

Special Edition

Link

magazine

Who Will the Next
Great Leaders Be?



2014

STUDENT
ELECTIONS
2015



// Letter From The Editor

CHOOSING YOUR LEADER

Hello voters...

Yes, you! You're an eligible voter and student elections are just around the corner! Didn't know this? Well you're in the right place! This Special "Elections" Edition of Link Magazine will give you all you need to know about the upcoming BCITSA elections, the candidates, political history at BCIT and how you can get involved.

However... Before you dive in, I'd just like to say...

As a journalist, it's my duty to remain objective, but one of the first things anyone told me in j-school was: bias is inevitable. I'm about to echo that sentiment.

The fact that I myself spent a year of my life as an elected exec in student government (UBC Students' Union Okanagan, Kelowna) and that my roots are from an extremely corrupt country (India, where they claim to be democratic), might lead to some of the bias in my thinking that: voter apathy is one of the saddest and most frustrating parts of any election.

Some people (especially students) go a long way to save a dollar, or make every dollar worthwhile, so here's one easy way to make that part of your tuition work for you: vote!

So read (and I hope you enjoy) this issue, have a discussion with your candidates about their platform and then take to the polls. It doesn't take long to vote, but it can go a long way in making your student experience better!

Neetu Garcha
Associate Editor

VOTING IS OPEN
MARCH 31-APRIL 4

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BCITSA would like to thank their annual sponsor:



EXECUTIVE GLOSSARY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG) — supervise all the students and executive body of BCIT, and it consists of financial, executive and governance committees.

PRESIDENT — the official spokesperson for the BCITSA. She/He presides over Council and Executive meetings, makes sure everyone is doing their job, and presents the Annual Report at the Annual General Meeting.

VP STUDENT AFFAIRS — responsible for handling student issues and concerns, and discusses all matters affecting student life at BCIT with the institution.

VP EXTERNAL — responsible for promoting and maintaining good public relations with communities around BCIT; communicates with Ministry and Government regarding issues affecting BCIT.

EDUCATION COUNCIL (EdCo) — the body supervising the SA. The Council deals with BCIT policies, awards, academic standing, appeals, and examinations.

VP ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE — responsible for managing budget and evaluating monthly financial reports; She/he also manages all BCITSA employees. Also arranges council and executive meetings, and is responsible for meeting minutes.

VP CAMPUS LIFE — helps promote student events and other extracurricular activities on campus, and organizes Orientation in September.

CHAIRS (Schools of: Business; Health Sciences; Energy; Transportation, Construction & the Environment; Computing & Academic Studies; ATC; and DTC — organize monthly Set Rep meetings, connect the Council and School/Satellite Campus, and appoint Student Councilors from their School/Satellite Campus.

SET/CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

The direct voice of the students in the Student Association. Set Reps act as a two-way communication between the SA and the students: they bring up issues that arise in a particular set/class to the respective Chair, and inform students of decisions made in council meetings.

Words of Wisdom

Advice for Candidates

“Being a part of the Student Association has been life changing, I hope that every student who gets the chance to be involved at the BCITSA takes it for everything it is... take advantage of every event you are invited to—be the leader of change you hope to see”

— Rebecca Davidson, President

“It is no easy job being full-time students and student politicians; dedication and organization are necessities if they are to survive and student support is much needed to help them do a good job.”

(The Link, 1976)

“Create a good team to run with, don't create a team with your friends.”

— Brad Johnson, VP of Finance and Administration

Why Should Students Care?

“Leaders need to be told what to do and be bossed around - that's your job as the people they are representing.”

(The Link, 1993)

“It's the best way for their voices to be heard. The SA executives make important decisions and can affect real change for all students at BCIT.

— Mike Hanson, VP of External

“We will not place them on pedestals as Gods, but will admit they have done a damn good job.”

(The Link, 1969)

“All the executives after meetings gather in one room and listen to music.”

— Ramiza Rafeeq, School of Transportation, Construction & the Environment Chair

“This is the one time of the year where students get to exercise their right to vote and elect the group of students that will lead the SA in the upcoming year.”

— Eirene Cloma, VP Student Affairs

Favourite memories

“Our initial executing training weekend in Whistler, during which time I realized how much I have in common in terms of shared values with a group of individuals from such different backgrounds.” — Tariq Shobab, School of Energy Chair

CANDIDATES

2014 - 2015

PRESIDENT



DYLAN SMITH

As a leader and avid volunteer, I want to contribute to the experience of BCIT students and ensure that the BCITSA has a positive effect, helping to make their experience at BCIT the best it can be. Check out my facebook event for more. <http://goo.gl/yCMd54>

VP STUDENT AFFAIRS



EVAN FINDLAY

I am excited to be running for VP of Student Affairs and represent the students of BCIT fairly and honestly. I promise to ensure that everyone has a voice and that that voice is heard by BCIT. Come find me on campus, I would love to hear what you think.

VP CAMPUS LIFE



RAINIE DAM

Schooling is tough isn't it? By becoming a VP Campus Life, I want to promote the campus to have a de-stressing atmosphere with yearly parties and more varieties of events catered for the enjoyment of students. I want to spend my final year in BCIT a memorable year for everyone. If you're up for the excitement, vote for me!

BRADLEY LINDSAY

I am thrilled to be running for VP of Campus Life and to have the opportunity to represent the students of BCIT. I envision life on campus, where all students have their voices represented fairly. Don't be afraid to approach me or send me your ideas for BCIT Campus life.



VP ADMIN & FINANCE



ALLEN DEPA

I am a first-year finance student running to become your VP of Administration & Finance. Dedicated to impact the direction of this school through the development and delivery of cost-effective financial strategies. With a passion for finance I will work hard to ensure the continuing growth and success of BCIT.

SPENCER OPPAL

As a member of the student council I have been able to see the problems and concerns that have arisen at BCIT. By joining the executive team I can solve these problems and ensure that BCIT students have a voice; a voice focused on the issues that students are facing.



VP EXTERNAL



JASON JOO

"For me, I am driven by two main philosophies: know more today about the world than I knew yesterday and lessen the suffering of others. You'd be surprised how far that gets you." - (Neil deGrasse Tyson, American astrophysicist, author, and science communicator)

Wouldn't you be interested to know? Vote.



KYLIE MARSHALL

Time Management is our life at BCIT. I want this position because I know that I will be a strong and passionate voice on your behalf and I will implement coordination through communication. This position will allow me to advocate for BCIT and help to create change within our school.

#CthruC
FB: kylimarshallBCIT



TYRA BERMUDEZ

Originally from San Jose, Costa Rica; Tyra studied International Commerce and Customs Administration in University of Costa Rica for two years. In 2013, she was elected president of the International Business Management Program (IBMP) Student Chapter. Tyra is seeking ways to enhance the student life at BCIT before and after graduation for all programs.

CHAIR of COMPUTING AND ACADEMIC



ALEXANDER CLARKE

I do whatever it takes to get the job done, and never anything less. I want BCIT students to know that their voice matters, and that communication between them and the staff is extremely important for the school to evolve. Elect me and I will make sure you are heard.

NAV BHATTI

The BCITSA exists to give each student a voice, and I believe those voices should be heard. In order to make the School of Computing everything that it can be, I will work to put your ideas into action and make our time here as fulfilling as possible. Thank you.



CHAIR of ENERGY

ERIC HALINEN



I am an Electrical and Computer Engineering Student that has been at BCIT for 4 years. I will improve everyday student life by using the personal relationships I have developed over the years to address student concerns. I look forward to having the opportunity to be your Chair of the School of Energy.

SETH AINSLEY



As Chair, I promise to be there for the student body. If elected, I'll work to ensure that each set has a representative. I take pride in my ability to work with people in resolving issues that arise, and would love the ability to offer my skills to fellow students.

JAIMIE HAAKONS



Long and short - I'm committed to improvement. I will improve student quality of life, and fight for the issues that really matter - not just for today, but for tomorrow's students as well. I will do this through redefined interdisciplinary cooperation and better campus social events. A vote for me is a vote for improvement!

Instagram:
@haakonshydro

CHAIR of BUSINESS

JOSEPH PROPHET



With valuable prior experience as the 2009/2010 BCITSA Vice President of Finance and Administration, I would work to further the needs and goals of students, the School of Business, and the BCITSA. A long-standing student myself, I wish to shape the future of BCIT for both current and future students.

WAYNE LAM



Ever since my entry to BCIT, my life has changed dramatically. Here's finally an opportunity for me to refine BCIT; a gift for the many things BCIT has given me. If elected, my primary focus will be connecting the School of Business as a whole. Come talk to me and learn more about me!

GABRIEL UCRAINET



As a Business Operations Management student at BCIT, I would like to take this opportunity to apply for the Chair of the School of Business to further my experience and increase value for BCIT students by providing the BCITSA staff with additional skills and input.

CHAIR of TRANSPORTATION, CONSTRUCTION & ENVIRONMENT

BREAUGH SPEIRS



I am in the Ecological Restoration program at BCIT and work as a swim instructor/lifeguard. Currently, acting as student representative for my cohort, I strive to bring the same level of dedication to future endeavours. I hope to provide ample opportunities for different faculties to come together and bridge the gap next year.

TONY ATKINS



I am running for Chair because I know I have the ideal qualities to fill this position. Throughout my education I have excelled as a Set Representative fighting for and finding solutions to the issues that affect our lives. I look forward to resolving the issues of a broader constituent.

MANVEER SINGH BADIAL



I choose to run to get back to gardening. That's teacher mandate number 1. To provide lush soil and the right angle for father sun to hit, so we as students of this game can grow exponentially, and then multiply. I must voice the concern of environment in order to uplift all as a unit, for I am only as great as you are.

CHAIR of HEALTH SCIENCES

AMANDA DING



I hope to foster more interdisciplinary events and effective communication between programs, providing you with a healthy community network at BCIT and beyond. I will ensure all programs have full representation; your voice is heard, your vision achieved. I'm excited to build with you, a supportive, learning community of professional growth.

CHAIR of ATC (Aerospace Technology Campus)

DANIEL SUMANO



During these past twelve months we, the student at the ATC, have grown and united at all levels in all programs. Together we will continue to dedicate the time and effort necessary to listen, observe and solve any issues or concerns our student body may or shall have.

CHAIR of DTC (Downtown Campus)

EMILIO da SILVA



I have an excellent track record on the BCITSA for representing the students of BCIT and have a proven record of addressing student issues as soon as possible. There will be no sleeping on the job with me as your representative; I am a candidate you can count on.

VOTE NOW

MARCH 31 — APRIL 4

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TALK AMONGST YOURSELVES

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College transfer student Courtney Lockhart always knew she wanted to pursue a career in politics. What she didn't know was that a degree from the University of Lethbridge would take her from Lethbridge all the way to Capitol Hill.

Courtney secured a co-op position at Global Centurion in Washington, D.C., an organization focused on the abolition of modern slavery. Not only did Courtney

see former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton give a speech at the Department of State, but her work allowed her to see the impact of human rights advocacy first-hand.

Recognized on the national stage as one of Canada's top-three undergraduate institutions (2014 Maclean's University Rankings) and one of Canada's top-three undergraduate research universities (RESEARCH Infosource,

2013), uLethbridge provides students opportunities to take their education outside the classroom – something that Courtney says gave her insight into future jobs.

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PM Pierre Elliot Trudeau visits BCIT campus (April 25, 1979) where Student President Fiona Fraser bestowed him with an honorary membership in the Student Association.



PM Joe Clark on campus January 24, 1980



Tallying the votes in the 1980 student elections

