



Centre for Flexible Learning
University of Windsor

Sixth Annual Report 2005-2006

**Centred on Learning:
reFLEXions**

Submitted by Dr. Alan Wright, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning and
Director, Centre for Flexible Learning, January 2007

Centre for Flexible Learning 2005-06 Year End Report

Introduction

This report was developed by Jeanne Drouillard, Associate Director with contributions from CFL managers, Larry Foley, Ron Richard and Mike Sherman.

In keeping with the University of Windsor's stated presidential direction to "stimulate and support a university-wide dialogue on issues that address its very heart – its students and the facilitation of their learning"¹, the Centre for Flexible Learning (CFL) has steadily increased its efforts in support of the teaching and learning culture at the University of Windsor.

Perhaps the most significant development this year for the CFL was the selection and appointment of Dr. Alan Wright as Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning and Director of the CFL. It is anticipated that under Dr. Wright's tutelage, the CFL will continue to build upon the firm commitment it has demonstrated in the past to teaching and learning at the University of Windsor.

This past year was one of growth and experimentation for us, from both a technological and a pedagogical perspective. Projects and service enhancements are outlined later in this report.

Five faculty members were selected to participate in the UBC Teaching Certificate Program in 2006-07 with a view to providing input into the development of a similar program tailored to the needs of the University of Windsor faculty.

The CFL submitted a proposal to host the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education national conference in June 2008. This event would provide an opportunity to showcase teaching and learning innovation and excellence at the University of Windsor.

The CFL will continue to look for opportunities to enhance Teaching and Learning Development and improve technology in the classroom.

¹ The White Paper on Teaching and Learning, 2001. Dr. Ross Paul

Projects

Learning Management System (LMS)

Extensive evaluation and consultation by Information Technology Services (ITS) and CFL staff led to the adoption of the Sakai Open Source LMS to replace ViCKi, the CFL-developed system based on Lotus Notes. Sakai was evaluated along with Blackboard (which recently bought out WebCT) and Desire 2 Learn. There were a number of factors which led to the selection of Sakai, among them:

- there are no licensing fees
- it is a membership consortium of international higher education institutions which guides and approves upgrades and changes to the LMS
- there is greater flexibility to “pick and choose” those applications best suited to our course and student needs
- a selection of traditional functions exists which will fit most any education need.

Five courses and one lab were selected for Phase 1 of the implementation of Sakai during Fall 06. Subsequent phases of implementation will see more ViCKi course kits converted for Winter 07, with a view of making Sakai available campus wide in Fall 07.

For statistics on existing ViCKi kits and support to LMS users please see **Appendix 1**.

“Clickers”

In September 2005, the CFL began the evaluation of Personal Response Systems (commonly known as clickers) with a view to undertake a pilot project in Winter 06. Dr. Yvette Daniels in the Faculty of Education, Dr. Ken Cramer of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Psychology) and Dr. Julie Smit of the Faculty of Science (Biology) participated in a pilot project using devices from eInstruction and Turning Point Technologies. The clickers were mostly used for review and to generate discussion. In some cases, they were used to evaluate participation. Participation was higher when clickers were used. Their use appeared to increase attendance; there were instances of students who changed sections so that they could be in the class where clickers were used (Psychology).

Overall feedback indicates that students really liked the technology. Feedback from students was all positive. They found it “cool” and engaging. They were more willing to participate, in particular in the large classes. Students who didn’t have clickers (in the Psychology class) wanted them. Students liked using them; they felt secure with the anonymity in the large groups. Dr. Cramer’s research further demonstrated that students using the clickers vs. students not using the clickers (even in the same classroom) averaged a 4% higher grade on the mid-term and 5% higher on the final exam.

As a result of this project, the University has identified Turning Point Technologies as the clicker that will be supported on campus by ITS and the CFL, effective Fall 06.

Podcasting

CFL researched and developed a plan to encourage the use of podcasting as a pilot project in Winter 06. The intent was that faculty would create and upload their lectures to an RSS-friendly server/directory that students could then access easily and securely.

CFL led a workshop for interested faculty members and initially provided digital recorder/microphones to six departments that expressed an interest in the technology. These included Business, Computer Science, Physics, Languages and Religious Studies, and Communication Studies. Subsequently, Law, Education, and Political Science joined the pilot project.

Feedback indicates that faculty and students find this a useful supplement to classroom instruction. The provision of an additional option for review of material allows students to participate more fully during class. In addition, second language students indicate that podcasts improve their comprehension of the material and enhanced their language skills. As a result, we will continue to encourage the use of this technology for those interested.

For a list of podcasts available please see **Appendix 2**.

Showtime

Showtime is a web-based application developed by CFL staff. As a plugin for PowerPoint presentations, it allows for easy bundling and transport of narrated presentations onto a web server. This means that the instructor's lecture is synchronized with the PowerPoint presentation for ease of use by students. Three faculty members have used this tool with success.

Faculty Associates

Three faculty members participated as Associates to work on projects with the CFL.

- In Fall 05, Dr. Judith Dunlop worked with CFL staff towards developing tools for her Social Work students to more easily create useful web sites for small, non-profit, non-governmental organizations.
- In Winter and Summer/Intersession 06, Tamsin Bolton of the Leddy Library worked with CFL in developing a wiki-based search and research tool for students which would draw from the experience of faculty in specialized fields.
- In Winter 06, Dr. Paul Henshaw worked with CFL in developing a stand-alone, self-assessing learning module for all first-year engineering students who are required to complete the WHMIS certification for lab technicians.

Services

Additional Staff Resources

In Winter 06, a part-time Audio Visual Technician position was extended to full-time in order to provide greater capacity in maintaining the multi-media classrooms across campus. A new part-time Audio Visual Technician position was created and staffed to provide continuity in the delivery of portable audio-visual equipment to classrooms in the evenings. In the spring, we completed the successful recruitment of a Videoconferencing and Multi-media Engineering Specialist and a LMS Coordinator in preparation for the migration to a new Learning Management System.

Videoconferencing

In co-operation with ITS, recommendations were made and funding was secured for the purchase and installation of a new videoconference gateway and bridge which will improve the quality of both IP and ISDN videoconference calls.

CFL initiated and supervised the installation of a two-camera, 40 microphone, state-of-the-art videoconference facility in the Toldo Health Education Centre, room 203 (the Board Room). Initial discussions have taken place to design and install videoconference facilities in room 100, Toldo for classroom use. The expected completion date is March 2007.

CFL staff has developed and is testing an electronic database to be used as an on-line videoconference booking system.

Current rooms with videoconference facilities supervised by the CFL include G-141 Erie Hall (comfortable seating for 40 participants and individual microphones), G-142 Erie Hall (small boardroom configuration for 6 to 8 people), plus a portable unit which may be scheduled for use in the classrooms located in Toldo.

CFL provides technical consultation and support to the videoconference facilities in two classrooms in the Faculty of Law.

CFL staff participates in a videoconference subcommittee which meets bi-weekly to discuss current videoconference services at the university, and to plan for future developments in this area.

Multi-Media Lab

Thirty-six computers and flat panel monitors were upgraded and a video projector was installed in the multimedia lab (G125 Lambton Tower). In addition to use for testing of ESL students, this facility is used by various departments including Dramatic Arts, Biology, and Languages and Religious Studies.

Convocation

Convocation sessions were recorded for subsequent broadcast on Cogeco Cable TV and live broadcast via web streaming. We know some sessions were viewed from as far away as Dubai. Copies of the recorded sessions are sold to graduates and their families.

Media Production Facilities

There were 1,679 completed requests for service (not including requests for photographic services) handled by the Media Production Unit of the CFL. These ranged from DVD and VHS duplication to video production and videoconferencing services. This amounts to almost seven requests per working day, not counting walk-ins or emergencies.

The original Master Control and production facilities, which have served the university for more than 30 years are undergoing a stepped program of upgrade. Two replacement studio video cameras and tripods, additional lights, replacement black studio background, replacement of master control routing switcher, audio mixer/ equalizer, plus video monitoring equipment will significantly improve the laboratory experiences of students in the School of Dramatic Arts, Business, Social Work, Nursing, and the Department of Communication Studies. These upgrades are the beginning of our conversion to stereo sound and digital production.

In co-operation with the Department of Communication Studies, the CFL audio recording studio was upgraded from an analogue to a digital facility, thus enhancing the student experience.

For a listing of some salient production projects please see **Appendix 3**.

Distance Learning Course Development

Ten new distance or partial distance education courses for Nursing, Biology, Political Science, Philosophy, and Mathematics were added to course offerings this year.

We updated the Distributed Learning Database to add and track all Distance Education courses developed with the CFL in order to facilitate upgrades to the course or materials used in the courses and copyright permissions.

CFL has begun discussions with Political Science, Labour Studies, Business, and Nursing in view of developing additional courses in 06-07.

Audio-Visual

More than 3,000 requests for equipment (10 per day) were entered in the Electronic Booking Service with almost 10,000 deliveries performed by more than 40 student staff in 05-06.

The CFL also manages the Film/Video Booking database for videos from the Leddy Library and from other post-secondary institutions across Ontario through Interfilm. We fill, on average, 250 orders per semester.

Eight new DVD/VHS Combo units were purchased and installed on the TV carts to replace older VHS machines. Two new data projectors and two new laptop computers were added to the equipment inventory for classroom use.

Staff in the A/V office also provided orientation to faculty on the various multimedia consoles across campus.

Multimedia Classrooms

CFL is involved in the consultation, design, installation, purchasing, and programming of new multimedia classrooms. Currently, there are more than 40 multimedia classrooms for which the CFL provides maintenance and repair of equipment. More than 30% of those underwent upgrades during the year including the replacement of data projectors, computers and document cameras.

For a list of upgrades to classrooms, please see **Appendix 4**.

ReFLEXions

In Fall 05, the CFL Newsletter, **Explorer**, was renamed **reFLEXions** and changed from print to electronic format. It strives to provide quality information to faculty and staff about subjects as diverse as teaching methods and Canadian copyright law in the educational context. Two issues were published and are available on the CFL website.

Special Events

The following special events, not previously mentioned elsewhere, were supported by the CFL:

September 2005 – President’s Garden Party

October 2005 - Windsor Technology Expo 2005

February 2006 - Campus Wireless celebration

May 2006 - Police Officer John Atkinson’s funeral,

May 2006 – International Association of Great Lakes Research conference

June 2006 - Nursing conference

June 2006 – Announcement of a major donation for HK Stadium

Faculty Development

Workshops & Seminars

The CFL organizes and presents a variety of workshops and seminars to support faculty development. In 2005–06, these included:

Three workshops during New Faculty Orientation, July 4-8, 2005

Push or Pull of Praxis, presented by Wayne Tousignant & Ron Richard, Sept. 29, 2005

Teaching & Assessing Thinking Skills, Audio Conference, November 9, 2005
Getting a Grip on Large Classes, presented by Dr. Ken Cramer, Nov. 12, 2005
Electronic Advocacy, presented by Dr. Judith Dunlop, Dec. 9, 2005
Problem Based Learning: The role of the Instructor in PBL & Assessing, by Dr. Yves Mauffette, UQAM, Jan. 13, 2006
Problem Based Learning: Writing Problems & Validating Them, by Dr. Yves Mauffette, UQAM, Jan. 13, 2006
Engaging the 21st Century Student, full-day Regional Conference sponsored by CFL and McGraw-Hill Ryerson, April 21, 2006
Universal Design for Online Courses, Web Seminar, May 25, 2006

Travel Grants

The CFL provided 21 travel grants to 20 faculty members to attend conferences and workshops dedicated to teaching and learning. Many have returned to write articles about their experiences and what they learned for our on-line newsletter, **reFLEXions**, or to conduct seminars and workshops related to what they learned.

The conferences included:

HERDSA 2005, July 2005
EDUCAUSE 2005, October 2005
Student Engagement: Orientation to Graduation, sponsored by McGraw-Hill/Ryerson, October 2005
The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: An Evidence-Based Perspective Conference, April 2006
Dalhousie Conference on Teaching and Learning, May 2005
2006 Teaching Professor, May 2006
Association for Psychological Sciences' Annual Teaching Institute, May 2006
STLHE 2006, June 2006
National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), June 2006

Appendix 1

The chart below lists the number of ViCKi course kits and users (05-06)

Faculty	Kits Used*	New Kits	New Users**
Arts and Social Sciences	292	199	83
Business Administration	180	104	13
Education	39	31	18
Engineering	77	42	13
Human Kinetics	20	17	8
Law	20	6	2
Nursing	16	15	4
Science	148	96	33
Unknown	54	50	15
Totals	846	560	189

* used in this period, whether newly-created or reused from a previous term.

** new users = faculty members who are first-time users of ViCKi

The chart below indicates the general nature of support calls received by ViCKi Admin staff from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

# Calls	% Calls	Call Group / Category
1136	45.2%	Access Related Support Calls
812	32.2%	New / Updated ViCKi Kit Support Calls
570	22.6%	Special Services and Specific Project Requests
2518	100%	

Appendix 2

The chart below lists the podcasts on the University of Windsor Podcast Directory:

Subject	Originator	Department	Total
Family and Change	Robert Arnold	Sociology	2
Intermediate Social Statistics	Robert Arnold	Sociology	2
Engaging the 21st Century Student*	Various	CFL Workshop	15
Podcast Workshop	Ron Richard	CFL Workshop	2
Podcast vs. Lapel Microphones	Ron Richard	CFL Workshop	2
Digital Immigrants	Pierre Boulos	Computer Science	1
State of the University Address	Dr. Ross Paul	President's Office	1
WMHIS Workshops	Paul Henshaw	Engineering	2
80-358 Audio ShowTimes	Jan Flewelling	French	10
Evolution	Jon Lovett-Doust	Biology	30
Introduction to Psychology II	Ken Cramer	Psychology	26
A Basic Understanding of Patent Law	Bradley Limpert	Law	1
Special Guest Speakers	Various	Odette School of Business	3
Breakfast Series	Various	Odette School of Business	2
V-Brick Demo	Ron Richard	Product Demo	1
5th Sakai Conference	Various	Sakai LMS Podcasts	18

* This full-day regional conference was a collaborative effort between the CFL and McGraw-Hill/Ryerson. It included a key note speaker, a series of concurrent sessions and concluded with a student panel.

Appendix 3

Media Production

1. Convocation photography, video recording and streaming on October 15, 2005 (2 sessions), and on June 10, 11, and 12, 2006 (6 sessions). Each of these sessions was edited for later broadcast on Cogeco cable. Photographs and videotapes for honorary degree recipients were delivered to Development and Alumni Affairs.
2. Law conference (Donating the Gift of Life through Presumed Consent) video recorded on November 17, 2005, and made available for streaming by Law. The service was repeated for the Lerner Moot Competition in March 2006.
3. During Fall 05, the television performance class recorded in Studios A and B weekly. During Winter 06, a second performance class recorded daily for 6 weeks using both Studios A and B plus two analogue video editing suites. CFL provided technical support.
4. Various clients continue to schedule class projects in Studio B (Professors Gallant, Cassano, and Carter from Social Work, Professors Voyvodic and Smyth from Law, and Professors Amaro, Rose and Laing from Nursing.)
5. Video camera bookings, videotape editing, and transfers to CD are provided for a large Education course (80-203) throughout both semesters.
6. Six performances of the University Players' Theatre Productions were recorded throughout the Academic year for archival purposes.
7. Presentations by candidates for positions in Sociology and Anthropology were recorded for viewing by faculty members who could not attend live presentations.
8. The President's State of the University Address, January 26, 2006 was supported by a sound system (including media feeds), photography, double projection setup, preparation of 10-minute preview video, video recording and editing for broadcast on Cogeco Cable and web streaming.
9. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' "Ways of Knowing" included the production of a video trailer which was used in the initial lecture, location video recordings of lecture segments, project presentation/display in CAW Centre, interviews with faculty and student mentors, and post-production editing.
10. The retirees April 2006 celebration was supported by photography, creation of a PowerPoint presentation which included pictures of the retirees, plus video projection during the event.

11. Classroom video recordings completed for several campus clients including Drama, Law, Social Justice, Nursing, Business, and Biology. Regular television laboratory activities were conducted in Studio A for Drama (24-421 and 24-323), and Communication Studies (40- 216, and 40- 217). In addition, several student film projects (40-411) were transferred from film to video for viewing at the annual Communication Studies film awards show. Many education students scheduled the use of video cameras and editing suites to complete their projects. Finally, many students requested transfer of material between digital and analogue formats (e.g. Music, Education, and Communication Studies). The primary student users of video editing facilities are from Communication Studies, Drama, and Education.

12. CFL staff made presentations to video and audio production courses in Communication Studies and Sociology. CFL staff also designed and taught several digital editing sessions for the AVID, Final Cut Pro, and Pro Tools. Video editing tutorials were provided for students in Communication Studies (40-216 /217), Dramatic Arts (24-323), and Education (80-203)

13. The CFL recorded classroom presentations of two University of Windsor faculty members who were nominated for teaching awards. The recordings were submitted to the offices of TV Ontario for review.

Appendix 4

Multi Media Classrooms

In Summer 05, the following classrooms received a complete multimedia renovation, including data projector, computer, document camera, DVD/VCR combo playback and a touch screen control system:

Dillon Hall 264

Dillon Hall 361

Law G104, which also included the installation of a videoconferencing system

The following rooms received audio visual upgrades. This includes equipment such as data projector, DVD/VHS combo units, mobile AV carts and connectivity for external equipment. This occurred during Winter 06.

Human Kinetics 132A

Human Kinetics 200

Human Kinetics ARS Conference room

Human Kinetics mobile AV carts (2)

Odette School of Business 210

Odette School of Business 212

Also in Winter 06, some equipment was replaced in the following rooms:

All six classrooms in Toldo Health Education Centre

Odette School of Business 104

Erie Hall 1120

Biology 121

Chrysler Hall South 51

Chrysler Hall South 53

Chrysler Hall North G133

Dillon Hall 355

The following classrooms were designed in Spring 06 and planned for full multimedia renovation for Summer 06:

Biology 113

Dillon Hall 255

Dillon Hall 361

Law G101

Law G102

Law G104 (partial multimedia renovation)

Odette 104 (addition of multimedia to existing system)

Consultation for multi-media renovations was provided for the following areas:

Math/Stats Conference Room; IT Conference Room

School of Music Recital Hall; Chrysler Hall Tower, Conference Room 500

Katzman Lounge; Human Kinetics Research digital signage

UWSA Campus Events and Public Displays