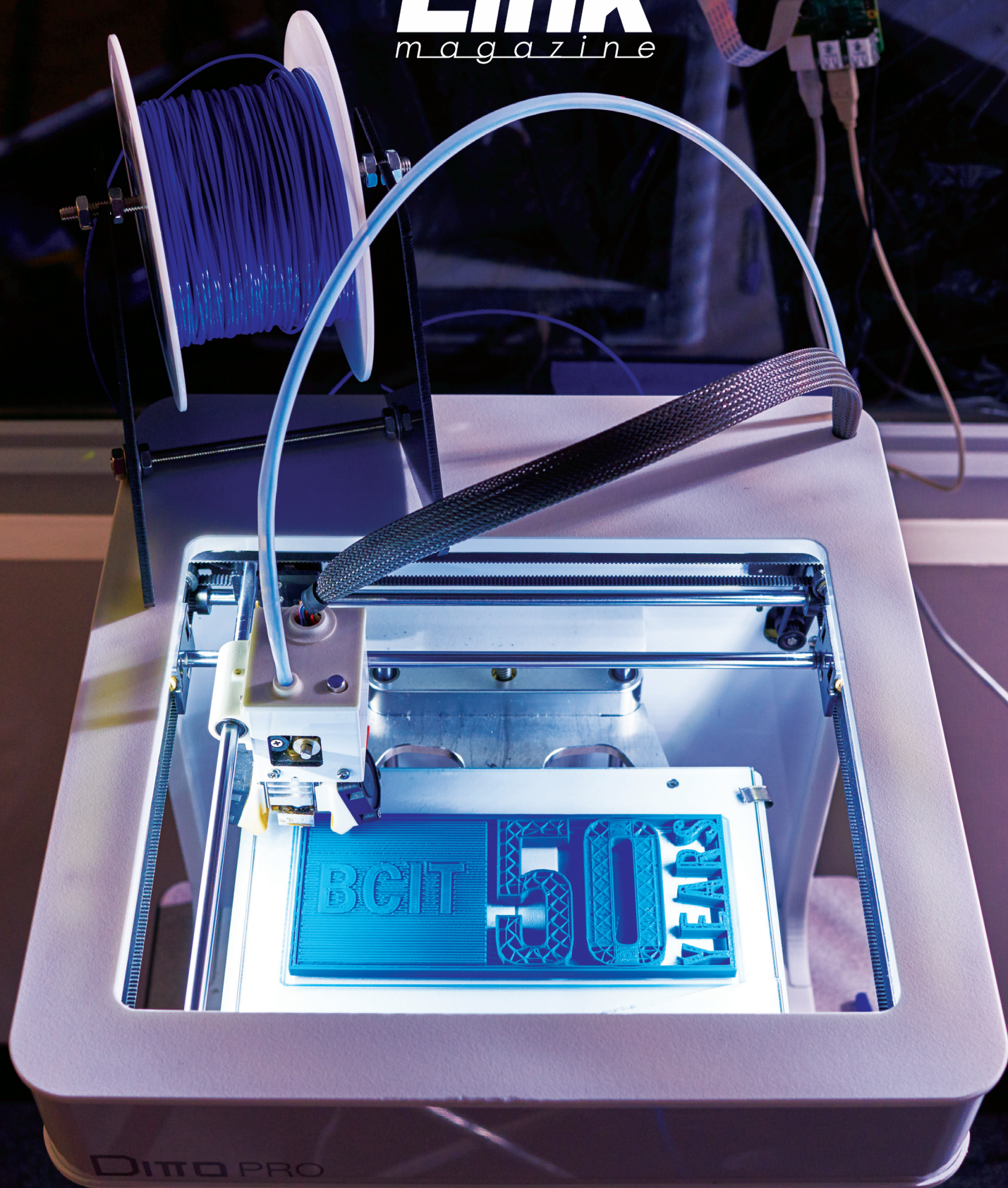


2015 | SPECIAL EDITION

BCIT & BEYOND

Link

magazine





SPECIAL EDITION

We're celebrating BCIT's 50th Anniversary with a trip down memory lane and a modern day snapshot of BC's premier polytechnic.

6 THE NAKED TRUTH

In 1972, **Jack Smugler** became a BCIT icon when he challenged the dress code with his (*ahem*) natural talents. So where is he now? **Simon Little** tracked him down.

10 CREEKSIDE STORY

Dive into a history of Guichon Creek and discover how stream-saviour **Mark Angelo** followed his passion project all the way to the UN.
by **Simon Little**

14 TECH CHECK

From drones and homegrowns, to robots and 3D printed body parts, we take a look at the technology of today that's just getting off the ground and marvel at where it's headed.

22 ABORIGINAL SERVICES

Now is the time to mark the outstanding achievements of aboriginal students on campus and raise a post to the Gathering Place, Mi Chap Tukw.

8 PLENTY SUCCESSFUL

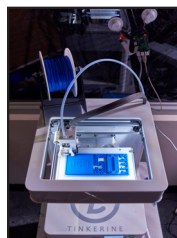
Is **Markus Frind** really responsible for a million babies? **Simon Little** catches up with the Plenty of Fish founder and BCIT grad to talk about the current state of online dating.

12 GO COUGARS!

BCIT once had the largest sports program in the province — so what happened? Photos from the glory days and one student's dream to hear the Cougars roar again.

20 WOMEN AT BCIT

From presidents to pupils, BCIT is full of accomplished women. We celebrate this amazing fact and take a good look at the challenges still ahead of us today.



On the cover:

The BCIT 50th logo gets the 3D treatment inside the Tinkershop at the Applied Research Liason Office (ARLO)
Photo: **Scott McAlpine**

Link

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*Got Something to say? Write to us at **editor@linkbcit.ca** or find us online at **www.linkbcit.ca***

Link magazine is a proud member of the BCIT Student Association and the Magazine Association of BC.



Student Association



www.linkbcit.ca



YOU LOOK GOOD FOR YOUR AGE.

When BCIT asked us to help them commemorate their 50th Anniversary with a special edition of *Link* magazine, our first thought was: absolutely. Our next thought was: where do we even begin?

The obvious choice was the mound of dusty boxes in our office containing nearly every issue of this publication since its inception in 1965, just one year after BCIT opened its doors. We've always been BCIT's go-to source of campus news, culture and opinion, and we've documented most of the bigger moments on campus over the years—the dress code uproar of 1972, Pierre Trudeau's visit, and the inception of World Rivers Day to name a few. We just might be the best resource for comprehending life at BCIT across six decades.

As we looked back through own pages, and scrolled through the vast collection of historical photographs contained in the BCIT Archives, we realized that there's been no shortage of momentous events throughout the decades, but not a lot has yet been written of life at BCIT today. And really, that's what *Link* has always been about, taking a closer look at the issues that matter to our readers now.

A copy of this issue you hold in your hands will be buried this year in a time capsule to be opened in 2040. For this reason, much of the content you'll read here is designed to paint a picture of current life at BCIT and beyond. Online dating, drones, 3D printing, pipelines, medical marijuana... where will all this be in another quarter of a century?

Now is also a great time to celebrate those to whom the pages of history have been less kind, or have excluded altogether. We want readers of the future to have an understanding of the important social issues that mark these times, and to see that now more than ever it seems our society is committed to making things right and fair for all people. A turning point, if you will.

How do you boil down 50 years into 28 pages? You simply can't, but hopefully we have done enough here to capture these ever-changing times we live in, and have created a good reference point for the half-robot students of the future to look back on and say: just look how far we've come.

— Dan Post
Publisher



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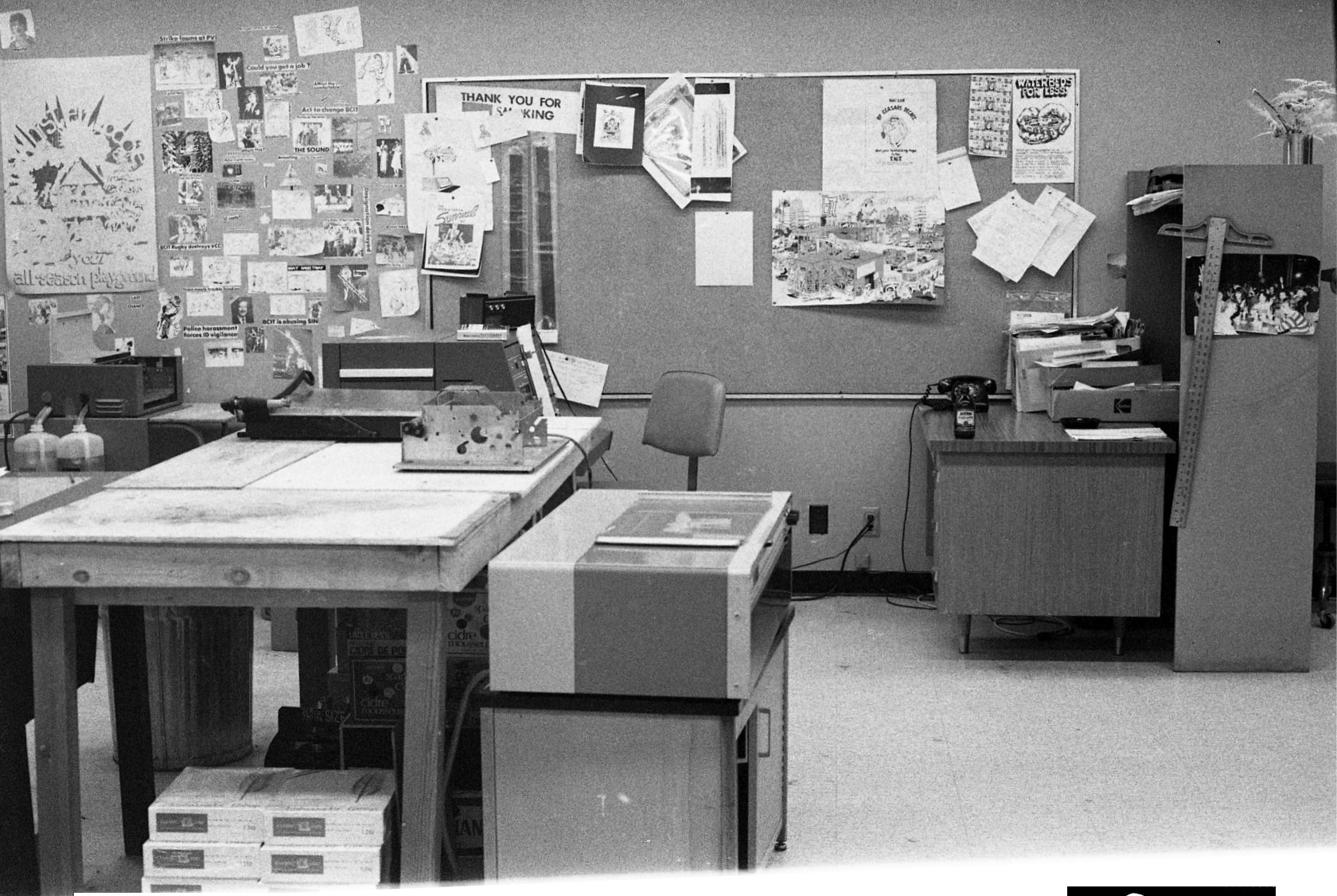
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"In order to fulfill its functions as a medium for communications, advertising and controversy, the paper will have a broad outlook on all matters and must be considered an open page for expression of opinion.

*(The Link newspaper,
Volume 1 Issue 1,
September 30th 1965)*

Not a lot has changed around here besides the logo (oh, and last year we switched to a glossy monthly magazine format after nearly half a century as a weekly newspaper), and *Link* remains the defining voice of BCIT students on and off campus. Every year, a new crop of student editors and writers embark on the difficult task of covering campus news, current events and broader social issues of the world at large, all while shining a light on the amazing people we sit next to everyday in class.

The student press is often the most important part of defining a school's culture and the only lifeline to "the real world" that lives *somewhere* off campus. This can be especially challenging at BCIT where the workload has reached mythological proportions and the whole planet seems to be spinning faster and faster everyday. It can seem nearly impossible to keep up. Which is why we exist: to keep readers connected and to inspire them in their own pursuits.

In just a few short months *Link* will celebrate its own 50th anniversary and we look forward to all the amazing changes that are yet to come. Print is supposedly dying (though we doubt one can ever replace the sensation of holding a magazine in your hands), but no matter what, so long as there are students innovating, societies evolving and minds that need inspiring... we'll be there.

TEDx BCIT

x = independently organized TED event

We are living in interesting times, there's no doubt about that. Technology continues to evolve, we're infinitely connected to one another the world over, and we've got some longstanding problems on this planet that we're getting closer than ever before to solving. It's no surprise then that TED Talks—the large-scale ideas and innovation conference—has become the single biggest thought influencer of today. BCIT Student Association President Dylan Smith recognized the potential for such an event at BCIT and was able to pull together a satellite TEDx event to call our very own. The inaugural TEDxBCIT was a huge success and should be here for many years to come. We caught up with Smith just before this year's event to hear more about his inspiration.

How did this all get started?

It had small slow beginnings. The idea first came to me in fall of last year. One of the instructors would show Ted Talks to keep things lively at the beginning of class, and I started to pick up on people talking TED here and TED there—there was some currency to it. So I started to poke around and found my way onto the TEDx website and learned what I had to do. Then I just started to pull together the first group of volunteers.

Why is BCIT such a good fit for TEDx?

There's a perception that students come here to get job ready, but if you pull back the curtain a bit there's more to it. Especially the way that BCIT courses challenge students, to be critical in their thinking. They're thinking big picture.

“Ideas and conversation are what spark change.”

Why did you choose “Building The Future” as your theme?

BCIT students, where they are in their lives and careers, they're set to go out into industry and take that next big step, and sort of affect the change they want to see. Ideas and conversation are what spark change. It also sort of came from the sense I had at the time that there is so much going on geopolitically, the global community is becoming smaller and smaller, that what we do today, now more than ever before, has a larger and larger impact on the potential future.



Watch Kathryn's full presentation
“What to Feed our Food”
online now at:
youtube.com/TedxTalks

YOU WANT ME TO EAT WHAT?!

Kathryn Redford is on a mission to move bugs up the food chain. Her talk at the 2015 TEDxBCIT, titled “What to Feed our Food,” revealed Redford's unique solution to our flawed food system. Redford is one of the co-founders of OFBUG—an ento protein producer in Vancouver that creates alternative, soy-free animal feed. According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, meat production is a huge stressor on the environment and a leading cause for a loss of biodiversity. Redford says a lot of this can be attributed to the fact that a huge amount of land is used for growing animal feed, particularly crops like soy which use up tremendous amounts of water. Redford sees how insects can be much more sustainable than growing soy, and can be grown using waste products like compost, using significantly less water, and far less space.

Ultimately, Redford would like to see bugs on our own plates someday, but right now, the biggest barrier is a legal one. Insects are not a regulated food ingredient for livestock in Canada and laws are still in the process of being reviewed and updated. Redford hopes new research will help guide the process.

OFBUG.COM

Jack Smugler

DRESS CODE DENIER

by *simon little*

40 or so years ago, BCIT used to be a pretty square place. So square in fact, that students were required to come to campus wearing a suit and tie (think: Carlton Banks from the *Fresh Prince*). That is until 1972 when a student named Jack Smugler led an on-campus rebellion against the dress code. That's right, you owe the right to wear that BCIT hoodie to a former *Link* associate editor and Mechanical Technology student with a penchant for plaid. In a way, he had one of the biggest impacts on how your school looks. On the eve of BCIT's 50th anniversary, we caught up with Mr. Smugler to get a little background on how it all went down.

Can you describe the old dress code for us?

All the men had to wear jackets and ties, business attire is what I would call it, so you had to pretend you were getting dressed to go to the office everyday.

That seems a bit excessive for a trade school. You had to wear it even in the shop?

Oh yeah. The only time they cut us a little slack was when you were working with a lathe. You could get a tie caught in it. So they'd let us take our ties off during that, but otherwise you had to wear the tie all the time.

So this was the law of the land. Who sparked the rebellion?

I guess I was the one who sparked the rebellion. I dressed up the way I was supposed to dress up the first few weeks and then I started slacking off, stopped wearing a tie, then a jacket [and started]wearing jeans and a lumberjack shirt and gumboots. So while everyone was quite dressed up, I was quite dressed down. Some of the teachers and people were complaining, and I simply said all you have to do is give me a note saying if I don't meet the regulations I'll be suspended, then I'll wear the tie and jacket. They were never able to supply the note.

I understand your position with *The Link* helped force the issue?

The stuff I wrote [for *The Link*] was very disturbing to them. There was one issue that featured an article about making love and fucking. And I used those terms and all kinds of swear words. And then I had a picture taken of myself with nothing but a tie around my crotch captioned: *A Well Dressed Gentleman*. Within about an hour of hitting the stand [Principal Dean Goard] called me down to his office... He said, "I saw this article. How could you possibly have printed this article with all these swear words? I've got a daughter that I can't show this newspaper to anymore. What are people going to say? And I said, "Well, this

is a matter of freedom of the press, and if you suspend anyone it has to be the editor." Well he wasn't buying any of that shit. He had it out for me, so he suspended me.

One of the radio guys, Alan Garr had me on the radio show. I said I was suspended for the article, but the school by now had had second thoughts. They said, 'He had this picture taken of himself without a tie, because he wouldn't conform to the dress regulations.' But I'd made my position clear: send me that letter, that's all I asked, and I'm in a tie in a jacket and back to school and everyone's happy. [But some of the students] had demonstrations for me at the school, which was a great pleasure. I was a veteran of the '60s. It was wonderful to be demonstrating. And then [BCIT] finally changed their tune and let me back. Meanwhile, I had agitated in the newspaper against the dress code. My argument was, when they take business leaders around the school it makes them feel good... I was surprised; the vote eventually went for us but it was close. A lot of people supported those regulations.

So now we come to the vote. How did you convince them to have a referendum on it?

I believe we just played the politics out. [Goard] thought he could win, but I was insistent on it. The other thing that happened was the election of the first NDP government. I remember walking into [Goard's] office and I know he had Socred (Social Credit Party) connections... And so I intimated that maybe the politics weren't going to swing his way anymore. And we eventually got the vote.

My big regret of all that stuff, with some of the articles I wrote, [was] demeaning Dean Goard. They were infantile ad-hominem attacks. Totally unjustified. He was a good man trying to do his best and sincerely believed in it. In my opinion he was wrong, and we played it out.

So the vote was a close thing. What was the student attitude?

Two feelings. One feeling was: 'Hey we're here to get a job and if this helps us get a job, well (excuse the language) fuck it, let's get to work.'

And the second thing was, a lot of people took a personal animosity to me. People said, 'I'm going to vote in favour of abolishing the dress code, but I really don't like you.'

How would you describe the student culture at the time?

Very conservative compared to what else was going on in the rest of youth culture; it was like back in the '50s. Not that bad, maybe the early '60s. [BCIT] had never been touched by student rebellion; I think my group was the closest thing that ever came to BCIT taking part in the counterculture. People were there for the jobs, and all of the social rebellion was kind of sweeping over BCIT.

You were a bit of a polarizing figure.

Yes, I was a discordant element in that sort of scene. I was a hippie where hippies weren't expected. I ran for campus queen. We used to have a campus queen and a best man on campus. When I heard about it, it was like dangling a carrot in front of a donkey; I couldn't resist. So I got an acquaintance of mine from another department to run [with me]... it went over like a lead balloon.

So you got your diploma, where did you go from here?

I've gone to law school since then. And I'll tell you this. Law school is easy compared to BCIT. The toughest and most rigorous education I ever had was at BCIT. I've got a master's degree in law, I've got a doctorate, and I've got an MBA in law. And BCIT kicks ass. No matter what you decide to do after.

What would Goard think of the former radical turned respectable lawyer?

Who said anything about respectable? [laughs]. After one or two years of practicing real law, I went into co-op housing development. For about four years I was the Canadian focal point for everything dealing with urban issues and the original Rio conference and Earth Days. I worked with the UN centre for human settlement in Nairobi... [I] did nothing relating to law or Mechanical Technology.

THE ^{missing} LINK

BCIT'S STUDENT NEWSMAGAZINE

TIE ME UP! TIE ME DOWN!

*BCIT's Dress Code and
Jack Smugler Exposed...*

ELECTION RESULTS • THE ENVIRONMENT • EXAM STRESS

25 APRIL 1991



PLENTY SUCCESSFUL

BCIT has a big time reputation for putting grads to work, but how many alumni can claim to have had a part in reinventing modern love? Or be responsible for a million babies? Markus Frind can. He graduated BCIT in 1999 with a diploma in Computer Systems Technology. Five years later he founded PlentyOfFish.com – now the world's largest dating site. We picked his brain about the age of digital love, and how BCIT helped get him mixed up in it.

interview by simon little



photo courtesy BCIT and Scott McAlpine

Do you think the success of online dating is changing the way people interact?

About three years ago we were about 90% desktop. Today we're less than 10%. Everything has switched over to cell phones. So it's completely shifted in how people were using it. First no one was using it, then everyone used it online. Now everyone is using it on phones, and it keeps on evolving from there. It used to be people would say 'what's wrong with you if you're on an online dating site?' Now people are like, "what's wrong with you for not being on one?"

I've seen a lot of men's websites that try to offer a system on how to 'get' women on sites like POF. How do you handle people trying to 'game the system'?

It takes a lot of time and effort to use our service. The majority of these people who try and beat the system really don't have the time or effort. They're not going to be using it for three weeks straight. They're going to come in and try these lines and give up an hour or two later. And obviously there are serial daters in the world and there will always be. But it comes down to the fact that unless you're seeing results, you quit using it real quick.

I've also spoken to women who say they've been harassed through online dating sites. What's the role for preventing problems like that?

Certainly we have a lot of methods – blocking, filtering... And if people misbehave we remove them from the site. But you have to keep in mind with 100-million sign-ups, a site like this is like the size of a large country. So you get everything and everyone. When you have it on this scale, all the problems you encounter in the real world, you're going to encounter here as well.

What's your advice to someone looking for love online?

Just do it. Just sign up, put up your profile, and go meet someone.

The majority of the issues we see is people make half-hearted attempts. If a guy signs up and a super model doesn't message him he can be very disappointed. Put up your profile, spend two weeks, send a lot of messages to people, and give it a fair shot.

How did your time at BCIT affect your career path?

It was the fact that we were constantly learning. Everything you were doing you're always doing something new. That love of learning, the fact that you had to learn every day, that really carried on throughout my career. Because everything I graduated with, especially the knowledge in computers and programming languages of the time, they're all non-existent now. There's a whole new set of programming languages, you're now programming for mobile devices. Basically everything I learned is kind of irrelevant now. The thing that really carried through was the constant need to keep on learning and keep on improving your skills. Because technology is changing so quickly now and it's really hard to keep up. And if you don't keep up you'll be obsolete.

What's your advice to budding entrepreneurs?

Keep testing things and trying things. The chances of you being right-on the first time are pretty much zero. Don't wait until something is perfect, because it's never perfect. The way we test and build stuff here is, if we have an idea we put up a minimum viable product, the bare minimum, see what happens, and then iterate it based on that. And your idea is not unique. There's millions of people with the exact same idea. At the end of the day, it's all about execution. Just get out there and do it.

What do you see as the future of online dating?

It's definitely going to be mobile. And it's probably going to involve glasses in some way shape or form. But technology is moving so quickly it's very hard to predict what the future will be like in two years from now.

LEAVING FOOTPRINTS

Any student at BCIT will tell you: trying to balance the workload with... well... even making time to eat can be tough. Not so for Deanna Hill, winner of BCIT's 2014 Outstanding Student Leadership Award. Deanna managed to graduate with a diploma in Marketing Management Communications while putting in over 2000 volunteer hours with Enactus, eventually becoming president of the service-oriented club. She took a break from her busy job as a media strategist with MacLaren McCann to reflect on her BCIT journey.

interview by simon little

Okay, we've got to know: How did you balance such an intense student leadership role with your studies?

It's a mindset you need to prepare yourself for and kind of just jump right in. It's about knowing you're fully committed and that it's all possible. And taking each day to enjoy the small moments and recognizing the big accomplishments. It's about suiting up, showing up, and enjoying your time.

What kind of a time commitment was it day-to-day?

It was a full time job. I was up at 5am every day, and I didn't go to bed before midnight. But I absolutely loved it. I knew I had two years to create a footprint and accomplish great things. And I knew that working with a great group of students makes you reliable. So I recognized I was working with a great group and I wanted to continue that.

What's your advice to new students at BCIT?

Always say yes. Take every opportunity as a chance to do something great, to stand out. Experience is more than just the classroom, it's going to events and joining clubs, and contributing to different organizations. That's going to create the best experiences and get the most out of the program.

And a year out of BCIT – your advice to grads?

Continue to have a goal, and to be working towards something. Know that whatever situation you are in you can make a positive impact, leave your footprint, and come out of it better.



photo courtesy BCIT and Scott McAlpine

How much career value did you get out of BCIT?

It was huge. Every opportunity is knocking on your door today like: come on in, be great, do something and get your name out there. I think the most important thing for BCIT students is to stand out above the crowds, and to know that they're already there so they're already above average. People want to meet you and see you do great.

What's your best memory from your time here?

I think the best memory actually was just the network I created. I think it's just the support system you get from BCIT that stood out. Knowing that you've worked with an incredible group. It's a nice connection to always have and to know I'm forever within their network.

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Clockwise: Mastermind Mark Angelo taking in his beautiful work; BCIT President Kathy Kinloch, Lieutenant Governor Judy Guichon and Angelo release salmon into Guichon Creek as part of the daylighting ceremonies in 2015; an old map indicates Guichon Creek's relationship to other local waterways; an old VW straddles what was once little more than a drainage ditch.



CREEK SIDE STORY

Tucked away in the southeast of BCIT's Burnaby campus is a quiet little slice of placid greenery. It lacks the wildness of SFU's Burnaby mountain conservation area, or the sheer size of UBC's Pacific Spirit park—but the clear water, ducks, fish and lush riparian ecosystem are all a part of BCIT's own little piece of wilderness: Guichon Creek.

BY SIMON LITTLE

Back when BCIT was set up as the province's "Get 'em workin'" polytechnic, the creek was a polluted slough smack in the middle of an urban area. Over the last 30 years it's undergone a radical transition – one tied to BCIT's reputation on the international stage.

That's because the history of Guichon Creek is, in some ways, also the history of the internationally celebrated 'World Rivers Day.' And the seed for both was planted more than three decades ago by former head of BCIT's Fish Wildlife and Recreation program, Mark Angelo.

In 1980, Angelo led a major cleanup project of BC's Thompson River, that was heralded as a major success. Building on it, Angelo was able to convince the province to name the last Sunday in September 'BC Rivers Day.' He partnered with the Outdoor Recreation Council to expand the project, taking it to the watersheds around the province.

It snowballed, and eventually tens of thousands of British Columbians were participating in river cleanups, school projects, and community festivals associated with the day. In 2005, with the day now a well established environmental event, Angelo successfully pitched its global expansion to the UN, in partnership with their 'Water for Life Decade' initiative. Today, the World Rivers Day boasts millions of participants across 60 countries.

But what does that global event have to do with the shady banks of our modest little Guichon Creek? To hear Angelo tell it: a lot. "To see this global celebration and know that the roots come back to British Columbia, and that some of those roots come right back to BCIT, it's something that I'm very proud of and very excited about," he told *Link*.

And that's because much of Angelo's early work in river restoration took place right here, restoring Guichon creek. According to Angelo, in the 1970s, Guichon 'creek' barely deserved the name. It was in pretty bad shape and little more

than a drainage ditch, Angelo remembers. But beginning in the early 1980s, he and a dedicated crew of students began bringing it back to life, bit by bit, year by year.

It's a credit to Angelo and the students here in the school's Fish, Wildlife and Ecological Restoration programs that the creek now bursts with life. Many of those same students and alumni have gone on to work key ecological restoration roles.

The visible part of Guichon Creek runs from Moscrop St. in the South to the campus rec centre, where it's directed into a culvert. From there it flows underground, under Canada Way, and drains into Still Creek.

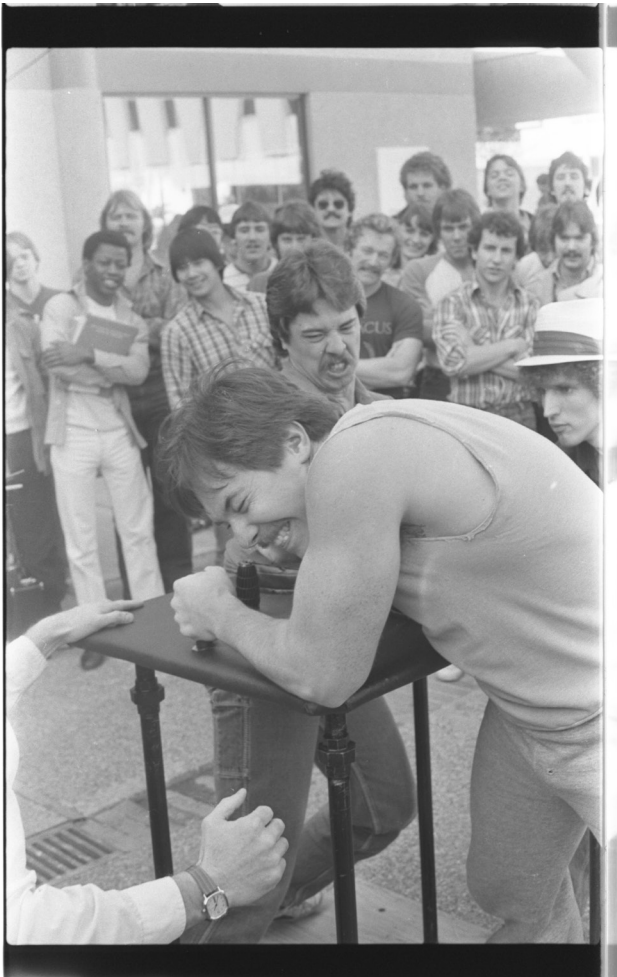
The work of its rehabilitation has been continuous since Angelo and his early students broke ground. Long after Angelo's retirement, environmentally focused programs on campus have continued to use it as a 'living lab,' and the school itself has maintained restoring the creek further as an official priority.

In September 2014, that project got a big boost when Angelo, BCIT president Kathy Kinloch, and the province's Lieutenant Governor Judy Guichon (whose early settling family in Burnaby gave the creek its name) were on hand to announce money for plans to begin unearthing (or 'Daylighting') the rest of the creek. The work is slated to take place in stages, and could begin as early this year.

For those of us who have heard about the Chum salmon returns to Still Creek, the prospect of finishing Guichon's restoration to the point where we might see salmon right here on campus is an exciting one.

Guichon Creek is literally a living piece of campus history and a fitting symbol for the school – both of growth and renewal, and of BCIT's power to leave an outsized footprint on the world. Something to reflect on next time you're sitting creekside.

THE COUGARS:



Have you ever found yourself looking up at the COUGARS sign in the gymnasium at BCIT's Burnaby campus and wondering: What the heck is that all about? Well, in 1979, BCIT had the largest sports program in the province with a varsity sports program budget of \$18,500 including 10 teams and 150 athletes. Teams included men's and women's basketball, badminton, curling, volleyball, men's soccer and rugby, and women's field hockey. In 1981, the budget was slashed completely:

"Let loose, left out in the cold, our BCIT Cougars have nowhere to go. Big Daddy says no more money. In July 1981, the Administration found that there was not enough money to cover BCIT's operational expenses, without raising tuition fees 20 per cent. So, with a snip here and a snip there, the entire Athletic Program was cut out. It was an unfortunate death to a very valid program."

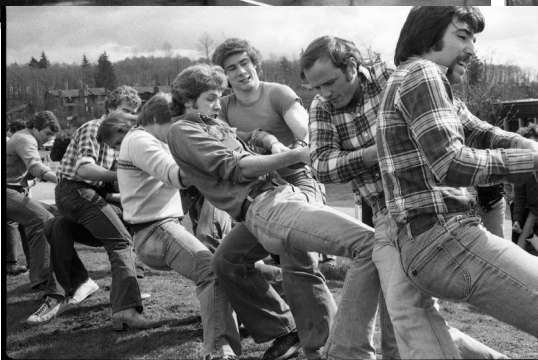
— excerpt from "COUGARS NEED A HOME"
(The Link, November 18, 1981)



Whatever Happened To This?

"One of the best free shows on campus takes place each spring when Forestry students host the annual 'King of the Woods' logger sports competition. Teams of men and women from schools in BC, Washington, Idaho and Montana vie for the coveted title in such events as axe throwing, pole climbing and log rolling. The logger sports field is the fenced area at the extreme northeast corner of campus, near the Motor Vehicle office."

— BCIT Student Handbook ('89)



BCIT'S ENDANGERED SPECIES

Bradley Lyndsay is the 2015/2016 BCIT Student Association's VP Campus Life and he's on a mission to prove that sports still have a place here on campus. Will we ever see the return to glory for the COUGARS? We asked Bradley to make the case.

What place do sports have at BCIT today?

Presently, sports represent a luxury to students, to be afforded the time and energy to participate. The desire to participate remains within the students, but without the means and support, the opportunity is limited.

How do sports add value to student life?

Students that seek out sports on campus are the few who understand the benefits of having a campus life, interacting with their fellow cohorts, and quite simply appreciating that you can't bury your head in the books 24/7 and expect to remain sane. BCIT is a unique environment where teachers and programs alike ask so much from their students, and a healthy balance of life suffers as a result. There are many benefits that students who participate in sports on campus experience. In addition to maintaining a healthy active lifestyle with

direct physical and mental health benefits, participating in sports enables a sense of belonging or community among students. Sports also lead to better time management skills, increased academic performance, group interaction skills, friendships, communication skills, and networking opportunities.

How do you think we can get sports back at BCIT?

I believe the most effective way to bring sports back to BCIT is to express our students desire to engage in campus sports, and to do so by working with the BCIT Student Association.

What would you like to see be the first 3 sports brought back?

Hockey, soccer, and outdoor volleyball—to once again utilize that precious field space at BCIT.



SO THIS HAPPENED...

From quirky and curious, to bizarre, brazen and laughable, we take a look back at some lesser-known moments at BCIT we simply found too good to keep to ourselves.



In this curious undated photo, a giant paper maché penis is torn savagely from the wall outside SE14. Who put it there? What does it mean? We may never know..

Guess how much this IBM 360 cost when it was acquired by BCIT in 1967? \$250,000! And it didn't even have a display. And to think, today we've got computers in our pockets that are likely infinitely more powerful than this machine ever was.

TRU STORY

There is no greater gift than that of a beautiful memory. Which is why we were so excited to unearth this rare and charming photo of Pierre Trudeau we discovered in a collection at the BCIT Archives, and present it to his son Justin during a visit to Vancouver. P.E.T.'s photo was taken in 1976 while on a visit to BCIT's Burnaby campus where he was bestowed with an honorary membership to the Student Association. 25 years later, Pierre's son Justin was touched to receive this gift from Link magazine contributor Rhianna Schmunk following his speech at the Vancouver Board of Trade while campaigning to possibly become the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada.



FOREVER ALONE

“SEARCH OF BCIT FAILS TO YIELD TIME CAPSULE”

(The Vancouver Sun, May 30, 2000)

“When news of it first broke in the papers, we learned that the folks of BCIT were looking for a time capsule that had been buried somewhere on BCIT’s campus 18 years ago on Feb. 12, 1982. It was to be opened on Feb 12, 2000. It was not. Not only had the people at BCIT forgotten they were supposed to open it, they had forgotten where it was... The capsule—a blue metal cylinder about the size of an umbrella stand—was stuffed with, among other things, [BC Premier Bill] Bennett’s throne speech, newspapers of the day and, most notably, a copy of the Canadian Constitution signed by prime minister Pierre Trudeau.”

THE BIG BANG

“BLAST AT BCIT FLATTENS BUILDING”

(NewsLeader, April 17, 2004)

“The quiet of BCIT’s Burnaby campus was shattered Tuesday by a blast that flattened a steam-generating power plant and hurled debris through the air... Miraculously nobody was in the destroyed building. Five students were injured by flying glass and other debris. Four received first aid on campus; the other was taken to hospital for treatment of minor lacerations and minor burns and later released. BCIT and police official said the cause of the blast had not yet been determined.”

PROFESSOR’S PROHIBITION

“BCIT BANS ALCOHOL SALES IN BURNABY CAMPUS PUB AFTER BRAWL”

(The Province, February 22, 2005)

“A brawl at BCIT’s Professor Mugs Pub and Grill cost the student association the right to sell booze on campus. BC Institute of Technology spokesman Michael Becker said the college administration has banned alcohol sales in the Burnaby campus pub until the student association comes up with a suitable plan to prevent further violent outbreaks.... Ashley Steier, vice-president of the BCIT student association, said the association is conducting its own investigation, as is the administration.... “Until we get all the facts, I don’t want to talk about hearsay.”

WOULD THE REAL BCIT GRADS PLEASE STAND UP

“THIEF STEALS BCIT SEAL FOR THE SCHOOL’S TRANSCRIPTS”

(NewsLeader, December 2, 2006)

“BCIT discovered the theft Saturday Nov. 25 after a break-and-enter at the registrar’s office. The stolen seal is used to validate transcripts and other official BCIT documents. It’s possible that someone stole the seal so they could falsify BCIT transcripts, said Allison Markin, media relations manager with the institute... “The actual item isn’t worth a lot of money but it is worth quite a lot when it comes to the value of an education at BCIT. We don’t want people presenting a transcript that falsely gives them credit where credit isn’t due. That’s the real value of the item.”

TECHNOLOGY

< > > . . < < < > THE BEGINNING
OF IT // // // // // // // // // // ALL

We haven't quite reached The Singularity just yet, but we're getting close, as technology continues to race further and further ahead of our own human grasp. And of course, when you've got the word technology in your name as BCIT does, it's no surprise to find cutting-edge research and advancements taking place in our own backyard. 25 years from now it might just be commonplace to 3D print replacement parts for your personal home food-growing alternative, or to fire up the 'ol drone to go pick up something at the corner store, but until then here's a look at some of today's technologies in their infant stages, for all you hoverboarding holograms who might be reading this in the future.

HUMAN ASSISTED ROBOTS (HAR)

HARs are worn on the outside of the body like an exoskeleton and allow the user to carry heavy loads for extended periods of time. Traditionally, "exoskeleton" refers to the hard protective covering on the outside of insects (see: spiders and ants). A robotic exoskeleton mimics the human form and provides extra support enabling us to carry more weight than we normally could.

Essentially, we can think about them as wearable robots. They sense what the user wants to do, where the user wants to go, and then makes the motion. Take Lockheed Martin's HULC (Human Universal Load Carrier) for example. Made from lightweight titanium components, once the HULC has been attached, your body movement is picked up by small electronic sensors. These sensors, send signals to a small computer called a microprocessor. It is here where calculations are performed which command the hydraulic system accordingly, giving you the strength to carry up to 220+ lbs effortlessly.

And how about practical applications? Imagine you're a soldier stationed 6,000 feet up in the middle of nowhere, and you're being asked to take over 100 lbs of supplies up to that altitude where the air is very thin. The HULC provides the user with the ability to carry that weight and have energy left once you're there, to proceed with your mission. Or how about those injured in car accidents, sports, over even at work? The HULC just might be the perfect tool to help you regain mobility.

Human Assisted Robots are completely changing the world we live in, and while it may be some time until they hit the commercial market at an affordable cost, until then, you simply can't put a price tag on giving someone the ability to walk again.

— Matteo Leemet
(2nd year Electrical & Computer Engineering)

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AUTOGARDEN

A FOOD SOLUTION



Jamie Haakons revealing his invention to the audience at BCIT's 'Presentation Idol.'

As we rush headlong into this 21st century, one of our greatest challenges is the future of food production. How do we balance a growing demand for fresh, local and organic with high fuel costs, drought, and dense urban living? One BCIT student thinks he has the seeds for a solution. **Jamie Haakons** wants to sell you his Autogarden, and he's pretty convincing. He impressed a panel of industry leaders and educators, taking home the top prize at BCIT's 5th annual "Presentation Idol" engineering competition.

So what is it? It's a self-contained consumer-grade hydroponic

garden. It feeds and waters itself and makes efficient use of UV light. Oh yeah, and it can be controlled from your smart phone. Haakons sees it as a way for apartment dwellers or people living in remote areas to have cheap access to fresh, healthy food year round. At about the size of a large bbq, Haakons says the device replaces a full 60 feet of outdoor garden space. And he says it can feed a family on about \$7 a month. At the same time he says it can cut back massively on the water and fuel used in industrial agriculture. For now, the Autogarden is just a prototype. But in an 'ecodensity' mad city, it's not hard to imagine them sprouting up in homes of the future.



THE DRONES ARE COMING!

You could listen to me drone on and on about how bizarre and troubling it is to know that the skyline of the future will undoubtedly be dotted with these pesky UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle), but you already know it's coming and there's nothing we can do about it. Consumer giant Amazon.com already has it in their sights to make drone delivery boys a regular part of life, while Obama's dropping bombs on Middle Eastern countries from the comfort of his own home, and there's next to zero legislation existing today preventing the average person from hovering their remote control spy cam outside your bedroom window. Heck, even BCIT picked up their very own quadcopter this year. Is this a fad that's going to last, or will drones go the way of the Slinky. Only time will tell...



G2 X90.6 Y13.8
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Unless you're someone's dad who still reads a printed newspaper and keeps a rotary phone at home, odds are you've at least heard mention of 3D printing. But other than some vague science fiction references (don't they print out a person in that movie *The Fifth Element*) most of us are pretty unclear as to what it actually is.

by simon little

Y13.8 15
13.8 15

WHAT IS IT?

Simply put, 3D printing is a manufacturing process that creates three dimensional objects from a digital computer file. An artist/designer renders the object using special software, and the printer produces it by laying down a series of layers.

Layers of what? In most cases today, a resin or plastic. But some can print concrete, others metal. And there is plenty of research underway into new materials like grapheme — single molecule thick carbon that can conduct electricity.

BUT WHY?

There are plenty of applications. On a personal level, an artist or creative person might want to produce, say, figurines of their favourite *Avenger*. Or a more practical person might want to print out a replacement door handle for their car. Printers are also starting to appear in classrooms, and their educational possibilities are only now starting to be explored. At a commercial level things start to get really serious. Companies use them to create high quality prototypes, and we'll likely see a future for mass manufacturing as well. There are also potential shipping applications. In the future, you might order something from Amazon, then head to a pickup depot where they email the design, then print your product on site. The military, of course is interested. For example, printers would allow a naval ship to keep raw material on hand and only print out spare parts as needed. That same principle applies to the space industry for potential space stations or colonies, where shipping costs are (literally) astronomical.

science fiction

At the frontier of 3D printing are a few ideas that come right out of a science fiction book. One of those is the very controversial subject of 3D weapons. Fiction became fact in 2012 when a group called Distributed Defense uploaded plans to the internet for a functional plastic gun that could be made by anyone with a 3D printer. Since then, other designs have been formulated.

The result was predictably upsetting to gun control advocates and what's more, untraceable guns are illegal in the US. In 2013, the US Department of State demanded Defense Distributed pull their designs from the web. But as the old saying goes — once something is on the internet...

G2
X90.6
Y13.8
15
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Y13.8



"IN THE FUTURE, YOU MIGHT ORDER SOMETHING FROM AMAZON, THEN HEAD TO A PICKUP DEPOT WHERE THEY EMAIL THE DESIGN, THEN PRINT YOUR PRODUCT ON SITE."

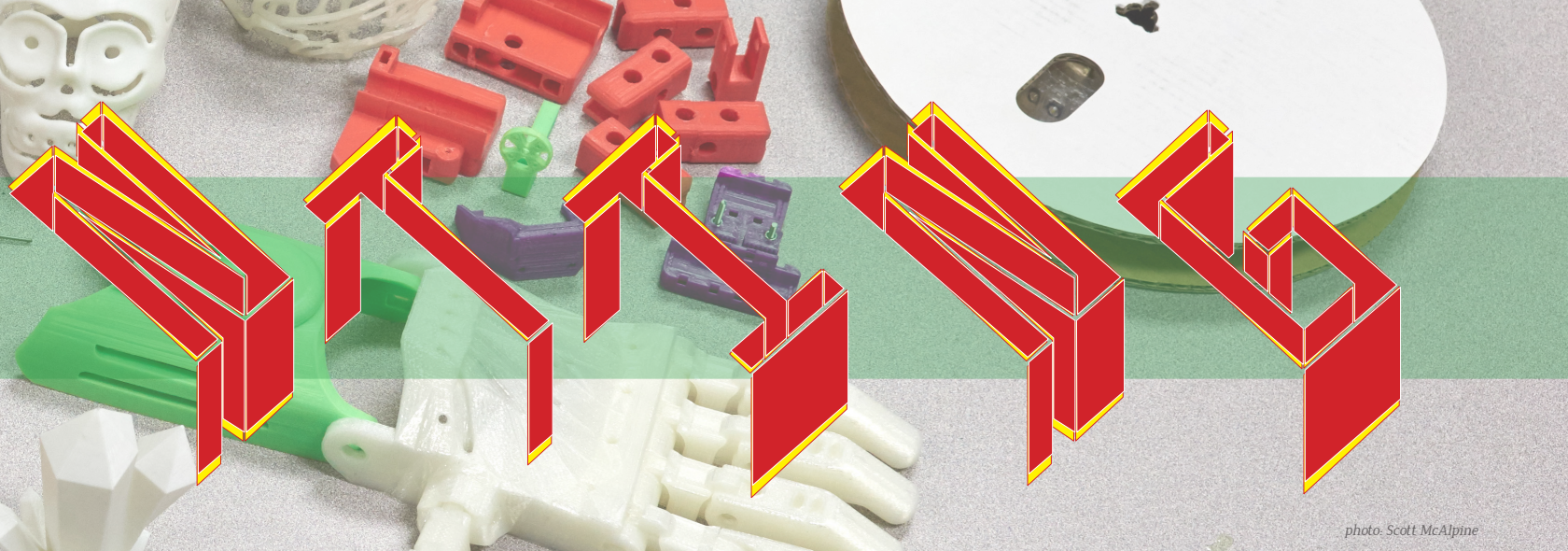
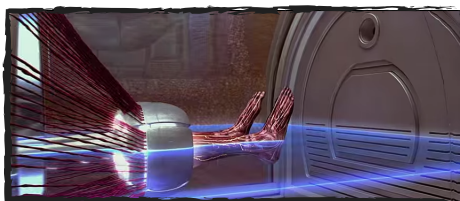


photo: Scott McAlpine

becomes science fact



The 5th Element (1997)

The other big frontier is medical. Remember that scene I mentioned from *The Fifth Element*? That might not be so far off. Billions of dollars are being pumped globally into the race to be first to develop functional 3D bioprinters. The applications are mind-blowing – bones, tissue, organs – even human stem cells. Or simply for lab research.

The challenges are immense, and experts have pegged this future as being years-to-decades away. But with the speed of technological advancement today (and sheer amount of cash being thrown around) you can never be too sure. Just this May, beauty giant L'Oreal made a splash partnering with a biotech company in a plan to push hard in the quest for 3D printed skin.

3D PRINTING AT BCIT

As you might expect from a leading tech school, BCIT is at the forefront of the technology. At the cutting edge is the school's Applied Research department where technicians work with industry on product development. James McCartney of BCIT's Applied Research Liaison Office (ARLO) says the school runs a 10,000 square foot prototype lab, packed with equipment including several \$100,000-plus industrial-grade 3D printers.

"BCIT is well known for medical device development," Says McCartney. "That's something they're able to do, to create medical grade devices... clients come in and work with BCIT, with the students and the faculty, and these printers are available to print out these prototypes."

But at a school as innovative as BCIT, a promising technology like this just won't stay locked in the labs. One of the ways that's manifested is in Tinkershop, a campus

3D printing club and 'Makerspace.' It brings together faculty with engineering, business, and technical students with the goal of creating new concepts or products. It also offers a forum for students and staff to take advantage of each others' skills. "We have a prosumer (professional consumer) 3D printer here, says McCartney, "and we are taking objects that students send us and we'll print them off. We also do the training side of things so we are willing to teach people how to use 3D printers." Unlike the big bad boys in the prototype lab, a Tinkering printer like the one used in the BCITSA Makerspace runs about \$2000. One of the things the group has been using it for is actually to make parts to build more 3D printers.

Mathew Ng Shun is a mechatronics and robotics student at BCIT involved in Tinkershop. He says the versatility of the tools is what excites him most about 3D printing. "It's the ability to make your own

parts, to do what other tools can't do, to do what other tools *can* do, but with a lot less difficulty," he says.

This February, BCITSA granted the Makerspace official student group status though they're still hashing out the details of membership, including a fee. Group representative and 3rd year robotics engineering student Bryan Hellard says the Makerspace is also planning educational nights for students wanting to know more about 3D modeling and designing.

Like many technologies today, 3D printing is still in its infancy. New materials and new applications suggest themselves every day. That's part of what makes their presence exciting on campus. The mix of creative, technically inclined, and entrepreneurial students is fertile, and might just help direct the future of the technology.

MICRO GRID, MACRO IMPLICATIONS.

BY SIMON LITTLE

You can't tell, but odds are good if you're reading this that you are standing in the middle of one of the most ambitious research projects in BCIT's history. It's Canada's first Smart Power Microgrid, and the questions it's asking could completely change where, when, and how we get our power in the 21st century.

Dr. Hassan Farhangi, director of BCIT's Group for Advanced Information Technology (GAIT), has spearheaded the project since its inception nearly eight years ago. Farhangi says today we're used to a one-way power system. Energy production is centralized in generating plants and flows to the consumer. The only feedback is when we pay our bills. But he says in 50 years it could be a completely different story.

"I would say we are moving gradually towards a decentralized, distributed power grid in which different parts of the province will have access to different kinds of renewable energy," he says, adding, "There would be a lot more local control of how that energy is produced, priced, and committed."

Wait, what? Okay, look at it like this. Our current 'dumb' grid has a few big producers that feed out power in a relatively fixed way – not generating enough at peak periods, producing too much at others. Now think of a future of many, smaller, local producers, wired through internet-like technology to consumers. When power is cheap to make it's, produced and stored. When power is needed, extra capacity comes online.

Farhangi's team is using BCIT's Burnaby campus as a research tool to help realize this future.

"What we are trying to create is almost embryos of the future power grid – [one] that is capable of understanding its own requirements, generation resources, constraints, and capabilities," he told *Link*.

Essentially, the Microgrid is built from the school's power grid – a network of smart meters, renewable power sources, and monitoring software that transform the campus into a model. Farhangi says BCIT is uniquely suited for this. Its industrial site-like trades programs, office-like classrooms, and home-like student housing offer a good simulation of a real-world urban power grid in which to test new technologies. "It is a scaled down version of the grid: it has generation capacity, it has load, it has communications systems, it has command and control," he explains.

Early-on, the project was focused mostly on measuring power use on campus and testing the 'smart'

communication tools that collect this data. But Farhangi says that's started to change.

Part of that was the successful completion of the Energy Oasis in Lot 7. Farhangi says that project, a solar-panel clad covered parking area, complete with large batteries and several electric vehicle chargers, was a milestone for the grid. With the Oasis online, added to an existing mix of solar, steam, natural gas and wind power, BCIT now produces nearly a full megawatt of green power. That's impressive considering the school consumes about six megawatts.

It's more impressive when you learn it's twice what the school was producing 18 months ago. "They may not generate much, but they give us the opportunity of getting to know these technologies and all of the issues that are there, [and how] to integrate these sources of energy into a functioning campus."

That's where the research could have big effects off campus. Utilities like BC Hydro, Farhangi says, are highly concerned with risk. The GAIT team's research aims to eliminate that risk by studying how to network homes, businesses, and multiple power sources into one responsive system. They're also working with the Department of National Defense to learn how to secure such a system from cyber attacks.

Farhangi also notes that the project has drawn big bucks to the school, which is starting to pay dividends for students.

"We are attracting a large amount of private and public funding, not only for our research purposes but for our educational and training purposes as well," Farhangi explains. "All of these assets are going to be made available to our school and our students."

For now, the dream of a large-scale smart grid still hovers tantalizingly out of reach. Farhangi says there are many questions about how to transition safely and smoothly from our current fixed 'dumb' grid to a decentralized system. But Farhangi has high hopes that his team is writing a blueprint for the future. "Hopefully we would see [it] replicated in every jurisdiction across Canada," he says.

There are glimmers that the world is almost ready. The cost of solar panels is plummeting and commercial-scale renewable power has been growing exponentially and getting cheaper by the day. And new consumer products like Tesla's Powerwall, basically a giant battery for your home, give a window into a world where everyone is an active part of the power grid.

Until then, keep an eye on the Microgrid. The name might be small, but it's got big ambitions.

MILITARY SKILLS CONVERSION PROGRAM

How do we help a soldier return to normal life? It's an age-old problem now part of a larger discussion on modern day mental health. BCIT leads the debate with a few new solutions.

by *lindsay howe*

There's no question that the 21st century world has its share of instabilities. And in the last two decades, Canadian soldiers have increasingly been shouldering active security responsibilities.

But with a more active role in conflicts like Afghanistan and Syria comes the question of how to help soldiers transition to civilian life when they're ready to finish their military careers. BCIT has developed one way to do that through the Legion Military Skills Conversion program.

The program offers three separate pathways to veterans, with one being educational opportunities. Through this pathway students are able to complete a credential at BCIT, often using their past military experience to be expedited to advanced placement in programs.

One of these students is Stu Leamy. After spending eleven and a half years in the military, the former Master Corporal made the transition to BCIT. "I was injured on my way out, and I saw the writing on the wall and needed to make that leap," says Leamy.

He began his journey in a Human Resources diploma program where his military background exempted him from taking 80% of the electives. He is currently working towards his Bachelor of Business Administration.

The two other pathways offered by the program are the Legion Lions Lair, and the job finding pathway. The Lions Lair was created for ex-military personnel who are interested in entrepreneurship. Each individual is required to create a business plan and present it to a panel of business professionals for the chance to win \$10,000.

The job finding pathway assists veterans with workshops on how to build resumes and cover letters, as well as other information to help them transition to a civilian career.

The program also offers scholarships to veterans, as well as peer tutoring and other support free of charge. And so far, the program has been well received. "They've all come with a certain drive, and

have proved to be very successful," says Justine Arsenault, program developer.

The program has joined forces with Enactus BCIT to sell poppies on campus the first week of November, with proceeds going to the Legion. So, when you're making your annual poppy purchase, remember that your donations are helping those who protect you, to attend BCIT.



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WOMEN AT BCIT

Pages and pages of old newspapers. Reel after reel of old photos. Calendars, handbooks, videos, news clippings and little scraps of paper... 50 years of BCIT history stored in boxes, folders, books and digital collections. Throughout it all, one really important theme stood out (or didn't stand out): Women at BCIT. From the decidedly male first graduating class of 1965, to derogatory op-eds on topics such as "How to Attract a Man On Campus," BCIT throughout the decades (not unlike most Canadian campuses) doesn't have the best track record on the treatment of its female students.

But times are changing. In 2014, BCIT welcomed its first female President, Kathy Kinloch, and ushered in an inspiring new era for women at the school. Now more than ever seems like the perfect time to shine a long overdue spotlight on the rising numbers of powerful, driven and successful women that make up the modern fabric of BCIT, and acknowledge those who have endured despite the challenges. There may still be a long way to go yet, but we take this moment in history to recognize the important changes we are seeing and applaud the efforts of the many women (and men) in the BCIT community who continue to make change.

"Our society hasn't yet carved out a place for our new attitudes to live comfortably... The boundaries of what is expected and accepted from women is changing"

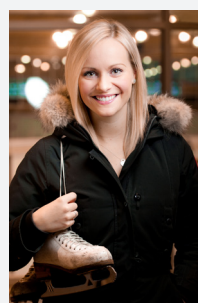
— Rana Sowdaey
Broadcast Journalism



BCIT President
Kathy Kinloch

Just a few of the amazing women featured in LINK throughout 2015.

(l-r): Ali Bruce
Tarrah Harvey
Lauren Sundstrom
Karen Lum



Ivy Mageto,
Peak Leadership
Graduate, 2015

BCITSA Director
Caroline Gagnon,
2014 Business Person
of the Year nominee
(Burnaby Business
Excellence Awards)





In her article "21st Century Feminsim" (Link, March 2015) BCIT journalist Rana Sowdaey confronted some of the questions still facing women's rights activists today, including how to define the next wave of the feminist movement:

"It's been a hundred years since women suffragists demonstrated their right to vote. We need more than to point out the existence of inequality. Do we set out to make men and women equal or do we set out to create a society that respects the differences between men and women, in a way that's fair?"



"THE GIRLS OF BCIT"

Unearthed in 2015 from a time capsule buried in 1985, this egregious little artifact no doubt underscores the objectification of women which readily marked the times. There is little evidence that suggests explicit misogyny was intended with this calendar, but the very title and its nod to pin-up style calendars of the 80s suggests just how ignorant we can be to the depth of sexist roots in our society.



For our February 2014 cover story, we took a closer look at today's women in trades with the help of some anonymous insider perspective. What we found is that while female enrollemnt in trades programs continues to rise, sadly, sexual harrassment and verbal abuse is still very much a part of day-to-day life on the job-site. However, many people responded to our article, including some BCIT faculty, who did their best to assure us that change is coming.

"People think that teachers don't know and that teachers don't care. That's certainly a shift here at BCIT because we do know and we do care."

— Paul Harris,
BCIT Organization and
People Development)

Graduates, here we are, ending a long, hard—yet rewarding—journey. You all amaze me. We have all made it here with some form of trial, some having experienced greater hurdles than others. We have all conquered the busy and intense schedule of BCIT's program while juggling it with life. I especially have been blown away, by those who did so while managing to raise children, or cope through personal tragedy and loss, or deal with mental, physical, and financial strain. These struggles have contributed greatly to who we are right now. I for one, have not only matured and changed, but my life has been bettered through these challenges, as I am sure yours has too

... We all came to BCIT to gain knowledge, and we are wise because of it. The knowledge I have gained about myself, my career, science, and humanity is why I loved being a student. I would not have acquired this knowledge, had I not willingly entered into this journey full of challenges. This is why I love being a student.

When I was accepted into the nursing program, I of course was thrilled to be part of the elite at BCIT. We all had expectations when we decided to further our education. Like many of you, my expectation upon graduation was to be ready to work in my new career as a registered nurse.

Esther Kempling 2014/2015 Valedictorian Nursing, BSc



photo courtesy BCIT and Scott McAlpine

During my education I have also come to know: We are strong, resilient, and capable of much. When someone supports you and says "you can do it," believe them. For many years, I did not want to further my education for fear of my inability. Before BCIT, I had never written a paper. I was afraid to go to school as a mature student, while comparing myself to those younger, smarter, and those who already had degrees. But people close to me encouraged me to apply, and here I am.

... My encouragement to you all is to remember this moment, remember what you have come through, how you have grown and changed, and all that you have achieved. These past 2-3 years are evident of what you are truly capable of.

... BCIT: the centre of excellence. They don't just claim that title because of the programs they have, they claim it because of you who are seated here right now, in your cap and gown.

When you leave here and go into your new job, be strong, be courageous, be confident. Stand up to yourself when you hear that little voice telling you, "you can't," and remember this day. You can, because look, you already did. You are excellent!

However, I did not expect to leave the program also having discovered my vocation, my calling. In 1897, St Therese of Liseux, a 24-year-old nun, realized her vocation, which I recently discovered is also mine: "My vocation is love." How blessed am I to have a career where I get to love and care for people in their greatest vulnerabilities and sometimes their darkest hour? I have come to intimately understand what it means to appreciate the sanctity and dignity of human life. I never expected my education to bring me this.

ABORIGINAL SERVICES

A group of about ten students are gathered in a parking lot, working together to move a large, heavy wooden log. They are using a dolly with wheels to transport it. The students are dressed in casual clothing like t-shirts, jeans, and shorts. In the background, there are several parked cars and a modern building with large windows. The scene is set outdoors on a sunny day.

On June 25, 2014, The City of Vancouver made the unprecedented decision to officially recognize the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. This was a big step towards reconciling some of the many injustices perpetrated against First Nations people in Canada.

Here at BCIT, aboriginal peoples are a huge part of the culture, and our very own Aboriginal Services department offers many amazing ways to connect with the culture and celebrate.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The focal point of aboriginal culture on campus is BCIT's Aboriginal Gathering Place Mi Chap Tukw (A Home Away From Home). Since 2011, it's served as a place for aboriginal students to feel a sense of inclusion and belonging on campus and share in ceremonies celebrating the diversity and richness of Aboriginal culture. It also gives students access to workshops, mentors, and elders.

"Our elders," says Aboriginal Advisor Derik Joseph, "are really BCIT's best kept secret for cultural advising."

Since inception, the centre has also worked hard to reach out and engage with the wider student body. "Our doors are open to all students," says Joseph, "if you are interested in Aboriginal culture or have questions, please feel free to drop by."

"It's not a church, it's not a religion that we do. It's a way of life. We help everybody understand."

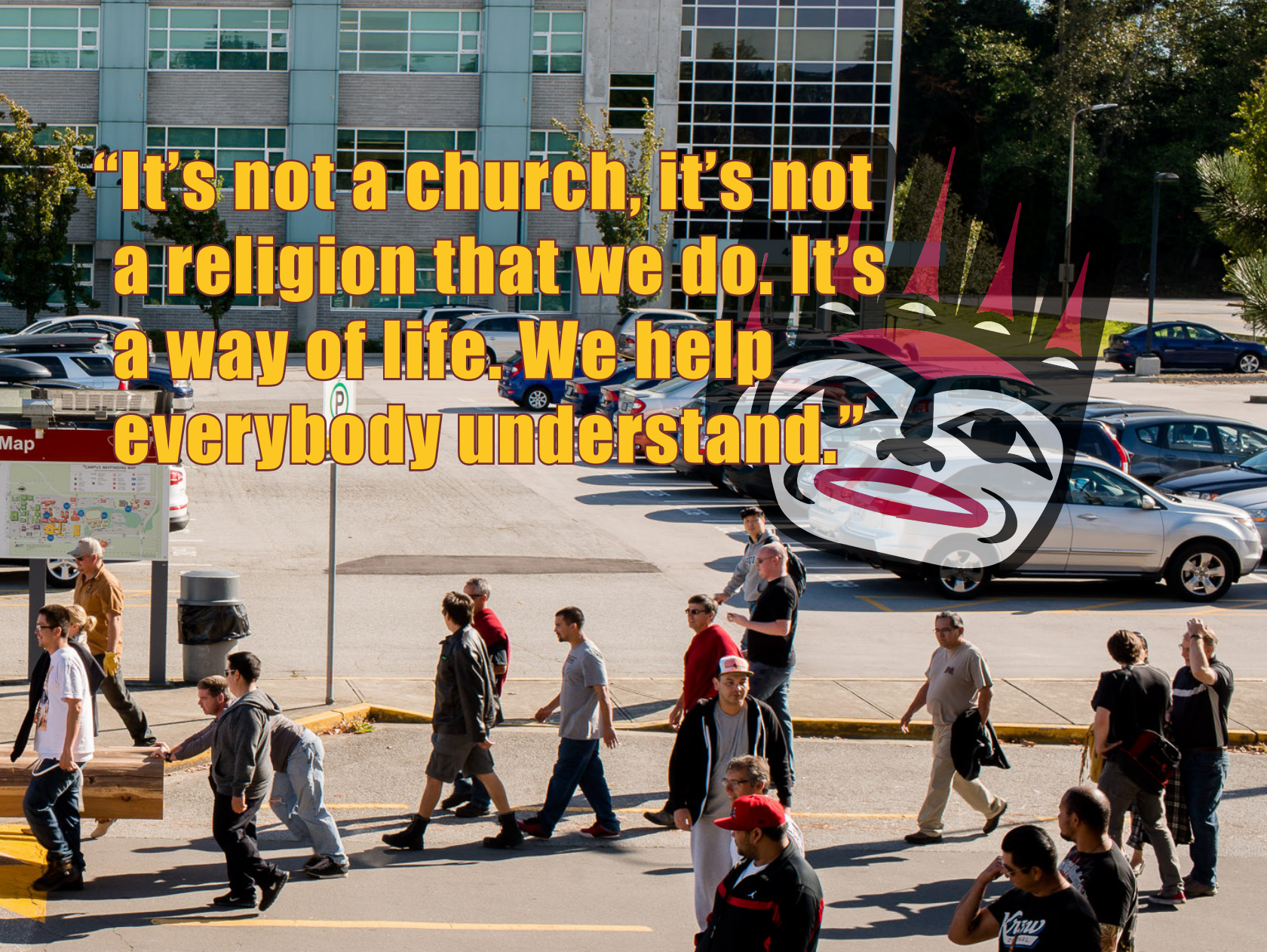


photo courtesy BCIT and Scott McAlpine

NO SWEAT

Another element of aboriginal culture on campus are the sweat lodge ceremonies. The monthly activity happens in a small lodge just south of SE30. Inside, participants share the space with a fire pit and hot rocks for a cleansing experience. "It's like a re-birthing ceremony," says Aboriginal Services Coordinator Joanne Stone-Campbell. "You go back into your mother's womb. You're safe. You're warm. You're secure. You come out and it's like a new beginning."

Sweat lodge keepers facilitate the ceremony by maintaining the fire, making sure participants are

comfortable, and sharing stories. Keeper Joe Fossella says participating in a sweat lodge ceremony can help one deal with personal issues. "It's not a church, it's not a religion that we do. It's a way of life. We help everybody understand... we help them deal with the issues and be able to pray about it."

According to Fossella, attendance has been steadily increasing over the years. On average he'll see about a dozen people come to a ceremony, but has seen the lodge fill with over 25 people at a time. The lodge is opened approximately seven times a school year.

— simon little

HOUSE POST

To celebrate the school's 50th anniversary, the aboriginal community has contributed a unique gift - the BCIT House Post. Last fall, Aboriginal Services unveiled a massive log donated from the Coast Salish / Squamish Nation which is being carved by Coast Salish artist Aaron Nelson-Moody (aka 'Splash'). This June, the House post will be raised and permanently installed in the atrium of SW1,



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Every
GENERATION
has its own
STORIES

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Marc Emery has returned from his federal prison sentence in the US, Canada's first weed vending machine was installed on Commercial Drive and today there are officially more dispensaries in Vancouver than there are Tim Hortons'. Who knows what the future will hold for marijuana in Canada, with varying election promises being made on both sides, and large-scale growig operations popping up where'd you least expect them. For now, people everywhere are enjoying a momentary loophole in legislation. And with a new plant-based research grant awarded to BCIT this year, we just might be seeing our own chronic on campus.



/ˈselfē/ — A photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and shared via social media.

(Ex. "Occasional selfies are acceptable, but posting a new picture of yourself every day isn't necessary.")

This is the definition for one of today's most bizzare phenomenons, officially adopted by the Oxford English dictionary in 2013. While not really all that new of a concept, somewhere along the way people stopped handing their cameras over to a stranger passing by, and started using their own outstretched arms (or more recently, telescoping "selfie sticks"). Whether you belive it's narcissism of the highest order, or simply a fun way to share your life's moments with your friends, the "selfie" craze isn't going anywhere so long as there are new and awkward social platforms to post them too. Oh, and if you're around any of the BCIT campuses anytime in the coming year, you might just see your own face in the giant selfie murals installed as part of the #BCITselfie project.

PIPELINES & POLITICS

You can't swing a cat without bumping into a proposal for an oil and gas pipeline in present day BC. There's Shell's Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project, Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Expansion, and Enbridge's Northern Gateway project. While some see pipeline expansion is unavoidable and vital to keeping the BC economy intact, others question whether the expected returns will be worth the sacrifices. Critics also point to these gains as being short-term and over-estimated. First Nations and environmental groups are at the forefront of opposition, but stiff regulatory processes and oversight also threatens the success of these proposals. After the Conservative federal government approved Enbridge's proposal in 2014, the BC liberal government did not support the decision, as their conditions for environmental responsibility were not met. Whether they're in the Sustainable Resource Management program or any of the Engineering disciplines, many BCIT's students will be helping to shape these issues.

PLANET TERROR - - -

Ever since the September 11th attacks on US soil, the "war on terror" has continued to wage on at a global level, except with no clear path towards peace in sight. Here in Canada, amidst a recent shooting on Parliament Hill and a foiled pressure cooker bomb plot in Victoria, the Conservative Government has introduced Bill C-51—called the Anti-Terrorism Act—which attempts to touch upon the hot button topics of privacy, rights, and security. The three just don't seem compatible however, as lawyers from the BC Civil Liberties Society have pointed out that the legal changes proposed by this bill seriously jeopardize the rights and freedoms of Canadians while promising little improvement to public safety. The bill, as with several other pieces of legislation introduced this year, is a response to the rise in terrorist groups such as ISIS, who continue to claim responsibility for the execution of journalists and vulnerable peoples abroad. Proponents of C-51 suggest that more flexibility in the legal system will allow the Canadian Security Intelligence Service to go beyond simply gathering intelligence to actually preventing plans or attacks from occurring on Canadian soil. Let's hope that future generations don't have to choose between peace and personal freedoms.

LGBTQ

The new millennium ushered in support and legal reform for the LGBTQ community in Canada. In 2005, the Civil Marriage Act provided a gender-neutral marriage definition that allowed Canadians of the same sex to marry. Here at BCIT, much is being done to show support for the LGBTQ community. In 2011, the BCIT Student Association raised the rainbow flag in support of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia and made BCIT the first post secondary in Canada to do so. The Accessible Washroom Project was launched in response to concerns raised within the BCIT community that there was a lack of washrooms accessible to all members of the community, and so the new signs—depicting a toilet without a gender-specific image—subtly remove the gender binary from the washroom signage to better accommodate individuals who identify as transgender, gender-variant, those with young children, physical disabilities, or anyone with particular religious or personal needs for whom a shared washroom would not be appropriate. BCIT and the SA also partnered on entering a float into the Vancouver Pride Parade in 2014, and are gearing up for this year's colourful event. While equality and diversity are finally becoming the norm for BCIT's community, the aim is that these are concepts future students will not have to think twice about. The global community may need to do some catching up in the next 25 years.





ASTTBC TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

Together We Make a Difference

We sometimes wonder... *What would our world look like without BCIT students and its Alumni?* ASTTBC and BCIT go hand-in-hand – together we are synonymous.

Together, we help shape and support this province. BCIT's world-class training, innovation and high caliber of graduates, coupled with ASTTBC's role to ensure high levels of competency and accountability of technologists, technicians and technical specialists is our formula of success.

Since BCIT opened its doors in 1964, we've been a part of something very special. We look forward to continuing this journey!

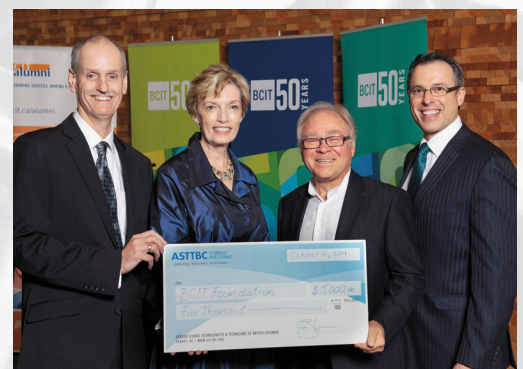
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left to right... Geoff Sale, ASCT, Industrial Management 1979; Jeff Shinoki and Don Ta, GradTech, Biomedical Engineering 2014; and Jason Jung, ASCT, Mechanical Engineering 1995. Geoff and Jason are managers with ASTTBC, and are presenting awards of excellence to Jeff and Don.

Congrats on BCIT's 50th!



ASTTBC supports the BCIT Foundation; presenting a special cheque to commemorate BCIT's 50th Anniversary.

photos: BCIT / Scott McAlpine