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**Scott McAlpine**

**November 2011**

### **Human Resources Re-organization**

Our strategic goals have prompted an evolution in the way that we approach the relationship between the College and our faculty, staff and administrators. To foster a climate of engagement and help Douglas employees be successful in their work, the Human Resources department has re-organized into the following functional areas: New People and Jobs, Employee Success, Engagement Initiatives, Fairness and Compliance, Systems and Administration. Each functional area will have a designated lead who will guide activities and provide subject matter expertise to the Douglas community. A fuller description of the new HR organization, the people and their areas of concentration, and information about accessing HR services will follow in early December.

### **International Agreements**

Three international agreements have recently been signed with our partners in China to pave the way for more post-secondary students from China to study in BC. In addition to the renewal of our agreements with the Shanghai Administrative Institute (SAI) and the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT), Douglas College has signed an agreement with Beijing Union University (BUU) that creates opportunities for BUU students to do one semester of studies at Douglas College. The agreement also allows for faculty exchanges and joint research opportunities between the two institutions, particularly in the areas of urban heritage and sustainability. The BUU agreement is in concert with BC Premier Christy Clark's plan to increase the number of international students at BC colleges and universities by 50 percent over the next four years.

### **Aboriginal Gathering Place Update**

Significant progress is being made completing the Aboriginal Gathering Place since the Cleansing Ceremony held earlier this year in April. Construction of the facility is complete and installation of commissioned artifacts is expected to be finished by the end of November. Beautiful art including four directional poles surround the main hall. A larger than life, carved, Coast Salish woman welcoming figure is a primary feature, her arms outstretched to welcome the rising sun as well as all people. She faces east to welcome the rising sun and the river which was the means by which people traditionally came to Qayqayt Territory.

The official opening of the Aboriginal Gathering Place will take place on Thurs. January 19, 2012. We are pleased to have The Honourable Steven Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, join us for this special event.

### **Pathways to Success Strategic Plan: Update 2011**

Watch for an email within the next week or so with a link to a survey as part of the Strategic Plan update. In January, town hall meetings will be held to discuss the results of the survey, as well as the first one and a half years of Strategic Plan implementation.

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### **CFCS Uganda Project hosting the Universal Gospel Choir**

The CFCS Uganda Project is hosting the Universal Gospel Choir on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Laura C. Muir Theatre, NWC. A silent auction begins at 6:30 p.m. with the choir's performance at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$18 for students and \$25 for the public. They may be purchased from Diana Stewart (office 2639) NW campus, Janice Spencer (local 6239) DL campus or from Massey Theatre Box Office at 604-521-5050.

The Universal Gospel Choir is a Vancouver based, multi-faith, multi-cultural community choir which has established a reputation for engaging audiences with its passion, commitment to musical authenticity, and dedication to the community-building power of shared song. The Choir's repertoire reflects African-American, Cuban, African, European, Asian and Native American influences.

Twelve students from four CFCS programs will earn College credit during a 10-week practicum in Uganda starting April 2012. The goal of the Uganda Project is to provide an opportunity for Douglas College students to work and learn in a developing country recognizing that they will incorporate this experience into who they become both personally and professionally, benefiting all Canadians.

### **A Groovy 14<sup>th</sup> Annual 'A Class Act'**

A Class Act raises money for student aid and this year the focus was on the 1970s in terms of costumes, décor, music and food. Held October 29<sup>th</sup> at Coquitlam's Executive Inn, this year's event netted close to \$25,000 for student aid, despite a smaller turnout than usual.

Guests clad in 1970s fashion tasted wines and beers from 12 distributors, posed for photographs beside a 1979 Trans Am, competed in a Blackjack tournament, and bid on live and silent auction items. Music was provided by the tribute band *Drive*, including drummer **Bob Caldwell**, coordinator of the Community Music School.

A Class Act requires creativity, ingenuity and teamwork between Foundation board and staff and with sponsors and auction donors, as well as assistance from across the College, including people from CEIT, MCO, Stagecraft and Campus Life. As well, Hospitality Management students worked alongside Foundation staff before, during and after the event.

### **Dispensing Optician Programs (DOPT)**

Effective November 1, 2011, Dispensing Optician programs will be housed within the Faculty of Science and Technology. DOPT courses will continue to be offered at the Coquitlam campus. Thor Borgford is the Dean responsible for Dispensing Opticians, effective immediately.

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### **Douglas International Wins Again**

On the heels of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) Internationalization Excellence Award, Douglas International has won yet another award. The Uganda Development Program has been selected as the recipient of the CBIE ([Canadian Bureau for International Education](#)) Outstanding Program in International Education Award. The award, which recognizes high quality and highly creative programming in international education, will be presented to Douglas International representatives at the CBIE Annual Conference in Ottawa from November 21-23. Thanks and recognition goes to faculty members **John Fox** and **Bob Shebib** for their efforts in building this award-winning program.

As a member of the CBIE Board of Directors, recently appointed for a two year term, I will also attend the conference and the awards ceremony.

### **Fourth Annual Fall FASD Conference**

The Fourth Annual Fall Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Conference was held at the New West Campus on November 4th and 5th. Approximately 250 practitioners, families and children attended the conference. Working most of this past year on planning, the conference was organized by **Marsha Wilson**, Classroom and Community Support, and by five or six colleagues in the FASD Roundtable.

There are a number of College members to thank for their assistance...**Deb Ringrose**, **Fernanda Santos** and the staff in room bookings worked hard to find and coordinate rooms for the two days of the conference. **Kathy Price**, **Cathy Sales** and **Rob Bates** worked the Saturday with their students to provide programs for children for the day. Many ECE, CYC and CCS students (80 approximately) provided support on Friday and worked with children on Saturday. **Olga Routkovskaia** (CEIT) provided the video streaming. **Dave Seaweed** graciously provided the Gathering Place for program displays and for refreshments. Fraserside Community Services supplied two early child practitioners to supervise the ECE programs on the Saturday. **Wendy Sashikata** provided technical support to presenters. **Jeanette Shim**, **Jen Tasse**, **Kathy Bromley** and **Barb Hill** provided support in the weeks building up to the conference and helped out with emerging issues as the conference started up.

### **Upcoming College Events**

#### ***Holiday Celebrations***

Tues. December 13, 2011, 4:00-6:00 p.m., David Lam Campus, Boardroom

Thurs. December 15, 2011, 4:00-6:00 p.m., New Westminster Campus, Upper Cafeteria

#### ***Aboriginal Gathering Place Official Opening***

Thurs. January 19, 2012, 3:00-4:00 p.m., New Westminster Campus

#### ***Employee Recognition Reception***

Wed. April 18, 2012, 4:00-6:00 p.m., New Westminster Campus, Performing Arts Theatre/Foyer