

Journal

NOVEMBER | 2006

College celebrates silver anniversary of Career Fair

The 25th anniversary of Career Fair marked a special occasion for the College. The fair, which has become a mainstay in the community, drew a remarkable number of new exhibitors intermixed with longtime supporters like Alan Duckworth and Barbara Coughlin who each celebrated 25 years with Career Fair.

Nadir Ould-Khessal, assistant professor of electronic engineering technology, joined Career Fair for the first time setting up a display featuring the inaugural Western Canada RoboCup Junior Championship, which took place Nov. 14.

"The RoboCup display was very popular at Career Fair," says Ould-Khessal. "It was an excellent opportunity to

promote the upcoming games and the College in general. In fact, I had a lot of people who were interested in registering. Unfortunately, it is too late for this year but they can always get involved next year."

Career Fair also drew a record number of firms interested in recruiting potential employees. There was a marked increase in the number of companies who came to Career Fair from out of town, says organizer Michelle Lowry.

"Every year we face different challenges with the fair," says Lowry. "This year we weren't sure what to expect. The strong economy and low unemployment means there aren't as many people looking for work as there have been in other years. In addition, there were a lot more companies looking for employees so that added a different dynamic. Considering those factors, we drew a fantastic crowd that was steady throughout the day."

With the silver anniversary about to be archived in the history books, Lowry is looking ahead to the next 25 years of Career Fair (though she predicts she won't look a day over 30).



Civil Engineering Technology students Glen Zizek and Shawn Snider welcome visitors to Career Fair.

What's Inside:

Dean named business person of the year

Page 3

College moves forward with master plan process

Page 5

College celebrates 15-year partnership with Toyota

Technical College

Page 8

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Page 20

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college

College en route to another solid year of enrolments

“The bottom line on the reports we have seen at this stage suggest that we are up about 1.4 per cent in overall headcount for the fall”

President Jim Hamilton

Okanagan College is duplicating its first year of success with solid enrolment numbers this fall.

The institution is seeing growth in a number of program areas. One area with remarkable growth this year is in university Arts and Science programs in Kelowna. The Arts' student headcount is 141 per cent of last year's (510 students in Years One and Two), while Science is 149 per cent of what it was in 2005 (123 compared to 75).

The overall picture for the College suggests that when student numbers are tallied at year-end, the institution will achieve its educational targets.

“The bottom line on the reports we have seen at this stage suggest that we are up about 1.4 per cent in overall headcount for the fall,” says Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton. “Last year was surprisingly strong year for us right from the start. We more than achieved our targets last year, delivering about 106 per cent of the target set for us by the Ministry of Advanced Education.”

The total number of students registered at the College on Sept. 19 was 4,740 – up from 4,674 last year. Kelowna showed the most dramatic increase in the number of students registered (3,364 in 2006, compared to 3,183 last year), while Penticton also saw growth in student numbers (447 compared to 438). But the Penticton student headcount doesn't tell the whole story. The number of courses that the students have

registered for has increased dramatically: that number has grown by nearly 26 per cent (1,631 this fall compared to 1,298 last fall).

A drop in foundational programs was experienced at all campuses: the total for the institution in terms of course registrations was down 15 per cent from last year.

“This is a phenomena that is being experienced elsewhere in the province,” explains Dr. Andrew Hay, Vice President Education. “One of the obvious reasons is the hot employment market. Many of our Foundational programs answer needs for people who are looking to upgrade their education to achieve their Grade 12 or to improve their language and literacy skills. There are many more jobs available now that pay well and this might lead people to postpone the decision to return to school for upgrading.”

The signals for the College from this fall's enrolment are generally positive and could improve as the full picture for the year comes into focus, says Hay.

“While the stable enrolment numbers from September help us in our planning and assessments, they don't tell the whole story,” he notes. “Many of the programs we offer might have started earlier in this fiscal year and finished already. We know, for example, that there were another 263 students who enrolled in summer programs in trades at our various campuses who aren't included in the stable enrolment data. And there are programs with different start dates this year than last year, whose enrolments might not be captured in the Sept. 19 snapshot.”



Dean named Business Person of the Year

Regional Dean Lynda Wilson thinks of herself as an educator. The community of Salmon Arm has a different perspective. They think of her as the Business Person of the Year.

On Oct. 21 Wilson was honoured by the Salmon Arm Chamber of Commerce at the 2006 Business Excellence Awards. Not normally cited for her lack of words, Wilson was speechless at the podium when accepting her award.

"I came to the event as a presenter," said Wilson. "I knew that I had been nominated but there are so many tremendous business people in this community that winning the award was very humbling."



Photo Courtesy of: James Murray, Salmon Arm Observer

Rick Hirtle presents Wilson with Salmon Arm Business Person of the Year award.

Wilson was recognized for the work she does through the College and on her personal time. After a range of candidates received nominations for the award, an adjudication committee was formed consisting of five Salmon Arm businesspeople, explains Corryn Grayston, Office Administrator for the Salmon Arm Chamber of Commerce. The committee reviewed all of the applicants and deemed Wilson as the award recipient.

"This is such an honour because it is a reflection of the great work Okanagan College is doing in this community," said Wilson. "With four trades programs now offered in Salmon Arm and a two-year business diploma, our students and programs are really affecting the business community and its development in a positive way."

Wilson took the position as Dean of Shuswap Revelstoke six-and-a-half years ago. In addition to her work as Dean, Wilson contributes to Salmon Arm on many different levels. She sits on the Board of the Economic Development Society as well as the Chamber of Commerce. A committed member of Rotary, Wilson manages the Ambassadorial Scholarships for the joint US/Canada district of 5060 as well as handling the Canadian portion of the Group Study Exchange program for the district.

Wilson attended the event to present the award for Continuing Achievement in Business Excellence to the Shuswap Association for Community Living (SACL). The SACL partnered with Okanagan College in the Residential Construction Program. The program gives College students hands-on training as they build a home in their community. The SACL will use the structure to provide housing for clients of the SACL who have diverse special needs. An open house featuring the triplex built by the students will be held in late November.



Lynda Wilson,
Shuswap Revelstoke Regional Dean

College welcomes Director of Human Resources



Randy Maradyn

The College's new Director of Human Resources, Randy Maradyn, is up to his elbows learning the ins and outs of Okanagan College.

Maradyn, an HR professional with 29 years of corporate experienced joined the College to head the HR and Labour Relations departments.

"I was attracted to Okanagan College's reputation as a Learning Organization," said Maradyn. "Since joining Human Resources in September I have learned a tremendous amount about the College, its direction and vision and have been impressed by the team of dedicated people I work with. I look forward to providing strategic human resource leadership and working consultatively and proactively with all stakeholders to help the College fulfill its mandate."

"We're fortunate to have someone of Randy's caliber join us," said Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton. "He brings a diversity of experience, a history of accomplishment and a strategic perspective to the position."

Prior to joining the College, Maradyn was the Associate Vice President of HR at the Alberta Research Council. He spent 24 years at a large Alberta-based energy and mining company, the last nine of which were spent as Vice President of Human Resources. Maradyn has also worked as a consultant for various public and private organizations. He has extensive labour relations experience in multiple-union, multiple-site situations.

Potter earns 2006 Excellence Award



Donna Potter

The College's Financial Services Manager Donna Potter, recently received her designation as a Certified Management Accountant (CMA). While completing the program was a feat in and of itself, Potter was just informed that she will be the recipient of the 2006 Excellence Award in the Strategic Leadership Program. She will be honoured for her achievement at her convocation ceremony in Vancouver on Nov. 18.

Potter has been working toward her CMA certification on a full-time basis throughout the past three years, in addition to her full-time position at the College. Making regular weekend trips to Vancouver, Potter met with classmates to combine ideas and strategies while completing the rest of her studies on-line from home.

In 2003 Potter graduated with distinction from OUC with a business administration diploma in human resource management. With her coursework now behind her, she looks forward to using her new skills and knowledge to enhance her work at the College. She is also looking forward to having a little bit more free time to herself.

College formulates strategic plan for growth

The College is moving forward with its Master Planning Process. The plan is designed to meet the College's space needs as it enters into a renewal and growth period.

"Now that we have our strategic directions and education planning process well in hand, we are ready to move ahead with a revised master space plan for all campuses," explains Vice President of Finance and Corporate Services Ken Burt. "While some campuses will change more than others, each requires proactive space planning to ensure we can meet our projected growth targets while creating a positive and inspirational learning space for students."

In order to ensure the College meets the expectations of students, staff, faculty, and the greater community, a number of open sessions have been held, offering the opportunity for extensive input by everyone affected by the planning process.

After entering into discussions with internal and external stakeholders, the College recruited the Resource Planning Group (RPG) to help create a vision and plan for development in the future. The leading space and planning consultants are

producing a plan for each of the College's four regions that will address considerations for everything ranging from space for student learning to library space, recreational facilities, parking and landscape design.

RPG is on track to have a complete model including all space planning for each of the four regions by the end of the year that will be used to garner further feedback on the planning design.

"Our Master Planning Process is well underway and will be ready to implement in the coming months," says Burt. "Not only will it answer our current space shortage, this plan will take into consideration the growth we anticipate up to 2015. We are committed to building the kind of campuses that facilitate a dynamic student life with amenities that will help to include and transform our communities."

"Our Master Planning Process is well underway and will be ready to implement in the coming months"

Ken Burt,
Vice President of Finance
and Corporate Services

Bunting Coady to design phase one of Kelowna campus expansion

The award-winning architectural firm of Bunting Coady has been selected to create a schematic design plan for what will be the new Centre for Learning building on the Kelowna Campus.

A Centre for Learning selection committee thoroughly reviewed an impressive group of potential architects, eventually deciding on Bunting Coady, the seventh largest architectural firm in the province, explains Heather Schneider Central Okanagan Regional Dean.

With more than 10 years of experience working in the field of post-secondary education, Bunting Coady has a vast portfolio of successful projects including the new Health Sciences building at UBC Vancouver, Kwantlen College's Trades and Technology Centre and the UBCO Engineering and Business Management building in Kelowna.

Bunting Coady was selected by the committee due to its depth of experience, ingenuity, and environmentally sensitive design. The firm has won a number of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) awards as a result of producing high performance, sustainable buildings.

Bunting Coady began the design process in early November and will work to complete the design early in the New Year. Once a plan has been drafted the Centre for Learning committee will create opportunities for students, staff, faculty and the community to review the plan and offer feedback and suggestions.

The changing face of TRADES



Andria Tse

She credits Okanagan College instructors as the reason she spends more than two months a year in Kelowna, away from her husband, friends and family.

“The instructors here are unbelievable,” says Tse. “The tuition is lower and I know that I am getting the absolute best training possible.”

For 10 weeks per year Tse and her classmates attend the College’s training facility on Penno Road to learn about the intricacies of electrical construction. She then goes to work as an apprentice in the Lower Mainland putting her knowledge to use. Tse points to the variety of work she gets to do as one of the major draws of a career in trades. She has worked in commercial, residential and industrial construction. One of the largest projects she worked on involved doing the electrical work on the River Rock Casino as a part of a crew of more than 300 people. At the other end of the spectrum she has worked on numerous projects where she made up one third of the entire crew.

Andria Tse admits to being on the receiving end of harassment. The only female in most of her classes at Okanagan College’s Penno Road trades training facility, the 27-year-old is now in the fourth year of her apprenticeship training.

“I do get harassed by the guys in the class,” says Tse. “But most of the time it is about what I am eating – I am a vegan and the guys just don’t get it! Actually, the fact that I am a woman is a complete non-issue. My classmates and the people I work with on job sites are great. We are a team and we all work together toward the same goal. Sure, maybe I can’t lift quite as much as some of the guys but I can fit into smaller spaces. I think I work with men really well because I have nothing to prove to anyone and I am not afraid to ask for help -- but to be honest, I have never felt that my gender has been an issue.”

Tse is a woman who is transforming the old stereotypes associated with tradespeople. Working in what has traditionally been a male-dominated industry, Tse is a petite, engaging and extremely articulate young woman. As a fourth-year electrical apprentice at Okanagan College, she is a long way from where she thought she would be when she enrolled at Simon Fraser University to earn a biochemistry degree.

“After completing three years of university, I realized that I didn’t want to be in a lab all day,” says Tse. “I love using my hands and my brain and thought that a career in trades might offer me the opportunity to use both on a daily basis. I began my pre-apprenticeship in electrical and never looked back.”

Tse entered into trades training at an institution in Burnaby but transferred to Okanagan College after one year.

Gateway to the building trades for women

With more women choosing to pursue careers in the trades, Okanagan College recently announced the addition of a new program beginning Jan. 15, 2007. Gateway to the building trades for women is a 12-week program designed to introduce women to a variety of building trades familiarizing them with practical and theoretical knowledge. “The program aims to deliver hands-on training in the skilled building trades,” says Randy Werger, Associate Dean of Trades and Apprenticeship. “We want to provide women with a foundation from which they can make informed decisions about entering into a career in the trades.” Applications for the program are now being accepted -- some space is still available. Call (250) 862-5457 to register.

New Trades Bursary

Kathy Butler (left) accepts a cheque in the amount of \$1,800 from Valerie Blundell, President of the Vernon Women in Business. The donation will create a new one-time bursary for a North Okanagan woman beginning entry-level trades training at the College. The Vernon Women in Business instituted the donation and new award in order to facilitate support for the growing number of women choosing to enter trades training.



Welders at work

The new trades training facility in Salmon Arm was officially opened by welding students and Okanagan College staff at the 2nd annual pancake breakfast in September

(The changing face of TRADES *continued*)

“One of the things I love most about my job is the constant learning that goes on,” says Tse. “When working on large jobs I get to meet so many people with great experience and I take every opportunity to absorb as much knowledge from them as I can. On the other hand, it is so much fun to work on small jobs because you really become friends with your co-workers, the contractors and everyone involved.”

Jim Gamble has been one of Tse’s instructors at the College throughout her training. His estimation of her abilities and talent is such that he is encouraging her to consider teaching the trade somewhere down the road.

“Andria is a great student, electrician and person,” says Gamble. “As much as she has benefited from her time here at the College, we too have benefited from her positive attitude and work ethic. She really defies all of the old stereotypes that women in trades have had to battle.”

While Tse admits that a career in trades is certainly not for everyone, it works extremely well for her. In December she will complete the final leg of her instruction and will go back to work as an apprentice. After logging the remainder of her apprenticeship hours she will receive her Red Seal Construction Electrician ticket which qualifies her to work in her field anywhere in Canada.

“I love my job,” says Tse. “I love what I am doing right now and there are lots of options for me in the future. I may teach one day or go back to school for engineering – for now I am happy with what I am doing and can’t imagine being stuck in an office all day.”

College celebrates 15-year partnership with Toyota Technical College

Fifteen years of partnership were marked by Okanagan College and Toyota Technical College at an awards night and dinner reception held in late August. Representing Toyota Technical College were President Kiichiro Fujita, Vice President Kazunori Ikeyama, five instructors, and 32 exuberant students.

“The relationship between the College and Toyota Technical College is an extremely valued piece of our history and future,” says Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton. “We have had the opportunity to train and work with approximately 500 Japanese students throughout the past 15 years. In addition to receiving a great education, the students integrate into our campus, live with local families and experience life in Canada. Their willingness to learn and enthusiasm for our program, instructors and College make the partnership extremely worthwhile.”

The intensive four-week program in automotive collision repair and painting was born 15 years ago out of a need expressed by the Japanese automotive industry, says program instructor Chris Burns.

“There is a shortage of automotive body and paint specialists in Japan but it was much worse a few decades ago,” explains Burns. “Because Japanese cars are produced on such a large scale, insurance companies in Japan would write off most damage to vehicles and claimants would receive brand new vehicles. About 15 years ago Japanese insurance companies changed their policies to align with worldwide collision repair procedures but there were not enough technicians in the country who could do the work.”

Toyota Technical College began to look internationally to partner with a college interested in training Japanese students in the areas of collision repair, painting and English. What followed was a great collaboration between Toyota Technical College and Okanagan College.

Okanagan College’s Jeff Francis and Chris Burns have been instructing the program for several years and find the program to be very personally rewarding.

“We put a lot of work into the program,” says Burns. “We get the privilege of teaching but we also get to make friends. We stay in touch with a lot of the people who come through this program.”

Jeff Francis and the College’s Dean of Trades and Apprenticeship John Haller, were invited to visit Japan by Toyota Technical College in October. Burns and Francis plan on developing new curriculum and re-examining the existing partnership to look at different approaches to making the program even more successful.



Saki Goto receives the prestigious Takashi Tanaka Memorial Award from instructors Chris Burns (left) and Jeff Francis

President's Entrance Scholarship and Millennium Excellence Award recipients announced

Tessa Sansom is the first Okanagan College student to be awarded the prestigious Level One Millennium Excellence National In-Course Award – one of only 100 people in Canada to get the award this year.

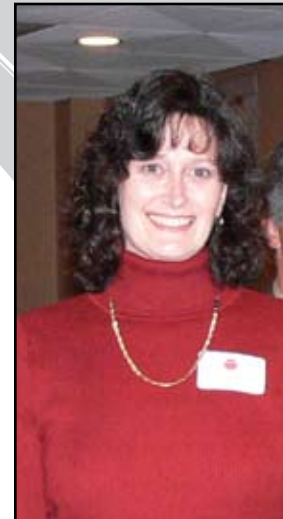
Reviewing her list of accomplishments, it is easy to understand why she was chosen. A third-year Bachelor of Business Administration student, studying in Vernon this year, Sansom is held in high regard by peers and instructors alike. Last year, she saw a need to enhance the profile of the business program in Salmon Arm, where she lives and was going to school, so she took it upon herself to lead the organization of a business-networking event on the campus.

After explaining the concept to faculty, administration and her fellow students, Tessa organized a business-after-hours on campus which drew dozens of employers and business representatives and which gave students a valuable chance to create their own networks. Sansom also chose to participate in an organizational development event held recently by the College, bringing a student's perspective to an audience of more than 400 people over two days.

And that's not to mention her volunteer commitment as a ground searcher for the Shuswap Volunteer Search and Rescue organization. (She drew on her business acumen to help develop a business plan for that organization, too.) The Level One award means Tessa will receive \$5,000 annually for two years. Sansom was honored at a special event held Oct. 18 to honor recipients of the Millennium Excellence Award and President's Entrance Scholarships.

Another Millennium Excellence Award winner recognized at the event was Brett Wilkie, but he was unable to attend – he's on an exchange in Europe.

The eight President's Scholarship Winners recognized at the event were Natalie Abbott and Danielle Downs (from the Shuswap Revelstoke region), Lindi Plante and Nadia Semnutin from the North Okanagan, Thanet (Vic) Ying-Udomrat and Samuel Yew from the Central Okanagan, and Amanda Boehm and Ry-Ann Wells from the South Okanagan.



Tessa Sansom was one of two recipients of the Millennium Excellence Award



Danielle Downs receives the President's Entrance Scholarship from President Jim Hamilton with Vice President Education Andrew Hay, Regional Dean Lynda Wilson, Foundation President Steven Tuck, Development Officer Linda Way and Dean of Arts and Foundational Programs Rob Huxtable.

25 Years of



Career Fair



94



98



98



95



06



06

Penticton campus given historic piece of land

President Jim Hamilton, Derek Salter and Jim Leir with the family's original farming truck.



Extensive media coverage marked the donation of a quarter-acre piece of land to Okanagan College from one of Penticton's most established families. Television crews, radio and newspaper reporters were out in force to capture the importance of the donation.

"The Leir family have had a tremendous impact on the history of Penticton," said Donna Lomas, South Okanagan Similkameen Regional Dean. "Their family sawmill and farm contributed to the growth and development of Penticton in the 1900s. This donation will ensure they play an important role in the future development of our community, providing valuable space for the education of our students."

The piece of land donated to the College was once just a corner of the family's large estate on which they lived and ran their family sawmill and farm.

The Penticton Sawmill began operating in 1906, expanding throughout the years to help fill the lumber and employment needs of the ever-increasing community.

The Leir family was honoured at a ceremony held at the Penticton campus on Oct. 5. A bench with a plaque dedicated to the family and the employees of the mill was unveiled to mark the occasion.

"When all of the brothers and sisters get together it can be awfully hard to get a word in edgewise," said Derek Salter, husband of Jill Leir. "To have each of the 11 remaining family members agree to donate this land to the College really says a lot about how strongly we support this donation."

College President Jim Hamilton sees the donation as an excellent opportunity to support students at the College while acknowledging the value and rich history of local families like the Leir's.

"We are honoured to accept the land from the Leir family," said Hamilton. "Our student enrollment numbers are increasing and we are looking for ways to gain access to more space on campus for students. The generosity of the Leir family will benefit our students, campus and community."

"We are all so happy about this gift and where it is going," said Salter. "Our family's land will be an important part of the long-range education plan of the College. Much as our family sawmill sustained Penticton through some of the toughest years of the past century, the College is a bright light in the future of Penticton."

Too much of a good thing?

Recommendations made by Okanagan College's Leadership Team and Email Working Group (EWG) may cause you to think twice before hitting the send button the next time you choose to communicate via email.

Earlier this year Okanagan College's Leadership Team (made up of College Deans, Directors, Vice Presidents and the President) put forth a task to the Okanagan College Assistants' Development (OCAD) group -- research email usage at the College and make recommendations to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of email usage.

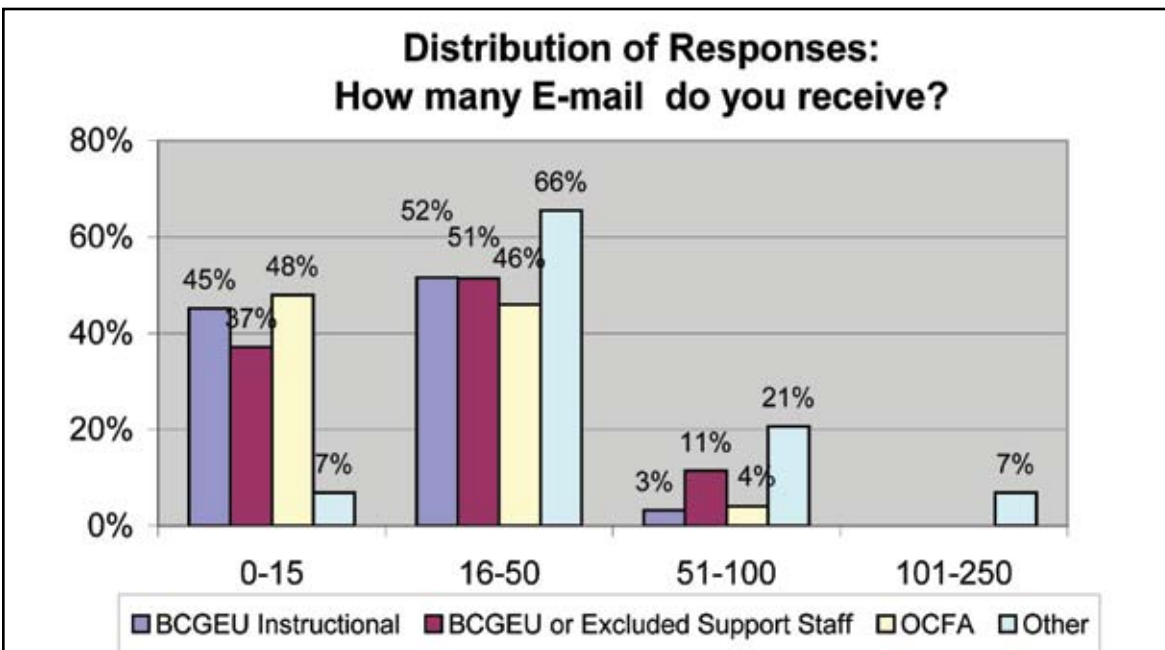
All College employees were asked to share information about their personal email habits. After compiling the data, the following recommendations were made:

- **Posting Global notices in myOkanagan rather than sending them as Global emails**
- **Refraining from using the "reply-all" function unless replying to a group email**
- **Reconsidering copying several people on emails that may not be critical to them**
- **Using the signature feature in Outlook to ensure others have your phone number and full name to contact you in person or by phone**
- **Identifying Global messages as such in the message subject line**
- **Considering whether a phone call or face-to-face conversation may, in some instances, be a more effective way of communicating**

The EWG, which included representatives from teaching, administrative and support roles at various campuses was led by Jasmine McGee with support from Jessica Oman, Chair of OCAD.

Results of the survey showed that administrators and staff were the two groups of employees who found their volume of email to be problematic. During the week of March 12 – 18 it was found that 50,795 emails were received by internal users at the College. During that same week 27,673 emails were sent.

Upon completion of the survey, participants were entered into a draw for prizes with someone from each region winning a coffee thermos and restaurant gift certificate. The winners included: Theresa Kisilevich, Vernon; Susan Cawsey, Salmon Arm; Sharon Reems, Penticton and Carmen Nadon, Kelowna.



Seaton learns to swim, completes Ironman - what's next?

On Aug. 26, among a sea of more than 1,000 athletes, Okanagan College's Sheilagh Seaton completed her first -- and last -- Ironman triathlon. Crossing the finish line at 8:30 p.m., after 13 hours and 30 minutes in the Penticton heat, the college instructor achieved her goal.

For most people, the idea of completing an Ironman, (which entails a 3.8 km swim, 180 km bike and 42.2 km run), is enough to prevent them from ever signing up. For someone who doesn't know how to swim, the idea is a little more than ambitious.

Two-and-a-half years ago Seaton started playing with the idea of the world-renowned Ironman race. She decided to stop thinking about it and set out to learn how to swim.



Sheilagh Seaton crosses the finish line at the 24th Penticton Ironman.

An avid cyclist and runner, Seaton hit the pool in 2003 and began taking swimming lessons. She progressed relatively quickly and started to feel more comfortable with her capabilities in the water. In Aug. 2005 she signed up for the race along with her husband.

The daily training required to compete in Ironman took a toll on her body as she nursed an achilles tendon injury for most of the year. Her husband's training came to a halt when he sustained injuries that sidelined him from training and ultimately, the race. Left on her own to train, Seaton found some days more difficult than others.

"My husband and I planned on training and competing together and it was much more difficult to make myself get out on my bike or lace up my shoes on my own."

She entered the Oliver Half-Ironman in June as a warm-up to the real thing. While running the half, her achilles injury became worse and ended her training for the marathon component.

"I was really hurting after Oliver," says Seaton. "With less than two months until Ironman I knew that I wouldn't be able to run anymore if I wanted to be able to compete. So I focused on my biking and swimming, giving the achilles a rest from running."

When race day arrived, Seaton performed better than she had expected. Finishing the swim portion in 1:08 she quickly transitioned to the bike and put in a great time of 6:08. Going into the final marathon leg, Seaton had decided to walk the 42 kms to keep her injury from flaring up.

"I was feeling really good," says Seaton. "When I got to the marathon, I did a combination of walking and running without pushing myself too far. The energy of the spectators and volunteers was amazing. It made the race for me. After all those hours of training in solitude, the support I received from everyone on the day of the race made it all worth while."

Relying on a strict nutritional plan (which happened to include a few jelly beans), proper hydration and mental focus, Seaton finished the race feeling great. She admits that it will probably be her last Ironman, as her focus shifts to her next great challenge: earning a Doctoral degree from the University of Southern Queensland in Australia.

MBA program comes to Kelowna

For many Okanagan residents, earning a master's degree used to mean one of two things: taking a leave from the working world to go away to school for a year or more, or wedging a daunting amount of travel into an already hectic work schedule.

Until now, there has not been a quality Master's of Business Administration (MBA) program available to local residents. The Okanagan is about to change, courtesy of a new partnership between the College and Thompson Rivers University.

The two post-secondary institutions have joined forces to create a part-time MBA program offered in Kelowna. Classes will be held at the KLO campus of Okanagan College with students receiving instruction from a combination of Thompson Rivers University and Okanagan College professors. The Thompson Rivers University MBA is designed to produce managers of the highest calibre with a superior knowledge of the current business curriculum and excellent business research and consulting skills.

We are proud to be partnering with Thompson Rivers University on this project," said Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton. "Our community has expressed the need for an affordable, quality MBA program and we are pleased to be able to contribute. This program will serve the needs of hundreds of local Okanagan College business graduates as well as the greater community."

Dr. Murray Young, Dean of Business and Economics at Thompson Rivers University and Dr. Heather Banham, Acting Dean of the Okanagan School of Business have led several information sessions throughout the valley open to anyone interested in learning about what it might be like to earn an MBA.

"Ten years ago the top two characteristics of business managers were communication skills and the ability to work in a team," said Young. "Today, businesses want someone who has learned how to learn. In our rapidly changing business world, clients, technology and information are changing so quickly that adaptability is the number one attribute in a great businessperson. In this program, we will enhance your ability to learn and reference your learning to the inter-connected nature of our global environment."

"This is a great opportunity for members of the Okanagan community to earn their MBA without having to relocate, travel outside of the region or leave their current employment," said Banham. "Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops has recently graduated their first MBAs and the program has met all of the content and quality requirements of the Degree Quality Assurance Board from the Ministry of Advanced Education in British Columbia."

The program is scheduled to begin in May or September of 2007. Anyone interested can contact the Okanagan School of Business at: (250) 862-5610.



Murray Young

"Today, businesses want someone who has learned how to learn. In our rapidly changing business world, clients, technology and information are changing so quickly that adaptability is the number one attribute in a great businessperson. In this program, we will enhance your ability to learn and reference your learning to the inter-connected nature of our global environment."

Dr. Murray Young

College students take advantage of laptop-lending program

A new laptop-lending program introduced by the College in September has students taking advantage of the mobile technology.

“The program has been extremely successful and well-utilized in the first few months of service,” says Director of Library Services, Laura Neame. “The laptops are being used on a daily basis at all of our campuses.”



Library monitor Simon Doiron assists student Li Lin as she uses the new service.

The College program allows students the opportunity to borrow one of 30 new computers, which have been distributed across the four campuses. On the morning the program was launched, students were lined up waiting to sign out the computers, says Neame.

The laptops, equipped with wireless Internet access, are housed at campus libraries and may be signed out for one day free of charge. Students requiring the computers for a longer period of time will pay a low, flat rate; \$15 to use a computer for three days and \$25 for a seven-day rental. The ability to borrow laptop computers will provide greater student access to the expanding collection of electronic and online resources available at the College.

“This is just one way we are meeting the technological demands of today’s College environment,” said Steve Koehle, Vice President of Integrated Planning and Operations for the College. “All of our campuses are equipped with wireless networks so students can be connected as soon as they walk through the doors.

Our libraries, computer labs and learning centres have

additional resources for students with extended hours to make accessing our facilities easier.”

Single-day usage of the computers is aiding students in the preparation and delivery of in-class presentations and also provides students with access to computers during times when library workstations and labs are full.

The ability to borrow the laptops for up to a week benefits students who do not have a computer at home and require the technology for assignments, research and papers.

Vernon Trades Training Centre Opens

Plumbing student John Deak (centre) cuts the ribbon at the opening of the Vernon trades training centre with help from John Haller, Dean of Trades and Apprenticeship (left), Regional Dean Ron Mohr, President Jim Hamilton and Vernon Mayor Wayne Lippert.



College expands creating increased presence

An increase in enrolment and program growth experienced by Okanagan College has led to some program relocations and changes this fall. To meet space demands at the KLO campus, the Office Administration program relocated to St. Paul Street in the heart of Kelowna's business district. In Vernon and Salmon Arm, new trades training centres were opened to facilitate the rotating trades program. The Penticton campus has leased space at 246 Martin Street in downtown Penticton and is currently using the space to conduct Continuing Studies programs.

"The College's expanded programming and increasing student population created the need to find suitable high-quality sites for students off-campus," said Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton.

Kelowna Office Administration students, instructors and staff hosted an open house on Oct. 4 to formally introduce Okanagan College to its new neighbours on St. Paul Street in downtown Kelowna.

Kelowna-Mission MLA Sindi Hawkins attended the event offering words of welcome for the College.

"A big part of the reason we are here today is because of our government's commitment to supporting education and creating more post-secondary opportunities for students in British Columbia," said Hawkins. "As more and more students choose to live and study in Kelowna we are requiring additional facilities and programs to meet the needs of our student population."

The 5,000 square foot leased building consists of three classrooms, three offices and student space. Students in the Office Administration diploma and certificate programs are the first to occupy the building.

While relocating some programs to off-site facilities will solve short-term space concerns, the long-term goal expressed in the College's Master Planning Process includes bringing all regional programs back to central campuses.



Associate Dean of Business Barry McGillivray (left), Kelowna MLA Sindi Hawkins, student Claire Rota, Councilor Brian Given, Board of Governors' Vice Chair Janet Shaw, ABT Chair Madelaine Befus, student Amy Crowe and President Jim Hamilton open Kelowna's Downtown Centre.

Continuing Studies instructors inspired by day of learning



Stan Chung, Associate Dean of Arts and Foundational Programs

On Saturday, Sept. 9, Okanagan College Continuing Studies instructors attended a day of learning led by Stan Chung, Associate Dean of Arts and Foundational Programs and Mike Minions, Educational Technology Coordinator for the College.

Entitled, Inspired Learning: Interactive Tools for Building Knowledge, the goal of the workshop was to deliver two highly interactive presentations to promote instructor networking, participation and inspiration for Continuing Studies instructors.

Chung presented the first workshop, Creating Stimulating and Inspiring Learning Experiences. Instructor Colleen Larson was motivated by Chung's presentation. "I was lacking energy about starting my class for the fifth year," said Larson. "The session validated for me that I am a strong teacher, and more importantly, inspired me to make changes to some of my activities so that I continue to love by job."

The second workshop, How Adults Learn: Learning Styles, Theory and Tools to Take Home, was presented by Mike Minions. Minions' presentation focused on how media and technology interact with learning theory in the acquisition and creation of knowledge.

"The CS instructors overwhelmed me with their dedication and passion for learner-centred instruction," said Chung. "Students want great learning, but they also want to learn in a friendly, caring, and collaborative environment. That's what Okanagan College does best."

An article written by Stan Chung, *Searching for a plot*, recently appeared in the Nov. 12 issue of The Daily Courier Okanagan Sunday edition. Anyone interested in reading the piece can contact Christine Ulmer (culmer@okanagan.bc.ca) for an electronic version.

Osoyoos asks, College answers

The College's Continuing Studies program is extending its reach to expand access for Osoyoos residents interested in attending College courses in the winter of 2007. Operating out of the brand new Sonora Community Centre, the College will bring a range of programming that includes a diversity of courses.

"We've had discussions for some time about offering continuing education courses in Osoyoos," said College Program Administrator Alida Boyd. "Residents have certainly asked for it, and we're excited now to be able to offer courses in the community."

Boyd says the timing couldn't be better considering that driving in the winter months can be a deterrent to people, especially seniors living in Osoyoos who previously would have had to drive to Oliver or Penticton to attend courses.

The College is planning on offering courses across areas such as writing, art, tourism, first aid, home decorating and digital photography basics. Depending on enrollment numbers and demand, the College is prepared to add courses based on community need.

"We're open to suggestions and new ideas from the community," said Boyd. "We also are interested in hearing from people who would like to teach a class. Osoyoos has a lot of retired people and some professionals who may have expertise and be willing to share that knowledge."

The College's winter brochure, which lists all classes in the continuing studies department, will be available closer to the New Year.

Mapping out septic risks

This article first appeared in the Salmon Arm Observer on October 25, 2006
written by Barb Brouwer, Observer staff.

For the first time, and in living colour, a map has been produced that indicates how sewage from private septic systems in the North and South Shuswap could be impacting Shuswap Lake water quality.

John Herman, a GIS (geographical information systems) student at Okanagan College, has created a map that indicates all the buildings in Blind Bay and across the lake in Lee Creek and Scotch Creek.

Using data provided by the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Herman plotted out buildings with septic systems that, in red, are within 30 metres of the lake and those – in purple – that are outside the buffer zone but capable of affecting water quality unless they are operating at optimum efficiency.

“Guaranteed they’re not,” said an adamant Doug Dymond, manager of CSRD’s Work Service. “It is the point we tried to make years ago. There are a very high number of properties in a very dense configuration, each with septic systems that are reaching the end of their life expectancy.”

Dymond says regional district officials have known for a long time that too many septic systems in marginal soils on steep slopes will eventually result in problems on the foreshore.

Liquid waste management plans are underway for both areas, this being the second kick at the can for South Shuswap residents who told CSRD to shelve the plan in the ‘90s.

“It’s neat, it’s another graphic indication of the effect we’re having on the lake,” said Dymond of Herman’s map. “I hope it focuses people on the liquid waste management process.”

Meanwhile, Herman’s map also indicates the five developments that have provincially approved systems that pipe treated effluent into deeper waters of the lake. These include Gateway Falls, Wharf Creek, Pinegrove and Saratoga Springs in the North Shuswap and Carmel Cove in the South Shuswap.

Only the Gateway and Saratoga are operating, and Shuswap Environmental Action society president Jim Cooperman charges that neither system has been working properly.

“Pollution from the system in Scotch Creek has resulted in a continuation of the boil water advisory for Saratoga water users, and problems with Gateway Falls RV development’s system resulted in the effluent being trucked out to the Chase sewage treatment plant,” he says.

Cooperman is concerned that a Ministry of the Environment water quality report won’t be made public until January, at the earliest – with less than one year remaining on the current prohibition on depositing treated effluent into the lake. Herman chose Shuswap Lake water quality as the second of three projects he must undertake to complete his GIS course because he has a resident’s concerns about the lake. Having made that decision, Herman says he cruised the Internet looking for information, discovering the SEAS site about six weeks ago. He contacted Cooperman who provided him with more information.

Herman says he will likely be working on this project into December and will be creating maps, including one of Salmon Arm Bay.



Map created by John Herman

College honours Distinguished Alumni



Westbank First Nation Chief Robert Louie and freshwater scientist Michelle Boshard were honoured at the Distinguished Alumni Awards on Nov. 2. Louie received the Distinguished Alumni Award while Boshard took home the Young Alumni Award.

“The November 2nd event was the first of what we hope will be many more occasions to honour our most distinguished alumni,” said Director of Advancement Kathy Butler. “It was a great evening of celebration. We recognize that our alumni have accomplished great things in their lives and by honouring their accomplishments we also acknowledge the important contribution that Okanagan College has made.”

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 Submissions are welcome, email culmer@okanagan.bc.ca



Distinguished Alumni Award winner Chief Robert Louie congratulates Young Alumni Award winner Michelle Boshard.



Coming Events

- Nov 22 Residential Construction Open House Salmon Arm
- Nov 28 College Prep 101 Salmon Arm
- Nov 30 College Prep 101 Penticton
- Dec 2 Residential Construction Open House Kelowna
- Dec 11 First day of Final Exams
- Dec 13 Trades Commencement Kelowna
- Dec 14 Practical Nursing Commencement Penticton
- Dec 15 Practical Nursing Commencement Kelowna
- Dec 16 The Night Before Christmas Bash
- Dec 21 Last day of Final Exams
- Dec 22 - Jan 2 College Closed for Winter Break
- Jan 2 Winter Semester Begins
- Jan 13 Winter Convocation