

Seneca Update

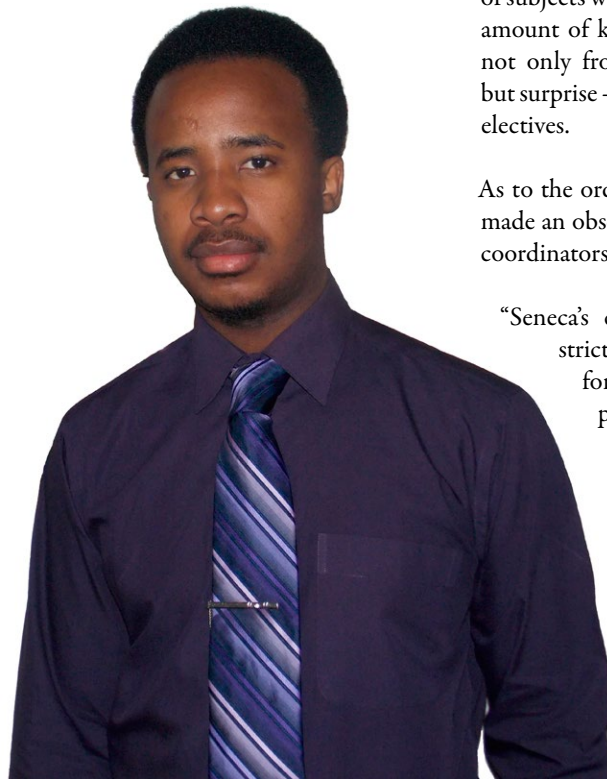
By Russell Pangborn



Seneca TUG Award

Ramone Burrell has been selected for the Seneca Tug Award for the Fall 2013 semester. He recently graduated with a high grade point average and included a couple of Power System subjects in his selection of professional subjects.

He earned eight A with distinctions and quite a few A's during his stay at Seneca College. I saw him three times in IBM i (iSeries) subjects and was pleased to award two of those A plus's. I am compelled to check back and see why I only gave him an A for DB2. It turns out that time he only got an 86% grade (I only wish that could have been a low grade for me when I went to school!)



Fall 2013 top iSeries student Ramone Burrell

I spoke to Ramone to get a sense of what his education here at Seneca meant to him and he told me that he was happy to be able to establish numerous relationships with people who share a passion for IT. In some of his subjects individual accomplishments were important and in others he had to learn teamwork and during those times he sharpened his interpersonal skills.

Sometimes students question or push back at what our college determines is a valuable course of study in order to receive a diploma. Some students think a diploma in Computer Studies is all about the technical knowledge. We try to hammer home the point that communication skills are also very important for any graduate. Ramone will make the English professors very happy with his appreciation of that complement of subjects when he tells about the "copious amount of knowledge" that he soaked up not only from his professional subjects – but surprise – from some rewarding English electives.

As to the order of subjects taken, Ramone made an observation that should make our coordinators here at the college pleased:


"Seneca's curriculum coupled with its strict and impartial requirements for successful progression in the program helped to reinforce my conviction that there is a time and place for everything. Essentially, it helped me to be a more disciplined individual as it forced me to continually prioritize and make critical sacrifices."

Russell Pangborn is a professor at Seneca College, and a Director of TUG. He can be reached at russell.pangborn@senecac.on.ca.



Ramone is an avid reader who is currently enjoying a series of Celtic fantasy novels by Katharine Kerr. A challenging game of Chess, cooking traditional dishes, and theater and music in the performing arts are his other passions. He wants a successful career in this industry but also is interested in social and economic justice for all.

This award is all about the synergy between the college and the Toronto Users Group and a passion for a certain platform. Here is what Ramone has to say about this:

"I am also happy that I was presented with the opportunity to learn programming on IBM's IBM i (iSeries). The related courses that I took throughout my time at Seneca provided some dynamics to what my curriculum entailed primarily as they were distinctive in comparison to anything else. Attending the 2011 and the 2013 TUG technical conference was a great way for me to interface with industry professionals from Canada and abroad. I will never forget the likes of Léo Lefebvre and Jay Burford. They made my 2013 experience at TUG's annual conference a fun and exciting one. In the end, from my iSeries studies, I have gained a fortune of skills that can open countless doors for advancement, and this I am most grateful for. With that all said, I believe that my experience at Seneca has made me a more rounded, and technically advanced IT professional. 

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