

# BCIT UPDATE

YOUR CAMPUS BULLETIN

JANUARY 25, 1988

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Q.** Your meetings with staff on January 13 and 14 to discuss the Park Report, formula funding, and other key issues were well attended. What was your impression of these meetings?

**A.** I was pleased with them. Although there are some negative implications from the Park Report, there are many positive things too. I am glad to see many sectors on campus focusing on the positive aspects.

The new formula funding scheme (due to be announced in February) could mean a reduction in funding for the Institute. We need to review our programs with regard to areas of specialization, the set system, and the number of contact hours. Dave Hume and Ian McNeil are in the process of carrying out an inventory of the academic side to help us make decisions about the future. A mechanism for continuous data collection is being developed to forestall the need for major inventories like this every three or four years.

**Q.** Why was an American appointed to the position of vice president, Student Services and Educational Support?

**A.** James Hammons was recommended by the Selection Committee because he was the best person available. He has an international reputation in education, extensive knowledge of the Canadian system, and more importantly, is familiar with BCIT. During 1978 and 1979 he came here as an educational consultant on leave from the University of Arkansas to work on various projects. He worked with department heads, managers and the educational group on developing functional responsibilities. He also worked with the Communication Department on curriculum and staff development and with Personnel on a plan to rationalize responsibilities within various departments.

Mr. Hammons is gaining landed immigrant status not on the basis of his job at BCIT, but because his wife is a Canadian currently working at Vancouver General Hospital.

**(Ed. Note: James Hammons is due to begin his new job at BCIT on April 1.)**

**Q.** How are twinning arrangements with other institutions proceeding?

**A.** We now have twinning agreements with Ngee Ann Polytechnic in Singapore, Pasadena City College and more recently with Guangzhou University in the People's Republic of China. Guangzhou has received funding from the World Bank to send some faculty to North American institutions for professional development and has approached BCIT for a placement. Ted Sutton of International Education will be visiting Guangzhou University to work out the details of hosting a member of their computer faculty. These twinning arrangements open the doors for faculty to experience a different culture while refreshing their skills and talents. I invite anyone who has an idea for projects under an existing twinning agreement, or who is interested in pursuing another twinning agreement, to contact me.

**Q.** What other initiatives are we undertaking in the area of international education?

**A.** We have a number of potential contracts for the future in both trades and technology. We hope an individual from CIDA will come here on executive release time to build BCIT into a strong contender for international contracts. In future, the international office must be able to generate its own operating expenses. The new manager is aware of this condition.

**Q.** What are your plans over the next few months?

**A.** I will be reviewing the role of trades programs, looking at the implications of the new funding formula and getting involved in other internal issues. We plan to address the criticisms made in the Park Report which, in part, involves raising the profile of trades in the institution.

**Q.** Is there anything else you would like to comment on?

**A.** Yes, I was very pleased with the approach being taken by the students as they organize Open House this year. I particularly like the idea of visitors being given passports that would take them into every area of the Institute, and hope this can be implemented. At the Open House kick off dance last week I was extremely impressed with the students' enthusiasm.

I expect good participation in Open House from both the trades and technology sides. We have a lot to be proud of and the opportunity to show it off to the public only comes once every two years.

## FIRST NURSE GRADUATES FROM CRITICAL CARE SPECIALTY

Mary Ann McKinnon is the first graduate of BCIT's Advanced Diploma in Health Science program, Critical Care Specialty program. She received her diploma at BCIT's January convocation ceremonies, watched by her supervisor at St. Paul's, Wendy Scott.

McKinnon completed her studies through the Compressed Time Frame program run in co-operation with St. Paul's Hospital, a program developed in response to the acute shortage of nurses in several critical care units. Under the arrangement, the hospital decides on the number of theory and clinical courses required to prepare nurses for beginning practice in a specific unit, selects students and arranges for some release from regular duties. The theory courses are completed while the nurses are working, then the students study the laboratory and clinical courses full time.

The Critical Care Specialty program has been under development for the past several years, with the assistance of the Critical Care Specialty Advisory Committee.

**OBJECTIVE: to ensure that the UPDATE gets to departments, instructors and staff it's never been to before.**

**Mission impossible? Not so. We now have two Operations Management students undertaking the task. Analyzing the distribution and circulation of the UPDATE will be Hilary Burgess and Jay Warren's Mini Project. It will help the second year students prepare for their major project in the fourth term — a full scale operations management project for industry.**

**Hilary and Jay will be in your area or department over the next few weeks. Please look out for them and offer any suggestions you may have. They are our link to better communication.**

**If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Kelly Mansell, Community and Media Relations, local 8865.**



## LETTER FROM OVERSEAS

Thanks to Harvey Lawson for sharing his experiences as an instructor working overseas.

To: The Editor, UPDATE  
December 15, 1987

Dear Trish,

I have been away from BCIT for 2 years and 7 months and I am looking forward to my return in September, 1988. I have heard about many of the changes that have already occurred and like everyone else am anxiously awaiting the outcome of the Park Commission.

I noticed that the International Education Office has information about several opportunities overseas so I thought some of my BCIT colleagues might be interested in my experiences.

These relate specifically to Singapore at N.U.S. and to Hong Kong at H.K. Poly but would also apply to similar institutions in these countries and perhaps to other parts of South or East Asia.

My comments relate to five aspects:

- a) Conditions of employment
- b) Teaching
- c) Housing
- d) Schooling
- e) Lifestyle

### a) Conditions of employment

In most cases you are being offered a permanent job on a contractual basis. If you are unhappy with any aspect of your contract it is important to negotiate it before you actually sign the contract. Some aspects are not easy to change but others are. The best example is salary. It is important that you have a good idea of your real worth. If you accept a salary below this it is difficult to get it improved and you may well find yourself the poor relation amongst your Expat. colleagues.

### b) Teaching

Teaching hours vary enormously from one institution to another and also according to rank. In Singapore the two Polys had twice the load of the University. H.K. Poly's loads vary from one department to another but the junior lecturers always pick up the highest loads. Principal and senior lecturers are expected to carry out various administrative duties such as course planning etc.

The language of instruction is invariably English but this is likely to be the second language of the student in most parts of Asia. Since most Asian students are much more reticent than their N. American counterparts two way communication is usually difficult to achieve. It is difficult to break students out of their school habits where learning by rote appears to be the norm and the teacher is unchallenged. If you require a high level of interaction to enjoy your job then this is quite frustrating and hard to overcome.

### c) Housing

Housing in Asia is often surprisingly expensive. As a result contracts usually provide housing. The problem with this is that you are totally dependent upon the employer as to quality and location.

There is usually very little choice as you are limited to what is available when you arrive. In Singapore the N.U.S. flats were usually better than the two Polys'. In HK the quality is far better, but location is a much worse problem. Furnishing can also be necessary since at best you are provided with ugly functional pieces. This does provide the incentive to buy your own quality Asian pieces to take back. N.U.S. did not provide any appliances while H.K.P. provides cooker and fridge.

### d) Schooling

An English education is usually available in most Asian countries where Expats are employed. Curriculums are either U.K. or U.S.A. based while European schools exist in some cities. Older children may be left at home or sent to boarding school. Fees are usually refunded on a contractual basis. We have been very pleased with both Tanglin School in Singapore and the E.S.F. in HK, but would have more concern if our boys were older. Some families receive fares for children at university too.

### e) Lifestyle

This determines whether it's all worthwhile since we each usually have already given up a good job, a nice home, excellent schooling for the kids, as well as family and friends. To each his own, for some people love it, while others hate it. We just aim to make the most of it. There is plenty enough to drive you crazy both at work and in the outside. However, there are equally some very positive aspects that make Expat. living so enjoyable. Just like anywhere else life is largely what you make of it. Some of the things we have enjoyed most include:

- the climate (but we miss the skiing)
- the Oriental cultures
- the fabulous shopping
- the wide variety of food
- the sport (till my knee gave out)
- the friends we have met
- the travels we have made and will make

From a professional perspective I feel I have particularly benefitted. Both N.U.S. and H.K.P. have provided me with opportunities to teach at higher levels, plan new courses, and interact with academics from a wider background.

I am very pleased that BCIT places so much emphasis on its International links and strongly feel that staff should consider taking advantage of any suitable opportunities. If anyone requires any further information I will be pleased to assist. I would also be happy to meet up with anyone visiting HK prior to July 1988.

Kindest Regards,  
Harvey

Hong Kong

*(Harvey Lawson is an instructor in the Financial Management Department)*

## STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to **Gail Apa** in Library Acquisitions and husband Frank on the birth of their first baby. Jonathan was born January 18, weighing 3678 grams (8 lbs. 14 oz.).

## COMPUTER PURCHASE PLAN APPLICATIONS EXCEED FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Computer Resources Department has received more applications than they have funds for under the Institute's Joint Computer Purchase Plan.

The department has resolved the difficulty of selecting from the 110 excess applications by holding a lottery. The ten applicants drawn will be individually notified and placed at the top of a waiting list. Vacancies generated by qualified applicants who wish to drop out after they become aware of specific system costs and brands (during confirmation) will be filled from the waiting list. Fifteen applications received after the November 30 deadline will also be added to the waiting list.

Computer Resources are estimating a total of 9 to 13 weeks from January 18 for selection of compatibles, ordering, delivery and set up. Existing contracts with IBM and APPLE enable the IMB PS/2 and MACINTOSH choices to arrive 4-6 weeks earlier.

## MILITARY TO VISIT BCIT

One hundred uniformed personnel from the Canadian Forces Base at Chilliwack will tour BCIT on February 2.

The visit, which has been arranged by President Murray, includes a general tour in the morning and special individualized tours in the afternoon. A New Technologies Seminar has also been arranged for some members of the military staff.

Plans for 100 BCIT personnel to visit Canadian Forces Base Chilliwack in June are currently underway. Let's give our military friends a warm welcome when they arrive on the 2nd.

## SUPPORT NEEDED FOR WEIGHT WATCHERS CLUB

Two BCIT staff members have found out that Weight Watchers will come on campus if enough interest is shown by staff. So, if you have 10 or more pounds to lose and would like to participate in a campus Weight Watchers program, please call Leslie at local 8817 or Brenda at local 8230.

### BCIT UPDATE

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