

Downtown campus construction begins

The corner of Dunsmuir and Seymour streets was the scene of much activity Tuesday morning, June 27, during the official start of construction of the BCIT downtown campus.

A reception, held next door at the CIBC, had nearly 100 people in attendance, including Premier Mike Harcourt; Wynne Powell, outgoing BCIT board chair; Don Potvin, senior vice-president, Personal and Commercial Bank Western Canada, CIBC; as well as a host of BCIT staff and faculty.

"We think it's a great contribution to the city's core, and an outstanding addition on the business, educational and social fronts," said Potvin in his welcoming address.

BCIT president Brian Gillespie called it "a truly historic day for BCIT," adding that the new campus will help shape the future of B.C. by expanding quality training, enhancing business competitiveness, and opening the doors to the rest of the world through telecommunications technology.

Outgoing board chair Wynne Powell introduced the premier after a few words about the DEC. "After six years as BCIT's board chair, today is my final

day in that role. I can think of no better way to say a fond farewell to BCIT than by being here to help usher in an exciting new chapter in the institute's history," he said.

Premier Harcourt offered a farewell to both Wynne Powell and outgoing president John Watson. "Wynne has been an absolutely magnificent chair," he said, calling for a round of applause. "And John Watson has played a very important role through his quiet, extremely effective, enthusiastic leadership."

"BCIT will play a key role in making job training more accessible."

The premier stressed the importance of partnerships among business, educators and government. "With this new facility, BCIT will play a key role in making job training more accessible for thousands of British Columbians. It's an example of productive partnerships ... a partnership to identify skills training needs, a partnership to finance this new centre, and a partnership to

deliver innovative skills training programs."

After the reception, the crowd moved outside, filling the corner of Dunsmuir and Seymour, and spilling into the street. Premier Harcourt electronically unveiled the hoarding (the signs surrounding the construction site), and the public had its first look at the BCIT logo displayed prominently at the hoarding's centre.

On either side of the BCIT logo, running about 120 feet along each street, the hoarding features images highlighting the development of technology: a quill pen and computer mouse, hieroglyphics and binary code, a human hand and a robotic arm, Christopher Columbus and Canadian astronaut Roberta Bondar.

—from Ruth Raymond



The hoarding unveiled.

Bert Schendel photos

President Brian Gillespie, outgoing BCIT board chair Wynne Powell, Premier Mike Harcourt and senior vice-president, Personal and Commerce Bank Western Canada CIBC, are ready with hands on the plunger to unveil the hoarding.

Kids to surf net at student-taught multi-media camp

As Alice Cooper once said, school's out for summer, but before you shuffle your kids off to Camp Little Bighorn, consider a place where they will surf the Internet and explore the world of multi-media.

The two-week Kids Camp is offered July 17-28 and August 14-25 at BCIT. For \$375, it will combine multimedia software development with Internet skills to teach 12- to 15-year-olds, from scratch, how to produce their own interactive virtual art gallery on CD-ROM. And best of all, it will be taught by kids.

Sixteen-year-old Mark Randall and 14-year-old Devon Girard have been working with BCIT's Laura Davie and Don Pepper for almost a year to develop the course curriculum, and are confident it will be a success. Pepper will facilitate the July camp and Glen Murray will oversee the camp in August.

"I think the concept of kids teaching kids will really help them to understand the material faster and more completely," says Randall. "It is probably easier to learn from someone

your own age than from people much older."

As students of Vancouver's Virtual High, Randall and Girard have always learned at levels far beyond their years.

"I learned how to type when I was five," says Randall. "I took a typing course with people five times older than I was."

"One lady phoned and wanted a computer camp for her five-year-old."

"It is incredible what [Randall and Girard] know," says program coordinator Laura Davie.

"Devon has coordinated a Power Smart program for BC Hydro; it is a game that teaches people how they can save energy at home. They are very, very bright people.

"They have a lot of energy and enthusiasm for this camp because they learn so easily in

unconventional ways themselves," she explains. "They are eager to prove that other kids can, too."

The two-week camp will begin with a three- or four-day introduction to the Internet, explain the elements of e-mail and the World Wide Web, and explore services such as Usenet, Archie and Gopher. Students will use the skills they have learned to produce their own home page, which will also be incorporated later in the multi-media section.

During the remainder of the camp, students will split into teams to learn about different programming languages, the basics of Adobe Photoshop, how to scan and enhance photographs, and to use Macromind Director, the software package that will allow them to create their virtual art gallery. Students will be given video-cameras to record the action and sounds, and then use inputting and editing techniques to piece it all together on computer. At the end of the course each student will receive a copy of the project on CD-ROM.

"I feel the course is very well structured, and we will provide the students with detailed handouts that will help them to absorb the material very well," says Randall.

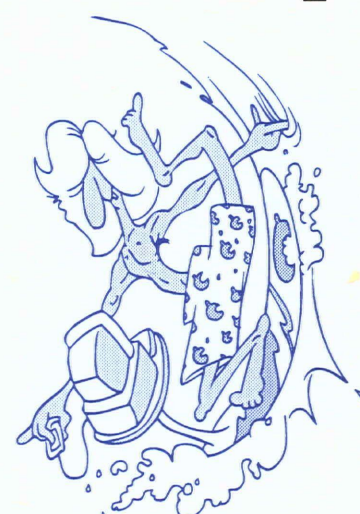
"We want to provide a solid foundation so that the kids can apply their knowledge to different projects after they leave the camp and continue to learn," he adds.

Since word of the camp has spread, Davie is realizing what a broad audience the program attracts.

"It's amazing how many adults call and say, 'Can I play for two weeks?'," she says. "One lady phoned me and wanted a computer camp for her five-year-old. We have to expand this camp next year to accommodate those needs."

"We wanted to make use of the facility when there are no students here, and it is a natural fit to promote the Mac lab," says Davie.

The lab has 20 computers, so it is possible that each student will have a workstation. "Next year I



think we will expand to IBM as well."

In addition to the technical fun, several recreational activities have been planned such as basketball and wallyball to exercise the body as well as the mind. On the last day the camp will host two guest speakers: representatives from a local Internet provider and a CD-ROM publishing company.

For more information call Laura Davie at 432-8614.

—from Crystal Sawyer

Valedictory addresses evoke laughter and tears

At the June 22 and 23 convocation ceremonies, there were pipers and parchment. There were awards galore. There were keynote addresses and encouraging words. But most telling of all were the valedictory addresses. Here's why:

School of Business

Valedictorian James Ingham, of Operations Management reminded his fellow graduates of the debt of gratitude they owe to the people who helped them through their time at school.

He continued in a humorous vein, quoting Don Pepper: "There are two mysteries in life. What goes into hot dogs? And Where do your marks come from?"

Ingham noted that wherever the marks came from, "We're glad we made it here today. We're making BCIT what it is today, and that's how we'll remember it."

Schools of Business, Computing & Academic Studies, and Trades Training

Valedictorian Kai Hui, of computer Systems, had his audience reaching for tissues.

"I was a full-time student, but only a part-time parent and part-time spouse," he said. "This diploma belongs as much to my wife as it does to me."

At that moment, his youngest daughter made for the podium, where daddy scooped her up in his arms. The crowd responded with heartfelt applause.

The tot's older sister wanted in on it, and soon Hui had a little girl in each arm, as the crowd went wild with applause. After returning his family to their seats, Hui continued, saying that BCIT's reputation comes from past graduates going into industry. "It's now up to you to carry the BCIT banner, and carry it proudly," he concluded.

School of Engineering Technology

Shauna Henderson, of Surveying & Mapping, began with nostalgia. "I recall that first day, when we all gathered in the gym," she said, noting how far the class had come since that day.

As did other valedictorians, Henderson spoke about the gratitude graduates feel toward family and friends who have

offered so much support during those difficult, stressful years at school.

She closed with a quote from Babe Ruth: "Never let the fear of striking out get in your way."

Schools of Electrical & Electronic Technology and Health Sciences

"I went for Chinese food every day for the last month to get inspiration from the fortune cookies," Nursing graduate Vince Dunlop confessed, admitting apprehension about writing his valedictory speech.

"We leave here with a unique talent—a gift," he said. "Leave here with your gift and let others open it and discover the treasure inside."

It would seem that, whether the fortune cookies helped or not, Dunlop, Ingham, Hui and Henderson all found just the right inspiration for their addresses.

—from Ruth Raymond



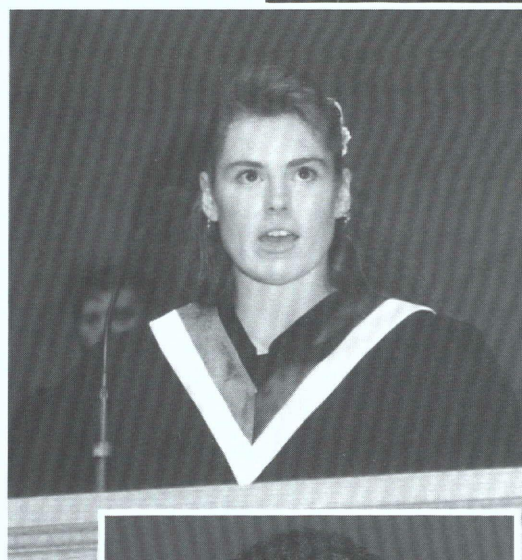
Computer Systems valedictorian Kai Hui no sooner said he'd been a part-time father while he was a full-time student when his two daughters insisted upon joining Daddy on stage.



Operations Management valedictorian James Ingham reminded graduates of those who have helped them to reach this proud day.



School of Engineering valedictorian Shauna Henderson of Surveying and Mapping was reminiscent in her speech.

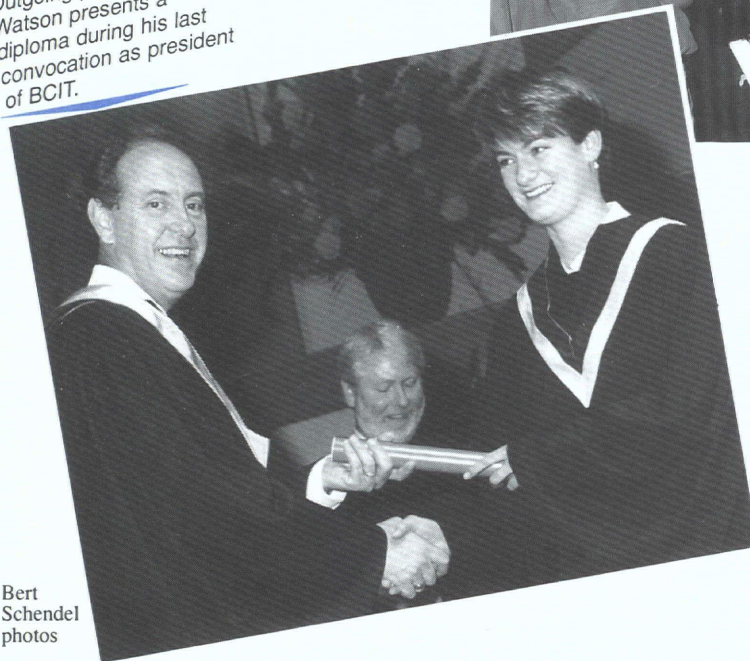


Nursing valedictorian Vince Dunlop found inspiration for his speech in fortune cookies.

Valedictory addresses filled the audience with both laughter and tears.

Family members share their pride with graduates at convocation.

Outgoing president John Watson presents a diploma during his last convocation as president of BCIT.



Bert Schendel photos



The BCIT diploma symbolizes all the hard work that pays off with graduates who are job-ready and whose skills are in demand.



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SPECIAL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS EDITION

Message from the dean: Gordon Farrell

Many of our 1995 School of Business graduates have found jobs and are well trained for their first positions. These individuals know that a number of their fellow graduating students haven't yet found jobs but may have found work. What is the difference?

Today an increasing number of businesses are using contract workers. As a contracted worker you are an entrepreneur and enjoy none of the benefits of an employee, but all of the choices of an entrepreneur. Your office may be at home or in your car. You have no automatic benefit plan, no guaranteed annual salary and a lot of uncertainty as to whether you will have too little or too much work.

Employers say for the 21st century, this form of work without a job will become the norm.

As an institute, BCIT is always changing, and will continue to do so. BCIT's mission statement for the years 1995-2000 is:

"Over the next few years we must focus on making changes in our knowledge, skills and attitudes and continuously improve our technology and curriculum with the purpose of adapting ourselves and our institution to the world as we will find it."

Our School of Business has formed a Dean's Operations

Council (DOC) to provide a strategic direction for the school. Members of DOC come from each area of the school and reported some preliminary findings to an all-staff meeting on May 29. The DOC is first focusing on the school's vision and goals, and the strategies necessary to achieve them. Quality and standards are a very important part of this vision. Organization, technology and personnel will follow.

Education has historically been a local commodity and service, which is no longer the case. It is moving rapidly to become a borderless commodity.

Our faculty is already addressing this challenge and we will develop new delivery methods for our education and training activities. Information technology is the key to providing avenues for increasing access, improving standards and providing flexible delivery options to a diverse, but demanding, set of customers. The convergence of electronic, digital and computer technologies is allowing the opportunity to use these tools to provide different forms of learning and training packages.

Employers and students are looking for just-in-time training. In other words, educators should deliver the package that will give these students specific skills to do a



Gordon Farrell

Bert Schendel photo

specific set of tasks now. In three to six months, another module can be taken on an as-needed basis. Our full-time programs, our part-time programs, and our industry training activities must prepare curriculum to meet this important need.

Our faculty is in touch with its industry and professional association partners to ensure that content is relevant to employment and educational needs. The faculty members have been selected for their ability to facilitate learning, their depth of experience, and their

qualifications. Our administrative and support staff members are dedicated to customer service and constantly stretch to facilitate the educational and training processes.

A shift to student-focused education is taking place, and two very important aspects of this change are empowerment and accountability. The use of information technology is one way to facilitate this shift with efficiency, so that value for money and accountability are emphasized and administrative arrangements are streamlined and simplified. Benchmarks should be developed for:

1. Students' outcomes such as completion rates and average cost per student hour;
2. Setting standards for delivery costs;
3. Surveying employers and students to determine satisfaction rate;
4. Establishing uniform measuring tools.

The use and consideration of these important factors will ensure quality at the highest level and permit us to respond to needs so that diversity, choice, and cooperation are optimized. These priorities will guarantee accessibility, so that all those who want and need training receive it.

—from Gordon Farrell

BCIT Pioneer retires

Roger Cradock, one of BCIT's Pioneers, will retire on July 31.

Cradock came from the Saskatchewan Technical Institute to BCIT's Business department in August of 1965.

He became department head of Administrative Management in 1969 and held that position until 1986.

From 1982 to 1985, he was also department head of Financial Management. During the 1985-86 academic year he was acting dean of the School of Business.

In 1986, Cradock returned to faculty in the Financial Management department. He was twice awarded the School

of Business Excellence in Teaching award and was for several years first-year program head in Financial Management.

While at BCIT, Cradock completed his MBA at UBC and was awarded a Fellowship by the National Society of Management Accountants. He filled a number of positions with the B.C. Society, including that of president.

In addition to all these serious accomplishments, Cradock is well known for his sense of humour. He has produced some fascinating videos about life at BCIT. He will be very much missed by his colleagues and his students.

From graduate to associate dean

When Margaret Briscall began her Bachelor of Commerce at UBC in 1959, she never imagined she would end up teaching. Thirty years after graduating she has been appointed Associate Dean of Financial Management at BCIT.

Clearly, she has won the respect of her peers with honours such as the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1990 and now this appointment.

Briscall is a BCIT Pioneer, having taught students of the first graduating class. She came on board in 1965 after an informal interview with Cliff McAdam, the original head of BCIT's Business department.

Before this meeting Briscall had not thought of teaching. "I took the program I did to avoid that route that women traditionally took," she says. But McAdam, Briscall's former employer at BC Hydro, sold her on the idea of taking on some of the teaching duties for the second-year courses of the new Business program.

There were only four students in the original graduating class that Briscall taught. As Briscall's love of teaching grew, so did the class. Today there are 220 students.



Margaret Briscall has recently been appointed associate dean of Financial Management at BCIT. Bert Schendel photo

Journalism student wins national scholarship

Rene Bernard has been awarded a national scholarship worth \$1,500 by the Radio and Television News Directors Association. She received the award on June 9 in Toronto at the national convention, held at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel.

Bernard also receives the Royal Bank scholarship for top first-

year student. The competition is open to Journalism students across Canada, so the scholarship is quite an honor. Her winning entry was a radio documentary on horse logging. Bernard is now working as a news reporter in Trail, B.C. for the summer.

—from Robin Piercey

Dean Gordon Farrell was one of those first four students and was quick to approach his former instructor when the position of Associate Dean became available.

"I was at a point in my career where the change would be manageable," she says. "And I've already been taking care of many of the duties, so it is not unfamiliar territory."

Briscall is witness to how the Financial Management program has grown and changed since its beginning. "We haven't just gotten bigger, we are now able to offer our students more opportunities for specialization," she explains. The program is also working towards achieving degree status for Accounting.

—from Christina Bews

SPECIAL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS EDITION

Digital control puts Broadcast on cutting edge

A new state-of-the-art digital audio production control room has come on-line in the Radio program labs in the Broadcast Centre.

This technology follows on the heels of the new digital on-air

control room that came on-line last fall. Now, second-year Radio students have complete digital paths for all of their production and on-air work, in addition to the existing analog technology.

The newest control room—Control B—is built around an Orban/AKG DSE7000 digital audio workstation. “A what?” you say? A digital audio workstation! We’re all familiar with computers as word

processing workstations. A digital audio workstation moves this familiar concept into the realm of audio control.

Now, all sound elements for a commercial (voice, music, sound effects) can be entered into a multi-track computer editing system, which allows the producer to do everything the older analog technology did and more, only with far greater speed, reliability and quality.

The bottom line is that the Radio program is now completely current with leading radio stations throughout the province and across the country that are rapidly moving into this cost-effective technology.

And there are yet more elements moving forward that will make the Broadcast Centre completely compatible with the digital age: a new digital audio control room for Television is being built this summer.

The Television program will also be introducing non-linear computerized video editing this fall, and Broadcast Journalism

will be expanding its current computerized news management system with the addition of a new program that will edit all audio material on computer.

This addition will allow a newsreader the option of reading from standard hard copy and bringing in on-the-scene audio clips from tape cartridge, or reading an entire newscast from a video screen and bringing in audio clips direct from the computer’s hard drive. Both systems are used in industry today.

Moreover, the Radio program will be introducing two low-priced digital editing systems which will allow more students the opportunity to gain experience with yet another approach to editing audio.

The digital age is moving the broadcast industry forward in leaps and bounds and Broadcast Communications is riding the leading edge with these advances.

—from Brian Antonson



Second-year radio student Kent Hurl produces a commercial on the DSE 7000 Digital Audio workstation in the rebuilt Control B. Brian Antonson photo

Electronic commerce seminars offered

BCIT and the EDI Council of Canada have merged in a training partnership whereby four daytime seminars in electronic commerce will be offered this fall.

The partnership means that BCIT will be able to remain at the forefront of electronic commerce. “BCIT will provide leading edge course material to its students, and thus guarantee jobs and careers for its graduates,” says School of Business dean Gordon Farrell.

More and more organizations are doing away with paper-driven

processes and capturing the cost efficiencies of conducting business electronically.

“With EDI you’re actually conducting a transaction without any paper floating back and forth,” explains Operations Management instructor Kim Boswell, who has been instrumental in the forming of this partnership.

For example, if company A wishes to purchase goods from company B, and the two have their computer applications linked through EDI, the whole transaction right through to invoicing and payment can take place without paper ever changing hands.

“There are a lot of companies who are saying to their suppliers, ‘Thou shalt do this if you want to continue to do business with us,’” Boswell says, citing major retailers Walmart, Sears and Eatons. “Suddenly there is a new market for BCIT to tap into.”

Currently in B.C., training opportunities are limited for companies wishing to implement EDI, but lacking in-house expertise. BCIT has recognized this window of opportunity for establishing an electronic commerce centre, which could provide coordinated training, research and support services to assist B.C. businesses in becoming more productive and globally competitive.

“All indications are that electronic commerce will be the way of conducting business in the future,” says Farrell.



Representatives from the EDI Council of Canada were on hand at the signing of the partnership agreement between the Council and BCIT. Ruth Raymond photo

The four seminars currently slated for fall 1995 are Electronic Commerce, A Business perspective; Introduction to EDI; EDI Implementation; and Introduction to X12. The courses are primarily directed at

industry members, for businesses that are implementing EDI into their organizations.

By partnering with EDICC, BCIT continues its tradition of collaboration with business,

industry and professional associations.

For further information contact Frank Gruen, coordinator, Part-time Studies in Operations Management, at 451-6743.

—from Crystal Sawyer

Glossary of terms:

■ **EDI:** Electronic Data Interchange—the computer-to-computer application exchange of documentation in a standard machine-readable format. It generally refers to the electronic transfer of routine business information, such as purchase orders and invoices, using standardized data formats.

■ **Electronic Commerce:** Used to describe almost any electronic communication link between two businesses, including fax, electronic mail, bar code scanners and EDI.

■ **EDI Council of Canada:** An industry association that promotes awareness and adoption of EDI and electronic commerce.

Convocation award winners

- ◆ **President’s Award**—Suzanne Guthrie
- ◆ **BOG Citizenship Award**—Linda Bjerke
- ◆ **Governor General’s Bronze Medal**—Robert Harrison
- ◆ **Lt. Governor’s Award for Trades**—Doug Narcisse
- ◆ **Lt. Governor’s Award for Advanced/Post Diploma Studies**—Paul Kennedy
- ◆ **School of Computing Dean’s Award**—Michael Hamilton

- ◆ **School of Electrical & Electronic Technology Dean’s Award**—Hubert Hui
- ◆ **School of Health Sciences Dean’s Awards**—Shen-Nan Lu, Kenneth Marken
- ◆ **School of Engineering Technology Dean’s Awards**—Clifford Dang, Robert Harrison
- ◆ **School of Business Dean’s Awards**—Michael Stewart, Richard Kempton

- ◆ **School of Trades Training Distinguished Achievement Award**—Fred Shim
- ◆ **School of Engineering Technology Distinguished Achievement Award**—Chris Niwinski
- ◆ **School of Business Excellence in Teaching Award**—Chris Kellman, Peter Wooley
- ◆ **BCIT Alumni Association Achievement Award**—John Watson, President

SPECIAL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS EDITION

Tie announced for excellence in teaching awards

Two School of Business instructors are the recipients of this year's Excellence in Teaching Award.

Peter Woolley, instructor of Accounting, and Chris Kellman, Business Math and Statistics instructor, join nine others in the School of Business who have been rated tops by their students.

The judges find themselves seriously challenged to make their final decisions, and this year's tie is the third time a decision has been made to present two awards.

Once again, the broad support of students and the strong recommendations made for those who go above and beyond the call of duty in making the learning process an effective and valuable one proves out.

Students were long in their praise of Woolley, a pioneer member of staff who joined BCIT in its earliest years.

"We feel that Peter has been one of the best, if not the best, instructor we have had. He has consistently shown concern and empathy for the students throughout the program. His demeanour in class has always been positive and helpful. He was always prepared for lectures and consistently made the lectures enjoyable and interesting. We believe that the ability to make an accounting lecture interesting is a considerable feat in itself."

Praise was also heaped high for a rookie: Chris Kellman joined BCIT just recently, but has obviously made his mark with his students.

"While students struggle to grab the math concepts and think that there is not a light at the end of the tunnel, Chris lights the torch to guide us through the dark. If class time and regular office hours still don't help, he makes time to help his students. Even if he has to wait around hours after his last class, he will do it. Extra classes, review time and extra help are the norm with Chris, not the exception. Chris has a passion for helping and teaching that shows us he really cares. Chris grabs our attention by using up-to-date examples from real-life situations. This helps to answer the question of why we are studying statistics."

This year, 10 School of Business faculty members were nominated: Lori Baxter, Bob Brett, Sylvia Corning, Brian Giffen, Ralph Gioia, Jim Hughes, John Porteous, Bill Sheriff, and the two winners, Woolley and Kellman.

The first recipient of the award was Bob Jackson, an early member of faculty who won great praise for his care, concern, support and effective teaching methods. He passed away in 1990, and at that time the award was dedicated to him to recognize the benchmark to which all nominees must aspire.

—from Brian Antonson



Louise Routledge and Don Mallory are packing their bags for Israel.

Bert Schendel photo

Quality systems course heads for Israel

Specializing has its advantages. Two of BCIT's instructors have skills that very few others have and that have provided them with a unique opportunity. If all goes as planned, Louise Routledge and Don Mallory will spend three weeks in Israel in July.

A contract with the Israeli aircraft industry, which supplies parts to BOEING, is near finalization. Routledge, of the Mathematics department, and Mallory, of Operations Management, belong to a select group that are licensed to supply training in advanced quality systems for BOEING.

"The industry is always upgrading its standards," says Mallory, "The Israelis approached us to acquire the extra training they needed to meet them."

The two will be team-teaching a comprehensive course in quality systems. While they have conducted such special training for local companies, they find that each new session is a challenge.

"The groups change, interests change and the skill level of the participants change," explains Mallory. "We think that in Israel we will be teaching a range of levels from management to line workers," adds Routledge.

While they don't foresee a language barrier (most of the students will be fluent in English), they know that teaching across disciplines will be difficult.

"We'll have to take turns instructing each day or the course will be dull for both the students and ourselves," jokes Mallory.

As a result, the two predict they will spend much of their free time simply preparing their classes.

The instructors hope to set aside some time to take advantage of a place neither has visited.

"We'll have weekends so we might take a side trip to the Pyramids," says Mallory, whose wife will be accompanying him on the trip. "I'm planning to float in the Dead Sea," quipped Routledge. No doubt, the experience will be memorable for all.

Mallory is negotiating to return to Israel on his own in August to conduct another session of the course.

—from Christina Bews

Accounting degree on horizon

Development of BCIT's proposed degree in Accounting continues towards a target commencement date of September 1996.

Like all the technology degrees, the Accounting degree will build on the foundation of a two-year diploma.

The degree program will include advanced core and

speciality courses, liberal education courses and work experience.

Courses will be offered in part-time mode.

Anyone who is interested in more detailed information should contact Margaret Briscall, associate dean of Financial Management, at 432-8898.

Advisory members honored

At the advisory committee reception on May 2, three members of Financial Management's advisory committee received awards of merit.

Don Hincks, a 1970 Financial Management graduate, currently chairs the advisory committee.

Don Carter has represented the Institute of Chartered

Accountants for many years and has made an outstanding contribution to the development of BCIT's Accounting degree program.

Wayne Gibson was recognized for his assistance in the development of a Financial Planning option for Financial Management students.

Operations Management students in the School of Business are participating in an innovative program developed as a response to the growing need for teamwork skills in graduates.

Both the Corporate Council on Education of the Conference Board of Canada and a recent survey of the B.C. manufacturing training and education requirements identified teamwork skills in the top three employability skills. BCIT has responded to this need with the development of the Teamwork Skills project.

The program was implemented at the beginning of the school year. Students in the program are assigned to learning teams, they learn cooperatively in class, do projects as a team and grade themselves and fellow members on their team skills.

Instructor participation is also an integral part of the program. The instructors work together as a



Walter Wardrop, temporary faculty member, Chuck Spong, teamwork project co-ordinator and Operations Management faculty, Lorraine Robson, Communications instructor and Keith Hartley, Operations Management faculty have been hard at work developing the Teamwork Skills project. Missing: Chris Gadsby and Wilf Ratzburg of Administration Management. Bert Schendel photo

team in the learning community. There are 15 instructors and two administrators involved over the two-year program.

The evaluation process is ongoing but will not be completed until the end of the two-year program. According to

some of the instructors involved, the students are more eager to participate and are showing a cohesiveness and acceptance of individual differences that they haven't seen before.

—from Sheila Rees



Carmel Thomson at work with her faithful companion Daniel D. Dawg.
Sheila Rees photo

New financial planning option hosts symposium

On May 12 the students in Financial Management's new Financial Planning option hosted the first Personal Financial Planning Symposium.

The purpose of the seminar was to afford the graduating students an opportunity to present to professional practitioners the results of their industry case studies. The case study involved the development of a personal financial plan for a client of one of the sponsoring firms and was the focal point of the student's term work.

The Financial Planning option was launched in January of this past term. In order to gain admittance into the program, the student had to have successfully completed Level 3 of the Finance option, which includes the Canadian Securities course. The demand, 46 applications, far exceeded the number of seats available in the only block set aside for the program. In this regard, the department was fortunate to be able to introduce a program with a group of first-class students.

The program is the outcome of a relationship that Financial Management has had with the B.C. Association of Financial Planners since 1987. At that time, the department was approached by the Association to jointly mount a series of courses, through Continuing Education, which would lead to a BCIT Associate Certificate in Financial Planning. The success of this offering and the conspicuous increase in the demand for

quality personnel convinced the department that the time had arrived to establish a full day school program in the field.

The program has been designed in conjunction with members of the educational sub-committees of both the B.C. and the Canadian Associations of Financial Planners. It has been fashioned to provide the students with the skills and knowledge necessary to function productively in the financial planning profession.

Upon graduation the students obtain a provisional member standing with the association. Early in the discussions the B.C. association committed itself to a coordinating program wherein a group of four students would work within a financial planning firm on a regular basis and thereby gain invaluable hands-on experience.

The case study presentations, which took place in the ATM Lab, allowed the students to demonstrate the knowledge they gained both in the classroom and in the field. The audience was composed of sponsoring firms and others involved in providing personal financial planning advice and service. These included representatives from the trust industry, banking, credit unions, life insurance companies and professional advisory firms. Not only was this informative for the audience and an enjoyable experience for most students, it resulted in two job offers.

—from Dick Dolan

Part-time schooling nets full-time success

Carmel Thomson, owner/manager of Victoria-based communications company Thomas Communications Ltd., still draws upon the skills she developed at BCIT Evening Studies in 1975/76.

"When I began at BCIT I intended to go to university, but I couldn't afford the tuition. BCIT offered an alternative for post-secondary education in a part-time model so I was able to keep my job and pay the tuition," says Thomson. Another attraction was BCIT's high proportion of successful graduates.

Upon graduation Thomson began working as an administrative officer for the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Improvement (now Social Services and Housing), but soon found herself stagnating. "All the way through school I was encouraged that I could do anything. The reality was that the job was stifling my creativity and it felt like I was having my wings clipped," she says.

Thomson's answer was to run away to Whistler for what she calls her "sabbatical." After all, she had maintained a hectic

schedule combining work with study since high school. After this refreshing pause, she moved to Victoria as a freelance researcher. "I was able to earn enough money to sustain myself while I figured out exactly what I wanted to do next," she says.

"The job was stifling my creativity and it felt like I was having my wings clipped."

From researching she moved to technical writing, and soon realized that her clients' needs were growing. She was eager to meet those needs. "I began to learn about desktop publishing and in 1986 I started a business with a partner," she says. "After two and a half years my partner wore out and we agreed that I would buy out her half."

The variety of Thomson's client base affords opportunities to learn a little bit about everything. "I really enjoy learning something new. For example, as

a freelancer, I was hired to write some firefighting manuals and produce the instructional slides. By the time I had finished, I knew exactly what sort of portable pump my husband and I needed for our home in Saanich."

Thomson says that at this stage in her career she is able to work on any number of jobs, and even some that may not necessarily pay well, but give her the chance to help friends in the arts and business communities to market themselves.

Surrounded by the success of her business and the challenge of new jobs coming in, Thomson looks back to her time at BCIT as the foundation for where she is now. "At BCIT I learned what professionalism, commitment and customer service really mean. I can remember one instructor who used to compare running your own business to wearing many different hats. All of a sudden this and a lot of the other things that I learned at BCIT make sense. In particular, the things I learned in the management courses come in useful every day."

—from Sheila Rees

Graduate transfers skills to new industry

When Ian Grantham stood in front of the School of Business to deliver the valedictorian address at convocation last June, there were a lot of thoughts running through his mind, but the one thing he didn't have to worry about was looking for a job.

And when Grantham began working at Business in Vancouver Magazine, his employer appreciated the job-ready skills, because as Grantham says, "The BCIT grads working there didn't require half as much training as other employees."

Grantham originally transferred into the BCIT Marketing Management program based on the institute's strong reputation in industry and amongst his peers.

Grantham took advantage of his time at BCIT, becoming involved in a variety of marketing-related jobs that provided him with yet more experience. He was vice president, Marketing and Public Relations for the BCIT Student Association, and the director of Corporate Sponsorship for the BCIT Open House Committee. "It was an incredibly busy year for me," says Grantham, "but the experience I gained was worth the long hours of hard work."



Ian Grantham sees the real value of a BCIT education. Bert Schendel photo

Grantham faces some more hard work as he begins a new job with SynCare, a generic pharmaceutical drug company that is a subsidiary of Hoffman La Roche. In his new job as a sales representative for British Columbia, Grantham will be working in a field that is new to him.

"I am able to see the real value of my education at BCIT now," he says, "because the company doesn't have to train me in sales. They just have to familiarize me with the actual product and then I will apply my marketing skills to the job."

—from Sheila Rees

Faculty member retires

Bob Bell, a faculty member in Financial Management since 1978, has retired after celebrating his 65th birthday on March 31.

Bell was born and educated in Ontario and filled a variety of positions there in both business and education, including eight years as business chairman at Humber College. He was also active in the CGA Association of Ontario. His contribution was recognized in 1974 when he was made a life member.

Together with his family, he spent two years in Kenya where he was an advisor on planning and curriculum for the training of business teachers. His interest in helping developing countries continues to this day. Bell is an active participant in a Christian outreach project in Honduras.

In 1976, he and his family moved to B.C., where he took on positions at the CGA Association of Canada.

During his years at BCIT, Bell taught Financial Management and was also instrumental in the establishment of the Accounting Research Centre. Bell is well known for his integrity and his willingness to speak out against perceived injustice. His colleagues and students will surely miss him.

Broadcast grad heads for other side of microphone

The most valuable skill Peter Cech gained as a student in the Broadcast Communication program was learning how to work with the media.

He graduated from BCIT in 1981 with hands-on skills in radio broadcasting, but today, as manager of communications for one of the Ministry of Employment and Investment's BC 21 Communications' programs, he uses those skills on the other side of the microphone.

The transition began three months after graduation when Cech was offered a writing position at CKIQ in Castlegar.

"The writing came easily," says Cech, "and I wrote radio commercials there for a year and a half. I also worked as a copywriter at CKRD in Red Deer for one and a half years."

Cech says he knew from experience that he would miss Vancouver too much. In his final year at BCIT Cech spent his practicum at CKIQ in Castlegar and describes the experience as eye opening after growing up in Vancouver. "The first time I went to cash a paycheque everyone in the bank knew who I was before I produced any identification," he laughs. Cech was then offered the head writing position at CKCK Regina, but says that he was not interested in moving there.

The station in Regina pursued Cech with their offer and he began to think seriously about the job. "One week before I was supposed to leave for Regina I learned of a job opening at CJVI



Peter Cech cavorts with Romulan and Klingon friends as a media stunt.

Chung Chow photo

in Victoria and at the last minute I knew where I wanted to go," he says. "The awful part was that I had a reputation as a practical joker so when I called up the program director in Regina it took 20 minutes before I could convince him that I was not coming."

After three and a half years at the station in Victoria Cech was ready to move on. "I didn't want to leave the city so I decided to change fields," explains Cech.

A contract writing position with the Vancouver Island Highway project marked his entry into a career in public relations. Two and a half years later, Cech was offered a job with the Ministry of Employment and Investment, where today he is manager of communications for the Infrastructure Works program. "It is a joint federal, provincial and municipal program to cost share infrastructure improvements. Our communications goal is to ensure

that the people who live in the affected areas know how and why they are benefitting from the improvements," he says.

Cech is the media contact on the provincial side. "Knowing and understanding that reporters aren't any different from me is the biggest single benefit gained from my experience. My role is to help the media do their job as best they can," he concludes.

—from Sheila Rees

Open house provided turning point for student

Graduates of BCIT who go on to successful and rewarding careers all share one trait: they come to the institute ready and eager to learn.

When Melanie Mahlman came to BCIT in 1982 she had spent one year at university and three years in clerical jobs. Mahlman decided that what she really wanted to do was study management. From the beginning she describes BCIT as the perfect fit in terms of discipline, intensity and course of study.

She says her first year was difficult because she had to adapt to being in a school environment, but by her second year, Mahlman was ready to become further involved with the BCIT community. "My family instilled in me that you have a responsibility to contribute to your community, so I looked for an opportunity to give something back," she explains. That opportunity came in the role of Open House coordinator for the institute's 20th anniversary.

"That year was a turning point in my life," Mahlman explains. Shortly after taking on the role

of volunteer coordinator in the fall, she became ill and missed four weeks of school. "I had to resign from Open House and I thought that graduation was no longer a possibility. Healthy by January though, she resumed her role as coordinator and finished the full-time course load with her highest marks yet. "I learned that I could do anything if I put my mind to it," she says.

"I learned that I could do anything if I put my mind to it."

Mahlman took that lesson with her when she left BCIT. Six years later, working as director of development for Lions Gate Hospital, she realized that it was time to begin work towards her goal of a masters degree in business administration.

Besides working lengthy hours at the hospital she spent three years at SFU's night school as part of their Executive MBA program. Her hard work paid off when she graduated from SFU in

1993. That same spring, she was offered the position of executive director for the Greater Victoria Hospitals Foundation, working with the second largest community hospital system in the country.

Mahlman has maintained a strong link to BCIT since graduation. Her volunteer involvements include working on the Alumni Association Board, the Development Council and the advisory committee for Advanced Studies in Management. "My experience at BCIT has changed my life. I feel grateful to the many people who provided guidance and support along the way. If I can help the institute in some way, I will."

Mahlman continues to build on the foundation that she began at BCIT. She is currently working towards a certificate in public relations at the University of Victoria. "I love it," she enthuses. "It took me a while to get on the right career and educational track so now I enjoy every opportunity to learn and enhance my skills."

—from Sheila Rees



Melanie Mahlman, executive director for the Greater Victoria Hospitals Foundation.

PAWWS

(Personal and Workplace Wellness and Safety)

Challenging strangers during work

Why challenge strangers in your area:

- It lets them know the area is restricted.
- They realize they are recognized as strangers.
- They know you can identify them if they return.
- If they have criminal intent, this will discourage them.
- They cannot use ignorance next time.
- They will know continued trespassing may result in Security and/or the police being called.
- Discouraging this type of person makes the campus safer for everyone.

How to challenge strangers:

- Never jeopardize your safety.
- Use a polite, helpful approach. This reduces the discomfort of confrontation.
- If the stranger has bad intentions, you have done your job. If the strangers

someone legitimate, neither of you will be embarrassed.

- Identify yourself as a BCIT employee.
- Smile, be friendly and non-aggressive, but be firm.
- You might say: "May I help you?" "Are you looking for someone—perhaps I can help?" or "Are you looking for a particular room or office—perhaps I can direct you?"
- If they are rude, unfriendly, or even intimidating, continue to be polite. You might say: "A lot of people enter here by mistake, but it's a restricted area."; or, "I'm sorry, but this area is for staff only. You can exit this way."
- If they refuse to leave, or you are in doubt, notify your supervisor and call Security.

—from Safety & Security

Learning Resource Unit wins national award



President Brian Gillespie observes as Jean Robert (JR) Vaillancourt, vice-president international, presents the founding members of the Learning Resources Unit (from left) Dixie Stockmayer, Joyce McEwan and Bob Freeman with the ACCC Award for Leadership Excellence in Education for 1994-95. Bert Schendel photo

Retirement luncheon held

A retirement luncheon was held on May 29 for Peter Sawrenko, who has worked at BCIT since July, 1967. Sawrenko started in the School of Health Sciences,

working for the Medical Laboratory and X-ray programs. His position was mainly to cover instrument maintenance, however, Sawrenko's real title was Jack of All Trades, and his calm,



George Eisler (left) poses with retiring Peter Sawrenko

Bert Schendel photo

cooperative, smiling face will be missed. We wish him well in his new activities of gardening and golfing.

—from the School of Health Sciences

From all of us at Update... here's wishing you a safe and fun-filled summer! We'll see you in the fall!



Industry pays cash to winners

Weeks of dedication paid off in cash for the 40 winners of the industry sponsored student projects, who displayed their results at a fair on June 12.

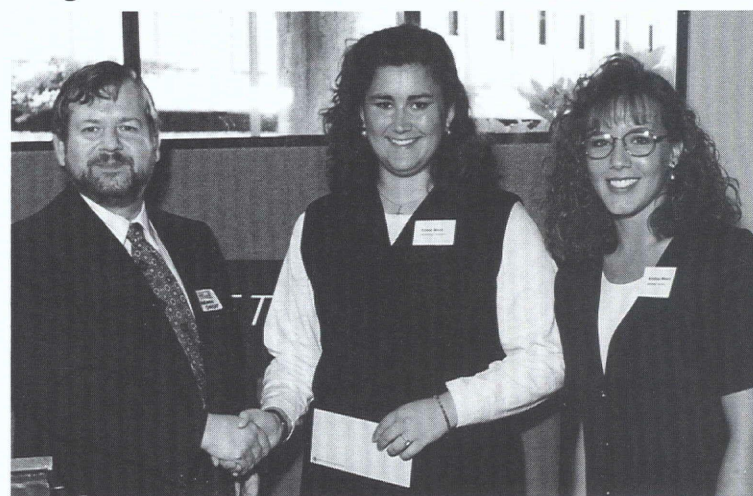
More than 400 projects were completed by BCIT students in conjunction with industry sponsors.

"A magnificent effort takes place every year," said Technology Centre director Norman Streat. "It is an outstanding demonstration that students are job-ready."

Awards reach a maximum of \$200 per student or \$600 per project.

From a design for an additional water supply system for Lions Bay, to a flood risk assessment for the Coquitlam River, BCIT's second-year students showcased their knowledge that works.

McCarney Technologies Inc. sponsored Electronic Engineering students Mark Dewerd and Herbert Hui to develop a vehicle communication interface.



Norman Streat presents Marketing students Erin West and Kristina Moore with a cheque for their project sponsored by Tourism Vancouver. Bert Schendel photo

Installed on vehicles, the technology will detect mechanical problems, interface with the car's cellular telephone and transmit the message back to the base station.

A.S.I. Plastics acted as a consultant in sponsoring Plastics students Jim Conroy and Juan Puac, who designed and built a plastic brochure rack for Student Services at BCIT.

Other projects included a test of the vaccine potential of HIV-1 from dried blood spots by James

Boutillier, a BCIT building project by Hanna Kwon and Stan Franssen, and a feasibility study of market diversification through the Internet for the Vancouver Canucks by Mike Dowling, Colin Osing and Warren Young.

BCIT continues its tradition of building partnerships with industry members, which not only provides students with job-ready skills, but often results in direct employment with sponsors.

—from Crystal Sawyer

BC Telecom CEO predicts stormy weather

The most recent instalment of the BCIT president's breakfast series was held on June 15 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Guest speaker Brian Canfield, chair and CEO of BC TELECOM Inc., presented his view on the state of the B.C. information superhighway.

Canfield discussed the current state of the telecommunications industry, which he describes as a "dangerous storm brewing."

Without direct competition between cable and telephone companies, Canfield explained that there will be no competitive

services offered in British Columbia: "The information highway is going to be restricted to a single lane of traffic for all of us west of the Rockies."

Part of the problem, according to Canfield, is the fact that for the past 40 years U.S.-based GTE has owned about 51 percent of BC TELECOM. "In the 1920s, our industry was in its infancy and we needed funding to build the B.C. portion of the cross-Canada network. And now, ironically, the thing that made it possible for B.C. to have such an advanced telecommunications

system is what's holding us back," he said.

As a result of the foreign ownership, BC TELECOM is not allowed to hold a broadcast license in Canada. Without a license, the company cannot be a broadcast service provider.

The breakfast concluded with John Watson thanking the members of the business community for their continued support, describing his relationship with industry as one of his fondest memories of his years at BCIT.

—from Sheila Rees

Lab and joint project return to campus

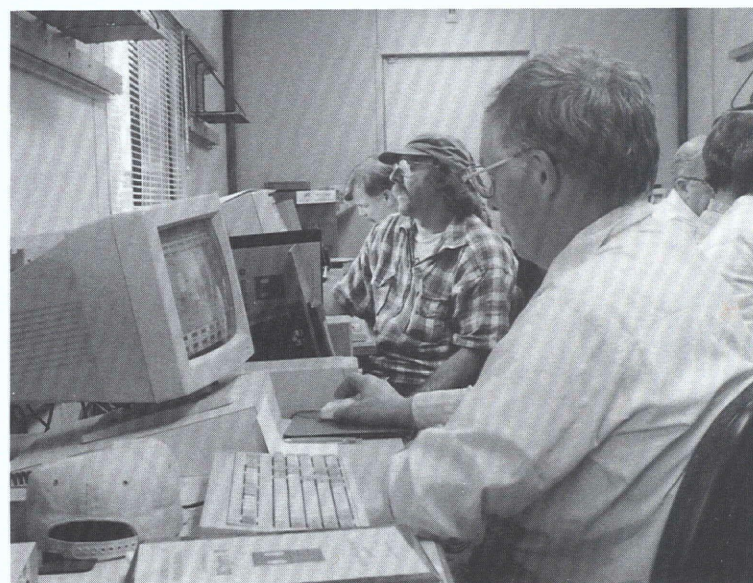
For three years, local software company Pacific AI maintained a research office in BCIT's Automated Reasoning Laboratory (ARL).

After a brief absence from campus (due to space shortages), the ARL is scheduled to re-open in SW5 Rm 2825 on June 30. Pacific AI will also rejoin ARL on-campus.

The return to campus is well timed, as Pacific AI has completed the pilot phase of a project with BC Hydro that is expected to include BCIT in its next phase.

The project is a complete training program for Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs). PLCs are industrial computers, which are programmed in a language called Ladder Logic, and used to control industrial processes such as power generation and distribution.

The aim of the computer-based training program is to equip



Pacific AI software is tested in the BCIT training trailer. Lawrence Kay photo

Hydro electricians with skills needed to develop and maintain the PLC programs used to control Hydro's equipment and processes.

"I look forward to a long and productive association with Pacific AI and BCIT," says Alex Lam, BC Hydro senior engineer, reflecting on the pilot's positive outcome.

"I want to thank BCIT for giving us access to its training trailer for our beta test of the computer-based learning software Pacific AI developed for us."

The ARL will be offering tours and demonstrations for the BCIT community in the fall. Watch for more information in Update.

—from Jeff Skosnik