

## WHAT'S NEW FOR FALL AT LIAD

WebCT: Campus Edition 6 is here! Plans are underway to move to WebCT Campus Edition 6 ("CE6") in January 2007. CE6 is more user friendly than the old version, and has many more features to better enhance student learning. Many faculty are currently piloting CE6 and we look forward to helping everyone get comfortable with new version!

## JOIN THE MIGRATION MOVING FROM WEBCT4 TO WEBCT6

Get ready to sign up for a workshop designed to help you prepare for the transition to the new version of WebCT. At the end of this workshop, you will have migrated your WebCT 4 course to Web6. In addition, you will be able to:

- Navigate throughout the WebCT6 course site
- Identify new features in WebCT
- Post an announcement and upload a file

Participants in WebCT6 Migration workshops and one-on-one migration sessions will be eligible to **win** an **iPod Nano**. The draw will take place in December 2006.

LIAD is happy to unveil its brand new and vastly improved website: <http://liad.georgebrown.ca> Stop by and visit us online a wealth of information and resources awaits you there!

To register for the workshop please visit the Staff Development site at: <http://www.georgebrown.ca/CalendarEvents>

**Workshop Preparation:** Please request that a WebCT6 shell with your course title be created for your use in advance of the workshop. To do so, contact Jimi Rockley (phone 416.415.5000 x 3313; email [jrockley@gbrownc.on.ca](mailto:jrockley@gbrownc.on.ca))

Bring a file that you would like to upload to your WebCT shell.

Follow this [link for workshops dates and times](#).

## LIAD SECONDMENT NEWS

Juanita Wattam of the Access Centre of Excellence and Karen Hamilton of Business and Creative Arts have been seconded to LIAD for one day a week this semester. We look forward to using their creative talents and technical skill to help faculty with the transition to CE6.

## CLICKER UPDATE

LIAD continues to record results from its ongoing classroom clicker response system pilots. Clickers were used with great success at this summer's management retreat, and last month the Student Association used over one hundred clickers to conduct the college wide orientation surveys. LIAD will continue reviewing clicker best practices this fall. Watch for more announcements in the next newsletter!

## NEED HELP WITH GRAPHICS AND DESIGN?

Liz Govier, our former digital media student, will be with us part-time this semester, so if you need assistance with developing images, or simple flash animations, Liz is available to support you. Liz may be contacted through Chilli Leung: ext. 6735 / email: [cleung@gbrownc.on.ca](mailto:cleung@gbrownc.on.ca).



Karen Hamilton



Juanita Wattam

**Click here to download Clickers in Action**

# LIAD PARTNERSHIPS

Here at LIAD, we believe in the transformative potential of partnerships. Partnerships bring different points of view that create fresh ideas and enable exciting hybrid ventures.

LIAD has a track record of successful in-house partnerships. We sponsor faculty secondments to academic innovation projects, we take part in cooperative interdepartmental initiatives to improve services—for example, we are working with the team at Educational Resources to improve online test capability throughout the college—and we offer a variety of professional development events focused on emergent education technologies. As well, LIAD shares its Computer Skills & Applications software (SAM) and database with the Staff Development office, so SD can offer specialized training in Microsoft applications to support staff and faculty. And this is naming just a few of our intra-college partners; there are lots of others.

It may be a little less known, but LIAD also has a tradition of encouraging external partnerships. Several of these partnerships have grown out of the Computer Skills and Applications (CSA) program—home of the LIAD-sponsored computer literacy courses taken by almost all full- and part-time students at George Brown.

What sort of external partners does the CSA program have, you may be wondering. Well, in addition to serving the needs of our College programs and students, LIAD's CSA program is committed to helping the broader community meet the needs of the new economy. This is important: people on the social margins are at risk of further marginalization due to digital divides. That's why we've been taking the CSA program to community groups that assist those at risk of further marginalization.



Fred Victor Students at GBC

Our current community partners include the **Fred Victor Centre, Jewish Vocational Services (JVS), Community Microskills Development Centre, and Frontier College.**

**The Fred Victor Centre** (<http://www.fredvictor.org/>) serves people living in extreme poverty, and assists in meeting basic needs such as food and shelter. The Centre offers marginalized people ways “to rebuild their lives by having meaningful involvement and purpose, as well as the opportunity to develop their skills and capacity.” Participants from Fred Victor attend a computer skills class one afternoon each week here at George Brown, where two instructors assist them in their learning.

As well, the CSA software (“SAM”, or Skills Assessment Manager) is loaded on computers at the Fred Victor Centre, so participants can practice their computer applications training anytime they like. This program brings a learning opportunity to people who might otherwise not consider

furthering their education. And best of all, because Fred Victor participants come to the College to learn their digital skills, they are offered an avenue of empowerment just by entering the school. This in itself has had measurable impact on participants, who report that coming to George Brown to attend their training and earn a college credit is a very positive experience for them, especially since many participants have not had the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education.

Our partnership with **Jewish Vocational Services** (<http://www.jvstoronto.org>) is an offsite agreement: we send an instructor to the JVS premises, where we have our software loaded. Because our learning software is web-based, all participant results go to the central CSA database. JVS is a non-sectarian organization that “links employers and individuals together to achieve their employment goals by providing the skills necessary for success in today’s workplace.” This partnership is three-way, both in-house and external:

JVS is aligned with GB's School of Community Services to deliver digital literacy training to those who are in most need, and who are also least likely to seek it out.

**Community Microskills Development Centre** (<http://www.microskills.ca>) is a United Way member organization in West Toronto. CMDC describes itself as a "multi-cultural, non-profit, community-based organization committed to assisting the unemployed, with priority to women, youth, racial minorities and immigrants." Its computer literacy courses are extensive and thorough, and we are granting a GBC credit for COMP1082 to former CMDC students who have passed the CMDC Microsoft training course. This provides an incentive for CMDC graduates to enroll in full- or part-time studies at the College... and at least one already has!

**Frontier College** (<http://www.frontiercollege.ca/>) is a national literacy organization that uses the Computer Skills and Applications course to deliver digital literacy training for its participants. Frontier College participants take a basic computer literacy course at the Frontier College location of their choice. Participants are encouraged to further pursue their education at the College: as with CMDC, Frontier's grads receive a credit for their digital literacy training should they enroll in a George Brown program.

And our partnerships continue to expand! Most recently, LIAD has undertaken a partnership with **Princess Margaret Hospital's Breast Cancer Survivorship Program** (BCSP). We expect to welcome our first Princess Margaret students in January 2007; look for an official announcement and more exciting details about our PMH partnership in the next issue of *What's Happening @ LIAD*.

Helping make these partnerships possible is another partner, this one from the corporate sector: **Thomson Publishing. Thomson,**

## Champions on the Hill: GBC taking part in high-profile Ottawa event

George Brown will be featured on Parliament Hill this month as part of Champions on the Hill -- an event organized by Polytechnics Canada to build the profile of the eight Canadian polytechnic schools. Each school will display a selected applied research project, along with marketing and promotional materials.

Members of Parliament have been personally invited to visit the exhibit, and the presidents of each school will be there to meet them and talk about the significant contributions polytechnic schools make.

This is a terrific opportunity to showcase GBC's applied research capacity and achievements to federal ministers, MPs, and political staff.

LIAD's Tony Hassel shot the photographs for this Parliament Hill event. Nice work, Tony!



which licenses the SAM software LIAD uses to deliver its computer skills courses, has generously donated enough free spaces on the SAM database to accommodate all our community partners. We'd like to thank and recognize Thomson for its support of our community initiatives!

Nurturing our urban neighborhood and all its citizens is essential to fulfilling the College's mandate to contribute meaningfully to the community we serve, and LIAD is proud to have so many outstanding community partners. If you know of any community organizations whose members might benefit from our CSA computer literacy training, please give Sandra Neill a call at x3622, or send an email to [sneill@gbrownc.on.ca](mailto:sneill@gbrownc.on.ca)

### More LIAD Partners...

OntarioLearn.com is a consortium of 22 Ontario Colleges dedicated to developing and delivering online courses. Through LIAD, George Brown offers 48 different Ontario Learn courses to students from all across Canada. LIAD's Michelle Lee coordinates George Brown's partnership with Ontario Learn, and acts as a liaison for students taking these online courses.

Altogether, OntarioLearn.com offers more than 750 courses to thousands of online students each semester.