President’s Message

Guest Lecture for Strategic Human Resource Management - HRES 5101

For the second time, I was invited by one of our faculty colleagues, Christian Cook PhD, to visit and present our Association to her students who are enrolled in the Strategic Human Resource Management course this Fall. I had the opportunity to present our Association and then there was a chance for Q & A.

I believe that opportunities such as these are extremely valuable as we (in the Association) show-case our Association to our students; these opportunities prompt, bring a greater awareness and understanding about our Association and it enriches the learning experience and complement the classroom. Students are introduced to various topics and some of them revolve around associations; the relationship between employers and employees and how these relationships are established and sustained.

It was a huge privilege and an honor to present our Association to the HRES 5101 class; for me, these opportunities make coming to work more rewarding. It is a higher calling as these people enrich their lives with knowledge as they move on to achieve their personal and professional goals in life.

I would like to thank Christian Cook PhD for providing us with the opportunity.

-Baset Zarrug
Meet your MRSA Executive 2016-2017

Left to Right…

Cheryl Melatdoost-Vice-President
Charissa Hovdebo-Director at Large
Rusty Martel-Board of Governors Representative
Judith Tarko-Director at Large
Kirsten Garcia-Director at Large
Balreen Sahota-Director at Large
Baset Zarrug-President
J’Nan Sturgis-Treasurer
Karen Hiebert-Vice-President
Nadine Conklin-Director at Large
Christine Pepper-Executive Assistant

(Not pictured above) Rachelle McGrath and Cyndi Cave - both Directors at Large.

Stayed tuned for individual introductions in upcoming months.

MRSA Executive Vacancy

The MRSA Executive would like to announce an opening on the Board.

If you are looking to get involved and would like to enrich your MRU experience, please consider the role of Director at Large (2016-17).

A Director at Large is fully informed on matters of the MRSA, and participates as a member of the Executive Board in the deliberation and decision-making process concerning such items as policy, finance, and advocacy.

All staff were sent an email last week outlining the application process.

If you would like more information, please contact our Executive Assistant, Christine Pepper at 403.440.5993 cpepper@mtroyal.ca.

Nomination deadline: Oct 14 at 4:30 p.m.

MRSA/ NASA/ MSA…. 

These are very powerful initials... Let me introduce you to:

MRSA-Mount Royal Staff Association-approx. 680 members
NASA-Non-Academic Staff Association of University of Alberta in Edmonton-approx. 6500 members

MSA-MacEwan Staff Association of MacEwan University in Edmonton-approx. 650 members

In July of this year, your Executive met with both NASA and MSA in Red Deer to discuss common goals and interests. It was a very productive meeting and all parties look forward to sharing perspectives, best practices and lessons learned in future meetings.

The MRU Coalition Committee

The MRU Coalition Committee met with Mr. Bob Hawkesworth on Wednesday, Sept. 21st in his office. Mr. Hawkesworth is the executive director of Premier Rachel Notley’s southern Alberta office; he is running the McDougall Centre.

Members of the Coalition Committee:
MRSA (Kirsten Garcia & President Baset Zarrug)
MRFA (President Marc Schroeder & Roberta Lexier )
SAMRU (Robbie Nelson & President Shifrah Gadamsetti)

Coalition Committee members had the opportunity to raise some of the Post Secondary Education (PSE) challenges within the province; some of the challenges we face are directly related to sufficient, predictable and long term funding; the Committee members emphasized the importance in investing in PSE as long term investment for the city, the province, and the country in order to compete in the global economy that requires knowledge-based skills. Also, the Committee had the opportunity to engage in a dialogue about transferring MRU and MacEwan University from Part II to Part I of the Post-Secondary Learning Act. All committee members were impressed by his attention to understand the challenges facing the PSE system. In addition, Mr. Hawkesworth talked about the financial challenges that the province is currently facing due to low commodity prices.
The Committee was appreciative, grateful and thankful that Mr. Hawkesworth was able to make time for us.

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month (CSAM)

CSAM is a joint effort by government and business leaders across Canada, the USA, the UK, Australia and New Zealand to increase knowledge and practice of on-line safety to combat cyber crime. In recognition of CSAM, MRU Information and Technology Services is offering staff and faculty the opportunity to win a Dell Chromebook or a GoPro Hero while learning how to protect themselves from cyber crime.

Staff are invited to join ITS in the staff lounge annex (W305A) on Oct. 6 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Chad’s Farewell Gift

As many colleagues know, Chad London accepted a position as a Dean at the University of Saskatchewan earlier this year. He can still be found at MRU playing soccer at noon on the occasional Tuesday and Friday as he awaits his big move later this month.

Chad was a great institutional leader who had the opportunity to lead many staff members in his faculty. As a token of appreciation, the MRSA presented Chad with a plaque to express our gratitude and appreciation for his leadership capacity, and the organizational relationships that he fostered with staff over the years.

We wish Chad the very best as he embarks on a new journey, and selfishly hope to see him back at MRU again some day!

Fall Convocation 2016
Celebrate the accomplishments of our MRU graduates at the ceremony on November 4.

Informal chat with MRU President - October 21
Join us for coffee and conversation at this month’s informal meeting with the presidents. Catch up with MRU President, David Docherty and MRSA President, Baset Zarrug on Friday, October 21 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. in the MRSA Staff Lounge (W305).
Hope to see you there! Coffee, water and treats supplied.

December teaser!!!

Karen’s Korner

Well, once again a food dilemma…Thanksgiving…turkey or something else? It is tougher this year as I now have a daughter-in-law. This year her folks are doing a big family turkey celebration in the aft on the Sunday which left Sat or Mon for me. By default, we agreed on the Sat to share our time together, this ensures time to relax over the remaining weekend for me. Now…the food dilemma-turkey, ham, roast, pork loin? Those were my first thoughts; I definitely didn't want the kids to have to eat 2 turkey dinners in 2 days (although they generously said they would). So now, fewer choices made easier as my son said he now likes ham (although as a child he did not. ....is he just being nice or does he really like ham ?) He is a big boy now so I decide to believe him. Aha, choice made. Or was it? Turns out there are many types of ham. Which one to buy? How big to feed 7 of us...(12 invited; 5 got back to me. Jeepers people...the answer is yes or no! There is planning going on here!) For those who don’t know me, you may have now figured out I am NOT an entertainer and get stressed out majorly when attempting a yummy get- together. (I am FAR better than I used to be strictly due to my good friend Ciana -who had the indecency to move to another city and province just over 1 year ago!) But I digress. Just when I thought I knew what to buy, my friend tells me about an amazing spiral ham she had one year. Huh? I had ignored those hams as I had no
idea of what they really were. But guess what, I now have one tucked away in my downstairs fridge for the big event! Planning on simplicity is the key for me. How hard can it be? Heat up a ham, make some scalloped potatoes and sliced carrots (diagonally of course for best presentation) cooked in brown sugar. Add in a yummy appy from my son and his wife, a nice glass of wine and ta-da...a time of celebrating with family and friends. We are not big on desserts but it never hurts to have backup Breyers French Vanilla Ice Cream! You just KNOW I am NOT baking a pie! (That is not to say I can’t, I have been known to make incredibly good flaky crust, but that was way too many years ago when I used to bake regularly.) I am just so incredibly excited to see extended family from as far away as North Calgary (yup-takes ½ hour to travel across our great city!) and even 2 flying all the way here to visit from Brazil! It will be a special time this weekend and it will all go (sort of) to plan...meaning that no matter what may go wrong- all will be OK because some of us are together once again. For that, I am very thankful. I am very blessed indeed.

Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving, may you all be blessed in some special way whether it be with family, friends or just a quiet time of thankfulness for what our amazing world has to offer us.

-Karen Hiebert

Just a friendly reminder to check your myMRU Events Calendar (Home tab) frequently for upcoming MRU events, courses and workshops.

National Depression Screening Week
Date: Oct. 3-9
Posted online at this site during the week of Oct. 3
Raising awareness through a short, anonymous and free-online screening test.

Alumni Achievement Awards - A Royal Night
Date: Wed., Oct. 5
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Bella Concert Hall in the Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts
Celebrate alumni leaders and enjoy music, dance and inspiration. Buy tickets here. Early bird prizes.

Music to Your Ears: 2016/2017 Concert Season
Did you know that there are MANY amazing shows this inaugural season? Far too many to list, but all can be found via http://tickets.mru.ca

MRU Flu Clinics
Date: Oct. 24-28
Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily including weekends
Location: Wellness Centre (U216A)
Free seasonal flu shots for employees and students. Required... your provincial healthcare care or Guard Me card.
MRU Open House
Date: Sat., Oct. 29
Time: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
The Roderick Mah Centre for Continuous Learning
Free parking available in the East Gate Parkade
Potential students check out programs, take tours and get information for financial planning. More info.