

BCIT UPDATE

A newsletter for the BCIT Community
December 13, 1993 Issue 14

*Seasons
Greetings
to staff, students
and
friends
everywhere!*

*I hope you feel, as I do, that 1993
has been a terrific year for BCIT.
Thanks to all of you for your
contributions to our success.*

*I look forward to seeing you at the
Board of Governors and President's
Christmas Reception on Tuesday,
December 14 in the Town Square
Cafe.*

*Best Wishes to you and yours for a
happy and safe holiday season.*

Sincerely,



John Watson

APPLIED RESEARCH
At the Technology Centre

Catching poachers through DNA testing

Biotechnology Program Head Paul Barran
and Research Assistant Myra Englouen.
— Mike Gdowski photo

Every year thousands
of big game
animals are
illegally killed in Canada.

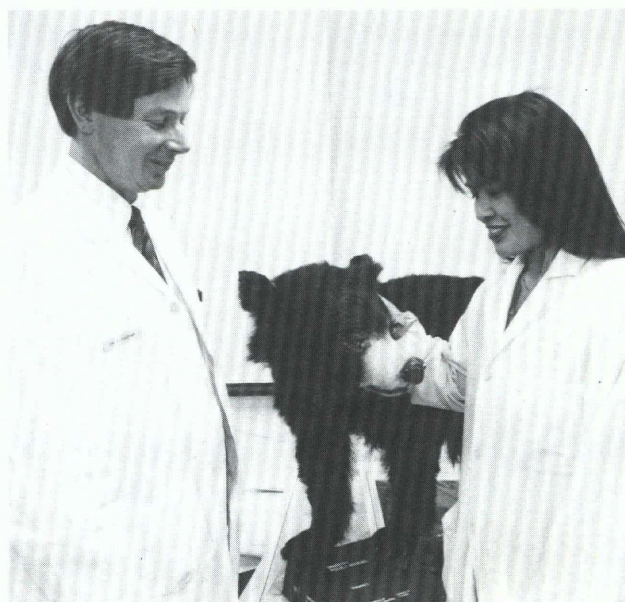
A major problem in the
battle against poaching is
identifying seized wildlife
parts and by-products.
While poached antlers and
hides can be easily
identified, other body parts
and by-products can't.

Paul Barran, the program
head in Biotechnology,
recognized this problem
and saw an opportunity to
make a difference.

In early 1992 he
approached Helix Biotech
Corporation, a company specializing in a
relatively new technique for DNA testing
which can identify an individual much
faster and simpler than the traditional
method.

The corporation uses the technique
primarily for immigration purposes.
Paul proposed that they attempt to use
the same technique on wildlife animals.
With help from the Technology Centre,
the project received funding from the
National Research Council of Canada.

Using samples of DNA provided by the
Helix Corporation, Paul and Research
Assistant Myra Englouen were able to
conduct extensive tests on two species of
bear. The findings proved the



effectiveness of the technique for
identifying animals from extremely small
quantities of DNA. As a result,
authorities can now identify a protected
animal from a single organ or piece of
meat, and will be able to prosecute and
convict more poachers.

"The technique represents a faster,
simpler, equally accurate way of doing
genetic typing in animals and that has
great potential in terms of wildlife
biology and forensics," said Paul Barran
who worked on the project for 18
months.

— from Kelly Gervais
Technology Centre

Opportunities in trades jobs improve as numbers of construction projects increase

It's a question Associate Dean Mike Cannell hears a lot: what about getting a job?

But there are opportunities in trades, despite a sluggish economy that over the past few years has affected construction and related industries.

"There are always jobs for skilled people," says Cannell, associate dean of construction and metal industries trades. "We don't promise open doors, but skills are always in demand."

With the economy slowly improving, the future looks promising for trades workers, who can earn up to \$25 an hour.

Recent Statistics Canada figures agree — construction in British Columbia is up by \$240 million this year, compared to the same January-September period in 1992. Residential, industrial-commercial and institutional building totalled more than \$4.86 billion province-wide.

"The next 24 months look active," says Cannell. "The housing market should continue to be strong, although extremely competitive with contractors depending on skilled workers to keep costs to a minimum."

With commercial construction stronger than expected, that bodes well for welders, sheetmetal workers, ironworkers and steel fabricators, who work with structural steel and ventilation systems used in building office towers, warehouses and the like.

And Cannell is optimistic the federal government's planned \$2-billion infrastructure improvement program will mean more opportunities for trades workers.

Details on the work have yet to be announced, but Cannell expects there should be a burst of interest in certain trades programs at BCIT as workers look to take advantage of the government initiative.

"If there's an increase in work there will be new jobs, but likewise even those already working will need formal certification or skills upgrading," he says.

— from Stephen Barrington
Media Relations

ISIS/Banner Student conversion near complete

By January 7, 1994, the SIMS Project Team will have converted ISIS and preISIS academic history to the new student information management system (Banner Student), and the majority of the module implementation tasks will be complete.

Student Recruitment and Admissions were the first modules to be implemented in January 1993. Part-time Studies registration commenced in September 1993 and full-time registration followed in November.

The new Banner Student system has allowed the automation and integration of many functions. This will provide greater efficiencies and help staff to improve the level of service to students. A number of changes have been implemented including:

1. The course identifier has changed from a three-digit to a four-digit course numbering system.
2. The Set Code (now referred to in Banner as the Block Code) has changed from a two-digit prefix to a four-character prefix. For example set 10A1 Management Systems has become MGTS 1A.
3. Some changes have been made to the design of forms, such as the tuition fee receipt, timetable, end-of-term grade mailer, official transcript, class lists and marks spreadsheets.
4. There will be one common transcript form for all BCIT programs.
5. Only the term weighted grade point average (GPA) and program credential GPA (when earned) will be reported on the transcript.
6. GPA values will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage value.

Status of student and faculty timetables and class lists

The Timetabling and Student Records staff have put in long hours to ensure Sets and course offerings are properly recorded on the Banner Student System.

However, changes to courses, sets and schedules received after December 1, 1993, may not be recorded on Banner until January 1994. This will result in some programs having incomplete and/or incorrect timetables and classlists.

Timetables were printed on December 6 and as changes take place new timetables can be requested from the Timetabling department. The first set of class lists for full-time technology programs will be available by the second week in January 1994 and an updated class list will be distributed by the middle of February.

— from Registrar Mario Mazziotti



Every year staff participate in a Christmas party at Eatons. (from left) Communications Department instructor Jean Scribner lifts her youngest daughter up for a better glimpse of Santa. Meanwhile Mark Angelo's daughter Kelly Angelo holds Jean's oldest daughter while Lindsay Angelo looks on.

New policy for students with disabilities approved

BCIT, aware of the mainstreaming of K-12 students with disabilities and seeking to be responsive to human rights and the need to increase accessibility, has brought about a new policy for services to students with disabilities.

The Board of Governors formally accepted the new policy at its November 23 meeting.

Gerry Moss, the vice president of Student Services and Educational Support, says the new policy is the institute's formal commitment to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to meet their educational, career and personal goals.

As a result of the mainstreaming of students in elementary and high school levels, more and more people with disabilities are enrolling in post secondary institutions like BCIT. This policy is a proactive approach in the provision of these services.

"We have to recognize that the policy itself is important, but even without the policy, human rights legislation would still require us to meet the needs of all people," he said.

Specifically the policy sets out that the institute will enhance access to BCIT by improving facilities, technical aides and services within available resources.

The institute also agrees to provide reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities in meeting program and course requirements. Specifically that could mean extended deadlines for assignments, different procedures for writing exams, one-on-one tutoring where warranted.

The policy also points to staff education programs which will focus on increasing staff awareness of the needs of individuals with disabilities.

The challenge for BCIT and other institutions, is to provide enhanced services for students with disabilities during a time of little or no budget growth.

"We aim to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities as best we can," said Moss.

"Since the cost to complete programs for disabled students can be considerably more, we have to meet these special needs as effectively as we can while recognizing, as a public institution, that we have many people to serve," he said.

News Briefs

U of T honours Barbara Mowat

The University of Toronto's women's entrepreneurship program has named Barbara Mowat as the 1993 Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year. She is a member of the Venture Program Advisory Committee. She also owns and operates two successful B.C.-based companies serving home-based entrepreneurs. During her 20 years of experience she has become a mentor to thousands of small business operators across the country and abroad.

Staff reception moves to Town Square room D

The Staff Service Recognition reception to honour employees with 10 and 15 years of service has been moved to the Town Square Conference Room D. It was originally to be held in the IBM Technology Building foyer.

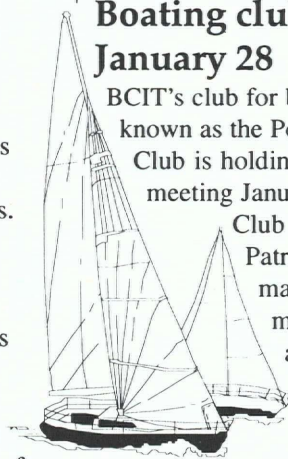
Boating club meets January 28

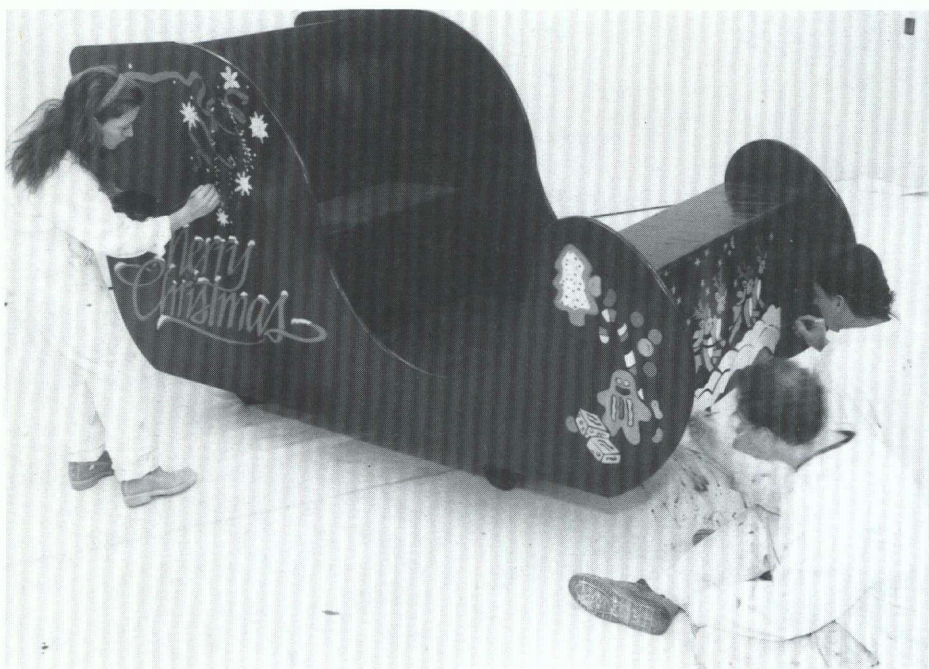
BCIT's club for boating enthusiasts known as the Positive Displacement Club is holding its annual planning meeting January 28 in the Rix Staff Club at 1600. Commodore Patrick Muldoon says the main purpose of the meeting is to plan the annual cruise. This year the club has set a course for Pirate's Cove on DeCourcy

Island on the May long weekend. For more information contact Patrick Muldoon at 8223.

Swinburne representative here Wednesday

Employees interested in finding out more about the staff and student exchange agreement between BCIT and Australia's Swinburne University of Technology should attend a meeting with Swinburne's Judy Bissland on Wednesday, December 15 in SW9-122 at 1400. Call Ron Sterne for more information at 8651.





BCIT students got into the spirit this month with some fancy painting and decorating of this Christmas sleigh. (from left) Pre-employment Painting and Decorating students Lynn Chaulk, Paul Callsen and Paul Escudero complete work on a sleigh built a few years ago by carpentry students. It is used by Vancouver firefighter Edward Stephens for a display he has mounted annually to raise money for muscular dystrophy.

— Mike Gdowski photo

Harassment and Discrimination policy now on PROFS system

On November 23 the Board of Governors passed the new Harassment and Discrimination policy.

It replaces the old Sexual Harassment policy and provides both a statement of principle and a detailed procedure for handling complaints.

The policy was approved by the board on a one year trial basis and will be reviewed after nine months.

The review will be undertaken by the newly formed Harassment and Discrimination Steering Committee with input from the Harassment and Discrimination Advisor.

The new policy is available on PROFS. The steering committee will meet soon to develop ways to inform the campus community on the issue.

Classified

For Sale: Whistler/Blackcomb one bedroom condo, right on the Blackcomb slope, swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna, close to new golf course, concrete building. \$139,000 Call Joe at 433-9879.

For Sale: West Vancouver Ambleside top floor one bedroom condominium.

Separate living and dining rooms, sundeck, fireplace, skylights, underground parking. \$198,000. Call Joan Uren at 926-4648 or 432-8908.

To Rent: Christmas half price special, Whistler Creek Lodge one bedroom deluxe apartment December 20-26 \$600. Call Carol at 737-3839.

For Sale: Entertainment '94 coupon books available through Maple Ridge Rotary Club. Call Mike at 8962.

For Sale: 1988 Toyota Corolla, SR5 two-door, red, five-speed, AM/FM cassette, well maintained, \$7,500 or best offer. Call Michele at 8628 or 940-9394.

For Sale: 12" x 34" Metal Working Lathe, Clausing Model 111, 6 spd ... 75 to 1280 rpm, 110/220 3/4 hp, 6.5" 3 jaw, 10" 4 jaw, faceplate, followrest, steadyrest, drill chuck MT#3, 4 to 192tpi 48 speed quickchange gearbox, metal stand. \$1750 or best offer. Call Errol 8972 or 298-5068.

BCIT Events to Come

Monday, December 13

- Exam week

Tuesday, December 14

- Staff Long Service reception recognizing 10 and 15 year milestones. Town Square Conference Room D, 1330
- Board of Governors' and President's Christmas Reception for all employees, Town Square Cafe, 1430-1800
- Bookstore closes early, 0800-1430

Wednesday December 15

- Personnel Department Open House, 1000-1500
- Broadcast Radio Advisory Committee meeting, SE 10-148, 1100-1330
- Education Council, Administration Building Boardroom, 1230-1430
- Judy Bissland talks about BCIT/Swinburne University staff exchange, SW9-122, 1400

Thursday, December 16

- Venture Program graduation, NE25-308, 1430-1700

Tuesday, December 21

- Departmental Marks Review meetings, various locations, 0830-1500

Wednesday, December 22

- School of Business Marks Review meeting, location TBA, 0830-1500

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 **BCIT UPDATE** is published 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 **3 PM, Fridays**, five working days prior to publication. The editor reserves the right to edit for brevity, libel and accuracy.

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

Editor: Terry Jorden, 432-8656
Producer: Ronaye Ireland, 432-8738
Fax: 436-5762

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