

Connections

Vancouver Community College's Employee Newsletter - November 2007

Vancouver
Community
College



www.vcc.ca

New VCC health sciences building receives \$500,000 donation



PHOTO: P. JOSEPH

Don Rix stands in front of VCC's new Health Sciences building expected to open January 2009.

Philanthropist Don Rix supports VCC's expansion

VCC recently got its largest single donation from a private individual when Dr. Donald Rix donated \$500,000 through his family foundation. The donation will be directed into VCC's Vision for the Future capital campaign, set up to fund the construction of a seven-storey addition at the Broadway campus.

"I've always thought that education is the key to a lot of things," says Rix. "It's the key to people getting good jobs, and it's the key to settling a lot of misunderstandings. Beyond that, I really see education as the key to the future of humanity. I'm a big believer in education and the things it can accomplish."

It's expected the building will open for classes in January 2009. It will serve more than 1,000 full-time students in health sciences programs that include: nursing, home support/resident care, medical laboratory technician, medical office assistant, pharmacy technician, nursing unit clerk, occupational/physical therapist assistant and more.

The building will also house state-of-the-art laboratories, simulated hospital wards, additional classrooms, an expanded bookstore, student services and study space.

The campaign has raised close to \$11 million so far and expects to reach its goal of \$15 million. ■

Defining the Future. Creating our Legacy.

VCC launches strategic planning for 2015.

This month sees VCC hosting a series of college-wide visioning sessions that are just the first part of a comprehensive planning process, which will take place in several phases and extend well into 2008.



It's an opportunity for employees and students to consider some key questions that will inform the college's planning:

What is our mission? What are the college's core values and principles? How should our campuses and facilities develop? What should we have as our program mix? How do we best serve our learners?

"This is a wide-open process – and it's an opportunity for everyone at the college to really look forward and think about the kind of college we want to be in 2015," says Linda Martin, VCC's interim president.

Collaboration and dialogue are at the centre of this approach: visioning sessions over the next two months will in turn lead to several working

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

News Briefs

Recent appointments

Anita Braha is the new director of labour relations and will join VCC on Dec. 3. Braha has worked for over 15 years as a lawyer, with an emphasis in employment, labour and human rights matters. She has also served as a faculty member at Capilano College where she taught courses on human rights, duty to accommodate, women and the law, and politics and government.

Dr. Karen Belfer joins VCC as the dean of the Centre for Instructional Development. Before joining VCC, she was an instructional development consultant in the Learning and Technology Services division at BCIT and has held similar roles at UBC, SFU and the former TechBC. Before coming to Canada in 1997 she was coordinator of academic computing at Anahuac University in Mexico. Karen has a BSc degree in informatics, and an MA and a PhD in education.

New cleaning services

Bee-Clean Building Maintenance became the college's new cleaning contractor on Oct. 28. This follows a comprehensive update of the college's cleaning requirements and a public tender process that resulted in the contract being awarded to Bee-Clean. The Facilities department is working hard to ensure that the transition to the new contractor goes smoothly and that the quality of the cleaning service is maintained. If you have any questions or concerns about cleaning in your area, please contact the building manager at your campus or the Facilities department at local 8319.

Ridley recognized for her community work

Lornell Ridley, associate director of alumni relations, has been named the Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Vancouver. She is being recognized for her exceptional work with the Rotary Club and in particular, with the youth committee. Ridley has raised the group's profile at the district level and inspired others with her enthusiasm.

VCC plans for 2015 continued from PAGE 1

groups coming together in the spring to focus on major themes. A draft of the college's 2015 strategic plan will come forward next fall, when it will be presented for governance and college feedback before going to the VCC board in November 2008.

Visioning sessions begin on Nov. 14, and VCC has set up a variety of forums to engage constituency groups

from around the college. See the VCC planning website, vcc2015.vcc.ca, for full details.

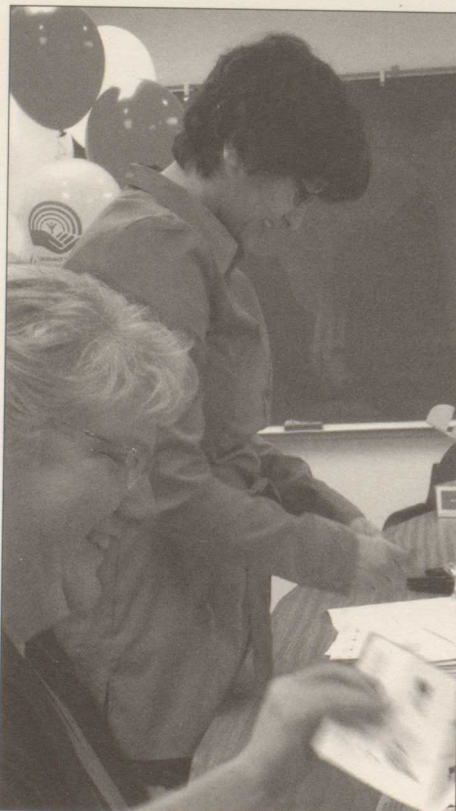
"This is a major undertaking, but one that will be invigorating, energizing and rewarding for VCC as we look ahead to 2015," says Martin, who opened the planning process with two well-attended special events at the end of October.

VISION



See online at vcc2015.vcc.ca for more details and regular updates of research, feedback and discussion as the planning process unfolds. ■

United Way campaign wants to double the number of donors this year



Elizabeth Burnyeat (front) and Doreen Sharan from the 2007 United Way committee staff envelopes for distribution for this year's campaign.

There is still time to donate to VCC's United Way campaign which ends on Nov. 16.

"Our goal is to double the number of donors who supported the campaign last year" says Lila Heilbrunn, chair of VCC's committee. "Our theme of VCC Cares reflects the commitment of our employees to the college, the students and the community."

As an incentive, donors are entered into a draw for a special "Romance Package" at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver which includes an overnight stay in a deluxe guestroom, welcome chocolates and breakfast in bed.

Donations can be made by cheque, credit card or payroll deduction. Pledge packages were distributed on Nov. 1. You can also donate through the United Way to the charity of your choice or you can make a gift directly to VCC for scholarships, bursaries or to the capital campaign. Additional forms will be available in the mailroom at each campus.

If you designate your donation to a specific charity, a \$12 fee for each designation will be charged by United Way to offset the administration costs associated with designations. ■

Coming Events

School of Music events

Roots, Jazz & Fuse - An Evening of Hot Music

Sunday, Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Orchestra - The Many Moods of Jazz

Monday, Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Both shows are at the Broadway campus auditorium. Tickets \$5 (free admission for VCC students and School of Music alumni).

The Willan Choir - One Winter's Night

Friday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m.

West Point Grey United Church, 4595 West 8th Ave.

Tickets \$15 adults, \$10 students/seniors, available at the door

Nominate a colleague by Nov. 16

You are encouraged to nominate a VCC colleague for an Employee Excellence Award to recognize their contribution to the college, their work place and the students.

The awards are given out for the following categories: community involvement, customer service, education, leadership, people spirit, and teamwork.

Nominate a colleague by clicking on <https://secure.vcc.ca/recognition>.

The winners of these awards will be recognized on Dec. 13 at 3:30 p.m. in the Broadway employee lounge.

Positive Space



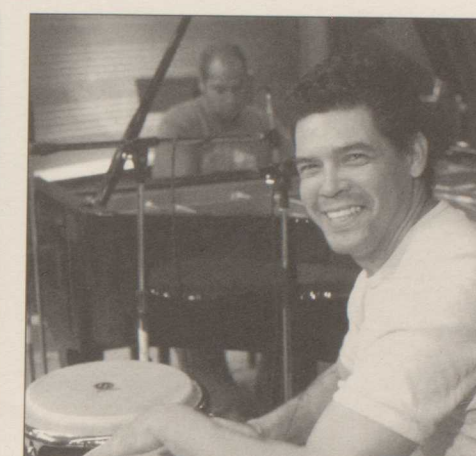
If you see this symbol, you're in a homophobia free zone!

Want to participate? Contact: VCC's Human Rights office at 7040 VCC Faculty Association at 8438 VCC Students' Union at 8609 or 7146

Aboriginal music collaboration to become a regular scene



Quinn Brander (photo left) and Lenny Fisher jam during the Aboriginal Music Lab held in August.



PHOTOS: D. ROHLIFF

Musicians and singers from across the country came to VCC to participate in the first Aboriginal music lab in August. The lab included a range of workshops in vocal technique, song writing, traditional song revival and DJ culture.

Sal Ferreras, director of the School of Music, confirms that a formal program is in the planning stages. A training program for a Four Host Nations initiative for the Beijing Olympics is also being developed and another Aboriginal music lab is planned for next summer. ■

Vancouver Community College makes emergency management planning a priority

VCC is making sure that the college is prepared. On Sept. 27, an emergency management committee met to review and update VCC's preparedness, response and recovery planning in the event of a major emergency.

"We expect that an umbrella emergency management plan will be completed by the end of the year," says vice-president of finance and administration, Peter Legg. "It will be an evergreen process so that emergency planning remains a top of mind priority at the college."

New evacuation and shelter-in-place plans have already been drafted. The working group continues to develop options and processes for training, emergency notification, public information, departmental preparedness and social supports.

"The next step is to recruit and train the building response teams," says Legg. "People are the real key to success for this plan."

The college sent out a call for volunteers who will be trained to assist in the safe evacuation or shelter-in-place of members of the community. Training for volunteers will be contracted to an external training provider and will commence early in 2008.

The positions required to form teams at each campus location consist of:

Area wardens - responsible to facilitate campus evacuation and/or shelter-in-place procedures.

Assistance monitors (for persons with disabilities) - responsible to assist in the safe evacuation and/or shelter-in-place of persons with disabilities.

Assembly area coordinators - responsible to monitor the success of the evacuation process.

The committee is requesting that each department (both academic and support services) identify two individuals per work site or campus and shift times (day, evenings and weekends) who would be willing to participate on the team. Team members should possess the following characteristics: function well under stressful conditions, demonstrate confidence in giving direction to others, and their work activities generally occur in a consistent campus location.

Deans and directors are asked to forward their list of volunteers by e-mail to: Doreen Sharan at dsharan@vcc.ca by Nov. 16, 2007:

For more information about volunteering, please contact Maggie Ross or Peter Legg. ■

VCC celebrates Oktoberfest

Employees enjoyed Oktoberfest held on Oct. 11 at the Broadway campus. The event complete with sausages, beer and music was organized by the social committee.

"It was a great opportunity to meet other VCC employees and chat with colleagues," says ESL instructor Margaret Buxton.

Special thanks to the planning committee members: Zoro Mihajlovic (poster design), Food Services staff and volunteers, Sodexo (coffee provider), Alan Matheson and students (live music), and the many other volunteers who helped to make the event a success.

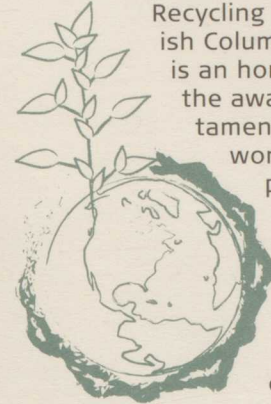
Volunteers are always welcome to join the social committee. Interested employees can contact Carol Sicoli at local 7011.



VCC recognized for its environmental efforts

Spearheaded by Food Services, VCC has been working hard to lessen its environmental impact. In recognition of VCC's efforts, the college was given the 2007 Educator Recognition Award by the

Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC). "It is an honour to receive the award and a testament to the hard work of so many people at the college," says food service manager Les Patterson who has jump-started the campaign to go green.



The latest effort to waste less resources came with the installation of new spray jets in all dish washing and food washing areas in early fall. The old jets averaged over eight liters of water per minute in use. The new jets use only four liters per minute.

Catering services revamped

VCC catering services are boasting a new expanded catering package as well as a new catering coordinator. Anna-Liza Cepe joined VCC as the new catering coordinator. After three years as a sales and catering coordinator with the Crowne Plaza Hotel Georgia, she enrolled in VCC's Hospitality Management program.

Graduating in April of this year, Cepe was awarded the Judy Little Memorial Scholarship for those excelling in catering and events. If you have questions about your next function, contact Cepe at local 8634 or e-mail her at acepe@vcc.ca. ■



PHOTOS: D. SHARAN

Above: Empty plates say it all. (from l to r) Donna Friesen, Lina Sehgal, Penny Barrados and Pauline Wong. Top: Les Patterson (left) and Anna-Liza Cepe make sure the bratwursts are well-done.

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Employee Newsletter
November 2007, Volume 13, Number 1

Publisher:
Stephen Barrington

Copy Editor:
Elizabeth Thomson

Design & Layout:
Daniel Rohloff

**Photographers: Lindsay Bourne, Paul Joseph,
Doreen Sharan and Daniel Rohloff**

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:
Elizabeth Thomson, ethomson@vcc.ca.

Deadline for submission for next issue:
Dec. 14, 2007.

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

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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