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Bring out the amazing in you!

At Capilano College our mission is to enable student success



Making an amazing difference in our communities

This year, Capilano College celebrates 30 years of responding to the post-secondary learning needs of the Sunshine Coast. As dean, I am continually amazed at the number of people I meet in the community who have taken courses through the College over this period of time. Our roots here are deep, but the impact of our graduates is felt worldwide as they find employment around the globe.

We first opened our doors in 1977 with an initial offering of Adult Basic Education courses. To this day, ABE remains an important component of our curriculum, along with our more traditional programming of fine and applied arts, liberal arts and health care. However, over the past 30 years we have also worked to tailor our programs to match the particular educational requirements of the Sunshine Coast. This has seen us expand into such areas as trades, business administration and office technology, early childhood care and education and, more recently, tourism.

As we look to the next 30 years, we will continue to work with members of our community to address emerging needs, whether it's in business training, new health care programs or responding to the growing population of lifelong learners. Watch the newspaper for details on all our programs, or visit our website for regular updates.

Jean Bennett
Dean, Sunshine Coast Campus

Caring for others is a family affair

Donna-Rae Porter graduated from Capilano College's Home Support/Resident Care Attendant program early last year and today works at an assisted-living centre in Gibsons, B.C.

"I'm a real people person and I love to care for others," she says. "I like knowing that I've made a difference in the lives of the people I'm caring for."

Donna-Rae's daughter, **Danielle**, 20, is following in her mother's footsteps and taking the same program. She hopes to graduate this June and would eventually like to work as a resident care activity coordinator or as a rehabilitation assistant.

"I would help my mom study and through that process found that I was really interested in the course," she says. "I just knew that it would be something that I could accomplish."

Donna-Rae adds the six-month program, that included a practicum with real-world experience, really prepared her for her job as a health care aide.

"The instructors are top of the line," she explains. "They are not just your teachers, they are real inspirers."

To be added to the interest list for the Home Support/Resident Care Attendant program, please call **604.885.9310**.



Donna-Rae Porter and her daughter, Danielle, followed the same career path in health care.

Blazing trails on the Sunshine Coast

Mark Schmidt says the best thing about his job is that he gets to be outside creating great trails for people to enjoy.

A professional trail builder and author, Mark also teaches Capilano College's Mountain Bike Operations certificate program at the Sunshine Coast campus.

"This is the only college course offered as a two-term program in trail building and park design anywhere in the world," he explains. "Part of the program's uniqueness is that students get hands-on experience."

Since the program launched last September, it has attracted people from across Canada who share a passion for the industry.

"My goal is to train these students to become educated trail builders," Mark says.

Program coordinator, **Caroline Depatie**, adds that graduates can expect to find jobs at mountain resorts, with the government or non-profit sport organizations, and with private mountain bike operators.

"We are getting students who are avid mountain bikers, who love the sport, and who want to work in the industry," Caroline says. "We build our curriculum around the needs of the industry and our graduates will have lots of employment opportunities."

For more information on the Mountain Bike Operations certificate program, please call **604.885.9310**, visit www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/mountain-bike/, or e-mail mtbo@capcollege.bc.ca.



Students from the Mountain Bike Operations program are flanked by instructor Mark Schmidt (far left) and program coordinator, Caroline Depatie (far right).



Wendy Stewart was thrilled at having access to great teachers and great programs while living on the Sunshine Coast.

From ABE to PhD

Wendy Stewart just may be the ideal role model for lifelong learning.

After living on a remote island near Tasmania for many years, Wendy returned to Gibsons in 1997 and decided to go back to school.

"It had been a long time since I'd been in the academic world," says the 53-year-old mother of two. "But starting in Adult Basic Education at Capilano College's Sunshine Coast campus was the key to my success."

"It was my biology instructor, **Dr. John Field**, who encouraged me to continue with my studies," Wendy adds. "Because I did so well in his class I decided to carry on with Capilano College's university transfer courses, which had excellent teachers."

After finishing an undergraduate degree and then her master's, Wendy is now completing her PhD at Simon Fraser University, yet she looks back fondly on her college experience.

"The entire college classroom situation is so much more approachable than university," she says. "In the college setting you have direct communication with your teacher and a small class size."

For more information about Adult Basic Education courses at Capilano College, visit www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/sunshine, or call **604.885.9310**. For more information about university transfer programs, visit www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/university-transfer.



John Pass has spent the last 30 years helping to change the course of many of his students' lives.

College employment allows for creative freedom

After teaching for more than 30 years, **John Pass** still draws inspiration from his students. A successful poet, John teaches Adult Basic Education at Capilano College's Sunshine Coast campus.

"Teaching is a constant source of pleasure," he says. "The Sunshine Coast is such a small, intimate community where you can really connect with people in the classroom."

Many of John's former students have gone on to higher education and their own wonderful careers. One of his favourite student success stories is about a logger who signed up for his course some years ago. The forestry worker, seeking a career change, continued on to the College's university transfer program, completed his undergraduate degree, and obtained his master's degree.

"The last time I heard from him he had acquired his PhD in psychology and was on tour sharing his wisdom in the United States," says John. "Isn't that great? He went from taking ABE on the Sunshine Coast to becoming an expert in psychology."

John's work at the College also gives him time to pursue his own creative endeavours. These are significant, considering that last year he was named the recipient of the 2006 Governor General's Literary Award in the English-language poetry category.

"I've found that having a job that is related to language, but that doesn't require me to talk about poetry, helps with my own creative life," he says.

Eldercollege feeds the minds of lifelong learners

Last term, **Margaret** and **Brian Shaw** took four different courses through Capilano College's Eldercollege program.

"It's learning for the pleasure of it," says Margaret, adding "and we firmly believe in continuing to learn."

The Sechelt residents are two of the original founders of Eldercollege on the Sunshine Coast. They have joined others age 55 and over and taken dozens of courses in everything from gardening to studying the immune system. Margaret says it's all about the wow factor.

"It's those wonderful moments in class when you just feel so alive learning stuff that totally blows your mind," she says. "The atmosphere is tremendous because we are a very lively bunch with questions and comments and life experiences to share, and we're always learning something that's new and amazing."

Caroline Depatie, a program coordinator at the Sunshine Coast campus, explains that the instructors volunteer their time and that helps to keep the fees low.

"There is always a fascinating lineup of fresh and exciting courses," she says.

For more information on Eldercollege courses, visit www.capcollege.bc.ca/ce/sunshine-coast/eldercollege, or call **604.885.9310**.



Margaret and Brian Shaw share life experiences with other members of Eldercollege.

Self-discovery guides student to a new career

Gilda Craigan loves working with children.

"I love their nature, their curiosity, the way they want to know everything, and the way they think," says the 30-year-old mother and child care worker.

A member of the Sechelt Nation, Gilda started her career by babysitting and today works at the band's child care centre. She is doing this while completing her certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education at Capilano College's Sunshine Coast campus.

"I've learned a lot," says Gilda of the part-time program. "The instructors are extremely supportive. They go out of their way to make sure that you are comfortable."

Program graduates quickly find work at day cares, preschools and with social service programs. Even before she graduates Gilda is finding this to be a reality, and she is using her new skills to make a difference in the lives of the children she works with.

"My job is so rewarding," she adds. "Through the program I discovered a love of learning, as well as a belief in myself and a lot of self pride."

The Early Childhood Care and Education program is offered evenings and weekends at the Sunshine Coast campus. For more information, visit www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/sunshine/eccc, or call **1.604.984.4960**.



Gilda Craigan and her four-year-old daughter, Stella, share a natural curiosity and a desire to learn.

Creating art is good for the soul



Lenore Conacher is a respected artist on the Sunshine Coast and her art classes are always in demand.

Lenore Conacher's second career involves both painting and teaching, and the Sunshine Coast artist couldn't be happier.

"I love sharing something that gives me such great pleasure," she says.

Lenore retired to the Sunshine Coast in 1991 and has taught painting through Capilano College's Continuing Education department for the past six years. The former business owner, who calls her

own painting style a form of abstract expressionism, is currently teaching her students to paint with fluid acrylics.

"I teach some of the serious fundamentals of painting, but we also have a lot of fun," she explains, "especially with fluid acrylic, which has a mind of its own."

Over the years, Lenore has taught hundreds of students from complete beginners to experienced artists who are proficient in different mediums. Some of Lenore's students have survived heart surgery, cancer and other illnesses, and they find that painting is therapeutic.

"It's one of those things that requires real concentration, but in a form that's good for the soul," she says. "Painting is spirit enhancing, because it requires creativity and focus."

For more information on Capilano College's Continuing Education courses, visit www.capcollege.bc.ca/ce/sunshine-coast, or call **604.885.9310**.