

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I welcome the opportunity to reach out to an important off-campus public—the BCIT graduate. Particularly in the case of this Institute, the calibre of graduate has done much to create the outstanding reputation enjoyed by BCIT in this province, and, in fact, across Canada.

My career in education began as an employee of my alma mater and as a consequence of that experience, I am convinced that the lifetime alumni bond can be rewarding and satisfying to the graduate and more, provide a vital strength to the Institution.

I referred to the alumni as an important public and there is no limit to the good they can do. However, three ingredients must be there to make it work: (1) the experiences of their years at the Institute were rewarding and can be recalled with appreciation and satisfaction; (2) they are kept fully informed regarding the objectives, policies, progress and problems of the Institute; (3) they are given an opportunity to perform challenging tasks for the Institute.

The critical problems faced by higher education today make it essential that alumni groups and their institutions forge a stronger bond. If BCIT wants to continue to attract good students and if BCIT wants to continue to reflect the needs of business, industry and other community enterprises, then it needs strong informed links with the total community. Therefore, an informed alumni can be a strong base of support in the community and it is toward that end that the administration of BCIT has devoted effort and dollars to aid in the revitalization of the Alumni Association to make it a viable organization in the province of B.C.

A student may attend an institution for two years but he is an alumnus for life. We at BCIT, faced with a renewed enthusiasm for the Alumni Association by the new executive, are placing a high priority on encouraging the students today to become a part of that organization upon graduation so that they may join the thousands of alumni in playing an active and significant role for BCIT.

My congratulations and support are extended wholeheartedly to the executive and please accept my sincere best wishes for a successful association at large.

Gordon A. Thom

ALUMNUS SPEAKS AT CONVOCATION



BCIT graduates have a vital role to play in finding solutions to the ecological crises, according to Dick Tomkinson, the 1976 convocation speaker.

A BCIT alumnus, Tomkinson delivered his address on June 11th to 342 members of the 1976 graduating class, their families and friends. The convocation ceremony was held in the SAC Cafeteria.

In his speech, Tomkinson challenged the graduates to share their specialized skills with the global village and use their intellects in the struggle to preserve our environment.

"It is technology - applied to the practical problems of society at large - that is at the cutting edge of maintaining humanity in this world," Tomkinson said.

Referring to H.G. Wells' depiction of history as a race between catastrophe and science, he

continued: "Technology, the applied intelligence of man, is the power and the factor that will carry human habitation on this planet through the growing scarcity of energy and material into a new world."

As support for this thesis, Tomkinson pointed out that we live in an ever-expanding world. Our growing ability to measure in ever smaller and more precise units increases the amount of time we have. Advances in medicine extend our life-span. New techniques in exploration increase the availability of resources. Space travel expands our horizons. These factors, according to Tomkinson, increase our capability of solving the problems of a crowded planet.

Tomkinson graduated from BCIT in Business Administration in 1966. He is presently branch manager of Sperry Univac Computer Systems in Montclair, New Jersey. Prior to that, he was area manager for that company in South Africa.

1976 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1976 Annual General Meeting of the BCIT Alumni Association was held at BCIT on June 29th, 1976, under the chairmanship of the outgoing President, Mark Bailey. The reports of the Executive and Directors were received and election of new officers and directors carried out.

The 1975-76 year was a period of re-organization and adjustment. Presentations to the Board of Governors through the Principal, Gordon Thom, had been made and the Association had gained moral, as well as financial, support from the Board. Plans were made for a mail ballot election of an alumni nominee to the Board of Governors, the Administration started work on compiling and

maintaining an accurate Alumni History File; the establishment of a Director of Information Services, including an Alumni liaison function, all set the stage for a concentrated effort by the Association in 1976-77 to establish its credibility with its membership, the institute and community.

The initial priority item for 1976-77 is to establish a communication link with the membership, to solicit feedback and to determine the long term aims and goals of the Association based on the demands of the membership.

The officer and directors who accepted this challenge for the coming year are

President
1st Vice-President
2nd Vice-President
Past President
Secretary-Treasurer

R.N. (Ron) Isaak
S. (Stan) Tonowski
Vacant
M. (Mark) Bailey
M. (Mary) Bodo

DIRECTORS

H.C. (Harry) Bedard
R. (Rudy) Bergman
C.P. (Chris) Deane
A. (Anne) Harder
D.M. (Mark) Pocock
D. (David) Spear
F. (Fred) O'Hagan
G. (Graham) Fane

ALUMNI MAILING LIST

Dick Melville
Director of Information Services

The Alumni Association mailing list is in the best condition ever as a result of the election of a representative to the Board of Governors.

Thousands of graduates have gone from BCIT in the past twelve years, many of them scattered throughout the world. With the result that addresses obtained at graduation were no longer valid.

Management of a mailing list on an ongoing basis is a time-consuming job, but if there is nothing to manage it becomes the more difficult task of compiling one.

Using old lists, cross-checking them with associations and any other list the administration of BCIT could get hold of, a total of 6,000 names and addresses were compiled and used as the election register. Everyone connected with the project was aware the list was hardly

an accurate one, but it was a starting point. The election was conducted through the mail with return address cards as part of the election kit.

Through return envelopes and address cards, there is now a list of 3,918 verified names which are as current as can possibly be. The list is committed to the computer bank and may be retrieved by year of graduation, technology and geographical location.

The shape of the mailing list is due to the insistence of President, Ron Isaak and the commitment of funds by the administration which allowed a clerk to be put on the sorting job for a full six weeks this summer.

However, one word of caution, the list is only as good as its currency and much effort is going to be required to keep it up-to-date and indeed, to increase it to broaden the base of the Alumni Association.

OPEN HOUSE '77

March 18th and 19th have been set as the days for Open House '77 at BCIT. Of course, we want as many alumni to attend that weekend and to make it even more successful. There will be a special homecoming event for past graduates.

Open House Homecoming will entail a great deal of planning and work and like every other association we need help. Ideas we have now are not carved in rock, therefore creative, stimulating formats for this occasion are very welcome.

Once we have the concept, we need hands on board to help us make it the kind of event that will appeal to graduates and also use it as a major launching program for an active Alumni Association.

So, if you have some ideas or are willing to help, write to D. Dickson Melville, Director of Information Services, BCIT.

Dick, by the way, is acting in a co-ordinator role to help the Association during its growing period.

ALUMNI ELECTION

FOR THE B.O.G.

In a well-contested election for the Alumni seat on the Board of Governors, Ron Isaak, 1968 Civil and Structural graduate, won over 1975 Business graduate, James Britton and 1971 Business graduate Greg Wong.

In a mail ballot, a return of about 30 percent gave Ron the victory by a considerable margin.

Ron Isaak was the Alumni Representative on the Board last year and served as Vice-Chairman. He was also elected President of the Alumni Association on June 29th at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.



A Changing Campus Image

Remember the good old days? Football at Moscrop, floor hockey at Renfrew and dances at the Hallmark Halls? Times have changed, and so has the campus image of BCIT.

In the early years the emphasis was on establishing a "Business" Institute image, shirts and ties, the all-work-and-little-play, get-ready-for-industry approach. Today the students are adopting a get-ready-for-Life - education-isn't-everything approach and a greater share of the budget is being demanded for student services.

Where is the break-even point? Faced with the hypothetical choice of financially supporting a sports team to represent BCIT in a league of other institutes, or appropriating funds for tours of industry by students, what would be your priority?

BCIT is facing questions of this nature. Decisions made now will affect the future of the Institute and its image. Your views and comments are essential for the formulation of policy by your association for presentation to the Institute's Board of Governors.

A BCIT ALUMNI?

By definition a BCIT Alumni Member is "Any Graduate Diploma Student by Convocation from the British Columbia Institute of Technology".

Your diploma makes you a member, no dues, no membership cards, no obligation! Or do you have an obligation to yourself, to ensure that the value of your diploma is maintained? Your Association is committed to this goal, your active support is required.

TURN IN A GRAD!

With the proclamation of the BCIT Act in 1974 by the Legislative in Victoria, BCIT came under the administration of a Board of Governors comprised of representatives from faculty, students, alumni and distinguished appointees from business, industry and labour.

While this represented a major change in the Administration of BCIT other facets of the Institute have also been expanding and changing. Student enrollment is increasing, athletic programmes have expanded, new

buildings are being constructed, new programmes introduced, the faculty is unionized, dress regulations are gone and student residences are planned.

Do changes at BCIT affect you, your position in industry and your diploma? You have a voice through representation on the Institute's Board of Governors. Your views, comments and opinions can be a vital link in the feedback system that determines the future direction of BCIT and a continuation of the highly respected diploma you have earned.

Did you know that BCIT has provided over 12,000 graduates for industry!?

We know where 4,000 of you are but where are the rest? if you are working with, know the whereabouts of, or are reading someone else's newsletter, please fill in the form below or contact:

Information Services Dept.
B.C.I.T.
3700 Willingdon Ave.
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 3H2

B.C.I.T.
Information Services Dept.
3700 Willingdon Ave.
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 3H2

NAME (Please print) _____ (Maiden Name) _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS _____

TECHNOLOGY _____ YEAR GRADUATED _____