

# BCIT UPDATE

YOUR CAMPUS BULLETIN

December 7, 1990



Staff Society president Andy Ellingsen and program coordinator Betty-Ann Lee in discussion during BCIT ethics seminar on November 3.

## WORKPLACE ETHICS DISCUSSED AT BCIT

A one-day seminar focusing on today's business ethics was held at BCIT's Willingdon campus on November 3rd, with 100 participants joining in a unique look at some of the ethical practices — and choices — they can expect to encounter during the course of their working careers.

Jointly sponsored by BCIT and the Canadian Association of Equipment Distributors (CAED), "Ethics in the Workplace" was designed to expose elementary, high school and college-level students to some of the ethical problems of decision-making in the workplace. The seminar was chaired by Brian Sung, Vice-President of BCIT's BOG, and Lucille Johnstone, President of CAED. Participants included students, faculty, and facilitators from industry.

The program format included three presentations by BCIT faculty members and video-taped dramatizations of typical workplace situations that involve "ethical dilemmas."

CAED strongly believes that they have an obligation to advance ethical practices among young Canadians — which they feel will inevitably strengthen Canada's position and role in the global community.

### STOP PRESS:

**BCIT HITS THE JACKPOT!  
\$30,020.54 RAISED FOR  
UNITED WAY AS OF  
NOVEMBER 15!**

## YOU ARE INVITED



to the  
*Board of Governors' Annual  
Christmas Reception  
for Staff*  
Tuesday, December 11th  
3 to 6 p.m.  
Town Square Cafe

  
Chairman

  
John A. Watson  
President

## IMPORTANT NOTES FROM AUDIO VISUAL

If you need something from A.V. Services please note that the last day of operation will be December 21. The department is closed for Christmas from December 24 to January 2. For emergency needs please call Local 5065.

An exhibition of photos by former BCIT photographer Barbara Woodley is currently on display in the lobby of the main branch of the Bank of B.C. at 855 West Georgia. It will be there until December 16 when Barbara and the exhibit embark on a cross-Canada tour. According to Bob Pollard of A.V., "It's a great photo show — I recommend you see it if you can."

# SIMS

## OUTDATED RECORDS SYSTEM TO BE REPLACED

by Gerry Moss

As a part of BCIT's set of initiatives to improve services to all of its stakeholders, we have begun an institute-wide project to design, develop and introduce the Student Information Management System (SIMS). SIMS is intended to replace the current outdated student records systems (SRS and ISIS) and meet the growing information needs at BCIT with a newly designed system.

It is important to recognize that SIMS will be developed to accommodate more than the student records needs of the Registrar's Office. To help BCIT run effectively and efficiently we need up-to-date and accessible information on admissions, registration, timetabling, financial aids, program advising, student housing, finance personnel — the list goes on and on!

Sierra Systems has been the successful bidder for the first phase of our project. Initial work will require studying our current systems to identify strengths and weaknesses, developing a framework in

## Designed by YOU

which we can define the informational and functional requirements of users, and identifying potential solutions.

The SIMS project is a joint effort of the Registrar's Office and Computer Services and has broad representation from all schools and departments at BCIT. It will take a few years to implement the new system completely, but the final product will be worth the time and effort!

## WHAT'S BEEN DONE SO FAR

**August:** A Request for Proposal to determine BCIT's requirements for a student information system was sent to 18 consulting companies.

**September:** Twelve proposals from the consulting companies were received.

**October:** Sierra Consulting Ltd. was selected to assist us with the requirements analysis.

**November:** A project plan for the next four months was developed.

### What's Next?

**December:** Preparatory interviews with key individuals. Training and planning for the Joint Application and Design (JAD) sessions.

Continued over...

Next UPDATE — December 17



Continued from Page 1...

**January:** JAD sessions to be conducted with key groups from throughout the Institute.

*Note: The project plan is displayed in Room 1A 295-B. Please come by and look at it if you are interested in what's coming next, or if you have suggestions and ideas for the project.*

## NEW INFORMATION SYSTEM PLANNED

by David Cresswell

During the first phase of a new Student Information Management System (SIMS) project, BCIT has committed itself to identifying all of the requirements related to the management of our student information. These requirements span the entire campus community, including many off-campus sites such as Sea Island, Kaslo, and the Downtown Education Centre. Over the next four or five months, a picture of the Institute's informational requirements will be developed. This process will purposely avoid considering any specific technology.

The result of Phase I will be a document that contains both the information requirements and the underlying functional processes necessary to effectively manage the main business of the Institute. This document will provide the *model* of BCIT's Student Information Management System requirements. Actually, there will be several models: the *business function model* will represent the major business areas and how they relate to each other; the *data model* will define the major information pieces that the Institute is concerned with and their relationships to each other.

Phase I will require a lot of work, as well as some very specialized skills. The Institute has entered into a contract with Sierra Systems Ltd. (Vancouver), a company that has proven experience in this field. Sierra has performed similar project work for the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Douglas College and a Seattle community college.

The SIMS project team has purposely kept the scope of the project as wide as possible. We hope to elicit input from any and all parties on campus. We look forward to Phase II of the project and beyond — implementing the actual system that the Institute adopts as its solution for Student Information Management. We may not be able to address each and every concern, but if any concerns are left unresolved they will be documented and used as a basis for future enhancements of the system.

At the end of Phase I, our project team will submit the system requirements to the Senior Executive of the Institute and seek approval to proceed with Phase II. That's when we start to look for a system, and for the underlying "technological" pieces necessary to run it.



The key players in the development of the new Student Information Management System are, from left to right: Margo Slater, Computer Resources, David Smithers, Sierra Consulting, Michelle Philippe, Registrar's Office, Murray Smith, Computer Resources, Andy Scott, Computer Resources, Angus Macintosh, Sierra Consulting, David Cresswell, Computer Resources, and Mario Mazziotti, Registrar.

The SIMS Steering Committee consists of: Chairperson — Gerry Moss (Vice-President of Student Services); Educational Representatives — Kathleen Bach (Director, Health Part-Time Studies), John Bateman (School of Trades), George Eisler (Dean, School of Health), Michael Harrison (Dean, School of Business), Ed Hull (Associate Dean, Civil Technologies), Patti Laughlin (School of Health), Rod MacNeill (School of Trades), and Marv Woolley (School of Engineering).

The Student/Support Representatives are Richard Hallett (Director, Institute Analysis and Planning), Val Karpinsky (Director, Student Services), Gary Lake (Director, Financial Services), and Dave Peppar (Director, Computer Resources).

Members of the BCIT Project Team include: Mario Mazziotti (Registrar) — Project Manager, Murray Smith (Computer Resources) — Project Leader, Andy Scott (Computer Resources) — Technical Analyst, Margo Slater (Computer Resources) — Technical Analyst, David Cresswell (Manager, MIS) — Quality Assurance, and Michelle Philippe (Registrar's Office) — Functional Analyst.

## A LITTLE HISTORY

by Mario Mazziotti

BCIT once had five independent computer systems to manage its student information. In 1984, the Integrated Student Information System (ISIS) replaced all five of these systems.

When BCIT and PVI merged in 1986, the "New BCIT" continued to use the Student Record System (SRS) for full-time trades students records and ISIS for technology records. To date, these two systems have continued to operate side-by-side, but separately, with two

terminals on many desks — a complex environment!

So why SIMS?

Both of our student information systems have become increasingly out-of-date and expensive to maintain. In addition, the Institute's community needs more comprehensive information about prospects, students and course information to assist them in planning and administrative decision-making. In order to match these requirements for a new system, we have to identify our needs now.

We are pleased to announce that the Requirements Definition (Phase I) of the SIMS project has begun. During this phase, you will be invited to discuss your information requirements, which we hope to incorporate into a *single* student information system.

We look forward to receiving your input!

## Weight Watchers

is introducing a new and exciting program for 1991. All interested individuals should plan *now* to be with us for registration in the "At Work Program" Town Square Cafe  
*Schedule it now!*

For further information, please phone Shirley Hundvik at Local 5417.