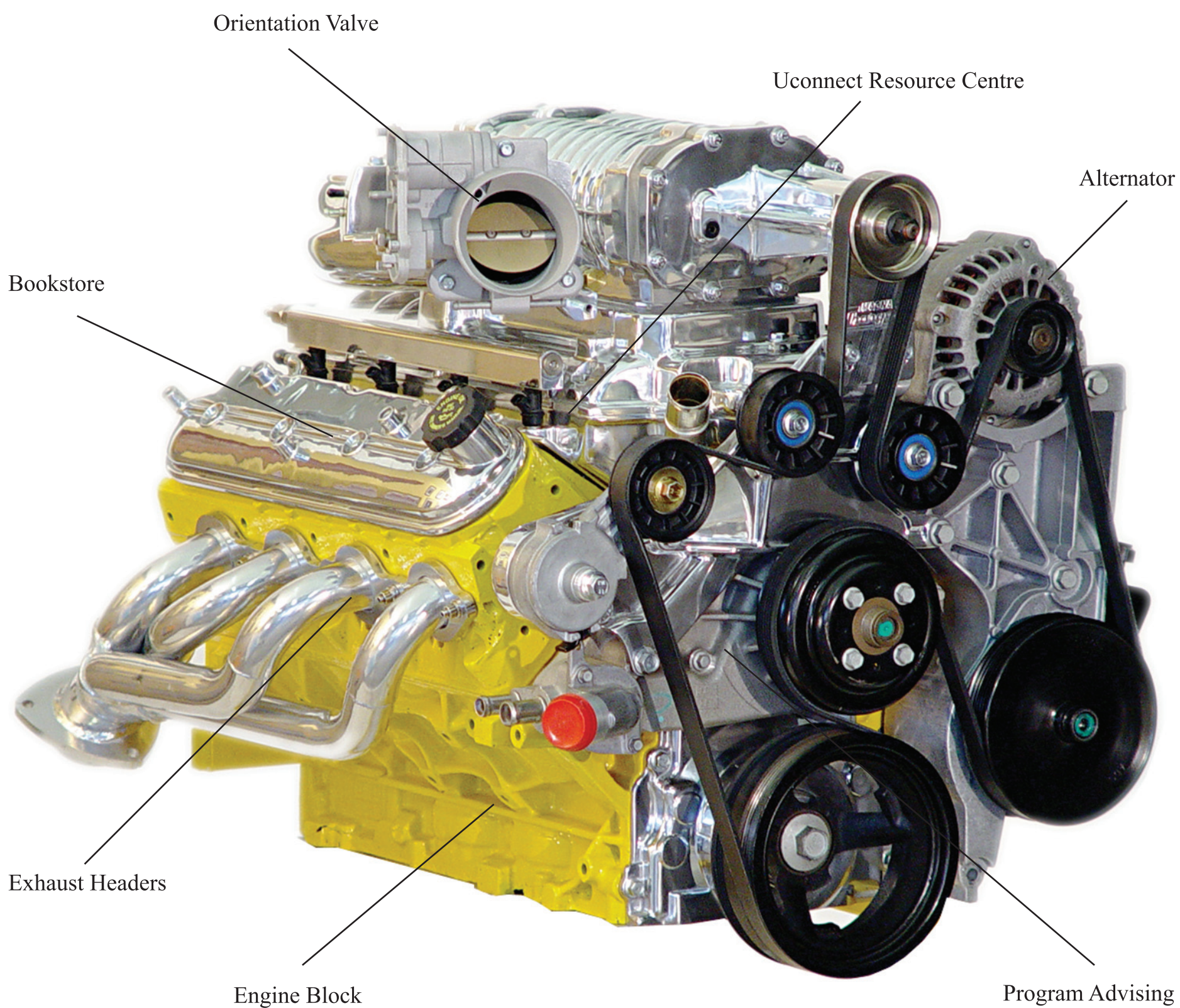


# theLink

Volume 41  
BCITSA Special Edition  
September 6, 2005

## ORIENTATION EDITION



*Rev it up for a new year!*

theLink

Welcoming you back to  
BCIT since 1964

SE2 - 285  
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Burnaby, BC  
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This special Orientation  
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returning to BCIT.

BCITSA would like to remind  
you to please recycle this copy  
of the Link.

Welcome Back!



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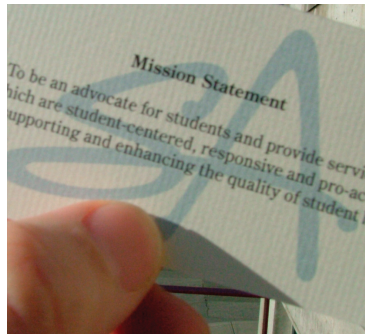
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# BCIT Student Association

## Programs and services working for you

### BCITSA MISSION



To be an advocate for students and provide services which are student-centered, responsive and pro-active in supporting and enhancing the quality of student life.

So what does that mean?

It means we work with a number of BCIT departments and external groups to bring you opportunities and services that can help you make the most of YOUR time here.

We get that you're busy and focused on YOUR academics, that's why you're here... right? But that is not all that you'll take with you when you become a BCIT alumnus and a huge success! BCITSA is all about you.

### GOVERNANCE

Autonomous from BCIT, BCITSA is incorporated as a not-for-profit society that represents BCIT students. Each year BCIT students elect a team of student leaders to represent their interests to BCIT and external groups.

YOUR BCITSA Student Executive along with BCITSA Student Council governs the affairs of BCITSA. We are located in the BCITSA Campus Centre, the hub of student life and place for students, faculty, and staff to congregate. Within this facility you will find the majority of BCITSA operations & services.

### ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

We've got you covered.

BCITSA representatives sit on a number of committees and boards to represent YOUR interests. We also provide advocacy and referral services for students to help you decide how best to approach a situation and define YOUR BCIT experience.

### OPERATIONS & SERVICES

BCITSA owns and operates businesses on campus and establishes and promotes services that work to enhance the quality of student life. Together, BCITSA operations and services provide BCIT students with all kinds of venues and programming to make the most of their BCIT experience!

The proceeds from our business operations help provide funding for BCITSA initiatives and use student fees more efficiently, translating into better value for you.

### VALUE

BCITSA defines value in a number of ways, meaningful experiences is one. BCIT is a hectic place; maximize YOUR time and experiences with us.

BCITSA works to bring you access to all kinds of developmental and leadership opportunities. There are all kinds of ways to get involved and increase YOUR experience and portfolio.

Find out more:

[www.bcitsa.ca](http://www.bcitsa.ca)

### STUDENT FEES

BCIT students pay a mandatory fee to BCITSA. These monies make up about 23% of our total revenues. Most of our revenues are raised through BCITSA operations. These revenues are then invested into services and programming that support and enhance the quality of student life.

### EXTENDED HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN

Gallivan and Associates Student Network provides you with their uniquely designed, dependable and affordable extended health and dental plan. If you need specific assistance with YOUR Extended Health Plan, please visit the knowledgeable staff at the Student Benefits Plan Office in the Uconnect Resource Centre, SE2 - 286.

Find out more:

[www.bcitsa.ca](http://www.bcitsa.ca)

### GET CONNECTED

BCITSA manages a number of mailing lists. Want to know what's happening in YOUR Community? Sign up today. Volunteer lists, set and tech reps list, or general information about BCITSA.

### LEADERSHIP



BCITSA is committed to providing BCIT students with a wide array of leadership and development opportunities.

Whether as a student executive, club member, volunteer, student councilor, student development series, or even set and tech reps, BCITSA is focused on you.

Find out more:

[www.bcitsa.ca](http://www.bcitsa.ca)

### ORIENTATION

Orientation is a great way to introduce yourself to the BCIT Community. BCITSA and BCIT work collaboratively to ensure that you feel a part of YOUR new community and get all of the information you need to be successful at BCIT. Orientation can help you hit the ground running!

### SHINERAMA

Every year BCIT students, BCITSA, and BCIT work to raise money for the fight against Cystic Fibrosis. This is a great BCIT tradition, it's fun and it gives you a break. You know - that "balance thing" you always hear about.

### STUDENT CLUBS

The BCITSA student clubs are a great way to get involved with other students with similar interests. There are a wide range of clubs to get involved with and if you don't see one that you want to join, start it up, it's a great experience!

### EVENTS

The BCIT Student Association partners on and hosts events and programming throughout the year that are designed to entertain and inform. Everything from hypnotists to money saving seminars, it's all about you!

### SA IMAGE CENTRE

YOUR SA Image Centre can assist you with all of YOUR design, layout and printing needs, with a wide range of services and products designed around you. We gladly accept cash and myBCIT card payments. At the SA Image Centre YOUR imagination is the limit.

### SA CONVENIENCE STORE

Got a craving? Need a boost? YOUR SA Convenience Stores are stocked full of fresh and dry goods to satisfy all YOUR convenience needs. Hot dogs, noodles, fruit and let's not forget the candy. We have newspapers and sell fast trax transit stickers in the SE2 store, but that's not all.

### PROFESSOR MUGS PUB

Great Food! Quick Service and affordable prices, we can get you in, feed you and get you out in time for YOUR next class. Whether you want to shoot a game of pool or have some food, Professor Mugs has something for most everyone.

### SA STORES

YOUR SA Stores are the one-stop-shop for BCIT clothing, school supplies and snacks. We have the A-Z in school supplies and a wide range of gift ideas. Can't find a size? Our friendly staff can hook you up, we make it easy.



**PROFESSOR BEANS  
COFFEE SHOP**

Coffee, lattes, teas we have it all, Seattle's Best at BCIT! Fresh baked goods daily. See you there!

Find out more:

[www.bcitsa.ca](http://www.bcitsa.ca)

**UCONNECT**

The Uconnect Resource Centre is located within the Great Hall on Burnaby campus. Access to the right information and personnel can make all the difference.

- Student Advocacy**
- Emergency Food Fund**
- Information & Referral**
- Peer Tutoring**
- Advantage Seminars**
- Volunteer Services**

Got a question, anything and everything, we're listening.

**THE LINK**



The Link is YOUR source for information about the BCIT community and the world beyond.

The Link has a couple of professional staff and a number of student writers who are focused on issues students want to hear about.

The Link is delivered free across campus bi-weekly. Pick up a copy of the Link today and stay connected!

# The Link

## Your news alternative

By **Geoff Gauthier**  
Managing Editor

**FIRST OFF, WELCOME** and welcome back. What you hold in your hands is a powerful tool; a method of communication like no other at BCIT. The Link is your newspaper, for students, made by students.

The Link is home to a few regular features like Campus Query - where we ask your opinion on issues and events in the news, and Life in Hell - a comic strip drawn by Matt

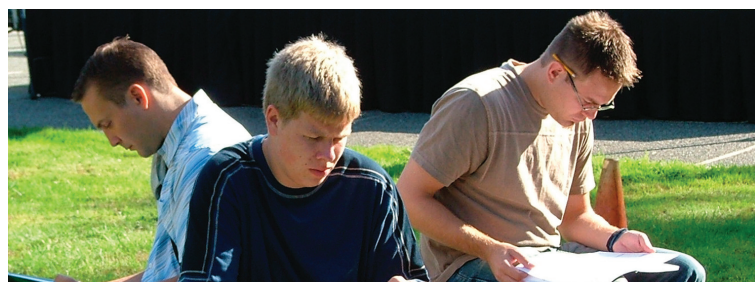
Groening of the Simpsons fame. Couple this with BCIT related news, opinions, entertainment stories, movie and cd reviews, and sports highlights and the Link becomes your on-campus source for information.

If you like reading the Link, you might want to try volunteering here. The Link is a great place to get some free print media education from professional staff, and it's a great proving ground to test out story ideas. The Link isn't limited to one

perspective. We welcome everyone, with experience or ready to learn. We have occasional training sessions for those who are interested in learning to write for newspapers or, if you're more visually inclined, we'll teach you how to use our design programs to lay out a copy of the Link.

Come by and visit us in the office, SE2-285 behind the SA Image Centre. It's the most fun you can have on paper.

Read the Link. It rules.



theLink 05/06 release dates				Entertainment	
Sept. 15	Sept. 29	Oct. 13	Oct. 27	Nov. 10	Nov. 24
Dec. 08	Jan. 12	Jan. 26	Feb. 09	Feb. 23	Mar. 09
Mar. 23	Apr. 06	Apr. 20	May 11		

For more information, call 604.432.8974 or swing by the office at SE2-285 behind the SA Image Centre

# BCITSA

## YOUR Student Association

We have the **LOWEST PRICES** around!!  
Buy from Your Student Association and save.  
SA Stores offer convenience and great prices.  
Visit us at SE2, SE12 & NE1



Come watch a hockey game, football game or just chat with your friends over a great burger!

**SA Image Centre**

Visit us for all your printing needs and more.  
Check out our services at [www.bcitsa.ca](http://www.bcitsa.ca)



Fresh baked goods every day!



# Backpack to School SPECIAL!



**15% OFF**  
**Roots & Swiss Gear BACKPACKS!!**  
at TNT Main Store SE2  
until Sept. 17th

**Check out our NEW INVENTORY!!**

# What you need to know

## FAQs regarding registration & administration

By Val Karpinsky  
Registrar

### 1) How many times do we have to register within the school year?

Technology Students:

Each September all students, new and returning need to register. Details are mailed to each student in mid-August.

Trade Students:

Report to classes specified on their acceptance letter.

### 2) Why are our courses already chosen for us?

The programs at BCIT are designed in conjunction with industry. The mix of courses is designed to help be a well-prepared and job ready graduate.

### 3) Why does BCIT have such a heavy course load?

BCIT's philosophy is "Learning by doing". Therefore the course load allows for an easy transition from the classroom environment to the workplace. Since we are a polytechnic institution, we are rather different than universities. By having in place the attendance

rule, students are being taught how to be professionals by being on time for class.

### 4) What are the Academic Residency Requirements?

Students may be granted academic credit towards a BCIT credential based upon prior successful academic studies at other educational institutions (Transfer credit and/or Advanced Placement) and/or through credit granted based upon life and/or work experience (Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition).

In order to satisfy academic residency requirements for a BCIT credential a student must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 25% of the total required program of study at BCIT. This normally will be the terminal 25% of the program undertaken (e.g. the last year of a four year Bachelor of Technology degree program, the last semester of a two year diploma program).

This limitation may be appealed by individual programs through Education Council.

For more Academic Policies such as Advance Placement and Transfer Credit, please refer to: [www.bcit.ca/about/](http://www.bcit.ca/about/)



[administration/policies](#) under Policy 5003.

### 5) Transfer Credit

BCIT will undertake to provide students with an opportunity to use credits earned at and awarded by other post-secondary institutions, where the learning outcomes duplicate those of BCIT courses within their program.

BCIT reserves the right to determine where transfer credit will and will not be awarded and will endeavour to ensure consistency of assessment

activities and the resulting award of credit.

### 6) When do we pay fees for the following term?

New Students: Fees are due 60 days in advance of the first day of classes.

Returning Students: Fees are due at the end of the first week of classes.

### 7) Verification of Enrollment

First year students: to check the status of your application, please

log on to <http://www.my.bcit.ca>. Official letters of verification can be obtained on-line @ <http://www.bcit.ca/files/pdf/admission/documentrequest.pdf>

### 8) Academic Policies (Policy 5002)

All academic policies regarding student conduct including policies on plagiarism, exam scheduling, marks appeal process, absenteeism and etc can be viewed on-line at:

[www.bcit.ca/about/administration/policies](http://www.bcit.ca/about/administration/policies) under Policy 5002.

# Uconnect Resource Centre

## Your one stop source for information

**THE UCONNECT** Resource Centre is located within the Great Hall on Burnaby campus and is open Mon - Fri from 8am - 4pm. Access to the right information and personnel can make all the difference. Got a question, anything and everything, we're listening. Stop by the Uconnect to find out how you can win \$20 worth of gift certificates for the Professor Mugs Pub. Contact us @ 604.451.7087 or e-mail us at [uconnect@bcitsa.ca](mailto:uconnect@bcitsa.ca).

### Student Advocacy

Effective student advocacy is about teaching students how to navigate through all of the academic and non-academic issues that arise. Information

really is power. If you have a question about advocacy or what BCITSA can do to help, we're listening and we have information that can help you make a good decision.

### Information & Referral Services

Timely access to the right information and personnel can make all the difference. We are a user-friendly, non-threatening environment that is full of options so you can decide the direction you want to go. We call it Uconnect for a reason, it's all about you.

### Peer Tutoring Program

The peer tutoring program can be obtained by

purchasing a punch card at \$15 per session at Uconnect Resource Centre in SE2 Room 286. Visit [www.bcitsa.ca/peertutor](http://www.bcitsa.ca/peertutor) and register by clicking on the student registration link. You will be matched with a tutor once you have purchased your punch card and the tutor will contact you to arrange a tutoring session at a time that is convenient for you.

### Emergency Food Fund

Uconnect has a small food bank and gift certificates to help students in immediate need. Uconnect staff will gladly refer students to the nearest food bank and will also direct students to other community resources. If you need help just ask, it's just between us.

### Financial Aid Referral

Finances can be a big stumbling block for students and BCIT and BCITSA are committed to assisting as many students as possible. A referral to the right people and resources is what we are all about. Don't be afraid to ask for a little help.

### Student Development Workshops

YOUR education shouldn't be the only thing you walk away with from BCIT. Give yourself an edge and gain some experience and knowledge that can set you apart. BCITSA is committed to adding value to YOUR BCIT experience! Find out what we can do for you today.

### Special Events

Balance, as a student you hear that word a lot, but it doesn't mean much when you have 7 classes, projects due and exams. BCITSA hears that and offers an array of programming that is both fun and educational. Give yourself an opportunity to find some balance in YOUR life today.

### Volunteer Services

BCITSA Volunteer services will be focused on matching students to the right opportunity to help increase their confidence, experience and involvement in their community. Besides, it looks great on a resume. Volunteer experience can help fill in YOUR portfolio and help give you an edge when you graduate.