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Scott McAlpine

March 2010

***Celebrating the Past – 2010 Anniversaries for Douglas College***

As we move ahead with a new strategic direction for Douglas College, important anniversary dates remind us that we have a rich, colourful history to remember and celebrate.

March 8th marks the 41st anniversary of the plebiscite in which seven school districts from Richmond to Coquitlam overwhelmingly voted to support the creation of a new community college for the Lower Fraser Valley. In the lead up to the vote, the campaign slogan was "Yeah College". (Not bad - maybe we should consider using that slogan again?)

2010 is the 40th anniversary of Douglas College's official launch by Premier W.A.C. Bennet at a special ceremony at Massey Auditorium. In September of 1970, the first classes were held in various halls, church basements and schools, as College buildings were not ready. By all accounts, it was a rocky start that required incredible resolve, determination and creative thinking on the part of the College's founders and charter students! You'll hear more about this anniversary in the coming weeks and months, and events this fall will give everyone an opportunity to participate and share in this celebration together. Check out the employee blog [inside douglas](#) to read about anniversary initiatives that are already underway, including the big video contest.

And 2010 is the 25th anniversary of the Douglas College Foundation. This year we'll celebrate the Foundation and acknowledge all the individuals, service organizations and corporations that play such an important role in supporting our students and programs through their generous donations. Watch for major event details in the weeks ahead.

***East meets West at Douglas College***

Douglas College is partnering with North Star Performing Arts Management *on An Evening of Classical Music from East and West*. The concert is set for Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Laura C. Muir Performing Arts Theatre, NWC. The event brings together eight established opera singers who will perform excerpts from Western operas and Chinese folk songs, including pieces from the Magic Flute and La Boheme.

It is hoped that this innovative concert at Douglas will be the starting point for a world tour for the performers who include Timothy William Augustin, Dawn Wolski, Erin Lawson, Michelle Koebke and Leo Zhenyu Liu.

Tickets are regularly \$50 or \$30 but discounts will be available for students and employees. For information and tickets, contact Monica Xu at [xuj@douglas.bc.ca](mailto:xuj@douglas.bc.ca) or call 604-527-5842.

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### ***Centre for Health and Community Partnerships***

The Centre for Health and Community Partnerships was established in 2008 with a mandate to promote healthy communities through partnerships in service learning, community-based research and health promotion activities. Current projects include Health Literacy, Intercultural Workplaces, Seniors Health, Homelessness and others. Its first newsletter (released in March 2010) outlines its range of activities, its student engagement, and its faculty engagement. In 2009/10 over 80 students were actively engaged in projects through the Centre.

### ***Provincial Budget***

The recent provincial budget yielded no surprises for Douglas College. The Government of the Province of British Columbia continues to place a high priority on post-secondary education and training, and Douglas College's budget proposal as presented last month remains on track with provincial projections.

### ***Strategic Planning***

We are currently drafting the major components of the strategic plan for feedback. Look forward to feedback forums to be scheduled in the next few weeks.

### ***Vice-President Education***

We are nearing the completion of the selection process for the Vice-President Education. The Selection Advisory Committee has been impressed with the candidates and with the turnout at the one forum that has been held to date.

### ***Board Now On-Line***

The Douglas College Board is now receiving its agenda packages and supporting documentation on-line. This is both a "green" and an efficiency/effectiveness initiative. Thank you to Shelagh Donnelly, Executive Assistant to the Board, for moving this project forward.

### ***New Employee Orientation***

The 'Winter' New Employee Welcome Event was held on Wednesday, March 10th at the New Westminster Campus. Eleven new employees attended the morning event and were provided with an overview and history of Douglas College, as well as a divisional overview by each of the Vice-Presidents, followed by a campus tour. Feedback from the participants indicated they liked meeting other new employees and members of the senior management team, and enjoyed the tour of the campus. The next New Employee Welcome event will take place in late August.

***SMART Tool***

As you may be aware, in November 2007 the Province of British Columbia passed the “Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act” that requires all BC Public Sector Organizations to be carbon neutral for the 2010 calendar year and for each subsequent calendar year. Carbon neutrality is a process that involves measuring emissions, reducing to the extent possible, purchasing offsets for any remaining emissions and finally reporting out. Government has developed a software package called SMARTTool to simplify the mechanics of greenhouse gas measurement and reporting, support emission reduction planning, and provide consistency across the provincial public sector to ensure publicly credible emission reporting. The Facilities Department at the College is currently in the process of having this software installed and receiving training on its use. We will be updating you on this process as our use of the software and reporting move forward.