

ALUMNEWS

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Taking care of each other through effective volunteer management

"You must be

prepared to

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fight for what

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Volunteer

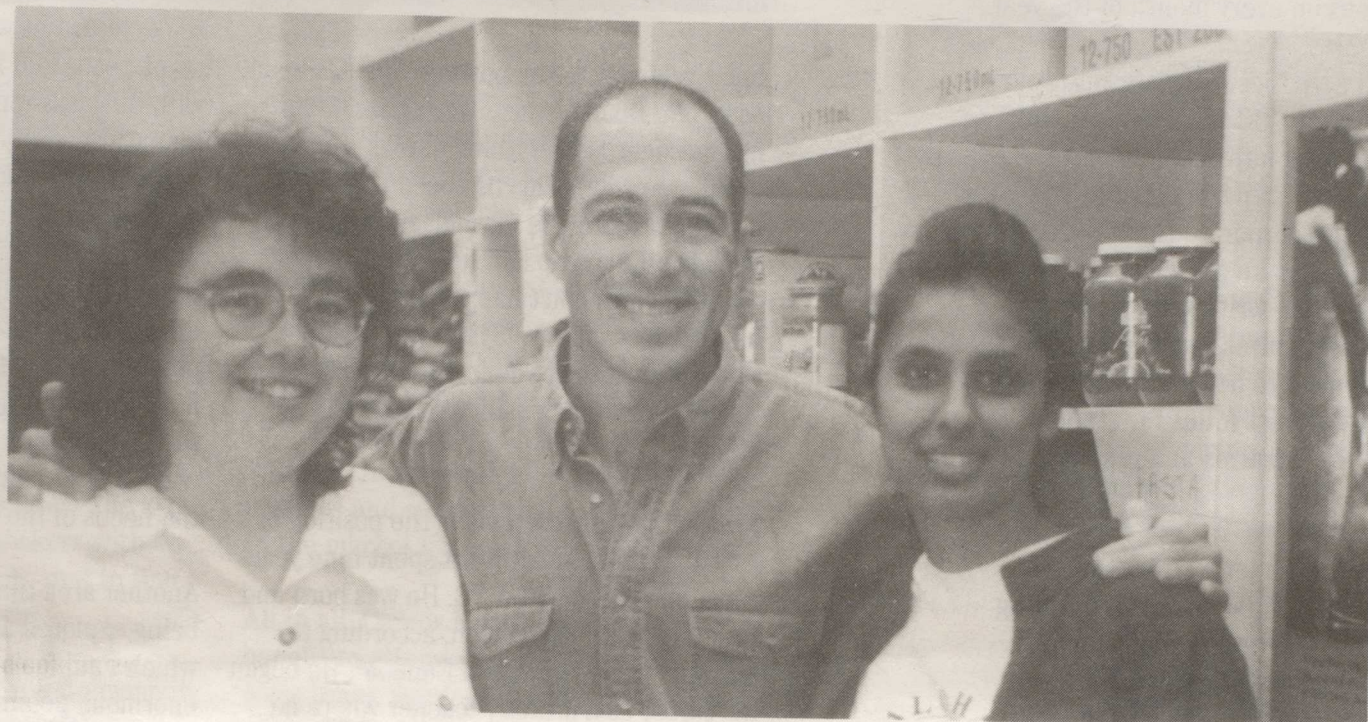
managers are

not always

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the difficulty of

their work."



Feeding the spirit:
Tracy Manrell, Gregg
Brown and Pam Gill
stand before shelves
lined with food at the
AIDS Vancouver
Grocery. Missing from
photo: Charlene
Dishaw.

Four VCC grads share what they've learned with the world at the XI International Conference on AIDS.

In 1991, after discovering the field of voluntarism at Volunteer Vancouver, Tracy Manrell enrolled in the VCC Volunteer Management Program. "Organizations that understand and appreciate the value of volunteers place priority on finding a manager of volunteers with specific training and experience. Having the certificate helped me to get this job." Tracy is one of four graduates of the VCC Volunteer Management Program who now work with AIDS Vancouver.

Tracy speaks about the agency's respect for the profession of volunteer management: "AIDS Vancouver understands that, as a whole, we must commit to supporting volunteers. We work together. We can only be successful in our work by supporting each other." Her colleagues and fellow VCC students, Gregg Brown, Charlene Dishaw and Pam Gill agree. They say that without organized, program specific systems for volunteer recruitment and placement, training and recognition, there would be no one volunteering with AIDS Vancouver. "The VCC certificate program further entrenched my belief in the value of volunteers and the importance of a system for effective and successful management of volunteers," says Charlene.

Though the VCC program was very practical in nature and even included a work study experience, it was this philosophy of a

systemic approach to volunteer management that stayed with all four graduates. In fact, Tracy submitted an abstract describing the benefits of applying professional volunteer management principles in client support programs to the XI International Conference on AIDS held July 7 - 12 in Vancouver.

Submissions were received from 126 countries world-wide and numbered close to 5,600 abstracts. Only 1,600 were accepted and Tracy's was among them. She smiles, "I was thrilled and honoured to have my abstract accepted. I am very proud of the work I do and of the respect AIDS Vancouver has for its volunteers and the field of volunteer management." She continues: "Our Support Services Department is one of the most well respected centres for truly comprehensive community care and support in our country."

Pam, Charlene and Gregg were also involved in the International Conference. In addition to their regular work at AIDS Vancouver, they gave tours of the Pacific AIDS Resource Centre (PARC) and coordinated volunteers, and volunteered themselves, for the AIDS Vancouver exhibit booth. They took full advantage of the Conference location and attended a variety of educational sessions. Gregg also presented a poster on peer education about HIV/AIDS in the prison system.

AIDS Vancouver has 20 staff and just over 300 volunteers. "We provide services to approximately 1,800 women, men and youth

living with HIV/AIDS in Greater Vancouver," describes Pam. The needs are varied and numerous. Volunteer care teams provide practical assistance with activities such as shopping and light meal preparation. Those who volunteer with the hospital and home visitors program are described as "good conversationalists". For up to four hours a week they spend social time with persons living with HIV/AIDS and go for walks, play cards, share tea or watch a video. AIDS Vancouver is actively seeking volunteers for the massage and bodywork therapy and professional counselling programs. These individuals have professional training and volunteer to support one person for one session a week.

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College Advancement

A message from the Executive Director



The summer has come and gone, but throughout, VCC continued to conduct business as usual. Many College programs operate on a year-round intake basis and both campuses have been alive with activity right through July and August. Students exchanged lecture notes in the courtyard sunshine while instructors creatively scheduled classes to take full advantage of the good weather. Though things were a little more "laid back" at VCC through the summer, learning goes on every month of the year.

Year-round activities translate into year-round needs at VCC. The Educational Foundation, which raises funds for the College, is busy preparing for the annual individual and corporate fundraising campaigns that take place every September. From writing proposals to developing brochures, there are many things that need to be done in order to successfully attract funds for student scholarships, bursaries and classroom equipment.

You may receive a letter from the Educational Foundation this fall asking for your support. I encourage you to make a contribution to the campaign. Your gift will provide dollars to be used where it really matters. If you wish, you can designate your gift to a specific endowment fund or educational program. A gift of any size will help VCC students as they work towards making their dreams a reality.

I hope we can count on your support.

Lilli Milder
Executive Director
College Advancement



... effective volunteer management Continued

Management of volunteers is a relatively new profession. Because of this, it is an exciting field with considerable potential for growth and expansion. However, as Gregg puts it: "You must be prepared to advocate and fight for what you need. Volunteer managers are not always recognized for the difficulty of their work." Tracy laughs, and translates: "This is not a field where there's a lot of money to be made."

So what motivates people to become volunteer managers? Tracy offers an answer:

Working in the best interest of VCC students

The fourth in a series of interviews with VCC Administrators, the following article profiles Paul Hunt, Associate Dean, Business and Computer Application Programs.

Responsible for the following departments:

- accounting/computers/management
- business education preparation
- electronics
- medical office careers
- office administration

Interests:

- cycling
- drama
- writing
- computers

Leaning back in his chair, Paul Hunt, Associate Dean, Business and Computer Application Programs, crosses one leg over the other and folds his arms. Though deep in thought, he radiates a certain energy for life, and his job.

Relatively new to the position (he has been Associate Dean for just over a year), Paul has not figured everything out yet. But one thing is certain, "This has been a hell of a learning experience for me!" he says. Specifically, he has had to learn to slow down. "Things don't happen fast enough for me," he explains, "There are a lot of things I want to get done but at the same time the need to consult and seek input is important."

Prior to his appointment to the position of Associate Dean, Paul Hunt spent nine years as an instructor with VCC. He was born and raised in Winnipeg, which, according to Paul, is "the finest city in Canada". He began his career as a primary teacher where he learned the basic principles of successful instruction. "To this day I swear there is no difference in teaching a six-year-old, or a 26-year-old. The theory is the same with any student: *treat me with respect, show interest in me, explain things to me clearly and, when I do well, let me know it.*"

While teaching, he developed and pursued his interest in computer technology through a programmer analyst program. His career changed direction when he was hired by MacMillan Bloedel as a computer programmer. However, he missed teaching and was eventually drawn back to the educational sector. Paul continues to freelance as a consultant: "I have written computer programs, but mostly I provide support. The nice thing about that is it keeps me really current."

"Most coordinators believe in the value of volunteerism in our society, they believe in their agency, whether it is AIDS or cancer or childcare or senior's programming, and they love working with people -- lots of people," she says. Pam adds, "you really get to see how volunteering benefits not only the community but also the volunteer."

Gregg speaks for all four VCC grads when he comments, "I really enjoy the work I do. It is very rewarding. It would be difficult to find work of the same calibre." As Pam says, "the

Paul Hunt speaks positively about the future of his division within the College. "We're a division that does what we teach. We use technology well." Each department is linked through a computer network with centralized software, virtually all students have email access and instructors communicate electronically. He adds, technology aside, "the strength of the division is its people."

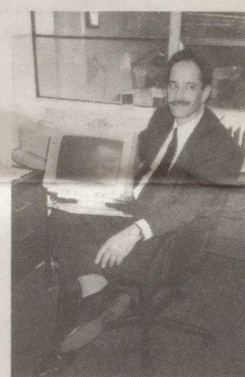
When asked about future plans, Paul responds, "We, as a division, can do some really new and innovative things. This translates into a number of initiatives." For one, the division is starting to aggressively seek closer ties with industry. Paul, department heads and instructors are meeting with business representatives and touring them through the College. In turn, VCC will visit business operations to keep current on technological changes. "We regularly look at what industry is doing. We must be really responsive and adaptive," he explains. This link with the external community constantly provides VCC with new learning opportunities. By encouraging greater dialogue with the people who hire VCC grads, and those who don't, the division is better able to meet the needs of the employer.

Another area that is being explored and which Paul feels has enormous potential for VCC is training. He explains, "More and more companies find it easier and sometimes more cost effective to get someone else to do their training in the business and computing environment. As a group of instructors, we have great expertise around computing. We can capitalize on this."

With each new endeavour, fresh idea or different way of doing things, Paul always stops to ask himself, "Is this in the best interest of the students? This needs to be the first question, always. It's why we're here."

non-profit environment is very positive, inspirational, supportive and full of new challenges. It's great to be a part of a community that is always helping others."

Tracy Manrell is Support Programs Coordinator at AIDS Vancouver. Charlene Dishaw is the Support Programs Assistant, Pam Gill is Volunteer Resources Coordinator and Gregg Brown is a Trainer who provides HIV/AIDS specific education and development courses to individuals and organizations.



Fascinated by new technologies, Paul Hunt asks: "Have you hugged your computer today?"

Making career connections



Career Fair '96 visitors get answers from those who do the hiring.

When you're looking for work, or contemplating a career change, it's all about meeting people, sharing ideas and passing along your resume. At the annual VCC Alumni Association Career Fair, held March 14 at City Centre Campus, over 1,000 individuals did just that. The campus foyer was humming with activity as participants received face-to-face advice from employers, information on training and education related to specific careers and job market updates. The 7th Career Fair provided job-seekers with an opportunity to ask questions, and to find out who's hiring who and why.

In addition those looking for employment, there were individuals investigating a possible career change. As they networked with the people who do the hiring, they learned of potential career opportunities in a variety of industries including

hospitality and tourism, health care and retail management. Representatives from the RCMP, the Purchasing Management Association, Contacts Target Marketing Inc., BC Transit, London Life and BC Biomedical Laboratories, among others, were busy answering enquiries about growth fields and the skills necessary for work in these areas. Community groups, including the VCC Counselling Department and the YMCA were also on hand to promote the services and support they provide to those in the market for a career move.

All in all, Career Fair '96 was of great benefit to attendees and exhibitors alike. A big thank you to the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association for making this year's event another overwhelming success.

The Career Fair is held every year in March. Mark your calendars now for '97.

Alumni Association

A message from the Chair



Since joining the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association in 1993, I've met a number of interesting people and participated in some great fundraising, and friendraising, projects.

Association Board Members are involved in a variety of activities. We provide input and feedback on College issues related to alumni planning, programming and events. We provide practical support to the Alumni Association as volunteers at fundraising, member recruitment and information events. We help identify business and personal contacts to participate in Alumni Association campaigns, career fairs and casino nights.

The best thing about participating on the VCC Alumni Association Board is the opportunity to network with my peers. I look forward to our monthly meetings where we can exchange ideas and discuss topics of mutual interest. And, it's a nice feeling to give back to Vancouver Community College.

I invite **you** to become an active and contributing member of the Board. If you can spare one to two hours a month, we could use your enthusiasm and talents in projects that benefit today's VCC student. Please join us now, and help build the Alumni Association of tomorrow.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Liz Majestic
Chair
VCC Alumni Association

VCC students big winners at Alumni Association casino

The dealer flips the Queen of Diamonds onto the ace. "It's twenty-one, you're a winner!" she exclaims. The player gathers his chips, tosses over a tip and leaves the table: "Heh, thanks for the great cards. See ya next week."

This player, and many others like him, came out to support the VCC Alumni Association casino night, July 7 at the Gateway Casino - Mandarin Centre. Over \$9,400 was raised for student scholarships and bursaries. Casino volunteers gave up their Sunday night to work as chip bankers, chip runners and volunteer supervisors. Though it was a late night for all (volunteers were home by 4:00 am), the camaraderie made it a lot of fun. The Alumni Association thanks the following for their time: Navtej Gurm, Bill Miller, Ryan Miller, Teresa Suranyi, Gurdeep Uppal and Jane Westheuser.

About You

Let us know about the special things that are happening in your life: paid or volunteer work, hobbies, marriage, children, interests and messages to other alumni. We will publish your news in the next issue of ALUMNEWS.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Occupation: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____

Telephone: _____

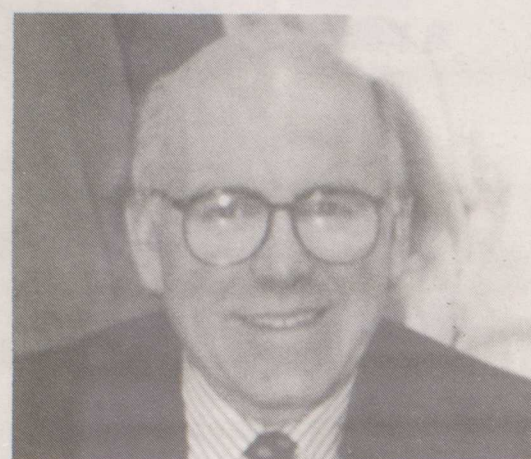
Which VCC Program(s) did you attend? _____

What year? _____

Do you continue to further your education? _____

Please mail your news, picture and signature for release of comments for publication to:
VCC Alumni Association
1155 East Broadway, Box 24620, Station "F"
Vancouver, BC V5N 5T9

Lifting up a different set of values



Recently retired Chair of the College Board, Bob Smith builds understanding through his stories.

"Education . . .
empowers
people to
fully
participate
in the
community."

In May, the College bade farewell to retiring Chair of the VCC Board, Bob Smith. President John Cruickshank commented on Bob's four years with the College: "I'll remember Bob for his caring approach to the community he serves. At VCC, he showed outstanding leadership in building trust between staff, faculty and administrators. He made a real impression on the College."

In an interview with Rev. Smith at the First United Church, 320 East Hastings, ALUMNEWS discovered the compassion, the conviction and the wisdom of VCC's past Chair. What is most exceptional about Bob is his ability to tell a story.

Belinda lived with her boyfriend, underneath a bridge. She had no papers. The guy she lived with didn't even know her last name. One day, Belinda walked past the literacy centre and asked what it was. We told her it was a place where people learn to read. 'I can't read,' she said. Would you like to learn to read?' we asked. In one of the books the students prepare, there are two essays written by Belinda who, having learned to read, had also learned to express herself. The sad thing is that Belinda died. But before she died, she was able to get her identity, get on welfare and move from the bridge to a rooming house.

Bob illustrates that education provides windows of opportunity for people who have, in his words, "lived in prisons". Education helps build self-esteem and empowers people to fully participate in the community. Bob draws many parallels between his experiences at the First United Church and his work with VCC. "We say, and the College is saying, that everyone has intrinsic value and worth. VCC, to the extent that it can continue to see that as among its priorities, is among the most important resources in this community," says Bob. "In other words, we try to lift up a different set of values."

"The most retrograde thing that the government did was move education to the former Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour," explains Bob. "This says that the economy is the fundamental organizing principle in our society. People have value only to the extent that they are able to

participate in the economy, to be producers or consumers." Bob knows that VCC produces more than just workers.

During his four years as Chair, Bob participated in many College activities. One of his most profound moments of insight occurred at a VCC graduation ceremony where, in a congratulatory gesture, he shook each new graduate's hand.

What struck me was the fact that their hands were hard. I started to think about what that meant. The faces were hard and worn too. I instantly saw that these people had had a very difficult time and that the College was providing them with a second chance, or maybe a fifth chance. These people had obviously given up a great deal to gain this coveted credential.

This experience convinced Bob that VCC had to be a "place of the second chance". "We say VCC is open to all. The fact that you've screwed up five times before ought not to be a barrier to be able to try again."

Bob's commitment to these beliefs and his dedication to VCC students provided him with focus in some challenging administrative situations. In 1992, Bob and the newly appointed VCC Board of Directors were charged with the specific task of refurbishing the image of VCC, perceived to be administratively top heavy and in a precarious financial situation and reestablish credibility with the provincial funders.

Meanwhile, the internal College community was in turmoil. Bob recalls his first Board meeting: "We had to adopt the budget. There was something like 52 presentations objecting to the proposal. They were impassioned and some were absolutely heart-wrenching." The Board sensed great feelings of mistrust towards the administration.

As if this wasn't enough, three months later the Langara Faculty Association went on strike for parity with the VCC Faculty Association. The fair and equitable manner in which Bob dealt with this issue is remembered by all VCC staff, faculty and administrators as one of his greatest accomplishments.

When Langara feet hit the sidewalk, I decided I was on their side. They had a legitimate complaint. The funding formula did not work for VCC because of the uniqueness of the College. While I came to this conclusion, John (President of VCC) also came to the same conclusion. The Canadian Labour Congress said it was the first time in the history of labour in BC where both the president and the chair of the board were visiting the strikers on the picket line.

Though VCC administration was willing to negotiate, the government was not. They feared a settlement would appear inflationary. After three weeks of midnight meetings with cabinet, negotiations with labour representatives and calming frazzled student's nerves, the strike ended. The settlement, however, included a provision for the separation of Langara.

Bob admits the separation was difficult. From day one, he indicated that he would stay with VCC. This resulted in a conflict of interest commission and the deputy minister declaring the Board to be untrustworthy. He recommended that, two years after their appointment, the Board be removed. "I went absolutely ballistic," describes Bob, "I demanded to see the minister." Twenty four hours later the Board met (then) Minister Tom Perry and told him their side of the story. In the spring of 1994, Bob represented the VCC Board at the inaugural ceremonies of the new Langara College.

One more story.

One day, in a small community by a river, the villagers hear the cry of a baby in the water. They all rush down to the river, someone jumps in and rescues the baby. They find a blanket and a wet nurse. At the end of the day, the baby was fine. The next day, there's another cry from the river. This time there are two babies in the water. Two villagers jump in and rescue the baby. Clothing, food and shelter are found and the babies survive. The third day there are more babies, and more rescues. This went on and on, until the entire village spent all day, everyday, rescuing babies. One day someone stopped and asked: 'Shouldn't one of us run upstream and find out who's throwing all these babies into the river?'

By drawing attention to the underlying reasons that people are at risk, Bob believes we can rebuild the sense of community in our society. His stories are captivating, but, as any good story teller will tell you, it's what you learn from them that's important.

A scholarship fund has been established with the VCC Educational Foundation in recognition of Bob's contributions to VCC. The Dr. Robert Smith Scholarship Fund will acknowledge the work of students in the College's Adult Basic Education program. If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, please call the Foundation at 871-7148.

Walking for literacy

Alumni Association Scholarship recipient leads the way



Halfway point on the June 9, 1996 Vancouver Walk for Literacy.

"I was very
nervous going
back to school."

"VCC is my home. It is everything to me. The students and instructors are my friends," says Brenda Lee Giles, adult learner, literacy advocate, single mother and one of three 1996 VCC Alumni Association Scholarship recipients.

Although Brenda could barely read or write when she came to King Edward Campus four years ago, she has since advanced from reading at a Grade 6 level to Grade 11 English. She dropped out of school 23 years ago, when she was in Grade 9. She was able to find work in a restaurant where the menu items were numbered. When taking a food order, rather than writing out the words, she would just copy down the appropriate number. At the end of her shift, so no one knew she couldn't read or write, she spent hours copying out the order, letter by letter, from the menu. She made every effort to keep her illiteracy a secret.

It was the birth of her son, Shaka, that changed her life. In addition to facing the everyday challenges of illiteracy, Brenda was battling an alcohol and drug addiction. Her pregnancy was difficult and she delivered six weeks early. When she held her tiny baby in her arms, and looked into his eyes, she realized she had to deal with her problems. Her first thought was: "How am I going to be able to keep my secret from my son? When he asks me to read him a story, what am I going to say?"

Before discovering the Basic Education Program at VCC, she enrolled in an Adult Basic Education Program at John Oliver School for several months. "I was very nervous going back to school. Would they ask me to read aloud? Would the kids tease me?" Brenda wondered. In the evening she attended AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meetings.

An early assessment of a learning disability provided Brenda with the encouragement she needed to persevere with her studies. "I knew I wasn't stupid. I just have to see things to remember them. I have to be careful with words that are similar. I get mixed up with words like presentation and representation."

Just four years later, Brenda finds herself coordinating Vancouver's first Walk for Literacy. Her commitment to literacy is

reflected in the amount of volunteer time she contributes to the cause. In 1993 and 1995, she was a member of the Learner's Caucus and helped organized two annual Learner's Conferences. She currently sits on the National Coalition Movement for Canadian Literacy representing the concerns of BC learners. She also acts as resource person on the Committee for Literacy Bulletin Material and reviews books that are proposed for literacy programs.

The Walk for Literacy is one of the highlights of Brenda's work for the literacy movement. "I want other learners to know they're not the only one. It's an opportunity to stand up and be proud. I want to let people know how difficult it is to take the first step," she explains. Each step of the June 9 Walk between King Edward and City Centre Campus is symbolic of each challenge a learner must overcome en route to literacy. The money that was raised through pledges by the Walk participant will be used to start a new bursary fund to assist learners at King Edward Campus.

"My goal is to finish Grade 12," says Brenda. She hopes to then take the advocacy program at Langara College. "I want to help students like myself. I want others to experience what I've experienced through my studies at VCC." But, Brenda is quick to add, "There's a lot of things I want to do - I might take business administration or train to be a medical office assistant."

Brenda's leadership in standing up for the rights of adult learners has helped to improve the academic and extracurricular experiences of many VCC students. The VCC Alumni Association Scholarship is a fitting award for such tremendous achievement.

Two other deserving individuals were recognized at the Springs Awards Ceremony for their contributions to the educational environment at VCC. VCC Alumni Association Scholarship recipients are: Shawnett Coe, Medical Secretary Program and Karnali Sidhu Building Service Worker - ESL Program. Congratulations to them all!



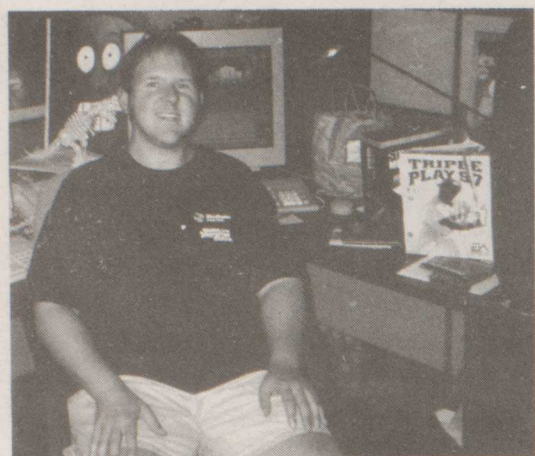
Brenda Giles poses with Walk poster.

Board Meetings
of the VCC
Alumni
Association
will be held

September 16
October 21
November 18

Call 871-7173
for time and
location.

Alum electrifies youthful teams' dreams



Computer Graphics grad, Mike Swanson, does more than just play games.

also learned to accept criticism. "I am making artwork for the public. It's important that they like it."

A sneak preview of the final version of the baseball game is an exhilarating event. From listening to the Canadian anthem *en français* at Olympic Stadium in Montreal to hearing the crowd hiss at a bad call from the umpire, this game is very realistic, and, thanks to Mike, slick. "It's very important that the game flows. I have to show the design team how the player will get from one area of the game to another. It has to be very, very easy to navigate around. It can't be too fast, or too slow. It has to be intuitive." Everything is there, except the smell of hotdogs.

Electronic Arts Canada is not immune to the whims of the marketplace. "Right now, people want to see real human motion. They've seen a game and they know what it looks like so they expect to see that when they're playing an electronic version," explains Mike. Electronic Arts excels in the area of sports simulation. "In our baseball game, you can hit the baseball so it'll land in a certain part of the field, or so it'll hit the ground and bounce over someone. The physics are very accurate."

This year, Electronic Arts Canada is aiming to produce the #1 electronic baseball game for 1996. So far, their track record speaks for itself with international hits such as NHL 96 and FIFA Soccer 96. Mike is a member of the baseball design team. Responsible for the overall look of the game, he creates story boards, graphics and flow charts that communicate his vision to his colleagues. At times this can be quite frustrating. "Everyone has an opinion on what is should look like," explains Mike. "I have to convince people that what they see is the best." He's

Continuing Education student designs dove to convey season's greetings

"I am so excited" says Kirsten Gravkin, on hearing that her design was chosen as the winner of the VCC Alumni Association Season's Greeting Card Design Competition. "It's fun to win something," she adds. The inspiration behind the winning work is simple, as is the design. "I don't like clutter," explains Kirsten, "less is more."

Kirsten completed her BA in Art History at UBC and is now a part time student at VCC in Continuing Education. Her flair for design lead her to the College to pursue the Electronic Publishing and Design

Certificate Program. Halfway through the program, Kirsten is optimistic about her future: "Eventually, I'd like to work for a design house. One day, I hope to have my own business." To this end, she will begin freelance work in the fall. Her winning will go towards the purchase of a computer so she can now explore her creativity electronically.

Greeting cards are available by calling the Association at 871-7173. All proceeds from the sale of the cards support the VCC Alumni Association.

Dove of peace graces cover of new Alumni Association greeting card

Meeting the demand

Continuing Education's Court Interpreting Program to deliver accreditation training through distance education



A VCC trained interpreter translates in a Vancouver court.

Last year, over 200 individuals applied to VCC's intensive, 195 hour Court Interpreting Accreditation Program. In addition to being bilingual, prospective students must pass rigorous oral entrance exams which test, among other skills, their ability to listen and speak at the same time and to easily transfer from one language to another. Jack Leeth, formerly of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts is quoted as saying: "Most people believe that if you are bilingual, you can interpret. That's about as true as saying that if you have two hands, you can automatically be a concert pianist."

The stress of the examination weeds out those who are unsuitable for interpreting in the courtroom environment. "Very often interpreters are required to interpret in a situation that is stressful for the principals. Sometimes the material is very sensitive or very unpleasant," says Dr. Silvana Carr, Program Coordinator.

Linda Yu, who graduated from the program in 1993 and now provides interpreting services in Mandarin, adds that court interpreters must understand and respect confidentiality, neutrality and impartiality. She says: "You must be very professional. You can't do a slipslop job. You must let the judge and lawyers know when you don't understand something."

It is recommended that applicants have also completed at least two years of university. "You need a certain maturity to be a court interpreter. You need a wide general knowledge because you never know what is going to be thrown at you when you're in court," explains Carr.

Despite challenging entry requirements, the number of applicants to the Court Interpreting Program increases every year. This is due, in part, to the fact that the courts now recognize that an accredited court interpreter will help to ensure a fair and efficient trial. At the same time, non-accredited interpreters want to experience the monetary benefits of seeking accreditation through VCC's program. Certificate in hand, their hourly wage of \$20 increases to \$35.

Interpreting is a physically exhausting occupation. In the courts, for example, the lawyer may want to talk to the client

"You need

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court

interpreter."

during breaks. Silvana Carr explains: "At coffee and lunch, when the lawyer is talking, the client is eating. While the client is talking, the lawyer is eating. And, the interpreter is talking all the time." She cites another example of a colleague who interprets for a group of police officers. The officers, who come from different countries all over South America, meet once a year to be trained in dog handling. Carr laughs, "Sometimes she is scaling walls while she's interpreting!"

Those who pursue a career in court interpreting are a dedicated group. "They really have to want to help their community. It is not a well paid job and the work is freelance," says Carr. Yu agrees, but emphasizes that the cause is very worthwhile. "I feel very helpful and satisfied at the end of the day."

VCC's Court Interpreting Program is currently undergoing some changes. In response to requests for accreditation that come from all over BC, the Yukon, Alberta and even Ontario, the College investigated the possibility of providing training through distance education. Last year, in partnership with the Open Learning Agency, VCC piloted this project to a group of interpreters in Kamloops. The video-conferencing session began with a

skit depicting an interpreter at work and was followed by an "on air" group discussion. Off camera, the students reviewed several case studies and went back on air to debate their findings as a larger group. "It was very exciting," smiles Silvana Carr. "I was sceptical at first. But it worked very well."

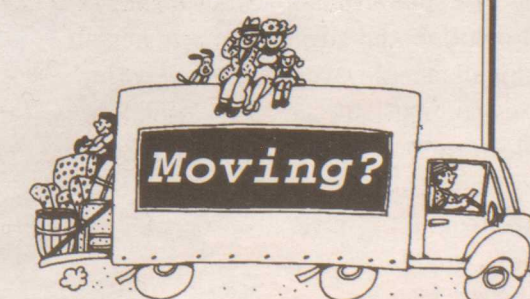
The design of the Court Interpreting Program is also under review. "We are aiming towards providing core courses that everyone would take. Then the student would go into the 'multitrack' program. They could choose between a specialization in either court, medical, community or escort interpreting," explains Carr.

These program modifications will positively impact not only those who are pursuing a career in interpretation, but also those who benefit from interpreting services. VCC's Interpreting Program plays a major role in making community services more accessible to the non-English speaker and improving the quality of life for us all.

In cooperation with the VCC Educational Foundation, the Court Interpreting Program is raising \$148,000 to develop a distance education format for the program. To date, \$79,500 has been pledged. If you, or an organization you are involved with, would like to make a gift in support of this project, please call the Foundation at 871-7148.

Ensure that you continue to receive ALUMNEWS, invitations to special events and class reunions! Mail your change of address to:

VCC Alumni Association
1155 East Broadway
Box 24620, Station F
Vancouver, BC V5N 5T9
or phone the office at 871-7173.



Where are they now?

Dave Peter Alderson

Arts & Science Diploma, 1977

After leaving VCC, Dave continued his studies at Simon Fraser University and graduated in '82 with a major in Criminology. He has since completed his graduate studies. After many years with the RCMP, he retired as a sergeant in 1987 to work for the Loss Prevention Department at the Vancouver Liquor Distribution Branch.

Alberta Armstrong

Personal Management, Special Education

Alberta has been associated with VCC for almost 20 years.



Presently completing her third certificate through VCC in Counselling, she says, "I think very highly of the programs VCC has

to offer." Mother of two and grandmother of two, Alberta writes poetry as a hobby.

Nancy Curatolo (nee Wilson)

Licensed Practical Nursing, 1987

For three years Nancy worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse at St. Vincents Hospital. She married in 1990 and moved to Kelowna the following year. Graduating from Okanagan University College's Bridging Program in 1993, she found employment in the extended care unit at Kelowna General Hospital as a Registered Nurse. "Presently, I am the proud mother of a beautiful baby girl named Melissa."

Chris Fulker

Culinary Arts, 1986

Although he's not "cooking", Chris is now living and working (and married!) in Taiwan.

Marie-Christine Kanji

Court Interpreting Certificate Program, 1992

Currently working as a Legal Secretary with the Department of Justice Canada, Marie-Christine continues her education in the part-time Legal Assistant Certificate Program at Capilano College.

Wilson R. Kwok

Culinary Arts, 1994

Wilson is working part-time at the PNE while he continues his studies full-time at the Open Learning Agency.

Therese Laanela

Pacific Rim Program, 1987

Now living in Stromborg, Sweden, Therese is Programme Officer with International IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance). The Institute's overall objective is to work for the promotion and advancement of sustainable democracy worldwide and within this context improve and consolidate electoral processes. Therese is also working on her MA in East Asian Studies at Stockholm University.

Michele Menzies

Arts & Science, 1994

Since 1982, Michele has worked in sales

and marketing for several Fortune 500 pharmaceutical companies. She enjoys corporate communications and is upgrading her skills in desktop publishing and computerized sales and marketing. Active as a volunteer, Michele edits a newsletter for the Canadian Cancer Society and assists the VP of the Canadian Federation of Friends of Museums.

Pilar A. Sindayen

Upper Intermediate English, 1996

Pilar speaks of the many changes in her life since she immigrated to Canada from the Philippines. She had to learn a new language and find employment to support her family. She is now a Canadian citizen. Pilar hopes to enroll in the Resident Care Attendant Program in the fall.



Margaret M. Sutton

Real Estate Appraisal Certificate Program, 1995

Margaret has operated a real estate management services company for the past 5 years. She is a performing member of the New Westminster Symphony Orchestra and also finds time to volunteer with BC Pets & Friends.

Wayne Thomas Yorke

Studio 58, Professional Theatre Training Program, 1981

After ten successful years working as an actor in Vancouver, Wayne moved to the States to try his luck in Hollywood. He recently completed filming forty episodes of *A.J.'s Time Travellers* as A.J.'s dad and the "man-dog", Izzy. He's also one of the leads, alongside Christine Taylor (Marsha of Brady Bunch fame) and Joss Ackland (Lethal Weapon 2), in *To the Ends of Time*, a feature film to be released later this year.

Around the College

ALUMNEWS congratulates the following individuals for accomplishments in their field of work and study.

Virginia Adams

Representing BC as regional editor for the *Journal of Government Information*, Virginia Adams, Government Documents Librarian at VCC, is responsible for selecting and preparing professional reviews of BC government publications for the journal. She chooses publications for review based on their significance and widespread appeal.

Brenda Lee Giles

Named citizen of the day by CISL radio for her coordination of Vancouver's first Walk for Literacy, held June 9, Brenda is also the recipient of the VCC Alumni Association Scholarship in recognition of her academic achievements. She is currently enrolled in the College and Career Access Program at VCC.

James Hutton

Aiming to repeat their 1992 performance at the Culinary Olympics, Team Canada is hoping to bring back the gold in 1996. VCC is represented on the team by Culinary Arts instructor James Hutton. He is the Team's assistant manager.

Jessica Li

VCC Fashion Design student Jessica Li won second runner-up prize at the Canadian finals of the prestigious Smirnoff International Fashion Awards held recently in Montreal. Jessica believes that we should look beneath a person's skin to know them. She designed a black, two-piece outfit of which the skirt lifted to reveal colourful shapes, symbolizing a soul of creativity and liveliness.

Tracy Manrell

"Applying Professional Volunteer Management Principles in Client Focused Support Programs" is the title of the abstract Tracy Manrell, Support Programs Coordinator with AIDS Vancouver, and graduate of VCC's Volunteer Management Program, presented at the XI International Conference on AIDS in July. Of 5,600 abstracts received by the conference, only 1,600 were accepted for presentation.

Settimio Sicoli

In June, Settimio Sicoli, VCC Associate Dean of Tourism, Hospitality and Service Programs, was acclaimed President of The BC Chefs' Association for a second two-year term.

Fraser Thorburn

Graduating with a Master of Arts Degree from SFU, VCC ESL - Vocational Instructor Fraser Thorburn was awarded the Dean's Medal for the highest grade point average of graduates in the Faculty of Education. His thesis explored the philosophy of Hans-George Gadamer as it applies to the learning of language of immigrants.

ALUMNI BENEFITS CARD

Available to VCC graduates of diploma or certificate programs, the Alumni Benefits Card entitles you to:

- a VCC library card and borrowing privileges at both the King Edward and City Centre campus libraries
- 20% discount on hundreds of VCC Continuing Education courses (some exceptions apply)
- 10% discount on non-instructional items at both campus book stores
- free admission to events hosted by the Alumni Association

For as little as \$25.00/year* you can be a lifelong learner and help the Alumni Association continue to provide services to its valued graduates.

To receive your Benefits Card, complete the application form and mail or fax it, along **with a copy of your VCC diploma or certificate**, to the VCC Alumni Association. We will promptly send you your Alumni Benefits Card so you can start saving immediately!

* Valid for one calendar year. No GST.

Mail to: 1155 E. Broadway, Box 24620, Station F, Vancouver, BC V5N 5T9 or Fax: 871-7200

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☐ Cheque enclosed in the amount of \$25.00 (payable to VCC Alumni Association)

Please charge my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

ALUMNEWS is published by the VCC Alumni Association for all former students of Vancouver Community College. The Alumni Association serves the common interest of VCC alumni, current students and the College. The Association is advised on projects and policies by a Board of Directors.

Writer/editor: Jane Westheuser

Layout : Carolina Becerra