

the connection



Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia



Three Years Later, The Mount's Co-op Education Program Is Still Growing

Three and a half years down the road, the Mount's Co-operative Education Program is alive and well with no less than 120 participating employers and, as of last August, 338 student placements in five different disciplines since the program began in 1980.

It is by far the largest co-op program in the Maritime Provinces and continues to grow.

The rationale behind co-operative education is that it gives students an opportunity to go into a working environment, off campus, as part of their university training. This "real life" experience often helps them to decide what career they would like to follow, and also gives them job experience which can be invaluable once they leave university to seek employment.

Ivan Blake, director of the co-op program, says, "The success of the program is entirely dependent on the attitude of faculty. If the faculty is enthusiastic, then the students will be, too. But if faculty doesn't respond to the idea, then neither do the students."

Jon White, co-ordinator of the Mount's Public Relations degree program, is one of those who are wholly supportive of the co-op program. Public relations students, he says, are very positive about it. "It's the nature of public relations practice that work in the field balances the theory, and the co-op program achieves this balance."

Jody Green Sokoloski, who graduated from the Mount with a BPR in 1982, thinks the co-op work terms should be mandatory.

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Women Face the Future in March

The Honourable Judy Erola, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, will be the guest speaker at an International Women's Day Rally to be held at the Mount on Thursday, March 8.

Organized by the Mount's Student Union, activities related to women's issues will take place from Monday, March 5, through March 8 under the overall theme "Women Face the Future".

Co-ordinator Leslie Macdonald says that each day will have its own special theme—Monday: Women in the Work Force; Tuesday: Nuclear Disarmament; Wednesday: Women and Violence; and on Thursday the rally; with speakers, films, entertainment and music each day in several locations on campus.

A special panel discussion on "Women Face the Future" will take place at Seton Academic Centre on the Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. followed by a reception.

Other local universities have all been invited to take part in what promises to be an exciting and thought-provoking week.

More details on the various activities will be published in the next issue of the Connection.

BE THERE

Mount Saint Vincent University will appear before the Royal Commission on Post-Secondary Education,

February 3, 1984

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Provincial Archives Building, University Avenue, Halifax.

alumnae update

The second annual alumnae-athletics challenge, when the ever-intrepid alumnae squad tested the endurance (not to mention the good nature) of the varsity volleyball and badminton Mystics, was held recently in Rosaria Centre.

Co-sponsored by the alumnae association and the Athletics Department, the evening's activities were kicked off with the demanding challenge of blowing up four dozen balloons which serve as alumnae cheerleading accessories.

However, thanks to the Volleyball Mystics the first challenge of the evening was met, and alumnae cheerleaders appeared—composed, resplendent and intact, anxiously awaiting the onset of the fray.

Alumnae squad captain, Noreen Richard '83 diplomatically wheedled her way into the good graces of referee June Lumsden, gaining first serve and choice of court for the alumnae team, undaunted by the refusal of her request for five hits instead of the usual three for the alumnae.

The game began in earnest when the alumnae team, steeled for action, deftly avoided any heavy net-action and gained several points on (ahem!) "well-placed" serves. There was, admittedly, some question among the Mystics regarding the referee's need for eyeglasses when determining which serves were "in" and/or "out". Cathy MacPhee '83 wowed both spectators and participants alike with the overwhelming enthusiasm of her mighty underhand (that is not to say underhanded) passes. Way to go Pheelie!

Just as alumnae spirits began to sag momentarily (you'd have to be on the receiving end of some of the Mystics' serves to sympathize wholeheartedly . . .), Dr. Margaret Fulton (alumnae's secret weapon) arrived to save the day with her powerhouse serves and unflagging enthusiasm—ah! that invincible prairie pioneer spirit!

The rest is history. The alumnae team, bloody but unbowed were only narrowly defeated by the varsity squad. Actually, some special thanks should go to the referee—charming, discreet creature that she is! Alumnae ultimately did make up for any lack of prowess on the court by being the first to the bar during the refreshment period that followed.

The first-ever badminton Mystics-alumnae encounter saw one on one action of such intensity that many participants were compelled to pass up pizza (now that's a real first!) in order to carry on the battle long after the majority had stampeded to the PUB for refreshments.

Special thanks were offered to the Volleyball and Badminton Mystics and to the Athletics Department for providing another fun-filled challenge, along with the perennial alumnae warning of "Look out for next year! We'll really give you a run for it in '85!"



The second annual alumnae-athletics challenge—and, oh, what a challenge it was!

Writing the End

The Mount's English Department will be offering a special seminar beginning September 1984, on the subject of "Writing the End."

Dr. Peter Schwenger, who will be conducting the course, says it deals with the fundamental human preoccupation of the holocaust.

The first half of this seminar will include what he calls "apocalyptic literature" such as the writings of St. John, The Book of Revelations, John Donne, William Blake, Mary Shelley, and many others down to the work of Edgar Allan Poe. The second half incorporates modern writers such as John Hersey, Neville Shute, Walter M. Miller and Bernard Malamud, bringing students up to the present day.

Schwenger says that the topics under discussion are in keeping with the Mount's nature and concerns. "However," he points out, "I don't want the course to be taken only as an expression of concern. It's more than that: it explores a unique problem in literary criticism. For students in their final year it will provide an invaluable opportunity to break new critical ground on a question of major importance."

He says he wants to do full justice to all points of view, including the admission that "we somehow almost look forward to the unleashing of chaos."

Unique Film Series

The mysteries of the creative process continue to be explored at the Art Gallery with a unique film series produced by TV Ontario featuring the works and words of 41 Canadian artists.

Visions: Artists and the Creative Process, can be seen at the gallery on Fridays at 12:15 and Sundays at 2 p.m. until the first week in April, with changes of program every week.

The range and vitality of the artists cover the whole spectrum of life from the grandeur of nature to humble objects in the home. They explore the search for inner meaning, the riddle of reality, involve themselves in social comment and attempt to portray the spirit.

Accompanying the film series are three study guides—one for general viewers, one directed to community college and university educators and a third for teachers of junior and senior high school students.

An art book, Visions: Contemporary Art in Canada, will also be available at the Gallery during the series, which includes a collection of essays and more than 120 full page colour plates.

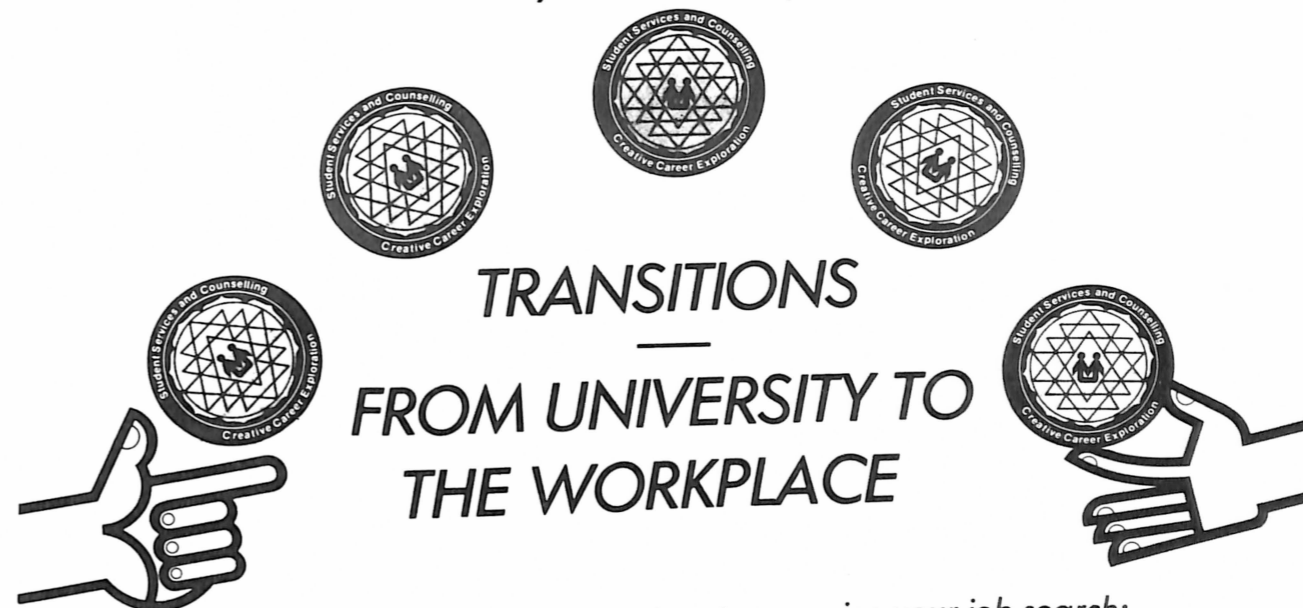
For details on the films to be shown pick up a flyer at the Art Gallery or call extension 290.



Alumna Cathy MacPhee, with a well-earned slice of pizza in the Pub, following the great athletics challenge.

EXPLORING YOUR TOMORROW

Third Annual Career Week
January 31 - February 9, 1984



Six action-oriented presentations to energize your job search:

Tuesday Jan. 31 **Discovering the Hidden Job Market**

Thursday Feb. 2 **Hunting for Summer Jobs**

Monday Feb. 6 **Completing Application Forms**

The Time: 3:15 p.m.

(most sessions will run approximately 30 minutes)

Sponsored jointly by Student Services and Counselling, Canada Employment Centre on Campus, and Co-operative Education.

Tuesday Feb. 7 **Writing Your Resume**

Wednesday Feb. 8 **Building Your Confidence**

Thursday Feb. 9 **Succeeding in the Interview**

The Place: DUET Classroom, Seton Annex

Talent Galore On Our Campus

Talent Galore is on the agenda for the weeks of the Tenth Annual University Community Art, Craft, Baking, Hobby and Talent Show, starting with a preview of the upcoming production of *Top Girls*, at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 2 immediately following the official opening of the show at 12:15.

Top Girls, described as a "serious comedy about women who achieve success by adopting the worst traits of self-made men", will be staged later this term.

The English Society is entering into the spirit of things and will present a dramatic reading of Michel Tremblay's *La Duchesse de Langeais* at 12:15 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, February 6, 8, and 9.

The reading (which is in English, by the way), will be given by Stephen Bruhm, who was one of the cast in last summer's Mount Playhouse, and is directed by Professor Renate Usmiani.

Costumes are being made by Marie Kelly and make-up will be applied by Leslie Aitken with music by Danny MacKinnon and props by Mary Clancy.

On Friday, February 10 at 12:15 p.m., student Paul Kidston will demonstrate his talent on the guitar.

All talent portions of the Community Show are held in the Art Gallery, and everyone is welcome.

NOMINATION DEADLINES

* for awards to be presented at the annual awards banquet on March 31, 1984 is Friday, March 2. Forms may be obtained at the Student Council Office or at the Alumnae Office. For further information, please contact Heather MacLean, Student Council Office.

* for the Alumnae Award for Teaching Excellence is February 3, 1984. Forms may be obtained at the Alumnae Office, the Student Council Office, and at the offices of the Deans and the Academic Vice-President. For further information, please contact Dilly MacFarlane, ext. 136.

New Co-editors

Elizabeth Finck and Beverly A. Jobe have been elected interim Co-editors of the Picaro.

Both graduating in April, 1984 from the Bachelor of Public Relations Degree Program, Finck and Jobe will serve as Co-editors from January, 1984 to April, 1984.

Finck has been with the Picaro since January, 1983 and has served as a staff reporter, production assistant, and most recently as the Advertising Manager.

Jobe joined the Picaro in January, 1983 and has served as a staff reporter, artist, production assistant, and as the production assistant, and as the Supplement Editor.





More than 80 students and friends, from novice to pro, showed up for the recent roller skating night during "Welcome Back Week" activities, sponsored by the Athletics and Recreation Department. Since it was such a success, the department is planning to make roller skating in the gym a semi-annual event, so practice up, everyone!

Lecturing on the Distance Education (DUET) network is a challenge, Patricia Conrad says, but one that she welcomes.

Conrad, who teaches Gerontology 206—The Biological and Health Aspects of Aging—used to travel to her off-campus classes around the province, but now, with the help of modern technology, she can teach from the DUET classroom at the Mount.

"The new techniques I needed for teaching via DUET were a bit frightening at first," she admits, "but now, even after two weeks I'm becoming more comfortable with it."

To start with, she felt as though she was "glued to one spot" and was afraid of moving out of the camera range, "but now I'm learning to move around and relax," she says.

She appreciates the time saved by not having to travel and is now looking forward to using some of that time to prepare classes with the camera in mind. "I want to use more illustrations to help make things very clear," she says. "Also, I'm hoping to show some films and I'll be interested to see how that works."

She'll feel better, she says, when she's able to talk directly to her off-campus students over the television. "I'm not quite sure who's where, just yet," she says, "and I want to be able to talk specifically to an off-campus group and try to get them to participate more fully."

Demonstrations of exercise activity for the elderly will also be featured in future classes, Conrad says.

prospective employer just what it's all about. We need much more awareness of the program in this area."

Students who elect to take part in the co-op option are expected to spend about 50 per cent of their time in academic study and the remainder in work terms. Performance on the job is supervised and evaluated by both the employer and the university.

Are We Doing What We Think We're Doing?

A practical discussion of educational activities in the classroom.

Des Cousens, assistant professor in the Engineering Department, Dalhousie University and Chemical Engineering at the Technical University of Nova Scotia, has been invited to give a workshop by the Teaching Committee at the Mount on educational activities in the classroom.

He will explore a learning style inventory, experiential learning, and problem solving in the context of common classroom teaching techniques.

Professor Cousens has attended many effective teaching institutes at the University of New Brunswick over the past 13 years; is a contributor to the Canadian Conference on Engineering Education and has been guest speaker at U.N.B., in Montebello, Que., and at the Dalhousie Learning Resources Centre.

Time: Thursday, February 2 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Place: Rosaria Board Room

Coffee and sandwiches will be served. All welcome.

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ry. She says, I would say 75 per cent of my learning took place during my co-op work terms."

Other PR students agree with her, White says. Certainly the work terms helped her to find employment in Alberta where she is now public relations officer with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Edmonton. "It was because of the skills I developed during my work terms with the Nova Scotia government and Syncrude that I was able to obtain my present job," she says.

Nine public relations students who recently completed the co-op option are now earning between \$23,000 and \$25,000

a year, according to a survey being carried out by Jon White.

Christine Moore, Assistant to the Director of Co-operative Education says employers also benefit from hiring a student for a work term. "It allows them to pre-screen, at a relatively low cost, potential permanent employees, by actually assessing their capabilities on the job. They can also assign short-term projects to students where it wouldn't be economical to hire a full-time employee," she says.

Although the co-op program has been in operation across Canada for 25 years, it's still not well known in the Maritimes. Moore says, "I usually have to explain to a

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