

Connections

Vancouver Community College's Employee Newsletter - February 2004



www.vcc.ca

VCC hosts Premier's Awards event at JJ's



JJ's hosted a luncheon and awards ceremony on Jan. 17 in honour of fifteen of B.C.'s top high school graduates. Premier Gordon Campbell and Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond presented the students with the Premier's Awards of Excellence.

VCC culinary arts students prepared and served the well-received lunch to guests, students and government officials.

"It was a great opportunity for our students to work hard to perfect their food and presentation skills," says Dave Donaldson, dean of the School of Hospitality and Business at VCC. "We teach them to strive for that kind of pride in their work every day."

The Premier's Award of Excellence includes a medal of recognition and a \$5,000 scholarship towards the cost of their post-secondary education. Students were chosen for their excellent grades and their superb service to their communities and schools. ■



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

PHOTO: M. NAGA

Dining on gourmet fare and presenting awards were not the only activities at the Premier's event held at JJ's last month. VCC culinary arts students teach Minister of Advanced Education Shirley Bond how to properly fold a cloth napkin suitable for the dining table. (see story above)

INSIDE Connections

Auzzie teacher swap	2
VCC employee recognition	3
Lew Bloomingdale remembered	4
Dine out Vancouver at JJ's	5
VCC on Channel M	6
Golden Chef Awards 2004	6
Christmas in January	7
VCC expertise in China	8

News Briefs

vcc.ca/logo now operational



Guidelines for the use of the VCC logo have been revised to better serve all college departments. The new guidelines will enable employees to use the logo for almost any application without comprising its design.

The new guidelines and several versions of the logo are available at: www.vcc.ca/logo.

Please contact Stephen Barrington at local 7063 or Elizabeth Thomson at local 7152 with questions or concerns.

Reminder from KEC building services

Please refrain from taking furniture from other classrooms to accommodate another classroom's needs often resulting in the disruption of classes and students.

If this is necessary in an urgent situation, please return the chairs and tables to their appropriate room after use.

Please contact Bill Miller at local 7133 or bmiller@vcc.ca with any concerns.

Recent appointments

Cheryl Draper has been re-elected as department head, ESL, College Preparatory English.

Nina Kozakiewicz has been elected as department head, ESL, English Language Skills.

Pam Hunt has been elected as department head, Professional and Career English.

Julie Martin has been elected as department head, ASL and Deaf Studies.

Marilyn Morris has been elected as department head, ESL, International Education.

Karen Jane Hills has been elected as coordinator intermediate level and acting coordinator beginner level, ELS.

(continued on page 3)

Faculty exchange proves to be great adventure

Jack Whelan, instructor of College Preparatory English at VCC, dreamed of teaching overseas. He had done so many years ago and thoroughly enjoyed his experience. "You really get a feel for the culture when you live abroad," says Whelan. "It is a lot more intense than a vacation."

He searched for a faculty exchange on internet websites dedicated to teachers but did not

find a suitable match. He put an ad up on one site and waited.

"I checked it every week or so hoping for a good fit," he says. A good fit

for a teaching exchange is not an easy find. The two teachers trade lives for a year: house, job, neighborhood, and often friends and family. After a few weeks, he saw an ad from an Australian ESL instructor named Patricia Harney and emailed her right away.

"I tell everyone that I met Jack on the internet," laughs Harney. Originally looking for an exchange to New Zealand, she saw a real opportunity when Vancouver and VCC became an option.

However, both Harney and Whelan were tentative at first and took time to decide. "When you uproot the whole family for a year, you want to make sure that it will be a great experience for everyone," says Harney. Both teachers brought two children and a spouse to their new temporary homes. In December 2002, the families swapped lives.

"I tell everyone that I met Jack on the internet"

-Patricia Harney

"Sidney was wonderful," says Whelan who worked at TAFE Sidney Institute. He found his new job similar to his position at VCC but with some

noticeable differences. "It is a smaller school so there are less instructors with a more laid back approach," he says.

Harney also found things a little different at VCC. "I learned so much during my year at the college," she comments. Pedagogical and philosophical dissimilarities kept her busy, but she is quick to explain that she was helped tremendously by all

see *FACULTY EXCHANGE* on page 7



English teacher Patricia Harney, on an exchange from Australia, says goodbye to her students in College Preparatory English in December 2003. She returned to Australia in January after travelling throughout North America for a month.

News Briefs

(continued from page 2)

New employees

Shirley Lecker joins VCC charged with developing the new Rehabilitation Assistant program. Lecker has many years of experience as a physiotherapist and teacher. She can be found in her office (room 310D) at CC. Please welcome her to VCC.

Dr. Larry Axelrod joins VCC as the new human rights coordinator. Axelrod brings to the college a wealth of education and experience in the areas of human rights and diversity, mediation, investigation, conflict resolution, and human rights law in B.C. In addition, he has extensive knowledge of strategic planning, staff training and curriculum development.

Axelrod is the president and managing director of The Neutral Zone Coaching and Consulting Services, and will be working on a part-time basis at VCC.

He can be reached at local 8310 or 7040 on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday or by email laxelrod@vcc.ca.

Online privacy statement

VCC has introduced an online privacy statement to bring the college in line with industry practices as it continues to expand online services for students.

"This is simply 'best practice' for any website that collects personal information," says Stephen Barrington, VCC's director of Marketing and Communications, the department that oversees VCC's web presence.

"It's essential that we clearly detail the college's privacy practices to site visitors, especially since we're now doing business and accepting payments online -- as we do with online registration for Professional and Continuing Studies courses," he says.

(continued on page 4)

VCC employees honoured for their excellence



"VCC is my life," exclaimed Leung as he accepted his award at the 2003 Employee Recognition Awards.

The 2003 Employee Recognition Awards were held on Jan. 15. Individuals were recognized for long service at VCC alongside employees who made special contributions to the college community during the past year.

The following individuals/group won awards of excellence:

Veronica Jorna (Excellence in Customer Service), Barbara Forster-Rickard (Excellence in Education), Sandra North

(Excellence in Leadership), Conrad Leung (Excellence in Community Involvement), Web RegTeam: Dorothy Ho, May Jung, Fiona McComb, Sandra North, Manyee Ho, Roger Schofer, Tom Szeto, Rosanna Lam, Debra Coffey, Agnes Seto, Michael Bayrock, Sueling Chang and Carolyn Brown (Excellence in Teamwork).

"They all exemplify the kind of expertise and dedication that we are so proud of at VCC, says Dale Dorn, college president.



Above: Employees enjoy food while celebrating with colleagues.

Employees were able to celebrate their accomplishments with their colleagues over refreshments supplied by City Centre food services and Sodexo in the employee lounge at KEC.

Jorna was pleased with her recognition. "Getting the award was a wonderful personal acknowledgement," she says. "My colleagues in the Learning Centres are all equally deserving of recognition for customer service, and I thank Gordon Wong, in particular, for putting my name forward this year." ■

News Briefs

(continued from page 3)

VCC's online privacy statement (www.vcc.ca/statement.cfm) outlines many of the principles that VCC already follows under provincial privacy legislation, while elaborating on several Internet-specific issues, including use of e-mail addresses and 'no spam' practices.

VCC revamps drafting program

VCC has revamped its drafting program with a greater focus on specialty skills - including adding an all-new architectural specialty - aimed at giving graduates a further edge in the workplace.

"We're constantly improving our programs to make sure we're delivering the training that employers demand," says Joan McArthur-Blair, VCC's vice-president of education. "That way graduates leave VCC with the up-to-date skills and know-how to succeed in the workplace."

Among the enhancements to VCC's computer-aided design drafting training is a tighter schedule that gives students a valuable credential in just 10 months.

Students take three months of foundation training before moving on to a seven-month specialty in civil/structural, steel detailing, mechanical or architectural drafting, the latter of which is designed for those wanting to work in interior design- and architecture-related fields.

Software for the steel detailing specialty now includes latest versions of two industry-standard applications, StrucSoft ProSteel 3D and Tekla Xsteel.

"Industry has told us it's critical that students have strong specialty training," says McArthur-Blair. "That's why we've have lengthened our specialty training to seven months from the previous six - and we do it in a way that now makes it even easier for graduates to start their careers or go on to further training as architects or engineers."

Dedicated VCC instructor remembered

Paul Hunt, former dean of Technology at VCC, shares his memories of Lew Bloomingdale, long time instructor at VCC, who passed away in December. In a letter to Vancouver Community College, Hunt wrote:

"I learned a great deal from Lew Bloomingdale. Many of us did. Lew may not have known it but he was an extraordinary role model. As department head for Auto Collision and Repair, Lew so skillfully developed and nurtured his programs that they ultimately set the standard for collision and repair training across the province of British Columbia.

Lew believed that industry had to be listened to and their advice followed. Industry hired the grads, industry knew what curriculum was required, industry more and more was being called upon to support the need for capital equipment. Lew paid attention and I know that his program advisory committee respected him enormously for meeting their needs and responded accordingly.

Lew could extract money and equipment from anyone and everyone, always for the good of the program and always with a deft skill and style that I can only envy. I recall a salesman pulling his pants pockets inside out before entering the shop, trying to dramatically convince Lew that he had no more to give. To his surprise, not Lew's, he did have more to give.

I served as Lew's associate dean and dean and I was always aware that Lew needed me to understand his programs and their context closely and carefully. To that end, I was frequently invited to join him at industry gatherings and out at the King Edward campus shop. I was always made to feel welcome and want to believe that Lew's time with me served his needs, my needs and most importantly, the needs of VCC and its students.

I learned a great deal from Lew Bloomingdale. To the faculty in Auto Collision and Repair, I know that you did too. And that's why I know you'll honour Lew's legacy and continue to run the best Auto Collision and Repair programs in the province.

Best New Year's wishes to all at VCC!"

Paul Hunt
Vice-President, Academic and Student Services
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
paulh@nait.ab.ca

The Lew Bloomingdale Memorial Scholarship Fund

Lew's family and friends have established the Lew Bloomingdale Memorial Scholarship Fund to help students of the VCC Automotive Collision program. In this way, Lew's memory will be honoured in perpetuity. If you wish to contribute, please send your donation to the VCC Foundation.

Coming Events

Buy-a-Book campaign hopes to raise \$12,000

The Buy-a-Book campaign has been an annual event at VCC for the past four years to raise funds for the college libraries. "There is an urgent need for new materials," says Lila Heilbrunn, director of Library and Learning Resources.



BUY-A-BOOK

The event will be launched on March 1 and runs for the entire month. Employees will find donation cards and envelopes in their pay envelopes, in the cafeterias and libraries, and at reception desks throughout the college.

Donations are accepted by cash, cheque or credit card, or through payroll deduction.

Complete the donation card, and include your name and address so that the Foundation can issue a receipt for tax purposes. Envelopes can be given to a library employee or put in the campus mail. Receipts will be issued for all donations of \$10 or more. Names of donors of \$10 or more will appear on a list posted at both campuses.

For more information, contact Lila Heilbrunn, director of Library and Learning Resources at local 7318 or Rebecca Davey, development officer with the VCC Foundation at local 7148.

(continued on page 6)

JJ's joins Vancouver's best eateries for Dine Out Vancouver



Culinary arts instructor Susan Shacker and students serve diners during the Dine Out Vancouver event.

JJ's joined esteemed company this month for the second annual Dine Out Vancouver, a showcase of the city's top culinary talent.

It's the first time a culinary training program has been included in the popular event, putting JJ's, its chefs and student chefs alongside the likes of top restaurants Aqua Riva, Diva at the Met, Star Anise, Feenie's and dozens of others.

"Our culinary arts program and JJ's Restaurant are where the next generation of chefs get their start," says Dave Donaldson, dean of VCC's School of Hospitality and Business. "That makes it a perfect fit with Dine Out Vancouver, which is all about

discovering new tastes, new restaurants and some of the best food the city has to offer."

This year's event, Jan. 23 to Feb. 5, saw VCC chefs creating a special \$15 three-course menu featuring some of the best of West Coast cuisine.

A sample: garlic soup with chive and pepper souffle, poached wild salmon with chive beurre blanc and pommes macaire, all finished off with dessert of blueberry frangipane flan, vanilla bean ice cream and lemon honey compote.

"Over seven days, we received 115 additional reservations due to participating in Dine Out," says Donaldson. "The event is great exposure, and we will definitely consider doing it again next year."

Coming Events

(continued from page 5)

VCCday 2004

the FUTURE is OURS

The theme of the event planned for April 30 reflects the forward-thinking approach of the college community. Committee organizers promise VCC Day 2004 will be an excellent opportunity for professional and personal development.

The program is close to being finalized and will soon be available online for registration.

New employees welcomed to VCC

Employees are the Heart of VCC. Eighty new employees have been invited to the all-day New Employee Orientation on Feb. 12.

The special day will include presentations from college representatives and vice-presidents, campus tours and an information fair to gain valuable information on benefits, professional development, financial services, human resources, health services, associations and unions.

Please welcome these new employees as they tour King Edward campus in the morning and City Centre campus in the afternoon.

Valentine's bake sale

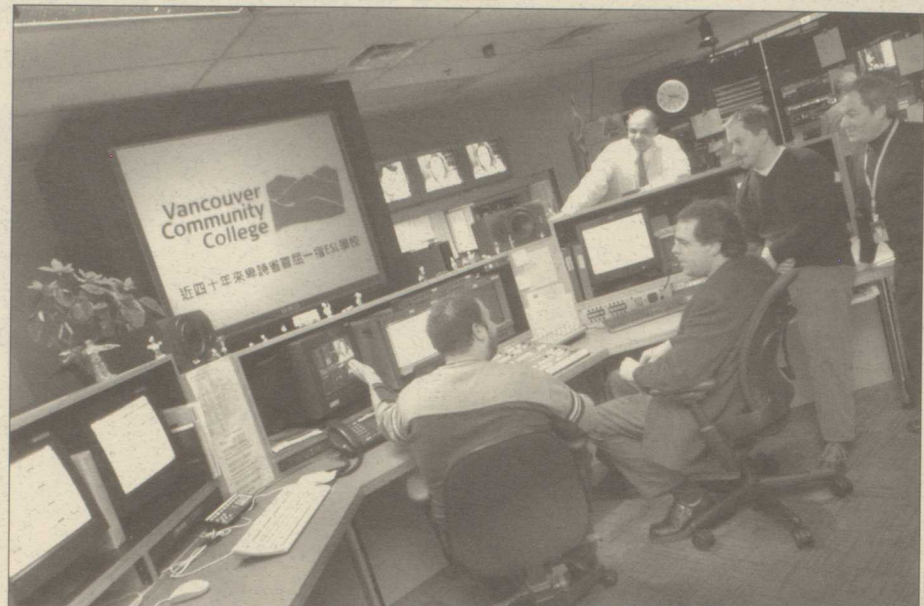


The annual Valentine's Day bake sale at KEC takes place on Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds go to the McGregor Child Care Centre.

Support the daycare by purchasing some delicious treats at the sale.

(continued on page 7)

VCC ads on Channel M



Mastering the moment: marketing director Stephen Barrington gets a look at VCC's ad in the master control room of Vancouver's Channel M.

VCC has taken to the small screen to help boost awareness of the college's leadership role in ESL training.

Television advertising on Vancouver's multicultural station, Channel M, ran in December and January, targeting Mandarin- and Cantonese-speaking viewers around the Lower Mainland.

Seven-second ads featured a full-screen

VCC logo and a tagline highlighting VCC as B.C.'s No. 1 ESL school.

"This TV advertising is a first for VCC," says Stephen Barrington, VCC's marketing director. "It's an extremely powerful way to reach one of our main audiences with a key message about the college."

Plans are underway to run further ads on Channel M over coming months. ■

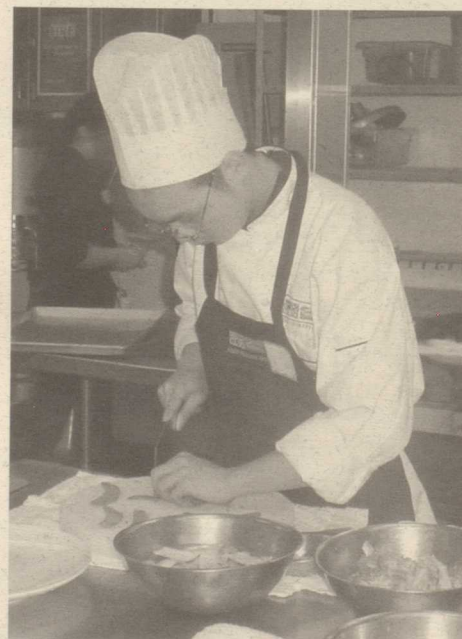
VCC highlighted at Golden Chef 2004

Conrad Leung, department head of Asian Culinary Arts, was asked to be part of the Golden Chef cooking competition, an event at the Sunbrite Lunar Chinese New Year Festival. It didn't take long before VCC was front and centre.

"I was originally asked to be an adviser and judge," says Leung. "Our participation ballooned from there." VCC's exposure also exploded with mention of our involvement and our programs in every Chinese media in Vancouver. The Sunbrite festival attracts more than 140,000 each year to the PNE.

The semi-finals of the competition, officially named Lee Kum Lee - VCC Golden Chef 2004, were held in VCC's kitchens on Jan. 10 and finals were held at the PNE on Jan. 20.

Dave Donaldson, dean of the School of Hospitality and Business, was a judge at the finals, and Joan McArthur-Blair, vice-president of Education, presented the winners with their awards. "The event was phenomenal," says Donaldson.



The 1st and 2nd place winners were a mother and daughter, both amateur chefs, who beat out professionals to the delight of the crowd. ■

Coming Events

(continued from page 6)

Diversity celebrated at VCC

diversity

From Feb. 17-19, VCC will be celebrating diversity and the important role it plays at the college and in the community. Diversity Awareness Week includes events of all kinds for students, employees and the general public.

Diversity is defined as "the condition of being different". During this week, VCC recognizes all our human differences which can affect student relationships, work relations and personal relationships.

Many events are planned including:

Tile Wall launch

KEC: Feb. 18 at 12:30 p.m. on the 4th floor.

CC: Feb. 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the main foyer.

Art Show

KEC: Feb. 18 and 19 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the boardroom (5025).

Visual Performance: Through the eyes of Deaf people

KEC: Feb. 17 from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the auditorium.

First Nations speaker and entertainment

CC: Feb 18 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the main foyer.

Braille demonstrations

KEC: Feb. 17 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in room 2051

Feb. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the student cafeteria

Diversity tree and workshops

KEC and CC: in the Learning Centres throughout the week.

And many more events including ethnic cuisines in the cafeterias, lunchtime concerts, display tables and an information fair. Look for detailed information on posters around campus.

Christmas in January



VCC employees and students volunteered to serve a traditional Christmas dinner to neighbours of the City Centre campus on Jan. 24. Approximately 700 meals were created for an estimated 500 people in need of a hot meal when supplies at food banks and shelters are scarce. ■

FACULTY EXCHANGE *continued from page 2*

of her Canadian colleagues. "It can be a drain to integrate a new teacher for such a short time," says Harney. "No one made me feel anything but welcome."

Both Harney and Whelan enjoyed their new homes as a family as well. The children loved their new schools and made many friends that will now be lifelong pen or email pals. "Our kids didn't want to go back," says Harney. Whelan agrees that it was a great adventure for everyone involved.

Harney and Whelan's exchange was the first of its kind at VCC. The teachers and administration cooperated through the long process to make it a success. "I commend VCC for giving this a try," says Whelan. "It was a lot of work to organize but definitely worth it."

Both teachers hope to do another exchange at some time and encourage others to consider this exciting opportunity. ■



Above: Transplanted English teacher, Patricia Harney, came to VCC on an exchange from Australia.

VCC faculty bring hospitality expertise to China

Doug Mauger and Michelle Strenkowski travel to China to facilitate VCC workshops

As part of a four-year international project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, a VCC team recently went to Guiyang, China to deliver training workshops on instructional skills and tourism development.

Doug Mauger, education and training consultant for the School of Instructor Education, and Michelle Strenkowski, department head of Hospitality Management, facilitated the workshops and were accompanied by Sik On Hon, project coordinator. A graduate from the VCC Instructor Diploma program, Tillotson Li, also went with the team to work on a case study in China.

Eight-nine participants from the local tourism industry, vocational schools and labour bureau attended the seminars that were conducted in Mandarin and translated by teaching partners from the Southern Yangtze University. The sessions were held in the new Vocational Skills Development Centre that was opened by VCC's president Dale Dorn in September 2002.

Tours of schools, hotels and tourism sites in the city and surrounding countryside were arranged to ensure that Mauger and Strenkowski better understood their audiences and their needs. "It is a wonderful province, and one that is just becoming better known within China itself," says Strenkowski. The area has great tourism potential complete with mountain scenery, many waterfalls and

caves, and numerous ethnic villages inhabited by Buyi, Miao and other national minorities.

"It is a province of incredible contrasts - where people continue to live in the costumes and habits of a 500 year-old lifestyle from the Ming dynasty," says Strenkowski. Yet, modern conveniences are available.

Although the ability to speak English is a crucial component to attracting more western tourists, the extraordinary hospitality and appreciation that the VCC team was shown will help make the future possibilities of Guiyang as a tourist destination successful.

"Every effort was made to ensure that we had an enjoyable stay and a quality learning experience for us as well as our students", says Strenkowski. ■



Top: Doug Mauger and Michelle Strenkowski pose in traditional dress from the Guiyang area. Above: Sik On Hon, Michelle Strenkowski, Doug Mauger and Tillotson Li enjoy a meal and try new exotic fare while in China.

Connections

Vancouver Community College's
Employee Newsletter
February 2004, Volume 10, Number 5

Publisher:
Stephen Barrington

Editor:
Elizabeth Thomson

Design & Layout:
Daniel Rohloff

Photographers:
**S. Baldwin, L. McKenzie, L. Bourne, S. Hon,
D. Donaldson, M. Naga, M. Strenkowski**

Submissions for Connections:

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

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

Deadline for submission for next issue:
February 25th, 2004.

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

Vancouver
Community
College

www.vcc.ca



Please Recycle Connections