BCIT Alumni build a better GAIT

ERIC BYRES, A RESEARCH LEADER at BCIT’s Group for Advanced Information Technology (GAIT) has just won the Best Article Award for 2004 from InTech, a journal published by the Instrumentation Systems and Automation Society (ISA).

While the award is a great accomplishment for Eric, it is also a testament to the cutting-edge work being produced by GAIT.

The lab boasts an impressive client list that includes the US Department of Defense, the British Security Service, British Petroleum, Honeywell, Syncrude Canada and the US Department of Homeland Security. “Most of our research is focused on learning new ways to test critical control equipment so that it is protected before the hackers try to attack it,” notes Eric.

Eric’s team is primarily composed of BCIT alumni, each of whom brings a unique perspective to the GAIT project.

Another member of the team, David Leversage, graduated from BCIT’s Electronics Engineering program in 1982 after serving with the Canadian Armed Forces. In the intervening years, David worked in the engineering department of Bell Communication Systems, performed telecommunications work for CSIS and taught classes at the RCC Institute of Technology. “My research at GAIT involves risk analysis,” says David. “It’s demanding but the work itself is very intriguing.”

Frank Marcus, Dipl.T ’02 (Data Communication Systems) came to GAIT after spending a year designing video games. At GAIT, Frank spends most of his time analysing security statistics and developing risk assessment models.

“This job is more practical than anything I’ve ever done before,” he exclaims. “It is the perfect match for me.

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New BCIT Aerospace Technology Campus takes flight

THE NEW AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS being constructed at the gateway to YVR will be a world-class, state-of-the-art facility for our aviation programs at BCIT. This 250,000 square-foot landmark building will replace the current campus and is expected to draw a larger student population, provide an increased program scope and invite greater industry participation in future BCIT endeavours. This special project initiative has received a high level of support from BCIT, the Province of British Columbia and many private donors.

To date, upwards of 30 private corporations, foundations and individual donors have come on board, excited by the new opportunities that accompany a facility with the capabilities this campus will have. Donors have generously given both financial commitments and gifts in kind of new industry equipment.

Significant donations will be recognized through the naming of allocated spaces throughout the facility as a demonstration to students, staff, faculty and guests, of the commitment by donors to providing BCIT students with the best education possible.

Stay tuned for updates on the steady progress of this new campus, which promises to highlight BCIT as an international leader in aerospace training and research.

Building Science Centre of Excellence opens doors

MOISTURE DAMAGE to building envelopes is a problem that has plagued the Lower Mainland for almost 20 years. On September 30, BCIT made its own contribution to solving this costly building issue by establishing the Building Science Centre of Excellence (BSCE). Amid a crowd of industry leaders and politicians, the ribbon was officially cut to mark the opening of the new Centre of Excellence.

“This centre represents a larger initiative at BCIT which is to advance building science in Canada,” said John English, dean of the School of Construction and the Environment. “We aim to take research and translate it into practice; take knowledge and move it into the real world.”

The Building Science Centre of Excellence (BSCE) is a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to promoting the study of building technology. Researchers at the centre are conducting field monitoring of wind-driven rain on buildings. In B.C.’s damp climate, controlling rainwater offers the best way to reduce the risk of moisture-related failures in buildings. By understanding this phenomenon, BCIT researchers hope to find more effective ways to combat the problem.

The BSCE is also designed to promote educational initiatives. It supports the delivery of courses in the Architectural and Building Engineering Technology diploma program, the Architectural Science Bachelor of Technology degree program as well as a variety of other Engineering Technology programs throughout BCIT. The BSCE is currently in the process of developing a Master’s degree in Building Science.

“We aim to establish ourselves as the primary facility for research and educating students in building science,” said director Hua Ge. She described the opening as “a celebration of what BCIT has done for so many years for building science.”

The Building Science Centre of Excellence acknowledges the support of BCIT’s School of Construction and the Environment and its many sponsors, including the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, FortisBC Canada, the Homeowner Protection Office, Western Economic Diversification Canada and the B.C. Building Envelope Council.
BCIT celebrates the best

ON JUNE 9, the BCIT Foundation held its fifth annual ‘Celebrating the Best’ donor recognition event at the Downtown campus. Over 200 donors were present at this celebration, which acknowledged their commitment and support to BCIT students and programs.

“Your contributions to student awards, scholarships and bursaries, project funding or in-kind gifts sends a clear message that you believe, as we do, that investment in students is an investment in the future of our province,” said Wendy Slavin, Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors and senior vice-president, CIBC Branch Banking, B.C. and Northern Territories in her recognition speech.

The luncheon featured special remarks from key donors and was rounded off with words of appreciation from student award recipient and Nursing student Julia Cornerter.

A warm thanks goes to the BCIT Foundation staff for organizing this successful event.

Sharing knowledge, sharing success

AS A BCIT GRADUATE, you know the path you chose made all the difference. Your choice to pursue a BCIT education gave you the knowledge and skills to build a career and contribute to your community.

The Alumni Association’s ‘Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Success’ alumni campaign celebrates the value of your BCIT education and honours your connection with today’s students. We have a special opportunity to increase your direct support to students. BCIT has pledged to match, dollar for dollar, all contributions to the BCIT Alumni Association Scholarship and Bursary Endowment Fund up to a total of $25,000.

“Every hardworking student at BCIT deserves a chance to cultivate his or her talents and dreams through education,” says BCIT Alumni Association president Shantal Cashman. “The Alumni Association Endowment Fund validates these students and lends them a helping hand forward in life.”

Your gift to the alumni campaign benefits students.

A bursary is given to a student who needs financial assistance to continue his/her education and maintain a modest standard of living. Bursary recipients are full-time students with a satisfactory academic performance, who are financing their education with student loans.

A scholarship is offered to a student with an outstanding academic achievement. Scholarship students must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better. For the brightest students, the availability of scholarships often determines which post-secondary institution to attend. A well-funded scholarship program can help BCIT compete effectively for outstanding students.

An award is given in recognition of special accomplishments like community service, and cultural or social contributions to campus life.

Become a Pacesetter for the Alumni Campaign

BCIT Alumni Association president Shantal Cashman, Marketing Management ’00 and Alumni Campaigns Chair Gordon Farrell, Financial Management ’66 would be honoured to have you join them in “setting the pace” for this year’s campaign. It is a commitment of $500 and offers special recognition at the ‘Pacesetters’ giving level:

• your name will be recognized as an Alumni Campaign ‘Pacesetters’ in our Winter 2006 Alumni Campaign direct mail package being sent to 30,000 alumni, in the Ambassador newsletter and on the BCIT Alumni website
• you will receive a personal invitation to the BCIT Foundation annual donor recognition event, ‘Celebrating the Best,’ and advance notice of ticket sales for the 2006 BCIT Distinguished Alumni Awards event
• you will receive a signed limited-edition print illustrating four BCIT campuses while supplies last.

Recognition at the $250 or greater giving level

In appreciation of a gift of $250 or more to the alumni campaign, you will receive a free BCIT limited-edition print while supplies last. This original watercolour and ink illustration of four BCIT campuses — Downtown, Marine, Burnaby and Aerospace — displays the polytechnic nature of BCIT.

To support the BCIT Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Success alumni campaign, please make your cheque payable to the BCIT Foundation and direct your gift to BCIT Alumni Association Endowment Fund.

It’s easy and secure to donate to the Alumni Campaign online at www.bcit.ca/foundation/makeadonation. Or mail your tax-deductible donation to: BCIT Foundation, 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2

Thank you for supporting BCIT students!

(The BCIT Foundation/Alumni Association requests the privacy of our alumni. Our privacy policy may be found at www.bcit.ca/foundation/privacy)
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Many more discounts and benefits are provided by the myBCIT card program.
Drop by the Burnaby campus at the BCIT Library (SE14) or visit www.bcit.ca/alumni/benefits to get your Alumni myBCIT card ($35 with a five-year expiry).

Reunion
Class of ’95 Building Technology gets together
After months of trying to connect with their classmates, Jennifer Elderkin and Scott Ando were successful in getting a group together in Langley on September 20, 2005. A good time was had by all who attended!

Just a few of the attendees at the Class of ’95 Building Technology Reunion.
Bottom row (l–r): Mark Liudzius, Lesley Birtles, Pat Murphy, Jennifer Elderkin, Stan Franssen. Top row (l–r): Mark Anson (grad), Dennis Vaillant (instructor), Mike Lesley’s boyfriend.

Allegretto, Trevor Dean
Antonson, Brian
Ashton, Linda
Averbach, Gary J.
Axford, Joan
Baker, Richard S.
BCIT Alumni Association
Beaulieu, Frank
Beckett, Brian
Beech, Barry L.
Bell, Paula Marie-Louise
Benjammitz, Mona
Betuzzi, Christopher
Bilkesberger, Bonita Ann
Bonkowski, Robert
Bray, Bernard Michael
Brodien, Peter
Brown, Patrick W.
Carlyle, David B.
Cashman, Shantal
Catt, Daniel J.
Craioveanu, Patrick M.
Chan, Daniel
Cheung, Anthony K.
Clarke, Laurie Margaret
Connelly, Heather J.
Counsell, David K.
Crosby, Jennifer
Culligan, Terry J.
Curtis, Judith L.
Davidson, Gordon
Dhalawal, Sarjinder
Dhillon, Karan
Diana, Dino A.
Dodge, Douglas L.
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Wong, John T.
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Zhar, Alex Isaac
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Kudos! Congratulations to the following individuals and organizations for their recent honours and appointments

BCIT Electricity student, Adam Byron (ELTT 00), represented Canada at the WorldSkills 2005 competition in Helsinki, Finland, in May.

With an enhanced role at the Institute in advocating the polytechnic vision at senior levels of the private sector and government, Laurie Clarke assumes the position of vice-president, Development in addition to her role as executive director of the BCIT Foundation and the BCIT Alumni Association.

Congratulations to Chris Golding, former dean of BCIT’s Learning and Teaching Centre who was recently appointed vice-president of Learning and Technology Services.

It’s possible that condolences, rather than congratulations, are to be extended to March Heinokosky. Just as he was preparing to retire, he was asked by BCIT president, Dr. Tony Knowles to take on the (acting) vice-president, Education portfolio while the Institute conducts a national search for the new vice-president.

Once again, BCIT broadcast communications grad, faculty and students shine at the 2005 Jack Webster Awards in October. Honorees were Steve Lus, Dipl.T ‘98 (his second Webster in a row!), Rob Brown Dipl.T ‘97, Pamela Post, Dipl.T ‘93 (who won a fellowship last year), Ed Watson, Dipl.T ‘90, Sophie Lui, Dipl.T ‘95, Dana Hutchings, Dipl.T ‘01 and Michael Tymchuk.

Broadcast Journalism faculty members Connie Monk and Mary Kay Thurston were announced as two of four winners of the Webster Broadcasting Fellowships (awarded earlier this year). Current students Charmaine De Silva, Dan Burritt, Sheila Calder and Eva Ziltener received B.C. Hydro Student Journalism Awards. BCIT’s 90 Broadcast Journalism students in attendance at the gala event dominated attendees from B.C. journalism schools!

Sherry Magon, director of Alumni Relations was elected to the national board of the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAE).

Program head for Medical Laboratory Science, Karen Nicholson, won the A.R. Shearer Pride of Profession Award.

Once again, BCIT’s collegiate chapter of the American Marketing Association (BCITMA) dominated the International Collegiate Conference in New Orleans earlier this year. This is the fourth year in a row that we’ve reported on our Marketing students’ success! Nineteen BCITMA students competed in three major categories: Sales Competition, School Exhibit and the Case Competition. They achieved BCIT’s highest showing yet—in all three categories, BCIT came first. In the Sales Competition, our students also achieved second, third, fourth and fifth place standings! Congratulations to Larissa Beardsmore, president, 2004-05 BCITMA and to all the students who competed.

BCIT Piping students won gold, silver and bronze medals at the provincial Skills Canada Plumbing competition in April. Congratulations to Matt Robertston, Matt Willett and Malcolm Webster.

Financial Management students also took home honours from the B.C. Portfolio Management Challenge in April. BCIT placed first in the college division in their very first year of participating. Congratulations to BCIT’s team: “Precious Profits.”

Tom Wells, Microanatomy and Histology instructor at BCIT, is the first Canadian to ever win the Leica Leadership in Teaching Award from the National Society forHistotechnology (NSH). The award is given annually to an individual dedicated to teaching Histotechnology. Tom received his “surprise” Award at the BCIT Medical Laboratory Science Convocation on October 18.

Euclid Seemam, winner of last year’s Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award has been appointed editor-in-chief of the Canadian Journal of Medical Radiation Technology.

Norm Shaw, Dipl.T ‘69 (Forestry-Renewable Resources), instructor in Forest Ecosystems was recognized as the Forest Technologist of the Year in February by the Association of B.C. Forest Professionals (the largest professional forestry association in Canada).

New BCIT appointments:

- Jill Atchison was promoted to manager, Accounting Services.
- André Beaudy is the new director of Fund Development in the BCIT Foundation.
- David Bough was promoted to director of Learner Services.
- Ron Budd became acting controller for the Institute.
- Mark Bullen, Dipl.T ’77 (Broadcast Journalism) appointed associate dean, Curriculum and Instructor Development in the Learning and Teaching Centre.
- Randy Friesen, BTech ’91 and Dipl.T ’90 (Marketing Management) appointed director of Marketing and Communications.
- Vince Laxton, Dipl.T ’01 (Financial Management) was appointed manager, Purchasing.
- Davna Mackay was named associate registrar, Systems.
- Allison Markin recently joined BCIT as manager, Media Relations.
- Michael P. Stewart was appointed senior systems analyst in Computer Resources.
- Bill Verran joined the School of Transportation as director of Quality Assurance.
- Dr. James Watzke (associate director, Human Factors Research) took on a six-month appointment as acting dean of Applied Research.
- Dr. Norman Streit undertakes a special assignment aimed at developing and expanding BCIT’s applied research industrial collaborations.

If we’ve missed someone who should be honoured, please let us know. We’ll do what we can to include the notice in the next issue of the Alumni Ambassador.

BCIT Inspires TrueSource

They may have recognized each other in the hallways on their way to class. Never would they have imagined that five years later they would be sharing office space in Calgary, leading a website management company and forever changing the way websites are controlled. Two BCIT alumni, from the class of 2000 Computer Systems and Marketing Management programs, recognize their BCIT education for the success of TrueSource Corporation.

Ryan Chantler, a Computer Systems graduate, is now president and CEO of TrueSource Corporation. Carrie Ray Truober, a Marketing Management graduate, is director of Sales and Marketing. Both Ryan and Carrie credit their BCIT education for “fueling their passion to develop and market a complete website management solution that provides organizations control over their websites with very little technical knowledge.” This easy to use management system called TrueWeb has grown to be a very powerful Internet software package. BCIT gave Ryan and Carrie the industry knowledge and experience to give clients limitless possibilities to market and create profits online.

Visit www.TrueSourceWeb.com to see how these two BCIT alumni are enabling organizations to take control of their websites. We can only imagine where they will take TrueSource over the next five years.
BCIT Alumni Association 26th Annual General Meeting

THE BCIT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting was held on May 19 at BCIT’s downtown Vancouver campus. Shantal Cashman, president of the Alumni Association, presented highlights of the association’s activities and accomplishments in 2004–2005. A copy of the 26th annual report is available to members of the association. Please contact the Alumni Relations Office at 604-432-8847 to obtain your copy. During the event, the association said a fond farewell to two long-standing members of the Association Board of Directors, both past-presidents of the BCIT Alumni Association: Kazamir Falconbridge and Bill MacPherson.

Nancy McKinstry, Dipl.T ’70 (Marketing Management), Chair of the Minerva Foundation, gave a passionate and eloquent keynote address about giving back to your community. Following are some key points that Nancy made during her comments:

“With opportunity comes responsibility. Each one of you has a gift that you can share with those around you, who are less fortunate, a gift that can make a difference culturally, socially, artistically or environmentally. Choose your charity from the heart with an objective of being proactive and results-driven. Whatever action you take, make the decision thoughtfully but embrace it passionately. Use your influence to engage your family, your colleagues and your companies.”

“I built a micro-firewall,” he says, “and BCIT sent me down to Houston to an ISA conference to present it. It’s still a prototype but it planted the seeds of an idea.”

“The InTech award is yet another demonstration of GAIT’s emerging reputation as a progressive research facility. With this recent award, Eric Byres and his team of BCIT alumni are, once again, making valuable contributions to the field of critical infrastructure security – and fortifying BCIT’s position as Canada’s premier polytechnic.

Confucius Institute

BCIT has been awarded the first Confucius Institute in Canada. Initiated by China’s National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, the Confucius Institute is part of China’s national plan to expand its economy by assisting people worldwide in understanding the Chinese language and culture to increase both trade and tourism. The goal is to create 100 Confucius Institutes around the world and to associate these with post-secondary institutions in large urban areas by 2010. The Confucius Institute is located on the 8th floor of BCIT’s downtown Vancouver campus.

BCIT at the Mall!

THE BCIT MOSAIK MASTERCARD is actively promoted on campus at BCIT. In addition to this, from time to time you’ll also see a kiosk set up at Metrotown, Richmond Town Centre, Seven Oaks, Lynn Valley and Brentwood Malls – all promoting our affinity card. This is an opportunity for us to reach people in the general community who support BCIT and the contribution this institution makes to the Province of British Columbia. Take a look next time you’re in these malls, and if you haven’t got your BCIT Mosaik MasterCard yet, consider applying when you see the promotion! Every time you use your BCIT Mosaik Mastercard, BMO Bank of Montreal supports the BCIT Alumni Association, and we, in turn, support alumni and student programming and the Alumni Association Scholarship and Bursary Endowment Fund. If you’d like to apply on-line, see the ad on the back of this issue of the Ambassador and go to mosaikcard.com/offer and enter code BCITALU to qualify for a special introductory interest rate of 5.9% for six months. Or call 1-800-263-2263.

Continued front page…

I’m really enjoying it. Relevancy is the most important thing to me.”

A biologist with over seven years of experience in ornithology, Darren Lissimore (Dipl.T ’02 – Data Communication Systems) had always been interested in computer systems. It was his Bachelor of Technology (’05) practicum project that won him recognition at GAIT.
BCIT celebrates the Distinguished Alumni Awards

THE ELEGANT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL offered an auspicious setting for honouring winners of the 2005 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Over 425 guests were present to celebrate the achievements of this year’s distinguished alumni and faculty.

“We are delighted this evening to recognize a group of people whose accomplishments are as remarkable as they are diverse,” said BCIT Alumni Association president Shantal Cashman. “These individuals epitomize the quality with which BCIT has come to be identified – through our programs, faculty and, most importantly, our graduates. We are here tonight to celebrate their success and raise awareness of BCIT programs in the community.”

This sentiment was echoed by BCIT president Dr. Tony Knowles who told the assembled audience that “we are pleased to have you here to celebrate our outstanding BCIT alumni.”

Sophie Lui, a BCIT Broadcast and Media Communications graduate (’95) who currently anchors the 5 p.m. news on CH TV in Victoria, served as the master of ceremonies for the event. “BCIT prepared me well for my industry,” she told the guests. “Having BCIT on my resume got my phone-calls returned a lot faster.”

During the first course, guests were serenaded by Laura Doyle, another BCIT Broadcast and Media Communications graduate, who has embarked on an ambitious musical career since graduating from the Institute. Her affecting vocals were accompanied by Graeme Coleman on piano and Myles Hill on bass.

Honourees were introduced to the audience through a series of video presentations which highlighted the achievements of each distinguished alumni winner and included testimonials from colleagues and friends. These amazing videos can be viewed at www.bcit.ca/alumni/awards.

Marshall Heinekey, who currently serves as BCIT’s vice-president, Education, was honoured with the Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement. In addition to his numerous contributions to BCIT, Marsh worked with the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists to develop national standards for colleges and institutes across Canada and served as president of ASTTBC.

“This is an incredible evening for me tonight,” said Marsh, upon receiving his award. “I’m honoured and humbled to share this with you and with my family.”

“You never know how life is going to work out,” he continued, as he reflected on his life. “Always listen to your wife... Take preparatory steps. You don’t know where things are going to take you.”

The other award recipients, profiled on the next page, were equally touched by the recognition and eloquently thanked BCIT and the Alumni Association for the honours bestowed.

Three lucky winners of the evenings’ draw prizes took home what promise to be memorable experiences – a night at the Four Seasons Hotel with breakfast, a weekend trip to Victoria by helicopter with two nights at the Grand Pacific Hotel and a whale-watching tour, and participation in the BCIT Alumni group tour to the Okanagan wine country. Heidi Kriz, winner of the wine tour which went on October 14-16, remarked upon her return that she and her guest had a fantastic time.

The extraordinary evening was brought to a close by Laurie Clarke, vice-president, Development and executive director of the Alumni Association. In a moving speech, Laurie paid tribute to the evening’s honourees and to the accomplishments of all BCIT graduates. “We know there are many successful BCIT alumni in all walks of life,” she said. Although five alumni received awards on September 29, there’s no doubt that many more BCIT graduates will take their place among our distinguished alumni in the years to come.
Award recipients

Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement

Marshall Heinekey A.Sc.T
Dipl.T ’75 Civil and Structural Engineering (BCIT), B.Tech ’82 Civil Engineering (Ryerson), Dipl. Adult Ed. ’85, MBA ’93 (Asia/Pacific University)

Marshall Heinekey (Marsh), who began his BCIT career in 1976 as a lecturer and coordinator in the field of Civil and Structural Engineering, is recognized for his outstanding contribution to BCIT and the engineering community. Known as a passionate and responsible leader, Marsh earned a great deal of respect among his colleagues for his willingness to take on new initiatives and to help people grow. Marsh is currently the acting vice-president, Education at BCIT.

BCIT Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award

Carroll Nelson
MBA ’97, BSc ’70 Home Economics (UBC)

Carroll has been a BCIT teaching faculty member for 25 years. As program head for Marketing Communications and Direct Response Marketing, she is credited with re-branding the marketing curriculum, initiating the hugely successful internship program and introducing the first Direct Marketing program in Canada.

Distinguished Alumni Award for Significant Contributions to a Trade or Industry

Robert Calnan
Dip.T ’77 Nursing (BCIT), BScN ’87 and Mid ’96 (UVic)

Robert Calnan is currently leading the Practice and Evaluation Component of the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Project. This is a federally-funded project aimed to promote the sustained integration of nurse practitioners in primary health care across Canada. Rob has shown outstanding professional leadership, having served as president of both the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. and the Canadian Nurses Association.

Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to the Community and Professional Leadership

Peter Robinson
Dipl.T ’76 Fish, Wildlife, Recreation (BCIT), BA ’83 Geography and Post Baccalaureate Dip. ’96 (SFU), MA ’03 Conflict Analysis and Management (KPU)

Peter Robinson is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Mountain Equipment Co-op, Canada’s largest outdoor equipment retailer. Peter began his career as a park ranger, where he was twice decorated for bravery by the Governor General of Canada. Peter has contributed his time and energy to a variety of humanitarian causes including the work he does for the Canadian and International Red Cross. Earlier this year, Peter received the Order of the Red Cross.

Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in Applying Technology and Technical Skills

Robert W. Deverall
Dipl.T ’76 Chemical and Metallurgical Technology (BCIT)

Robert W. Deverall (Rob) is the co-founder of ASL Analytical Service Laboratories Ltd., one of the largest environmental laboratories in Canada. Rob now serves as the director of Business Development for the ALS Group in North America. Rob has published several articles pertaining to laboratory and regulatory development, and is currently Chair of the Canadian Council of Independent Laboratories.

BCIT Alumni Association Outstanding Student Leadership Award

Erin Smith
Dipl.T ’04 Financial Management, ASTB and BBA ’05 (BCIT)

Erin Smith, a recent graduate of the Business Administration post-diploma program, earned her degree while serving as the 2004-05 BCIT Student Association president. Erin was instrumental in educating students and the BCIT community about the BCITSA. She has recently taken on an accounting position with British Pacific Properties.

We gratefully acknowledge the 2005 BCIT Distinguished Alumni Awards Program Sponsors:

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If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Awards program, please contact Sherri Magson, Director of Alumni Relations at 604-432-8847.

Nominate someone you know for 2006

Nominations are invited for the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Awards. The submission deadline is midnight, March 10, 2006. Contact the Alumni Relations Office at 604-432-8847 for more information.
The association welcomes five new directors

Elected Directors (Three-Year Term 2005-2008)

Adam Pion, Financial Management '94
Adam is a director at UBS Bank (Canada). He has served as an advisor on the BCIT Foundation Planned Giving Advisory Committee and a mentor at the annual Alumni and Student Mingler. Adam was recently elected by the Board to be vice-president of the Alumni Association.

David Yochlowitz, Administration Management '87
David is CEO of ABC Recycling Ltd., a family-owned and operated business in Burnaby, dealing in ferrous and non-ferrous metal recycling.

Cheryl Anson, ELTT '00 (Joinery)
Cheryl has been a part-time instructor with the Trades Discovery program at BCIT, and is currently an employment counsellor with Trade Referral Assessment Direct Employment Strategy (TRADES). She also does equipment consulting for large woodworking shops and individuals. Cheryl will focus her involvement on the Board on making the association more relevant to and inclusive of trades training graduates and apprentices.

Scott Blythe, Communications and Outreach Manager, BCIT Student Association
Scott is a professional employee of the BCITSA and has been asked to serve as a staff representative on the BCIT Alumni Association Board to help provide continuity in representation from the S.A. Scott has six years experience working in student organizations, in the student development area. He holds a BA (Archaeology, Philosophy and Sociology) from the University of Saskatchewan.

Ashley Steier, President, BCIT Student Association
2005 is the first year that the Student Association (BCITSA) has been approached to provide an appointed representative to the BCIT Alumni Association. Ashley graduated in June with a Dipl.T in Financial Management and is currently working on his Bachelor of Business Administration while serving as president of the BCITSA. The Board is pleased to welcome Ashley and the participation of the BCITSA in helping the Alumni Association to achieve our goals of being more relevant to current students.

Appointed Directors (Non-Voting 2005-2006)

Appointed Director (Non-Voting 2005-2008)

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BCIT moves forward with TEK

INSTRUCTORS AND ALUMNI are the backbone of BCIT’s Technology Enabled Knowledge (TEK) Initiative, a new approach to learning and teaching that promises to reinforce the Institute’s position as Canada’s premier polytechnic.

The TEK Initiative was launched in April 2005 as part of an effort to emphasize teaching excellence and make BCIT more responsive to industry needs. “What makes TEK unique is that we started with an educational vision of what an ideal educational environment might look like,” says Dr. Maggie Beers, TEK academic lead. “We took this scenario and broke it down to determine what infrastructure and support systems would be required to make that happen.”

As Maggie explains, TEK lets instructors break out of the traditional classroom structure and gives students an opportunity to stay connected during their apprenticeships and work placements.

The philosophy embraced by TEK represents a win–win situation for everyone involved. A BCIT radiology student, for example, can learn about different aspects of her profession from many people: instructors, vendors, clinicians, doctors, technicians. Together, these professionals make up the student’s community of practice.

“A lot of the alumni who leave BCIT come back as mentors,” says Maggie. “Once students graduate from BCIT they will be able to participate in a community of practice but their role will shift. They will be involved as professionals. This is a way for them to give back to their profession and stay connected to BCIT.”

The only element missing from David’s grassroots project is the participation of alumni. “We’re currently seeking mentors,” Maggie enthuses. “These instructors had creative teaching ideas they were waiting to make happen. Our students are showing a high level of professionalism and gaining important practical skills. So how does TEK work? BCIT faculty recently launched 45 “grassroots projects,” which use educational technology to enable learning in exciting new ways.

A good example of TEK’s potential can be found in David Chaplin’s Sales Management course. While much of the course is taught in the classroom, David has supplemented his classes with an online component. Between classes, students receive and submit assignments, participate in group discussions and confer with industry experts in an online environment.

“We have industry people online,” explains David. “There are five students to one industry advisor. At the end of the course, the students give a presentation and are graded by industry people.”

“Each student posts an idea; they generate ideas online and then have a head-start when they finally get together for a meeting. What would have been a two week process, now takes less than a week: the students get an assignment on Wednesday with a due date on Monday.”

In this new arrangement, students are judged by industry standards. Online technologies also give students the time they need to engage in strategic thinking, an increasingly important component of the sales process.

“The element missing from David’s grassroots project is the participation of alumni. “We’re currently seeking graduates with at least a year of professional work experience under their belts,” he says, “people who can act as mentors for our current students.”

In the six months since it was initiated, TEK has already realized most of BCIT’s goals for Year One. “We are particularly pleased with the success of the TEK Grassroots Projects,” Maggie enthuses. “These instructors had creative teaching ideas they were waiting to make happen. Our students are showing a high level of professionalism and gaining important practical skills. We’re really impressed with the enthusiasm everyone has shown for this Initiative.”

The TEK Faculty Advisory has begun seeking new faculty proposals for Grassroots Projects.

For more information on this and other goals of the TEK Initiative, on submitting proposals or on being an alumni mentor, please visit www.bcit.ca/tek.
WHEN BCIT GRADS first ‘hit the street’ in 1966 a new group of highly skilled workers entered the job market. Filling the gap in the career spectrum between university graduates and trades, BCIT’s grads sought their rightful place, not an easy task as employers had little idea as to the qualifications of ‘technologists.’ Enter John Leech, a bit of an activist and someone with a penchant for taking on tough, yet worthwhile challenges.

John was among BCIT’s early grads, completing a Diploma in Surveying (’70) and Photogrammetry (’71). He also completed studies in Civil Engineering (’71–’72), the year he established BCIT’s first pub on campus… little wonder he is two courses shy of a third Dipl.T!

From his student days John saw the need for BCIT grads to achieve professional recognition for their credentials. John and a few other engineering techs were the first Student Members of the Society of Engineering Technologists of B.C. (SETBC), a professional association formed in 1958. Not long after he achieved his CET professional credential (later changed to Applied Science Technologist – AScT), the association hired John in 1974 as its first Executive Director. That was three decades ago and he is still going strong.

In 1985, after eight years of hard work and much lobbying, the association achieved a significant milestone when government approved the ASTT Act, changing SETBC to the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC) as a self-governing professional association. In 1974 ASTTBC membership stood at about 1,200 with a budget of $75,000. Today ASTTBC is about 8,500 members with a budget of just under $2 million. “We’ve come a long way as a self-governing professional association, both in terms of professional recognition and rights to practice. And we recently paid off the mortgage on the Association’s 4,000 sq ft building.” While there has been considerable progress in ASTTBC’s 47 years, some ASTTBC members lament the slow progress. “I remind them that this is a marathon and not a sprint. It will take time to earn our place,” stated Leech.

John has served BCIT, including: member, BCIT Board of Governors; board member and president, BCIT Alumni Association; and co-chair, BCIT’s 20th Anniversary Celebration. John has been recognized for his work, including the BCIT Citizenship Award and the BCIT Alumni Achievement Award.

The marathon continues…John Leech makes ‘professional recognition’ a career focus

John Leech in his office.

John parlayed his BCIT credentials into a lifetime career in association management. He acquired the designation Certified Association Executive, and served on the Board and as president of the B.C. Chapter and subsequently national Chair of the Canadian Society of Association Executives.

While his work is not yet done, John is looking ahead to the day when he can take a bit more time with his wife Jennifer Christenson who has just retired as a school administrator. Making their home in Nanoose Bay on Vancouver Island, John ‘telecommutes’ to the ASTTBC office in Surrey.

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12
Engineering the future of medicine

MARK CARDENO, AGE 24, takes great pride in his work, researching and developing new technology for cancer detection and treatment. His enthusiasm is evident as he shows off the new state-of-the-art laboratories at the B.C. Cancer Research Centre in downtown Vancouver where he works as a biomedical engineering technologist.

After completing a Diploma of Technology in Biomedical Engineering at BCIT, Mark took on a position in the Photonics Lab at the centre, which consists of five to six people among a large group of research colleagues numbering between 40 and 50. He feels very lucky to work in this collegial atmosphere of dedicated researchers.

His career history since his graduation in 2001 is written on the equipment in the laboratories. His first job at BCCRC was to do testing and quality control on cameras and optical systems. Soon after starting his career at the research centre, he was launched onto an independent project to develop an automated machine that could put many different cell samples on a single glass slide — in any predetermined pattern. The prototype, he shows, is a large flat moving table-top multi-slide holder, over which a moving arm ranges which holds a multi-cell depositor head. It distributes the multiple cell samples from the depositor head onto each slide. He manipulates the machine, which he calls the “automated cytology micro-array depositor,” with computer commands displayed on a large desktop monitor. He says there are still many studies to be done on the machine’s performance before it is ready for broad use.

Now, he is working on a new project, designing an optical device for looking at the surface of cervical tissue to detect cancer. He shows a detailed, fully shaded 3D CAD drawing of the proposed device on his computer — it almost resembles a photograph. He explains how different wavelengths of light — ranging from ultraviolet through to near infrared — will be selected and directed at a cervix with this device. The light will excite the cervical tissue, sending an image back into the optical system, which can be analyzed. Healthy tissue will react to the light and look differently than cancer tissue. This project is being done under the direction of Dr. Calum MacAlay. A current BCIT student is helping out on the project under Mark’s supervision.

There are still many steps before the machine is marketable. A prototype of the machine must be made and testing done, including test runs in medical clinics. Mark is particularly excited about being involved in clinical studies as part of his job. He thrives in the open professional environment where there is a lot of give and take of knowledge and expertise. He feels pride in working on something really meaningful to people. And research work is just what he wanted to do.

What about the future? Mark continues to upgrade his education at BCIT and is working on a Bachelor of Technology Degree in Technology Management (Health Option).

Ultimately, he says, he would like to work in the area of managing staff to create more medical technology.

Have you thought about laddering your credential by taking the next step?

BCIT offers Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Technology degrees. Bachelor programs are available in the following areas:

- Accounting
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- Biotechnology — joint Bachelor of Science degree with UBC
- Computer Systems
- Construction Management
- Electronics
- Environmental Engineering Technology
- Environmental Health
- Forensic Investigation
- Geomatics/GIS
- Management
- Manufacturing
- Medical Imaging
- Nursing
- Specialty Nursing
- Radiation Therapy
- Technology Management

For more information, please visit our website: www.bcit.ca/study/credentials/bachelors

Architectural Science degree comes to BCIT

BCIT’s new Bachelor of Technology degree in Architectural Science has just completed its inaugural year. The interest has been overwhelming and the industry has given high praise for the competencies and skills exemplified by the students in the program.

The role of the architectural technologist has become more complex as greater consideration is given to environmental, cultural, social and economic conditions. The industry has been transformed by changes in population demographics, increased cultural diversity and the pressures of such issues as building envelope integrity, sustainability, green building technology, recycling, retrofitting, renovation and restoration. With such a wide range of new challenges, architectural technologists often find that they must continue to advance their skills in order to meet the demands of the workplace.

The Bachelor of Technology degree in Architectural Science is a bridge between pure design theory and construction practice. This program broadens the knowledge and skills of the architectural technologist in areas of current interest to the building community, increases opportunities for job placement within the industry and improves the graduate’s opportunities for career advancement.

The degree enables students to:
• develop the technical, artistic and managerial literacies necessary for advanced placement as architectural technologists
• apply emerging technological theory and practices within the process of planning and design to solve complex problems in the workplace
• apply problem-solving methodologies to construction technology, design and management issues with respect to the building industry
• incorporate environmental issues associated with building and urbanization

For more information on BCIT’s Architectural Science degree, please visit www.bcit.ca/study/programs/8050btech.
Grapevine

BCIT Alumni are In Demand, Delivering Results — and we’re hearing more and more about you! As space prevents us from printing all the information and updates we’ve received, we invite you to visit www.bcit.ca/alumni/grapevine to read up on all the latest news.

2002
Martyn, Justin
Broadcast and Media Communications – Television
Justin works as a master controller at Shaw TV Victoria. See Alumni Association’s website for photos.

2001
Allard, Etienne
Plumbing EITT
Etienne works as a mechanic with the Cirque du Soleil show, Dralion.

2000
Evans, Lorna
Human Resource Management
Lorna teaches at Birbeck College, University of London.

2000
Clark, Claude Anthony
Computer System – Artificial Intelligence
Claude works as a computer numerical control operator at Magna Powertrain.

1998
Brenetti, Jessica Anderson
Broadcast and Media Communications – Radio
Jessica is an interior designer who runs her own business in Nova Scotia.

1995
Jung, Jason
Mechanical Systems
Jason is the manager of Membership Development at ASTTBC.

1994
Rosher, Paul
Renewable Resources – Forestry
Paul works for Northwest Hardwoods in Nanaimo, B.C.

1993
Walkley, Dan
Power Engineering – Technical
Dan works for National Silicates in Surrey.

1992
Harder, Paul
Wood Products Manufacturing
Paul works for Taiga Building Products.

1991
Comeau Thompson, Michele
Marketing Management – Advertising and Sales Promotion
Michele works for Tourism Whistler as director of Communications.

1990
Thompson, Christine (Bennett)
Marketing Management – Advertising and Sales Promotion
Christine operates her own home-based copywriting business.

1995
Jung, Jason
Mechanical Systems
Jason is the manager of Membership Development at ASTTBC.

1994
Rosher, Paul
Renewable Resources – Forestry
Paul works for Northwest Hardwoods in Nanaimo, B.C.

1993
Walkley, Dan
Power Engineering – Technical
Dan works for National Silicates in Surrey.

About ASTTBC...
ASTTBC is a self-governing association of technology professionals with 8,500 registrants including technologists, technicians and technical specialists. ASTTBC’s mandate is to regulate the standards of training and practice of and for its members and to protect the interests of the public.

For more info... www.asttbc.org

THE ASSOCIATION FOR TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
Matter, Michael
General Nursing
Mike works as a nurse educator at MSA Hospital and his wife, Arlene (nee Holm; Nursing ’91) is a case manager for Home and Community Care.

1987
Mosiano, Billie (Bijouks)
Marketing Management – Advertising
Billie would LOVE to hear from her fellow classmates at bjm4493@telus.net.

1985
Beer, Janice
Nuclear Medicine
Janice has her CGA credential and lives in Maple Ridge.

1982
Rachwalski, Theresa (Lukowski)
Marketing Management
Terry earned an MBA from Royal Roads University and lives in Victoria.

McLennan, Gerald
Computer Systems
Gerald is the director of Strategic Planning for All Weather Windows in Edmonton.

Leclair, David
Computer Systems
David lives in Ottawa and works with the Canadian Commercial Corporation.

1981
Chwalsinski, David
Civil and Structural Engineering
David works as a Design Engineer at B.C. Hydro.

Luehr, Richard
Mechanical Systems
Richard oversees the development of lightweight sleepers for Western Star.

1976
Yip, Iyla
Medical Laboratory Science
Iyla runs a medical practice in Vancouver.

1974
Chin, David
Operations Management
Too young to retire, too old to be hired. Kids are grown. Launched JunkyardDawgs Rubbish Removal.

1972
Fairweather, Roderick
Administrative Management
Rod owns North Island Chrome Inc., a company specializing in hydraulic cylinders.

1969
Srouch, Erin
Electronic Engineering Technology
After 35 years in the electrical contracting business, Erin has retired to Vancouver Island.

Shortreed, John
Survey – Photogrammetry
John is director, Professional Ethics and Practice Investigations for ASTTBC.

1968
Cruft, Thomas
Business Management – Marketing
Tom enjoys a successful career in real estate.

1966
Pollock, Ronald
Hospitality Administration
Ron retired after 33 years with Weyerhaeuser and 30 years as a certified general accountant.

Stay in Touch! We want to hear your news! Stay in touch and help us keep our records up to date.

In Memoriam

The Alumni Association Remembers

Enns, Joshua
Tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident on October 2, 2004, Joshua graduated from BCIT in 2001 with a certificate in Structural Drafting.

Morrison, Janet
ETech ’92 (Specialty Nursing)
We are very sad to inform you that Janet passed away May 21, 2005 four days before her 34th birthday, after a brief but courageous fight with cancer. She left behind her husband Paul, a wonderful seven-year-old son, Braden, and a beautiful two-year-old daughter Paige.

Sondergaard, Flemming
Flemming passed away in June 2005 at age 65. He served on both PTVs and BCIT’s Board of Governors. Flemming was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by BCIT in 1994. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Larkin, John-Paul
John-Paul, DiPT ’00 (Financial Management) known to his friends as JP, was an automobile accident early Friday morning on November 11, 2005. JP succumbed to his injuries and passed away in the company of his friends and family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Isak, Ronald Neal Peter
Dipl ’61 (Civil and Structural Engineering). After graduating from the Institute and working for 15 years as a Civil Engineering Technologist, Ron returned to BCIT to teach for 18 years. He chaired the BCIT Board of Governors, BCIT Alumni and the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board, and was an active member of ASTTBC. Ron is survived by his wife, Bonnie, his children, grandchildren and his parents. A gathering was held on December 10 in Abbotsford to celebrate his life. If friends so desire, donations may be made to the CKNW Orphans Fund or the B.C. Cancer Agency.

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— Winston Churchill
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