

**REPORT TO NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS  
MARCH 2015**

**COMOX VALLEY CAMPUS**

**Support for Baby Grant**

*Name withheld by request*

More than \$600 was raised internally to help support baby Grant and his father Doug. Thank you to everyone who contributed and kept Veronika and the Weaver family in their thoughts and prayers. Baby Grant is now home with his daddy and will continue to work through his rehabilitation.

Additionally, the community garage sale which was held in the NIC cafeteria at the end of February also raised \$3,100 for the Weavers.

The family passes along their sincerest gratitude and appreciation to everyone.

**Update from the School of Fine Arts and Design**

*Submitted by Megan Wilson and Linda Perron*

FIN 220 (Paint Applications 1) students exhibit at the Comox Valley Art Gallery, January 23<sup>rd</sup> - March 7<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/present/>

The NIC Foundation approves a grant for the purchase of wood frames for the student exhibition space at the Lewis Centre. This will allow works on paper from the College's vast print-making collection to be displayed publicly. A new exhibition of these works is scheduled to be installed in early April.

Student work continues to be displayed in the Raven Hall Gallery on a regular basis. The hallway is becoming more formalized as an exhibition space thanks to the work of curatorial co-op students and to Facilities for installing a new lighting grid and negotiating further improvements.

A Vimeo site has been created to showcase Media Arts projects created by students in Creative Applications, Computer Graphics and Digital Visual Arts.

<https://vimeo.com/user23211306>

On March 12<sup>th</sup> students from the School of Fine Art & Design traveled with their instructor, Gordon Hutchens, to Denman Island to participate in the annual Anagama kiln firing at his studio. Yukio Yamamoto designed and helped build this Tozan style Anagama for Gordon and it is one of a few specialized kilns in North America. Firing this kiln takes three days and around the clock stoking, burning five cords of wood. At high temperatures, wood ash melts onto the pots creating unique and often spectacular colour patterns. Students will take shifts helping to monitor and stoke this kiln over the three days of firing and will return on the 19<sup>th</sup> to unload the work from the kiln.

***Upcoming Department Events***

IMG students will showcase their work on April 28<sup>th</sup> in the Tyee student lounge. Everyone is invited to attend.

Emily Carr External Degree graduation exhibition 'AS YOU ARE' will be held at the Comox Valley Art Gallery May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>, with the opening reception on Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Fine Art Diploma Graduation exhibition will open May 8<sup>th</sup> in Shadbolt Studios.

Preparations are being made for the School of Fine Art & Design to host the BC Fine Arts Provincial Articulation meeting in May.

## **Find Your Dream Job!**

*Submitted by Treena Nadon*

North Island College hosted a Career Fair on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 - 4:30 pm at the Comox Recreation Centre (located at 1855 Noel Ave in Comox).

Students, upcoming graduates, NIC alumni and community members were invited to network with employers to discover the job options available in the Comox Valley, on the North Island and beyond!

Employers attending this year's Fair included: AKVA Group, BC Construction Association - STEP, Best Western, The Westerly Hotel & Convention Centre, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island, Canadian Armed Forces Recruiting Centre, Catalyst Paper, Chan, Nowosad, & Boates Chartered Accountants, CIBC, City of Courtenay, Coast Realty Group, Communitas Supportive Care Society, Construction Maintenance and Allied Workers Union Local 2020, Costco, First Credit Union, Four Seasons Whistler, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 230, Island Health (VIHA) – St. Joseph's Hospital, Island Health (VIHA), Island Health (VIHA) – Protective Services, Investors Group Financial Services Inc., Lakeside Catering Services, Marine Harvest, MNP, Mount Washington Alpine Resort, Nootka Wilderness Lodge, North Island College, Oak Bay Marine Group, OmniCare for People, Pateman, Cloutier, & Matthews Chartered Accountants, Presley & Partners Chartered Accountants, Retirement Concepts, School District No. 71, Sun Life Financial, Tim Horton's, United Association Local 324 - Plumbers, Pipefitters and Sprinklerfitters, Vancouver Island Insurance Centres, The Watermark Beach Resort, and the Wickaninnish Inn.

Supporting community partners included: Comox Military Family Resource Centre, Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce, Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA), Creative Employment Access Society, Industry Training Authority (ITA), North Island Aboriginal Training Society, North Island Employment Foundations Society, Public Service Commission of Canada, Service Canada, and Volunteer Comox Valley.

## **HCA Class Guests**

*Submitted by Donna Wedman*

In the Health Care Assistant Program, we endeavor to give students the information and skills they need for caregiving, but we recognize that empathy and compassion are also critical for understanding those we care for, and providing good care. One way we try to nurture this is to invite guest speakers from the community to come and share their experiences with us. Recently we were joined in class by the director of the Comox Valley Head Injury Society and a client of their services. The students remarked on how this helped them to better understand the effects and the challenges of a head injury, as well as the role of the CVHI society in supporting those living in the community. We also had a woman with a chronic degenerative disorder and her husband/caregiver come to class. She has written a play about her life with the disease, which we watched together. We then had an opportunity to ask questions. The students reflected on how their perceptions of this woman changed as they were able to learn more about her. While her disabilities are obvious and pose many challenges, they were able to see her personality, strength and abilities shine through. Many used the word “inspiring.” Both of these visits helped to bring the course content to life and reinforce the principle that every client is a unique individual deserving of our respect.

## **International Women's Day Celebration**

*Submitted by Richelle Gardiner-Hynds*

We had another successful International Women's Day celebration (March 8<sup>th</sup>) at NIC. Events were held at the following campuses:

- CVC – Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, Tyee Student Lounge
- PA – Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 – 1:00 pm, main foyer
- CR – Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:15 am – 12:45 pm, NIC main entrance

As in past years, it was a combined effort of Yiling Chow (NICFA Status of Women Committee), Jessica Sandy (NISU-staff), and Richelle Gardiner-Hynds (Faculty-Women's Studies), along with a number of student and faculty volunteers on the event days. We again had our annual cake celebration and IWD quiz (with prizes), and in Comox Valley a photographer and a singer were added to the celebration this year. Once again, there was great enthusiasm and participation by our NIC community in the celebration of 'women' for International Women's Day.

### **Business Alumni as Guest Speakers**

*Submitted by Bill Parkinson*

The School of Business welcomed back 2011 BBA graduates Kelsey Anderberg and Kathryn Kemp as guest speakers for last month's high school open house. Kelsey is now the manager of Commercial Banking at CIBC in Campbell River and Kathryn is now a CPA & CA working for Presley and Partners here in the Comox Valley. Alumni relations is something our school continues to emphasize as we strengthen our relationships with community members and provide pathways for our current students to access these members.



*L to R: Kelsey Anderberg, Bill Parkinson, Kathryn Kemp*

## **MOUNT WADDINGTON CAMPUS**

### **Completion of Small Engine Maintenance Program**

*Submitted by Gregory Batt*

14 students successfully completed a 36-hour Small Engine Maintenance program. A local shop donated equipment for students to work on and a local tool retailer donated some shop supplies. The instruction took place in a shop space that NIC leases from the local school board.

The instructor, George Miller, a licensed mechanic was careful to describe the course as a maintenance rather than repair course. George says that the small engines on the market today are not repairable. The units are all sealed and all the parts are replaceable. Gone are the days of adjusting the carburetor or setting the spark.

Students also brought in their own chain saws, generators, outboards and pumps to work on. Men and women, young and old signed up. At the end of the day the students revitalized four chain saws, one outboard and one portable generator.

Below is a picture of intergenerational learning with the youngest and oldest students working together.

Jacob is still in high school, and completing this course, the readings and weekly tests, have motivated him to stay in school. The school principal and I worked out a way for Jacob to also receive course credits towards graduation.



### **Completion of the Aquaculture and Coastal Forest Technician Programs**

*Submitted by Gregory Batt*

These two programs wrapped up on February 27<sup>th</sup>. For the first two months, both programs were located at Port McNeill Secondary. The final two months of instruction took place at our Port Hardy campus.

Aquaculture graduated six students and Forestry graduated nine. Two of the students came down from Bella Coola. Key features of the programs were the combination of classroom theory, Industry Certifications, field studies and hands-on work experience. Employment prospects are looking positive. Four of the Forestry students are now working and three of the Aquaculture students have had job interviews with either a local hatchery or local farm. The two Bella Coola students will have employment opportunities with Nuxalk First Nation either at the hatchery or in the First Nation's Forest Company.

*Aquaculture Students with Damon Woodland, Instructor*



*Forestry Students with Instructor, Henry Grierson***CAMPBELL RIVER CAMPUS****School of Trades and Technology*****Provincial and Regional***

The 2015-2016 ITA training plan was submitted and we were advised that the budget is status quo; revisions were submitted late February with final approval pending.

The School has made application to the Ministry of Advanced Education for Critical Seat Funding for programs removed from the ITA training plan due to the status quo budget.

The School has made application to the Ministry of Advanced Education for Introduction to Trades/Trades Discovery funding – 12 week programming providing an introduction to trades.

The Dean and Faculty have been engaged with provincial discussions, led by ITA, with regard to the pan-Canadian Harmonization initiative.

The Dean attended the provincial BCATTA meeting which provided a reference for the ITA discussion regarding a three year agreement and funding model. There are some observations that the Provincial Deans need to be directly involved in the discussions regarding funding models, as critical considerations have not been integrated into the planning thus far. The meeting also provided a broader context regarding the future model of BCATTA.

**Highlights**

The School is working closely with Facilities to support the advancement of the improvements and retrofits at Vigar, Dogwood (Grinding Room) and Tebo campuses.

The School is working with ITA and regional contractors to support training needs aligned with the North Island Hospital Project. The priority program is Wall and Ceiling Installer (drywall) with the target delivery period of April – June. Students are being recruited through the BC Construction Association.

The School has engaged in the Campbell River Concept Planning process and have over 12 faculty and staff who joined the Concept Planning Committee.

The School is working with School of CET to pilot an Introduction to Carpentry program for the general public.

***NISOD Excellence Award winner from School of Trades and Technology***

As a member of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), NIC selects three recipients to honour their demonstrated commitment to exceptional leadership, teaching and service at their community college.

We are very proud to have two faculty Excellence Award nominees this year from the School of Trades and Technology. Our congratulations are extended to both Erik Hardin and Mickey Bliss in recognition of their achievements. Mickey Bliss, an instructor within our Electrical program for 24 years, is the recipient of a 2015 NISOD Excellence Award.

***Chris Udy appointed Director, Trades, Technology and Industry Training***

We are very pleased to announce that Chris Udy has been selected as Director of Trades, Technology and Industry Training as part of the interim administrative structure for the division. Chris has exemplified instructional excellence as a welding faculty member at the Campbell River campus for the last 15 years and has shown a dedicated commitment to growing his profession. A Journeyman Level A Welder and Metal Fabricator by trade, Chris is Red Seal certified and has instructed welding apprenticeship, welding foundation and metal fabrication programs. We welcome Chris to his new role in the School of Trades and Technology.

***NIC and Timberline High School host BC Skills Competition, CR Open House***

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in partnership with Timberline and SD72, 175 students from surrounding elementary and high schools participated in the BC Skills competition at the NIC Campbell River and Timberline campuses. Students competed in a variety of events that stretched into our welding, industrial automation, automotive and electrical shops. As part of the Open House, tours were conducted through several Try-A-Trade activities hosted by our Core Electronics, Heavy Duty, Culinary and Electrical instructors from both Port Alberni and Campbell River campuses.

***CV Carpentry program donates playhouse to Y.A.N.A.***

In conjunction with College Relations, NIC donated a playhouse made by students in the Carpentry Foundation program to Y.A.N.A's Annual Auction Fundraiser on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The playhouse went for \$900 in the live auction and contributed to a record breaking \$70,200 raised for local families. Thank you to instructors Tom Klatt and Erik Hardin for contributing to the project.

***Equipment from AVED Capital fund beginning to land in Trades shops***

Over \$140,000 in Trades program equipment has begun to appear in Trades shops across all campuses. With support from NIC Purchasing and in conjunction with Facilities, this equipment will be received, unpacked, placed and connected to provide NIC students with a cutting-edge experience with both new and standard industry tools and equipment.

***Culinary, Chef Lilyholm develops impressive Prep Cook Program***

Release time was provided to advance a program concept which has been in discussion for several years. At North Island College, Cook programming is apprenticeship-based which leaves a gap in the marketplace and thus an opportunity for North Island College. The new program to be submitted to Curriculum Committee in April will address the need of many communities; prep cooks for entry level jobs in the tourism and hospitality industry. For students who excel and want more continued training, the program will provide a pathway to further education.

***Trades and Technology Programs***

January and February saw most of our faculty involved in new intakes for apprenticeship and foundation programs, all of which are at or near full capacity. Faculty are also involved with curriculum development and updating course descriptions, enhancing exam banks and purchasing equipment from AVED Capital funding.

## CENTRES

### **Ucluelet Centre Update**

*Submitted by Bill Morrison*

22 Ucluelet Secondary School students (and four other community members) are getting an early start to their post-secondary studies by taking ENG 115 (Essay Writing and Critical Analysis) on Mon/Wed evenings. Most will also take ENG 120 (Introduction to Literature) in April.

NIC UC and Ucluelet Aquarium will host the field session of BIO 211 (Invertebrate Biology) in June.

Industry Training - A full class of NAU 005 (Small Vessel Operator Proficiency) is serving the needs of local whale watching and sports fishing guiding companies. First aid training (including private contracts for hospitality and aquaculture firms) continues to be vigorous.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### **Community Collaboration and Engagement**

#### **REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- The School has completed the first phase of a review of programming priorities and operational model.
- The School continues to support the implementation of annual First Aid, Marine, ElderCollege, general interest and a range of Certificate programs.
- The School continues to support the project-based training program across the region including delivery to Bella Bella and Bella Coola. The program encompasses: Aquaculture Technician Level 1, Marine Training/Aquaculture Prep, Coastal Forest Resource Certificate, Underground Mining in Campbell River and Dease Lake, Building Service Worker Program and Security Training (Basic).
- The School has invested significant time in the preparation of funding proposals in response to the modified model now referred to as Employment Services and Supports Program (ESS) which is now open to a range of organizations across the province with submissions due mid-March.

### **Programming Activities**

#### **CAMPBELL RIVER**

- The School has received 37 applicants for the Coastal Log Scaling course that is set to begin March 16<sup>th</sup> in Campbell River and Port Alberni. As of February 27<sup>th</sup>, 17 of these applicants have fully qualified and are registered. An additional four students have since qualified and been invited to the program. Both instructors have been engaged and have spent time soliciting support from Dryland Sort Contractors to facilitate students getting ‘hands-on’ log scaling training time.
- Underground Mining, Aquaculture Technician I and the Coastal Forest Resource Program have all come to a conclusion this month. Final reporting data is being collected and will be reviewed over the month of March. Iterations of these programs took place in Campbell River, Dease Lake and Port Hardy. Although there was student attrition over the course of the programs, there was great success for those students who remained committed. Selected Coastal Forestry students have received offers of employment from practicum employers, and some are already scheduled for interviews with other Forestry companies in the area. Interviews have been scheduled with local employers for several students from the Aquaculture Technician I program. Red Chris Mine in northern BC was in attendance for the final day of the Underground Mining in Dease Lake and has offered employment to successful students with employment commencing the second week in March.
- Programmers have met to discuss the upcoming 2015 Fall and 2016 Winter offerings. Several ideas have been put forward regarding new course offerings. An advertisement for new instructors will go out sometime in the month of March.

- The Building Service Worker Project Based Funding program was a success.
- The School has scheduled 16 new part-time jewellery workshops to be offered between May and December 2015.
- Equipment has been ordered for a metal jewellery mobile studio with a notice drafted and sent out to other campuses for in-community delivery.
- The School has drafted program description changes for Landscape Horticulture to clearly articulate between Certificate and Apprenticeship programming.
- Staff met again with the Strathcona Food Action Committee and the Steering Committee and are waiting for the Request for Proposal (RFP) to be approved by the Vancouver Island Health Authority so that proposals for the Hub Agency can start to come in.

### ***Campbell River ElderCollege***

- Elder College had a very successful launch to their 2015 winter sections. Membership is up and registrations are up for all ElderCollege offerings. Looking back at the 2014 winter session, there were 189 students registered for ElderCollege classes. This term 391 students have registered for courses.
- Planning is underway for the Annual General Meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> and the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon (June date to be determined). Several new members have come forward and offered to participate in various committee functions. Nominations will be put forward at the Annual General Meeting to ensure that we have all positions filled for the upcoming two-year term.
- Programming is now underway for the fall session.

### **COMOX VALLEY**

- New Introduction to Carpentry will be offered April 16<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>. The course will be taught by Tom Klatt and Eric Hardin, lead instructors in the Carpentry Apprentice program.
- We are working on issues related to online enrolment. Action items will be developed to take forward to Registration.
- Staff attended a practicum coordination meeting at St. Joe's Hospital with Dawn Lawrie, Manager of Unit Clerks and the Scheduler at the hospital, along with Janie Roelants. The deadline for Hospital Unit Clerk placements is March 13<sup>th</sup>. As a result of this meeting, the program, Hospital Unit Clerk, will start earlier in September 2015.
- Staff have met with the Dean and Manager to plan ahead to ensure portfolios align with budget implications for 2015/16. A follow up meeting is scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff are developing an annual promotion schedule for the CE courses/programs. The purpose is to more systematically promote all offerings in a timely, efficient manner while requesting enhancement with the Marketing department.
- The planning phase is underway to meet the usual end of May deadlines for the 2015FA / 2016WI Catalogue.
- The School delivered a successful computer training program on contract for St. Joseph Hospital. Evaluations highlighted the instructors.

### ***Comox Valley ElderCollege***

- Planning commenced for 2015FA ElderCollege offerings with April 15<sup>th</sup> being the last day for submissions.
- At this date, there has been 1328 registrants including 212 registered for the Lecture Series. There are 99 on waitlists. We have added a few new sessions to accommodate some of the waitlists.



### **PORT ALBERNI**

- Staff continue to provide Professional Development training for the Volunteer Fire Departments in the surrounding area.
- Staff are working on details such as marketing, instructor orientation and transportation for the Log Scaling program that is starting Mar 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The School completed contract training for a 4-day Retail Training and Communication & Conflict Resolution for PA Friendship Centre course which took place in February/March.
- Staff attended a session which provided research findings of a project aimed to improve opportunities for local education and training so that residents can continue to live, work and thrive in the (west coast/Pacific Rim) region.

### **FIRST AID**

- Staff coordinated two contracts in February and currently have six more in place with a total of seven courses.
- Instructors have completed the Project Based funded Marine Advanced FA courses with the last two being held in Bella Bella and Bella Coola.
- Instructors were busy in February with first aid training as well supporting several of our trades programs in CR, CV and PA.
- Both the Emergency Medical Responder and Marine Advanced FA courses in CV in March are confirmed to run.
- Staff continue to promote our Red Cross courses through the Red Cross website.
- First Aid is participating in the Continuing Education bi-weekly ads in CV, CR & PA and continue to promote, update and reach out on Facebook & Twitter.



FEED Comox Valley 2015 Partners (Photo by Ann Taylor)

MONTHLY UPDATE—FEBRUARY 2015



Randall Heidt and Naomi Tabata present a cheque to the Vancouver Island Regional 4H Council at the Islands Agriculture Show (Photo by Comox Valley Economic Development Society).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY

- Albert Balbon received 2015 NISOD Staff Excellence Award for his achievements with the Remote Web-based Science Lab (RWSL).
- Navigate NIDES students were provided access to the RWSL Lego Robot for pilot testing.
- Demonstrated RWSL technology to 25 students and 4 instructors from Queneesh Elementary school SD#71 and to Chad O’Brian from College of the Rockies.
- Naomi Tabata represented NIC Centre for Applied Research Technology and Innovation at Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council - Innovation Island event, The Islands Agriculture show, and a We are YQQ event.
- Five institutions have confirmed participation in FEED Comox Valley 2015 local food pilot. They include North Island College, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Glacier View, Berwick Comox and Berwick Campbell River.
- FEED Comox Valley presentations were provided to: Thrive, The BC Farmers Market Association Conference; Comox Valley Food roundtable; and Sustain Ontario Municipal Webinar – Food Procurement in the Public Sector.
- Bio250 Independent Studies student, Sarah Wilkinson, continues the DNA sampling work conducted in her position as summer student. She is preparing the manuscript for submission to a peer-review journal for publication, with assistance from Aisling Brady, Sandy Lipovsky, Tara MacDonald and Ahmed Siah.

ACCOMPLISHMENT

Albert Balbon selected as recipient of 2015 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Award

COMMUNITY & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

- BC Applied Research and Innovation Network (BCARIN)
- BC Farmers Market Association
- BC Salmon Farmers Association
- Comox Valley Food Roundtable
- Innovation Island
- Island Health
- Islands Agriculture Show
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
- The Sociable Scientists
- Vancouver Island University: Centre for Small Scale Agriculture and Scholarship and Community Engagement
- We are YQQ
- We Wai Kai First Nation