

VCC department head leads Team Canada to gold

Touch here to begin



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Culinary arts department head John Carlo Felicella returned from the 2008 Culinary Olympics with his luggage four medals heavier.

Working under Felicella, the team manager, Culinary Team Canada won three gold medals and one silver, placing fifth in the world at the international competition, held in Erfurt, Germany from Oct. 19-22.

Held every four years, and officially called the Internationale Kochkunst Ausstellung (IKA), it is known as the culinary "Olympics" because of how the competition tests chefs. With 40

national teams and more than 2000 chefs and confectioners competing for medals, this competition was the biggest assemblage of culinary professionals ever.

Culinary Team Canada is made up of Felicella, Tobias MacDonald (La Belle Auberge Restaurant, Ladner, B.C.), Scott Jaeger (The Pear Tree Restaurant, Burnaby, B.C.), Hamid Salimian (The Westin Bear Mountain Resort, Victoria, B.C.), and Cameron Huley (St. Charles Golf and Country Club, Winnipeg, Man.). Mickey Zhao (St Germaine Bakery, Vancouver, B.C.) is the team's pastry chef. ■

Applying to VCC just got easier. This fall the college installed new online application kiosks.

"Our primary goal is to increase applications and recruitment to VCC's programs," said acting-registrar Deanna Rexe. "Using the latest technology is just one of the ways to do it."

Labelled "Apply here," the kiosks improve visibility and access to the online application process, and other services such as ordering of transcripts, checking grades and applying for financial aid – all outside of regular business hours.

A project of IT, the registrar's office, and the marketing department, the initial phase has seen the installation of three kiosks – one at the Broadway campus on the fourth floor and two downtown in the atrium and the registrar's office. Additional kiosks are anticipated in the new year. ■

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Appointments

Kathleen Campbell is the new associate director of financial reporting. Campbell will be in the position for 18 months as Kim Tsok's maternity replacement. She is a chartered accountant with 20 years of experience in the private, government, non-profit, and public accounting sectors.

Garth Manning began his second term as the coordinator of VCC's ABE youth program at the Broadway Youth Resource Centre. This innovative and highly successful program which helps students complete or transition back into high school was recently profiled in the Auditor General's *Report on Literacy*. The program was used as an example of the best practice for supporting youth at risk – many of whom have left mainstream secondary education.

Kate Gates has been elected as the department head for the counselling department. Gates was previously acting as the department head for Maija Wiik.

Ted Hougham is the new department head of the college and career access department. Hougham recently returned to the department after serving the college in the role of instructional associate.

Advising services has two new staff working at the front counter at the downtown campus: **Wendy Malo** has returned to replace Nancy Rose, who is on leave, and **Sura Pahlavan** who has worked as an auxiliary for several years.

Fundraising campaign exceeds goal

The 2008 United Way/VCC Foundation campaign beat its goal of raising \$25,000 this year. More than 100 VCC employees opened their hearts and wallets to donate \$29,345. ■



VCC's (left to right) Anne Tollstam, Settimio Sicoli, Shirley Teo and Robin Popow serve up the fare at United Way/VCC Foundation fundraising breakfast.

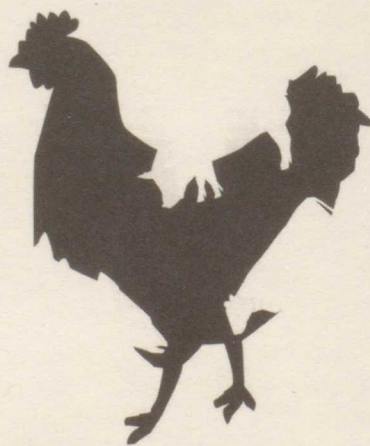
VCC digital graphic design grads win top national award

Two digital graphic design graduates from Vancouver Community College have been honoured for their innovative design work by Applied Arts magazine, one of the field's most avant-garde publications.

Rochelle Garrison and Katie Hernandez won national awards in the Applied Arts 2008 competition. "Holding a national magazine displaying a piece of your work is the ultimate validation," says Garrison. "It's validation for the hard work and early mornings, but also for choosing the right school. It's proof that it's not the length of the program but the quality," she says.

Winners are published in the special student awards section of the fall issue of Applied Arts which boasts 65,000 readers including many potential employers. ■

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Rochelle Garrison's winning poster

News Briefs

VCC in the News

There has been strong coverage for the college this fall, including a major spread in the Vancouver Sun, which kicked off a five-part series on literacy with a two-page feature on VCC's work in this important field. Several students and faculty were interviewed and photographed for the feature.

VCC's approach to part-time faculty was praised in the November issue of the U.S.-based Chronicle of Higher Education, which pointed to VCC as 'a model for colleges in the United States'; coverage included an interview with interim VP of human resources Rob Henderson and a photo of faculty member Laurence Mollerup from the School of Music.

A sampling of other media coverage includes: community literacy award-winner Rose Marie Watson in Chinese-language newspapers, JJ's restaurant in the Georgia Straight and our fashion arts program featured in the WestEnder and several online publications.

In the week before VCC's Information Night, the college and The Province newspaper brought SkyTrain riders a special four-page 'VCC special edition' that was wrapped around the regular issue of the paper. 'Your career is waiting – train for it at Vancouver Community College,' read the headline on the front-page item, which led readers to further VCC information inside the spread. VCC's special edition reached 10,000 commuters – a strong audience for the college's programming – at SkyTrain stations throughout the city; that day's full run of The Province featured a full-page colour ad for Information Night, which reached the paper's entire readership.

VCC baking and pastry arts celebrates Christmas in Canada



VCC's student-made gingerbread creation debuted last week in the professional category of the Hyatt Regency's 5th Annual Gingerbread House contest.

VCC's student-made gingerbread creation debuted last week in the professional category of the Hyatt Regency's fifth annual gingerbread house contest. It's an edible masterpiece that depicts Santa flying over Canada's provinces and territories led by a team of reindeer adorned with maple leaves. "Our goal was to create a display that would speak to people of all ages," says Marlie Van de Ven, baking and pastry arts instructor in charge of the project. "It has truly been a very creative and valuable experience for us all."

The entry is completely edible, took 330 hours and 24 students to complete and includes 37 kilograms of icing and 44 kilograms of gingerbread.

For student Nicole Hancock, working on the piece was a dream come true. "I used to visit the gingerbread displays every year," says Hancock. "When I found out that I could be part of it now that I was studying at VCC, I was thrilled."

All entries will be on display in the Hyatt Regency lobby until Dec. 29. Admission to Gingerbread Lane is by donation in support of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of B.C. and Yukon. ■

Be travel-wise with VCC Int'l

Once your airplane touches down, do you know the address of your hotel? VCC International suggests bringing your hotel's address in the local language. This is just one tip offered at VCC International's pre-departure briefings.

Donna Hooker, director of VCC International, learned her lesson years ago when arriving in Taiwan.

"After collecting my luggage shortly after midnight, I hopped into a taxi and gave the driver the name of the hotel I had a reservation for," says Hooker. "He didn't understand me and did not know the hotel." Throughout the trip, the driver asked many people about the hotel, but no one knew of it.

"I became wary about the hotel and asked the driver to take me to any 'American hotel'," says Hooker. The relieved driver promptly dropped her off at a modern hotel with several English speakers on staff. She was assured that her reservation was at a very nice place and the staff gave instructions to the driver. "In the end, my hotel was wonderful," says Hooker.

VCC International offers a pre-departure orientation for representatives of the college going abroad. The orientation provides faculty, staff and students with practical knowledge about travelling abroad including country information, travel warnings, safety and health tips, money and banking issues. The traveler will also be provided with local emergency contacts.

For more information, contact Hilary Wong at local 8768. ■

Celebrating our global citizenship

VCC International joined other Canadian post-secondary institutions and over 85 countries around the globe to celebrate International Education Week in November. This year's theme promoted global citizenship.

VCC International along with other college departments arranged displays and activities which focused on how international education enriches learning experiences, and prepares students for life in a complex and increasingly interdependent world.

International week highlights

Students, staff and faculty enjoyed:

- A seminar titled Eat Your Way Around the World – with food journalist and celebrity chef, Don Genova.
- Testimonials from VCC International students about their experience in Canada.
- A contest for the best international travel photo.
- A map display tracking the VCC community presence worldwide.
- A concert featuring VCC School of Music Latin Jazz Ensemble.
- A fun online game about cultural folk sayings.
- International menu items from JJ's and 4 Corners restaurants, and the cafeterias.



PHOTO: S. REMNANT

Students and alumni showcased their designs and met potential employers at the oneofakind show.

Sale showcases VCC designs

VCC design programs united to present their programs and talented students to the discerning shoppers at the oneofakind show and sale from Nov. 20-23 at B.C. Place.

VCC's fashion arts, jewellery and digital graphic design programs joined 150 artists and artisans at this unique show.

"Our student and alumni participants greatly enjoyed the show," says Judy

Ho, fashion arts program coordinator. "Media, store owners and distributors came by the booth to meet our designers and view their collections," said Ho.

"The show gave the programs an opportunity to work together to showcase their creative skills," says Sal Ferreras, dean of the Centre for Design. ■

Board chair urges greater recognition for colleges' work

VCC and this province's colleges, are critical to the success of our post-secondary sector, and they need greater recognition for the work they do preparing an educated and skilled workforce, board chair Don Fairbairn told a meeting of the provincial Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services this fall.

"B.C.'s colleges are deeply connected to their communities and highly successful at what they do," says Fairbairn.

"Success of colleges – VCC among them – should be rewarded and celebrated.

"There are hundreds of success stories at Vancouver Community College," says Fairbairn, who advocated for revised funding for the college. "We have strong programs and talented faculty.

"Our outcomes are outstanding: 92 per cent of VCC graduates are in the labour force – and of these, 94 per cent are employed. That's an impressive achievement." ■

Connections

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Elizabeth Thomson, ethomson@vcc.ca.

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Vancouver Community College

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