



## III. Access for International Students and Faculty

*Access to all MRC programs for international students and faculty will be provided. We will support and expand our Languages Institute, which provides English language training to international students seeking access to post-secondary education in North America.*

**International Academic Mobility (IAM) projects and international networks bring students and faculty to Mount Royal**

### European Exchange Students Discover the Fort McMurray Oil Sands

As part of the Canada-European Union International Academic Mobility Program, "Promoting Environmental Management Awareness: a Transatlantic Perspective", eight students from Mount Royal's partner institutions in Finland and the Netherlands and their instructor Brian Sevick travelled to Fort McMurray in late November 2008 and geared up for a two-day tour of Nexen's Long Lake Project and the Oil Sands Discovery Centre.

"In Finland, there are no field trips offered. For me this trip was my favourite part of the course. We had been studying about the oil sands for the whole semester and it was so nice to actually be able to see them with your own eyes and explore the oil sands. We really got to learn a lot about the



MRC instructor, Brian Sevick, with students from Finland and the Netherlands.

oil industry", says Kaisa Vihersalo. The Mobility projects also promote cooperation and learning between students from Canada and the European countries involved. "I made long-lasting friendships", she continues, "two of the exchange students I met last semester from the Netherlands are already planning to visit me in Finland when I get back. It's been great to meet new friends".

### CONAHEC Network brings first students from Valencia, Spain to Mount Royal

Diana Marco and Alvaro Martinez from Spain, are the first two students from the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia to participate in an exchange at Mount Royal, after the announcement that the Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC) would expand its membership beyond North America.

The students came to Mount Royal for a semester to study Environmental Science and Business and to improve their English skills. Growing up Alvaro was never really interested in English until he

experienced his first exchange. "When I went to Finland I realized that it is very important to study English for Business, especially because I would like to pursue a degree in International Business." Both Alvaro and Diana agree that their experience at Mount Royal has enhanced their English and skills sets. "The classes here are more practical, they prepare you for the real world."



Exchange students from Spain enjoy the sights on the Rocky Mountain Excursion.

Not only have the two Spanish students had the chance to enjoy Mount Royal's classes, Diana and Alvaro have participated in various activities and excursions, including the overnight Rocky Mountain trip, organized by the Office of International Education.

### North American Mobility Program SMENN Symposium at Mount Royal

The "Strategic Market Expansion in NAFTA" (SMENN) symposium brought faculty from MRC consortium partners the University of Northern Colorado, SUNY Plattsburgh, the Universidad de Colima, the Universidad de Guadalajara and Kwantlen University College to Mount Royal from March 20-22, 2009. The symposium, hosted by the Bissett School of Business, featured a panel of dignitaries from Mexico, Canada and the USA and allowed the 70 faculty and students in attendance to interact and discuss key issues around the NAFTA agreement. Former MLA and Alberta representative to Washington, Murray Smith, spoke in praise of Mount Royal for hosting the symposium. "It is a testament to Mount Royal and Alberta. We are building a body of intelligence that can reflect on these issues that Albertans would formerly have had to be in Ottawa or Washington to have inside knowledge of. This is reflective of Alberta's growth around the world".