



MOUNT ROYAL
COLLEGE

Calgary, Alberta

Defining Success



Leaders in innovative
career-based programs

2006

Community Report

WELCOME



Our commitment to student success drives everything we do, today and in the future.

Success is highly personal. Each of us defines it differently. How we do so reflects who we are as individuals and the paths we choose to follow throughout our lives. For you, success may be a rewarding career, building strong community connections, acquiring knowledge or one of many other yardsticks you may use to measure your progress.

Success is also important to Mount Royal College — we define it by how well we help our students, alumni and the communities we serve achieve their goals. Our courses and innovative programs

that reflect dynamic local and international work sectors, our faculty passionate about teaching, our great learning resources and campus environment ... everything we do has one goal: encouraging success.

Over the past 96 years, Mount Royal has evolved into one of Canada's finest undergraduate institutions, known widely for high-quality, market-driven programs — several found nowhere else in the country. We offer outstanding instructors with strong academic and on-the-job credentials, small class sizes that promote interaction among students and instructors, and hands-on and international learning opportunities. Most importantly, Mount Royal is known as a place where students come first.

Each year, we serve nearly 13,000 students in 65 credit programs — collaborative degrees, applied baccalaureates, university transfer, diplomas and certificates. Almost 26,000 more learners enroll in 1,100 credit-free, international and Conservatory programs. Our southwest Calgary campus is among the best in North America, offering state-of-the-art facilities and learning resources. The final step of our \$150-million campus expansion, the technologically sophisticated Learning Centre, opens this summer.

Our commitment to student success drives everything we do, today and in the future.

To meet the changing needs of the knowledge economy, Mount Royal is charting a path to become a unique-in-Canada undergraduate institution. By adding baccalaureate degrees to our program offerings while retaining our student-centred, teaching-first environment, we're building a bold, different institution that offers unparalleled benefits for our students and community.

Our students define their own success. We ensure they achieve it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Marshall".

Dave Marshall, Ph.D.
President

We define success by how well we help the students, alumni and communities we serve achieve their goals.



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in co-operation with the Calgary Herald Special Projects department.



Faculty with academic and on-the-job expertise — and a passion for teaching. Innovative programs guided by industry. At Mount Royal, this is the foundation for educational excellence.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



MRC student Jason Unsworth (L) with Indy Lagu, Chair, Department of Mathematics, Physics and Engineering.

What's important for students is not the details of the material they're studying, but the process of figuring things out for themselves.

Great programs, instructors: Mount Royal hallmarks

When Canadian Fencing Team member and 2008 Summer Olympic Games hopeful Nora O'Malley heard that Mount Royal College offered a degree that combined sports, recreation and business, she knew she had found the perfect match for her personal interests and career aspirations.

"I liked the program concept. My background is in sports and I knew I wanted to work in that field," says O'Malley, now a third-year student in the Bachelor of Applied Business and Entrepreneurship – Sport and Recreation program.

But just as important, O'Malley says, is the fact that her chosen program is at Mount Royal College.

"Having taken arts and science classes at Mount Royal, I knew I liked the class size and the fact that the instructors know your name," she says.

"Also, the program's directed field studies and volunteering opportunities enable you to grow your network of contacts in your field."

Creating opportunities in which students gain real experience in their fields is something Mathematics, Physics and Engineering Chair Indy Lagu emphasizes in his programs, even in subjects as theory-based as math and physics.

"At Mount Royal, we have an opportunity to be innovative," Lagu says. "In our Beauty of Mathematics

course, we turn things right around by having the students present the material to each other. This way, students take ownership of what they're learning and it makes them think about how they can communicate their ideas to their peers.

"What's important for students is not the details of the material they're studying, but the process of developing a sense that they can figure things out for themselves. Learning how to learn on your own is by far the most important element."

Having top instructors who are both great teachers and experienced professionals is integral to Mount Royal, says David Legg, Coordinator, Bachelor of Applied Business and Entrepreneurship – Sport and Recreation.

"When Mount Royal hires instructors, we look for great teachers and great communicators as well as experts in their fields," he says.

Ryan McFadden, a Bachelor of Applied Policy Studies graduate who recently received the prestigious Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration (CAPPA) award for research in his field, says his Mount Royal experience prepared him for success.

"My time in the Policy Studies program bolstered my academic confidence, which was something I never had before," he says.

"I credit my success to the low student-to-teacher ratio and the fact that I was able to walk into an instructor's office and ask questions."

Leading the nation

At Mount Royal College, you'll find:

- Canada's first and only applied degree programs in Electronic Publishing, Nonprofit Studies and Technical Communication
- Canada's first and most innovative undergraduate degree in Entrepreneurship
- one of Canada's two four-year degree programs in Public Relations
- western Canada's only Policy Studies undergraduate degree program
- one of only two Child Studies degree programs in western Canada

Designed for success

Mount Royal's Bachelor of Applied Interior Design program has a long-standing reputation for success — and accreditation by an international organization that sets standards for excellence in interior design education confirms it.

In August, the program earned accreditation from the Foundation for Interior Design Education Research (FIDER), making it the only program in Alberta and one of only three in western Canada to receive this important distinction.

"Graduating from a FIDER-accredited school is becoming more of a standard for membership and registration in professional associations and for licensing, so accreditation is very important to our students as they progress in their careers," says Janice Smith, Chair of Interior Design.



A teacher's passion

David Hyttenrauch is a recent recipient of a Mount Royal College Distinguished Faculty/Teaching Award — high praise for someone who didn't expect to enjoy teaching.

"When I started teaching part-time to support my Ph.D., I really didn't think this would be the career choice for me," the English Instructor says.

As a university undergraduate, Hyttenrauch wasn't impressed by the common lecture style of teaching. He considers himself an introvert and didn't expect to enjoy being the focus of attention.

But he found that right from the beginning, teaching was inspiring, and generally a different kind of creativity for him — and he's been finding creative and innovative ways to engage students in medieval and dramatic literature since he began teaching at Mount Royal in 1997.

For Hyttenrauch, teaching is "about developing students' potential and seeing them work toward their aspirations, about helping and nurturing. The wonderful thing is seeing them develop."

The collaborative Bachelor of Arts degree MRC offers in partnership with Athabasca University has increased those rewards. "The pleasure is you see students for a longer period," he says.

A superlative teacher, Hyttenrauch credits his colleagues with creating an exceptional culture of learning at Mount Royal.

"I knew from the time I arrived that ... I was working in a community of people who cared passionately about their students.... It's really what I enjoy most about the environment here."

<< [TOP] Mount Royal's East "B" building, which opened in 2003.

[MIDDLE] Applied Business and Entrepreneurship — Sport and Recreation Coordinator David Legg and student Nora O'Malley.

[BOTTOM] English Instructor David Hyttenrauch, focuses on developing students' potential.



Instructor Milena Radzikowska (R) works closely with her students like Carmen Bazelewicz in the Bachelor of Applied Communications — Electronic Publishing program.

Preparing the next generation of communicators

The communicators of tomorrow are learning their craft today at Mount Royal College's Centre for Communication Studies.

The \$5-million, state-of-the-industry facility opened in the fall of 2004, offering students in journalism, broadcasting, technical communications and public relations a chance to work and learn under one roof.

"I think it's absolutely essential we have this facility," says Milena Radzikowska, who teaches design in the Bachelor of Applied Communications—Electronic Publishing program.

With new facilities and equipment, instructors have greater flexibility to teach their courses, she says. But even more important than the technology is the interaction among students in different Communications programs.

"The change in our student culture has been fantastic," Radzikowska says. "Doing work and learning from each other is so important in our particular field." Whether taking journalism or PR, it's important for these groups to learn to work together because they often have to do so in the field, says Radzikowska.



CTV Calgary news anchor Darrel Janz praises the new Centre's ability to prepare future communicators.

The Centre is a dream come true for employers looking to hire or to bring in students for practicum programs.

"It's fantastic to see these students get access to state-of-the-art equipment," says Darrel Janz, a longtime news anchor with CTV Calgary who has taught at MRC for many years and now works with many of his former students. "The fact they're dealing with the kind of equipment they'll find in the industry is tremendous."

The Centre provides students with an excellent foundation for entering the communications field, adds Susan Haider, who works in corporate communications at Petro-Canada.

"They come in knowing how to write news releases, how to do communication plans. They're here to learn, but I find they already have a strong knowledge and skills base," she says.

Building international connections

The addition of four European partner institutions to Mount Royal's already-impressive list of 16 brings MRC to the forefront of Canadian institutions with European academic partnerships.

"These, along with our 24 other partner institutions outside of Europe, enhance Mount Royal's reputation as a leading post-secondary institution in Canada for international academic mobility," says Dianne MacDonald, Manager, International Projects.

Ginette Carle, Manager of the International Academic Mobility Initiative, the Human Resources and Skills Development Canada program that supports Mount Royal in offering international learning opportunities — says the project allows Mount Royal students to gain invaluable international experience.

"International skills are recognized around the world as vital in the knowledge-based global economy," she says. "We commend Mount Royal for developing international partnerships, curricula, tools and exchanges for students. Mount Royal makes an important contribution to this area."



On-the-job training helped grad Donny Truong prepare for his IT job at VRRI.

Alumni success

The success of Mount Royal alumni proves that a Mount Royal education is relevant to the needs of business and the community. Our alumni honour roll includes:

Doris Anderson (University Transfer)
first female editor of Chatelaine magazine

Alison Beames (General Arts and Science)
British Columbia Supreme Court justice

The Honourable Norman Kwong (Commercial)
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta

Paul Lavoie (Interior Design)
Noted interior designer

Tim Morgan (Aviation)
founder of Morgan Air

Don McDonogh (Recreation Management)
Fit4Play Fitness founder

Lorne Motley (Journalism)
Calgary Herald deputy editor

Priti Obhrai-Martin (Public Relations)
founder of the multicultural CUE e-zine

Heather Schmidt (Conservatory Academy)
composer and concert pianist

Alan Van Sprang (Theatre Arts)
TV and film actor

Programs that work. Curricula at the forefront of industry evolution. Knowledge and skills that employers want and students need. A Mount Royal education is in step with changing real-world demands.

RELEVANCE

Getting the job done

According to graduates and employers alike, Mount Royal gets the job done when it comes to preparing students for the realities of work.

Donny Truong, who graduated from the Bachelor of Applied Computer Information Systems and Business program in 2004, confirms his program helped him land a rewarding career right out of school.

“The Vocational and Rehabilitation Research Institute (VRRI) hired me on full-time when I graduated,” says the 24-year-old, who is the lead technical support for the not-for-profit organization. “I am responsible for everything to do with IT, including computers, telecommunications and training.”

The VRRI provides holistic services to adults with disabilities, including employment, community-living, education, recreation and research services.

Truong takes care of a network of more than 100 computers — a network he designed and implemented for the VRRI during his two directed field study work terms while completing his applied degree.

“It’s that hands-on experience that gives you an edge over others,” says Truong, who plans on honing his project management skills to become an IT manager or consultant in the future. “Overall, the degree that I got at Mount Royal really opened me up to different fields. It prepared me for many opportunities.”

Maria Lindenberg, Manager of Shared Services for Shell Canada, agrees that Mount Royal programs offer the right kind of preparation for the workplace.

Lindenberg, who hired several students from the Applied International Business and Supply Chain Management degree program this past summer, says Mount Royal provides students with a good foundation for entering the field.

“There are very few post-secondary schools that offer a degree in supply chain management, so it’s great to work with students who have an understanding of the profession and the diversity of skills needed.”

Lindenberg adds there is a worldwide shortage of supply chain management professionals. “That’s why a program like Mount Royal’s is so important. It is our future talent pipeline.”



Maria Lindenberg, Manager of Supply Chain Management and Shared Services with Shell Canada, sees future employees in MRC students.



MRC student James Foster learned on the job at The United Way of Calgary Area.

These learning opportunities are a powerful way to put theory into practice.

Hands-on learning

There's more to learning than sitting in a classroom and hitting the books. Each year, Mount Royal students gain valuable experience through directed field study, Co-operative Education and practicum opportunities offered in many programs.

These in-the-field learning opportunities are a powerful way to put theory into practice and learn from the industry in which graduates will eventually work.

James Foster recently finished his Bachelor of Applied Nonprofit Studies program with a three-month directed field study at the United Way of Calgary, where he worked as a loaned representative, coordinating communication between the United Way and organizations running fund-raising programs.

"I worked with the public sector division — the Calgary Health Region, City of Calgary, post-secondary institutions and the Calgary Board of Education," he says. "We're there to be resources ... to provide United Way information, facts and support."

Foster, whose goal is a career in the nonprofit sector, describes his time at the United Way as "the epitome of networking. Being at the United Way, and having access to all the expertise of the people there, was an invaluable firsthand experience."

Some work experience programs take Mount Royal students around the world.

Matt Husband, a second-year Disabilities Studies diploma student, recently spent a month working at Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah, a rehabilitation facility in Malaysia.

"Four students from MRC and our instructor went over from June 22 to July 21," says Husband. "We were helping people directly. They have fewer trained employees working with people over there."

"Canada definitely has a bit more modern philosophy for treatment of people with disabilities, [so] I think another aspect of our practicum was to go there and share our skills."

Husband, who hopes to use his diploma as a "stepping-stone" to entering medicine, is happy that MRC plans to offer more practicum opportunities in Malaysia in the future.

"I got to see some amazing things," he says. "And it's definitely going to look good on the resume."

100% employment

98 per cent of all Mount Royal grads find employment within six months — and in 33 programs, that number reaches a perfect 100 per cent.

Applied degree programs

Business Administration

Business and Entrepreneurship (*International, Small Business*)

Computer Information Systems and Business

Communications (*Electronic Publishing, Journalism, Public Relations, Technical Communication*)

Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership

Justice Studies

Policy Studies

Diploma programs

Aviation

Broadcasting

Business Administration (*General, Human Resources*)

Early Childhood Care and Education

Interior Design

Music Performance

Outdoor Pursuits

Physical Education

Theatre Arts (*Performance, Technical*)

Certificate programs

Arts and Science (*General Studies*)

Athletic Therapy

Advanced Studies in Critical Care Nursing

Advanced Studies in Mental Health

Business Administration (*Advanced Accounting, Human Resources, Marketing*)

Early Childhood Care & Education

Forensic Studies

Gerontology

Maternal Infant Child Healthcare



DEFINING SUCCESS

Since 1910, Mount Royal College has prepared students for success on their own terms. Whether the goal is a high-level career, further academic studies, or professional or personal development, Mount Royal provides the student-centred, results-oriented approach that ensures students reach their goals.

Passionate about success

Mount Royal believes in providing the best possible undergraduate education. Our success is reflected in the achievements and successes of our alumni and the scholarly accomplishments of our faculty, and in comparing our performance to undergraduate institutions across Canada. Page 15 of this Report to the Community details some of the many ways Mount Royal measures up.



Sharing real-world expertise

Mount Royal College offers more than 65 collaborative degree, applied degree, diploma, university transfer and certificate programs — from one to four years, and typically offered full or part-time — in arts, business, communication studies, community and health studies, the performing arts, and science and technology.

Within each faculty, school, institute, centre and

discipline, MRC instructors bring to the classroom a combination of impeccable academic credentials and solid experience in their respective fields. This ensures that the knowledge Mount Royal students acquire is not only academically sound, it is also current and relevant to the marketplace.

Many of Mount Royal's programs also blend theory and practice, providing graduates with powerful credentials.

Keeping learning relevant

Mount Royal's smaller class sizes — usually no more than 30 students — help create a dynamic learning environment where student-instructor interaction flourishes. They also accommodate a variety of teaching methods, including an exciting blend of classroom, hands-on and team-project approaches that accommodate students' different learning styles.

Mount Royal works collaboratively to develop and deliver directed field study, practicum and Co-operative Education experiences in many programs to ensure that what is taught is at the forefront of what business, industry and the community need in today's employees.

A forward-thinking internationalization strategy weaves international learning into programs across the institution. Exchange programs and other global learning opportunities made possible through partnerships with more than 50 institutions around the world give students the opportunity to experience today's borderless marketplace firsthand and also

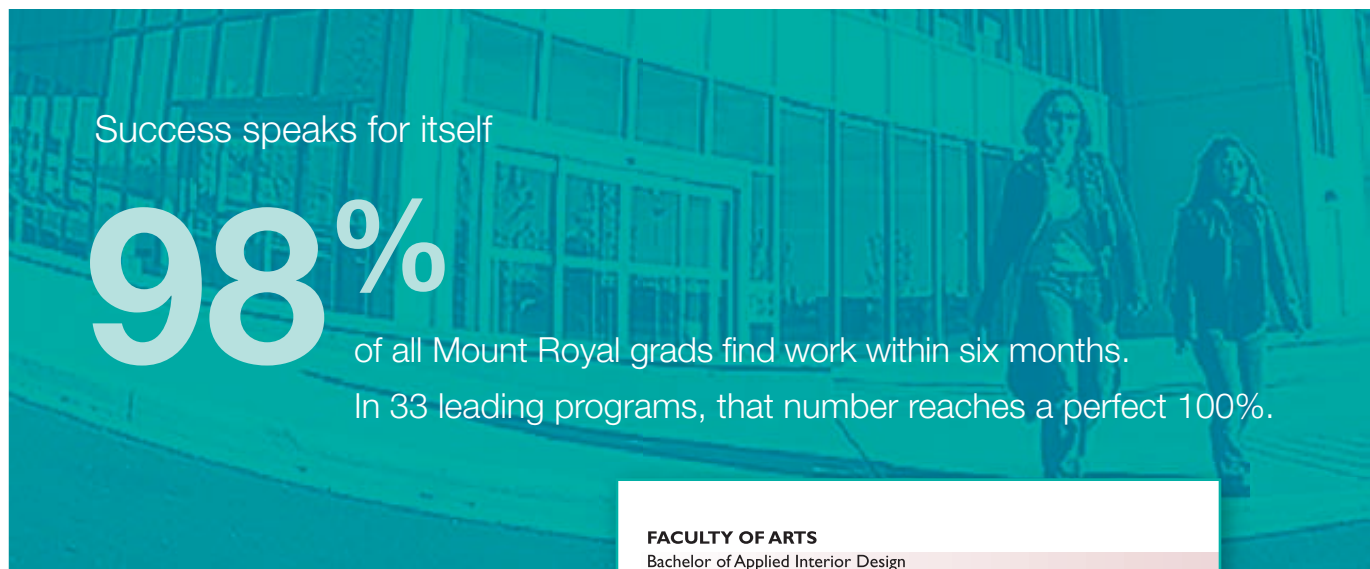
enables Mount Royal students to learn from the many international students who come to MRC to study.

Leading the way with technology

Mount Royal's innovative programs and teaching methods are complemented by an equally progressive approach to technology. Online learning, for example, is changing the way students learn, enabling them to gain access to and benefit from a world of information virtually any time and anywhere. Our instructors embrace the Web as a teaching and learning tool and more than 60 per cent of all course sections have a course-related website — totalling more than 1,000 course websites.

A recent \$150-million campus investment saw MRC develop new classrooms, laboratories and buildings, as well as implement state-of-the-art technology and resources throughout the institution.

The Learning Centre, now under construction and set to open in the summer of 2006, is a technologically-rich learning environment that harnesses the latest in educational technology for student and instructor use.



Nurturing all aspects of the student experience

Mount Royal's safe, hospitable campus is home to a close-knit community of 13,000 credit students who enjoy superb residential, recreational and cultural facilities and activities. A wide range of campus organizations, clubs, societies and special events enables students to get involved in "their" community, forge close relationships with peers and explore personal growth and fulfillment.

Because overall wellness is an important factor in academic success, Mount Royal provides ample opportunities for students to stay in shape physically and emotionally, through offerings such as the EnCana Wellness Centre, Optimal Therapies and Mount Royal Recreation.

Post-secondary education that fits your life

Whether students are preparing to enter the job market or looking to advance their careers, Mount Royal's flexible program delivery makes it easier to blend school and life. Part-time studies enable students to explore their options or study while employed, and academic upgrading courses enable students to improve high school grades or pick up courses they may have missed for post-secondary entry at the same time as they complete their MRC courses.

FACULTY OF ARTS

Bachelor of Applied Interior Design
 Bachelor of Applied Policy Studies
 Bachelor of Arts – Athabasca University at Mount Royal College
 Bachelor of Arts – University Transfer
 Bachelor of Education – University Transfer
 General Arts and Science
 General Studies – Diploma

BISSETT SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Aviation – Diploma
 Bachelor of Applied Business Administration – Accounting
 Bachelor of Applied Business & Entrepreneurship
 – Small Business & International Business
 – Sport & Recreation
 Bachelor of Applied Financial Services
 Bachelor of Applied International Business & Supply Chain Management
 Bachelor of Applied Nonprofit Studies
 Business Administration – Diploma
 – General, Human Resources, Marketing
 Business Administration & Insurance – Diploma
 Bachelor of Commerce – University Transfer

CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Bachelor of Applied Communications
 – Electronic Publishing & Technical Communication
 – Journalism
 – Public Relations
 Broadcasting – Diploma

FACULTY OF HEALTH & COMMUNITY STUDIES

Bachelor of Applied Child Studies
 Bachelor of Applied Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership
 Bachelor of Applied Justice Studies
 Bachelor of Physical Education – University Transfer
 Bachelor of Nursing – Athabasca University at Mount Royal College
 Child & Youth Care Counsellor – Diploma
 Disability Studies – Diploma
 Early Childhood Care & Education – Diploma
 Social Work – Diploma

FACULTY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bachelor of Applied Computer Information Systems & Business
 Bachelor of Applied Industrial Ecology
 Bachelor of Engineering – University Transfer
 Bachelor of Science – Computer Science – University Transfer
 Bachelor of Science – University Transfer
 Computer Information Systems – Diploma

THE CONSERVATORY

Music Performance – Diploma
 Theatre Arts – Diploma
 – Performance or Technical

For more information, visit

www.mtroyal.ca or call 403-440-5000

Educational technology for in-class and on-your-own learning. A welcoming, comfortable campus. Outstanding study resources. Dynamic classes with fewer than 50 students. Fostering student' success is at the heart of MRC's outstanding learning environment.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



Grad Heather Nutma was honoured to receive a scholarship, which told her that others recognized her talent.

Scholarships and bursaries hold more than just financial value — they validate the hard work and long hours students put in.

Scholarships for success

When first-year Bachelor of Applied Communications – Electronic Publishing student Lisa Barnett chose to attend Mount Royal to help achieve her career goals, she never expected that it would also mean a boost to her financial goals as well.

Barnett, who graduated from Cochrane High School, received a prestigious Garfield Weston Merit Scholarship in 2005, which will cover her tuition and living expenses for three years.

“It’s been huge,” says Barnett, who boasts a strong record of community involvement and academic success. “The scholarship allows me to focus on my schoolwork, and I don’t have to worry about working part-time. Plus, I look forward to coming out of college without any student loans.”

With the financial burden lifted, Barnett is also able to volunteer at the Alberta Children’s Hospital and stay involved in the community.

The Garfield Weston award is one of almost 2,300 scholarships and bursaries given to

Mount Royal students each year — totalling more than \$2.6 million.

Heather Nutma, a graduate of the Bachelor of Applied Communications – Public Relations program, says that scholarships hold more than just a financial value for students.

“One of the most meaningful awards I received was the Linda Singleton Memorial Scholarship,” says Nutma, who earned approximately \$3,500 in various awards during her time at Mount Royal. “Linda Singleton was highly regarded in Calgary for her work in public relations, and the fact that I received a reward bearing her name means that I reflected something of her.”

She adds, “It’s a big responsibility because someone is entrusting me to carry on the legacy of a loved one, but it’s also an honour to know that people recognize the talent they see in you.”

Nutma, who now works as a Public Relations Associate for Climate Change Central, says that scholarships and bursaries helped her to graduate debt-free. “But, more importantly, it validates the hard work and long hours you put in. It makes it feel like your efforts are worth it.”



MRC residence students Brandon Csokonay and Megan Wolfinger are reaping the rewards of on-campus living.

Living in residence a sound academic strategy

Living in residence can help students achieve better grades and enjoy a more well-rounded education.

“It’s so helpful being right on campus and so close to the resources,” says Megan Wolfinger, a second-year student in Mount Royal College’s Bachelor of Applied Communications – Public Relations program and a Resident Adviser.

“You can just roll out of bed and go to class. When I came here, it was my first time away from home, and I found it was an awesome environment.”

MRC has two residence complexes. The East Residence townhouse complex opened in 1989 and the West Residences, combining townhouses and apartments, opened three years ago. In total, there’s room for 1,000 students to live on campus.

“Every unit is self-contained, with private washroom, living room and kitchen facilities. You only share it with your roommates,” says Residence Services Manager Steve Fitterer. “It’s a safe, secure place to live.”



Residence students get to meet and live with students of many different backgrounds.

Fitterer says living with fellow students has a proven positive impact both socially and academically. “Students living in residence do tend to perform better academically. And you get to meet people from different cultures and backgrounds.”

Brandon Csokonay, a third-year Bachelor of Applied Business and Entrepreneurship student and president of the Residence Activities Council, says he was nervous when he first moved into “rez.”

“Within the first couple of months, my doubts were blown away,” he says. “It’s an overwhelming and open atmosphere of creativity, thought and expression.

“I would completely recommend it,” he says. “Some people rent houses, but end up paying more and miss out on the social aspects. It has been a perfect experience for me.”

Success on the court, in class

Nadeane Jackson is proud to be playing on the Mount Royal women’s basketball team, one of several top-ranked squads in the nationally respected Cougars athletics program.

“I think there’s just a lot of pride that’s involved in being a college athlete. You’re representing the College, you’re actually a symbol.

“There are also high standards set out for college athletes. We need a minimum GPA to be eligible to play. I think a lot of us are working really hard just to be here and it requires a lot of time management skills to balance sports with school.”

Time management, perseverance, leadership, teamwork and discipline are valuable skills learned by student athletes, says Marc Dobell, Head Coach, men’s basketball.

“I think sport is so essential. There are so many positive things — things that you want to teach in the classroom and that are applicable in the real world.”



The more we can do to enhance classroom instruction, the greater the benefit to students in terms of their success and satisfaction.

Technology boosts learning

Mount Royal College's commitment to provide exceptional learning resources creates an environment in which both students and instructors excel.

From new facilities opened over the past four years as part of a \$150-million campus expansion, to growing Library resources, to health and wellness programs through the EnCana Wellness Centre, to leading-edge educational technology in the classroom and beyond, MRC puts resources right at students' fingertips.

The convenience and flexibility of wireless access in 58 "hot spots" across the campus, for example, means students like Aileen Thom can do homework and read course material on a laptop almost anywhere. Thom is blind and uses a screen-reading software program to work online. She says technology has opened the doors to post-secondary education for people with disabilities.

"I don't think I could have done this 15 years ago and been this independent," she notes.

In fact, Mount Royal is on the leading edge of making online learning more accessible to people with disabilities.

A team from the Academic Development Centre (ADC) recently developed a Web template that makes it easier to read and navigate online content. Now, MRC's partners in the eCampus Alberta distance-learning initiative want to use the template to make their courses more accessible on their campuses.

The ADC is a one-stop provider of a broad range of programs helping instructors enhance their teaching by using technology.

"The more we can do to enhance classroom instruction through these programs, the greater the benefit to students in terms of their success and satisfaction," says Jim Zimmer, ADC Director.

ADC programs help instructors take their teaching to a higher level and encourage them to use online instructional tools, whether to supplement a classroom-based course, or deliver one fully online or in a blended format.

The idea is eagerly embraced by a significant proportion of instructors, making Mount Royal a leader in the use of technology in the classroom.



MRC Students' Association President Jackie Chuckrey knows first hand the benefits of MRC's campus environment.

Getting involved in campus life

There are times when Jackie Chuckrey works 60 hours a week as President of the Students' Association of MRC (SAMRC).

She wouldn't trade it for anything. Now serving her second term as president and working toward her bachelor's degree in Applied Nonprofit Studies, Chuckrey says the position provides her with valuable decision-making and leadership skills, and opens doors to new worlds.

"Political networks, social, career — I'm exposed to the whole gamut," she says. She serves alongside "esteemed corporate Calgary leaders" on MRC's Board of Governors. And when she walks the MRC corridors, "I know most of the people. I would never have had that exposure and the networking opportunities if I hadn't served on the SAMRC," she says.

Chuckrey is just one example of how Mount Royal gives students the opportunity to learn and grow outside the classroom.

Whether developing leadership skills through the Student Ambassador or Residence Life programs, becoming a peer tutor, getting together with classmates after hours in one of many on-campus special-interest clubs or organizations, or working out at the fitness centre, students discover there's more to MRC than formal studies.

SUCCESS

Effective communities are built by knowledgeable, skilled, passionate people — the kind of people enrolled at Mount Royal today. By working collaboratively and responding to changing needs, Mount Royal extends its reach beyond each individual student to benefit all members of society. Contributing to a thriving, prosperous community.

COMMUNITY



MRC student Anup Patel volunteers in addition to his Applied Nonprofit Studies classes.

This innovative program combines operational planning, ethics, governance, program planning and evaluation, and other areas.

Building a community

Building our community is one of Mount Royal College's primary goals, and is a driving philosophy behind many programs.

In the Faculty of Health and Community Studies, for example, more than 2,000 full-time and many more part-time students are studying and participating in social work, nursing, justice studies, child studies and physical education, to name a few. These students choose careers in which they help others and, in doing so, help build a stronger community.

"Faculty, students and advisory committees in each of our programs make a concerted effort to connect with the community," says Associate Dean Chad London. "For example, in Physical Education, we teach business and entrepreneurship and sport management. Our grads go on to work for places like the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs."

Last February, the Faculty launched the Integrative Health Institute at Mount Royal, Canada's first post-secondary institute dedicated to facilitating student and public education and research into complementary and alternative health care.

With research showing that 60 to 70 per cent of Canadians are already exploring alternative therapies, and with very little evidence-based information from which they can make informed decisions, the Institute is closely related to the community, London says.

Another institute "first" is MRC's Institute for Nonprofit Studies, created in 2000 and home to Canada's only bachelor's degree in this vital and growing field.

"The degree gives students a solid understanding of how to manage a nonprofit organization," says Director Keith Seel of the innovative program that combines operational planning, ethics, governance, program planning and evaluation, and other areas.

"Our mandate is education and capacity-building," he says, noting that the nonprofit sector is Canada's fastest growing and is in great need of knowledgeable, skilled people. "We're engaged in practical and applied research to help answer the questions the nonprofit sector has about itself."

Students from all programs strengthen the MRC-community connection.

Anup Patel, for example, is a Bachelor of Applied Small Business and Entrepreneurship student and, for the past five years, a volunteer at the Ability Society of Alberta in its Friends program.

"Friends hooks people up together," he says. "It's like Big Brothers, but a little more involved."

Recently, Patel was paired with a woman who "had been through a pretty traumatic life — abused by everyone and anyone. It was suggested she write her life story to put it behind her." Patel's job was to help her with the writing — a project that ended up being life-changing for the woman.



MRC Instructor Roger Saint-Fort is helping Turner Valley deal with a complex environmental issue.

Lifelong learning

“Now that we’re in the knowledge economy, I truly believe there’s never been an era in which lifelong learning has been more important,” says Elaine Danelesko, Acting Dean of Continuing Education and Extension at Mount Royal.

Learning new skills increases the value of individuals to organizations and enhances their potential for advancement or new opportunities.

And the advantage to the organizations themselves is enormous: savings in labour costs; reduced duplication of effort; fewer mistakes and faster access to information; and increased employee skill and motivation that yield higher production and lower staff turnover.

Danelesko cites the recent example of an organization that received 99 per cent of its sizable performance bond by using a project developed in Mount Royal’s Project Management Certificate program.

Continuing Education and Extension serves about 36,000 students per year in offerings that include 35 certificate programs, 10 professional designation programs and six licensing programs — for a lifetime of learning.

Nurturing culture

For almost 100 years, the Mount Royal College Conservatory has touched lives by nurturing Calgary’s cultural community.

“A vibrant arts scene makes Calgary a better place to live,” says Sheldon Nadler, Manager of General and Orchestral Programs. “It attracts people to the city, brings people together and enriches lives.”

Anita Lisiecki agrees, saying that The Conservatory has indeed enriched her family life. For the past three years, her son Jan has been part of the Academy of Music, a program for gifted young musicians.

“Through the Academy, Jan finds endless inspiration from his peers and his teachers,” she says. “He has also had the chance to work with cultural icons like Jon Kimura Parker and Pinchas Zukerman.”

Lisiecki adds that, as an immigrant to Canada, it is easy to be isolated from the larger community, but her involvement with The Conservatory has broadened her social network. “It means friendship for the kids, but it’s also friendship for us adults.”

“I think we are only now beginning to realize the impact of the arts in terms of the wellness of individuals,” adds Hal Wyatt, Member of the Order of Canada and longtime supporter of The Conservatory.

“There are so many ways to experience the arts, and all of them have a beneficial effect on the soul.”

Protecting the environment

Roger Saint-Fort is committed to protecting the environment, even if it means delving into a complex and sometimes controversial situation.

The Bachelor of Applied Industrial Ecology instructor is lending his expertise to the Turner Valley Gas Plant Committee For A Safe Historic Site as a scientific advisor, reviewing previous environmental studies and making recommendations on what should be tested.

“It’s an opportunity to look at an environmental problem in practice,” says Saint-Fort, who has conducted previous environmental studies in Nanton and Crossfield, as well as for the Tsuu T’ina Nation.

“The Turner Valley Gas Plant situation is particularly complex because we’re dealing with a site where we might have a variety of contaminants, such as methyl mercury and hydrocarbons, and the nearby Sheep River may have been affected.

“Any time you have environmental issues coupled with health and social concerns, there are a lot of emotions involved.”

Saint-Fort adds, “[Mount Royal], as an institution, wants the community to realize that we’re here to provide scientific support.”

Besides his scientific knowledge, Saint-Fort also offers the committee his objective opinion.

“He always keeps the big picture in mind,” says committee spokesperson Roxanne Walsh. “His focus has been on building a relationship with the Alberta government.”



Student Jan Lisiecki finds inspiration at the MRC Conservatory.



(L-R) Jean Merriman, Executive Vice President, White Iron, Gail Hinchliffe, President United Active Living Inc., Dianne McDermid, Program Coordinator, Gerontology Programs, Faculty of Health and Community Studies, Mount Royal, and Carla Bridgewater, Producer, Sherana Productions, helped the television series become reality.

A new look at aging

Mount Royal College is helping Canadians take a new look at aging — and become healthy older adults.

MRC's Gerontology programs worked with White Iron Pictures to spearhead A New Look at Aging, an innovative six-part documentary series that proved so popular it is airing nationally for the third time on both ACCESS The Education Station and the Canadian Learning Channel.

The series explores the myths, misconceptions and fears about aging by weaving together poignant and highly informative interviews with gerontology experts, older adults and their family members or caregivers, many of whom are Calgarians.

"Mount Royal is a leader in gerontology and aging studies," says Brenda Hendrickson, Dean of Health and Community Studies. "This series demonstrates leadership in an area that will become increasingly significant over the next few decades."

The series is part of the curriculum for students in MRC's Gerontology certificate programs and is also available to the public on DVD.

98 per cent of Mount Royal grads polled in the most recent graduate follow-up survey were satisfied with the quality of their education.

MEASURING UP

Solid return on public investment

A comprehensive study by the Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institutes in 2002 confirmed a Mount Royal education is a good investment for students and taxpayers alike.

Mount Royal graduates earn a 15.9 per cent return on investment and recover all costs, including wages foregone while attending Mount Royal, within 8.9 years. On average, a graduate will earn an additional \$2,620 per year for each year of full-time study at Mount Royal.

For all Albertans, grants to MRC will be fully recovered in six years, because grads who earn more also pay more taxes.

Meeting top standards

Measured against the results of a recent survey of 39 Canadian universities, Mount Royal ranks No. 1 in seven of nine top categories, including quality of education, variety and availability of courses, and on-campus facilities.

Delivering what students want

An Ipsos Reid poll conducted in 2005 confirmed that Mount Royal's programs and services align with student and community need. Mount Royal scored in the 80th percentile or higher for:

- excellent instructors
- high quality programs and services
- ensuring students graduate with credentials employers want
- developing intellectual qualities
- state-of-the-art equipment and facilities
- good value for investment





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