

Journal

APRIL 2006

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Key Directions Set

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS adopted a set of Key Directions for Okanagan College at their last meeting to complement the recently adopted Mission, Vision and Values. The key directions all focus on one primary strategic direction: creating a world-class Learning Organization.

Through the extensive consultation process that was at the heart of the College's strategic planning it became obvious that development as a learning organization is the umbrella objective that will allow us to realize our Mission and Vision and to implement these key directions:

STUDENT SUCCESS: Support student success with every student interaction.

EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT: Create an organizational development program that enhances personal and organizational growth and employee satisfaction.

FOUR REGIONS OF EQUAL VALUE: Develop sustainable programming and services in all four regions through programs that anticipate and meet student, community and employer needs.

FACILITIES: Create inspiring and environmentally responsible learning spaces.

QUALITY IN TEACHING AND LEARNING: Support a broad array of learner-centred methodologies.

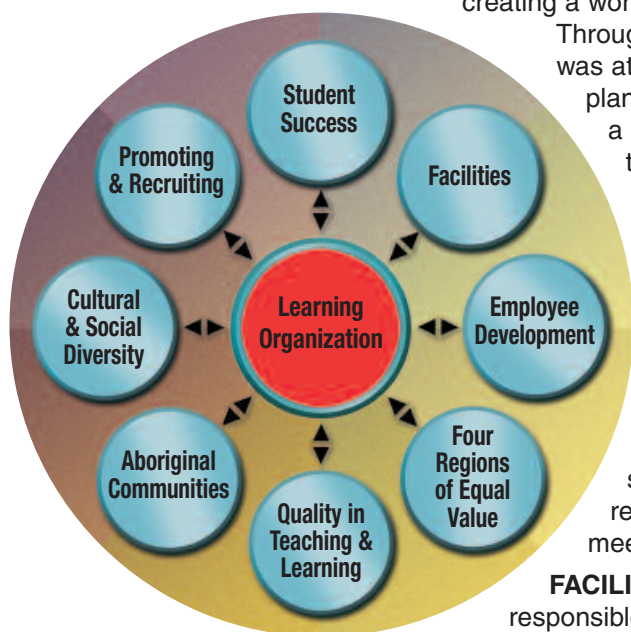
PROMOTING AND RECRUITING: Actively promote the College and recruit students, employees and support for the institution.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES: Partner with aboriginal communities to increase aboriginal participation and success rates.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DIVERSITY: Prepare students to excel in an increasingly inter-dependent and culturally diverse global environment.

"The College's Education Plan and Master Capital Plan will take these key directions and give them more dimension: in a sense, these two pieces of our planning continuum will be the incarnation of Mission, Vision, Values and Key Directions," says President **Jim Hamilton**. "What is as important as developing the Key Directions is that we have identified ways to benchmark and then monitor our progress in these areas."

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WHAT'S NEXT IS WHAT'S HERE.

Chung appointed AFP Associate Dean



STAN CHUNG has been appointed to the position of Associate Dean, Arts & Foundational Programs. Chung was selected from a pool of very strong internal candidates. The term of office is until June 2008.

Chung's academic background and experience include serving as department chair (Communications) at Okanagan College, many years of College teaching, and a Master's degree in English. In addition to his sectoral experience, Chung is an accomplished writer with a significant publication record and also serves as a marketing consultant.

"His enthusiasm for the learner-centered focus of Okanagan College will blend well with the considerable expertise already established in AFP, and his eagerness to engage in institutional and program development will serve us all well," says Dean **Dr. Robert Huxtable**.

The position of AFP Associate Dean will bridge many departments and functions. The Portfolio includes English as a Second Language, Adult Special Education, Adult Academic & Career Preparation and Arts departments.

Inaugural Okanagan College Family Awards given out

THE FIRST RECIPIENTS of the Okanagan College Family Awards were named recently. The awards are given to students enrolled at Okanagan College who are family members of current employees.

Congratulations go out to: **Nicole Dandeneau, Leslie Duret, Diana Fairall, Joey Kwasniewski, Alysson Marshall, Geoffrey Northcott, William Turner and Shelby Ulrich**. Each student receives \$3,643.70 to help support their educational goals.

The fund is supported through participation in the Okanagan College Foundation 50/50 Staff Lottery.

Key directions

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"We owe it to ourselves and to the thousands of people who have contributed to the Designing Our Future process to measure where we're at now and make sure we can articulate our goals and can demonstrate that we are progressing toward them."

The Mission, Vision and Values will be revisited every few years and the Key Directions annually, with necessary refinements made to accommodate changing circumstances, community needs and expectations, says Hamilton.

Okanagan College's Mission, Vision, Values and Key Directions will be promoted through presentations in the coming weeks and months by Board members as well as the Leadership Team. "We will also be advertising and using elements in publications such as our Report to the Community, the Calendar, and our student and staff recruitment ads. And, we will develop posters and pamphlets that summarize and present the Mission, Vision, Values and Key Directions."

Hamilton commended **Heather Stewart**, who so ably shepherded the project, as well as **Jennifer Gorman** and **Su Baker** who assisted and contributed to its success.

OSB team 'Best in BC'

TRUE TO THE NAME they chose for their company – the legendary mythical *Phoenix* – the Okanagan School of Business team was nearly invincible at the 18th Annual BC Business Simulation Competition held recently in Nanaimo.

The Okanagan College team of **Vince Yew**, CEO, **Yinglin Wang**, VP Finance, **Carol Peng**, VP Marketing, and **Dustin Stadnyk**, VP Operations, came away with eight medals, including the grand prize for being named Top Team Overall. They received three other gold medals for Top Diploma Team, Best Communications Skills, and Top HR Manager (Yew); a silver medal for Best Strategic Plan; and three bronze medals for Most Professional Team, Top R&D Manager (Stadnyk), and Top Marketing Manager (Peng).

The team managed a simulated company which produced electronic sensors put into automobiles, computers, I-Pods, cell phones, etc. This year's competition started with all teams initially competing over the Internet in February. Each team managed a simulated company over a period of 16 years where they faced 'real life' economic and market conditions. The final phase of the competition was hosted by Malaspina University College March 9-11.

"Our students competed against teams from eight other colleges and university colleges in BC that included students in their final year of a business degree program," says Coach **Norm Letnick**. "They faced real-world business conditions and had to make strategic decisions in a timely manner that would move their company forward. I am extremely proud of their formidable efforts which is reflected in the number of awards they won."

Company results were not the only indication of success, says Letnick, an associate professor. "Professional business people judged the individual student's decisions and plans and awards were given based on individual performance."

"It was the most intense thing I have ever done," says Yew. "But it also was the most fun. The experience has really helped me learn how to effectively communicate and lead in a team environment."

"This kind of competition is not for the faint of heart," says Stadnyk. "You have to push yourself to your full potential. Teamwork was the key."

Peng agrees. "There was no one star on our team. We may not have always agreed with each other, but we listened to each other's ideas and that is why we were successful."

Letnick received high praise from the students. "He always gave us good suggestions and encouraged us," says Wang.

"Historically, our teams have done extremely well at this annual competition," says **Dr. Jayne Brooks**, Dean. "This year's team is to be commended on their enthusiastic performance and use of the knowledge and skills they have acquired in their Business programs."



(l-r) Coach Norm Letnick, Carol Peng, Dustin Stadnyk, Yinglin Wang and Vincent Yew show off the hardware they picked up at BC Business Simulation Competition

"I am extremely proud of their formidable efforts which is reflected in the number of awards they won."

Norm Letnick, Coach

Trades program opens gateway for Aboriginal students

Dale McDougall (left) and Richard McDougall (right) work in carpentry/joinery shop as part of the new course that introduces various trades to Aboriginal students.



O KANAGAN COLLEGE is working with the Westbank First Nation to open the door to the many career possibilities in the building trades for Aboriginal people.

A new 12-week program, Aboriginal Gateway to the Building Trades, partially funded by the Aboriginal Special Project Funding, has been developed to provide Aboriginal students with both practical and theoretical experience in a wide variety of building trade sectors. The program began at the Kelowna Campus March 27.

“This program is one more way Okanagan College is trying to address the skills shortage in our region,” says **John Haller**, Dean, Trades and Apprenticeship. “The building trades are crying out for skilled labourers. We want to inform young people about these employment opportunities and encourage them to take a serious look at these trades as a rewarding career option.”

“The Westbank First Nation is involved in numerous developments in our region and has many more planned,” says **Chief Robert Louie**. “We hope this program will open our young people’s eyes to the opportunities and convince them to get the training and education they will need to get involved.”

“Students have an opportunity to gain some first-hand experience in the carpentry, plumbing, electrical, drywalling, and painting trades to help them make an informed choice of which trade to enter,” says **Nancy Ankerstein**, Program Administrator for Trades and Apprenticeship. “Students will learn practical skills and industry requirements for a variety of building trades and how to secure employment and training.”

The program will also include industry tours and guest speakers and students will research and choose a trade for themselves and then deliver a presentation to the class supporting their choice, says Ankerstein.

It is open to adult learners as well as high school students who may receive dual credit towards their Grade 12 diploma. Graduates may seek direct entry into employment and apprenticeship or enter pre-apprenticeship training programs at the College.

C2C pits College against University

OKANAGAN COLLEGE and UBC Okanagan went head to head in a fierce competition – but it wasn't about attracting students.

Both institutions fielded teams in the Bookworm Relay Race as part of the annual Campus to Campus Half-Marathon held in Kelowna March 26.

“Actually, we worked together this year to host the popular race that is a carry-over event from Okanagan University College,” says **Jane Muskens**, race organizer. “But we thought we'd create a good-natured rivalry and have teams from each institution compete against each other for prizes.”

More than 150 runners competed in this year's race that started at the UBC Okanagan Campus and finished at the Kelowna Campus of Okanagan College.

Steven Murenbeeld of Oliver won the race with a time 1:15:03. The first woman to cross the finish line was **Cindy Rhodes** of Kelowna at 1:31:29. Full race results can be found at www.okanagan.bc.ca/halfmarathon.

As for The BookWorm Relay Race, the **Rusty but Trusty** team from Okanagan College took first place with a time of 1:27:07. OC - 1; UBCO - 0.



Top: Jennifer Gorman (Business) presents medal to Sandi Gould (Financial Awards) at the finish line (1:57:58); top right: Dawn and Allan Hickey (IT) tabulate results; centre: OC and UBCO relay racers at the start line; bottom right: Mary Boone, the oldest racer at age 72, celebrates her time of 2:11:19

Rehab Conference offers Choices

THE CURRENT TRENDS in the field of rehabilitation therapy will be discussed at an upcoming conference at Okanagan College.

Choices, the 7th annual Therapist Assistant Conference, will take place April 27 at the Kelowna Campus Lecture Theatre. The conference will feature some of the most recognized names in the field presenting on various topics of interest.

Wendy Williams, of the Central Okanagan Brain Injury Society, will give the keynote address Motivation: Finding the Driving Force!

"Motivation is a combination of desire and energy directed at achieving a goal," Williams says. "Influencing someone's motivation means getting them to want to do what you know must be done. In the field of rehabilitation, you sometimes face physical and psychological obstacles that make it harder to motivate people."

Other workshops include engaging individuals with dementia, tools and techniques for supporting a person with a brain injury, augmentative communication, an introduction to brain gym, and career paths and continuing education for those interested in rehabilitation.

The conference is open to rehabilitation assistants, therapist assistants, occupational therapists, physical therapists, recreational therapists, health care workers, students and educators.

For more info, or to register, contact Continuing Studies at 862-5480 or 1-888-638-0058. Registration deadline is April 13.

Crime Fighting Alum to address AGM

WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, road construction and bridges come to mind. But what about crime fighting? "It's not a leap most people make," says **Anna Ristau**, Sales Manager for Law Enforcement Applications at The CAD Zone and a graduate of the institution's Civil Engineering Technology program ('98).

The company Ristau works for produces computer drawing and database software that is designed specifically for Law Enforcement, the Fire Service, and Insurance Loss Control purposes. "Part of my job is to train Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs) and other law enforcement officers across North America on how to use the software to solve cases," she says.

Ristau will speak about her career when she gives the keynote address at the Alumni Association's AGM on May 17, at 6:15 p.m. in Infusions Restaurant, Kelowna Campus. "The Civil Engineering Technology program did a great job of preparing me for my career," Ristau says. "It offered very practical, real world experience and I use a lot of what I learned in my work. I would recommend the program, especially to women, as it can open doors to a variety of opportunities."

The AGM will also include a wine and cheese reception at 5:30 p.m.; a presentation of the Association's 2005/2006 financial statements, presentation of the mission statement, the three-year strategic plan (which will also be posted on the website) and the election of a slate of directors, says **Jamie Morrow**, Association President.

"We hope to get a great turnout of alumni to hear Anna as well as learn more about our new mission statement and strategic plan."

okanagan college
alumni association

New course focuses on cool climate viticulture

THE OLIVER CENTRE introduced a new course recently that will be of benefit to local grape producers.

An intensive, five-day course on Cool Climate Viticulture developed by **Rhys Pender**, a respected wine educator, was offered in March to horticulture and farming professionals, wine grape growers, vineyard managers and others interested in learning about or improving their skills and service to the region's wine industry.

"This comprehensive course introduces the viticulture skills and knowledge required to work in or manage a vineyard, paying specific attention to the climate of our region," says **Alida Boyd**, Program Administrator. "Students learn about growth cycles and varieties of grapes, how and where to establish a vineyard, pruning and trellising techniques, and key soil management tools such as irrigation, pests, and diseases."

"This new course complements the College's existing program offerings in Viticulture and Wine Studies," says Regional Dean **Donna Lomas**. "We want to ensure that local producers have access to the training and education they need to improve their operations and further enhance the reputation of BC's wine industry."

"This short course is a great opportunity for those who wish to explore wine grape growing but don't have the time to commit to our longer programs," says Boyd. "Rhys has developed an excellent program that has been well received in other parts of the province."

Pender has worked in the wine industry for over 11 years in facets as diverse as retail, hospitality, vineyard management and the cellar. He authors and teaches wine programs through the WSET and Okanagan College and is a regular contributor to publications such as *CityFood* and *Wine Access*.



Rhys Pender

Faculty agreement ratified

A COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT between the College and the Okanagan College Faculty Association (OCFA) was ratified April 7. The contract will provide members two per cent salary increases in each of the next three years and expires March 31, 2010. The new agreement will move Okanagan College instructors to the provincial salary grid for college faculty within B.C. with a salary range of \$49,639 to \$77,187 this year. A tentative agreement was reached before the provincial government deadline of March 31, qualifying for the provincial incentive payment.

The previous agreement between the College and the OCFA had expired Aug. 31, 2005. That contract was an extension of the agreement between Okanagan University College and the OUC Faculty Association.

"We're pleased to have been able to reach this agreement in such a co-operative and timely fashion," says Board Chair **Norm Embree**.

Peter Murray, chair of the Faculty Association's bargaining committee, says that the new collective agreement should enable the College to meet its goals of maintaining smaller class sizes as well as providing for an increase in the number of different courses available for students.

"This agreement provides us an important component for our growth and development as an institution," says Embree, "and points to the positive labour relations that we have enjoyed with our staff and their unions that we want to maintain and foster. The agreement reflects the recognition of the importance of all our staff in our recently-adopted statement of Mission, Vision, Values and Key Directions."

Employees recognized



10 years

*Back row: Howard Hisdal, Laura Loewen, Shari Williams;
Middle row: Randy Hennessy, Sandra Kenefick, Jane Reid, Catherine Baranow, Dave Sandberg;
First row: Barb Duffy, Donna Harms, Andrew Hay, Patricia Irwin, Cathy Fitzgerald
Missing: Raymond Bailey, Barbara Bertner, Earl Daniel, Fred Finnigan, Gary Hough, Janet Lemieux, Jolaine Longeway, Kathryn Neilsen, Karen Sansom, Norma Schaffer, Leroy Wiens*

15 Years

*Back row: John Ensing, Mary Read, Linda Spence, Fran Kelly;
Middle Row: Ken Burt, Marlene Isaac, Lynda Rae, Brian Bennett, Gail Slemko, Randy Werger, Lois Soneff;
Front row: Debbie Turner, Suzanne Watts, Anne Caughlan, Shelby Crosby, Geordie Belinski, Colleen Hanscom
Missing: Jeanne Boekelheide, Dale Donovan, Randy Engman, Sandra Friesen, Keith Germaine, Eleanor James, Claudette Kendall, Polly Le Nobel, Clint Lee, Ardiss Mackie, Shirley Marshall, Sherry Price, John Pugsley, Sharon Robbie, Marietta Stanley, Valerie Tuhkala, Bill Turner*



20 years (left)

*Geoff Hayman, Barry McGillivray; Rick Gee, Russ Winslade
Missing: Vi Brett, Garth MacGuire*

30 Years (right)

*Lynn Van Montfoort, Sandi Gould, Clare McManus
Missing: Mary Ellen Holland, Richard Scott, Catherine Williams, Robert Willox*



for long service



25 Years

Above: Phillip Beckmann, Robert Huxtable, Dennis McGuire, Allan Hill
 Front row: Bev Hennings, Pat Bates, Faith Peyton
 Missing: Alida Boyd, Nick Gammer

ONE HUNDRED EMPLOYEES of Okanagan College were honoured for their long-term service at the Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony March 15 at the Kelowna Campus.

Board Chair **Norm Embree** and President **Jim Hamilton** presented those listed here with gifts and recognized in memoriam **Don Knorr, Sylvia Russell, Jay Brigham, Virginia Ferrari** and **Wayne Thesen**.

A highlight of the evening was a standing ovation for **Erika Henfling**, who can boast 35 years of service.



35 years:
 Erika Henfling



Retirees:

Back row: Heidi Zeunert, Dianne Powles, Bob Adams, Ron Lutz, Carol Avedon-Savage, Carole Johnston, Pat Thiessen;
 Front Row: Arleigh Fanning, Shirley Galenkamp, Carol Gautier, Shirley Wild, Georgia McLeod
 Missing: Kees Boersma, Pauline Chapman, Michael Gro, Gary Lewis, Jennifer Tucker

International students meet Crown Prince



A GROUP OF STUDENTS from the University of Fukui studying at Okanagan College was in Vancouver last month and got the thrill of a lifetime when they met up with **Crown Prince Naruhito**, the next Emperor of Japan.

“The crown prince’s entourage stopped at Stanley Park to see the city view and totem poles and we happened to be there at the exact same time,” says **Gordon Shuster** of Okanagan College International. “He spoke with our students briefly and then after his official photo session with dignitaries invited them to join him for a group photo.”

The crown prince was most interested in how the students were enjoying Canada and their studies, says Shuster. He took the time to shake

hands and speak to each of them. A Japanese television station was covering the visit and they interviewed the students afterwards.

“We are told that it is very rare to see the crown prince and almost impossible to get that close to him,” he says.

Students from the University of Fukui have been coming to Okanagan College since 2001 on an annual basis. All students are studying either cross-cultural communications or education.

Deputy Governor of Bank of Canada visits Okanagan

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BANK OF CANADA visited the Okanagan this month to give a public address on monetary policy.

Pierre Duguay, Deputy Governor of the Bank, gave a lecture on ‘The Conduct of Monetary Policy and the Canadian Economy’ April 4, at the Kelowna Campus Lecture. It was sponsored by the Okanagan School of Business.

Duguay was appointed Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada in January 2000. He is responsible for issues related to financial stability and financial institutions, and the issuance of bank notes. The Department of Monetary and Financial Analysis and the Department of Banking Operations report to him. As a member of the Bank’s Governing Council and the Executive Management Committee, he shares responsibility for decisions with respect to monetary policy and the management of the business of the Bank.

Duguay was accompanied by **Barbara Hislop**, a member of the Bank of Canada Board of Directors. Hislop is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Genus Resource Management Technologies Inc., a Vancouver-based software development company specializing in management and stewardship of land resources.



Pierre Duguay

Power outage adds excitement to Bridge Building Contest

The HMA Architects World Heavy Weight competition at the 23rd Annual Spaghetti Bridge Contest just got underway when the lights went out. A valley-wide power outage not only took out the lights, but the load-bearing apparatus that tests the bridges' capacity.

A back-up generator was set up and when all the bridges were tested, students from the Budapest Polytechnic were declared champions again. Although they didn't break the all-time record set by one of their fellow students last year (257.33 kg), **Miovacz Balazs** and **Varga Gyula Balazs** came close with a bridge that weighed 972.5 grams that carried a load of 226.96 kg before breaking under the pressure. They earned \$1,500 for their efforts.

Vida Balazs, a student from Szecheayi Istvan University in Hungary, took second place with his bridge of 939.5 grams that withstood a 101.77 kg load before breaking. He won \$1,000.

Stuart Kamstra, an Okanagan College student and the final participant in the heavy weight division, just missed out on third prize as his bridge did not withstand the required 10 kg load.

More than 275 students, a record number of competitors, were registered in the HMA Heavy Weight Competition, individual post-secondary and secondary school categories, as well as the Stantec team-building category. Eight elementary schools entered pedestrian bridges in the elementary demonstration category.

In the Stantec Post-Secondary and Secondary Team Building Categories: Okanagan College Engineering Technology students **Ken Tham**, **Travis Keegrstra** and **Kris Kerr** took first place in the post-secondary category. Second Place: **Marcus Fugeta**, **Aaron Hocking**, **Dallas Banman**, and **Greg Ringguth**; Third Place: **Lorant Marton**, **Kari Gronvold**, **Dean Schmidtke**, and **Damian Kusiak**.

In the secondary team building category: First Place: **Shawn Crockett**, **Danny Grant**, and **John Bourcet**, from W.L. Seaton Secondary; Second Place: A.L. Fortune students **Amy Box**, **Matthew Davidson**, and **Vanessa Volpatti**; Third Place: **Josee Reid** and **Kendall Zettergreen** from Eagle River Secondary.

In the individual secondary school category: First Place: **Kai Lesack**, KLO Middle School; Second Place: **Pearl Pratley**, Mount Boucherie Secondary; Third Place: **Alex White**, Eagle River Secondary.

In the post-secondary category: First Place: **Vida Balazs**, Szecheayi Istvan University; Second Place: **Milovacz Balazs** and **Gyula Balazs Varga**, Budapest Polytechnic.



There were a record number of competitors at the 23rd Annual Spaghetti Bridge Building Contest from: (top) students from Peter Greer in the Elementary School category; (centre) Budapest Polytechnic students who won the HMA Architects World Heavy Weight category; and (bottom) Engineering Technology students from Okanagan College in the Post-Secondary category.

Revelstoke offers Special Needs program

THE REVELSTOKE CENTRE will begin offering a program this fall that will support children and adults with disabilities in the community.

The Special Needs Certificate program places emphasis on understanding and practising the community living philosophy and utilizing a person-centered approach. Graduates of the program will be prepared to practise professionally as part of a team in entry-level positions in homes, workplaces, educational, recreational, and social settings.

“This program is meeting a training need within our community,” says **Janet Lemieux**, Program Administrator. “It not only helps individuals achieve their career goals in their home community, but it also provides quality support and services to our community.”

An orientation session was held last month to gauge community interest. The program, which consists of eight courses and two field experiences, will run from September 2006 until June 2007.

“This program will enhance an individual’s job opportunities throughout the province in the Community Living field with adults and children,” says **Deb Anderson** from Community Connections. “More and more Community Living agencies are requiring specific educational training before individuals can begin working with adults or children with disabilities. This program will give people a real step up in the hiring process.”

For more details on admission requirements, course costs, and application deadlines, call 250-837-4235.

Kal Campus launches lunch and learn lecture series

The Kalamalka Campus launched a luncheon series this spring that explored topics of interest to the community. The Lunch and Learn Series: Words and Images featured talks by Okanagan College faculty members, former faculty, students and community members on a variety of topics including: UFOs, the war zone of Columbia, building a home made of straw, and landslides. The series was open to the public.

Lecturers in March included **James Stolwijk**, a North Okanagan builder, who presented an informative and inspiring photographic story of building his own straw bale home.

Dr. Terence Day, a member of the Geography department, explored the phenomena of landslides. “Most landslides are nothing but an inconvenience, but recently, landslides featured in the news have caused a huge number of fatalities. In one case, the number of lives lost exceeded those lost in the Asian tsunami.” He discussed how he is using Geographic Information Systems to research where and when landslides occur across the globe.

Dr. Carlos Teixeira, a former member of the Geography department, gave a lecture entitled The Importance of Ethnic Diversity in Urban Centres: The Nomination of Kensington Market as a National Historic Site.

“For more than 100 years Toronto’s Kensington Market has been an ‘immigrant reception area’, the ‘United Nations’ of Canada, with immigrant groups and ethnic businesses owned by people from all over the world,” says Teixeira. “This neighbourhood is a fascinating economic enclave in the core of the city of Toronto. Many changes are taking place, but Kensington Market still remains in much need of not only being preserved, but also revitalized.”

New literary journal planned

A NEW LITERARY JOURNAL will soon make its debut in the Okanagan.

RYGA – a journal of the literary arts will be produced by the College's Department of English with faculty members **Mary Ellen Holland** as Editor-in-Chief and **John Lent** as Senior Editor. Named in honour of celebrated Canadian author **George Ryga**, the journal will feature the talents of established and emerging literary voices.

"The College believes that this new journal will stand beside other well-known literary journals – publications like *The Antigonish Review*, *CV2*, *Event*, *Brick* and others," says Holland.

The premiere issue, featuring some of the country's best writers, is expected to be distributed across Canada and Great Britain this fall, she says." The journal will be international in scope, but always regional in flavour."

Approximately 200 people attended a special event featuring a performance by the talented jazz/folk trio Lent Fraser Wall March 24 at the Kelowna Campus to help raise funds in support of this project.

In addition to Holland and Lent, other College employees are involved including President **Jim Hamilton** and English faculty members **Kerry Trevelyan**, **Frances Greenslade**, **Melanie Murray** and **Alix Hawley**, who are members of the journal's editorial board

For more information about RYGA, contact Mary Ellen Holland at 762-5445, ext. 4575 or email meholland@okanagan.bc.ca.

Local organizations, companies benefit from student research

A NUMBER OF LOCAL COMPANIES and organizations are benefiting from the applied business research of students in the Okanagan School of Business.

The honours students in the Bachelor of Business Administration program, acted as consultants for their clients researching some aspect of marketing, human resources, performance, etc. This year's clients included retailers, manufacturing companies, government organizations, private service companies and non-profit organizations.

Students made the final presentations and recommendations to their clients April 7.

"These are some of the most labour intensive courses offered in the Business program," says Associate Professor **Sherry Price**.

"First, students study research methodology and consulting practices used in the business community. Then, they find a client to work with that has a business challenge or opportunity they would like to explore, conduct a thorough study of the issue, and provide a proposal for action."

"These courses help both students, in that they acquire sophisticated analytical and communication skills, and the clients, who might not have the resources to do the research themselves," says **Dr. Yunke He**, who also teaches the course.



Jesse Zeman discusses his presentation with one of his clients at the Policy Day presentations. Zeman and fellow Business students, **Chris Wells**, **Daniele Williamson**, **Kent Beckman**, **David Bates**, **Limei Zheng**, and **Nathan Munro** acted as consultants for local businesses as part of their BBA honours program.

College and BC Road Builders roll out new program

AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF SKILLED trades people in the road building and heavy construction field has resulted in a partnership being paved with Okanagan College and the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association.

“The demand for individuals with the skills to build our roads and infrastructure is only going to increase with the province’s growing population, the Gateway Project and upcoming Olympics in 2010,” says **Kent Orrock**, the Association’s HR Programs Coordinator.

A pilot entry-level training program that gives participants a taste of what is involved in the road building and heavy construction trades and how they might enter the career will be offered through Okanagan College Trades and Apprenticeship at the Kelowna Campus from April 24 – May 19. Tuition is free for those who meet the pre-requisites. Call 250-862-5457 for more information.

“As this is a pilot project, we are only going to accept 16 students. Those interested are encouraged to get their application in immediately,” says **John Haller**, Dean, Trades & Apprenticeship.

Students will receive an orientation to the industry, training in the basics of safety and civil engineering principles, and instruction in the use of tools and equipment operation and maintenance. Upon successful completion of the course, they will receive a certificate of completion from the Industry Training Authority as well as certificates in first-aid, flagging, WHMIS and the Road Builders Safety Training System. The program also lays the foundation for those who may wish to pursue further training in apprentice programs such as asphalt paving/laydown, heavy equipment operator or utilities installation technicians.

Daimler Chrysler Canada brings ‘the future’ to automotive trades program

STUDENTS IN THE AUTO SERVICE TECHNICIAN program are getting a glimpse into the future with the donation of two vehicles as well as specialized tools and equipment valued at more than \$115,000 to enhance their training.

“The students have been working on a 2005 300C Hemi and 2005 Jeep 4x4 Renegade this term courtesy of Daimler Chrysler Canada,” says **Alan Cohoe**, Chair of Automotive Trades. “It’s given them a valuable opportunity to become familiar with all the new technology and state-of-the-art electrical and electronic devices in today’s vehicles.”

“Working on vehicles of this class not only serves to inspire students and keep them interested in the trade, but also gives them a competitive edge,” says **Ed Garrick**, Western Training Manager for Daimler Chrysler Canada. “We are pleased to provide this opportunity to Okanagan College students because we know they are future of the industry.”

Chrysler has also loaned the College specialized advanced diagnostic equipment like a Star Scan and Data Recording Box 3. “It’s a win-win for us,” says **John Haller**, Dean, Trades and Apprenticeship. “Our students benefit from gaining experience on the latest vehicles and equipment, and we are able to build partnerships with the very dealers who are employing our graduates.



Al Cohoe and John Haller accept the keys to a Chrysler 300C Hemi from Daimler Chrysler Canada’s Ed Garrick

NSERC Idea to Innovation funding available

FUNDING FROM THE NATURAL SCIENCES and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) through the Idea to Innovation (I2I) program is now available directly to college faculty.

Previously, college faculty could only apply as co-applicants with a university researcher, but a recent decision by NSERC has changed the requirements so that they can now be the principal applicant.

“We recognize that colleges play an increasingly important role in advancing innovation and helping industry adopt new technology,” **Dr. Suzanne Fortier**, President of NSERC said at a recent Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) symposium. “Because colleges are closely linked with local industry, they are well positioned to work in technology development and proof-of-principle research projects.”

Dr. Andrew Hay, Okanagan College Vice-President, Education and President of the Okanagan Science and Technology Council, welcomed the decision. “Colleges and institutes have long been incubators for new ideas and technologies. Okanagan College has many individuals who work with industry, and the opportunity to access NSERC funding directly will be a wonderful enhancement.”

A CD is available for those interested in learning more about the program and application procedures. For more information, or to get a copy of the CD, call (613) 947-9485 or email I2I@nserc.ca.

Education Council News

- submitted by Anne Cossentine, Chair, Education Council

THIS IS THE FIRST of a regular entry on Okanagan College Education Council. The column will highlight the most recent courses, programs and academic policies approved by Council. For more information on Education Council see the website at: <http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Page1428.aspx>.

During March, Council approved revisions to the **Network and Telecommunications Engineering Technology** and **Computer Information Systems (CIS)** programs to allow some exchange of courses and more course selection for students. Admission requirements for the **CIS** and the **Bachelor of CIS** programs were reduced and new high school computing courses permitted.

Council also approved several new third- and fourth-year **Business** courses, a new **Business Studies Certificate for Health Care Professionals**, that is designed to provide business administration skills to graduates of **Health and Social Development** certificate and/or diploma programs including Certified Dental Assisting, Early Childhood Education, Home Support/Resident Care, Human Service Work, Practical Nursing or Therapist Assistant.

Course exemptions for Engineering Technology graduates entering the **Bridging Programs into the Bachelor of Business Administration** were also revised.

A revised definition of full-time student was also approved for **Adult Academic and Career Preparation** courses. A new **Criminal and Social Justice Diploma** program based on **Arts** courses was approved for provincial review. A full list of Council decisions is available on the website.

Variety of award opportunities available

STUDENTS ATTENDING Okanagan College this fall for the first time and current students who are continuing their studies, may be eligible for financial awards worth thousands of dollars and not even know it.

There are many awards available and eligibility criteria varies but may be based on a student's academic achievement, financial need, his or her contribution to community or student life, demonstrated leadership, or innovation.

"There are national awards, region-wide awards, and campus-specific awards available," says **Sandi Gould**, Financial Awards Officer. "But deadlines for applications are coming up quickly, so we are advising students to apply now."

The College and the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation (CMSF) have teamed up to offer scholarships to recognize students in their upper years of study. The CMSF National In-Course Awards are a unique opportunity to reward and recognize students who, upon entering post-secondary studies, have grown as active citizens and are now making significant contributions to the world around them. The awards range in value from \$4,000 – \$10,000. Up to 1,200 of these awards are available across Canada.

In addition to the President's Entrance Scholarships and Tuition Entrance scholarships for students nominated by their secondary school, Okanagan College will award up to 70 entrance scholarships of \$500 each for mature students and for students transitioning from the College's upgrading and English as a Second Language programs to our post-secondary programs. There are additional entrance awards for secondary school students from a number of external sources.

Students can apply for campus specific awards as well as College-wide awards. For example, a student planning to attend the Salmon Arm Campus would apply for Salmon Arm Campus awards and College-wide awards. Eligibility and application deadlines vary for each award but most submissions are due in April and May. For more information, visit www.okanagan.bc.ca/financialaid or call the Financial Aid and Awards office at 762-5445, ext. 4119 or toll free at 1-877-755-2266, ext. 4119.

Kal Campus offers summer session courses

THE KALAMALKA CAMPUS will offer a selection of first- and second-year university level English courses for the first time during the summer session. Students who enrol in these concentrated six-week courses receive the same credit as those who take the course during a full 13-week semester.

Readings in Poetry and Drama and Survey of English Literature I begin May 8; Readings in Narrative, Survey of English Literature II begin July 4. The instructors are well-known local writer **Kerry Trevelyan** and **Chris Castanier**. "With the Kalamalka Institute for Working Writers based at this campus, we have a contingent of talented English professors available year-round," says Regional Dean **Ron Mohr**. "Offering summer session courses gives our existing students an opportunity to get a head start on their fall courses, or explore a new area of interest. As well, first-time students can take a course or two as a gradual entry into post-secondary studies."

Registration for the summer session is on now. To find out more, contact the Kalamalka Campus at 250-545-7291.

A number of summer session courses are offered at the Kelowna Campus as well. For a full listing, visit www.okanagan.bc.ca/summer or call 250-762-5445.