
Scott McAlpine

February 2011

Program Development and Implementation Funding Envelope

In order to support the creation of new, credit programs and the expansion of existing programs over the next three to five years, a new Program Development and Implementation Funding Envelope has been created. Full details of the fund and how to apply can be found on the Vice President's Academic Council webpage

at: http://www.douglas.bc.ca/_shared/assets/Program_Development_and_Implementation_Funding_Envelope68694.pdf.

Winter Graduation

February 8th marked another successful Winter Graduation in which we awarded 79 different credentials and honoured the accomplishments of more than 729 students in three separate ceremonies. Over 38,000 graduates have been awarded a Douglas College credential in the last 40 years! Thanks to Christine Kerr and the dedicated members of the Graduation Committee, and to all the volunteers who helped to make February 8th a memorable day for our graduates.

New Appointment

Jan Carrie, Dean of the Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies, has been appointed to the position of Vice President, Education at North Island College, effective April 11, 2011. Jan has been a strong advocate for the Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies, and Douglas College as a whole, and we wish her well in her new role.

Douglas College Rebranding Initiative

Douglas College is embarking on a rebranding process to clarify the Douglas College identity and make it easier for prospective students to understand what we're all about.

A cross-college identity committee has been created to help guide the rebranding, with representatives from faculty, staff and student populations. Committee members include: Pam Bischoff (Manager, Institutional Research), Kyle Baillie (Director, Campus Life), Thor Borgford (Dean, Science and Technology), Christina Cawkell (Instructor, Marketing), Heidi Currie (Instructor, Criminology), Betty Mitchell (Manager, Douglas International), Dave Taylor (Director, MCO [Chair]), and Samantha Tyson (Student, Commerce and Business). Over the coming weeks, a series of internal focus groups will be held with employees and students.

Once the focus groups are completed, the committee will review the research and survey all employees and students to help further refine the findings. Based on the input, a refreshed college brand will be developed that better defines Douglas to the outside world, and helps ensure that our college is a first-choice post-secondary institution in the lower mainland.

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Year of Science Lectures

Our first Year of Science event held on Friday, February 4th was an overwhelming success: a fascinating talk with Dr. Bernie Crespi of Simon Fraser University, a full theatre and a real sense of College community. Dr. Crespi's lecture was entitled, "Where Darwin meets Freud: psychosis and autism as diametrical disorders of the social brain."

The second lecture in our Year of Science series, presented by Dr. Bill Gunter, is scheduled for Friday, February 11th. Dr. Gunter's lecture is entitled, "Towards a healthy environment using coal, oil and gas: What are the long term implications to climate change?"

Earthquake Drill

Whether at New Westminster, David Lam or a Training Centre, on Wednesday, January 26th at 10:05 a.m., the most likely place to find a Douglas College employee, student or visitor was under a desk or table! Recognizing the reality of earthquake activity in BC and the need to practise and prepare, the Douglas College community dropped, covered and held on, enthusiastically participating in the Great British Columbia Shake Out – the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history.

The earthquake drill announcement was conducted via the inaugural use of our newly installed public announce system and gave an opportunity to test the system while our campuses were occupied. Employees and students provided valuable feedback on the system as well as suggestions for future earthquake drills.

In conjunction with the earthquake drill, Occupational Health & Safety Committees offered earthquake preparedness display tables in the New Westminster Concourse and David Lam Atrium where students and employees collected earthquake preparedness information, submitted feedback on the drill and entered to win prizes including shake flashlights and personal emergency preparedness kits. Jennifer Kirkey and Susan Smythe conducted their highly popular Personal Emergency Preparedness workshops at each campus, where participants also received starter kits.

Thanks to everyone for their participation in the drill and to Dave Taylor, Sean Kelly, Christine Munro, Tamara Letkeman and Leah Poulton for event communications; Tim Paul for assisting with the announcement recording; Terry Leonard, Louie Giroto and Kim Reeves for ensuring the announce system was ready for the drill date; Fernanda Santos and the BSW's at both New Westminster and David Lam for event support; Sandy McKinley and the Occupational Health & Safety Committee members for coordinating earthquake preparedness activities; and to Jennifer Kirkey and Susan Smythe for their Personal Emergency Preparedness workshops.

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Douglas College Professional Development Day

Theme: "Technology: The Great Experiment"

Over 500 faculty, staff and administrators gathered together at the New Westminster campus on February 9th to participate in the 5th semi-annual college-wide professional development day. The keynote speakers were Dr. Max Cynader – "The Aging Brain: How to Live Long and Prosper;" Dr. Murray Goldberg – "Finding the Next Big Thing in Leading Technology;" and Dr. Ginger Grant – "Storytelling, Visual Analytics and Strategic Intelligence." Survey feedback from the college community indicates that 89% of the participants were satisfied or very satisfied with keynote presentations. Feedback regarding the afternoon workshops was also positive with our own Douglas College team of Sean Kelly, Leah Poulton and Al Hyland receiving the highest overall rating. Ninety-six percent of participants stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with the "Tech Talk for Everyone" presentation.

Comments about the overall day include:

"Thoroughly enjoyed the day."

"Very inspiring and educational day."

"Opportunities like this are encouraging and stimulating."

"Made me think about the core meaning of education."

"The speakers were amazing! This is one the best Pro D Days I have ever attended."

Congratulations to the organizing committee for an excellent day of learning and exploring.

Online Library Research: WriteAway

Today the AskAway province-wide virtual reference service is known by students as a means to get online help with their library research questions at times that are convenient to them. In the background there are over 120 librarians at 28 participating BC post-secondary institutions making this service work.

Using the successful implementation plan that propelled Douglas College forward as a leader in virtual reference, a new and synergistic service is under development, that is, WriteAway. WriteAway is a proposed collaboration by BC post-secondary institutions working together to create an online writing service for learners across the province. Through WriteAway, learners will connect seamlessly to a network of tutors and resources for writing assistance.

Currently, Douglas College is the only institution that offers fully supported online writing assistance through the Learning Centre. A core group of interested institutions has met since fall 2010 to both learn about how it is done at Douglas College, ably informed by Kim Tomiak and Cecil Klassen, and to promote the online writing assistance concept. The project is moving forward with participation by BCcampus, Elaine Fairey of SFU as Chair of the project, and the most recent January meeting supported by UBC at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

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4th Annual Anti-Bullying Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 23, 2011 is BC's 4th annual Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day was started in 2008 in response to a number of cases of bullying in public schools. To bring attention to this important issue, two opportunities for employees to learn more about bullying in the workplace and how to stop it are being offered:

Tuesday, February 22nd, 1:30-4:30 p.m., David Lam Campus, Boardroom B3011

Wednesday, February 23rd, 11:00-4:00 p.m., New Westminster Campus, Boardroom 4920

The DCFA and the BCGEU are supportive of these educational workshops.

The facilitator, Anita Braha, provides legal advice, customized education and investigation and mediation services to unions, employers and non-profit organizations on human rights issues, including equal pay, sexual harassment and the duty to accommodate. She also provides customized education with regard to legal process matters, including appropriate labour processes, and the conduct of workplace investigations. Anita has also practiced law principally in the human rights and labour areas.

ACCC Awards of Excellence Program

New for 2010/11, the Association for Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) has added an Award of Excellence for Internationalization to their list of awards. This award will be presented to an ACCC member institution which has shown leadership in internationalizing its entire institution for the benefit of its learners and community. I am very pleased to endorse the nomination of Douglas International for this prestigious award in recognition of their stellar efforts and leadership role in international education. Award recipients will be announced in late March and recognized at the ACCC Annual Conference in June.

2011/12 College Budget

The 2011/12 budget letter will be distributed to the college community on February 18th for information and feedback. A college-wide Strategic Plan Implementation and 2011/12 Budget Q & A session is planned for Wed. March 9th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the New Westminster Campus Boardroom. The session will be video-conferenced to the David Lam Campus Boardroom.

Canada Foundation for Innovation Eligibility

Douglas College recently received notification from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) that the College has been deemed eligible to apply for CFI funding. CFI funds are available to eligible institutions to support research and technology development that is of benefit to Canadians.

Therapeutic Recreation – NCTRC exam results

The Bachelor in Therapeutic Recreation (BTR) began in 2006. In 2010, 17 Douglas College therapeutic recreation degree students wrote their National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) exams and all of them were successful. In a recent NCTRC report that listed all education institutions who offer therapeutic recreation degrees in United States and Canada, Douglas College was the only institution that had a 100% student success rate on their certification exams. This result speaks to the high quality therapeutic recreation curriculum and the hard work of the therapeutic recreation faculty. Congratulations to both faculty and students!