

## MRSAY! Newsletter November 2017 EDITION

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MRU General info and events

*Be sure to check the MRSA Events Google calendar often to stay informed about the various events and activities taking place on campus.*

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### President's Message:

On October 24 and November 9, we held two open sessions to dialogue about an increase to our dues. These two sessions turned out to be uncomfortable and were not easy for anyone. The public platform is not always conducive for many of us to speak out and present ideas among our colleagues. It was a forgone opportunity which many (or all) of us could have capitalized on. I have learned and I have taken away that we are all privileged to live in a democratic country; that we work at an institution that fosters academic freedom and freedom of expression. Fostering and nurturing dialogue is at the core of our institution. We should feel proud and honored to be part of this process; it's the essence of living in a country and working at a university like ours.

Attending our Association meetings has never been more important than it is now and will be into the future. Participating in these meetings is absolutely paramount as the provincial landscape changes; your attendance at our Association meetings shows your leadership. I encourage each and every member to participate in the MRSA whenever the opportunity presents itself....as it does next Wednesday at our AGM.

Baset Zarrug

### Annual General Meeting-Wednesday, November 22 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

A reminder of our AGM taking place next week in Lincoln Park Room J301 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. By contract, our members are granted time off with pay to attend this meeting ...subject to the operational needs of the University. All staff are encouraged to attend this AGM where our auditor will be presenting our 2016-17 financial statements.

Staff will be sent the MRSA financial statements ahead of time via email. There will not be copies available at the meeting, but they will be shown on the overhead screen.

## Collective Bargaining in Alberta...did you know?

Over 400 collective bargaining agreements expired this year in Alberta. Here are some articles and information to keep you informed on the negotiation process across our province:

[Ministry of Labour: Bargaining Updates](#)  
[University of Calgary Faculty Association](#)  
[SAIT Academic Faculty Association](#)

## New Employee Orientation: Feb 22 12-1 p.m. Register Below!

Do you have any new employees in your area within the last year? If so, notify them of this New Employee Orientation that they should attend.

The Mount Royal Staff Association (MRSA) is looking to connect with new employees. If you have started at MRU in last six months to a year and are looking to learn more about the Mount Royal Staff Association, then this orientation session is for you! Learn about MRSA, the approximately 670 members, the structure, benefits and how you can get involved!

Please join us for a short 25 minute presentation followed by Q & A, coffee and cookies on October 26th from 11:30am -12:30pm. Register [here](#) to attend. Looking forward to meeting you soon.

## MRSA 1st Annual Halloween Costume Contest: October 31....winners info

1st place (with 15.8% of the votes): Madame Butterfly, Cheryl Melatdoost (\$25 Subway gift card)

2nd place (with 12% of the votes): Wonder Woman, Maureen Lewis (\$15 Subway gift card)



and . . . tied for third place is . . .

3rd place (with 8.8 percent of the votes): Spice Girls: Miriam Fabijan, Amanda Priddy-Bowron, Holly Wall, Chelsea Rule, Jennifer Brading (\$10 Subway gift card)

3rd place (with 8.8 percent of the votes): Modern Day Snow White: Courtney Montgomery (\$10 gift card)



Please stop by the MRSA Office if you have yet to pick up your prize!

A special thanks to all the contestants for participating, and to the MRSA Social Committee for hosting a spooktacular event!

**GingerBread House decorating contest...December 4 12:05-1 p.m.**



2016 Winner!

Ooohhh the excitement is ramping up in MRU!!! We have 24 Teams this year in our 2nd Annual Gingerbread House decorating contest. Deadline for entry has now passed, so come check out our event this year to see what YOU would do next year. It is a time to cheer on your colleagues as they bring their creativity to the table. New this year is ....the only item the same for each team will be the Gingerbread House. We are very excited to see what our 24 Teams have in store for us! Come on over the the Recreation Concourse (by the Cougar at the track level) at noon to be part of this fun event. We will have cookies available for decorating (and eating!) as well as a ballot box for your votes. At 1 pm the Teams will carefully move their masterpieces to the MRSA Staff Lounge where voting will continue until 4:30 p.m. The winners will be announced on Tuesday, Dec. 5. Prizes for the top 3 Teams with the winner having the honour of holding the trophy for the next year!

### **SAMRU Season of Caring**

What an incredible legacy the Student Association is doing with their 30th Annual event! This event is a way for all of us to give a helping hand to a struggling student (some with families) through the holiday season. There are a few ways you can help...donate via their food hamper program and/or donate cash.

Sponsor an individual or a whole family. Visit <http://www.samru.ca/event/season-of-caring/?ri=15> for more information.

### **Coffee with the Presidents: December 13 10-11 a.m.**

Join us for our second informal meeting of the new academic year with MRU President David Docherty on December 13 from 10-11 a.m. in the staff lounge (W305).

Bring your colleagues along and catch up with the president after the summer break.

Coffee and treats provided.

We hope to see you there!

### **Karen's Korner**

#### Tradition

When I think of "tradition" my mind immediately races to a fabulous movie I can't get enough of...that of course is the 1971 movie "Fiddler on the Roof". One can only get goosebumps when Tevye sings "Tradition" with all his heart, as he struggles to cope with the changes occurring in his personal life and the horrific changes his beloved Russia is undergoing.

To quote Wikipedea" "Tevye, a poor Jewish milkman with five daughters, explains the customs of the Jews in the Russian shtetl of Anatevka in 1905, where their lives are as precarious as the perch of a fiddle on a roof." (A shtetl was a small town with a very large Jewish population.)

Traditions are made by each of us...customs we pass down from generation to generation. Amazing to think that something you are doing right now with your family could possibly live on for hundreds of years. Traditions aren't typically written down, these are word of mouth customs passed on by ones affected positively by the event.

When I was a little girl our family began the tradition of watching "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" each year, and this was a permanent staple of my son's life growing up too. I know my boys (OK..men!) still enjoy the movie and my youngest son usually makes a point of watching it with me when he is in town at Christmas. So, really tradition is the carrying on of a "feel good time"...for me a continuation of a special time as a little girl.

As we head into the holiday season let us all enjoy some of the traditions that surround us, and maybe even start a new one!

Cheers

Karen Hiebert



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

### **Recreation Registration**

## **Employee Development Opportunities**

Check the "Employee Training Calendar" on [myMRU](#) for upcoming training sessions. Dates are quickly approaching, be sure to register to reserve your spot!

## **Recreation Registration**

Find your fit. Registration for Recreation's fall activities is now available [online](#)! Need a refresher on how to find your favourite activity? Check out Rec's [how-to video series](#).

## **MRU Multi-Artisans' Craft Show**

This year it will be held on November 30 & December 1 during the usual hours (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)

## **Phishing Training being Implemented Campus Wide**

As part of our continued efforts to protect the Mount Royal University faculty and staff from phishing attacks, IT Services is implementing campus wide phishing training.

At random times throughout the year a fake phishing email will be sent out to various Mount Royal faculty and staff members. If you click on a link or open an attachment in this email you will be sent to a page that shows you how to identify phishing emails in the future. Repeated clicking will result in additional training. Please visit the [Dealing with Phishing](#) Emails page on the [IT Security](#) website for more details.