

The Bow Valley Current

Bow Valley College's Monthly Employee Newsletter



September 2002

Employee Newsletter Gets New Name, New Look

Bow Valley College's employee newsletter, formerly called BowLine Monthly, has a new look to go along with its new name. The Bow Valley Current, as the newsletter is now called, was changed to distinguish it from the College's external publication, BowLine Quarterly.

With an increasingly greater emphasis on generating community, government and business support for Bow Valley College's programs and initiatives, the BowLine Quarterly has an important role to play. It serves as the College's vehicle to share our expertise and

success stories with leaders in Calgary, in Alberta, in Canada and around the world.

The Bow Valley Current will continue to focus on College news, profiles, success stories, updates on improvements and anything else of interest to Bow Valley College employees.

If you have a story suggestion or submission for The Bow Valley Current, e-mail the Marketing & Communications department at communication@bowvalleycollege.ca.

Welcome Back!

Whether you have been here serving learners this summer or off on break, September seems like the natural start to a new academic year and a good time to come together.

Please join me on Thursday, September 26 at 3 p.m. for our quarterly All-Staff Meeting in the auditorium at Main campus.

Sharon Carry

Two New BIT Programs Get Enthusiastic Response

Two of the Business and Industry department's newest programs, the Events Management certificate and the Interior Decorating & Merchandising certificate will be starting this fall with a high degree of interest from the Calgary Community.

According to Elza Bruk, Dean of Business and Industry, says she's thrilled to have such a strong response to the new programs. "We've had excellent public interest in the programs and it would appear that we have programs that are responsive to the needs and interests of the Calgary community."

Elza attributes much of the response so far to the strong input on course curricula from industry experts and leaders. "We have some outstanding experts who will be teaching our courses and we've been very fortunate to have much internal support in helping us launch these programs," says Elza.

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Teacher's Assistant Certificate Begins This Week with New Staff and Bright Outlook

The new Teacher's Assistant certificate, which launched this week with 22 students, is a Health & Community Care program that prepares individuals to work in a classroom setting alongside teachers to support children with diverse learning needs.

Doug Scotney, HCC's Program Development Consultant, says research conducted on the viability of a Teacher Assistant program in Calgary indicated that a need existed. With the initial groundwork done by former Dean of HCC, Joann Kent, current HCC Dean Rena Shimoni pursued the idea and will oversee the inaugural class of the program this fall.

The program, brokered from Red Deer College, takes less than a year to complete and has been successful in Red Deer for the past 25 years.

According to Linda Moreau, Chairperson of the Teacher Assistant program at Red Deer College, the program has significantly evolved over its 25-year history. "At first, there was an emphasis on clerical skills, but it has changed with more of an instructional focus with 75% of the work with students and only 25% now of Teacher Assistant work is clerical. We have focused on preparing our graduates to work with children who have special needs."

Rena and Doug are pleased to welcome new staff to the Teacher Assistant program who bring a wealth of experience from the teaching profession.

Pat Hogan brings 32 years of experience in the field of education to the Teacher Assistant program. Beyond being a former elementary-

school teacher and vice-principal herself, she has also taught education at the University of Calgary and worked for over six years as a social worker.

This mother of two grown children sees her role with the Teacher Assistant

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program as the link between our learners and Calgary's schools, ensuring that the Teacher Assistant students get the most of their work-experience placements.

Pat will be responsible for supervising the placements and wants to be a champion for the program – to ensure our Teacher Assistant program is highly regarded in the community and the profession.



Doug Scotney, Health & Community Care Program Development Consultant, is pictured with Pat Hogan (left) and Marion McMullen, two of the Teacher's Assistant program instructors.

"I have a high appreciation and respect for the work that teacher assistants do. If anything, I'd like to enhance the profile of teacher assistants as much as I can."

One of the most thrilling aspects of this new position for Pat is the challenge of breaking new ground at the College. "I like new things and I'm enormously excited to be working in teacher education."

Marion McMullen, a 38-year veteran with the Calgary Board of Education, will be focusing her time with the Teacher Assistant program on the areas of human relations, communications, writing and exceptionalities.

Marion has spent much of her own time writing poetry, in journals and her own newsletter, so she's thrilled to be able to share her passion for the written word with her students.

She has a certificate in human development and is certified in Myers-Briggs counselling. She has spent time consulting with the Boys & Girls Club, with Rockyview Fire Department and with parents.

She sees a real need for teacher assistants to work with children who have social, physical, emotional and behavioural exceptionalities and says that conflict resolution, team building and self-esteem building are key areas for teacher assistants to thrive.

A mother of three and grandmother of four, Marion has a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology and sees working with Pat as a great match.

(...continued on p. 3)

New Courses for e-Learning Library

Bow Valley College is pleased to announce that we have added more than 20 new courses to our e-Learning Library, as well as a new course directory that makes it easier than ever to click and learn.

Starting Monday, September 9th, logon using your username and password at <http://www.bowvalleycollege.ca/hrd> to see the changes.

Once logged on, you will see a link at the top of your course list in which says "Click here to start using the e-Learning Library."

This link will open the new course directory. The "Take a Course" button will show you the entire list of courses in an easy-to-browse window. More information about the course directory is attached.

You will notice a number of new courses to choose from. We have an exciting new series called Using the Internet For Business that includes courses in Communicating over the Net, Searching the Internet, Cutting Operating Costs, Human Resources Management, Investigating Businesses, Branding, Retailing and Marketing.

If you have any questions regarding your e-Learning Library account, please contact Heather Thompson by phone at 410-1657 or by e-mail at hthompson@bowvalleycollege.ca.

Our WebCT Help Desk is available to take your call at 850-0672, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. For more information on the changes to the e-Learning Library, please contact Barb Fyvie at bfyvie@bowvalleycollege.ca.

Dean to Represent College Abroad

With the Alberta Government opening Alberta's International Office in Mexico, Business and Industry Dean Elza Bruk will travel to Mexico to represent Bow Valley College at the grand opening.

Premier Ralph Klein and Alberta Economic Development (AED) Minister Mark Norris will be in Mexico City, September 23 – 24, 2002, to officially open Alberta's newest international office, co-located in the Canadian Embassy.

Elza's role while in Mexico will be to focus on recruitment of international students for both ESL and Career programs,

investigate potential partnerships with other educational institutions and develop business opportunities for the College with local industry.



Elza Bruk, Dean of Business & Industry, will be traveling to Mexico to represent the College at the opening of the newest Alberta Economic Development Office.

AED supports Alberta companies and the development of trade and exports internationally. The Mexico office is a key element in the expansion of Alberta companies into Mexico and in the facilitation of trade. AED and the Mexico office will provide Alberta organizations with market information and intelligence and assist with the establishment of long-term business relationships in Mexico.

Teacher Assistant *(continued from p. 2)*

"We both know how to communicate really well. Our experiences are different, but we have many common threads. We both believe that children with behaviour challenges and struggling learners can succeed with a support and guidance." The greatest gift a teacher assistant can give, says Marion, is the ability to partner with teachers, parents and learners – to provide consistency for a child who needs that extra bit of support.

Int'l Ed Posts Record Term

The International Education department reports that it reached and surpassed its milestone of 120 students in one term. This last term, the Stampede Stomp, recorded 124 students from 19 different countries.

According to Brian Leacock, Acting Manager, International Education, Bow Valley's program has much to offer the international learner. "We definitely go beyond the call of duty for our students, from airport pick-ups to homestays, from the planned outings to the excellent support to ensure their needs are met."

Brian is optimistic that the growth will continue. He also attributes much of the department's success to the dedicated, accomplished instructors who work with the students every day.

The Notebook

All Staff Meeting

The next all-staff meeting will take place on Thursday, September 26 at 3 p.m. in the auditorium at Main campus. Join President Sharon Carry as she shares what's ahead for the College.

Corp. Challenge Gears Up

The Calgary Corporate Challenge officially starts on Friday, September 6 with opening ceremonies at the Calgary Exhibition & Stampede Grounds. For more information on upcoming Corporate Challenge events, contact Travis Seaman at tseaman@bowvalleycollege.ca.

New Combined Graduations

This year, Bow Valley College will move to graduations four times per year. Our first combined graduation will take place on October 4 at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Students from the Office Administration, Computer Technician, Accounting & Financial Management, Practical Nurse and English as a Second Language programs will be honoured.

Manager, WPLS, to Advise on Petroleum HR Issues

The Petroleum Human Resources Council of Canada has invited Conrad Murphy, Manager, Workplace Learning Services, to join the Steering Committee for the Strategic Human Resources Study of the Upstream Petroleum Industry.

This human resources sector study will be conducted to define the human resource issues and future requirements for the upstream petroleum industry in Canada. The study will assist the industry to create a clear and compelling national human resource plan.

Welcome

Christine Marles, B.A., M. Ed., started on September 3 as the new manager of Learning Resource Services.

Christine is a specialist in adult education program planning, development and management. She has experience in e-learning, instructional design, curriculum development, project management, student and instructor support services and staff supervision and training.

Computer Repair – ESL Gets Approval

The ESL & Languages department, working with the Business & Industry Training department for some time to design and promote the Accounting Assistant – ESL program and has now announced the launch of the Computer Repair – ESL program.

Starting in January, 2003, this 36-week program will help unemployed immigrants who wish to work in entry-level positions in the field of computer repair but who lack the language skills and the occupational skills to do so.

Funded by Alberta Learning, the Language Training Division, instructors will integrate ESL with occupational training to enable ESL speakers to work as an entry-level computer-repair technician upon graduation. The Computer Repair – ESL Certificate is free to students who are ESL speakers, landed immigrants, Canadian citizens or convention refugees.

The ESL training will be customized to ensure participants can effectively function in a Canadian workplace and handle the training textbooks and materials. The program will provide students with training to the industry standard of A+ Certification for Certified Computer Technician.

The program will develop the expertise for doing set ups, diagnostics, first level repair and trouble-shooting stand-alone or networked computer systems. Students will also participate in a four-week work experience component.

According to Mary Davison, Dean, ESL, this program is unique in that it offers the skills training that people need in addition to employability skills and ESL tutorial support. The ESL component will focus on course content and the specific vocabulary students will need to read and understand the program's textbooks.

“We anticipate that some of our growth in enrollment will be in taking advantage of our integrated training opportunities – this is the way of the future.”

“This program will provide better opportunities for our learners. We're increasing access to our career programs for people who would not typically access them due to language barriers and using our in-house expertise to do so.”

The Bow Valley Current

The Current is published on a monthly basis. The next edition of the Current will be published in October. If you have questions, comments, an article, story ideas or photos for The Current, please contact:

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