

the *Link*

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The Link

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ABOUT THE LINK

The Link is the student newspaper of the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Published bi-weekly by the BCIT Student Association (BCITSA), The Link circulates 3,000 copies to over 45,000 students, faculty and staff.

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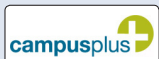
Cover art: Ion Oprea

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Starting the school year off on the right page

Words of wisdom for new and returning students from The Link's new editor.

SARAH MASSAH
Editor

Hello and welcome, new and returning BCIT students!

I will be the new editor for your student newspaper, *The Link*. Returning students may notice a change in aesthetic and content as we have decided to an overhaul of the paper to make it more relevant to BCITers. New students, the team and I hope you find the information you need to make the transition to BCIT a smooth one.

To help with that I've looked back at my experience from first-year and come up with some tips that I hope

will help prepare you for the fast-paced year you will have.

Find yourself a campus map

Believe it or not, there are still many second-year students who have trouble navigating the labyrinth that is BCIT. If you flip the pages over, you will see we provided plenty of resources to help guide you through your time at BCIT.

Always arrive 15 minutes early

Even with that map, trying to push through the throng of students pouring in and out of the hallways can be a challenging feat.

By arriving early you can save yourself the grief of being late for your first few classes and avoid being on the receiving end of disapproving looks from your in-

structors (I speak from first-hand experience).

Start saving money right away

Even after you sign away your for student loans there are still many costs included in attending BCIT. As a student, after I paid my tuition I was slammed with costs for recording equipment, gas, and car insurance.

Use the resources available to you to ensure you have the best possible learning experience.

It was not fun working a part-time job while having a full-course load. Even

though it can be unavoidable to work, try to only work the minimum. To help with that, try and save where you can -- use public transit, car-pool, or pack a lunch.

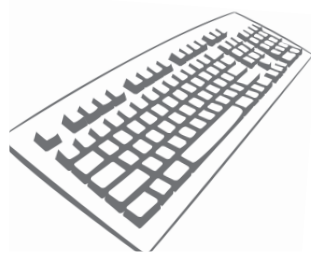
If you don't agree, speak up!

A lot of the students I went to school with kept mum about many issues they had with their program. Keeping quiet does nothing to help your situation. Use the resources available to you to ensure you have the best possible learning experience you can.

Finally, I would say that you should enjoy your time here because it goes by fast and before you know it, you'll be flung out into the real world.

Best of luck, I'll see you out there!

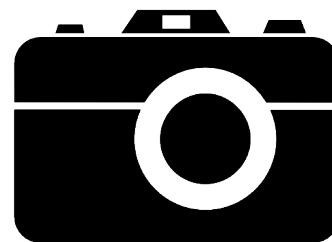
The Link is seeking volunteers!



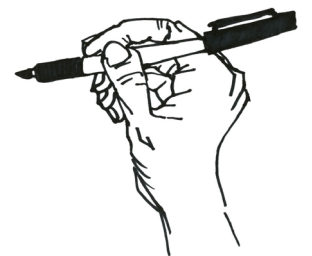
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CAMPUS QUERY

Do you have any advice for new students at BCIT?



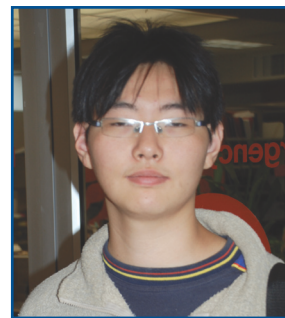
KELLY KRISTY
Nursing

Don't fall behind, especially in the beginning. Stay on top of your studies.



JOSH CUNNINGHAM
Electrical Apprentice

Walk the campus and figure it out. Know where you are going because it is big.



RICHARD WONG
Electrical & Computer Engineering Technology

Don't think this place is high school. You will really fail if you think this place is high school.



BRIDGETTE EPP
Business Management

Attend orientation. Really get to know your teachers and classmates. They're your biggest help.



LAURISSA WONG
Computer Systems

Try to get familiar with the campus so you know where to go when you need resources. And don't be afraid to ask questions when you need to.

The benefits of club membership



Members of Students in Free Enterprise buddy up

Photo courtesy of Bailey McRae

Clubs are a great way to gain experience, make friends, and establish networks for after graduation.

BAILEY McRAE

Link Contributor

With a well-deserved tan and few expectations, the last thing on my mind at the end of last summer was going back to school in. After checking my schedule for the semester ahead, panic struck.

I knew that BCIT wouldn't be just another university, but a class schedule from hell? How was I going to make it through this, what about my friends?

Orientation day came quickly with a cluster of activities and speeches that left me excited for the year ahead. Crammed into a large auditorium, members of some of the biggest student clubs and organizations presented their recruitment pitches to the first year students. It worked.

As a business student, these

experienced second- and third-year students looked and spoke in a language that I wanted to be fluent in. In fact, I wanted to *be* them. As I listened in amazement to their talented speeches in front of hundreds, I knew that I didn't want to sit back and watch my college years pass me by.

A key factor to remain successful is to enjoy your time here.

Few of us are prepared for the lifestyle change as we enter into BCIT's intense classroom schedule. As I would later find out, a key factor to remain successful throughout is to enjoy your time here. If you are miserable, then it will most certainly reflect in both your grades and your attitude about the experience.

Joining a club or organization is best way to work on your skills while you become

a young professional. As overwhelming as the course syllabi are, take some time to experience the advantages of joining a club.

We've all heard it. The big V word – *volunteer*. No, you are not being paid. Let's be honest, it looks great to have something other than "BCIT diploma" on your resume and job applications. Fill in the experience spaces with project management positions, member awards, and executive positions. To say that being in a club helps academically would not do it justice. The many lessons learned will guide you through your professional life as well.

What are your hobbies and interests? Incorporating these things into your academic life will prove to be more enjoyable and help you set goals and work toward achievement in many disciplines. Start by looking for clubs and student organizations that fit with your values and interests. Being an active member in a club can give

you the sense of achievement you may be looking for.

There is a variety of special interest and departmental campus clubs and student organizations for students to join. You are under no obligation to join the group if you attend a meeting – it's simply a chance to interact and see if you'd fit in.

If you can't find something you like, you should establish your own club! Chances are, if you're interested in something, there are plenty of other BCIT students interested too.

The moral of the story is that you should go out there and participate! This is the first step to finding success in the professional world. Make opportunities for yourself. You owe it to yourself to at least try.

If you have any questions or would be interested in joining one of the clubs or organization or would like to start a club or organization, contact the BCITSA's Clubs Coordinator.

Top five reasons to join a club

Resume building

Club memberships look great on resumes and job applications. They can represent both leadership and social skills. Have something more to say in your interview than a BCIT diploma or degree.

Helping hands

Clubs share your interest, provide mentorship, teach skills, and build relationships. Learn good study habits and behaviours from fellow second- or third year students to get through that heavy workload. Members of clubs are generally very encouraging and supportive.

Bromance

Also known as group synergy, club memberships can lead to life-long friendships. Share your valuable experience, advice, and contacts with others like you over a nice cold drink at Professor Mugs Pub.

Career

Use this opportunity to network with people in a similar line of work. Get exposure to real life experiences in the subject that you're interested in. Practice your management and control skills by exercising leadership and proving your own abilities in a group.

Social

Perhaps most important, you should have fun while going to BCIT. Involvement will ensure you get access to the best parties and events that BCIT has to offer. Get out there, get involved and meet people outside your set.

BCITSA CLUBS

BCIT Finance Association
BCIT Real Estate Association
BCIT Skate
Canadian Society for Civil Engineering
Technically Queer
BCIT Marketing Association

Legacy Club
BCIT Campus Christian Ministries
Christian Students at BCIT
Engineers Without Borders BCIT
BCIT Biotechnology Club
Financial Management Association

Geomatics Student Society Club
BCIT Human Resources Association
BCIT Media
Sunrise Toastmasters International

Don't see any clubs you like? Create your own!

Essential services guide at BCIT



The Great Hall enjoys a tranquil moment before the rush of students come September.

Photo by Sandeep Singh

Taking advantage of services offered at BCIT can make your experience a lot smoother. Check out our guide!

**CHRISTINA BATSTONE
& CHAD KLASSEN**

New and returning students are in for a busy school schedule at BCIT, and it's important to get familiar with the services that are available to help make for a smoother educational experience.

In cooperation with the BCITSA Advocacy Office, *The Link* has put together a quick a student's guide to the services you need to know about on campus.

BCITSA Advocacy Office

The Advocacy Office is a confidential service available for all students to help them understand BCIT policy and procedures, as well as their rights and responsibilities. Contact

the Advocacy Office at 604-456-1161, advocate@bcitsa.ca, or drop into the Advocacy Office in the Uconnect Resource Centre if you need help resolving an issue or if you have a question about your experience at BCIT.

Registrar's Office

It's located in the new SW1 building at the Burnaby campus as well as on the Downtown and Marine campuses. The Registrar's Office includes customer service for admissions, registration, student records, and the International Credential Evaluation Service. Most importantly, the Registrar's Office is also responsible for administering the U-Pass. Visit their website at [<http://www.bcit.ca/admission>] for more information.

Health and Dental Plan

The BCITSA Health and Dental Plan is available for all full-time students in programs 16 weeks or longer. The plan includes extended health, dental, pharmaceutical, optical, and travel insurance. Students can opt out of

the plan or add on spouses and dependants within 30 days of their start date. Visit the Uconnect Resource Centre to speak with the Health Plan Coordinator, or e-mail healthplan@bcitsa.ca for more information about the coverage.

Student Health Services

Located in SE16 at the Burnaby campus, Student Health Services aims to promote wellness and healthy lifestyles for the BCIT community. It features an efficient walk-in medical centre which is fully staffed with qualified physicians and nurses. The clinic is available for all BCIT students, faculty, and staff and offers urgent care, vaccines, STD testing, and more.

Employment Services

This helps students and alumni find work through eJobs, BCIT's own web-based job posting system, and also provides work search and resume seminars. Visit them in SW1 or online at [<http://www.bcit.ca/ses>] for more information.

Program Advising

Both full-time and part-time studies program advisors can provide a great deal of valuable information about BCIT and the programs offered. They also consult with students on the application process, upgrading, program costs, transfer credit, course selection, and more. If you have questions about making your application more competitive, future job prospects, or using your previous education to its highest potential, contact Program Advising in the new SW1 building or through [<http://www.bcit.ca/advising>].

Peer Tutoring

For students needing help with particular courses, peers tutors are available to provide free drop-in sessions in the Library Learning Commons. The schedule can be found on the Library website. Additionally, one-on-one tutoring is available for \$16 an hour. Contact the Uconnect Student Resource Centre for more information.

More terms to know

EhPod

EhPod is a study area on the bottom floor of the library in SE14 (with computer access and individual rooms, too) that is open 24 hours every day — even on weekends.

All you need is your student ID and password to get in. EhPod allows students to meet up in groups to talk about and work on school projects. Students studying by themselves or needing a computer are welcome down there as well.

UConnect Resource Centre

Uconnect is an office located in the Great Hall in SE2 that offers programs and services to students on the Burnaby campus, including peer tutoring, free dental cleaning, computer access, and other community resources. It's also where students can talk to staff about the Student Health Plan.

Fit Pit

Better known as BCIT's gym, Fit Pit includes a variety of weights and exercise machines for students and staff to get in shape. Access to the doesn't cost anything, but a student card is needed to enter and use the facilities. It's part of Recreation Services, which also includes equipment rentals, squash courts, and a climbing wall.

The Great Hall

It's a fancy word for the student centre, where people can come to hang out with classmates, study or take advantage of some services available on campus.

The BCIT Student Association is located in there, as well as the bookstore, cafeteria and pub. See a big, tall glass-enshrined building and you'll know you're heading to the right place if you're looking for the Student Association offices.

The Rix

It's an alternative cafeteria tucked in between the Great Hall and. It's popular among students who go there mainly for the freshly-brewed Starbucks coffee.

The Rix offers more than just coffee, providing other hot and cold drinks as well as soups, sandwiches and salads for lunches or snacks before, during and after class.

CTRL P

CTRL P can be found in the Great Hall in SE2. It gives students a facility to print documents of all sizes at reasonable prices. It also provides binding services to finish off those big projects nicely. They have self-serve photocopiers too.



CTRL P shows off its versatility by printing banners.

Photo by Sandeep Singh



The BCITSA main office, located in the Great Hall

Photo by Sandeep Singh

Counselling

All enrolled full-time and part-time students at BCIT can make an appointment for free, confidential professional counselling located at the Burnaby campus. Counsellors are available to help sort through personal concerns like anxiety, depression and relationships, as well as to enhance your educational performance and maximize your success as a student. They can build your decision-making and problem-solving skills, and help you work toward your educational, personal, and career goals.

Financial Aid

Whether you're a prospective, current, or returning BCIT student, Financial Aid's services and programs help you find and manage money for your education. Programs include both merit-based awards and need-based student financial assistance.

Financial Aid can help answer questions about government student loans and funding options for part-time students. They are located on the second

floor of the new SW1 building. Go to [<http://www.bcit.ca/finaid>] for more information.

Security

It's the only around-the-clock, year-round service on the Burnaby, Aerospace, and Downtown campuses. Most students know security investigates unsafe acts and conditions, patrol the campus, and respond to complaints of violence or disruption, but many do not know they also provide a Safer Walk program, first aid, parking services, lost and found, and health and safety services.

Security also hires students every year to be members of the bike patrol. This is a great way to earn some extra cash and to help other students. Bike patrollers are paid \$11 an hour. More information about BCIT security can be found at [<http://www.bcit.ca/safetyandsecurity>].

Housing

BCIT's on-campus housing is located on the Burnaby campus, adjacent to

the sports field and campus recreation facilities. They also offer, in partnership with the My Ideal Home Network, comprehensive listings of off-campus accommodation including support for short-stay, apprenticeship and international students. Check out their website at [<http://www.bcit.ca/housing>] or call their office at 604-432-8677 for more information.

Peak Leadership

Peak Leadership is a free extracurricular program available to all students from September to May, featuring workshops and goal-setting activities. It's designed to give BCIT students the opportunity to learn leadership and professional development skills.

Harassment/Discrimination

While not a service, BCIT provides all students and employees with the resources required to ensure that their human rights are protected while they are working or studying at BCIT.

As a provider of educational services to students, BCIT has a responsibility

to ensure a harassment-free environment. Visit in person in SW5 or online at [<http://www.bcit.ca/harassment>] for more information or e-mail at respect@bcit.ca. Students are entitled to Student Association representation as they go through a harassment or discrimination complaint. Contact the Advocacy Office for more information or for support.

Disability Resource Centre

The Disability Resource Centre aims to empower students in overcoming the limits and barriers they may encounter during their studies, visible and invisible, permanent or temporary. Whether you're a full-time or a part-time student, or just need help in figuring out which option is the best fit for you, the DRC can help facilitate your success. Visit [<http://www.bcit.ca/drc>] for more information or drop into their office on the second floor of the new SW1 building.

Compiled with files from all services above. Edited by Christina Batstone and Chad Klassen.

TICKET TO RIDE

Everything you need to know about the U-Pass BC program at BCIT

U-Pass BC arrives at BCIT

SARAH MASSAH
Editor

Students are finally able to get their hands on the Translink's new U-Pass BC, as the passes have arrived at all five of BCIT's campuses.

Starting last week, students have been picking up new student card, which is now required to receive the U-Pass BC.

BCIT is the latest post-secondary institutions in Metro Vancouver to offer the program, which began at UBC and SFU and expanded province-wide in June of 2010.

The U-Pass acts as a three-zone transit pass that can be used on the bus, SkyTrain, and SeaBus. The cost to students is a monthly fee of \$30, which is automatically included in BCIT's student fees.

The discounted price is a relief for many students who use transit, as an equivalent three-zone pass costs \$151 per month.

The U-Pass is the result of a referendum held by

the BCIT Student Association in January of this year. Over three thousand students voted on the pass, with 85 per cent voting in favour of implementing the program.

Although the program has been implemented, it is still dogged by controversy.

Some students complain that they have no use for the pass because they drive, reside close to their campus, or have limited access to transit where they live.

Students are not able to withdraw from the program with the exemption of some very specific circumstances, detailed in the FAQ to the right of this article.

Those students who use it during the semester must remember you have to have your student card present with you on transit.

For more information on the U-Pass BC program, check out [<http://www.bcit.ca/u-pass>].

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

as found at [<http://www.bcit.ca/u-pass>]

How do I confirm if I'm eligible for U-Pass BC?

You can check your U-Pass BC eligibility at myBCIT. Once you have logged into your account, select U-Pass BC in the online self service menu (right sidebar) and follow the prompts.



Why aren't part-time studies students eligible for the U-Pass BC program?

The U-Pass BC program is available only to students in full-time programs, whether they are students carrying a full or reduced course load. Part-time studies at BCIT represents a diverse student population and wide range of programming and delivery. The U-Pass BC contract does not allow for the flexibility required by BCIT to be able to extend the program to Part-time studies students. As a result, the U-Pass BC program is only available to students in full-time study programs.

Students with concerns about their eligibility or non-eligibility in the U-Pass BC program should contact the BCIT Student Association. The Student Association will collect this information for discussions with TransLink and the province.



How do I know which months of U-Pass BC I'm eligible for?

You can check which months of U-Pass BC you qualify for at myBCIT. Once you have logged into your account, select U-Pass BC in the online self service menu (right sidebar) and follow the prompts.



Who do I contact if I've checked my U-Pass BC eligibility on myBCIT and still have questions?

Call Student Information & Enrolment Services at 604.434.1610. Have your BCIT student ID number ready and staff will be able to assist you.



Why is the U-Pass mandatory for eligible students?

U-Pass BC is a discounted transit program and is financially possible only when participation numbers are significant. From January 7, 2011 through to January 17, 2011 the BCIT Student Association conducted a student referendum to measure the level of student support. Of the 3,367 students that voted, 85% voted yes to participation in the U-Pass program.

I'm returning to my full-time studies program in September but will be on a modified program. Do I still qualify for U-Pass BC?

As long as you are registered in a minimum of 3.0 credits each term, you will be eligible. Eligibility is only confirmed the day following your registration date.



What happens if my program starts in the middle of the month?

If your program starts in the middle of the month - or even on the last day of the month - you are still eligible for the U-Pass BC for the whole month. For example, if your program starts September 26th - you will be able to pick up your pass during the last week of August and start using it on September 1st.



Can I opt out of the U-Pass BC program?

Students who do not want to participate in the U-Pass BC program

cannot opt out.

Under certain circumstances, students may request exemption from the U-Pass BC program. Exemptions may only be approved for the following:

- students who hold a valid U-Pass BC from another post-secondary institution within Metro Vancouver
- students who are permanently or temporarily disabled and whose physical or cognitive barriers cannot be accommodated by using the U-Pass BC

• students who hold a valid TransLink Pass. ("Transit Pass" refers to a BC Transit Employee Pass, BC Transit Government Bus Pass, CNIB ID Card, Community Pass, Employee Pass, Government Bus Pass and War Amputee Pass). A Monthly Fare Card does not qualify as a TransLink Pass

To request an exemption, please submit the following form(s) to the BCIT U-Pass BC Administrator at upassadm@bcit.ca.



What happens if I lose my U-Pass BC?

Treat your U-Pass BC like cash and keep it safe. If it is lost, BCIT will not be issuing replacement passes.

What should I do if I lose my BCIT student ID card?

If you lose your BCIT student ID card, report it lost and get a replacement card right away.



Are the U-Pass BC fees refundable if I withdraw from my program?

If you withdraw from your program, you will no longer be eligible for the U-Pass BC program. When your request to withdraw is processed, your U-Pass BC eligibility and financial account will be reviewed. A refund for future U-Pass BC months which have been paid, but for which a pass has not yet been issued, will be processed.



Who do I contact if I have general comments or concerns about the U-Pass BC program at BCIT?

Please contact the BCIT Student Association at upass@bcitsa.ca



U-Pass BC by the numbers

3,367

students voted in the U-Pass BC referendum

85%

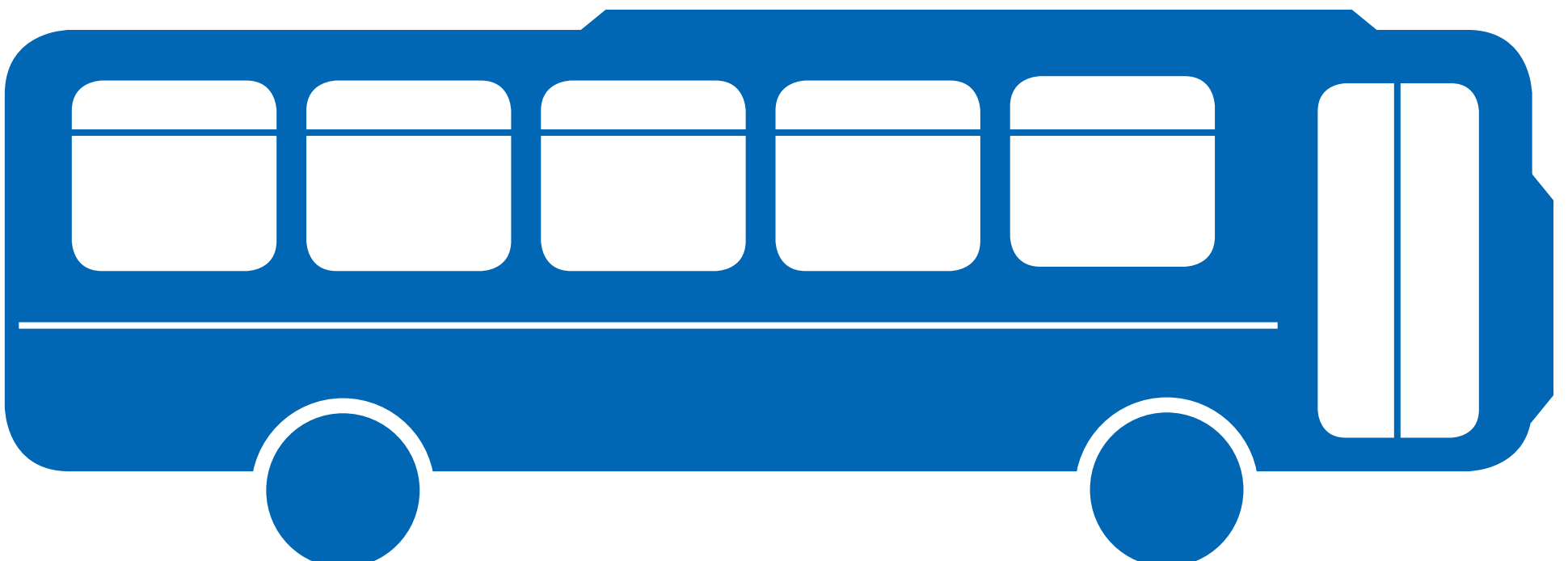
voted in favour of the U-Pass BC

\$30

monthly cost of the U-Pass BC

\$121

savings compared to an equivalent monthly pass



Let the games begin!

Intramurals at BCIT are a great way to have fun and stay in shape.

CHAD KLASSEN
Assistant Editor

BCIT is well-known for its intense programs that keep students busy and stressed, but nobody can focus on school work all the time. It's important to remember to play as hard as you work and that's why the school offers a variety of recreation services to offer that much-needed break from program schedules.

The fall term signals the beginning of seven new sports that present students a great opportunity to have fun – all while being able to take a breath of fresh air from the demands of a full course load. Recreation Services aims to give students an outlet to step away from the classroom and enjoy an active lifestyle.

Here's a list of fun, inexpensive intramural sports to check out:

Floor Hockey

The ball drops on one of the most high-demand sports on September 26 with exhibition play with a two-division league. Division A will play its regular season games on Monday night in the West Gym, while Division B plays off against each other on Tuesdays during the fall se-

mester. All games will face off between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. every week.

Every team makes the playoffs and at the conclusion of the regular season Divisions A and B join together to square off in a single play-off bracket.

A special third division, catered towards Trade students, will go Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in the early afternoon starting at 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$110 per team

Ice Hockey

The frozen variety of Canada's game drops the puck on September 28 and will play every Wednesday between 3 and 5 p.m. during the regular season. The league runs out of Burnaby 8-Rinks, which is just down the road from the Burnaby campus.

Cost: \$1,400 per team

Indoor Soccer

The school's most popular intramural sport commences on September 28 with two separate divisions for the first time.

Beginning this year, there is an open division that allows teams how to comprise their roster and a co-ed division that requires at least three women per team, two of whom must be on the floor during the game.

Teams will square off on Wednesday nights during the fall semester to determine the league champions.

Cost: \$80 per team

Basketball

The battle on the court, with a 3-on-3 competition ensuing, bounces into action on September 26 to coincide with the opening night of floor hockey. Games will tip off every Monday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the East Gym before teams post up in the playoffs for a shot at a championship.

Cost: \$30 per team

Volleyball

On another court, co-ed intramural volleyball is set to serve up another season on September 29 in the Full Gym. Games unfold every Thursday starting at 5:30 p.m. during the fall semester.

Cost: \$75 per team

Dodgeball

Arguably one of the most fun intramural sports returns to BCIT on September 27 with the opening set of matches. The balls will be tossed around Tuesday nights in the East Gym.

Cost: \$75 per team

Any interested students may still be able to sign up and join as an individual or register a team. Check for available openings at the Recreation Services office located in the SE16 building.

There's also a gym and weight-room (better known as the Fit Pit) available to students. They also offer fitness classes such as pilates, mixed martial arts, boot-camps, and squash.



The Link is seeking writers, columnists, illustrators, photographers, and web designers!

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TRUE story:
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A brief history of BCIT

BCIT has a long and storied history. Learn about its roots here!

DAVE SWANSON
Culture Editor

The British Columbia Institute of Technology opened its Burnaby campus doors for the first time in 1964 to 647 students and was erected beside the British Columbia Vocational School (BCVS).

Opened in 1960, BCVS' programs catered to the trades industry including craftsman, welding, and aircraft maintenance. BCIT expanded BCVS's curriculum, making it the first institution in British Columbia the focused on technical training education, offering programs in the fields of engineering, health, and business.

In its inaugural year, students paid a mere \$150 for a year's tuition, equivalent to just over \$1,000 by today's value which, as most of you know by the budgeting you conducted for your student loans, is about a fifth the amount of current annual tuition fees. Oddly enough, it actually cost more to live in residence in 1964 than it does today. Student had to pay \$90 a month, equivalent to about \$650, while students today only pay \$535/month.

Students were expected to dress in a style that was befitting of the dignity of the institute meaning men were to wear shirts and ties and women were supposed to dress in "appropriate attire." It is not clear exactly what this is meant to imply but one can guess skirts above the knee and shirts dipping below the neckline were frowned upon.

In 1974, just 10 years after its inception, BCIT's enrolment reached nearly 13,000 students. This rapid increase in student population put pressure on BCIT to expand, encouraging it to become a

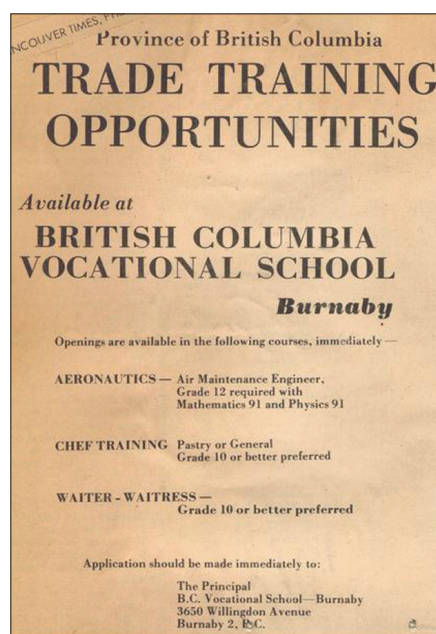
self-governing entity separate from the Ministry of Education which was granted that same year. As enrolment continued to increase in through the '80s and '90s, BCIT opened additional campuses in the Metro Vancouver area and adapted several of their diploma programs into Bachelor degrees. At the heart of its success, BCIT's holds its two- year diploma program as its primary institutional pillar.

In recent years, BCIT has made a commitment to environmental sustainability in BC and has gained recognition from the community for its efforts. In 2003, a solar/PV power tower was added to the Burnaby campus for training and research. In 2004, it was awarded the PowerSmart Excellence Award from BC Hydro. However, it's most impressive environmental achievement may be saving \$1.3 million with its Energy Management Project focused on reducing greenhouse gases in BC in 2006-2007.

Today, BCIT offers over a diverse range of programs from Aerospace Technology to Marketing Management. It is an educational community of over 46,000 students, 125,000 alumni and five different campuses located all around the lower mainland. It is composed of six umbrella schools: Business & Media, Construction & Environment, Computing & Academic Studies, Energy, Health Sciences, and Transportation.

Within each of these faculties, there is a multitude of different programs that cover a wide range of careers, each focused on producing skilled graduates with a specialized skill set. Many of these programs can be found on several of BCIT's five locations and others are home to just one.

Over the next several issues of *The Link*, we'll look take a closer look at each campus and some notable characteristics of each.



1964: An ad published in the Vancouver Sun highlights BCVS' Aeronautics, Chef Training, and Waitress courses.

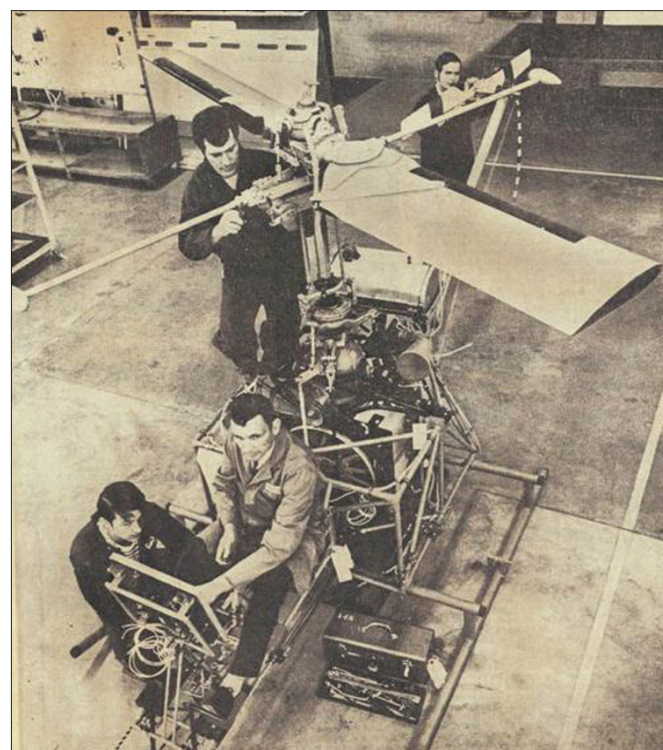


1969: Aviation students and instructors are seen abiding by the school's dress code including shirts and ties.

All photos courtesy of
BCIT Archives.



1963: Aerial shot from when BCIT was still known as British Columbia Vocational School.



1971: "It will never fly," instructor Chuck Roberts tells his Aviation class. He was correct.

Our favourite Welcome Week events



A sampling of Welcome Week events going on in September.

Image by Ion Oprea

Join the Student Association for two weeks of welcome events.

IAN MORTON & GENEVIEVE GOBEIL

If you're feeling ripped off by an overly grey summer and the sudden arrival of the school year, fear not! Thanks to sponsorships by ASTTBC, BCIT Alumni, and Pepsi, your Student Association is loading up lots of distractions to gently ease you into your new routine.

From Orientation Day on September 6 to Ignition Day on September 16, there's something going on at all campuses.

A quick browse of the menu promises everything from cotton candy to comedy, game shows to car shows, student clubs to student parties, and much more.

Oh, and don't forget all the freebies and giveaways. Bring your recycled cloth bag and when in doubt, there is always Professor Mugs which is now

kitted out with a jukebox and video games. Enjoy & indulge before your intense workload takes over!

Tuesday, September 6

Orientation Day
Welcome, first-year students! Come to SE2 at the Burnaby campus and register before 9 a.m. for a Orientation Day care of the BCIT Student Association.

Orientation will include an speaking appearance by BCIT President, Don Wright, Student Association President Nicola Gardner, comedian Greg Kettner, and DJ BFAD.

Participants will then be led by student guides to your respective classes for a focused orientation on your specific program.

The day ends with the second half of your tour leading to the exciting SA Expo featuring free cotton candy, various clubs, campus services, local businesses offering special deals, and tons of freebies.

Start the year on the right

foot, come Orientation Day!

Wednesday, September 7

Alumni Association Expo
Welcome all returning students! Today the BCIT Student Association and Alumni Association will be hosting an expo in the Great Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. featuring freebies and deals for students!

Marine campus students can enjoy a welcome orientation and barbecue from 11:30 a.m to 1 p.m.

Thursday, September 8

SA Spotlight Day

Located at SE2 of the Burnaby campus, SA Spotlight Day is an opportunity for you to get familiar with all the great opportunities provided for you by your Student Association!

Some cool things to check out are our free Crash Course Cooking classes and sponsored boot camps. We will be featuring tables from *The Link*, all sorts of various services,

and businesses.

There will be all sorts of free samples, promotions, and deals. Come pick up your agenda, health and dental resources, U-Pass BC information, and free popcorn while you're at it!

As part of our SA Spotlight day we will be hosting the coolest party on any campus around as the Molson's Coors Light Ice party featuring cheap drink specials, an igloo, and ice rink at 7 p.m. in Professor Mugs Pub.

Friday, September 9

Sneak-A-Peek Day

Sneak-A-Peek Day will feature SA's Minute to Win It challenge as well as Rec Services' interactive games. Come test your luck to win a prize or just sit back and watch the show! Free entertainment and fun from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, September 13

Clubazaar

Clubazaar is a clubs-focused

day hosted by the Student Association. This is your chance to check out all the great clubs available on campus or find out how to start your own.

Clubs will be hosting lively, creative, and interactive booths highlighting everything they have to offer. Take a break and find out more about how to get involved on campus!

Wednesday, September 14

Aerospace Campus barbecue
Richmond's Aerospace Campus students are encouraged to take care in the orientation and barbecue from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday, September 16

Ignition Day

Ignition Day offers a car show featuring eco-friendly cars, cool classics, modern luxury, and even an Indy car! Come enjoy the show outside SE2 as well and deals from local businesses from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Write for *The Link* and make sure we never have to waste paper space like this again.

You don't want trees to die in vain, do you?



publications@bcitsa.ca



BCITSA Info & News



BCITSA's iPad Giveaway

Become a fan of the BCITSA Facebook page, tag yourself in Orientation Week pictures (you don't even have to be in the picture!), and you will be entered into a draw for a brand new iPad! The winner will be announced via BCITSA's Facebook and Twitter pages.



UCONNECT RESOURCE CENTRE IS NOW OFFERING TUTORING SERVICES

One-to-one peer tutoring

Working with the Learning Commons, students can now get one-to-one peer tutoring through Uconnect at the rate of \$16 per hour.

Free trades tutors

A trades tutor will be available to help trades students in the Uconnect. While not a one-to-one program, students can take advantage of comprehensive tutoring from a knowledgeable student free of charge.

BACK-TO-CLASS 20-DAY GIVEAWAY

\$1,500 worth of prizes to be won!

Buy any **STAEDTLER** product from participating locations this September to receive your ballot for a **daily** prize. Check the BCITSA's Facebook and Twitter pages for a new winner every day! The more you buy, the better your chances!



IMPORTANT REMINDER REGARDING THE BCITSA STUDENT HEALTH PLAN

The **FAMILY ADD-ON**, **OPT-OUT** and **OPT-IN** deadlines are **30 days** after your first day of classes each year. Remember, Family Add-Ons and Opt-Outs can no longer be processed 30 days after your start date.



Learn leadership and develop your skills through volunteering, professional workshops, and achieving individual goals.

Visit the Uconnect Resource Centre for details!

BCITSA Annual Sponsors



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Executive Weigh-In



**A message from BCITSA
President Nicola Gardner**

On behalf of the BCITSA I would like to welcome all new and returning students to BCIT for the 2011/2012 school year.

The start of a new program or school year can be both exciting and sometimes intimidating. Either way, I assure you there is nothing to fear – well, other than the long hours and a few sleepless nights.

At times you may feel overwhelmed, even exhausted, by the work load but your set mates, as well as BCITSA services and your instructors can offer a great support network that I encourage you to take advantage of.

Another way to alleviate stress is by getting involved with campus life. Joining a club is great way to get involved, make connections, and develop yourself personally and professionally.

With more than 30 clubs on campus there is almost always something for everyone. If not, you can start your own club! Visit the Uconnect Resource Centre to learn how.

Joining an intermural sports team is another great way to meet new people and let off some steam, stop by Rec Services to see how you can get involved.

If you want to create change on campus and advocate for your fellow students on important issues, talk to your chair and find out about becoming a set representative, class representative, or student councilor.

Being a student at BCIT is a lot of hard work, but sometimes the most important lessons are learned outside the classroom. So don't be shy, get involved with campus life – you'll never know what you'll learn.



Win* a VIP GRAMMY^{®†*} experience.

You and a guest could walk the red carpet at the 54th GRAMMY^{®†*} Awards on Feb. 12, 2012, compliments of MasterCard^{®*}. Plus, you'll get a tour of L.A. and a professional pre-event makeover!

HOW TO ENTER: Apply* for a No Fee BMO[®] SPC^{®‡} MasterCard between Sept. 1 and Oct. 15, use your card before Nov. 30, 2011 and you'll automatically receive one entry. Prize includes:

- Flights and four nights accommodation for two
- Access to a GRAMMY rehearsal, awards show and official GRAMMY Celebration after party
- PLUS, you'll receive a \$1,000 credit on your BMO SPC MasterCard!

For complete contest details or to apply visit **bmo.com/smartstudents**



* No purchase necessary. Open to residents of Canada over the age of majority. Approximate retail value of prize is \$15,000. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. Contest closes October 15, 2011 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET. Correct answer to skill-testing question required. See BMO.com/contestrules for full rules. Draw will take place on December 19, 2011, at approximately 3:00 p.m. (ET), in Whitby, Ontario. [®] Registered trade-marks of Bank of Montreal. ^{®*} MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. ^{‡‡‡‡} Trade-mark/registered trademark of Student Price Card Ltd. ^{®†*} GRAMMY, GRAMMY Awards and the gramophone logo are registered trademarks of The Recording Academy and are used under license. © 2011 The Recording Academy.