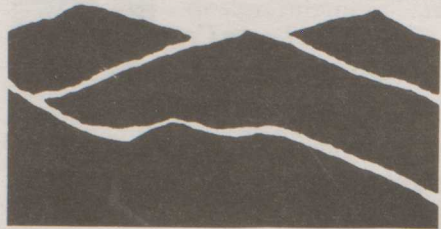


VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

ALUMNEWS

SUMMER, 1994

PUBLISHED BY THE VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumna makes sharp investment!



'd love to be fabulously wealthy" grins Michelle Heneghan as she settles into a plush Greek-Roman style lounge and smooths a blanket reserved especially for the small pet dogs of the hair salon's clients. "Basically, I want everything."

Pretentious? No way. Michelle Heneghan is a down-to-earth fighter and a driven winner who plans on going places in life. She is also the deserved recipient of the 1993 VCC Alumni Association Scholarship at City Centre.

Michelle is currently employed at AXIS Hair Salon in up-scale downtown Vancouver. She reflects aloud that her decision to pursue hairdressing instead of teaching as a career (as was her plan for years) was more than perfect. Further, receiving the Alumni Scholarship was timed just as well.

As Michelle graduated from VCC's Hairdressing program in 1993, she was employed with a local Stylist whose clients have included the likes of Tina Turner and Margaret Thatcher. Studying under him was a thrill, but her equipment was less than exciting. Hairdressers are encouraged to have their own scissors, specially sharpened and made for their own hands. Michelle did not. "One day he let me try his scissors. They cut like 'buttah'! I couldn't believe the difference."

To work in the best salons, Michelle knew that she needed to make an investment in her own scissors. After much thought - but still unsure of where the funds would come from - she contacted a supplier and ordered the hand made, silver plated scissors from Japan. Using her wits and contacts, she negotiated a "bargain" price of \$400.00 and settled in to wait out the delivery period.



VCC Hairdressing graduate, Michelle Heneghan, at work.

But the scissors were delayed and she was forced to wait three months for them to come in. Then, in a twist of fate, just as the scissors arrived, so did the notice that she had been selected as the Alumni Association Scholarship winner. The \$500.00 scholarship, raised through the efforts of VCC alumni, started Michelle off in her career. "I was so thrilled to be chosen!"

And we were pleased that Michelle was selected! Alumni Scholarship recipients are students who have made significant contributions to College or campus life and have also demonstrated outstanding academic performance. Michelle often acted as an advocate for students in the Hairdressing program, bringing new ideas and feedback to their teachers. Also, she was the elected Hairdressing Representative to the City Centre Student's Association while achieving A's and B's in most of her classes. "I was a bit of a rebel but I learned a lot," she says with a laugh.

Michelle continues to be an advocate for Hairstylists even now. When she entered the program at VCC, she was sure it was the field she wanted to study. "I have al-

ways cut hair for fun. I cut my own hair, do my own highlights...and even cut my hair at the back!" But she was conscious that the public perception of the field was not as favourable as she would have liked. "Back then when people asked me what I was doing, I would just tell them that I was studying at VCC, but didn't tell them what."

"Hairdressers often get a bad rap. Most people don't understand that in this field you must have both intelligence and a lot of talent." Michelle notes that in addition to her year of study and practicums at VCC, she needed more training to gain employment at AXIS. A further 3 months under Stylists at the salon was a requirement, and she continues to learn every day. "People shouldn't be made to feel embarrassed about being a Hairdresser."

She points to a Stylist working nearby. "Look at that posture, the perfect alignment of the back and neck and position of the arms and hands." Hairstyling is an art; the subtle nuances are vital. "No professional Stylist should have pain or be tired from standing...if they are trained properly." Further, the technology and techniques in-

involved in hair design are constantly evolving and being influenced by Stylists around the world.

Michelle's Manager is one of the top ten Hairstylists in Canada. Many of her co-workers are highly trained and experienced Master Stylists. Such Stylists can have huge and influential client lists; their appointments can be booked for weeks in advance. Most also have waiting lists of clients hoping for a chance at a cancelled appointment.

If Michelle stays on track, her dream of becoming "fabulously wealthy" may not be unrealistic. A Master Stylist can make \$80,000+ per year and have the luxury of total job flexibility. Right now, however, Michelle chooses to work 60 hour weeks to develop her skills and client base. She gladly attends conferences and seminars as a condition of her employment.

And what about her life long goal of becoming a teacher? She hasn't given up on it. "I would really like to teach Hairdressing one day. I have a lot of energy and love the field. It's a real possibility."

Michelle's future students will benefit greatly from such an outstanding professional. Congratulations, Michelle! ♦

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Message from the Presidents

On April 1, 1994, a new era began.

The former three campus Vancouver Community College became a two campus institution comprised of City Centre and King Edward. At the same time, a new, separate institution was created from the former VCC Langara Campus: Langara College.

This division of the single College into two institutions allows Vancouver Community College and Langara College to better serve the community. There is now increased focus to VCC's unique, highly-regarded, career oriented programming and to Langara College's respected and very popular academic and career education. Both Vancouver Community College and Langara College will continue to deliver the cost-effective, innovative instruction that we have been offering for over 30 years.

The future holds tremendous promise for both Vancouver Community College and Langara College. Although we are now creating independent plans and futures, our shared history of providing quality education to adult learners will continue. Further, we share a common desire to maintain valued relationships with our respective graduates through our alumni programs.

As the transition to a two College model is undertaken, much work is yet to be done. Very important to Langara College will be the establishment of an independent alumni program for graduates of the previous Langara Campus.

Since its inception in 1983, the VCC Alumni Association has very capably served graduates of the three former campuses of Vancouver Community College. As Langara College makes plans for separate alumni services, the programs and services of the VCC Alumni Association will continue to benefit all VCC and Langara College graduates.

The staff of the VCC Alumni Association, in their efforts to support the interests of all alumni, will continue to serve their current members. In time, VCC and Langara College graduates will learn of the exciting changes made at Langara and the new opportunities available to Langara graduates to remain connected with their alma mater.

The vision for a new Vancouver Community College and Langara College is now becoming a reality. As we move through this process, we value the support of all our alumni and encourage you to continue to support your Alumni Association.

John Cruickshank
John Cruickshank
President
Vancouver Community College

Linda Holmes
Linda Holmes
President
Langara College



Alumnews is designed for you

ALUMNEWS is published by the VCC Alumni Association for all former students of City Centre (VVI), King Edward Campus, King Edward High, Continuing Education Division and Langara College.

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

ALUMNEWS
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Layout and Design:
Lynda Hurst, Big Gal Graphics

The Association serves the common interests of VCC and Langara College alumni, current students and the Colleges. The Association is advised on projects and policies by an Advisory Committee. The 1993-94 Alumni Advisory Committee members are: Ed Balona, Claire Belilos, Patrick Connolly, Mary Forsyth, Marcia Gofsky, Liz Majestic, Krishna O'Connell, Karim Rajan, Louise Rubben, Kristi Searle, Susan Toplak and Jeff Watts.

LETTERS

SCHOLARSHIPS APPRECIATED

Thank you for selecting me to receive the VCC Alumni Association Award based on my achievement. This award means much to me, not only for the monetary gain, but for what the award represents.

My early educational experience was not a positive one and consequently I chose to leave high school early. Not graduating affected my self worth and I felt it was a failing inside of me. After making the difficult decision to return to school, I saw a dramatic change in my attitude and myself. My learning experience at King Edward was extremely positive. My eyes and mind are now open to the realization that knowledge is the key to unlocking the door to my future. It's never too late to start again.

I am now attending Douglas College and in less than two years hope to graduate as a certifiable Visual Language Interpreter. The money I will receive from this award will go to my winter tuition fees.

Tarren McKay
College Foundations,
King Edward Campus, 1993

I am very proud and honoured to accept the Alumni Scholarship. It's nice to know that all that hard work did not go unnoticed.

My long term goal is to work with children, but I'm not sure where in the field. This scholarship will come in very handy in reaching my goals.

When I first started at King Edward Campus, I studied Basic Training for Skills Development, preparing to write the high school equivalency test. Unfortunately, I ran into health problems that are still affecting me. I am continuing to study though, and am now finishing high school English courses and serving as V.P. Activities for the KEC Student Association where I organize social and sports activities for students. In my spare time (ha, ha) I volunteer in a daycare.

I know that I will see the advantages of being at King Edward Cam-

pus for many years to come. Thanks once again!

Cassandra Laura Crooks
College Foundations,
King Edward Campus, 1994

BENEFICIAL BENEFITS!

I wish to express my satisfaction with the activities and offerings of the VCC Alumni Association.

The number one word reflecting your success is VALUE. This value is really seen in the Discount Club Benefits card. For a very small fee, I have been repaid ten-fold through my Benefits Card. Besides the satisfaction of contributing to a good cause (helping people pursue education), the tangible benefits I receive are invaluable: 20% discount on Continuing Education course fees, 10% discount on bookstore purchases, and, most valuable to me and my business, access to the excellent VCC libraries and all the information they contain.

I believe that anyone who has used the library at City Centre as much as I have holds much admiration of the knowledge, courtesy, helpfulness and efficiency of its staff - Eva, Phyllis and their team. This VCC library compares very favourably with the Main Public Library in downtown Vancouver by offering the best variety of professional books, magazines, government and other reports plus computer access by modem, all serviced by pleasant and attentive staff. Alumni of VCC are fortunate to have this opportunity to save money while continuing to benefit from the services of VCC.

Also, I wish to congratulate the Alumni office on the success of the recent Career Fair (March 17, 1994) which I attended. It was very well organized and coordinated!

I look forward to the coming year of Alumni operations.

Claire Belilos, CHIC Hospitality
Program Development,
City Centre, 1991

Ed.: Full details on the Benefits cards can be found on the back page of this edition of the Alumnews.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING VCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Monday, September 12, 1994, 7:00 pm
Room 5025 (5th Floor), VCC King Edward Campus
1155 East Broadway, Vancouver, BC

All graduates of City Centre (VVI), King Edward Campuses,
Continuing Education Division and Langara College are welcome.

Please RSVP by September 7, 1994: 871-7147.

Fashion Finesse

"Y"ou've got to be hungry, a little bit crazy and extremely persistent to 'cut through' the barriers in the fashion design business"...no pun intended!

Ellen Vaillancourt, possibly one of the most successful Fashion Design graduates in the history of this VCC Continuing Education program, is only half joking. As a seasoned fashion designer and fashion business owner, she is also an alumna of the school of hard knocks who is now beginning to enjoy a respected reputation in her field.

In the 5 years since her graduation from VCC, Ellen has designed and marketed her own fashion lines and employed others to sell her work. She has run her own small businesses (with and without partners) and cared for a young family. She has made money and lost money. She has learned a lot.

"This is not an easy business to get into," she notes. But, as her story supports, Ellen is a classic entrepreneurial risk taker.

Ellen's career started as a teenager, when she "just always sewed," cutting and sewing garments without a pattern. Back then she was a hobbyist who didn't take her interest too seriously. But as high school graduation neared, she learned of the career opportunities available in fashion design.



Ellen's son, Xavier and friend modelling Club Mondiale fashions.

"I was surprised that I could develop a career and maybe even open a company with this," she now laughs. "What I saw then was the glamour of Vogue magazine. I wanted to be in Vogue by the time I was 20 and see the headlines 'Youngest Designer Ever' splashed everywhere."

Ellen researched opportunities to study fashion. First, she applied at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto. But, with a limited portfolio, she was added to their wait list. "I was really disappointed," she remembers.

Not one to be defeated, however, Ellen continued to apply to design schools world wide while exploring other options, including learning a second language. When no offers came to study design, Ellen registered in French classes at Simon Fraser University - a decision that proved to be excellent. At the end of her first semester, Ellen was accepted to the prestigious School of Chambre Syndicate in Paris, France. "I thought, 'so there, Ryerson, I'm going to school in Paris!'"

In 1985, Ellen studied drafting, design, lay out, mannequin draping, marketing, fashion show production and more - all in French. It was challenging, but her French studies proved invaluable. After one year abroad, Ellen returned home to begin her career...and to become engaged.

Ellen's design focus has mirrored many of the changes in her personal life. For example, while engaged, she was inspired to design lingerie. The line, marketed by Ellen herself through local retailers, was an initial success, but was later abandoned due to the inability to compete with manufacturers who purchased fabric and produced garments in volume. "It was a tremendous learning experience, though. Having something of your own in a retail store for the first time is incredible!"

Ellen's life was again in transition - both personally and design-wise. As Ellen planned for her marriage, she also considered the future of her career. She came to the realization that she needed more exposure to North American design and business education. She researched local training options and, in 1988, found a brochure on the one year VCC Continuing Education Fashion Design program. "It was exactly what I was looking for!"

VCC gave Ellen credit for some of the courses she had taken in France. VCC's part time, evening certificate program allowed her to work full time while increasing her skills and knowledge. "The program was also tremendous because of the networking with other people in the industry," Ellen notes. In addition to the classroom training, Ellen appreciated the tours of manufacturing plants, garment factories and design rooms lead by industry representatives. She seized these opportunities to connect with successful people who were willing to share their advice as she re-entered the business world.

When Ellen graduated from VCC in 1989, she received the Hudson Fashion Award for attaining the highest overall marks throughout the program. Now a seasoned veteran of the industry, she notes that VCC's program "is quite highly recognized. The quality of it is excellent."



Ellen Vaillancourt with Club Mondiale models.

Ellen's opinion seems to hold true for other VCC Fashion Design graduates, too. Many successful people in the local design/fashion industry have used the program to begin or further their careers. Some of these alumni include a local design instructor, a make up artist, two high fashion custom designers, a tailor and a fashion marketer. Another grad recently became the exclusive designer for a unique Vancouver cafe/clothing store. "This business can be very lucrative," Ellen says with a smile.

After completing the program, Ellen was ready to tackle the challenges of her career again. She had married and was about to enter her next life stage (and corresponding design phase), maternity wear! Pregnant with her first son, Xavier, Ellen was interested in maternity fashions and later, in fashions for newborns. With few clothes for infants other than sleepers available, Ellen saw a marketing opportunity. Naturally, she seized it.

Ellen's new clothing line, Baby Sport, was a hit. The fashions for children aged 0-24 months were marketed as "itty-bitty, fun and bouncy". Ellen contracted out the sewing to produce jogging suits, bandannas, fru-fru ruffle skirts and other designs. As demand grew, she hired a marketer who helped to keep the company in business for 5 seasons. But when demand from Eastern Canada began to grow, the work became too much. Ellen put her designing on hold. "First and foremost is my family. If it doesn't work for them, it doesn't work for me."

Ellen took some time off, had a second son and slowly began to fill her time with designing again. In 1993, with toddlers underfoot, Ellen focused on clothing for young children and dreamed of another business option - an exclusive children's wear line marketed through one major Canadian retailer. She soon began to meet with executives at Eatons to discuss a contract!

During the negotiations, however, she was approached to submit design ideas for Club Monaco Kidswear in Toronto. She agreed, and for several months created casual children's clothing designs for this high profile company.

Despite the fact that designing for Club Monaco was exciting, Ellen missed the freedom of self employment. Not surprisingly, she was also preoccupied with another business idea. As her contract ended, she called a friend who had once been a buyer for Bootlegger clothing stores to discuss her newest idea. They struck a deal and today the two women own Club Mondiale, a home party clothing business.

Ellen, Director of Design and Merchandising, designs casual, natural clothing for children sized 2-12 and some unisex clothing for adults. Her partner recruits and trains representatives who organize clothing parties through which the fashions are sold.

Club Mondiale markets their products similar to the way Tupperware markets theirs. Interested people host a party and invite friends and family. A Club Mondiale representative facilitates a presentation of the clothing and accepts all clothing orders. This cost effective system works well with clothes being produced only after orders are received and the commissioned representatives doing the bulk of the marketing.

So far, Ellen notes that the company has been successful. "Home party businesses are an excellent option to retail. I am really enjoying the challenge."

If flexibility and self employment are two elements of career success in the 90's, Ellen Vaillancourt has it made. The VCC Alumni Association wishes Ellen the best of luck in her new adventure! ♦

A Woman's Place

"I thought that if I represent women and offer services to women, I better have a place for them to come" explains Madalina Cris, the 1994-95 King Edward Campus' Women's Students Commissioner. Armed with that belief, Madalina recently undertook - and won - a four month crusade to establish the first Women's Centre on campus.

Although this is not the first Women's Centre at the College (Langara opened a Women's Centre in their Student Union Building in 1986-87), Madalina was breaking new ground at KEC. "It was challenging. At first I didn't know who to talk to or how hard or soft to push," she remembers. After numerous discussions, however, the Administration at KEC acknowledged that a place of refuge for female students was needed.

At first, the "Centre" existed in name only, with its location changing daily. Space is very limited on campus, and no permanent room could be found. This forced the Centre to move between unbooked classrooms. "It didn't work because women didn't know where we were. They began pulling me out of my classes or stopping me in the hallway saying 'I need to talk to you' or 'You've got to listen.' These were emergency situations."

Fortunately, an empty counselling office, soundproofed and well located near classrooms, was soon earmarked for the Women's Centre. It was officially opened on February 8, 1994 with an Open House and much on-campus promotion.

Madalina and the core 50+ women who regularly use the room are thrilled with the space - all 20 square feet! The Centre is open 60 hours each week for women to study, meet, access information on resources, hold support or interest groups and plan activities for women students. The Centre also organizes workshops such as Self Defence Training and Job Search Skills. They do not duplicate services already available at KEC or provide personal counselling, however. "I'm not a qualified counsellor or harassment issues advisor," explains Madalina. All crisis situations are referred to KEC counsel-

lors, financial aid staff or the harassment advisor.

Interestingly, the Centre is also open to male students. In fact, 3 of its 10 active volunteers are men. "I am against discrimination believe that by not allowing men to access a student service, we would be discriminating." As a Romanian immigrant, Madalina saw much oppression in her home country. Today, as a woman with an accent, she continues to experience it in Canada. To Madalina, equal access is vital.

The Centre's three male volunteers are motivated by their desire to help eliminate violence against women. They perform tasks related to the Centre's promotion and also research programs and services for women. Male students do not attend support groups, workshops, or use the space for social purposes, but they can access information on women's issues for personal or school use.

Madalina was initially motivated to serve in the position of Women's Students Commissioner and in establishing the Centre after learning of the childhood abuse suffered by a female friend. This friendship plus new relationships with other courageous KEC students continues to inspire her in the work that she does. She has learned, however, that leaving her work at school is important. Supporting hurting women and researching such topics as AIDS, abuse, discrimination, child care and other serious issues can be draining.

"It's a tough job because women need you to listen and help. But, it's a chance for me to make a difference."

OOPS....

In the last edition of *The Alumnews*, we mistakenly acknowledged Langara Theatre Arts students for having won JUNOS in 1993.

In fact, talented Studio 58 alumni Pearl Belleson, Roy Surette, Beatrice Zillinger, Kim Kondrashoff, Wendy Noel, Pam Johnson, Bonnie Panych and John Moffat were awarded JESSIES for their respective accomplishments.

Please pardon our error! Congratulations again!

Andrea Fehsenfeld

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COLLEGE NEWS

STUDIO 58 REUNION

This is the first of many "calls" to Langara Theatre Arts graduates interested in volunteering to organize a 30th Anniversary Celebration for our program. Call Sherri Sadler at 323-5227 for more information.

ROLLIN' IN DOUGH

Ten VCC Continuing Education instructors/staff are "rolling" in money after beating the 1:2,000 odds of winning the 1993 VCC Educational Foundation Truck Lottery. Don Birosh, Cynthia Howman, Jean Shuen, Rosie Anslow, Silvana Carr, Gyda Chud, Jane Legate, Joe Jhutti, Bev Stevens and Helena Hensley have sold the first prize - a new, \$100,000 Western Star truck - and equally distributed their winnings!

CAMPUS CAPPUCCINO

The Main Concourse of City Centre is now home to a Second Cup Cappuccino Bar. Not only does the bar offer students a jolt of quality brew, it also realizes a profit for the College. The bar grew out of a call to employees to come up with cost saving ideas. This winning entry came from City Centre's Director of Food Services, Jackie Elhert.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Langara's Food Service Supervisor/Technician Program title has been revised to closer reflect the industry's name. Beginning this year, the program will be called NUTRITION AND FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT.

CITY FEST!

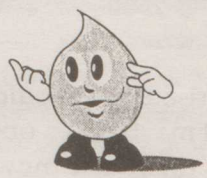
On May 20-22, 1994, King Edward Campus was home to a major multicultural festival. Co-hosted by VCC and the Vancouver Com-

munity Festival Society, the event offered family oriented entertainment to celebrate cultural diversity. The weekend was filled with performance and visual arts, crafts, demonstrations...and food, of course!



EXCUSES, EXCUSES

A student wishing to register over the phone for a Continuing Education Class said that she would have to call back once her VISA card thawed. Apparently she keeps her card in a block of ice in her freezer so that she has time to consider any purchases she puts on plastic!



BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

The Canadian Red Cross is always searching for new blood donors. Since the VCC campuses and Langara College regularly host Blood Donor Clinics, donating is as easy as visiting your alma mater!

The next VCC/Langara College hosted clinic is:

VCC, City Centre
250 West Pender Street, Vancouver
Room 240 - enter from Dunsmuir and Hamilton Street entrance

Thursday, September 1, 1994, 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

For more information on clinic schedules or on becoming a blood donor, please call (604) 879-7551 or 1-800-565-8000.

ADVERTISE IN THE ALUMNEWS!

Display Advertising:

Full page: \$300
Half page: \$150
Quarter page: \$75
Eighth page: \$50
Business Card: \$40

Employment Advertising:

Free space (up to 30 words) for individual Alumni who are seeking employment. Use this free ad space to outline your skills, career aspirations or other points that could "sell" you to a potential employer! Space will be limited - submit early!

Consider the benefits of sending your message to 10,000 Vancouver Community College and Langara College Alumni!

For more information or to book space, call the Alumni office at 871-7147.

ALUMNI HELPING IN EMERGENCIES

VCC alumni are caring people.

This fact was driven home last November when the VCC Alumni Association held its first ever fundraising campaign with College alumni.

In 1993, the Alumni Association became concerned about the number of dedicated students - single parents, students with special needs and more - who were facing real financial difficulties while studying at the College. After much consideration and discussion with VCC's Financial Aid offices, Educational Foundation and alumni, the Association became dedicated to organizing a fundraiser to help.

Targeted at alumni who graduated before 1984, our campaign brought in \$1,500 for students in need! This seed money was used to establish the new Alumni Emergency Fund, now being shared by many students at the College. Students now benefiting from the fund are those who are experiencing financial difficulties, but for whom other sources of funding are unavailable. Funds could be used to purchase text books, bus passes and other items necessary to remain in school.

Since the initial funds were distributed, additional donations have been received. These monies will be given out with the proceeds of next year's campaign.

Tracy Manrell, alumni relations coordinator, remarks that "a great deal of support came from alumni on this project. Since it was our first major fundraising effort with alumni, we were unsure what to expect. But our membership really came through. It was extremely rewarding to help VCC alumni to help VCC students." Together, the volunteers, alumni and Alumni Association helped a lot of students who were facing hard times.

In November, 1993, alumni who graduated before 1984 received a letter outlining the project and requesting financial support. Later, twelve volunteer alumni phoned every letter recipient to answer each member's questions and accept donations. The hope was that grads who had been in the workforce for 10+ years are now in a financial position to assist today's students. Many alumni were pleased to contribute.

The campaign will be repeated in the fall, but donations are accepted all year from all alumni regardless of when they graduated!

To support the fund, please make your cheque payable to the VCC Educational Foundation and mail to:

VCC Alumni Association
1155 East Broadway
Box 24700 Station F
Vancouver, BC V5N 5V1

Phone: 871-7147

TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR ALL DONATIONS



5th Annual Career Fair at VCC City Centre

ANOTHER CAREER FAIR SUCCESS!

The first visitors arrived almost one hour before the event officially opened. Throughout the day, VCC alumni, current students and members of the public steadily streamed through the crowded Concourse at City Centre, eager for opportunities to meet with the high profile exhibitors.

This was the scene at the Fifth Annual VCC Alumni Association Career Fair on March 17, 1994. The largest event organized by the Alumni Association on an annual basis, this year's Fair attracted approximately 800 people to City Centre in just six hours.

The Fairs are designed to assist VCC alumni and current students to explore career options and apply for available jobs, but they also offer excellent opportunities to network with Human Resources personnel in dozens of career fields.

All of the 21 displays were busy throughout the day. Companies like The Westin Bayshore, A & W Food Services, Robin Hood MultiFoods, Correctional Service of Canada, Olsten Kimberly QualityCare and the Investors Group (to name just a few), were pleased with the opportunity to meet trained graduates from both VCC and Langara College.

A major highlight was an interactive computer display from Human Resources Development Canada. The system allowed visitors to key in specific occupational titles and receive print outs of detailed information on that job and career field. Information on hundreds of careers, lists of companies hiring in many fields and other job search information was available. Not surprisingly, line ups for this display remained deep all day.

The Alumni Association was very pleased with the turn out of graduates considering career changes, seeking new jobs or eager for opportunities to network in their career field. It was also exciting to introduce the College to hundreds of "non-College" people who came to see the Fair.

Our next Career Fair is scheduled for the spring. Watch the Alumnews for details. Join us!

DISPLAY YOUR ACHIEVEMENT!

Proudly display your achievement with a Vancouver Community College or Langara College certificate frame!

These polished brass frames will both protect and display your certificate or diploma for years to come. The mat - in an official College color - is emblazoned with either a VCC or Langara College crest in gold foil.

You will be proud to hang these professional frames on your home or office wall!

Competitively priced at \$39.95 plus PST!

TWO OPTIONS TO ORDER:

- Complete and return the form below. We will mail your frame to you! OR
- Save on postage costs and come to a College bookstore to purchase a frame. VCC logo frames are available at the KEC or City Centre bookstores. Langara College crested frames are available at the Langara College bookstore.

For further information, please call the VCC Alumni Association office at 871-7147.

CERTIFICATE FRAME - MAIL ORDER

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code: _____
Phone (h): _____ (b): _____
_____ frames at \$39.95 ea.
_____ 7 % PST
_____ Postage/handling @ \$8.00/frame
_____ TOTAL PAID
☐ Please bill my: Mastercard Visa ☐ My cheque is enclosed
Credit card number: _____ Expiry date: _____
Signature: _____ Total paid: _____

Choose Career Success!

Statistics show that as a typical Canadian, we will spend 700,000 hours at work over our lifetimes and change our careers four times. Our work will provide meaning in life as well as monetary reward.

This means that choosing a career - and our second, third and fourth careers - is a major life decision.

Truly, these types of decisions and changes can be very difficult. How do we come to make these significant moves? Who or what is available to help us in our quest for job growth and satisfaction? What are the keys to achieving career advancement and success?

There is little doubt that there are obstacles outside of our direct control that can thwart our journeys to career bliss. Major recessions have resulted in massive layoffs and company closures or relocations. The shift from people-driven factories to technological manufacturing, the demand for highly trained staff and a lack of funding for social programs have resulted in pink slips for many good workers.

In the Fall of 1993, Finance Ministers from every major industrial-

ized nation met in Detroit for the first ever Conference on Unemployment. Together, they discussed how to stimulate economies and create jobs in sectors throughout the world. It was revealed that over 30 million people are unemployed in our most developed countries. It was also learned that many of these people could be re-trained to begin new careers or advance in their field.

Locally, many of us have already realized this fact. For example, approximately 27,000 people register for the 1,900 classes offered each year through VCC's Continuing Education Division. Here, adult learners are trained in areas as diverse as basic computer skills and childbirth education.

Gail Rochester, Director of VCC's Continuing Education Division points out that CE primarily offers training designed for people who are seeking career changes or advancement. In fact, "80% of our offerings are for employed adults who are seeking training upgrades or career change. Only 17% of our courses are what we call 'general interest, like art classes.'"

VCC, CE offers courses year round (in three semesters) and schedules



Early Childhood Educator, Colleen Manrell, credits adult education with her career advancement.

most classes in the evenings or over weekends. Many classes are also accepted as equivalents of courses offered at several BC colleges and universities.

CE also offers 36 certificate programs for people who are interested in studying over longer periods. Certificates are often necessary to obtain promotions or salary increases. Statistically, the majority of CE students are aged 25-29, "just at the age when people realize that they need to upgrade in order to get a promotion or a new job," notes Gail.

Colleen Manrell, a 1990 Langara Early Childhood Education grad faced this situation early in her career. She was employed in a downtown Vancouver daycare centre that operated two departments; one for children aged 0-3 years and the other for 3-5 year olds. Because her ECE training certified her to work with 3-5 year olds only, Colleen's prospects were limited. Colleen wanted to ensure that she was prepared for opportunities that might arise in this rapidly growing field.

"I wanted to be as employable as possible in as many centres as possible," Colleen remembers. "Being able to move between the under three's and over three's would offer more variety, increase job satisfaction and be helpful when other staff were away."

Colleen registered in CE's post-graduate ECE certificate program. After several months of evening classes, she earned the designation needed to work with infants. Colleen's new skills and flexibility made her extremely valuable to her employer and earned her an immediate salary increase. Since graduating, Colleen has moved to an administrative position at a new centre for children aged 0-3 years. "Having the two College certificates played a big part in getting the job I'm in now."

Employers are increasingly seeking staff like Colleen who can illustrate their dedication to improving their work skills. Kristi Searle, a 1987 Small Business Development

graduate from Langara is now a Personnel Consultant with Hunt Personnel/Temporarily Yours in Vancouver. Every day Kristi works with companies of all sizes who are searching for the right temporary employee.

Kristi notes that most employers want people with a College or University education. The more education and experience, the better, but "there are many companies who will take a temp. with less experience so long as they have a 'can do, will do' attitude," Kristi emphasizes. Attitude is a major component in the career success equation. It can give a potential employee the edge they need in an interview.

Isabelle Colborne, Vice President of Hunt Personnel/Temporarily Yours agrees. She also believes that what the person does with their time as they look for that break is crucial. Working as a temporary employee can be an excellent source of continuing education.

Although temporary applicants should have related training and experience, the skills - both work related and inter-personal - gained through short term assignments can sometimes be better than that learned at a permanent job. "I can't say enough about temping. It can be very difficult work, but it is also a great learning experience!"

Dozens of fields require temps. - business and medical clerical, dental assisting, special event planning, accounting, trades and many other areas. People entering the workforce can find an agency that recruits people with the same type and level of skills that the applicant has to offer. Temporary agencies are listed in the Yellow Pages under "Employment".

But what if you know that you want or need to make a career change, but aren't sure which field is right for you?

Volunteer work could be one option to this dilemma.

Continued on Page 7...

Career from Page 6...

Current VCC, CE Volunteer Management Certificate program student Pam Gill is employed at the Burnaby Volunteer Centre as their Multicultural Outreach Coordinator. Pam cites that almost 30% of all people who come to the centre want volunteer positions that will help them to make career changes. "Volunteering is a great way to explore career options before making a commitment to school. It also offers work experience, adds to your resume and helps you to network."

Pam says that there are volunteer centres throughout BC and Canada. Their main role is to promote volunteerism and help people to find the one volunteer position that is best for them. Staff meet with clients, to discuss the client's interests and time schedule. This information helps to match them with a non profit group that needs volunteers. The opportunities are very diverse including counselling, graphic design, tutoring, clerical, animal care and more. Look up "Volunteer" in the White Pages.

"Most employers want people with a College or University education"

Another option to explore career options is to attend the VCC Alumni Association Career Fair that is held every spring - or any local career fair. These events bring employers and job seekers together. Often marketed as opportunities to apply for jobs, Career Fairs are excellent networking opportunities, too. Visitors have many chances to speak with industry reps. about careers, what employers are looking for and how to break into a specific fields.

And finally, for a more personal approach, consider calling the Adult Education Division of your local school board to discover career exploration courses offered. Most have classes designed to help adults evaluate their skills and interests with the view to making a career change. Most are taught by career counsellors and consist of both group lectures and one-one skills assessments. They are also considerably cheaper than going to a private career counselling service!

Career change is a process that almost all of us will have to go through at least once in our lives - and likely several times! Remember that VCC is here to help ready you for a new career...if you need us.

Good luck!

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Schreiber, Debra, Fashion Design, 1987 has just secured a five year contract to design and produce the garments used in theatrical productions at the historic Barkerville Town theatre near Quesnel, BC.

Herbert, Ishama, Fashion Design, 1989 is the in-house designer for "Hip Hop Collection", a new cafe and clothing store in downtown Vancouver.

Yao, Anthony T., Business Administration, 1989 was elected as a School Trustee in School District #80 (Kitimat) in November, 1993. Congratulations, Anthony!

Bond, Carol Anita, TESL, 1993 is keeping busy caring for her two children and enjoying her hobbies of painting and gardening.

Desaulniers, Lise B., TESL, 1993 is employed by the Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society as a LINC instructor.

Harris, Joanne, TESL, 1993 teaches ESL for the Vancouver School Board and Pacific Immigrant Resources Society.

Ibuki, Norm, TESL, 1993 is in the midst of writing "Japanese Canadian Internment Camps Revisited", growing his hair long, wearing Birkenstocks and living happily in the Kootenays.

Sass, Kathy, Volunteer Management, 1993 was recently hired as Coordinator of Volunteers for a new senior's outreach program at Richmond Connections.

CITY CENTRE

Thom, Jeff, Marketing Micro Technology, 1985 is currently looking for work in the Purchasing field and is enrolled in the PMAC Accreditation Program (Level 4).

Bince, Marlene Z., Licensed Practical Nursing, 1992 is working while studying Arts and Sciences at Langara. She plans to enter Langara's R.N. Program in September, 1994.

De Wit, Anita, Legal Assistant, 1993 is working as a Legal Assistant for Diewold and Unterman in Vancouver.

Hansen, Sophia J., Food and Beverage Management, 1992 is proud of her achievements at VCC and is searching for "solid" employment in her chosen career.

Khabra, Roxanne D., Sterile Supply Processing, 1992 is now working in the Central Supply Department at Maple Ridge Hospital.

Yuan, Yew, Telecommunications, 1992 is now a graduate student in the Department of Geography at the University of Arkansas.

Olson, Kirk, Travel Agent, 1993 is currently working as a travel agent

Where are they now?

with plans to start his own business specializing in educational travel opportunities.

Tan, Lap G., Building Service Worker, 1994 just got a job working as a Janitor/Maintenance Person for The Look Out Emergency Aid Society. Lap thanks his teachers for their support and help.

KING EDWARD CAMPUS

Rheume, Richard, BTSD, 1987, College Foundations, 1992 is now living in the Fraser Valley and working as a care provider for physically and mentally challenged adults.

Rajan, Karim, College Foundations, 1990 graduated twice at the June, 1994 BCIT graduation ceremony! After studying for two years, Karim received a Diploma in Business and a Certificate in Health Care Management. In addition, Karim became engaged this year.

Rubben, Louise, College Foundations, 1991 was recently hired as a cook at a recreational facility in Burnaby. Congratulations, Louise!

LANGARA COLLEGE

Eruin, Jim A., Arts & Sciences, 1971 is now a freelance journalist.

Bassett, Dawn, Theatre Arts (Production), 1990 is working towards her BA with a minor in Theatre at SFU.

Phillips, Shaun, Theatre Arts, 1990 just finished playing Peter in Carousell Theatre's production of "The Diary of Anne Frank" and Ariel in "The Tempest" at The Globe Theatre in Regina. The summer of 1994 will find Shaun cast in "Sleeping Dragons All Around" in Toronto.

Specht, Heidi, Theatre Arts, 1990 has been touring with Kaleidoscope Theatre since August, 1992. She is now working on her own original

MALAYSIAN ALUMNI!

The Canadian High Commission and Canadian International Development Agency in Kuala Lumpur is establishing an alumni networking group of Canadian educated people who are now, or are soon to be living in Malaysia.

The project aims to strengthen ties between Canadian educated Malaysian residents and the Canadian government and business community in Malaysia. Alumni educated in any field offered by Canadian colleges and universities are invited to join. All members will be given opportunities to further develop business relationships, be invited to business related seminars, forums and social functions as well as receive notice of visiting Canadian business people and academics. Please contact:

Jennifer Woolley, Alumni Coordinator
Canadian Cooperative Support Office
No. 9 Jalan Sejahtera
Off Jalan Damai
55000 Kuala Lumpur

mask piece about Scandinavian mythology.

Lovgren, David, Theatre Arts, 1991 was cast in the TV movie "Beyond Obsession" with Victoria Principal. David also recently appeared in a TV movie with Anthony Quinn and Katherine Hepburn.

Solomon, Ari, Theatre Arts, 1991 since graduating, Ari has been cast in the TV movie "Sin and Redemption" and has had guest appearances in the television series "Black Stallion" and "Tough to be Young". Ari also was in "Born Yesterday" at the Vancouver Playhouse in October, 1993.

Rickert, E. Lynn, Court Reporter, 1992, writes that since graduation she has become "overloaded with work" as a local court reporter!

Seto, Edward, Computer Systems Technologist, 1992 is now working as a Technical Instructor at Control Data Institute.

Davies, Michele, Rec. Fac. Mgmt., 1993 is now Catering and Events Coordinator and Manager of the Lounge and Restaurant at the River Club in Richmond.

Ma, Patrick, Computer Information Systems, 1993 is now working at Canadian Tire as an Assistant Service Manager.

Roth, Jason R., Arts and Sciences, 1993 transferred to UBC via Italy, Greece and the rest of Europe last summer! Jason is majoring in Physiology with plans to earn his BSc.

Deakins, Kathleen E., Associate of Arts Degree, 1994, is currently completing her BA at UBC.

WHAT'S NEW?

Tell us the latest and greatest - YOUR news! Fill us and your fellow alumni in on your life "happenings".

Just got a new job? New marriage or expecting children? Taken on any business ventures, hobbies or volunteer work? Let us know about the special things that are happening in your life!

UNIVERSITY BOUND?

Good news abounds for VCC and Langara College grads considering study at the University of British Columbia!

UBC and the UBC Alumni Association extend an invitation to all graduates of BC's regional and community colleges to apply for one of six scholarships of \$1,250 each or bursaries totalling \$12,500.

All VCC and Langara College alumni, regardless of when they graduated, are welcome to apply.

For more information call Robert Marsden at 822-3313 or pick up an application form at:

Brock Hall 1036,
1874 East Mall
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC

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CONTINUING EDUCATION
the instructional division serving
both colleges' part-time learners

VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



LANGARA
COLLEGE

REWARD! WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN!

Please help us to find lost alumni! If you know the whereabouts of any of the following VCC grads, you could win a prize!

Readers who offer accurate mailing information (home or business) for any of the following grads will be entered in a draw to win a VCC mug! Draw date: October 3, 1994.

Call the VCC Alumni Association office at 871-7147 or FAX us at 871-7200 with your leads!

CITY CENTRE

Mrs. E. Jones (nee Klokeid), Electronics, 1986.
Mr. T. Kilchenmann, Food & Beverage Management, 1989.
Mr. Gary Skett, Electronics, 1974.
Ms. Joanne Sloan (nee Brown), Practical Nursing, 1984.
Ms. Kim Whitehead, Travel Agent, 1984.
Mr. Joe Wiedenman, Electronics, 1985.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Ms. Ursula Fahling, Fashion Design, 1990.
Ms. Pat May, Counselling Skills, 1990.

Ms. Colene Kline, Managers of Non Profit, 1989.
Ms. Micheline Miller, Court Interpreting, 1988.
Mr. Maurice Rachwalski, Managers of Non Profit, 1987.
Mr. Larry M. Wozney, Business Administration, 1975.

KING EDWARD

Ms. Cecilia Cardona, Institutional Aide, 1990.
Ms. Debbie Flaig, Sign Language Communication, 1989.
Ms. Shawna Fitzgerald, College Foundations, 1984.
Ms. Paula Kremer, Music, 1991.
Ms. Wendy Swanson, College Foundations, 1988 (Langara, Nursing, 1991?).
Mr. Dave Yrjola, Diesel Mechanics, 1978.

LANGARA

Ms. Kelly Ann Cushing, Professional Photography, 1991.
Ms. Sylvia Russell, Arts and Science, 1976.
Mr. Jack Sikes, Rec. Facility Mgmt., 1988.
Mr. Roy Surette, Langara, Theatre Arts, 1979.
Ms. Susan Vassallo, Arts and Science, 1978.
Ms. Ainslie S.A. Wiggs, Marketing and Sales, 1986.

MOVING?

Ensure that you continue to receive your Alumnews, invitations to special events and class reunions!

As you move, please mail us your change of address or phone our office at 871-7147 with your new mailing information.

Name: _____

New Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone

(home): _____

(business): _____

Campus(es) attended: _____

Program(s)/Year(s): _____

Mail to:

VCC Alumni Association

Box 24700, Station F

Vancouver, BC V5N 5V1

FAX: 871-7200

Alumni Benefits, Give Yourself a Break!

Do you want to upgrade your career skills? Do you enjoy taking Continuing Education classes? Do you like shopping in bookstores? Ever wish you could access VCC's libraries?

If the answer is 'yes' to any of these questions, consider purchasing a VCC ALUMNI BENEFITS CARD!

Only members of the VCC Alumni Association have been extended this special offer to purchase a card entitling them to valuable discounts and access to College services that are normally reserved for students. These special cards are VCC's way of showing interest in you, a valued graduate and life long member of the College community.

TO GET YOUR BENEFITS CARD, choose the Benefits option most valuable to you. Then mail or FAX the completed application form

with your cheque or credit card number to the VCC Alumni Association. We will promptly mail you your Benefits Card enabling you to start saving immediately!

The Cards are valid for one year from the date of purchase.

CAN I USE MY CARD AT LANGARA?

YES! Although the Langara and Vancouver Community Colleges are now separate institutions, the Alumni Benefits Cards will continue to be honoured at both schools!

You can still use your card to receive discounts on Continuing Education classes held at VCC or Langara, for purchases at the VCC or Langara bookstores and to access the VCC or Langara libraries!

Both Vancouver Community College and Langara College value your support of the Alumni Association.

DISCOUNT CLUB \$25.00 annual fee*

- 20% discount on hundreds of VCC Continuing Education courses**
- borrowing privileges at all three campus libraries
- 10% discount on non-instructional items at all three campus book stores

PRESIDENTS CLUB \$100.00 annual fee*

- all Discount Club benefits
- updates from the President's office on College concerns
- a VCC t-shirt

LIFETIME LEADERS \$500.00 one time fee

- all Discount Club benefits for life
- a VCC t-shirt

* Valid for one calendar year. No GST.

** Some exceptions apply - call VCC Continuing Education for details: 871-7070.

Mail the completed application form with your cheque or credit card number to:

VCC Alumni Association
Box 24700, Station F
1155 East Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V5N 5V1

OR FAX the completed application for with your credit card number to 871-7200.

APPLICATION FOR BENEFITS CARD

- ☐ \$25 Discount Club
☐ \$100 President's Club
☐ \$500 Lifetime Leaders

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Phone (h): _____

(w): _____

☐ Cheque Enclosed

☐ Please charge my:

☐ Mastercard

☐ Visa

Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

VCC Alumni Association
Box 24700, Station F, 1155 East Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5N 5V1

FAX: 871-7200.

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