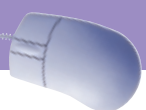




NETWORK

Stay Connected



alumni: people, programs & perspectives beyond ucc • Volume 1a, No. 3a – Fall 2003

Are you ready for the Big H?

By Narayan Mitra

UCC Homecoming 2003

Bigger and better — that's what **UCC Alumni Homecoming 2003** on October 17 and 18 promises to be.

Building on the success of last year's homecoming, the Alumni Association is working hard to bring a good number of peers together.

Friday evening's **President's Reception** kicks off the weekend. The 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients will be honoured at a wine and hors d'oeuvre reception at the Food Training Building on campus.

Alumni Board and Homecoming planning committee member Dwayne Geiger (BEEd '94) sees the weekend as a time to keep interest in UCC active.

"Judging from last year's well-received inaugural event, we want to help alumni build their relationships with UCC as well as with each other. UCC is still a young institution. As it grows we want to get grads attached to it."

Saturday will feature **UCC's Open House and Career Day**. The event showcases programs from all areas of campus and is fun for everyone young and old.

Alumni Night at Heroes Pub is also planned for Saturday and will be the weekend's climax. Groups plan to meet informally by year or class. Music, entertainment, free appetizers, and prizes will all contribute to unite dispersed friends and make it a memorable social occasion.

Alumni Relations Officer Victoria Baker sees the weekend of fun and activities as "building a sense of community and strengthening ties to UCC."

"We are trying to work homecoming into an annual tradition that sees people coming to the campus regularly. A larger event is being planned in 2005, UCC's 35th anniversary," said Baker.

Alumni, of course, need not wait until homecoming to get connected. Local chapters are sprouting up in the communities where graduates live. The new UCC Alumni Association Online Community is there to share news and achievements as well as to facilitate networking. This free service also provides ongoing mentoring, relocation advice and a permanent e-mail address to all alumni.

Don't forget to mark October 17 and 18 on your calendar. For more information, call 250-828-5498, e-mail alumni@cariboo.bc.ca or go to www.uccalumni.ca for details.

President's Reception — Distinguished Alumni Awards

Friday October 17, 2003 at 7:00pm
3rd Floor, Food Training Building
\$20.00 per person
for tickets call 250-371-5711

Join UCC President Roger Barnsley, faculty and alumni for an evening of alumni pride as we honour UCC's most accomplished graduates with the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Enjoy wines from B.C. and around the world and hors d'oeuvres prepared by the culinary talents of UCC's Professional Cook Training Program students.
RSVP by Friday October 10.



UCC's Open House and Career Day

Saturday October 18, 2003
11:00am to 4:00pm
UCC Kamloops Campus

UCC hosts a campus wide Open House and Career Day. The campus will be alive with activities including interactive science and technology displays, the buzz of the Trades and Technology programs and many displays and hands on experiences. Entertainment, food and fun for the whole family. The Alumni Association will have an interactive Online Community demonstration and sign up for students and alumni in the Old Main Boardroom, OM1611.



Alumni Night

Saturday October 18, 2003
4:00pm to 7:00pm
UCC Heroes Pub
Campus Activity Centre

Join the Alumni Association for an informal gathering at the campus pub. Alumni can get re-acquainted with former classmates, friends and faculty. Enjoy free appetizers and drink specials.



Faculty-Based Events/Sporting Events

Be sure to visit the 2003 Homecoming Web page and learn more about the events planned by your faculty and UCC sports teams playing during the weekend.

Lots of fun and prizes to be won throughout the weekend!

"Stay Connected" www.uccalumni.ca



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More 'freedom' in UCC's entry level and apprenticeship training

By Narayan Mitra

Since April, the delivery of B.C.'s post-secondary Entry Level and Apprenticeship training has undergone substantial changes.

Gone is the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission (ITAC) with their own set of counselors. Many of the training responsibilities that used to be handled by the government, such as student registration, training schedules, seat assignments, management of waitlists, and promotion of training opportunities, have now become the responsibilities of post-secondary institutions.

However, schools such as UCC are now free to tailor their courses and annual program profiles to meet the needs of apprentices and the industry. Apprentices and prospective trainees now have the freedom to schedule Entry Level and all levels of apprenticeship training directly with the post-secondary schools.

Larry Dyck finds this a win-win arrangement. As the Transitions and Apprenticeship Coordinator in UCC's School of Trades and Technology, Dyck oversees both components of the School's mechanical and construction trades.

"The government wants to streamline and blend Entry Level and Apprenticeship training as a cost-efficient use of vocational training dollars. For example, a new Entry Level training model is under development for prospective mechanic apprentices which will allow them to obtain three months of common core training, followed by a six-month Trade-entry program and a one-month practicum."

The government is encouraging post-secondary schools to reduce Entry Level programs wherever possible to six months. This fall, UCC's School of Trades and Technology will begin delivery of revised six-month Trade-entry programs in the electrical and piping trades. The model will also provide continuous intakes to increase training availability for the students, but each student is expected to complete the program within six months.

"The government grants credit for the first level of apprenticeship in-school training to the graduates of many of the Entry Level programs, provided they become indentured as apprentices within one year of obtaining their certification.

"This means that these apprentices will contact UCC to book a seat for the second year by-passing the first level of in-school training. Employers and apprentices see this as a real benefit," said Dyck.

After obtaining the required number of hours of work experience and completing the fourth level apprenticeship in-school training with a minimum of 70 per cent on the inter-provincial exam, apprentices receive Inter-Provincial Journeyman status (also known as Red Seal certification).

Dyck is careful to point out the quality of education will not be threatened and there won't be a loss of accountability under the new system because UCC trains its trade and tourism students to inter-provincial standards.

Another change for this year is the government's decision to give the same level of funding for three consecutive years provided that the number of student full-time equivalents (FTEs) increases each year. Streamlining the training models allow cost savings, which translates to more course intakes, thus increasing annual student FTEs.

At the same time that student FTEs are increased, UCC must also be prepared to respond to changing industry needs. An example of this was the introduction of the log house building training taught in 100 Mile House. It wouldn't have been possible to offer this new program without the direct support of industry, UCC and the student fees.

"Freedom is the word I would use to describe the new Entry Level and Apprenticeship training guidelines," said Dyck. "It has provided new avenues of freedom for post-secondary institutions to enhance their program offerings, for apprentices and employers to book training classes, and for industry to partner with schools to develop innovative delivery of post-secondary vocational training."

More information about Entry Level and Apprenticeship training can be obtained by contacting Larry Dyck at 371-5797.

For a list of all available Entry Level or Apprenticeship programs, go to:

- www.cariboo.bc.ca/tt
- www.cariboo.bc.ca/tourism

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Career Technical Centre enhances student experience

By Narayan Mitra

A partnership between UCC's School of Trades and Technology and Tourism and School Districts #27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin), #73 (Kamloops/Thompson), and #74 (Gold Trail), is enabling high school students to complete their Entry Level training at the Kamloops or Williams Lake campuses of UCC.

Students from St. Ann's Academy (Kamloops) and district #83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) also participate in Career Technical Centre (CTC) programs.

"The new innovation bridges secondary and post-secondary education while enhancing the student's transition to the workforce. Each CTC program runs for two years and allows secondary students to complete grades 11 and 12 along with up to one year of post-secondary training," said Larry Dyck, UCC's Transitions and Apprenticeship Coordinator in the School of Trades and Technology.

Eight CTC programs are taught in Kamloops, while Williams Lake offers five programs, including Residential Construction.

The CTC pays tuition and each CTC student is responsible for program costs, safety equipment, and learning guides. In all, there are 66 seats available in Kamloops and another 34 in Williams Lake.

A form of in-house partnership exists between the School of Trades and Technology and the School of Tourism with regards to program delivery. School of Trades and Technology teaches mechanical and construction CTC programs. Professional Cook Training and Retail Meat Processing courses for CTC students are handled by the Tourism school.

The blending of CTC students with general public students in various ratio mixes has worked to the advantage of both groups.

The general students appreciate the CTC students' current mathematics, science and English skills. The CTC students gain great insight into the realities of the work world from the other students.

"Parents are also happy to see their sons and daughters grow up in the course of a year as they work side-by-side with adults and gain an understanding of what employers will expect of them," said Dyck.

"It's liberating, this new-found freedom for CTC students. At the same time they are aware of their responsibilities as they participate in post-secondary adult-based training."

For more information on Cariboo CTC programs contact Larry Dyck at 371-5797, or go to www.cariboo.bc.ca/tt/ctc.

Trades and CTC success

By Narayan Mitra

Both UCC Career Technical Centre (CTC) and public post-secondary trades programs have success stories to bandy about. A selection of three students' achievements follow:



Riley Matheson
(CTC - Electrical)

Kamloops teenager Riley Matheson, 16, is the winner of a bronze medal in the electrical category at the Provincial Skills Canada competition, where he successfully wired circuits in a specified amount of time.

"It was quite exciting. Among the 12 competitors, I didn't expect to win. Most came from BCIT; I was the only one from UCC."

The win is almost a mother-son effort. Matheson first learned of the competition from his mom, who is taking a computer course at UCC. Over the next year he will be working in Kamloops and northern B.C. before returning to UCC for the next three levels of the certification.



TRAVIS THIBEAULT
(CTC - Welding)

100 Mile House resident Travis Thibeault was the winner of a provincial gold and a national silver medal at the Skills Canada championship in welding.

Thibeault had to compete against 19 others in the provincials and 11 in the nationals. Prior to this, he participated and won regionally among high school students.

"It wasn't a bad idea, but I didn't really expect to win. I made my community and UCC proud," he said. The local media featured his achievements.

Thibeault has seven more months to complete the CTC training which he will split over the next two years. Following a year of working, he gets back to UCC next spring for his B ticket.

SHANE STIRLING (Trades - Electrical)

A native of Fort St. John, Shane Stirling is a busy person studying as well as running his own business.

Stirling is in his third term as an electrical apprenticeship at UCC. With prior studies at BCIT and a journeyman's ticket under his belt, he is a part-owner of an electrical contracting business employing about 45 workers in season.

Of his time at UCC since March, Stirling has nothing but praise.

"It's an amazing place. The labs are well put together and structured for productive use of time. The equipment is well-maintained and the classrooms are nice and large. Teaching staff share from experience. They introduce us to a broader scope of what's happening."

But even with these pluses, Stirling longs to be up north working in the gas and oil fields. He loves the challenge of working long hours in the dead of winter.



Denise Harper: board chair, UCC Alumni Association



By Narayan Mitra

New Alumni Association chair Denise Harper continues to educate herself in and outside of UCC thanks to the energy she invests into causes dear to her heart.

At 50, she works full-time, sits on the YWCA board, quilts, takes the odd course at UCC and enjoys being a grandmother of six kids.

Harper is completing the term of her predecessor, Marilyn Poncet, and plans to run for re-election in September. A former trustee and chair of School District 73, she is passionate about secondary and post-secondary education.

"I am excited having UCC in our community, particularly for the sake of kids from rural areas. For them it's a big thing to attend college right here. They can't do the transition to a big centre."

Her local school, Chase secondary has the highest percentage of graduates attending UCC. Harper studied communications during UCC's infancy and worked in both print and visual media. A stint with CUPE publishing their newsletter grew into a 22-year relationship. She now manages the Kamloops office.

Her association with UCC as a student, Foundation board member, and now as an Alumni board member, inspired her to help elevate UCC's profile in the community. Husband John, who sat on the UCC Board of Governors for six years, is also an enthusiastic supporter.

"UCC is growing and has a good strategic plan. We as alumni want to take our place on the table as committed fund-raisers. A lot of grads leave UCC and forget their educational roots. They can act as advocates and get the word out about the institution and their support of the university will help keep student fees affordable."

Professionally, Harper has traveled a long way. As a budding reporter, she nervously interviewed a federal health minister. In days ahead, UCC alumni can expect her confident appeal to spur them toward building a strong alma mater, which, according to Harper, is "still a well-kept secret."

ALUMNI PATHFINDER

1990s

Tyler Freed, Adventure Travel Guide '98

Tyler has been busy since leaving UCC, becoming certified as an assistant ACMG rock guide, as well as operating two businesses in the Whistler/Pemberton area, Coast Range Heli Skiing and Cayoosh Snowmobile Adventures. In addition to snowmobiling and heli skiing/boarding in the winter, he also offers heli hiking, climbing and mountain biking in the summer. In his spare time, he enjoys playing music and travelling. www.coastrangeheliskiing.com

Jeremy Huyder, Bachelor of Technology in Applied Computing Science '99

Jeremy was UCC's first graduate of the BTACS degree. He is currently working as a systems analyst for a large, privately funded homeless shelter in Calgary. Jeremy says, "It is one of the few IT jobs I have found that really puts a human face on the industry." Former classmates and friends can e-mail Jeremy at j_huyder@hotmail.com

Michelle McCulloch, Bachelor of Science in Nursing '99

Michelle has been working in Whitehorse for four years, currently in a .75 permanent position in the Intensive Care Unit at Whitehorse General Hospital. She has her own nursing consultant business and does contracts for the local First Nations band, Kwanlin Dun, currently as their HIV/AIDS education coordinator. This work involves mobile outreach nursing, including needle exchanges and testing referrals. She also works with the RCMP in the local schools doing drug education and prevention workshops. Michelle says that the benefit of working in a small northern city is "you get to wear a lot of different hats."

2000's

Norm Fellows, Human Service Worker '01

Norm left the welding industry and made an exciting career change, taking the Human Service Worker program at the Williams Lake Campus. Since graduating, he has worked as an employment counsellor, currently for A. Horton's Consulting and also completed a course in substance abuse through UNBC. Norm is an avid supporter of UCC and the Williams Lake campus and enjoys living in a log home on 70 acres outside of Williams Lake. Former classmates and friends can e-mail Norm at nfellows@stardate.ca

Kevin James, Bachelor of Social Work '01

Kevin is currently working for the Ministry of Children and Family Development in Squamish. He moved there in May after two years of the same work in Bella Bella, where he learned a lot about rural, isolated and aboriginal communities.

Patricia Albright, Tour Coordinator '02 & Val Jenner, Tour Coordinator '02

Val and Patricia have started their own tour company, Wildflower Trails and Wine Tours Ltd., in Kelowna. The full day tours offer visitors a morning hike, lunch at a winery, and afternoon winery tours, complete with wine tasting. Their company also produces creative and innovative tourism products that represent the Okanagan Valley and its wines, such as a wine and food pairing chart. They agree that they "found each course offered in the Tour Coordinator Program to be invaluable to the creation and start-up of our business." www.wildflowersandwine.com

Marion Wienhold, Tour Coordinator '02

Marion began her new chosen career as a tour director right after completing the program. In the summer of 2002, she was the driver/guide for between seven and 11 German-speaking tourists, taking them throughout Western Canada. During the summer of 2003, she worked for a receptive tour operator based out of Toronto as a tour director for groups of up to 45 passengers. In addition, with her partners, Marion has started an inbound tourism company, Double Diamond Holidays Canada. She says that she has found the knowledge gained at UCC "absolutely invaluable." www.ddholidayscanada.com

Cathy Auld, Bachelor of Social Work '03

Cathy is currently working at AVENTA Addiction Treatment for Women as the Assessment and Admissions Coordinator. She really enjoys working with women and finds that she is able to apply a lot of the skills and theory that she was taught in the BSW program. In May 2003, she had the opportunity to co-present some research that she had completed with a professor and the Dean of the School of Social Work at the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences in Halifax. She says this was a wonderful experience. Cathy still keeps in touch with her friends from UCC.

Jennifer LaBar, Bachelor of Business Administration '03

Jennifer completed the BBA program in April with a concentration in Human Resources. In January 2002, she accepted a full-time position with a local sporting goods distribution company, where she spent a year and a half building their Human Resources department while completing her studies through evening classes. In May of this year, she was offered a position in the Human Resources department at the City of Kamloops, which has provided her with some excellent experience and the opportunity to work with knowledgeable and dynamic colleagues. Jennifer and her fiancé, Neil Howatt, (a fellow UCC BBA '03 grad), will be married next summer and plan to stay in Kamloops to pursue their careers.

Lisa Porter, Events & Conventions Management '03

After completing her diploma in April, Lisa accepted a position as Marketing and Promotions Manager for the Powell River Kings Junior 'A' Hockey Club. She is responsible for all corporate sales and sponsorships, community relations, promotions and events, fan development, and "anything else they throw my way." Lisa's goal is to work her way up the ranks, just as the players do, and to one day work for a National Hockey League team. www.powellriverkings.com



UCC Alumni Events

THE



Convocations, alumni chapters

By Narayan Mitra

UCC's 2003 Convocations in Kamloops and Williams Lake are now history.

The June 14 ceremony in Kamloops saw a record number of 1,489 graduates in degree, diploma and certificate programs, as well as the awarding of the first post-baccalaureate credentials. The first convocation under the aegis of Cariboo College was held in 1970, with the first degrees handed out at the 1991 ceremony.

Community members, alumni, board members, families and friends attended and cheered the grads on. As more mature students enter university, it was no surprise to see multigenerational families graduating together.

Nursing graduate, Chelsea Fraser-Beswick, was the valedictorian. UCC Foundation board members Donald Andrews and Stella Black were conferred honorary Doctor of Letters degrees for their distinguished service to UCC and the community.

"For the Alumni Association it was a great success," said Victoria Baker, Alumni Relations Officer. "We raised about \$2,000 through the sale of roses at the ceremony. In addition, the on-site sale of degree frames brought in funds to support association activities."

Baker reminds graduates the frames are also available for purchase online from www.uccalumni.ca throughout the year.

Earlier, on May 30, the Williams Lake campus graduated 112 students at a ceremony with local and university dignitaries in attendance.

"Before the ceremony about 60 alumni, staff, and graduating students met with UCC President Roger Barnsley, Deans Henry Hubert and Rob Anderson, and members of the UCC Board at a luncheon at Giorgio's restaurant," said Grace Simpson, Williams Lake campus Office Co-ordinator.

The new grads were welcomed as members of the Alumni Association.

Alumni chapters in Kamloops and Williams Lake seek to maintain continuing contacts and provide networking opportunities for UCC graduates. Two new chapters in Vancouver and Calgary will host their inaugural events on September 25 and October 1, respectively. President Barnsley is planning to attend both events.

The next meeting of the Williams Lake chapter will be in late Fall at Giorgio's Restaurant.

"Giorgio's has been a wonderful sponsor and supporter of the Williams Lake Chapter," said Nancy Plett, Alumni Association Executive Director.

"The association looks for sponsorship of all our events and values its partnerships with business across B.C."

The alumni office maintains a list of more than 20,000 graduates and is always looking for graduates who have lost touch with the institution. Graduates can update their address online at www.uccalumni.ca or e-mail alumni@cariboo.bc.ca.

benefits, programs & services

The Alumni Association provides a variety of programs, services and benefits to help you stay connected to your friends and faculty from UCC and to network for your career.

The UCC Alumni Association Offers New Credit Card Program



Alumni Association

We are excited to announce the launching of our new **UCC Alumni Association MasterCard** credit card program with MBNA Canada Bank. We hope that many of our alumni select the UCC Alumni Association MasterCard credit card as a way to show their support and pride for the UCC Alumni Association. If you are someone who supports the mission, visions and values of the UCC Alumni Association, then you have several reasons to carry the UCC Alumni Association preferred MasterCard.

Not only will you be supporting the UCC Alumni Association, you will be carrying a credit card with exceptional benefits and customer service. For example, you can take advantage of the low introductory 4.9% interest rate for four months on balance transfers and cash advance cheques.

What's more, cardholders generate income for the UCC Alumni Association at no additional cost to themselves. That is because MBNA Canada, the card issuing bank, has committed to provide a contribution to the UCC Alumni Association for each new account that is opened and used to make a purchase. The UCC Alumni Association MasterCard credit card Program is a great benefit to cardholders and the Association.

Look for an introductory offer in this copy of our newsletter. To order your MasterCard, please call the Alumni Association at (250) 371-5711. Or e-mail us at alumni@cariboo.bc.ca. Apply on-line at www.uccalumni.ca

Our affinity partners occasionally mail information on products and services to our members. If you do not want to receive mailings, please send us an e-mail and your name will be removed from the mailing list.

Sincerely

Denise Harper, Comm. Media '74

Chair, UCC Alumni Association Board of Directors

The University College of the Cariboo (UCC)
900 McGill Road, PO Box 3010, Kamloops, BC Canada V2C 5N3
Telephone (250) 828-5267
Web site: www.uccalumni.ca



Alumni Benefits Card

This card offers discounts on goods and services to UCC Alumni. The 2003-04 UCC Alumni Benefits card is now available. Give us a call, or email us to request your free Alumni Card. Many new benefits have been added this year.

The following participating businesses provide discounts to UCC Alumni, A&W Restaurant, Columbia Square (Kamloops); Best Western Hotel (Kamloops); bookie's, the UCC bookstore; Canada Games Aquatic Centre, Curves (Kamloops North Shore & 100 Mile House); Denny's Restaurants in Western Canada; Giorgio's Restaurant (Williams Lake); Health Quest Chiropractic; ICI Paints, Kamloops Dalhousie Dr; Lordco Auto Parts in BC; PC Doctor, Kamloops; Ramada Inn (Kamloops); Sandman Hotels, Inns & Suites in Western Canada; Accolades, the UCC Dining Room; UCC Athletics.

UCC Foundation – Building Our Future

The UCC Foundation raises and manages funds for scholarships, bursaries, equipment needs and special projects at UCC. Funds are raised through the efforts of a volunteer society, community supporters and UCC alumni. Students at UCC have experienced significant tuition increases in the past year and the need for financial assistance is greater than ever. As alumni, you know that getting an education often require enormous personal sacrifices by students and their families. The award money provided by donors to the Foundation makes a considerable difference to students struggling to pay for their education.

The Foundation provides three types of student awards:

- **Scholarship** – an award that recognizes academic achievement
- **Bursary** – an award that is based on financial need
- **Endowment Fund** – a fund that holds donations in trust and generates interest which is used to provide scholarship or bursary awards to students in perpetuity.

The UCC Alumni Association holds the second largest endowment fund with the Foundation. The fund is more than \$160,000 and generates more than \$7,500 for student scholarships and bursaries each year. A minimum of five bursaries and two scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate financial need and who have completed at least one semester at UCC. Preference for these awards is given to UCC alumni and their children.

If you would like to help a UCC student by contributing to the Alumni endowment fund or if you have any questions about Foundation fund-raising initiatives, please contact Karen Gamracy at (250) 371-5715 or e-mail: kgamracy@cariboo.bc.ca.

Project Grants – September 30 deadline

The UCC Alumni Association generates revenue from fund-raising activities throughout the year and a small portion is designated for project grants. This limited financial assistance is available to support worthy projects and events at UCC or in the community that are consistent with the Alumni Association's mission statement and benefit students. Groups or individuals eligible for funding include students, faculty, and alumni. Seven-thousand dollars will be awarded during 2003-2004 to projects. Criteria and further information is available on our Web site.

Showcase Your Degree, Diploma or Certificate with Distinction

Order the solid Mahogany frame with two coats of finish and a 12-step lacquer polish, or the Gold Satin metal frame with classic gold leafing surrounding the medallion.

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Order via the Web at www.degreeframes.com
or call **1-800-884-3199**

A portion of these sales supports UCC student scholarships and bursaries.



Our Mission: *The University College of the Cariboo Alumni Association promotes relationships between alumni and the university for the advancement of the institution and the mutual benefit of alumni, students and the UCC community.*

UCC Alumni Association Board of Directors 2003-04

Executive: Denise Harper (Comm. Media '74), Chair; Tom McNulty (Bus. Admin. '77), Secretary/Treasurer.
Directors: Cathy Ferguson, (BSN '91), Dwayne Geiger (BEd '94), Larry Illes (BEd '94), K-J Klontz (Rec. Manag. '84), Bill Jaswal (BA '91), Glen Poelzer (BSc '91), Nick Rinaldi (BA '94), Darlene McBain (UT), UCC Foundation Appointee: Catherine McNeely.

Please send correspondence to the UCC Alumni Association or contact (250) 828-5267, online at www.uccalumni.ca, or e-mail alumni@cariboo.bc.ca. The Alumni NETWORK is published three times a year.

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Visit our Web site @

www.uccalumni.ca