20 BCIT MESSENGER

"looking to the future ... for 20 years"

Vol.13, No.7, April 5, 1984

At last, after months of hard work and worry, members of the Open House student committee relax knowing they have created a BCIT Open House to remember. Some estimates put visitation to the three day event as high as 40,000! Pictured with Dave Brousson are left to right: (top) Lisa Pflieger, Julie Paulson, Tommy Kwan, John Arthurs, David Smith, Colleen Knox. (bottom) Wayne Snook, Susan Bahry, Melanie Mahlman, Mary-Ann Van Graven and Toni Clark. *Photo - Ken Kajiwara*

To: Melanie Mahlman, coordinator, Open House
From: Gordon Thom, president

On behalf of BCIT, please accept my sincere thanks to you, your committee, and the hundreds of students who worked so hard to make Open House an outstanding success. I have attended almost every Open House since BCIT opened its doors 20 years ago, and I can recall no other that did a better job in telling the BCIT story both through the exhibits and through the enthusiasm of the students who willingly gave their time over the weekend to meet the public. It is important that we tell the BCIT story and in that regard your goals became a reality with Open House '84. Thank you very much for a job well done.

Jack Heinrich, Minister of Education, was the special guest at a special Breakfast at BCIT on March 23. Other guests from the Ministry were, Dr. G. Fisher, J. Newberry and former BCIT public relations director, now Information Services director for the Ministry, Dick Melville. The event, which preceded Open House, was well attended by over 150 guests from the business community. Many of them went on student conducted tours after the breakfast. Jack Heinrich, who was escorted by VP, Education, Drug Svetic, was interviewed by CBC in the Broadcast Centre, chatted informally to students and staff on his way through the displays and showed great interest in the highlights of a market research survey on BCIT presented by Ron Venne's Marketing students. The results of this survey will be presented at 5:30 p.m. on April 19 at the Robson Square Media Centre. *Photo - Mike Gdowski*

Outlook Report

This year's Outlook Report gives special consideration to at least two controversial topics. Both provincial budget measures and the quality of elementary and secondary education came under careful scrutiny in the 108-page report, co-written by Deborach Bannister and Craig Greenhill of the Office of Institutional Planning.

"Courses in mathematics, science and technology (at the elementary and secondary levels) are insufficient in quantity and inferior in quality," the report notes. "North America as a whole has poorer achievement rates than major competitors such as Europe, Japan, and the Soviet Union," Bannister said in an interview, "and that mediocrity is threatening our future." The issues raise many questions for BCIT: how well-prepared are students entering the Institute from high school? What should BCIT's response be -- a lowering of admission standards? Provision of more preparatory courses?

The Outlook Report also tackles head-on the thorny questions of provincial and federal policies of education and technology, including the volatile issue of provincial government cutbacks in post-secondary education funding.

"Those cutbacks," says the report, "run counter to the federal government's goal of ensuring that post-secondary institutions have the capacity to respond to all reasonable demands for education. Though EPF funding was increased by 8 per cent in 1983/84, the B.C. provincial government did not pass along the increase to the post-secondary system. This highlights the need for a mechanism of cooperation between the two levels of government for the purpose of coordinating policies and priorities, thereby determining the effective allocation of resources."

Bannister explains that the federal government's unwavering commitment to both accessibility and technological education paved the way for the new Robotics and CAD/CAM programs. Federal policies and monies (via the Skills Growth Fund) are enabling BCIT to meet the growing demands of industry.

"In two years time, says Bannister, "we'll be graduating the technologists to fill those jobs." In this example, the complicated interactions of the educational system, provincial and federal government policies, technological advances, and the needs of industry and labour come more clearly into focus. The Outlook Report draws on a massive amount of data to allow BCIT to continue planning its role in this context, in Bannister's words, "to get ahead of the game so that we can deal with situations as we see them coming rather than after a problem has occurred."

This year's report, for example, pinpoints the beginnings of a decline in the numbers of the traditional source-group for full time post-secondary education, 18-24 year olds. The slack may be offset as more people attend school as a result of high unemployment, and by the year 2000 that segment of the population will reach an all-time high. Nonetheless, the report concludes that, "intensified recruitment efforts and aggressive marketing may be necessary to maintain current BCIT enrolment levels." Part-time enrolment is expected to increase steadily in the near future and, "enhancement of part-time credit programs will enable BCIT to benefit substantially from these increases while weathering full time enrolment declines."

As for the economy, the report predicts that the greatest potential for new job creation in B.C. will be in tourism, finance, secondary manufacturing, high tech and non-government service industries. Over-reliance on our natural resource base left the B.C. economy particularly vulnerable when the current recession hit and landed us with one of the highest regional unemployment levels in North America. BCIT can play a vital role in restructuring and diversifying the domestic economy by maintaining, "a dynamic approach to curriculum content which graduates with marketable skills."

"We've tried to make some very dry material interesting and readable for just about anybody," Bannister says. If the remarks of Educational Council members are any indication, the Office of Institutional Planning has succeeded admirably. All members of the campus community are urged to read this report. Copies can be obtained from the Office of Institutional Planning or viewed in the Library.

ISIS Update

ISIS, BCIT's one-year-old Integrated Student Information System, will get its first real test on April 16 when students will be registered for summer courses using the on-line package. Registration information will be fed directly into the computer and students will receive a printed-out tuition fee receipt and timetable. Project leader Janet Robertson is optimistic about the system's performance.

"The response time may be a bit slow because at this time of year the computer is being used by lots of students, she says, "but overall accuracy and speed are expected to be excellent. At the end of April ISIS will have another run when HI-TRAC students are registered for the spring term (that's 842 in ISIS-ese).

Approximately 4,000 fall '84 applications have already been entered onto ISIS. The Registrar's Office is currently busy creating the sections for 1500 courses which have been compiled into a centralized Course Catalogue. At the end of the month the Registrar's Office will start training department heads in procedures for using ISIS effectively. Functions of interest to departments include looking up class lists, teaching assignments, and records of individual students.

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1964 ~ 1984

OPEN HOUSE '84

Students Sparkle at Open House

BCIT's Anniversary Open House on March 23, 24 and 25 gave the public a glimpse of the world of high technology. Up to 40,000 visitors, among them many families with small children, wandered through displays ranging from Pollution Science's equipment for measuring smoker-generated carbon monoxide to a demonstration of computer-assisted design and drafting in Building. Using up-to-date equipment, Surveying students were able to give Open House guests the most accurate readings of their height possible. It wasn't all technical, however. Nurses gave free backrubs for weary shoulders and visitors to the Fish, Wildlife and Recreation option display got a glimpse of salmonids from the Seymour River Hatchery.

BCIT's Logger Sports team placed second overall in competition with eight teams from the western U.S. and Canada. Hospitality and Tourism special guests Dal Richards and Robert Stewart, both BCIT grads, treated visitors to a variety show featuring tunes from the Big Band era.

Deans and Student Association reps from each division chose the best displays, with awards being presented by Mayor Bill Lewarne. Surveying was judged the best overall exhibit while Medical Laboratory received honours for its simulation of testing procedures in an average hospital lab. Transportation/Distribution Management, Operations Management program took the award for best business display with its heliport, featuring a helicopter and other heavy transport machinery. The Society of Engineering Technologists (SETBC) presented their own award to the Building Technology for their display demonstrating the range of skill which students in that field acquire. Continuing Education students were given a "recognition award" for their first-ever Open House display.

all the photos in this issue of the Messenger, plus many more can be viewed in trailer 1B [room 103].

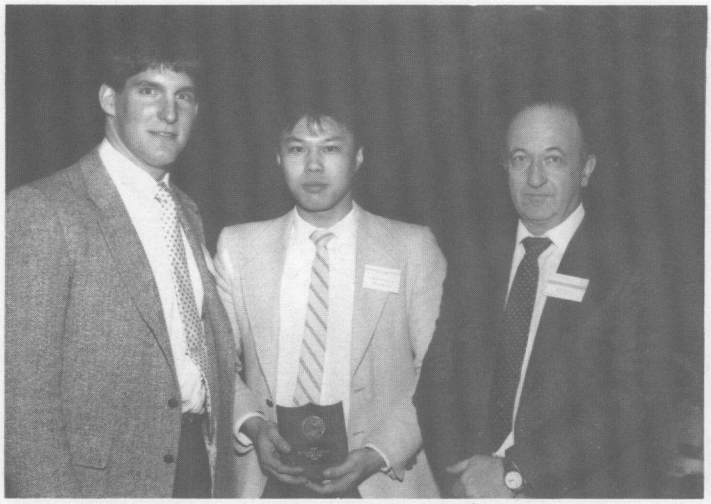
The Alumni Association provided a hospitality suite with coffee, wine, and beer, enabling impromptu reunions of some 300 alumni with their former instructors and staff. Association secretary Linda Bell reports that she signed up 65 new members and received 70 address changes during the three days. Two staff members, both from Forest Resource, won prizes in a raffle put on by the Alumni group.

Public response to the event was overwhelmingly positive judging by the comments overheard in the hallways. Many parents were delighted that students took the time and effort to explain things to children. Some participants expressed a feeling of being overwhelmed by the sheer quantity of displays and huge amount of information to be assimilated.

As for student organizer Melanie Mahlman, she can best be described as ecstatic over the success of BCIT's 20th Anniversary Open House. She expresses appreciation to all of the staff, the Deans and President Thom for their help in staging the event. The President thinks she has reason to be proud. He called it, "the best Open House to tell the BCIT story I've ever seen."

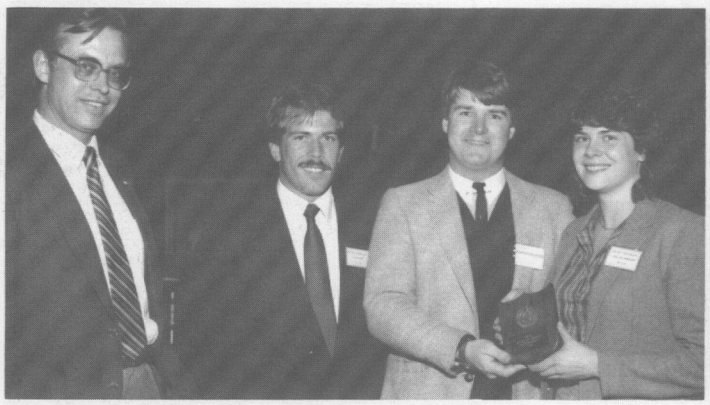
AWARDS

Filmed highlights of BCIT's Open House will be shown on the Knowledge Network on April 16. The one hour show will be part of BCIT's regular **Time of Your Life** series and will air at 6 p.m.

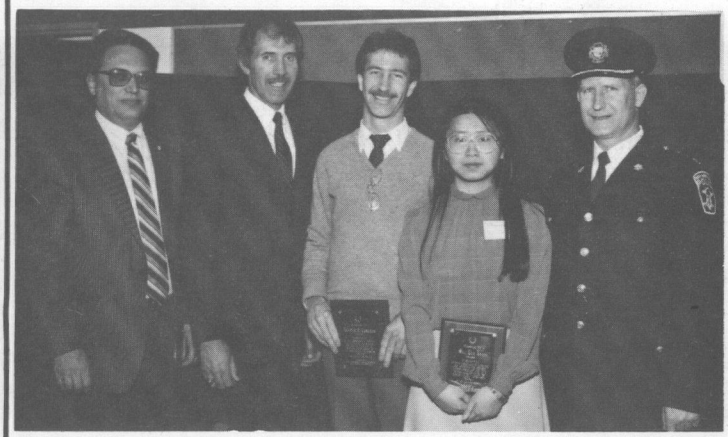


Transportation and Distribution Management students Stewart Valentine and Walter Wong accept the award for best Business Division display from Dean of Business, John Kyle.

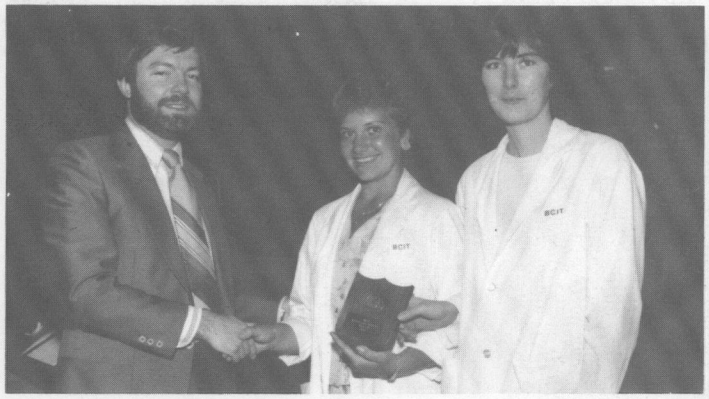
Debbie Bortolussi and assistant Sally accept a special award for the first Continuing Education display at an Open House.



Survey students Luc Barabe, Andy Roper and Caroline Anderson pictured with dean of Engineering, Ron Sterne, won the best Engineering Division display award. Survey also won the award for best overall display.



For their work documenting police records in a summer work project Operations Management students Derrick Cameron and Sau Lan Yan receive special awards from the New Westminster police department. From left to right: Drug Svetic, Sergeant Gary Austin, Derrick Cameron, Sau Lan Yan and Inspector John Lucas.

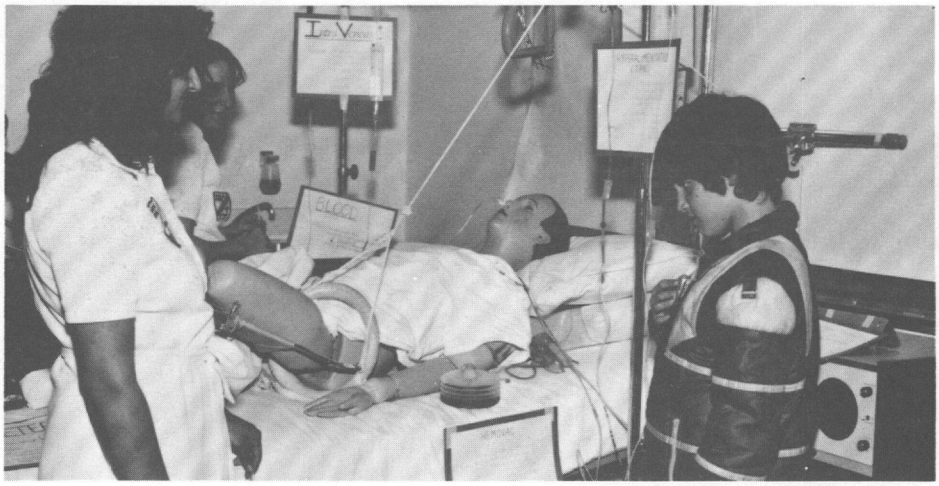


Dean of Health, Brian Gillespie, shakes hands with Medical Laboratory students Linda Gaigg and Linda Botel as they accept award for best Health Division display.

Paul Le Branche of SETBC (left) presented an award to the Building technology represented by Richard Matthews (right).

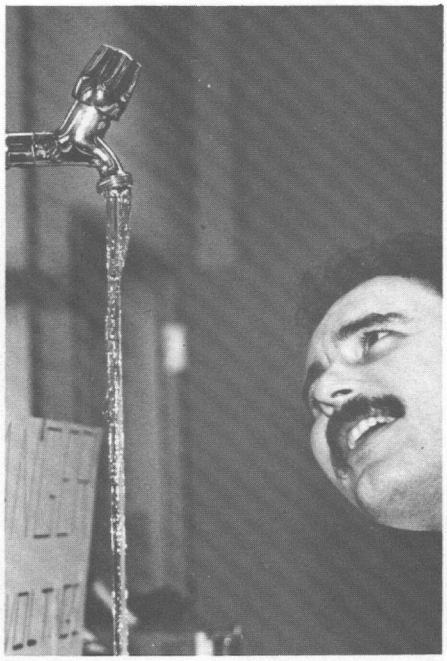
DISPLAYS

Survey display shows how a typical surveying camp would have looked around the turn of the century.

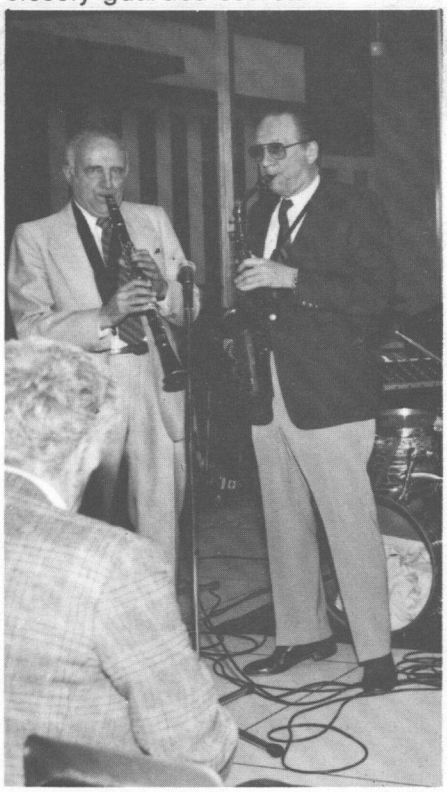


Nursing students Tammy O'Connor and Carol Ghuman show a young visitor some of the apparatus a patient may be expected to wear while in hospital.

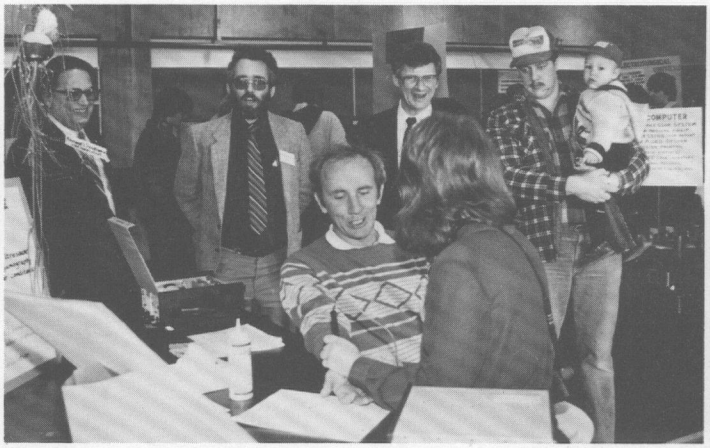
Part of Hospitality and Tourism's display included a mammoth model of the Expo '86 site.



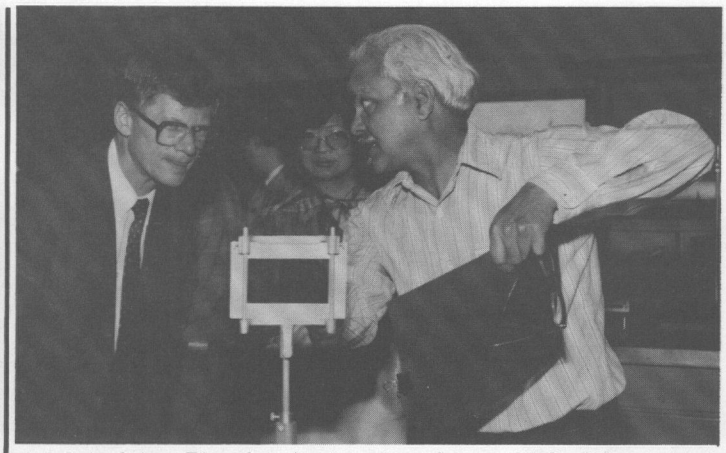
Garry Zatz tries to figure out how a tap, suspended in mid-air with no apparent mains connection can generate a flow of water. Electrical's Instrumentation option keeps the phenomenon a closely guarded secret.



Big Band leader and former Hotel/Motel student, Dal Richards gave a free performance with members of his band in the Food Training Centre on Saturday. Also appearing was Scottish entertainer Robert Stewart, another grad.



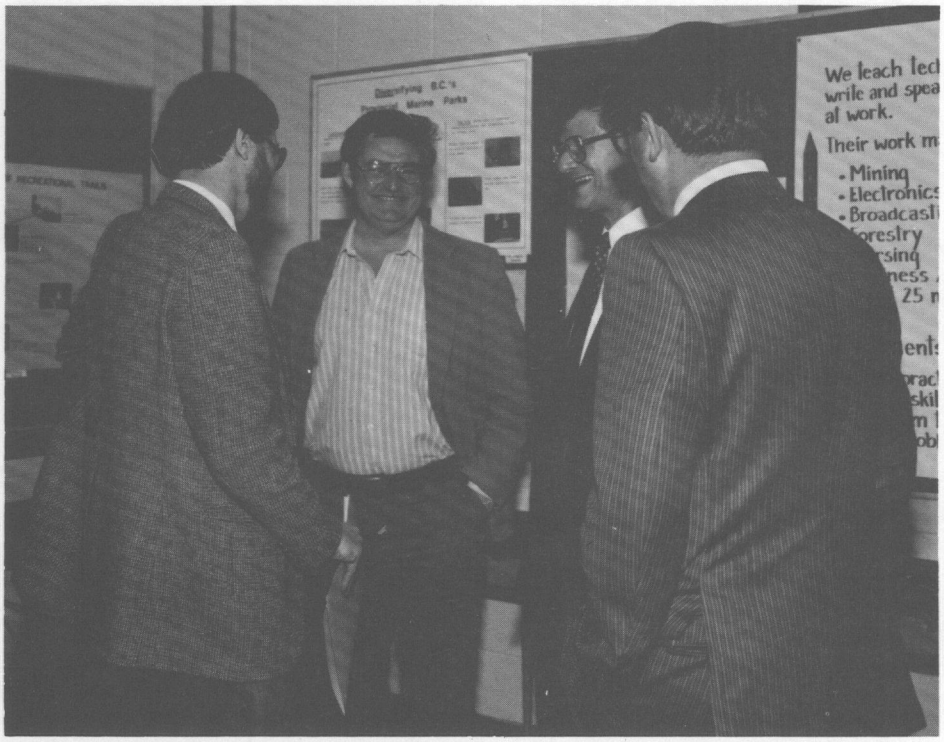
The sound of John Emes' blood flowing is measured at the Biomedical Electronics display to the amusement of Drug Svetic, Jack Heinrich and Al Nichols.



Assisted by Physics instructor Amar Kshatriya, Jack Heinrich views a three dimensional laser reconstructed holographicimage at the Physics Department display.

Jack Heinrich gets a free tree seedling at the Forest Resource display.

Electrical Control option student Paula Cox shows budding technologist how to solve a typical control problem using the computer.



Richard Lund and Greg Layton chat to Drug Svetic and Jack Heinrich at the English department display.

Photos - M.Gdowski/K. Kajiwara

ACCC/CVA Conference

The ACCC/CVA conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Harbourside May 28-31 with plenary sessions starting on Tuesday the 29th. Kathleen Whitham in the President's Office has put out a call for people to serve on the Hospitality Committee. She can be contacted at local 201. Programs with registration information can be obtained from department heads or John Crawford (local 788). A daily rate is available for those unable to attend the entire conference. It should be noted that a late fee is in effect after April 12, so early registration is advisable.

Details of BCIT's participation in the conference will be included in the next issue of the Messenger.

Educational Council Meet

Two matters arose before the minutes of the last meeting were accepted at the March 28 meeting of the Educational Council.

• **Pat Thomas, general secretary of the Staff Society** pointed out that all six professional counsellors received layoff notices six days after the February meeting in which over an hour was devoted to debate of the **Report of the Task Force on the Future of Counselling/Financial Aid at BCIT.** Thomas wanted to know why the administration allowed unnecessary debate on the matter. He also wondered what the justification was for giving out more notices than were actually necessary (the intention is **not** to lay off all six). President Thom indicated that Thomas had a valid point, but that he had wanted the report tabled and out before the budget process went through. He said further discussion was out of order on this labour-management issue, but that the Institute's contract with the Staff Society has necessitated the layoff procedures. The matter arose again later in the evening when Thomas requested the President to withdraw his statement that the contract was responsible for the high number of layoff notices being given with the intention of rescinding. When Thom declined, Thomas requested that he go on record as saying that the statement was wrong.

• **Greg Layton, Staff Society President**, referred to an item in the minutes regarding alteration in programs. He asked whether Educational Council had a role in discussing changes in hours offered in courses. President Thom replied that the Council has a definite role in maintaining standards and quality. Layton then moved that, "any program experiencing a cutback or change in hours as a result of formula funding be reviewed by the Educational Standards Committee so that harm to the program will be minimized." The motion was carried.

• **Before the remainder of the agenda was considered**, Drug Svetic introduced a special guest, Dr. Joe McDowell, of the Science and Technology Ministry in Ottawa, who was in town for the Hi-Tech West conference held here earlier in the week. Dr. McDowell had just returned from a four-year stay in Japan, where he visited scores of industries and laboratories ranging from cottage to high-tech. He studied the ways the Japanese have orchestrated relations among government, industries and educational institutions as well as that country's approach to industrial relations. All were invited to hear Dr. McDowell share his experiences in a talk at BCIT on Thursday, March 29.

• **John Crawford of Psychiatric Nursing** gave a presentation on the upcoming ACCC Conference. (See separate story.)

• **Dave McNeal presented the English Department's** Alternate Classroom Proposal as a means of dealing with increased students and reduced staff time. Three problems with alternate delivery systems were identified at the start, based on the experience of others who have implemented similar programs. Questions arose about how to identify students who will benefit from the alternate, self-paced system and how to convince them to move out of the traditional classroom. Course management was another area of concern. McNeal described the potential nightmare of administering a loosely-structured program, identifying the loss of records and assignments as key problems. A third problem of particular concern to the English Department was that Skills Development Courses require a great deal of contact with faculty which instructors do not want to lose under an alternative delivery system, as well as technology-specific materials to balance those of the common core. In response to these three problems the department decided to go slowly, keeping in mind their criteria of workability; to generate a Term 1 course initially for each division; to keep as much quality as possible; and to improve the use of TAs. They decided to stream students using a pre-test to maximize cost-effectiveness of the program; to use TAs for the "high stream" in the alternate classroom; to divide each course into a number of discrete units for all students, each unit followed by a test which students must pass before moving on to the next level; and to employ a majority of material written specifically for the program and easily markable tests.

The Department hopes to absorb more students with its plan, at the same time maintaining quality. McNeal stressed that the system will "flex to students' needs" but that teachers will retain ultimate control and the power to insist that those students who need help get it. He said that faculty will be available to all students at all times.

McNeal suggested that the Institute might consider offering a special certificate to students who succeed in moving through the program at their own pace, because "employers like students who can pick up knowledge on their own."

The proposal generated discussion of whether the system might frustrate better students and have a negative impact on poorer students who may feel they are being lumped together. There was also some question as to the viability of a two-tiered system. It appeared, however, that the English Department had taken as many such criticisms as possible into account before drafting their proposal.

• **The Educational Programs and Priorities Committee** was questioned about the action taken on program assessments, particularly in regard to the summary made on the Financial Management Technology. It was felt by some members of Council that program evaluations are an in-depth procedure but that recommendations are not followed up at the same intensity. Committee members were urged to monitor, follow up and implement any recommendations they make following program assessments, in order to ensure the continuing quality of BCIT programs.

Environmental Health hosts conference

On March 15 the Department of Environmental Health Services staged a half-day conference on enteric diseases; "the first really heavy scientific public health seminar that we've held," says department head John Pelton.

About 80 public health inspectors, medical health officers, BCIT faculty and students turned out for the forum which was designed to give updated information on the microbiological aspects of three specific infectious intestinal diseases. The topic, suggested by the council representing medical health officers in local municipal health departments, reflects a concern in the public health profession that standards based on sound scientific evidence need to be implemented.

Dean of Health, Brian Gillespie, joined Pelton and Ron de Burger, B.C.'s Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, in making opening remarks to conference participants. Dr. Tim Johnstone, epidemiologist with the provincial Ministry of Health, and Dr. S. Sheps, communicable disease specialist with the Vancouver Health Department, spoke on the incidence and spread of salmonella, shigella and campylobacter, three enteric diseases common throughout Canada. Dr. J. Garry of Richmond, and Andrew Hindley, Director of Public Health Inspection for the province, provided closing remarks.

Environmental Health's Charlie Young did most of the groundwork for the conference and chaired panel discussions on each topic. Errol Borsky, a departmental technician, assisted with organizing and coordinating the event and also videotaped the entire conference. The tapes will be edited into an educational presentation to be sent around the province to rural health units, hospitals and any others that can make good use of the information.

The seminar and videotape represent Environmental Health Services' contribution to 20th Anniversary celebrations.

Alistair Sim, manager of Central Stores, has informed the Institute that effective April 2 regular mail delivery and pick up will cease for all departments except the Library.

After April 2 mail can be picked up after 9:30 a.m. and dropped off between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. in room *1A/186.*

In another move Materiel Handling services will now give priority to heavy, bulky and awkward moves. The delivery and movement of small goods and Stores items will be the responsibility of each department.

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Starting April 30 all enquiries to BCIT's **Lost and Found** will have to be made during the following hours:

Monday to Friday -
7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
12 noon to 1 p.m.

These "restricted" hours are necessary, says Safety/Security manager Neil Chadwick, to enable security personnel to perform other work previously provided through contracted arrangements. Lost and Found is located in Portable 2T, phone local 878.

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Interested staff are invited to attend a special lecture by president of Dynapro Systems Inc., Dr. Karl H. Brackhaus. The one hour lecture, organized by BCIT's Physics Department, will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18, room 1A/472.

Dynapro has been granted an award of excellence for Innovation in Electronics by the B.C. government and, says Physics instructor Amar Kshatriya, has contributed to the accelerating process of industrial control sophistication by bringing colour graphics, CRT's and operator command capability, and developing a computer language called Grafix.

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Susan Walters assumed the job of secretary to dean of Development, Dave Brousson, on March 5. She takes over from Joyce Payton who left at the end of February. Susan, who has been with the Institute three years, previously worked as a secretary in the office of the President.

Financial Management instructor, Maurice Thurgood, was guest speaker at a meeting of the Fraser Valley Taxpayers Action Committee on March 15.

Thurgood, a former Revenue Canada superintendent, discussed how to deal with auditors, preparing records and business plans, lodging appeals and fighting them at a minimal cost.

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The polytechnic system in Singapore will be the subject of a slide presentation by Gordon Thom on April 12.

Thom visited Singapore in February as part of a four person CIDA mission to review projects and to make proposals on how $250,000 per year could be spent on technical and vocational education in Singapore over the next three years. The presentation which is open to all staff, will take place in Room 1A/310.

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It's a boy for Wendy Basford of Medical Laboratory and husband Richard, a former Marketing Management instructor.

Richard Scott Duncanson was born six weeks earlier than expected at 7 p.m. on February 21 at Grace Hospital, weighing in at four pounds one ounce. A first child for Wendy and Richard.

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Another first baby, also given the name Richard, was born to Jose Stockdale of Personnel and husband Mike last week.

Richard Jamieson (Jamie), weighing eight pounds seven ounces was born at 8:30 p.m. on March 27 at Lions Gate Hospital.

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Meanwhile, Cindy Innes has left the Institute in preparation for the birth of her first baby expected in June. Cindy (nee Boire), has worked in the Registrar's area since October 1978, first for Elaine Del Gobbo and more recently for acting registrar Gordon Kenyon. She will be on maternity leave for six months. All the best, Cindy.