

Connections

Vancouver Community College's Employee Newsletter - December 2004

Vancouver
Community
College

www.vcc.ca

VCC's gingerbread house takes bronze in professional category



Vancouver Community College
King Edward Campus Library
1155 East Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 4V5

Baking and Pastry Arts student, Lela Selmo, shows off some of the Gingerbread house detail.

Baking and pastry student's gingerbread house wins 3rd prize

Eight students from baking and pastry program under Marlie van de Ven's guidance entered the Hyatt Regency's Annual Gingerbread House contest and won third prize. Originally entered in the amateur competition, the judges were so impressed they bumped VCC up to the professional category where they competed against hotels and bakeries.

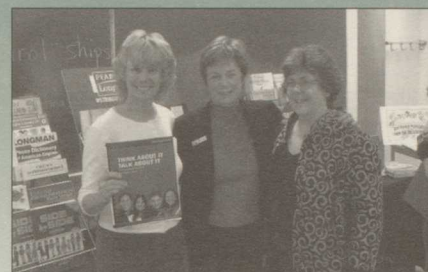
The student's concept was to show the "inside" of the gingerbread house and it's not hard to see why the judges were impressed. Made with over twenty-five kilos of gingerbread, the

house is entirely edible and features a fully decorated Christmas tree, a staircase lined with chocolate, and marzipan animals sitting around a table with complete place settings. The students didn't skimp on anything and added details like, croissants on the plates down to nails in the floorboards.

The students donated 360 hours of their own time to the project, working before classes and weekends. "We didn't mind the extra hours" says Elmo Pinpin, 23, of North Vancouver. "It ended up being quite a learning process

see **GINGERBREAD** on page 4

Book launch for Hughie Jones



(l to r): Hughie Jones, Cheryl Evis (Pearson Longman rep.), Pat Kennedy (ELS dept.)

On Thursday, Nov. 25th, the English Language Skills department held a book launch for Hughie Jones' new book, *Think About It, Talk About It – Oral Grammar Practice*.

This is the second book by Hughie to be published by VCC. Her 1999 publication *Talk It up*, available from the KEC Bookstore, is well used in VCC's ESL departments and copies have been sold as far away as Australia. The launch took place at one of the *ESL Publishers' Displays* regularly sponsored by the ELS department.

Congratulations to Chian Li Hsu, the winner of the draw for a complementary copy of Hughie's new book.



Cover of Jones' new book

INSIDE Connections

Dispelling VCC myths	2
VCC hosts Cisco conference	3
Bursaries for VCC parents	3
VCC employees recognised	3
40 new VCC entrance awards	4
Random acts of kindness	4

News Briefs

Joan McArthur-Blair
— Doctor of Education

Joan McArthur-Blair is now Joan McArthur-Blair, Ed.D. Joan successfully defended her doctoral thesis before an examining committee of seven at UBC on Monday, November 29 2004. The title of her thesis was *The Inner Life: A Conversation with Leaders*.

The President comments "Although I missed the defense, I'm told she was brilliant — not surprising. That she was able to do such quality research and writing while serving so well as VP Education, is a remarkable achievement."

Congratulations from VCC, Joan.

Appointments

VCC is pleased to announce the re-election of Gail Cryer to the position of department head, ESL Outreach. Gail's appointment is effective January 1, 2005.

VCC Food Services and Hospitality survey results

"They think we are doing well" says, Sandra MacSorley, manager of ancillary services. A recent survey taken over two weeks at the City Centre campus of both the lunch and dinner service pointed out some things that VCC food services and School of Hospitality do well.

The results indicate that 88% of the customers enjoy the taste of the food; 73% find that there is a good variety of food and beverage choice; and 75% find that VCC food services meet their overall expectations.

VCC food services is pleased to see the wide range of clientele serviced, not only staff, students, and faculty, but also from the businesses that surround us. One thing that was not a surprise is the majority of customers that come for lunch.

As the School of Hospitality and food services continue to strive to meet the needs of the customer, an upcoming project will be to post menus in convenient places and to provide more nutritional information.

Hats off to the employees in food service and the hard work instructors who assist the students to keep us all well fed.

Dispelling VCC myths

With such a large and diverse population at VCC, it is often difficult to know exactly what other departments do. In an effort to dispel myths, each issue of Connections will focus on a different Student Services department.

THIS MONTH'S MYTHS: Financial Aid

The financial aid department provides need-based and merit awards to VCC students. There are seven financial aid staff and two campus offices. Financial aid administers government and VCC funded programs.

How savvy are you about financial aid rules and procedures? Take a look at the following five financial aid myths, then enter to win a Christmas cake and cookies donated by the baking department.

Five financial aid myths:

1. All students should be able to get student loans because all Canadians are taxpayers and, after all, it's only a loan.

False. A needs assessment process determines whether a student will get a student loan and how much she/he will get. Student loans are interest free to students and the interest is paid by taxpayers. Grants are available in most provinces. B.C. has federal Millennium grants for students in second year or higher and grants for students with dependant children. Financial assistance is available for students with financial need and there is a cost to the taxpayer.

2. It takes students about 6 weeks to find out the answer about their loan; and, then, they receive the money immediately.

False. It can take only 2 to 3 weeks to find out the result of a loan if applying on-line; however, the money

will not be deposited in their account until on or after their start date. If a student cannot pay their initial fees ahead of their start date, they will need to arrange a fee deferral through the cashier's office.

3. Once students receive their loan they pretty much don't have to worry about doing anything else.

False. The student has numerous responsibilities, which are outlined in contracts signed by the student:

- ♦ There is a requirement to stay in school for the funded period and to successfully complete their studies.
- ♦ If they complete their funded year and return to post-secondary studies, they are responsible for notifying the lender of their return to school if they want the benefit of "interest free" status on their previous loan.
- ♦ If they don't return to school they are required to start repayment six months after leaving.

4. Most student loan borrowers repay their loans

True. Approximately 90% of borrowers pay back their student loans.

5. When it comes time to pay back the loan, if they can't pay, there is no help for them.

False. If students can't pay because of unemployment or under-employment, they can apply for Interest Relief — a program where the Federal and/or Provincial government(s) pay the interest because the student is unable.

For more information, contact financial aid at local 8420 (City Centre campus) or 7046 (King Edward campus).

Contest rules are simple:

1. To enter the contest, email your name to financialaid@vcc.ca.
2. Barb Ash, dean of student services, will draw the winning name.
3. Clip this article out and keep it handy.
4. If your name is drawn, you will be contacted by phone and asked to dispel the myths. If you answer all five correctly, you win the Christmas cake and cookies. ■



News Briefs

ICS has a new voice on the VCC Help Desk

Late in November, ICS welcomed a new member to the service desk team. Brent Bigmore started working as a computer support analyst for the Information and Computing Services department. Brent will be based mostly at the City Centre campus, while occasionally working at the King Edward Campus.

Brent brings with him seventeen years of experience in the computing industry, most recently from London Drugs technical support. Brent will be spending his time before Christmas getting to know the college and learning from his team mates how things operate at the college. Brent has already spent a little time answering phone calls and you will be hearing more of his voice either on the VCC help desk or in person in the new year.

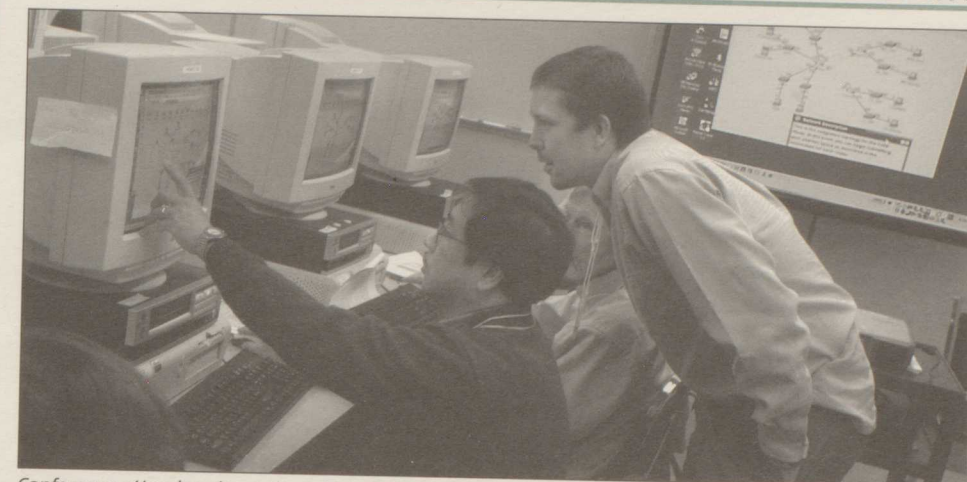
Film license extended

The VCC Library recently signed a new feature film license, which covers all VCC departments and classrooms. Previously, only classes at KEC and the International Education Centre could use feature films free of charge. Now all VCC departments, including those at the City Centre campus are covered by this license.

This means that for the first time most feature films can be shown in all VCC classrooms without additional fees. These include films that are owned by the library, borrowed from other libraries, rented from video stores and legal personal copies.

The only restriction regarding use is that they must be distributed in Canada by either Audio-Cine Films (www.acf-film.com) or Criterion Pictures (www.criterionpic.com). These two companies represent approximately 80% of the feature film market in Canada, including almost all major U.S. releases.

Instructors who want to show a film in class but are unsure if it is covered by this license, should go directly to the company websites and check, or call the Media Librarian (Brenda Appleton, local 7343 or 864) or your departmental liaison librarian for assistance.



Conference attendees learn Cisco Systems' Networking Academy Program Oct 28 and 29 at VCC downtown.

VCC hosts Western Canada Cisco conference

Vancouver Community College's electronics department hosted The Cisco Systems Networking Academy conference for Western Canada on Oct 28 and Oct 29. The conference was a huge success and attendees were impressed with VCC's labs.

Culinary arts provided the food for about 45 happy customers and VCC

could not have pulled this off without the help from ICS. "We had so much help from ICS, who provided network accounts and installed the necessary software for the conference," says Jostein Indbryn, department head, electronics. "Special thanks to Zack Cooper who on the fly installed several versions of software for different Cisco instructors. ■

Festive Season Bursaries help VCC parents and their children

Almost two decades ago, former City Centre building services manager, George Clark, made food baskets and raised money to give to City Centre students and their children over the festive season. Spearheaded by George, the whole community was involved with caroling, raffles and proceeds from Gingerbread Houses. George believed in the importance of helping people in your own community

and when George retired, his friends and family created the George Clark Care and Share Trust fund.

The Bursary funds will go out to families in early December — a little bit of extra money meant to make the season special for 75 children whose parents are hard at work studying in dozens of different career programs at VCC-City Centre. ■

Quite the excellent team



Showing their team approach with their colourful boas, the winners of the 'Excellence in Teamwork' award at this year's VCC Employee Recognition Awards were the CCA team: (back row, l to r; Wendy Beattie, Taryn Thomson, Barbara Knox, Perry Taylor; front row; Jean Rysstad, Sharon Radcliffe, Martha Burnett, Jane Parker, Margaret Nelson, Joanne Gibson; missing; Don Davidson and Pam Rossol).



PHOTOS: L. MCKENZIE, PHOTOSHOP ART: Z. MIHAJLOVIC

new VCC entrance awards mark college's 40th anniversary

Vancouver Community College marks its 40th anniversary in 2005 – and to celebrate, VCC will be handing out 40 new entrance awards of \$1,000 each to students from around the province.

"We have high-quality programs, award-winning faculty and strong industry connections – something that has been our hallmark for four decades," says Linda Martin, VCC's vice-president of advancement and college services. "What better way to mark 40 years of success than with 40 new awards?"

Award-winners will be selected based on their academic achievement and community involvement; applicants must have a 'B' average and include a letter of reference along with their award application form. ■

GINGERBREAD continued from page 1



PHOTO: L. MCKENZIE

The complete gingerbread house is 4 feet by 3 feet.

with lots of trial and error, we had to do everything twice just to figure out structurally how to do it." Colin Macdonald, 23, of Vancouver says, "We all brought passion to the project, we all wanted to be involved".

The public can vote between Nov 29 and Dec 28 at the Hyatt for their favorite house. The VCC students are hoping to win first place for the People's Choice. ■

40 random acts of kindness

Has someone done something special for you recently? Have you offered someone a helping hand? As part of Vancouver Community College's 40th anniversary celebrations, imagine all the staff offering a kindness – 40 times over, throughout 2005. It could grow throughout the city. A VCC community service to Vancouver.

Give directions to someone who appears lost, offer a kind word to a colleague, buy a cup of hot

chocolate for a street person, offer to share your umbrella, offer a helping hand to a busy co-worker, help push a stalled car or just smile at someone. Opportunities present themselves all the time.

And let us know what's happening; what kindnesses you gave or received. Give it a try. It can be fun! And leave a message, either with your name or anonymously, for Della at dglendenning@vcc.ca, who will be keeping a list of VCC's random acts of kindness. ■

Connections

Vancouver Community College's
Employee Newsletter
December 2004, Volume 11, Number 4

Publisher:
Stephen Barrington

Editor:
Karen Wilson

Design & Layout:
Daniel Rohloff

Photographers & Artists:
Lauch McKenzie, Zoro Mihajlovic
and Ivonne Navas

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:
Karen Wilson, kwilson@vcc.ca.

Deadline for submission for next issue:
Dec. 21, 2004.

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

**Vancouver
Community
College** 

www.VCC.ca



**Connections is
printed on 100%
post-consumer
recycled paper**