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u p d a t e

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Phyllis Argyle of Langara's Computing Centre put a lot of laughs into her job of raising money for the United Way. United Way activities are being held around VCC, thanks to the efforts of numerous committee members. A special tip of the hat to the three committee chairpeople: Pat May, for Central Admin., KEC and C.E., City Centre's Jim Olson and Langara's Therese Paradis.



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Lajoie probes satellite instruction

Bob Lajoie has been given a mandate to research and assess the feasibility of delivering the expertise of VCC faculty members and other professionals to TV screens around the world.

Lajoie, who was previously CE's Acting Associate Director of Program Services, began work at Langara November 1 in the new position of Director of Educational Telecommunications. His job involves researching and developing satellite-relayed, educational programs for students in Pacific Rim countries, as well as professional development programs for faculty and staff in other colleges and universities in Canada.

"We'll consider, for example, providing both orientation and pre-training pro-

grams for students at the University of Hong Kong before they arrive for their studies at VCC," said Lajoie.

Lajoie said interest in the domestic application of educational telecommunications was sparked, in part, by a U.S. satellite program entitled Building Community Colleges to the Year 2000, which was recently viewed at Langara.

Said Lajoie: "That program allowed us to discuss the American perspective, but it also raised some valid and exciting possibilities for similar programs in Canada.

"I'm extremely excited with VCC's opportunity to enter the era of communications technology as it will apply to education."



Lajoie is right on top of his new job, (with the help of a little photographic sleight-of-hand from IMS)

"We'll consider, for example, providing both orientation and pre-training programs for students at the University of Hong Kong before they arrive for their studies at VCC," said Lajoie.

No experience- no job? No way, say Co-op grads

by Monika Ullmann

When Michael Takasaki graduates from VCC this month, he won't be joining the ranks of educated people collecting unemployment insurance. Takasaki has escaped the Catch-22 of "no experience - no job" by participating in the Computer Information Services Co-op Education Program, which integrates practical work experience with classroom study.

The two-year program at Langara Campus gives students the option of taking two semesters of paid work experience as part of the six semester curriculum. Takasaki spent his first Co-op semester with Canada Safeway and the second semester with Seaboard Life Insurance Company. Seaboard was so impressed with his performance, they offered Takasaki a job as soon as he graduates.

Denise White, programmer analyst and Takasaki's supervisor at Seaboard, is enthusiastic about the Co-op concept: "We view it as a recruitment tool. It gives us a four-month look-see at potential employees."

Another Seaboard trainer, Chuck Mohamed, summed it up this way: "Everybody profits."

Two years ago, the 26-year-old Takasaki—who is married and the father of a young daughter—was a chef whose career had hit a plateau



VCC Co-op Education student Michael Takasaki is shown the ropes by Seaboard Life Insurance supervisor Denise White

"I was looking for challenges; a career that would offer me the opportunity to keep learning new things," said Takasaki. He found the challenge in the CIS program. Takasaki spent six to seven hours a day in class, then did three to four hours of homework each night plus eight hours on weekends.

All that hard work paid off. He qualified for the Co-op option by achieving better than the required 2.6 grade point average. At Seaboard, he put in extra hours learning the complex company software package called Capsile. "The best thing about the work semester was the opportunity to work on a main-frame," said Takasaki.

Hugh Lefebvre, Co-ordinator of Co-op Programs at Langara, says that "quali-

fied students who do not take the Co-op route usually regret it later." Two-thirds of all students qualify for the option, and from that group 90 per cent go into a Co-op program. This year, the CIS program will graduate 35 students, with an equal number expected next year. Most students graduating from the Co-op Program find jobs within a year of graduating.

The CIS Co-op option was started in 1980 and has seen a steady increase in numbers. VCC was the first college in B.C. to add Co-op education to its curriculum. In 1988, Accounting was added, and in 1989, General Insurance, Realty Appraisal and Computer Systems Technologist. A new Co-op Program, Dental Technician, has been added at City Centre.

Dates set for reclassification appeals

VCC and the Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees Union (VMREU) intend to begin dealing with pay reclassification appeals in the second week of December. Both parties also agreed that April 1, 1991 is a "reasonable" date for completion of the appeals, with the exception of those which may require an arbitrated settlement.

VCC Employee Relations Director Dale Jones and VMREU Classification Review Officer Steve Baker said both sides will start by discussing the "factor" system that has been used to evaluate each position. That system awards points to a job, depending on a number of factors such as education, work complexity and supervisory responsibilities. Once there is an agreement on the "weighting" of each item within the factor system—which both union and management feel can be achieved by the beginning of January—the individual appeals can be addressed.

The process will also include reclassification of all new positions.

The college has paid increases and retroactive pay to employees in positions that were upgraded. The increases for all upgraded reclassifications are retroactive to April 1, 1989.

Added Jones: "Those positions being downgraded will continue to accrue annual increases, as appropriate, and receive all general wage increases for the duration of time an individual remains in that position."

Gemology students sparkle on national, world scene

For two consecutive years, VCC gemology students have won the top honours in the two-year Canadian Gemological Association Diploma Program.

Vivian Lee won this year's Dean S. Field Medal, awarded to the top Canadian student in the preliminary year of the program. Kathryn Ann Jarvis, who won the Field Medal last year, won both national and international honours in her second year. She was awarded the W. Donald Goddard Award for the highest mark in Canada and also received the prestigious Tully Memorial Medal.

Awarded by the Gemological Association of Great Britain, the Tully Medal is a rare honour. It is only given to papers of outstanding quality, and allows the recipient to become a Fellow of the Gemological Association of Great Britain. This year, 398 students from 24 countries wrote the examination. Only 50 Tully Medals have been awarded since 1930, and there has only been one other Canadian winner.

Both Lee and Jarvis said they studied and worked very hard—but more than that, a passionate, life-long interest in gemstones appears to be the key to their success.

A buyer and appraiser for Toni Cavelti for ten years, Jarvis loves her work because "it allows me to do many different things, from buying gemstones to advising customers". She also acknowledges "a fascination with crystals", of which she has a large collection. And while she does not believe in the magic power ascribed to crystals, she does not entirely discount it, either. "Since time immemorial, mankind has believed in the power of crystals, so perhaps there is something to it after all," she says with a smile.

A native of Burma, Lee has always been fascinated with gemstones. Her love for precious stones led to a career change from chemistry to managing an Asian arts and gift store on South Granville.



Vivian Lee



Kathryn Ann Jarvis

Yamaha Canada sponsors KEC concert series

by Doreen Chui-Chai

With budget constraints very real and very tight, how does one find extra funding for projects that do not fall under the category of 'base-budget'?

Peter Taylor, an instructor in the KEC Music Department and co-founder and director of Soundwave, exercised planning and creativity in his fund raising. The result: Yamaha Canada Music is the official sponsor of the 1990/91 Faculty-Alumni Concert series.

Seeking to promote the "talents of the music department" without taxing its resources, Taylor hit on the idea of working in cooperation with the business community. "Sale of tickets does not necessarily off-set costs, and we just cannot afford to lose any money," said Taylor. "We needed an underwriting guarantee that would allow us to present the series; we needed the means of the private sector."

Taylor's association with Yamaha dates back 16 years when he started the first vocal jazz choir in Canada. His relationship with others in the music business grew through his involvement with the B.C. Vocal Jazz Festival and subsequent initiatives which included arranging the music for the Coca-Cola chorus featured at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Said Taylor: "Yamaha's partnership with us and their financial involvement is a reflection of their support for the VCC music program. We cannot put a dollar value on that support."

Taylor sees this as the genesis of a positive affiliation between the college and Yamaha, and looks forward to even bigger joint projects. "I hope Yamaha will work with us on a larger scale next year when we plan to double the number of concerts, in a venue such as the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Those concerts will include not only

renowned artists from our campus community but also artists from the global community."

Adds Yamaha's Brian Disterhoff: "Yamaha Music is proud to work in conjunction with the Vancouver Community College Music Department to present this Faculty-Alumni Series. We at Yamaha have a tradition of supporting music education and we are pleased to be involved in this aspect of the instructional process."

To continue this support from the community, Taylor emphasized the need for backing from within. "It is important for our people to be there. All staff in the college could get involved by simply attending the performances. The concerts feature some of the finest names in music in Canada and will be held one night a month for the next five months."

The series makes its debut with Dave Robbins, the Juno-winning Hugh Fraser Quintet and the Vancouver Ensemble for Jazz Improvisation (Veji) on December 2 at the KEC auditorium. Veji's performance in Vancouver coincides with the celebration of their newly released compact disc. Subsequent shows will present the brilliance of Jerry Doner, Gerald Van Wyck, Margot Ehling, Peter Hannan, Sandra Head, David Duke, the Tony Koch Quintet, Alan Rinehart, Alan Matheson, Dave Branter, and vocalist Shannon Gunn and her band. Tickets at \$10 a show or \$32 for the season are available at the KEC Music Department.

Fast honoured for community service

KEC Principal Lawrence Fast's efforts to establish a recreational centre on the campus have earned him the Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association's Community Service Award.

MPCCA past President Charley Beresford said Fast has "worked hard to bring about the addition of a recreation facility to KEC which would jointly serve the community and the students."

The centre proposal, now before Vancouver City Council, includes a pool, gym, daycare centre, kitchen, recreation room and conference room.

He added that Fast was instrumental in establishing a student Job Placement Officer on campus and is "particularly concerned about improving access to programs offered by VCC."

Pearce returns with earth shaking story

One of the surprises C.E. Director Richard Pearce and his wife, Sylvia, didn't expect during their 1 1/2-year stint in the Philippines was a major earthquake.

The Pearces returned from the trip safely in August with stories to tell about their involvement in developing a system of non-formal education for the poor.

He'll be sharing his experiences in the December Issue of Spectrum Magazine.

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Christmas creations stress conservation

Students and instructors from Langara's Art in Merchandising program turned their creative talents toward recycling during the taping of a recent CTV "Live

it up" Christmas Special. Visual Presentation Instructor Elizabeth Carle, Graphic Design Instructor Bob Neighbors and the students joined the Imagina-

tion Market—a local store and workshop that deals in recycled materials—to produce Christmas decorations. The show airs Sunday, Dec. 9, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on BCTV.



Pictured around
the tree (left to right)
are Neighbors,
John Kelder,
Anna Boonen and
(kneeling) Majid Jamshidi.

Art in Merchandising students threw a first rate scare into the Langara bookstore's Halloween display. The window was so well done that there will be encore performances at the bookstore.



CST Program “exemplary”

Langara's Computer Systems Technologist (CST) Program has been accepted as an “exemplary” educational model for teaching students in the age of information technology.

The honour was accorded CST by the League for Innovation in the Community College in North America during its recent annual conference in Dallas, Texas.

CST Co-ordinator Habib Kashani presented the Langara program to a group of administrators, educators and other professionals under the theme of “Educate and leave the opportunity to re-educate.” Said Kashani: “A program in the technology era must create values for the community and allow its graduates to stay valuable through the skills they have acquired.”

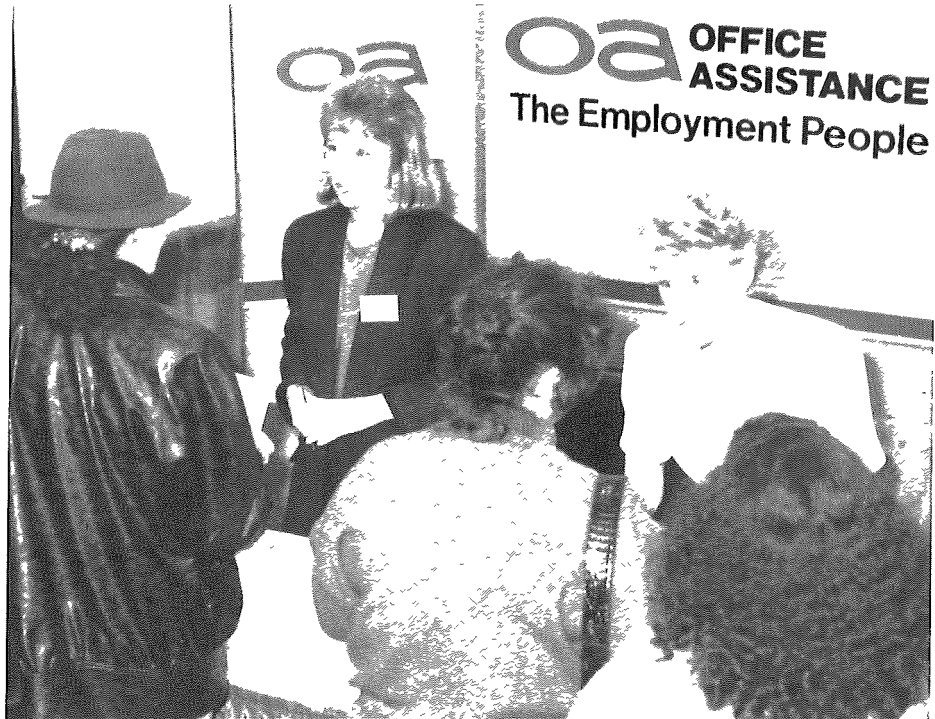
Although the designation of exemplary model was rewarding for those at Langara who are involved in CST, Kashani came away from the conference with a caution to those educators involved in computer technology in B.C.

“During the conference I realised that B.C. colleges, and Langara campus in particular, are behind our U.S. counterparts in applying computer technology in teaching, learning and institutional management,” said Kashani. “Unless we wake up now, tomorrow will be too late.”

Grad new editor

A former Langara journalism student has been appointed City Editor of The Province.

Joey Thompson, a 1976 Langara grad, will supervise a staff of more than 25 Province reporters. During her 14 years with the paper, she worked on a host of beats, including labour, education and legal affairs.



Career Fair drew 32 corporations and public sector employers

Career Fair eyed for all campuses

by Barbara Alldritt

After exploring the idea of a Career Fair for students with all three campuses, the VCC Alumni Association organized the first fair in Langara's main concourse on November 7.

Thirty-two institutions, including the Vancouver Police Department, B.C. Children's Hospital, Public Service Commission of Canada, United Parcel Service, UBC Personnel Department, Fairweather, Office Assistance and the Worker's Compensation Board, sent exhibits and recruiting staff to the college.

Students and alumni took advantage of the opportunity to explore their career plans with the people who do the hiring. Although the main focus was on career planning and positions, some students also found part-time jobs to help fund them through their studies.

Exhibitors were very impressed with the student response to the fair. According to the Vancouver Police Department, only at SFU had they talked to more students at a Career Fair. Fair weather left with a full schedule of interviews for the following days.

So can we look for the Career Fair to become an annual event? “Absolutely”, says Barbara Alldritt, Executive Director of the Alumni Association. “Most exhibitors said they'd like to come back next year and there were quite a few other companies invited that couldn't attend this year but would like to in the future.”

“We'd also like to have an event like this on each campus. We want all VCC students to know that the Alumni Association is interested in helping them now as well as in keeping in touch with them once they leave the college.”

Rogers makes career of playing it safe

by Gayle Thody

Sarah Rogers credits "paranoia" for leading her to a satisfying career.

"It all started when my kids were small. I was one of the most paranoid parents about injuries," she said.

A science major who had considered a career in medicine, Rogers is today a CPR and Industrial First Aid Instructor and Program co-ordinator in the college's CE Division

She is also a member of a first aid team that recently won the prestigious Buxton International Trophy in London. The Vancouver based team placed first among 11 international teams in the competition—bettering their second place finish last year.

Rogers speaks with obvious enthusiasm when describing the competition and the challenges involved. "The competition puts you in situations you wouldn't likely come across. It really challenges you," she explains.

Being the only North American team in the competition was a disadvantage. Says Rogers: "The kind of first aid we practice in B.C. is different from that in Europe. Because we are such a vast province, a first aid attendant could have a patient in his or her care for up to



Sarah Rogers

Colin Jewell Photo

several hours. In England, where there isn't any wilderness, medical facilities are reasonably accessible and the longest time would be less than 15 minutes. So the approach is very different."

For that reason, the team went to England two weeks early and practiced with the Lancashire Constabulary and Thames Valley Police Force, British teams that have won awards for the past 20 years

In addition to Sarah, other members of

the award winning B.C. team are: Tony Lyttle, coach, who is with B.C. Hydro Safety and has participated in First Aid competitions for the past 20 years; Richard Matthews, an SFU psychology student and electrician who is involved in search and rescue; Linda Fehner, a full-time provincial service ambulance attendant and Jim Chesworth, a B.C. Tel employee and member of the 1988 and 1989 B.C. Tel provincial first aid team.

Sarah joined VCC four years ago. Prior to that, she worked for Expo 86 as an ambulance attendant and contracted out to the Justice Institute. But teaching remains her first interest. "Teaching has always been satisfying and exciting to me. I never make the instruction into 'work' or a 'job'," she says.

The winning B.C. team was sponsored by a \$6,000 donation from the Workers' Compensation Board and \$3,000 from St. John's Ambulance. Other monies come from donations and fund raising events. Rogers adds that if the team enters the competition again next year, she thinks she has finally found a corporate sponsor.

But whatever happens in the future, she says she and her team members are looking for new challenges

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