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VCC connections.

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VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



Connections

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Visit VCC
on the web:
www.vcc.bc.ca

VCC Chef Instructors Declared World Champions

Culinary Team Canada won four gold medals and was acclaimed Caterplan World Culinary Champions, 2001 at Caterplan World Culinary Grand Prix March 12-15. Captained by **Glen O'Flaherty**, Chef Instructor at Vancouver Community College, the six member team which included **John Carlos Felicella**, also a VCC instructor, proved themselves to be among the world's leading chefs.

Caterplan World Culinary Grand Prix is the world's largest culinary competition in 2001 and is organized by the Federation of Chefs Scotland. Twelve national culinary teams - Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Iceland, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Switzerland and the USA participated.

Teams were judged on a wide range of criteria including preparation, cleanliness, presentation and taste. They competed over two days to prepare an international cold buffet display and a three-course meal for 100 in the Restaurant of Nations competition.

Team Canada was proclaimed best overall and World Champions in 1997, triumphing over 20 other teams from five continents to win gold medals in both Restaurant of Nations and Cold Kitchen competition categories.

To sample some of the gourmet creations prepared by O'Flaherty and Felicella, treat yourself to a dining experience at J.J's Restaurant at the City Centre Campus.

Vancouver Community College
King Edward Campus - Library
Box 24620, Station F
Vancouver, BC V5N 5T9

High School Counsellors Invade VCC City Centre

Thanks to the excellent organization of Brenda Toporowski, the Counsellors and staff at City Centre successfully hosted their counterparts from the lower mainland high schools to a comprehensive tour of City Centre Campus on Tuesday, February 13th.

One hundred Counsellors and Career Advisors from 65 different schools enjoyed a tour of individual departments where faculty and staff had the opportunity to directly communicate the virtues of their programs to those who assist high school students to make decisions about their post-secondary education.

Because of the heavy workload of the high school Counsellors, they greatly appreciated having this opportunity to hear and see what's going on within VCC's programs. And of course, offering a delicious meal at JJ's after the tour seemed to provide some extra motivation.

During lunch, our guests were able to view the new interactive sites which have been developed on the VCC web site and which will shortly be accessible through the net.

Other groups who enjoyed similar tours in the past have included educational co-ordinators from Social Services as well as counsellors from Employment and Immigration Canada.

David Greenall, a veteran Counsellor from KEC, led a special tour of the Automotive Trades area for those who wished to 'brought up to speed' about this area.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this extremely successful event. Allan Clarkson

Associate Registrar Wins Award

On March 1st, Sandra North received her service award for more than 10 years of dedicated service in a Registrar's office at the 20th annual workshop of the BC Registrars Association. Awards are normally presented for service of 10, 15, 20, 25 etc years of combined service in any BC Registrar's office. Congratulations Sandra!

Sandra North, Pam Ottridge, Karen Crossett, Helen Campbell and Sueling Chang from the VCC Registrar's Office attended the conference held at SFU Harbour Centre in Vancouver and hosted by the Technical University of British Columbia.

The keynote speaker was Ken Larson of the Optimum Performance Group who spoke on the topic "Hey! What about me? Standing up for the most important person in your life!" Other interesting topics included: Admissions Policies and Practices in BC Post-Secondary Institutions, navigating through conflict, document imaging, elections software, web registration, outcomes based policy development, and the myth of job fulfillment. We expect next year's workshop be held in the interior.

Sueling Chang

Appointment

I am pleased to announce the re-appointment of **Roberta Collins** as Department Head of Office Management & Communications effective March 1, 2001 to February 28, 2002.

Joan McArthur-Blair
Acting VP, Applied Education

Donors honoured at GC & PT Reception

The Graphic Communications & Production Technology (GC&PT) Department was the scene of a reception on Wednesday, February 21, 2001, following the Department's Open House.

Members of the printing industry were in attendance to see several of their colleagues recognized for their contributions to the Equipment Campaign to raise funds for the lease of new computer equipment. Dale Dorn and other senior College personnel recognized the leadership of several key supporters.

Companies honoured were:

Fuji Graphics Systems
Canada Graphex Advertising Production
Hemlock Printers
Mostad Print and Design Group
Sun Chemical
Supreme Graphics

Representatives of those companies were presented with framed certificates of appreciation.

Bob Faulkner, Metropolitan Fine Printers, and Jeff Taylor, Hemlock Printers, spoke of the efforts made by the College to be responsive to the escalating need of the printing industry for qualified employees.

The enhanced GC&PT Program will help meet the need, but the cost of current equipment cannot be met through existing funding sources. Consequently, the College is appealing to the industry for assistance in keeping the GC&PT Program technically up-to-date.

Valedictory Address (Academic/ASE/ABE division) Graduation March 2001

...Thanks, Mom and Dad.

Good evening honored guests, teachers, fellow grads, friends and families. I am pleased to be with you, and honored to be asked to speak to you tonight.

When I was a little girl, I remember standing at the bottom of a path that led to the top of a wooded hill. I was just curious enough to jump on that path and climb to the top of the hill, wondering what I would see on the other side.

Like some of us, I had a rough start in life. I was raised in a single-parent home with two older brothers. Times were hard financially for us but with my Mom's example of hard work and courage, both my brothers went back to school, went on to university, and got their doctorates. And being a girl in the 1960's, I was supposed to marry a good man who would take care of me...after all, girls don't do math.

Well, I didn't marry, I rebelled. Taking care of myself, I worked hard over the years. But in 1993, I injured myself on the job. After 7 years on a disability pension, I found that in order to return to work, I was under-educated and under-skilled for the competitiveness of today's work place. I was also bored and felt that I still had something to contribute to my society.

So, I took a d-e-e-e-p breath and last July, I registered for the Adult Basic Ed College and Careers Access program at VCC. Just three short months later, I wrote my GED exam and got my grade 12 equivalency - after 35 years! It seems that I have a gift for learning math, so I am staying on at Adult Basic Ed in order to upgrade my math skills and plan to continue in September with a 9-month career program at VCC. All because I was just curious enough to see what was on the other side....

And I am in good company. My fellow students come in all shapes and sizes, ages, backgrounds, and we make a diverse ethnic mix; our pre-exam potlucks are fantastic! In fact, our class Christmas party was the best party I've ever attended: students and teachers brought a bounty of ethnic food; there was a fun video to watch; we played lots of music, won prizes, received gifts, even danced the Macarena - teachers, too - no need for drugs nor booze, just fun.

Respectful relationships develop in our supportive Adult Basic Ed program. This spirit of learning gives us added skills and confidence, with some of us confronting a sense of personal failure and overcoming a self-imposed limitation. It's been harder for me to return to school as an adult, but I have been able to overcome a math-phobia. Girls can do math. I can do math. I couldn't know that until I tried.

Every graduate here has succeeded, and tonight is a celebration of that success. We are just getting started: some of us will continue with our studies; some of us will go on to look for work; and some of us will take a break or rest. But none of us will ever be the same. If we are asked, let's share how it's been for us here, for we can now inspire others.

I'd like to close by sharing an anonymous quote with you, which gave me the courage to start the Adult Basic Ed program at VCC: "Ships in harbor are safe...but that's not what ships are built for".

I wish happy sailing and the best of luck to all the grads here tonight. I'd like to thank God, Vancouver Community College, my dear Adult Basic Ed teachers, who are, I believe, true educators, and my supportive and loving friends, all who helped me be here tonight. Thank you.

Patricia Gallacher, College and Career Access, Structured GED

Thanks a Million!!!

I am writing to express my gratitude to those who supported my position to represent all support staff (unionized and non) at the College Board.

Support staff are defined in the College & Institute Act as "the employees of the institution who are not the president, educational administrators or faculty members", and I felt proud to be considered as a representative of this group.

While I may not have achieved the majority of votes, I felt honoured to gain the overwhelming support and votes from all those employees who believed in my commitment and dedication to represent all support staff at the College Board.

I would like to encourage all support staff to become more involved in the decisions that shape our work lives and impact our work environments. Each of us has the responsibility to bring forward our concerns and share our ideas. We need to ensure that VCC is an employer responsive to the needs of all employees.

I'd like to thank those employees who contacted me directly to share their viewpoints and seek my response. To those employees who encouraged, supported and voted for me during this election, I extend my heartfelt appreciation!

In closing, I'd like to extend my congratulations to Dennis Cumming.

Carol Sicoli
Human Resources
Projects Coordinator

Program Information Night - April 4

City Centre Campus will be home to an Applied Programs Open House on April 4 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Information tables in the CC lobby, and information sessions in designated classrooms will provide lots of information to prospective students.

Representatives from counselling, financial aid and admissions, as well as the good folks from ABE and ESL will be there to make sure that all questions are answered. All three divisions will be there: Technology, Hospitality, Tourism and Business, and Health Sciences. It promises to be a great evening. Hope to see you there!

Win a Rocky Mountain Rail Tour

The Tourism, Hospitality and Business division received a generous donation and are raffling it off to raise some money for new equipment.

The prize is: Two (2) tickets on Rocky Mountain Rail Tour from Vancouver to Banff in the 2001 season. Return airfare from Calgary and an overnight stay at a Delta hotel in Calgary.

The raffle tickets are only \$5.00 each and only 500 will be issued. Tickets are available at JJ's and the KEC and CC Bookstores until close of business April 11 with the draw on April 12.

A \$3500 value available for only \$5.00 with a one in 500 chance of winning!

No Average Joe Personal Safety Wokshops Available for Employees & Students

Has your class or department expressed concern about their safety? Has there been recent thefts in your area? Do you know when to call 911? What is the "four pillar" approach to substance abuse all about? How can I protect myself when I travel to and from work?

Answers to these questions and many more can be found by arranging a visit with VCC's very own Community Crime Prevention Officer. **Vancouver Police Constable Joe Chambers** is available to give talks lectures to employees and student on safety, crime prevention or anything else to do with policing matters.

Constable Chambers' office is situated in the Community Policing - Police Operations Centre located at City Centre by the Pender Street entrance. If you would like to discuss a policing matter, feel free to drop by the office. Constable Chambers works Tuesday to Friday. If he is not in the office, he is "on patrol" in the neighbourhood around the Campus.



If you would like to arrange a meeting time or guest lecture, please call Constable Chambers at 8645.

Steve Traviss
Safety, Security
and Transportation Coordinator

VCC Planning Update February 2001

Background

At the Board retreat in November 2000, the Board gave direction to the College to develop a strategic planning process. Information packages and presentations were made to Education Council and Operations Council in February regarding a draft year-long planning process. After the Board endorsed the proposed planning process, they held a special planning session after the February Board meeting when they provided some high-level direction on community priorities for the College.

Current Activities

The following are the "Top Ten" directional statements supported by the VCC Board at the February meeting:

1. Our primary customers are students.
2. It is important to provide services to support student success.
3. VCC needs to build strong bridges with the employment communities.
4. VCC should be constantly evaluating, developing and implementing/eliminating programs to respond to changing needs, such as emerging employment areas.
5. Access (serving as broad a range of students as possible) is a very important job for VCC.
6. VCC should invest to ensure students are technologically literate and trained to current standards.
7. VCC should ensure flexible access in its offerings through part-time studies, on-line and distance education, and continuing education.
8. VCC must be able to recruit and

retain high quality employees.

9. VCC should offer only programs that are of high quality.

10. Community development should be part of VCC's work.

The purpose of these statements is to guide the scope and direction in VCC environmental scanning and undertaking a SWOT analysis at the departmental level. As such, they are subject to change and affirmation.

What is environmental scanning?

This is an organized effort to gather information about VCC's internal and external environment. Its purpose is to explore trends. It will be largely conducted by the Office of Institutional Research, guided by an Advisory Committee. Others may also be called upon to provide information.

What is a SWOT analysis?

SWOT stands for "Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats". This is a process designed to help planners at the departmental level draw together and organize this kind of information. The SWOT is a type of situation analysis and leads to some strategic thinking. It does not need to be a difficult or onerous task. In fact, it draws upon our creative thinking.

Next Steps

Advisory Committees will be struck for Environmental Scanning and SWOT analysis.

Feb - May: Scan and SWOT processes underway in parallel

June: Completion of Environmental Scan and SWOT

Sept - Nov: Discussion of Goals, Strategic Directions

Nov: Report of Goals and Strategic Directions to all Governance meetings

Jan 2002: Final Plan completed, submitted to January Board meeting Implementation of operational planning for 02/03



Watch TV for PD

Last call to all instructors to sign up for the **8th Annual Fast Forward Educational Media Showcase** being held May 8 & 9 at

the Capilano College Sportplex. This is a wonderful opportunity to preview new video and multimedia offerings from all of Canada's top media distributors, and forward your recommendations to your liaison librarian for possible library purchase.

Get more information and complete online registration at www.langara.bc.ca/ffwd/ or pick up a brochure at Media Bookings in either CC or KEC library. Registration includes "Apres View" on May 8th featuring tasty hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, and fine BC farmgate and estate winery products.

Farewell to Phyllis Butler

Phyllis Butler, longtime librarian at VCC, left the College at the end of February to pursue a career in the public library sector in children's services. Working at VCC for over 20 years, Phyllis was a warm and generous colleague, and we will miss her.

Appeal to Ed Council on Academic Matters Policy

The Appeal to Education Council on Academic Matters Policy was approved at Education Council on February 6, 2001. A copy of the policy is available on the Web. If a hard copy is required, please contact Vivienne Garrott at 871-7159.

ICS INFO CORNER

April 10 (Tues) 12:00-1:00
Room 5043 KEC
April 11 (Wed) 12:00-1:00
Room 200 CC

- * Come and see what's happening
- * Come and meet some of our staff...
- * Come and talk to us about the computer needs in your area...
- * Arrange your own meeting with the ICS team...
- * Come in just to chat...

VCC Dental Assisting Clinic

Our clinic provides the following treatment for patients aged 5 - 21:

- oral hygiene instruction
- minimal scaling
- rubber cup polishing
- fluoride application
- fissure sealants

A complimentary examination specific to the above procedures, will be performed by a dentist on April 18, 2001.

Please call 443-8499 for an appointment. Appointments for dental procedures will be scheduled from May 8-25 (9:00-4:00p.m.) Each appointment is \$15.00.

VCC Board Meeting Schedule

Thursday, April 26
KEC Room 5025 5:30pm
In order to facilitate the Budget consultation process, the Board meeting of May 24, 2001 has been rescheduled to **Thursday, June 7** (Room 240 CC at 5:30 p.m.). The Board meeting already scheduled for June 28th will take place as planned.

Help Support Battered Women

A colleague of mine approached me seeking support for a community project. I thought that there might be others in the VCC community who might like to help out.

Through your donations of clothing (womens and childrens), shoes, household items and children's toys (preferably new), you will be helping to stock a new thrift store called *My Sister's Closet* (Battered Women's Support Services).

Women are encouraged to gain independence from a life of violence. *My Sister's Closet* will aid them by providing access to household items they will need to rebuild their lives. Proceeds from the sales of goods will be used to supplement the cost of a voucher system which battered women can access to purchase clothing and household goods. Also free vouchers will be given out to those in the greatest need.

As well, many women are without work experience. *My Sister's Closet* will be a safe place for women to rebuild their self-confidence and to gain valuable experience in a retail environment.

If you are interested in providing donations (in good condition) please contact me at Local 7089 or 7518.

Michelle Obedzinski Interpreting and Braille Services Vancouver Community College

Hospitality Management Hosts 4500th Interview

The 7th annual interview week was hosted by the Hospitality Management Department on February 27th to March 2nd 2001. Over 850 interviews were conducted this year with 25 of the major hotels in the Lower Mainland.

This was a pinnacle year as **Allison Gubbins**, a second year Hospitality Management student, received the 4500th interview in the history of this event. Scott Matthews Front Office Manager of the Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside conducted Allison's interview.

A photo shoot took place celebrating this event involving Dale Dorn President of VCC, Susan Boras and Scott Matthews of the Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside, Dave Donaldson, and Carmine Morelli.

A special thank you goes to Brigitte Kirmis, Senior Secretary Tourism, Hospitality and Business programs, who once again did a brilliant job of organizing and co-ordinating this important event.

Carmine Morelli,
Department Head, Culinary Arts



Bookstore Closings

It is year end and so we must close the stores for inventory. The following is the schedule for the three campus stores:

KEC Bookstore closed Friday March 30 and Saturday March 31, 2001.

City Centre Bookstore closed Thursday March 29, 2001.

IE Centre Bookstore closed Friday March 30, 2001

City Centre Bookstore will open on Friday March 30. KEC and IE Bookstores will open at usual time April 2, 2001.

Sun Run Team April 22, 2001

We have had a terrific response to forming a VCC Sun Run Team this year and we hope to continue building this team for many years to come. This year our team will consist of 48 members:

Ackroyd, Margaret
Graham, Melinda
Mucillo, Robyn
Andrews, Brenda
Gurung, Suresh
Ottridge, Pam
Avery, Wayne
Jackson, Kevin
Pulham, Tami
Baker, Patricia
Jewell, Stephanie
Rastan-Schnepf, Mandana
Barratt, Pauline
Johnson, Aaron
Salzmann, Herbert
Bawtinheimer, Pat
Kirmis, Brigitte
Sekhon, Paul
Birkeland, Cara
Kirmis, Kristina
Sharan, Doreen
Brown, Lorna
Lam, Ella

Sharell, Eva
Cameron, Cathy
Liu, Grace
Shortt, Karen
Cant, Malcolm
McLeod, Michele
Sicoli, Carol
Collins, Roberta
McGillis, Sherry
Sicoli, Settimio
Cozens, Janet
Mariscal, Mauricio
Stoneberg, Carey
David, Regeline
Miller, Diane
Toynbee, Claire
De Vaz, Chris
Mills, Terry
Wong, Eugenie
Fletcher, Ron
Mina, Homa
Wong, Helen
Freeman, Robert
Mucillo, Anthony
Woods, Alison

Diane Miller and Tami Pulham have kindly volunteered to be our Team Captains. Team results will be published post-race in The Vancouver Sun. The Sun Run supports B.C.'s amateur athletes and the Vancouver Sun's Raise-A-Reader campaign.

Your Community Wins When You Count Yourself In! Why Educators Should Care About The Census...

It's been around for 335 years, so it's easy to take it for granted. But the Census of Population, which will be conducted by Statistics Canada in May of 2001, has an impact on everyone who lives in British Columbia.

Census information and its many uses affect educators, researchers and students. Consider this: for every

British Columbian not counted in the Census, the province loses \$1,000 per person annually in federal transfer payments. Millions of dollars for the province are at stake, with a portion of that money destined for post-secondary education. Census data are also a valuable resource for researchers and students, as there is no substitute for the detailed socioeconomic data from the Census.

In many areas of community planning, census data are crucial. Population characteristics of an area are used to plan for basic services and infrastructure such as schools, public transportation, day care, police and fire protection.

Census information also supports more than 80 provincial and federal legislative measures, including Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, Child Tax Benefits and Old Age Security.

In the last Census in 1996, B.C. had the lowest mail returns of any province in Canada. When that happens, as a province we're not only affecting our chances of getting our fair share of the pie - more of our tax dollars will be spent on conducting the Census, since low mail returns mean census workers must spend extra time and money going door-to-door requesting completed forms.

Jim Selley, Director of Statistics Canada for the Pacific Region points out, "It's so clear that the Census benefits our province and communities. In the end, the Census isn't for Statistics Canada or for any government - it's for the people."

Remember...mail in your completed census form by May 15, 2001.

From Statistics Canada Submitted by the VCC Office of Institutional Research

VCC Adult Dental Hygiene Clinic

Our clinic is set up to meet many dental treatment needs. In order to establish whether or not our students can assist with your particular treatment requirements, please call the clinic at 443-8499 to set up an evaluation.

The minimum commitment required is a series of six appointments (2 1/2 hours each). This amount of time is required as the students are being carefully monitored as treatment progresses.

The fee is no more than \$80 for your complete treatment.

If you wish to arrange an appointment, please call us and we will be pleased to add your name to our screening waitlist.

Learning Circle 2 Introducing Aboriginal Cultures in Child Care: The Learning Continues...

Saturday, April 7, 2001

The Native Education Centre, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (Multicultural & Diversity Services) and VCC are hosting a Learning Circle for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal child care providers.

For more information, please call 709-8366 or email: wmds@wstcoast.org

Classroom Management Skills For Instructors

This three-day experiential workshop will help you:

I. Expand your current classroom management skills and strengthen your ability to establish and maintain effective learning climates.

II. Identify your preferred leading style and consider how this may work for, or against you, in a variety of situations.

III. Set up and manage small group learning situations.

IV. Use effective group leading skills such as setting norms, limiting, linking and feedback to facilitate a safe and inclusive learning environment for students and yourself.

V. Build confidence and acquire specific skills for confronting and managing disruptive behaviours and challenging group dynamics in the classroom.

VI. Manage challenging situations that come up when working one-on-one with students.

VII. Initiate effective interpersonal conflict resolution both in and out of the classroom.

VIII. Clarify the limits of your instructional role - where does the job begin and end.

IX. Explore resources to support you in your role as an instructor.

Dates: Wed, May 30, Thurs, May 31 and Friday, June 1, 2001

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Coffee/refreshments at 8:30 a.m.)

Place: International Education Centre #1060 - 1080 Alberni Street (Alberni and Thurlow)

Facilitators: Dr. Marv Westwood, Professor, Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology and Special Education, UBC, Wayne

Avery, Pat Bawtinheimer, Hilary Pearson & Dianne Westwood, VCC

Registration: Register by contacting Carol Sicoli (local 7011), HRD, VCC by Friday, April 27, 2001 Maximum 25 participants

Pre-requisites: This workshop is open to VCC faculty. Preference will be given to instructors planning to take "The Art of Teaching Communication and Interpersonal Skills (August 22, 23 and 24, 2001)

Teaching Excellence Essays

Four new Teaching Excellence essays for the spring semester of the 2000-2001 academic year have been received. If you would like copies of any or all of the following essays, please contact Della at 871-7016, or by e-mail.

Exploring Student Expectation
Janet Donald, McGill University
Jim Wilkinson, Harvard University

Integrating Learning Strategies
into Teaching
Terry Doyle, Ferris State University

Emotion in the Classroom
Edward Vela, California State University, Chico
Cooperative

Learning: It's here to Stay
Barbara J. Millis, United States Air Force Academy

Summary of Minutes VCC Operations Council

Acting Chair: Trish Pেকেles
March 13, 2001 King Edward Campus, Room 5025

1. Wellness Incentive Program
In order to encourage people to participate in activities leading to a healthy and balanced life, the VCC Wellness Committee developed a voluntary program where participants will be asked to track those

activities that help them achieve a sense of physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being. Each activity, depending on its form, is assigned a certain number of points. When an individual reaches a specified achievement level (1000 points, 2500 points and 5,000 points), the Human Resources Department will acknowledge the achievement through prize(s) and/or recognition in some form. The Council received background information on the program and were also asked to help encourage participation. The pilot program will be launched in the week of March 19th and will undergo a six month review after implementation. Carol Sicoli of the Human Resources Department is coordinating the project.

2. College Planning Update

A report was distributed on planning activities. Members were asked to review the information and provide any comments to Deanna Rexe, Director of Institutional Research and College Planning.

3. Guidelines for Commercial Privately Funded Activities

This item was deferred to the next meeting for final approval and discussion

4. Security Tender Process Update
Larry Waddell advised that the Security Tender process closed on March 5th. The advisory committee reviewed the bids and made a recommendation to award the contract. The Finance Committee will review their recommendation on March 14th, after which the advisory committee will re-convene to discuss additional details relating to the final contract. It is expected that services under the new contractor will be in place by March 27th.

5. Assessment Fee

Increases Assessment fee increases as recommended by the Fees Committee was brought forward for approval. However, as there was not

a quorum present, the item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. Earthquake Preparedness
The aftermath of the recent earthquake raised questions about how prepared the college community was to respond to this type of emergency. In VCC's Emergency Procedures Handbook, the outlined procedures provide guidelines on what to do but it was suggested that it may be valuable to provide hands-on training in each department. A suggestion was made that pictorial depictions which visually capture the procedures and then are posted in strategic locations and in all classrooms would be beneficial. Ongoing training would require identifying one person in the area who would undertake the responsibility of ensuring that instructors were aware of the procedures and informing students. Larry Waddell was asked to discuss the issues raised and suggestions with Steve Traviss, Health and Safety Coordinator, and provide feedback at the next Council meeting.

Summary of Minutes Education Council Meeting

held on Tuesday, March 6, 2001
in KEC Room 5025 at 3:30 p.m.

01. The following policy was approved by Education Council, for recommendation to the College Board: **Education Services Review Policy.**

02. The following curriculum proposals were approved by Education Council, for recommendation to the College Board: **Revisions to the Dental Hygiene Program; Revisions to the Dental Assisting/ Reception Program;**

03. Final approval was given for the Program Content Guide for: the Dental Laboratory Technology Pro-

gram.

04. Proposal for a Policy on Assessments

A proposal was made to develop a policy on assessments. However, after considerable discussion, Council felt that such a policy was not necessary.

05. Selection of Ed Co Representatives for the President's Evaluation Process

The three Education Council representatives to sit on the President's Evaluation Committee are Dave Donaldson, Dana Fister and Pat Kennedy.

06. For Information: Sequencing changes have been made to the courses in the Hospitality Management Program.

A number of current requirements from the Canada Student Loan Act and the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act were brought to the attention of Education Council. The Student Services Branch (Loans) has requested input from stakeholders concerning on-line courses and their eligibility for full-time financial assistance.

Effective January 2002, GED examinations will be revised to better reflect standards required of a grade 12 student.

Join Us! Fundraising and Potluck

King Edward Campus
April 10, 2001
11:30-2:00PM
plus 50-50 Draw
@ First Nation Center

Potluck means to bring a dish from your culture. Everyone welcome. If bringing your own dish, phone Victoria William (program assistant) at First Nation Centre at 871-7247 and leave a message or drop in.

Special Announcement To Support Staff and Nurses Buyback of Pensionable Service Not Previously Allowed

The College has requested and just recently received approval from the Pension Corporation that allows support staff and nurses to purchase pensionable service when they were previously not allowed to contribute. To purchase service, you must be an **active plan member contributing to the Municipal Pension Plan**. The cost to purchase the service is based upon your **current salary** and current employee and employer contributory rates, and multiplied by the number of months of service you are purchasing.

You can purchase:

- service during your probationary period prior to your permanent appointment
- any part-time service for which contributions were not made
- service performed before 1988 for which you were not eligible to contribute because of age restrictions
- service or which you opted not to contribute, or
- service with any other employer within the Pension Corporation.

You cannot purchase:

- a period of time during which you were not employed, or
- service to "top-up" your part-time employment to make it full-time.

If you wish to purchase a period of service with a different employer, the cost is based on the actuarial value of the increase to the pension benefits as a result of the purchase of service.

To purchase the service, you must pay the cost in a **single payment for the total amount owed**. Payment can either be by RRSP transfer, personal cheque or a combination. A tax receipt will be issued if you pay by personal cheque.

If you are purchasing service on or after January 1, 1990, the Pension Corporation will calculate a Past Service Pension Adjustment (PSPA). Because a PSPA reduces your current RRSP contribution room, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency must determine the amount of RRSP contribution room available to you, to determine whether your purchase of service is allowable under current Retirement Savings Rules.

In some cases it may not be a substantial benefit to your pension to purchase additional service. Before calling or making a final decision, please read the information listed below.

The formula to calculate the cost to purchase service is:

$$\begin{aligned} & 7.5\% \times \text{Current Monthly Salary} \times \text{Months of Service to be Purchased} \\ \text{Less } & 1.5\% \times \text{Current Monthly Salary or Monthly Portion of YMPE (whichever is less)} \times \text{Months of Service to be Purchased} \\ \text{Plus } & \text{Employer Rate} \times \text{Current Monthly Salary} \times \text{Months of Service to be Purchased} \\ = & \text{Estimated Cost \$} \end{aligned}$$

Salary: the current full-time equivalent monthly salary

Service: the number of months of pensionable service to be purchased

YMPE: this Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings under the Canada Pension Plan converted to a monthly figure (for 2001 the YMPE is \$38,300 which becomes \$3191 per month)

Employer Rate: 6.27% - Rate Applicable up to June 30, 2001 and may change after that date

Example

Employee hired full-time on January 1, 1990 and wishes to buy their six month probationary period. Employee's current monthly salary is \$2,916.67 and the current employer rate is 6.27%.

$$.075 \times 2916.67 \times 6 = \$1312.50$$

$$\text{Less } .015 \times 2916.67 \times 3 = <\$131.25>$$

$$\text{Plus } .0627 \times 2916.67 \times 6 = \$1097.25 = \text{Estimated Cost} = \$2278.50$$

Using the Pension Calculator, with the additional six months service works out to be:

Single Life Annuity Guaranteed 5 Years:	\$1320
Bridge Benefit (Offset):	\$714
Total (Monthly)	\$2034

Without the additional service, the pension works out to be:

Single Life Annuity Guaranteed 5 Years:	\$1297
Bridge Benefit (Offset):	\$709
Total (Monthly)	\$2006

The purchase of 6 months service will **increase** the pension by **\$28 per month** (\$2034 - \$2006).

You may wish to use the Pension Calculator by logging onto the Pension Corporation website at www.pensions.gov.bc.ca and also review the various materials available. If you have any questions and need more detailed written information, please contact me at 871-7136.
Eugenie Wong, Human Resources

Denture Services

Effective September 2001, the Denturist Department at City Centre will resume providing denture services to the public. We are trying to "get the word out" as many ways as possible. Could you please let as many people know from your areas (department heads, coordinators, support staff etc) that these services are available to the public and to students who may require: complete dentures, partial dentures, overdentures, dentures over implants, reline, repair, rebase or extension of existing denture.

These services unfortunately are not free, but on a cost recovery basis, it is still more economical for those individuals with budget constraints.

If you know of anyone who needs these services please let them know that they can call 443-8501 at which time they will need to leave their name, phone number and the type of service that they may require. Their name will be put on a list, and when we start making screening appointments, they will be contacted (Screening appointments need to be done to ensure that the patient is suitable, that we can provide the appropriate service and that it is of educational value to our students) Successful screened patients then will have appointments made for the services that are deemed necessary. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 443-8501 or email at sbailey@vcc.bc.ca

Sandra Bailey

The Ground is Shaking - What Do I Do Now??!!

On February 28th at 10:55am, there was an earthquake south of Seattle. Most people in the Lower Mainland felt shocks from this quake. Remember, during an earthquake: - take cover - move away from windows and potential falling objects - duck under a sturdy desk or table - protect your head and neck from falling debris by covering them with one arm - hold onto something solid - resist the urge to run - do not leave the building as danger from falling debris is greater - do not use elevator.

Detailed emergency procedures and response information can be found in the VCC booklet called "VCC Emergency Procedures Handbook" and on the VCC Web Page under Student Services. <http://www.vcc.bc.ca/emergency/index.html> If you need a copy of the manual, please call Heather at local 8456.

If you have questions or would like to arrange a workshop or departmental assessment, please call me at local 8603.

Steve Traviss, Safety, Security and Transportation Coordinator

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

- Published Thursdays
- Bi-weekly January-May and September-November
- Monthly June, July, August and December

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Vancouver Community College

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250 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1S9

classifieds

FOR SALE



Whister-Blackcomb Ski Lift Passes

Save yourself over \$10.00 per pass.
I have 8 lift passes good any day to
the 10th of June 2001. Will sell for
\$50.00 each, cash only. Call 271-
4725. Sandra Mooney

Baby furniture, clothes and toys

Clothes for boys and girls \$1.00/each
Girl's Snow suit \$5.00

1 crib - includes mattress, 2 sheets
and 2 buffer pads \$125.00 1 baby
swing - Cosco Silent Winder \$25.00
1 play pen / travel crib \$25.00 1 high
chair - wood, with walnut finish
\$25.00 1 car booster seat - for 40 lb
and up (3rd stage) \$25.00 1 stroller
\$5.00 1 umbrella stroller \$5.00 1
bouncer seat \$5.00, 1 portable side
rail (useable on any bed) \$10.00

Toys Duplo Blocks \$2.00 Wire
bead moving toy \$2.00 Girl's First

Bike, training wheels \$25.00

Starter Computer \$250.00 Mac
LC - 40 K hard drive, 2 K ram Word
5, Filemaker Pro, Claris Works and
some games included Uses System
7. Contact either 443-8396 or 420-
0828.

PETS



Adoption

Currently fostering a wonderful dog
3 year old Conan. He is an Aussie
Cattle Dog (Blue Heeler) Lab X -
about 50 lbs and has one blue eye
and one brown eye. Likes to go for
walks and chase balls but also
spends lots of time curled up on my
couch or on the floor. Fine with cats
(I have two). Not sure about chil-
dren as we haven't yet encountered
any on walkabout.

Call for more info 8440.

Dolores Callaghan

RECREATION



Cottage for rent Buccaneer Bay,
Thormanby Island, Sunshine Coast
- Gorgeous sandy beach, accessible
by water taxi/boat, beach 100 yards
in front - open view from living
room, kitchen, dining room master
bedroom. Large loft, second bed-
room outhouse, wood burning stove
propane fridge, stove, lights.

Available July 1-26

\$800 per week/\$700 per wk 4 wks
4438663 / msmith@vcc.bc.ca

HOUSING



Call for a House Exchange

Any faculty or staff person whose
friends or relatives would like a
house exchange in Vancouver of
between one and six weeks, in spring
or summer, 2001 or 2002 please call
Grace Shaw #7290 or 261-4498

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Note from the editor:

Please allow me to help you publicize
your upcoming events, department news
and achievements. Keep me abreast of
what is happening in your departments!

Thank you,

Elizabeth Thomson

Please submit your articles via email to:
ethomson@vcc.bc.ca

(Material may be edited for clarity and
length.)