

College System Alumni
Building B.C.'s Future



*Published by the Advanced Education Council of British Columbia,
a voluntary, non-profit association of the
B.C. colleges, institutes and the Open Learning Agency.*

▼ Meegan Armstrong

Kwantlen University-College

Contractor, Pollution Prevention Program — Environment Canada

For Meegan Armstrong, Kwantlen's Environmental Technology Program was more effective than her university degree in environmental relations. She has high praise for the hands-on part of the two-year diploma program in environmental protection technology. Armstrong was awarded the 1995 President's Award of Excellence from the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C. The award is given to a graduate of the program for outstanding educational achievements and attitude. She currently inspects petroleum and chemical storage facilities as part of the federal government's pollution prevention program.

"The program gave me such a foundation that I could enter any aspect of the environmental field."

► Rick de Jong

University College of the Fraser Valley

Horticultural Sales Representative, Coast-Agri Fertilizers

Rick de Jong graduated from UCFV's Agriculture Program in 1990. Assistance from his instructors with job placement immediately landed him a job with Coast-Agri Fertilizers.

"UCFV gave me a career, not just a nine-to-five job. And it's a career I'm very happy in."



▲ Nancy Ossinger

North Island College

Commercial Fishing

Coming from a commercial fishing family, it was natural for Nancy Ossinger to want to continue putting out to sea. Rather than working as a crew member, however, after graduating from high school she entered the Fishing Master IV Program offered by the Comox Valley campus of North Island College. At 18, she became the youngest female in Canada ever to have completed the demanding Coast Guard certified course. Ossinger is qualified to assume the captain's position in any fishing vessel of less than 100 gross tons operating up to 120 miles offshore. Her career plans include serving with the Coast Guard and the coastal ferry fleet.

"The course is beneficial not only for those plan to put to sea, but also for individuals seeking land-based jobs such as radio-telephone operators and dispatchers."



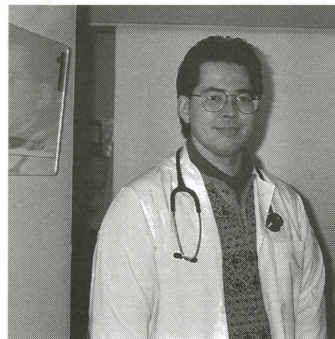
► **Ken Wheeler**

Camosun College

Electronic Technician

Several years ago Ken Wheeler was a mechanic in a dead-end job. Encouraged by his wife's positive experience at Camosun College, he enrolled in the Basic Employment Skills Training Program. After receiving help with career planning, he took the Adult Basic Education Program and later enrolled in the Electronics Technician Program. Wheeler is now a self-employed electronics technician with a bright future.

"Now I'm working with computers which is what I love to do — Excellent trouble-shooting skills are taught at Camosun."



▲ **Kim King, M.D.**

Malaspina University-College

Physician, Caledonian Medical-Surgical Clinic Ltd.

Graduating in 1985 from Malaspina's two-year Bachelor of Science transfer program, Kim King went on to complete his medical degree and is a practising physician in Nanaimo.

"Faculty at Malaspina were always accessible and willing to help their students — my instructors were well qualified, and I'm more than convinced that what I learned at Malaspina gave me a good preparation for my pre-med studies at university."



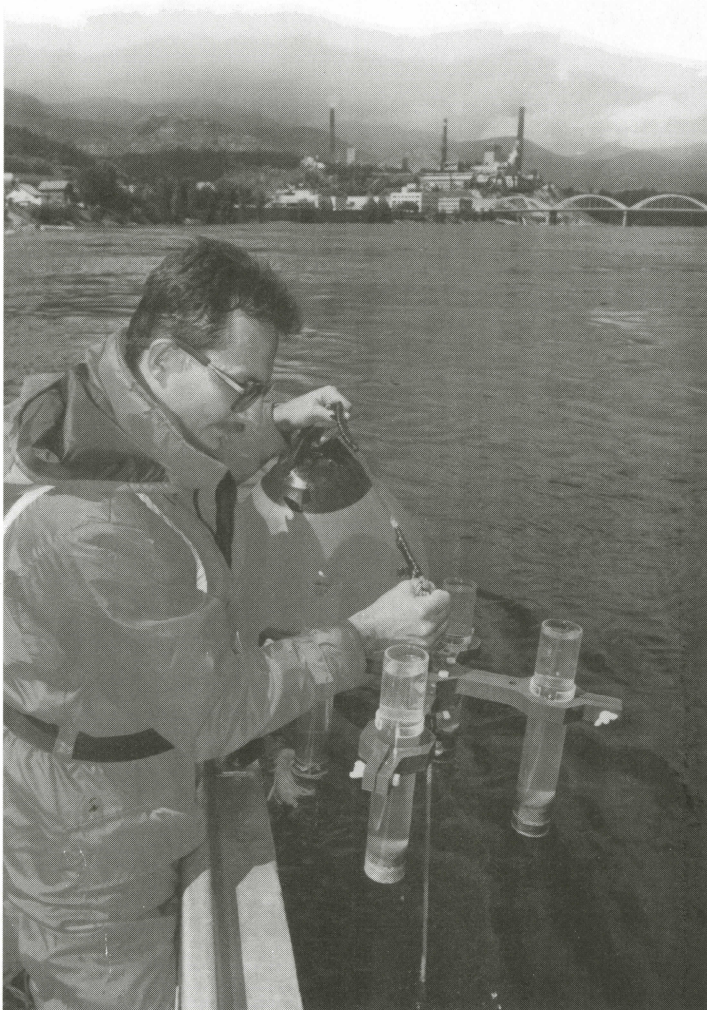
▲ **Teara Ashby**

Camosun College

Biochemistry Student, University of British Columbia

After successfully completing the College Preparatory Program at Camosun, Teara Ashby went on to graduate from the Applied Chemistry and Biology Program (ACB). During her internship at Victoria's Royal Jubilee Hospital, she developed a hypothesis suggesting a new way of looking at breast cancer research. Ashby's hypothesis was considered important enough that within a matter of weeks, she was the junior author of an article in an internationally renowned medical journal. She plans to complete a Master's degree in biochemistry and then an MD/PhD in medical research.

"The skills and insights I gained from the ACB Program found immediate and direct application in the work that I did at the hospital. I'm really glad I chose this program; it's prepared me."



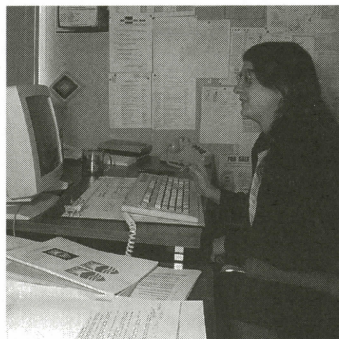
◀ **Bill F. A. Duncan**

Selkirk College

Biologist, Cominco

Bill Duncan completed the university transfer program at Selkirk College then continued his studies at the University of Saskatchewan where he completed his Bachelor of Science degree. He went on to earn a Master's degree in Entomology from the University of Idaho

"The smaller class sizes and individual attention provided to me in the first two years of post-secondary education at Selkirk College paved the way for a successful academic education."



▲ **Bronwen Scott**
University College of the Cariboo

Writer, UCC Public Relations Department

Scott completed two years toward her B.A. at the University College of the Cariboo in the 70's and returned to finish her degree more than 10 years later when UCC was mandated to offer four year degrees. She received her B.A. in 1992.

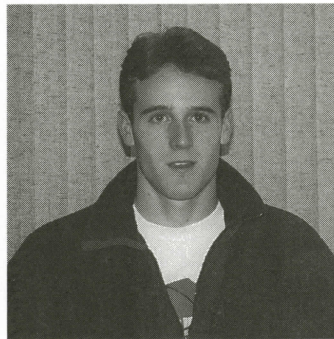
"The quality of teaching at UCC is so good that I was offered two different graduate fellowships after graduating — but decided to stay in Kamloops. I love working at my Alma Mater, and am really grateful that my studies have led to the writing opportunities that I currently enjoy."

► **Lesley Robinson**
College of New Caledonia

Graduate Student, University of British Columbia

Lesley Robinson held several scholarships while pursuing university transfer courses at CNC and also took math courses through the University of Waterloo distance education program during her third year at the college. She went on to study mathematics at the University College of the Cariboo. Robinson graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor's degree in mathematics from UBC and was awarded the Science Medal as the top graduating student in the Faculty of Science.

"The relatively small classes and the personal nature of the instruction in the community colleges really helped me as a student."

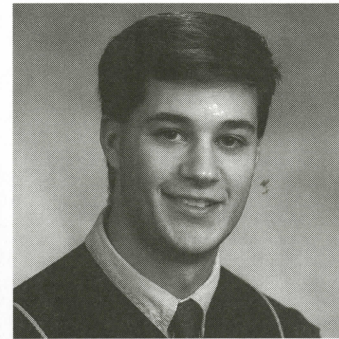


▲ **Alan Maudie**
College of the Rockies

Student, University of Lethbridge

Alan Maudie completed his university transfer studies at the College of the Rockies and is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Science degree program.

"The first interest of instructors at the College of the Rockies is teaching — I found, in general, after transferring to university that I had accumulated more knowledge and had a better understanding of that knowledge, than students who had done their first year at university."



▲ **Mark Pastro**
College of New Caledonia

Pharmacist, Shoppers' Drug Mart/Prince George Regional Hospital

Mark Pastro is an enthusiastic supporter of CNC's university transfer program.

"I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend the College of New Caledonia. Not only did it provide me with relatively low cost education, it allowed me to experience post-secondary education in familiar surroundings."

▼ Isabel Wear

Langara College

Owner/Operator, Energia Juice Bar

At 24, Isabel Wear has a firm grasp of the fundamentals of business. She got that vital business training in Langara's Small Business Development Program, graduating from the intensive, eight-month program in April 1994. Just over a year after graduation, Wear became owner and operator of Energia, a unique restaurant/juice bar in the upscale Vancouver neighbourhood of Kitsilano.

"The Langara program taught me to understand my product, how to market it, and how to sell it — I learned that you have to have a game plan for your business right from the start and develop financial and marketing projections that keep your business on track."

► Marc Duquette

North Island College

Owner, Duquette Woodworks

Marc Duquette credits North Island College's Entrepreneurial Program for turning his hobby into a commercial woodwork shop devoted to custom furniture and premium case-good millwork. Today, with a growing customer-base, Duquette Woodworks hums with activity, employing two full-time and one part-time staff.

"The NIC course was instrumental in getting this business off the ground."



▲ Dave Hammond

Malaspina University-College

Partner, McKinnon Hammond Real Estate Services

Dave Hammond completed Malaspina's university transfer program in 1974 and feels fortunate to have started out at a community college.

"Going to university directly after high school would have been too intimidating for a person like me who came from a graduating class of 60. The ability to try different programs at Malaspina University College was a big help for me because I couldn't decide on a career immediately."

► Dan Drolet

Vancouver Community College

Export Account Executive, BC Tree Fruits Limited

Dan Drolet completed VCC's Traffic, Customs and Transportation Program and was recently promoted to his current position which involves coordinating sales and arranging transportation for customers around the world.

"My studies at Vancouver Community College regarding the marine industry have come in especially handy, as most of our fruit for export is containerized and transported by water."



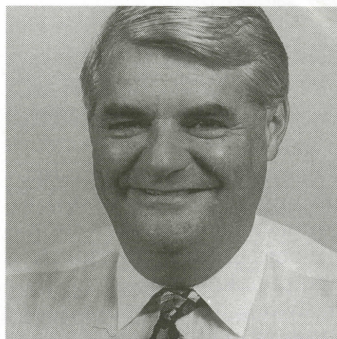


▲ **Bob McDonald**
Open Learning Agency

Senior Communications Coordinator, B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

Soon after graduating with a degree in Administrative Studies from the OLA's Open University in 1994, McDonald was promoted to his present position.

"I got the degree when I needed it to move ahead. It made a difference to me that I could earn money instead of incurring student loans. I needed the flexibility that the Open University offered me."

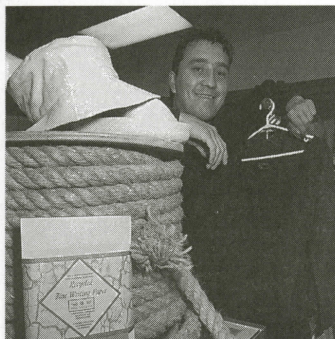


▲ **Richard Brown**
Capilano College

Director of Food Services, Beaver Foods

Capilano College entered Richard Brown's life when management restructuring left him without a position after 20 years with Woodward's as food and beverage manager. He decided it was time to go back to school. After completing the Accelerated Business Financial Management Program in 1990, he stayed in the food and beverage field, eventually joining Beaver Foods. A year later, he found himself back at Capilano again, this time running the campus food services operation for Beaver Foods. A believer in "giving something back," Brown is actively involved in the Alumni Association.

"I went full circle and it's great to be back because I really enjoyed the time I was here as a student."



▲ **Gary Labbe**
University College of the Cariboo

Owner, The Desert Hemp Hut

After completing his business degree at UCC, Gary Labbe turned down an immediate job offer as a ski resort supervisor to open his own store.

"My BBA studies gave me the tools necessary to do the market research, accounting, and inventory control for my new business. When I came to Cariboo, I was almost illiterate. At any big university, I would've been lost in the numbers — but at UCC I could see my teachers anytime for help and support."



▲ **Anita Sirkia**
North Island College

Manager, Paradise Restaurants

As a mature student with a diverse work history, Anita enrolled in North Island College's nine-month Entrepreneurial Program to find out what type of work would satisfy her love for finance, running a business and working with people. It eventually led to the restaurant business. Today, she manages three separate restaurants, a staff of 50, and is president of the Port Alberni Chamber of Commerce.

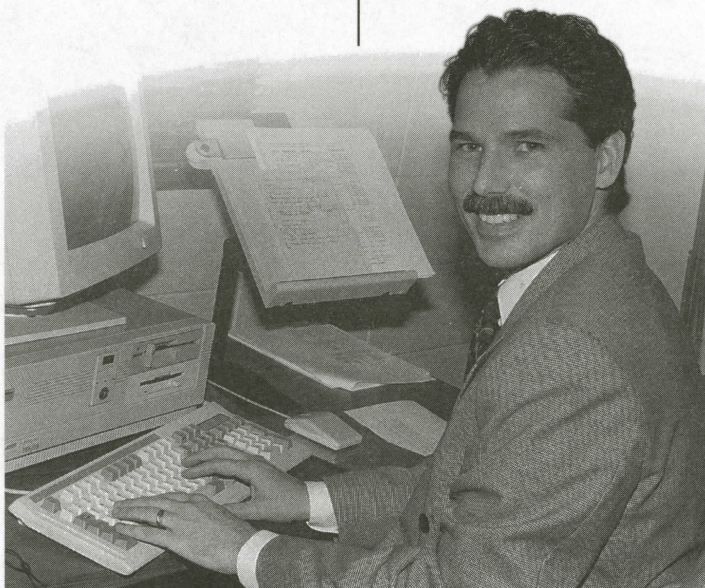
"Education is a turning point, it gives you a higher confidence level to achieve what you want."

► **Kent Waugh**
University College of the Fraser Valley

President, Waugh Research

Kent Waugh completed UCFV's Business Administration diploma program in 1985. He thinks of his student years as a time when he learned the value of giving back to the community. Today, Waugh sees his career comprising both volunteer and paid work. In addition to owning a market research firm, he is president of the Abbotsford Downtown Business Association, chair of a committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the city's Economic Development Commission.

"What you learn at college isn't only taught in the classroom, it's what you learn through social interaction, whether it be through instructors or other students."





▲ **Gail Lesowski**
Okanagan University-College

Manager of Corporate Services, B.C. Ministry of Forests

Gail Lesowski is a 1986 graduate of OUC's Business Administration Program. Today, she oversees a staff of 10 full-time employees.



▲ **Garry Filafilo**
Okanagan University-College

Chartered Accountant, Rutherford Bazett Chartered Accountants

Trained as an auto mechanic, Garry Filafilo decided to go back to school and forge a new career. He graduated in 1990 with an Accounting Option in Business Administration. Filafilo obtained his C.A. designation in 1993.

► **Pam Keel**
North Island College
Financial Coordinator, Port Alberni Women's Resources Centre

Pam Keel worked for 15 years on the green chain at Alberni Plywood until the mill's closure and injuries forced her to seek alternatives. With few business skills, she enrolled in NIC to upgrade. Computer and Business Administration courses led her to her present work which also includes acting as treasurer for two organizations.



▲ **Darin Engleman**
Selkirk College
Vice-President of Operations, Servpro Cleaning (PBM) Ltd.

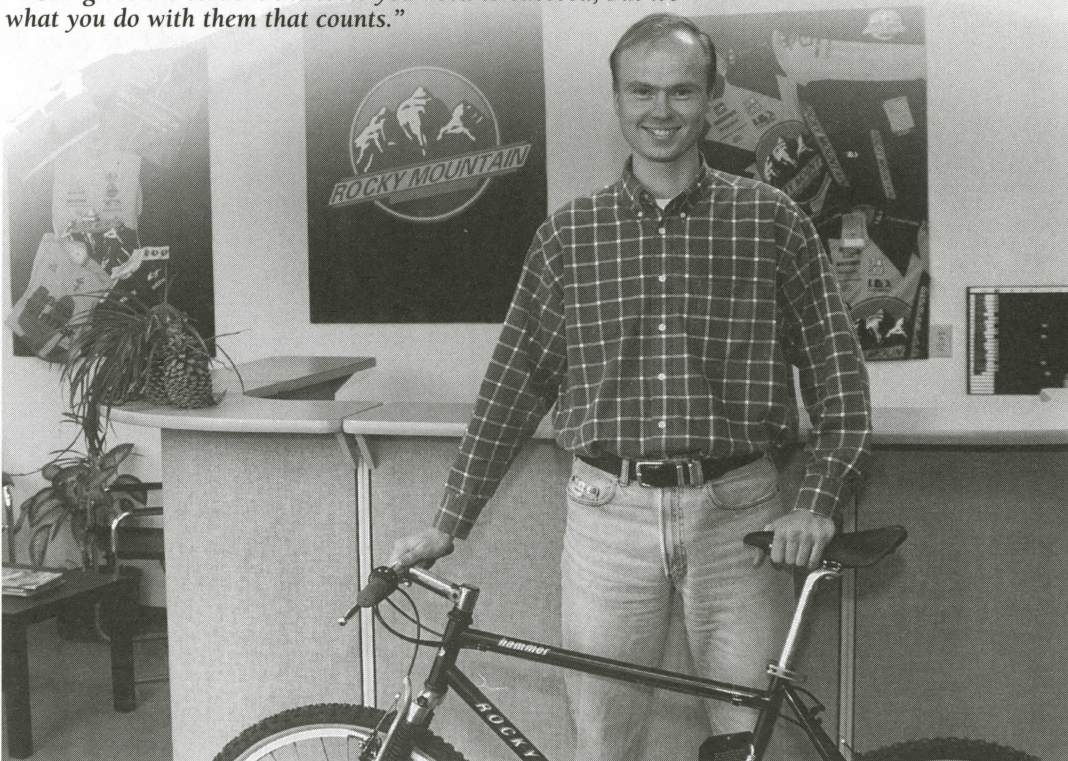
Darin Engleman has parlayed a Business Administration diploma earned at Selkirk College in 1988 into a booming career with one of Alberta's largest janitorial contracting companies. Following graduation, Engleman spent several years in increasingly responsible positions at Kmart, then joined Servpro in 1991, and was promoted to area manager within a month of his hiring.

"I give my college instructors a lot of the credit — By expecting a lot of me as a student, I learned I had what it takes to succeed."

▼ **David Richardson**
B. C. Institute of Technology
Operations Manager, Rocky Mountain Bicycle Co.

David Richardson was sure there was an engineer in him but he discovered that mechanical engineering wasn't for him. So he enrolled in BCIT's Operations Management Program, where he found the combination of management and engineering fit him perfectly.

"BCIT gives the student the tools you need to succeed, but it's what you do with them that counts."





▲ Elsie Herrick
College of New Caledonia

Manager of Budgets & Audit Systems, Prince George Regional Community Care Society/Part-Time Instructor, College of New Caledonia.

After receiving her diploma in Accounting and Finance from CNC, Elsie Herrick went on to receive a diploma in Health Care Administration from the University of Saskatchewan. She is a Certified Management Accountant.

"I have always been very proud of the education I received at CNC. As a mature student, the support from the instructors in my search for a career path was invaluable."

► George Gomes
College of New Caledonia

Associate Manager, Zellers

George Gomes completed CNC's Business Administration Program in 1991 and transferred to UBC where he received a degree in commerce. He was recently promoted to his present position.

"I would highly recommend the CNC university transfer program because of the quality of the instructors, and more importantly, the emphasis that is placed on understanding and learning."



▲ Tanya Ponnann-Stevens
Kwantlen University-College

Marketing Department, Vancouver Grizzlies

After graduating from Kwantlen's Marketing Management Program in 1994, Tanya Ponnann-Stevens was offered a contract position with the Vancouver Grizzlies.

"This offer was a result of the quality of my education and the scope of contacts I established through Kwantlen. My instructors became my career counsellors, my mentors and my friends."



▲ Brent Ryder
Northern Lights College

Co-owner/Manager, The Cutting Edge School of Beauty

After working in the sawmill industry for a number of years, a desire to work on his own terms led Brent Ryder to enrol in the Business Management Program at Northern Lights College. As he worked through the courses in the two-year program, he became increasingly confident about his decision to own a business. His hard work paid off when the bank told him his business proposal was viable. Today, Ryder is one of three owner/managers of a family-run business.

"The size of the college made it possible to be one-on-one with each teacher — They helped us with hands-on projects for real businesses. It was great because you not only got the work experience, but you also got the business contacts."

► Kelly Curtis
Okanagan University-College

Owner & Operator, Train Station Ladies Fitness Centre

Kelly Curtis's dream was to run her own business. She prepared by attending OUC, graduating from the Business Administration Program in 1990 with an option in Management and Marketing. Today, as owner of a fitness facility, she uses her knowledge and business acumen to operate a one-stop health and relaxation centre for women of all ages.

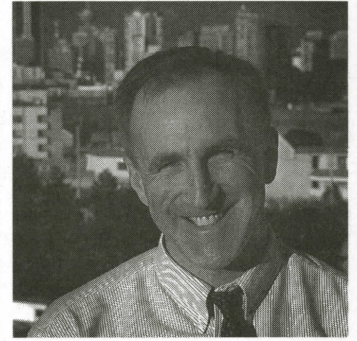
► **Gael MacLean**

Capilano College

Film Producer

An alumnus of the Media Resources Program, Gael MacLean has worked in the film and television industry since 1987. Her video productions have won AMTEC and AMI Media Festival awards, while her work as a sound editor and supervisor have brought her two Genie awards and a Golden Sheaf award. MacLean lectures annually at Capilano College.

"Cap College was an excellent preparation for the film industry. The high standards and accelerated pace of the Media Resources Program provided a solid base of training from which I could draw upon."



▲ **Gary Mason**

Langara College

Deputy Managing Editor,
The Vancouver Sun

Graduating from Langara's Journalism Program in 1982, Gary Mason's first job assignment was the Victoria Bureau of *The Vancouver Sun*, a challenging task. Today, as Deputy Managing Editor, Mason still has a strong connection to the college and a career program that gave him the foundation for much of his success in the newspaper industry. He continues to hire Langara students into the newsrooms of *The Sun*.

"The program taught us the practical side of journalism instead of just the academic side. We learned to write, to write well, and to write quickly — I certainly realized the importance of those skills early in my career."

◀ **Karen Johal**

Kwantlen University-College

Communications Officer, Institute of Chartered Accountants of B.C.

Karen Johal completed Kwantlen's Journalism and Public Relations Program and believes that you get back from your education what you put into it.

"Kwantlen opened up a world of opportunities for me — I've developed a variety of practical skills working for some incredible people and organizations."

▼ Cari Beckett

University College of the Cariboo

Senior Technical Analyst, B.C. Lottery Corporation

Hired by B.C. Lottery Corporation before graduation from UCC's Computer System Technician Program in 1986, Cari Beckett is still employed by the corporation.

"My college experience prepared me well for what I am doing now, and gave me a very extensive electronics background. My teachers were very supportive."

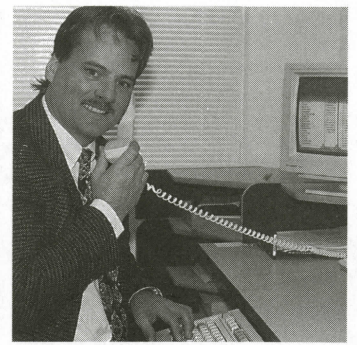
► Gord Boyes

Kwantlen University-College

Technologist, Weldwood Canada

After completing Kwantlen's two-year Electronics Technologist Program, Gord Boyes landed a job — against competition from 120 other applicants.

"There were other people with more experience than me so the training must be what did it. This course has just been a huge benefit to me."



▲ Marten Blatchford

Selkirk College

Corporate Account Manager

Undereducated and "downsized" out of his job in the early 1980's, Marten Blatchford took advantage of employee retraining. Enrolling in the Computer Information Systems Technology Program at Selkirk, he elected the co-operative education option in which he gained experience while he acquired the technical training required. Blatchford now works for a company in Trail that sells, services and supports personal computers.

"When I was in a bind, Selkirk College offered me just the training I needed to effect a successful career change."



▼ Karin Kaercher-Fattore

Camosun College

Coordinator/Instructor Criminal Justice Program, Camosun College

In 1983, Karin Kaercher-Fattore was a single mom caring for her small children, dependant on financial assistance. A resource centre for single parents led her to the Employment Orientation for Women (EOW) Program at Camosun College. After completing the program, she went on to graduate from the college's two-year Criminal Justice Program, then transferred to the University of Ottawa where she completed Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Criminology. She returned to teach at Camosun in 1989.

"The EOW Program gave me a way to explore my independence and to clarify my career goals — But the greatest by-product is self-esteem. It gave me the boost in self-confidence I needed to move ahead."



▲ Rebecca White

College of the Rockies

Youth Employment Skills Coordinator, Kimberley School District

Realizing she needed specialized training to pursue her interest in the human service field, Rebecca White turned to East Kootenay Community College (now College of the Rockies). The college's Human Service Worker Program provided her with the skills to pursue a career in the human service field.

"I love the work that I do — The Human Service Worker Program gave me the self-confidence to believe in myself and to reach higher to achieve my goals."



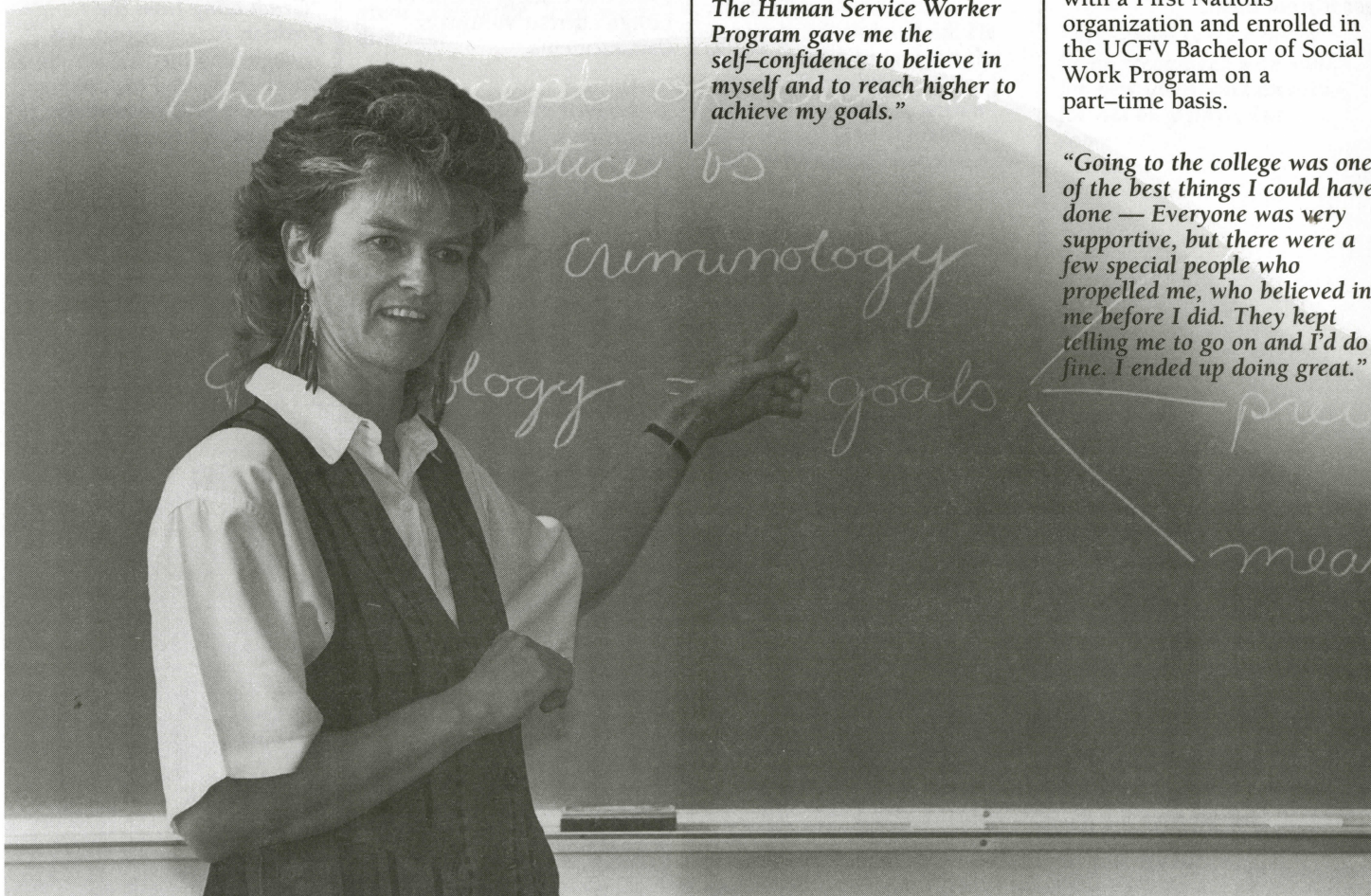
▲ Katie McCallum

University College of the Fraser Valley

Social Worker, Xolhmi:lh

Katie McCallum had always wanted to work with people, but was apprehensive about returning to school to get the formal training she needed. Her fears were unfounded. McCallum completed a year of Adult Basic Education studies at UCFV, winning an outstanding student award. She then won a tuition waiver scholarship and continued straight into the two-year Social Services diploma program. She's employed as a social worker with a First Nations organization and enrolled in the UCFV Bachelor of Social Work Program on a part-time basis.

"Going to the college was one of the best things I could have done — Everyone was very supportive, but there were a few special people who propelled me, who believed in me before I did. They kept telling me to go on and I'd do fine. I ended up doing great."

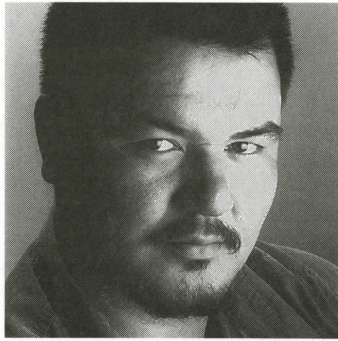




▲ **Linda Szentes**
Douglas College
Musician, Vancouver

Linda Szentes completed the Music Program at Douglas in 1992 and works in the Lower Mainland teaching piano, performing and conducting.

"When I look back, Douglas College was really the best educational experience I've had. The teachers are accessible and very interested in what their students are doing. Teaching is their primary focus and it really does show. It was the time in my musical career when I needed a lot of support and I got it from them."



▲ **Patrick Gallagher**
Douglas College
Actor

After graduating from Douglas's Theatre Program, Patrick won a place at the prestigious National Theatre School in Montreal. He is currently working as an actor in Toronto.

"It was amazing for me. The school is there for theatre only, which is a great way to learn. You study movement and voice with people who work in the business, professional directors and teachers, and it's a good place to nurture those skills."



▲ **Frances Long**
Capilano College
Owner, Spectrum College & Consulting Services

A graduate of Capilano's Fine Arts Program, Frances Long went on to receive a Master's degree in Higher Education at UBC and to specialize in the field of continuing education. In 1988, she launched her own business, a private post-secondary training institution and an educational consulting company. Her clients include community colleges and school district continuing education divisions. Chairing the Alumni Council for Capilano College is one of Long's current volunteer commitments.

"I received an excellent education which put me in a good position to excel at university. I am well positioned in my career because of my training at Capilano College. The faculty are terrific, and the class sizes were small."



▲ **Kara Ardan**
Vancouver Community College
Freelance Designer

Trained as a hairdresser, Ardan decided to go back to school to retrain in office and computer skills. In 1993, she enrolled in the Fashion Arts Program at Vancouver Community College, and, while a student, won the Western Canadian Smirnoff competition and was first runner-up in the national event. Ardan combines work for Haida designer, Dorothy Grant, with freelance fashion design and exhibitions.

"Graduating from the Fashion Arts Program has changed my life; it gave me the training and experience to start a new, rewarding career with literally dozens of job opportunities. The continuous support from the experienced instructors has been invaluable."

► **Tony Lazarowich**
Douglas College
Owner, Pacific West Special Effects

A 1988 graduate of the Stagecraft Program, Lazarowich now runs his own business in the Lower Mainland. He has worked on several Hollywood movies and an HBO special.

"Douglas College gave me a well-rounded outlook, and helped me set goals early on. Three years after Douglas, I was where I wanted to be."

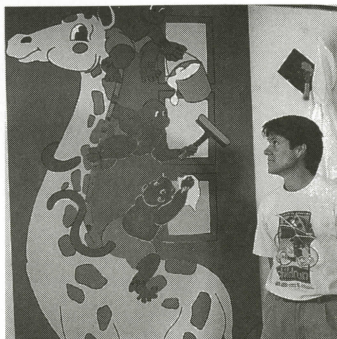
► **Ryan Bennett**

Langara College

Senior Production Manager,
London Drugs, One Hour
Photo Division

After graduating from Langara's Professional Photography Program in 1979, Bennett began working in the photofinishing department of London Drugs. Today, he is responsible for all 43 One-Hour photofinishing departments in the London Drugs retail chain. He continues to be involved in the college, serving on the Advisory Committee of the Photography Program for the past several years. Bennett has also hired several Langara graduates.

"Langara's Photography Program was great — grads come out of the program with a great foundation of skills, both creatively and technically."



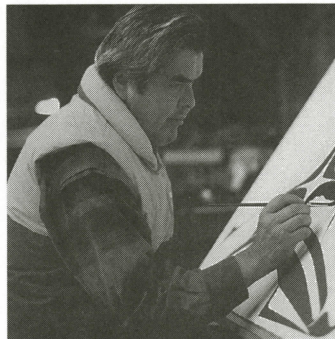
▲ **Judson Beaumont**

Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design

Owner, Straight Line Designs Inc.

Sculptor and designer, Judson Beaumont, founded Straight Line Designs Inc. in 1986, a year after graduating from Emily Carr. Today, with an average of eight people on staff, he designs and builds displays, props, sets, custom furniture, murals, play areas and sculptures.

"It was the opportunity of a lifetime. Emily Carr gave me three years to explore and develop my skills. It was a great experience. It gave me direction."



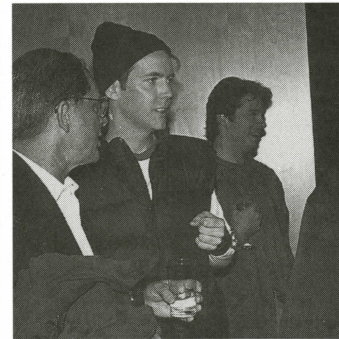
▲ **Robert Davidson**

Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design

First Nations Artist

The road to Robert Davidson's remarkable career as a First Nations artist began soon after he arrived in Vancouver in 1967 and visited his first museum. He was immediately "blown away by the level of craftsmanship." Soon afterward he met Bill Reid who was teaching at the then Vancouver School of Art. Reid encouraged him to enroll in VSA, where he became one of only two Native students.

After VSA, Davidson apprenticed under Reid. He then went on to reclaim the "classical" tradition of Haida art, and to enrich it with a new vocabulary of materials and techniques. He considers himself lucky for the guidance of his "spirit helpers" as well as his earthly mentors.



▲ **Douglas Coupland**

Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design

Novelist

After dropping out of a university physics degree program, Douglas Coupland entered Emily Carr where he discovered the value of the "art school mindset" — the flexibility and creativity required to live in an "accelerated age." Later switching from sculpting to writing fiction, he has published four novels, including *Generation X*, a staple of virtually every introductory Communications course in North America.

"Art school is once again being recognized as a venue for new ideas, and an arena for not only form, but content."



◀ **Ian Verchere**

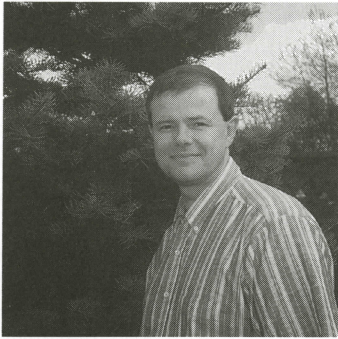
Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design

Producer, Radical Entertainment

A 1989 Painting graduate, Ian Verchere became one of six employee founders of Radical Entertainment, a rising star in the world of electronic game development. Since its launch in 1991, the company has grown to 90 employees, including a sizeable number of Emily Carr grads, whose backgrounds span every discipline from animation to sculpture. Radical Entertainment has become Vancouver's largest independent developer of electronic games as well as a developer of new original properties.

Verchere helped to structure Radical according to the work habits he recognized as a student:

"An artist can't stop being creative at 5:00. At Radical we don't work fixed hours, but everyone has a key — I might not be making 'capital A Art', but I love my job. It's all creative endeavor."



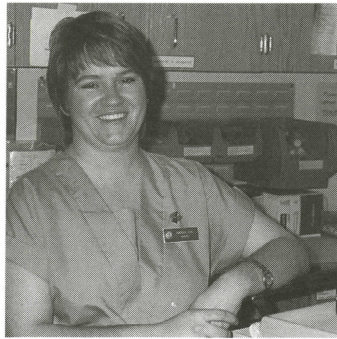
▲ John Gulley

B. C. Institute of Technology

Environmental Research Specialist, Suncor Inc.

After successfully completing the Occupational Health and Safety Program at BCIT, John Gulley returned to the institute for further specialized training in the Environmental Management Program, which is offered through part-time study.

"The technical training I received at BCIT has provided me with a broader understanding of the technical issues associated with scientific research projects."



▲ Brenda DeVuyst

Northern Lights College

Registered Nurse

Brenda DeVuyst has come a long way since leaving high school with only a Grade 10 education. She is now a Registered Nurse. DeVuyst started on her road to higher education with the adult upgrading program at Northern Lights College. Subsequent work for ICBC led to an interest in the medical field and enrolment in NLC's Nursing Program. After completing the one-year program, she went on to BCIT to finish the required four semesters for her diploma.

"I received a lot of support from the instructors and students. They understood the demands of being a parent and student — The college program helped us recognize what we could do."

▼ Sue Skeates

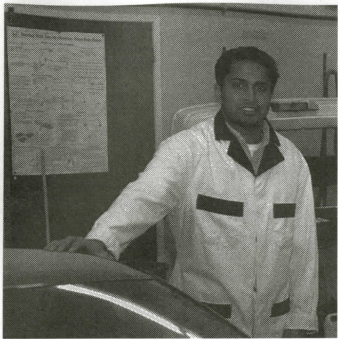
Open Learning Agency

Graduate Student, St. Francis Xavier University

When Smithers nurse Sue Skeates packed her bags and moved to a new town, as she has often done over the last decade, her university was part of her luggage. Through distance learning, she was able to work toward her degree wherever she lived. The decision paid off when she was awarded a Bachelor of Health Science in Nursing from the OLA's Open University.

"I chose to do my degree with the Open University because it fitted in with my lifestyle."





► **Scott Keen**
Vancouver Community College
 Diesel Technician, Detroit Diesel

A 1980 VCC graduate, Scott Keen apprenticed at Detroit Diesel in Surrey and has worked there ever since. In 1994, he and a partner won the Detroit Diesel International Team Challenge, an event in which approximately 3,000 mechanics compete.

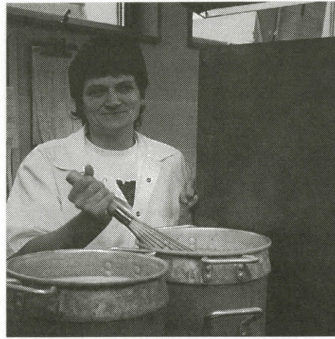
"I chose VCC because the Diesel Program was in depth and introduced me to a variety of diesel engines. I really was interested in working on logging trucks and VCC has a great deal of expertise in this area."

▲ **Madhu Reddy**
Vancouver Community College

Manager, Mastercraft Autobody

Completing VCC's Automotive Collision Repair Program in 1987, Madhu Reddy began with an entry level position as an auto painter, worked his way up to parts person, then foreman. He now supervises 12 employees and is responsible for all operations of the shop.

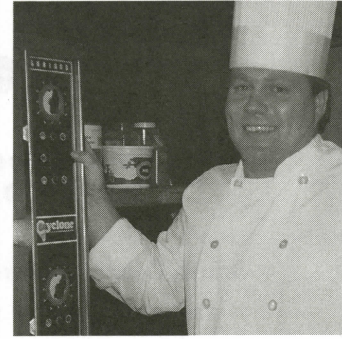
"The classes and the instructors at VCC are great. You learn the basics, which is what you need to get a good start in the field of automotive collision repair."



▲ **Marcelle Jones**
Malaspina University-College
 Cook, Olive Devaud Residence (Powell River Sunset Homes Society)

Marcelle Jones was one of the first graduates of the Cook Training Program at Malaspina's Powell River campus. She has continued her education and now has her Food Service Supervisor diploma.

"The program prepared me well for the work I do here as cook for 80 people. Our instructor was great. His easy manner made everything easier to learn; he made learning fun — I'm glad for the opportunity to take the program in my home community. It would have been hard for me to study elsewhere because of my family commitments."



▲ **Wes Brown**
Northern Lights College
 Executive Chef, George Dawson Inn

A lifelong interest in cooking led Wes Brown to enrol in the Cook Training Program at Northern Lights. After graduation, he apprenticed at the George Dawson Inn and went on to work in a variety of restaurants around the province. After additional cook training at BCIT, he returned to Dawson Creek and is now Executive Chef in the kitchen in which he apprenticed.

"They were able to help me gain a set of skills on which to build. The Cook Training program gave me a solid foundation."

◀ **Helen Illingworth**
B. C. Institute of Technology
 Boilermaking Apprentice

A special program designed to introduce women to trades started Helen Illingworth on the road to a new career in 1990. A former waitress and fish cannery worker, Illingworth knew right away that BCIT's introductory trades courses were for her. After earning her initial welding ticket, she has alternated between work and further trades training at BCIT.

"You just have to decide what you're doing and go for it — listen to yourself, not others."



**College System Alumni
Building B.C.'s Future**

British Columbia's extensive college, institute and agency system provides high quality, affordable education and training to learners of all ages in a wide variety of fields. Our college, institute and agency system is the third largest in Canada, with some 90 campuses and centres throughout the province and more than 77,000 funded full-time equivalent students.

In this publication, the Advanced Education Council of B.C. has assembled some of the success stories of our member institutions' alumni. The people featured here exemplify the many positive attributes of a publicly-funded and highly accessible post-secondary education system. They share the belief that advanced education and training has played an important role in their development and success. We believe they represent a solid foundation for the future of British Columbia.

The alumni in these pages are representative of the diversity of the education and training programs offered by the college, institute and agency system. To encourage you to explore this diversity, we have organized alumni by profession group, i.e., business people in one section, those in science in another, and so on.

Gerry Della Mattia
Executive Director

Advanced Education Council of British Columbia
950 - 409 Granville Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1T2
Telephone: (604) 895-5080
Fax: (604) 895-5088