sport of rock climbing. Mount Everest, the world’s tallest mountain, comes to mind, though sadly though over 200 people have died attempting this feat – that’s 14% of those who attempt it! Mount Royal’s own Raphael Slawinski risked his life last year to climb a mountain face that had never been done before, earning him a nomination for National Geographic’s 2014 Adventurer of the Year. Please join Raphael for an afternoon of climbing in Kananaskis country. Helmets and other safety gear will be provided to those who register; no experience is required, 100% of faculty will NOT die attempting this feat.

7:00 pm — Banquet — Mount Kidd Ballroom

8:30 pm — Evening Activities

Tunes & Trivia (with prizes!) Location: Mount Kidd Ballroom

Table Games Location: Wildflower Room

10:00 pm — Party & Dance in the Mount Kidd Ballroom

— Music Jam in the Wildflower Room



Day Two: Tuesday May 13, 2014

8:00 – 9:00 am – Breakfast in Mount Kidd Ballroom

9:00 – 10:00 am – Introducing...New (or new to you) Faculty Lightning Talks

Think you know your colleagues? Come and meet several new Faculty members from across campus as they speak to what the theme of Advocate, Educate and Engage means to them!

10:00 – 10:15 am Coffee Break

10:15 – 11:15 am – Concurrent Sessions #5:

1. **Faculty helping students with career demands: Building a grassroots campus career development strategy one department at a time.**

Michael Huston, Don Haidey, Jim Fischer, Kartika Tjandra, Tatiana Rogasevskaia, Jack Dobbs
MRU faculty members assist students in managing demands of university life. Choosing the right major is one of the most stressful demands students face. In this session we review workshop interventions offered in the departments of Finance and Biology and discuss the key role of faculty in student career development.

2. **The Thrills and Spills of Grant Getting (aka – Money, Money, Money!) – A Panel Discussion**

Janet Miller, Patti Derbyshire, Scott Murray, and Gaye Warthe
During this panel discussion we will share experiences relating to getting grants – where to look, how to apply, and strategies for improving the chance of success.

3. **ADVOCATE for Social Change! EDUCATE in a Unique Context! ENGAGE Students, Faculty, and the Community!**

Roberta Lexier and Melanie Rathburn,
We will explain the first iteration of the new General Education international courses (Honduras in Winter 2014) and provide an overview of student work and experiences. We will also comment on the practical realities of designing semester-long international field schools and discuss how faculty can engage with these unique courses.

4. **Teach like a Flight Instructor!**

Leon Cygman and Deanna Wiebe
Commercial pilots are well trained to fly aircraft. To become flight instructors, they must be taught learning theory and teaching methodologies. Learn the process by which pilots are trained to teach the intricacies of flight. You will be surprised to learn how these techniques can be adapted for your classroom.

5. **Institutional Memory/Institutional Amnesia: Waking from the Mount Royal Dream**

Clifford Werier
The dream is fading, and I can hardly remember the details. Perhaps it was only my imagination playing tricks. I recall rooms of eager faces, endless stacks of papers, and a quest for the holy grail. Having found the chalice, I awoke in my office disoriented.

11:30 am – 12:30 pm Keynote Session – Mount Kidd Ballroom

Making a Difference. Kate McKenzie



Kate McKenzie is a Storyteller, Artist and Junior High School Teacher. In 2012, she founded Worldviews Project as a way to combine all of these passions. Using storytelling and the art of videography she travelled to nine countries over seven months to capture the inspiring stories of people who were making their communities better through positive change. Alberta Council for Global Cooperation recognized Kate as a Top 30 Under 30 in 2012. She is actively involved in her community as a facilitator for Aboriginal Youth Empowerment, an event organizer for Acumen Fund in Calgary and through her love of coaching sports. [Watch her TEDxYYC talk on YouTube.](#)

12:30 – 1:30 pm – Lunch

The 2014 MRFA Retreat is Sponsored By:

- MRFA Professional Development Committee
 - o Katharine Barrette
 - o Rod Corbett
 - o Jarett Henderson
 - o Janet Miller
 - o Eric Roettger
 - o Aida Patient
 - o Bill Glanzman
 - o Sally Haney
 - o Joe Pavelka
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- Mount Royal University Faculty Association
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