

# DEVELOPMENTS



Volume 6 Number 2

September 11, 1980

## Programs attract students

Two new programs have been launched at BCIT.

The Prosthetics and Orthotics program has begun as scheduled in the Health Division. Prosthetists and orthotists design, fabricate and fit artificial limbs, appliances, supports, braces and remedial devices.

The program is a first for western Canada. The only other training sites in the country are in Quebec and Ontario, with one in each province.

Enrolment for the BCIT program was limited to 10 students—five from B.C., three from Saskatchewan and two from Alberta. The program attracted 12 B.C. applicants, said Art Ridgway, head of Biomedical Electronics and Health Data.

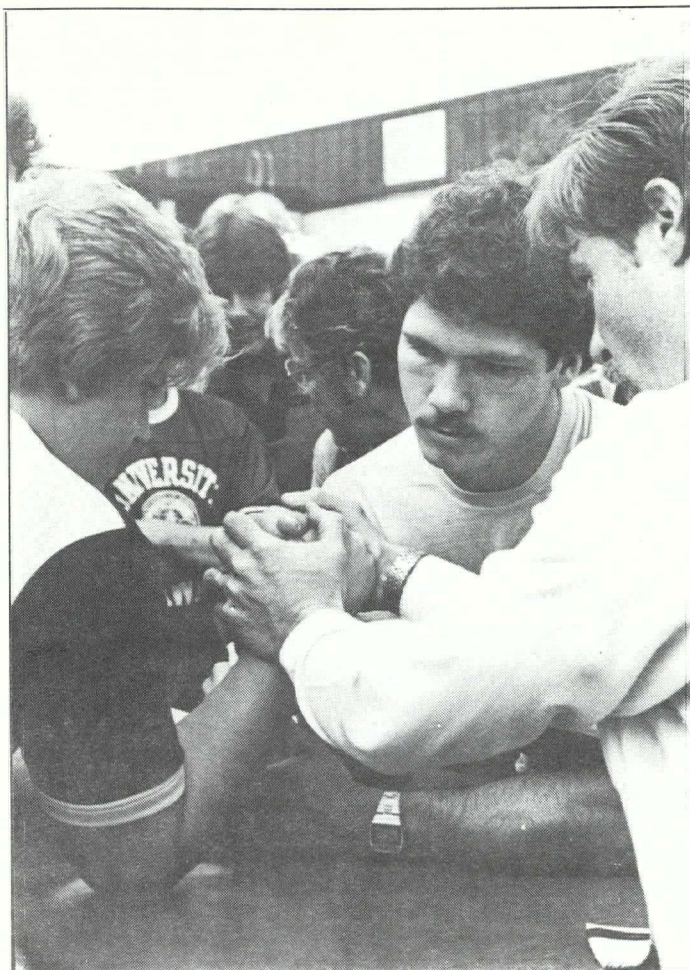
During the two-year program, students are doing all lab work in public and private labs in Vancouver. Ridgway said that more than 40 per cent of the training will be through working prosthetists and orthotists. The practical experience supplements instruction at BCIT, under the direction of Bill McGuiness.

To prevent glutting the market, the program will only be offered every other year.

The post-diploma program in Diagnostic Ultrasound is also underway. Its enrolment was limited to eight. The majority of the students taking advantage of the one-year program are BCIT radiography and nuclear medicine graduates.

Bill Noel, head of Medical Radiography, said that the program consists of 80 per

*continued on page 2*



*You have to hand it to the people who got involved in the wrist-wrestling competition last Wednesday. It was the most popular event during the annual Fun Day, organized by the Campus Recreation department. Fish and Wildlife instructor Mark Angelo [right], a top-notch wrist wrestler himself, officiated the event. Photo by Cindy Low.*

## There's big stakes on this Shiner

It's Shinerama time, and Shinerama coordinator Gordon Sears doesn't want anyone to forget it.

He is organizing rallies, getting students to sign up early and he's offering prizes to the students who raise the most money. Sears, Student Association vice president external, said he is hoping BCIT students will raise more than \$25,000 for cystic fibrosis research. Last year, more than 500 students combed the Lower Mainland and raised \$12,600. The one-day shoe shining blitz is scheduled for Sept. 24 and classes have been cancelled.

## Homes, suite, homes

While thousands of post-secondary students in the Lower Mainland are desperately combing the area for housing, BCIT students are already snug and smug in their lodgings for this school year.

"The media and community helped out tremendously," said BCIT Housing Manager Val Karpinsky. "People really opened up their homes by offering shared accommodation, and that's super. Students got on the ball early this year, and that helps too."

Much of the credit, however, goes to Karpinsky and secretary Cathy Magistrale.

"We run the off-campus housing office year round, and so we've established a clientele we can count on. We're in touch throughout the year and the relationship we have is a strong point in our favor."

About 300 students are living in the various BCIT residences, and there are about 40 or 50 people on waiting lists.

"In the past three or four months, we've had about 2,000 people in here looking for accommodation," said Karpinsky. "We think we've been able to help about 99 per cent of those people."

The few students who are still without accommodation are "last-minute people".

"We no longer have a crisis situation at BCIT, whereas SFU is apparently having one," he said. He added that there are still a few people drifting into the Housing Office, "but it's not hundreds, it's tens (of people)."

# Playing with a full deck

## Allegations unfounded

The University of B.C. is looking desperately for students to fill its metallurgical engineering program, according to a report in *The Vancouver Sun*.

Dr. Fred Wineberg, acting head of UBC's metallurgical department, said there were only five graduates this past year, and each one was offered at least five jobs. The program can take 25 students a year and he expects eight or nine to enter the program this fall.

But there's no such shortage at BCIT, said Dr. Joffre Berry of the Chemical and Metallurgical Technology.

"We usually have three sets, or a maximum of 51 students (each) in first and

second year," he said. Although some students drop out at the end of first-year, university transfer students usually fill in the gaps, he said.

This year, enrolment figures total 87; 49 first-year students and 38 second-year students.

"The enrolment is pretty constant, and if anything, it's going up," said Dr. Berry. "I would say that well over 90 per cent of last year's graduates have jobs by this time."

Dr. Berry said that diversification is one of the strengths of the BCIT program. Second-year students can choose one of four options: physical metallurgy, extractive

metallurgy, pollution science and organic chemistry.

"The program is very diversified," he said. "We're aiming at a cross-section in industry."

Dr. Berry suggested that the difference in the length of the two programs may be one of the reasons BCIT's enrolment stays constant. The UBC program is currently a five-year one, but Dr. Wineberg said that the department is considering condensing it to four. BCIT has a two-year program.

"The (UBC) program, being five years, means that it takes that much longer to get into the job market," said Dr. Berry.

BCIT senior administrators have been cleared of allegedly manipulating the institute's purse strings by RCMP investigators. And, provincial Auditor-General Erma Morrison also has concluded that all the allegations are unfounded.

Rumors of financial wrongdoing circulated the campus during the early months of 1980.

In a letter to staff, Dennis Barkman, chairman of the Board of Governors, announced the findings of both investigations.

"I take it as my duty as chairman, having referred these allegations to the appropriate authorities, to advise all staff that the result of the various investigations is that these allegations are unwarranted and unfounded."

He noted allegations implicated president Gordon Thom and vice presidents Dale Michaels and Duncan Macpherson.

"The allegations made...reflected unjustly upon the character and integrity of senior members of the administration and upon the management of BCIT as a whole," Barkman wrote.

"It has been my unfortunate experience that when false rumors and allegations of wrongdoing are circulated, damage is often done to the reputations of persons implicated at an early stage and that the findings of any subsequent investigation are often forgotten or disregarded."

*Developments* is published every Thursday by the Public Relations Department for the BCIT community at BCIT, 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. Telephone (604) 434-5734, local 738.

Publisher: BCIT Public Relations Department  
Director: D.D. Melville  
Editor: Penny Freno-Link  
Staff Writer/Production: Cindy Low  
Printing: BCIT Student Publications

## An exercise in fitness for the fall

A beginners' jazz dance course and keep fit sessions are among some of the activities being planned by Louise Preiswerck, assistant campus recreation co-ordinator.

The jazz course, slated to start on Sept. 29, will run on Mondays and Wednesdays

from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in the SAC's activity room until Dec. 8. Interested staff, faculty and students are advised to register early, as the class is limited to 15. The cost is \$15.

The co-educational keep fit classes are open to staff, faculty and students. The early-birds meet in the

gym on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:15 a.m. to 8 a.m. beginning Sept. 29. The afternoon session starts Sept. 15 and is scheduled to run from 4:40 p.m. to 5:25 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Registrants are entitled to attend both for \$20.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

The first meeting of the 1980/81 session of the Educational Council will be held on Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the PVI boardroom. The meeting is open to the public.

\*\*\*

Two new faces have joined the Admissions department: Janet Robertson is supervisor, Admissions, and John Carswell is supervisor, student records and information. Robertson can be reached at local 417 and Carswell at local 478.

\*\*\*

The third annual staff softball game, rained out last spring, is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 17 at noon on BCIT's all-weather field. The South (buildings 1A and 2N) will take on the North (all other buildings). For details, contact Mark Angelo at local 836 or

Ron Venne at local 587.

\*\*\*

Ray Robins is the new department head of the Civil and Structural Technology. He replaces Tony Elston, who left the institute in the spring. Robins' term started on July 1, 1980.

\*\*\*

The Educational Council is holding an election on Sept. 22 for an Engineering Division faculty representative. The election will fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Ray Robins, newly-appointed head of the Civil and Structural Technology. Nominations open Sept. 12 and close at noon on the 17th. Nomination forms are available in the Engineering Division office (IA-309) and from Pat Maertz, council secretary. Maertz is located in IA-229.

## Programs

*continued from page 1*

cent clinical training and 20 per cent theoretical.

The clinical component is taking place in Lower Mainland hospitals equipped with ultrasound centres. The theory is being taught at BCIT.

The program was developed because the use of low-level radiation has become increasingly common as a diagnostic tool in several areas of medicine. In turn, the demand for qualified technicians has risen.

Training had previously only been available in this area through an apprentice system in some hospitals. There are only a handful of educational facilities in Canada that offer formal training for ultrasound technicians.

# IBM PUTS IN FOR OUTPUT

BCIT has acquired a new computer system, and according to Neil McLagan of Computer Resources, "there are very few people in the world who have this hardware."

The model, an IBM 4341, has twice the processing capacity of the one it has replaced as part of a hardware up-grading program within the computer centre. The new model is also cheaper to run and more compact in size due to improving technology.

"People who use the system shouldn't notice any change (over the old one) other than improved service," said McLagan.

He estimated that more than 1,000 people use the

system in any one year. Faculty and staff use the system, but the most frequent users are the students, he said. Computer Systems' students, who are learning programming as a profession, use the hardware for hands-on experience. Other students use it to assist in labs and problem solving.

The computer stores such information as student and staff records. Unlike the old computer system, the new one has the capacity to separate academic from administrative users.

"If the academic system crashes, the administrative system can still be used, and vice versa," said

McLagan. "So it means better protection for us."

Along with the new system, control and accounting procedures will be introduced.

"Control and accounting will allow us to monitor the users and to more equitably provide computer resources around the school," said McLagan. "We're intending to set up a control and accounting mechanism not to prevent people from using the system, but to allow for an equal 'kick-at-the-cat' basis, so that everyone gets a fair share of the resources."

The components of the system include a central processing unit (CPU), a disc controller with two disc drives for storing data;

three tape drives; three card readers; a card punch; 16 video display terminals and two printers.

Michael Marriott, Computer Resources' supervisor of academic support and planning, said that the complete system costs BCIT between \$450,000 and \$500,000 for a two-year lease period. Marriott estimated that it would cost more than \$1 million to purchase the system.

The computer centre is open seven days a week. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. An operator, scheduled to be on duty during those hours, can be reached at local 246.

## *Students find homes in real estate*

BCIT real estate students are making their mark on the Greater Vancouver market, according to instructor Nancy Bain, and the trend of employers singling out BCIT graduates is growing more prevalent.

"Traditionally, employers go to UBC for students, because it has more high-level university courses, which can be expected, but the thing that employers like about BCIT students is that they work extremely hard," Bain said. "The industry figures that if people can survive two years in our system, then they're ready to work."

"It's become apparent, in my opinion, that BCIT has become the number one school for real estate students. None of our students have to go out and look for a job—the jobs come to them. They can literally stay on campus and not worry about a job."

Why the sudden success?

"The real turning point was

a wine and cheese (reception) last year," she said. "The response was incredible." Bain said that the "soft-sell" function was held in February, and that the excitement didn't die down all spring.

"The realtors were really chasing our students," she said. "The students pulled it off. They were bright, mature and they (the employers) were impressed."

Bain gave some examples: Cora Toth is now teaching a pre-licensing course for the regional head office of Realty World, while Susan Hoefler is the assistant training manager for Block Brothers. Both were top students in the past two years.

"This is really a bonus for us to have two students land into jobs like that," said Bain. "Those two companies have hired a lot of BCIT people. The Block Brothers office on Kingsway is like a miniature BCIT."

She added that Marathon

and Knowlton realties have hired graduates.

Classes in real estate have been held at BCIT since 1966, but the option was established only four years ago. Bain feels that the program has just recently come into its own.

Chief instructor Bert Sproule said that the option is "on a five-year program, so each year, we're expanding. In 1982, we hope that the real estate option will make up 40 per cent of the entire Business Management program," he said, in comparison to the present 25 per cent.

"And I think, for what it's worth, the demand in the industry will be sufficient so that we can establish a full departmental status by 1982," said Sproule. (The staff now consists of Sproule, full-time instructor Bain, and part-time instructor Eugene Rogers.)

"There's a demand from employers and students," said Bain. The demand has already become apparent through

enrolment figures: 55 students are registered for the fall, compared to 35 last year.

"The demand is so great that if we double the size of the course, we still couldn't meet the need," she said.

Even with the increase in enrolment, and no hints that the trend will reverse itself, Bain is not worried that the market will be flooded with real estate agents.

"It's impossible," she said. "There's such a high turnover in the industry. It's a hard job to sell real estate. And the Vancouver market is going to be good for at least the next two years. It's a buoyant market, and a good one to get into."

Bain said that students have received job offers from all over the province, but the majority have found employment in Greater Vancouver. And to check on the graduates, Bain is organizing a reunion, slated for the end of September.

# ASSIGNMENT:

Four BCIT English instructors headed off last February for a six-month teaching stint in China. The four—Rider Cooley, Greg Layton, Bill Oaksford, and Eunice Stronach—were assigned to improve the English of 42 Chinese teachers, chosen from various provinces in China, and Inner Mongolia.

By Cindy Low

Bill Oaksford, who began teaching one of the BCIT pre-entry English courses immediately upon his return, had this to say about insights gained during the six months: "the experience will probably be very helpful for my teaching here because I'm more conscious of the assumptions I can't make about students' skills or lack of skills."

"The educational system is, in many ways, more personalized there. There's more input from the participants in the program," he said.

"The teachers were very co-operative, and they adapted when it was clear what kinds of things they had to adapt to," said Oaksford. He also mentioned that they urged the teachers "to work independently and not to learn merely by rote and memorization."

The BCIT instructors had to adapt, too—although a course outline had been drafted prior to their arrival in China, much preparation had to be done on site, after taking stock of the resources available and determining the level of the students.

BCIT had originally been assigned to oversee the first year of the three-year project, but it has proven so successful that the institute has been invited to sponsor all three.

The second team, which included BCIT's Stronach and Rita Clark, started teaching a new group of students on Sept. 1.

The experience was an

exciting and rewarding one, said Oaksford, and he'd love to return.

"The most delightful thing about the whole experience was the people," he said. "I felt at home immediately, possibly because I have a lot of Chinese friends here in Vancouver, possibly because we were busy right away, and of course, because the people were so welcoming and friendly. All of our needs were taken care of by the Chinese—transportation, trips any arrangements like that."

"In fact," he said, "we were spoiled."

The only culture shock Rider Cooley experienced was in dealing with Chinese bureaucracy.

"There's a tremendous cultural difference for a teacher working in Canada and a teacher working in China," said Cooley. "Apparently, there is less attention paid to the dissemination of clear information about how to do things—bureaucracy. And it's a problem that they recognize," he said.

"Their (the students') English education had been interrupted, in varying amounts of time, by the cultural revolution, and in some cases, their English skills were low," he said. "Our mandate was to improve four skills: reading, writing, aural and oral."

"We shared lecture



CHINA

responsibilities," Cooley said.

"The topics of the lectures included English literature, Canadian literature, Canadian history, geography and government, and Canadian and Western culture."

In addition to looking after the academic arrangements, the Chinese government set up social activities for the group. Unfortunately, the group was not always able to take advantage of the outings to local shrines, temples and parks.

"The nature of the work—teaching those people that subject—required a lot of energy, so we didn't always have a lot of energy or time to do these things," he said. Cooley himself lost 20 pounds during the trip, though he said he was under the impression that he had been eating well.

Greg Layton looked upon his teaching assignment as "an exotic opportunity."

That he got.

"I missed toasted bacon and tomato sandwiches, I missed cheese, but other than that..."

"The chief attraction of the place is the people," he said. "They're friendly, bright, and eager to learn."

"The college we were at was strictly a language school," he said, adding that

German and French were among the other languages taught there. "But it's clear that English is the most important language there, next to Chinese, of course."

Eunice Stronach scarcely needed to unpack her bags after her return here in mid-August. Within a few weeks, she was off again, for another six months in China.

"What made me decide to return is the fact that a lot of people who had been there longer said that the second six months is a much more interesting experience than the first six months," Stronach said.

"The first six months were very interesting," she added, "but a lot of your energy goes toward getting used to living in a new place, and getting used to the Chinese way of doing things."

"I'm interested in learning more about the Chinese people," she said. There was little time for contact with the Chinese other than the students, she said. However, even that thread will be lost, as the new class will consist of new faces.

Stronach anticipated an easier term this time around. "I have a better idea of what has to be done."