

First TUG/Seneca College Student Achievement Award

By Tom Bartsiakos

Membership has its privileges, just ask Stephen Wood...

The 21-year-old Seneca student is the newest card carrying member of the Toronto Users Group (TUG) after winning the TUG award as the top iSeries business application developer at Seneca's School of Computer Studies.

"Winning this award was great news," says Stephen. "Having the opportunity to meet and network with all the corporations and individuals involved with TUG is absolutely fantastic."

Stephen, a recent graduate of Seneca's Computer Programming and Analysis program, earned the award for his work in the College's new iSeries Course, iSP606—a professional development course that allows students to work on independent projects with external companies.

Stephen and his team spent three months creating a fully interactive point-of-sale system for businesses called iShoe Emporium, which was overseen by IBM.

"It's funny, coming into the College I really had no idea about iSeries business applications. Through my studies at Seneca I just grew an interest and seemed to excel."

Students studying in Seneca's Computer Programming and Analysis program have seven iSeries professional options to choose from.

They include: Business Applications using COBOL, Business Programming using Java, DB2 (Universal Database for the AS/400), DOMINO Designer and LOTUS Notes, Business Applications Using Java, 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 line of computers.



Vaughn Dragland

L-R: Russell Pangborn, Seneca College Professor; Stephen Wood, recipient of the first TUG/Seneca College Student Achievement Award; and Léo Lefebvre, TUG President; at the TUG Meeting of Members March 21, 2007 Living Arts Centre Mississauga

“From the beginning, our goal has been to continue to improve and expand the iSeries curriculum at Seneca,” says **Professor Russell Pangborn**, who is responsible for designing the iSeries curriculum at the College and the idea of presenting an iSeries award for the top graduating student. “This training has allowed our students to develop the expertise to work on this platform, and to make successful careers for themselves.”

Last semester Russell had some of his students compete in IBM’s System i Innovation challenge competition.

The two-month contest tested students’ web research, web application development and technical writing skills.

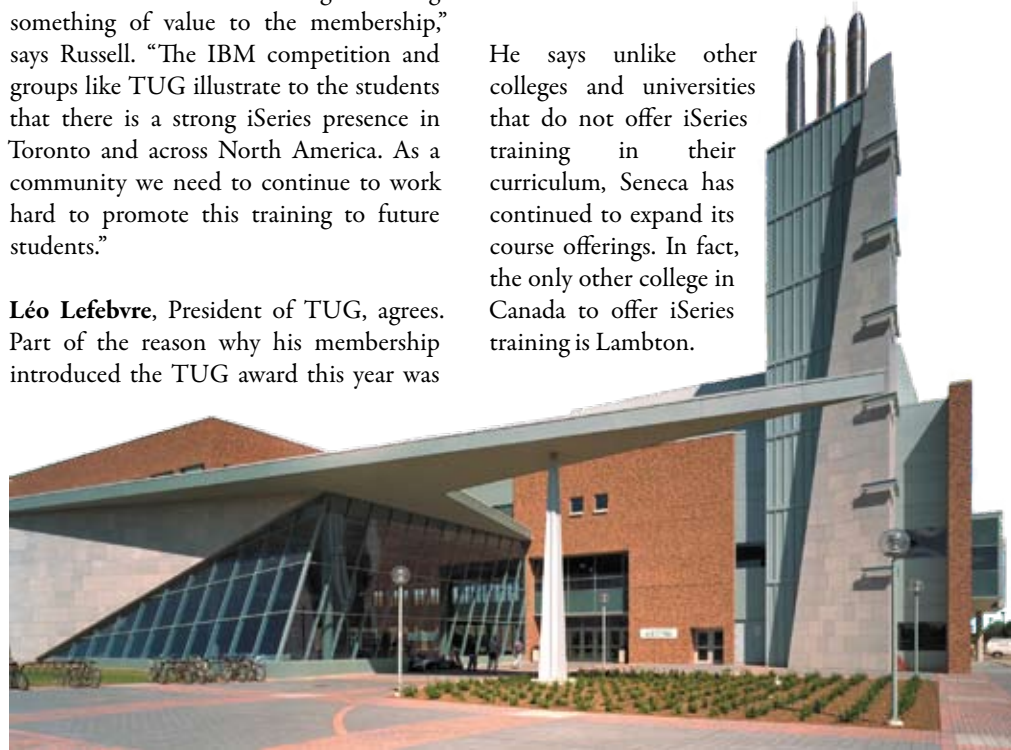
When it was all said and done, the Seneca media team, which included students **Kinturajsinh Vaghela**, **Saeid Soltani** and **Ali Pourmoghaddam**, finished in third place, earning each student an Apple iPod and the opportunity for two of them to present their applications at a recent TUG meeting of members.

“It was a great honour for our students to be able to attend a TUG meeting and bring something of value to the membership,” says Russell. “The IBM competition and groups like TUG illustrate to the students that there is a strong iSeries presence in Toronto and across North America. As a community we need to continue to work hard to promote this training to future students.”

Léo Lefebvre, President of TUG, agrees. Part of the reason why his membership introduced the TUG award this year was

to help promote the iSeries community to students.

He says unlike other colleges and universities that do not offer iSeries training in their curriculum, Seneca has continued to expand its course offerings. In fact, the only other college in Canada to offer iSeries training is Lambton.



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Russell says the two colleges are currently discussing the possibility of developing a bridging program that will allow Lambton students to optionally earn their iSeries Business Application Developer certification at Seneca in their final year of study.

“Seneca has a great iSeries program,” declares Léo. “As a membership, we want to help promote the College and show its students that there is an iSeries community they can work in and belong to after they graduate.”

The TUG/Seneca award is presented each semester to students in the iSeries Business Application Developer specialist designation.

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 industry needs.

The School of Computer Studies is located at Seneca@York and courses are offered year-round.

For more information or to obtain a CD-ROM on Seneca’s iSeries training, contact Russell Pangborn at 416-491-5050 ext. 3295 or e-mail Russell.Pangborn@senecac.on.ca



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Seneca Quick Facts

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

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 Bachelor’s Degrees.

Diploma Programs

- Computer Networking and Technical Support
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Programming and Analysis (Optional Co-op)
- Computer Systems Technology (Optional Co-op)
- Graduate Certificate Programs
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- Bachelor’s Degree Programs
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Visit the School of Computer Studies website for more information: <http://cs.senecac.on.ca/>

The 5th Wave

By Rich Tennant



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