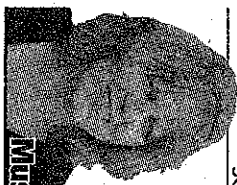


# There can be benefits to remaining true to your school

**E**very time I go to Vancouver, I always tell myself I'm going to go up to the Simon Fraser University campus on Burnaby mountain and see how much has changed.

I haven't been on the campus for over 20 years—the last day I was there was the day I graduated.

So, when I read last week that SFU was listed as one of the top 200



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universities in the world, I decided I could at least visit its website. So there it was, right in the middle of their homepage—a link to their

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alumni association.

The first thing that caught my attention is that there is going to be an SFU Alumni pub night in Victoria on Oct. 28. Too bad it's not in Kelowna—I think I would go if it was local.

I then visited the Okanagan College Alumni Association website, because I also went to Okanagan College for a short period of time and I am considered an alumna.

from this school too.

This month the Okanagan College Alumni Association hosted a Centre for Learning Alumni and Friends Open house to give alumni an opportunity to connect and to view the new Centre for Learning building. If you attended this event you could have won a weekend get-away to Big White or a Lenovo ThinkPad from Northern Computer—pretty great prizes.

Other events included the annual Alumni Association Awards dinner. This event held at Quail Ridge honoured some special alumni and hosted a silent auction where alumni could get some great deals. All proceeds went to the Alumni Association.

Now this is just October, but events happen throughout the year and are listed on the online calendar. Events such as BBQs, Christmas fundraisers, and monthly board meetings can all be found on the website. There are lots of opportunities to stay connected and touch base with some of those classmates you haven't seen since convocation.

But alumni associations do a lot more than host events. They also provide services and get some good deals for their members. This year, the Okanagan College Alumni Association is of-

fering alumni a special deal at Big White and Silver Star.

A popular service provided by most alumni associations includes signing up for an alumni credit card. You might think, why do you need another credit card?

Well, after checking out the SFU Okanagan credit card, the Okanagan College Alumni credit card offers a much better deal. Plus, by signing up you will make a donation to the alumni association and every time you use your card another donation is made. Other services include both medical and life insurance.

So you are probably wondering, why does an alumni association need money?

In the case of Okanagan College, as is with most of these associations, their alumni association is a not-for-profit charity that raises funds for alumni and student

programming that includes student bursaries (funding for current students that doesn't have to be paid back) and events. The association does not receive any funding from Okanagan College so all bursaries, events and services provided by the association are from funds raised at BBQs, through affinity programs and merchandise sales.

If you attended Okanagan College or OUC in the last 40 years, you most likely qualify as an Okanagan College Alumni. If you are interested in connecting with some of your classmates, getting involved with a great organization that does some neat stuff, or just having some fun, I highly recommend you reconnect by visiting [www.okanagan.bc.ca/alumni](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/alumni).

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