

# International Update

Mount Royal University International Education

Issue 17 January 2010

## Welcome to Mount Royal University!

### A new era for internationalization at Mount Royal

This seventeenth issue of the "International Update" marks our first issue as Mount Royal University. At 2:58 p.m. on September 3, 2009, before an audience of some 2,000 people, Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach announced the Order in Council which made Mount Royal's name change official. In the photo on this page, you can see a delighted President Dave Marshall, along with Premier Stelmach, the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, Hon. Doug Horner and the Chair of the Mount Royal Board of Governors,

Ms. Cathy Williams. "There is much to celebrate today about our past and about our present," said President Marshall, "but most enthusiastically, we celebrate our future. We will design and define a truly undergraduate-focused university where instruction is informed by scholarship. We are proud to lead the way for other undergraduate institutions who share our belief that teaching and learning are as important as research."

As if this long-awaited event was not enough to celebrate, the year 2010 will also mark the centennial of Mount Royal's founding and there will be a series of celebrations throughout the year to mark this hundredth anniversary. Additionally, on October 28, 2009, Mount Royal University was accepted as a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). Amongst many other benefits, membership in the AUCC will provide Mount Royal International with a broad range of international opportunities for student and faculty exchange and research possibilities. We look forward to establishing new partnerships and programs in addition to continuing to work with our valued and long-standing partners and friends.



President Dave Marshall accepts the Order in Council naming Mount Royal University on September 3, 2009

On behalf of all the International team at Mount Royal University, I wish you all the best for 2010 and we welcome you to our new "U" at any time!

*Lorna M. Smith*

Lorna Smith, Director,  
Office of International Education

### Inside This Issue

- 2 71 partnership agreements in place for 2010
- 3 Mount Royal students active internationally
- 4 Exciting projects bring international faculty and students to Mount Royal
- 5 International symposium at MRU
- 6 International networking continues
- 7 Customized training diversifies

## I. International Partnerships

*Mount Royal University will establish international partnership agreements in order to increase opportunities for exchange and research for students, faculty and staff.*

**Mount Royal continues to expand its wide network of international partners, providing students and faculty with a broad range of international contacts**

The list below provides a snapshot overview of Mount Royal's active international partnerships as of April 2009.

Country	Partner Institution	Year
<b>Australia</b>	Charles Darwin University, Darwin	2004
	Griffith University, Queensland	2006
	University of Canberra, Canberra	2009
<b>Austria</b>	University of Applied Sciences, Graz	2004
	University of Applied Sciences, Vienna	2004
	IMC University of Applied Sciences, Krems	2008
<b>Brazil</b>	Centro Universitário De Brazil - UNICEUB, Brasilia	2009
<b>Cameroon</b>	University of Buea, Yaounde	2007
<b>Chile</b>	Universidad del Pacífico	2008
<b>China</b>	Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Shanghai	2002
	Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing	2001
	Lingnan University, Hong Kong	2001
	Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Shanghai	2001
	Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Chengdu	2001
	Morningside Educational Foundation, Hong Kong	1996
Zhejiang Gongshang University, Hangzhou	2007	
<b>Colombia</b>	Universidad de la Salle, Bogotá	2009
	Universidad de La Sabana, Bogotá	2009
<b>Ecuador</b>	Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja	2008
<b>Finland</b>	Turku Polytechnic, Turku	2005
	Savonia Polytechnic, Kuopio	2004
	Arcada Polytechnic, Helsinki	2003
	Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki	2003
<b>France</b>	INSEEC Group, Paris, Bordeaux and Leon	2009
	Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Muenchen	2006

<b>Ghana</b>	University of Ghana, Legon	2005
<b>Great Britain</b>	Solent University, Southampton	1998
<b>Japan</b>	Mukogawa Women's University, Hyogo	2006
	Hirosaki University, Hirosaki	2004
	Gifu University, Gifu	2002
<b>Malaysia</b>	Sultan Idris Shah Foundation for the Disabled, Perak	2004
<b>Mexico</b>	Universidad de Sonora, Sonora	2008
	Universidad LaSalle, Mexico, DF	2007
	Universidad de Monterrey, Monterrey	2007
	Universidad Panamericana, Guadalajara	2005
	Hospital Infantil, Tijuana	2003
	Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Mexicali	2003
	Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara	2003
	Universidad de Quintana Roo, Chetumal	2002
	Universidad de Colima, Colima	2001
	CETYS Universidad, Mexicali	2000
Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, Guadalajara	1999	
Universidad de Guanajuato, Guanajuato	1999	
Universidad de Veracruz, Veracruz	1998	
ITESM, Sistema	1994	
<b>Netherlands</b>	Hogeschool Zeeland, Vlissingen	2004
<b>New Zealand</b>	UCOL, Palmerston North	2007
	INTUTO, Auckland	2007
	Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTEC), Hamilton	2003
UNITEC, Auckland	2007	
<b>Norway</b>	Akershus University College, Lillestrom	2006
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico	2008
<b>Poland</b>	Chopin Academy, Warsaw	2003
	Polish Ministry of Culture, Warsaw	2003
<b>Spain</b>	Pablo de Olavide University, Sevilla	2007
	Universitat de Vic, Cataluña	2003
<b>Sweden</b>	Uppsala Universitet, Uppsala	2004
<b>United States</b>	University of New Mexico, Albuquerque	2008
	University of Iowa, Iowa City	2007
	Washington Centre for Internships and Academic Seminars, D.C.	2007
	Alverno College, Milwaukee	2007
	State University of New York (SUNY), Plattsburg	2007
	University of Northern Colorado, Greeley	2007
	Texas Christian University, Dallas – Fort Worth	2005
	San Francisco Conservatory, San Francisco	2005
West Virginia University, Morgantown	2004	
Colburn School, Los Angeles	2004	
Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia	2003	
Northwestern University, Chicago	2002	

## II. MRU Student Participation in International Activities

*Mount Royal University will foster and promote the development of international experiences which enhance student learning.*

Long-standing international exchange programs and special events continue to take place

### MRU Students "Pass Go" at this Year's International Education Week

This year's International Education Week (November 17 to 20), took MRU students, staff and faculty members around the world as they passed a life-size monopoly board on Main Street showcasing the various exchange opportunities, language courses and Field Schools offered through the Office of International Education. Students advanced to GO by taking part in various cultural demonstrations, competing in the international soccer tournament, enjoying a cup of



*Leigh-Ann Duke, Foreign Languages Coordinator, International Education, dresses up as Mr. Monopoly for this year's International Education Week*

fair trade coffee (sponsored by Sodexo) and participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Iron Chef Salsa Making Competition, a joint initiative between International Education and the Cultural Mosaic Centre of the Students Association of Mount Royal University.

A Ten Thousand Villages sale also attracted many early Christmas shoppers and helped increase the awareness of Fair Trade, while the Marda Loop Justice Film Festival's "Addicted to Plastic" documentary gave international perspectives on the solutions to plastic pollution and featured a post-film conversation with Filomena Gomes and Cheri McCauley.

### Mount Royal-Universidad de Guanajuato Exchange Completes Ninth Year

For Jillian Hanson, Program Assistant in the Bissett School of Business, August was not an ordinary working month. Jillian was one of 5 Mount Royal faculty and staff selected to take part in the MRU- Universidad de Guanajuato Faculty and Staff Exchange Program for 2009. The program gives MRU faculty and staff members the opportunity to study Spanish in



*Jillian Hanson, Bissett School for Business, reunites with Summer Immersion alumna Mary Cruz in Guanajuato.*

a month-long immersion format and to learn about Mexican and Latin American culture. In addition, participants are expected to strengthen links with MRU's long-term partner, the Universidad de Guanajuato. In return, faculty and staff from UG attend the Summer Immersion English Program at MRU in July of each year.

"My experience was outstanding. Although I had studied Spanish prior to my arrival, the class sizes and program at the Universidad de Guanajuato really helped me increase my Spanish level," Jillian remarked. "Living in such an historical city with a local family as well as participating in the cultural activities offered by the University gave me a greater understanding of the Mexican culture."

The program is supported by the Internationalization Incentive Fund, which is intended to support initiatives that contribute to the internationalization of Mount Royal within the context of the directions outlined in the University's Internationalization Strategy.

**A call for applicants to the summer 2010 program will be sent out in January. For more information on international faculty and staff exchange programs please visit the Office of International Education in EB3021 or check the international website <http://international.mtroyal.ca>**

Visit us on the web

<http://international.mtroyal.ca>



## III. Access for International Students and Faculty

*Access to all MRU programs for international students and faculty will be provided. We will support and expand our Languages Institute, which provides English language training to international students seeking access to post-secondary education in North America.*

**New regions open up with support from federal funding initiatives**

### **Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP)**

The "Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program" (ELAP) was launched in April 2009 after its announcement by Prime Minister Stephen Harper during the Summit of the Americas. ELAP targets Caribbean and Latin American students at the graduate and undergraduate levels and seeks to provide up to 1,600 scholarships over the next four years for study and research exchanges between Canadian post-secondary institutions and their counterparts in the region. The program's goal is to advance the Canadian government's strategy in the Americas by supporting human capital development and a new generation of leaders in the Americas while strengthening linkages between Canadian institutions and those in partner countries of the hemisphere.



*International Education Director, Lorna Smith, meets with officials from Universidad de La Salle, Colombia, and student Arledy Rodriguez, winner of an ELAP scholarship to MRU for the winter 2010 semester.*

Mount Royal was pleased that two scholarships were awarded to our students for the fall semester and one for the winter semester. Diego Flores from CETYS University in Baja California and Jesus Jimenez from the Universidad de Guanajuato, Mexico, studied with us in the fall and Arledy Rodriguez Caicedo, from Mount Royal's newest partner in the Americas, Universidad de La Salle in Bogotá, Colombia will be here for the winter semester.

"I feel really fortunate to have been able to live an experience like this. The exchange has really helped me a lot, both in my personal and school life. I was very lucky both in the courses and the teachers I had. Without the ELAP scholarship, I would not have been able to make this experience happen. My

family, like most families, has been going through some rough economic times- the scholarship really made this possible," says Diego Flores of CETYS, Campus Tijuana. The program is administered in Canada by the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE).

### **MRU Program Immerses Students in English Language and Canadian Culture**

Learning a language in a classroom is great -- but add the ability to practice that language in world-famous tourist destinations and you have an outstanding learning opportunity!



Now in its 11th year, the Summer Immersion English program is offered in July and August and primarily welcomes international students from Mount Royal's expanding network of over 70 partner institutions. "Our English language programs have an international reputation for excellence and we guarantee consistently high standards in our curriculum, materials, personnel and facilities," says Lorna Smith, Director, International Education.

For Susanne Risse, Mount Royal was an easy choice in the summer of 2009. "I've always been very interested in Canada and especially Mount Royal because it's one of our partner institutions," says Risse. Risse works in the international office at the University of Applied Science in Munich, Germany. After hearing such positive reviews from her students in Germany about the English language enhancement programs at Mount Royal, Risse decided she wanted to experience it first-hand.

"This is a great experience for me because I do student counselling in my home country, so I can motivate our students to participate in summer immersion programs and of course improve my English speaking skills and expand my vocabulary." In addition to improving her English skills, Risse said this program also allowed her to expand her horizons and experience different cultures. "To be in a different place, a different country and learn more about different cultures is a wonderful experience," says Risse. "Especially in Canada-- it's a melting pot of cultures."

**The dates for this year's Summer Immersion English Programs are July 5- 29, 2010 and August 4- 25, 2010. For more information, contact Kyla Sinclair (ksinclair@mtroyal.ca), International Projects Coordinator, or go to the International Education website <http://international.mtroyal.ca>**

## IV. Internationalizing MRC Curriculum

*Options for curricular change will be identified and implemented, broadening our international focus and adding value to an MRU education for Canadian and international students. This strategy will increase the options for students to acquire the skills and knowledge to work and live in an international environment.*

**Faculties continue to internationalize the curriculum through experiential learning opportunities**

### War and Memorial Field School

Thirteen MRU students retraced the steps of the Canadian, British, and American armies when they participated in the first War and Memorial Field School this spring. Led by MRU History Professor Mark Humphries, students walked the beaches of Dieppe, where Canadians landed in August 1942,



visited the D-Day beaches and traced the steps of the Canadians as they advanced inland in the summer of 1944 to liberate France and Northwest Europe. They visited the

Memorial at Vimy Ridge to learn about the experience of fighting in Normandy. The field school incorporated several days of class-work in Calgary as well as various written assignments and oral presentations at sites overseas as part of Canadian Studies 2233: Canada in Comparative and International Perspective.

"It was amazing to be able to study and enjoy Europe all while learning about one of the more interesting periods in the last century. For me, the ability to stand in the places that I have read about gave me better experiences than actually sitting in a classroom or simply reading a book," says James Murphy, MRU history major.

"Students respond well to learning on the ground where events took place. They got a sense of the scale of the battlefields as well as the problems inherent in making war for society and the soldiers involved. I found that my field school got students engaged with the material and helped me to better explain the processes and significance of history," says Instructor Mark Humphries.

The field school received development support from the Office of International Education's International Incentive Fund, intended to support initiatives that contribute to the internationalization of Mount Royal within the context of the directions outlined in the University's Internationalization Strategy.

### International Symposium – "Bridging Trade between Western Canada and the European Union"

As part of an International Academic Mobility project sponsored by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSD) and the European Commission, (EXSTRA ... "Expansion of Strategic Markets in Canada and the European Union"), the Bissett School of Business and the Office of International Education hosted an international symposium at MRU on Wednesday, December 2nd.

Over 60 students and faculty from Mount Royal and the three European project partners (Austria, France and the Netherlands) and two Canadian partners (Capilano University and Okanagan College, B.C.), along with several panels of government and industry representatives, attended the symposium to participate in discussions regarding trade activities between western Canada and the European Union.

For Honorine Hachey, a 2nd year general management student from the Bissett School of Business, the symposium reinforced her learning from the classroom. "The symposium was very beneficial; the guest speakers were very welcoming and open to questions during their presentations and the networking session. It was neat to see all the information from the classroom come alive."

In addition to the Symposium, on December 1st, visitors from all partner institutions attended project meetings and listened to student presentations from MRU Professor, Victoria Calvert's ENTR 4435- Small Business Practicum course where the international exchange students from France, Austria and the Netherlands had worked in teams with Mount Royal students to solve issues for specific businesses in Calgary.

"The Small Business Practicum is a very demanding and time consuming course in which I've learned to put all the theory into practice. It enabled me to have an in-depth look at a company's structure and have a better understanding of the correlation of functional areas. On top of that, managing a real life consultancy process and a team of different nationalities was very challenging and beneficial for my future career," says Martin Struik, exchange student from the Netherlands.



*Dr. Robin Fisher, Provost and Vice-President, Academic at Mount Royal University welcomes guests and speakers to the International Symposium.*

## V. International Development and Technology Transfer

*MRU will provide assistance to educational institutions in the developing world through international development projects. Participation in international networks assists with the development of new projects.*

*International networks lead to the development of new projects*

### **Alberta Advanced Education and Technology (AAET) Supports Exploration of Opportunities for Development in Colombia and Ecuador**

As part of the EduCalgary Consortium (University of Calgary, SAIT Polytechnic, Bow Valley College, Alberta College of Art and Design and Mount Royal University), a project supported by CMIS funding (2007-2010) from Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, Andrea Morrow and Lorna Smith travelled to Ecuador and Colombia in October 2009 to attend the "Expo-Estudiente" Educational Fair and to undertake follow-up visits to institutions visited during the first phase of the project in March 2009. The purpose of the project is to increase awareness in this region of Latin America of the opportunities provided by the post-secondary system in Canada and, in particular, Calgary, in order to attract students to study in Calgary institutions and to develop possibilities for long-term partnerships and collaboration projects.

Through this initiative, Mount Royal International is also seeking to develop placement opportunities for students



Andrea Morrow, MRU International, meets with MRU alumnus Juan Carlos Casares at the EduCalgary booth in Quito, Ecuador

in the newly approved B.A degree in Spanish. Students in this program must spend one semester placed in a Spanish-speaking post-secondary institution. The CMIS initiative has been very successful for Mount Royal to date and, as a result of the project, Mount Royal students will have the opportunity to study in three universities in Colombia, with a potential new partnership in Ecuador. In addition, students in the Spanish program will also have opportunities for placement in existing partner institutions in Spain, Mexico and Chile.

### **International Networking by MRU International Continues for Summer / Fall 09**

#### **NAFSA Annual Conference: May 2009**

Dianne MacDonald represented MRU at the NAFSA Conference in Los Angeles.

#### **European Association of International Education (EAIE) Annual Conference: September 2009**

Dianne MacDonald and Lorna Smith represented MRU at the Annual Networking Conference held in Madrid, Spain.

#### **TESL Canada National Conference: October 2009**

Languages Institute personnel participated in the conference and served on the organizing committee for the national conference held in Banff. Audrey Olson assumed the Presidency of ATESL (Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language).

#### **IAM Project Directors' Meeting for Canada-European Union Projects: October 2009**

Dianne MacDonald and Dianne Woods represented MRU at the Project Directors' meeting in Boston.

#### **IAM Project Directors' Meeting for North American Mobility Projects: October 2009**

Dianne Woods, Terry Field and Hallia Montemayor Valladares represented MRU at the Project Directors' meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico.

#### **Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) Annual Conference: November 2009**

Trinda Guillet and Andrea Morrow represented Mount Royal at the Annual Conference held in Toronto.

#### **Global Higher Education Forum: December 2009**

Dave Marshall, representing CONAHEC, participated in this Forum in Penang, Malaysia.

#### **Canadian Council for the Americas General Meeting: November 2009**

Andrea Morrow and Claudia Lara represented Mount Royal at the Annual General Meeting in Calgary.

## VI. Customized Training and Contract Education

*Governments and institutions in other countries are looking for customized training packages to meet their particular needs. MRU cooperates with Calgary or Canada-based companies working internationally as well as institutions and government agencies in over 30 countries.*

*Language training an important focus for MRU customized training*

### Students from Quebec Become Honorary Calgarians

Twenty-five students from Quebec City received a warm welcome to Mount Royal and Calgary with a white-hat welcoming ceremony on August 4th. The students from three educational institutions in Quebec City- College François-Xavier Garneau, CEGEP de Limoilou and CEGEP Champlain St. Lawrence had received a generous bursary from the



*Students from Quebec and their international classmates are "white-hatted" at MRU welcome ceremony.*

Mayor's office to travel to Calgary and study in the Summer Immersion English Program offered by Mount Royal's Office of International Education. In addition to improving their language skills and experiencing western Canadian culture, they were able to make contacts with students from China, Japan, Spain, Venezuela and Korea. Officials from Quebec have indicated they plan to send another group to Mount Royal in the summer of 2010.

### Customized Spanish Course for the Community

What do several teachers, lawyers, a pharmacist, two judges, an airline attendant, a retired administrative assistant, a retired researcher, a scientist, a cleaning lady, and a realtor have in common? A love for learning and a passion for the Spanish language and culture!

For two years, this diverse group has transformed from John to Juan or Connie to Constancia every Wednesday night where their class is strictly in Spanish.

For 79 year old Gus Loman (aka Gustavo), studying Spanish began as an intellectual exercise but soon he was swept away by the brilliance of his Spanish instructor, Estefanía Dubon.



*Students sing Christmas Carols and drink Canelazo, a typical Ecuadorian drink, at the annual Christmas Fiesta.*

"Estefanía explained the grammatical structure of Spanish in a cohesive, logical and above all, in a lively manner. She demonstrated a superior knowledge of grammar as she tackled the subtle idiomatic differences between the two languages. Estefanía's love of Latin-American culture and history energized her entire class, resulting in her students expressing the wish to continue beyond the six levels offered by Mount Royal University. We are now going into level 11 which is called *Español conversación avanzada*."

"For several of us, this class has been an eye-opener into a world of which we were not conscious. This is not only because of the language teaching, but also because the Mount Royal courses stress the culture of the countries where Spanish is spoken; we are suddenly aware of this huge area to the south of us."

*MRU's Office of International Education offers a variety of Customized Training options. For more information contact Leigh-Ann Duke, Foreign Languages and Customized Training Coordinator at [lduke@mtroyal.ca](mailto:lduke@mtroyal.ca)*

*Visit us on the web*

*<http://international.mtroyal.ca>*





## Discover Calgary, Canada

Home to Mount Royal University, Calgary is an exciting, welcoming city of 1,000,000 people. Skyscrapers, brilliant blue skies and real cowboys are trademarks of this Western Canadian city, where Canada's largest petroleum companies are located.

The young, well-educated workforce which makes Calgary the business centre for southern Alberta also makes Calgary one of the most hospitable and safest cities in Canada.

Calgary has dozens of free public parks and hundreds of kilometres of public bike paths.

Summer festivals reflect the city's cultural diversity and celebrate the music and traditions from around the world. Opportunities abound for sports and cultural activities.

With the majestic Rocky Mountains on the western doorstep, breathtaking wilderness is only 45 minutes away—from summer hiking and golf to world-class skiing.



*Open spaces, urban energy, friendly faces – Calgary, Alberta, Canada.*

### Mount Royal International

Room 3021, Bissett School for Business Building (East B)  
4825 Mount Royal Gate S.W., Calgary, AB Canada T3E 6K6  
Main Telephone +1 (403) 440-5100 Main Fax +1 (403) 440-5155  
<http://international.mtroyal.ca> [international@mtroyal.ca](mailto:international@mtroyal.ca)

Lorna Smith, Director ..... lsmith@mtroyal.ca  
Dianne MacDonald, Manager, International Projects .. dmacdonald@mtroyal.ca  
Audrey Olson, Manager, Languages Institute ..... aolson@mtroyal.ca  
Dana de Guzman, Special Projects Coordinator  
Cindy Duke, Administrative Assistant  
Leigh-Ann Duke, Foreign Languages and Customized Training Coordinator  
Trinda Guillet, Coordinator, International Projects  
Naomi Jamieson, Receptionist

Claudia Lara, Program Assistant  
Andrea Morrow,  
Communications and Events Coordinator  
Bonnie Mui, Program Assistant  
Sheri Rhodes, Curriculum Coordinator  
Silvia Rossi, Project Coordinator  
Kyla Sinclair, Coordinator, International Projects  
Amy Yeung, Program Coordinator