
Scott McAlpine

September 2010

College Orientation and Welcome Event

Twenty-three new employees participated in the College Orientation and Welcome Event on August 31st. The new employees were greeted by the President and Senior Management, learned about Health and Safety, had an opportunity to ask questions and went on an informational tour of the New Westminster Campus. Participants' comments included: positive, organized, thoughtful, enjoyed meeting others and increased my knowledge of Douglas. Participants were encouraged to join in on a tour of the David Lam Campus on September 2nd.

Integrated Faculty Orientation: Year Two

The Integrated Faculty Orientation (IFO) is a program designed to orient new faculty members to the governance, technology, curriculum, pedagogical practices and student services at Douglas College. Nineteen new faculty attended the opening morning on August 17th where they learned about the organizational structures of the College and about the three weeks of IFO workshops. New faculty enjoyed the opportunity to meet with their colleagues and to participate in a social luncheon.

In the three weeks that followed, the new instructors learned about the phone, email, MyDouglas and Blackboard services in use at Douglas and about other College technology including Smartboards, Elluminate and visual presenters. New faculty also attended workshops on curriculum, course and syllabus design, academic integrity, and classroom dynamics. Many attended the August 31st Symposium on Teaching and Learning, which offered sessions on internationalization through the lens of media literacy.

40th Anniversary Celebrations

Forty years ago this month, the first students at Douglas College began taking classes in portables and church basements scattered across New Westminster and surrounding municipalities. To mark this important anniversary, a series of events are planned beginning with the Fall Fair on Saturday, Sept. 18th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DLC. The Fair showcases Douglas College programs via activities for children, and incorporates community groups such as the Coquitlam Farmers' Market, crafts people, BC Hydro's PowerSmart, the Evergreen Project Office and a forum on homelessness in the TriCities. The Fair includes a BBQ, a bouncy castle and music, as well as an on-location broadcast from radio station C-FOX.

Graduates of the Self Employment Program are joining the festivities by hosting two Marketplaces that promote entrepreneurship: Tuesday, Sept. 21st at the DLC, and Wednesday, Sept. 22nd at the NWC. Also on Sept. 22nd at the NWC from 4 to 8 p.m. is the Royals Rumble, a mini-tournament of basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer. On Thursday, Sept. 23rd, a special 40th anniversary concert, part of the Arts at One program, takes place in the Laura C Muir Performing Arts Theatre, featuring former Douglas music instructor Henry Waack.

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The week culminates in a Homecoming bash on Friday, Sept. 24th at the NWC. A pre-party with free food for students gets underway at 2 p.m. in the DSU lounge. From 4 to 9 p.m. the party moves down to the concourse and cafeteria. All employees, past employees, students and alumni are invited to attend. The party features free appies, cash bar and BBQ, a DJ, live entertainment and prizes. You can also stop by the gym where the Alumni Basketball Tournament runs from 5 to 8 p.m. For information on 40th anniversary activities check out the website: douglascollege.ca/celebrate40.

Masque Royale – a 40th anniversary fund-raising gala

Douglas College Foundation is hosting a Renaissance-themed event on Saturday, Oct. 30th at the NWC that showcases students while raising money for bursaries. The black tie/costume event includes a reception, buffet dinner, circus acts, music, dance demonstrations and dancing along with live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$125 each with tables of eight \$900 and can be ordered by called x6176.

Internationally Trained Human Services Professionals

At the end of August I had the pleasure of participating in the closing ceremonies for students in the Internationally Trained Human Services Professionals project. This project was initiated by the TriCities Planning Council with SUCCESS taking the lead role and Douglas (CFCS and ESL) designing and implementing the education component partnered with community agencies as mentors. The project started with 18 students and 18 students completed the program. While the evaluation of the project is underway, it is clear that the outcomes and spin-offs of this project are beyond what any of us could have hoped. The faculty (and administrators) involved in this project speak ardently about the value of the project's success for both the community and for their work as educators.

Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)

This summer Douglas College offered its first TESL Citation program which provides students with the practical knowledge and hands-on experience they need to teach English as a Second or Foreign Language. The intense program, consisting of 5 courses, was taught by Janice Penner (Coordinator), Heather Barnes, Laura Blumenthal, Julia Robinson, Cecil Klassen and Kate Yoshitomi. As part of the practicum component, trainees were placed in 12 ESL programs in the lower mainland. Graduates of the program who also have a Bachelor level degree can apply to TESL Canada for a nationally recognized Standard Level II Professional Certificate.

Congratulations to the faculty for a successful start and to the 20 graduates who are now ready to teach in Canada or abroad. The program already has eleven applicants for Summer 2011.

CIDA International Youth Internship Program

In late July we learned Douglas College was successful in securing funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for 15 internships in Uganda in the areas of community education and community health. The application was a ten month process that had the support of CFCS, SMT, College Board and the Ugandan High Commissioner of Canada. Thanks to John Fox, CFCS and Douglas International Education for facilitating this.

Interns will be involved in the organization and operation of education, health and social support and outreach services at the community level in Uganda. The program is intended to help young graduates (diploma or degree) from across this country to gain job experience in the social services area so that they are better able to secure career employment in Canada or abroad.

CIDA funds cover travel expenses and an hourly wage. Internships are for six months which includes one month orientation and follow up in Canada. John Fox, faculty member in the Community Social Service Worker program, CFCS, will take the lead in working with the interns and community worksites in Uganda and Douglas International Education will manage the project.

This is an excellent opportunity to enhance our existing Uganda work which, for the past five years, has offered student practicum experiences in the Community Social Service Worker, Co-Occurring Disorders, and Early Childhood Education programs. This project is the first CIDA program exclusively given to Douglas College and furthers Internationalization, one of our strategic goals.

Summer Field Schools

This summer saw the highly successful run of two field schools in Belize and Wales. The Belize field school based at Galen University was lead by Mike McPhee and Laurie Beckwith. Sixteen students had the opportunity to learn about Geography of Latin America, Pre-History of the Americas and Ethno-Botany while visiting a tropical rainforest. The Wales field school based at Trinity University College involved twenty-two students in Creative Writing, Earth Sciences, and Performing Arts. The instructors - Calvin Wharton, Christine Dewar, and Susan Smythe - introduced students to local Celtic, Roman, Norman and Christian art and architecture. Highlights of the Belize field school included a visit to Guatemala and Mayan pyramids, and highlights of the Wales field school included ancient castles and Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre in London.

President's Blog

Last year, we used the Blog on the President's pages to discuss items within the Strategic Plan. The Plan is now available on the College website. This year, we will continue to use the Blog to have broad discussions about trends and developments relevant to post-secondary education and training. Please have a look and continue the dialogue.

New Administration Policies

The Senior Management Team has recently approved two new College policies:

- i) A02.07.03 Recruitment, Selection, and Retention of Employees*
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. In support of the approval and implementation of this new policy, workshops on behaviour-based interviewing are being organized for the fall of 2010. Please watch for these upcoming courses and register through the Employee Development website at <http://www.douglas.bc.ca/employees/employeeevelopment>.
- ii) A01.01.01 Douglas College Policies: Framework*
This new policy was developed to create a guideline for the development, implementation and review of Douglas College Administrative policies.

Both of these new policies are effective immediately and are available on the College website.

Douglas Roof Decks Go Green

Over this past summer, through funding provided by the Federal/Provincial Governments Infrastructure Program, Facilities Services has completed restoration works to roof decks at the New Westminster Campus. Included in these works was the opportunity to introduce green roof technology. A green roof is a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane. Also known as “living roofs”, these green roofs serve several purposes for a building such as absorbing rainwater, providing insulation, and helping to lower urban air temperatures.

It is anticipated the green roofs will allow the College to significantly reduce storm water run-off and reduce heating and ventilation costs by 10-20%. In addition, it is expected the roofing membrane will last significantly longer due to the moderation of the day/night temperature fluctuations.

Along with these works and as part of the renewal project, new deck furnishings are arriving and will be placed on these decks for your outdoor use. It is expected that all furniture will have arrived and be installed by the end of September.