

Prime Time

Fall, 2010

Newsletter of the *Studies in Aging Certificate Program*



Advanced Specialty Health Studies
Mount Royal University

"Inspiring students to make a difference"

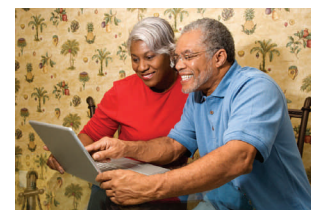
Special points of interest:

- **New Name**
- **New admission requirements**

Announcing our New Program Name—*Studies in Aging*

Greetings from the *Studies in Aging* Certificate program (formerly Gerontology). After much discussion and input from students, advisory committee members, other stakeholders, faculty and staff, the new name was chosen to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of aging.

While all courses have been renamed to SAGE, course numbers and offering distance education options are the same. What is new and very exciting is that we are offering 3 of our courses as General Education courses. These are available to undergraduate students at Mount Royal who take our courses as part of their program requirements. They can take SAGE 4401—Perspectives in Aging; SAGE 4403—Health and Aging, and SAGE 4413—Aging Families. We are pleased to have a strong interest from these students as they bring another important perspective to the topics. We encourage them to consider how they can incorporate their aging knowledge into their areas of study and career plans.



New photo on our homepage—www.mtroyal.ca/studiesinaging

Fall Enrolment

Fall enrolment exceeds our expectations! We have 4 sections of SAGE 4401 including one face-to-face class. So that's 78 new students taking 4401 and 5 new undergraduates in SAGE 4413—*Aging Families*.

In January, we'll offer SAGE 4403—*Health and Aging* to all undergraduate students and PHED 3385—*Physical Activity and the Older Adult* to Physical Education and Recreation Studies students. PHED 3385 will also be offered face-to-face in the classroom. We're branching out in order to increase awareness of the issues associated with aging among the current student body.

Watch for more changes to our program as we move forward.

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New Admission Requirements—More Opportunities for New Students

After program review, including extensive feedback from students, it was decided to change the admission requirements to the program.

For the upcoming semester and beyond, students who are currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution are welcome to apply. Post diploma/degree professionals from a broad range of disciplines continue to meet admission requirements.

When asked, undergraduate students recognize the impact of population aging. They also suggested that making gerontology more accessible to the undergraduate population would help to promote greater awareness of aging and many of the issues associated with aging. They indicated that an opportunity to learn about the aging process during their university career would be beneficial once they enter the workforce.

At the discretion of Marianne Rogerson, Program Coordinator, we will also consider applicants with extensive industry experience and they will be evaluated on an individual basis.

First Face-to-Face Class

On the first day of classes we welcomed 16 new undergraduate students to SAGE 4401—*Perspectives in Aging* on Tuesdays and Thursdays here at Mount Royal. The class is being taught by Jacquie Poetker, one of our new sessional instructors.

The students are from a variety of programs including Arts, Business, Disability Studies, and several from Open Studies.

Here are some of the reasons these students have signed up for this course:

- “Aging is a natural process experienced by all; [the course] is an excellent opportunity to prepare ourselves and those . . . we love.” Mara Pawlak
- “The reason . . . I wanted to study aging is because everybody ages and also the difference between generations and how they treat the older adult.” Shirley Yamoah
- “We need to study aging because we are always aging and the generations of baby boomers are [beginning] to age and we need to get prepared to help them in their aging process. We study aging so we can learn from our mistakes and past behaviours.” Haley Rutherford



Introducing our Sessional Instructors

Due to the popularity of SAGE 4401 and the need to open 4 sections of the course, we are delighted to welcome our sessional instructors this term.

Jacquie Poetker is teaching one section by distance and sharing the face-to-face class with Marianne Rogerson, Program Coordinator. Jacquie's background is in social work, with educational training specifically in gerontology. She has had extensive experience in teaching and working in the areas of child and youth abuse prevention, relationship violence prevention and bullying and harassment prevention to youth and adults, and with issues of the older adult in Canada and the USA.

Barbara Metcalf is teaching a distance section of SAGE 4401. Barb has a long history with the Studies in Aging program (formerly Gerontology) at Mount Royal dating back to 1994. She joined the program as a Clinical Nurse Specialist and then became a faculty member/program coordinator and then Chair of the department of Advanced Specialty Health Studies. Most recently she was the Chair of the Internationally Educated Nurses Programs in the School of Nursing at Mount Royal.

Sandra Gordon is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Gerontology and is a faculty member of the School of Nursing at Mount Royal. She is teaching SAGE 4413—*Aging Families* this term. She has worked the past 10 years in practice with older adult patients, clients and residents and their families. Her work has been in the community, outpatient clinic, as well as in hospital and complex continuing care settings.

Winter 2011 Courses

This winter we will be offering:

- SAGE 4403—Health and Aging (by distance, gen.ed. course)
- SAGE 4407—Aging and Physical Health
- SAGE 4409—Nursing and the Older Adult
- SAGE 4481—Practicum/Project
- PHED 3385—Physical Activity and the Older Adult (face-to-face)

Aging in Place Certification

Plans are now underway to develop certification for professionals such as renovators, designers, architects, and real estate agents. An understanding and knowledge of aging will help these professionals to work with people to adapt their homes to allow them to live independently in familiar surroundings for as long as possible.

Marianne is working with Mount Royal's Continuing Education department to develop a program that will allow homebuilders and renovators to develop best practices and standards for working with seniors in their homes.

The first focus group with the housing and renovation industry are to begin on September 24 with the hope to be able to begin offering courses for the fall 2011 or winter 2012.

Watch our website for updates on this new initiative.

New Capstone Project

As many of our students are not currently employed in health care, they have been questioning whether they would be able to meet the clinical practicum requirements of the final course in the certificate..

After the program review, it was decided to develop a capstone course in which students would integrate concepts and theory under the direction of an academic supervisor.

Students will have the opportunity to complete a project, comprehensive literature review or a research project to complete the certificate requirements. The number of total credits for the certificate will be 18.