

# ALUMNEWS

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## JOURNALISM GRAD MAKES HER MARK



Langara graduate Annette Croucher at B.C. Tel

By Carole Wilson

For the past seven years Langara Journalism graduate Annette Croucher has been the editor of a newsletter with a circulation of 1.5 million homes and businesses. "Dialogue", B.C. Telephone Company's customer service publication has the largest circulation for a publication of its kind in Canada. Annette says she finds writing for such a diverse audience is a real challenge "you're writing can be taken in many ways".

Dialogue was started eleven years ago in response to customer requests for information. Published four times each year the newsletter has twice won an Award of Excellence for the Best External Newsletter under Annette's direction. The award was presented by an Association of Professional Communicators.

In May of 1988, on its 10th Anniversary, Dialogue took on a new look. Annette says they increased the size of type and made it a larger format in response to customer demand.

Next time you get your phone bill with the latest issue of Dialogue tucked inside, take some time to look it over. If you have something to say or contribute, Annette would love to hear from you. She is no stranger to answering mail. During a recent readership survey she conducted, 14,000 replies came in. Annette was proud to say she and her staff answered all of the letters personally.

When Annette reminisced about the Journalism program at Langara, two things seemed to keep coming up - Nick Russell and hard work. Annette credits then instructor Nick Russell with selling the program to the community and

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## LET'S AVOID VOLUNTEER BURN OUT

It is time to look to our general membership once again to identify individuals who would be interested in helping with members events and fundraising activities. We have a terrific core of enthusiastic volunteers who help out with all of our activities, but we want to avoid overloading them. If you have some time to contribute we would like to hear from you.

There are several members who have been extremely generous with their time and who

deserve to be mentioned but a few among them deserve special notice. We are grateful for the reliable and ongoing participation of VVI graduate Theresa Delaney, of KEC and Langara graduate Art Hoeckh, and of VVI graduate Joe Weidenman. These three members helped maintain our members events for more than a year. We hope some of you will want to pitch in and help them and the others who have contributed so much this past year. Call the office at 875-1131.

## READ ALL ABOUT IT...

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*Bulletin Board*

Dinner Theatre - In conjunction with Studio 58, featuring "Nocturne" a play by Morris Panyche. March 17th, 1989. Call 875-1131.

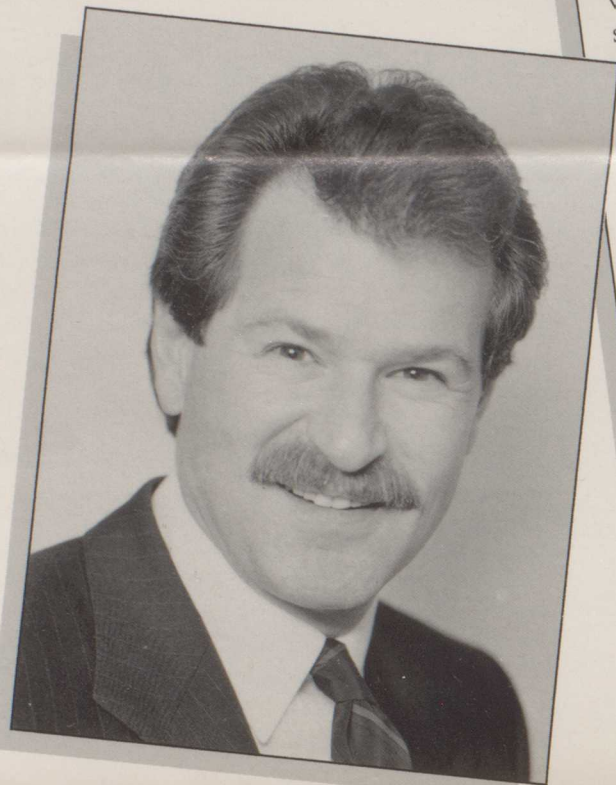
Soundwave 89 and the VCC Jazz Ensembles perform in concert April 7th, at 8 p.m. in the King Edward Campus Auditorium. Admission is only \$6.00.

VCC-VANCOUVER VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE  
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MAR - 6 1989



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Friends:

I wish to express the sincere appreciation of the Board to all of you who have supported our fee program and the other fundraising programs we undertook this year. Fee, advertising, and event revenues have made it possible for the Association to maintain member services despite this year's reduction of our College grant. We also received Federal Government Assistance with staff support through the Canadian Job Strategies Program, and the Association was successful in getting two Casino nights which have generated some funds for student financial aid and College programs.

With our immediate financial needs addressed your Board is in the process of setting goals for the next fiscal year. Additionally, the College has asked us to assist the College in bringing its objectives, activities, and funding requirements to the attention of those government bodies which make decisions in their regard. We as a Board will be assessing this role. You may also wish to consider how you as a member may influence government policy as it affects the quality of education in your community. If you have concerns make them known to your elected officials.

As an Association we continue to work to draw attention to the individual accomplishments of VCC Alumni in order to underline the contribution VCC has made. In the upcoming months we hope to establish funds through which members can support students directly through scholarships and bursaries. All of these will enhance the role our Association plays in support of VCC.

Sincerest Regards,

*Dennis Fitzpatrick*  
Dennis Fitzpatrick - President,  
VCC Alumni Association

Dennis Fitzpatrick, President, VCC Alumni Association

## GALLAGHER'S NOTEBOOK

### TEACHERS UNDERVALUED, UNSUPPORTED, DEMORALIZED

I urge all VCC graduates to write to their MLA's in support of excellence in teaching at VCC. And get your friends to do the same. Please write today - and certainly before the end of March.

Teachers everywhere - in colleges, at universities, in schools, and certainly at VCC - have been undervalued, unsupported, and demoralized for years. It is impossible to have excellence - even with excellent teachers - under these circumstances.

Instructors, their professional colleagues, and those who support them have been undervalued because most citizens do not realize how complex and sophisticated the art of teaching is. Really good teaching is draining, both psychologically and physically. Good teachers live with and work at their teaching all the time. Far more VCC professionals put in 60 hour weeks than 40 hour weeks. They now must pace themselves or burn out. They have been squeezed from all directions. Yet they are the centre of all we must do.

Excellent teachers with excellent qualifications and excellent records have not received support. Some work with obsolete equipment,



Paul Gallagher, VCC President  
many work in cramped buildings and classrooms. They want and need to remain current. Most do not have the support to sustain excellence.

They are demoralized because they do not get the recognition and rewards they merit.

All this has happened because, for years, we have not had the resources to value and support our people. We must be in a position to do much better - starting now. And they will quickly rise to the occasion.

The problem is more than province-wide, but it is especially acute in Vancouver and at the VCC.

The decentralization plan for the province makes us particularly vulnerable.

I point no fingers. We can all be part of the solution.

Please speak up. Support your political representatives by demanding resources for excellence. If you don't have the time to put it in words, clip and forward this with the words "I agree". If you disagree, say that too. But write. Now.

### BOARD NOMINATIONS

Your board is in the process of establishing a nominating committee to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Association. A Criteria for nomination by the committee will be established based on the type of vacancies that occur. The slate of candidates will be presented for election at the Annual general Meeting in June of this year. Board positions are filled for a two year period.

If you wish to be considered for a Board nomination or propose another member for possible nomination please contact our executive Director Colleen Smith at 875-1131 as early as possible and before April 30th.

## ALUMNUS ON FACULTY

By Colleen Smith



VVI graduate Laurette Rogers-Unger (far right) with dental students.

Many of our VCC graduates can be found among College faculty and staff. Laurette Rogers-Unger graduated from the Dental Assisting Program in 1967. She spent 5 years working in a dental practice and then put her experience to work managing an auxiliary placement office for dental assistants. In 1974, Laurette joined the VCC faculty to teach dental assisting at VVI.

Laurette says she found the students extremely motivated. She enjoyed sharing her own field experiences with them to make the course work come alive.

Laurette's confidence and facility with people has made her a great success at VCC. She became the coordinator for the Dental Assistant and Reception Programs and three years ago took over the duties of Department Head. Laurette has also been active in train the trainer programs, where she trains teachers to train other teachers to teach students.

The VVI Dental Assisting program is ten months long and currently handles 100 full-time students and between 20 and 40 part-time students. There are 300 people waiting to get into the program. Most graduates are quickly snapped up by employers as there is a great demand for their skills in the market place.

Laurette is very satisfied with her career in the Dental field and she says research has shown

that most program graduates achieve a high level of job satisfaction.

Laurette's warmth and self-confidence drew the attention of our Association's nominating committee in 1987. Laurette joined our first elected Board in January of 1987. She says she got involved with the Alumni Association "to give something back to VCC". She adds "I've had a good life because of my VCC training".

Other Dental Programs offered at VCC's Downtown Campus include a two year program in Dental Hygiene, a four month Dental Reception Program and two year programs for Dental Mechanic (Denturist), and Dental Technician.

The Dental Assisting Program prepares students for chairside assisting in a dentistry practice. The Dental Hygienist learns therapeutic methods to control oral disease and promote dental health. The Dental receptionist learns the terminology and related administrative skills to perform support functions in a dental office. The Dental Mechanic learns to construct and maintain complete dentures, while the Dental Technician becomes qualified to work with the Dentist to construct dentures as well as other orthodontic appliances. Information about these programs is available from the Counselling Department at VVI.

## KEC NORTH

by Norm Dooley

Although King Edward Campus is only six years old, lack of classroom space has been a constant problem at the Broadway Street Campus and the college's large English as a Second Language Program has been at the heart of the space shortage. As Vancouver's ethnic population has continued to grow, the demand for language classes has outstripped the college's physical capacity.

Last September, VCC rented part of an office building on Vancouver's northeast side to help solve the classroom crunch. However, a recent growth in federal government purchases of immersion English language training for recent immigrants has twice forced VCC to increase the space it rents at its new campus since September.

As of February 1, 1989 VCC will occupy nearly 10,000 square feet of the building at the corner of Dundas and Wall Streets, now known as KEC North.

The three storey structure, which is located on the busy North Vancouver - downtown artery, looks out on one of the finest views of the North Shore mountains in the city. Inside, the ESL - Vocational department has fourteen classrooms, and audio-tele, computer lab, small library and cafeteria.

**Nocturne**

Conceived and Directed by MORRIS PANYCH  
Composed by JEFF CORNESS  
with lyrics by Morris Panych

**MARCH 3 - APRIL 2**  
Tues.-Sat. 8 pm / 2 for 1 Sundays 3 & 8 pm  
Reservations 324-5227  
Vancouver Community College,  
Langara Campus, 100 W. 49th Avenue

## REAL ESTATE

The Continuing Education Division is expanding and creating a Real Estate section to handle the demand from the community to keep abreast of Vancouver's rapidly changing market place. Short courses are being offered in subject

areas like **Buying a Condo, Condo Operations and Management, Dealing in Real Estate, Managing Residential Tenancies, Legal Aspects of Buying a House, The Steps to Selling Your Own Home and Your Home**

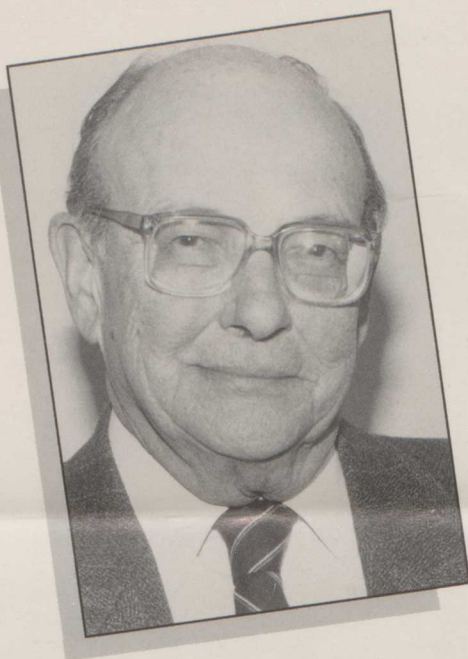
- **an Investment.** Certificate Programs are being offered in the areas of **Property Management and Residential Building Management.** Contact Wayne Decler or Hal Hoare at 875-8200 VCC - CE.



## A NOTABLE EVENT ATTRACTS 250

The VCC Educational Foundation is to be congratulated on the success of their recent Benefit Dinner. The 100 dollar per plate dinner, "A Notable Event" attracted 250 illustrious guests and raised 50,000 dollars for scholarships and bursaries for music students at VCC. The highlight of the evening was the draw for a Baby Grand Piano which was donated by Tom Lee Music and Yamaha Canada.

The VCC Educational Foundation was formed in 1983 to enlist private sector donor support and participation in the development of VCC. Since 1983, they have generated an increasing number of donations to College Programs and built an endowment fund of 850,000 dollars for scholarships and bursaries. The Executive Director, Howard Naphtali hopes that over the next five years the Foundation will build on its initial success and achieve a goal of 1 million dollars annually for Student Aid and College Programs and eventually build the endowment fund to six million dollars.



Foundation Director, Howard Naphtali

## INSTRUCTOR EARNS RECOGNITION



Soundwave performs for the VCC Alumni.

The award for Outstanding Service to Jazz Education was presented to VCC instructor Peter Taylor at the Conference of the National Association of Jazz Educators this year in San Diego, California. The jazz ensemble made up of music students under Taylor's direction

performed at the conference in January. Soundwave also performed recently for a group of our Alumni members at a benefit dinner concert. The event was an unqualified success for all who participated.



## TRAINING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

VCC's Building Services Worker Special Needs Program is drawing attention from other groups across Canada. The Program prepares students with mental handicaps to gain competitive employment in the building service industry. A training guide has been developed for this program which uses a slower paced style of instruction.

The next program begins April 17th of this year. For more information contact Wayne Avery, 681-8111.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ART HOECKH, King Edward Campus College Foundations 1985, Langara Campus Marketing and Sales 1987, is a sales representative for Canter Hardware.

SUSAN TSUYUKI, King Edward Campus Pharmacy Assistant 1986, now works in the Pharmacy at Riverview Hospital.

HARRIETT LEMER, Langara Arts & Science 1973, has moved from her position at the Business Development Group to become a partner in the performance management consulting firm of Ron Einblau & Associates.

DON MICHIEL, VVI Chef Training 1963, has recently opened O'Donals Restaurant in Richmond. Don owns three O'Donals restaurants in Victoria.

INGRID LAUE, King Edward Campus Arts & Science 1970, received her Ph.D. in Germanic Studies at UBC. She has been an Instructor of German at VCC (Langara) since 1978. She has also been the Coordinator of Women's Studies at Langara since 1987.

WILLIAM GRAY, VVI Electronic Technician 1980, now works at B.C. Tel in Network Services handling computer repairs.

### ANNETTE *continued from page 1*

teaching the students thoroughly enough to compete in the job market. "It was a very intense program," she recalls, "and I was often there until 2 A.M. working on radio or the newspaper. As part of the training we took turns learning all the jobs on a newspaper (the Savant)."

Russell, who started the Journalism program was all for the student. He brought in people who worked in the media and scouted for jobs for students. "I had a job before I graduated with the Delta Optomist, I did a major story the very first day - a front page one.

Annette had a keen interest in writing and that's why she enrolled in the Journalism Program. Since graduating she's been involved in PR for many types of businesses like Finning Tractor, B.C. Construction Association, North Vancouver School Board. She also worked in news as a freelancer for CKPQ Radio in Prince George and CKWX Radio in Vancouver. In her present position at B.C. Tel., she is Media Relations Supervisor in charge of consumer affairs. Annette was emphatic that "No matter what the field, if you have the basic writing skills, you can adapt to any situation."

Thank you to Instructional Media Services for their assistance in the production of ALUMNEWS.

## WHAT IS NEW IN YOUR LIFE?

Keep in touch. Write and tell us about new jobs, accomplishments, degrees earned, marriages, and births. Also be sure to send a change of address if you have moved.

# ALUMNEWS

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Alumnews is published by the Vancouver Community College Alumni Association. The Association represents former students and graduates of Langara, Vancouver Vocational Institute, and King Edward Campus, as well as the Continuing Education and International Education Programs. Readers comments are welcome. Please write in care of the Executive Director, Colleen Smith.

