

TEC 2006, A Big Part of TUG History

I will start this column the same way I started my last column: with TEC 2006. The 13th edition of our annual education conference has come and gone — and what an event it was! I was talking about record breaking and we did break records. In the last issue of this magazine, I mentioned that we had 35 speakers enrolled for TEC 2006. Well, the final count was 41 speakers — presenting 77 sessions!

Another remarkable point is the increase in the attendance by more than 50% over last year's enrollment. Quite impressive, isn't it?

The System i is alive again and gaining more ground!

This year, we had our lab sessions on the third day of TEC 2006. Again, what a coup! All available seats at the IBM lab were taken, they (IBM) even had to add a few more PC's to fit all the attendees. You should have seen the big grins on the faces of the IBM Lab monitors — they were ecstatic! It was such a success that we have already booked for next year.

And how about having **Dr. Frank Soltis** and **Malcolm Haines** together on the same list of speakers? Soltis did the Tuesday morning Executive Breakfast and Haines was the keynote speaker at the Wednesday lunch. Two fantastic speakers, two remarkable presentations!

Glenn Gundermann, our TEC 2006 Project Leader, has prepared an article reviewing those three days, so I'll let him tell you more about TEC 2006 later in this issue. [Page 10.]



Photo by Vaughn Dragland

Léo Lefebvre at the TEC 2006 keynote luncheon

TUG's new name (again?)

It looks like we changed TUG's name a bit too early. A few weeks after we had decided on the new name, IBM changed the name of our beloved system ... again. After AS/400, iSeries, i5, etc., it is now called "System i". (Could it be that the Power 6 chip is just around the corner?) So TUG will be called "Toronto Users Group for System i". At the Spring 2006 COMMON conference in Minneapolis, we were promised that IBM will not change the name again, at least for another 5 years. Good thinking!

May 24 MoM.

As we have done throughout the 2005-06 season, we will hold our next Meeting of Members (aka MoM) at a different venue. On May 24th, we will be in the auditorium of the IBM Canada building located at 3600 Steeles Ave East. For this meeting, we will have an "afternoon schedule". IBM's **Bob Cancilla**, co-founder of the Web-based user group www.ignite400.org, which is dedicated to AS/400 Internet technology and education, will start the afternoon (at 2:30 pm) talking about EGL, the suite

of tools you already own that can address application modernization, integration, and web services. It can easily be learned by existing RPG, COBOL or Visual Basic Programmers.

After a short break, another IBM speaker, **Bob Schuster** will talk about System i integration with IBM eServer xSeries systems and BladeCenter® via iSCSI. As you may know, IBM will extend its integrated xSeries solutions in 2006 by leveraging industry-standard iSCSI technology to attach selected xSeries systems and BladeCenter to the System i platform. Two extremely interesting topics to close the 2005-06 season! Check the meeting agenda at www.tug.ca/t_agenda.html and register early — seats will be taken quickly.

TUG Golf 2006.

To finish this column, I just wanted to let you know that TUG's 18th Annual Golf Classic will take place during the second week of September 2006. Final arrangements are being worked out with the golf course and we will post specific information as soon as we can, on our Web site. 