

Connections

Vancouver Community College's Employee Newsletter - January 2004

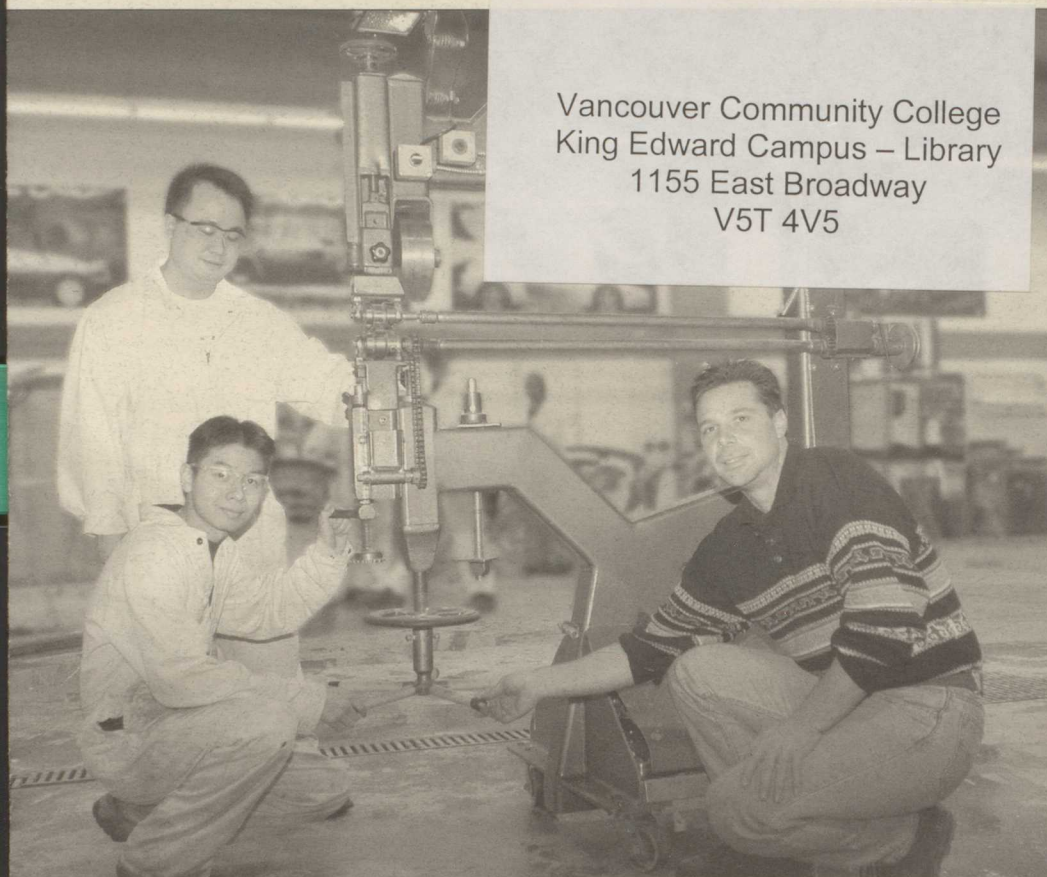
Vancouver
Community
College



www.vcc.ca

VCC students learn more with donors' help

Vancouver Community College
King Edward Campus – Library
1155 East Broadway
V5T 4V5



Mario Trettenero shows auto collision students how to use new wheeling machine donated recently to VCC.

New equipment gives students added training opportunities

Being able to make car parts might seem like a standard part of any automotive program, but when the machine that makes them costs more than \$10,000, getting it for free is a true gift.

VCC's Automotive Collision Repair Technician program received an important donation this Fall. The wheeling machine worth more than \$10,000 is a crucial addition to the training of students. It makes panels for any type of vehicle and in any shape and size. The machine is used on a daily basis on the shop floor and was donated privately by an appreciative industry member.

"It is a real art to be able to use the wheeling machine to its full potential," says Mario Trettenero, acting department head.

Donations like this bring important new training opportunities to the college. The VCC Foundation works very hard to encourage and support gifts in kind as well as monetary donations to the college and its students.

Last month, donors to the VCC Foundation were honoured at the annual Donor Recognition Event at JJ's restaurant.

see *DONOR RECOGNITION
EVENT 2003* on page 2

New year's greeting from the president

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you enjoyed a well-earned break and that you are now feeling refreshed and re-energized.

In addition to our usual important work of serving our community, the college continues to undertake new initiatives. We will continue the pursuit of a major facilities project, after recent Board approval to proceed with the rezoning process as the initial step of the KEC expansion plan. Most of you will recall that this process was put on hold due to a change in government priorities several years ago. Also, we are pleased to be submitting applications to the Ministry for VCC to offer degrees in some of our applied programs. We hope to continue to increase community awareness of Vancouver Community College as the college of choice.

VCC Day on April 30 is shaping up with a professional development program that should be of interest to everybody. The theme, "The Future is Ours" is a challenge to us all, as we look at the range of exciting possibilities on our agenda for this year.

In a few weeks time, I shall be offering the usual Campus Forums to provide information around budget planning and hope to offer other occasions for periodic updates on other major projects.

see *GREETINGS* on page 2

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News Briefs

Opportunities for Employee Development on the Web

The schedule and registration information for classes and workshops offered from January to April 2004 are available on the college Web site.

"The number of workshops offered is somewhat limited this term," says Carol Sicoli, coordinator of employee development. "We are concentrating our efforts on providing a range of options on VCC Day on April 30."

For access to the schedule, go to the HR section of the Web site and click on HR Workshops.

To register, contact Dana Fister at dfister@vcc.ca. Registration is taken on a first come first serve basis. Direct all questions to Carol Sicoli by email csicoli@vcc.ca or at local 7011.

College policies approved

Several VCC policies have been approved and are now available on the college Web site: Curriculum/Instructional Materials Created Within the College Policy, changes to the Admissions Policy, Plain Language Version of Appropriate and Responsible Use of Education and Information Technology Policy.

All policies are available on the Web. Call Vivienne Garrott at local 7159 if you would prefer paper copies of the policies.

50/50 winners

The Food Bank drive is a success. "We raised \$364.50 for the Food Bank," says organizer Vivienne Garrott. Food donations were also up from past years. Congratulation to the winners of the 50/50 draws held at both campuses on Dec. 4: Orest Seminuk and Helena Carmo.

Congratulations also to recent Foundation 50/50 winners: Shanez Hirji (Nov.) and Irene Lacoursiere (Dec.).

Reappointment

Effective immediately Maciek Walentowicz has been reappointed as coordinator II of Jewelry Arts and Design.

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Donor recognition event 2003 continued from page 1

More than 80 people attended the cocktail party that featured entertainment from VCC music students. Guests were encouraged to visit the culinary arts students who were stationed throughout the restaurant serving hors d'oeuvres. Pastry Arts students also offered a popular dessert buffet.

"It is a great opportunity to thank individuals in person for their support," says Sheilah Henderson, executive director of the VCC Foundation. In the 2002/2003 fiscal year, \$494,870 in donations were raised and more than \$110,00 in gifts in kind were gratefully accepted.

The event also gives college representatives a venue to network with donors and encourage them to continue donating to the college. "It gives me a chance to meet our supporters, and I hope make them truly feel part of the college and the important work we are doing in the community," says Linda Martin, vice-president of advancement and college services.

The highlight of the evening for many guests was a speech given by Simon Rosengarten, a VCC student and the son of a donor. Rosengarten shared his

story of drug addiction and his struggle with education.

Rosengarten explained the tremendous impact VCC instructors have had on his decision to change his life. He received a scholarship through the Foundation and is currently enrolled in College Foundations.

Community and Career Education students are some of the best success stories at VCC. Thanks to two generous donor organizations, \$15,000 in bursaries are available to students of the Clerical Skills courses.

Designed specifically for individuals with developmental and cognitive disabilities, the courses teach invaluable skills that greatly increase the students' chances for employment. The tuition, however, for many of the courses can be prohibitive for some students.

Courses offered include shipping and receiving, customer service, interview skills and computer training with tuition costs ranging from \$230 to \$670 per course. Students can apply for bursaries to cover up to 50% of the tuition. The bursaries are possible through donations from the Chris Spencer Foundation and VanCity through a community partnership project grant. ■



Foundation donors Cheryl Silver and Settimio Sicoli celebrate at JJ's during donor recognition event.

GREETINGS continued from page 1

Every area of the college is busy. I encourage you to keep in touch with what is happening throughout the college in the various means now available to you. **Connections** continues to be a valuable communications tool, but I encourage you also to go to the VCC Web site, where you will find news items and where the College Report is posted. By keeping in touch with all

areas, I think you will agree that it is hard not to feel proud of all that VCC is and does!

I believe this will be a good year for VCC to solidify its already strong position in the post secondary education system. I look forward to working with you to see that VCC moves forward in a positive way for us all.

Dale Dorn ■

News Briefs

(continued from page 2)

Used tennis balls wanted

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing department needs your old tennis balls. Putting balls on the bottoms of table and chair legs eliminates extraneous sound from them scraping on the classroom floor. Listening with background noise is very difficult for people who are hard of hearing.

Donations of old tennis balls will be gratefully accepted in room 2609. For more information contact Shannon Hougham at shoughham@vcc.ca or Beth Brooks at ebrooks@vcc.ca.

VCC Board meetings

Next meetings of the VCC Board of Governors will be Jan. 29, 2004 at 6 p.m. in room 5025 at KEC and Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. in room 240 at CC.

New food services manager

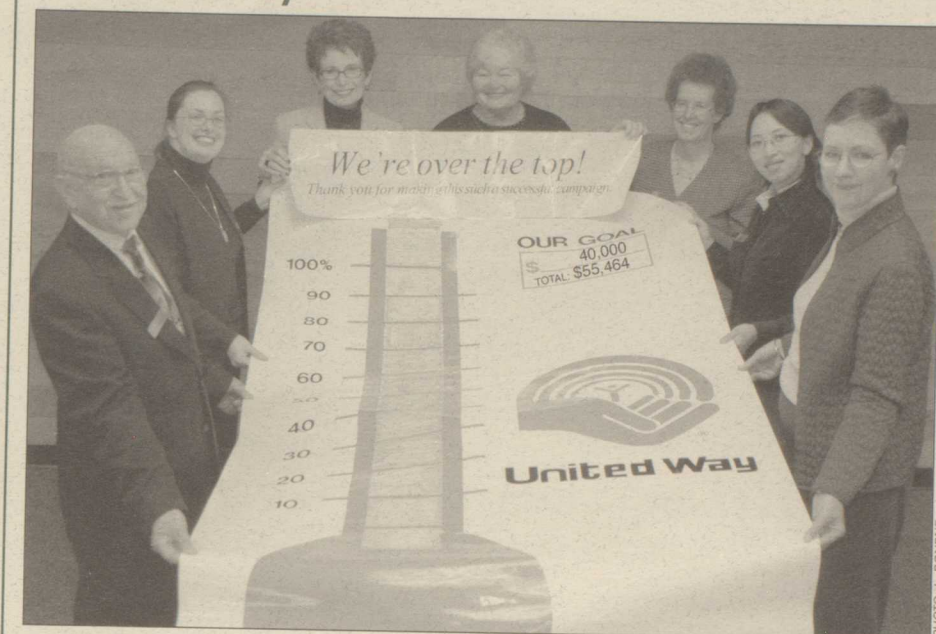
Les Patterson joins the college as interim food services manager and can be reached at local 8709. He is charged with managing all of the food services operations and catering functions. "Les has a real enthusiasm for team work and training," says Sandra MacSorley, ancillary services manager. Patterson brings broad experience in all aspects of food service to the college. "During this time of transition, Patrick Chung, Kamal Bachana and Rosemarie Bernardo have been invaluable," says MacSorley.

Dental assisting through distance education

VCC is the only institution in the province now offering dental assisting by distance education. Students learn by guided independent study involving self-assessments, practical assignments and hands-on exercises in dental offices, which together lead to formal clinical sessions. Tutor support is available by telephone or e-mail.

"There's a real demand for certified dental assistants throughout B.C., and we're thrilled to help meet that demand with our new distance education program," says Pat Bawtinheimer, dean of VCC's School of Health Sciences.

A United Yay!



VCC and United Way representatives celebrate record funds (\$55,464) raised in the 2003 United Way campaign. Left to right: Ron Goodey (sponsored representative), Deanna Rexe, Linda Martin, Judy Echols, Carey Stoneberg, Wendy Zhao (volunteer representative) and Sheila Wex (resource development coordinator). ■

VCC joins BCcampus and offers online learning

Blogs, learning objects and online courseware.

Electronic teaching and learning has arrived at VCC. The college has joined the BCcampus consortium, a central access point to post-secondary courses offered online and through distance learning in B.C. VCC is now able to offer the same online learning opportunities that other BC colleges and institutes provide.

Offering courses online and learning the skills to teach effectively on the Web can seem like a daunting project - until now.

"As with any new technology, this innovation has its own language," says Norm Dooley of the School of Instructor Education. "It can be overwhelming with its bewildering claims, rituals and terminology."

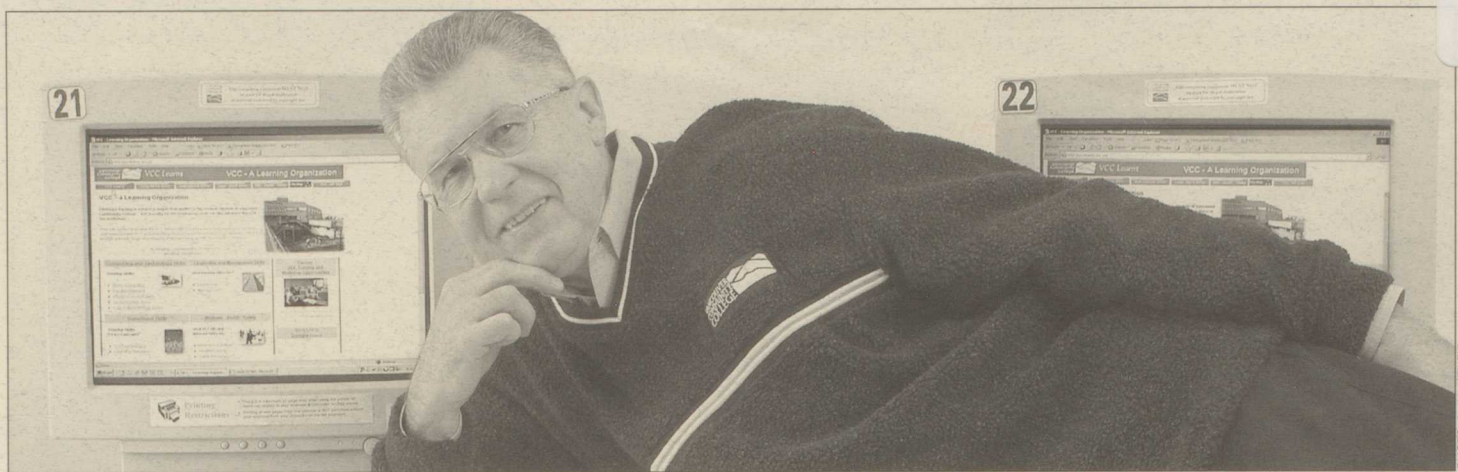
The School of Instructor Education can assist faculty and staff in designing, developing and delivering online instruction. "Like all curriculum development, it is time consuming and in this case, involves an entirely new medium of delivery," says Dooley. "However, the gains are well worth the costs in time and effort."

The school's Doug Mauger provides support and consultative services to instructors who are embarking on the creation of online instruction. Mauger is VCC's liaison with the provincial government's online learning agency, BCcampus, and coordinates all development of new courses.

Mauger can suggest practical ways of decreasing the time needed to produce effective material. He can also train first time developers in useful principles and practices as well as help them incorporate techniques that have been used successfully by other instructors.

A variety of workshops and training opportunities in software and related skills needed for the digital classroom are also being offered. Courses in the use of WebCT, Powerpoint, Dreamweaver, Toolbook, HTML and Photoshop are available.

There are no direct costs to departments and programs for the use of WebCT. Several departments have already created online courses with the help of the School of Instructor Education. Mauger can be contacted at local 7520. For information on upcoming courses, phone Doreen Chui-Chai at local 7510. ■



Walter Behnke shows off a new Web site he designed to help VCC employees access self-paced learning and training opportunities.

Computer training available 24 hours a day

A new Web site aptly named VCC Learns has been launched to help college employees learn basic computer skills and explore online resources.

"VCC employees should be at the forefront of lifelong learning," says Walter Behnke who had the idea for the site – www.vcclearns.vcc.ca – and began developing it in late September.

A dedicated proponent of online learning, Behnke believes that giving people an easy way to access information through the Web is one of the best ways to encourage education.

VCC Learns concentrates on computer and technology skills and is still in development. The site offers self-paced training in basic computer skills.

"We hope that employees will find answers to questions and learn new valuable skills," says Carol Sicoli, VCC's coordinator of employee development. "It's another avenue for learning that complements the workshops and courses offered through our department."

"Let's call it buffet learning," says Behnke. "VCC Learns is open 24 hours a day and employees can help themselves to whatever they want."

College users are already beginning to discover the benefits of VCC Learns.

"I have found some great information on the site," says Barb Ash, dean of Arts, Sciences and Student Services.

"Learning is so important for us as educators. I hope that everyone at the college will use this new tool," she says.

A link to VCC Learns is available on the HR Web site. Click on HR Workshops. ■

iPrint and NetStorage, new ICS services

Two new computer services, iPrint and NetStorage, are now available to give employees better access to their files and more flexibility to work from home or on the road.

iPrint service allows users to print from anywhere to any on-campus printer, while NetStorage provides Internet-based access to all VCC network drives, including 'H', 'I', 'J' and 'K' drives, a feature specifically targeted for home and 'on the road' use.

Both services are fully protected by authentication and encryption features.

"These services are accessible directly from the VCC Web site home page," says Steve Forrest, manager of network services in the college's Information and Computing Services department.

Click on VCC Employees on the college Web site, then on Information and Computing Services, where links to VCC's GroupWise Web Access, iPrint and NetStorage are found in the left menu bar.

Several staff members have been instrumental in delivering these services to the college community:

Support analysts Ali Balandy and Beng Lim (iPrint) along with network specialists DJ Fajardo, Mitford Lu and Zack Cooper (NetStorage). Special thanks are due to Lawrence Ng, VCC's Web manager, for his invaluable assistance.

Employees can call Forrest at local 8703 or the Help Desk at local 7007 with questions or feedback on the new services. ■

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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

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Please note: Material may be edited for clarity and length

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