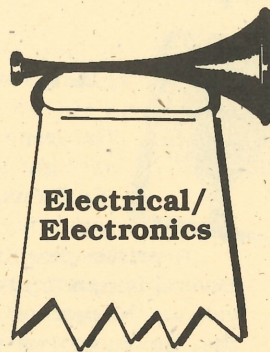


Blow Your Horn



"Blow Your Horn" is an opportunity for instructors to educate the rest of us about their program by providing a personal view of what they and their students are up to.

EDITORIAL

Who's Responsible for—It?

Most of us expect things to change; however, SAIT seems to be especially prone to change. Given this propensity, we instructors often find ourselves left adrift in the dark. We may not know what is happening in a given area, or who to contact for information, or where to register a complaint, or why we can't gain access to a particular service, or—the list goes on. We need information, we need answers, and we need to register our concerns. For example:

Pension Vote—SAFA members were asked to vote on December 24 as to whether or not we wished to remain in LAPP. We returned to work January 4; there was no official release about the results of the vote. We checked our mail and notice boards on January 5; there still was no official notification. The SAFA office was not given the responsibility of notifying SAFA members about the results of the

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Skills Canada Alberta 1999 Provincial Skills Corporation



by Don Martin
Electrical/Electronics

Skills Canada is a non-profit association that was created through a joint venture between business, industry, labour, education and government. It's devoted to promoting the development of technological-and trade-based education in Alberta's schools, therefore encouraging young people to consider and prepare for careers in such fields.

Skills competitions provide recognition for those students who strive to excel in the skills needed in the Canadian labour market today...and tomorrow. Competitions range from traditional construction trades to manufacturing, communications, services, transportation and leadership. Every level of the skills competitions helps to prepare students for the realities of the working world (global marketplace) and to instill a quality attitude towards work and pride in a job well done.

Objectives are achieved through industry-sponsored skills competitions at regional, provincial, national and international levels. On May 6th, 1999, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology will be host to the 7th Annual Provincial Skills Competition. The competition includes high school participants who will compete in 23 trade-and technology-based competitions. Post-secondary and apprenticeship participants will also compete in the 23 trade-and technology-based competitions but at a different level. The top three students in each category will represent Alberta at the 1999 Canadian Skills Competition.

The 5th Annual National Canadian Skills Competition will be held June 2 - 6, 1999, in Kitchener, Ontario. More than 800 competitors from each of the provinces and two territories in Canada will compete in 29 contest areas. The Canadian Skills Competition is a qualifier for the 1999, International Vocational Training Competition which will be held in Canada for the first time on November 14 - 17, 1999 at the Olympic Stadium in Montreal.

The 36th International event will see nearly 600 young people from every continent represent their countries. More than 35 countries will participate in the event which will have 40 occupations represented. Canada will identify the top three candidates in each contest area from the 1999 Canadian Skills Competition to participate in a training program.

To become involved in the 7th Annual Provincial Skills Competition here at SAIT, register now to be a volunteer.

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SAFA Dependent Scholarship Awarded

by Heather Sagan

The SAIT Academic Faculty Association awarded the Dependent Scholarship in November 1998 to Lauren Plomp. One of the criteria for this scholarship is that the recipient is a direct dependent of a deceased SAFA member whose death occurred while employed at SAIT or during normal retirement immediately following employment at SAIT.

Lloyd Plomp, Lauren's father, was an instructor at SAIT for 25 years in the Math/Physics/Computing Department. He was instrumental in the ongoing development of the Computer Technology program over those years. Lloyd will be remembered by his many friends for supplying both good and bad music for the department's parties.

Because of the nature of this award, it is not awarded annually, and Lauren is a most grateful recipient as

expressed in her thank you letter. "Your generosity is greatly appreciated and was invaluable in helping me meet my financial commitments of this degree."

Lauren is currently entering her second semester of studies in Environmental Science in the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary. This degree will take from two to three years to complete and includes a master's degree project. Lauren has two options for this research. The first is a project to examine the effectiveness of various reclamation methods used after laying pipeline. The second is a survey of river users in Kanasaskis Country. In addition to the master's project, she is undertaking varied coursework to build on her background of Chemical Engineering. ♦

Perspective — TRUST



by Barry Pratt

The recent vote to withdraw from LAPP has brought to my attention the lack of trust SAIT employees have in present SAIT administration—from front-line supervisors to senior executive. For example:

1. Several temporary salaried instructors were afraid to vote on the pension issue because they were afraid that the supervisor would find out they voted "no" and not renew their contract.
2. Others thought it was a good plan but didn't trust the VP Admin with their money.
3. Some would have dearly liked the bridging benefit (\$20,000) but weren't sure they would actually receive it.
4. A casual instructor in one department has had a full load on a continuous basis for several years. The collective agreement states: "When continuous casual employment of an academic staff member exceeds six months in any academic year, in a full-time capacity, the academic staff member shall be appointed to a temporary salaried position". When the department was informed that the collective agreement was being contravened, the individual was given a reduced load and kept on as a casual instructor. The individual was afraid to grieve for fear of losing the job he/she did have.
5. A similar episode with casuals occurred in another department. This department didn't reduce the load, instead, they threatened to terminate the instructors or cancel the program. These instructors are still casuals.
6. In SCADS, the customer service redesign team abolished a position before the new team leader positions had been defined, posted or filled. Was there really no position?
7. The list goes on so long that it would fill a book. In this "enlightened age" are we supposed to follow the old adage "Ours is not to reason why; ours is but to do or die."

All of us need to work in an environment where we can trust others and others can trust us. We would expect that the employer would be the example in this and follow its own ISO 9000 initiative where the motto is "Tell people what we are going to do and then do what we say."

At the same time, SAIT does have some administrators who are trusted. These administrators need to be congratulated for the open honest way they do business; the people who work for them should consider themselves lucky indeed.

What can the administration at SAIT do to gain our trust?

1. Immediately reinstate the abolished individual from SCADS and find another place for him/her in the organization.
2. Follow the letter and the spirit of the collective agreement.
3. Don't be secretive. Do more things in the open, i.e. when restructuring academic departments, don't wait until everything is done before notifying department members. Ask for and seriously consider input on the various scenarios before making decisions. (b) One

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SAFAGRAM

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Pam August
Bonnie Benoit
Hilde Clovechok
Marilyn Hall
Kay Hunter
Heather Sagan
B.J. Hamilton — Cartoonist

Layout

Luda Paul

Printed by

Quick Print Graphic Services

SAFAGRAM is published by the SAIT Academic Faculty Association (SAFA) five times a year on or about the first days of October, December, February, April, and June. Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month preceding publication. Send submissions to SAFAGRAM, care of the SAFA office, N201 or email submissions to luda.paul@sait. Please keep submissions under 300 words, double space, and, if possible, submit on floppy disc (Mac or DOS) with an accompanying hard copy. Submissions may be edited

for grammar, length, or content. SAFAGRAM editorial policy, as approved by the SAFA Executive on June 14, 1995, is as follows:

1. The Editorial Board has the final say as to what is included or deleted from the newsletter.
2. Editorial Board decisions about newsletter material must be agreed to by consensus.
3. The newsletter will include a disclaimer stating that the views expressed in its content do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board or SAFA.
4. All material included in the newsletter must
 - be signed by the author when submitted to the editors but anonymity may be requested and granted for printing.
 - be based on "reasoned argument" if personal criticism is used.
 - not involve name-calling.
 - not include sexist, racist, or homophobic comments.
 - be related to SAIT, although this will be interpreted broadly.

The views expressed in SAFAGRAM do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board or SAFA.

Library Updates



by Dave Weber
Educational Resources Library N204 (8408)

⇒ The library continues to expand access to information in electronic form. Fourteen PC's are available in the public area for access to the catalog and the journal research databases, Proquest Direct, and Canadian Business and Current Affairs (CBCA). The CBCA service now includes access to the Canadian NewsDisc, which provides a selection of full-text articles from ten newspapers including the *Calgary Herald*. A preview of Moody's database called *Moody's International Company Data* will be available for a month starting in the third week of January. This database provides profiles of Canadian companies. If the preview is successful, it will replace the library's subscription to the *Financial Post's Corporate Card Service* that is received in hard copy. Please drop by to try the database and help us determine its usefulness.

⇒ A self check-in service for the student computer lab (N204) began at the beginning of January. The time-consuming work required to manage access to the lab has been streamlined. This has enabled the Information Desk staff to concentrate more on the research and circulation needs of library clients. The library is now charging a \$1, one-time, non-refundable deposit for computer lab print cards. If clients return an empty card at the time of purchasing a new card, the fee is not charged.

⇒ The library continues to offer withdrawn library material, including books and magazines, in its Discard Room (J208E). Prices are still rock bottom at \$1.00/book, \$0.50/pocket book, and \$0.25/magazine. The library also welcomes your pocketbook donations for its recreational reading collection. A drop box for your donations is located at the entrance to the library.

⇒ The next staff / instructor due date for semester loans is May 14. Please make a note on your calendar to avoid overdue fines. ♦

*Perspective
continued from page 2*

Dean took five people with him to the budget review; another went by himself. The first Dean is the better model. I would like to conclude with the words of Clint Dunford, Minister of Advanced Education; "I won't say 'trust me' because that is something I have to earn from you." So if we (SAIT) expect to get anywhere at a pace faster than a snail, it's about time we all put a lot of effort into building trust at SAIT. ♦

BLOOPERS

From instructions for inflating a hot air balloon:

Attach Envelope: Pilot and two crew members will lay over basket and pilot will attach envelope cable toggles.

T L C

1999 PD Series Great Teaching Getaway – Building a Learning Community



by Pam August
Teaching & Learning Centre

The 1999 PD Series Committee is in full gear planning the 1999 PD Series. We are quite excited about this year's offerings and are confident that you will find them motivating, practical and worth the time and energy you spend participating. This year's committee members are as follows:

Pam August	Teaching & Learning Centre
Louise Bentley	Information Technologies
Marcel Carpenter	Quality Assurance
Laura Cuthbertson	Teaching & Learning Centre
Hanna Hess	Business
Lynn Hoover	Applied Arts & Sciences
Bruce Kenny	Deans' Representative
Dave Samson	Electrical/Electronics
Jerry Spence	Health Sciences
Henry VanMalsen	Energy and Natural Resources
Garry Wall	Hospitality Careers
Gus Yepiz	Mechanical Trades and Technologies
Bernard Piche	Architectural & Civil Engineering Technologies (SAIT II Campus)
Michelle Durham	Teaching & Learning Centre – Administrative Support

The PD Series will have a slightly different format this year. You may have already attended one of the PD Series Primer events on February 11th and 12th. Dr. Marti Cleveland-Innes (U of C) presented a workshop on student approaches to learning. Specifically she addressed two approaches "deep" and "surface", and how instructors can promote deeper approaches to learning.

Gillies Malnacich (B.C. Centre for Curriculum Transfers Technology) conducted an inspiring practical session on teaching what we know, do, and value. That is, how can we create learning experiences that are authentic and, how then, do we assess learning? She also looked at how can we teach and assess the higher level skills that employers are demanding, including critical thinking and professional judgment.

Watch for sessions being offered throughout the months of March and April with the "main event" to occur in May and June. PD Series Mailer coming out later in March will provide all of the details.

Your input helps to make the PD Series a valuable professional development opportunity.

Please take a few moments to complete the recently distributed PD Series Questionnaire. Interested in conducting a session? Please call me at 7071. We look forward to your participation in the Great Teaching Getaway! ♦

From a student report:

After some positions have been eliminated, the paper training of employees must be considered.

From a resume:

Worked as a stalker in a grocery store.

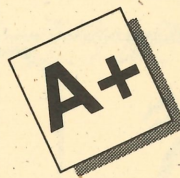
Skills Canada
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There are many rewarding and challenging areas where help is needed. You could be a part of the Architectural CAD, Cabinet Making or Welding team. These are just a few of the many areas open for volunteers; for more information, see the attached table or contact Don Martin at 8258. We look forward to having you be a part of our team.

1999 Provincial Skills Competition Tentative Schedule of Events

Event	Level
Architectural CAD	Post/Sec
Auto Collision Repair	Post/Sec
Auto Service	Post/Sec
Baking	Post/Sec
BCA Spread Sheet	Sec
BCA Word Pro Adv	Sec
BCA Word Pro Basic	Sec
BCA Word Pro Int	Sec
Brick Masonry	Post
Cabinet Making	Post/Sec
Carpentry	Post/Sec
Computer Animation	Sec
Culinary Arts	Post/Sec
Electrical (Desktop) Publishing	Sec
Electronics	Post/Sec
Job Safety Skills (proposed)	?
Mechanical CAD	Post/Sec
Plumbing	Post
Residential Wiring	Post
Website Design	Sec
Welding	Post/Sec

Note: BCA = Business Computer Application
Post = Post-secondary
Sec = High School



Riddle: What combines fun and learning with a story.

Answer: A great storyteller.

Question: What does this riddle have to do with SAIT?

We have two wonderful storytellers at SAIT—Betty Hersberger and Mary Hays—who, along with other storytellers all over the world, are reviving the ancient art of storytelling. Almost anyone can read a story, but real story-telling (no reading) captures the audience's imagination and encourages them to jump in.

Betty and Mary have the knack of not only capturing the audience's attention, but also of involving the audience in the story-telling process. And in the ancient tradition, they use these stories to pass on history and social mores, to entertain, and to learn. Betty and Mary have told stories in their classrooms, at community events, family events, birthday parties, Christmas parties, libraries, Tellabratations and tell-arounds. (Tellabratations are celebrated all over the world and tell-arounds in Calgary are held on the second Wednesday of each month at Hillhurst United Church at 7:00). Whether the people are children or adults, they all respond to the enthusiasm of the performers.

At the Tellabratations event in December (held at Fort Calgary), the participants, from baby to grandparents, responded enthusiastically to the stories told at Tellabratations. Everyone, except the baby, stood up to represent his or her section of a story. Everyone, except the baby, joined the storytellers to say wonderful lines like "Baba Yaga likes bones." Everyone, including the baby, had fun. ♦♦

Editorial
continued from page 1

vote; however, after two days of answering phone calls and waiting for an official release, SAFA sent out a brief e-mail notifying members that the vote outcome was to remain in LAPP. No official notification (with details about numbers voting for and against) was released until the end of January.

No reasonable person would expect whoever was responsible for disseminating this information to spend the holidays writing a definitive report on the issue. But it does seem reasonable to expect that someone be delegated the task of sending a one- or two-sentence release on January 4 to SAFA members about the outcome of the vote. What happened?

FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy). This editorial does not question the value of FOIP; privacy should be respected. We readily acknowledge that FOIP is a complex issue which must be addressed.

FOIP affects instructors in many ways. For example, instructors in some departments were told in December that all marks could not be posted using student ID numbers. This presented several problems. Students who were anxious to get their marks before leaving for the holiday knocked on instructors' doors asking for marks. Instructors who normally posted marks early to allow students the opportunity to discuss discrepancies before the marks were sent to the

Registrar were no longer able to do so. Since instructors can not submit marks to the Registrar until the marks for all students in the class are calculated, students who diligently submitted all assignments on time could not check their official marks on the computer until the instructor finished marking the late assignments (of those students who were not as diligent in submitting assignments).

Instructors are getting a clear picture of the things they can not do. What we need now is a clear picture of the things we can do. The problems encountered in December were not fair to students or instructors. It is clear from our mail that SAIT is looking at how to comply with FOIP. Is there also a committee working on suggestions for dealing with the issues raised at the classroom level? Could ID numbers be generated in a more random fashion? If so, could these numbers meet the requirements of FOIP? Could the marking program we use which requires that all student marks be submitted at one time be changed?

This editorial has mentioned only two concerns here at SAIT. If you have a question you want answered, some answers you wish to share, or some concerns you wish to address, please write to us at SAFAGRAM (c/o the SAFA office). Thank you. ♦♦



Man, this Millenium Bug thing is getting to be a real headache!

I can relate ...

Hamilton '99