

THE FAX

MHC FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



“This fire that we call Loving is too strong for human minds. But just right for human souls.”

- Aberjhani



FACULTY ASSOCIATION
of Medicine Hat College

February 2019

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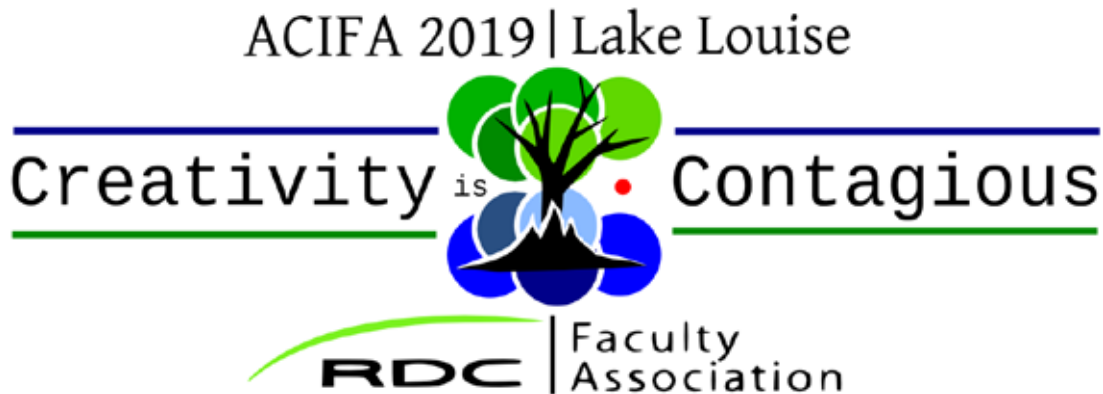
february



ACIFA Conference

April 29-30, 2019

Creativity is Contagious (Catch it here!)



Won't you join your ACIFA colleagues for the 2019 ACIFA Conference held in beautiful Lake Louise, April 28th to 30th? This three-day conference highlights educational and motivational workshops by college instructors and learning professionals who face the same encounters, challenges, and rewards of instructing at a Post-Secondary level.

Enjoy the beauty and charm of picturesque Lake Louise and the superb food and accommodations of Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. Red Deer College,

this year's hosting institution, has chosen the 2019 theme to be, 'Creativity is Contagious.' Brian Keating, a former Hatter, will be the keynote speaker. Much scheduling and planning has gone into this conference to ensure your satisfaction on every level: social, professional, and intellectual.

If you have never attended before, won't you consider this conference an optimal professional development opportunity? The Faculty Association, as well as the FA Professional Development Committee, have designated

\$15,000.00 to assist faculty in attending the ACIFA Conference. These funds will be distributed among faculty attendees. If you would like to attend, please contact facultyassoc@mhc.ab.ca to ensure your name is on our attendee listing. The deadline to confirm is Thursday, February 28th. Check out the ACIFAConference website. Delegates need to reserve rooms directly with the hotel. Be sure to mention 'ACIFA' to qualify for the noted group rates.





NOMINATIONS FOR 2019/2020 FACULTY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

Although nominations will be accepted at the Annual General Meeting, on Thursday April 11^h, we would appreciate receiving nominations in the Faculty Association office on or before March 29, 2019. **This greatly facilitates the elections at the AGM!** The signature of the person being nominated is required. If you have any questions regarding the duties of any of these positions, please contact the FA office (3616).

Our bylaws outline the following positions and committees.

OFFICERS

Name (please print)

Vice-President

Vacancy **Electing for a two-year term**

Vice-President - The Vice-President shall assist the President and shall carry out duties of the President during the absence of the latter. The Vice-President shall also perform such duties as the President sees fit and shall be empowered to countersign cheques. The Vice-President shall also serve as Chair of the Professional Development Committee and the Faculty Evaluation Committee. (Bylaws)

Secretary

Vacancy **Electing for a two-year term**

Secretary - The Secretary shall be responsible for the Faculty Association newsletter. The Secretary shall also perform such duties as the President sees fit and shall be empowered to countersign cheques.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Negotiations Chair _____

Vacancy. **Electing for a two-year term**

Runs coterminous with the contract.

Negotiations Chair Responsibilities From the FA Roles & Responsibilities Handbook

Chair Negotiations Advisory Committee

- *Negotiations and Bargaining*
- *ACIFA Executive Council (NAC)*
- *F.A. Grievances/complaints*
- *Liaison with AUPE (benefits)*
- *Liaison with Human Resources, College Executive*
- *Workload Review*
- *Source person for contract*
- *Source person for Labour Lawyer*
- *Source person for Redundancies*
- *Educate F.A.*

Brooks Rep _____

Vacancy. **Electing for a one year term.**

Kate Squires is willing to let her name stand.

The Brooks Representative shall be nominated by the faculty at Brooks campus and shall be elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

The Following Committees are elected annually at the AGM. Won't you consider letting your name stand?

- The Social Committee
- The Bylaws Committee
- Health & Safety Committee
- MHC Children's Christmas Party Planning Committee
- Fall Faculty Social Planning Committee



*Jason Openo
Manager,
Teaching & Learning*

Innovations in Assessment

There are so many dimensions to the mysterious process of teaching and learning that I like to choose an annual theme to concentrate on. Past themes have been blended, active, and experiential learning. Last year's conference theme focused on critical thinking. CITE's focus for 2019 is on *assessment of student learning* and the new approaches that faculty may be experimenting with and employing in their courses. This theme emerged out of a conversation at last year's teaching and learning symposium between two faculty members, from different disciplines, who were integrating visual assessments (infographics and poster presentations) to create student engagement. Unbeknownst to one another, these two faculty were moving in the same direction to create more real-world assignments that might better demonstrate student learning. This is a local manifestation of a larger conversation.

At the Global Online Learning Summit in October, I heard Stephen Murgatroyd (Chief Innovation Officer at Contact North) proclaim, "Assessment is the new black." Assessment is fashionable, and a lot of people are starting at the runway of assessment for very different reasons. The

first reason is the influence of technology and what it enables (both negatively and positively). The pressure points and opportunities to engage in academic misconduct have contributed to a consistent rise in contract cheating and have forced colleges and universities to engage in a technological arms race with students to prevent more sophisticated incidents of academic misconduct. There are now thriving online businesses for students to purchase term papers, pay someone to take a test, do their homework, or access an "editor-for-hire." (Bowman, 2017; Gallant, 2019). Many of these companies market directly to international students (Katkins, 2018). More sophisticated methods of academic misconduct are most prevalent for the two most traditional forms of student assessment – the term paper and the exam – and to combat them, Medicine Hat College now subscribes to the Respondus lockdown browser and has renovated rooms with surveillance cameras to prevent cheating. This is the negative motivation for change, and to change the nature of the game, faculty are rethinking their assessment practices. The positive motivation to rethink assessment practice arises from the desire to be confident that students have actually ac-

quired the knowledge, skills, and abilities claimed. Instructors care about their practice and their professions, and they want (perhaps need) to know that students are acquiring stated competencies throughout the course of their education. This isn't just about formal quality assurance (accreditation); part of education is minimizing the risk

**There are
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that incompetence could play in seriously jeopardizing human safety, particularly in the cases of health-care workers, medical practitioners, or engineers (Katkins, 2018). Because faculty care about their students and their



*Jason Openo
Manager,
Teaching & Learning*

Teaching & Learning

professions, faculty care about quality, and the quality of student work is often the best indicator of the quality of student learning. This is a short explanation why this year's symposium will explore Innovations & Challenges in Student Assessment. It is a broad theme that touches every instructor's practice. Assessment is also some of the hardest work

of teaching. For many instructors, it is a necessary evil; it is grueling, time-consuming, and it can feel subjective. When faculty deal with incidents of plagiarism and academic misconduct, the emotional toll can be tremendous. And yet, creating new approaches is not easy. This year's symposium invites presentations on the difficulties and solutions

faculty are exploring to improve their assessment practice. What are you struggling with? What are you doing to enhance your practice? Hopefully, this theme will resonate with everyone. Please respond to the call for proposals!

THE FAX

MHC FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT ISSUE:

First week of April 2019

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Faculty Association of Medicine Hat College or its Committee members.



Mental Health First Aid Course

Free for Faculty & Staff

Do you ever feel like you don't know how to respond when someone is in distress? Do you wish you could have a better idea of mental disorders and illnesses? Wish you could do more to eliminate the stigma around mental health? Then come take a Mental Health First Aid Course! Mental Health First Aid is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. See <https://www.mhfa.ca/> for more information.

Mental Health First Aid Course

Dates:

February 5th, 7th, 26th and 28th from 4:30 - 8:00 pm

Facilitator: Tobi Ceh, R Psych, Manager of Mental Health and Counseling at MHC.

Contact Tobi to register: 403-529-4864 or tceh@mhc.ab.ca



Janice
Kirchner,
F.A. President

A Message from your FA President

February is associated with cinnamon hearts, flowers, chocolate, and love or romance. It is the month in which we celebrate both Valentine's Day and Family Day (in Alberta, anyway). When we look at St. Valentine's history, we realize the day was not named after him because of love, but his last written words before being beaten, stoned and finally decapitated because of his stand for Christian marriage: "from your Valentine." In 1990, Premier Don Getty declared the third Monday of the month to be Family Day – a

statutory holiday – so Albertans could spend time with their families. Though he did not

face the same fate as Valentine, he faced much criticism from employers who would need to pay the employees for this day. It was not until 2007 that Saskatchewan adopted this day as well, with others to follow. Regardless of the significance of either of these days on you, each of us has an impact on those around us, and our actions are affected by events in our lives. This month – and throughout the semester – let us reflect on the value of friendship – or *colleagueship*.

A little
consideration,
a little thought for others,
makes all the difference.
-Eeyore

Liberal Education Conference 2019

Liberal Education in the Age of Automation
Calgary, Alberta
May 16-18, 2019

We seek abstracts for high quality papers on the conference's theme, some of the questions we have suggested (see poster), and any topic related to "liberal education in the age of automation".

Please prepare your abstract of no longer than 300 words for blind-review by February 22, 2019. Send your abstracts, suitable for blind-review, to

both Karim Dharamsi (kdharamsi@mtroyal.ca) and David Clemis (dclemis@mtroyal.ca). Decisions will be announced by March 1, 2019. Please include a separate cover page with:

- the title of your paper or panel
- name of presenter(s) or panelists
- institutional affiliation (if any)
- contact details.

Please send documents in PDF or Word format.

[Click here to open the poster for further information.](#)



Long Night Against Procrastination

February 13, 2019

Submitted by Juanita Whalen

Please join us for LNAP on February 13th

The Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP) is an event designed to promote access to a wide variety of support services on campus that can help students succeed at MHC. This event is always very well-received by students and they enjoy having faculty involved.

We are looking for a few faculty members to help us share study tips with students (all info provided—you just need to show up), or to host office hours for part of the evening if it would be suitable for your students and the timing of their assignments.

If you are unable to volunteer your time and skills on the night of LNAP you can help us advertise the event by

sharing information in your classes! We have a slide you can pop directly into your Powerpoint so it's easy to share.

To get involved or to get a copy of the slide, please contact Juanita (jwhalen@mhc.ab.ca). Thanks!



34th Annual National GREAT TEACHERS

Seminar in the Canadian Rockies

June 2-6, 2019
BANFF, ALBERTA



Now in its 34th year, the National Great Teachers Seminar is a four-day, intensive retreat for post-secondary educators representing a wide range of subject areas and teaching experience. Rooted in the philosophy that one of the most powerful forms of professional development occurs when faculty members learn from one another, this seminar offers an unparalleled opportunity to grow as a teacher and learner.

Seminar participants engage in a learning process of shared information and experiences, self-reflection, and action planning as they explore together a variety of teaching strategies, innovations, instructional challenges, and solutions. The format of the seminar is minimally structured and evolves based on ongoing assessments of the participants' needs.

The theme underlying all seminar activities is the quest to identify the nature of "The Great Teacher." As in any quest, those on the journey learn much about themselves along the way. This seminar is not meant to be a "reward" for accomplished teachers, nor is it limited to the already "great." It is designed especially for those teachers striving to be great.

The National Great Teachers Seminar is led by a team of experienced faculty who stay true to the model created by David Gottshall, the founder of the Great Teachers' Seminars.

REGISTER NOW TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!

For more information or to register, visit
<http://www.cvent.com/d/vbq2bs>

The National Great Teachers Seminar is hosted by MacEwan University's Office of Teaching and Learning Services..



International Resource Room

At MHC we are proud of our International student population which provide their unique experiences, culture, and a wealth of creativity in each classroom.

In order to assist all International students who may find language barriers challenging, MHC has resolved to provide resources to assist International students achieve their potential. The International Resource Room provides language supports to International students enrolled in college programming. This service is available to the International Students from Monday to Friday from 10a.m. to 3p.m in Rm B368. Please contact Shalla Shaharyar (sshaharyar@mhc.ab.ca) or Shauntelle Broeckert (sbroeckert@mhc.ab.ca) for more information.

Faculty, Did you know...

Additionally, both Shauntelle, and Shalla would be happy to approach and encourage students who you feel would benefit from these resources. Please feel free to contact them.

TUTORING FOR: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

GET HELP UNDERSTANDING INSTRUCTIONS & ASSIGNMENTS
LEARN HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR PAPER AND ORGANIZE YOUR THOUGHTS
UNDERSTAND APA & MLA FORMATTING

WHEN: Monday - Friday | 10AM to 3PM

WHERE: International Resource Room B368 (*third floor above the library*)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Shauntelle Broeckert
sbroeckert@mhc.ab.ca
403.525.2670

Shalla Shaharyar
sshaharyar@mhc.ab.ca
403.504.3622



MEDICINE HAT
COLLEGE

MHC.AB.CA

You deserve a treat today....

Come to the

Valentine's Day Recess

Come 'n Go



Thursday, February 14th

3:00 in the Crowfoot

Open to all MHC Faculty & Staff!

Come out to mix & mingle

Complimentary Valentine's Day

Cookies & Chocolates

Hosted by the Faculty Association

Social Committee

Soft Drinks, Coffee, Tea - Free Alcohol - \$2.00 Each



FREE Irish Stew & Biscuits!

Everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day



St. Patrick's Day Faculty Luncheon

Friday, March 15, 2019

12:00 in the Crowfoot Room

Please RSVP to facultyassoc@mhc.ab.ca or call 504-3616 by March 12th.

This event is sponsored by the FA Social Committee.





Or: How I feel about Valentines Day

Thanks to all who responded to our Valentine's Day survey. All submitters received a \$10.00 Crave gift card. Here's what you thought....

- I am not really a fan of any of the big holidays. But now that I have kids, I find myself celebrating for them. It is fun writing out cards for all of their school friends and decorating heart shaped cookies to share. My kids make me a better person! - Jody MacKenzie
- I love (ha ha!) Valentine's Day! I don't think it is possible to tell or show your partner how much you love them too often - even if you do it every day....
Also, any chocolate - based celebration is absolutely my favourite. - Jo-Anne Reynolds
- I'm of the mindset that we should share love 365 days a year. That being said though, I do really appreciate the 50% off Valentine's chocolates on February 15th. - Jade Kent
- I love all the holidays as it seems people are less grumpy and more joyful on holidays! Any excuse for chocolates and flowers is fine by me. - Kristina Segall
- **How I feel about Valentine's Day**
Mark Kaethler

Boxing Day sales next to non-heart shaped
heart-shaped boxes
glowing red checkmark
me off list of annual gifts to buy
managing to weigh
bleeding hearts in \$\$\$;
tally your years together in bigger, better things.
We're so hyperbolic, apathetic, pathetic;
We're so algorithmic, capitalistic, numeric:
emotionally lethargic.
Wake up and get coffee speak write love each day rather
than buy it once in a blue moon shaped like a tax
return.

Calling All Faculty

The FA Professional Development Committee is interested in promoting your teaching & learning endeavors by featuring your research, or development of helpful and insightful learning tools for your classroom. We would like to highlight your information as a poster and feature all poster projects for a display as part of the Faculty Association's Professional Development Day on April 11, 2019.

Have you or a colleague you know, participated in dynamic, creative teaching methods? Are you involved in ongoing research? Would you be interested in sharing your reports for the benefit of all faculty?

Please contact Monika in the FA office at **facultyassoc@mhc.ab.ca** to be included in our Poster Project activity. Deadline is March 29, 2019.



SUDOKU

Complete and submit to FAX Editor, Vivian Archibald, for a chance to win **two \$10.00 MHC Bookstore gift cards**. All correct entries will be included in a draw. Draw date is February 6th, at 12:00 noon.

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		7	5					



February 2019