



PHOTO BY TOM BARTSIOKAS

## King care for Scooter

Jessica Scott, a second-year student in the Veterinary Technician program (VTE), listens to Scooter's heart during his daily check up at the King Campus Animal Health Centre. The seven-month-old cotton de tular is being examined for any signs of heart or lung problems. Students studying in the VTE program are trained for animal care careers in veterinary practices, emergency clinics, humane societies and research institutes. For more information visit: <http://www.senecac.on.ca/fulltime/VTE.html>

## ON CAMPUS

# Fast, easy and secure Seneca e-voting arrives

Online voting has arrived at Seneca.

Beginning this spring all College elections will use My.Seneca; all the information needed to vote — including dates, times, candidate platforms and ballots — will be available online.

Seneca students will be the first to try out the new voting system when they cast their ballots for the Board of Governors student representative and student government representatives.

The College is hoping this new feature will encourage an increase in voter turnout for all future elections.

“Online voting empowers students by bringing the information to them,” says Dan O’Sullivan, Manager, Enterprise Applications and Programming at Seneca, whose team developed the online voting system.

“Before students had to go out and look for the information; now it will be right at their finger tips.”

The idea for online voting was proposed a couple of years ago by Dan’s department, but there were some minor security concerns at the time. With the creation of new security features on My.Seneca those concerns were eliminated.

To ensure the integrity of the online voting system, students will be asked to log in with their My.Seneca password twice, in addition, they will be validated against the College’s records to ensure that they are an

active student eligible to vote.

Once the polls open, students will be able to cast their ballot by simply clicking the “vote now” button.

“Students will see a ballot on screen. It will have the name of the candidate, a picture and the position they are running for,” says Dan.

“When students go to cast their ballot, they’ll be asked for their password. If they try to log in again after voting, a message will appear saying their ballot has already been cast.”

In previous years there has been some confusion among students, regarding the two elections taking place.

To address this, a reminder notice will be issued to those who have only cast a ballot in one race.

“Many students are unaware of the important role that their elected student representatives fulfil on their behalf at Seneca,” says Vicki Milligan Carter, Director of Student Services.

“This new online system will help to create greater awareness of the student leadership opportunities that exist and will encourage students to get more involved, as candidates in the election and as the voting members who elect their representatives.”

The online voting system may be used by all Seneca students, including Continuing Education students who are eligible to vote for the student

>>PLEASE SEE **ELECTIONS** ON PAGE 4

## PROGRAMMING

# Seneca program to improve autism care

BY TOM BARTSIOKAS

When Seneca launched a new program about caring for children with autism, no one was happier than Sharon Gabison.

The Seneca professor, who is raising a child with autism, was all too familiar with the lack of trained autism professionals currently in the field.

“In the past, you’d have somebody teach somebody who taught somebody else. That’s how it was and parents of children with autism had to accept it because there was nothing out there,” says Sharon.

In September, Seneca became one of the first colleges in Ontario to offer an accredited program in Applied Behaviour Analysis, seen as one of the most effective treatments for children with autism. Funding for the program comes from a provincial government initiative to provide additional support for families with autistic children.

Since the program’s launch more than 200 students have enrolled, including parents of autistic children.

“When the program began we had no idea what our enrolment levels would be,” says Susan Bond, Co-ordinator of Seneca’s Autism and

Behavioural Science program. “I think our enrolment is truly indicative of a need across Ontario for instructional therapists in the autism field.”

The graduate certificate program, consisting of nine courses and two field placements, is designed for students who have completed a recognized diploma or degree program in the areas of child studies, psychology, early childhood education and social service work, and wish to acquire a specialization in the field of autism and behavioural science.

“As a parent of a child with autism

>>PLEASE SEE **AUTISM** ON PAGE 2

## IN THE NEWS



Dave Geddes, the Program Co-ordinator for Underwater Skills was recently on *Global News*. See why on Page 4 in the “Chamber” article.



I've recently written to several newspapers about an item of concern. The following is a brief overview of the editorial comment I have sent:

When it comes to employment guidelines in Canada, the federal government seems to be exempt from its own test of fairness, access and transparency.

As the new Conservative government takes power in Ottawa, this is a prime opportunity to reform and improve federal government hiring practices to reestablish equity for all Canadians and yield significant government

savings and employee performance enhancements.

Over the last decade or more, two parallel events have occurred resulting in federal employment policies that neither reflect reality nor enhance the effectiveness of the public service. In fact, I believe some of the current recruitment practices being used may well discriminate against many of our educated youth.

The first of these trends has been "credential creep". The majority of entry-level officer positions posted on the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Canada's website ([www.job-emploi.gc.ca](http://www.job-emploi.gc.ca)) require a university degree as the minimum academic credential to apply (in spite of the federal government's established selection standards for each administrative and foreign service category — [www.psc.cfp/staf\\_dot/stan\\_select](http://www.psc.cfp/staf_dot/stan_select) — where the minimum standard is a high school diploma or two years of post-secondary education for the majority of categories). By going beyond established standards, the federal government is screening out qualified individuals — namely college graduates — who have significant post-secondary qualifications.

The second trend is the lack of recognition for the ever-evolving role colleges play in providing post-secondary education. The breadth and sophistication of a college education has changed dramatically, and most people are not recognizing this change in their recruitment activities.

Colleges throughout Canada can now grant baccalaureate degrees. In Ontario, 19 colleges have this authority and they are offering more than 50 four-year baccalaureate degree programs. These programs came from business and industry, identifying skill sets that are needed but not available through existing university programs.

As well, the duration of longer diploma programs (three years) is equal to the duration of a general Bachelor of Arts degree offered at many universities and meets federal employment standards for more specialized programs.

Colleges have changed and so too should our federal government's recruitment policies regarding Canada's college graduates — along with the need to respect their own staffing values of fairness, access and transparency. Now is the time to rethink the inappropriate restrictions being placed on college graduates.

At the time of this writing, I have not received word if any newspaper will be running my comment. I hope they do, because this is a subject that needs to be addressed. ■

*Dr. Rick Miner is President of Seneca College. He can be reached by e-mail at [president@senecac.on.ca](mailto:president@senecac.on.ca)*

## Seneca selects new V.P.

Mohammed Ali Khan has been selected as the next Vice-President — International and Business Development.

Before coming to Seneca, Mohammed worked with Lahore University of Management Sciences in a variety of administrative positions.

Aside from his academic experience, he worked for a number of international private sector firms in marketing and accounting.

Mohammed has a M.S. in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has participated in several professional development programs at Harvard,

Dartmouth, IMD, McGill and other institutions.

Mohammed joined Seneca in January, and will assume the Vice-President — International & Business Development position upon Wayne Norrison's retirement later in the year.

In the interim, he will act as Senior International Advisor to President. ■



Mohammed Ali Khan

>> **AUTISM**, FROM PAGE 1

I am really impressed with the program's breadth," says Sharon, one of six professors teaching the program. "Seneca is developing the supply for the demand that is out there. And there is quite a high demand."

Seneca's Autism and Behavioural Science program is funded through the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities and is offered in collaboration with Algonquin College, in class or online.

One in 250 Canadian children are affected by autism, which typically appears before a child is three. Children with autism, depending on its severity, can exhibit communication impairments, social difficulties and repetitive behaviours.

For more information on the program visit: [http://www.senecac.on.ca/part-time/pip-autism\\_behavioural\\_science.html](http://www.senecac.on.ca/part-time/pip-autism_behavioural_science.html) ■

# Seneca Board passes Whistle Blower policy

Seneca's Board of Governors has passed a Whistle Blower Policy for the College to ensure students and employees feel safe should they need to report violations of the law or College policy.

Any student or employee will have the right to invoke this Policy where there is an honest belief that the College or its members are engaged in serious misconduct, wrongdoing or illegal activity and there is no internal policy or procedure available to raise his or her concerns.

Whistle Blowing as defined in this policy is the release or disclosure of information by an employee or student that is evidence of improper activity or a violation of law.

It is not an avenue for student or employee grievances.

### How it Works

The following areas are covered under the Policy:

- a criminal offence
- negligent, improper or gross mismanagement of any College or public funds
- a willful and flagrant breach of federal, provincial, or municipal statute or college policy, procedure or regulation
- a substantial and specific danger to the environment or public health and safety

Any student or employee who reasonably knows or has reason to believe the College or a member of the College community is conducting any of these offences can provide information to the Office of the President or, in the event of a conflict of interest, the Chair of Board of Governors. ■

## Academic upgrading leads to YWCA Award

BY TOM BARTSIOKAS

Bridget Perrier enrolled in Seneca's college upgrading program two years ago to turn her life around.

Now she is being recognized as a woman of distinction.

On May 30, the 29-year-old will receive the 2006 YWCA Women of Distinction Award, which is presented annually to celebrate the public service achievements of Toronto area women.

Professor Elizabeth Charters from the Adult Upgrading/College Preparatory program nominated Bridget for the YWCA award after witnessing her remarkable transformation from a troubled youth to a hard working student and community activist.

"Bridget is a great role model for a lot of people," says Elizabeth.

"She had a more difficult background than many, and yet she was successful. A lot of people who fear they'll never succeed, can look at Bridget as an example and feel returning to school is worth a try."

In 2003, Bridget enrolled in Seneca's Academic Upgrading/College Preparatory Program at the Yorkgate Campus to pursue her goal of attending college.

The program, which is sponsored by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, provides intensive instruction to upgrade English and math skills to the level required for college eligibility. As well, career counselling and instruction in computer skills are also provided.

However, what makes this program truly unique is that it allows

students to learn at their own pace through customized lesson plans.

In Bridget's case, it took 18 months until she felt ready to apply to college.

"Seneca's Upgrading/College Preparatory Program gave me skills and confidence and guided me towards what I really wanted to do," says Bridget, who recently finished her first semester at college. "I wouldn't be in the program I am in now if Seneca didn't prepare me."

Seven years ago, college upgrading was the furthest thing from Bridget's mind. She was a heroin addict who worked in the sex trade, and spent time in jail.

Her self-destructive path began at 12 when she was living in Thunder Bay. As a young Aboriginal girl, adopted by a white family, Bridget grew up confused about her identity and self-worth.

It took the tragic death of her son Tanner, whom she had as a teenager, to inspire her to get her life finally on track.

"I got out of jail three days before my son died of cancer," she says. "After losing him I said, 'I have to do something better. This isn't me.'"

On that terrible day, Tanner made his mother promise to be "good, and to love herself."

It's a promise she has kept ever since.

In fact, not only did Bridget turn her own life around, but she has managed to help others do the same.

Since coming to Toronto, she has been working closely with at risk youth in the Aboriginal community,

>> PLEASE SEE **AWARD** ON PAGE 4

# Co-op gives students gateway to careers

Seneca offers a number of ways for students to gain valuable work experience in their career area before they graduate.

One of the most popular methods remains co-operative education, or co-op.

“Co-op, alone, attracts a lot of students to the College,” says Pat Harper, a Co-op Co-ordinator with the School of Computer Studies. “Companies place great value on practical experience and many students favour co-op as a means of earning that real world experience.”

Seneca co-ops are either mandatory or optional, depending on the program. In either case, it's up to the student to find his or her own placement.

That means preparing resumés, checking job postings and going for interviews.

For those students who get the opportunity to take what they've learned in class and apply it to the work environment, the experience is invaluable.

And, in some student cases, it leads to full-time careers.

“I gained so much from my co-op experience,” says Helen Tsiambas. “There is something to be said about getting hands-on experience in addition to having an educational background.”

In 2004, Helen turned a four-month co-op placement with Ontario Place's human resources department

into a full-time career as an HR Advisor.

One of the major reasons Helen was attracted to Seneca's Human Resources Management Graduate Certificate program (HRMC) was its co-op component.

Having gone to university, the 24-year-old knew how important it was to gain practical work experience.

“Unfortunately at university, you don't always get the practical training. When you graduate you come out lacking the experience you need to start your career. The great thing about Seneca's HRMC program is that you gain that practical experience before you graduate.”

Both Markus Blot and Anna Chang benefited from their co-op experiences as well.

Last year, Markus, a Computer Programming and Analysis grad, successfully turned two four-month co-op work terms at CIBC into a full-time job.

The 29-year-old is part of a team responsible for testing CIBC's online banking and investing services. His job as a Senior Test Analyst is to help ensure that the bank's online banking services work from a user perspective.

Anna, who graduated from the Tourism and Travel program, works as a supervisor at Trafalgar Tours. The 27-year-old was given a full-time job by the company right after she graduated.

>>PLEASE SEE **CO-OP** ON PAGE 4



PHOTOS BY TOM BARTSIOKAS

Seneca grads Markus Blot (top left) Helen Tsiambas (top right) and Anna Chang all received job offers within weeks of completing their co-op work placements.

# Broadcast Radio program attracts on air talent



PHOTO BY TOM BARTSIOKAS

Seneca Professor Bill Carroll teaches Talk Radio to students in the Broadcast Radio program. The *CFRB* radio host is just one of many familiar broadcasters in the program.

Jim Carr is always listening for talent.

Since taking on the role of Program Co-ordinator in the Broadcast Radio program, he has managed to recruit some of the best known names in local radio to teach at Seneca.

His current faculty line-up includes names like Russ Holden, *680 News*; Evelyn Macko, *97.3 EZ Rock*; Rick Ralph, *FAN 590*; Craig Robertson, *KX96 New Country FM* and Jessica Baker, *CFRB 1010*.

Anyone who listens to Toronto radio will be familiar with these names, having heard them either deliver the traffic, news, sports, music or weather.

Last year, Jim added Toronto's number one talk radio host, *CFRB*'s Bill Carroll, to his faculty roster.

“Having big names helps with the promotion of the program, but more importantly it really helps the students,” says Jim. “Students know these names because they listen to these people. It makes learning from them easier because they really want to work towards a career like theirs.”

It didn't take much convincing on Jim's part to get Bill Carroll to come to Seneca. After a tour of the program's broadcast facilities and a quick read through the course curriculum, Bill agreed to take the job.

Right after he gets off the air on Monday, he heads to Seneca@York to teach Talk Radio to more than 40 students.

“It's great to take someone who is young and enthusiastic and help them along,” says Bill, who has worked in broadcasting for 25 years. “I get a lot of satisfaction from working with the students.”

For Evelyn Macko, who helped launch *680 News*, the opportunity to teach at Seneca helped fulfil her childhood goal of becoming a teacher. Since 2002, the veteran broadcaster has been teaching Radio Skills Announcing to first semester students.

Having teachers from the industry has definitely been advantageous for the program's students.

Bill, who is also an assistant program director at *CFRB*, has had several of his students intern at the station. Some have even gone on to full-time jobs, including a student from his first class who is now a *CFRB* producer.

“I see a couple of my former students in the hallways now at work and it is a great feeling. That was the initial reason why I wanted to teach — to give something back.”

Even though his faculty line-up is complete, Jim is constantly keeping his ear out for teaching talent. When he hears someone he really likes, or the students like, he'll keep them in mind for any future openings.

“My goal is to continue to get top notch talent into the program to inspire the students and to teach them the skills needed to have successful careers in broadcasting.”

For more information on Seneca's Broadcast Radio program visit: <http://www.seneca.on.ca/fulltime/RTVR.html> ■

## Chamber shown on *Global News*



A hyperbaric chamber at King Campus was recently part of a *Global News* broadcast.

The chamber, used by the Underwater Skills program, was featured on the news after Toronto Transit Commission workers and City of Toronto firefighters were overcome by carbon monoxide.

All of those affected during this incident were treated in chambers similar to the three owned by Seneca, the largest of which is 18-foot wide and big enough for six people.

Dave Geddes, Underwater Skills Program Co-ordinator, was interviewed about the operation of

the chamber, which can treat a number of disorders associated with diving as well as carbon monoxide poisoning. Hyperbaric chambers subject those inside to high levels of oxygen under pressure. The oxygen is forced into the blood and body fluids, making its way to any damaged areas of the body, or, in the case of the TTC workers, blocking the toxic effects of carbon monoxide.

Graduates of the Underwater Skills Program earn a Hyperbaric Chamber Operator Certificate.

For more information on the Underwater Skills program visit: <http://www.senecac.on.ca/fulltime/UWS.html> ■



PHOTO BY TOM BARTSIOKAS

This King Campus hyperbaric chamber, which was featured in a *Global News* story, is used to treat a number of disorders associated with diving. Students in the Underwater Skills program are trained in hyperbaric chamber operations.

### NEWS DIGEST

#### Seneca signs agreement with India's largest film school

Whistling Woods International — India's largest film school — has entered into an agreement with Seneca to create a diploma specializing in the art and technique of animation filmmaking.

The two-year diploma program will begin July 2006 at the Whistling Woods International Campus at Film City, Mumbai, India.

Under the agreement, Seneca will provide its expertise and faculty to the school.

Credits attained in the program will be transferable to Seneca in Canada, giving students the option to attend a third-year of specialization in areas such as gaming and visual effects.

#### Seneca celebrates Black History Month

Seneca celebrated Black History Month with two distinguished speakers.

In February, Deputy Chief Keith Forde from Toronto Police Service and Professor Carl James from York University visited with Seneca students to talk about the importance of post-secondary education.

The presentations were organized by the College's Resolution, Equity and Diversity Centre (REDC), Seneca Student Federation Incorporation (SSF Inc.), Seneca Association of Black Educators (SABE) and Student Services.

Every year Seneca takes part in festivities that commemorate the

legacy of Black Canadians, both past and present.

#### Seneca Professor co-authors book

Terry Fegarty, a professor in the School of Business Management, has recently co-authored a book titled, *Practical Financial Management*.

The book is geared towards students in accounting and finance who want to broaden their knowledge of financial management.

#### Seneca Summer camps

Seneca's summer camps are accepting registrations. The camps, which are operated by the Sport & Recreation department, run for eight weeks and are geared towards children ages four-and-a-half to 14.

Seneca staff interested in registering their children should contact Kelly Allaire at ext. 2305 or e-mail [Kelly.Allaire@senecac.on.ca](mailto:Kelly.Allaire@senecac.on.ca).

#### Seneca student wins emergency services scholarship

Jocelyn Andria Walsh, a first-year 911 & Emergency Services Communications student, won the Tema Conter Memorial Trust Scholarship Award.

Each year, the \$2,500 scholarship is awarded to emergency services students who best discuss, in an essay or journal, the effects of Critical Incident Stress and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder on the lives of emergency services personnel.

#### >> CO-OP, FROM PAGE 3

"Co-op is very important, especially for students who do not have any previous work experience," says Markus. "It exposes you to the corporate world and prepares you before you graduate."

In Markus' case, he impressed CIBC so much that they nominated him for co-op technology student of the year — an annual award given out by the School of Computer Studies.

"Markus made the transition from co-op student to employee very smoothly," says Carolyn Swadron, CIBC Senior Manager, Internet Channel Quality Assurance, eChannels. "His knowledge of our internal practices and processes enabled him to continue to build on his previous knowledge and experience more quickly than someone with no previous CIBC experience could."

Pat says one of the many advantages of Seneca's co-op programs is the access it provides students to potential employers like CIBC. Every Seneca co-op program has its own job board filled with employer leads and contact information. Students have the option of selecting from these placement opportunities or finding their own.

If they need any help along the way, however, they can turn to Co-op Co-ordinators like Pat who will assist them with their job search or any other challenges they may be encountering.

In the end, the entire process is a journey most students are more than happy to take.

"Travel and tourism is my passion, but I wouldn't have known that without having the opportunity to apply what I learned in class," says Anna. "Co-op helped me find my niche."

For a complete list of Seneca's co-op programs visit: <http://www.senecac.on.ca/fulltime/stuserv/coop.html> ■

#### >> AWARD, FROM PAGE 2

educating them about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

A topic close to her heart is fetal alcohol syndrome, a condition that she herself still suffers from.

The YWCA Distinction Award has been given out since 1981 and past honourees have included Canadian author Margaret Atwood and former Toronto mayor

Barbara Hall.

Bridget is one of six Toronto women who will be receiving a YWCA award this year.

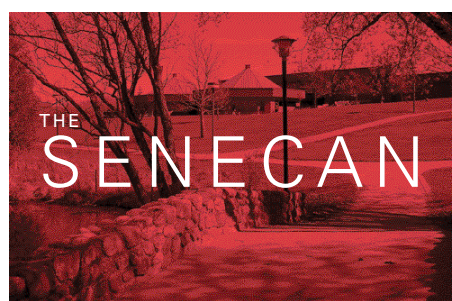
For more information on Seneca's Upgrading/College Preparatory Program visit: <http://www.senecac.on.ca/fulltime/ACADEMIC.html> ■

#### >> ELECTIONS, FROM PAGE 1

Board of Governors representative.

In future, the online voting system will be expanded to include the elections for the other internal representatives for the Seneca Board of Governors.

For more information visit My.Seneca (<https://my.senecacollege.ca>) ■



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# Seneca