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# alumni ambassador

## The Rivers Institute



**THE CREATION OF THE RIVERS INSTITUTE WILL ENSURE THAT BOTH NOW, AND IN THE FUTURE, BCIT PLAYS A GUIDING ROLE IN RIVER-RELATED RESEARCH, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE, BEST-PRACTICE MANAGEMENT OF THE WATERWAYS OF THE PROVINCE, AND IN FACT, THE WORLD.**

A LEADING GIFT of \$1 million from Rudy North, president and founder of North Growth Management Ltd. and environmental philanthropist, has established the Rivers Institute at BCIT—the first entity of its kind in British Columbia.

The Rivers Institute will build on the BCIT vision of being integral to the economic, social, and environmental prosperity of British Columbia. It will unite the public in an effort to protect the world’s rivers, increase public awareness about the importance of our waterways, conduct state-of-the-art river-related research, provide financial support to students, and will be led by world-renowned conservationist Mark Angelo.

“BC’s natural heritage is arguably one of the greatest of any economically developed regions in the world,” said Rudy. “I am confident that this initiative at BCIT will become a driving force for keeping BC a natural wonder of the developed world.”

The Rivers Institute will also celebrate Order of Canada recipient Mark Angelo as the Rudy North Chair in River Ecology, the first such position in Canada. As program head of the BCIT Fish, Wildlife and Recreation (FWR) program, Mark brought attention to the critical importance of healthy waterways, founded both BC and World Rivers Day, and inspired thousands of students and stakeholders throughout his 35 years at BCIT.

*Continued on page 3*

*The BCIT Alumni Association connects and engages alumni in a lifelong relationship with the BCIT community by providing innovative programs and services which support alumni and student success.*

### What’s Inside

Alumni Benefits .....	3
Faculty Go Above and Beyond ....	4
Annual General Meeting .....	4
Junior Robotics Competition .....	5
Financial Management Grad’s Journey to Ottawa .....	7
Students Teach Business Skills to High School Teams .....	7
Research and Commercialization Takes Shape at BCIT .....	8
Kudos .....	10
What Would You Change? .....	11
Giving to Help Students Succeed .....	12
Grapevine .....	14
In Memoriam .....	15
Stay In Touch! .....	15

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# Did you know?

## AS A GRADUATE OF BCIT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE BCIT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

The Alumni Association doesn't charge any one-time or annual dues—your membership is free. So how is it possible that the Alumni Association can make leadership charitable gifts to support BCIT student scholarships and bursaries, library resources and other priorities on campus? How does the Alumni Association host a no-charge Annual General Meeting event, and sponsor the BCIT Distinguished Alumni Awards and BCIT Alumni Open Golf Tournament? Where does the money come from?

It comes from alumni and students participating in loyalty and affinity programs, which are designed to not only generate revenue, but to be of benefit to you, our association members.

Our affinity program partners:



The more alumni and students who sign up for these programs, the more you as customers benefit—and the more revenue the association will have to make an impact on the success of BCIT and our students.

We don't charge you a membership fee, we only ask that you take a little time to keep us up to date with your email and mailing addresses, to read and consider the opportunities that we forward to you, and to show your school spirit by making the choice to participate in one or more of our programs.

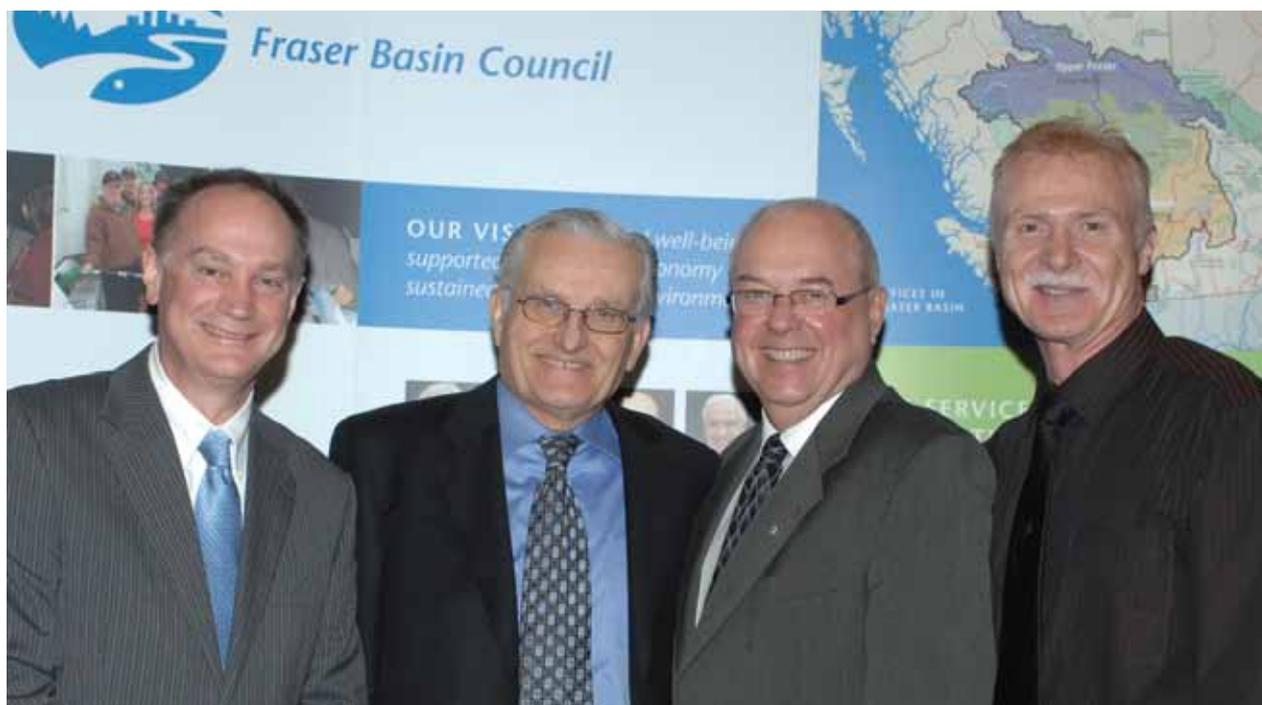
Visit [bcit.ca/alumni/benefits](http://bcit.ca/alumni/benefits) for more info. Thank you!

*Rivers Institute continued from page 1*

“BCIT is most fortunate to receive this timely and important contribution from Rudy, who has been a strong supporter of the FWR program for many years,” says Laurie Clarke, BCIT vice president, Development. “The creation of the Rivers Institute will ensure that both now, and in the future, BCIT plays a guiding role in river-related research, raising public awareness, and

developing sustainable, best-practice management of the waterways of the province, and in fact, the world.”

Among others, local examples of initial projects will range from efforts to protect key riverside habitats along the Heart of the Fraser between Hope and Mission, and major restoration initiatives on Guichon Creek and Still Creek in Burnaby.



At the 2009 State of the Fraser Basin Conference where the gift announcement was first revealed. L-r: Don Wright, BCIT President; Rudy North, President, North Growth Management Ltd.; Charles Jago, Chair, Fraser Basin Council; Mark Angelo, Rudy North Chair in River Ecology.

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**President's Message**

Well, spring has sprung, finally. For me it has been a long cold winter and not just weather-wise. As a portfolio manager I have (probably like many of you) felt the global economic crisis keenly and continue to hope for sunnier weather on the horizon.

In fact, I am particularly hopeful that the sun will shine brightly on us in July for our second annual Canadian Direct Insurance BCIT Alumni Open. We are at \$820,000 raised to date for our student aid endowment, and, with fundraising from the tournament, a major contribution from the association's affinity program revenues and from individual alumni giving this year, I fully expect to announce at our 30th Anniversary Annual General Meeting in May, 2010, that we have hit our million dollar goal. Supporting student success is very important, particularly so in difficult economic times.

Please join us at this year's AGM on May 20 to hear President Wright unveil the institute's new Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles. As you know, BCIT is an integral contributor to the social and economic well-being of British Columbia, and we all have a vested interest in the institute's continuing success.

As we come to the close of another successful year for the association, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our board members, committee, and event volunteers for all of their hard work and commitment. We will post the association's *Annual Report* on our website to give everyone the opportunity to review all of our activities over the course of the past year. A particular highlight for me was launching the BCIT Alumni Open golf tournament, with fantastic support from sponsors and most particularly from our title sponsor, Canadian Direct Insurance.

To all alumni out there, let me just say that I'm happy, as you all must be, to see the end of the winter season and the coming of summer. Enjoy!

Adam G. Pion  
DiplT '94, Financial Management  
Portfolio Manager  
PIONMATIFAT  
Professional Portfolio Management  
ScotiaMcLeod

**PRESIDENT  
BCIT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

# Faculty go above and beyond



L-r: Gurpreet Sohi, Carol Edwards, and Peter Yau.

**MANY BCIT FACULTY MEMBERS** go beyond their teaching duties to help ensure their students have every advantage in getting a leg-up on their career search. Financial Management instructor Carol Edwards, is just one of many examples.

It is a particularly quiet day in the Great Hall on the Burnaby campus, perfect for a meeting of the minds. Carol has arranged for Gurpreet Sohi, DiplT '03 (Financial Management—Financial Planning), and Peter Yau, a current student who will graduate from the Business Management diploma program in May, to meet in hopes that Gurpreet can share some insights with Peter on the real world after graduation.

Gurpreet is a senior financial consultant with MD Management Ltd. Peter holds a Bachelor of Science in

Chemistry from UBC, and he wants to combine his interest for the sciences with his passion for business. He plans to complete his diploma and get to work, with the goal of combining his new business skills with his science training to specialize in life sciences research ventures.

Carol, who has been teaching at BCIT for more than 10 years, enjoys directing her students to a place, idea, job, or understanding, and feels that alumni in particular are a great resource, providing mentoring and practical hands-on experience. She started a formal mentorship program for her students eight years ago, connecting alumni with students who have questions about their education and career paths.

In the future, she hopes to see a centralized mentorship program rollout across BCIT with the help of alumni.

Carol introduced Peter and Gurpreet. She says Gurpreet is "super helpful" and has relied on his input on many occasions. He is advising Peter on life lessons that he wishes someone had told him when he was graduating from BCIT six years ago.

He's an exceptional one to give advice. After earning his Financial Management diploma, Gurpreet stayed at BCIT to complete his Bachelor of Business Administration. He continues to take part-time courses at night to gain his CFA certification.

## Annual General Meeting

**ADAM G. PION, PRESIDENT OF THE BCIT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING YOU AND YOUR GUEST AT OUR NETWORKING COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009.**

This is a great opportunity to network with your fellow alumni and learn more about what's happening at BCIT.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 20, 2009  
5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Formal program begins at 6:15 p.m.

**WHERE:** BCIT Downtown Campus  
555 Seymour Street  
Vancouver BC

Conference Room  
Second Floor

There is no cost to attend. Hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Cash bar.

**DRESS:** Business attire

**RSVP by:** Wednesday, May 13, 2009  
at [bcit.ca/alumni](http://bcit.ca/alumni)

Please mark your calendar and look for your invite soon.

If we don't have your email address, please let us know at [alumni@bcit.ca](mailto:alumni@bcit.ca).



# Junior robotics competition big success



Elementary student teams put their robots into action.



NEARLY 250 elementary and high school students from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, and across North America rolled out their robotic solutions to the issue of climate change on January 10 at the BCIT Burnaby Campus.

Competitors, ages 9 to 19, demonstrated their technological know-how, creativity, and team-building skills at the sixth annual BC FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League and the FIRST Tech Challenge Championship Tournament.

BCIT's Mechatronics and Robotics and Mechanical Engineering programs hosted the event which helps inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. This year, student teams programmed their robots to explore the growing questions around climate, including investigating greenhouse gases, wildlife, and changing climactic conditions.

Two teams from Metro Vancouver garnered top prizes. Students from Sullivan Heights Secondary School in Surrey took home the competition's winning

alliance in the FIRST Tech Challenge and earned the right to represent BC at the World Festival in mid-April in Atlanta, Georgia.

Elementary students on the Agents of Change team from U-Connect School in Langley won the Championship Award and will represent BC at the World Festival Competition by demonstrating excellent technological skills combined with gracious professionalism.

The FLL (FIRST Lego League) competition is judged in four areas: project presentation, robot performance, technical design and programming of the robot, and teamwork. The highest honours go to the team that best exemplifies the spirit and values of the program.

Currently in its 10th year, FIRST Lego League has more than 13,500 teams in 40 countries competing in hundreds of qualifying events and Championship Tournaments. More than 135,000 children will compete to win honours and recognition. Competitions are based on the belief that fun and learning go hand-in-hand, and that an inspired mind can accomplish anything.

## The myBCIT Alumni Card

The myBCIT Alumni Card provides alumni with access to many on- and off-campus services and discounts. The cards are \$35 and have a five-year expiry. You can have a photo-id card or one without a photo—the choice is yours.

A premier benefit of the myBCIT Alumni Card is a 20 percent discount off of one BCIT part-time course, up to a maximum of \$100. Please note, registration must be in person to qualify.

Drop by the BCIT Library (SE14) or visit [bcit.ca/alumni/benefits](http://bcit.ca/alumni/benefits) to get your myBCIT Alumni Card.



## Wood Catapult Competition

BCIT Civil Engineering students took part in the Canadian Wood Council's (CWC) Wood Catapult Competition on March 18. For the second year, the BCIT Student Chapter of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) sponsored a team in this exciting competition and they are pleased to announce that the BCIT team took the Third Place Catapult Design Award and the Best Team Spirit Award. Congratulations to the team!



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## The 2nd Annual BCIT Alumni Open is teeing off July 14.

You are cordially invited to attend the 2009 BCIT Alumni Open. Come out and enjoy a fun day of golf, food, and networking, all in support of BCIT students.

**DATE:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009

**PLACE:** Northview Golf & Country Club  
6857 168th Street, Surrey, BC  
[www.northviewgolf.com](http://www.northviewgolf.com)

**REGISTRATION:** 7:30 a.m.

**SHOTGUN START:** 10:00 a.m.  
Texas Scramble format

**DINNER:** Culinary stations  
open from 5:00 p.m.

**TO REGISTER:** [bcit.ca/alumni/open](http://bcit.ca/alumni/open)



## A TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL FROM BCIT **BCIT's Alumni at Work!**

### Michelle Bast, AScT

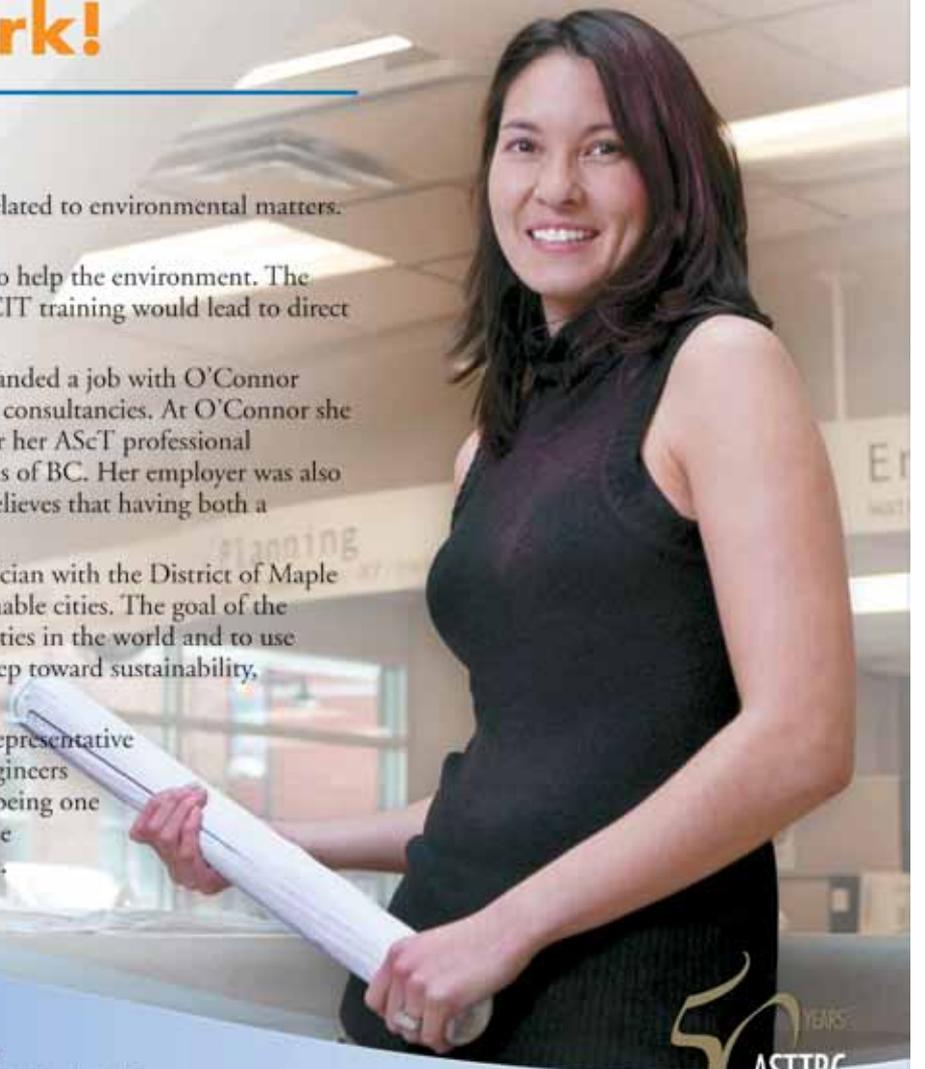
Most technologists and technicians have professional responsibilities related to environmental matters. Many are at the forefront of environmental technologies.

BCIT graduate Michelle Bast, AScT, always wanted to do something to help the environment. The hands-on approach at BCIT appealed to her and she could see that BCIT training would lead to direct exposure to many different professions in the environmental sector.

After graduating from Chemical Sciences at BCIT in 2001, Michelle landed a job with O'Connor Associates Environmental Inc., one of Canada's leading environmental consultancies. At O'Connor she met other technologists and engineers who encouraged her to apply for her AScT professional designation through the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC. Her employer was also supportive of her completing a Bachelor of Science degree. Michelle believes that having both a technical diploma and a university degree is a winning combination.

In 2008 Michelle Bast, AScT, accepted a position as a Planning Technician with the District of Maple Ridge. This career move fit with her interest in planning and in sustainable cities. The goal of the District of Maple Ridge is to be among the most sustainable communities in the world and to use leading edge environmental technologies. As a personal bonus and a step toward sustainability, Michelle's new job was only a 20-minute walk from home.

From 2005 to 2008, Michelle Bast, AScT, volunteered as ASTTBC's representative on the Sustainability Committee of the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC. She credits volunteering on this committee as being one of the benefits of membership in ASTTBC because it gave her a unique opportunity to get to know experts in the field and to learn from them.



Applied Science  
Technologists & Technicians  
of British Columbia



#### About ASTTBC...

We are a self-governing association of technology professionals with 9,000+ registrants including technologists, technicians and technical specialists.

**Our mandate...** to serve the public by regulating and supporting technology professionals' commitment to a safe, healthy, and sustainable society and environment.



For more info... [www.asttbc.org](http://www.asttbc.org)

THE ASSOCIATION FOR TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Financial Management grad's journey to Ottawa



**MICHAEL REDENBACH IS TAKING** his BCIT education to the far corners of the world. He has landed his dream job as trade commissioner for the Canadian Government. This role includes assessing market potential for Canadian companies abroad, advocating for Canadian business interests in markets around the world, and encouraging foreign investment in Canada and Canadian investment in other countries. After an 18-month training period, his first posting will be in Singapore where he will cover the Environmental Industries and Science and Technology portfolios.

Michael Redenbach graduated from the Financial Management diploma program in 2001. After graduation, he continued his studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax, where he received his bachelor's degree in Economics and Spanish. Michael then returned to Vancouver to head into the workforce.

Michael's first job out of university was with the Royal Bank, but after six months, the branch was closed and he was laid off. Although this turn of events may have seemed difficult at the time, it proved to be a major turning point in his career.

On December 26, 2004, the South Asia tsunami hit off the coast of Indonesia. After seeing this incredibly

destructive act of nature and all the terrifying footage on TV in the days that followed, Michael decided he needed to do something to help the recovery effort. He coordinated a fundraiser—a Tour de Stanley Park bike ride—with all profits going to the Red Cross. Although there was little time to plan, the event was successful with total donations raised over \$15,000 (\$30,000 including the federal government's matching funds). A few days later, unemployed, he called the Red Cross and asked if they needed a volunteer to help out. After a week of long volunteer hours, he was hired as finance manager for the Lower Mainland. Although the position was only for a four-month contract, it was the most rewarding job he had held to date and stirred in him grand ideas of fundraising, which is a direction he is considering in the future.

His Red Cross experience led to a job as an auditor with Consulting and Audit Canada, and following that he took a position with the RCMP as a financial analyst. Although he had a great job with the Mounties, Michael still had visions of going to faraway places. Finally, in March 2008, after a gruelling application process which included four exams, two interviews, and competition with 6,000 other applicants, he got the job offer he had long been dreaming of—diplomat for the Canadian Government.

Michael achieved his dream by following some of his own rules for career advancement—envision your ideal job, then start planning out the steps you will need to take, and the goals you will need to meet in order to get hired into that position. All of these plans, goals, and dreams are attainable with hard work and perseverance and the courage to embrace new challenges. Throughout his time at BCIT, and in the years since, Michael has continued to seek advice from his former BCIT instructor Carol Edwards, who has provided invaluable guidance along his career path.

## Students teach business skills to high school teams

**A TEAM OF BCIT STUDENTS** has embarked on an economic outreach project that focuses on mentoring secondary school students as they start their own business. Through the mentorship process, participants are taught financial literacy and business management skills which will prepare them for their future endeavours.

Through the Student Initiative Showdown project, students from BCIT are addressing the lack of business competitions available for students in the Burnaby area. This program aims to teach Burnaby high school students about budgeting for business, the importance

of record keeping, marketing approaches, sales tactics, presentation skills, and personal development skills.

Over the course of five months, six high school student teams each create, implement, and evaluate their own business plans. They are also invited to business workshops once a month leading up to the competition, where they present their project to a panel of post-secondary professors and successful local entrepreneurs. The secondary school teams are currently still working on implementing their businesses and will present a summary of their progress on April 25.

## Reunions and Alumni Connections

### BBA Annual Reunion

Thursday, April 23, 2009  
5:00–8:30 p.m.

Centre for Applied Research and Innovation (CARI)  
4355 Mathissi Place, Burnaby, BC  
RSVP to Heather\_May@bcit.ca.

### Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering Technology 1979

Doreen Cheng (nee Leon) would like to get in touch with her fellow Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering Technology 1979 graduates for a 30th year anniversary reunion in August 2009. Doreen can be reached at doreencheng1@gmail.com.

### General Nursing 1989

Attention all May 1989 General Nursing grads! Is there any interest in a 20-year General Nursing reunion this year? Contact Carolyn Breen (nee Prouse) at carolynbreen@shaw.ca if you're interested.

### Alumni LinkedIn

Several alumni who connected on the social networking site LinkedIn met each other in person at The End Café on Commercial Drive on March 31. It was a great opportunity for networking and business development. Undoubtedly the first of many more to come!

### BCIT School of Nursing 25-Year Reunion

Saturday May 23, 2009  
5:00–11:00 p.m. (dinner at 7:00 p.m.)  
Vancouver Lawn, Tennis and Badminton Club  
1630 West 15th Ave., Vancouver, BC  
vanlawn.com

We are looking forward to getting together with you to share memories, tell stories, win door prizes and enjoy an evening of good food and even better company!

For further information, please contact Elaine Schretlen at [eschretlen@telus.net](mailto:eschretlen@telus.net).

Join us and keep in touch via our website: [bcit25.webs.com](http://bcit25.webs.com).

# Research and commercialization



View Don Harron's ingenious video clips about assistive devices at [bcit.ca/appliedresearch/mobility/seniors.shtml](http://bcit.ca/appliedresearch/mobility/seniors.shtml).

## THE LINK BETWEEN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Research activities at BCIT are achieving greater prominence and focusing on activities with industrial and commercial relevance, where partnerships lead to benefits for the institution, business, industry, and students. There is a strong parallel between these research-based interactions, and the highly relevant education provided at BCIT. As Steve Clegg, a student intern at the Applied Research Liaison Office (ARLO) notes, “I am able to see how quickly BCIT is forming a variety of useful links between education and research.”

The ARLO is creating opportunities for students to gain valuable experience by participating in research projects and initiatives, while showcasing the careers and activities in applied research. Through this interaction, researchers and industry clients alike are seeing the value in BCIT's highly trained and job-ready students. As a result, more researchers and industry clients are asking for student support in the form of directed studies, market research and capstone projects.

*Reflections on BCIT's Vision*, a document compiled by the BCIT Faculty and Staff Association in 2008 states “BCIT is well positioned to make important contributions in applied research. This is distinct from, and complementary to the pure research that is the traditional domain of universities. The applied research at BCIT should be more focussed on functional outcomes; advancing best practice and product commercialization, solving problems and enhancing competitiveness for business and industry, while creating opportunities for students to apply their skills in real-life scenarios under the mentorship of faculty and industry sponsors.”

### PROTOgé program encourages innovation

PROTOgé is a BCIT program designed to help BC post-secondary students and recent graduates explore the commercial potential of their health-related technology prototypes or ideas. The program provides students with a hands-on learning experience about the commercialization process in moving their prototypes from idea to practical innovation.

The PROTOgé program is open to students from BCIT, Emily Carr, UBC, and SFU, bringing them together in multi-disciplinary teams encompassing programs such as Business, Industrial Design, Engineering, and Occupational Therapy. Students explore the potential of their ideas, and get a hands-on learning experience with a mentor team, during the commercialization process by developing their concepts into prototypes.

To date, three PROTOgé projects have acquired patents, and several participants have gained employment at mentors' companies, or in the medical or assistive device industry. This year, the student team from BCIT includes two recent graduates with their Touch Finder, an innovative use of technology that directs users to the location they want to be inside a large building like a hospital. Touch Finder is a free digital way-finding service that can also be implemented to enhance internal promotion or generate advertising revenue.

### BCIT Mobility Program for seniors and health professionals

With cane in hand, 84-year-old comedian Don Harron, and Christine Flegal, research head of the BCIT Technology and Product Evaluation Group (TPEG), are on a national media tour to educate seniors, their families, and health professionals about BCIT's Mobility, Now You're Going Places program.

Since its inception in 2005, the program has gained increasing publicity throughout the country, particularly in rural areas for effectively addressing the stigma associated with assistive device use such as canes and walkers.

“Although seniors understand the advantages of using assistive devices, most still don't use them for fear of looking too old, frail, or of being an obvious crime target,” says Christine. “Through humour (via Don's entertainment), peer-to-peer mentoring and expert advice, we are hoping to change the negative perceptions associated with assistive devices.”

Assistive devices can improve quality of life for seniors by helping them to maintain their independence and social connections as well as preventing falls. Considering the rapid growth of Canada's senior population, it isn't surprising that the program has been well-received by both seniors and health professionals. In 2008, BC's 65+ population was estimated at 636,367 and is projected to grow to 1,152,700 by 2025.

“More than 150 seniors in the rural towns have attended our mobility workshops, many of whom went out and bought a device afterward,” says Christine. “We have also distributed more than 200 mobility start-up kits to health professionals across Canada who want to run their own mobility programs for seniors.”



**BCIT IS WELL POSITIONED TO MAKE  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

# on takes shape at BCIT

## Intelligent grid promises multiple benefits for BC

BCIT is developing an intelligent power grid that could help the community manage household carbon footprints, and empower us all to make appropriate environmental choices.

“With the existing one-way power grid, we are unable to accurately measure and understand our power consumption patterns,” says Dr. Hassan Farhangi, director of BCIT’s Group for Advanced Information Technology (GAIT). “The intelligent grid’s communication technologies will allow the province to make smarter decisions leading to more reliable, efficient, and greener sources of energy.”

In collaboration with industry partners, BCIT is working on the first of a three-phase plan to roll out a micro-version of the intelligent grid at the Burnaby campus by 2010.

How will the micro-grid translate into results? At the campus residences, for instance, data from the micro-grid will inform the hours when utility systems need to operate at full power, and when they can function at reduced capacity to conserve energy.

## BCIT and local innovator collaborate on the Pill Crusher

It can be hard to swallow—that’s the idea that brought Dennis Kruger to the Technology Centre at BCIT. While on duty as a hospital employee in Mission, Dennis, the owner of AB Innovations, had observed health care staff crushing pills using whatever means possible, causing repetitive strain injuries. He realized that an automated device would make taking medication easier for patients and the crushing process safer for hospital staff.

“They were getting rotator cuff injuries, tennis elbow, tendonitis—you name it—all from crushing pills,” says Dennis, “we had little experience with electronic design or with control circuitry so we went to BCIT for those areas of expertise.”

With his input BCIT was able to research, develop, and provide a total solution allowing the functional prototype to be produced commercially. “One of the requirements was to minimize the space it would occupy so it would fit into the work flow of hospital staff and could be used in people’s homes,” says Gordon Thiessen, of the Product and Processes Applied Research Team at



L-r: Dr. Hassan Farhangi and Dr. Mehrzad Tabatabaian, whose work on BCIT’s micro-intelligent grid will establish the template for upgrading the provincial power grid into a more eco-friendly and cost-effective system.

In addition to managing emissions and downsizing our carbon footprints, once this smart technology is fully implemented within the next 20 years, it may potentially free up billions of government dollars currently used to meet increasing energy demands.

BCIT. “We miniaturized the electronics and optimized the mechanical layout to achieve these objectives.”

BCIT’s Applied Research Liaison Office was also able to help with the commercialization of the Pill Crusher and it is currently being provided to the health care industry, both as a commercial and home product. Dennis reflects on the success of his invention, “I could not have done it by myself. Coming to BCIT was a good experience, otherwise I’d still be working on it!”

## Find us on campus

The Alumni Relations Office is located at the Royal Oak end of Burnaby’s BCIT campus. We can be found in SE40, Room 230, 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, BC, V5G 3H2.



## Call for Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

The Alumni Relations Office is pleased to help prepare a nomination package for review by our Adjudication Committee in May. The deadline for notice of a nomination is April 30. Please contact us to begin the process of preparing a nomination or if you have any questions.

Exceptional members of the BCIT community are annually recognized for leadership, outstanding service, and innovation in any of the following areas:

- › Applied Research
- › Artistic Achievement
- › Entrepreneurial Innovation
- › Excellence in Applying Technology or Technical Skills
- › Lifetime Achievement
- › Professional Leadership
- › Public Service
- › Service to the Community
- › Significant Contribution to a Trade or Industry



Winners will be honoured at a gala event on September 23 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver.

POSITIONED TO MAKE IMPORTANT  
S IN APPLIED RESEARCH.

# KUDOS!

*Congratulations to the following individuals and organizations for their recent honours, achievements and appointments*

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### BCIT grads in 2008 Top Forty under 40

They are business innovators and entrepreneurs all under the age of 40 and all graduates of BCIT. *Business in Vancouver* newspaper recently selected six BCIT alumni to complete their 2008 “Forty under 40” list. The paper describes the winners as ambitious and tenacious leaders who routinely go beyond what they believe they can do. BCIT extends our congratulations to this impressive group of alumni, they are: **Dean Gagnon**, president, CityMax.com, DiplT ’93 (Technical Sales/Small Business Development), **Sharon Barnes**, CEO, RFind Systems Inc., DiplT ’91 (Data Communication), **John Brandt**, co-owner, Summit Brook Construction, DiplT ’97 (International Trade and Transportation), **George Rubin**, president, Day4 Energy, DiplT ’98 (Financial Management—Corporate Finance) and DiplT ’05 (Business Management—Accounting), **Steve Hawboldt**, president, Yellow Ridge Construction, Building DiplT ’89 (Engineering Technology), and **Samantha Legge**, vice president Marketing, Canada Wide Media Ltd., DiplT ’90 (Marketing Management).

### SIFE team takes third

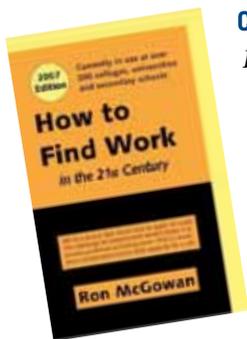
BCIT’s Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) team placed third in the regional Entrepreneurship Challenge and third in the regional Financial Literacy Challenge in Calgary on February 26 and 27.



### Young engineer takes top award

**Santino (Sandy) Pirillo**, P.Eng., DiplT ’97 (Civil & Structural Engineering) CertT ’95 (Drafting—Mechanical) was the recipient of the Consulting Engineers of British Columbia Young Consulting Engineer Award this year. He was honoured at an event at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre on March 7. Sandy is an engineer with McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd in Surrey, BC.

Also honoured at this event was MCW Consultants Ltd.—consulting engineers for the BCIT Aerospace Campus. The BCIT project won the Award of Excellence in the Buildings category, edging out the Richmond Olympic Oval-Base Structure and other significant provincial projects.



### Computer Systems grad writes bestselling book

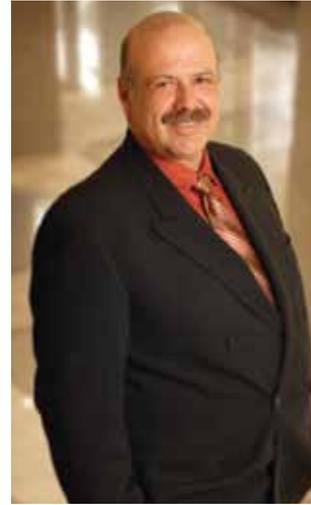
*How to Find Work in the 21st Century* (Self-Counsel Press) by **Ron McGowan** DiplT ’78 (Computer Systems) is now a bestseller. Ron is a career coach who has been helping college graduates and others find work for over 10 years. His articles have been published internationally, and he has written for the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Globe and Mail*. He is in strong demand as a speaker on finding work to universities, colleges, and secondary schools in North America and Europe.

### Top beetle man retires

Beetle boss Rod DeBoice DiplT ’77 (Renewable Resources) hung up his hat after 35 years of service with BC Forestry. The provincial expert on the bark beetle epidemic transmitted his final reports, and closed his offices in Kamloops, Prince George, and Merritt for good.

Rod takes solace as he reflects on what he leaves behind. “Just being out there and seeing clean water in new logging blocks, and seeing forests grow back. Having been a part of that—I’ll continue to enjoy that.”

## APPOINTMENTS



### Nagy appointed to Accounting Policy Advisory Committee

**John J. Nagy** DiplT ’77 (Financial Management) has been appointed by Carole Taylor, minister of Finance, to the Accounting Policy Advisory Committee of BC. The committee advises the treasury board as to the application and implementation of generally accepted accounting principles for the government reporting entity.

John is highly regarded in the financial industry and has served as president of CGA-BC and chair of CGA Canada. He has also served on the CGA Canada Professional Affairs, National Professional Standards, Public Practice and Education committees. He is currently the chair of CGA Canada’s International Qualifications Assessment Panel and is a member of the Canadian Accounting Standards Oversight Council.

### New acting dean School of Transportation

**Dr. Ken Takagaki**, dean of the School of Computing, and until recently, acting vice president, Education, will take on the role of acting dean of the School of Transportation while a search for a new dean takes place.

### Alumna appointed as acting vice president, Finance and Administration

**Jacqui Stewart** DiplT ’80 (Hospitality and Tourism Management) has been appointed as acting vice president, Finance and Administration. She will be acting in this capacity while the recruitment of a permanent incumbent is undertaken.

Jacqui is on secondment from the provincial government, where she has held various positions in the Ministries of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development and Health. Prior to joining the public service, Jacqui worked at the Hotel Georgia and Delta Hotels. Jacqui has her accounting designation as a CGA.

### New vice president, Education

BCIT is pleased to announce that our new vice president, Education is **Paul Dangerfield**.

Paul comes to BCIT following his time as the dean of Business at Capilano University. For most of his previous career he was with the Canadian Forces, where he rose progressively through the ranks. The positions he held with the Canadian Forces included chief instructor for the National Training School, vice president Human Resources, commanding officer, and chief of staff.

Paul has a Bachelor of Science (Chemistry) from Carleton University, a Master’s of Business Administration (Leadership) from Royal Roads University, and is currently working on a Ph.D. in Human and Organizational Development at Fielding Graduate University.



# What would you change?

USING SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEB 2.0 TOOLS TO COMMUNICATE TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS.



Marketing and Communications director Randy Friesen (Marketing Management '90, BTech Management '01) interviews potential BCIT students for his 3 Blog Nights video.

**HOW DO YOU REACH A GENERATION** of youth that has grown up in the digital era? BCIT has launched [whatwouldyouchange.ca](http://whatwouldyouchange.ca), a campaign developed by the Marketing and Communications and Web Services departments, designed to generate interest in BCIT by a key demographic of 16- to 24-year-olds. The site invites them to tell the world what they would like to change using social media and web-based applications. Visitors to the

site can generate content by creating photo mash-ups, posting videos, voting on submissions, and posting comments about what they would change to make their world a better place. As well, they can watch episodic video blogs featuring BCIT programs, and hear from industry leaders, including BCIT faculty, on discussion topics. Through their contributions and interactions on the site, visitors learn that the change they are looking for starts at BCIT.

There is a significant opportunity for alumni to get involved as well. Participating alumni can make posts, get involved in discussions, give advice to visitors thinking of attending BCIT, and act as mentors to potential students. Visit [bcit.ca/alumni](http://bcit.ca/alumni) or [whatwouldyouchange.ca](http://whatwouldyouchange.ca) to learn more on how to get involved.

In addition to the ongoing interaction on [whatwouldyouchange.ca](http://whatwouldyouchange.ca), BCIT launched 3 Blog Nights—video blogging, live blogging, tweeting, instant messaging, online discussion, and insider tours to the BCIT campus.

3 Blog Nights was launched at the BIG Info recruitment event on March 4 and continued non-stop until March 7 with a prize draw for five \$1,000 tuition vouchers for BCIT and other post-secondaries in BC. The blogathon was operated by staff from the Marketing and Communications, Registrar's Office, Web Services, and Program Advising departments for 67 hours straight and more than 75 videos highlighting BCIT programs, services, and spaces were uploaded to YouTube every hour on the hour. Students and visitors were encouraged to "tweet" via Twitter on the project's website, [bcit.ca/3blognights](http://bcit.ca/3blognights).

## Technology Professionals Shaping BC's Future



**Alumni.** Ask for our **Application for Registration** to become a qualified technology professional with ASTTBC.

**Employers.** Looking for the **best** to join your team? Call for **ASTTBC registration** and use our employment service CTEN... [www.cten.ca](http://www.cten.ca)

### As a Technology Professional, you are...

**Qualified.** 9,000+ technology professionals have qualified with ASTTBC. Gain **recognition** for the time and effort you've put into your career. Our professional titles and designations will speak volumes about **who** you are and **what** you do as a technology professional.

**Registered.** ASTTBC is responsible under the ASTT Act for regulating the professional standards and practice of technologists and technicians in applied science and engineering technologies. We currently register practitioners in... *biological sciences, biomedical engineering, building, chemical, civil, electrical, electronics, environmental, forest engineering, gas and petroleum, geomatics, industrial, information technology, mechanical, metallurgical and mining.*

**Accountable.** Technology professionals registered with ASTTBC are highly qualified people who are job-ready with education and experience, and are professionally accountable for their services.

**Explore the potential...  
discover the fit!**

Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia



**About ASTTBC...**  
We are a self-governing association of technology professionals with 9,000+ registrants including technologists, technicians and technical specialists.  
**Our mandate...** to serve the public by regulating and supporting technology professionals' commitment to a safe, healthy, and sustainable society and environment.



For more info... [www.asttbc.org](http://www.asttbc.org)

THE ASSOCIATION FOR TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Giving to help students succeed



This year, BCIT alumni, faculty, staff and even students are giving back in greater numbers to help students in need. At this time of economic uncertainty, this support for student awards and resources is even more critical to student success.

### Students, faculty and staff launch on-campus campaigns

In January, the BCIT Student Association held its first major fundraising campaign to fund student bursaries. The Toon-In campaign encouraged people to donate toonies to help students in need.

More than 130 volunteers collected \$6,100, which was matched by the institute to create the BCIT Toon-In Endowment, which will fund bursaries for full-time students in any eligible program.

Following the outstanding example set by the students, BCIT faculty and staff were invited in February to donate to the I See You and Raise You campaign to fund bursaries and library resources. The two-week campaign raised more than \$11,500. The Student Association has also made an outstanding gift contributing \$90,000, which the institute has matched with \$10,000 for a new \$100,000 student aid endowment called the Sharing Costs for Recognizing Excellence (SCORE) Endowment Fund.

Together—students, faculty, and staff demonstrated their commitment to increasing student access to education today and tomorrow.

### Alumni gifts bring endowment total closer to \$1 million

BCIT graduates have the power to change the lives of thousands of future students by making an annual donation to support awards and other initiatives at BCIT.

In 2008, alumni donated more than \$25,000 to grow the Alumni Association Scholarship and Bursary Endowment, which has helped more than 580 students since 1984. The endowment balance is currently \$820,000.

“The power of annual giving comes not from the size of the annual gift, but from the number of people who give,” says Adam Pion, president of the BCIT Alumni Association. “If just 3,600 grads gave \$50 each this year, we would meet our \$1,000,000 target. With this support, alumni can help future students access education and attract the best students to BCIT.”

## Thank you for sharing your success to help BCIT students.

### 1. I would like to make a gift of:

\$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Decide how to give

a.  Cash/Cheque (cheque payable to the BCIT Foundation—see address details below in section b).

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b.  Credit Card

Donate online at [bcit.ca/alumni/supporting](http://bcit.ca/alumni/supporting)

Donate by phone: 604.432.8847

Donate by mail: BCIT Foundation, 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5G 3H2

Credit Card Types Accepted:  Visa  Mastercard  American Express

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number

(please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. I would like to give monthly:

#### Decide how to give

a.  I authorize the BCIT Foundation to arrange a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from my bank account. I have enclosed a void cheque for the account.

b.  I authorize the BCIT Foundation to arrange a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from my credit card. Please complete the details in section b above (Gifts will be withdrawn on the 20th day of each month).

You can cancel your monthly bank or credit card gift at any time by calling 604.432.8847.

### 3. Your contact information

Please provide us with your home address and we will mail your tax receipt to you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Sign here

Please authorize your gift(s) by signing below.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Thanking our alumni donors

To recognize and thank our donors, BCIT publishes an annual Honour Roll. If you wish your gift to remain anonymous please check here

I would like my name listed in the Honour Roll as \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you. Every alumni gift will help us reach the \$1 million endowment goal!**

#### BCIT Matching Gift Program

BCIT will increase the impact of your gift with a 25-cent match for every dollar subject to available funds.

This means that a \$100 donation to the Alumni Association Endowment, combined with the match, will make a total contribution of \$125.

**Be an alumni pacesetter with a gift of \$500 or more and receive special recognition.**

Your gift qualifies for a charitable tax receipt. BCIT Foundation Charitable Registration Number BN: 87677 6824 RR0001

The BCIT Foundation and Alumni Association respect the privacy of our alumni. To view our privacy policy go to [bcit.ca/foundation](http://bcit.ca/foundation)

“Today’s BCIT students are tomorrow’s business leaders and skilled professionals. For over 35 years, I saw their inspiring potential and their struggle with rising educational costs. I donate to ensure students in need achieve their career dreams.”



## GORDON FARRELL

Financial Management '66, BCIT

- › Acting vice president, Education, 2000-2001
- › Dean, BCIT School of Business, 1995-2000
- › Member, Alumni Association Board of Directors, 1998-2007
- › BCIT Distinguished Service Award Recipient, 2007
- › Alumni donor since 1987

# Grapevine

2008



**Clegg, Steve**

*Marketing Management—Entrepreneurship*

After graduating in May of 2008, Steve took some time to travel Canada's East coast, hike the Rocky Mountains, and cycle across BC. Steve's

personal life is shared with his girlfriend of four years. Both enjoying the outdoors, Steve and Marla can usually be found at the top of a mountain, in the middle of the ocean, or cycling a country road.

As the new graduate intern at BCIT's Applied Research Liaison Office (ARLO), Steve is looking to gain as much practical experience as he can before continuing his career in business.

1998

**Barden, Blaine**

*Financial Management—Finance*

Blaine recently received his designation as a CGA and has been working as a financial analyst for the District of West Vancouver since 2001.

1997

**Palmer, Michelle**

*Marketing Management—Technical Sales/Professional Sales*

Michelle has worked in sales since graduating from BCIT, most recently as a sales representative for Gus Design. Since 2007, she has been employed by Canadian Blood Services as a community development coordinator. She is living in the Barrie, Ontario area with her daughter, Evan, who is six years old.

1988

**Cassidy, Dwayne**

*Operations Management*

Dwayne has bounced around the project controls business and BC for the past 15 years. Currently he is with Shell in Calgary. He and his wife Lynn are proud of their three teenage children, Sara, Taryn, and Brett. You can contact Dwayne on Facebook or at [dmcassidy@shaw.ca](mailto:dmcassidy@shaw.ca).

1982

**Gould, Ken**

*Operations Management*

Ken is working in the accounting department for a large, international corporation in downtown Vancouver. He has been instrumental in designing, developing, and implementing many of the Excel macros used by the Vancouver branch. He is also a Competent Toastmaster and the VP of Membership for Lincoln Toastmasters in Port Coquitlam. He will also be assisting the minister at his church as a worship assistant. On a more personal note, he recently gave the eulogy for his step brother.

1982

**Cholowski (McClelland), Natalie**

*Biological Sciences*

Natalie is a 1982 graduate from Biological Sciences/Food Processing option. She worked for the government for six years testing dairy herd milk samples. She was employed at a small dairy in Ladner for nine months. Natalie is currently employed at Saputo (Dairyland) in the Quality Control department. She has a great husband and two beautiful boys.

1980

**Greenhalgh, Bob**

*Marketing Management*

**Spouse: Suzan Greenhalgh**

*Psych Nursing '80*

Bob joined a foreign bank in Vancouver after graduation (thanks PW), he moved to Toronto in '92 to trade derivatives and in '97 he took a position with HSBC. Currently, he is the branch manager for the institutional fixed income sales and trading and DCM departments.

Suzan worked as a psych nurse in Vancouver, and has worked as a nurse in Toronto. She is currently taking time off to focus on the recent addition to their family: a four-year-old mare named Karissa. In their spare time they love to travel. They have two sons, ages 20 and 23.

1973



**Wike, Brett**

*Administrative Management*

Brett is living in West Kelowna and enjoys snowboarding, motorcycling, and summer boating on Okanagan Lake. He

has three grown children in their 20s and on their own, each in post-secondary education. Brett is with RBC Commercial Financial Services and a few years away from retirement.

1969

**Atherton, Murray**

*Hospitality—Administration*

Murray is still active with his own hospitality marketing and sales consulting company, Eaglecliff Hospitality Limited. He is also chair of Bowen Island's First Credit Union, chair of the Bowen Island Spirit of BC Committee, vice chair of the Bowen Island Community Foundation, member of the BCIT Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee and is now trying to figure out how to hit a golf ball on the Bowen Island Golf Course.



1968

**Shortreid, John**

*Geomatics*

In 2005, after a successful 36-year career in Geomatics, John went to work for the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC) in the role of associate registrar. He was appointed by ASTTBC's Council to the position of registrar, effective January 1, 2009. This new role is a highlight to his 40-year membership in ASTTBC in which he has served in many volunteer capacities, including that of president from 1981 to 1983. ASTTBC has provided professional recognition for many alumni over its 50-year history.



1966

**Whale, Norman**

*Broadcast & Media Communications*

Norman was one of the first graduates in 1966 from the Broadcast Communications program. He retired in January after 42 years with CHBC Television in Kelowna. He has written many software control programs, some currently used at CHBC-TV. He plans to continue writing software and teaching others how to use the computer.



## Director of Student Services retires

Jim Mitchell, ECert '84 (Recreation Facilities Management) is retiring from BCIT after 35 years of dedicated service. His retirement party will be held the evening of Friday, June 12, 2009, in the BCIT Gymnasium. Contact Gloria Katnick at 604.432.8287 for ticket information.

**Join us on June 12 and help roast and toast Jim into his golden years!**

# In Memoriam

The Alumni Association Remembers

## John Joseph Brooks

May 25, 1959–February 11, 2009  
Biomedical Engineering 1981



John passed away due to cancer at the age of 49. John was passionate about his work in the Okanagan health care system, which combined his interests in medicine and technology. His vast knowledge made him the go-to guy for colleagues, friends, and family. He was versatile in all aspects of his work and helped numerous people. He became respected in his profession both locally and internationally through work, as well as through taking and giving courses and lectures in Canada, the United States, and China.

In his name, his sister Lynne Taylor has created the John Joseph Brooks Memorial Bursary Fund to help further a second-year Biomedical student with similar drive, dedication, and passion as John had for the profession, maybe also with an eye to the Okanagan, to help carry out the work John was

unable to finish. Contributions to this fund will be gratefully appreciated, ([bcit.ca/foundation](http://bcit.ca/foundation)) tax receipts will be issued for all gifts.

## Scott McWilliams

Piping ELTT, TTCERT, 2007

Scott Ross, aged 20 years, passed away at Vancouver General Hospital on November 16, 2008. Scott is sadly missed by his loving parents, Brian and Barb McWilliams, sisters Brenda (Jason), and Jackie, grandparents Don and Lorraine McWilliams and Dorothy and Les Bradley, and many relatives and friends. Scott's family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to all the nurses and doctors of the Vancouver General Hospital ICU ward. A celebration of life was held at the Brookwood Baptist Church, Langley, on Monday November 24, 2008. In lieu of flowers, donations to the ICU ward of VGH would be greatly appreciated. There is an online site where tributes may be left at [mem.com](http://mem.com).



## Mindy Sahota

Marketing Management—Marketing Communications student

Mindy passed away on February 22, 2009. She will be dearly missed by friends, classmates, and family.

## Message from Bob Greenhalgh

Re: Phil Henderson  
Feb. 19, 2009

I was saddened to read in the recent *Alumni Ambassador* of the passing of Phil Henderson, former director of the BCIT Student Association.

I was a pub worker and later a shift manager in the BCIT student pub in 1978 and 1979 and was the BCIT Student Association treasurer for 1979–1980. During my two years at BCIT I came to deeply appreciate the perspective Phil provided. Phil was a true gentleman, with endless energy and patience, combined with good spirits. The world, BCIT, and the association were enriched by his presence; he will be greatly missed.



Your Name		BCIT ID (A00... ) #
Address		
Email		
Employer		Title/Occupation
Business Address		
Business Tel ( )	Fax ( )	
Program	Year Graduated	
Spouse's Name	BCIT Graduate <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Program	Year Graduated	
Would you like the above information shown on the BCIT Alumni Association website (alumni online directory)? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
I would prefer to ONLY receive the <i>Alumni Ambassador</i> online <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
Preferred Email Address		

Message for the Grapevine (please print, maximum 30 words)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
BCIT *Alumni Ambassador*, 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5G 3H2  
Or email it to us at: [alumni@bcit.ca](mailto:alumni@bcit.ca)

Unless otherwise requested, we will publish your news in the *Ambassador* newsletter and online Grapevine. Please note submissions may be edited for brevity and clarity.

The personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the College and Institute Act (RSBC 1996, Ch.52). BCIT will use this information to maintain alumni relations by providing notification of BCIT services and courses of instruction in technological and vocational matters and subjects. The information is also used to facilitate alumni surveys and research and to conduct fundraising appeals. BCIT, with the graduate's consent, also offers information about commercial products and services of interest to alumni. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this information, contact BCIT's Manager of Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy.

### Freedom of Information /Protection of Privacy Consent

BCIT Alumni Relations, the BCIT Foundation Office and the BCIT Alumni Association routinely contact alumni to offer BCIT programs and services, inform BCIT graduates about alumni events, administer elections of the Alumni Association, facilitate alumni surveys and research, and conduct fundraising appeals. BCIT Alumni Relations and the BCIT Alumni Association will also send to BCIT alumni marketing information about commercial products and services upon the consent of BCIT graduates. If BCIT Alumni Relations does not receive this returned notification, BCIT Alumni Relations and the BCIT Alumni Association will use your name, address or phone number for the purpose of marketing commercial products and services.

I do not authorize BCIT Alumni Relations and the BCIT Alumni Association to contact me for the purpose of marketing commercial products/services.

# WIN

BCIT Alumni have a chance to  
**Win a New Home  
Theatre System**  
valued at over \$3,500

**Early Bird Prize - Foursome to the  
CDI BCIT Open valued at \$1500**

As an alumnus you qualify for an additional 10% off your home insurance (maximum combined discount 60%). That means you could save 20% or more by switching to Canadian Direct Insurance.

Just call 1.888.225.5234 for a quote on your home or auto insurance, and let us know that you are a BCIT Alumni.

Not time to renew...no problem, just go to [www.canadiandirect.com/bcit.aspx](http://www.canadiandirect.com/bcit.aspx) and fill out our online entry form.

**Contest closes September 30, 2009.  
Don't delay - enter today!**

**Early Bird Draw closes June 15th, 2009**

*No purchase necessary. Approximate prize value \$3500. Contest open to B.C. and Alberta residents 19 and over. Contest closes September 30th, 2009 at 11:59pm. Canadian Direct Insurance and the BCIT Alumni Association respects the privacy and personal information of our alumni, donors and friends, please visit [www.canadiandirect.com](http://www.canadiandirect.com) and [www.bcit.ca/alumni](http://www.bcit.ca/alumni) to review our privacy policies.*



**For full contest details visit [www.bcit.ca/alumni/contests](http://www.bcit.ca/alumni/contests)**