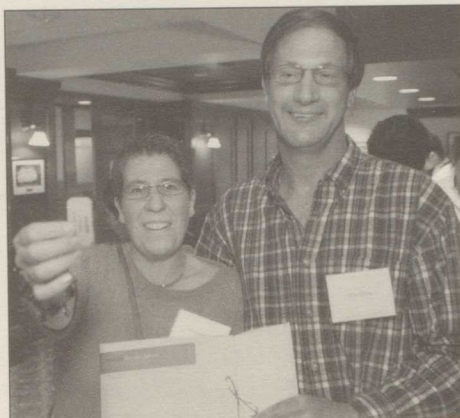




VCC's campaign donor event recognizes family

New VCC vice-president looks to the future



PHOTOS: L. MCKENZIE

Top Left: Pearl Chiu and Penny Barrados enjoy JJ's fare food. **Top Right:** Shirley Clarke, practical nursing instructor, and her husband, Stan, won the trip for two to Whistler courtesy of James Terry and Rocky Mountain Vacations. **Above:** Gyda Chud, Sean Hinton and Anne Tollstam enjoy the celebration.

Vancouver Community College's Vision for the Future capital campaign celebrated the progress to date with board and employee donors at JJ's on May 11. A total of 212 gifts have been received representing 18.5 per cent of goal or \$2.8 million.

"The success of the internal campaign shows external supporters in the community that our employees and boards strongly believe in the work of the college," says Lucy Komori, executive director of the VCC Foundation. "The capital campaign will be able to build on this strong base of support."

Linda Martin provided an update on the next steps for the campaign. VCC has recruited an impressive volunteer fundraising cabinet, co-chaired by Julia and Ed Levy of QLT. Other volunteers include: Gordon Barefoot, former chair of the College Board; Stephen Darling of Shangri-la Hotels and Resorts; Bob Elton of BC Hydro; Rusty Goepel of Raymond James; Ida Goodreau of Vancouver Coastal Health; Kirk Kuester of Colliers International; Graham MacLachlan of RBC Royal Bank; Guff Muench of Cummins Western; and James Terry of Rocky Mountaineer Vacations. ■

Alan Davis joined VCC earlier this year as the new vice-president of education. Davis has settled into his role and is enjoying the challenge of leading the college's academic direction.

"VCC is a true pioneer among community colleges," says Davis. "VCC's history and reputation are what brought me to Vancouver." To join VCC, Davis left Ontario's Niagara College, where he had been vice-president of academic and learner services for the past three years.

Davis studied chemistry at the University of London while developing a love for the theatre that is still with him today. In 1972, he came to Canada on somewhat of a whim after seeing some pictures of Vancouver and Simon Fraser University and hearing about the friendly culture of the city. He pursued his master's degree and PhD at SFU.

"After school, I spent 12 years teaching chemistry at the University College of the Fraser Valley and raised three daughters in Chilliwack," says Davis. He spent his free time writing plays, acting, directing, and even adapting children's books into plays for the

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News Briefs

Appointments Learning Centre

Alison Woods has been named the new coordinator of the Broadway, downtown, and International Education Learning Centres. She works out of both main campuses and can be reached at local 7405.

Carrie Leggatt, who served as coordinator for the past three years has since returned to classroom teaching at VCC. Summer hours for the Learning Centres can be found on their web site.

Transportation Trades

VCC welcomes Bruce Duff to the new position of service manager for the Centre of Transportation Trades. Duff works in collaboration with the automotive technician, automotive collision and diesel technician programs in support of the Centre's educational objectives.

Bruce is an automotive technician with over 20 years experience as both a service manager and body shop manager at several major General Motors dealerships in the lower mainland. Duff can be reached at local 7161 and by email at bduff@vcc.ca.

ESL - outreach

Jacque Harrison is serving as acting department head of the ESL-Outreach department for three months effective April 1.

VCC administration

Pat Bawtinheimer will act as dean of hospitality for the School of Hospitality and for the School of Music until a new dean of hospitality and a director for the School of Music are appointed. Kathy Fukuyama is acting dean of health sciences during this period.

Donna Hooker, director of international education, will also act as dean of the Centre for Business Studies until March 30, 2007.

VCC hosts international writers

VCC and CBC Radio have teamed up to present Studio One Book Club readings at the downtown campus. Douglas Coupland reads on June 26 from his novel *JPod*. Visit www.cbc.ca/bc/bookclub for more information.

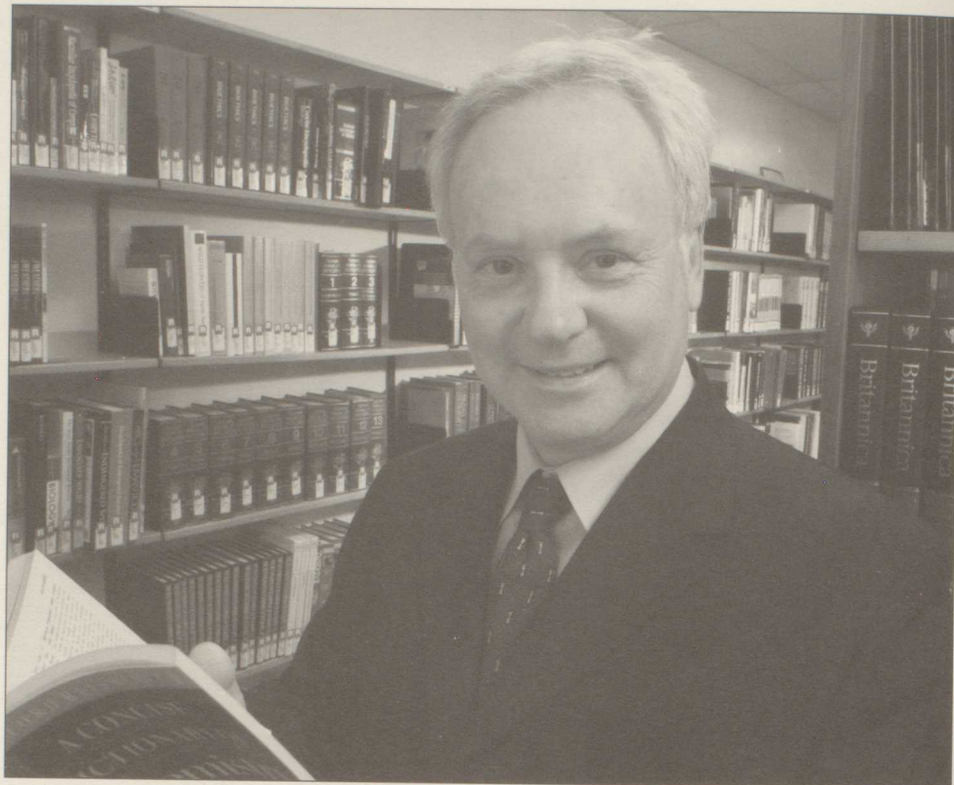


PHOTO: L. MCKENZIE

"I am hoping to make some good decisions and changes that will add to VCC's growing success."

- Alan Davis

ALAN DAVIS continued from pg. 1

active local theatre community. "I had to have something for my children to act in" laughs Davis.

For 13 years, he was an elected trustee on the board of School District 33 where he saw some very good (and some not so good) examples of leadership in action.

He left UCFV to become the director of programs at the B.C. Open University. "This was in the early days of distance and online education," says Davis. "It was a very exciting time." He fell into the management role with ease and used the skills he developed working in the community to help make the transition.

After six years, he made the move to Athabasca University as the academic vice-president. "It was a great job with travel opportunities and a dynamic international community of educators working together," says Davis. He missed direct student contact, however, so after seven years, he took the position at Niagara.

Now back in Vancouver, Davis is settling in to his home in Kitsilano where he first laid down roots in 1972. He spends time with his grown daughters who are still based here and plays tour guide for visiting friends. Davis talks

to his wife and teenage son (who are still living in Niagara) on his webcam every day. "We didn't want him to have to leave his school and friends," says Davis. "We'll see how it goes over the next couple of years."

Davis is enjoying the new challenges facing him at VCC. "The college is already doing so much really well," he says. "I am hoping to make some good decisions and changes that will add to VCC's growing success." One important area of focus for Davis is VCC's role in the 2010 Olympics. "It is time for us to get serious about how want to participate."

Davis has also identified other areas at VCC to focus on. Among them are new degree programs in the School of Music and the School of Health Sciences, a strategy for Distributed Learning, and VCC's role in the Canadian Language Benchmarks initiative. "As the community evolves, VCC must evolve with it," says Davis.

"What really struck me coming back to Vancouver was how multicultural the city is," says Davis. "It is so much a part of the fabric of VCC which makes for a very exciting and interesting place to work." ■

News Briefs

Construction

Construction work has begun at the downtown campus in the area previously occupied by electronics on level five. This space will be renovated to accommodate dental assisting and hygiene to replace their existing space on level four in the tower. The level four space will be renovated to accommodate the expansion of the Hospitality Centre. We expect the project to take a minimum of 21 weeks.

The bulk of the work is scheduled to take place during regular college hours resulting in minor construction noise and circulation issues while the contractors move materials and equipment between the loading and construction areas. Work considered too disruptive will be completed during low occupancy periods or after hours. Facilities is working closely with the contractors to ensure reasonable measures are taken to minimize disruptions to college operations.

Contact facilities if any concerns or issues arise regarding this project.

Dental department celebrates 20 years



VCC's dental hygiene department celebrated its 20th anniversary on May 8 at their annual departmental faculty meeting. After a stimulating and appreciative all day strategic planning session, organized by department head Ginny Cathcart, the group appeared ready and energized for another 20 years of excellence. They enjoyed a delicious, festive and fun celebration lunch at JJ's restaurant. ■

Recent VCC events are a success

Employers, students talk shop at Career Fair

VCC students met with representatives from local employers again this year, during the second annual Career Fair, held in April at the downtown campus.

This year's event drew broad representation from both public and private sector employers, who were on hand to answer questions and provide more information on career opportunities within their organizations.

"Job fairs have become an extremely important part of organizational recruitment efforts," says VCC's director of human resources Rob Henderson. "It gives both employers and students an opportunity to meet in an informal setting to see if they're a good fit for one another."

Some employers in attendance were looking for skilled people to fill several jobs.

"Our operations are expanding and both our locations have become destination resorts," says Great Canadian Casinos senior recruiter Emily Henderson. "We're recruiting for both corporate head office and gaming positions."

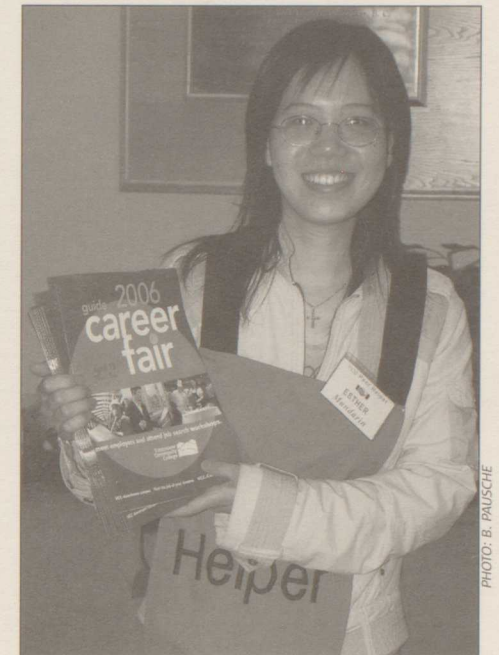
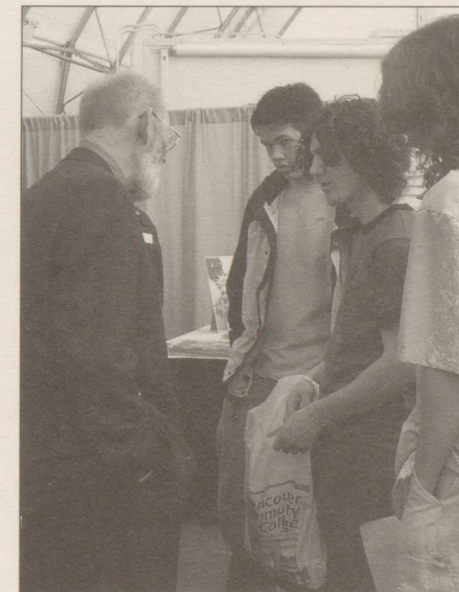


PHOTO: B. PAUSCHE

Peer helpers handed out guides at the fair

Representatives from Joey's Restaurant interviewed every VCC student who went to their booth and hired seven of them on the spot. ■



Indbryn shares some info with students at fair.

VCC Trading Up

VCC departments staffed nine booths at this year's Trading Up Fair, held April 4-6 at the Cloverdale Arena. The event, sponsored by the Surrey School District, is designed to promote trades and technical careers to students in grades 10-12. More than 5,000 students from Lower Mainland schools attended over three days. ■



PHOTO: D. KOTILOFF

Culinary booths are always popular at Info Night.

Prospective students get to know VCC at Info Night

Hundreds of prospective students visited VCC's downtown campus April 19 to check out displays and talk to faculty about VCC programs and career opportunities. The atmosphere was festive, with balloons and plenty of tasty treats from the bakery and culinary arts programs. ■

Connections

VCC shines in trades competition

VCC students pulled in a pile of medals from this year's Skills Canada B.C. trades competition, held in April.

VCC earned two gold, four silver and two bronze medals in the provincial skills competition, topping other colleges and university-colleges from around B.C.

"This is one tough competition – so to win a medal here really speaks to the talent, skill and dedication of these winners," says Alan Davis, VCC's vice-president of education.

"I was very excited, but I was quite nervous about competing," says Leanne Bentley, 22, who picked up gold in the competition for baking and pastry arts. "But it was a rush and I'd do it again."

Bentley will get that chance when she goes on to compete at the national Skills Canada competition, being held in Halifax. Lawrence Santos, a gold medal winner in auto collision repair, will join her there.

VCC winners are as follows:

Auto collision repair (post-secondary):
Derrick Sanderson (silver)

Peter McCallum (bronze)

Auto collision repair (secondary):

Lawrence Santos (gold)

Zach Holt-Gordy (silver)

Baking: Leanne Bentley (gold),

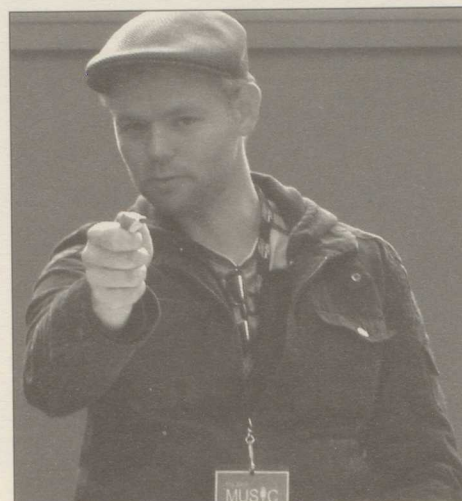
Cathryn Wang (silver)

Electronics: Tom Rumbal (silver)

Hairdressing: Johanna Casagrande (bronze) – pictured below. ■



VCC's School of Music and The Beat 94.5 FM search for top Vancouver talent



PHOTOS: D. ROHLLOFF

Along top: Shirley Zhao sings her heart out for the judges in the second round. **Left:** Joel Kroeker searches for talent during the auditions. **Right:** An aspiring star gets the audience on its feet.

VCC and The Beat teamed up recently to find the next music sensation.

More than 200 young singers put their talents to the test and showcased their vocal skills in front of a panel of top music and recording industry executives including VCC music instructor and recording artist, Joel Kroeker.

The prize? A professional recording session with Hipjoint Productions Inc. worth more than \$30,000, with four songs produced, recorded and featured on this year's Beat Summer Soundtracks along with top Universal Music recording artists.

"It's a perfect fit for us to be involved with this event," says Ken Morrison,

who oversees the college's music diploma program and newly launched applied music degree.

Excited young people along with their parents and friends started lining up early in the morning and were soon ushered into auditions for their chance at stardom. Shirley Zhao, aged 16, moved onto the second round of auditions. "I've wanted to be a singer since I was three years old and so I take every opportunity I can."

VCC hosted the first two rounds of auditions in the classrooms normally used by the School of Hospitality. By late afternoon, the semi-finalists were chosen to go on to the next round that was held at Metrotown.

Stephanie Lang went on to win the competition and her new single can be heard on The Beat 94.5 FM. ■

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 submissions. We do, however, accept photos.

Submit your pieces via email to:
Karen Wilson, kwilson@vcc.ca.

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

**Vancouver
Community
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This newsletter is printed on Neenah ENVIRONMENT PC100 paper, made with 100% post-consumer waste, processed chlorine free. By using this environmentally friendly paper for production of Connections over one fiscal year, VCC saved the following resources:

trees	water	energy	solid waste	water borne waste	atmospheric emissions
14 <small>fully grown</small>	2,447 <small>gallons</small>	3,316 <small>million BTUs</small>	260 <small>pounds</small>	17 <small>pounds</small>	503 <small>pounds</small>

Calculations based on research by Environmental Defense and the Paper Task Force. Source www.neenahpaper.com