



Sixteen recent retirees celebrated at last month's Retirement Dinner. From left, back row: Kevin Barrington-Foote, Music; Jean-Louis Girard, Computer Science and Information Systems; Jo-Anne Webb, Library; Mary Burns, Creative Writing; Nick Parker, Purchasing; Judy Thomas, Finance; Tom Childs, Library; and Nick Mansfield, Sociology. From left, front row: Margaret Murray, Administration; Heather Harrison, Purchasing; Drena McCormack, Student Development; Fariyal Dhirani, Health Care Support Worker; Jan Bromley, English as a Second Language; Eleanore Dunn, Library; and Norma Goldie, General Nursing. Missing: Kathryn Cernauskas, Music.



What's the punchline? Three College Board executive assistants, present and past, caught up with one another and had a laugh at the Retirement Dinner. From left, current Board Executive Assistant Shelagh Donnelly, recent retiree Margaret Murray and Gena Ballantyne.

## Employees say 'so long'

Douglas College bid farewell to 33 employees from 21 departments at the annual Retirement Dinner last month.

Over 130 people, including new and past retirees along with their guests, celebrated together on November 7 at the New Westminster Campus. Recent retirees were presented with a gift and warm words from their supervisors.

"It was a lovely evening for people to have a nice dinner and chat with their colleagues. Speeches were short and sweet and the upper cafeteria was truly transformed that night," says Yvonne Mostert, administrative assistant, External Relations and Administration, who helped organize the event.

This year's retirees are:

Kevin Barrington-Foote	<i>Music</i>
Claudia Beaven	<i>Psychology</i>
Jeanette (Jan) Bromley	<i>English as a Second Language</i>
Mary Burns	<i>Creative Writing</i>
Joyce Cameron	<i>Developmental Studies</i>
Kathryn Cernauskas	<i>Music</i>
Tom Childs	<i>Library</i>
Jean Cockburn	<i>Library</i>
Carole Colvin	<i>Office Administration</i>
Fariyal Dhirani	<i>Health Care Support Worker</i>
Robert Dramer	<i>Developmental Studies</i>
Eleanore Dunn	<i>Library</i>
Linda Forsythe	<i>Developmental Studies</i>
Wihelmina Gervasio	<i>General Nursing</i>
Catherine Gibney	<i>Registrar's Office</i>
Jean-Louis Girard	<i>Computing Science &amp; Info Systems</i>
Norma Goldie	<i>General Nursing</i>
Heather Harrison	<i>Purchasing</i>
Thomas Joyce	<i>English</i>
Linda Lanza	<i>Training Group</i>
Lou Rene Legge	<i>Sport, Recreation and Wellness</i>
Margo Lott	<i>Finance</i>
Terry Loughrey	<i>English as a Second Language</i>
Nicholas Mansfield	<i>Sociology</i>
Drena McCormack	<i>Student Development</i>
Margaret Murray	<i>Administration</i>
Elsie Neufeld	<i>Developmental Studies</i>
Nick Parker	<i>Purchasing</i>
Eija Peitso	<i>Biology</i>
Joan Schafer	<i>Office Administration</i>
Susan Swanson	<i>Early Childhood Education</i>
Judy Thomas	<i>Finance</i>
Jo-Anne Webb	<i>Library</i>

## Presidential search underway



Douglas College President Susan Witter is set to retire in July 2009. A presidential search website will be set up and running early this month.

College President Susan Witter recently announced her intention to retire after July 1, 2009. She will have concluded more than 30 years of service to public post-secondary education in British Columbia, including 11 years as this College's president. On advising the College Board of her plans, Witter requested that the Board – in accordance with the College and Institute Act – begin the search process for a new president.

The Board recognizes this search as one of its most significant responsibilities and, as part of the process,

Board Chair Andrew Taylor has asked the BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU) and Douglas College Faculty Association (DCFA) to appoint their representatives to collaborate with Board members and others in forming the Presidential Advisory Search Committee (PSAC).

The PSAC, which held its first meeting in late November, will reflect the constituencies of Douglas College. Membership includes four College Board members – who will also serve on the Board Steering

Committee (BSC), which, on behalf of the Board, is responsible for the search process – as well as one student, one BCGEU member, seven DCFA members and three College administrators. This advisory committee will be supported by two ex-officio members, the associate vice president, employee relations, and the executive assistant to the College Board.

The PSAC will work closely with and be assisted by an executive search consultant, to be selected through an online BC Bid Request for Proposal (RFP) process that

closed November 24. The Board Steering Committee (BSC) anticipates that the consulting firm will be selected by mid-December, with advertising beginning in January 2009. A candidate shortlist should be developed by February-March 2009, with interviews taking place by late Spring 2009.

To keep the College community and interested parties informed on the process and timelines, a Presidential Search website will be established by early December.

# Events Calendar

**November 13-December 18**  
The Amelia Douglas Gallery  
presents *The Human Canvas*  
Tattoo photography by Ron Long  
Info 604-527-5723

**December 6**  
Community Music School  
presents *Group Student Recital*  
2pm, Laura C. Muir Performing  
Arts Theatre  
Info 604-527-5469

**December 6**  
Douglas College Choral Society  
presents *Gloria* by Antonio Vivaldi  
and other glorious works for  
Christmas  
7:30pm, Laura C. Muir  
Performing Arts Theatre  
General Admission \$15  
Seniors/Students \$12  
Tickets at the door or call  
604-520-0172

**December 7**  
Community Music School  
presents *Suzuki Student Recital*  
2pm, Laura C. Muir Performing  
Arts Theatre  
Info 604-527-5469



Gayle Jackson's (right) enthusiasm for sharing her culinary skills and working in the community was remembered by her colleagues and graduates of the Hotel and Restaurant Management Program.

## Employees bid farewell to popular instructor 'Chef Gayle'

Douglas employees and students remember Gayle Jackson as an enthusiastic colleague and teacher who was dedicated to using her talents to better the community. Jackson, a Hotel and Restaurant Management (HORM) instructor, passed away on November 4.

"Gayle was always ready for something new. She took her professional upgrading seriously and spoke enthusiastically about her professional development activities," says HORM Chair Mark Elliott.

Jackson's passion for teaching was evident from the beginning, says colleague Steve Rowe, who was on the selection committee when she was hired 11 years ago. During her interview, Jackson spoke

about her work at Picasso Café, where underprivileged youth were brought in to get training and job skills in the restaurant industry.

"It suggested that she would be an instructor who cared deeply for her students. That proved to be the case," says Rowe.

Jackson volunteered to oversee the catering at many dinner-dance events put on by HORM students. "It was always rewarding to see Gail lead her white-jacketed students out of the kitchen to accept a round of applause from the guests in appreciation of their efforts," says Rowe.

And her zeal was infectious. "Gayle always worked so hard and brought her love for food and the kitchen to all

she taught. The respect I now have for a kitchen came from Gayle," says HORM graduate Ashleigh Topliss.

While teaching at Douglas, Jackson remained dedicated to sharing her love of cooking with the community, running Gayle's Kitchen at Pinetree Community Centre.

Jackson passed away after taking ill in mid-September. A celebration of her life was held November 12.

"She could be counted on to volunteer for committee work, provide useful insight and most importantly, to add her special brand of good cheer and warmth to faculty meetings and get-togethers. Chef Gayle is missed by students, faculty and staff and we offer our condolences to her family," says Rowe.



The folks behind the success of *A Class Act* (from left): Associate Vice President External Relations Hazel Postma, Administration Assistant External Relations and Administration Yvonne Mostert, Alumni Officer Andrew Senjack, Foundation Development Officer Alexis Smith and Foundation Assistant Tracy Green.

## 11th annual A Class Act was a Thai affair

The David Lam atrium was the scene of spirited bidding, Thai dancing and music at the 11th annual A Class Act. Douglas College Foundation staff, with assistance from Hotel and Restaurant Management students, Facilities and Chartwells, hosted a successful event that featured wine, beer and chocolate sampling, live and silent auctions, Thai entertainment and a chance to meet and mingle.

The October 24 event raised more than \$30,000 for student aid with the money going to departments and programs that sold tickets and solicited auction items.

"A lot of planning goes into such an event," says Hazel Postma, associate vice president external relations, "but it certainly paid off in terms of guest satisfaction, student involvement, money raised and in promoting the College in the TriCities community."



Theatre Coordinator Allan Lysell, with Associate Vice President External Relations Hazel Postma, brought a bit of Scottish spirit to this year's Thailand-themed A Class Act.

## Former Creative Writing instructor dies

Ron Jeffels, a former Creative Writing instructor at Douglas College and past president of Okanagan College (1975-1980), passed away at age 87 on November 18.

Following his retirement from a distinguished career in post secondary education, Jeffels remained an active writer and began teaching at Douglas. He first worked at the University of British Columbia (UBC) as an associate professor of French language and literature, then as an assistant to then-UBC president John Barfoot Macdonald. Following his presidency at Okanagan College, Jeffels worked at the University of Victoria and the Open Learning Institute.

A memorial service for Jeffels was held on November 28 in North Vancouver.

**December 7**

Douglas College Foundation  
presents *Envision Financial  
Light the Lake*  
4-7pm, LaFarge Lake Park  
Free admission.  
Activity passes \$2.50  
Info 604-777-6172

**December 18**

*Seasonal Social*  
4-6pm, Upper Cafeteria  
New Westminster Campus

**January 15**

*Seasonal Social*  
4-6pm, Room C1008/1009  
David Lam Campus



Coach of the Year and Douglas Sport Science instructor Tim Frick with National Women's Wheelchair Basketball members, from left, Jennifer Krempien, Misty Thomas and Janet McLachlan.

## Douglas Coaching instructor receives national kudos

Tim Frick is going out at the top of his game. The Sport Science and Bachelor of Physical Education and Coaching (BPEC) instructor was presented with the Jack Donohue Coach of the Year Award in Calgary on November 7 during the Petro-Canada Sport Leadership Sportif, an annual conference organized by the Coaching Association of Canada.

Frick was recognized for his work as head coach of the National Women's

Wheelchair Basketball team. Over the last 19 years, he has led the team to three Paralympic Games titles and four world championship gold medals. He stepped down from the position following this year's Summer Games.

Receiving the award named for the late Jack Donohue, a former Canadian Men's National Basketball Coach who also coached icon Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in high school, was an honour, says Frick.

"Jack was the consummate coach. He was a great mentor to a lot of us," says Frick.

Frick's players say his commitment to their personal and professional development set him apart from the competition.

"He is more than effective. He's a world leader," says Jennifer Krempien, who competed with the women's national team for 16 years.

"Creating and building relationships is productive for everybody involved,"

says Frick, who brings this approach to the classroom too.

"We tell our students over and over again, 'You're coaching the person doing the activity.' A sign of a true coach is that he or she helps the individual so that they can increase their performance and take it to a higher level," says Frick.

In addition to leaving his post as head coach of the national team, Frick is planning his retirement from teaching, effective March, 2009.

He says the atmosphere at Douglas is "fun, 24-7." However, he is looking forward to having the time to do things that were, until recently, "put on the backburner."

Frick and his wife, Gerry, recently relocated from Port Coquitlam to Pender Island. He'll be helping Gerry with her passion, volunteering with German Shepherd Rescue of BC, and putting the finishing touches on his rec room. He plans to keep active with disc golf and coaching grade seven basketball.

"When you're involved in elite sport, you miss celebrating a lot of milestones with your friends and family. I'm looking forward to catching up on that now."

## Scholarly dollars

Several instructors have been granted funds to take on scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) projects at Douglas College.

Vice President Education Jan Lindsay named seven recipients in total: Bill Archibald and Laura Donaldson, Commerce and Business Administration; Tanya Haye and Heather Tobe, Communications; Linda Phillips and Kathleen Price, Early Childhood Education; and Alison Thomas, Sociology.

The latest honoraria recipients will speak about their projects at the annual Celebration of Teaching, Learning, Research and Scholarly Activity next Spring.

Many of last year's recipients presented the findings of their respective studies at the international SoTL conference in Edmonton in October.

See 'Students tell researchers they like it strict' on page 4 for more information.



Stagecraft technician Brian Pratt's throne will help set the stage for this year's Envision Financial Light the Lake Christmas festival.

## College readies for Light the Lake

As Santa Claus and his elves work around the clock making toys, a Stagecraft technician is taking to his own tools to craft a very special chair.

Brian Pratt has been sawing, sanding and painting to perfect Santa's throne for the fourth annual Envision Financial Light the Lake Christmas festival. It's made him one popular dad.

"One of my daughters asked me 'What are you doing at work today?' When I told her I was working on a Santa chair, she responded with, 'Oh, cool!'" says Pratt.

The throne will be the centerpiece for photos with Santa at the annual student

aid fundraiser. This year's festival is set to run – snow, rain or sleet – on Sunday, Dec 7 at LaFarge Lake Park, across from the David Lam Campus.

Other Light the Lake highlights will include stage entertainment, strolling carolers, activities and crafts for kids, refreshments and more. Global morning news anchor Steve Darling is the celebrity emcee and several community groups are participating. Admission is free and activity passes, offering unlimited access to the crafts and games, will be available for \$2.50 each.

Hosted by the Douglas College Foundation, the festival runs from 4-7 pm

on December 7 with the support of sponsors Envision Financial, Phoenix Truck and Crane, Trinity Power, William F. White, Polygon, Thrifty's, West Coast Express, Coquitlam Centre, Meridian RV, BC Hydro, SIGN-A-RAMA, Teklar Enterprises, Coquitlam Firefighters, NOW Newspapers and the TriCity News.

# Students tell researchers they like it strict

Ten Douglas College instructors are collaborating on a comprehensive study on what makes students excited about learning.

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Cohort wrapped up the second phase of its three-year research project in late November and will start analyzing the results this Spring. Already, the instructors say they found a few surprises.

Results from the first qualitative phase of the cohort's research, which helped develop the questions used in the second-phase quantitative survey, showed that, "The emphasis placed

on the role of instructors was greater than we expected," says Sociology instructor Alison Thomas.

"Credit was really given to instructors for creating the atmosphere in their classes. Students really like no-nonsense instructors who are stricter. They love assignments and want as much work as you can throw at them," says Thomas.

Students also noted the importance of in-class participation by their classmates.

"The students we spoke with say the contributions of other students is energizing. They don't like it when their

classmates aren't involved," says Thomas.

Over 1,200 students representing every faculty participated in the quantitative survey.

The cohort's members include Thomas, Anna Helewka (Psychiatric Nursing), Lin Langley (Communications), Julia Robinson (Learning Centre), Susan Smythe (Geography), Sarah Stephens (Computing Science), Heather Tobe (Communications), Miriam Tynski (Nursing), Linda Von Tettenborn (Nursing) and Tom Whalley (English as a Second Language).

Visiting Scholar Richard Gale

and Institutional Research Manager Pam Bischoff advise the group.

Seven Douglas College faculty made five presentations at an international SoTL conference at the University of Alberta in October. Thomas and Stephens gave a presentation on behalf of the cohort that generated a lot of interest from instructors and professors from other post secondary institutions.

"What we're doing is unique because we're working as a cross-disciplinary, cross-campus team. We're pooling from different fields of study, which strengthens

our research and the types of questions we ask," says Smythe, who also attended the Fall conference to speak about the project.

"The presentations were very well received and raised awareness of the commitment of Douglas to SoTL," says Vice President Education Jan Lindsay.

Thomas says taking part in such a study has been "a fantastically enriching experience."

"So much of my disciplinary research has been solitary. Taking part in this makes me feel like a part of what's going on here at Douglas."



## Scary Stuff

Employees and students alike got into the Halloween spirit. Office for New Students Manager Kyle Baillie (above photo, centre), aka the Travelocity Gnome, gives student ambassadors Sarah Timewell, Lindsay Bacala, Carolyn Fong and Jay Schreiber some travel tips. Meanwhile, Office Administration instructor Titus Yip (at left) shows off a unique way of toting a teddy bear.

## Briefly

Feeling festive? The David Lam Campus is hosting a decorating contest with judging and prizes to be given on December 5 at 11am. Following a walking tour, there will be eggnog and cookies. Employees are invited to decorate their office, lab, classroom or work area. Individual and group entries are welcome. Registration forms are on MyDouglas: go to Groups, then Groups Index and find Decorating Contest – DLC.

Employee Relations will be closed for the period December 24 to January 1 inclusive and reopening on January 2. Requests

for auxiliary staff must be submitted to **Marie Gonzales** by December 12 for the January semester.

Winter 2009 registration at the Community Music School has started. For details or to register, call 604-527-5469, visit [douglascollege.ca/cms](http://douglascollege.ca/cms) or email [commusic@douglas.bc.ca](mailto:commusic@douglas.bc.ca).

Aches and pains bothering you? Did you know there is now a massage therapist on campus? Come on down to the Centre for Sport, Recreation and Wellness and visit their new massage therapist, Dionne Brown. She will be on campus on

Mondays and Fridays in Room 1242 (beside the Athletics equipment desk). To book an appointment or to inquire about 30 and 60-minute rates, please email Brown directly at [dionnemariebrown1@yahoo.ca](mailto:dionnemariebrown1@yahoo.ca).

Earth and Environmental Science lab instructor **Ed Frey** led a geology fieldtrip for 17 primary to secondary school teachers in the Kamloops area. The trip was funded by a grant from EdGEO, a national organization that promotes earth science teacher education in Canada.

The October 24 field trip was based on *Geo Tour Guide for*

*Kamloops, British Columbia*, published earlier this year by the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and the BC Geological Survey (BCGS). Frey is a co-author, with colleagues from the GSC, BCGS and Thompson Rivers University. The authors have received an Earth Sciences Sector Team Merit Award from the GSC for the guidebook.

In Humanities and Social Sciences, **Zarka Stojanovic** moves from auxiliary to regular as Psychology Lab Technician, replacing **Lisa Colling** who has resigned.

At The Training Group, **Lezelle Rosseutscher**

(formerly Mignot) returns to the Self Employment Program at New Westminster Campus.

### Health and Safety Quiz

What can you do to avoid workplace hazards? Visit the Health and Safety website for the answer!

[douglascollege.ca/services/facilities/healthsafety](http://douglascollege.ca/services/facilities/healthsafety)

Email your answer to [huberta@douglas.bc.ca](mailto:huberta@douglas.bc.ca) before December 18 and be entered to win a prize!

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.