Seneca Update

By Russell Pangborn

The Seneca College and the Toronto Users Group iSeries Business Application Developer award goes to **Francis Bello** for the spring of 2010. He was the top student graduating last semester who selected System i related subjects as his professional options and showed a passion for this technology. Francis told me that a few years ago he started looking for a school that offered courses geared toward databases and AS/400 while also giving co-op experience to its students. His researching efforts determined only one of the major colleges offered this combination. That college was Seneca College. After enrolling he was pleased to see that there was a possibility of graduating with two specializations. He chose Database Developer and iSeries Business Application Developer.

Spring 2010 top iSeries student Francis Bello

Francis has had a very distinguished academic career at Seneca College. He was on the President's Honours List five times, awarded the Maurice Joseph Weisseld Memorial award in Spring 09 and graduated with a 4.0 overall grade point average. That is the highest grade point average you can get. At Seneca we award a grade of A - which translates to a 4 in the GPA calculation. Students that show exceptional work may receive an A+ which also translates to that same 4. So in addition to the impressive GPA, it must be pointed out that Francis got an A+ in 14 of his subjects.

Francis reciprocates the respect relayed by his exceptional transcript back to Seneca in telling me, "My experience at Seneca College was way above my expectations for a college. I have made a lot of friends at Seneca with my fellow classmates and professors."

He felt that his days at our college included exposure to many different viewpoints on hardware and software in emerging and established technologies.

Francis enjoys watching documentary films about history, outer space, ocean, and anything scientific. He also enjoys traveling. His recreation time is filled with swimming, bowling and playing guitar along with a catchy tune. Finally family is very important and he makes time to be with his parents and his brother. Their cultural heritage is from the Philippines.

Unfortunately, the specialization model has been discontinued in the School of Computer Studies and Francis will be one of the last students that graduates with those comments on his transcript. The department will still offer iSeries subjects to students and the Tug/Seneca award will still identify graduating students who have excelled in System i subjects.

There is some exciting news that can be shared. I am very pleased to announce that the TUG board of directors is looking at two $500.00 scholarships to award to currently enrolled full-time students. The criteria is in the development stage and at this stage and looks something like the following:

- must have passed have passed IBC233 (introductory iSeries subject)
- have passed one System i subject and be taking or have passed a second System i subject

GPA and a student application will be a determining factor in who gets this yearly award.

Isn't that great! TUG will be helping out some students that are inspired by Power system technology through their subject selections and have done well academically. Some of these students need some financial relief because they are going to full time school and almost doing a full time job at the same time to handle the bills. I am proud to belong to an organization that will offer a little help to any iSeries inspired student. You should be proud too. **TUG**

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https://scs.senecac.on.ca/program-page/tug-and-seneca-college-iseries-business-application-developer-award