



# ALUMNI

## Ambassador

publication for BCIT alumni



Burnaby, British Columbia  
October 1998 — Volume 16, Number 2

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**The mission of the BCIT Alumni Association is to build and maintain relationships between graduates and the BCIT community, and to support the Institute in fulfilling its mission**

### STAY IN TOUCH!

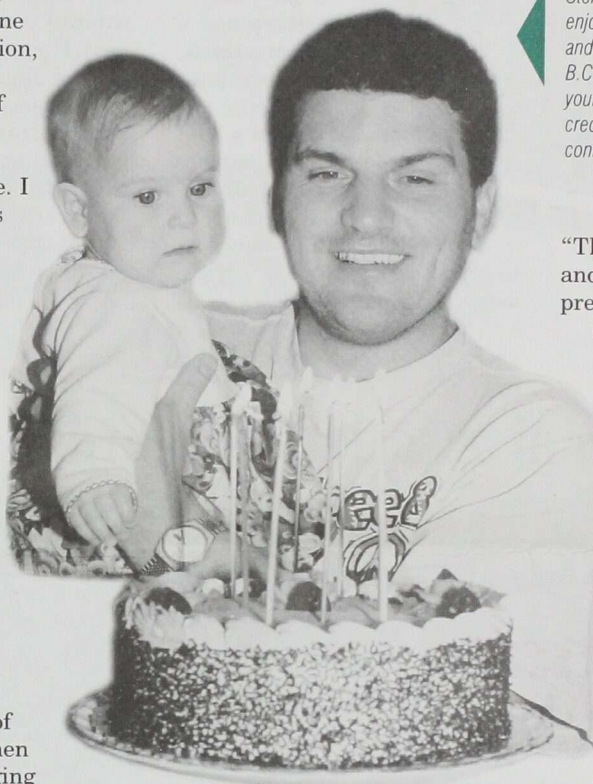
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Office: Mon-Wed,  
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Room 304

## Grad says, "BCIT education path to success"

Highways are North America's number one mode of transportation, and without good planning and a lot of asphalt, we would never enjoy the freedom they provide. I was reminded of this reality during my discussions with Stefano Condotta, a 1985 Graduate of Civil and Structural Engineering.

At age 35, "Stef" has worked for the B.C. Ministry of Highways since graduating from BCIT. He first started as an engineering aid working in the company laboratory where he applied his skills to all aspects of paving design. He then progressed to managing the laboratory and inspection division of the Field Coat Crew. During a technical explanation, unfamiliar terms worked their way into the conversation. Terms such as: application rates, emulsion testing, and Marshall designs.

Recently, since the provincial government has moved towards privatizing operations, Stef has been working in a specialized group of seal coat inspectors. Their work takes them around



*Stefano Condotta, and daughter Christina enjoying life in Kelowna. Absent is wife and mother Debbie. Stef's job with the B.C. Ministry of Highways brought the young family to the interior town, and he credits his BCIT education as a major contributor to his success.*

"The engineering fundamentals and rigorous workload help to prepare you for the real work environment," says Stef.

When hiring new employees Stef looks favourably at BCIT Engineering grads, knowing first hand the commitment and hard work that is necessary to complete the program.

The interview brought back fond memories for Stef of his fellow students, instructors, and more than a few hours spent at the SAC. Stef spoke to me during the August long weekend, while he was enjoying time with his spouse, Debbie and their baby, Christina. While we were talking I could not help thinking that soon Stef will be on the road traveling to distant areas of B.C. inspecting our provincial highways. Since our conversation, my own long road trips will lead me to think of Stef and the people who keep us on the road.

the province, working seven days a week for 12-hour shifts, eight months of the year. Through his travels Stef has grown to appreciate the interior portions of the province and specifically, the community of Kelowna. He enjoyed Kelowna so much he now lives there.

Stef believes his BCIT education has been a strong contributor to his success.

— by Christian Fletcher,  
Venture Program, 1994

## Calendar of Events

### October 1998

- 23rd BCIT Science & Technology Week Event
- 27th-30th BCIT Alcohol Awareness Week
- 29th BCIT Breakfast Series - Youssef A. Nasr President & CEO Hong Kong Bank of Canada

### November 1998

- 7th Sea Island 40th Anniversary Hangar Party
- 16th Alumni Board Meeting
- 19th BCIT Retirement Dinner
- 28th BCIT Crime & Science Seminar

### December 1998

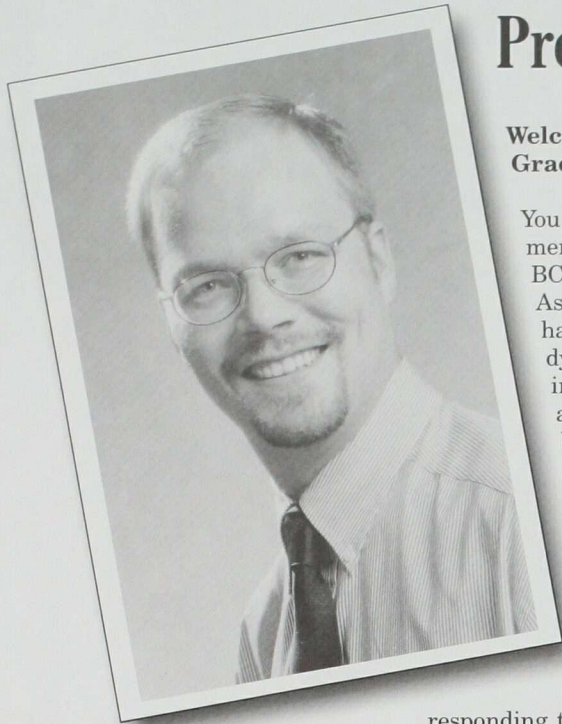
- 15th BCIT Board of Governors & President's Annual Meeting

**Your personal Alumni ID on the mailing label will allow you access to the Alumni web-site coming soon.**



BCIT Alumni Association  
3700 Willingdon Avenue  
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2  
Address Change Requested





## President's message

### Welcome New Grads!

You made it! As a member of the BCIT Alumni Association, you have joined a dynamic group of individuals who are sought after by B.C. business, industry, and healthcare organizations. Your accomplishments are part of a 30-year legacy of graduates who have been

responding to the changing technologies that increase the level of economic activity, entrepreneurial activity, and employment for the province.

Graduates of BCIT are described as dynamic, highly skilled members of the workforce, who are practical and show great initiative. You are part of a family that has a tradition of getting the job done well.

### Welcome New Board of Directors!

I am very pleased to tackle the role of President of the Alumni Association for the next two-years. The newly elected Board of Directors encompasses a broad cross-section from the Alumni community, and includes, a Vice President, a Treasurer, Secretary, ten Directors, and three ex-officio Directors. The energy and commitment they bring to the Alumni Association promises to propel us into the next

Millennium with all the people and tools necessary to handle the challenges of the current communication revolution.

It is very exciting to be a part of the BCIT community in this time of technological change. I thank all the BCIT Alumni who supported me while I was at BCIT and during the last two-years serving as a Director on the Alumni Board. I look forward to working with the new Board and Volunteers in handling the challenges to come.

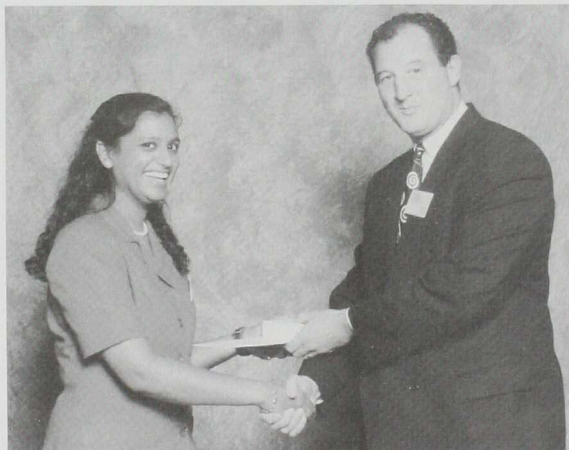
Sincerely,

Kazimir L. Falconbridge  
President, BCIT Alumni Association

## The BCIT Alumni association awards

The BCIT Alumni Association is pleased to continue the ongoing support of the Student Awards Program. The following awards were presented at the June 17, 1998 Graduating Awards Ceremony:

Natasha Karim	Tourism Management \$300 + medallion
Joe Kelly	Computer Systems \$300 + medallion
Jason Fahlman Technology	Electronic Engineering \$300 + medallion
Vicki Jarbo Education	Teacher Technology \$300 + medallion
Dale Corrigan Safety	Occupational Health and \$300 + medallion



Shown in the photo above is Scott Gray Vice President of the Alumni Association presenting an award to Natasha Karim.

## Reunion 2000

The Alumni Association would like to hold a 30th anniversary reunion during Open House weekend in April 2000 for all BCIT alumni. Watch for more details in the Alumni Ambassador.

## Jobs on-line

Ejobs - BCIT Employment Services introduces a new web site for alumni and students looking for employment or career advancement opportunities. It can be found at [www.bcit.bc.ca/~stuserv/employ.htm](http://www.bcit.bc.ca/~stuserv/employ.htm). To register call (604) 432-8666.

## Reach over 40,000 Alumni

To place an advertisement in the Ambassador, e-mail us at [alumni@bcit.bc.ca](mailto:alumni@bcit.bc.ca) for rates and sizes.

## New Alumni web site coming soon!

Coming soon to a computer near you is the new BCIT Alumni web site! The new address will be [www.bcit alumni.org](http://www.bcit alumni.org) and will be

in effect mid-October 1998. To access the BCIT Alumni web site, use your personal Alumni ID found on the mailing label on the front of this newsletter.

Remember to write down your personal Alumni ID before you recycle your Ambassador newsletter.



The *Alumni Ambassador* (circ. 41,000) is published twice a year by the BCIT Alumni Association with input from the Editorial Committee. The views expressed in this publication do not represent official positions of the Alumni Association or BCIT. If you would like to advertise in the Alumni Ambassador, please call (604) 432-8847 for information. Letters, articles or comments will be edited for clarity, brevity, liable and taste. The next copy deadline is Tuesday, March 16, 1999. Please send submissions to:

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Burnaby, BC V5G 3H2  
Tel: (604) 432-8847 Fax: (604) 431-8911  
e-mail: [alumni@bcit.bc.ca](mailto:alumni@bcit.bc.ca)  
Web site: [www.bcit.bc.ca/~alumni](http://www.bcit.bc.ca/~alumni)

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### Board of Directors

**President:**  
Kazimir L. Falconbridge, Dipl. T.  
Civil & Structural Technology '96

**Past President:**  
Bill MacPherson, Dipl. T., Mechanical Systems '91/  
Business Administration '88

**Vice President & Reunion 2000 Chair:**  
Scott W. Gray, Dipl. T. Broadcast '88

**Treasurer:**  
Peter Broerken, Dipl. T., CA, Biological Sciences '83

**Secretary & Editorial Committee Chair:**  
Mary Kirkland, Dipl. T., Marketing/Comm. '96

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Roman Torn, Dipl. T., International Trade '97

**Website Committee Chair:**  
Peter de Souza, Dipl. T., Marketing '97

Derek Bell, Dipl. T., Civil & Structural Technology '92  
Brian Brooke, Dipl. T., Hospitality Administration '96  
Lori DeCou, Dipl. T., Marketing '90  
Geraldine Dunnigan, Director of Development & Alumni Relations (ex officio)  
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Eileen Fitzpatrick, Dipl. T., Marketing - Profession '95  
Kenneth Lee, Dipl. T., Hospitality Administration '98  
Katie McCarron, Dipl. T., Human Resource Management '97  
Jollean McFarlen, Dipl. T., Marketing '80  
Peter Odynsky, Dipl. T., Marketing/Advertising '95  
Guy Steeves, Dipl. T., Marketing '89



# BCIT graduates succeed in today's workplace environment

BCIT developed the Bachelor of Technology degree program to help graduates succeed in today's aggressively ever-changing industry. This is a degree program offering graduates the opportunity to advance within the work force with a solid theoretical and practical education.

The Bachelor of Technology degree is designed for and is validated by industry, which gives graduates a competitive edge. Degree programs are developed and offered only in fields recommended by industry

advisory committees. The design offers a flexible part-time schedule to meet the needs of career-focused graduates; which means that BCIT grads can continue to work while earning a Bachelor of Technology degree.

The unique curriculum integrates theory with the practical skills and meets the employers needs for advanced technical training. The Bachelor of Technology develops the portable skills needed to keep pace within an industry, or allows for a change

in career direction. The program focuses on learning outcomes such as: critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, ethics, numeracy, communication, and literacy.

**The BCIT Bachelor of Technology degree program works on a simple four-tier system:**

- \* TWO-YEAR DIPLOMA
- \* TWO-YEAR WORK EXPERIENCE

- \* **ADVANCED DEGREE STUDIES**
- \* **BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY DEGREE**

The curriculum combines the two-year diploma and two-years of work experience, with liberal education courses and advanced studies. Liberal courses can be taken through many local colleges or universities, while the advanced degree studies are offered through BCIT. Completion of the program within a six-year time frame earns a degree that stresses the practical application of the knowledge, which is valuable in today's industry.

Below are the bachelor degrees which are currently available, degrees, which will be implemented in 1999, and those which are being considered:

## CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTED:

- \* Accounting
- \* Computer Systems
- \* Construction Management
- \* Environmental Engineering Technology
- \* Environmental Health Management
- \* Manufacturing
- \* Medical Imaging
- \* Specialty Nursing

## PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION SEPTEMBER 1999:

- \* Electronics
- \* Geomatics

## EXPLORATORY STAGES:

- \* Forensic Studies
- \* Integrative Health Sciences
- \* Process Integration Systems Management

**For further information on BCIT's new Bachelor of Technology degree programs contact:**

**BCIT Registration & Information (604) 434-1610; for inquiries outside of the Lower Mainland call toll-free Monday to Thursday 1300 to 1600 1-800-667-0676; or email [services@bcit.bc.ca](mailto:services@bcit.bc.ca); or check out our web site at: [www.bcit.bc.ca](http://www.bcit.bc.ca)**

— by Megan Simms-Beatty  
Mktg./Comm. '96

## THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL (ITP) PROGRAM

### THE ITP PROGRAM:

- Full-time 12 month interactive learning
- Includes 3 month work term
- National program
- Technical training combined with business applications, workplace and career skills

### ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Degree or Diploma in any discipline
- Eng. 12 (C+ or better)
- Interview may be required

### GRADUATES RECEIVE:

- ITP National Certificate
- BCIT Diploma
- Microsoft (MCSE) or Lotus (CLP) Certification



For program information:

WENDY TOH  
432-8635

[wtoh@bcit.bc.ca](mailto:wtoh@bcit.bc.ca)



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**Next Intake Jan 4, 1999**



# Grapevine

## 1968

**Mutis, Albert** (*Marketing*). Albert's youngest son John Mutis is currently a Business student due to graduate in spring of '98.

## 1969

**Strench, Erin** (*Electrical/Electronics*). Both of Erin's sons are BCIT Graduates, Adrian '94, Tele Com. and Geoffrey '95, Building. Erin has retired and moved to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico with his wife, where he is enjoying beach life and cold cervezas.

## 1970

**Latimer, Darrell** (*Forest Resources*). Along with Jim Heppner, Forestry '69 and Ted McLorg, Forestry '70, Darrell is planning a 30-year reunion of all '69 forestry Grads including those who started in September 1969 but graduated in subsequent years. The reunion is planned for April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999 in Penticton.

## 1971

**Brandle, Robert** (*Building*). Robert writes, "Our daughter's wedding, our son's baby, our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and cruising... Grad '71 still seems like yesterday."

## 1973

**Hardy, Ronald G.** (*Hotel & Food Service Management*). After graduating, Ron worked in the hotel business for several years. Since 1977 he has been employed with Scotia Bank. He is working towards a Certified Financial Planner Designation. Married to June for 22 years, has two teenagers (and less hair).

## 1974

**Dewit, William** (*Instrumentation*). Celebrating 20 years of service, 13 of which were in combustion dynamics, William was the 1997 recipient of a RD 100 award for AECL Standard Recombines. Pinawa is home for Bill which he enjoys with his wife Bella and his children Keiry, 14, and Sharra, nine.

## 1976

**Tracy, Leigh** (*Admin Management*). Leigh and Lorraine bought a house at 59 Donahue Avenue in Regina SK, S4R 3Y7, and invite fellow grads to send a letter/card to keep them up-to-date with things.

## 1978

**Coles, John** (*Forest Resources*). With three children Christine 18, David 15, and Brian 12, John is living in Chilliwack where he has been running the Woodlot License Program of the Chilliwack Forest District for the past six years, which includes W0007-BCIT's Woodlot. Coaching soccer and baseball, plus training for the half marathon

consumes the rest of his time and energy.

**King, Kathleen** (*Biological Sciences*). Since 1994, Kathleen has been working for the Vancouver-Richmond Association of the Mentally Handicapped, which is now known as the Developmental Disabilities Association.

**Stewart, David** (*Broadcast Communication*). A former Global TV Vancouver director, he has relocated to Sydney-Australia to join the Seven Network as a producer/director in Networks Sports and Senior Producer of the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan.

## 1979

**Holt, Judith** (*Medical Radiography*). Judith is employed with BreastScreen Queensland-townsville in Australia and is working on her Bachelor of Applied Science Degree, Medical Imaging via distance Education from Charles Stuart University in New South Wales. Judy writes that any classmates/radiographers can contact her at her email address holt@ultra.net.au. She is also returning to Kamloops in October for her 25<sup>th</sup> high school reunion.

## 1980

**Taker, Percy** (*CS Computer Systems*). As a single dad, Percy is busy raising his two sons Matthew 10 and Joel seven, and spends his free time in the winter months coaching their hockey team.

## 1981

**Agar, Janice** (*Medical Radiography*). Married Gerry, a native of Nova Scotia, in the fall of '97 in Surrey, after which they honeymooned in the Maritimes.

**Folinsbee, John A.** (*Nursing*). John's new job has brought him back to the big city after 12 years of living in small mining towns. Wife Susan remains at home with three and one-half year old son Jamie. John and Susan would like contact with classmates.

## 1982

**Day, Vanessa** (*Hospitality Administration*). Having left Ottawa last summer, Vanessa and her husband Bob moved temporarily to Shawnigan Lake until May, when they bought a house in Mill Bay. Along with her husband, she has started *Pages in Time*, a personalized book business and looks "forward to new and exciting challenges outside of the corporate rat race."

## 1984

**Sidhu, Dilarj** (*Marketing/International Market*). Dilarj moved to London in 1991 to complete an MBA and he is presently working in

Management Consulting with KPMG. Dilarj sends his best wishes to George Jacob on his retirement.

**Milos, Lynn** (*Hospitality Administration*). Lynne has recently started her own business conducting anonymous product and service evaluations for restaurants. She is married with two boys, one is three and the other is a year old.

**Sewell-Clyne, Carolee** (*CS Computer Systems*). Currently working for the University of Northern BC in Prince George, as a computer lab coordinator. Carolee married her husband Colin in 1990 and has three boys: William, six, Brian, four and James, two.

## 1985

**Dong, Billy** (*Hospitality Administration*). Bill has a new addition to the family, a baby girl named Crystin Nicole. He has been voted as the Director of CAIFA (Canadian Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors). Bill invites fellow grads to contact him at his office.

## 1986

**Knelsen, Floyd** (*Financial Management*). Floyd says hello to all fellow classmates.

## 1988

**Scullard, Rand** (*CS Computer Systems*). Rand and Mary Ellen are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Benjamin Cooper Scullard, on March 15, 1998 in New York City.

**Best, Linda** (*Broadcast Communications*). Linda is pursuing a career in animation and attending Sheridan College's Animation Program in Toronto.

**Gunn, Michael** (*Cooking*). Since graduation and completing his apprenticeship at the Westin Hotel, Michael moved to Australia for six years. Returning in August of '97, Michael has opened up a late night bistro on Main Street in Vancouver.

**Rinaldi, Claudia** (*Medical Laboratory*). Claudia worked for six years at the Vancouver General Hospital's blood bank before retiring to Kamloops. Married in May of 1992 to Ken Wilman (Sheet Metal) she has two sons Jordon and Janed. Since moving to Kamloops, Claudia has been looking for new career opportunities.

**Kilborn, Ursula** (*nee Jofenig*) (*Marketing/Tourism*). Ursula has been working for Canadian Pacific Hotels since 1989 and has worked her way across the country starting at Chateau Whistler Resort in B.C., to the Global Reservation Centre in Moncton NB. She is currently at the National Sales Office based in Ottawa. She married Doug in 1991.

## 1989

**Stock, Rick** (*Forest Resources*). Rick works for the Ministry of Forests in 100-Mile House. He has built a house on a lake where he lives with his fiancée, Laura and their dog Scooby.

**Metcalf, Linda** (*Marketing*). Having recently moved to Langley, B.C., Linda has given birth to her second daughter Hillary who joins her big sister Martha who has just turned two. She has been with IAMS for three years.

## 1991

**Leung, Wyman** (*Operation Management/Transportation Logistics*). Wyman married Olivia Aires DaSilva in July 1998.

## 1992

**Kristmanson, Nikki** (*Marketing Management*). Nikki is currently working as the Marketing Coordinator for Prince Rupert City Tel; Western Canada's only independent Phone Company. She would love to hear from former schoolmates. She can be contacted through her e-mail address nikki@citytel.net.

## 1994

**Pidhorney, Curtis** (*Environmental Health*). Curtis has recently returned home to Regina from Northern B.C. to accept a new position with Human Resources Development Canada-Labour Program as a Safety Officer. He and his girlfriend are happy to be closer to friends and family and look forward to the new opportunities this move will bring.

**Klarich, Alma** (*Operations Management*). Recently married, March 7, 1998. Employed at Fletcher Challenge since November 1995.

**Klarich, Roberto** (*Operations Management*). Recently married, March 7, 1998. Employed at Mountain Equipment Co-op since October 1994.

## 1995

**Ho, Anne** (*Health Care Management*). Since receiving her Health Care Management Certificate, Anne is pursuing her MBA.

## 1996

**Meade, Shaeesta** (*Marketing/Professional Sales*). Married to Mike, whom she met at BCIT, in August, Shaeesta has moved to a new home in Cloverdale. Mike works as an agent for Minneapolis-based Donaldson Ltd., a leading industrial pollution-controlling company, and Shaeesta works at Custom Papter Ltd. No children yet as they are still newly wed!





# BCIT flag flies at Burnaby Hall

The City of Burnaby conceded defeat in June during the Commuter Challenge. President Brian Gillespie challenged Mayor Doug Drummond to see which

organization could achieve greater participation in getting employees out of single occupant vehicles on June 3rd. Of the departments entered in the event, BCIT achieved 73 per cent participation, with the City of Burnaby scoring 65 per cent.

Wednesday, June 10th at 1025, Mayor Drummond raised the BCIT flag over City Hall, where it flew proudly until the 17th. Congratulations to all BCIT staff who participated in the Commuter Challenge and

assisted in recording the Institute's first winning challenge. Congratulations also to City staff for a good competition and for helping the Mayor do his own bit to improve the environment.

## Nominations wanted

Do you know a distinguished graduate or an individual who has made a difference to BCIT?

**Who's Eligible?**  
Each year your Alumni Association honours a BCIT graduate who has distinguished themselves in their field or made a substantial contribution to the community. Only Alumni are eligible for the Alumni Achievement Award.

Your Association also honours individuals who may or may not be a member of the Association but who have contributed a great deal to BCIT. Recipients of this award receive the prestigious BCIT Alumni Association Award.

Alumni and non-alumni are eligible for this award.


**What's the Award?**  
Award recipients are invited as special guests to the Annual General Meeting and presented with an award.

**Nomination Deadline:**  
**Friday, May 1, 1999**  
Nomination forms can be obtained from the Alumni Association at (604) 432-8847 or fax (604) 431-8911. Or send your nomination information, stating qualifications/reasons, references and the award you are nominating the individual for to the BCIT Alumni Association, 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2 or fax (604) 431-8911.

## Alumni Ambassador Card

The official version of the new Alumni Ambassador Card is now in full swing. This card can be purchased from the Alumni Association office for \$25. Alumni can

apply for the AA Card, by e-mail, fax, phone or in person, and can pay with Visa/MC/AX credit card, or cash. In order to purchase a card please send your name, address, phone number, along with credit card number and expiry date.



### Calling all Graduates from Aviation Training Programs

Please join us at BCIT's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hangar Party, a reunion for all BCVS, PVI & BCIT Aviation Training Alumni

Saturday, November 7, 1998  
7:00 pm — 1:00 am

BCIT Sea Island Campus  
Vancouver International Airport South  
5301 Airport Road

Tickets available from:

John MacGillivray tel 278-4831, fax 278-5363 or email jmacgill@bcit.bc.ca

OR

Mary Murray tel 432-8410, fax 436-5762 or email mmurray@bcit.bc.ca

Tickets \$20 per person  
Includes BBQ, door prizes, entertainment  
No-host bar

Payment can be made by cash, cheque (payable to BCIT), Mastercard or Visa, American Express

*Bring any memorabilia you have!  
Photos, crests, yearbooks, invitations, programs, hats and anything that related to your time at the school.*

## Stay in Touch!

(Please Print)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Tel: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Student No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Dipl.T ☐ Degree ☐ Cert. ☐ Tech. B. ☐

Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ BCIT Graduate Yes ☐ No ☐ Year Graduated & Program \_\_\_\_\_

**Enter the Grapevine**  
Do you have a new job or child? Have you moved or married? Let us know! DON'T FORGET to send us your wedding, baby or family photos. (Please Print. Max. 30 words.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Alumni Association is currently recruiting members for the following committees. Please check the box(es) to indicate where you'd like to get involved:

<input type="checkbox"/> Editorial	<input type="checkbox"/> Open House	<input type="checkbox"/> Social
<input type="checkbox"/> Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Reunion 2000

**Return this completed form to:** BCIT Alumni Ambassador, 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2 E-mail: alumni@bcit.bc.ca



## Don Guthrie Memorial Award

### Don Guthrie

Don Guthrie passed away unexpectedly on November 10th, 1997 following a brief battle with cancer. He taught Wildlife Management with BCIT's Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program for nearly 17 years.

### An Accomplished Biologist

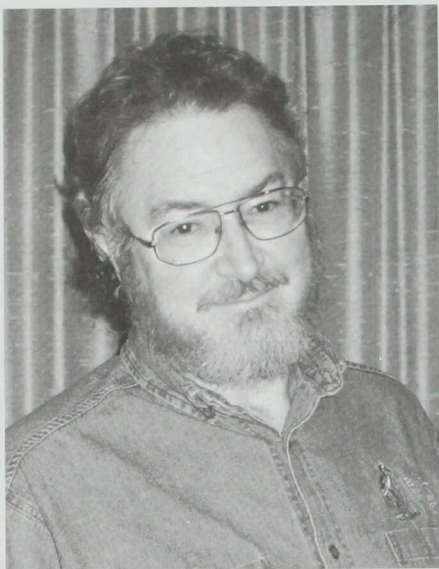
Don brought to BCIT an impressive academic background. He studied gray squirrels for his M.Sc. degree at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University and researched pocket mice for his Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia.

### A Friend and Mentor

Don treated his students as equals with a respect uncommon in post-secondary education.

### A Passionate Teacher

Don had a deep commitment to his students and to the FWR Program. He provided students with the leading-edge technology needed for modern



resource management, most recently, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Don was instrumental in establishing the Burnaby Lake System Project, a successful and well-publicized project that continues to provide field skills to students while enhancing natural values for people and wildlife in Burnaby.

### The Don Guthrie Memorial Award

A first-year achievement award has been established in Don's memory. To be eligible, students must have a documented learning disability and may be enrolled in any program at BCIT. It is intended that this award honour Don's lifelong struggle with Attention Deficit Disorder and his concern and support for others who also struggle to learn. Please make cheques payable to:

### Don Guthrie Memorial Award

Attention: Susan Walters,  
BCIT Development Office  
3700 Willingdon Avenue  
Burnaby, B.C., V5G 3H2  
Phone: (604) 432-8868

*If you make a contribution to the memorial fund before February 1, 1999, the amount will be eligible to be matched by the Provincial Government. Contributions are tax deductible and receipts will be issued for amounts over \$25.*

## Broadcast grads win big

At the annual B.C. Association of Broadcasters convention in Prince George BCIT was in the spotlight. Susan Edgell, now at CFJC in Kamloops and soon-to-be grad Steve Lus, now at CKNW Vancouver were honoured as "BROADCAST PERFORMERS OF TOMORROW". Other broadcast grads who were either finalist or award-winners included Denelle Balfour (VTV Vancouver), Mike Popil (Silk-FM Kelowna), and Lynn Collier (BCTV Vancouver).

Congratulations to all!

## In memoriam

The Alumni Association remembers Paul Casey of Tsawwassen who passed away on September 30, 1997 as a result of a car accident.

## BCIT Downtown...



### not your average campus

BCIT's Downtown Campus is your one-stop conference centre in the heart of Vancouver's business community — 555 Seymour Street.

Our campus is outfitted with the latest telecommunications and information technology — named one of the world's 50 "smart" buildings — where high technology and people complement each other.

### Conference facilities include:

- meeting rooms & classrooms
- computer labs
- internet access
- interactive video conferencing
- convenient parking
- copy centre
- catering
- fitness centre
- travel agency
- food court and more

For information contact BCIT Downtown:  
Phillipa Dermott, conference & room rentals  
tel. 412-7611 or pdermott@bcit.bc.ca

Anne Glover, Community Relations  
tel. 412-7779 or aglover@bcit.bc.ca



BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

EXECUTIVE

**MBA**  
P R O G R A M

CELEBRATING  
30  
YEARS GRADUATES

you want an **MBA** but want to keep working

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## What do Sea Island, BCIT and aviation have in common?

BCIT was born as an offshoot of the Vancouver Vocational Institute in 1956 when the overflow apprentice classes were housed on the grounds of the PNE. It was known as the Federal-Provincial Trades and Technical Institute, under the direction of the B.C. Department of Education.

In 1956, W.A.C. Bennett, then Premier of B.C., officially opened the new B.C. Vocational School in Burnaby. The Aircraft Maintenance course at the time was two year's, with only two dedicated instructors, and one intake of students annually. In 1967 the course was reduced to a one-year course. In May 1977 it was moved to the Sea Island

Site, the original B.C. Airlines Hangar, in order to provide training in close proximity to the aviation industry.

On April 1, 1978, the British Columbia Vocational School became a Crown Corporation under the provisions of the Colleges and Provincial Institutes Act, and the Pacific Vocational Institutes Act, and the Pacific Vocational Institute came into existence.

In February 1979, the first aircraft sheet metal courses were commenced to meet industry requirements, and a modest expansion of the Sea Island training facility was implemented.

Brian R.D. Smith, then B.C. Minister of Education, commemorated the official opening of the Sea Island location on March 6, 1981. The Pacific Vocational Institute amalgamated with BCIT on April 1, 1986.

On January 31, 1987, BCIT purchased the hangar and administration complex from Pacific Western Airlines. The hangar was originally built by the airlines to house the Bristol Britannia. The complex was officially opened, on April 27, 1987, by then B.C. Premier, Bill Van der Zalm. The Aviation programs moved into the facility to commence instruction on July 13, 1987.

In September 1990, student intakes were increased to six per-year, or one every two months.

The Aircraft Maintenance, Avionics, Gas Turbines, Components and Structures technician courses now offered in support of students seeking careers in the aviation industry are a tribute to the instructors, staff, industry, and founding visionaries. A recent survey shows that well-over 80 per cent of those students who have graduated from the 30-year history of the programs offered are still employed in aviation.

## Venture program proves fruitful for grad

BCIT Venture program grad, Mark Whalen, recognized a trend toward organic food, he realized people were finding it difficult to locate inexpensive organic produce. Armed with a plan to provide organic produce

home delivery, he began to research small business programs.

Whalen registered for BCIT's Venture program in the fall of 1996. "I had no previous

business experience and I needed help putting together a business plan. BCIT's (program) was the most developed and reputable of the lot," said Whalen.

With no credit history, Whalen had to do some creative thinking to get Urban Organics off the ground. Brainstorming sessions with the rest of his class provided valuable ideas.

"It was during one of these group sessions that I figured out how to get my business started with no capital investment," said Whalen.

Whalen worked out a deal with the Lifeline Outreach Society that would allow him to operate out of a church in East Vancouver. In exchange for using their space and refrigerator, he donated \$1 from every box of produce sold and all leftover produce at the end of each week to the Outreach effort.

"The arrangement helped me get my business off the ground", said Whalen, and compared the experience to that of a rocket taking off.

Urban Organics delivers produce to residential and commercial locations. The business has expanded into a warehouse space in East Vancouver, but Whalen continues to deliver all leftovers to the Glad Tidings Church at the end of each week.

## Toastmasters

Does the thought of public speaking make your knees go weak?

If so, you're not alone: many people say that they'd actually rather die than give a speech in public. Overcome one of your worst fears!

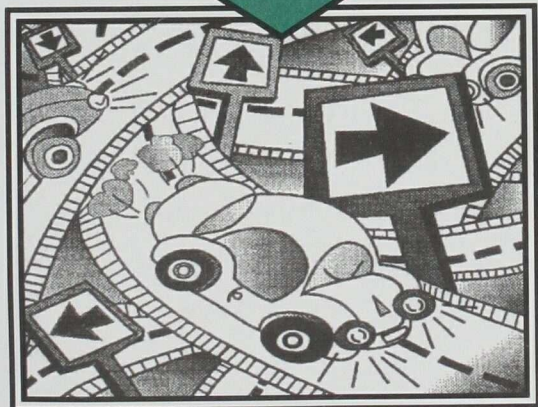
In its first year the BCIT Alumni Toastmasters Club has already helped a number of people overcome the nervousness of giving a speech. They can help you too. You may have earned your diploma or certificate saying that you've got the necessary skills for today's job market, but if you can't communicate clearly and effectively you may not succeed. The BCIT Alumni Toastmasters Club can provide you with the opportunity to deliver a message to a large crowd or for those comfortable with public speaking. This opportunity can help you master your communication skills. The club has also just received charter status. Congratulations! Join us every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at BCIT. For information about the Club please contact Jeremy Tiffin at (604) 583-5542 or email at [jeremy-tiffin@b.c.sympatico.ca](mailto:jeremy-tiffin@b.c.sympatico.ca) or view us on the web at <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Olympus/8530>

—By Pam Fraser, Class of '97.



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