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Vancouver Actor Stephen Dimopoulos

U.S. INVESTMENT KEEPS ALUMNUS HOME

by Colleen Smith

In order to survive in their business it is common for a lot of our local actors to move to other cities — especially Toronto and Los Angeles. But for Stephen Dimopoulos staying in Vancouver and living near friends and family are important priorities.

Stephen, a Langara Theatre Arts

Graduate, says he has performed in other cities, but most of his 12 years of acting experience has been achieved here in local theatre productions, and in a large number of film and television productions.

While he performs in Canada, Stephen admits: "I wouldn't be here in Vancouver if it weren't for the American film and television investments."

Stephen has been cast for supporting roles and small parts in films like NBC's "Little Match Girl", the Disney Production, "Earth Star Voyager", and TV pro-

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A SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS

Like every Association, this organization depends heavily on the public-spirited support of volunteer workers. Our initial success with members' events and membership recruitment would not have been possible without the help of many of our members.

We must acknowledge the valuable contribution each of our Board Members makes. Their individual commitment to attend meetings and work on committees is essential to our success.

We must also thank our members at large for their hard work. Many of you have made yourselves available to staff booths in malls and markets, to tend bar, to take pictures, or to write articles for Alumnews.

While it is not possible to name everyone, we would like to call attention to the exceptional contributions of Camille Christopher and Carole Wilson. Camille spent many weeks calling and enrolling eligible members from VVI student records dating back to 1981. Carole has been a very active Board Member and she has served on three committees. Her contribution to this publication has been substantial.

We hope to involve more of our members in activities of the Association in the next few months. If you are one of those people with a desire to lend some of your time and ability, we want to hear from you.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends:

It has been a privilege to represent you these past months as President of the first formally elected Board of Directors for the Alumni Association.

In reviewing the activities of our first year, we can point with pride to the contributions our members have made.

While we have worked hard we have also had a lot of fun. The Events Committee, co-chaired by Dennis Fitzpatrick and Tom O'Flynn have produced several very successful events, and plans are developing for more regularly scheduled activities.

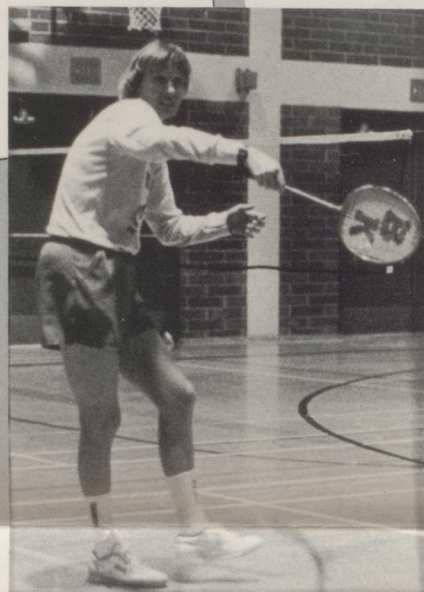
Our staff has also worked hard. With the support of our Executive Director, Colleen Smith, and her assistant Barbara Phillips, we have enrolled nearly 900 Alumni members.

A full report on the activities of this fiscal year, ending March 31st, 1988, will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, June 9th, 1988. We hope a great many of you will be able to attend.

Best wishes,

Sylvia Russell

Sylvia Russell
President, VCC Alumni Association



GALLAGHER'S NOTEBOOK

"Keeping up with — and frequently anticipating — changing community needs is the most exciting part of VCC's mission" has been the theme of remarks by Vancouver Community College President, Paul Gallagher, in recent months. The Vancouver Board of Trade, the National Forum on Post-Secondary Education, and a dinner for VCC's program advisory committee chairs provided platforms in recent months for this VCC message.

"The College is now much more a part of its community," Gallagher has reported, citing the fact that some 45,000 full and part-time students now attend the College each year. Referring to the more than 3,000 people who work at the College and the more than 45 locations where College services are offered, the President emphasized that VCC is now far more than three campuses primarily for young full-time students. "There is now much more cross-campus programming, more upgrading and retraining, more international activity, more entrepreneurialism. We are now a key player in the economic development of Vancouver and our province," Gallagher asserts.

The additional strings in the VCC bow of the last five years have not come easily. Faculty, staff, and administrators have increased their workloads, buildings are

crowded, and the College has lost ground in its efforts to maintain the equipment necessary for all its programs and services.

"The evidence is quite clear," reports Gallagher, "VCC continues to do more with less — but that cannot go on indefinitely."



Paul Gallagher, VCC President

nitely." He points to the fact that VCC has been getting a smaller share of provincial funding resources each year while doing more than its share of the College system business.

Despite the fact that VCC has diversified its financial base, the College still needs the full support of the provincial government. As the President has noted, "We now generate \$13 million beyond our base grant each year, but our major supporter must still be our own province."

Gallagher expresses confidence that the College will soon turn the financial corner and that government will increase its support as the community served by the College is already doing.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The world does not stop when you complete your education.

Advances in technology as well as new approaches and attitudes in the work place affect you and your career.

Keep on top of changes by staying on top of your education.

With more than 600 courses . . . and 20 certificate programs . . . VCC Continuing Education can help.

Watch for the Spring/Summer 88 Flyer in the Vancouver Sun, March 18th. For more information call 875-8200.

KEC — THE TRANSPLANTED HEART

by Colleen Smith

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending an award ceremony on King Edward Campus. I have to say that while I have been headquartered at VCC's newest facility for many months, on this occasion I saw KEC for the first time.

It was an event to honour the accomplishments of a group of KEC students.

tinuing Education Centre of the Vancouver School Board from 1962.

In 1965, King Edward's grounds and facilities became the first campus of Vancouver City College. The College, which changed its name to Vancouver Community College in 1974, brought together the Vancouver School of Art and the Vancouver Vocational Institute with the Senior Matriculation and Night School programs that were now offered at KEC. From this beginning, a wide range of new

programs were originated by people who saw a need. Faculty was recruited from people who had a genuine interest in the problems of the people they served.

"There was always a sense that you were doing something very real. You could see you were making a difference in people's lives," Turpin says.

Turpin is concerned that the size of the new modern campus, combined with the resulting complexity of administration, could diminish the special quality of KEC. He says it is important that the campus stays in touch with its roots.

It is clear that the heart of KEC was successfully transplanted in 1983. We hope that it has a long life, because it takes a lot of caring to give people a new start or a second chance.

ALUMNI FORUM ON FREE TRADE

How will the Free Trade Agreement affect you?

To get answers to your questions, attend a special forum for VCC Alumni.

A panel will discuss issues around the Free Trade Agreement with an emphasis on the services, trades, and technical sectors of the economy.

The event will be held in the Langara Campus Theatre Room A:130, March 28th at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is by donation. Pay what you can! To register, call 875-1131.



Instructor Noreen Green hugs Award Winner Sonia Molina

Each student was introduced to the audience by a member of the faculty. As each instructor told the audience about the reasons why a particular individual was being recognized, we could hear the warmth, respect, and pride that filled their voices.

There were genuine feelings exposed in the room that day. Many instructors hugged their students when a handshake would have been more commonplace. We, in the audience, began to share those warm feelings as we heard the stories of hardships endured and difficulties overcome: the students' struggles to learn a new language in a new country after years in a refugee camp, to master basic literacy as an adult learner, or to acquire basic job skills while overcoming a physical handicap. With each story told, it became more apparent that what KEC is about is the special caring relationships that exist between the faculty and the students.

They say that KEC was not really planned, it just happened as people responded to the needs that existed in the community.

It seems to me that no matter how far you go back in tracing the history of the King Edward name, you encounter special feelings. It was special to the people who attended King Edward High School until 1962, and it was special to many people who attended King Edward when it was the Senior Matriculation and Con-

programs were developed. Many of our members have graduated from programs such as Business or Arts and Science offered at the KEC campus. In 1970, the academic and career programs were moved to the new Langara Campus.

By 1970, the KEC campus grounds had been sold to the Vancouver General Hospital. But the college continued to use the facilities until 1983. In 1973, however, the original King Edward building burned to the ground leaving only two gymnasiums. From that time until 1983, the Campus programs were run out of the gyms and a set of portables. In 1983, the Campus offered programs for Secondary School Completion, English-as-a-Second Language, Institutional Aide, Pharmacy Technical Assistant, Music, Auto Mechanics, and Autobody Repair. That same year it moved to its present location in a modern college campus at Broadway and Clark.

Howard Turpin has been with the campus since 1970. He came to KEC when the basic employment training programs were transferred here from Vancouver Technical College. Turpin says the present day KEC is special because it has its roots in the community. When the Langara Campus opened, space became open in the King Edward buildings. Consequently, a lot of programs that existed in church basements, private homes, night schools, and community centres moved into the King Edward Campus. These

VVI OPEN HOUSE

Vancouver Vocational Institute will be open for visitors April 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Alumni are welcome to tour the campus and meet with faculty.

NEW PROGRAMS IN RECREATION

by Vince Kreiser

Vancouver Community College is now the home of two Recreation Facilities Management Programs. Both programs were transferred from B.C.I.T. and are now fully on stream at VCC.

The Recreation Facilities Management Diploma Program is a two-year career program run through the Department of Physical Education and Recreation at Langara Campus. It is designed for students wishing to study on a full-time "day" basis. Information on this program may be obtained by calling the Counselling Office at Langara. Phone 324-5221.

The Recreation Facilities Management Certificate Program is a part-time program run through Continuing Education. It is designed for working students who prefer to take evening and weekend courses towards their certificates. Information on this program may be obtained from the Continuing Education Office at King Edward Campus on East Broadway. Phone 875-8200.

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grams like "21 Jump Street", and "Danger Bay". Getting this kind of work can keep an actor alive in Vancouver.

Theatre work has dropped off in recent years and there has been a noticeable drain of talent away from our local area as a result. The people who survive are the ones like Stephen, who can diversify their activities by working in a variety of mediums, or broaden their scope by trying new things. In Stephen's case, writing is another avenue to explore.

Stephen is working on three writing projects and he has some reasons to be optimistic. While he is not willing to disclose too many details, Stephen says one of the scripts will be looked at by an Oscar winning director. Another project, a book, has

been sent to publishers in outline form in search of financing. All three projects are collaborations with other writers.

Stephen says he has a lot of ideas but he relies on his partners to provide the technical knowledge.

The writing projects offer exciting possibilities for Stephen. As a writer he can work where he is happiest, and he can make a contribution by producing original Canadian material, something that is also important to Stephen.

"Being on television is fun and it's great to have your friends see you, and be seen all over North America, but playing the third thug on the left on 'Airwolf' doesn't have the same gratification for me as something like playing Norman in the 'Norman Conquests' for a live audience."

Stephen is not seduced by the apparent opportunities of film and television.

"There are financial rewards that go along with being well known and with being famous, but the real rewards are, I think, through your friends, family, and people you respect."

When asked about his goals for the future, Stephen says, "What I would really like to have achieved is to have my peers think of me and say, 'Hey, you know, this guy, he's really good'."

Stephen knows that if the work dries up for him in Vancouver, he will have to leave. He also knows that if the American exchange on the dollar comes down, the U.S. film producers could pull out of the city. Nevertheless, Stephen is optimistic about the future.

"There are so many people now who have got a taste of the film business... that even if all the Americans go... they're going to be so hungry to work, and there are so many people trying to write things now... I think there has been a seed that's planted."

We have to hope that Stephen is right. Because if you have had the opportunity to see him perform in the theatre, you know that he is the kind of gifted artist our city cannot afford to lose.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

FRANK SHAM: VVI — Cooking 1985, is apprenticing for chef at the Hotel Vancouver. Presently, he is spending one month in B.C.I.T.'s cooking program as part of his training.

ZONIA HADYD: King Edward Campus — Pharmacy Assistant 1985, has worked for the past two years as a Pharmacy Technician at the Children's Hospital. Now she is interested in pursuing Slavic Eastern European studies at the University of Alberta.

SUSANNA PAU: Langara — Administrative Clerk, Information Processor, Secretary, Legal Secretary 1987, is beginning a four-year CGA program for her certificate in accounting. Meanwhile, she is working in the accounting office of the Future Shop's Vancouver location.

ALANA MCDUGALL: Langara — Food Services Technician 1985, is a food service supervisor at Peace Arch Hospital.

PETER HALL: VVI — Computer Drafting 1985, operates a field mapping and drafting company called "Promap Drafting Ltd.", which employs five people. Promap handles conference graphics and collects geological data in the field.

GAIL URQUHART: Langara — Food Services Technology 1985, works two supervisory jobs; one at Eagleridge Hospital, the other at Surrey Memorial Hospital. In her spare time, she volunteers as Clinic Supervisor at the Red Cross, and at the Burnaby Food Bank. Gail also is the editor for the Canadian Food Supervisor's newsletter.

JOE WEIDENMAN: VVI — Electronics Technician 1985, started his job at Canadian General Electronics six months after graduation. Joe installs and repairs cellular telephones and two-way radios.

SURJIT JAGPAL: VVI — Electronics Technician 1987, has been installing burglar alarm systems since he graduated. He is currently registering his own company to handle security needs for commercial customers.

ALAN TOH: VVI — Power and Process Engineering 1977, is an assistant engineer and custodian for the Vancouver School Board.

Alumnews is published with technical assistance from VCC's Instructional Media Services Department.

SPORTS NEWS

by Carole Wilson

In VCC Basketball Action, the Men's Team is currently in second place and the Women are in fourth.

With the College Championships coming up March 11th and 12th at B.C.I.T., the final games of the season will be important to VCC's play-off hopes.

VOLLEYBALL/PUB NIGHTS

The great success of our recreation socials has promoted a plan to hold monthly gym and pub nights on Monday evenings.

Members will meet at the Langara Campus gymnasium March 21st, April 18th, May 16th, and June 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Pub socials will begin at 7:30 in the Langara Faculty Lounge following volleyball and badminton.

Admission is \$3.00 and there will be a no-host bar.

Please call to reserve space — ask for Barbara 875-1131.

VCC DAY

Alumni volunteers are needed to support VCC in its first College-wide professional development day.

Faculty and staff from the entire College will assemble at the B.C. Enterprise Centre, Monday April 25th from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Speakers including well-known author, Peter Newman, and former Chief Justice, Thomas Berger will address the topic of "Education, Passion and the Real World".

This occasion is an opportunity for the Association to make a visible gesture of support for VCC.

If you can give some of your time to help with registration and hosting, please call Colleen Smith at 875-1131.

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 three times a year 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.

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