Centre of Excellence a draw for national conference of colleges

by Okanagan College - Story: 68218
Dec 7, 2011 / 11:00 am

Okanagan College Media Release

Okanagan College’s Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation is already proving to be the economic engine it was envisioned to be.

James Knight, the President and CEO of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), has announced that Penticton will host the organization’s 2013 annual conference, a four-day event that will take place from May 31 – June 3 and will draw approximately 700 delegates to the South Okanagan and Similkameen. Okanagan College is a member of ACCC.

“Hundreds of college leaders, faculty, students and international delegates will experience one of the world’s greenest buildings, the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation at Okanagan College’s Penticton Campus,” says Knight. “The conference will provide opportunities to network and dialogue on the key role colleges and institutes play in contributing to community economic development.”

Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton points to the Centre of Excellence as one of the prime reasons for ACCC’s choice of Penticton as a venue.

“There has been considerable interest nationally and internationally in what has been achieved here and the fact that it is one of the world’s most sustainable buildings.”

The $28-million building, constructed as part of the joint federal-provincial Knowledge Infrastructure Program, is the largest structure to attempt to achieve the Living Building Challenge the world’s most rigorous environmental standards for building construction and operation. The Centre of Excellence aims to be completely energy-neutral.

The economic impact of the ACCC will be significant, says Donna Lomas, the College’s Regional Dean for the South Okanagan and Similkameen. Penticton’s reputation as a tourist destination and Okanagan College’s growing reputation as a leader in the College sector also factored into the organization’s decision, says Hamilton.

Last year’s conference was held in Edmonton, and the 2012 event is being held in Halifax.

“We expect this conference will inject well over a million dollars into the regional economy, drawing on the spending experience of other visitors to the community,” says Lomas. “It comes at a good time – before the summer tourist season is in full swing.”

“This conference will have significant impact for the region and Penticton,” says Penticton Mayor and Regional District Chair Dan Ashton. “The municipality and the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen saw the potential for the Centre of Excellence as an economic generator in the short- and long-term and our support for the project is obviously reaping rewards.”

Annual breakfast will benefit high-calibre UBC athletes

by UBC Okanagan - Story: 68228
Dec 7, 2011 / 12:00 am

March 29 event will raise money for UBC’s Okanagan teams

Tickets for the seventh-annual Valley First/UBC Okanagan Athletics Scholarship Breakfast are now on sale.

The event will be held at the Capri Hotel March 29 and will feature renowned sport psychologist David
For more than 25 years, Cox has worked with athletes from the grassroots to the international levels. In particular, he has worked extensively with Tennis Canada, the Canadian Davis Cup Team, Skate Canada, Rugby Canada and a host of other Canadian national teams. He has attended the Olympics on numerous occasions, most recently in support of the Canadian Snow Board Team at the 2010 Games.

Jennifer Woods, a student athlete from Kelowna and women’s Heat golf team member will also speak at the event.

With membership in both the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) (men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball) and the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) (men’s and women’s soccer and golf), UBC’s Okanagan campus is committed to post-secondary sport, says Rob Johnson, director of Athletics and Recreation.

“Our student athletes are high-achieving people,” says Johnson. “The amount of time they commit to their studies and then to training, practice and competition means very little time left for part-time work. As a result, the financial assistance provided from the proceeds of this breakfast make a real difference to a growing number of our students.”

UBC recognizes the value of varsity sport and will match every dollar raised.

To date, more than $280,000 has been raised from breakfast proceeds. As a result, some $7,500 in awards are available this year to student athletes.

For more information on the event, UBC athletics or how to purchase tickets, go to www.goheat.ca or call 250-807-9168.

About David Cox, PhD, R. Psych.

David Cox is a clinical psychologist and a professor in the Department of Psychology at Simon Fraser University. Over the past 25 years, he has established a reputation as one of Canada’s top sport psychologists.

He works extensively with amateur and professional athletes, coaches, and teams at all levels of competition - from the grassroots to the provincial, national and international levels. At the national level he has worked with sports organizations such as Tennis Canada and the Canadian Davis Cup team, the Men’s National Rugby team, Skate Canada, the Men’s National Soccer team, the Men’s National Basketball team, the National Wrestling program, the Women’s National Softball team, the National Cross-Country Ski program, the National Snowboarding program, and the Canadian Curling Association.

At the international level, he served as a sport psychologist for Canada’s athletes and teams at the Olympics on numerous occasions. Most recently he worked with the Canadian National Snowboard Team at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. He is currently the chairman of the Sports Medicine Council of British Columbia.

In 2000, he has worked extensively with Tennis Canada, the Canadian Davis Cup Team, Skate Canada, Rugby Canada and a host of other Canadian national teams. He has attended the Olympics on numerous occasions, most recently in support of the Canadian Snow Board Team at the 2010 Games.

About Jennifer Woods
Jennifer Woods was born and raised in Kelowna, graduating from Rutland Senior Secondary in 2008. An active high school athlete, Woods competed in golf, soccer, field hockey, cross country and basketball. Upon graduating from RSS, Woods continued to support her hometown roots and helped coach the golf team at RSS.

Woods is in the fourth year of the Bachelor of Arts in Health Studies program. She is expecting to graduate in April 2013 and plans to pursue a career in medicine. This was Woods’ fourth year competing for the UBC Okanagan golf team, finishing the season with a provincial silver medal and a Provincial Tournament All-Star award.

Last season, she was named BCCAA Female Golfer of the Year. Woods says enjoying her passion for golf and having the opportunity to represent UBC have been her favourite experiences while attending the Okanagan campus.

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First Nations students awarded grants

Six of the winners attend UBC’s Okanagan campus

Six First Nations students at the University of British Columbia’s Okanagan campus have received grants from the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society. Amanda Neufeld from Lumby, Larissa Laderoute from Sicamous, Meagan Carrier from West Kelowna, Rhea Hewitt from Savona, Starleigh Grass from Westbank and Taryn Schroeder from Vernon were among 117 B.C. Aboriginal students who will share $311,500 in grants.

The B.C. Aboriginal Student Award is funded from the returns on a $10 million endowment fund established by the province in 2007 as part of its strategy to improve Aboriginal achievement and access to education. Awards of $1,000 - $3,500 are given annually to Aboriginal students pursuing post-secondary education in B.C.

"Through the Irving K. Barber B.C. Scholarship Society, we are supporting Aboriginal learners to take post-secondary education and training so they’re ready to fill the jobs of tomorrow, which is an important part of the BC Jobs Plan,” says Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of Advanced Education.

The Irving K. Barber BC Scholarship Society works with the Victoria Foundation to provide scholarships to students attending public post-secondary institutions throughout the province and internationally. To date, the Society has awarded more than $3.8 million from its six scholarship programs.

"Our society board has adopted steps to ensure a stable level of awards each year regardless of market conditions,” says Hugh Gordon, society chair. “It's part of our commitment to ensuring access to education for deserving students from throughout the province.”

For more information on the Victoria Foundation and the grants, go to http://www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca/web/.

For more information on the Irving K. Barber British Columbia Scholarship Society, go to http://www.bcscholarship.ca/web/.

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Okanagan College makes its way into business playoffs

by Okanagan College - Story: 67955
Dec 6, 2011 / 11:53 am

Okanagan College Media Release
Okanagan College students with heads for finance, ethics and a host of other business skills have proven once again they’re among the brightest in the country.

Five teams, representing 11 students from the Okanagan School of Business, have made it into the final round of the prestigious Inter-Collegiate Business Competition, which takes place January 5-7 at Queen’s University.

“This is the Super Bowl of business for Canadian universities,” said Dr. Barry McGillivray, Associate Dean of the Okanagan School of Business.

Okanagan College has reached the finals before, but never with so many teams. The local teams will now be going up against various universities including Queensland University of Technology out of Australia, Dalhousie University, the University of Calgary and Simon Fraser University.

This year 38 universities from around the world were invited to submit 165 preliminary cases – each one of these submissions responding to highly complex case studies.

“They don't make these case studies easy,” said finance team member Jessica Wilson, who recently landed an articling position with Grant Thornton. “We had to work on a merger and acquisition case, which meant assigning a value to a home care business. It was very practical, and not as easy as they make these things in the textbooks.”

Wilson's professor and competition coach Derek Cook said he couldn't have been happier with the team's results.

“This was the first year we entered the finance category because up until now we didn't offer a corporate finance course, so I was very pleased with the result.”

In addition to the finance category, Okanagan College students will compete in the final round in the areas of accounting, business policy, debate, and ethics.

“There’s a real difference between talking about ethics, and applying ethics to real life situations,” said team member Zach Webster of the case they received involving a franchise owner, a small-town car dealership, and a wrongly applied discount.

“You really have to look at how you weigh one side over the other, and then think about how your client would justify a solution to employees, to their families, and to the other stakeholders in their business,” he said. “Business programs are really working hard now to have us integrate that ethical component.”

“We’re the only college in the country that participates in this competition, and our students perform at a very high level,” McGillivray said. “Our performance shows how good a business school this is, and how strong our students are.”

Okanagan College Trades program ready to build new careers

The economy is turning around and with this comes an increase in demand for trades professionals, said Randy Werger, Associate Dean of Trades and Apprenticeship at Okanagan College.

“We’re seeing the beginning signs of a renewed economy, which means the construction industry is going to be looking for workers. This is a cyclical industry making it perfect timing for extremely passionate students to get their training underway,” said Werger.

A series of Residential Construction information sessions will take place at regional campuses up and down the valley over the next 10 days to allow prospective students and anyone interested in a career in construction trades to find out more.

Vernon Campus - Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 6-7 p.m.
Salmon Arm Campus - Thursday, Dec. 8 from 6-7 p.m.
Penticton Campus - Thursday, Dec. 8 from 6-7 p.m.
Kelowna Campus - Monday, Dec. 12 from 5-7 p.m.

The 30-week (900 hour) program begins in February. As part of the program, students will develop skills through hands-on experience with a community project.

“Adding practical understanding and practice within a supervised site allows students to build confidence,” said Werger.

The program covers a vast variety of skills including how to use power tools and other equipment used by residential framing technicians and carpenters.

“This year each of the Residential Construction programs in every region will have an opportunity to develop a new project and help the community,” said Werger.

Previous Residential Construction projects have included partnerships with the Caravan Farm Theater in Armstrong, a Habitat for Humanity project in Kelowna, and in Penticton, the construction of Centre of Excellence a draw for national conference of colleges - Campus Life
a cabin for Agur Lake Camp. Students in the Residential Construction program will not only develop experience but gain a sense of pride and accomplishment when the project is complete.

"Job site experience sets the Residential Construction program aside from others," said Werger.

Okanagan College welcomes anyone to attend the info night, with all campuses offering the program. Okanagan College is British Columbia’s second largest trades training institution.

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Award-winning author Karen Connelly is UBC’s writer-in-residence

by UBC Okanagan - Story: 67948
Nov 30, 2011 / 12:00 am

Karen Connelly is the author of nine books of best-selling nonfiction, fiction, and poetry, the most recent being Burmese Lessons: a love story, a memoir about her experiences in Burma and on the Thai-Burma border. She has won the Pat Lowther Award for her poetry, the Governor General’s Award for her non-fiction, and Britain’s Orange Broadband Prize for New Fiction for her first novel The Lizard Cage. Published in 2005, The Lizard Cage was compared in the New York Times Book Review to the works of Orwell, Solzhenitsyn, and Mandela, and hailed in the Globe and Mail as “one of the best modern Canadian novels.”

Connelly’s other books include Grace and Poison, One Room in a Castle, This Brighter Prison, The Disorder of Love, and The Small Words in My Body. Married with a young child, she divides her time between a home in rural Greece and a home in Toronto.

Connelly will spend two weeks on UBC’s Okanagan campus from January 23 to February 3, 2012. Besides meeting with local writers, she will meet with various UBC creative writing classes.

Writers in the Central Okanagan are invited to have their work critiqued and to participate in a one-on-one meeting with Connelly. Appointments are limited to 16, with six of the 16 spaces reserved for UBC Okanagan campus students.

If you would like to be considered for an appointment, send a maximum of 15 double-spaced pages of your fiction (plus a one-page synopsis if it is an excerpt from a longer work). Your submission should be sent in an email between December 15 and January 3, 2012 to irma.ronkkonen@ubc.ca. In the email give your name, student number (if applicable), phone number, and email address. Please put “Writer in Residence” in the subject line.

For more information about the public reading or the writer-in-residence program, contact Michael V. Smith, Department of Creative Studies at UBC’s Okanagan campus, 250-807-9706 or michael.v.smith@ubc.ca.

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Asselstine wins prestigious Capri Insurance scholarship

by UBC Okanagan - Story: 67945
Nov 30, 2011 / 12:00 am
Chris Rigg, left, with Capri Insurance, Heat basketball player Julian Asselstine, Tim Miller of Capri Insurance and Heat head coach Darren Semeniuk. Asselstine received the Capri Insurance Athletics Entrance Scholarship.

**Heat basketball player honoured to be selected**

Julian Asselstine is the recipient of the third annual Capri Insurance Athletics Entrance Scholarship.

The first-year engineering student at UBC's Okanagan campus was recently awarded the $2,500 scholarship, renewable for four years, that is funded by an endowment established by Capri Insurance in 2009 to help top scholars, who are also top athletes, attend UBC's Okanagan campus.

Asselstine, a 6'8" 195-pound forward out of Dr. Charles Best Secondary in Coquitlam, will add some height to the Heat men's basketball team for its inaugural season in CIS play. Asselstine is the prototype of the kind of student athlete former CIS basketball player and current Heat head coach Darren Semeniuk is looking for - strong on both the court and in the classroom.

Asselstine's decision to attend UBC came down to two key decisions: the ability to study engineering and the ability to play basketball at the highest possible level in Canada. Because of this award Asselstine will be able to do both.

"It's an honor to be chosen for a scholarship such as this because I feel supported to continue focusing on my studies as well as continue playing a varsity sport," says Asselstine. "The feeling of being supported definitely helps me when I think about trying to achieve my goals of a degree in engineering while playing University basketball," says Asselstine, which is why "UBC's Okanagan campus was such a good fit for me."

"At Capri Insurance we were delighted to establish this scholarship to support UBC's Okanagan campus, student athletes and indirectly the communities in which we live, work and play," says Tim Miller, CFO Capri Insurance.

"The applicants for this scholarship are expected to exemplify a great work ethic, dedication and leadership. We congratulate UBC on their selection of Julian as this year's recipient. The purpose of the scholarship is to help UBC Okanagan create a world class and competitive program by attracting and retaining the very best student athletes.

"UBC is very important to the wellbeing of our community and hopefully these young people will be outstanding future citizens or great ambassadors throughout the world."

Semeniuk understands the time commitment student athletes make. Playing for a varsity program and keeping up with their studies leaves no room for part-time work.

"It is great to know that the community values athletics and the student athlete enough to provide this level of support. I would really like to thank Capri Insurance for their scholarship endowment. This scholarship ensures Julian will be able to concentrate on his studies and fulfill his desire to play basketball," says Semeniuk. "Julian is a great kid, a great recruit and the more I get to know and coach Julian it becomes apparent how deserving a candidate he is. He shows great promise on the court and he is continuing his success in the classroom."

Asselstine may not be headed to the NBA, but he will put his UBC education to use and is already looking to the future.

"I know I won't be able to play basketball forever, and I want to have a good education to be able to fall back on. As a student athlete it means a lot to receive a scholarship such as this," says Asselstine.

The previous award winners, Ashley Briker and Chandler Proch, are enjoying success in their athletic careers with the Heat. Proch is in her second year and the starting setter on the women's volleyball team, while Briker is in her third year and is the starting point guard for the women's basketball team.
Healthy food demonstrations part of Be Well at Work program
by UBC Okanagan - Story: 67851
Nov 28, 2011 / 12:00 am

Ricardo Scebba from Ricardo’s Mediterranean Kitchen was at the University of British Columbia’s Okanagan campus to give some tips on healthy eating.

This November, the University of British Columbia’s Be Well at Work project held two Fall Food Tasting events at UBC’s Okanagan campus.

The Fall Food Tasting events included healthy cooking demonstrations, recipes and tastings to celebrate employees’ participation in Be Well at Work, a project in partnership with the University of British Columbia’s School of Population and Public Health and the Canadian Cancer Society British Columbia and Yukon, with funding from the Canadian Cancer Society.

The project focuses on decreasing employees’ cancer risk through increasing fruit and vegetable consumption, boosting physical activity and maintaining a healthy body weight.

Being healthy at work is more important than ever. In 2004, Health Canada reported that 67 per cent of adults spend more than 60 per cent of their time at the worksite. The workplace has become a key location to encourage healthy practices and to reduce cancer risk—1/3 of cancer cases can be averted through appropriate diet, physical activity and weight control.

Carolyn Gotay is the project’s Principal Investigator. She is a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia, and she holds the Canadian Cancer Society Chair in Cancer Primary Prevention. “Unhealthy eating, inactivity and obesity are leading causes of cancer, but these factors are preventable,” Gotay comments. “By promoting healthy behaviour at work, we will help people reverse their cancer risks.”

Be Well at Work program participants were invited to the Fall Food Tasting events. On November 17, UBC employees took part in a healthy snacks workshop with Health and Exercise Sciences Instructor Sally Willis-Stewart and registered dietician Casey Hamilton, followed by recipes and samples. On November 25th, local chef Ricardo Scebba from Ricardo’s Mediterranean Kitchen demonstrated his approach to healthy cooking and provided samples to participants. After completing the program questionnaire, all Be Well at Work participants will be eligible to win a fifty dollar gift certificate to Ricardo’s Mediterranean Kitchen.

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Engineering team wins grant for investigating paper architecture
by UBC Okanagan - Story: 67753
Nov 25, 2011 / 12:00 am

Centre of Excellence a draw for national conference of colleges - Campus Life
Joe Nemeth, president and CEO of Canfor Pulp Products Inc., presents a $75,000 grant award to André Phillion, Mark Martinez, and James Olson, director of the Pulp and Paper Centre at UBC.

UBC collaboration with Canfor to study BC pulp fibres using X-ray technology
An industry giant in pulp and paper products has awarded two UBC engineering professors for research knowledge leveraged across both campuses.

Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership (CPLP) presented the award -- the first instalment of a $75,000 grant over three years -- to professors André Phillion and Mark Martinez.

The professors are studying the structure of Canfor’s northern bleached softwood kraft (NBSK) pulp fibres for their research project, “Three-Dimensional Structure & Strength Characterization of Pulp Fibre.”

Phillion, an assistant professor in the School of Engineering at UBC’s Okanagan campus, explores the field of materials science through modelling, microscopy and 3-D imaging using X-ray technologies. Martinez, a chemical engineering professor, conducts research in the Advanced Fibre Processing Laboratory at UBC’s Pulp and Paper Centre in Vancouver.

The combined work by Phillion and Martinez provides new insight into strengthening mechanisms in NBSK pulp.

“First, the research will focus on characterizing paper architecture using 3-D X-ray tomographic microscopy, a technique similar to CT imaging but on a much smaller scale,” says Phillion.

“Second, models will be developed to predict the strength of paper produced under different refining conditions based on the 3-D structure of the pulp fibres.

“This work is part of a series of research efforts at UBC that will lead to best practices guidelines for processing of NBSK fibres and mixing with hardwood pulp.”

CPLP’s CEO Joe Nemeth says the UBC project has multiple benefits.

“This project will help us better understand our fibre, and it complements a project on pulp refining we are now supporting in the UBC Pulp and Paper Centre,” he says.

Nemeth also praised CPLP’s new affiliation with the School of Engineering at UBC’s Okanagan campus, and the collaboration between the two campuses.

James Olson, director of the UBC Pulp and Paper Centre, says “Canfor Pulp’s investment will directly support faculty and graduate student research aimed at serving the needs of current and future industry. This university-industry research partnership is a shining example of how we can work together to ensure BC has the opportunity to lead the transformation into forest based bio-materials, fuels and products economy.”

The research award is the first in a grants program announced by Canfor in June 2011 to foster collaborative research in the pulp and paper industry.

CPLP is the largest producer of market kraft pulp in BC, and the third largest in the world. CPLP employs 1,200 people in BC and annually produces pulp and paper products worth $1 billion.

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Homespun hospitality drives UBC Alumni fundraiser
by UBC Okanagan - Story: 67710
Nov 24, 2011 / 12:00 am

Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner events across Okanagan support student bursaries
For 2011, Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner replaces the traditional gala in support of student
In a year when community spirit seems particularly significant, UBC alumni in the Okanagan have chosen to take a more grassroots approach to supporting student bursaries. On December 3, alumni and friends throughout the Okanagan will gather in the homes of local leaders for good food, good company and a good cause.

Just like the hosts preparing them, each dinner has a unique flavour and personality. Wisdom Tettey, UBC alumnus and the newly installed Dean of UBC’s Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (FCCS), is presenting elegant fare and worldly conversation in the artistic ambiance of International House. The legacy dwelling, which boasts a colourful history, sits on UBC’s Okanagan campus and serves now, in part, as a studio for Master of Fine Arts students.

“No one pulls together for UBC students with as much energy and ingenuity as UBC grads,” says Brenda Tournier, senior manager, Alumni Relations. “They know what it’s like and they care, even if it’s been 50 years since they earned their degrees.”

Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner hosts are located throughout the Okanagan. In Vernon, the initiative takes on a Scottish theme at the home of Bill (MEd) and Elaine Dunsmore; while guests of Penticton hosts Cal Meiklejohn, (BArch) and Jacinta Ferrari will enjoy live classical music with their dinner. In Kelowna, along with Dean Tettey and FCCS, hosts include Catherine (BA) and Herb Comben, Heidi (BA, LLB) and Richard Taylor, Walley (BA, LLB) and Marietta (BHMEc) Lightbody, and Richard (MD) and Heather Hooper (BA).

Tickets are $100 per person and seats are still available online at http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/alumnirelations/events.html. For more information on hosts, meals and tickets contact Brenda Tournier at 250-807-8167.

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