

ALUMNEWS

SPRING 1993

PUBLISHED BY THE VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Most Memorable Experience for Clark

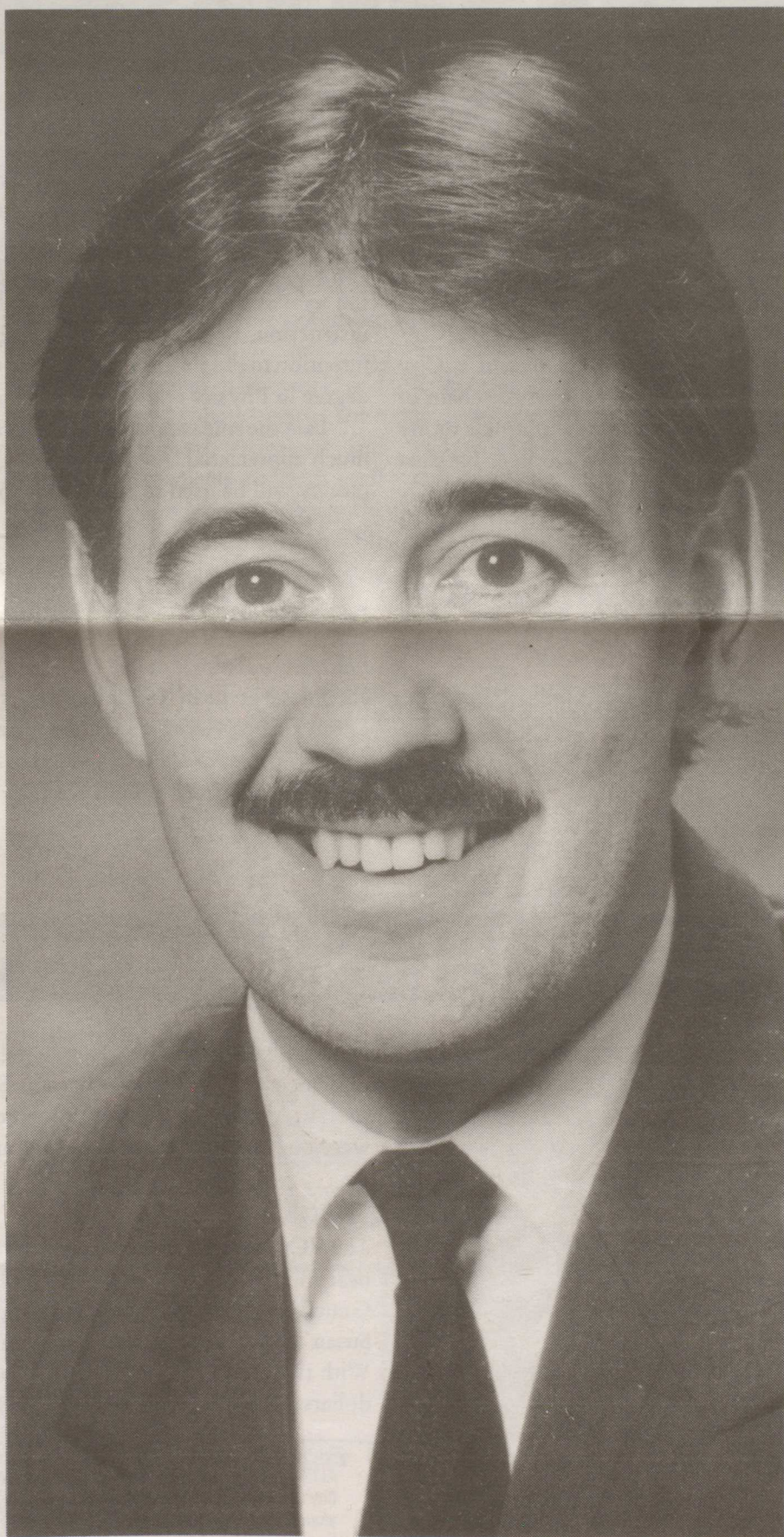
Former VCC student and current Minister of Finance, Glen Clark, attended Langara during 1975 and 1976. Reflecting on his time at Vancouver Community College, Clark says, "I really enjoyed Langara, it was a good adjustment before university. I found it much more difficult academically than university."

Clark spent his early college days at Archie's down the street, a beer and pizza place near Main and 49th, which has long since disappeared. "I hung out there quite a bit, part of being a young person going to college was having a good time," Clark reflects. He is quick to add, "(I) got that year out of my system and was able to go on to university and be more restrained."

After Langara, Clark went on to Simon Fraser University to earn a BA in Political Science and Canadian Studies. Several years later, Clark received his Master of Arts degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of British Columbia.

Despite spending years at SFU and UBC, Clark maintains that Langara was by far the most memorable experience. "Langara had more working class kids, at least when I was there. (I) found social life better, (and) I enjoyed the people who were at Langara. (They were) people from my neighborhood. Very few people from my neck of the woods went to university."

To put himself through school, Clark spent the summers at a variety of jobs, including bartender at the (now defunct) Molly Hogan pub near the corner of Knight and 41st Street. Clark also had a brief stint as an iron worker. Grinning, he goes on to tell the story of a strike he was involved with. "I got elected by the workers to the shop committee. When the strike was settled, I was fired because of my activities during the strike." Later,



Former Langara student and current Minister of Finance, Glen Clark

Clark spent several years working for the Iron Worker's Union.

Despite recent criticism regarding the policies and politics of the New Democratic Party (NDP) government, Clark remains cheerfully optimistic about his political role. "If you're not in politics to change things, then you shouldn't be there. If you believe that government is the problem, and you get elected to manage the situation, you tend not to be concerned about efficiency. I feel I'm in a position to have an influence over events, and I'm privileged and honoured to be in that position. Beyond that, my goal is a broader one, to continue to try changing what I think is a really unjust system."

"My biggest concern about the job is my wife and kids. I have a two year old (Layne) and a five year old (Reid), (and) I spend a lot of time in Victoria. I try to spend Sunday and Saturday with my family, although it's not always possible. It's tough, it takes a toll on your family. I'm not sure the general public has much sympathy for politicians, and rightfully so. I understand that, but at the same time it doesn't diminish the challenge of being a father (and) a family person." ♦

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What's Going On At VCC?!

As we begin the new year, several changes are underway for Vancouver Community College. As you may have gleaned from the media, the Langara Campus will eventually separate from Vancouver Community College. April 1, 1994 has been set as the date by which Langara will become a separate entity, thereafter known as Langara College. King Edward Cam-

pus and City Centre will remain as Vancouver Community College.

Although the logistics of the separation have not yet been finalized, a Transition Council has been set up to replace the College Executive Committee. In addition to the membership of the old College Executive Committee, representatives from each major VCC union sit on the new board. Matters such as per-

sonnel, budgets, assets and organizational structure must be resolved.

Several forms of communication have been implemented to allow the 1,500 employees of the college to keep abreast of the Council's progress. An "exchange phone line" with recorded daily updates on issues concerning the separation has been set-up, giving callers the option of leaving a question, comment or

suggestion for John Cruickshank, President of VCC. A printed bulletin gives further details of the Council meetings and other College news. These are some of the steps being taken to involve VCC employees in the separation process.

Despite the impending separation, the Alumni Association welcomes graduates of Langara to the Alumni Association. ♦

LETTERS

VALUABLE TOOLS

The I.D. (Instructors Diploma) Program of Vancouver Community College has opened many gates for me. My background was in hospitality administration, followed by four years as a training manager in an international hotel chain. While in this latter position, I felt the need to study the subject of adult education and to become proficient as an instructor.

The I.D. Program of the Program Development Department at City Centre not only answered my needs, but set in motion a whole chain of events due to the intellectual level, sincerity, caring and helpfulness of my instructors; Bob Aitkin (Department Head), Norman Dooley, Kristina Knowles, Karl Clegg, Kees Hoff, and Mitch Stefanek.

With the tools gained through the course material, quality of instruction, close cooperation and encouragement from my instructors, I began a teaching career in hospitality administration, felt myself blooming as facilitator, considering myself lucky to have such good role models. They gave advice generously despite their many responsibilities.

I recently opened a consulting service to deal with training in hospitality operations. When intellectual matters related to this new field puzzle me from an instructional point of view, I still drop in at the Program Development Department for advice.

Claire Belilos

SCHOLARSHIP APPRECIATED

I am writing to express my appreciation for selecting me as an Alumni Award winner. I feel deeply honoured.

The fourteen months I spent at VCC, King Edward Campus, was an enjoyable and rewarding time. I am presently attending UBC and find that the level of education I received at 'King Ed', as well as the high quality of instruction, has prepared me for the rigours of university life. It is my intention to obtain either a degree in Computer Engineering, or a combined degree in Physics and Computer Science while at university.

I am the sole support of my wife and two daughters, so the award is very much appreciated. As the limit of a student loan is of a fixed amount, the money will be used to cover some of the day to day necessities.

I thank you for choosing me as the Alumni Association's recipient.

Ron Allan

GO NORTH!

I moved to Kitimat in late 1989 (and) it opened new horizon(s) for me. I do encourage grads of VCC to consider jobs in the less populated areas (Peace River, Prince George, Cariboo, Skeena & the North Coast). During the recession, a lot of posts in these areas are not filled. I am a computer analyst in the pulp & paper mill in Kitimat. Life is challenging over here.

Anthony Yau

HAPPENINGS



Scenes from the 1993 Alumni Association Career Fair at Langara.

SMILEY HELPERS

The Thirty Year Dental Assisting and Reception Homecoming on March 4, 1993 was a success. Over 90 people came back to the City Centre campus to reacquaint with old classmates and instructors. Going all the way back to the classes of the late sixties, dental alumnae had the opportunity to get a peek at the new dental clinic. Even CBC radio came to check out the reunion!

CAREER FAIR

The VCC Alumni Association Career Fair was held at Langara on March 11, 1993. Co-sponsored by *The Employment Paper*, over 25 exhibitors were on

hand to talk with the general public and students about careers, job placement and vocational programs. Several thousand people passed through the fair. Alumni Association volunteers Gina Sernagiotto and Tracy Manrell were on hand to answer questions and help out at the fair.

THANKS!

The VCC Alumni Association fundraising casino was held at Casino World near Metrotown on March 14th and 15th. Volunteers Barb Bruce, Sheila Grant, Krishna O'Connell, Kristi Searle, Sandra Silens, Robert Slade, and Susan Toplak counted chips and money into the wee hours of the morning. With their help, the Alumni Association was able to raise close to \$10,000 dollars. Thanks everybody, we couldn't have done it without you!

ALUMNEWS is published by the VCC Alumni Association for all former students of Langara, City Centre (VVI) and King Edward. The Association serves the common interests of VCC alumni, current students and the College. The Association is advised on projects and policies to pursue by an advisory committee. The 1992-93 Alumni Advisory Committee members are: Henry Au, Barb Bruce, Patrick Connolly, Wynn Keenan, Elizabeth Majestic, Tracy Manrell, Marnie Maxwell, Leo Mol, Krishna O'Connell, Karim Rajan, Kristi Searle, Susan Toplak and Giulia Vendramin.

Your comments are welcome! Write the editor with any comments, suggestions or grad gossip for ALUMNEWS.

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From VVI to Shanghai



Top: A young girl has her teeth examined by Dr. Gray. Above: Sharlene Jonasson with a class of preschoolers in Shanghai.

Sharlene Jonasson's career in dental health has taken her as far away as Shanghai, a long way from her days at the Vancouver Vocational Institute (now Vancouver Community College City Centre) Block 7 course in 1974.

For those not in the dental know, Block 7, (also known as the Intra-oral/Dental Assistant Certification course), taught dental assistants all those titillating procedures like cleaning teeth, applying fluoride, taking x-rays, placing the "rubber raincoat" and taking alginate impressions. "I thought the course was very challenging and worthwhile," Sharlene comments.

Almost twenty years later, in 1991, Sharlene and Dr. Alan Gray, former Director of Dental Health Services for the BC Ministry of Health, were invited to Shanghai by a Chinese benevolent society. The trip was a privately sponsored mission to consult with the local authorities regarding the state of children's dental health in Shanghai.

For Sharlene, the trip was the

result of years of hard work and experience. "I had spent time designing dental programs and assisting in projects to train staff around the province. I had spent the previous 12 years working in this capacity when I was invited to go to Shanghai," she recalls.

Sharlene, who had never been to China, described Shanghai as a "big, huge, sprawling city. Everywhere you looked there was a sea of people." Not surprising for a city of over 12 million people. "It was almost (like) a different time. Bicycles (were) everywhere you looked, the colours and the climate were different."

Focusing on the dental health of kindergarten children in Shanghai, numerous differences between Canadian and Chinese dental health were evident. "Access to toothbrush and toothpaste is not a problem, but they leave something to be desired. Fluoride is simply not available, nor is dental floss," Sharlene explains.

"In the delivery of treatment services in Shanghai, there are chal-

lenges and frustrations. It's very difficult to meet the needs of 12 million people; access to dentistry is difficult with so high a dentist population ratio and dental equipment and resources that need updating. I think it's very difficult to provide services to the masses, when more and better is always necessary."

As the visit to Shanghai is part of a broader, ongoing project of consultation and information exchange, Dr. Huang Li-Ping, a dentist from Shanghai (whom Jonasson and Gray met in 1991), is currently studying Western dental practices here in

B.C. for six months. It is hoped Dr. Huang will be able to initiate a children's dental health project in Shanghai when she returns.

Currently, Sharlene works as a CDA with the Boundary Health Unit. 1993 marks Sharlene's 20th year in public health. Her main area of work is with elementary school children.

Nationally certified since the early nineteen seventies, Sharlene Jonasson promotes tri-level membership and has been active locally and provincially with Dental Assistant Associations. ♦

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Are you interested in the Langara Heritage Pavilion?

Some of you may have heard rumours that the Langara Golf Course Clubhouse is to be demolished in favour of a new expensive facility. There is a possibility that the old Clubhouse itself, which is a class "B" heritage structure built in 1926, could be preserved and utilized in its present site by the Langara Faculty Association.

An ad hoc committee of the Langara Faculty Association has been working hard to make this preservation happen. We are interested in learning whether the building would be used by alumni, and what uses would be preferred. Could you take a few minutes of your time to indicate what your preferences are?



The future Langara Heritage Pavilion.

1. A restaurant facility (Licensed dining or soup and sandwich)

2. Reading Room(s)

3. Recreational Room (please specify types of recreation)

4. Computer Facility Room(s)

5. Conference or Meeting Room

6. Childcare

7. Other uses/facilities (please specify: e.g. weddings/parties)

Just for indicative purposes, please indicate how much you would be willing and able to contribute to support such a facility if it became available:

- ☐ up to \$15 per month
☐ \$15 - \$30 per month
☐ \$30 - \$45 per month
☐ \$45 - \$60 per month
☐ more than \$60 per month

☐ No monetary support at all (please specify if appropriate)

I have other thoughts about the use or financing (e.g. fundraising ideas) of this facility and have specified these below. I am interested in learning more about the Clubhouse to be named the Langara Heritage Pavilion.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone(home) _____ (work) _____

Fax number _____

Year graduated from VCC _____

Program or specialty _____

Please return this survey to the Langara Heritage Pavilion Society, Attention: Andrew Whitaker, Langara Faculty Association Office, Langara Campus, Vancouver Community College, 100 West 49th Ave., Vancouver, BC V5Y 2Z6.

Additional Comments: _____

MARK YOUR CALENDER

SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSISTANTS 25 YEAR REUNION!

Saturday, May 29, 1993
1:30 to 4:00 pm

Langara Faculty Lounge, 100 W. 49th Avenue
Tickets: \$10.00 per person, includes light lunch and program
Pre-registration is necessary, call Ken Pawlak at 324-5423
or Linda Barnes at 274-3367.

All grads and friends of the program are invited.

VCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION YEAR END MEETING

Interested in the future of the Alumni Association?
Have ideas or suggestions that you would like to see carried through?
Would you like to serve on the Alumni Advisory Committee?

To find out more,
attend the VCC Alumni Association Year End Meeting!

Monday, June 14, 1993
6:30 pm in room 5025

King Edward Campus, 1155 E. Broadway
RSVP by calling the Association at 871-7147.

CALLING ALL OLD KING EDDIES!

Norma Peters, who graduated from King Edward High School in 1954, is interested in seeing you all again.

If you are a graduate of the old King Edward High School and would like to attend a King Eddy Reunion, call the Alumni office at 871-7147.

GOOD OL' KING ED HIGH

Part of the VCC Alumni Association membership is comprised of graduates of the old King Edward High School, which prior to its untimely demise, was one of the oldest educational institutions in Vancouver. Originally built as Vancouver High School in 1905, the high school was later expanded and re-named King Edward High School. Career programs from areas such as business, industry and community services were introduced. High school subjects were offered as adult upgrading and university transfer courses were initiated. In June of 1973, fire ripped through the old school and the damage was irreparable. The programs offered at the high school were split between Langara and eventually, King Edward campus.

Where Are They Now?

CITY CENTRE

Jaime Datuin, Culinary Art, 1991, recently won a gold medal in a local culinary competition for his entree entitled "Deep Sea Maiden."

Philippe Etter, Jewellery Art & Design, 1992, is working as a jeweller and a professional viola player with the CBC Radio Orchestra and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Marcia Gofsky, Practical Nursing Program, 1992, is working as an LPN at Richmond Hospital. Previously, Marcia graduated from VCC in 1976, from the Medical Office Assistant Program. She writes, "I have been an alumni member for a few years, and look forward to continuing my support to a College which has served myself and my family so well."

Christina Heathe, Hospitality Administration, 1992, is back from a recent trip to Africa, and has just begun a career as a corporate travel representative. In her spare time Christina directs a choir.

Anita Kosovic, Computer Graphics Technician Program, 1992, is currently employed with Western Technographics and teaches part-time in the computer graphics field.

Alissa Neufeld, Nursing, 1992, is working in the Special Care Unit of Normandy Hospital, a palliative care residence for Aids patients. It is the first facility of its kind in Canada.

Eileen Reilly (nee Dougall), Dental Assisting, 1982, married Dr. Jack Reilly, whom she had worked with for 10 years, in December of 1991. Eileen went back to university at UBC and earned a Psychology degree in 1990, a Social Work degree in 1992, and currently is doing a Masters degree in Social Work and Gerontology.

KING EDWARD

Sammy Cheng, Automotive Inspection, 1991, is an auto mechanic and has been in the trade for seven years.

Winston Chow, Institutional Aide, 1992, is a waiter in a Chinese restaurant in Richmond and is planning to take the English Program at King Edward in the spring.

Fiesta de Vries, Counselling Certificate, has a small private practice and is taking courses in art therapy and counselling related issues.

Helena Krieger, Teaching English as a Second Language, 1992, is a private ESL tutor.

Helen Lam, Institutional Aide, 1992, is working in a group home as a support care worker for mentally handicapped people.

LANGARA

George Affleck, Journalism Certificate, 1992, is working at CBC radio and freelancing as a writer.

Catherine Bartl Shultis, Arts and Science, 1987, is in Japan with her husband for a year teaching English and hoping to do some museum work.

Jennifer Burkholder, Recreation Leadership, 1992, married her student sweetheart last June and is now working full time as an activity worker.

Steve Dow, Arts and Science, 1978, is teaching electrical and motor courses

at Malaspina College, Powell River campus, Capilano College, Sechelt campus and North Island College, Courtenay campus.

Patricia Hellinger, Special Education Assistant, 1992, recently moved to Burn's Lake with her husband. She writes, "My college year at Langara has not only qualified me as a teacher's assistant, but because of it, I have been subbing for teachers here too!"

Betty Thun, Special Education Assistant, 1992, is currently working as an S.E.A. at Emily Carr Elementary School, and hopes to get a teaching degree, "sometime before I'm 80!"

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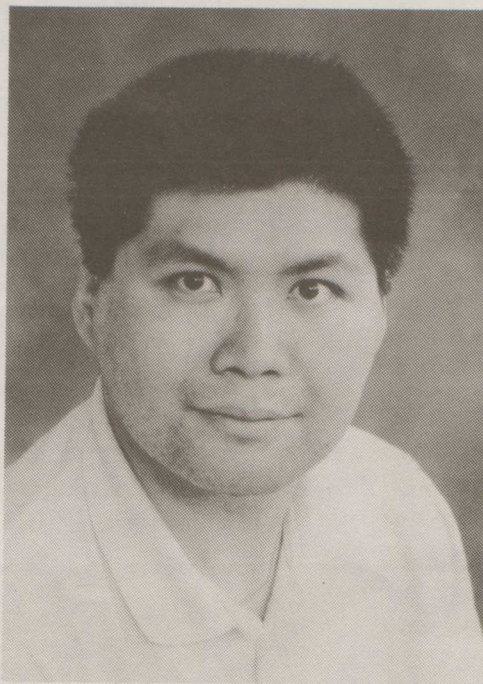
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Christie Jung, owner of Bloomingdale's and member of the VCC Alumni Association.

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A graduate of the Arts & Sciences program at Vancouver Community College, Christie is also a multicultural ambassador for the Variety Club and a supporter of the VCC Alumni Association.



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