

# Connections

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## Breaking Free

Old web site replaced by user-friendly new vcc.ca.  
Tene Barber, VCC Web Manager, launched the new College web site  
this month. For more information, see articles on page 2-3.

Vancouver Community College  
King Edward Campus – Library  
Box 24620 Station F  
Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5T9

# VCC's Web Site Revamped

Vancouver Community College has a fresh, new look online!

VCC's new web site [www.vcc.ca](http://www.vcc.ca) was officially launched in mid-March. Numerous working groups of faculty, staff and administration worked extensively last year to identify key issues for the new web site -- and as a result, the College has now moved toward a much stronger customer focus for its online presence.

"We've given our site an important facelift," President Dale Dorn. "We've changed the look and the approach of the site, all with the aim of making it more usable for visitors from inside and outside the College." Visitors will notice several differences between the old and new sites including a News & Events section with highlights on the front page, much easier navigation, an effective search engine and a breakdown of programs into a short, manageable list of divisions.

Internal users will notice some changes - things may not be where they used to be, while some information has been expanded and other passages amalgamated. Several 'Fast Tracks' have been added to better serve the visitor. A single click on those links takes visitors to those specialized areas of the site and their dedicated content.

The Online Student Orientation developed by Allan Clarkson, VCC

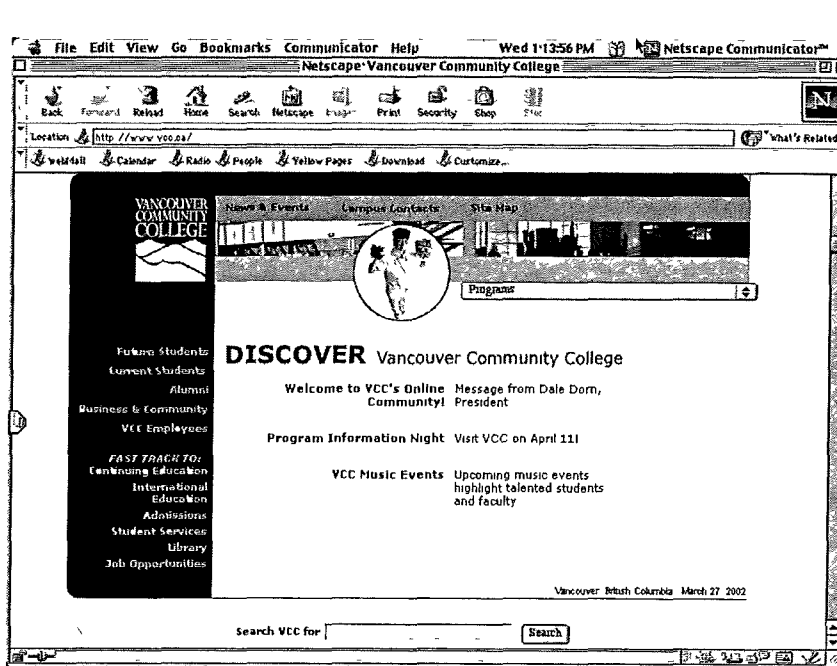
Counsellor, gives prospective and current students a chance to get an overview of the College's services and projects a friendly, welcoming image. In time, visual elements will be added to the Orientation to make it even more accessible.

One of the strongest improvements to our web site is the focus on "serving the customer," whether the visitor is a student, from the outside community or one of our own employees. The site is designed

as the College needs are identified. Over the coming months, enhancements and revisions will take place as we work to unify the content management strategy and refine certain aspects of the presentation

"We've made some great strides with this new site," says Stephen Barrington, Director of Marketing and Communications.

"Content is critical to any Web site and [vcc.ca](http://vcc.ca) is no exception. We have some great content packed with information, which is what visitors want," he says. "But we want to expand and improve our content for an even better site - we're looking forward to the support from departments across the College so we can do that." Web working groups will be revived, and departments across the College will be called upon to assist with the important task of providing essential content.



to help the visitor find the information that is relevant to them. A key facet of this strategy is the list of divisional e-mail addresses that allow visitors to ask questions about specific programs.

"A key component of this new site is about communicating better with potential students," says Linda Martin, VP of Education Services. "By providing our information online in an easy-to-find fashion it should allow visitors to find what they are looking for more quickly."

The new site is designed to grow

Congratulations to Tene Barber, Web Manager, who began working on this project early last year. To begin the process, Tene consulted with College employees, as well as analyzed web site statistics, to find out what was needed in a new design, navigation system and content. Tene then worked with the web steering committee, the web redesign subcommittee and other members of the VCC community to develop the concept, design and content of the new web site.

## Thanks goes to....

I would like to recognize the following people for their special contribution to this project: Bob Altwein for our visual design; Elizabeth Thomson for content development; Daniel Rohloff for graphic production; and Bryn Hughes, Beng Lim and Ron Mertin for server and database administration.

Many more thanks to the 150 or so college community members who contributed through interviews, questionnaires, countless content working groups and tedious technical maneuvering. Looking forward to working with you again - really soooooon.

Tene Barber

## Who am I?

An important aspect of the new web site is the navigation system. From the front page of the web site, the visitor can enter the site one of three ways:

1. Click directly on a program area of interest from the pull-down menu.
2. Click on one of the Fast Tracks to go directly to a specific area of interest.
3. Click on one of the selections in the Global Menu: Future Students, Current Students, Alumni, Business & Community or VCC Employees.

The desire is that visitors will enter primarily by using #3. By identifying with a user group and entering the site through that portal, they will immediately be presented with information that is pertinent to them.

www.vcc.ca

www.vcc.ca

www.vcc.ca

www.vcc.ca

## Domain Name Change

www.vcc.ca is now our official web site address. "We have removed the "bc" from the address like many other universities and colleges in the province," says Des Dougan, Director of Information and Computing Services.

Along with this, all e-mail addresses will now be @vcc.ca. If you are registered on any list-serves, you will need to re-register yourself with your new e-mail address.

The official switch will be on April 22, 2002. "vcc.bc.ca" will still work but this address will no longer be advertised or promoted. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Elizabeth Burnyeat at local 7455.

www.vcc.ca

www.vcc.ca

www.vcc.ca

## Financial Aid News

### Student Loans/Grants and Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment

Vancouver Community College students applying for Student Loans/Grants after March 4, 2002 will have their enrolment electronically confirmed by VCC Financial Aid to the Ministry of Advanced Education. Documents and grant cheques will then be mailed to their homes. Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (ECE) will be more convenient for students who will not have to line up for their documents and cheques on their first day of class. It will also be a more efficient process for Financial Aid.

### Applying for Student Loans On-Line

Planned for late March 2002, British Columbia students will have the option of applying on-line for their Student Loans directly to the Ministry of Advanced Education. This will help the environment (no paper) and students can check their status on the web after 2 days.

### New ABESAP and Bursary application forms

VCC has modified the ABESAP application with the Ministry's approval. The new ABESAP form has simpler language and has been reduced from 4 to 2 pages. It was first used on February 18th, 2002. Users report that the form is easier to use. Staff report that students are filling out the form more accurately and completely. Peer Helpers were available to assist Financial Aid with accepting 366 applications on the first day. There is also a new streamlined Bursary application form.

### Important Deadlines

February 18, 2002 to March 28, 2002 - apply for ABESAP for Summer Term 2002 (April to August)

Deadline: March 28, 2002 -  
Bursaries for current term students

Deadline: March 28, 2002 -  
Scholarship (Award) Selection forms

### Contacts

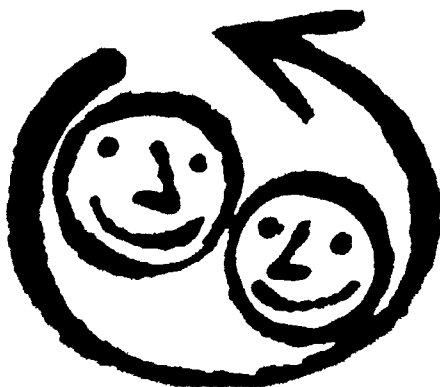
Student Loans, ABESAP, Bursaries:

City Centre - 604-443-8420 or  
King Edward Campus - 604-871-7046

Scholarship information or inquiries:

Dana at 604-871-7050 or  
604-443-8654.

Dana Fister,  
Financial Aid Supervisor



## Buy a Book

The response to the 2002 Buy a Book Campaign has been great. So far, 75 people, faculty, staff, College and Foundation Board members, have committed more than \$7,000. Many have supported the Campaign by buying specially wrapped cookies.

The need for Library materials is urgent. Please, indicate your support on one of the specially marked "Buy-a-Book" yellow cards (available throughout both campuses, or phone 7148) and put it in the campus mail or hand it in at either Library. Remember, you can make your donation conveniently through payroll deduction.

The goal is \$10,000. We can do it if YOU get your name on the list before March 28!

## VCC Sun Run Team April 21, 2002

We are pleased to report that our 2nd annual VCC Sun Run Team has increased to a total of 45 participants. We welcome the addition of Dorothy Ho and Heather Chan to our team.

We wish all participants a healthy and successful event!

Carol Sicoli  
Human Resources Projects  
Coordinator

## Library Fines Amnesty

Do you have books or videos that you borrowed from your Library hiding under your bed or lying around at home?

Have you been too afraid to bring them back to your Library because of the huge amount of money that you owe?

### Well, we have some good news for you!

During the month of April, VCC Library is announcing a special "once-in-a-lifetime" amnesty for all faculty, staff, administrators and students who presently have overdue library items in their possession or fines on their library record. Our motto is: "If you bring them back, we'll waive the fines." Here's how it works:

- For any item lost before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2002 and returned to the Library in good condition during this amnesty period, there will be no replacement charges, processing fees or fines charged. Charges for lost items that are not returned to the Library are not included in the amnesty.
- As an added BONUS, for those patrons who come in person or phone the Library (KEC: 604-871-7920/CC: 604-443-8340)

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

during the amnesty period we will waive all overdue charges for fines accrued up to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2002

The primary purpose of library fines is to encourage prompt return of materials. Occasionally, patrons amass such huge fines that - instead of paying them, they simply forfeit their library privileges.

We want our books back - and we also want our borrowers back.

If you have any questions concerning the Amnesty, please call Melinda Baranieski, Circulation Services Coordinator at 8349 or Lila Heilbrunn, Director Library & Media Services at 7318.

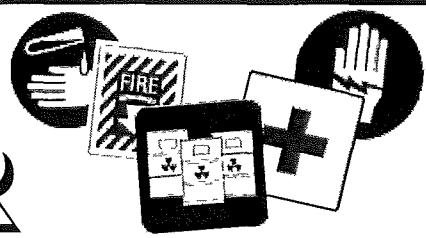
## Leadership and Learning Abstracts

We have received three, 2-page abstracts published by the League for Innovation in the Community College. The titles are:

- Skills Certifications and Workforce Development: Partnering with Industry and Ourselves, Jeffrey A. Cantor;
- Learning Options and Readiness: High School Partnerships in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Susan Lindahl;
- Reading, Learning, and Thinking Seminars: A Template for Faculty Training, Harriet L. Shenkman

If you would like copies of any or all of these, call Della at 604-871-7016 or send an e-mail to [dglendenning@vcc.ca](mailto:dglendenning@vcc.ca).

# SAFETY CORNER



Dear Safety Sam:

I heard that there is a group of people at the College who resolve safety issues. Who are they and how do I find out more?

Signed, Tell Me More

Dear More:

A dedicated group of employees meet on a monthly basis at each campus to discuss issues that effect the health and safety of all employees and make recommendations to management.

The safety committee welcomes your input and invites you to bring forward concerns or suggestions you may have about health and safety at VCC. You can reach Charles Finch, chairperson KEC at local 7027 and Lars Warje, chairperson City Centre at local 8585 if you have agenda items or would like to find out more about being involved in the health and safety committee.

Monthly minutes and safety information are posted on the safety notice boards located outside the administration at City Centre and outside the cafeteria at KEC. Past minutes can be found on the shared directory under Health and Safety.

*Editor's Note: Safety Sam is a fictional character in development to promote a greater awareness around health and safety. Safety Corner will be a regular feature in Connections provided by the VCC health and safety committees.*



## "Shake, Rattle & Roll"

VCC's Earthquake Awareness Day  
April 10, 2002, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
City Centre Campus

## College and Municipal Pension Plan Seminar

**Friday, May 31, 2002  
(KEC – Room 5025)**

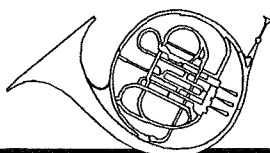
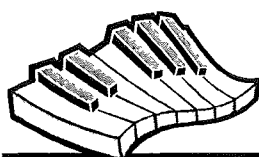
**8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

This informative pension workshop will be facilitated by Roger Hesketh who has conducted the past several workshops for the College. He will explain to you in easy to follow terms what the pension benefit formula is, the offset amount, definition of the various pension payments and the related employee health benefits at retirement. In addition, he will discuss how to purchase additional pensionable service and completion of the pension and benefit forms.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Odyll Alcantara at local 8719 or e-mail her at [oalcantara@vcc.ca](mailto:oalcantara@vcc.ca). When registering, please advise her which pension plan you are enrolled in. Instructors and Administrators are enrolled in the College Pension Plan and Support Staff and Nurses are enrolled in the Municipal Plan.

## Volunteer Opportunity

The Vancouver Maritime Museum is in need of volunteers. It is the principal maritime museum on the Pacific Coast of Canada, and Greater Vancouver region's link to maritime history, art, culture and technology. No experience or boating knowledge is required and full training is provided. For more information, check out their web site at: [www.vmm.bc.ca](http://www.vmm.bc.ca) or call Raylene Marchand at 604-257-8310.



## VCC Music Events

**Tuesday, April 2 at the Jazz Cellar Café (3611 W Broadway), 8 PM\***

Jazz Combo night, featuring the New Old Jass Band (directed by Alan Matheson), the Tuesday Afternoon Ensemble (directed by David Branter), and the Wednesday Afternoon Ensemble (directed by Laurence Mollerup).

**Wednesday, April 3 at the Hot Jazz Club (2120 Main St at 5 Ave), 8 PM\***

The VCC Jazz Orchestra (directed by David Branter) is joined by Soundwave, VCC's vocal jazz choir (directed by Ron Smail).

**Friday, April 12 at the Christ Church Cathedral (690 Burrard St at Georgia), 8 PM\***

Winners of the 2002 Concerto/Aria Competition perform with the Westcoast Orchestra.

**Friday, April 12 in the VCC Auditorium, 8 PM**

An Evening of Opera! The Willan Choir, directed by Patricia Plumley, with Artist-in-Residence Marisa Gaetanne and students from the VCC Classical Voice Program, perform opera choruses of Verdi, Puccini, Rossini, Donizetti, Mozart and Mascagni.

**Saturday, April 13 in the VCC Auditorium, 4 PM**

Beth Bradhurst, a Jazz & Contemporary Voice student, presents her 3rd Year Recital. As part of their Performance Concentration grade, 3rd year students are required to stage a 45 minute concert featuring themselves as soloists.

**Sunday, April 14 in Campbell River**

Winners of the 2002 Concerto/Aria Competition perform with the Westcoast Orchestra.

**Sunday, April 14 at the West Point Grey United Church, Time TBA**

The Willan Choir, directed by Patricia Plumley, with Artist-in-Residence Marisa Gaetanne and students from the VCC Classical Voice Program, perform opera choruses of Verdi, Puccini, Rossini, Donizetti, Mozart and Mascagni.

**Monday, April 22 in the VCC Auditorium, 7 PM\***

Susanne Sulzberger, a Classical Voice major, presents her 3rd year recital.

**Tuesday, April 23 in the VCC Auditorium, 7 PM\***

Malcolm Aiken, trumpet, and Jeremy Page, clarinet and saxophone, join forces to present their 3rd year recitals.

\* Times listed may be subject to change.

Complementary tickets for most events are available to members of the college community. For tickets or for further information, please contact Jodi Van Brunt at 604-871-7297, or email [jvanbrunt@vcc.ca](mailto:jvanbrunt@vcc.ca).

## National Great Teachers Seminar

The 17th Annual National Great Teachers Seminar In the Canadian Rockies will be held from June 9th to 14th, 2002, at Nakoda Lodge, Kananaskis Region, Alberta. Grant MacEwan College invites you to join them for an energizing week that focuses on teaching innovations, solutions and challenges.

Past participants say:

"The most dynamic, inspiring and valuable professional development experience ...."

"Never been to a more effective, well organized and inspirational conference...."

"The seminar was incredible: a terrific learning experience ..."

While engaging in stimulating discussions with other dedicated educators, you can enjoy the scenic beauty and quiet of a secluded mountain retreat.

The \$1,150.25 fee includes room, meals and five days of valuable sharing, networking and professional growth.

For more information and an online registration form, visit their web site:

[www.facultydevelopment.macewan.ca/greatteachers.html](http://www.facultydevelopment.macewan.ca/greatteachers.html)

Don't miss this unique educational opportunity!

## Annual VCC Golf Tournament

Our annual VCC Golf Tourney is scheduled for Friday, May 10th at Noon ( tee-off at 12:30 ).

We will return to Burnaby Mountain Golf Course and will hold our awards and prizes dinner in the Clubhouse afterwards. This year the

format will be mixed, with details to follow at the time of registration. The cost is \$60 per person which includes golf, a chicken and burger buffet and prizes, including cash prizes for all four par threes ( closest to the pin ). Please register and pay by Friday, April 19th to Allan Clarkson, Room 101c in Counselling at City Centre.

For more information, call Allan at 8446.

## Relay For A Friend

Raise hope and funds for the Canadian Cancer Society through Relay for a Friend.

The event is now expanding to three sites:

Coquitlam Town Centre Stadium  
- June 1, 2002

Mahon Park, North Shore  
- June 8, 2002

Bear Creek Park, Surrey  
- June 15/16, 2002

For more information on the many ways to participate in this important event, visit:

[www.relayforafriend.com](http://www.relayforafriend.com)

## New ICS Position

One of the key KPMG recommendations was the reorganization of the Systems and Computing group to reduce the load on Steve Forrest. A component of this reorganization was the setting up of a new position, the Supervisor of Educational Technology Services, to take responsibility for the support of computer labs and to act as the primary liaison between ICS and Instructional users.

I am pleased to announce that Nadia Kawas was the successful candidate and will take up the position with effect from Monday, March 4.

## Teaching Excellence Essays

We have received a number of essays in the Teaching Excellence series. If you would like a copy of any of the following, please contact Della Glendenning at 871-7016 or by e-mail at [dglendenning@vcc.ca](mailto:dglendenning@vcc.ca).

\* College Teaching as an Educational Helping Relationship  
*Douglas R. Robertson, Eastern Kentucky University*

\* Teachers are Diverse, Too - Respecting Each Other's Beliefs  
*Richard G. Tiberius, University of Toronto*

\* The Multicultural Teaching Portfolio  
*Matt Kaplan, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*

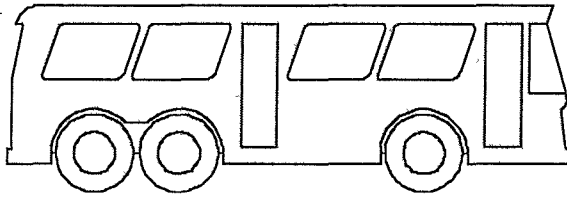
\* Imperatives for Reforming Pedagogy and Curriculum  
*Hitendra Pillay & Bob Elliott, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia*

\* Reflections on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning  
*Pat Hutchings, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*

\* Diversity Begins at Home: Multiculturalism in State and Regional Studies  
*Barbara Lownsberry, University of Northern Iowa*

\* From Cognitive Dissonance to Self-Motivated Learning  
*Edmund J. Hansen, Northeastern Illinois University*

\* Teachers and Scholars as Designers: The Art and Practice of Instructional Design  
*Charles M. Spuches, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry*



## Transit Pass Research

With funding from a grant, I was hired in the fall to study transit passes. The priority was to explore a special student pass called a U~Pass, a collegiate universal transit program. This winter, we conducted research and negotiations with TransLink to see if we could set it up.

The telephone survey of a sampling of 700 VCC students was conducted in December along with a nearly identical survey of students at Simon Fraser University, and the data for both became available in January.

The most important information from the survey was reliable data about what proportion of students travels by each means: transit, single-occupancy vehicle, shared vehicle, walking and cycling. The "modal share" of transit at VCC turned out to be the high percentage of 55%.

By the last week of January, TransLink was able to compute a price for VCC of \$45 per month if full time students only are in the program and \$37 if part time are included. This is a much higher price than the U~Passes that already exist. The Victoria U~Pass at U Vic and Camosun College is only \$11 per month.

Low U~Pass prices directly relate to low percentages of transit users. A U~Pass is financed by a pooled fund through which the cost of transit is shared among all students. The more students use transit in a school, the more costly a U~Pass would be, because there are fewer "others" who would pay into the fund but not use the service.

Politically it may be easier to obtain approval for a U~Pass when

the majority already uses transit, but a high price would not be acceptable to those who do not. A low price would be less divisive and would provide an attractive incentive for occasional transit use by those who usually don't use it.

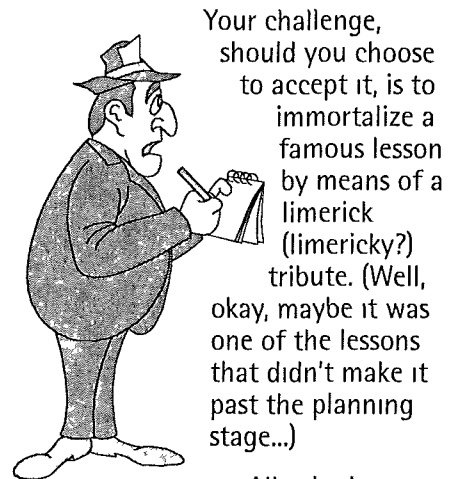
Our VCC Student Associations would have taken the proposal for the U~Pass to referendum if the price had been as low as the Victoria pass. It is unfortunate that VCC students are asked to pay the highest price.

Had the student U~Pass been accepted, it may have been possible to include employees in it, most likely as an option at a higher price, as is done in some schools with U~Pass programs. Such a program would have to be revenue-neutral for the transit provider, so the only savings offered would correspond to the administrative efficiency of selling transit to a large group at once, rather than to so many individuals. That is the kind of price reduction offered in TransLink's present employer pass program. Few VCC employees have so far expressed interest in this program because it requires the employee to buy 12 months of transit per year and because it uses a photo ID card which is not transferrable. Over the coming months we need to convince TransLink to tailor a special program for post-secondary employees. Anyone with interest in the present program or ideas for an employee pass program that would work for VCC please do contact me at telephone local 8604 or by e-mail, lhenderson@vcc.ca.

Lee Henderson

## The Outreach Limerick Olympics Challenge

Here's your big chance for fame and glory throughout the English speaking world of VCC...



Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to immortalize a famous lesson by means of a limerick (limericky?) tribute. (Well, okay, maybe it was one of the lessons that didn't make it past the planning stage...)

All submissions must begin with:

"I once taught a lesson on \_\_\_\_\_"

eg. I once taught a lesson on gerunds.

I said they were nouns, just like "herons".

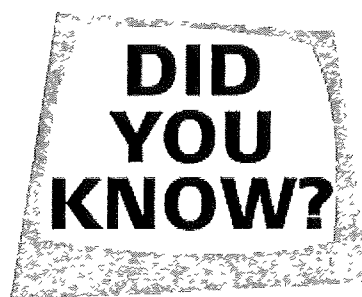
The class started laughing -

They couldn't stop clapping:

"Oh, goody, let's do all the tricky ones!"

All submissions should be sent to the Outreach Office (KEC, Room 3196) by the end of April, 2002. There will be a public display, and prizes will be awarded! Any number, any size - artistic presentation counts too!

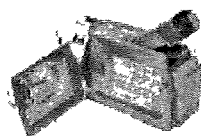




## Instructional Media **SUPPORT** from **Instructional Media Services** is available

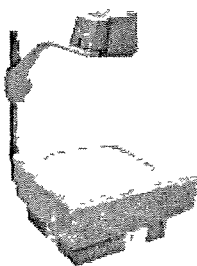
Instructional Media Services at both campus locations provides a resource of equipment and services to faculty, staff and students.

Did you know that we have COWs in Media Services? These are computers on wheels with the Microsoft Office Suite, Word Perfect, Netscape and Internet Explorer installed. COWs can be used in the classroom for presentations and for access to the internet. They come multimedia ready with a data projector, sound card, CD-ROM and speakers.



**We offer a wide range of audio visual equipment for instruction including:**

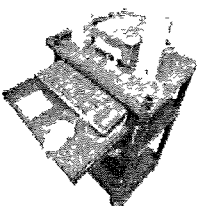
- video playback systems (bi-paks)
- overhead projectors
- VHS and MiniDV camcorders
- digital still cameras
- flipcharts
- tape recorders
- portable CD/tape players
- PA systems
- and more...



Call us at City Centre local 8366/8367 or King Edward local 7313 to reserve equipment for your classroom needs.

**Did you know that we offer desktop publishing and design services for instructional material?** Our staff of AV Technicians and Graphic Designers will work with you to create:

- Handouts
- Overhead transparencies
- PowerPoint presentations
- Audio and video tapes
- Display boards
- Books
- Manuals
- and more...



**Have you got a great idea?** We can assist you with the production of instructional material. Call Michael Agrios at local 8630. Media Services has worked with many faculty to produce quality instructional material from simple overheads to video tapes and PowerPoint presentations.

**We offer other services including:**

- Audio and video tape duplication (copyright clearance required)
- Location and studio photography
- Silent announce system, If you have an event or an announcement, let us know, we will advertise it on the monitors located throughout the campus.
- Mounting and laminating of posters, photos and artwork, (24" in width maximum).
- Technical system designs, specifications and installation.
- Maintenance and repair of audio visual equipment.
- Consultation and specification for equipment purchases.

# BC Pensionfacts

## Purchase of Service

CPP, MPP, PSPP, and TPP

**You may be able to increase your future pension benefits by purchasing past service time.**



If you are a member of the College, Municipal, Public Service or Teachers' Pension Plans, you may be able to increase your future pension benefits. You may be able to purchase periods of service that you worked with an employer under the same pension plan that you are currently contributing to, provided:

- you were not making contributions during the period that you wish to purchase, and
- you are currently a member of the same pension plan.

### You should know:

Purchase of service rules for leaves of absence, non-contributory time and arrears have changed. Starting April 1, 2002 (March 1, 2002 for College Pension Plan) you have five years or until you terminate employment (whichever is earlier) to purchase past service. Beginning April 1, 2007, you may only purchase periods of service that occurred during the previous five years, provided you apply to purchase prior to terminating employment with your current employer.

### Types of Service

Purchasing service means paying for periods of employment that have not been counted as service with the pension plan. Such purchases may increase your pension benefit. Once you have terminated employment with your current employer, you are no longer eligible to purchase any period of previous service (except "Arrears"—see over). Purchase options include:

#### Arrears

If you were not enrolled in the plan at the correct time, you may be able to make up any missing contributions. The Pension Corporation may notify you of any arrears period you may have. If you think that you were not enrolled at the correct time, please verify with your employer or the Pension Corporation.

#### Leave of Absence

If you took a maternity, parental or other leave period, you may be eligible to purchase the leave period.

#### Other Service

If you had employment service before you became a regular contributor to the plan—such as during a probationary period—you may be eligible to purchase that period of service.

For more detailed information on purchasing service, please see our web site at [pensions.bc.ca](http://pensions.bc.ca).

**PENSION  
CORPORATION**

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### Reinstatement

The rules on reinstatement of service have also changed. If you withdrew your contributions from one of the plans administered by the corporation, you may be eligible to reinstate that service. If you received a commuted value for any service, that service cannot be reinstated. You also cannot reinstate any special agreement or additional voluntary contributions. See the *Pensionfacts* publication on reinstatement of service for further information, or visit our web site at [pensions.bc.ca](http://pensions.bc.ca).

### What service may I purchase?

You can purchase service such as:

- service performed during a probationary period prior to your permanent appointment, or
- a period of time covered by a leave of absence, during which you did not make contributions to your pension plan.

You may not purchase:

- a period of time during which you were not employed by a plan employer.

### How much time do I have to make my purchase?

As of April 1, 2002 (March 1, 2002 for College Pension Plan) you have five years or until you terminate your current employment (whichever is earlier) to purchase past service. Beginning April 1, 2007 (or March 1, 2007 for College Pension Plan), you may only purchase periods of service for the preceding five years, as long as you apply to purchase prior to terminating employment with your current employer.

### Arrears

Arrears periods must be purchased within five years of the Pension Corporation sending you written notification, or before terminating your current employment, whichever is earlier.

### I think I'd like to purchase service. What's next?

See your payroll office, or visit the Pension Corporation on-line at [pensions.bc.ca](http://pensions.bc.ca) and use our Purchase Cost Estimator. If you do not have access to the internet, you will be able to estimate the cost of your purchase using the simple formula on the application form (available from your employer or the Pension Corporation).

When you have filled in the *Application to Purchase Service* form (either on paper or via our web site), you must then take the form to your payroll office so they can confirm that your leave was approved or that you were employed during the period of service to be purchased. When you decide that you wish to make a purchase, return the signed form to the corporation so that we can process your request and send you an invoice.

### Now that I've decided to make my purchase, how do I pay for it?

You must pay your portion of the cost at one time, for the total amount owed. You may pay by RRSP transfer, personal cheque or a combination of both. If applicable, you can also pay by transferring funds from sick bank, retiring allowance or severance packages.

Depending on the circumstances of your purchase, your employer may or may not be responsible to pay a portion of your purchase cost.

For further information on this topic, please see the *Pensionfacts* publication on paying for purchases.

### What are the tax implications?

Purchasing periods of past service could affect your income tax situation. The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency must calculate the amount of RRSP contribution room available to you, to determine whether your purchase of service is allowable under current retirement savings rules.

Contact CCRA for information about your available RRSP contribution limits. Have your social insurance number and latest pension adjustment (PA) statement available when you call.

For further information on this topic, please see the *Pensionfacts* publication on PSPAs.

*Pensionfacts* is published by the Pension Corporation to provide pension information to a variety of audiences. If you wish to receive *Pensionfacts*, or have comments, please contact us:

*Pensionfacts*  
PO Box 9460 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9V8

Fax (250) 356-9591

This publication provides general information about the pension plan and is based on the relevant plan documents (statutes, regulations and rules). If there is a discrepancy between this publication and the plan documents, the plan documents will apply.

In this fact sheet, "we" and "us" mean the Pension Corporation, and "you" means the plan member.

PF P05 2001-055 2002 02-20

Please contact Eugenie Wong at local 7136 with any questions.

# Summary of Minutes of the Education Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, March 5, 2002 in KEC Room 5025 at 3:30 p.m.

## 1. Report of Education Chair

- \* Advance polls for election of representatives on Education Council will be taking place on March 7th and voting on March 12th and 13th.
- \* At the April 2nd meeting, there will be the election of the Education Council Executive.
- \* The Chairs of Council of Education Councils (CoEdCo) will be meeting on March 23rd.
- \* The Chair made reference to the changes to the BC Student Assistance Program.

## 2. VCC Board Report

- \* The meeting on February 28th was an Orientation meeting for the new Board members.

## 3. The following was approved for recommendation to the Board:

- \* VCC English Language Assessment equivalencies - TOEFL & TSE, or Academic IELTS. If certain departments or divisions require specific subtest scores or higher minimum scores, these additional requirements are to be stated for each of the three options: ELA, TOEFL & TSE, and IELTS.
- \* The criteria for program cancellation have been followed by the College in the cancellation of the Meat Cutting and the Sausage Making programs.
- \* Advanced Reading & Vocabulary Building - new course for International Education
- \* CF Science - Chemistry 061/071, Chemistry 083/093, Biology 061/071, Biology 081/091, Biology 083/093, Physics 061/071, and Physics 083/093 - revised prerequisites.

## 4. For Information

- \* Rationalization of terms in ELS/CPE was discussed.
- \* The Chair will be writing to the Minister of Advanced Education to explain how the restriction of student grants to students until after the first eight months of their programs could harm students and programs at Vancouver Community College.

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## Revisions to D.4.2 Student Grievance Policy

Revisions to D.4.2 Student Grievance Policy were approved by Education Council on January 8th, and presented to the Board for information on January 24, 2002. Approval of the revisions were received from Operations Council on February 18, 2002. The revised policy is available on the College website.

If you require a hard copy of the policy, you can print it off from the website, or call Vivienne Garrott at 7159 for a copy.

# Second Feature Film Directed by Lindsay Bourne

Lindsay Bourne, Audio/Visual Technician in the KEC Instructional Media Services Department, was not at the Oscar's on Sunday night, but he might be one day. Bourne directed his own movie, Stuck, at the Bridge Studio in sound stage three in mid-March. This is his fifth screenplay to be made into a feature film and his second outing as a feature film director. His previous screenwriting credits include: Abducted; Abducted 2: The Reunion; Wounded; Sex, Size and Other Lies and a 45-minute promotional film for the Singapore Armed Forces entitled, On Guard.

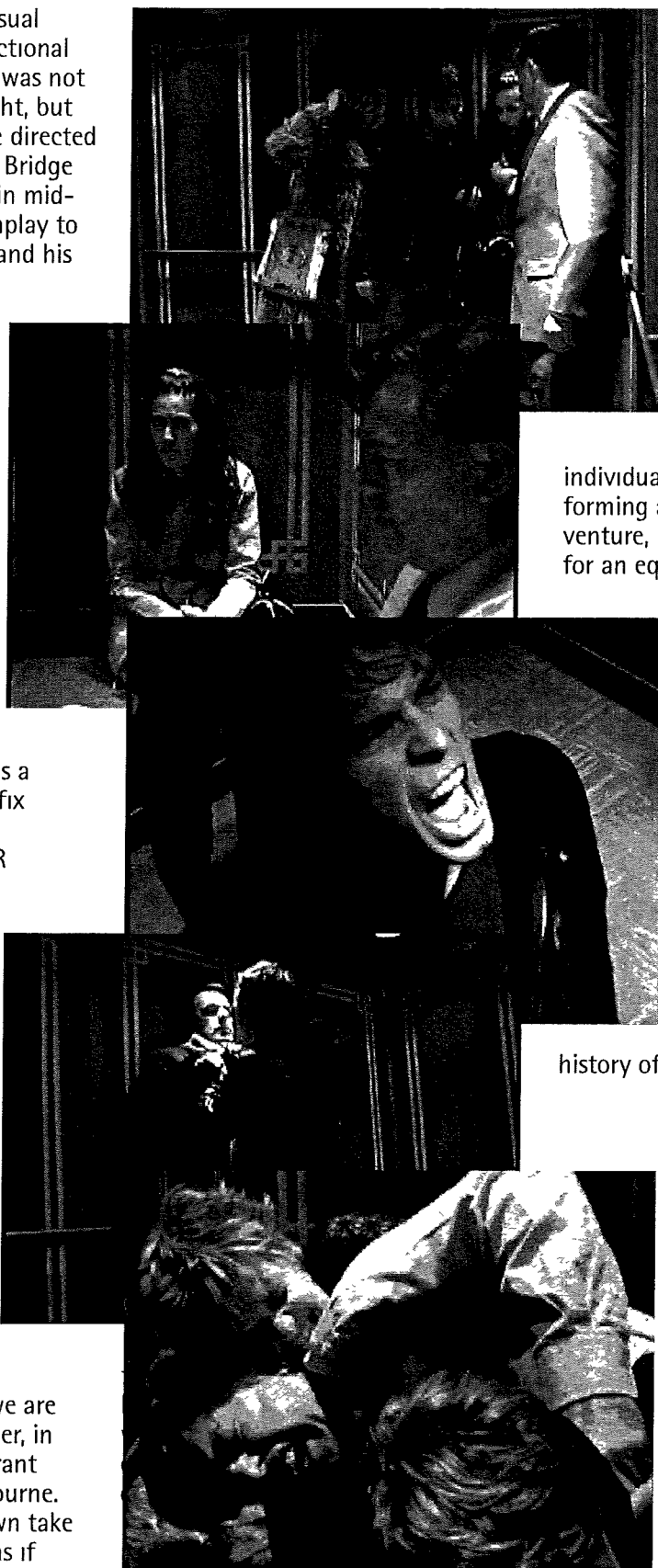
Stuck is a powerful, groundbreaking film in which four characters from disparate backgrounds find themselves stuck in an elevator for 90 minutes. Liz, is a drug-addict "jonesing" for a fix (played by Stargate SG1 star, Amanda Tapping,) Bernie (J. R Bourne,) her boyfriend and enabler is an angry, in-your-face rebel, Cindy (Courtney Kramer) is a prim, fashionably-packaged and emotionally shut-down young woman, and Gordon (Fred Henderson) is an authoritative, rigid and arrogant businessman. It doesn't take long for the personalities to clash and explode taking the audience on a ride of discovery and insights into the human condition.

"The film's theme is that we are all stuck, in one way or another, in our own narrow, often intolerant views," says writer/director Bourne. "We really believe that our own take on reality is the correct one, as if

positions and invite them to look at the world differently. Pretty ambitious, I know, but that's the fun of independent filmmaking, going where the Hollywood entertainment machine would never dare!"

Bourne not only wrote the screenplay in less than a month, he also enrolled a cast and crew of highly successful individuals in the film industry into forming a cooperative for the venture, waiving all fees in exchange for an equal percentage of the film's gross. There are also a number of people (including IMS's Zoro Mihajlovic) who have signed on strictly as volunteers for the credit and experience. "The actors all bought their own costumes, the director of photography bought the video stock, we even all buy our own meals," says Bourne. "It is completely unheard of in the industry and a little footnote in the history of filmmaking!"

*Photos Top to Bottom: Amanda Tapping, J.R. Bourne, Courtney Kramer and Fred Henderson gather around a dying cell phone; Courtney Kramer and Fred Henderson settle in for a long wait; J.R. Bourne yells for help; J.R. Bourne slams Fred Henderson against a wall; Amanda Tapping wrestles Fred Henderson off of J.R. Bourne.*





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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.ca**

(Your submissions are welcome. However, material may be edited for clarity and for length.)

**Next Publication Date: April 22**

**Submission Deadline: April 12**

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## For Sale

WANTED! Old cell phones and pagers for a classroom project. If you can help out, please call Peter Hopkinson in the Science department at 7285. Thanks.

For Sale 1990 VW Golf, 5 speed, thule roof rack, 141k, BCAA report included, asking \$7,200 obo. Call Robyn 604-739-0805

## Thank You!

### CNIB British Columbia-Yukon Division

Lower Mainland - South Coast and Fraser Valley Districts February 28, 2002

Dear Leenane Shiels and Betty Nobel,

On behalf of the Focus on Crocus Campaign volunteer committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution to the overwhelming success of this important inaugural fundraiser for CNIB.

Your participation, and the contributions of employees at Vancouver Community College helped us surpass our goal and raise more than \$34,000 to fund

services for people who are blind, visually impaired and deafblind in the district.

Focus on Crocus would not have been successful without the contributions of our corporate and community partners such as Vancouver Community College, and individuals like you. Thank you again for your support, you do make a difference.

Sincerely,

Rob Sleath

Chair, Focus on Crocus Committee 2002

### Dear VCC Friends:

Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy, for the loss of Michael.

From Denise Douglass and Family