

BC CEC Newsletter

British Columbia Council
for Exceptional Children

Winter 2007

President's Message

On behalf of the BC CEC executive, I want to extend best wishes for 2007 to all BC CEC members. As well, I would like to offer a very special welcome to our new members.

The past year was a very busy and successful year for BC CEC. In February 2006, Dr. Lynn Miller presented an outstanding workshop on Dealing with Anxiety Disorders in School Settings to a large audience of classroom teachers, special educators, parents, counselors, paraeducators and other interested parties. In April, Kelsey Thompson, a Special Olympian from Richmond, BC, was recognized at the international Yes I Can! Award celebration, which was the highlight of the Annual CEC Convention and Expo in Salt Lake City. This past October, BC CEC hosted a Sensory Integration Workshop by Diana Henry, OT, followed by a resoundingly successful BC Yes I Can! Award celebration. In addition to these special events, BC CEC is pleased to announce that a group of enthusiastic UBC students reinstated the BC CEC Student Chapter. All in all, it has been a very productive year for BC CEC.

It is the goal of BC CEC to continue these activities in the New Year. We plan to offer opportunities throughout the year to gain knowledge and expand the repertoire of strategies and interventions through conferences and workshops. In addition to providing professional development opportunities, BC CEC will also continue to support and recognize students with exceptionalities. Be sure to watch for announcements about upcoming conferences as well as the 2007 Yes I Can! nomination package.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at upcoming BC CEC events.

Junie Brayley, BC CEC President

Junie Brayley:
BC CEC President



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BC CEC Executive Board

President: Junie Brayley

Treasurer: Jennifer Tong

Past President: Dean Irvine

Membership: Bev McRae

Student President Elect: Brenda Fossett

Newsletter Editors:

Student Past President: Erika Forster

Sharon Wyatt & Suretha Swart

Lady on a Mission: Pat Lainsbury

by Marilyn Hoggs

Pat Lainsbury is a recently retired school district psychologist from Kamloops. She is a twenty five year member of CEC and has led the Kamloops, B.C. chapter for eighteen of those years. She has been a school counselor, a P.E. teacher, an English teacher, a college lecturer and a district counselor. She has always been a lady on a mission to deliver the best possible educational opportunities for students with special needs. When Pat retired she was doing what she loved best, assessing K-12 students and working with the school team to determine the best educational program for each child.

"She always tried to capture the essence of the child..."



Lady on a mission:
Pat Lainsbury

In her thirty-five year career, Pat has seen many changes in the field of special education. When integration of special needs students began in the 1980's, she was responsible for all of the students with special needs in her zone. When there were cut backs in the late 1980's in her school district, she found herself responsible for one half of the district (total student population of 17,000). At one point that year she became responsible for the entire district for four months! Pat did not miss a beat in those times of unrest and remained focused on the needs of the students. The greatest reward of her career was being able to work with students K-12. This allowed Pat to see the same students three or four times over their school career for assessment. She always tried to capture the "essence of the child" in her assessment reports and in her programming suggestions. She took great delight in being able to see the results of the home and school working together so that the student could overcome difficulties and be successful.

Pat feels that societal and family pressures have taken their toll on children in the year 2006. "Before I retired I was seeing children from very poor, dysfunctional families as well as children from affluent, dysfunctional families. In the latter group, the children were living a 'fast lifestyle' – not sleeping enough, over programmed with a lack of play time to stimulate the imagination. Computer use was hindering visualization abilities and reducing social interactions." In addition to the changes that Pat has seen in the structure of the family, she has also seen a change in the teacher training programs. Pat's current interest is in evidenced based instruction and as such she sees now, more than ever, the need for aspiring teachers to have explicit instruction in the teaching of reading and math. As she says, "they need to know what programs are really effective and how to teach the students so that they learn."

Pat's mission to deliver the best possible educational opportunities for students with special needs has resulted in the Kamloops Chapter of CEC taking a leading role in professional development. Under Pat's leadership the chapter has sponsored two conferences with Anita Archer, two sessions with Ron Morrish, bi-monthly professional development dinner meetings and a technology project that sees students with written output problems being able to access a word processor for free. Pat Lainsbury may have retired from her employment with school district #73 and she may have more time to golf and travel, but her heart is still with CEC and the students with special needs. Pat will never retire from that!

CEC's 2007 Annual Convention & Expo

April 18-21, 2007
 Kentucky International Convention Center
 Louisville, Kentucky



Jack Canfield

Chicken Soup for the Soul inspirational writer and former teacher, Jack Canfield , will be the guest speaker at this exciting event. For more information, visit the website: www.cec.sped.org

UBC CEC Student Chapter

By: Erika Forster, BC CEC Student President

Why get involved as a student member? Check out the following websites:

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/Communities/Students/StudentCommittee/default.htm> for information re: the Student Standing Committee of the CEC

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Membership/JoinCEC/> for member benefits

http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/Communities/Students/STUDENT_AWARDS_AND_SCHOLARSHIPS.htm for scholarships and awards information



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Yes I Can! Awards Celebration

The BC CEC is proud to sponsor the Yes I Can! Awards Program to acknowledge the achievements of children and youth with disabilities, to encourage children and youth with disabilities to seek their highest potential, and to increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of disabled people. We honored these students at a Yes I Can! celebration dinner on October 14th, 2006 at the Sheraton Plaza 500. Our guest speaker, Dr. Bill McKee, from the University of British Columbia, spoke to the achievements of these individuals and the barriers they have had to overcome to reach their potential. Mari Klassen, an Arts Award winner, provided a special performance for all to enjoy. A great time was had by all the winners and their friends and families. Congratulations to all the winners! (see photos on pages 4 & 5)

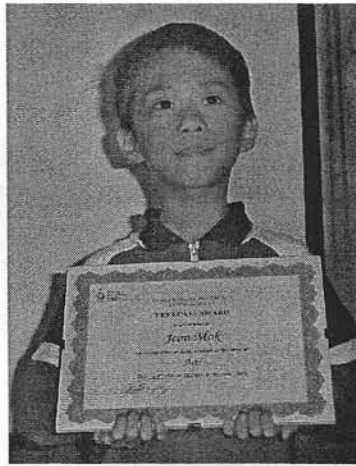


*Guest Speaker:
 Dr. Bill McKee*

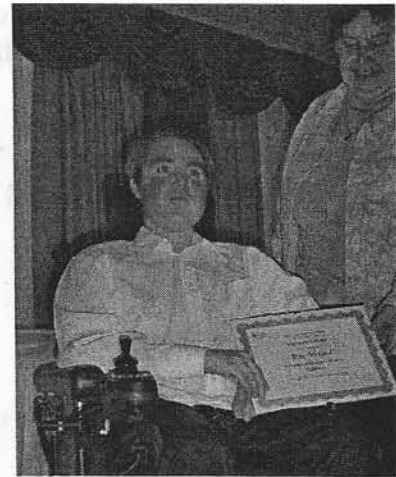
YES I CAN! AWARD WINNERS 2006



Academics Award:
Emily Isberg



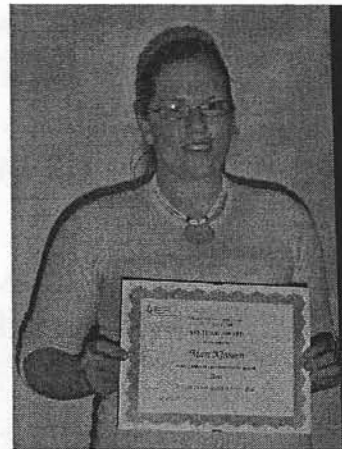
Arts Award:
Jeon Mok



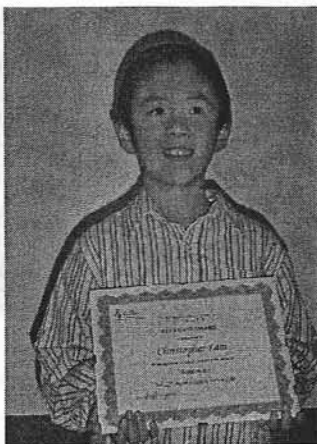
Athletics Award:
Dale McLeod



Self-Advocacy Award:
Ashley Haagensen



Arts Award:
Mari Klassen



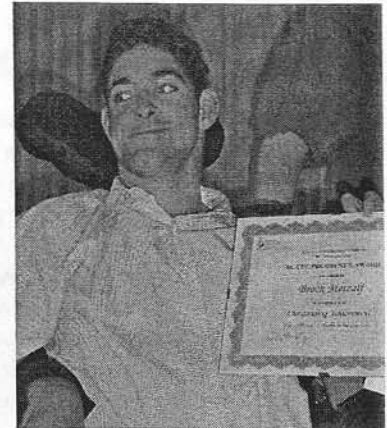
Academics Award:
Christopher Lam



International CEC Winner 2006:
Kelsey Thomson



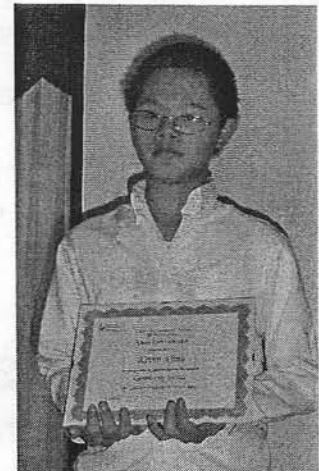
Employment Award:
Caroline Zimich



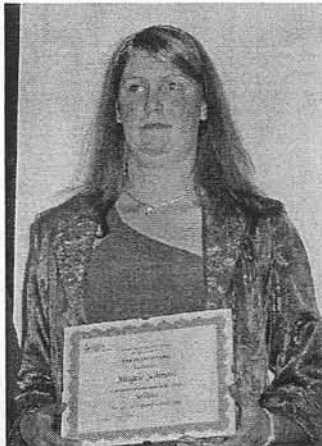
President's Award: Brock Metcalf



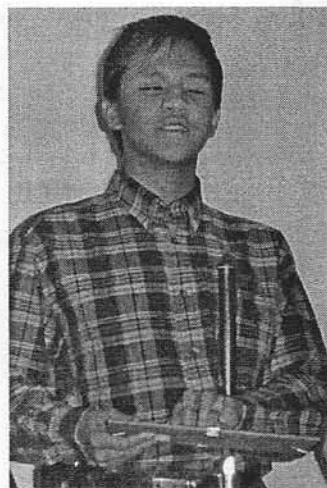
Extracurricular Activities
Award:
Joshy Kier



Community Service Award:
Kevin Khuu



Athletics Award:
Jacquie Schindel



Extracurricular Activities
Award:
Clement Chou



Community Service Award:
Mike Asling



Independent Living Skills
Award:
Coulson Hoogveld

BC Student Wins National Award!**By: Jennifer Tong**

Congratulations to Ann Ness, winner of the 2006 Canadian CEC Transition Award!

Ann Ness from Kamloops, BC was selected as the recipient of the 2006 Canadian CEC Transition Award. Her yearbook advisor writes, "Ann is inspirational. Ann's story of overcoming cancer is awe-inspiring but, in many ways, pales in comparison to her determination to make a difference in the lives of others while demanding excellence from herself."

Ann is a remarkable young lady who is not afraid to take on new challenges or extra work and was actively involved both at school and in her community. At school, Ann regularly competed in math contests and participated in the district Science Fair. She was involved in peer counseling, a healthy snacks program, and continued to explore new activities by learning to play badminton and dedicating hours to help publish an award winning yearbook. In her second year working on the yearbook, Ann moved into the role of yearbook editor, teaching other students the ropes of her newfound skills. In addition, she was involved with the Destination Imagination and Model U.N. teams, participated in a French immersion program in Quebec and the Encounters Canada program in Ottawa. Outside of school, Ann has volunteered at an extended health facility where she found intrinsic reward in bringing hope and happiness to the lives of the residents.

Ann's pursuit of high academic goals was unflinching. Despite the interruption in her academic career to receive treatment for cancer, Ann graduated from Brocklehurst Secondary in June with her peers. She is now attending Thompson Rivers University and is working towards her Bachelors of Science. Her future plans involve medical school or medical research. She truly is an inspiration and an encouraging testimonial for others facing similar challenges!

Information about the 2007 Student Awards can be found at <http://canadian.cec.sped.org/awards.htm>

DID YOU KNOW...?

There are approximately 8,000 students involved in the CEC! We have more than 200 student chapters in the United States and Canada! And our numbers keep growing! See website @ www.cec.sped.org

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