

### **40th Anniversary Preparations**

As the College prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary, planning is underway on events for employees, students and the community at large while promoting the College's new Strategic Plan and emphasizing the quality and internationalization of the education offered at Douglas College. Celebrations will kick off September 18, 2010 with the second annual Fall Fair at the David Lam Campus, and will continue throughout the week at both campuses, culminating in a Homecoming Weekend September 24 and 25, 2010. Plans are underway to showcase our offerings through Douglas Days at both campuses, and planning is underway for a "Douglas Dash", which could include a half-marathon with teams of runners, walkers and cyclists making the trek from the David Lam Campus to the New Westminster Campus. Planning is still at the very early stages, and more information will be available in the coming weeks.

### **Marketing Award**

A direct mail campaign that doubled attendance at a monthly College-wide information session has earned the Communications and Marketing Office a *Silver Paragon Award* (second place) from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). The annual Paragon Awards recognize outstanding achievement in marketing and PR at colleges across the US and Canada. The Douglas College direct mail campaign geo-targeted postal walks, using census data to reach College region households with high school aged children. The colourful mailer carried the message that Douglas College offers programs with great job prospects during bad economic times. A free Douglas College t-shirt was offered for mail pieces turned in at the information session. The goal of increasing typical information session attendance by 50% was well exceeded, with a 100% increase to 500 attendees.

### **Skills Connect for Immigrants**

We are pleased to announce that five of the internationally educated physicians who participated in The Training Group's *Skills Connect for Immigrants* program have secured medical residencies in BC. This is a major accomplishment, as BC offers a total of 18 residencies each year to international medical graduates.

Four of our five clients will work in Family Medicine and the fifth will work In Psychiatry; all will begin their new positions at St. Paul's Hospital in July 2010. These clients have devoted a great deal of time and energy to achieving their goals, as have the Douglas College Skills Connect Career Consultants who assisted them through the licensing process. Congratulations to all!

### **Centre for International Education**

On May 1, 2010, 68 students, faculty and family members attended a ceremony in which Board Chair Paul Wates and I presented certificates and awards totalling \$45,500 to 29 Canadian students, 15 international students and seven faculty members for international awards, scholarships and faculty support funds to recognize their distinguished achievements in international education.

The Centre for International Education hosted an evening of exceptional entertainment and cultural enrichment on May 1, 2010. In East Meets West: A Multi-Cultural Musical Experience, eight well established and classically trained opera singers performed a mix of western opera songs and traditional Chinese folk songs for a captivated audience.

The College welcomed a delegation led by Board Chair Professor Kemin Wu from the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT) for the 2010 joint committee meetings on April 20 -21, 2010. Student and faculty exchanges will be the main focus for the next phase of the SIFT and Douglas College dual degree joint program.

Board Chair Paul Wates will lead the Douglas College delegation departing for China on June 18, 2010 to participate in graduation ceremonies in both Harbin and Shanghai. This delegation will mark the ninth graduation ceremonies for our SIFT/Douglas College program, where 124 students from our joint program with Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT) will graduate with dual degrees, diplomas or certificates. In Harbin, we will mark the third graduation ceremony for the HIST/Douglas College Program; 130 students from Heilongjiang Institute of Science and Technology (HIST) will also be awarded credentials for various undergraduate programs.

This summer, 529 international students from 35 countries will begin their studies at Douglas College. This represents one of the most diverse international groups to register at the College. Along with students from China, Korea, Japan, and Saudi Arabia, we are now also attracting students from Kazakhstan, Indian, Vietnam, Mongolia, Kosovo, Singapore, South Africa, Venezuela, Indonesia, USA, Russia, etc. In Summer 2010, there are 163.37 FTEs of international students , which represents a 16% FTE increase compared with Summer 2009.

On May 5, 2010, we had an opportunity to welcome 120 new international students at the President's Lunch; this was the largest attendance for any such orientation to date. During the orientation, students attended sessions to help them settle into Canada and their new studies; new students also had the opportunity to talk with faculty members and meet our staff in college service areas.

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Scott McAlpine

May 2010

### **Tri Cities Intercultural Workplace Project**

We are very pleased to welcome 18 internationally trained human service workers to the Tri Cities *Intercultural Workplace Project*. Participants' countries of origin include Columbia, Iran, Korea, Nigeria, the Philippines, Slovakia and Taiwan. With credentials ranging from diplomas to master's and doctorate degrees, participants come from professions including early childhood education and pre-elementary teaching, teaching at the primary, secondary and post-secondary levels, social work, human service work, journalism, therapist and public health. Participants are currently enrolled in two classroom-based courses and one community/workplace-based course, and the Douglas College Centre for Health and Community Partnerships will be conducting extensive research and review of this project.

The initiative for this project came from the TriCities Community Planning Council and was led by Kelly Ng from S.U.C.C.E.S.S. This innovative project is made possible through funding from the Province of BC's Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplace Project (Immigration and WelcomeBC Branch, Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development). Participating agencies and organizations include Act II Child & Family Services Society, the City of Coquitlam, Coquitlam Public Library, Douglas College, Immigrant Services Society of BC, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Place Maillardville Community Centre, PLEA Community Services Society of BC, School District #43 (Coquitlam), SHARE Family & Community Services Society, Simon Fraser Society for Community Living, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Tri-Cities Women's Resources Society and Westcoast Family Resources Society.

I would like to thank our colleagues who are working with the internationally trained human service workers and the community agencies on this very exciting project: Kathy Bell (EASL), Geri Paterson and Carla Alexander (CFCS) and Marina Niks and Joy Page (CHCP).

### **New Administrative Policy**

We are pleased to advise that, following a consultation process, the Senior Management Team has approved a new College policy, *Respectful and Inclusive Environment*. This new policy complements a number of our existing College policies and reflects many of the concepts identified for inclusion in our new Strategic Plan. The Policy provides a framework for a working and learning environment in which all of us can contribute and innovate, and in which we all can take pride. This new policy is effective immediately and is available on the College website.

In support of the approval and implementation of this new Policy, a number of workshops have been organized during April and May 2010; these include workshops regarding bullying in the workplace, harassment and human rights, and the duty to accommodate. Registration for these events is available through the Employee Development website, <http://www.douglas.bc.ca/employees/employee-development.html>.

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Scott McAlpine

May 2010

### **Professional Development Activities for Employees**

Winter Semester professional development activities for employees included initial offerings in a series on the topic of bullying in the workplace, as mentioned above. Two sessions, sponsored by Employee Relations and the Occupational Health and Safety Committees, attracted 46 participants and received high praise in terms of both content and delivery. This series will continue into Summer 2010 with offerings on human rights and harassment, and the duty to accommodate.

Employee Relations organized three wellness seminars for all employees, with sessions at both David Lam Campus and the New Westminster Campus. We welcomed back Julie Jaggernath of the Credit Counselling Society of BC to conduct a “Kids & Money” workshop to 20 participants, and Desiree Nielsen, a Registered Dietician from Choices Market, for two workshops on healthy food choices. “Healthy Eating 101”, with a back-to-the-basics focus, drew 37 participants, while “Healthy Aging: The Anti-Inflammatory Diet” was attended by 38 employees. All sessions were very well received and participants particularly enjoyed receiving suggestions for healthy menus.

### **Student Research Days**

The Second Annual Student Research Days held on March 30, 2010 at the New Westminster Campus and March 31, 2010 at the David Lam Campus were very successful, showcasing the work of 155 students who presented 98 posters. Students had the chance to display and describe their work to other students, faculty, staff and administrators, promoting pride in their work and providing them with valuable experience in research dissemination.

Participant feedback was very positive, and next year's events are scheduled for March 28 and 29, 2011. Now is the time to plan for even more participation by encouraging students to develop posters in the Summer, Fall or Winter semester to display next March. We would like to showcase the work of as many students as possible, and material need not be developed solely during the Winter semester in order to be eligible for the event. Students commented that both instructor support and the inclusion of poster development as part of their course work helped to motivate them to participate.

I would like to thank the following people for staging these events:

- Laura Farres and the students of the Sport Science Leadership Class for organizing the event
- Members of the Student Research Working Group: David Wright, Tom Whalley, Bruce Hardy, Carolyn Sams, Todd Harper, Catherine Carlson, Anna Helewka and Gretchen Goertz

Special thanks are due to Winnie McKittrick (Sport Science), Shelley Waldie (Library), Laura Sandve (CAFD), Anne Gapper (Office of the VP, Education), the Office of New Students for t-shirts for the organizing crew, Carole Compton-Smith (Library) and the DCFA for gift certificate donations, Jan Carrie and the Office of the Vice President, Education for supporting the event, and all faculty and students involved in making the event successful.

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

to the Douglas College Board and Community



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**Scott McAlpine**

**May 2010**

## **Strategic Planning**

Following three well-attended 'town hall' sessions, as well as numerous other opportunities for feedback on the Strategic Plan, we are pleased to release a subsequent draft of the plan incorporating a number of the suggested changes. This draft will be sent out under separate cover. While the overall thrust of the plan remains, it has been refined to more clearly display the challenges, themes, and goals of the College. We look forward to the next round of input from Education Council and the Board as we move forward toward approval of the plan.