

Connections

Inside

February 28, 2003

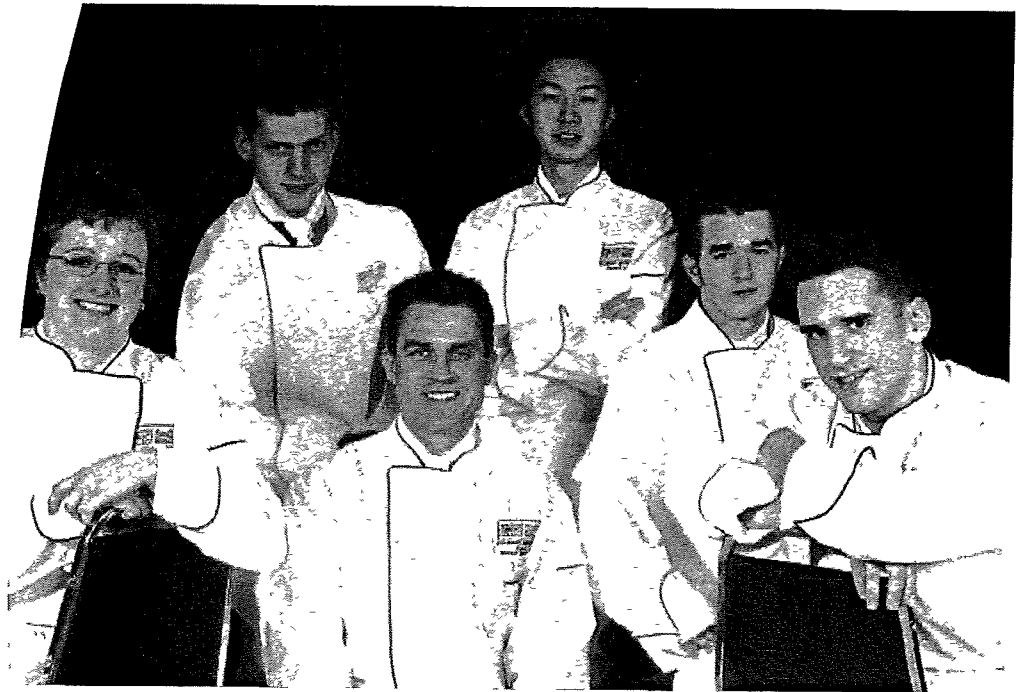
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VCC Rolls Out New Software!

VCC Chefs Place Second in Canada!



Above: (from left) Laura Sharpe, Ryan Stone, Harold Bonkowski, Farand Lee, Ian Shandler and Tobias Grignon.

Vancouver Community College apprentice chefs competed at the CFCC/ Knorr Junior Team Culinary Competition in Toronto, Feb 15-19th and placed second in Canada (story on page 3).

Connections Correction

Oops! We apologize for a mistake in the last issue in regards to the 5th Annual Recognition Event. The description under the picture at right of employee Ngee-Moi Voon was incorrect. She won Excellence in Teamwork as did the Assessment Centre—there was a tie! She did not receive the flowers on behalf of the Assessment Centre as she works in College and Career Access.

Right: Rob Henderson congratulates Ngee-Moi Voon on her Excellence in Teamwork win.



Education's Global Communication Link

From June 21 to July 6, 2003 the Ministry of Education Rhineland-Palatinate is offering a seminar for American and Canadian teachers and administrators in Ingelheim on the Rhine River and in Berlin that will allow you a closer look at different German institutions in education, economics, and politics, and will give you a taste of culture as well. More information can be found on the web

<http://bol1.coba.unr.edu/elfi/>

Donna Hooker



Appointment

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Sandi Bailey as Department Head of the Denturist/ Dental Laboratory Technology Department. Sandi's appointment is effective January 1, 2003.

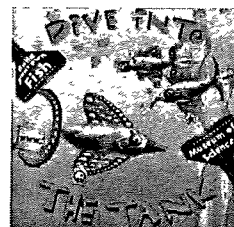
Pat Bawtinheimer

Web Connections

Virtual Fish Tank

<http://www.virtualfishtank.com>

Design a fish, tag it and release it into a tank. The program requires the Macromedia Shockwave Player, which you must download if you do not already have it installed on your system.



daily
grammar

Daily Grammar

<http://www.dailygrammar.com>

Submit your e-mail address and have grammar lessons e-mailed to you on a daily basis.

Help us Rename Connections-Deadline Mar. 14th

We are asking for your clever ideas for a new name for "Connections"! We will be refreshing the look of Connections in the coming months and thought it would be a great time to review the name as well. Since this is your "newsletter" we are asking you for ideas. Or, if you don't want us to change the name- we would also like to hear why we should keep the name "Connections".

Email your name ideas to kwilson@vcc.ca with the subject line: "Connections: NEW NAME" by Mar. 14th at 5:00 pm.

Check out March Connections for a list of submitted names. Who knows, your idea may be chosen to rename VCC's most popular reading material!

VCC chefs win 2nd Place in Canada at national championship in Toronto

Five apprentice chefs from Vancouver Community College competed at the CFCC/Knorr Junior Team Culinary Competition in Toronto Feb 15-19th and placed second in Canada.

Coach Harold Bonkowski and his team of 5 chefs: Ryan Stone, 21, Tobias Grignon, 21, Laura Sharpe, 19, Farand Lee, 21 and Ian Shandler, 21 have been practicing for 3 months to get ready for this intense competition. Their months of intensive training and the pressure of competition together spell an invaluable experience for these apprentice chefs. VCC's team is the only British Columbia entry in the competition.

"To compete at this level has been a character-building experience," says Grignon, who along with his team-mates as been preparing for the competition since last fall.

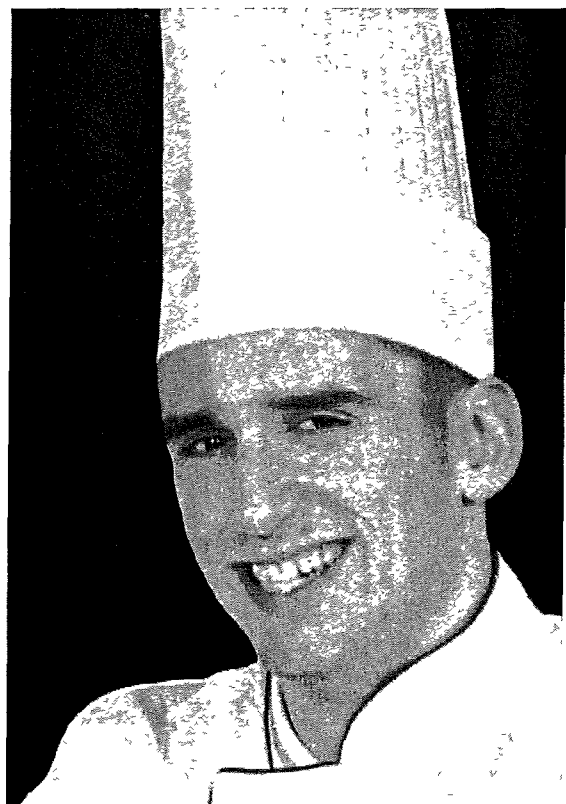
For team coach Bonkowski, the competition is all about showcasing the skills of young local chefs. The apprentice chefs had just 3 1/2 hours to create a four-course meal of appetizer, soup, entrée and dessert. Their ingredients: Arctic char, prawns, wild poultry and pork tenderloin. "We want to show the rest of the country the level of expertise of our apprentices here on the West Coast," he says. "There's some regional pride involved here."

Glen O'Flaherty sums up their achievement, "As Department head of Culinary Arts, I could not be more proud of our team. Harold hand picked the team and practiced with them every Saturday and Monday night for months. They come home with a silver medal and a lifetime memory. There is no such thing as second place here, we are all winners and we will cheer on the team from

PEI at the Olympics in the fall of 2004. Go Canada!"

Costs for the team's trip were covered through a sold-out fund-raising dinner hosted last month at the college's downtown campus.

Above and Right: Ryan Stone and Tobias Grignon, apprentice chefs and key members of the VCC culinary team.



VCC rolls out new office software

VCC is launching a new suite of office software – **StarOffice** – that stands to save the college money and streamline the way users create routine memos, letters and other materials. StarOffice offers users a powerful package of common applications – word processor, spreadsheet, presentation tools and database – all of them essentially equivalent to Microsoft's Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access.



"This suite is dramatically less expensive for the College than the Microsoft products that are currently installed on our network," says Des Dougan, director of Information and Computing Services, who works regularly with StarOffice.

"Our department is always looking at ways to deliver quality software at the best cost – this new package does that," he says.

Total cost of licensing StarOffice across the entire College computer network: \$40. Compare that to an estimated \$130,000 it costs the College each time it upgrades the Microsoft Office suite of Word and other applications. StarOffice is a version of what's called 'open source' software, meaning that it's available free, with users paying only a minimal fee for discs or distribution. Behind StarOffice is one of the biggest names in the computing world, Sun Microsystems, which is an international leader in hardware and software development.

"It's often hard for people to believe the low cost," says Dougan. "But that's the beauty of 'open source' software, which companies and developers create with the philosophy of having quality applications for the good of the community."

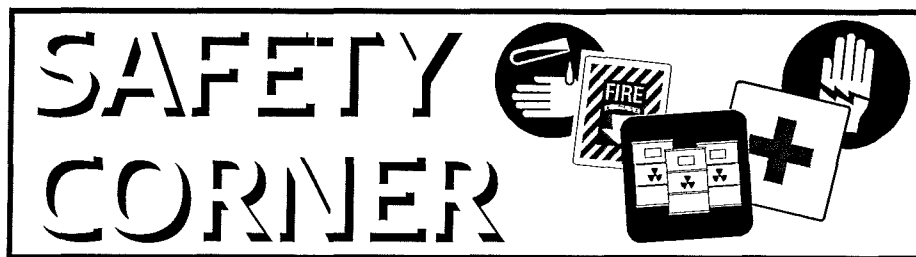
StarOffice will be rolled out across the College computer network over the next several weeks, when users will be able to access the software by way of the start menu or the Windows desktop of their computers. Microsoft Office applications will continue to be available, but users are encouraged to try out the new StarOffice software.

So . . now for some technical stuff about StarOffice:

StarOffice can save files in its own format – XML-based for those who are interested – or more importantly in MS Office formats, up to and including Office XP. It can read all common file formats, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint used at the College, as well as versions of WordPerfect and other, older, applications.

This package will be available only on the College network, but home users who want this powerful suite can download a free companion version called OpenOffice. Visit www.OpenOffice.org to find out more. Both StarOffice and OpenOffice have some limitations – they are not quite as polished as MS Office, for instance, and may not present imported MS Office documents exactly as they would look in Word (especially) or Excel.

"Those limitations are really quite minor when you consider the cost and the array of added features that are in the works for these packages," says Dougan. "StarOffice offers a far greater capability for templates, which means that users will be able to save a lot of time when they're creating a lot of your day-to-day documents."



Dear Safety Sam,

I am an instructor at VCC. Times and situations have changed over the years and I was wondering if you can refresh my memory about exactly what I should do when the Fire Alarm Sounds.

Signed,

Wanting to Know

Dear Wanting to Know,

Your question is one that has come up recently at some of our Safety Meetings

When the Fire Alarm Sounds:

1. Secure your area.
2. Follow the instructions of the emergency personnel or person in charge then proceed to the nearest exit and evacuate down the stairwells.

3. Walk, do not run. When you have reached the outside of the college, move away from the building to allow others behind you to emerge from the exit.
4. Proceed safely across the streets.
5. Do not go back into the college for any reason until the fire department has given its permission to do so.
6. Stay out of the building until the three rings of the bell (City Center) or three blasts of the hailer (KEC) are heard.

To find out about other Emergency Procedures, the VCC Emergency Procedures Handbook is available through the Facilities Department in room 105 at the City Center Campus or by calling the Safety Assistant at local 8456 and a copy will be forwarded to you.

LEARNING CENTRE NEWS

Upcoming Learning Centre Workshops (KEC)

The following workshops are available for VCC students. The location is the Workshop Room in the KEC Learning Centre. Workshops are limited to 16 students only.

Resume Workshop
with *Nancy Barr*
February 21, 2003
11:00-12:00

Sentence Structure (Intermediate to Advanced)
with *Veronica Jorna*
February 25, 2003
11:00-12:00

Pronunciation (Int. to Adv.)
with *Michael Daniel*
February 25, 2003
2:00-3:00

How To Learn Vocabulary (Int. to Adv.)
with *Carrie Leggatt*
February 26, 2003
11:00-12:00

Cross-Cultural Conversation (Int. to Adv.)
with *Michael Daniel*
February 26, 2003
2:00-3:00

CBC News (Int. to Adv.)
with *Nancy Barr*
February 27, 2003
11:00-12:00

ESL News (Beginner to Intermediate)
with *Lee Henderson*
February 27, 2003
2:00-3:00

New City Centre Learning Centre Hours

Monday – Thursday
8:30 am – 6:30 pm

Friday
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

BOOKS, VIDEOS AND CDs FOR SALE

The 2003 Buy-a-Book Campaign will begin on April 1, 2003. The Committee is planning a sale of used books, videos, and CD in support of the Campaign. Please bring items to either the KEC or the City Centre Library. They will be sorted and priced by Library staff and available throughout the Campaign. All proceeds will go to the VCC Foundation's Library Acquisition Fund to help purchase much-needed materials for both Libraries.

This is an excellent opportunity to revitalize your personal collection, so please...

GIVE A BOOK TO BUY-A –BOOK!!

Make-Up Exam Times (KEC)

Instructors are reminded of our make-up exam times:

Monday – Thursday
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Monday – Thursday
3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Friday
9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Exams must be **STARTED** and **COMPLETED** within the scheduled time periods.

Two New College Policies

At the Board meeting of January 28, 2003, two new College policies were approved:

- i.) A.1.1. Board Meetings Policy. This Policy replaces A.1.3 and A.1.6;
- ii.) D.1.2 Selection of Instructional and Library Materials Policy.

The Policies may be viewed on the College Website. If you require a hard copy of the policies, please contact Vivienne Garrott at 7159.

ACCC 2003 CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER

As you know, this year's ACCC conference will take place in Vancouver, May 25 – 27 with the conference theme, "Our Changing Landscape". The conference locations are the Vancouver Fairmont and Hyatt Hotels. VCC is the lead host institution, working with Capilano, Douglas and Langara Colleges, the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, the Justice Institute and Kwantlen University College. Linda Martin is the Chair of the Host Planning Group and Sarah Lucas is the local Conference Coordinator.

Detailed information on the conference can be found on the ACCC website at www.accc.ca. If you enjoy working with colleagues from across the Lower Mainland, please think about volunteering to work at one of the conference locations on at least one of the days. Details on sign up for volunteering activities will appear in the next edition of Connections.

We believe that this conference provides something for everyone in the college community. If you need further information, please contact Sarah Lucas at local 7158 or by e-mail at slucas@vcc.ca or slucas@vcc.ca or slucas@vcc.ca

NOTICE TO ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS

If you are making changes to courses or programs that will require Education Council (and perhaps Board) approval, please remember that the Council (and the Board) often do not have a quorum for a July and/or August meeting. If the changes are to be in effect for September, then submit your request for approval as early as possible so that it can be processed in time for

.. continued on page 6

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the June 3rd meeting. Send your submissions to the Curriculum Committee for review and suggested revisions before your submissions are considered by Education Council at its June 3rd meeting. The Curriculum Committee meets on March 18th, April 15th, and May 20th.

Forms for submissions are found on both drives at: Common/Education Council/Curriculum Cttee. Michèle Bickell is the recording secretary and can be reached at 871-7006 or by email at mbickell@vcc.ca.

Ted Hougham, Chair
Education Council

Summary of Minutes of the Education Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday, January 7, 2003
in KEC Room 5025 at 3:30 p.m.

1. Advice to the College Board:

- Approved the Selection of Instructional & Library Materials Policy.
- Approved the course change in Civil Level 3, Drafting – Architectural, Civil Structural and Computer Aided Drafting (CAD).

2. For Information

- The Policy Committee will be writing a policy on distributed learning.
- It was decided that instructors would continue to accommodate religious observance to the extent that it was possible and that a policy was not necessary.
- The drafting program name has been changed to Computer Aided Design Drafting (CADD), Architectural/Civil/Structural; Computer Aided Design Drafting (CADD), Architectural/Mechanical Design and Process Piping; and Computer Aided Design Drafting (CADD), Architectural/Steel Detailing.

- The Business Management Department is in the discussion stage with SAIT and CGA to offer some of their courses at the International Centre on a cost recovery basis.

3. Report of Education Chair

- The Chair received an appeal to Education Council on academic matters. The Tribunal ruled that the appeal was unfounded and should not go to a hearing.
- Budget discussions took place at the College Board meeting in December.
- A motion was passed expressing concern about the loss of library hours and the impact on programs and students due to budgetary constraints.

Meet the Writer Series!

VCC welcomed Billie Livingston on Wed. February 19. She read to staff, students and visitors from her new book. Don't miss the next 2 brilliant B.C. writers: Marilyn Bowering and William Deverell.

Marilyn Bowering – at VCC on Wed. March 19, KEC Cafeteria 12:30-1:45

William Deverell – at VCC on Wed. April 16, KEC Cafeteria 12:30-1:45

Again, this is an open invitation to everyone to "Come meet the writers!" In the meantime, we invite readers to take advantage of some of the titles we have in VCC Library and read from them ahead of time. Please check out these titles in the Library.

Marilyn Bowering

Human Bodies : New and Collected Poems 1987-1999
(KEC) PS 8553 0865 H86 1999
To All Appearances A Lady
(KEC) PS 8553 0865 T6 1997

William Deverell

The Dance of Shiva
(KEC) PS 8557 E92 D36 1984

Fatal Cruise
(CC) PAPERBACK

Kill All The Lawyers
(CC) PAPERBACK

Laughing Falcon
(KEC) PAPERBACK

Mindfield
(KEC) PAPERBACK
(KEC) PS 8557 E92 M56 1989

Platinum Blues
(KEC) PS 8557 E92 P58 1988
(KEC) PAPERBACK

Street Legal : The Betrayal
(KEC) PAPERBACK

Trial of Passion
(KEC) PS 8557 E92 T75 1997

PURCHASE OF SERVICE FOR COLLEGE PENSION PLAN MEMBERS (FACULTY)

Any faculty member who has considered purchasing past non-contributory pensionable service or service while on unpaid leave of absence (including maternity/parental/adoption leaves) may wish to do so before March 31, 2003. If you purchase service after this date, the cost will be higher because of new salary rates effective April 1, 2003.

In order to purchase service at a lower cost, a «Purchase of Service Application» form must be completed and dated prior to March 31, 2003.

This form can be downloaded from the Pension Corporation website at www.pensionsbc.ca under the College Pension Plan section «Forms». You may also wish to contact Eugenie Wong in the Human Resources Department at (604) 871-7136 to request a copy of the form or for more details.

Due to the high volume of requests, completed forms should be submitted to the Human Resources Department before March 14, 2003.

MUNICIPAL PEN PLAN SEMINARS (FOR SUPPORT STAFF)

The Municipal Pension Plan will be conducting seminars at select locations throughout the lower mainland between now and the end of June 2003. The seminars are approximately three hours in duration.

If you are age 50 or older, you are eligible to sign up for a session. You are welcome to bring your spouse or partner.

The seminar will cover the retirement process from application to receiving your payments with emphasis on your options and benefits. How purchasing service can increase your pension and how to get credit for child-rearing time will also be discussed.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Eugenie Wong in the Human Department for an application form. She can be reached at (604) 871-7136.

COLLEGE PENSION PLAN SEMINAR (FOR FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS)

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2003
ROOM 5025 @ KING EDWARD CAMPUS
9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON

The College is once again offering an informative pension workshop for College Pension Plan Members. It will be facilitated by Roger Hesketh who has conducted 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.

Space is limited to 60 participants.

If you are interested in attending, please phone Chris De Vaz in the Human Resources Department at local 8312 or email her at cdevaz@vcc.ca



TIP
TOP
SHAPE

By Maritza Nunez
Maint. & Repair Tech IMS

Laser Pointers:

We might remember the old days, before the invention of lasers and their application in CD or DVD players, when teachers used a stick to point out something on the screen or blackboard.

The earliest optical pointer used a small incandescent bulb, a lens and a mask to project an arrow. These optical pointers were bulky and required a separate power source attached by wires.

The laser pointer is the cheapest tool to enhance your presentations when you wish to highlight areas on a chart or screen. It can be used from any location in the classroom and it fits in your pocket!

Due to low cost these pointers are now being purchased and used by the general public. Its use has become widespread in the classroom and at conventions and meetings. The options are red or green and different display patterns are available.

There have been serious concerns about the potential for eye injury resulting from careless or malicious use of laser pointers.

The majority of laser pointers contain a very low powered laser diode; but lack of quality control in their manufacturing, improper labeling and the use of more

Maritza's Maintenance Message

powerful laser diodes justify concerns and regulations regarding their presence in schools.

The hazards of laser pointers are limited to the eye; there are no radiation effects involved. Most laser pointers are not likely to cause retinal damage except the green light ones.

The most likely effects from exposure to viewing the beam are:

- Flash blindness: temporary vision impairment after viewing a bright light
- Afterimage: perception of spots in the field of vision.
- Glare: reduction or complete loss of visibility in the central field of vision while being exposed to the direct or scattered beam.

Safety recommendations:

- Never look into the beam
- Use an indirect means to test operation such as a white card
- Never point a laser beam at a person.
- Do not aim the laser at reflective surfaces.
- Never view a laser pointer using an optical instrument, such as binoculars or a microscope.
- Use only laser pointers classified as Class 2 or 3a according to the label. Do not use Class 3b or 4 products.



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Submissions for Connections:

Send details of your upcoming events, department news and achievements, and information to Connections. Due to time constraints, we can only accept electronic versions. We do, however, accept photos.

Submit your pieces via email to
Karen Wilson, kwilson@vcc.ca

Please title submissions.
Connections: (with article name)

Deadline for submission for next issue
March 19, 2003 by 5 p.m.

Please note
Material may be edited for clarity
and for length.

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Excellent condition

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A Loving Home is Needed...

For a sweet little female white and grey domestic short-haired cat with beautiful turquoise eyes. She is five years old and needs a quiet setting where she can feel safe and loved. She likes to be near people, and enjoys the occasional playful chase after a string. We are currently fostering her for the S.P.C.A., and would dearly like to find her a comfortable and caring home. Please call Della at local 7016.

For Sale:

Large Black Laquered Wall Unit with Mirrors and Glass Doors, \$375 OBO.
Call Lindsay at local 7131 or 604-205-5896

