



Starting over with SCOrE

BY TANYA MARISSIN

When Timothy Wettlaufer does his homework, it's so quiet in his house that he can hear a pin drop.

That's because he opens his books at 3 a.m. when the 14 other members in his family are sound asleep.

"My oldest sibling is 25 and the youngest in our family is three years old," says Timothy.

"There's no privacy at our place. I spend a lot of time looking after my brothers and sisters, so I do my homework when it's quiet and everyone is sleeping."

Finding the time to do his homework is important to Timothy who is one of 19 students in the inaugural year of the Seneca Centre for Outreach Education (SCOrE) program.

Targeted specifically to economically and educationally-disadvantaged youth

in Toronto, this eight-month General Arts & Science diploma program empowers students with the skills needed to gain meaningful employment or pursue higher education.

"After high school, I tried to go to college but I dropped out and started working customer service and dead-end jobs," says Monique Huggins, SCOrE student.

"Now I want to graduate from university and SCOrE is the perfect way for me to get there."

Arthur Burke, Director of Counselling and Disability Services at Seneca, says Seneca's SCOrE program is designed to help students like Timothy and Monique overcome barriers to higher learning. Through the program, students take a variety of courses to build skills in core areas of learning, and along the way are given access to Seneca's academic and counselling services to ensure their success.

"Connecting SCOrE students with the College's services is a critical component of this program," says Arthur.

"This support allows Seneca staff to intercept any social, economic or learning difficulties students may have before these barriers can become serious problems."

Arthur says once they successfully complete the program, students are presented with options they never had before, including entering the workforce, transferring directly into a Seneca diploma program or taking one more year of university preparation courses before applying to a university.

"Every college should have a program like this," says Jason Lewis, SCOrE student.

"There are a lot of kids out there who may not have finished high school but they still have the capabilities to succeed."

The SCOrE program is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

For more information on the SCOrE program, please contact Aldith Carasquero, Program Co-ordinator, at 416-491-5050 ext. 2933. ■



Been there, Dunne that

Jenni Dunne has gone from not being able to sew a stitch of clothing to competing in fashion design competitions around the world.

The 2006 Fashion Arts graduate has traveled to Montreal, Paris and most recently Beijing where she represented Canada in the International Young Fashion Designers Contest, considered to be the most prestigious competition for up-and-coming student designers.

"Being in Beijing, and being among the designers that were invited, was an amazing learning experience," says Jenni. She was the only student from Canada selected to take part in the week-long event, which attracted more than 1,000 applicants from 20 different countries. Jenni's travels began last year

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PROFILE

Norrison: one of the "originals"



WAYNE NORRISON

Seneca's longest serving employee has called it a career — and what a career it has been.

Wayne Norrison, Vice-President of International and Business

Development, retired on Aug. 31 after 39 years of service.

"I'm the last of the originals," joked the 65-year-old.

"I don't know what that proves, but

I've been pretty lucky to work here."

In his role as Vice-President of International and Business Development, Wayne spent the last 10 years promoting Seneca globally.

It's a job he truly loved and one that took him around the world to places such as Mexico, Spain, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, India, Vietnam, Japan, Korea and China.

Wayne says 40 years ago no one at the College, including himself, ever imagined that Seneca would develop such a strong international reputation as a leading post-secondary institution.

"We had big dreams in those eras, but I don't think anyone totally saw what the College was capable of becoming," he says.

"Many people never dreamed we'd be offering degrees, needless to say, things have changed a lot."

Wayne started his career at Seneca when the College first opened its doors in 1967, teaching psychology to nursing students.

Three years later, he was promoted to Assistant Chair of Applied Arts.

During the course of his career, he found himself in the envious position of

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Sign of progress



With each letter lifted into place separately (top left), the Seneca logo atop the Markham Campus (left, above) is the most obvious sign of progress at the College's newest campus. During the summer, work was completed on a number of construction projects including the interior and exterior staircases and the front atrium.



Research has not typically been the domain of our province's colleges. That, however, is changing.

In fact, through our Office of Research and Innovation (ORI), Seneca has more than 20 applied research projects underway or in the planning stages. They are in the areas of financial services, the built environment, education, animation, biotechnology and applied technology. Our work in these areas includes everything from developing a model for sustainable high-rise residential buildings to enhancing post-secondary student success.

These projects are conducted in partnership with other post-secondary institutions, industry leaders, affiliated councils or government agencies.

Seneca is also the lead institution of the College Network for Industry Innovation (CNII). Comprised of 10 colleges, CNII recently received \$3.5 million under the Ontario Research Commercialization Program to help build college capacity for industry-focused research and commercialization. And during the last year we have had eight research projects, where Seneca was the lead college/applicant and/or Senecans were the team leaders, approved for funding for a total of more than \$4 million. In addition, we were partners in another five research projects where the grants went to the leaders, and in which Seneca is an active partner, with an estimated funding of more than \$1 million.

Since we established the ORI in 2003, we have seen the benefits of this initiative. We are providing our students and faculty exciting opportunities to be involved with new partnerships that enhance our capacity for innovation. We are building a reputation as a national leader in applied research and advanced applied education in Canada while giving our students relevant, practical experience that will enhance their careers.

The work done by the ORI has given us a strong foundation on which to expand our research initiatives. The aim of my sitting on the boards of Ontario Innovation Trust, Toronto Regional Research Alliance, and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, is to see that Seneca continues to be seen as a leader in this area, and that we can continue to offer our students and faculty a challenging and rewarding place to learn and work.

Dr. Rick Miner is President of Seneca College. He can be reached by e-mail at president@senecac.on.ca ■

Art collection educates, features Canadian artists

The star patterned canoe that hangs high above the computer lab in the Newnham library has many Seneca students looking up and wondering, "Where did that canoe come from?"

Installed in the spring, the "Star Canoe" is one of 12 major art pieces acquired for display at the campus as part of a renewed College art collection program designed to enhance Seneca's buildings and grounds.

"Some people literally do scratch their heads at some of the pieces, but that's a good thing," says Marsha Wineman, a member of the committee overseeing the initiative. "If art didn't raise questions, it wouldn't be doing its job."

Marsha, who works in Seneca's School of Fashion and Merchandising, says the College's art collection program has a number of goals it hopes to achieve.

First among them is to build on the College's original art collection, which was started 20 years ago and encompasses a broad spectrum of Canadian art, ranging from paintings to photographs.

Marsha says the committee plans to carry on that same tradition of developing a collection of national significance the College can be proud of.

"Our mission is to create an

educational resource," she says. "We see this as a cultural and educational investment, so our goal is to seek out the work of Canadian artists we view as being valuable, beneficial and smart to have in the College's collection."

Marsha says part of the committee's responsibility will be to conserve and maintain the College's older works — much of which is housed in the Newnham library.

Besides the canoe, some of the interesting new pieces found in the collection include a dress made out of steel and an apocalyptic image dubbed, "You Will Sleep Through A Catastrophe."

While many of the artist's names attached to these works will be unfamiliar to most, one name that staff and students may recognize is Aleksandar Janicijevic.

Aleksandar, a graphic designer and photographer at the College, earned his spot in the collection after winning an internal employee art competition with his 360 degree panoramic photos of urban areas in Belgium, Portugal and Toronto.

Marsha says Senecans can expect to see more art work on display from staff and students in the future at all of the College's campuses.

"Part of our mandate is to be educational, so we not only want to acquire work that people can learn from, but we also want to encourage art among the College community." ■

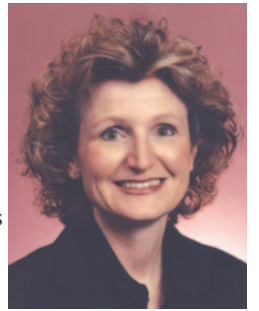


"Leaf Dress" by Barb Hunt

Board elects new Chair and Vice-Chair

Seneca's Board of Governors has elected Jean Anne McLeod as Chair and Helen Hayward as Vice-Chair. The new officers will serve their two-year terms starting September 1.

Jean Anne McLeod takes over the position from Dave Cooke, who served as Chair for two years. Ms. McLeod is the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager at the Toronto office of Stikeman Elliott LLP, Barristers and Solicitors — one of Canada's largest business law firms. She has held senior executive positions within the Ontario Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transportation and the Ontario Realty Corporation. Ms. McLeod joined the Board in 2002.



JEAN ANNE MCLEOD

Helen Hayward is a Director with Western Management Consultants in Toronto. For more than 20 years, Ms. Hayward has consulted for public and private sectors, helping clients with change management, business and strategic planning and training. Ms. Hayward is a member of the Strategic Planning Forum, the Women's Executive Network and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Yee Hong Centre of Wellness Foundation and the Yee Hong Centres of Geriatric Care.

Returning Vice-Chairs

John Bodolai is Vice-President Sales and Marketing of Nightingale Informatix Corporation, a leading Canadian healthcare IT company. Mr. Bodolai has more than 18 years of business experience in the areas of sales, technology and accounting, along with industry experience in banking and the manufacturing industry.

Keith Farlinger is the Toronto Region Managing Partner for BDO Dunwoody LLP, Chartered Accountants and Advisors. Mr. Farlinger has more than 30 years of experience in the field and currently sits on the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario (ICAO).

New to the board

Jed DeCory joins the board as the new administrative representative. Mr. DeCory is currently Academic Chair of The School of Communication Arts, and served as Executive Producer on the Oscar®-winning animated film *Ryan*, produced in association with Seneca College. Before joining Seneca in 1999, Mr. DeCory spent three years as a director at The Banff Centre for the Arts where he worked in the Media and Visual Arts division and was the founding director of the Centre's Media Production and Training Department. Mr. DeCory has served as Vice-President of the board of New Media Trainers and is currently Vice-President of the board of Native Earth Performing Arts, Canada's oldest aboriginal theatre company.

Ricardo Brown joins the board as the new student representative. Mr. Brown is in his final year of the International Business Administration program. During his studies at the College, Mr. Brown has served as Co-ordinator of Communications for the Seneca Student Federation Inc., and has sat on the Buzz advisory committee, which oversees the publication of the student newspaper. ■

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when she took home one of the top prizes for best fashion accessory at a Montreal-based event.

Her avant-garde head piece, that represented a woman's climb up the corporate ladder (shown on page one), won her the competition and earned her a spot at the Jeunes Createurs fashion contest in Paris, France.

While overseas, Jenni discovered first-hand what it takes to put together a large-scale fashion show, working backstage with the event's co-ordinators, models and other designers.

She says the experience of competing internationally taught her many valuable lessons about her profession — ones she soon won't forget.

"I learned anything can happen at anytime backstage, so be prepared," she says.

"I also learned to always have some safety pins pinned to my shirt just in case something fell apart at the last minute, which it did."

Three years ago being selected to compete in a fashion show at home or abroad would have been impossible for this 21-year-old, who says she didn't know how to sew before coming to Seneca.

Thanks to her professors and fashion courses like clothing construction,

Jenni has developed all the skills of a starter designer, and more.

"Our students are prepared to basically do whatever they choose to in this business," says Betty Michaud, a Professor and Program Co-ordinator in the Fashion Arts program. "It just takes personal determination and a never-give-up-attitude, and Jenni has those."

Since graduating from the Fashion Arts program this May, Jenni has been working as a freelance designer, concentrating her efforts on designing men's clothing.

But with the experience she has gained from competing internationally and her Seneca training, her long-term goal is to one day open her own clothing store.

"If I open my own store or become the next Gucci of Canada that would be awesome," she laughs. "At the end of the day I just want to be my own boss, and to be creative."

Seneca's Fashion Arts program offers students career-oriented education in the fashion industry. Graduates are qualified to enter careers in design, production management, quality control, product development and pattern-making in both men's and women's wear. For more information visit: <http://www.senecac.on.ca/fulltime/FAA.html> ■

Senecan named Entrepreneur of the Year

BY TOM BARTSIOKAS

A Seneca graduate who started his own private security company has been named entrepreneur of the year.

Winston Stewart, founder of Wincon-Security and Investigative Services, has been presented with the Harry Jerome Award by the Black Business and Professional Association for his work as a young entrepreneur.

“I was speechless,” says the 35-year-old on receiving the award named after the famous African Canadian Olympian and community activist. “When I saw the names of the people who had previously received this award, I was astonished. I’m in some elite company.”

Winston’s journey into the field of private security began in Seneca’s Police Foundations program.

Coming into the program, Winston had his sights set on becoming a police officer, but once he learned about the growing field of private security he decided to change his career focus.

“I realized there was a whole different aspect to law enforcement than just public policing,” he says. “There was so much potential to work in the private sector.”

In 1992, with the guidance of Seneca Professor Don Moore, Winston began developing a plan to start his own security business.

His experience as a part-time security guard, coupled with the training he received through Seneca, gave the then 21-year-old the confidence to



PHOTO BY RICHARD DOUGLAS

Winston Stewart, who graduated from Seneca’s Police Foundations program, was recently named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Black Business and Professional Association.

launch his own business. Shortly after graduating from Seneca, he opened

Wincon-Security and Investigative Services with just one client. His

Markham-based security firm now employs more than 40 people and has contracts with 35 companies including the Town of Markham, the York Region School Board and Toronto Community Housing.

Program Co-ordinator John Russell with Seneca’s School of Public Safety and Police Studies, says the need for private security was just emerging when Winston was at Seneca.

“Ever since the September 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S., the field of private policing and investigations has undergone dramatic changes,” says John. “This has resulted in an overall increase in demand for private policing and investigations services.”

Seneca’s School of Public Safety and Police Studies is helping fill the security need by training students for a variety of successful careers in private police, private investigations, police, security and other public safety organizations.

Winston says Seneca prepared him well for the unique challenges of working in the private security industry.

“If I didn’t go to Seneca I wouldn’t have started my own business,” he says. “The College opened my eyes to so many opportunities.”

Previous winners of the Harry Jerome Award include former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Lincoln Alexander and Olympic gold medalist Donovan Bailey.

For more information visit: <http://www.senecac.on.ca/law> ■

PATHWAYS

Diploma students seeking Seneca bachelor’s degrees

Nicholas Lowe’s Seneca diploma is helping him earn a bachelor’s degree at the College in less than the usual four years. “I was thinking about going to university to earn my degree, but the thought of starting all over again wasn’t appealing to me,” says the 21-year-old Business Computing Systems graduate. “When I found out I qualified to transfer into a degree at Seneca through my diploma program, I jumped at the opportunity.”

With seven degrees to choose from, students enrolled in many diploma programs at the College have multiple pathways to a degree.

“If a student wants a degree that is relevant, provides extra value and gives fair credit for prior diploma studies, a Seneca degree is the way to go,” says Susan Thomas, Co-ordinator of Seneca’s Degree Transfer Office. “Our degrees are practical, and they leave students job-ready where other degrees may not.”

An added benefit is that Seneca students who pursue a degree at the College may be eligible for credits based on prior learning. This varies from program-to-program with the transfer of credits dependent on such things as the student’s grades and the academic content of his/her previous program.

Susan says diploma graduates who meet the criteria could earn their degrees in less than three years.

“The College degree transfer process provides students with maximum value for the work they have already done,” says Susan. “The process is designed to create pathways to allow students to move ahead and connect with the finest career preparation possible.”

Nicholas, who only has two years left until he graduates from the Financial Services Management (FSM) degree, says he is grateful that he didn’t have to try to transfer to another school to earn his degree. In his case, he qualified for a block transfer credit, which meant all of the courses he took in his diploma program were counted towards his degree and he was able to start in the fourth semester of the FSM program.

He says staying at the College has made his transition from diploma to degree student much easier.

“Knowing the College and the campus, and being aware of all the services has allowed me to concentrate on my studies,” says Nicholas. “If I had to start over at a brand new school, I don’t know how smooth this process would have been for me.”

Current employment trends show that, for many career paths, both a college diploma and a bachelor’s degree are an advantage in today’s job market.

Getting that added advantage is exactly why Seneca Law Clerk graduate Louise Wilson transferred into the Human Resources and Technology Bachelor degree program this fall.

The 21-year-old says she was accepted into the program and received her timetable the same day she applied.

The aspiring HR professional says students thinking about earning their bachelor’s degrees should think seriously about what the College has to offer. “I’m confident being a Seneca student helped remove many of the barriers I would have faced if I applied for my bachelor’s degree at another school,” says Louise. “Anyone who is considering pursuing their bachelor’s degree should do their research, and should definitely consider Seneca.”

Seneca offers degree programs in the areas of accounting, aviation, environmental site remediation, human resources, finance, informatics and security and software development. For more info visit: www.senecac.on.ca/cms/student/bachelordegree ■



LOUISE WILSON

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becoming the College’s point person whenever a new challenge presented itself.

By the time he was named Vice-President of International and Business Development in 1996, he was familiar with all aspects of Seneca’s operations having held more than 10 different senior academic and administration positions.

“Everybody talks about having a number of different careers, I’ve been lucky, I’ve had all my careers in one institution,” he says.

“And every change brought with it the opportunity to learn something new.”

But in a career filled with many highlights, Wayne says what he is most proud of after all these years is his work with Seneca students.

“If I had to pick one thing that I enjoyed more than anything else, it would have to be working with our students,” he says.

“Whether they were students in the classroom, international students or student council members, working with Seneca students has been a personal and professional joy.”

Now that he is retired, Wayne plans to spend his free time pursuing his favourite leisure activities which include reading, watching films, and — no surprise — travelling.

However, don’t expect him to stop working all together.

“I’m too young to slow down. I’m only 65. People see retirement as an end; I see it as a beginning.” ■



Seneca trains OPP divers

This summer, Seneca's Underwater Skills program trained members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in the latest underwater search and recovery operations.

The course, which was held at King Campus, prepared OPP divers to deal with underwater crisis situations including the search for missing persons and the collection of evidence in major crimes.

The OPP Underwater Search and Recovery Unit is responsible for providing safe underwater search and recovery operations throughout Ontario.

Seneca receives most CTAB accreditations in province

Seneca College's Electronics Engineering Technology-Communications program has earned accreditation from the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board (CTAB).

This brings Seneca's total of CTAB-accredited programs to six — the most of any college in Ontario.

"This is quite an achievement for Seneca College," says Sam

DiGiandomenico, Registrar and Director of the Institute of Engineering Technology of Ontario which oversees the certification process for the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists.

"This accreditation signifies that Seneca's Electronics Engineering Technology-Communications program meets or surpasses industry and professional standards."

The Canadian Technology Accreditation Board is an independent body that was created to ensure that engineering technology programs meet ever-changing industry standards.

Seneca's other CTAB-accredited programs are: Electronics Engineering Technician – Broadband Cable, Electronics Engineering Technician – Communications, Electronics Engineering Technician – Computers, Electronics Engineering Technology – Control Systems and Computer Engineering Technology.

President joins the Canada Foundation for Innovation

Seneca College President Dr. Rick Miner has been appointed to the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is an independent corporation created by the Government of Canada to fund research infrastructure.

The CFI's mandate is to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development that benefits Canadians.

Seneca's Forensic Accounting program launched in Hong Kong

Seneca College and Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) jointly launched a post-graduate certificate



PHOTO BY RICHARD DOUGLAS

New forensic health program

A sexual assault examiner at York Central Hospital (YCH) peers through a colposcope, which provides magnification so injuries can be easily identified and digitally photographed. This fall, Seneca will offer training to use this device as part of the new Forensic Health Studies program. Created for nurses, paramedics, law enforcement professionals and others who work with victims of violent crime, the program, developed with the assistance of the YCH Sexual Abuse and Domestic Assault Care Centre, will teach students forensic health care skills. For more info visit: <http://www.senecac.on.ca/healthsc/forensichealthstudies>

program in Forensic Accounting starting this September.

Seneca's Centre for Financial Services will deliver the program in Hong Kong to qualified industry professionals with the need to acquire technical skills and practical knowledge in investigative techniques, law and ethics, computer forensics and research tools and practices.

The program will be delivered in a "blended mode" with a combination of face-to-face lectures and on-line learning, part-time over a period of 16 months by both Seneca faculty and PolyU faculty.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive an Ontario College Graduate Certificate in Forensic Accounting from Seneca.

Seneca Professor awarded prestigious research grant

Dr. Diane Meaghan, a Professor in the School of English and Liberal Studies - Business, has been awarded one of Canada's most prestigious research grants.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) has awarded her a three-year research grant to examine the issue of "Restructuring and equity in community colleges."

Dr. Meaghan is only the second college faculty, in Canada, to be recognized by the SSHRC.

Senecans chosen for CCAA mentor program

The Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) has announced this year's successful applicants of its Female Coach Mentor Program, and two Senecans have been chosen.

Lisa Best and Marcy Skribe will take part in the program that is aimed at increasing young women's experience in coaching at the college level.

Lisa Best was co-captain with the Seneca Sting Women's Varsity Basketball team. Previous to her time at Seneca, she worked and volunteered at summer

camp and after-school programs for children ages three to 12.

Marcy Skribe is a Certified Level I coach and she is currently completing her Level II Certification. A Seneca College graduate, she has been an Assistant Coach at Seneca and became Head Coach in 2005.

The CCAA Female Coach Mentor Program is designed to identify and nurture female graduating student-athletes who demonstrate the desired skills for coaching.

Professor nominated as best lecturer

Sheerin Kalia, a Seneca business professor, was nominated as one of the province's best lecturers in TVOntario's annual Best Lecturer competition.

Out of the 258 nominations that TVO received, Sheerin made the shortlist as one of the top 71 lecturers.

Semifinalists will be announced this fall and the winner will be announced in March 2007.

Professor's film to be screened at UNAFF

James Cullingham, a Seneca Broadcast Journalism Professor, has had his film selected to be part of an international film festival.

Lessons in Fear, which takes a behind-the-scenes look at how Israeli and Palestinian children are educated in the Middle East, will be featured at this year's United National Association Film Festival (UNAFF).

Conceived nine years ago, UNAFF celebrates the power of international films and videos dealing with human rights, environmental survival, women's issues, protection of refugees, homelessness, racism, disease control, universal education, war and peace.

The festival is being held at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California from October 25 to 29.

Lessons in Fear is written and directed by Cullingham, in association with Seneca College.



Raising AIDS awareness

A Seneca student from the Event Management and Exhibit Design program looks at a tradeshow display created by her class before it is officially unveiled at the 16th International AIDS Conference. The display, which was created to raise AIDS awareness, was designed by Seneca students Carla Romano and Michelle Nicol. The pair won a class competition to design the booth on behalf of the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research.



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