

BCIT Events To Come

Wednesday, May 25

- BCIT Bookstore used book buy-back, 0830-1530.
- Discover Your Business Potential workshop, SE6 BC Tel Theatre, 1830-2230.

Thursday, May 26

- BCIT Bookstore used book buy-back, 0830-1530.
- Discover Your Business Potential workshop, SE6 BC Tel Theatre, 1830-2230.

- BCIT Alumni Association, annual general meeting, Administration Building Boardroom, 1800.

Friday, May 27

- BCIT Bookstore used book buy-back, 0830-1400.

Saturday, May 28

- Discover Your Business Potential, SE6-BC Tel Theatre, 0900-1400.

Tuesday, May 31

- Deadline to return all library materials not being used during the summer.
- Retirement lunch for Petroleum and Natural Gas Technology's Don Campbell, Rix Staff Club, 1100-1300.

Friday, June 3

- Annual BCIT staff golf tournament, 1000-1600, Mylora Executive Golf Course.

June 5-10

- 1994 Pulp and Paper Institute, Prince George.

Sunday, June 19

- BCIT staff and family picnic behind the SAC building, 1200-1600.

If you would like your event in Update's calendar contact Ronaye Ireland by telephone at 8738, by PROFS RIRELAND or internal mail. Deadline is one week prior to publication.

The mission of BCIT is to provide British Columbians with world-class, job-ready skills for career success.

BCIT and Sir Charles Tupper sign agreement to "bridge the gap"

When Premier Mike Harcourt announced the \$200 million Skills Now! initiative earlier this month, many at BCIT were celebrating the news that the institute had been given degree granting status.

But one part of the initiative that few were aware of was a \$99,000 Tech Step program between BCIT and Sir Charles Tupper Secondary in Vancouver.

Since December of 1993 staff from BCIT and Tupper have been talking about a partnership to improve the flow of secondary students to trades and technology programs at BCIT.

Tupper's principal Gary Little likes to use the analogy of a truck backing up to the loading dock. There has always been a gap between the truck (representing post-secondary education) and the loading dock (representing secondary students).

Programs like this one, Little says, close that gap.

Specifically the program incorporates the skills of mathematics, physics, chemistry and language arts into an upgraded technology program that integrates what traditionally have been sharply delineated courses like



Tupper principal Gary Little: working with BCIT to bridge the gap his students face in gaining skills in trades and technology.

Terry Jorden photo

metalwork, drafting, woodwork, electronics, auto mechanics. Students learn and utilize these skills while completing a specific project, like designing an automobile.

The program beginning in grade 11 will provide 24 students initially with an integrated, hands-on technology experience that blends the best of practical education with applied mathematics, physics and communications.

The Tupper program is

articulated closely with BCIT curriculum, so that in some cases students will be able to earn BCIT credits while at Tupper and use them for BCIT program credit.

The program is being developed as a model to potentially be used around the province.

BCIT has allocated two entrance awards — each the equivalent to one year's tuition — to eligible Tupper graduates.

BCIT will also give priority

when handling applications from up to two students, recommended by the principal, for entry into BCIT programs in Mechanical, Civil and Structural and Building Technology.

"Tupper is a multi-ethnic, multi-language inner city school of 1,300 students," he said. "In addition, about one-third of the students entering the school for the first time in grade eight brought with them reading rates of grade 3.2 or below. If Tech Step can work here, it can work anywhere in the province."

SET moves to increase number of women in technology

Special bursaries, mentoring programs, workshops for youths and specialized marketing materials are needed to increase the number of women in engineering-based technology programs at BCIT.

Those are just a few of the recommendations of the

Women in Technology Initiative, a task force struck by Dave Chowdhury, the dean of the School of Engineering Technology.

The goals of the task force are to increase enrolment and retention of women in BCIT engineering-based programs.

The committee is made up of Donna MacDuff, program head in Physics and Engineering Technology Entry, Michele Hemphill, mathematics instructor and Terry Suen, administrative officer in the School of Engineering Technology.

and remain in these programs.

- offer regular workshops for girls between 10-12 to encourage participation in science and technology.
- develop a student handbook showing the life of other women on campus.
- include a discussion of harassment and discrimination issues during BCIT's student orientation program in September each year.
- organize mentoring programs between women students and women in the field.
- establish a bursary for women entering BCIT engineering-based technology programs.

Advisory committee comprising Neil Howard (Marketing), Cathy Daminato (Development), Mary Hamm (Educational Council), and Brigitte Peter-Cherneff (Library) has been formed to assist the institute in prioritizing and implementing the recommendations.



The SET Women in Technology Initiative is aiming to increase the number of women like Glenda Wilson in engineering-based programs. Glenda is a BCIT CAD/CAM Technology graduate working as a supervisor with VTeck Engineering Canada.

Bert Schendel photo.

*Increase
enrolment and
retention of
women*

Donna MacDuff and Terry Suen recently attended a Women in Engineering Conference at the University of Washington in Seattle and came back with recommendations that BCIT should consider. They are:

- appoint a full-time person to encourage more women to enter

Message from the Dean

Until 1993, the School of Engineering Technology has continued to grow in size and in the variety of programs offered. Starting last year, several programs from the school have moved to become part of new schools at BCIT. The Electronics Technology program was the first to move out to become part of the School of Electrical and Electronic Technology. In April of this year, the School of Computing and Academic Studies was formed by moving the Computer Systems department and the division of Academic Studies out of the School of Engineering Technology. These changes are part of BCIT's strategy to create schools which are tightly focused on industry sectors to enable them to readily change and adapt to the needs of the marketplace.

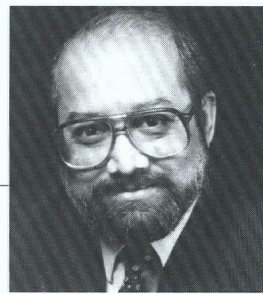
Some things, however, transcend organizational changes. The demonstrable competencies of our students and staff continue to remain at a very high level. The Building Technology program was (again) awarded the BCIT Open House Best Display award this year, for the sixth time in a row. This program continues to attract large numbers of students, and this year will offer a new specialization in Building Science.

A recently introduced and critical component of second-year studies in Engineering Technology programs is the Industry Sponsored project. In the past two years, nearly 500 projects have been undertaken by groups of students; supervised by BCIT faculty, the students have tackled real-world technical problems for B.C. business and industry. This successful demonstration of technology transfer, in 30 different fields of technology, was recognized last year by the Conference Board of Canada through its National Award of Excellence in Business-Education Partnerships.

One of the projects recognized was undertaken by Building Technology students. It has had a significant influence on the ultimate design of the newest building on BCIT's Burnaby Campus, the Connector Building, also known as Building SW2, now home to several School of Engineering Technology departments. It houses the Dean's office, the Director of Part-time Studies and his staff, the Associate Dean of Civil Technology, and faculty in the Surveying and Mapping program.

The Part-time Studies department achieved its own

Dave Chowdhury School of Engineering Technology



'first' this year. After three years of negotiations, it successfully offered a training program in Road Engineering for civilian and military personnel in the Canadian Department of Defence. In an innovative approach to meeting the training needs of B.C. companies, mobile training trailers bearing the BCIT logo will soon be used to deliver training on-site to companies in the Lower Mainland and elsewhere in the province.

In collaboration with the BCIT Technology Centre, the School has now set up dedicated project labs in Mechanical Technology, Geographic Information Systems and Renewable Resources programs. Students and faculty use these labs for applied research and development projects in partnership with industry. The Renewable Resources department has expanded its involvement in biophysical data collection and analysis of the Burnaby Lake

and Deer Lake systems to form a community-based initiative that will continue environmental conservation and enhancement for the next five years.

In preparation for BCIT's recently announced degree granting mandate, faculty in Mechanical Technology have been developing a Bachelor of Technology degree in Manufacturing Technology. The Civil Technology and Chemical Sciences program faculty are similarly developing an innovative inter-disciplinary degree program, a Bachelor of Technology in Applied Environmental Technology with specializations in Waste Management and Environmental Chemistry.

On the international front, faculty in Food Technology and Biotechnology programs are engaged in a project with their counterparts at the King Mongkut Institute of Technology in Thailand. In the next two years, students and staff from

each institution will visit the other; the focus of the project is curriculum development and training for industry.

These examples are just a sample of the fast pace that the School of Engineering Technology has maintained in keeping up with rapid changes in the marketplace, and in helping meet BCIT's mandate. As we look beyond the immediate time frame, the School is undertaking several new initiatives with results expected in the next few years. The Women in Technology initiative is aimed at attracting female students to engineering technology programs in increasing numbers. Partnerships with high schools will be sought to provide a smooth transition from high school to the post-secondary system. Graduate technologists will be increasingly enrolled as returning students in degree level programs, offered in a part-time studies mode in the school.

As Dean, I am pleased to share the activities of staff and faculty in this special issue of Update. As we prepare for the 21st century, we will continue to exercise leadership in the design and delivery of innovative, relevant training programs for the benefit of B.C.'s economy.



Food Technology instructors from Thailand were at BCIT in April and May as part of a CIDA-sponsored project with King Mongkut's Institute of Technology.

Terry Jorden photo

Thailand-Canada exchange nets new ideas

Food Technology instructors from Thailand are visiting BCIT as part of an exchange program set up by the Thai-Canada Centre for Environmental and Agro-Industrial Technology. BCIT joins King Mongkut's Institute of Technology of North Bangkok (KMITNB), Canadore College, of North Bay, Ontario, and Vancouver Community College in this CIDA-funded venture.

"The main purpose of the exchange is to promote human resource development in the areas of food processing,

biotechnology, environmental technology, and related process control in Thailand," says Vic Martens, BCIT Food Technology program head.

The Thai visitors represent each of these four areas, and are spending eight weeks in Canada. They spent three weeks at VCC in an ESL program, enjoyed BCIT's open house, and have attended a number of BCIT sessions, including skill-building courses at the Learning Resource Unit. "They'll also be attending classes and labs, working on some of the topics they're

interested in teaching," says Martens.

In August, Biotechnology instructor Dr. Jack Nichols and Food Technology instructor Anne McCannel will visit Thailand to present seminars, help develop the Thai curriculum, and look at similarities and differences of the food industry in the two countries.

Next spring, another visit from KMITNB instructors is expected. The group may bring students with them, prompting a June visit of BCIT faculty and

students to Thailand. "The students will work for up to three months in the industry," explains Martens. "It's a chance for them to observe another culture, and to work in that environment. And perhaps they'll realize that there are opportunities in food technology all over the world."

from Ruth Raymond

The BCIT UPDATE is published weekly throughout the school year by the Information and Community Relations Department within Marketing and Development.

Ideas, tips, fax or written submissions should be forwarded to the editor by 1500 Fridays, five working days prior to publication. The editor reserves the right to edit for brevity, libel and accuracy.

UPDATE is produced on Aldus Pagemaker Desktop Publishing software and printed on recycled paper.

Managing Editor:
Carol Dion, 432-8865

Editor: Terry Jorden,
432-8656

Contributors: Sid Andersen, Ruth Raymond, Terry Suen, Shameem Hameer, Dave Chowdhury, David Kipling, Ken Wong, Louise Routledge, Ron Isaak, Martin Gevers, Kelly Gervais.

Design and Desktop:
Admedia Graphic
Communication Inc.

Production:
Ronaye Ireland, 432-8738,
Mary Murray and Ruth
Raymond

Distribution:
Mary Murray, 432-8410

Fax: 436-5762



Please recycle your BCIT Updates in the White Paper recycling bin.

Counting trees was never so much fun.

Geographic Information Systems student lands a job and a piece of the spotlight at national conference

When Geographic Information Systems student Andrew Thivierge began working on his project, he didn't imagine that it would take him so far.

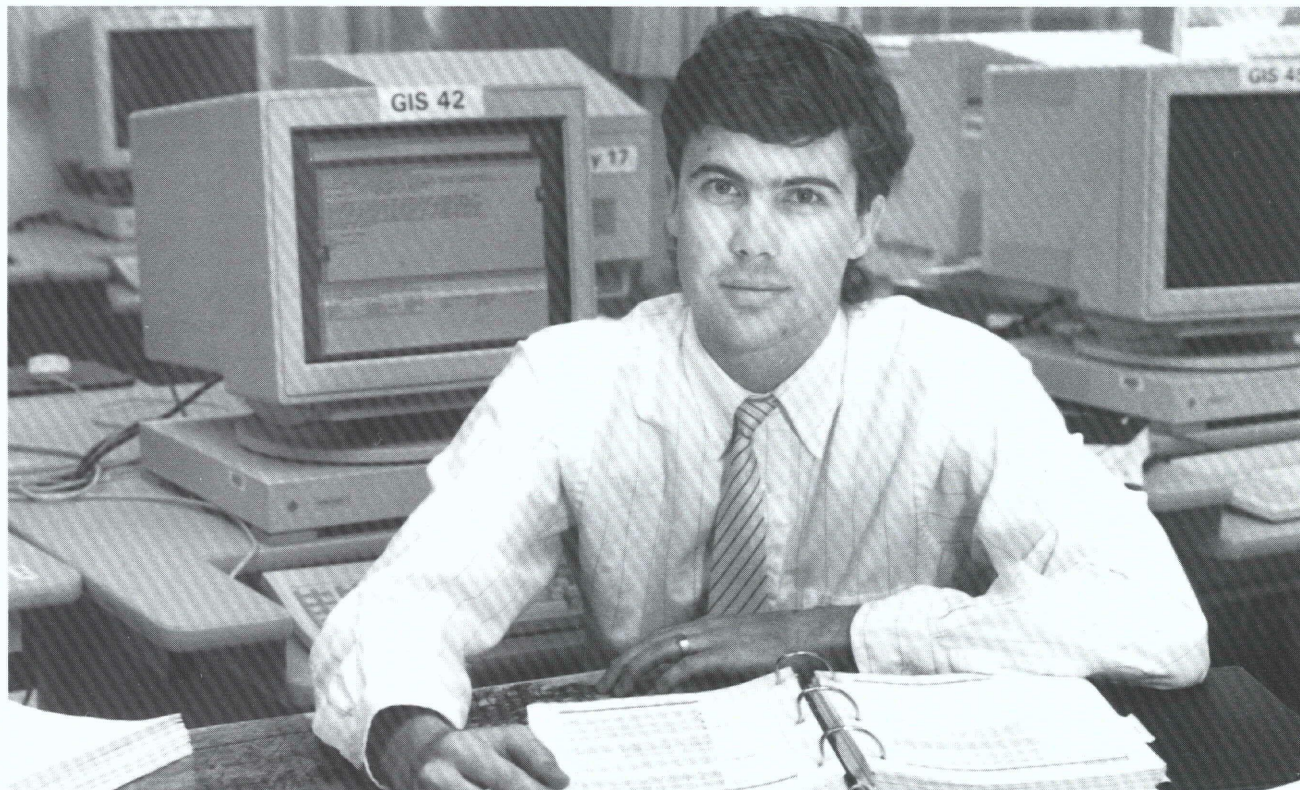
In fact, it is taking him to Ottawa, where he will present a paper on the project to an industry conference. It will also be a chance for Thivierge's family to witness his success.

"I graduated in Resource Management at the University of Western Ontario, so all my family and friends are back there. I know that one of my professors is going to be presenting at the conference, and I'm excited about that," he says.

Preparing the paper was not actually part of the required course work. "Andrew was the only one in this class who took the initiative to do a conference paper," says Ross Miller, GIS program head. "It was really above and beyond."

For Thivierge, it was an opportunity he couldn't pass up. "I figured it would give me a chance to meet people and say I'm giving a paper, then ask if they might have a job for me," he says.

As it turned out, he won't have to ask, because his project has also netted him a firm offer of employment. As soon as he graduates, Thivierge will move to Cranbrook to work for Crestbrook Forest Industries, the company that sponsored his project.



Andrew Thivierge helped Crestbrook Forest Industries of Cranbrook perfect a new resource inventory software.

Terry Jorden photo

"The job is a continuation of my project — it's my project on a huge scale," says Thivierge. "Originally, they wanted me to find a way to automate their report generation process, so I customised the software system for their needs. Now, they want to develop software that they can market to other forestry companies. Ultimately, we could develop a package that the entire B.C. forestry industry could use."

Andrew is working on the company's integrated resource management report required by

the provincial government. Simply put, the report details the timber licences held by the company, the range of species, environmental concerns, previous harvesting activities and much more.

Crestbrook operates three saw mills and a pulp mill and employs 1,300 people in the area. Andrew worked with the company's GIS forester Bruce Pope, another BCIT GIS graduate.

For Pope, Andrew's project helped confirm the company was

on the right track in the development of the software package.

Although Andrew worked in Burnaby and Pope was located in Cranbrook, the project was completed without any hitches.

"For us it was a way to find out if the person can handle the project and they in turn learn about us. It is a mutually beneficial situation," said Pope.

Andrew starts his new job in early June.

Miller is not surprised at the job

offer. "Most of our students find work within six to eight months after graduating. This year is even better," he says.

One of the reasons for the higher success rate may be the improved equipment GIS has to offer students. "The projects are successful largely because of the planning and the resources — we have a new lab this year made possible through the support of the Technology Centre," explains Miller.

from Ruth Raymond

Distinguished achievement awards for distinguished SET faculty and staff

During convocation literally hundreds of students are honored with awards for outstanding academic and community service. Relatively few awards, however, are confirmed upon staff and faculty.

Three years ago the School of Engineering Technology took a step towards changing that by creating the Distinguished Achievement Award.

For the past three years the school has given recognition to three faculty members who have gone the extra mile.

The winners are nominated by students and colleagues for superior teaching ability, or extra effort in assisting students, or for significant progress in applied research or technology transfer.

Ron Isaak, the manager of the school's Industry Services, was the award's first winner in 1991.

"Not knowing where the nomination came from and being singled out as having made a 'significant contribution to SET'



Dave Lewis was singled out last year for distinguished achievement.

Terry Jorden photo

was gratifying but it also carried with it a responsibility to also acknowledge the combined efforts of the entire SET team," he said.

Louise Routledge, a math instructor, won the award in 1992.

She remembers back in 1970 when she landed her first teaching job in mathematics at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in the School of Business. She felt uncomfortable about her lack of business experience.

She said this lack of confidence surfaced again in 1984 when she began teaching at BCIT.

"I began a concerted effort to learn as much as I could about each of the technologies into which I taught, to develop a network of graduates and others

in the field who could share their working experiences with me and other students and to actively train and participate in the local quality movement, said Louise.

"When the 1992 final term class nominated me for this award, it was an achievement that said I was not only teaching it right but teaching with the right mix of academics and industry know how. The award reaffirmed that I was on the right road in my personal quest for continuous and never ending improvement."

Dave Lewis, a Robotics and Automation Technology program head, won the coveted award in 1993.

Nominations are now closed for this award. The 1994 winner will be announced at the June 23 during the school's convocation ceremony.

Recognizing our top faculty

Recognizing our top students

Recognizing our staff

Shameem Hameer

Multi-lingual administrative assistant says she's a rookie but she works like a veteran

Shameem Hameer, originally from Zanzibar and Kenya, came to Canada 20 years ago. "At first I found it odd that so many people mispronounced my name," she says. "But then I realized that they were saying 'Shameen' because they were accustomed to familiar English names such as Colleen and Doreen."

Her first name translates to "early evening breeze." Often, mispronouncing a name is less likely when one knows its meaning.

Words and meanings are a hobby for Hameer. "I speak about a half dozen languages, which include English, Swahili, Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Kutchi, and some French. I have even used my Swahili at BCIT with the Tanzanian students and visitors.

"I've been at BCIT for just over two-and-a-half years, so I'm one of the rookies," she jokes. As administrative assistant to the Dean of Engineering, she has a multitude of responsibilities, but says that the interaction with people is the most interesting part of her job.

"I enjoy meeting people," she explains. "For example, I'm quite involved off-campus as a volunteer in my community. I have done work as a family support counsellor, crisis line operator and have helped with the settlement of refugees. Volunteering is a very important part of my life."

On-campus, she volunteers on BCIT's World University Service of Canada (WUSC) committee. "Since Shameem joined the committee a year ago, she has been an integral part of the group," says WUSC committee member Mary-Ann Moysiuk. "Her insight and awareness of cross-cultural issues has been invaluable, as has her no-nonsense business sensibility. We're extremely fortunate to have her on board sharing her time voluntarily in the hope of helping others."

Hameer has also found that her duties as one of the communication leaders in voice mail training has served to introduce her to many new faces. "In the training sessions, I got to not only meet, but develop a



Terry Jorden photo

rapport with members of the faculty and staff who I may not have ordinarily met," she explains.

From this experience, Hameer found that she enjoys and has a flare for teaching. "I think I've discovered a new potential that I wasn't aware of. That's one of the wonderful things about BCIT — there are lots of opportunities to learn and grow."

She is currently working toward earning her certificate in business administration.

*Shameem Hameer:
"I enjoy meeting people."*

Recognizing our industry partners

Tom Mitchell

The director and vice president of International Telepresence Corporation volunteers for advisory committee

Advisory committees help keep BCIT's courses tightly focused on the immediate and future needs of industry. Among the advisory committee members are BCIT grads who want to ensure that the students who follow in their footsteps have the best possible guidance.

The program advisory group for the advanced diploma program in Technology Management is no exception. One member is Tom Mitchell, P.Eng, director and vice president of International Telepresence Corporation, a world leader in three-dimensional video imaging with dominant markets in surgery and virtual reality.

"I owe BCIT a lot because it provided me with a good education," says Mitchell, who went on after graduating from Electronics Technology in 1972 to earn his degree in electrical engineering with a



Tom Mitchell: giving back to BCIT.

Ruth Raymond photo

minor in management sciences from Ontario's University of Waterloo.

But in the fast-paced world of high-tech industries, providing the education and training the industries demand is becoming more and more of a challenge. "One of the concerns I've had in the school system is the rate of change," says Mitchell. "The fundamentals are important; you have to be able to understand the basics thoroughly, and you have to be able to adapt."

Mitchell points to the European system of major apprenticeship programs as examples of education meeting the needs of the workplace. "The students who come out of those programs not only have the fundamentals, but they can be productive right away. They've been in the workplace, and they know what they're doing."

This ability to be productive right away is critical to any company, because it represents cost efficiency. "You don't want to make four prototypes," explains Mitchell. "That would be terribly expensive. You want to get it done right the first time."

The diversity of specialties required at Telepresence makes the task of recruiting suitable employees difficult. "Many of our employees have to be just as capable designing optical lenses, building electronic circuits or running a lathe. We have 10 employees right now; we'll triple that by the fall. So there is definitely the possibility of hiring BCIT grads at that point."

Mitchell is confident that BCIT's School of Engineering Technology is heading in the right direction. And serving as a member of the advisory group, in addition to being an Engineering Technology and Management instructor himself, are ways he can ensure that BCIT grads will meet his needs, as well as the immediate and future needs of the industry.

from Ruth Raymond

Interest grows in Renewable Resources Co-op Program

In Jonathan Smyth's office, there is a map of British Columbia.

In every region there are coloured dots, from the Queen Charlottes, to Fort St. James, the Kootenays, the Cariboo, the Lower Mainland and even Alaska.

Each dot represents another BCIT Renewable Resources Technology student on a co-op work term.

In a co-op work term of approximately four months, students complement their inclass studies with paid work experience under the supervision of an employer in business, industry or government.

Most are working for the provincial Ministry of Forests or

the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks but others will be working for private sector consultants or companies like MacMillan Bloedel.

The Renewable Resources Technology Co-operative Education Program is relatively new but it is growing steadily as more students and employers learn how successful the approach can be.

Jonathan Smyth, the program's interim coordinator, reports that while about 25 students were placed last summer, over 30 are expected to have paid co-op work terms this summer.

The reason for the growth seems linked to the fact that more students and employers are

becoming aware of the program and its advantages.

Besides offering students good opportunities to combine school and work, Smyth sees his role as helping employers and potential employees find each other.

"We are providing employers with a pool of potential recruits who are committed to careers in renewable resources," he said.

And once hired, these BCIT co-op students generally can start work with a minimum of supervision.

Judy Millar, a resource officer with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, took on some BCIT co-op students last summer and found

them to be enthusiastic, self-motivated and willing to undertake difficult assignments.

"I was suitably impressed with the program and the students involved, from their physical to technical abilities. Due to the success of the results, we will be hiring BCIT co-op students again this year," she said.

Smyth said another important outcome of the co-op program is the feedback obtained from the employer evaluation half-way through and at the end of the term.

The program also strengthens the relationship between BCIT faculty and students.

Last summer Richard Chester, a

Renewable Resources instructor, drove 6,000 kilometres around the province visiting co-op students and their supervisors on the job.

"What came as a surprise to me was how these visits seemed to affect my relationship with the students when they came back to BCIT," Richard said. "In general, there was more interaction between myself and the co-op students. We now spend more time discussing how they were doing in their classes, and their plans for further education and employment."

For more information contact Jonathan Smyth at 434-5734, local 5029.

Controlled Burn

Five second-year Forestry students had a good chance recently to observe fire management up close.

Kraig Urbanoski, Jeremie LeBourdais, Martin Allan, Gavin Watts and Grant Oliver are all taking an independent studies course in fire management.

On May 9 they observed the slash burning at a seven hectare site in the UBC Research Forest. Using a technique known as aerial ignition, a helicopter hovered over the site, dripping diesel fuel over the areas to be burned.

The group also travelled to Merritt and reviewed the district's fire management plan, saw the problems associated with a spruce budworm infestation and participated in a controlled burning of underbrush.

"We learn the basic theory in the classroom, but in the field we see the actual results," said Kraig Urbanoski after the trip.

from Terry Jorden



Rob Lihou photos



New program option

Building Science: now a third choice for Building Technology students

Up until now, BCIT's Building Technology students chose either an economics or architectural option in their second year of studies.

Now, beginning this September, Building Technology students will have a third choice: Building Science.

With assistance from industry, instructor Martin Gevers has been hard at work this spring developing new courses for the Building Science option.

Instructor Gevers sees the industry requiring three sets of skills.

- 1) those who assist in the design of building using a combination of creative and technical skills to transform the owners' requirements, resources, into a product which will satisfy the needs of the occupants.
- 2) those who assist in the management of development, construction, in an economic context, following zoning bylaws, development processes, schedules, budgets.
- 3) those who manage or assist in the management of the

technical assembly, renovation and or maintenance or the built environment with a clear understanding of Building Science, new technologies, materials and indoor and outdoor environmental considerations.

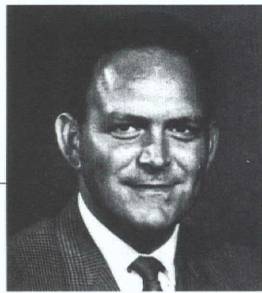
The new Building Science option will prepare students for this last category.

"I have received telephone calls from companies as well as personnel agencies asking for the expertise which is proposed in this new option," said Gevers.





Stephen Berghold



1969



1994

Originally, I started my schooling in accounting, but hated it with a passion, so I switched into chemistry and specialized in pulp and paper research. After working in the industry, I joined BCIT. That was May 5, 1965, so next year, I'll be having my 30th anniversary here.

It was a small campus at the time, and the student-staff ratio was much lower than now. I had a lot of fun being able to work more on a one-on-one basis with the students.

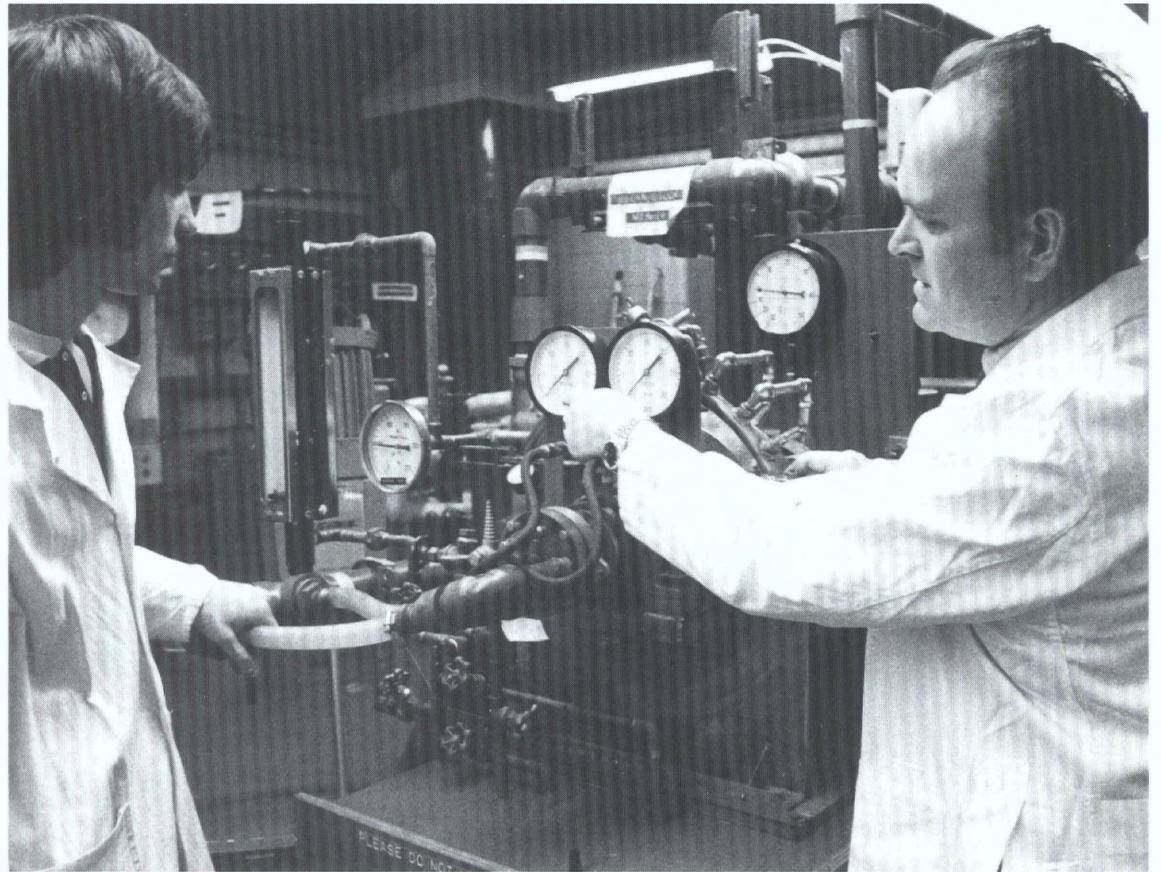
The first year was a very adult group. They were mostly students who had dead-ended themselves in industry and needed more education to advance. After graduating, some of those people went on to become company executives at various levels. Without any further education, they climbed the corporate ladder.

I'm still in touch with at least a half of that first class. And I'm happy to say that many are my personal friends — people with whom I socialize.

We were always given the opportunity at BCIT to be involved with industry-related projects. So I have had my share of involvement which helped me to keep my fingers in the industry but more importantly that activity benefitted the students as well.

One of the outside projects I've enjoyed is giving upgrading courses for industry. Those are always fun and you meet new people — I love dealing with people.

BCIT is the best place I can think of to work. I've never been sorry for a minute of it. There's no one part of those 29 years that I could call the best time — it was the entire experience that was the best time.



Stephen Berghold in the 1970s demonstrating the use of the pilot brown stock washer to second-year chemical sciences student Drew Kilback.

Colleagues Remembered



Wayne Irvine



John Soutter



Moose Manifold



Armand Paris



Bob Jackson



Jessie Wylie

Sid Anderson
Retired, Food Technology



1966



1994

Our first BCIT principal, Cec Roper, coined the alumni motto Quesque Dominus Summi - "To each his highest attainment". Cec also set standards for the hiring of staff. Each new faculty member had to have at least two years of industrial experience (preferably five or more) in the discipline they planned to teach.

It can be said that quality teachers are a rare breed. During my 22 years at BCIT (1964-1986) I was privileged to know several instructors who were totally devoted to the welfare of their students. Of these, two are still on campus - **Wayne Irvine**, Chemical Sciences instructor and **John Soutter**, Food Technology instructor.

Then there was **A.H. (Moose) Manifold**, first department head of Mining who on retirement left with the knowledge that over 25 percent of his graduates had gone on to the Colorado School of Mines to become mining engineers. Some topped the School of Mines' graduating classes.

Over recent years we have lost several original 1964-65 instructors. Three come quickly to mind.

Armand Paris, P.Eng., (The first department head, Bill Sims, hired only professional engineers to teach maths) Armand taught Biological Science students the specific maths they would need in the food industry. Unfortunately Armand died at the age of 52 after a routine Saturday morning jog. When I broke the news to his class on Monday morning many of the students wept openly.

Our very noble colleague, **Bob Jackson** of Business Management gave up his Saturdays to come to BCIT and tutor his students, even when he knew he was dying of cancer. Bob, like Armand, died in his early 50s.

Jessie Wylie was the first female faculty member in the Engineering Division. In her case I'll tell a story that confirms the courage of this little lady.

Jessie spent 18 years in India teaching the Oxford/Cambridge entrance exams at a private school for girls. During the 1947 independence crises she feared for the lives of her students. Riots and killings were widespread. She straightened to her full height of about four feet, 11 inches and lead the girls some 200 miles to safety.

Due to her age, Jessie only realized 11 years of teaching food analysis in Biological Sciences at BCIT. In 1976 I threw her a retirement party that overflowed our pilot plant.

All the instructors named here, like their boss Cec Roper, had an open door policy. No students, seeking help, were ever turned away. The door was always open - no appointment necessary.

Cec retired knowing he had earned the deep respect of his staff and students. With such a man, and instructors like those recorded here, our graduates were well on the road to personal achievement and success.

New partnership in Technology Management to enhance access

"Technology Management provides technologists with the knowledge, skills and attitudes for their roles as supervisors and managers in technical organizations," said Luis Curran, program head of BCIT's Advanced Technology Management Diploma Program.

Technology Management programs include courses on topics like financial management, project management, high technology marketing, data communications and geographic information systems.

Under an agreement signed this month, articulation of Technology Management and related courses offered at BCIT and the University of Victoria will mean wider access to courses and programs for students throughout the province. It will also open new routes for degree completion in the Bachelor of Technology program offered by the OLA's Open University.

The agreement results in a larger pool of courses that a student has access to when completing a certificate program at UVic, an advanced diploma at BCIT or a Bachelor of Technology degree at the Open Learning Agency. All this without additional expense to the taxpayer.

A current student speaks out

Glenda Wilson, now a supervisor with VTeck Engineering Canada

in Richmond, is a graduate of the CAD/CAM Technology program and a current student in the Technology Management advanced diploma.

"The advanced Diploma program was brought to my attention by an article in *Trek* magazine last fall," she said. "I was enthused by the fact that I could attain an advanced diploma through part-time studies. In addition, the possibility of being able to achieve a bachelor's degree in Technology Management through the Open Learning Institute really piqued my interest."



Glenda Wilson

photo by Bert Schendel

She started classes in January 1993 and has completed courses in finance, marketing, interpersonal skills, and general management skills.

"Already I have acquired many skills about various aspects of management that I believe contribute to my value as an employee," she said.



An international competitor during a logger sports competition in mid-April climbs to the top of a 100-foot pole at BCIT's logger sports field. Teams from B.C., Washington, and Montana competed with Flathead Community College taking first place.

Mike Gdowski photo

Skills Now plan unveiled by premier

Skills Now is a new skills training plan designed to give students, workers and the unemployed real skills for the real world. "Our goal is to ensure British Columbians have the skills needed for new jobs in B.C.'s changing economy," said Premier Mike Harcourt in a recent news conference.

The government will invest \$200 million in the plan over the next two years. High schools will be linked to the workplace by strategies which include apprenticeship preparation, credits for skills learned outside of school, and mandatory career planning by students.

Colleges and universities will be made more accessible by strategies that include tripling the new student spaces available, providing degree-granting status to six colleges and institutes, and creating at least six new advanced technology programs in growing fields such as film animation and environmental management.

Workers will be retrained closer to home by setting up community skill centres across B.C. that will provide skills training to 10,000 people. The plan will also create 300 apprenticeships in new and growing job fields, 70 small business and 15 sectoral training partnerships to share the cost and responsibility of retraining workers.

"With new industries and technologies emerging in B.C., our job is to make sure skills training keeps pace. Skills Now is a forward-looking plan that will increase access to the skills people need for our new and expanding job markets," said Harcourt.

Building Technology: Open House's program of champions

If you have ever been to one of BCIT's open houses held every two years chances are you walked through the Building Technology display.

You'd remember it because it usually is the largest and most impressive display during open house. For more years than many care to remember, Building Technology has carried away the big trophy for the best overall display.

A lot of people wonder why they win more cups than the Montreal Canadians.

"There is a simple answer to our considerable success, said Myron Kuzych, the Building Technology program head. "It's called hard work. We are always trying to build a good work ethic in Building because that is what the industry wants."

"It's called hard work."

The program began winning the coveted cup in 1979. Since 1984 it has won the trophy six times in a row, one for every open house.

"The project is primarily student generated and attempts to display student work and projects in a revamped setting. As staff we only guide and encourage this process as well as advise. The logistics are worked out by the students and presented by the students to the public, and then dismantled for classes Monday morning," said Kuzych.

"I consider the open house exercise to be a mini-construction project with all the same problems and difficulties as bigger, real-life projects," he said.

MacMillan Bloedel CEO provides glimpse into a wood products company in transition



Bob Findlay

MacMillan Bloedel is Canada's largest wood products company. This year sales are expected to near \$4 billion. It has operations in Canada, the United States and Europe and its products are marketed world-wide. But like other resource-based companies it is in trouble. Fundamental change was needed to prevent the company from disintegrating. Bob Findlay, the president and CEO, gave business leaders a fascinating glimpse into the workings of the company in transition. This is an excerpt from his talk during a well-attended BCIT breakfast series engagement on May 10.

"I have been CEO for three years, and in my first year we lost about \$100 million. In the second year we lost about \$50 million and last year we made about \$50 million but the majority of that profit came from the sale of some of our non-core assets... We really made about a \$10 million profit on a \$3.5 billion sales and assets based company. That really isn't too swift.

It has been a very slow recovery for us and the rest of the industry. For that reason... we have been pursuing a long-term strategy to try and crank us up into a better level of profitability...

Like a lot of other companies we restructured, downsized, right-sized and refocused. But with all that said we still weren't doing very well. We were not getting on in moving into the profitability levels needed to sustain our company. As I have told our employees many times our company would disintegrate if we do not change.

Now we have developed a new strategic direction. It has taken over a year. We call it a gap attack. It may sound a little corny but it is working for us and our 13,000 employees.

I have 23 officers reporting to me and I thought I knew where I wanted to take the company but either they didn't agree, didn't understand it, or were not very much involved in where we were going.



A large crowd gathered to hear Bob Findlay speak.

Terry Jorden photo.

So we got the 23 officers together along with another 50 of our senior employees in a process that started well over a year ago to start and look at where we wanted to take the company.

We knew we had done quite well in the building materials business. We were not doing well in paper, not doing well in pulp and not doing well in packaging and we knew we needed a change in our human resources area to really become a high performance company.

What we did was we sat down and reviewed each of those

businesses over the last ten years... and then we tried to predict what that business would look like in the next decade. It was a very difficult thing to do especially when you have 23 people scrumming around the table arguing what the future will be.

About half of my officers are line managers who have worked through one area of our organization or another and may not know much about other areas. Another half are staff officers who are very competent in their particular line of business, but really didn't know much about the total business.

So this was really an exercise in learning and educating one another and finally agreeing, by consensus, on where we were going to take the company.

... We decided to stay in the building materials businesses, packaging and paper businesses and get out of market pulp. We developed a strategy that everyone in the company could kind of key into and understand where we are now and where we want to be in 1998."

Bob Findlay is a former member of the BCIT Board of Governors.

News Briefs

Burnaby Lake system rehab project garners publicity

Mark Angelo, the program head of the Fish, Wildlife and Recreation program, reports that UTV has guaranteed coverage of the extensive revitalization project of Burnaby Lake, Deer Lake, and connecting streams. The television station will feature the project on regular news casts as well as the Your Town segment. Meanwhile the national Weather Network featured the project last week.

Industry sponsored projects to be displayed June 14

This year's Industry Sponsored Student Projects Fair, showcasing and awarding students involved in exemplary projects, will be held at the Town Square conference rooms A and B on June 14. Students will display their award winning projects between 0930-1130 followed by an award presentation ceremony between 1130-1200. For more information contact Ernst Wilmlink at 8458.

Muscular dystrophy sufferers helped with exercise device

Three Mechanical Design Technology students are working with a private designer to create a piece of exercise equipment for children with muscular dystrophy. These children need regular physical therapy and exercise to stimulate their muscles. Students Dale Watson, Rod Neudecker and Leland Burrige designed and built an exerciser which is powered by compressed air and controlled by a programmable logic controller. The machine will assist the user in moving leg muscles according to a pre-programmed exercise routine. The machine is adjustable and small enough to fit into the trunk of a small car.



Don Campbell

Don Campbell to retire

After 27 years at BCIT, Don Campbell, program head of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Technology program, is retiring. Don will be the guest of honor at lunch on Tuesday, May 31 in the Rix Staff Club. Festivities will begin at 1100, and you may reserve a place by calling Robin Kinney at local 8308.

Ken Wong to give paper at national forum

Ken Wong, the Mechanical Technology design option program head, will be presenting a paper to the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineers Forum and the 12th Symposium on Engineering Application Mechanics in Montreal at the end of June. The title of his paper is: "Computer Modelling for High Capacity Marine Terminal Planning and Design."

Jonathan Candy to give paper in California

GIS instructor Jonathan Candy will be presenting a Geographic Information Systems paper on spatial autocorrelation at an international conference in California at the end of May, hosted by the Environmental Systems Research Institute.



Cathy Statham, a second-year Fish, Wildlife and Recreation student, prepares for the pole climb competition during an international logger sports meet at BCIT in mid-April. Other events included hand bucking, log burling, axe throw, chokerman's race and the obstacle pole event.

Mike Gdowski photo