

BOW VALLEY COLLEGE

InBusiness

In this issue:

Accounting Instructor
Gurpreet Bhatia

Flexible Learning Options
Increase Demand for our
Programs

Fully Engaged in Social
Entrepreneurship and
Innovation

Message from
the Dean

Svetlana Miftahov Rapoport

Business Administration Student with a double
major - Human Resources and Public Relations

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The World Rises Here

A Double Major Advantage

For Svetlana Miftahov Rapoport, a new school and a new life in Canada have taught her more than education and life lessons; that persistence and courage makes dreams come true. She believes in living the life you have imagined and with a personal blog titled, *Follow Your Dreams*, she focuses on just that.

Having moved from Israel two years ago, Svetlana and her husband came to Canada in search of new opportunities and to immerse themselves into the local culture. They left behind a dynamic life including family, friends, and colleagues that Svetlana says, “was one of the biggest challenges she has ever faced.”

At the age of 18, she decided that she wanted a life-changing experience and left her hometown in Kazakhstan, moved to Israel, and pursued a Bachelor degree in Management and Communications. “Moving at 18 and then moving later in life, your decisions, responsibilities and expectations are completely different,” says Svetlana. She describes herself as a person who is eager for knowledge, loves going to school, and anticipates that one day she will be teaching at a post-secondary institution.

“Choosing Bow Valley College was simple. I wanted to be able to find work after graduation and BVC’s programs offer applied learning where students are workplace-ready when they graduate,” says Svetlana.

After completing the Human Resource (HR) Certificate, she wanted to expand her skill set further. “I love it here. Not just the first-class education I received, but the strong support system from the instructors, staff, and students – a place where I feel right at home,” says Svetlana.

In April, Svetlana completed a Business Administration Diploma with an HR major. She will be returning in the Fall to complete courses in Public Relations (PR) and she anticipates adding a second Business Administration diploma with a major in PR to her wall of credentials from Bow Valley College.

“Having a Business Administration Diploma with two majors, HR and PR, will benefit me in fostering relationships and communications with both internal colleagues and external clients.”

- Svetlana Rapoport

For Svetlana, the student life is more than just books and exams. In May, she travelled to Japan as part of a new course offered through the Chiu School of Business (CSB). This summer, she hopes to secure a co-op work term in BVC’s new Co-op Program.

Svetlana knows first-hand that a student’s success is related to both the support they receive and a student’s engagement level. As an outgoing individual, she conveys a high level of motivation and optimism. Through volunteering, Svetlana hopes to foster these qualities in others and volunteers with the International Office, planning events and administering their social media presence. As well, she volunteers with the Intercultural Centre and Learner Success Services.

Svetlana acknowledges that, “you need to be engaged and feel supported in order to succeed. I’ve experienced this and want others to have the same experience I have had at the Chiu School of Business.”

Investing in Our Students



It’s easy to recognize that Gurpreet Bhatia is passionate about teaching – for the subject matter, the students, and the activity of teaching itself. She has an international understanding of finance and global competencies attained through various levels of advanced education. This includes a Bachelor of Commerce (University of Delhi), a Masters of Commerce (Punjabi University), an MBA in Finance (Symbiosis International University), and a PhD (Kurukshetra University).

She had initially planned to work in the corporate world of finance, but soon realized that teaching would be her calling. During and after her studies, Gurpreet worked at various institutions in New Delhi, Dubai and Singapore before moving to Canada. She noted that “these were long days of teaching bachelor courses in finance and accounting to students in the daytime while in the evening providing training to bankers.”

In 2013, Gurpreet moved to Canada to join her husband who had taken a work assignment in Calgary in 2010. She was in the midst of completing a contract as an assistant professor involved in establishing a higher banking diploma program for the Institute of Canadian Bankers at the Emirates Institute for Banking and Financial Studies before moving.

Now into her second year at the Chiu School of Business (CSB), she believes that improving the quality of education is directly related to the opportunities for the learners.

“The Business Administration Certificate and Business Administration Diploma are being taught to the standards within the industry and our students are benefiting from this,” says Gurpreet. “I have not seen this type of theoretical and practical teaching anywhere else.”

The industry of accounting is growing with an ever fluctuating economy and businesses are more conscientious about their bottom lines. Keeping on top of their finances is a top priority for businesses and CSB is delivering the skills businesses need through instructors such as Gurpreet.

Gurpreet Bhatia - Accounting Instructor for the Chiu School of Business

Flexible Learning Options Increase Demand for our Programs



As Calgary and region's only comprehensive community college, Bow Valley College (BVC) has quickly become the most accessible college in Alberta. "Our goal, to provide learning *any time, any place, any path, and any pace*, is having a profound impact," states the Dean for the Chiu School of Business (CSB), David Allwright. All the delivery options were created to support the learner and technology has allowed the school to offer a variety of flexible delivery learning options including classroom courses, online courses, and synchronous courses. "We have seen registrations increase vastly, with less than 800 registrations **three ago** to over 6000 course registrations today - and we expect this to continue to increase," reports Allwright. "We are offering the best possible learning environment."

Classroom Learning

CSB learners feel connected and engaged in our contemporary classrooms. With active advisory committees and business members participating in classroom activities, graduates have the desired industry required skills needed in today's business organizations. Students and instructors are benefiting from relevant guest speakers, networking opportunities, co-op and work experience opportunities, connection to professional associations, and the benefit of relevant business acumen. "Our classroom learning model offers flexibility where students can combine both classroom learning and online learning," suggests Lauren Kirychuk, Program Coordinator. "Another reason our programs are flourishing is that after graduation, learners have transfer opportunities with degree-granting post-secondary institutions."

Online Learning

BVC is the largest college institution in Alberta for online learning and last year, CSB saw a dramatic 26% increase in online enrollment. "The primary advantage in online learning is that the learner has time flexibility for studying, while working around family and employment commitments. Learners can choose between part-time or full-time studies," conveys Lona Tarney, Program Coordinator for Online Studies. CSB offers one diploma and five certificate programs all online and the Legal Assistant Diploma is the only online diploma program of its kind in the province. Within a few years, CSB anticipates that all their business programs will be available online. "With an average of 95% completion rate within our courses, we are achieving excellence in online learning," affirms Tarney.

Synchronous, Real-Time Learning

The synchronous delivery model uses technology that currently reaches students on regional campuses (Airdrie, Cochrane, Banff, Canmore, High River, Okotoks, and Strathmore). "We are now at capacity in various regions, with a waitlist for some of our programs," states Natascha Doiron, Coordinator of Professional and Continuing Studies. The benefit to the learner is that it allows for real-time interactions and feedback, recorded sessions for later review, and brings a higher learning value to the regional areas. Having seen success with this type of learning, CSB has expanded their program offerings for Fall 2016 to include the Business Administration Diploma. CSB anticipates extending our programs to other regional areas in the near future as well.

Business Administration Diploma - Nine Majors Including:

**Accounting | Events Management | Financial Services | General Business | Global Tourism |
Human Resources | Marketing | Public Relations | Insurance and Risk Management**

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Chiu School of Business

Engaged and Engaging in Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Social entrepreneurship is a hot topic on many campuses and Bow Valley College (BVC) is generating social entrepreneurs who are making the world a better place while making money doing it. By supporting entrepreneurship and social innovation for the past three years, thousands of students have been exposed to Social Entrepreneurship initiatives. Learners at BVC have the opportunity to experience all the steps involved in creating a social enterprise - from forming the idea, to developing a business plan, and then launching their business, all the while being guided by BVC's full-time, on-campus Entrepreneur-in-Residence.

In 2015, BVC won the CIGan award for Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Initiatives in Entrepreneurship include the VentureQuest Business Idea Competition, WannaB Wednesdays, Student Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation Club (ESi), and Student Connections. Having just wrapped up the 3rd annual VentureQuest Gala in February, BVC has had 38 learners to date participate in the VentureQuest Competitions, receiving more than \$90,000 (cash and in-kind services) since its inception in 2014.

Message from the Dean

Chiu School of Business (CSB) was very pleased to have once again fielded a strong team for the Alberta Deans of Business Case Competition in March. This prestigious event brings together top business students from all over Alberta to test their skills, knowledge, and ability to think on their feet.

The BMO Centre for Experiential Learning provided our learners with numerous opportunities to engage with businesses and industry leaders as well as contribute back to our community and help their fellow learners with peer tutoring. The RBC Business Accelerator Centre in collaboration with the Repsol Hub for Social Enterprise supported the third annual VentureQuest Business Idea Competition. Nearly 150 VIPs attended the Final Pitch gala in February.

In September, enrolment in the CSB grew by an astonishing 23.5% over the previous year. This makes the CSB the fastest growing business school in Alberta. We are now home to over 1700 credit program students. The growth in our enrolment has allowed us to expand our service offerings to learners, with more specializations, more program delivery flexibility, and more work experience options.



On April 5, 2016, BVC welcomed well-known, successful Canadian entrepreneur, W. Brett Wilson. Over 150 learners and guests were entertained and inspired by Brett's story on work life balance, Dragon's Den episodes, and his three elements of empowerment: marketing, entrepreneurship and philanthropy. When asked what is the number one characteristic to being a successful entrepreneur? "Believe in yourself," said Brett. "As well, look at other real life stories of successful entrepreneurs to better understand their accomplishments and struggles."

Brett captivated the BVC audience and left a lasting impression on the students. "It helped me better understand the importance of social responsibility on businesses and that being successful means taking care of others and yourself," expressed Rick Alvarez, CSB learner. Brett Wilson suggests that, "post-secondary institutions should be teaching marketing, entrepreneurship and philanthropy in their business curriculum."

There is a trajectory of change occurring and we recognize that learners don't just want a job - they want to make a difference while making a living. The Chiu School of Business has been working hard to demonstrate to students that Entrepreneurship is a viable career path and have, with the resources and infrastructure in place, helped students take an entrepreneurial path. Students are the new generators of social innovation and BVC along with our funder, the Repsol Hub for Social Enterprise, will continue to bring initiatives and services to support our learners in transforming their innovations and ideas into viable businesses.



Chiu School of Business

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