

Connections

Vancouver Community College's Employee Newsletter - October 2003

VCC United Way campaign kicks off with 'loonie' idea



Campaign co-chairs Deanna Rexe and Judy Echols show how easy it is to donate a loonie.

Even \$1 a paycheque makes a difference

"Give a buck a pay for the United Way" – VCC's annual campaign for the United Way kicks off Oct. 21 with a new committee, a new goal and a new message – as little as a loonie a paycheque can make a big difference.

"Every dollar counts," says VCC campaign co-chair Deanna Rexe, who this year is overseeing the college's United Way efforts with Judy Echols and Carey Stoneberg.

"If everyone who works at VCC donated just \$1 a paycheque, that would raise more than \$30,000 a year. That makes \$1 go a long way," she says. "That's less than the cost of a cup of coffee every two weeks."

With a target of \$40,000 this year, organizers are planning a roster of activities for the United Way campaign.

"We've raised the bar for this year's effort," says Rexe. "Our campaign last

year was a resounding success – with great participation from around the college – and we're confident that we can aim higher and beat our new target."

Several special events are being lined up for the campaign – watch your e-mail and notice boards around the college – including pancake breakfasts, prize draws and paper airplane contests at both King Edward and City Centre campuses.

VCC's director of Information and Computing Services, Des Dougan, was on the cutting edge of the college's campaign in 2002 – and he encourages everyone to support the United Way and its work.

"Come out, get involved and make a donation," says Des Dougan, who left last year's campaign with a shaved head after offering to go under the

see UNITED WAY on page 5

has a new look

Welcome to the new *Connections*.

We've redesigned and re-vamped *Connections* with a new look and feel starting with the October issue.

"We know that the college loves *Connections* – but we wanted to make the newsletter more reader-friendly," says publisher Stephen Barrington, the college's director of Marketing and Communications.

New to *Connections* are three distinct sections: articles, news briefs and coming events. We've changed the layout, added photographs and improved the production – bringing readers a newsletter that's packed with information about the college, its employees and the latest VCC happenings.

Take a look at the new *Connections*. We're sure you'll like what you see.

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News Briefs

Hopkinson has bright idea

He wants your bulbs!

Peter Hopkinson hopes people will see the light – and donate the vouchers for two free compact fluorescent bulbs that B.C. Hydro is including with October electricity bills.

"These high-efficiency bulbs have a very interesting spectrum that I would like to include in a spectroscopy lab in my physics classes," says Hopkinson, who teaches in VCC's College Foundations department.

Contact Hopkinson at local 7285 if you'd like to donate your vouchers and light up his life, er, lab.

Coffee kiosk contest

Attention coffee lovers. VCC has reopened the coffee kiosk on the fourth floor of King Edward campus – and launched a contest to find the facility a new name.

VCC's Name the Coffee Kiosk Contest is open to employees and students alike, who are being asked to suggest names that reflect the college in some way. Prizes are expected to include electronics and, of course, coffee goodies.

Entry forms are available at the kiosk. The winning name will be announced Nov. 26.

New ESL departments

VCC's ESL Vocational area has been split into two stand-alone departments, with the move coming into effect Sept. 1.

The new Professional and Career English department is made up of VESL, Combined Skills ESL, Academic and Professional English/Self-Paced and workplace ESL contracts. A department head will be elected this fall. Pam Hunt is acting department head until that time.

The new ELSA department houses the large ELSA contract. Alison Norman remains department head.

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JJ's at the PNE a success

JJ's Restaurant serves five-star dining to PNE visitors



More than 2,600 guests left the donuts and cotton candy behind in favour of VCC gourmet fare offered by JJ's at the PNE.

Open daily for the run of the fair, Aug. 16 to Sept. 1, JJ's saw VCC Culinary Arts students and faculty delight visitors in two seatings of dinner and lunch each day.

"We had to turn away 200 people a day," says Dave Donaldson, dean of the School of Hospitality and Business.

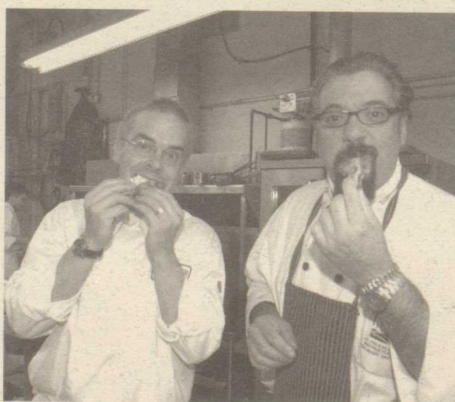
On the menu was a selection of five-star dishes: goat's cheese, pear and candied walnut salad; grilled flank steak; shaved lamb panini and Indian spiced ahi tuna.

Fifty-eight Culinary Arts students joined instructors J.C. Felicella and Susan Shacker to provide fair-goers with a truly memorable experience.

VCC and its culinary programs received extensive media attention through the JJ's event, boosting the college's profile around the city thanks coverage that included the Vancouver Sun, Vancouver Courier, CKNW radio, Global TV and Citytv.

"This was something completely new at the PNE. We're thrilled that it was such a big hit," says Joan McArthur-Blair, VCC's vice-president of education.

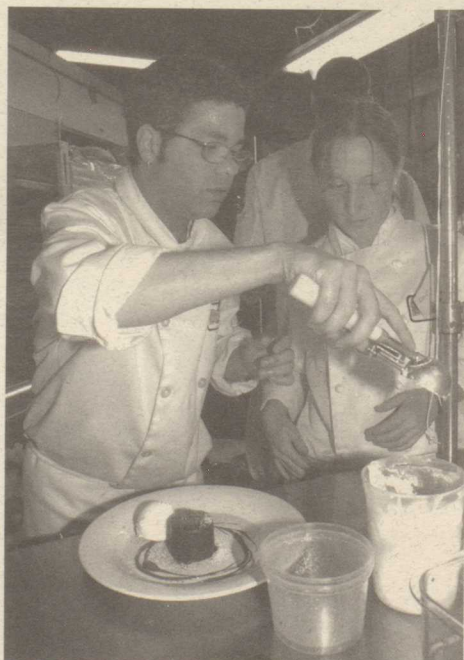
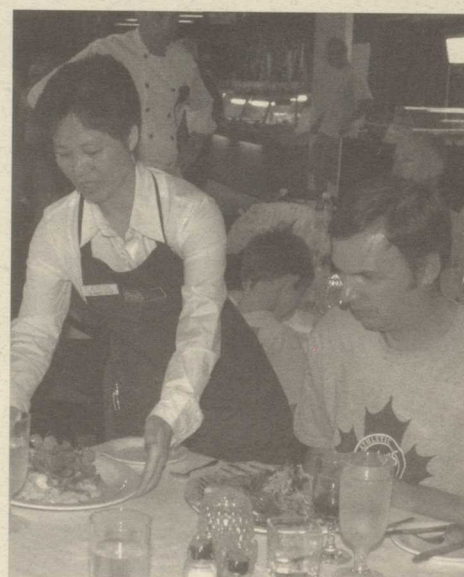
Even the PNE's egg auction had a VCC connection: a basket provided by college departments generated \$1,200 towards the purchase of a Variety Club van.



Above: Malcolm Bain and J.C. Felicella sample their wares.
Top right: Culinary student serves PNE guests.
Bottom right: Students learn the fine art of presentation.

VCC staff and faculty who participated in the success of the PNE this year include Bill Miller (Facilities), Stephen Barrington and Daniel Rohloff (Marketing), Conrad Leung (Asian Culinary Arts), George Rudolph and Nuala Cyr (Baking), Dave Donaldson (administration), Michelle Strenkowski and Tom Rodgers (Hospitality Management) and Ernst Wolgram, Glen O'Flaherty, Malcolm Bain, Alex Ritchie, Robert Kraatz, Harald Bonkowski, Ian Smith, James Hutton, Dave Ryan, Bob Feist, John Carlo Felicella, Susan Shacker and Colin Gill (Culinary Arts).

"The PNE has already requested that JJ's return next year," says Donaldson.



PHOTOS: S. BALDWIN

News Briefs

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College policies revised

Several VCC policies have been recently revised and are now available on the college Web site: Use of College Facilities Policy, Course/Program Grading Policy, Refund Policy, and Admissions Policy.

Please call Vivienne Garrott at local 7159 if you would prefer paper copies of the policies.

Food Bank collection continues

VCC raised more than \$300 in cash and food donations for the Christmas in July food drive to benefit the Food Bank.

"We'd like to thank everyone who donated over the summer," says coordinator Vivienne Garrott. "We'll be back in December with another collection, so we'd like to ask everyone to contribute to this worthy cause."

Get in the draw

The VCC Foundation is encouraging employees to join the college's 50/50 draw, which supports entrance scholarships for students from nine local high schools and children of full-time college employees.

Recent winners were Carey Stoneberg (June), Pat Sheehan (July), Keith Parker (August) and Jane Sheil (September).

Call Rebecca Davey at local 7148 to sign up.

New workshops this fall

New workshops are in the works at the KEC Learning Centre.

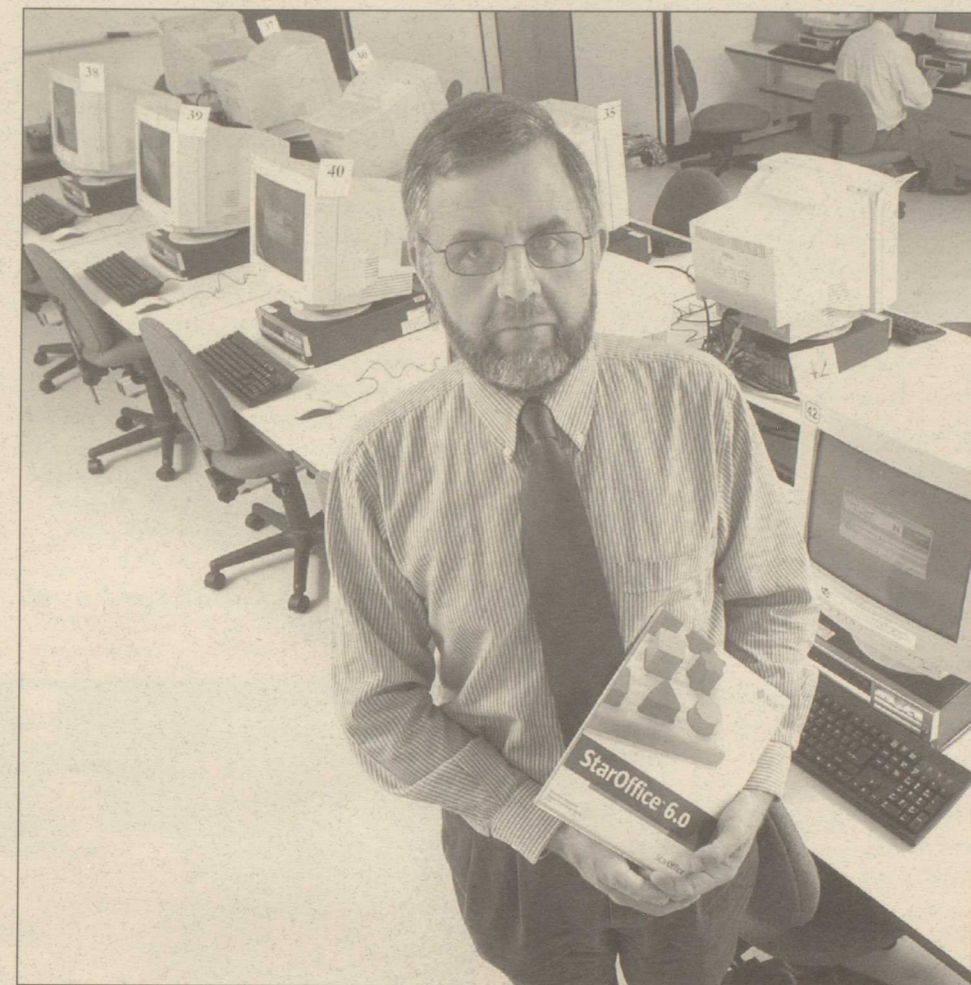
Gaining Confidence in Math workshops are hosted by the Math department and the Learning Centre. *Ready, Set, Go* is a series of workshops hosted by the Learning Centre, counselling and the library designed to help students develop their study skills and strategies.

ESL workshops will begin soon. Faculty, staff and students can find out topics, dates and locations on the department's Web site at vcc.ca/tlc.

Pre-registration is not required.

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VCC rolls out new office software



Des Dougan, director of ICS, says VCC will save money with StarOffice and continue to deliver quality 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 the first week of October, when users will be able to access the software by way of the start menu or the Windows desktop of their computers. Handy laminated help sheets are available to all

see STAROFFICE on page 5

News Briefs

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IE Learning Centre welcomes more students

Instructors are encouraged to send their international students to the VCC International Education Centre at 1080 Alberni St. for free ESL help.

Among the offerings is Conversation Partners, a popular program that puts students together to practise their English.

Monthly workshops are available to help students with vocabulary-building strategies, telephone skills, exam-writing strategies and conversation.

Contact the IE Centre at local 5908 for more information.

Safe cycling contest

Did you know... bike safety experts advise riders to ride in a straight line well away from parked cars and not to weave in and out of a parking lane?

Your knowledge of safe biking could help you win – fill out a survey on bike safety and get a chance to win a \$40 gift certificate to JJ's Restaurant.

Look for the form on the college common drive (j:\common\goGreen). Send answers to Lee Henderson or call him at local 7219.

The winner will be drawn Oct. 8.

PD funds reminder

Faculty are reminded to keep deadlines in mind when applying for professional development funds.

Last date to submit a request is Feb. 28, 2004, and all applications must be completely processed before the last week of March 2004.

Contact a member of the PD committee for more information: Fred Grimman (local 7397) and Peter Hopkinson (7285) at King Edward campus; Wayne McNiven (8438), Milie Yuen (8327) and Moreah Hamend (8523) at City Centre campus.

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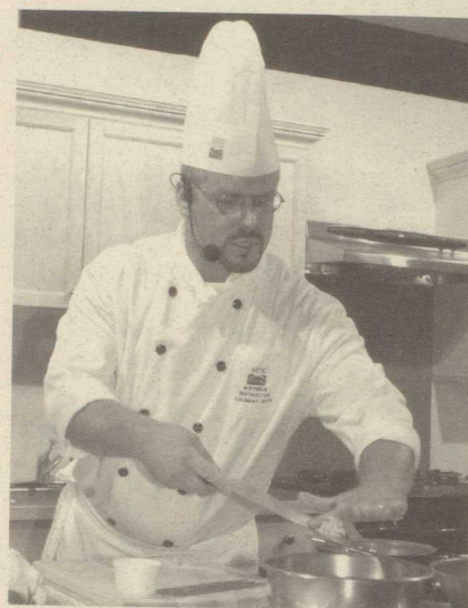
Cooking show thrills visitors

For the sixth consecutive year, VCC hosted its annual cooking show at the PNE, which was this year renamed the Vancouver Community College Cooking Show.

"It just gets more and more popular every year," says Dave Donaldson, dean of the School of Hospitality and Business. "People come to the PNE looking for the show."

Instructors from Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry Arts and Asian Culinary Arts were joined on stage by guest chefs from fine restaurants including Seasons in the Park, C, Fairmont Hotel, Vancouver Airport, Marriott Pinnacle, Sumac Ridge, Cardero's, the Pear tree and Hamilton Street Grill.

Hospitality Management faculty coordinated the show.



Above: This year's PNE audience watches a chef in action. Top: Mike Steele educates interested PNE visitors.

STAROFFICE continued from page 3

college employees to ease the transition. 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 uses 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."

News Briefs

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New equipment at Media Services

VCC Media Services now has a new CD/DVD duplication system that can make multiple duplicates from a master copy.

Media Services at City Centre offers a complete colour copying service using Canon digital equipment: colour copies can be produced from flat artwork or digital files to a maximum of 10 copies per item. Orders of more than 10 copies must be handled through the duplicating department.

Let the experts help. VCC audio-visual technicians can assist with design and production of instructional materials requiring computer graphics, photography, audio CDs and cassettes, advanced digital projects, display and electronic presentations, laminating and dry-mounting.

Designated smoking areas

VCC's health and safety committee reminds smokers of the designated smoking areas throughout VCC.

At City Centre acceptable locations are: the alcove on Hamilton Street behind the Learning Centre; all areas on the Cambie side of the building with the exception of a 30-metre buffer around each main Cambie Street exit.

King Edward campus designated smoking areas are on level 4 - along the railing overlooking the Campus and under the overhang behind the coffee bar from the corner of the building to the bike racks; on level 2 - cafeteria balcony and patio; on level 1 - on the north side of the campus with the exception of a 30-metre buffer around the daycare, receiving, back entrance, centre walkway and the entire trades parking area.

Library employees retire

VCC wishes Aphrodite Harris and Eva Sharell the best of luck in their retirement.

They will be missed by all at VCC, and their contributions and long service will not be forgotten.

Honouring excellence at VCC

Nominations are now being accepted for VCC's 2003 Employee Recognition Awards, which recognize employees that help make VCC the outstanding institution that it is.

"These awards are our chance to celebrate our community and our colleagues," says Carol Sicoli, the human resources coordinator for employee development.

Awards honour employees or groups of employees who have made an exceptional contribution within the college or within the community.

Categories for the Employee Recognition Awards are: Excellence in Education, Excellence in Customer Service, Excellence in Leadership, Excellence in Teamwork and Excellence in Community Involvement, which honours community work outside the college.

"We hope everyone takes the time to consider recognizing a valuable colleague," says Rob Henderson, director of human resources.

Nominations are not limited to an employee's own department. Nominees can be any college co-worker who deserves recognition.

Nomination deadline is Oct. 17; nomination forms are available at the mailrooms of both campuses, in Human Resources at King Edward campus and on the common drive at i:/common/emprecognition2003awards.doc.

Award winners are expected to be announced by mid-November. Recipients will be honoured at the employee recognition event Dec. 3 and on the college's Employee Recognition Wall.

Contact Carol Sicoli at local 7011 for more information on the awards.

Letter of recognition

VCC encourages employees to let Carol Sicoli know when they receive a significant certificate, diploma or degree so the college can formally acknowledge the achievement.

Individuals will receive a letter of recognition from the college president and a copy will be added to the employee's personnel file.

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razor if the college beat its target. "It's easy, it makes a difference and you don't even have to lose your hair."

Donating is simple and easy: employees can donate through payroll deduction - as little as \$1 a paycheque - or by credit card and if they wish they can designate a favourite charity to receive the money, including the VCC Foundation, which raises money to support the college and its programs.

"VCC has a great track record of community involvement," says Rex. "This year's theme for the United Way is 'Heroes work here' - that certainly applies to our college."

VCC's United Way campaign runs Oct. 21-31.



"50/50 tickets for you?"



Carol Sicoli sells 50/50 tickets at this year's second annual VCC Just for Fun Staff Barbecue. Read more about it on page 8 of this month's Connections.

Coming Events

VCC Day: Mark your calendars

VCC Day is scheduled for April 30, 2004. Stay tuned for more information on this employee development day, which will feature innovative personal and professional sessions.

Organ donor awareness campaign

B.C. Transplant Society volunteers will sign up organ donors and provide information on Oct. 8 at KEC and Oct. 9 at City Centre from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Several transplant recipients will be on hand to share their experiences.

Brochures and donor cards are available from the HR department at KEC or at the reception area in the administration office at City Centre. Remember, becoming an organ donor will earn you points and rewards in VCC's Wellness Incentive Program.

Human rights discussion and dessert

Employees are invited to a brown-bag lunch with the new acting human rights coordinator, Linda Duarte, to discuss human rights concerns at the college.

Workshops are scheduled for Oct. 27 in room 5025 at KEC and Oct. 29 in room 208 at CC.

Duarte encourages all faculty, staff and administrators to work as a team in order to ensure that VCC is free from discrimination and harassment.

Space is limited, so book early by phoning Duarte at local 7040 or 8310 or e-mail lduarte@vcc.ca. Bring your lunch; dessert will be provided.

VCC Board meetings

Next meetings of the VCC Board of Governors will be Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. in room 5025 at KEC and Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. in room 240 at City Centre.

IRA orientation: date change

The date for Day 2 of the IRA orientation has been changed to Nov. 19 at City Centre campus, revising the previously scheduled Oct. 17 event. Participants can expect further details by e-mail.

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Peace of Mind and Body



D.G. PHOTO: L. MACKENZIE; PHOTOGRAPH: L. BOURNE

You don't have to run a marathon or climb Mount Everest to feel like you are on Cloud 9. Just ask Dave Greenall.

"Being healthy is all about working a manageable routine into your schedule," says Greenall, a counsellor at King Edward campus, who describes himself as being in great shape – a couple of years ago.

During a one-year sabbatical, he was working out six times a week and had lost weight. Everything changed, though, when both he and his wife were ill on and off for three years; he came back to work feeling tired and unfit.

"I made a promise to myself to get back into shape and be healthy again," he says.

Part of that was getting involved in the VCC Wellness Incentive Program, which encourages employees to feel better and be healthier by offering cash rewards for their hard work.

Program coordinator Carol Sicoli was the one who told Greenall about the incentives. "I hadn't heard about it

before, but couldn't wait to start filling out my first sheet," he says.

After months of dog-walking, gardening and yoga, he feels better and has the energy to pursue his work and other activities with vigour. "After only six months, I had achieved 6,000 points and received \$90 towards my yoga fees."

VCC's Wellness Incentive Program reimburses employees for a portion of the cost of any item that promotes their personal wellness, depending on the level achieved.

"A book on smart eating or a class addressing mental health will qualify," says Sicoli, who can provide employees with more details on the program. "It's up to the individual – there's really a lot of choice for each person."

Launched in March 2001 to encourage healthy lifestyles, the program has become a huge success – some employees have achieved the highest level of points and are now starting all over again.

Coming Events

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Eden Philosophy discussed

Enlivening long-term care facilities, group homes and retirement communities will be discussed at a special presentation on the Eden Philosophy hosted by VCC health programs.

Guest speakers from Providence Health Care – including geriatric psychiatrist Dr. Elisabeth Drance and nurse educator Ruth Stout – will outline the 10 principles of the philosophy, which is dedicated to creating better social and physical environments for residents of care facilities.

When: Oct. 21 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in room 240 at City Centre campus.

Contact Allied Health instructor Gwendolyn deGeest at local 8557 for more information.

Sixth annual employee recognition event: Long-service employees honoured

Employees who have reached their 20-, 25-, 30- and 35-year anniversary with the college will be honoured on Dec. 3 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the KEC employee lounge.

Light refreshments will be served and presentations will be made at 4 p.m.

Please contact Carol Sicoli at local 7011 if any employee is missing from the following list:

20 Years

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Eric Adler | Lew Bloomingdale |
| Gyda Chud | Eleanor Cox |
| Donald Oakes | Christine Sallis |
| Daniel Warlock | Dianne Westwood |
| Gordon Wong | |

25 Years

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Wayne Baxter | Robert Caldwell |
| Malcolm Cant | Ruth Chiko |
| Gordon Crozier | Norm Dooley |
| David Draper | Elsie Fairholm |
| Ethel Goh | Sunita Gujral |
| Raymonde Jabaji | Ingrid Kolsteren |
| Christine Lee | Susan Lesko |
| Bob Malone | Margaret Nelson |
| James Olson | Pat Sproston |
| Lynda Stewart | Patrick Taylor |
| Chris Thoeny | David Tickner |
| Maria Wang | Michael Webb |
| Shirley Woycenko | |

30 Years

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| May Jung | Patricia Kennedy |
| Mary Jane Nehring | Esther Northey |
| Jennifer Pearson | Terrell |

35 Years

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Rose Marie Watson | Ying Lo |
|-------------------|---------|

Connections

VCC travels to Asia

Professional development takes VCC faculty to Thailand

Practical nursing department head Kathy Fukuyama and instructor Leona Friesen were in Thailand this summer as part of their professional development.

Their project took them to Bangkok's Kluay Nam Thai Nursing School to look at how that school's "Care Giver" program fits with VCC's nursing training – all with the long-term goal of creating a partnership offering there so Thai nurses can complete VCC's training and upgrade their skills to Canadian standards.

"VCC's practical nursing program has a tremendous reputation here at home," says Fukuyama. "Now we're expanding that reputation into parts of Asia."

Benefits are considerable for VCC and the Thai nursing school, as well as for faculty and students in both countries.

"This is an exciting project that has the potential to provide excellent opportunities for VCC faculty as well as an opportunity for VCC to deliver its curriculum in Thailand," says Donna Hooker, director of VCC International.

Thai students and Thai instructors gain valuable experience with North American training, while VCC faculty come home with new insight and perspective that they pass on to their students. "That makes both schools stronger," she says.

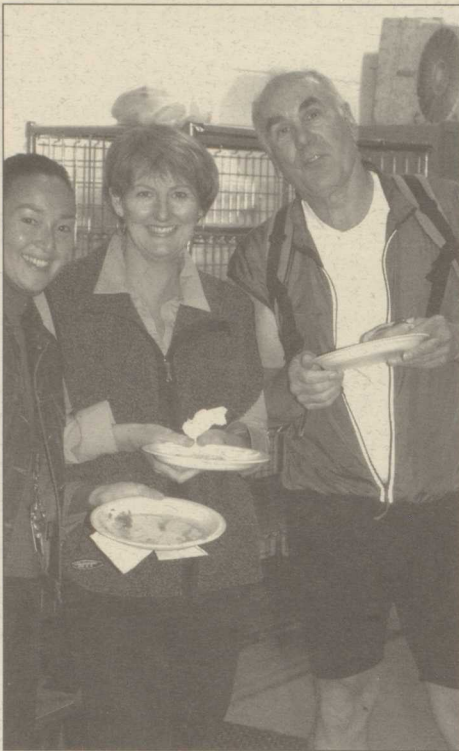
"We are waiting for KNTN to make its final decision," says Fukuyama. "If the partnership goes ahead, it will be a multi-year project."

Already VCC is paving the way for other projects delivering health training. "We see great potential," says Hooker. "Canada – and VCC – is widely respected for its health training; we expect this project will lead to more opportunities in Asia."



Above: Kathy Fukuyama and Leona Friesen pose with instructors and staff in Thailand this summer. Top left and Top right: Nursing students practice their craft and offer insight to visiting VCC faculty.

Employees enjoy food and good company at barbecue



PHOTOS: L. BOURNE

Above: Volunteers sell 50/50 tickets while employees have a chance to mingle with colleagues. Left: Patricia Mahler, Jane Sheil and Malcolm Cant enjoy the delicious food and each other's company.

Rain didn't deter hungry employees from flocking to the KEC trades area Sept. 18 for the second annual VCC Just for Fun Barbecue, which was a great success.

"We had an excellent turnout," says Carol Sicoli, chair of the VCC social club.

Approximately 250 employees indulged in an extensive array of food, enjoyed the rock and roll music and shared time well spent with their friends and colleagues.

"This was meant to be a time for everyone to come together just for fun," says Sicoli. "I think the results speak for themselves."

A committee was formed early in 2003 to plan social activities and events

throughout the year. Membership includes Sue Aro, Roseanne Ashworth, Karen Crossett, Sandra MacSorley, Vanita Puri, Carol Sicoli, Carey Stoneberg and Barbara Worwood from Sodexho.

"The committee's enthusiasm was contagious," says Sicoli. "They really worked hard to make this event a success."

VCC departments, individuals and suppliers chipped in to help with the barbecue. Thanks go to the Association of VCC Administrators, the VCC FA, CUPE, Zoro Mihajlovic, Lindsay Bourne, VCC trades programs, CACE staff and students, Asian Culinary Arts, Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry Arts, Food Services, Sodexho, Canada Bread, Unisource and Vitality Foodservice Canada.

50/50 Winner Barbara Ash wins \$500+



A 50/50 draw raised nearly \$1,100, with proceeds being used to offset the cost of the barbecue and assist with future social events.

Congratulations go to Barb Ash, dean of Student Services, Academic, ABE, and ASE, who won the prize of close to \$550.

Connections

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Submissions for Connections:

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

Submit your pieces via email to:
Elizabeth Thomson, ethomson@vcc.ca

Deadline for submission for next issue:
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Please note: Material may be edited for clarity and length

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