Registrar Discontinues Part-time Degree Studies Calendar.

In his first year as McMaster's Registrar Lou Ariano, citing budget constraints, has made the decision to discontinue the Fall/Winter Part-time Degree Studies Evening Courses calendar which has been a significant resource for evening part-time students for the last twenty years. The brochure was a hard-copy amalgam of a calendar and timetable that also provided registration information as well as various pertinent facts useful to the part-time evening student. Its creation was a result of the university administration's recognition that the evening part-time student's experience was different from that of the full-time student's and that different tools were needed to accommodate the different needs. While evening students can understand that total online registration is a worthy goal, their experience of our society's technological shift has been very different from that of full-time students and it is not unreasonable for them to expect more time and help to adjust to this shift. In light of this it is not surprising that many of our students have voiced strong concerns over losing the hard-copy calendar.

Having the PTDSEC calendar mailed to their home significantly reduced the preparation time our students needed to register and time is at a premium when you work, study and parent simultaneously. One simply opened the calendar to the evening courses, quickly scanned what was available and when, and made a choice. This was much less time consuming and confusing than clicking, scrolling, switching screens and otherwise bookmarking around a university website that may or may not be familiar to one with a web-browser that may or may not allow one to access the information. Further, a number of our students still do not have a computer at home and many cannot use their business computers for private purposes. With the choice already made at their convenience students could simply scoot into MAPS (often with kids in tow), access SOLAR and quickly register. For others, taking five minutes at work to register was also far more acceptable than taking a whole lunch break.

In a meeting with Mr. Ariano MAPS' Executive Director Jackie Osterman suggested a possible solution to his budget problem. She felt that reducing the production of the calendar to approximately 2500 units and mailing these only to the in-course part-time students would be sufficient to accommodate any registration needs. Compared to the 165,000 that had at one time been produced for distribution through the Spectator newspaper, 2500 seemed very reasonable. The Registrar did not accept this suggestion but instead offered to post the evening course offerings on a separate webpage so that our students would not have to scroll through the entire undergraduate online timetable hunting for evening courses. While the webpage was not what she was looking for, Ms. Osterman was pleased that when it did finally go up it included a handy link from each underlined course code to the course description. This alleviates the need to keep referring to the undergraduate calendar. Also convenient is the inclusion of twilight-scheduled courses. These courses are not official evening selections but are held late in the day which makes them a possible choice for some of our students.

You can access the part-time course timetable through the link at the MAPS website. We're at www.mcmaster.ca/maps

We welcome any comments from our students about how the discontinuation of the PTDSEC calendar has affected them. Please mail or email them to the MAPS office address provided on the back of this newsletter.
MAPS Annual BBQ 2004

Finally, after some years, we had banner weather for the MAPS Annual BBQ which took place on June 7th and 8th. The sun and heat drew the community out and over the two days we served more than 1000 hotdogs. In celebration of our 25th anniversary cake was also served.

This year Elaine Marion, VP External, set up an information table which was a big success. Along with MAPS information Elaine, with the help of Susan Black and Anna Marinelli, gave out free keychains and pens. In a show of solidarity the MSU (the full-time student association) also set up an information table which added to the friendly community feeling of the BBQ. Once again MAC's own "folkie" Diane Kennedy provided the music.

* From left to right: Carole Armstrong (President), Sean Spratt (Director), Rose O'Connor (Treasurer), Jesse Jeffery (Director), Jackie Osterman (Executive Director), Tina Puchalski (Administrative Assistant), Elaine Marion (VP External), Denis Ellis (Director), Susan Black (Director), and Noor Nizam (Director).

* Board member Anna Marinelli and President Carole Armstrong unveil the cakes.

* Carole welcomes the crowd and introduces musician Diane Kennedy.

* Susan Black takes a break and enjoys a hotdog.
THE LATEST FROM THE 
CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION (CCE)

NEW CCE WEBSITE — www.mcmastercce.com

Here is a brief list of things you’ll find on our new website:

• An interactive course search database that allows students to search for courses by program, course #, semester, day, instructor, time, etc.
• More program and course information.
• Textbook information.
• Complete list of CCE’s policies and procedures/student services/student resources.
• Instructor bios.
• Email/phone contact information for each CCE staff member.
• Sessional dates.

SUBTITLES BOOKSTORE

The SUBTITLES Bookstore has moved to the first floor of the Downtown Centre. In addition to course materials, SUBTITLES will sell stationery and McMaster apparel.

HOURS:

SEPTEMBER 7 - 25
Monday – Thursday  3:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Saturday 8:30 AM - 12:00 NOON

SEPTEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 11
Monday – Wednesday  4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Thursday 12:00 NOON - 7:00 PM

NEW/REVAMPED PROGRAMS

Certified Clinical Research Associate Program • Contact Suzette Salama at 905.389.4411 x42532

Web Design & Development Program (formerly Multimedia Communications) • Contact Nancy Buschert at 905.525.9140 x24236

Computer Training Program (formerly Microcomputer Training) • Contact Nancy Buschert at 905.525.9140 x24236

MAPS/CCE GRADUATION

Congratulations to the CCE students who have fulfilled all of their certificate/diploma requirements. This year’s Graduation Ceremony will be held on Friday, October 22. Students will receive notification/invitations in the mail. If you think you should be graduating, but have not received any notification in the mail by September 30, please contact your program manager.
Please check out our website for more graduation information

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CCE • 50 Main Street East • DTC 2nd Floor
905-525-9140 x24321
conted@mcmaster.ca, www.mcmastercce.com
~MAPS Seminars 2004~

Essay Writing & Research Skills ~ Saturday Oct. 2nd 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Exam Preparation ~ Saturday October 30th 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Presentation Skills ~ Saturday November 6th 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Rooms will be posted on the MAPS website @ www.mcmaster.ca/maps.

MAPS seminars are free. To register call 905-525-9140 x22021 or visit our website. Seminars may be cancelled due to low enrollment so if you plan to come please register as early as possible.

Call for nominations: Martin Johns Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize members of the McMaster University community who have made outstanding contributions to the field of part-time studies. Some examples of the kinds of activities or circumstances which would qualify the nominees for this award are as follows:

- The nominee has promoted the academic interests of part-time students by a demonstrated awareness of the special needs of part-time students. For example, the accessibility of faculty and staff to part-time students or significant university committee, teaching or administrative involvement.
- The nominee has promoted a cultural and social environment of benefit to part-time students through university or student association involvement.
- The nominee has promoted the interests of part-time studies with the community at large by significant voluntary community involvement or by encouraging liaison between the university and the community.

Persons eligible to be nominated are faculty, instructors, staff, administrators, part-time degree students and students of the Centre for Continuing Education.

For further information and nomination forms visit the MAPS website or office in MUSC 234. The deadline for applications is October 31st.

Just A Reminder

Fair Trade coffee (certified that a fair price was paid for the beans) is available for students to buy at the following locations:

Union Market (Student Centre), Mac Express(CNH), Hava Java (BSB),
Mac Express(UHE), Wokery(KTH), Techwave Café(ITB), and East
Meets West Bistro(Mary Keyes Residence).

Stop by before class and buy a cup! Every little bit helps create a better world!