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Quang Dinh (front) and Danny Kou at work

# Courage Gets Alumnus Off To A Good Start

by Maria Kegel

Quang Dinh says he is not afraid of doing anything. Not even opening his own autobody shop right after completing his six-month course in Autobody and Painting at VCC.

Quang, a 24 year old Vietnamese immigrant, opened Bay City Coach-

works on Ontario Street seven months ago.

Quang says when he has any problems, he knows he can consult his former instructor Lew Bloomingdale at King Edward Campus. "He's cool," Quang says affectionately.

Quang can also rely on his older brother and partner, Thanh, who runs the automotive half of their business in a separate garage across town on West 4th.

"My brother has many contacts, and this is very helpful. We always need

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# Give Yourself a Pat on the Back

Thanks to the loyalty and enthusiasm shown by you and your fellow VCC Alumni, this first edition of Alumnews will reach out to more than 600 founding members of the Alumni Association. Member support has come from all of the many varied career and educational programs offered at our three campuses. Your active support and encouragement have left no doubt in our minds that the VCC Alumni care. Our first events were very well attended and your response to our recent survey has been overwhelming.

We would like to extend a special thank you to those of you who have been able to volunteer your time. The participation of volunteers is essential to the Association.

Our Association owes a debt of appreciation to the first founding members from the Alumni Development Committee. The committee which was brought together by the Executive Director of the VCC Educational Foundation, Howard Naphtali, was chaired by Bruna Giacomazzi, with the support of Valerie Nielsen, Irene Leonard and Tom Toulson. No doubt each of these individuals has been largely rewarded by your warm response.

We thank you for your encouragement and support.

We would like to express our appreciation to IMS for their technical assistance in the assembly of this publication.

College Week

IS

NOVEMBER

23rd to 29th

## SHOW YOUR PRIDE!

## READ ALL ABOUT IT . . .

- Cover-Profile of a King Edward Graduate
  - President's Corner - Association President, Sylvia Russell
  - Gallagher's Notebook - VCC President, Paul Gallagher
  - New Construction - Langara Campus
  - Fine Cuisine on a Budget - JJ's at VVI
  - VCC Sports - Basketball at Langara
  - Continuing Education - New Courses and Travel
  - Members Events -Don't miss our next party
  - Where Are They Now - News of classmates
  - Alumni Prize Draws - Help find lost Alumni
- VCC-VANCOUVER VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE  
LIBRARY

VCC-VANCOUVER VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE  
LIBRARY JAN 18 1988



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Sylvia Russell, President, VCC Alumni Association

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to welcome you as members of the VCC Alumni Association.

As your president for the coming year, I look forward to meeting you and working together on events that we hope will be enjoyable and creative.

Those of us who have been some time away from VCC, now have a unique opportunity to share, with gratitude, some of the treasure of our current experience and energy. We do this with recognition of the richness of learning and opportunity we were given while at VCC.

We look forward to your wholehearted participation in this program, challenging in its purpose and exciting in its possibilities, for the College, its students and ourselves.

Sincerely,

*Sylvia Russell*  
Sylvia Russell  
President  
VCC Alumni Association

## GALLAGHER'S NOTEBOOK

"Recognize change and seize the opportunity to play a central role in the Canadian society of the future" was the message Vancouver Community College President Paul Gallagher had for those who attended the Annual Conference of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges held last June.

Dr. Gallagher pointed out that there is a widespread view that the next five years will see the emergence of new social and economic conditions in Canada. If that forecast is accurate, the greatest challenge for the next five years is to redirect college education.

Dr. Gallagher believes colleges need to examine what college education ought to become. He identified five indicators:

- College learning must become more integrated. As faculty, we will have to talk to each other and focus our attention on each student as a whole person; we must see beyond our specific area of study.
- Direct learning takes place when communication is learned with practice in writing and speaking; and, by the same means, thinking will become more direct and purposeful.
- Foundation programming needs to be enhanced. Colleges, like other educational institutions, work with many

underprepared students.

- Colleges need to convince students that learning must become a continuing process. Colleges should make a long-term commitment to students who come for initial post-secondary education or training and such students should want to make a long-term



Paul Gallagher, VCC President

commitment to their colleges.

- Much greater attention should be paid to the need for non-technical upgrading of people already in the workforce or seeking employment. The work world is full of people who

are stuck in a career rut not because they lack technical skill or potential, but because they do not have the communication skills necessary for working with each other.

Dr. Gallagher ended on the optimistic note that if Canada's colleges can respond effectively to the challenge of redirection, they will be far ahead of other education institutions within Canada and beyond. They have the opportunity to lead the way in Canadian education.

## Continuing Education

Here are some new and upcoming course offerings from Continuing Education. This year there are new courses geared to unlocking your creativity and inventiveness.

For the artists among us look at **Unlocking the Creative Potential, The Creative Process and The Creative Edge** with Creativity Development Consultant, Peri Enkin.

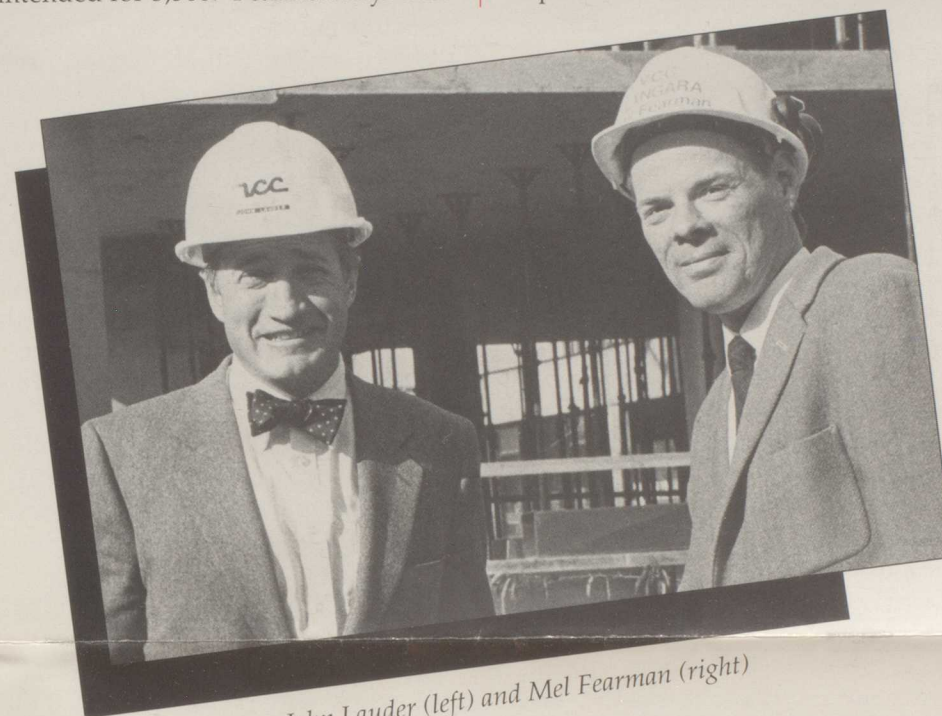
Entrepreneurs should look for **Inventions and Inventions Workshop** with inventor George Kecala.

Watch for the C.E. Flyer between Christmas and New Years for more information on these and over 600 other course offerings. For details about Educational Travel Excursions to Thailand, Kenya, Mexico and Europe, see the flyer or call Wayne Decle at 875-8200.

## Letting Out the Seams at Langara

by Colleen Smith

Mel Fearman knows as well as anyone how much the building additions under construction at Langara Campus will alleviate the congestion that exists there. Fearman is Building Services Manager for Langara. A VCC graduate himself, he joined the staff 11 years ago. He has been able to observe the changes that had to occur as student populations climbed to over 6,000 on a site intended for 3,500. Fearman says that



John Lauder (left) and Mel Fearman (right)

while the overcrowding can be stressful, the growth has occurred gradually and for the most part, people have made adjustments. The result has been that people work very hard and they have become very good at doing their jobs and running things at a high level of efficiency.

Nevertheless, the overcrowding has taken its toll on the quality of life at Langara and it has made it difficult for Fearman to do his job.

The large number of people on the site complicate efforts to regulate room temperatures. Keeping the facilities clean and maintained is more of a challenge too. According to Fearman, the lack of study and lounge space has put excessive pressure on the cafeteria, hallways and foyer. The office where we met was a student lounge when I was a student in the seventies. Today eight student lounge areas have been converted for other uses. Fearman says the new additions will reduce the stress of overcrowding by giving students more places to study and socialize.

John Lauder is the Project Manager for the construction. He says none of the additions are going to increase instructional space. All of the new space created will be dedicated to improving services for the students that are currently enrolled.

A one storey infill courtyard inside the quadrangle will accommodate Health Services, Continuing Education Faculty offices, and a student study and lounge space. The infill will be covered with a roof garden, which may enhance the view from the inside windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the quadrangle. A three storey addition to the south side of the Library will allow for relocation of the bookstore, and the instructional Media Services Department. It will also provide for additional stacks and more badly needed study space for students. The last phase of construction will occur on the north side of the campus adjacent to the entrance. More space will be created to expand the Student Services area. The

## Popping the Cork at JJ's

by Carole Wilson

We arrived promptly for our 5:30 reservation at JJ's to be greeted by maitre'd Hans Obeck. Obeck is the instructor for Dining Room and Lounge Training Service at Vancouver Vocational Institute. Our student waiter for the evening is Douglas Beaudry. Douglas proves to be very knowledgeable and not just about the menu, he tells us about some of the many talents of his instructor Hans Obeck.

Obeck, who has been an instructor at VVI for 10 years, has also gained substantial renown as a wine taster. His success at a recent wine tasting competition at the Meridian Hotel, has earned him a chance to attend the Canadian Sommelier Contest in Montreal 1988.

"When tasting a wine, one looks for: colour, balance, bouquet, aroma, taste and aftertaste. All of these must be present and acceptable for the wine to gain passing marks." For amateur wine tasters Hans offered the following hints: "Choose 2 red and 2 white wines each from different grape varieties. Follow the above rules for tasting wines. Once you feel comfortable with this, try 2 wines from the same grape, like Chardonnay, but from different countries.

As for cooking with wine, a leg of lamb with a nice French Bordeaux was a defi-



Carole Wilson at JJ's with VVI Instructor Hans Obeck

nite first choice from Hans. On your next visit to JJ's for dinner talk to Hans about wine, that is, if you can catch him in between seating guests, overseeing the cooks and observing the waiters. Getting back to our dinner. We enjoyed the sole which was beautifully presented and cooked to perfection. The menu is French, the food is down home good. Pouring through the notes I made during our visit to JJ's is tempting my appetite for more.

If you know all about JJ's, you should go back for a visit (that is for all you VVI grads). If you have only heard about the training facility on Pender Street where great meals are served, it may be time to try it. Choose an evening when you want the special treatment that you thought only came with high prices.

continued on page 4



## What Is New In Your Life?

Tell us about marriages, babies, new jobs, new addresses, degrees earned, and accomplishments:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## SPORTS NEWS

Basketball is our sport at VCC headquartered at Langara Campus.

The women's team is led by Katherine McPherson in her 2nd year as coach. They face a 38 game schedule this season. The other teams rounding out the College League are: Malaspina, Cariboo College, Fraser Valley, Trinity, Douglas College, and BCIT.

The men's team will play in the College League as well beginning after Christmas. Their competition is much the same as the women's with the exception of Selkirk College replacing Douglas College.

Veteran coach Dunc McCallum has a nucleus of only 2 returning players to which he's added 10 newcomers. His youthful squad will play a 35 game schedule, beginning Oct.31 against Senior A League teams. In recent years players from VCC have gone onto university teams in respectable numbers: UVic -2, Calgary -1, UBC -20, Lethbridge -2 and SFU -4.

SFU coach Mike McNeill played at VCC.

Alumni wishing to attend a game can obtain schedule information from the gym at 324-5328.

## Get Your Name In Our Prize Draw

A copy of the RICK HANSEN MAN IN MOTION biography in hard cover will be drawn on February 28th. Enter the draw by sending us names and addresses for other VCC Alumni, who may have not yet have joined the Association. We will follow up the leads and enter your name in the draw one time for every lead you send us.

## Coming Events:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd join the Alumni for an evening of recreation and socializing. A Volleyball/Pub combination is planned. The Langara gym is booked for Volleyball and Badminton at 5:30 PM followed by a social in the faculty lounge from 7:00 PM. Admission is \$2.00 R.S.V.P. 875-1131 Local 361.

*Courage continued from page 1*

that steady work coming in, and his contacts provide that."

Quang does not work alone in the shop. He remembered a school colleague's pleas for employment at graduation, and hired Danny Kou when the work load got heavy. The work has not slowed down since then. "We have at least one car in every day and one car out every day; we always have eight hour days." Danny says.

He loves the no-pressure working environment he shares with Quang. Because they learned the trade together in school - picking each other as partners whenever a school assignment called for two workers - both Danny and Quang call their relationship a partnership instead of one of employee and employer.

"I don't call him boss," Danny says. "We joke around, it's not even a job really."

Danny says they treat each other on an equal level. "If Quang doesn't know what he is doing, I'll help him."

Quang has met his challenges with the same quick smile he wears when he speaks to anyone. Like the time he was accused of stealing customers away from his neighbour, another autobody shop. The owner retaliated by refusing to rent a painting booth to Quang.

"It was wrong - most of my work came from the dealerships at that time. I didn't have a painting booth and I needed one so I had to rent another one, but it was far away."

Quang resolved their differences out of necessity by talking with the owner several times. It was the same perseverance that carried him through another problem: understanding customers.

"They would think the work on their car would only take two hours, but I had to explain it would take all day."

Customers' attention to detail would frustrate Quang, but now he says he has developed an understanding of their point of view, and he strives to make them happy.

Quang has learned what many small business operators discover and that is "to open a shop is very easy, but to keep it alive is hard."

## Where Are They Now?

RANDY CLARK: Langara - Arts & P.E. 1972, was Captain of Men's Basketball Team. Still as crazy as you remember him. Randy has infiltrated the Secondary School System, and is teaching at Eric Hamber in Vancouver.

KATHLEEN RABY: VVI - Hairstyling 1985 is working at Johnart Hair Styling on West Broadway. Kathleen is just leaving on a two week vacation to Mexico.

CATHY BACH: (nee Barone) Langara - Marketing & Sales, is returning to work at the Bay this month. Cathy gave birth to daughter Jennifer Lynn, July 11th. She will be moving from Special Events to be Regional License Department Manager when she returns to the Bay.

ELIZABETH BURNYEAT: King Edward Campus - College Foundations, Langara - Computer Systems Technology 1986, is working at VCC in the Computer Department. Elizabeth was recently promoted from Operator Programmer to Computer Programmer.

TRACEY HAMBLET: King Edward - BTSD, is working at Lions Gate Hospital as a Dietary Aide. She is also planning a marriage to her high school sweetheart next summer.

HARRIETT LEMER: Langara - Arts & Science 1973, has just been appointed General Manager of the Business Development Group. Harriett joined the company in April of this year as Senior Client Services Manager. The company provides assistance to small and medium size businesses.

*Popping continued from page 3*

Douglas provided us with the following background on our place of repast: there are 8 menus, changed each Wednesday. For groups of more than 8 people you must have a set menu. JJ's is named after Jozef James Nowacki, Dept. Head of Food Trades at VVI 1965 - 1982. Reservations are recommended especially Thursday and Friday. Call 669-9373.

## Bouquets for Sponsors

In the Spring we launched our first membership drive with a contest to win prizes donated by Tyax Mountain Lake Resort, Whitewater Adventures Ltd., and Monk McQueens Oyster Bar. We would like to thank these sponsors for their support, and congratulate the winners. The first prize was won by VVI Instructor, Jennie Bedford. Thanks to all who participated.

# 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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