



PHOTO BY RICHARD DOUGLAS

A work of art in progress

Patrick Decoste created this War of 1812 painting in the foyer of the President's Area at Newnham Campus using a map of North America as his canvas. The Toronto artist, who is known for his classical painting style, explores subjects that are influenced by history, mythology, science and literature. The Seneca College Art Committee invited Patrick to serve as Seneca's second artist-in-residence, where he created this and another War of 1812 painting using a blackboard as his canvas. Once completed, both paintings will be displayed in the Newnham Library and will be part of the College's permanent art collection.

GRADUATE SUCCESS

Senecan wins Premier's Award

BY TOM BARTSIOKAS

A Seneca graduate has won the prestigious Premier's Award for discovering a new treatment for a potentially life threatening disease.

Andrew Crow, a 1988 graduate of Seneca's *Biotechnology Technologist Research* program, was one of six Ontario graduates honoured on Feb. 19 in Toronto at the annual conference of Colleges Ontario.

"I was shocked to get the nomination for the Premier's Award, let alone receive the award," says Andrew. "To know the College that trained me is proud of my work, and nominated me for this award, is very flattering."

For nearly a decade, Andrew, who works as a Senior Research Assistant and Lab Manager for Canadian Blood Services at St. Michael's Hospital, has been researching a little known autoimmune disease called immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP).

Left untreated, ITP destroys blood platelets, the tiny cells that seal minor cuts and wounds and form blood clots.

In 1998, Andrew's lab became interested in the disease after discovering very little research in the treatment of ITP.

Under the direction of Dr. Alan Lazarus at St. Michael's Hospital, Andrew developed a research model and quickly discovered that a number of the treatment theories associated

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Kiosk to offer free software

It looks like a pop machine, but dispenses software instead of soda.

Andrew Smith, a fourth year *Software Development* student, has received \$2,500 from the College's *ibox* committee to create the Seneca Freedom Toaster, a kiosk to conveniently copy popular Open Source software for word processing, web browsing and programming.

"I think it's great whenever students help influence the learning activities that occur around the College," says Evan Weaver, Chair of the School of Computer Studies. "The Seneca Freedom Toaster's purpose is to encourage the distribution and use of Open Source

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APPLIED RESEARCH

Creating a new smart home device

Extensions to a new wireless device called Mon Ami™, aimed at improving the lives of the elderly and those with disabilities, are being applied with the help of Seneca students.

"Mon Ami™ is an assisted living device unlike anything that has been created before," says Dawn Mercer, Professor, Office of Research and Innovation.

"The artificial intelligence in the Mon Ami™ system learns about the environment it is in and can be adapted to the different situations that are specific to each person. The device's primary purpose is to make life for the elderly and those with disabilities as independent, safe and enjoyable as possible."

In addition to operating anything electrical or electronic in a home, Mon Ami™ can be programmed to give

reminders for appointments and medication, read books aloud, play music, give the date, time and weather and even tell jokes. In 2004, Tercet Enterprises Inc., a Markham-based technology company, approached Seneca's Office

of Research and Innovation to test a prototype of Mon Ami™. What started out as short-term project evolved into a three-year collaboration. Last year, Seneca students from the School of Computer Studies made a major contribution to the project when they implemented a way to control the device over the web, allowing caregivers to program Mon Ami™ from remote locations. "This

new product feature helps alleviate the anxiety caregivers face when they have to be away from their loved ones," says Dawn. "Caregivers can now program the Mon Ami™ device online and monitor their loved one's daily activities ensuring their safety and comfort."

>>PLEASE SEE **MON AMI** ON PAGE 3





The Strategic Plan renewal process has been ongoing since December, and we've heard from a number of people. More than 120 external community members were heard from during consultations, and a number of interesting views were shared. Similarly, internal consultations were held where Senecans shared their ideas. Discussions have included such things as whether Seneca's size is important, the focus of our programming, how we measure the quality of the education offered and

how we define accessibility.

This is, by no means, the end of the process.

At the beginning of March we held a meeting with senior bureaucrats in Ottawa, and toward the end of the month Seneca administrators will be involved in a workshop to focus on the key issues that have been addressed.

This will be followed by a summary document for the Board of Governors to consider at its April meeting.

In the fall, a document summarizing all that we have heard and recommended changes will be made available to view for feedback.

It is then my goal to present the Board with a renewed Strategic Plan for consideration at their November meeting. ■

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

Student Governor rep learns from the best

Ricardo Brown ran for Student Governor representative to give Seneca students a voice on the College's Board of Governors. Now he is encouraging other Seneca students to do the same.



RICARDO BROWN

The 24-year-old, who is in his final year of the *International Business Administration* program, says being the Student Governor representative has been the greatest learning experience of his life.

"This experience has opened my eyes to how a large institution like Seneca operates," says Ricardo. "Sitting on the board, you become intimate with all the details and processes involved that go into making Seneca the best provider of quality education in this country."

As the Student Governor representative, Ricardo says it's his job to bring the student's perspective to the Board.

He says he makes it a priority to speak with students regularly to keep informed on the latest issues affecting them.

With the Board of Governors elections taking place March 27 and 28, Ricardo wants more Senecans to consider running for the Student Governor representative position.

Ricardo says the position is an opportunity to learn from some of the most successful men and women in Ontario.

"The board is made up of very talented and nice people. They not only teach you a great deal, but they help you to succeed as well."

Ricardo's term as student board representative started in September and will end on Aug. 31, 2007.

Seneca students can reach Ricardo by calling 416-491-5050 ext. 4027 or e-mailing rbrown9@learn.senecac.on.ca ■

Sting win OCAA medals

The Seneca Sting ran over the competition at this year's Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) Championships.

For the second consecutive year, the women's basketball team won gold, defeating the Algoma University Thunderbirds 75-56. The win capped off a perfect 16-0 season for the Sting. Natasha Thombs was named Championship MVP and OCAA East Region first team all-star, while Head Coach Marcy Skribe was named OCAA East Region coach of the year.

In March, the Men's Curling team were simply dominant in capturing the

OCAA Championship. The Sting went 5-0 in the tournament defeating the Mohawk Mountaineers in the finals.

Following an exciting 10-3 season, the Seneca Sting men's volleyball team won the OCAA Central East Region Championship. The Sting defeated La Cité College Coyotes 3-0 to clinch the regional title. JR Sapienza was named OCAA first team all-star.

The Sting badminton team also won two OCAA medals. Senecans David Trinh and Erica Lord picked up the silver in mixed doubles, while Amily Lau and Emily Ko earned bronze in women's doubles. ■



PHOTO BY TOM BARTSIOKAS

Andrew Crow, a graduate of Seneca's *Biotechnology Technologist Research* program, received the Premier's Award on Feb. 19 for discovering a new treatment for a potentially life-threatening disease.

>> **CROW**, FROM PAGE 1

with the disease were completely inaccurate.

This was a major milestone in the study, but as it turns out, it wasn't the biggest.

The defining moment came last year when after 10 years of research, Andrew and his team discovered a new replacement therapy that shows promise in laboratory testing.

"To work on a project for a number of years and to finally nail down how something works...that's why we are here," says Andrew, "to help people."

Dr. Lazarus, who has been working with Andrew since 1994, calls Andrew's research ground breaking.

Besides helping people with ITP, he says Andrew's research could also help increase understanding and lead to improved treatments for people who suffer from other autoimmune diseases such as arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

"Andrew is one of the brightest researchers I have ever known," says Dr. Lazarus.

"He does the same work as people who hold MDs and PhDs."

When Andrew graduated from Seneca nearly 20 years ago, he says he always expected to have a successful career as a lab technologist because "that's what the *Biotechnology Technologist Research* program trained you for."

What he didn't expect, however, was to get the opportunity to write

his own research papers, apply for patents and design experiments — tasks usually reserved for researchers with academic credentials.

"I really owe a lot to Dr. Lazarus," says Andrew. "He's the one that got the ball rolling for me by encouraging my ideas and never putting me into a box."

These days, Andrew is returning the favour by dedicating his time to training and mentoring students who aspire to follow in his footsteps.

He says he owes it to the next generation of researchers to pass on the knowledge he has received from people like Dr. Lazarus and his Seneca professors.

The next step now is to bring the new ITP replacement drug to the market.

Together with Dr. Lazarus, Andrew has formed a company called My Therapeutics. The pair is hoping to raise enough money to begin clinical trials.

"It takes millions of dollars to develop a new drug, so we are looking for companies to assist us," says Andrew. "Our ultimate goal is to get the product to the patient in order to help them."

The Premier's Awards are presented annually to college graduates who have excelled in their careers and made a significant contribution to society.

Recipients receive a bronze medal and \$5,000 to designate to their college for student bursaries. ■

Do you have an idea that will make Seneca an even better place?


ibox

ibox — short for idea box — is a suggestion box with a difference. The difference is up to \$2,500 to help you make your idea a reality. I'm encouraging students, faculty and staff to oversee projects that will improve life at Seneca or enhance/increase Seneca's visibility and reputation.

Help make a difference. Send in your suggestions today. With your ideas, Seneca will be an even better place to work and learn.

For more information, submission criteria and an electronic submission form, click the ibox link on My.Seneca or call ext. 2637.

Regards,


Rick Miner
President



Seneca Professor fuels up on french fries

John Meulendyks was, literally, in the driver's seat during the recent temporary closure of gas stations caused by supply problems. To fill up his car, in a pinch, all he'd have to do is stop at a fast food restaurant.

That's because his 2001 Volkswagen is the latest in a long line of cars he's converted to run on biodiesel made from the same kind of vegetable oil used for deep frying. In other words: have fries, will travel.

"The first vehicle I converted to run on biodiesel was more than 20 years ago — a 1986 Ford diesel pickup," he says.

And it's this experience that John brings to the classroom, teaching *Building Systems Technology/Technician* students about the benefits of renewable energy sources — benefits that go way beyond having a car exhaust that smells like dinner.

"Demand is growing around the world from companies looking for individuals who can save energy and enhance performance through renewable energy sources," says John.

"While other Colleges are just beginning to develop renewable energy curriculum, we have been offering renewable energy courses for several years. We also have a significant inventory of custom lab apparatus designed especially for training students in this area. Today, we are probably the only College offering an extensive level of applied renewable



What do you get when you add the same vegetable oil that is used to deep fry french fries into the gas tank of a 2001 Volkswagen? Seneca Professor John Meulendyks says the combination equals cheaper fuel and even cleaner skies. Since 2003, he has been teaching *Building Systems Technology/Technician* students the environmental and economic benefits of moving to renewable energy sources like vegetable oil for their everyday energy needs.

energy training."

Engineering technology students in both programs have been receiving hands-on training on how to operate buildings, homes and vehicles using energy produced from natural resources like the sun, wind and water.

John says students in the *Building Systems Technology/Technician* programs are trained to think differently in terms of how energy can be produced.

One of the major assignments students must complete in both programs involves building a small wind turbine that can be used to power a model home.

John says the exercise is designed to show students how easily wind can be converted into electricity to meet our everyday home energy needs.

"There is the traditional way of thinking, and then there is the renewable or sustainable way," says

John. "When our graduates leave Seneca College we want them to enter the workforce and champion the renewable way."

John, who has championed renewable energy use since the early 80s, says he gets a lot of attention from his vegetable fueled car.

He says friends and family are always surprised to learn how easy it is to switch over to the cleaner fuel source, which involves converting raw vegetable oil, using methanol, into biodiesel.

John estimates he has saved himself 20 to 30 per cent in transportation costs a year by using vegetable oil instead of regular diesel. Now he hopes to enjoy similar savings with the new home he is building up north, which will be powered strictly by renewable energy.

John argues the only reason why more people haven't jumped on

the renewable energy bandwagon is because they're just too busy.

"In an urban environment people are meeting their day to day commitments from family to work that they don't have time to think about doing things like using vegetable oil to fuel their cars," he says. "If they did, they would realize we can produce all the energy we need with the things around us."

In addition to the renewable energy courses offered as part of the *Building Systems Technology/Technician* programs, Seneca's Centre for the Built Environment also offers distance learning courses in Renewable Energy Training. The courses, which are all offered online, include Photovoltaics, Wind Energy, Geothermal and Solar Thermal Energy. For more information on the College's Renewable Energy training programs visit: <http://cbe.senecac.on.ca> ■

King landmark re-opens its barn doors

A historic King Campus landmark has been saved.

The south barn, which remained empty for years due to safety concerns, was recently restored. Originally built in the 1920s for the Eaton family, the barn is believed to be designed by architect E.J. Lennox — the creator behind a number of Toronto's most notable landmarks including Old City Hall, the King Edward Hotel and Casa Loma.

"It was important to Seneca and to the *Veterinary Technician* program that we keep this kind of history alive," says Ross Emmans, Seneca *Veterinary Technician* Professor.

"At a time when everything is becoming steel and brick, we pride ourselves on the fact that we were able to retain the barn's original look.

Ross, who co-ordinated the year-long renovation project, says the newly restored building will help facilitate the expansion of the School of Animal Health's *Veterinary Technician* program. The barn will serve as an equine facility, providing students hands-on experience with horse handling and care.

In addition to the barn, Ross says the School plans to complete construction this spring on its large animal lab. Located inside the state-of-the-art Animal Health Centre, the facility will serve as a post-recovery room for horses and other large animals after surgery.

"Up until now, we weren't able to offer large animal training to students," says Ross. "With these two facilities up and running, students will get good hands-on experience working with large animals. They will also be able to explore the career opportunities this training presents for them."

Ross says since re-opening the barn in January, the School has received nothing but praise from the program's students and the King City community.

"Our relationship with the residents of King was cemented by the fact we restored this barn," he says. "They were really happy to see this magnificent structure live on."

Students studying in the *Veterinary Technician* 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> ■



Ross Emmans stands inside the newly re-opened King Campus barn. The *Veterinary Technician* Professor project managed the renovation of this historic landmark, which is believed to have been created by the same renowned architect who designed Casa Loma.

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Terry D'Silva, Chief Executive Officer of Tertec, says he has been impressed with the level of research and suggestions Senecans have made to improve his company's product.

The synergy between the two organizations has been so good that he has asked the Office of Research and Innovation to continue to look at ways of improving the Mon Ami™ device in the future.

"From Tertec's point of view, Seneca is a great organization to partner with," says Terry.

"I would recommend Seneca strongly to other industry leaders looking for applied research assistance."

Since the launch of the Office of Research and Innovation three years ago, a number of companies have come to Seneca with requests to help them improve their products and services.

Katharine Janzen, Office of Research and Innovation, says Seneca faculty and students are lending their talents to more than 20 applied research projects. Included among them are studies in the areas of financial services, the built environment, education, animation, biotechnology and applied technology.

"Applied research reinforces our learning activities at the College," says Katharine.

"It strengthens our faculty and provides future opportunities to our students for both learning and working in research and development." ■



Seneca launches new Social Service Worker diploma program

The Honourable Mike Colle (above), Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, visited King Campus on Feb. 15 for the launch of the *Social Service Worker — Immigrants and Refugees* diploma program.

This new, two-year diploma program will prepare students for careers as settlement workers, settlement counsellors and social service workers with an expertise in working with immigrants and refugees.

Seneca partners with post-secondary institutions in India

Seneca College is expanding its presence in India with the signing of

agreements with educational institutions in the cities of Bangalore and Nagpur.

In Nagpur, Seneca has partnered with the Provincial Academy of Learning Excellence to deliver a post-graduate certificate program in Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management, while in Bangalore the College has also joined with the REVA Group of Institutions to offer a post-graduate certificate program in Bioinformatics.

For both partnerships, Seneca will provide the curriculum and teacher training for the first semester of the program, which will be held at each institution's local campus.

Students will then travel to Seneca College for the final semester of their program and to receive their Ontario College Graduate Certificate.

The first semester of the programs begins in September 2007. The second semester starts at Seneca's Toronto Campus in January 2008.

Mayor Hazel McCallion gives keynote address at Seneca forum

Seneca College's Centre for Financial Services held its first Leader Network Dialogue on Feb. 22 with Hazel McCallion, Mayor of the Town of Mississauga, as keynote speaker.

The event, held at Markham Campus, introduced Seneca's newest bachelor degree, the *Bachelor of Applied Business — Municipal and Corporate Administration*.



PHOTO BY TOM BARTSIOKAS

Lieutenant Governor visit

Cindy Hazell, Seneca Senior Vice-President; Keith Farlinger, Vice-Chair Seneca Board of Governors; and Lieutenant Governor of Ontario James K. Bartleman (right) unveil a headdress that was made in the early years of Seneca College to acknowledge a connection with the College's name and aboriginal people. On Jan. 23, the Lieutenant Governor visited Seneca to speak with aboriginal students and attend a ceremony to launch the Seneca Centre for Outreach Education (SCoRE) — Aboriginal Program. Seventeen aboriginal students started the SCoRE program this January. The eight-month program helps students overcome barriers to education and employment.

The Leader Network Dialogue also launched Seneca's Centre for Municipal Corporate Administration, a professional development centre that aims to build on Seneca's leadership role in governance, comptrollership and accountability and to develop solutions to public sector management challenges.

Seneca's Carol-Angela Orchard wins provincial coaching award

Carol-Angela Orchard, head coach of Sport Seneca, was awarded an Ontario Coaching Excellence Award from the Coaches Association of Ontario.

The award provides recognition for the ongoing and significant contribution coaches have made to their sport and athletes over a number of years.

New program to create leaders in automation technology

Seneca has launched a new bachelor's degree in *Control Systems Technology*.

The four-year program is designed to train students in all aspects of automation, including the traditional technologies of instrumentation and process control, as well as emerging technologies such as software engineering, data acquisition and control, wireless and wired networks, power electronics, real-time embedded control, and servo/motion control.

"We are teaching students to look at the big picture when it comes to the technology behind the automated processes that run today's industries," says Mario Boetto, Chair of Seneca's School of Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology. "The broad scope of this program will provide graduates with a cross-functional

knowledge base which will lead to greater career opportunities."

Graduates of the program will be equipped to work in energy management and building automation, petrochemical, electrical power generation and distribution, food and beverage processing, and discrete parts manufacturing industries.



Seneca celebrates Black History Month with Jean Augustine

Jean Augustine (above), former MP and the first African-Canadian woman elected to Parliament, visited Seneca's Yorkgate Campus on Feb. 12 to celebrate Black History Month.

Jean spoke about the importance of remembering and celebrating Black history with Seneca students.

In 1995, Jean introduced a motion in the House of Commons to officially recognize February as Black History Month in Canada.

Every year Seneca takes part in festivities that commemorate the legacy of Black Canadians, both past and present.

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software, which is a very important cause for us at Seneca."

In the last few years, Open Source has become an integral part of the training offered at Seneca's School of Computer Studies. New courses and corporate partnerships with Open Source companies like Mozilla (creators of the popular web browser Firefox) have exposed Seneca students to many careers in this growing field.

Open Source is rapidly changing the way software is being developed. By encouraging collaboration, often between parties from around the world, Open Source developers are creating free software that can be continuously updated and shared online.

Andrew says the Seneca Freedom Toaster, just like the Internet, will give students access to Open Source software anytime they want.

"All the software is pre-loaded into the Freedom Toaster's hard drive, which means there is no waiting," explains Andrew. "Students come with their own CD, and all the information you need about the different software will appear on screen. There will be nothing complicated to it, except for remembering to bring a CD."

Andrew says many students have shied away from downloading Open Source software because of the time it takes, and the difficulty of getting reliable and complete programs that are easy to install and upgrade.

He says he came up with the idea for the Freedom Toaster (whose unique name comes from the computing term for creating or burning a CD, known as "toasting") last year after reading an article about its use in South Africa.

Inspired by the story, Andrew wrote a proposal to create the College's very own version. He submitted his proposal in December and three weeks later he received the green light to get the idea off the ground. His goal is to have the Seneca Freedom Toaster completed and on display in front of the Computer Studies offices by June.

"If you have an idea, *ibox* is the place to make it a reality. More students should take advantage of this great College service," says Andrew.

Ibox — short for idea box — is a suggestion box through which Senecans can share ideas to improve life at the College or enhance its visibility and reputation. Selected applicants receive up to \$2,500 to implement their idea.

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



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