

Connections

Vancouver Community College's Employee Newsletter - March 2004



www.vcc.ca

VCC celebrates diversity

VCC Info Night



The VCC community admires the diversity tile wall at the City Centre campus unveiled in February.

Music was in the air...and dance and art during the college's Diversity Awareness Week last month.

"Diversity Week was hugely successful," says Barb Ash, VCC's dean of Student Services, Arts and Sciences, one of the event organizers. "This week gave us the opportunity to visualize and appreciate how different and yet similar we all are."

Several events were held at both the King Edward and City Centre campuses, including a Braille display, diversity

trees in the Learning Centres, a visual theatre performance and a First Nations presentation.

A highlight of the week was the unveiling of the long-anticipated diversity tile walls at both main campuses. "It is a real pleasure to see groups of people looking at the tiles and discussing them," says Rob Henderson, director of human resources and the champion of the project.

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**Vancouver
Community
College**

Info Night
April 7, 2004
4:30pm - 6:30pm
Downtown Campus

VCC set to host Info Night on April 7

Preparations are well underway for the college's major student recruitment event, Information Night, set for April 7.

At the heart of Information Night's ongoing success is the continuing support of faculty, staff and administrators, who turn out in strength to the City Centre event.

"Information Night is about showcasing all of the wonderful programs that we have here at the college," says Roseanne Ashworth, who along with Elizabeth Thomson is co-ordinating the event. "It's the great team effort from everyone around the college that really helps make this event work so well." ■



VCC celebrates diversity
Vancouver Community College
King Edward Campus Library
1155 East Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5T 4V5

News Briefs

Health & safety procedures

Accident/Incident Report Form

Employees are reminded that all workplace accidents or near-accidents must be reported under WCB regulations. Tracking these incidents internally means that problem areas can be identified and risks to employees and students reduced. Reports must be on the *VCC Incident Report Form* found on the common "I" drive under Health and Safety.

Forms should be filled out as soon as possible following an accident or incident and forwarded to Karen Hourston in Facilities.

Working Alone or in Isolation

Information on WCB's requirements for the workplace can be found in the document *Working Alone Procedures* on the common "I" drive under Health and Safety. Contact Karen Hourston at local 8456 with questions.

Multimedia upgrades

Over the past several months, Media Services has worked with Facilities to install audio labs, multimedia rooms and sound systems throughout the college to support instruction and learning.

KEC: a new audio lab in room 3663; a new LCD projector connected to the instructor computer in room 2701; a new LCD projector in room 5025 allowing users to project different types of media from stand-alone computers, DVD and VHS video.

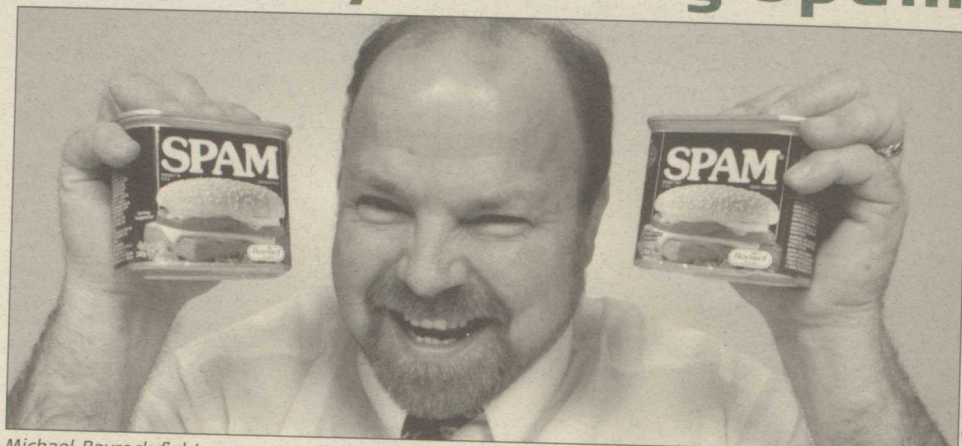
CC: a new multimedia set-up in room 112, which includes an LCD projector, sound system with wireless microphone, VHS/DVD player, a computer with wireless keyboard and mouse and two new speakers, permanently mounted to the ceiling.

Media Services is working with Facilities to complete the multimedia installation in room 240 by the end of March. This room will be fitted with the same set-up as room 112, plus a new sound system consisting of 10 speakers, 18 microphones and a wireless microphone unit, all designed to provide optimum sound.

Call local 7131 or 8367 for more details on bookings.

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VCC busy canning spam



Michael Bayrock fights spam e-mail at VCC and protects college users from viruses and unsolicited junk.

Michael Bayrock gets all the good e-mails – close to 180,000 of them a month.

They're the e-mails packed with stock tips, don't-delay offers to "Build Wealth Now" and, of course, the inevitable pitch for drugs that will, ahem, enhance your assets.

He's the college's spam defender and VCC employees can thank him for keeping most of that unwanted junk out of their e-mail boxes.

"Spam accounts for roughly 65 per cent of the e-mail coming in to the college," says Bayrock, manager of application services in VCC's Information and Computing Services department. "We are aggressive about stopping spam in its tracks."

Aiding Bayrock and team member Stanley Foo in their spam-busting mission is PureMessage, software that over the last 18 months sports a near-perfect success rate in filtering out the thousands of junk e-mails VCC receives each day.

Sometimes, though, the system does inadvertently trap legitimate e-mail; account-holders receive a regular "quarantine digest" of the messages that have been trapped so they can identify any legitimate messages and request that they be released.

Spam e-mails, though, are often double trouble – not only are they junk messages but increasingly they're carrying attachments disguising troublesome viruses.

Bayrock's No. 1 piece of advice: never – never, he repeats – open unexpected attachments even if they appear to be

coming from a friend or colleague.

His No. 2 piece of advice? Always contact the VCC Help Desk at local 8700 if you're suspicious of any e-mails received. ■

Contact Bayrock (mbayrock@vcc.ca or local 7529) with your questions about PureMessage, the quarantine digest or spam e-mail.

Canning spam

A sample day's work* for VCC's spam and virus filters:

Viruses trapped:	4,200
Spam messages blocked:	5,100
Suspect messages blocked:	5,700
Messages in quarantine:	195,000

*March 10, 2004

Help Desk improvements underway

VCC's Help Desk has changed its primary phone number to local 8700 – or 604.443.8700 from outside the college – in a move to improve service. Callers to the previous phone number, 7007, will hear a recording detailing the change to help them to update their phone lists.

All black "safety" phones in the computer labs have been

reprogrammed with the new local 8700 number.

Next up is a series of VCC web pages enabling users to request non-urgent assistance including telephone moves, account requests and computer/printer relocations. This will help free analysts on the Help Desk for more urgent matters.

Feedback is welcome at eburnyeat@vcc.ca. ■

News Briefs

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Thank you for the support

More than \$800 was raised to help the McGregor Daycare during the Valentine's chocolate and bake sale held last month. McGregor's board thanks all those who donated baked goods, raffle items and time for set-up and sales. Thanks as well go to everyone who showed support by purchasing Valentine's treats.

Appointments

Gordon McIntyre is the new department head of College Foundations science. Karin Steichele has been elected the new acting assistant department head of Counselling.

Coming Events

Open House

Network To Work and Job Search Central Employment Resource Centres are hosting an open house on Wednesday, March 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1033 Davie St.

This is an opportunity for the surrounding employment community, colleagues and HRDC representatives to meet experienced job seekers and centre staff. There will be a client showcase table, a room for employer interviews and a volunteer appreciation presentation. Lunch refreshments will be served. Call 604.697.5555 or 604.662.7298 or e-mail networktowork@telus.net or jobsearchcentral@telus.net for details.

Retirement celebration

After years of hard work and dedication, Moira Henderson is taking a permanent vacation. Join her for cake and coffee on April 27 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the employee lounge at KEC.

Notice to all IRAs

VCC's Joint Steering Committee has completed work on the new guidelines and forms to be used in the evaluations and performance appraisals of IRAs or instructional associates. Information is available in the Human Resources department.

DIVERSITY continued from page 1

VCC's tile walls – near the main entrances of both campuses – are each complete with a special book featuring explanations from the artists about their tiles, designed to help viewers fully appreciate the designs.

"I know that some instructors have brought their classes to see the tiles and read the descriptions," says Henderson. "This is a great way to learn about and appreciate our differences."

Special thanks go to John Cloutier, a friend of the college, chef and artist in his own right, who volunteered his time to the project and fired the 674 tiles in his kiln.

"I think that the tile wall speaks to something that is unique about our college, and I am really pleased that so many people participated," says Henderson.

Another highlight of the celebration was the three-day art show held in

the boardroom at KEC, where students showed off their artistic abilities in the likes of paper-making and oil painting. A steady stream of visitors flowed through the displays and a guest book captured praise and admiration for the student artists, who come from as far away as Tibet.

"Students, staff and faculty from all parts of VCC contributed to the experiences that week," says Ash, who along with organizers would like to thank those employees who helped make Diversity Week a success:

Paul Boissoneault, Karine Breslauer, Heather Chan, Gyda Chud, Nona Coles, Gail Cryer, Lorna Downie, Susan Fell, Stephen Flach, Jane Forward, Vivienne Garrott, Joanne Gibson, Della Glendenning, Rob Henderson, Chian-Li Hsu, Melissa Insanic, Raymonde Jabaji, Veronica Jorna, Pat Kennedy, Irene King, Nina Kozakiewicz, Carrie Leggatt, Klara Macskasy, Linda Martin, Wayne

McNiven, Muriel McRae, Bill Miller, Maureen Mills, Betty Nobel, Alison Norman, Mandana Rastan, Deanna Rexe, Celeste Roberts, Michele Rosko, Andrea Sam, Stuart Scholefield, Paul Sekhon, Carol Sicoli, Shirley Teo, Lesley Thomson, Darlene Vuch, Hong Wai, David Walmsley, Maria Wang, Charlene Wong and Sharon Yoneda.

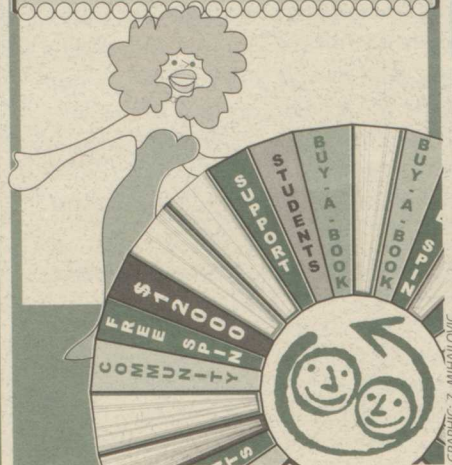
"The array of talents here at VCC is amazing," says Ash. ■



Top: Rob Henderson looks up the meaning of a tile on the new tile wall at KEC. Above: Basic education student Philip Jubilo displays his artwork during the Diversity Week art show.

Help Us Raise \$12,000
March 1 - March 31, 2004

BUY A BOOK



Buy-a-Book campaign

The Buy-a-Book campaign has been an annual event at VCC for the past four years to raise \$12,000 for the college libraries. The campaign runs until the end of March.

Employees are encouraged to fill out the donation cards and envelopes that were distributed in their pay envelopes. They are also available 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.

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. ■

KEC rezoning draws interest from around the college

Faculty, staff and students turned out to a special open house last month outlining the rezoning plans for VCC's King Edward campus.

"Everyone who works at this campus or attends classes here knows that we need more space – a lot more space," says Linda Martin, VCC's vice-president of advancement and college services, who's overseeing the college's expansion plans.

"Since we opened our Broadway campus in 1983 we've seen dramatic growth in our programs – to the point where we're now bursting at the seams," she says.

An initial open house Feb. 24 saw VCC and its architects hear from both the college community and the public about what they think is important to a successful project, with issues including parking, traffic, views and green space at the forefront.

A second open house is scheduled for April 1, when VCC will present development proposals that attempt to respond to the issues identified at the first session.

Provincial Ministry of Advanced Education figures show that VCC is the most heavily used major college in the B.C. post-secondary system, notes Martin; overall the college needs roughly 34 per cent more floor space just to meet its current needs, let alone accommodate future plans.

"This is a tremendously exciting project that will give us much-needed space for programs and services," says Martin.

"There's still a lot of work to do but we're beginning the process in earnest to move ahead with our campus expansion."

VCC expects to apply for rezoning by this summer as the first formal step in its long-term plans, which altogether call for the Broadway campus to more than triple in size – adding 685,000 square feet – over the coming years.

The First phase of the development project would be a new building of roughly 135,000 square feet to house VCC's School of Health Sciences and School of Music. ■



Above: Moira Henderson, Doreen Sharan, Vivienne Garrott and Michèle Bickell review a proposed model of new VCC buildings at the Feb 24 open house in the KEC staff lounge.

PHOTO: S. BALDWIN

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

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March 21st, 2004

Please note: Material may be edited for clarity and length

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