

Seneca College

Providing Career-related iSeries Education

By André Berns & Tom Bartsiakos

Whenever **Russell Pangborn** attends an industry function an ex-student always walks up to him and says, “You’re the iSeries guy.” It’s a nickname, to this day, the 51-year-old never grows tired of hearing. “I guess I have a bit of a name now, but I don’t mind the connection,” says the Seneca Computer Studies Professor, who has been teaching the IBM technology for nearly 20 years.

Russell first fell in love with the midrange IBM platforms when he began instructing a computer class on a System/36, which evolved into the iSeries. In 1987, he joined Seneca’s School of Computer Studies and made it his mission to make iSeries part of the college’s curriculum. He has succeeded to the point that Seneca now employs six faculty who either directly or indirectly teach iSeries technology at any given time. Combined, these individuals give Seneca the benefit of vast practical and academic experience to draw from.

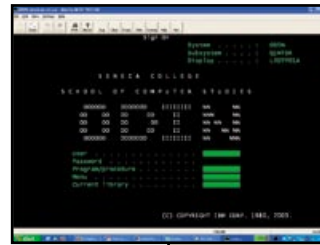
As the technology evolved over the years, so to have Seneca’s iSeries course offerings. “When we started out, we went from half-a-course to a full course. Now, I don’t think any college has the breadth of subjects that we have on the iSeries.”

At Seneca, students can follow two distinct streams of study. These streams are Computer Systems Technology (CTY), which focuses on systems and networking

operations and administration, and Computer Programming and Analysis (CPA) where the emphasis is directed towards software application development. Students are offered the option of attending two or three-year programs in either stream. Both streams also offer a highly successful co-op program as an option for students. This provides students with practical “real world” experience before graduation, and a foot in the door at their co-op employment. Presently this program has a 100 per cent placement rate, and is very well received within the community.

Students studying in Seneca’s CPA program have seven iSeries professional options to choose from. They include: Business Applications using COBOL, Business Applications using Java, DB2 (Universal Database for the AS/400), DOMINO Designer and LOTUS Notes, Introduction to Java for C++ Programmers, Business Applications using RPG IV and Web Services Architecture. All of the courses are designed to train students to analyze, design, code and support applications in a distributed processing environment using the IBM iSeries series of computers.

Students in the CTY stream have the option to choose from OPS/400 System Operations using CLP and iSeries Connectivity.



Russell Pangborn with André Berns

These courses are designed to train students in System Operations and Interfacing between the iSeries and other platforms such as Unix, Linux and Windows at the System Operations and the Integrated File Systems level.

“The concepts that I have learned at Seneca about the iSeries have helped me, and I’m sure that I will be using



Léo Lefebvre



Léo Lefebvre

André Berns in the classroom

them in the future,” says **Terrence Dixon**, a Seneca student in the final year of the CPA program. Terrence found out how prominent iSeries was during his co-op placement with Kraft Canada. The aspiring programmer used his iSeries training everyday, while working with IBM’s Websphere Development Studio to create a web interface for data stored on an AS/400.

Over the next few years, Seneca’s School of Computer Studies plans to continue to improve and expand its iSeries curriculum. Russell is currently finalizing an iSeries practicum course, which will give sixth semester students the opportunity to work on a practical project for an iSeries company.

“The most rewarding thing is to see the student successes,” says Russell. “Our goal is to continue to improve the iSeries curriculum, which will allow our students to develop the expertise to work on this platform, and to make careers for themselves.” Seneca graduates trained in the technology have gone on to have successful careers, throughout the industry, as programmers, consultants, system operators and network administrators. Seneca’s School of Computer Studies is

a recognized leader in developing and delivering programs that are relevant to the computer industry’s constantly evolving requirements.

An advisory committee of IT business professionals reviews the subject offerings each year and the curriculum is updated to reflect current computer technology needs. The School of Computer Studies is located at Seneca@York and courses are offered year-round. For more information visit: <http://cs.senecac.on.ca/>

*If your iSeries company is interested in participating in Seneca’s iSeries Practicum course, please e-mail Russell Pangborn at Russell.Pangborn@senecac.on.ca. Please include the course code (iSP606) in your e-mail subject header.

Seneca College History

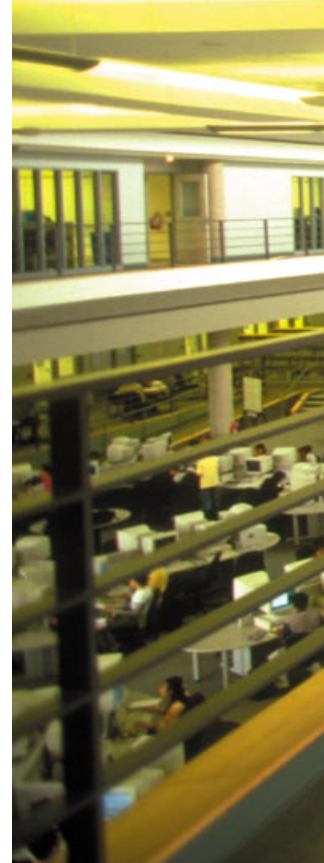
In May 1965, then provincial Minister of Education **William Davis** introduced Bill 153 which created the province’s community college system to provide a post-secondary education alternative for those not wanting or able to attend university. Colleges were to be independent of existing systems, community-based and fulfil the needs of business and industry.

In August 1966, Seneca College was officially established at its first Board of Governors meeting, chaired by **Fred Minkler**.

On September 6, 1967, Seneca opened its doors with founding President **William Newnham**. That first year had 852 full-time and 1,067 part-time students enrolled in 20 diploma and certificate programs. Classes were offered at a number of sites including the North York Board of Education, the Woolworth Store at Sheppard and Yonge, the Lewis Beattie Secondary School and a renovated factory at 43 Sheppard Avenue East.

Today, Seneca College is the largest college in Canada with more than 100,000 full and part-time students on campuses across the Greater Toronto Area. Seneca provides internationally and nationally recognized career education and training key to graduate success in the global economy.

Seneca offers diploma, certificate and degree programs developed to a high academic standard, in consultation with industry, integrated with information technology, combined with technical and transferable skills, and reinforced by opportunities for ongoing education and re-training.



Fact Box

- To obtain their iSeries Business Application Developer certification at Seneca, students must successfully complete all seven iSeries courses: Business Applications Using COBOL, Business Applications Using Java, DB2 (Universal Database for the AS/400), DOMINO Designer and LOTUS Notes, Introduction to Java for C++ Programmers, Business Applications Using RPG IV and Web Services Architecture.
- Seneca is one of only a select few colleges in Canada to offer iSeries curriculum.
- Students can enroll in the Fall, Winter or Spring. All subjects are offered in each of the three terms.
- Seneca is the only Canadian college to be accredited by CIPS (Canadian Information Processing Society)



Seneca students striding towards the future

The School of Computer Studies

The School of Computer Studies is located at Seneca@York in Toronto. A proven leader in computer technology education, the School offers two or three year diploma programs, Ontario College Graduate Certificate programs and an applied degree.

Programs

- Computer Networking and Technical Support
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Programming and Analysis (Co-op)
- Computer Systems Technology (Optional Co-op)

Post-diploma

- Computer-Database Application Developer (Ontario College Graduate Certificate) (Optional Co-op)
- Internet Systems Administration (Ontario College Graduate Certificate)(Optional Co-op)

Bachelor's Degree

- Software Development (Applied Degree) (Co-op)

Seneca College Mission

To contribute to Canadian Society by being a transformational leader in providing students with career-related education and training



André Berns is a Professor with Seneca's School of Computer Studies. He has been with the College since 2000 and teaches several of its iSeries courses. André can be reached at — Andre.Berns@senecac.on.ca or 416-491-5050 ext. 3217.

Tom Bartsiakos is a Writer with Seneca's Marketing Department. For more information about Seneca College, please contact Tom at — Tom.Bartsiakos@senecac.on.ca or 416-491-5050 ext. 6458.

Léo Lefebvre



The library at Seneca College (Seneca@York campus)