



College makes the grade in the *New York Times*

It's in the *New York Times* – Douglas College ranks in select company in terms of providing quality education for students.

"It's always nice to get recognition in a major US publication," says Douglas College President Susan Witter, "but the serious educational issues raised in the article are very applicable to Douglas College and community colleges in British Columbia."

Douglas College was rated in the top three of 13 large community colleges (8,000-13,000 students) evaluated in 2003 by the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, a study administered at the University of Texas (Austin). Douglas College, the only Canadian

institution in the study of 93 colleges, shared accolades with La Guardia Community College of Long Island City, NY and Oakton Community College of Illinois. The results were reported in a *New York Times* story on November 30 that delved into the important, and often overlooked, role community colleges play in post-secondary education.

"The *Times* article opens by looking at how major universities such as Columbia and NYU can totally overshadow the important work of La Guardia Community College in New York, but the situation is very similar for a community college in the same region as UBC and Simon Fraser University – even for a

community college like Douglas College with 12,000 students," says Witter.

"It's noteworthy that Douglas College did well in the categories of academic challenge – which asked students how hard they worked creatively and intellectually – and student effort, which rated activities such as labs, reading, papers and special projects," Witter added. "Our rating from students in these areas should help dispel the myth that college courses are not as challenging as those in university."

A new study of BC university graduates showed the same results. BC public colleges and institutes serve about 125,000 students each

year, providing both career training and up to two years of university-transfer courses. The complicated business of linking college studies to university programs is handled by the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer. Surveying BC university graduates who completed their degrees five years ago, *The Class of 1996 Five Years after Graduation* study by the Council found "no major differences" between grads who started in college and university-only students in areas such as employment, salaries and satisfaction with studies.

"Given that some college students have lower grades coming out of high school, the comparable success rates for those completing university

degrees is another indicator BC colleges are providing good service," noted Douglas College Director of Institutional Research Bob Cowin, who helps administer surveys.

In the US study, Douglas College was ranked as a "top performer," a status reached by only 16 of the 93 institutions studied. The college received its best grades for "active and collaborative learning," based on class participation and working with other students on projects – activities that prepare students to deal with challenges they will face in the workplace.

In an era increasingly emphasizing educational accountability, often focusing on enrolment levels or graduation figures, the US-based survey was devised to develop benchmarks of quality, judging schools by how effectively they deliver educational services. More than 600 Douglas College students participated in the survey last spring. Next year, eight prominent Canadian universities including UBC will participate for the first time in the US companion survey for universities.

Marketing students create financial award

The Marketing Student Society at Douglas College didn't wait for a friendly benefactor to come and establish a new financial award for their program – they did it themselves.

"We teach our students to be pro-active," says Gail Tibbo, an instructor in the Marketing Management Program. "But they took it to a whole new level."

It started with Lunch and a Movie, a three-day event last spring where Douglas College students could take in a movie and lunch for a small price. The students also held bake sales and other events, raising a total of \$1,614.53.

"We used the money to establish the Marketing Students Society Award," says Scott Souder, Treasurer of the Marketing Student Society. "We wanted to recognize a combination of academic achievement and school involvement, not just a high grade point average."

A panel of three Marketing Instructors were designated to select the winners of the \$500 award, and they decided to split it between Souder and Lovleen Brar, the President of the Marketing Student Society.

"We're hoping to continue offering the award on an annual basis and to add to the kitty each year," says Souder.



Members of the Marketing Student Society created a financial award for their program.

Print Futures: Writing Matters



The Print Futures: Professional Writing Program celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a reunion and *Writing Matters*, a one-day networking mini-conference in November. The event attracted over 80 grads, students and their guests. Attendees at the evening reunion dinner at the Westminster Club included (from left to right) *Other Press* Features Editor Barb Adamski, student Larisa Saunders, *Georgia Straight* Managing Editor and Print Futures Advisory Committee Chair Ian Hanington, creative writing instructor Calvin Wharton and student Janice Bennett.

Families and eating disorders

Eating Disorder Awareness Week, February 1 to 7, is a national event designed to increase awareness about eating disorders and the treatments available. On February 3, Douglas College's Psychology Department is hosting a free seminar on eating disorders and their effects on teens and families. Guest speaker Susan Tishler, who works as a child, youth and family therapist for the Ministry of Children and Family Development, will bring several of her clients to speak about their battles with eating

disorders. Alison Bell, a Master's Candidate in Counseling Psychology will talk about how family therapy can help. A screening of the film, *Perfect Illusion – Eating Disorders in the Family*, will be followed by a discussion.

The seminar takes place in room B2270 at Douglas College's David Lam Campus, 1250 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam, 7 to 9pm. Call Gerry Gramozis at 604-527-5508 or e-mail geny_gramozis@douglas.bc.ca.

College celebrates 10 years with NETWERCC

In 1993, Douglas College approached NETWERCC Educational Association about creating a certificate program for employment, career and vocational rehabilitation counsellors. Together they mobilized a team of professionals to develop the courses and become the advisory committee for the program.

Ten years later, the partnership is going strong – classes in the Career Development Practitioner Program regularly fill up, with two to three intakes a year. NETWERCC advertises the program in its newsletter and its members get a discount. Courses evolved to include competencies defined by the Standards and Guidelines for Career Development Practitioners, a national initiative. Two introductory vocational counselling courses were created, as well as a mentoring program partnering with Landell & Associates in Vancouver. For more information call Cheryl Jeffs in CFCS Continuing Education at 604-527-5161 or Ellen Edwards at NETWERCC at 604-526-1265.

Quote of the Month

"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."

English writer Gilbert K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

Events Calendar

All events take place at the New Westminster Campus unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, January 8
Noon at New West presents *Jou Tou World Music Collective*
12:30 pm,
Performing Arts Theatre

January 8 to February 20
The Amelia Douglas Gallery presents *Cuba: Sol y Sombra*
Opening reception
Thursday, January 8,
4-7:30pm

Thursday, January 15
Noon at New West presents *French Baroque Chamber Music*
12:30 pm,
Performing Arts Theatre

Thursday, January 22
Post Secondary Day
Concourse displays, presentations and more.
Contact Arlene Patko at
604-527-5322

Monday, January 26
Literature Alive presents
Novelist Lorraine Brown
10 am, Room 1809

Swan song for Swanson

Penny Swanson is going up the mountain – Burnaby Mountain that is. After 22 years in the library at Douglas College, Swanson takes on a new role as head of SFU

Library's Processing Division, which handles the nitty-gritty of ordering, cataloguing and organizing materials, the same type of work Swanson did here as the

Technical Services Librarian. Swanson has also chaired the Education Council for the past year-and-a-half and served on the council for two-and-a-half years.

For example, when plans for the proposed Nursing Degree Program came through, there was an excellent description of the philosophy of the nursing program. Swanson shared this information with the rest of the library faculty. "It helps because when students come looking for information, you know where they are coming from."

walk in, they expect everything they want. The Douglas College library was using the Internet long before people came in asking, 'Have you heard about this new thing?'"

But even with all of the technological changes, it takes six weeks to order books. "We juggle money and service," says Swanson. "The books come from a vendor out east where we get good discounts and the most books for the dollars we have."

Swanson says the Technical Service Unit is really dedicated. "They're

there in the back room – all really focused on serving students' needs, even though they don't have direct contact with students. That's one of the great things about this College – there are so many people working behind the scenes who really care about students."

She's excited about her new position. "It's good after 22 years to go somewhere else – it keeps you fresh," she says, adding, "The best thing about leaving is that I'm making a to-do list that I don't have to do."



Penny Swanson found that joining the Education Council helped her understand better what students need from the library

"It allows you to see issues from a College-wide perspective, and get to know what's going on outside your own little department," says Swanson. "The Education Council handles curriculum decisions, and the library's job is to support the curriculum. Being on the council was a good way to find out how to do that."

Over the years, Swanson has seen "tremendous changes" in the library. "Libraries are there on the forefront of technology," she says. "That's not the image, but when people

Options abound for students at Post Secondary Day

Students will have a chance to talk face-to-face with representatives from a variety of universities on Thursday, January 22 at the College's annual Post Secondary Day, hosted by the Academic Advisors. And the faculties at Douglas College will have a chance to make presentations to high school counsellors about their programs and admission procedures.

Various universities, colleges and institutes including SFU, UBC, UNBC, UVic, BCIT and more will set up tables in the concourse, where they can mingle with Douglas College students. UBC and SFU will each do a presentation in the afternoon.

Faculty are encouraged to let their students know about this day in advance. Everyone is welcome to check out the concourse displays from 9am to 3pm. For more information, contact Arlene Patko at 604-527-5322.

College volunteer wins local hero award

One in six Canadians are considered to be functionally illiterate. But thanks to Margaret Van Soest, a volunteer at the I-CARE adult literacy program at Douglas College, there are a few less illiterate people in the Lower Mainland.

Van Soest, who has worked with I-CARE for eight years, was recently named a Burnaby Local Hero by the City of Burnaby. "I never really expected to be recognized for volunteering," says Van Soest. "I was always interested in literacy and

reading, and I chose the I-CARE Program because of their thorough training program."

The I-CARE program opens doors for students, says Program Coordinator Heather Campbell. "One of our students went on to an automotive training program and is graduating. Another is writing her own Christmas cards for the first time ever."

For more information about I-CARE, call 604-527-5409.



I-CARE adult literacy program volunteer Margaret Van Soest (centre) receives her Local Hero award from Burnaby City Councillor Dan Johnston (left) and Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan (right).

Briefly

Congratulations to Creative Writing instructor **David Zieroth**. His memoir, *The Education of Mr. Whippoorwill*, made the *Globe and Mail's* Brill 100, a list of the top 100 books reviewed by the paper in 2003.

Two Psychiatric Nursing faculty, **Mike Tarko** and **John Crawford**, have contributed to a new textbook, *Promoting Health in Families* by Perri Bomar. Tarko was the Canadian content editor. He and Crawford wrote a chapter on Family Communication. Tarko also co-wrote two other chapters.

November's 50/50 Employee Lottery Winner is **Rosemary Love**, an instructor in the

Classroom and Community Support Program. Rosemary takes home \$701 and student aid increases by the same amount.

Program Coordinator **Barbara Allen** would like to thank everyone involved in the launch of the new Opportunities Enabled Program, an information technology training program for people with physical disabilities and workplace injuries, which is starting in January at the David Lam Campus.

Cheryl Jeffs, Community and Contract Service Programmer for the Faculty of Child, Family and Community Studies received an appreciation award at the 65th Annual

National Council on Family Relations Conference for her contribution as Local Arrangements Co-Chair. Over 1,200 delegates attended the conference in Vancouver this November.

Don't forget the **Douglas College Vision Centre**, which offers preferred pricing for all College students, staff and their families. Call Robert or Wendy at 604-777-6124 for more information.

The **Marketing Department** hosted two international students from Tulsa, Oklahoma and one from Mexico under the International Mobility Exchange Program for Marketing this fall. This month, two Douglas College students have gone

to study in Colima, Mexico.

Students in **Marketing 441** (marketing research) recently completed a study for the City of New Westminster on how to make the downtown New Westminster retail area more attractive to staff and students of Douglas College. The students made a presentation in the council chambers at New Westminster City Hall to the Planning Director and Mayor. It was well received, and the marketing class might get another research project next fall. Planning Department Director Mary Pynenburg is going to post the results of the study on the City Web site.

New in the **Library** at

New Westminster! Next time you need to check out your books from the Library try our Libramation Self Check Unit. You just need your ID card. The unit scans the barcode on the book, matches it with your patron record and desensitizes the book, and then off you go! Come to the Library on Tuesday, January 13 at 11am for the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Self Check Unit.

The Library also wants to remind the everyone they can drop off their dead batteries at the AV Department for disposal.

The **Co-op Program** is seeking Arts, Science, Sports Science and Marketing students for summer jobs. Learn more

about Co-op at orientation sessions on Tuesday, January 13 from 4-5:30pm in Room 2201 at the New Westminster Campus; Wednesday, January 14 from 4-5:30pm at the David Lam Campus in Room A1190; Monday, January 19 from 4-5:30pm in Room 1812 in New Westminster Campus. For more information, call Co-op at 604-527-5100.

David Neilson, long term Geography Lab Technician, is retiring. Congratulations, on your retirement, Dave!

Mavis Blanchard moves back to Finance from the Foundation to the position of General Ledger Accounting Clerk replacing **Barb Bedingfield** who is taking early retirement.