

Connections

Vancouver Community College's Employee Newsletter - May 2004

Vancouver
Community
College



www.vcc.ca

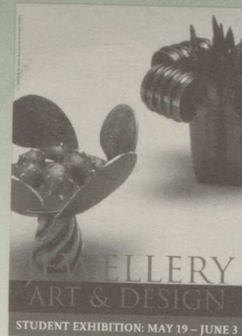
VCCday²⁰⁰⁴ is a success

Old world meets high-tech at VCC graduate show



PHOTOS: L. MCKENZIE

VCC's Jewellery Art and Design and Digital Graphic Design programs are holding their year-end show opening May 19 at 5:30 p.m. at City Centre campus.



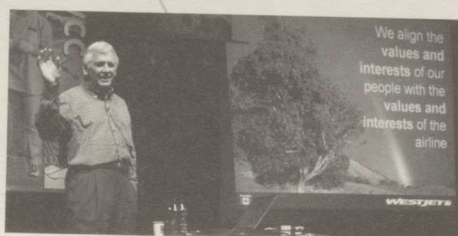
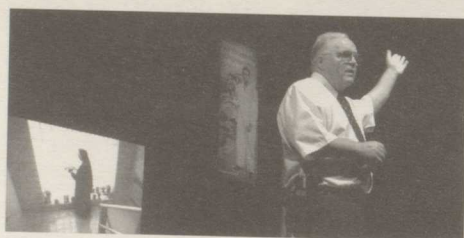
Maidenheads, amulets, western-style 'cowgirl essence' and Star Wars-inspired jewelry for men highlight the

work of students from VCC's Jewellery Design program.

It's pixels and colour palettes – not gold and silver – that are at the heart of the show dubbed *Airing our Digital Laundry* from VCC's Digital Graphic Design program.

Their tools: the latest hardware and software, Mac G5s and digital drawing tablets, Cinema 4D, Quark Xpress, PhotoShop, Illustrator and Flash MX.

Their challenge: meld the creative with the practical for striking designs in the likes of posters, packaging and CD covers. ■



Top: VCC Day participants fill the Vancouver Playhouse for the morning session. Above: Bob Aitken (left) and Fred Ring (right) make presentations to inspire and entertain VCC employees.

VCC Day – an opportunity to celebrate and learn

It was a successful day of professional and personal development that brought together employees from all campuses and departments.

VCC Day 2004 drew roughly 600 administrators, faculty and staff to the Vancouver Playhouse and VCC's campus downtown to learn new skills, explore new ideas and meet other college employees.

"The whole event was very nurturing and valuable," says Keith Milton, department head of Dental Laboratory Technology and Denturist programs.

VCC president Dale Dorn kicked off the event at the Playhouse by addressing the theme of the day, *The Future is Ours*. Fred Ring, vice president of people at WestJet Airlines, gave the

keynote speech with a presentation on the company's culture and success.

Ring emphasized the importance of customer service and its direct link to the success of any company or institution; a cooperative and supportive work environment is critical to that, he said. The morning ended with a presentation by the ever-popular Bob Aitken entitled *Growing A Healthy Brain*.

After lunch, participants chose from a varied list of workshops that tackled such topics as financial planning, online course development and PhotoShop skills.

Response to the sessions was positive. "The workshop on creative thinking really opened my eyes to a wider

See VCC DAY on Page 3

INSIDE Connections

B.C. Skills Competition results	2
Music's 'master classes'	2
Capital renovation projects	3
Community Dental Day	4
New deans appointed	4

News Briefs

New HR newsletter

The Human Resources department has developed a newsletter to be published three times a year. It serves as an important tool to communicate with the college community and can be accessed online from the HR website at www.vcc.ca/hr.

Celebrate

Join Dave Greenall and Judy Echols on June 23 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in room 4001 at KEC as they celebrate many years of service at VCC. They are both retiring from Counselling and Advising services. Tea, coffee and cake will be served.

Learning Centres busy with new workshops

VCC's Learning Centres are offering a new round of workshops this Spring. Workshops focus on practising language skills, developing good study habits, building resumes with Workopolis and writing cover letters.

New workshops to note are *Thursday Flicks in May* at KEC, where students can enjoy a film, free popcorn and discussion from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. every week.

International Education Centre students are encouraged to join Celeste Roberts' Conversation Club each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. or 2 p.m. for tea and a chat.

On May 21, Faye Mallet, VCC's Workopolis intern, is offering students at City Centre a resume-building session; they can join her for a workshop on cover letters on June 4 or 18.

Ready Set Go! Student Success workshops begin in May, hosted by faculty from the Learning Centre, Library and Counselling. Students who have completed the upper advanced level or are native speakers of English can sign up for workshops such as *Going for Gold on that Research Paper*, *Note Taking*, *Giving a Winning Presentation*, *Timing is Everything - Time Management*, or *Acing Your Exams*. Registration for Ready Set Go! is online at www.vcc.ca/tlc.

More information is available online or at each Learning Centre. Students need to bring their student cards to sign up.

VCC students rank high in B.C. Skills Competition



PHOTOS: S. BALDWIN

VCC has again come home with handfuls of medals in the B.C. Skills Competition, which saw students from secondary and post-secondary schools around the province competing for honours.

"VCC students have always done really well," says Dave Donaldson, dean of the School of Hospitality and Business, which had several award-winners. "This year was no exception."

In the baking competition, VCC captured the top three spots with Sam Shem winning gold, Heather Giasson winning silver and Sheila Cheng taking the bronze medal. For Culinary Arts, Jason Gussen won the silver medal.

VCC's Giasson won the WCB Worksafe Award in her category.

VCC students did well outside of the kitchen as well. Zabih Sarvari, Simon Robinson and GERALYN JACKSON each won bronze medals for their categories, Automotive Service, Electronics and Hairdressing, respectively.

BC Skills winners are invited to represent the province at the 2004 Canadian Skills Competition later this month in Winnipeg, Manitoba. ■



Music students find inspiration in class

Legendary Sonic Youth guitarist and multimedia artist Lee Ranaldo wowed VCC music students last month at a special 'master class' that included a 20-minute guitar improvisation demonstrating his extended techniques.

"Ranaldo was fantastic," says Ken Morrison, department head of Music. "The students left feeling truly inspired. He was one of the most gracious and engaging speakers I have ever seen."

Ranaldo continued the class by reading from his published journal of his trip to Morocco to play with the master musicians of Joujouka, then gave a talk on avant-garde music, all accompanied by a slide show.

Later, Ranaldo answered questions, signed autographs and posed for photos with students.

VCC's School of Music is proud to offer students the opportunity to learn from renowned musicians through various master classes, which recently have featured Ranaldo and German composer Gerhard Staebler.

"Staebler is one of the most important composers of his generation," Morrison says of the award-winning composer, who has an impressive body of work including publications, scores and recordings.

Upcoming master classes include a three-day session June 25-27 with saxophonist and teacher Eugene Rousseau, who is being hosted by VCC instructor David Branter. ■

News Briefs

VCC instructor wins food industry honour

The Canadian Association of Food-service Professionals (CAFP) has named Carmine Morelli, VCC instructor in the Hospitality Management department, as Food Executive of the Year 2004.

"Carmine has worked really hard with CAFP assisting our students to learn more about the industry and providing them with additional opportunities for scholarships," says Dave Donaldson, dean of the School of Hospitality and Business.

The Food Executive of the Year award is presented in recognition of outstanding ability and contribution to the foodservice and hospitality industry as well as for service within CAFP and community involvement.

"We are really proud that he is being recognized for his efforts and long-standing service in the food industry," says Donaldson.

Along with winners from three other regions across Canada, Morelli is now in the running for the national prize of the CAFP Canada Cup for 2004.

Bill, Balding for Dollars

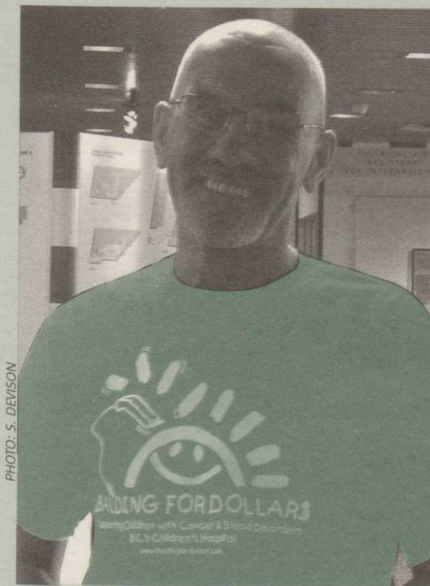


PHOTO: S. DEVISON

KEC building manager Bill Miller raised \$2,485 by shaving his head last month. Miller joined the Balding for Dollars campaign to raise money to support kids with cancer and blood disorders. The event is organized through the BC Children's Hospital Foundation.

Capital renovation projects set to roll out

VCC will be undertaking a number of renovation projects over the coming year, providing facilities for new and expanded programs as well as support services at both main campuses. Projects include:

Hospitality centre (Phase I):

Location: Level 4, City Centre; **Scope:** six classrooms, 130-seat lecture room, improved washrooms; **Purpose:** provide a new state-of-the-art training facility for Hospitality programs and provide added space to meet planned growth; **Schedule:** renovations start in May; complete for September classes.

Science Lab:

Location: room 3283, King Edward; **Scope:** relocate biology lab to room 3283, retrofit existing biology lab in 3252 into a chemistry lab; includes relocation of Humanities classroom and support space from 3283 to 3705 and 3709; **Purpose:** support VCC's university-transfer offerings with an additional chemistry lab and reorganize the biology and chemistry labs to allow sharing of support and preparation room spaces. **Schedule:** renovations start in May; complete for September classes.

Space for Rehabilitation Assistant program:

Location: third floor of Pender Street building, rooms 309-311; **Scope:** renovations to create training spaces, offices and support space; **Purpose:** create a training facility for the new Rehabilitation Assistant program to begin in January 2005; **Schedule:** renovations to begin in the Fall of 2004; ready for use in January 2005.

Renovated VCC bake shop:

Location: third floor at City Centre; **Scope:** renovations to provide additional displays and student work space; **Purpose:** update existing bake shop

VCCday ²⁰⁰⁴ continued from page 1

range of problem-solving styles," says Rebecca Davey, a development officer with the VCC Foundation.

Employee volunteers, the baking department and food services staff prepared the food enjoyed by participants throughout the day.

"We were very fortunate to receive substantial donations from our suppliers," says Sandra MacSorley, manager of ancillary services

Free Vitality, Pepsi, Hostess, Canada Bread, Unisource, Neptune Food Services, Island Farms, Allied Foods and Coca-Cola all contributed to the breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks.

"We really want to thank all the volunteers who made this day possible," says planning committee chair Carol Sicoli.

Dozens of employees from throughout the college helped with every aspect of the event from registering participants and making sandwiches to ensuring equipment was working properly. Many people also volunteered during the planning stages to ensure that VCC Day was a smooth and successful event.

layout to support increased products, services and student learning opportunities; **Schedule:** beginning in August; expected to re-open in early September.

Library expansion:

Location: third floor of the library, King Edward; **Scope:** incorporating vacant neighbouring space into the third floor of the library; **Purpose:** expansion and improvements to the student study and book space; **Schedule:** to be determined.

Counselling relocation:

Location: first floor of Pender Street building; **Scope:** relocate main Counselling office and services area to new renovated space, previously home to the VCC meat shop; **Purpose:** improve access and organization of Counselling's reception and student services; **Schedule:** work to start in the Fall.

Network infrastructure:

Improvements to the College's information systems hardware and communications infrastructure.

Ongoing maintenance throughout the year:

- ☐ Roof replacement at City Centre;
- ☐ Replacement of tower windows, continuing a project to replace and/or repair windows in the tower building at City Centre;
- ☐ Cyclical maintenance works to improve building infrastructure throughout both main campuses;
- ☐ Initiating a new building automation system to improve functioning of building systems and control energy costs.

For more information on these capital projects, contact VCC's facilities director, Larry Waddell, at local 8304. ■



PHOTO: L. MCKENZIE

"It was excellent - lots of fun and great information," says Roberto Alfaro, who works in Counselling and Advising.

The committee has received feedback from 214 participants and continues to welcome your comments, which will help guide planning for the next VCC Day. The morning session, for instance, was highly rated - with an overwhelming percentage of respondents saying it met or exceeded their expectations; survey results for the afternoon session are still being compiled.

"The event was a great success and we look forward to planning the next VCC Day for 2006," says VCC vice-president Linda Martin. ■

VCC participates in Community Dental Day

More than 60 low-income adults took advantage of free dental care at VCC's clinic as part of Community Dental Day, an annual event to help patients around the province with care they might not receive otherwise.

Faculty, staff and students from VCC's Certified Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene and Denturist programs volunteered their time to support the community service day, organized by the Association of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia for Oral Health Month.

VCC was one of three colleges that participated in the event, along with Douglas College and College of the Rockies. "It was a good learning experience for students to see patients who are in dire need of oral health care," says Ginny Cathcart, department head of Dental Hygiene.

"It was an opportunity to reinforce to students the importance of excellent

care and the need to adhere to standards, even under hectic circumstances," says Cathcart.

Patients received full and partial dentures, fillings, extractions and dental hygiene therapy, along with the opportunity to come back to VCC for further treatment. Many of the dentists who volunteered at VCC for Community Dental Day also offered free continuing care in their own practices.

"The patients were really grateful," says Cathcart. Students, she says, felt they had made a significant difference in the lives of the patients and didn't realize that so many people were unable to access regular as well as emergency dental services.

Last year, B.C. dentists and their staff donated roughly \$250,000 worth of urgent dental care to more than 750 patients. More than 250 dentists participated this year. ■

New deans appointed

Two new deans have been appointed at VCC.

Sandra Bailey has been named dean of Career, Design, Trades and Technology, effective Aug. 1.

"Sandra brings to the position a wealth of experience at VCC and is known as a strong educational leader and collaborator both at VCC and out in industry," says Joan McArthur-Blair, VCC's vice-president of education.

Bailey is currently in the role of instructional associate and has played an essential part in preparing VCC's degree proposals, as well as other organizational development activities with departments across applied education. Recently, she completed her Masters of Education graduate work at Simon Fraser University. She came to the college in 1989 and has played multiple roles as faculty, department head, redesign coordinator and instructional associate.

Jackie Sandy will be retiring as of Aug. 30 and will continue in her role as dean for the month of August. "Although we will have many opportunities to recognize her contribution, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge her significant contribution to the college in the many and various roles she has played over the years," says McArthur-Blair.

Stephanie Jewell will become the dean of Arts and Sciences on May 25. "Stephanie is known at VCC for her energy, enthusiasm and leadership skills," says McArthur-Blair. She brings to the portfolio 23 years of experience in post-secondary education and has served on numerous internal and external project groups and committees. Most recently she has been department head of College Foundations (Humanities), a role she has held for six years.

Barbara Ash will be taking over her new portfolio of dean of Student Services on May 31. "Barb has provided superb leadership in her dual role of dean of Arts and Sciences and Student Services," says McArthur-Blair. ■



Above: Carol San Juan Urine, Tracey Ends and Leaned Columbus, three of VCC's Dental Hygiene students who helped out with Community Dental Day.

Right: Michele Rosko-Taylor and Susan Schlitz from VCC's Certified Dental Assisting program.



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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 submissions. We do, however, accept photos.

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

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