

Instructor's contribution to ESL adult learning recognized



VCC ESL instructor Rose Marie Watson (left) celebrates her reward with Colleen Firk, Canada Post's director of communications for western Canada.

Recently retired instructor Rose Marie Watson has been recognized for her contributions for literacy in British Columbia with a 2008 Canada Post community literacy award.

For 40 years, Watson taught English as a second language at VCC and helped to shape adult ESL education in our province.

"This award is a major honour – and we're thrilled one of our ESL faculty was chosen for this recognition," says VCC's interim vice-president of education, Sandra Bailey.

Our ESL programs build English language skills, helping students improve their lives, their careers or their education.

Watson in her work arranged free ESL tutoring at community centres and libraries, and was the project leader of the Homefront Learning program, where volunteer tutors visit homebound ESL learners.

"By getting out into the community, the college fills a need," says Watson. Two hours a week with a trained ESL tutor, or a class in a community, helps students to join in their society. "For immigrants who are young mothers, handicapped or elderly these are valuable programs. Even language barriers themselves can keep people homebound." ■

Car sharing for a smaller footprint

VCC has joined forces with Zipcar, the world's largest car sharing company. Zipcar offers self-service, on-demand cars by the hour or day with vehicles available on campus. VCC staff, faculty and students can join for \$30 per year (a savings of \$25) and the application fee of \$25 is waived.

Members can reserve online or by phone, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They also have automated access to Zipcars using a "Zipcard" to simply unlock the door and drive away. Rates are as low as \$7 per hour and \$69 per day, with gas, parking, insurance, and maintenance included.

Visit www.zipcar.com/vcc to learn more about this alternative to car ownership. ■



zipcar®

INSIDE Connections

Inner-city youth at VCC	2
United Way/VCC fundraising	2
Groundbreaking new program	3
VCC International signs agreement	3
Overview of marketing efforts	4
Community service at VCC	6
Earthquake preparedness	7
VCC instructor recognized	8

News Briefs

New Appointments

Meet VCC's new director of security



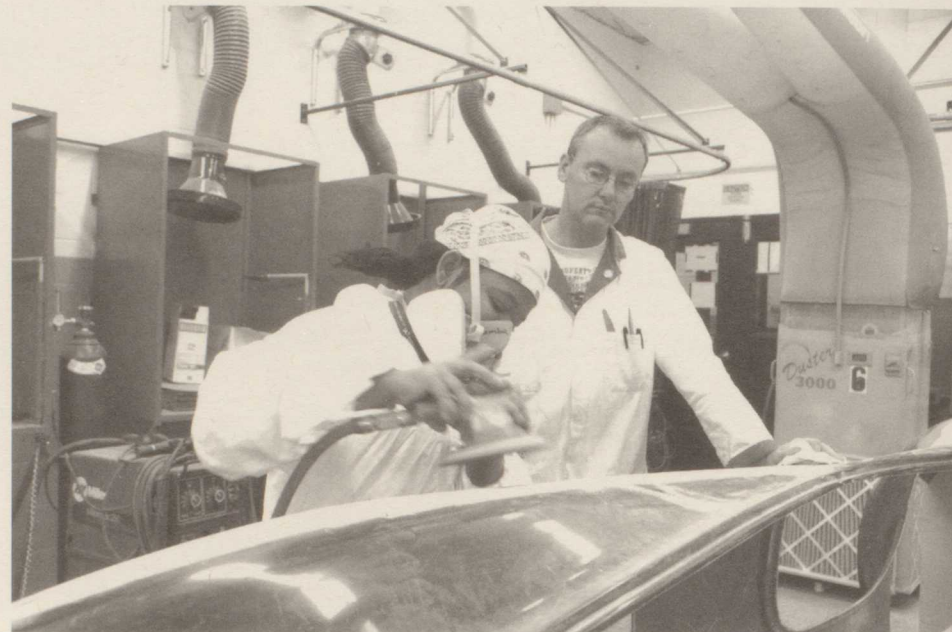
Surinder Aulakh joined our campus community in the newly created director of security position from B.C. Sheriff Services. He has previously taught at the Justice Institute of British Columbia in senior instructor positions, and has an extensive background in threat and risk management.

Safety and security on campus will be Surinder's responsibility at VCC. This includes the planning and direction of campus safety and security programs, and the development of policy and procedure for emergency planning and risk management.

Dave Crowe began his new position of director of facilities this summer. Crowe has been with VCC for almost 30 years and has held several positions during that time from support staff member to administrator. He served as purchasing manager for more than 10 years before taking on the role of interim director of facilities services last year.

VCC welcomes **Kevin Gilbraith** as the new associate director of facilities effective September 2. He has 30 years of experience in facility maintenance management including positions as facilities operations manager for the City of Fort McMurray, Alberta and the District of Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows.

Inner-city youth find success at VCC



Kumba Moseray works on the 1967 Cobra's body under the instruction of auto collision's Ian Chandler. Moseray has now enrolled in the collision repair program.

If you restore it, they will come – Vancouver Community College, Ray-Cam Community Centre and the Vancouver Police have begun a partnership for inner-city youth to experience automotive trades.

Twenty inner-city teens ages 14 and up – six girls and 14 boys – worked this summer on restoring a 1935 Ford sedan and building a replica 1967 Cobra sports car aided by campus and community mentors in the college's automotive shops.

"These kids love cars and learning about them," says Jason Devisser, department head for Automotive Service Technician. "But the skills we are

teaching are only part of what they are learning. The instructors are also the proof of what a career in trades can provide."

The 1935 Ford started as a rusted shell, and the '67 Cobra a collection of components; both cars will become sleek and shiny – something that Ray-Cam Community Centre youth worker Alex Vasiljevic knows will be a major achievement for the kids.

"This program gives them opportunities rather than penalties," says Vasiljevic. "It offers belonging to a new and positive peer group, feeling powerful in development of new skills and recognition for being generous in giving back to the community." ■

Pancakes kick-off fundraising campaign



The 2008 United Way/VCC Fundraising Campaign starts with a pancake breakfast on Oct. 22 at Broadway and Oct. 23 Downtown.

Make a donation, make a difference. Large or small, your gift supports our community's most needy, enhancing the quality of life we all enjoy. This year's campaign aims to increase by

five percent the number of donors and the amount raised. All donors can win prizes, including an indulgent night with full breakfast at the luxurious Sutton Place Hotel in downtown Vancouver.

To volunteer, and make this our best campaign, please contact Lila Heilbrunn at 8566. ■

News Briefs

continued from page 2

Sandra MacSorley is the new associate director of Hospitality Business Services. Hospitality Business Services is responsible for ensuring that VCC's food services operations and the School of Hospitality work together in a manner that supports educational expectations, provides quality service to customers, is fiscally responsible, and assists in maintaining VCC's profile as the best culinary program in Canada.

Ginny Cathcart and **Robin Popow** have been selected as instructional associates for a three-year term which started July 1. They will be working in the Centre for Instructional Development.

Jennifer Hargreaves, the VCC Foundation's new associate director of development joined VCC at the beginning of the summer from the Vancouver Opera with experience in direct mail fund raising.

Nancy Nesbitt is the VCC Foundation's new associate director of alumni relations. She has worked as a job search advisor for VCC's Job Search Central and most recently as assistant to Barb Ash, dean of Student Services.

Jason Devisser is the newly elected department head of the Automotive Technician department. He has been acting department head for the most of the spring and summer brings a wealth of experience to the position.

Settimio Sicoli took on the role of assistant department head, Culinary Arts, effective Sept. 2. Sicoli has served in various positions over his years at VCC including instructor, assistant department head and divisional chair.

Jim Olson is the new department head of Continuing Care effective Sept. 15. He has been with VCC for 30 years, has taught in the continuing care and practical nursing programs, as well as continuing studies.

New entrée – Aboriginal cuisine now on the menu

With its new Aboriginal Culinary program, VCC is helping to bring aboriginal cuisine to the forefront of the B.C. culinary arena.

"This new program has immense opportunity and potential," says Jonathan Rouse, dean of hospitality. In collaboration with the Four Host Nations, VCC is preparing aboriginal students to showcase their talents during the 2010 Olympics games as well as giving them a foundation to build a career on.

Ben Genaille, instructor for the program, has dreamed of starting a program like this for ten years. "With Ben's leadership, I believe it will evolve to be of national and international significance," says Rouse.

Genaille is a decent of the Cree Nation and has been perfecting his craft in the kitchen since 1983. He has worked in some of Vancouver's finest restaurants including Le Crocodile, Piccolo Mondo, Bianco Nero, the Mandarin Hotel and the Delta Convention Centre. His greatest passion is what he calls "Kanata Cuisine" which is utilizing Canadian First Nations produce, products, technique and ingredients to prepare traditional foods with a modern methods and presentation.

The first class of Aboriginal Culinary students started their training at the beginning of September and will graduate next August. ■

VCC signs transfer agreement with TRU and CIBT



(from right to left) Donna Hooker, Shuai Yang, executive vice-president of CIBT and Roger Barnsley, president and vice-chancellor of TRU, shake hands after signing the agreement.

Chinese students headed for Thompson Rivers University will make VCC their first Canadian destination.

VCC signed an agreement this summer with Thompson Rivers University (TRU) and CIBT Education Group Inc. (CIBT) in Beijing, China. Under this agreement, students completing the two-year Business Administration or Computer Science program at CIBT in China will be able to complete their bachelor degree at TRU. Before gaining admission to TRU, however, students must participate in a 9 to 12-month cohort English upgrading

and learning competence training program at VCC.

"The program will focus on developing their business English, public speaking, reporting and teamwork abilities," says Donna Hooker, VCC International director. Student will also hone their research and critical thinking skills as part of the course work.

"This agreement helps to fulfill our mandate to increase the international student enrolment at VCC while preparing Chinese students to complete their degree," says Hooker. ■

VCC offerings enjoy promotional push

There was rain, there was sun, and there was VCC marketing over the summer.

While the weather was hit and miss, VCC's student recruitment efforts continued on target through the summer, maintaining a solid college presence in the marketplace in support of September programs.



Vancouver Community College is everywhere. In the classroom and the community, in the office and on the street. We're B.C.'s No. 1 college, with nearly 26,000 students and graduates succeeding everywhere.

Get the courses you need at VCC. Our flexible programs give you the skills and knowledge to succeed — from literacy and high school to ESL, upgrading and first-year university. Take a look. You'll see.

Apply now for classes starting next term.

www.vcc.ca
604.871.7000

School of Arts and Sciences
Vancouver Community College

Transit riders continue to see VCC throughout the system as the college's campaign — which expanded at the beginning of the year — highlights trades, hospitality/culinary and ABE, UT and ESL programming through 'VCC is here' recruitment ads. Promotion of ABE was updated late last year with the addition of a bright red banner — noting 'Upgrading now free' — to promote the programming's tuition-free status.

Transit ads — 280 in all — have been running in SkyTrain and on targeted bus routes, and will continue through March next year. VCC has, on average, at least one ad in every SkyTrain car, giving the college strong reach among the system's ridership.

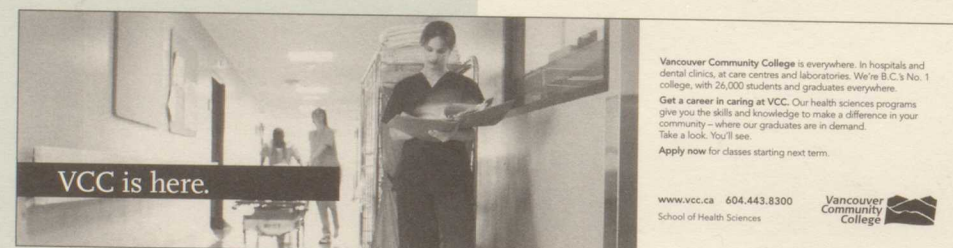
Advertising and promotion such as this is an important component in student recruitment — but it's only part of the work of a larger team that includes advising and registration, notes Deanna Rexe, interim vice-president of strategy and enrolment.

"We're going to look at ways to further improve what we do across all the enrolment services to make our efforts more efficient, and make our processes easier for prospects," says Rexe.

"Getting students through our doors and into our classes is vital to supporting our programs," she says. "We've heard a lot of good ideas, and we'll be looking to start building on them over the coming few months."

"Getting students through our doors and into our classes is vital to supporting our programs"

— Vice-president Deanna Rexe



Vancouver Community College is everywhere. In hospitals and dental clinics, at care centres and laboratories. We're B.C.'s No. 1 college, with 26,000 students and graduates everywhere.

Get a career in caring at VCC. Our health sciences programs give you the skills and knowledge to make a difference in your community — where our graduates are in demand. Take a look. You'll see.

Apply now for classes starting next term.

www.vcc.ca 604.443.8300
School of Health Sciences

Vancouver Community College



Vancouver Community College is everywhere. In the studio and the workshop, on the runway and in print. We're B.C.'s No. 1 college, with 26,000 students and graduates everywhere.

Create your own style at VCC. Our design programs give you the skills and know-how to make the most of your talents in fashion, jewellery, digital graphics and hair design. Take a look. You'll see.

Apply now for classes starting soon.

www.vcc.ca 604.443.8300
Centre for Design

Vancouver Community College

VCC's transit spots were helped with newspaper, radio and online efforts over the summer. Newspaper advertising ramped up in early May and continued through the summer, with regular ads in the likes of the Vancouver Sun, The Province, the Georgia Straight, Metro, Vancouver 24Hours, Asia Pacific Post and Canadian Immigrant.

Advertising — in both colour and black-and-white — covered a host of VCC programming, including offerings in transportation trades, health sciences, music, ABE/UT/ESL, design, hospitality and continuing studies.

Discover the freedom of a great career

Discover the freedom of a great career

It's a good feeling to land a great job. If you'd like to enhance your career prospects or train for a more senior position, check out B.C.'s No. 1 college.

Talk to us about your career options at one of these free information sessions:

TESOL (Teaching English to Speaker of Other Languages)
Tuesday, Sept. 16, noon — room 205B

Esthetics / Hair Design
Wednesday, Sept. 17, 4:30 p.m. — room 201

Culinary Arts
Friday, Sept. 19, 9:30 a.m. — room 305 C

Paralegal Certificate
Saturday, Sept. 20, noon — room 203

Automotive Collision
Monday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m. — Collision Body Shop

offered at our **Broadway campus**, 1155 East Broadway

All sessions except Automotive Collision programs are offered at our **Downtown campus**, 200-block Dunsmuir at Hamilton (two blocks west of Stadium SkyTrain station).

Mark your calendars: VCC hosts its next **Information Night** on Oct. 8, 4:30 — 6:30 p.m. at the Downtown campus.

For more information call 604.443.8453
Or visit www.vcc.ca

Vancouver Community College

School of Arts and Sciences School of Music Centre for Transportation Trades
Centre for Continuing Studies Centre for Design School of Health Sciences
School of Instructor Education School of Language Studies School of Hospitality

Good feeling to land a great job. If you'd like to enhance your career prospects or train for a more senior position, check out B.C.'s No. 1 college.

Talk to us about your career options at one of these free information sessions:

National / Physical Therapist Assistant
Friday, June 9 at 4 p.m. Room 309

ESL
Saturday, June 11 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Room 724

ESL as a Second Language (ESL)
Saturday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. Room 5025 Broadway campus

ESL
Saturday, June 11 at 4:30 p.m. Room 201

ESL Unit Clerk
Saturday, June 11 at 5 p.m. Room 518

Administrative Assistant
Saturday, June 12 at 3 p.m. Room 622

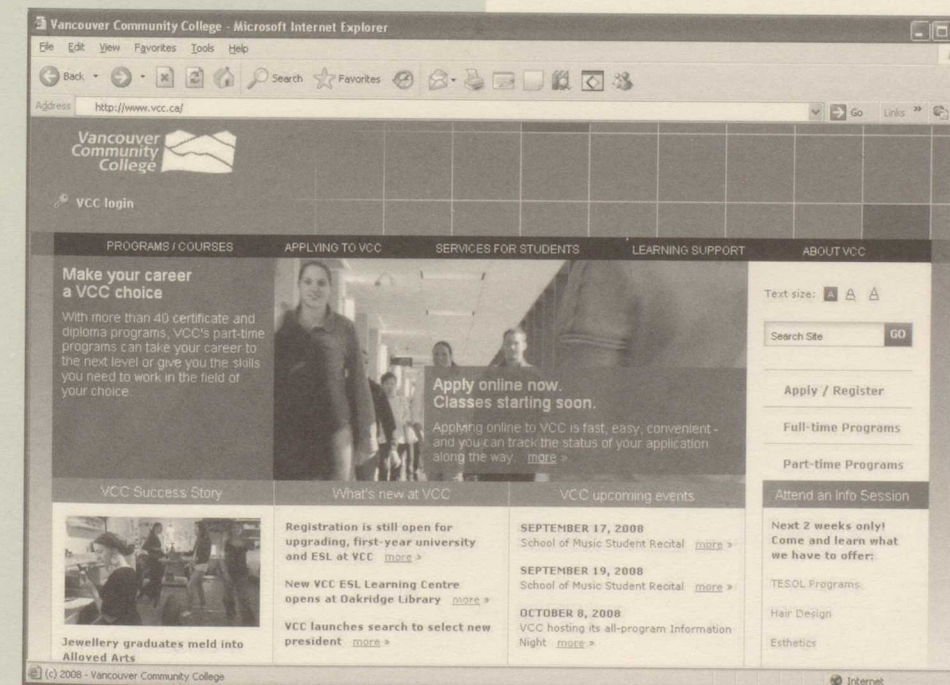
ESL Arts
Saturday, June 13 at 9:30 a.m. Room 305 C

Sessions (except where noted) are offered at our **Downtown campus**, 200-block Dunsmuir at Hamilton (Stadium SkyTrain station).

For more information visit www.vcc.ca or call
advising department at 604.443.8453

Vancouver Community College

School of Music School of Health Sciences
Studies Centre for Technology School of Hospitality
on Trades School of Instructor Education
Studies Centre for Design Centre for Business Studies



Vancouver Community College - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://www.vcc.ca/>

Vancouver Community College

VCC login

PROGRAMS / COURSES APPLYING TO VCC SERVICES FOR STUDENTS LEARNING SUPPORT ABOUT VCC

Make your career a VCC choice

With more than 40 certificate and diploma programs, VCC's part-time programs can take your career to the next level or give you the skills you need to work in the field of your choice.

Apply online now. Classes starting soon.

Applying online to VCC is fast, easy, convenient — and you can track the status of your application along the way. [more >](#)

VCC Success Story

What's new at VCC

Registration is still open for upgrading, first-year university and ESL at VCC. [more >](#)

New VCC ESL Learning Centre opens at Oakridge Library. [more >](#)

VCC launches search to select new president. [more >](#)

VCC upcoming events

SEPTEMBER 17, 2008
School of Music Student Recital. [more >](#)

SEPTEMBER 19, 2008
School of Music Student Recital. [more >](#)

OCTOBER 8, 2008
VCC hosting its all-program Information Night. [more >](#)

Text size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

Search Site

[Apply / Register](#)

[Full-time Programs](#)

[Part-time Programs](#)

[Attend an Info Session](#)

Next 2 weeks only! Come and learn what we have to offer:

[TESOL Programs](#)

[Hair Design](#)

[Esthetics](#)

© 2008 - Vancouver Community College

Dozens of information sessions, all faculty-led, were supported through advertising.

VCC took the opportunity, as well, to tie advertising and media relations efforts with the announcement of British Columbia's Top in Trades award-winners, one of whom was college instructor Mario Trettenero, who captured the top educator award.



On radio: spots on Chinese-language radio supported VCC ESL through the key summer recruitment period. Ads on 95 Crave — one of Vancouver's top stations reaching the student market — variously promoted career programs, upgrading and UT. Roughly 120 spots — several each day for six weeks — prompted prospects to consider their options: a go-nowhere job or a career path through VCC.

VCC's revamped website launched in the spring with a reconfirmed mission: student recruitment. A new vcc.ca went live with a new look, a new interface and new navigation to better engage prospective students online.

Cleaner formatting and enhanced imagery updated the website's presentation of program information, while the homepage design gives greater flexibility for promoting specific programs. Streamlined navigation and new in-page features make it easier for prospective students to apply online.

So far the website's success has been considerable. User data from the past six months shows that visitors are staying longer (14 per cent) and exploring deeper (32 per cent); traffic is up more than 40 per cent to the site's 'apply/register online' path, supporting both full-time and part-time programming.

VCC's homepage has promoted a host of programming over its initial several months, including ABE/literacy, award-winning programs and employees, ESL, digital graphic design, first-year university, music, transportation trades and more.

News Briefs

continued from page 3

David Branter took on the role of department head for the School of Music effective Sept. 1. A superb saxophonist and teacher, he is currently completing a Doctor of Music in Saxophone Performance, Jazz Studies, Music History and Literature at the University of Indiana.

Arsineh Garabedian is the new Business Management department head. She brings 20 years of professional experience to the role and is a registered CA in both B.C. and Quebec. At VCC, she has been teaching primarily in the Financial Management and Accounting and Information Technology program. She also teaches online and is using Moodle for two of her VCC courses.

Lisa Supeene has been elected as the new department head of Dental Hygiene. She also holds a Bachelor in dental sciences and joined the VCC faculty in 2001.

Last month, **Bahiyih Bahbahani** took on the role of confidential assistant to the vice-president Education. She has been an assistant to VCC deans and holds a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from SFU and has a Music Diploma from VCC.

Candice Lindsay has accepted an appointment as the Coordinator I for the EEA Program. She comes to the position from Counselling where she served as assistant department head. She has a Master's in counselling psychology and over 12 years of experience designing curriculum and delivering career exploration, job skills, stress management, study skills and communication workshops and courses.

VCC students know community service is the key to success

Take 20 students re-entering the workforce, 20 graduating Hair Design students, and an international charity, add fashion students for flair. This the cut of success.

The makeovers began at Dress for Success – a charity providing professional attire to women rejoining the workforce – with fittings and fashion consultation by Fashion Merchandising students. Hair styling with the Hair Design class and lunch at 4Corners followed.



PHOTOS: S. BALDWIN

The event was organized by Student Leadership Club members Steve Jiu and Pryia Gandhi. "I've always wanted to do something like this," said Jiu, who believes success begins with community service.

Thirteen of the 20 students were from Employment and Educational Access for Women; seven from the Office Administration program. "They've excited," said EEA program head Dianne Schwartz. "They've just completed a program of self-discovery and career planning. This is the first part of the next step - entering the job market."

Three fashion merchandising students helped select a suit, a blouse, and shoes for each student. "It was like having a personal shopper with professional fashion knowledge," said EEA student Ina Jimanez.

Jimanez was thrilled with her outfit but the biggest impact was less material. Jimanez's 14-year-old daughter saw how her mother was treated – as special.

"It is not just how they look that will help them with their confidence, but knowing that others also want them to succeed," said Gandhi. ■



Pryia Gandhi and Steve Jiu (top). Ina Jimanez receives styling at VCC's hair salon.

Vancouver Community College's Employee Newsletter - September 2008

Office Emergency Kit

- **Nylon carrying bag or day-pack**
- **Prescription medications and items such as pain-relievers, allergy tablets**
- **First aid kit**
- **Flashlight and fresh batteries**
- **Portable radio and fresh batteries**
- **Comfortable walking shoes**
- **Whistle**
- **Dry food (high energy bars, dried fruits, jerky, etc)**
- **Liquid refreshments (water or soft drinks)**
- **Emergency blanket (small silver one)**
- **Toiletries and hygiene items**
- **Plastic bags**
- **Matches and lighter**
- **Cash: small denominations and quarters for payphones**
- **Reading materials, cards, family photos, etc.**

INFO NIGHT

OCTOBER 8, 2008
4:30 - 6:30 PM

Vancouver Community College.
One night. Everything you need to tell them.

Earthquake Preparedness

If a major earthquake were to occur, knowing what to do and some preparation will be important for your survival. The campus community will likely have to rely on its own resources for an extended period of time. As an individual, you might need to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours.

Preparing

Check your workspace for earthquake safety:

1. Secure bookshelves and do not place heavy objects on top shelves.
2. Place furniture such as file cabinets where they can't fall and block doorways.

Maintain an emergency kit in a pack. (see sidebar)

The dangers

The biggest dangers during an earthquake and aftershocks are:

1. Falling objects (pictures, items in cupboards and on shelves, ceiling tiles and fixtures, furniture, file cabinets, and bookshelves);
2. Swinging doors and broken windows;
3. Fires (from broken natural gas lines or electrical short circuits).

What to do when inside a building

1. Stay inside.
2. Take cover underneath a desk or table, or against an inside wall protecting your head and neck. Do not use doorways as doors may slam shut injuring you.
3. Stay away from windows where glass can shatter and from objects that could fall on you.
4. Do NOT use elevators.

What to do when outside

1. Stay in an open area away from trees, buildings, walls and power lines. Do not enter a building.
2. Drop to your knees and get into a fetal position, close your eyes and cross your arms over the back of your neck for protection. Stay in this position until the shaking stops.
3. In a moving vehicle, stop quickly and stay in the vehicle. Once the shaking has stopped, proceed with caution. Avoid bridges or ramps that may have been damaged by the quake.

After the shaking stops

Be prepared to evacuate if instructed to do so. The decision to evacuate campus will be based on the severity of the earthquake and the damage to the buildings.

1. Do NOT use regular or cellular phones except to report serious injuries.
2. If instructed to evacuate, follow VCC's Evacuation Procedures.
3. Assist in the evacuation of people with special needs.
4. Follow the instructions of area wardens and/or security staff. These will be provided by means of door-to-door alert, fire alarms, and bull-horns.
5. Do not enter any building that is deemed to be or appears unsafe.
6. Leave the area if you smell gas or fumes from other chemicals.
7. Be prepared for aftershocks.
8. Help injured or trapped people. Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.

Coming Events

Voices from the Community Speakers Series

Voices from the Community features local speakers on current and relevant issues from their area of expertise and is intended to inform, inspire and engage.

The Developing Human: Integrative Approaches to Health and Wellness

Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

Downtown campus - room 240

Ross A. Laird, best-selling author and award-winning scholar, presents emerging ideas and strategies to assist children, adolescents and adults through the complex series of stages that contribute to overall health and wellness. Building on current research in the fields of development, health, fitness, psychology, and neuroscience, Dr. Laird provides a framework for understanding and working with various challenges and milestones throughout the lifespan: addictions, trauma, depression, anxiety, behavioural concerns, educational hurdles, and more.

This workshop will interest professionals in health, social services, education, childhood development, and related fields, as well as those working on program development and within the rapidly-changing landscape of integrative and interdisciplinary human services.

Register online or by calling
604.443.8484. \$35

Connections

Vancouver Community College's
Employee Newsletter
September 2008, Volume 13, Number 4

Publisher:
Stephen Barrington

Copy Editors:
Elizabeth Thomson, Paul Dayson

Design & Layout:
Daniel Rohloff, Keith Parker

Photographers:
Stephen Baldwin, Daniel Rohloff

VCC instructor named top trades educator

VCC's Mario Trettenero, department head for Auto Collision program, was recognized as this year's top trades educator by B.C.'s Industry Training Authority in the Province newspaper's annual Top in Trades feature.

Trettenero discovered his passion for auto painting as a young teenager on Northern Vancouver Island.

"I was 14 years old, working with my godfather prepping and painting logging vehicles," he says. "I'll never forget the feeling of that spray gun in my hand. I was hooked right there and then."

He did his own entry-level and apprenticeship training at VCC, returning to the college to teach after 10 years as a Red Seal-certified automotive painter.

As department head, Trettenero is a key player in two programs providing VCC trades training to high school students, including securing funding. Their education here gives them a jump on auto collision apprenticeships allowing them to enter in demand jobs and receive high wages sooner.

He is a tireless advocate for his industry, raising scholarships and bursaries donations, organizing competition at B.C. Skills, online education and sitting on the ITA's Red Seal committee.

"We have the ability to change a person's life," says Trettenero about VCC's trades training. "We provide people with a skill set, self-confidence, opportunity and a career." ■

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008

THE PROVINCE | MONEY | A25

TOP IN TRADES

Name: Mario Trettenero
Category: Educator
Age: 45
Town: Ladner
Trade: Automotive Painter
Current job: Department head, automotive collision repair and refinishing program
Employer: Vancouver Community College
Years in the trade: 21
Education: Vancouver Community College
Why would someone want a career in automotive collision repair?
"Opportunities. There is a huge shortage of people in the automotive trades and the

opportunities are endless. And they're constant..."
Why did you nominate Mario for this award? "He is dedicated to the promotion of his trade within his college and beyond and he has worked tirelessly as an educational leader.
As a result, he is highly regarded within his industry as well as in the educational community."
— Robert Glover, friend; Sandra Bailey, Dean of VCC's Centres for Design, Technology and Trades; Carole MacFarlane, Vancouver School District/college partnership representative.

He's hooked on painting autos

BY WENDY MCLELLAN
BUSINESS REPORTER

Mario Trettenero didn't follow the most direct route to his trade, but he clearly remembers the moment his journey began. He was 14 years old and working for his godfather, who owned a gas station and a garage in Woss Lake, a tiny community at the north end of Vancouver Island. His godfather had a contract with a local logging firm to paint their vehicles and equipment.

"He asked one day if I wanted to learn to paint and of course I said 'yes,' and I watched him and listened," Trettenero said. "When it was my turn, he handed me the spray gun and I'll never forget the feeling — it felt like an extension of my arm."

"I was hooked right there and then."

Despite the instant connection with the

paint gun, Trettenero wasn't sure which trade to pursue; he was only sure he wanted to work in the trades. The only apprenticeship program his high school offered was in heavy-duty mechanics, so he signed up. "I excelled at it, but it wasn't really something I wanted to do," he said. "I was offered a job as a heavy-duty mechanic, but I was 18 years old and I didn't want to stay on Vancouver Island. I wanted to explore a little."

So Trettenero moved to Vancouver to work in his brother's nightclub. Five years later, he was bar manager; he was also married with a two-year-old son.

"I knew this was not a lifestyle that was conducive to raising a family," he said.

He decided it was time to go back to the trades and although he was well on his way to a ticket as a heavy-duty mechanic, he recalled the moment with the spray gun and

enrolled, instead, in an automotive painting program. Trettenero spent five years with his first employer, then moved to a larger shop where he could work more and earn the money to pay for the mortgage, family vacations and future education costs for two kids. At 30, he took a four-year break from the trades and operated a business with a partner, processing and packing fish caught by sports fishermen.

"I'm a real fisherman and I love the ocean and I wanted a change in my life," he said. "I learned a lot, but I was working seven days a week. I wanted to go back to the trades and what I truly love."

A year after going back to the autobody shop, one of his former instructors from the automotive painting program suggested he consider going back to school to teach his

■ VCC's Mario Trettenero (right) with students Gerson Gonzales and Luis Ramirez. WINNE LEONARD — THE PROVINCE

trade. It only took a day to make the decision. "This was an opportunity to give back, to make a difference," Trettenero said. Five years later, he was head of VCC's automotive collision repair department. His new goal is to pursue a master's degree and work toward becoming dean of a trades program at a post-secondary institution. Trettenero's advice: "Follow your heart, take the opportunities that come up, and love every single second of it."

email: mario@vcc.ca; phone: 604.273.2222

THURSDAY:
Levi Rouble, mechanic

Vancouver Community College

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
2 fully grown	3,308 litres	2,016 million BTUs	112 pounds	10 pounds	211 pounds

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