

Great teaching • Great programs • Great future

# Absolutely where you want to be!

At Capilano College our mission is to enable student success



## Changing along with our communities

Thirty-five years ago, Capilano began offering courses in the home of Squamish resident, **Avrille Gosling**. We started with two art classes, an English class, a psychology class, and a philosophy class.

From those early days we slowly grew with the foresight and support of such visionaries as **T.B. (Slim) Gouberg**, **Margaret Marchant**, then-Mayor **Pat Brennan**, **Rose Tatlow**, **Hilda Rizun**, **Bill Manson** and **Linda Carney**, to name just a few. Their dedication was the foundation upon which this campus was built.

Over the years, the communities we serve have changed and Capilano has changed along with them. We have continued to expand our program offerings based upon the learning and employment needs of the people in our region. The Destination Resort Management and Wilderness Leadership programs remain popular and our graduates are working in top jobs in the tourism industry. Our free Adult Basic Education courses are always full and our literacy efforts remain ongoing in the community. In January, we launched the Early Childhood Care and Education program – another area of strong interest to residents in our communities.

I've been energized over the past year by all the future possibilities that lie before us – especially with the approach of the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. We want our students to be a part of this opportunity and we're working hard to help them build their future alongside that of the Corridor.

Casey Dorin  
Dean, Howe Sound and Tourism programs



Special Education Assistant, Melanie Murphy, loves working with children.

## Special Ed program makes juggling act doable

**Melanie Murphy** lives a 1½-hour drive north of Squamish in the small community of Birken, where jobs are scarce.

So when Blackwater Creek Elementary School in nearby Devine offered her a special education assistant position, she happily accepted a requirement that she take Capilano's 18-month part-time Special Education Assistant certificate program.

"I love working with special needs kids," says Melanie, who moved to Birken from New Westminster with her son and partner **Pete** five years ago. "It's a great opportunity."

It's also a challenge balancing work, school and family, not to mention the commutes to classes in Squamish.

"But the SEA program makes it doable," says Melanie, "with evening and weekend classes. "We even get time off during the holidays."

The program includes 10 theory courses with hands-on training in the skills needed to help students with physical, learning or emotional needs. It concludes with a 120-hour practicum, but Melanie will do a specialized project instead before graduating next December because she's already working as an SEA.

"It's very flexible," she says. "I couldn't have done it otherwise."

For more information on the Special Education Assistant program, visit [www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/special-ed](http://www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/special-ed), or call **604.892.5322**.



Paper carriers include Howe Sound and Tourism programs dean, Casey Dorin, and West Vancouver-Garibaldi MLA Joan McIntyre.

## Squamish reads

The first annual Squamish Reads day was held on Friday, January 25 in recognition of National Family Literacy Day. The event was a fund- and awareness-raising activity modelled on Canwest's Raise-A-Reader campaign. Capilano's president, **Dr. Greg Lee**, MLA **Joan McIntyre**, MP **Blair Wilson**, Squamish Mayor **Ian Sutherland** and Howe Sound and Tourism programs dean, **Casey Dorin**, were just a few of the paper carriers who helped to raise \$1,234. Along with newsstand sales, \$2,400 was raised locally, and with matching funds from the provincial government, the total raised was \$4,800. These funds will go to literacy programs administered by Capilano and the Squamish Public Library, partners in the Regional Literacy Coordination program.

The *Squamish Chief* newspaper included a four-page wrap-around that focused on general information about literacy and local literacy programs. Capilano's award-winning literacy newspaper, *The Westcoast Reader*, produced by Capilano English as a Second Language instructor, **Joan Acosta**, was included as an insert to the paper.

Students from Capilano's Tourism Event Management program also participated and reported that the first Annual Squamish Reads! Books and Art Silent Auction that they organized was a success. A variety of local artisans and authors, including Capilano tourism instructor, **Rick Davies**, contributed a selection of works that were quickly purchased by eager event supporters at Pepe & Gringo's. Almost \$800 was raised at the auction.



Number crunching comes easy to ABE grad, Barb Patura.

## ABE student parlays hidden math talent into new career

For **Barb Patura**, it's all about numbers.

Thirty years ago, the Squamish single mom quit high school, eventually finding a good job as a Squamish General Hospital dietary aide.

After 18 years, however, she lost the position when the hospital privatized its kitchen operations four years ago. Barb immediately enrolled in Capilano's Adult Basic Education program to improve her work prospects.

"I was like a sponge," she says, excelling in English, science, keyboarding, computers and especially mathematics, which Capilano's Vision assessment tests confirmed was one of her major strengths.

"The ABE program's flexibility is amazing," she says. "You work at your own speed whenever it's convenient, the classroom teachers are there to help you, and you take tests when you're ready."

The hospital called her back after 11 months to work in its laundry department, "but I had learning on the brain," says Barb. She took a five-month Capilano accounting course online and landed a better job as a hospital accounting clerk.

"I'm good with numbers," she says, "but it took the ABE program for me to realize it."

For more information on the Adult Basic Education program, visit [www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/adult-basic-ed/squamish](http://www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/adult-basic-ed/squamish), or call **604.892.5322**.



Megan Wastle's job in the Callaghan Valley will give her a front row seat at the 2010 Olympics.

## Tourism event management grad nails career gold

When **Megan Wastle** heard that Vancouver and Whistler were hosting the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, she was determined to be part of it. And just three months after graduating last June from Capilano's part-time Tourism Event Management certificate program, her goal became a reality.

Megan is now an administrative assistant for the Whistler Olympic Park in the Callaghan Valley, which will host the cross-country skiing, biathlon, ski jumping and Nordic combined events. A passionate downhill and cross-country skier and snowboarder, she's had numerous tourism jobs since moving to Whistler in 1992.

But Megan says the 11-month TEM program "really tied it all together and gave me a great overview of the industry. The instructors all work in tourism events so you learn what it's like to actually be in the field."

TEM students get hands-on experience learning event administration, planning and logistics, marketing, business relations and catering.

"I learned practical skills I can use in tons of different jobs," says Megan, "which gave me the confidence – and the résumé – to go out and do it myself."

For more information on the Tourism Event Management program, visit [www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/squamish/tourism-event](http://www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/squamish/tourism-event), or call **604.892.5322**.



Wendy Dansie is looking forward to becoming a Squamish resident this spring.

## New campus supervisor eyes bright future

Ask **Wendy Dansie** what the best part of her job is and she doesn't skip a beat. "I love everything about it," says Capilano's new Squamish campus supervisor. "It's the job of my dreams."

Wendy manages day-to-day campus operations, including administration and security, budgeting, and course and classroom scheduling. But she also works in the community to raise the profile of the institution.

"My most important goal right now is to become better known in the Corridor," says the London-born British expatriate, who has been living in North Vancouver since she began working for Capilano in the late 1990s.

"That goal should get a lot easier," she adds, "once my husband, our daughter and I move into our new house in Squamish this spring."

Wendy anticipates greater Capilano involvement in the Olympics as they approach, "and we're also planning a number of exciting new programs."

Meanwhile, she says, "I can hardly wait to move. There's everything that you could ever wish for here."

## Resort management program a ticket to the world

When **Robyn Louwe** learned about Capilano's 16-month Destination Resort Management Co-op program from a fellow Whistler Blackcomb snowboard instructor and program graduate, it was like a light bulb went on.

"I thought, 'that's perfect,'" says Robyn, who settled in Whistler five years ago. "I wanted a good front desk tourism job in Whistler, but most of those require both education and experience. So the idea that I could get the skills and the industry experience I needed at the same time was awesome."

Her instructors' global resort management backgrounds made learning the commercial, human resource and management aspects of the business particularly relevant, says Robyn. "I'm now qualified to work in the industry anywhere I choose, or even finish a tourism degree later on."



The South Asian Senior Women's Group finds support, friendship and a link to the culture of their new country.

## South Asian grandmothers escape isolation in women's group

Every Thursday evening, dozens of Punjabi-attired grandmothers gather at **Gurjit Johal's** South Asian Senior Women's Group meeting in Squamish's Valleycliffe School. For most of them, it's their only reprieve from cooking and minding grandchildren all week.

"They're so happy to have this opportunity," says Gurjit, the Squamish Public Library ESL coordinator, who started the group last year. "It helps to cut through the cultural barriers and isolation elderly South Asian women often experience living with their children in Canada."

Capilano's Community Learning program partnered with the library, the Howe Sound Women's Centre, the school board and Vancouver Coastal Health to provide the group with meeting space, instruction, educational materials and other resources.

"They practice English lessons, yoga, exercises, and basic things like using phones and buses," says Gurjit. "They also learn about health and nutrition and community services, and we've taken some wonderful field trips."

Community partnerships are just one of the ways that Capilano is supporting people, not just as on-campus students, but as parents, workers and neighbours.

"Our grandmothers' group is so popular," laughs Gurjit, "that the grandfathers want one too."

For more information, contact Michelle Lebeau, regional literacy coordinator, at **604.892.5322**.



In her position as a front desk concierge at Nature's Door resort, Robyn Louwe receives a free Whistler Blackcomb ski pass.