

# Connections

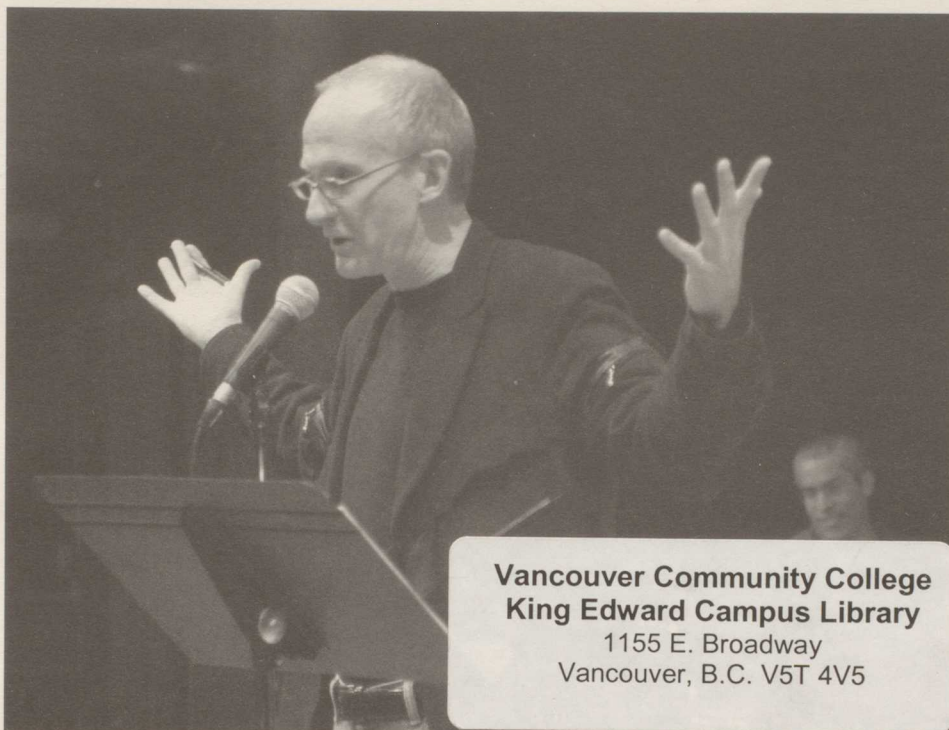
Vancouver Community College's Employee Newsletter - March 2007

Vancouver  
Community  
College



www.vcc.ca

## Bill Richardson along with Ferreras and Poetic License



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

PHOTO: D. ROHLIFF

Bill Richardson reads to the March 1 crowd with special musical guest Sal Ferreras.

### An entertaining evening of music, tears and laughter

Rhythm and sparkling wit merged together March 1 in VCC's auditorium for an evening of music, poetry and prose. Bill Richardson, VCC's 2007 writer-in-residence, and special musical guests Sal Ferreras and Poetic License delighted the audience with an eclectic collaboration of humour and music.

VCC's dean of student services, Barb Ash, set the tone for the evening with a warm and funny introduction. Poetic License kicked off the evening with two lively sets of music, followed by Richardson's reading of a comical, spot-on rant about the peculiarities of aging.

Richardson gave the first public reading of his short story, *First Meat*, a funny and engaging story told from the perspective of a 12-year-old veg-

etarian contemplating the death of a family pet. As the story unfolded, the musicians mirrored and amplified the emotional tone of the story – so much so that Richardson later remarked, "I had to work not to be overcome by the emotion." Unknown to the audience, this highly successful element was not rehearsed. *First Meat* will appear this fall in an anthology of short fiction entitled *First Time*.

The evening ended with a rollicking set to showcase individual performers: Tom Keenlyside - saxophone and flute, Harris van Berkel - guitar, Tobin Stokes - piano, VCC's Alan Matheson - trumpet, Laurence Mollerup - bass, and Sal Ferreras - percussion.

Richardson continues as VCC's writer-in-residence at the Broadway campus until mid-March. ■

## Culinary arts team dishes up win at Culinary Challenge

VCC's culinary arts team won first place and a \$5,000 scholarship at the first annual Culinary Challenge organized by the prestigious Chefs' Table Society of B.C. held at the Terminal City club recently.

The culinary teams were judged on presentation, professional techniques and skills, taste and the use of local ingredients by Vancouver's finest chefs – John Bishop (Bishop's), Rob Clark (C/Nu/Raincity Grill), Pino Posteraro (Cioppino's) and Bruno Marti (La Belle Auberge).

"Being at the event and talking to the top Vancouver chefs, I was very proud at the positive feedback I received about VCC's culinary program," says Harald Bonkowski, chef and department head of VCC's culinary arts program.

VCC was up against three other Vancouver culinary schools – Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts, Northwest Culinary Academy of Vancouver and Art Institute of Vancouver - Dubrulle Culinary Arts.

VCC's winning team included chef instructor J.C. Felicella, Jennifer Chung, Ron Wiginton, Elissa Congo and Terence Au. All were awarded a \$5,000 scholarship for VCC, which will be given to the culinary arts faculty for a future student.

The Chefs' Table Society of B.C. is a collaborative body dedicated to creating a foundation for the exchange of information between culinary professionals throughout the province. ■



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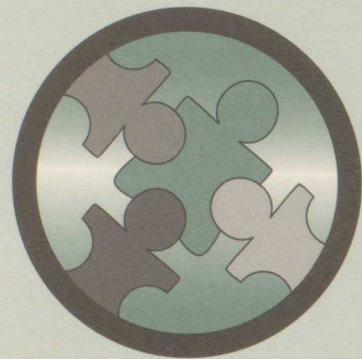


## News Briefs

### New photo ID

Media Services has designed a new employee card for VCC faculty and staff. Get your new ID card at media services on Wednesdays or Thursdays 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. or 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in June, July and August.

### Diversity Week



VCC held its annual diversity week on Feb. 19 to 23. This year's theme was *Educate, Advocate and Celebrate*. A broad range of activities took place in support of the event, including a one-liner writing contest on the topic "Diversity - What does it mean to you?" Prizes were awarded as follows:

#### First prize:

*Compared with a black and white photo, "Diversity" means one colour to me.* - Chih-Ming Li

#### Second prize:

*For me, diversity means I can choose my lifestyle, enjoy the freedom of democracy and decide my own future.* - Amy Liao

#### Third prize:

*Diversity between cultures means we look, feel and think in our own ways. If everybody were the same, the world wouldn't be very interesting for us.* - Ray Clair

### Music instructor wins big

VCC music instructor Giorgio Maganensi accepted the 2008 Alcan Award for Music on behalf of Vancouver New Music, where he serves as artistic director. The \$60,000 production award was presented at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre on Feb. 2.

## Burnaby kids arrive for free dental care at VCC

It was an initiative with, well, bite. Eighty primary school children from Burnaby's Edmonds Community School arrived at VCC on March 1 aboard replica turn-of-the-century trolleys for a free dental check-up and oral health education.

The visits were supported by VCC's dental assisting program, Chevron Canada, Vancouver Trolley Co. and Butler Dental Products, and helped many of the children see a dentist for the first time. The community school is often the first point of Canadian contact for immigrant families with young children.

"Each child was screened and will either be brought back to VCC for further treatment or referred to low-cost services in their community," says VCC dental assisting instructor Cathy Larsen.

The Canadian Dental Association now recommends children see a dentist by the age of one. Dr. John Gerscsak, who has a private practice in Vancouver and volunteered, along with Dr. Karen Stal-laert from Children's Hospital, to provide dental assessments for the children.



One of many VCC's dental assistant students shows her patient, Shabnam, how to brush teeth properly

"Only one out of five kids in the first group I saw had visited a dentist in the past," said Gerscsak, noting that education for parents is an important part of modern dental health care.

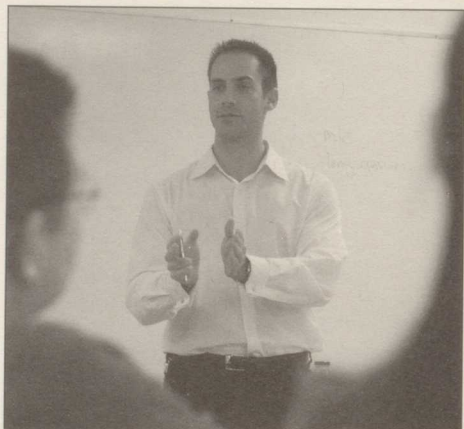
"What we like about this initiative is that it gives VCC students practical work experience and helps out in the community at the same time," says Chevron Canada community affairs manager, Deidre Reid. ■

## VCC grad prepares to deliver the Olympics

He coordinated the smooth delivery of everything from the Gretzky family luggage to thousands of bottles of water at the 2006 Winter Games in Torino. And as the clock ticks down to 2010, Fernando Villagran's career has taken on Olympic scope as a key member of Schenker Canada's Global Sports Events team, Official Supplier to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for freight forwarding and customs clearance since 2003.

Villagran, who graduated three years ago from the VCC Transportation and Logistics program, is doing a job he wouldn't have believed a few short years ago, with a background in sales but no experience in freight forwarding. He has learned a great deal in a short period of time and is willing to pull out all the stops to ensure his company delivers what's needed on time.

"When you work for one of the largest freight forwarding companies in the world and it's your job to get goods from every corner of the globe to service the Olympics, 'moving day' is a pretty big concept," says Villagran. "We had over 150 dedicated people working all over the world to supply Torino, and moved hundreds of tons of equipment by rail, ship and air to support the Games.



Villagran speaks to a class of VCC transportation logistics students about his work with the Olympics.

Villagran worked his way up through the company, using his communication and people skills to learn the business of freight forwarding, finally making his way into sales and business development. As one of just ten employees under consideration across Canada to represent Schenker in Torino, Villagran was thrilled to get the call shortly before Christmas in 2005, giving him the nod to get on a plane.

Schenker's contract ends in 2009. That means they'll need to bid for another contract in 2009 to represent Vancouver's 2010 Olympic Games. ■

## News Briefs

### Appointments

Mario Trettenero selected department head of automotive collision and refinishing

Maciek Walentowicz selected department head of jewellery art and design.

Virginia Adams selected department head of library information services.

Petar Mitic was hired as manager of network services in ICS.

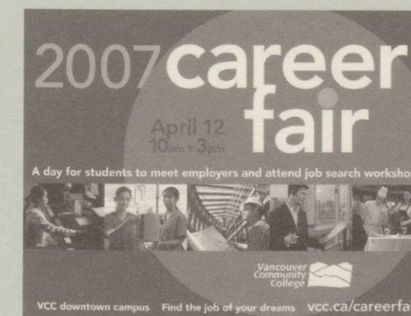
## Coming Events

### Info Night - April 11

**INFO NIGHT**  
APRIL 11, 2007  
4:30 - 6:30 PM

Potential students and visitors can learn about VCC's 150 programs and get a taste of the college through the many interactive displays.

### Career Fair - April 12



VCC is hosting its third annual Career Fair on Thursday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the downtown campus. Students are invited to meet recruiters and attend workshops to hone their job-finding skills.

### Deaf Deaf World

Tour a mini-world where everyone uses American Sign Language (ASL). Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Broadway campus. Admission \$5, family of three or more, \$10, free for children eight years old and under. Child care provided, refreshments sold.

## Who's 'the big boss' on VCC's new building construction crew

The cold, wet days of excavation and shoring for the new VCC building can be pretty grim for the construction workers of Bel Pacific, but there is a bright spot among the crew. He wears a safety vest, patrols the site, digs holes, makes sure everyone on site is supposed to be there and ensures they come back from coffee break on time.

He's rather on the small side and isn't even the usual species employed by a construction company, but he has an important job. Polar, a Lab/Blue Heeler cross, is the company's official safety dog.

Julia Bentley, his 'partner in grime', is site superintendent for excavation and shoring. She has been working for Bel Pacific since 1997, and is respon-



Julia Bentley stands with her dog Polar at the VCC construction site ensuring all goes smoothly

sible for ensuring safety, coordinating trades and scheduling trucks and other equipment on site. She and Bentley have worked together for four years now.

"His first time on site, he was just nine weeks old," says Bentley. "I brought him with me steady from the time he was six months old so that he could be trained to respect the equipment and get to know the routines."

"He keeps time when the guys go for coffee.

When the time's up, if they're not working, he's barking. The guys call him the engineer - the big boss," Bentley says with a laugh. "He makes everyone smile." ■

## VCC's and The Beat 94.5 search for top talent



All in the family: two sisters advance to next round.

More than 200 young singers warbled their way into the judge's hearts earlier this month as VCC and The Beat 94.5 FM teamed up to find the next music sensation.

There were no Simon Cowells, but Sal Fererras, director of VCC's School of Music was part of the expert judging panel. "It was a surprising range of talent, an eclectic mix, we saw everything from Stevie Wonder to Christina Aguilera."

The prize? A professional recording session with Rockstar Music Corp., worth more than \$30,000. Four songs will be produced, recorded and featured on this year's Beat Summer Soundtracks along with top Universal Music recording artists.

Excited and nervous young singers, along with family and friends, started lining up early in the morning and were soon ushered into auditions for their chance at stardom. Danie Hall, aged 26, a hairstylist from Abbotsford, moved onto the second round of auditions. "My friends brought me the newspaper clipping and said I had to try out - I sing while I cut client's hair."

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, which will be held at Metrotown on March 17. ■



# VCC DAY '07 – 2020 Vision... Imagine the future

**VCC** staff and faculty are cutting classes, locking offices, turning off phones and computers, and taking the day off from their routine – with VCC Day just around the corner, the planning committee is giddy with excitement and plans for employees of B.C.'s no. 1 college.

## E VCC DAY '07 2020 VISION IMAGINE THE FUTURE

FRIDAY APRIL 27, 8 A.M.  
VCC DOWNTOWN CAMPUS  
AND VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE

IMAGINE...WHAT WILL VCC LOOK LIKE IN 2020?  
SPEAKERS, WORKSHOPS, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT AND PRIZES

April 27 is not a day to miss. Along with the usual VCC Day fare of terrific speakers, relevant workshops, and fine food, there are special plans in store. Like spicy salsa music by Sal Ferreras and the Latin jazz band, a first time full-scale wellness fair, onsite massages and a wine, cheese and chocolate spread to finish the day off.

It's a day to bring all employees who make VCC special together. To celebrate, learn and focus on the vision of what VCC will look like in the future – it's the work employees do now that is a big part of that future.

### Music

Sal Ferreras, director of the School of Music will be leading a specially assembled Latin jazz band of VCC students, alumni and faculty in a programme of hot salsa music to get energy flowing and spirits soaring.

### Workshops

VCC Day's afternoon will offer over 25 workshops to choose from, grouped into four areas:

**Techno Vision:** learn about Photoshop, GroupWise, Google, digital photography and more.

**Global Vision:** immerse yourself in environmental issues, internationalization, diversity or a walking tour.

**Edu Vision:** Focus on Language Benchmarks, students with disabilities, being media savvy and VCC's Distributed Learning plan.

**Omni Vision:** our universal, all encompassing theme that takes you from wine appreciation and diamond buying to music.

Focus on one topic with a two-hour workshop or mix and match from a wide variety of one-hour workshops. Keep watch in the coming weeks for a special program handout that will be distributed in mailrooms and electronically.

### Speakers

**The Keynote Speaker** is still to be confirmed - look for upcoming information in mailboxes.



**Dr. Moura Quayle**, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education, Province of British Columbia will share her thoughts on the direction the college system will take on its path to 2020. Dr.

Quayle has been Deputy Minister of Advanced Education since June 2005. Prior to that she served in a number of senior administrative positions at the University of British Columbia.



**Dale Dorn**, president of VCC, will speak to the importance of leadership in realizing a 2020 vision for the community college system. Dale Dorn has been president of VCC since 1999 and has been an

employee of the college for 25 years.

### Agenda in brief

**Welcome** • 8 a.m. • downtown campus • coffee and muffins

**Speakers** • 9 a.m. • Vancouver Playhouse • topics are VCC's 2020 Vision

**Music** • 11:45 a.m. • Vancouver Playhouse • Sal Ferreras' Latin jazz band

**Lunch** • noon • downtown campus • nutritious fare with environmental flare

**Wellness Fair** • 12:30 p.m. • room 240 • booths offer health and safety info

**Workshops** • 1:45 p.m. • various rooms • choose from 30 workshops

**Wine, cheese & chocolate** • 4 p.m. • foyer • delicious way to end the day

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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 e-mail to:  
**Karen Wilson, kwilson@vcc.ca.**

Deadline for submission for next issue:  
**April 17, 2007.**

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

**Vancouver  
Community  
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### NEENAH ENVIRONMENT® Papers Environmental Savings Calculation

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 fully grown	2,447 gallons	3,316 million BTUs	260 pounds	17 pounds	503 pounds

Calculations based on research by Environmental Defense and the Paper Task Force. Source: [www.neenahpaper.com](http://www.neenahpaper.com)