

NETWORK

ALUMNI

Autumn 1997

Volume 7 Number 1

Reaching Global Markets

UCC's Computer Systems: Operations and Management Diploma program, and its graduates, are reaching out beyond the B.C. Interior.

Sicamous, a resort town of 2,500 people on picturesque Shuswap Lake 120 km. east of Kamloops, is best known for its houseboat rentals, but now is becoming recognized for something very different.

DigitalRez Software, a company that designs computerized reservation systems for campgrounds, hotels and marinas, is located in Sicamous where global markets and customers are only a modem away.


"My family and I decided to slow down, so we packed up in Vancouver and came here," says Pat Gau, President of DigitalRez. "Ken Lahoda and I started this company in my basement. We received some National Research Council money to design a software package for campground reservations. Until a year and a half ago, four people worked for the company, now there are nineteen. All of a sudden we needed people to market and help sell and we needed more technical support, which is why we hired Erica Sundquist."

Erica graduated from the UCC CSOM Diploma program in December, 1996, and did an extra Co-op work term at the Ministry of Environment in Kamloops. Shortly after, Erica moved to Sicamous to begin work as technical support at DigitalRez. When asked why he hired Erica, Pat emphatically stated "Erica's attitude, her grades and the University College of the Cariboo's CSOM reputation."

"I spent several weeks learning how their reservation program works. I am doing a little bit of design, but mostly I debug and refine the programs and help our customers with their questions," says Erica.

"Client contact allows Erica to know what our customers want so when she steps up into the senior computer programming position, her skills and knowledge will be growing with us," says Pat.

DigitalRez Software is currently selling their reservation packages all over North America, around the Pacific Rim, and most recently in eastern Europe, and undoubtedly, their market will continue to expand.

Information management, and how computer software is designed to do the managing, is a rapidly evolving industry. People's success stories, and the CSOM program at UCC, are entwined with the rapid growth of this business. 



Jennifer Hamilton photo

Erica Sundquist with her laptop enjoying the view at Sicamous, B.C.

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- UCC's CSOM Diploma program
- New Baccalaureate Degrees
- Trades and Technology Centre opens
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Problem Solvers that Industry Wants

The essence of the CSOM program is that it is industry and Co-op driven and we produce problem solvers

says Jack Mathews, Program Coordinator for the Computer Systems: Operations and Management Diploma program at UCC.

The CSOM program is dedicated to providing students with a high quality, relevant education that gives them immediate access to the job market. The students in

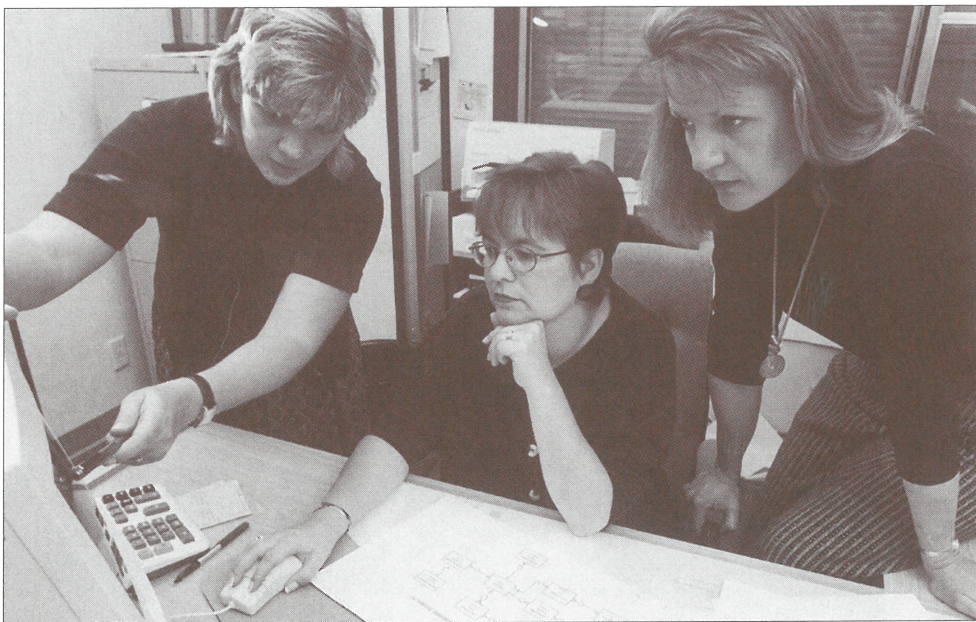
"We do whatever we can to get good students in the door and employees out the other end which includes taking more students than we are funded for. The program is set for thirty students but we have taken thirty-eight from over one hundred people that applied for admission this

first CSOM class. The campus-wide computer facilities have now grown to a network of mainframe computers and many laboratories of PCs. Students are taught programming languages on UCC's mainframe, as well as on the PCs that now dominate the business world. "Large industry and government departments still use mainframe computers, so it is important that the CSOM students learn programming on them," says Jack.

An increasing number of diploma programs at UCC, including CSOM, are offered in a Co-op Education format. CSOM students in the Co-op program graduate with less debt load and are immediately employable. "It is encouraging for people coming from another discipline or career direction to realize that after only eight months of schooling they can have a work term job that pays about \$2,100 a month," says Carole Hebden, Co-op Education Coordinator. "CSOM students are placed all over British Columbia for their work terms. Out of the forty students on a work term this past summer, twenty-five were hired by the B.C. Government. The second largest employment sector for us is private companies such as Weyerhaeuser Canada. Corporate commitment to the Co-op program in the Kamloops region is very strong and is growing rapidly."

"Co-op work terms for these students are key to the one hundred percent employment rate at graduation that we have at UCC," says Carole. "We encourage the students to work for a variety of organizations to increase their exposure to information systems."

"In fourth semester, students take a Project Management course where they complete projects for real organizations," says Jack. "This allows them another opportunity to see, and work with, various information systems and how they apply to businesses."



John Enman photo

Candace Galbraith, Linda Hoffbeck and Anne Gardner, left to right, discuss their group project at Chemonics Industries.

this diploma program, people like Candace Galbraith and Anne Gardner, complete intensive course requirements interspersed with four-month work terms.

To ensure the success of the program, and of the students who graduate, a Program Advisory Committee of people in the industry recommend what the students should be studying. "The CSOM program acts on those recommendations and in fact, from the Committee's recommendation, UCC was the first college in the Pacific Northwest to teach the Visual Basic computer program," states Jack.

"The CSOM program is run like a business. The students are the raw materials and the jobs are the products. Numerous graduates of other programs come into CSOM to get jobs."

year. We want to take as many into the program as we can so we can ensure a quality second year class, because we lose students between first and second year to

"The CSOM program is run like a business—the students are the raw materials and the jobs are the products"

jobs in the industry and regular attrition," says Jack.

When CSOM began in 1981 there were keypunch machines in the hallways of the Main Building. That year UCC purchased its own mainframe which was used by the

Success Stories

Good friends, co-workers, business partners ...

Two students in the second year class working on a Systems Analysis project at Chemonics Industries are Candace Galbraith and Anne Gardner.

"In this course we learn how to break down a project into manageable pieces," explains Candace. "We learn how to listen to what the client wants the system to actually do, learn how to keep a project on track and on time."

The client in their case is Linda Hoffbeck, the Administrative Manager at Chemonics and, coincidentally, a former CSOM student herself. "We meet once a week and Anne and Candace bring me up to speed on how the project is progressing and we discuss design strategies," says Linda. "It is interesting to be the end user because I get the opportunity to explain what I need and it is up to them to decide how to config-

*"former CSOM people
kick-starting a current
student's career"*

ure and deliver that information to Chemonics."

"Perhaps the highest praise that we receive in the CSOM program is that graduates of past years hire the current graduates in what I consider a model for an Alumni network," says Jack. "Former students like Linda at Chemonics, and Barry Baker at TripleG Corporation participate in the program by being project leaders for the Project Management course, and hire students either for Co-op work terms, or in Linda's case, for both work terms and full-time employment. I like to see former CSOM people kick-starting a current student's career in the information management field."

who love what they do and the freedom offered by their careers in information management.

Sound too good to be true? Meet Dave Harestad (CSOM '88) and Barry Baker (CSOM '91).

Dave and Barry have known each other since early childhood when they played together on a soccer team. They were friends all through school and both played on the schools' athletic teams. Barry was the junior high school president, and according to Dave, was always the ringleader in their group. When Barry graduated from UCC in 1991, he went to work at HealthVision in Vancouver as a junior programmer. Dave, having been at HealthVision for three years, was his boss and took great delight in teasing Barry about who was now in charge of the group.

Dave and Barry left HealthVision and moved back to Kamloops in 1996. Both men were looking for a lifestyle change and opportunities to work in their own business. "Once you have owned your own company it's a very liberating experience," says Dave. "You never think of yourself as an employee again because you know what it takes to put projects and opportunities together."

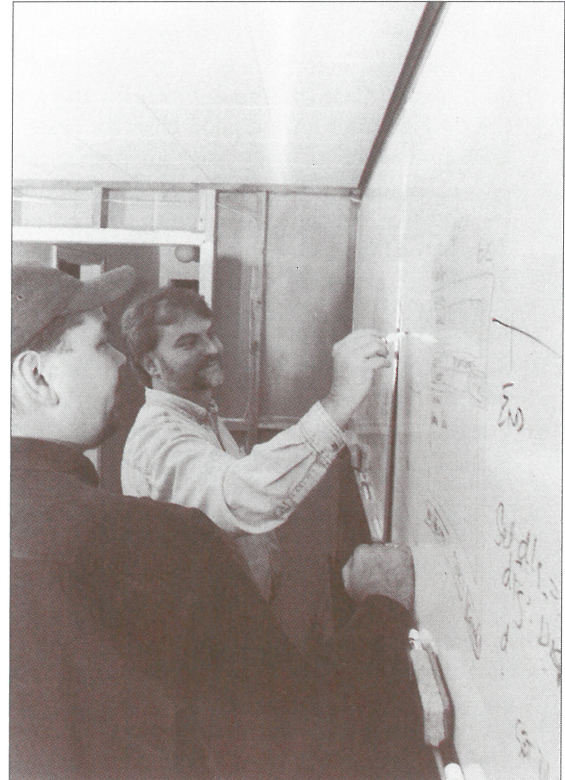
"I came to Kamloops and started my own company, Summit Solutions Corporation, here in my house," says Dave, "and Barry joined me a few months later. There is a bias in the business world against home-based operations, but we represent, at least in part, the corporate culture of the future."

The office where these two work is a crowded room in a basement, piled high with computer manuals and programs. But, when the world is an Internet connection away—what does it matter?

TechnoLabs Canada Ltd., which recently merged with TripleG Corporation, acquired Summit Solutions this past August. Apart from its own product development, Summit was also involved with TechnoLabs on a consulting basis. "The fit was obvious so that made the company worth buying. Now Barry

and I work for TripleG, but we are also shareholders in the company."

Dave and Barry develop software for medical information systems to improve information management in hospitals and hospital corporations. They are currently designing a physi-



Barry Baker, foreground, and Dave Harestad at work in their office

cian practice management system. "It is not just computer systems, but rather a whole work flow model," says Barry. "We speak with the physicians and the office staff to re-engineer procedural changes, not just changes with computer programs and other machines."

"TripleG Corporation is selling these information systems worldwide. The product was shown in Hong Kong recently to rave reviews," says Dave. "Hong Kong, much like the United States, spends a lot of money on health care and they want the best."

In the virtual development world of TripleG, almost everyone in western Canada works


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from their homes, communicating by telephone and over the Internet. "We also use the Web daily to do research into the competition and client markets," explains Dave.

Soon their own products will be available on the Internet. "This kind of exposure may allow the competition to see our software," explains Barry, "but our philosophy is to give them the ball, then beat them up competitively."

Both Barry and Dave speak about their work, and the CSOM program at UCC, as if they were still on those sports teams in high school.

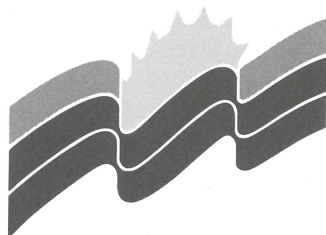
"The CSOM program graduates are like a farm team," says Dave. "They are a continual source of talent and I would hire a diploma grad before I would look at a university graduate because the technical people can hit the ground running." CSOM graduates have a good basis for systems analysis from their course work. "They learn good analytical skills and can pick up new programming languages easily because they have learned the mechanics of programming," says Dave. "UCC does a good job of keeping up with the trends and not rehashing old programs, so the students receive a really good tool kit to go out into the world and be successful."

Right now, no industry on the planet is more dynamic than information processing. Dave Harestad and Barry Baker are integral players in this global industry, and they do it all from a basement in a suburb in Kamloops, B.C. 

International Success

Loyal Institute of Technology and Academics in Ipoh, Malaysia, is offering the CSOM program to its students beginning January, 1998. Loyal I.T.A. came to UCC in July of this year after shopping around to other institutions looking for a top program of study in computer systems information. "This Malaysian school decided that UCC's program was the best they had seen. When these students graduate in Ipoh, they will have a University College of the Cariboo CSOM diploma, having never left Malaysia," explains CSOM Program Coordinator Jack Mathews. "These students will then be able to come to UCC for third and fourth year if they want to complete a Bachelor of Technology in Applied Computing Science degree."

The Malaysian government has committed to making their country one of the world leaders in technology and they want their students to study in these fields at home. Currently about 35,000 students leave Malaysia each year to study abroad, which causes a massive financial drain on their economy. By purchasing programs from foreign universities, the students can stay home and still receive a quality education.



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New Baccalaureate Degrees at UCC

An interview with Dr. Neil Russell, Interim President

The University College of the Cariboo's evolution toward independent university status is almost complete now that joint Baccalaureate degrees with UBC, SFU and UVic are being phased out.

"The University College model of offering both degrees and college courses was designed to respond to the access to higher education problem in British Columbia," says Neil. "We began offering university degree programs at UCC in order to respond to the needs of people in this region who were unable to relocate to the lower mainland."

"UCC gained experience with all aspects of being a university by linking with our sister institutions at SFU, UBC, the University of Victoria, and the Open University with the intention that within five to ten years we would become independent from them and offer the degrees ourselves. We worked with our sister institutions on hiring faculty, instituting curricula and setting grading and examination standards. The process began in 1989, and by 1999 all faculties at UCC will be graduating their own students."

The Provincial Government passed legislation in 1995 that allowed University Colleges to confer their own degrees. Prior to this, UCC and other colleges had to be partnered with a university to grant Bachelors degrees.

"The degrees offered by UCC will be uniquely ours," says Neil. "The class that has enrolled in the UCC Bachelor of Science program, for example, will not receive the identical UBC curriculum, but rather one slightly modified to reflect student needs, such as computer literacy and communication skills, as determined by the UCC faculty."

"UCC convoked its first class of Bachelor of Business Administration graduates and

its second class of Bachelor of Natural Resource Science graduates in June 1997. Next spring we will confer degrees on our own graduates in Science, Social Work and Nursing. In June of 1999, UCC will have its own graduates in Education and in Arts which will complete our separation from the three lower-mainland universities."


"An additional three new degrees that UCC is offering are the Bachelor of Technology in Applied Computing Science, the Bachelor of Tourism Management degrees and in 1998, we will offer a Bachelor of Journalism degree. These degrees begin in third year so students are able to ladder into them from diploma programs."

*"The degrees offered by UCC
will be uniquely ours"*

dents can receive credit towards a degree from prior learning, as well as from education received at UCC or at another institution.

"Journalism will look at PLAR components in particular because UCC does not offer a two-year diploma in journalism. Students will enter this program in third year from either two years of general arts or from having worked as journalists."

UCC has already awarded a total of 227 credits since introducing PLAR in 1996 in the Social Work, Nursing, English and Natural Resource Science programs. "The assessment activities this year will focus on Tourism, Computing Science, Trades programs, Forest Technology upgrading and the Executive Diplomas in Management," says Neil.

With unique curricula in the Bachelor programs, and opportunities for students to ladder into these degrees, UCC looks forward to graduating students in all faculties who will be successful in their careers or post-graduate studies. 


High Technology + Higher Education

by Bronwen Scott

This is a university degree you really can get by degrees.

Designed to accommodate multiple entry paths, this new job-oriented, four-year degree program will prepare graduates for immediate employment in a business or industrial environment, and it is being offered at the University College of the Cariboo for the first time this fall. Practical and applied, UCC's Bachelor of Technology in Applied Computing Science (BT/ACS) teaches troubleshooting, database software, networks, Windows, and Internet programming.

The BT/ACS is a "laddered" degree, meaning students can move into this Bachelor's degree program from a computing diploma program, getting credit toward the degree from their previous education. The program will also involve the use of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition and the application of "knowledge units" in the evaluation of a transferring student's academic record and field experience, so that students may receive formal university credit for their previous experience in the field.

No wonder educators and employers have high expectations for this degree that combines high technology with higher education. New approaches like this result in post-secondary programs that are practical, flexible and focused on making sure that students gain the skills needed by society right now, and in the future. 

STRIVING AHEAD

~ 25 Years at Cariboo ~

JUST PUBLISHED!

UCC's "Ultimate Yearbook," full of photos & stories from 1970 to 1995. Everyone who's seen this book has bought one.

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LIMITED
EDITION

Upcoming Events

Harper Mountain Family Ski Night

Saturday, January 17, 1998

Join us from 7 to 10 p.m. for an evening on the slopes with your family. The day lodge opens at 6 p.m. Get your tickets by contacting the Alumni office at (250)828-5267.

Employment Expo '98

Thursday, February 6, in the Campus Activity Centre

Are you a current student, a recent grad looking for work, or interested in a career change? Join us on campus for workshops and opportunities to meet potential employers. Call the Student Employment Centre at (250)371-5669 for the day's schedule of events.

UCC Foundation Gala

Saturday, March 7, at 6 p.m. in the Grand Hall

Cost is \$125 per ticket. Dinner and dance to live music. Money raised goes to scholarships and bursaries for UCC students. Contact the Foundation at (250)828-5264 for tickets.

Wing Ding Shake Shake

Wednesday, March 11, at Earl's Restaurant from 7 to 9 p.m.

Come and eat spicy, messy, delicious chicken wings and raise money for UCC scholarships and bursaries. Get a team of five together, get pledges from friends and family, and come and have fun. Win prizes! Contact the Alumni Office at (250)828-5267 for pledge forms and information.

ALUMNI

Path Finder

The '70s

John Haggarty (UT '72) BA UBC is now managing the Tourism Info Centre at the Vancouver International Airport and **Penny Haggarty (Tenzer) (UT '72)** BA and MLSc. UBC is the Technical Services Librarian at the UCC Library. **Harvey Lee (UT '73)** BA UBC, and his wife Wendy and their two children live in Richmond. Harvey is the President of Grayline of Vancouver. **Rossiland MacLean (Manson) (UT '73)** received her BEd at UBC and has taught school at various locations around the province. Roz, her husband Ian, and their three sons now live in Revelstoke where Roz is an on-call teacher. **Jim Bottoms ('75 and '81)** has two diplomas, one in Leisure and Recreation and his second in General Drafting. Jim and his family live in Kamloops where he is the owner/manager of a cold storage business specializing in storage and transportation of tree seedlings.

The '80s

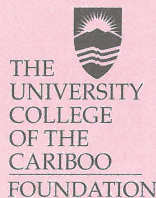
Paul Wright ('88) owns and operates Schoening Funeral Service in Kamloops and has a MicroComputers in Business Certificate. Paul is currently the Chair of the UCC Foundation Board of Directors and also the Chair of the Planned Giving Committee for the Foundation. **Charlene Friend ('89)** received her Leisure and Recreation Management Diploma and began working at the

Kamloops YM-YWCA as the Fitness Coordinator. She is now the Manager of Membership Services. Charlene is married and has four children. **Sandra Ewasiuk ('88)** received her Business Administration Diploma and is the owner and operator of Racquetor Courts and Fitness. Sandra has been a personal trainer and fitness instructor for many years and is now offering more fitness services to people in Kamloops with her business.

The '90s

Matt McLean (BBA '96) is the new General Manager of the Cariboo Student Society. Matt began working for the CSS in September and was nominated and elected to the UCC Alumni Association Board that same month. Matt says he is pleased to have the opportunity to network with people established in the Kamloops business community. **Nick Rinaldi (BA '94)** has returned to Kamloops after working in Vancouver as a Financial Advisor with Canada Trust. Nick is very pleased to be working for the investment house Nesbitt Burns. **Linda Borges (BA '93)** BEd UBC has moved back to the interior and is working as a substitute teacher in Kamloops. **Shawne MacKay ('95)** graduated with her CADD (Computer Aided Design and Drafting) Diploma and is working in Kamloops at Mader & Associates.

If you would like to tell your former classmates what you are doing now, please send along the information to the Alumni Association.



The UCC Foundation Planned Giving Committee is interested in visiting with alumni who are establishing wills, estate planning or are interested in making a bequest, a gift of life insurance or some other major gift to UCC. For further information about how to proceed with a tax deductible gift to your *alma mater*, please contact the Foundation Executive Director, Kathleen Biagioni Topolewski at (250) 828-5266 or the Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors, Paul Wright at (250) 374-7515.

Greetings from the new Executive Director

I am very happy to be with the UCC Alumni Association at a time when the University College is undergoing major changes in academics to graduate its own students and initiate its own unique Bachelor degrees.

I have attended both university and college and am an enthusiastic supporter of the model that combines the two. I am a Queens University graduate with a BSc Honours in Geology, and what, you may ask, has that to do with what I do now? Like so many people today, I have changed careers. I went back to school in the late '80s and took a two year Public Relations Diploma at Mount Royal College in Calgary. I continued to use my university degree and geology work experiences in Public Relations while working in Alberta for the past nine years.

From my own experiences, and those of so many people I have spoken with who have gone back to school to change careers, I am a strong supporter of life-long learning, accessible higher education, and flexibility in an institution to allow that accessibility, all of which I see here at UCC.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors and the current, and former, staff and volunteers, have worked very hard over the past

seven years to build a solid organization. The Alumni Endowment Fund is the second largest endowment at UCC with this year's contribution, and matching government funds, making it \$100,000. If you would like to contribute to the Alumni Endowment you can do so at any time of year and you will receive a tax receipt for your donation from the UCC Foundation who manages the fund.

I look forward to pursuing new programs for alumni and current students, and continuing the successful programs and events that the Association has organized with other groups in the past. If you have any questions about our upcoming programs and events, or wish to donate to the Alumni Endowment Fund, please call me at the office.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Lee



Call for Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations

The UCC Alumni Association conducts an awards program to honour outstanding Alumni who have made significant contributions or achievements in various areas.

Academic Achievement

Outstanding in the field of education, including research, teaching, program development and/or educational administration.

Arts and Culture

Achievements in the fine, performing or applied arts.

Athletic Achievement

Outstanding performance in and/or service to professional or amateur sport.

Professional Achievement

Achievements in the graduate's field of professional or career endeavors. This includes, but is not limited to, fields of business, social services, sciences, medicine or law.

Public Service

Contributions in the field of public administration and policy development, service in elected or appointed positions at local, provincial, national or international levels.

Service to the Community

Service and contributions to the welfare and advancement of local, national or international communities.

Service to the University College

Professional or voluntary activities undertaken on behalf of The University College of the Cariboo, the Alumni Association, or other organizations affiliated with UCC.

Nomination and Selection

The UCC alumni, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to nominate candidates for these awards. The Executive of the Alumni Board will appoint an Awards Committee who will recommend award recipients to the Alumni Association Board. The Award presentation will be June 12, 1998 at the Convocation Reception for new Alumni. Nominations must be received at the Alumni Office prior to March 12, 1998.

UCC's New Trades and Technology Centre

We're open for business and ready for the future.

by Bronwen Scott

As a twenty-first century institution, we value our partnerships with the public and private sectors for information exchange, curriculum development, donations of learning tools, and for co-operative education opportunities which provide our students with real-world experience.

The benefits of UCC, and of the new Trades and Technology Centre, extend far beyond student success, however. Our location in the centre of a resource-rich region, a thriving community that has developed around and with us, and the expertise of our faculty, staff and coordinators have ensured that UCC is strategically placed to enhance technology transfer and development in the B.C. Interior.

In an area where mining, logging and agriculture still provide our major economic base, industry partnerships are a logical and available option to contribute to the local economy. Increased environmental awareness and corresponding changes in legislation have prompted new ways of managing our forests, and opened up new training opportunities. UCC moved quickly to investigate and develop training partnerships with industry, with such success that former B.C. Minister of Skills, Training and Labour, Dan Miller, commended us for leadership in Forest Renewal B.C. community-based training partnerships.


High-tech industries in the Interior have also partnered with UCC, collaborating with students and faculty in the UCC Computer Automated Systems Technician (CAST) program in the design of problem-specific technologies that have never been done before. Projects completed include: an automated detection system designed in collaboration with MolyCop Industries of Kamloops; a retrofit of a

wood finisher for secondary wood processing for Canwood Furniture Manufacturing of Penticton; a programmable parts positioner for a robot welder to be used by Nicola Machine Works of Merritt; the design of a system to scan and position printed media to a tolerance of 2/1000 of an inch for Comptec International of Surrey; and the list goes on. All of these businesses enjoy greater productivity and prod-

uct quality due to these innovations and UCC students benefit because such work teaches them to be original thinkers, with links to the real world that start in the classroom.

UCC partnerships benefit public schools, too. A computer recycling project initiated by the Science Council of B.C. aims to put more computers into the hands of elementary and secondary schools in the Interior, and UCC plays a large role. Six school districts will receive computers as a result of the volunteer project, in which donated computers are repaired and refurbished by UCC students in the Computer Technician (CTEC) program. CTEC instructor J. S. Bourget points out that the project provides valuable troubleshooting experience for students, and also provides UCC students with the chance to serve society while they learn.

And service to society, in a nutshell, is what education is all about. Education is about taking the complexities of society and technology and making them clear. It is about preparing people to make their world a better place to work and live. It is about sharing information, and promoting understanding. UCC puts these concepts to work every day—in the classroom, and on the job.

Consider this: partnerships in education and technology are about consumers and producers, students and teachers, employers and workers. We are all partners in education. We all have a stake in it. And right now, UCC is staking a firm claim on the future of trades and technology in B.C. 



John Enman photo

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The *Alumni NETWORK* is published bi-annually and is produced by the UCC Alumni Association. Contributors: Pat Lee, Bronwen Scott, Karen McCoy. Photographs: John Enman, Jennifer Hamilton

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