Annual Report 2003-04

Institute for Research on Learning Technologies

Director:	Ron Owston
Admin Contact:	Elma Thomas
Address:	1029 TEL Building
Tel:	416-736-5019
Fax:	416-736-5913
E-Mail:	rowston@edu.yorku.ca
Website:	www.yorku.ca/irlt

1. Background and Mandate

The Institute for Research on Learning Technologies (IRLT) has a broad mandate to engage in systematic inquiry, discussion, and information sharing related to the uses of technology in teaching and learning. Originally established in 1987 within the Faculty of Education as the Centre for the Study of Computers in Education (CSCE), the institute became a university-based research unit in June 2001 and was re-named. IRLT encourages the formation of links with faculty members across the university and with schools, government, and industry to provide collaborative, multidisciplinary approaches to research problems and issues. More specifically, the goals of the Institute are as follows:

- To engage in research, study, and public discussion of issues related to the pedagogical uses of technology and to the moral, ethical, and educational implications of its use;

- To develop projects that make innovative uses of new technologies in teaching and learning;

- To maintain an active program to disseminate findings of its projects, its activities, and developments in the field to educators and other interested parties;

- To foster collaboration between academics, educators, and industry and government personnel on research and development problems and issues of mutual concern and interest.

During the 2004-2005 academic year IRLT underwent an interim review by the Senate Committee on Research (SCOR) as required by Senate regulations. Two York University faculty members, appointed by the Associate Vice-President (Research), reviewed IRLT and presented a report to SCOR in February 2005. SCOR, in turn, asked IRLT to respond to several issues raised by the reviewers. SCOR accepted

IRLT's response and informed Senate in June 2005 of the completion of the interim review of IRLT.

The most prominent issue raised in the review was the absence of a six year plan for IRLT as required by Senate regulations for the chartering of research centres/institutes at York. IRLT did not develop this plan because at the time of its re-organization into a university-base centre, Senate regulations were in the process of being changed and IRLT was approved under the older regulations that did not require a six year plan. Other issues raised by the reviewers related to IRLT's relationship with the Faculty of Education, the need for secure funding for support staff and the Senior Researcher, the desirability of an external advisory board, and a suggestion to increase the external profile of IRLT. We began to address these issues and develop a six year plan at a members retreat in September 2005.

2. Organizational Structure and Staffing

Personnel

IRLT is managed by a director who is appointed to the position by the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) as it is a university-based research unit. The current and founding director is Professor Ron Owston (Education). Professor Renate Wickens (Fine Arts) was Acting Associate Director in 2004-2005 in place of Professor Mary Leigh Morbey (Education) who was on sabbatical.

Herb Wideman is employed full time on annual contract as Senior Researcher, while Kathryn Cook works part time as Research Assistant.

Governance

Shortly after IRLT was formed, the membership recommended not to proceed with forming a formal advisory board as set out in the original proposal for IRLT. Instead an enlarged (from the original proposal) Executive Committee was struck consisting of the Director, Associate Director, two Members-at-Large, and a Graduate Student. In 2004-05, Professor Avi Cohen (Arts), Richard Jarrell (Science & Engineering), and Jane Kennedy (Education graduate student) filled the latter three positions. The Executive is responsible for setting strategic priorities and policies for IRLT.

Publications

IRLT publishes a series of technical reports based on members' research. These reports are made available to the research community at the Institute's Web site. A listing of this past year's reports is below in the *Activities* section.

3. York University Faculty Affiliated with the Centre

IRTL has members from all Faculties at York as well as Glendon College. The Institute has one honorary member, William Mitchell, retired education officer of the Ontario Ministry of Education. York faculty membership for 2004-05 was as follows:

Name	Affiliation
Alex Pomson	Faculty of Education
Alison Griffith	Faculty of Education
Ananya Mukherjee-Reed	Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts
Avi Cohen	Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts
Bill Found	Faculty of Environmental Studies
Dalton Kehoe	Division of Social Science, Faculty of Arts
Evelyne Corcos	Counselling & Career Development, Glendon College
Francoise Mougeon	Department of French Studies, Glendon College
Gail Lindsay	School of Nursing, Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies
Gareth Morgan	Schulich School of Business
Graham Orpwood	Faculty of Education; York/Seneca Institute for Science, Mathematics, Technology, and Education
Heather Lotherington	Faculty of Education
Ilo Katryn Maimets	Steacie Science Library
Mary Leigh Morbey	Faculty of Education; Associate Director, IRLT
Janet Murphy	ABEL Program
Jennifer Jenson	Faculty of Education
Caitlin Fisher	Department of Film, Faculty of Fine Arts
Leslie Korrick	Fine Arts Cultural Studies, Faculty of Fine Arts
Margaret Sinclair	Faculty of Education
Mary Louise Craven	Communication Studies, Faculty of Arts
Monique Adriaen	Dept of French Studies, Faculty of Arts
Niamh Hennessey	School of Social Sciences, Atkinson
Peggy Warren	Reference, Scott Library
Peter Roosen-Runge	Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science & Engineering
Poonam Puri	Osgood Hall Law School
Radu Campeanu	School of Analytic Studies & Information Technology, Atkinson
Razika Sanaoui	Faculty of Education
Renate Wickens	Fine Arts Cultural Studies, Faculty of Fine Arts
Richard Jarrell	Division of Natural Science, Faculty of Science & Engineering
Richard Saunders	Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts
Roberta Sinyor	Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics, Faculty of Arts
Ron Owston	Faculty of Education and Director, IRLT
Ron Sheese	Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts
Ros Woodhouse	Centre for the Support of Teaching (CST)
Ross Rudolph	Department of Policital Science, Faculty of Arts
Sam Lanfranco	School of Analytic Studies & Information Technology,

	Atkinson
Seonaid Lee-Dadswell	Centre for the Support of Teaching (CST)
Shelley Hornstein	Art/Architectural History, Department of Visual Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts
Simon Fodden	Osgoode Hall Law School
Stan Shapson	Vice-President (Research & Innovation); Faculty of Education
Stephen Chen	School of Analytic Studies & Information Technology, Atkinson
Suzanne McDonald	Associate V-P (Research); Department of Psychology, Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies
Tom Johnson	Osgoode Hall Law School
Zbigniew Stachniak	Dept of Computer Science & Engineering, Faculty of Science & Engineering

Additionally, several Seneca College faculty are affiliated with IRLT.

Student Activities

Below is a list representative of IRLT members' projects that employed students during 2004-2005:

- *The Ontario Science Centre* project led by Ron Owston was aimed at providing students with the opportunity to work with OSC staff to develop multimedia exhibitions as part of the new *Agents of Change program* at OSC. Four students worked on the project: Adrian Maszko and Radley Dioso from Seneca College, and York University graduate students Lewis Kaye (Communications and Culture) and Dustin Garnet (Education).

- *Simulation and Advanced Gaming Environments (SAGE) for Learning* project. This SSHRC-INE project focuses on developing and studying the use of serious games and simulations in education. Ron Owston employed Christine Brown (PhD programme in Education) and Francis Ho, a non-York student studying in an online graduate programme at the University of Bath. Jennifer Jenson hired Nick Taylor (PhD programme in Education) and Rita Kasab (Seneca).

- Renate Wickens hired three undergraduate work-study students to assist her with TEL-based research: Dmitri Kokoshkyn (FACS) and Sidra Laldin (FILM) and Wei Ren (Computer Science).

- For the ABEL program, Janet Murphy employed a total of eight students drawn from various York graduate and undergraduate and Seneca College co-op programs.

- Shelley Hornstein employed for Project Mosaica: Jennifer Brown and Rebecca Roberts, graduate students in Communications and Culture; Steve Jankowski and Kristina Rostorotskaia, work/study Design undergraduates; and Marieke Treilhard, a graduate student art history

Faculty Activities

Listed below are *selected* (a full list would be too extensive) articles, chapters, and books of members, as well as conference papers, reports, awards, and technology development activities of members during 2004-2005.

Selected Articles, Chapters, Conference Proceedings, and Books (IRLT members indicated in bold)

de Castell, S., & **Jenson, J.** Editors (Forthcoming). *Ordering the Field: Essays on Digital Games Research*. New York: Peter Lang.

de Castell, S., & **Jenson, J.** (Editors). (2005). *Changing Views: Worlds in Play. Digital Games Research Association Conference Proceedings.* Burnaby, BC: Simon Fraser University Press.

de Castell, S., & **Jenson, J.** (In Press). *Education, Gaming and Serious Play: New Attentional Economies for Learning.* In *International Handbook for New Learning Environments*. Kluwer.

de Castell, S. & **Jenson, J.** (2005). "Ordering the Field: Educational Games Studies". Conference Proceedings. Women in Games 2005.

Jenson, J., Brushwood Rose, C., Lewis, B., & Smith, R. (Reviewed, editing nearly complete). *Technology Policy Unplugged: Technology Policies and Practices in K-12 Education in Canada*. McGill-Queen's University Press.

Jenson, J. & de Castell, S. (2005). *Keeping it Real: Gender Equity and Digital Games.* Conference Proceedings. Women in Games 2005.

Jenson, J., & de Castell, S. (2005). *Her Own Boss: Gender and the Pursuit of Incompetent Play*. Conference Proceedings. DiGRA 2005.

Jenson, J., Taylor, N. & Shannahan, T. (2005). How 'Else': Unifying Pedagogy and Technology in Educational Design." Conference Proceedings. Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education.

Lotherington, H. & Xu, Yejun (2004) How to chat in English and Chinese: Emerging digital language conventions. *ReCALL, 16* (2), 308-329.

Lotherington, H. (2004). What four skills? Redefining language and literacy skills in the digital era. *TESL Canada Journal*, 22 (1), 64-78.

Lotherington, H. (2005). Writing postmodern fairy tales at Main Street School: Digital narratives and evolving transliteracies. *McGill Journal of Education, 40* (1), 109-119.

Lotherington, H. (in press 2005). From literacy to multiliteracies in ELT. In C. Davison & J. Cummins (Eds.), *Handbook of English language teaching*. N.Y: Springer.

Lotherington, H. (2005). Authentic language in digital environments: Research perspectives in CALL. In J. Egbert & G. Petrie (Eds.), *CALL research perspectives (pp. 109-127).* Mahwah, New Jersey: Erlbaum.

Morbey, M. L. (In Press). Killing a culture softly: Corporate partnership with a russian museum. *International Journal of Museum Management and Curatorship, Vol. 21*, No. 1 (2006).

Morbey, M. L. (Accepted). Preface. In T. E. Bowen, *Translations and refractions: An exploration of making art by hand and computer.* Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellon Press.

Morbey, M. L. (Accepted). From cybercolonialism to cyberglocalization: A virtual shifting of cultural identity on national museum websites. *Leonardo e-journal.* (21 pages).

Owston, R. D., Kushniruk, A., Ho, F., & Pitts, K. (2005, June). *Improving the design of web-based games and simulations through usability research*. Proceedings of the ED-MEDIA 2005 annual conference, Montreal, 1162-1167.

Owston, R.D., **Sinclair, M., Wideman, H.H., Kennedy, J.** (2005, June). A blended model for professional development in mathematics: Impacts on teacher practice and student engagement. Proceedings of the ED-MEDIA 2005 annual conference, Montreal, 2501-2507.

Owston, R. D., Garrison, D. R., & **Cook, K.** (2005). Blended learning at Canadian universities: issues and practices. In C. J. Bonk & C. Graham (Eds.). *Handbook of blended learning environments: Global perspectives, local designs.* Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Owston, R.D. (in press). Contextual factors that sustain innovative pedagogical practice using technology: An international study. *Journal of Educational Change.*

Sinclair, M., de Bruyn, Y., Hanna, G., & Harrison, P. (2004). Cinderella and The Geometer's Sketchpad*. [Review] *Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education*, 4(3), 423-437.

Sinclair, M.P. (2004). Complexity theory and the mathematics lab-classroom. *Complicity: An International Journal of Complexity in Education,* 1(1), 57-72.

Sinclair, M. (2005) Using technology in the junior grades. *OAME Gazette,* 33(4), 30-34.

Sinclair, M. P. (2005) Peer Interactions in a lab: Reflections on results of a case study involving web-based dynamic geometry sketches. *Journal of Mathematical Behavior* 24(1), 89-107.

Sinclair, M. (2004). Working with accurate representations: The case of pre-constructed dynamic geometry sketches, *Journal of Computers in Mathematics and Science Teaching*, 23(2), 191-208.

Taylor, N., Jenson, J. & de Castell, S. (2005). Pimps, Players and Foes: Playing Diablo II "Outside the Box". In N. Garrelts (Ed.), *Digital Game Play: Essays on the Nexus of Digital Game and Gamer*, McFarland Press.

Wickens, R. (2005). Reader's Report: "Tree View Editing Learning Object Metadata." *Interdisciplinary Journal of Knowledge and Learning Objects.*

Selected Conference Papers/Talks/Invited Addresses

Brown, C. 3rd Annual Graduate Conference in Culture, Language, and Teaching, York University, April 2005.

Brown, C. Leading Learning 2005 Conference - *Hybrid Classes - The use of discussion boards in traditional settings.* York University, May 2005.

Brown, C. Simulation and Gaming Environments (SAGE) for Learning Conference, 2005 - Virtual Usability Lab, June 2005

S. Chen, & S. Morris. (2005) "Iconic Programming for Flowcharts, Java, Turing, etc." In ITiCSE 2005, Proceedings of the 10th Annual SIGCSE Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education, pgs 104-107.

S. Chen. (2005) "Gesture-Friendly User Interfaces for Classroom use of Thinking Tools." To appear in R. Kay (ed), Proceedings of Designing Mathematical Thinking Tools, a Fields Institute Symposium, University of Western Ontario, June 10-12, 2005.

Coffey, S. & **Lindsay, G.** (2004). *Emerging professional issues: Maintaining the dialogue while managing confidentiality.* CADE/This is IT Pioneers 2004 Conference. York University, Toronto, ON, May – June, 2004.

Cohen, A. (2005, May). "TEL Initiatives in the Faculty of Arts," TEL@York Conference, York University.

Hornstein, S. (2005). "Doing Digital", *ReJEWvenation:* The Futures of Jewish Culture Conference, University of Toronto, Invited Speakers (with Reesa Greenberg)

Hornstein, S., & Greenberg, R. (2005). "Digital Diaspora and www.mosaica.ca," Winters College Invited Speaker

Hornstein, S. (2005). Demonstration Paper with Reesa Greenberg on Museums and the Web and Digital Diaspora at Archimuse – Museums and the Web, Vancouver

Jenson, J. & de Castell, S. (2005, June). *Her Own Boss: Gender and the Pursuit of Incompetent Play.* Paper presented at the Digital Games Research Association conference, Vancouver BC, Canada.

Jenson, J. & de Castell, S. (2005, June). *Putting Play First: Curriculum Design for Digital Games*. Paper presented at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education conference, London ON, Canada.

Jenson, J., Taylor, N. and Shannahan, T. *Where ELSE?:Crossing the Form-Content Divide.* Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference. Phoenix, Arizona.

Lotherington, H. (2005, May). *Goldilocks goes digital: Rewriting traditional narratives in the elementary school.* Paper presented at The language and Literacy Researchers of Canada Special Interest Group Pre-Conference Symposium, CSSE , University of Western Ontario, London.

Lotherington, H. (2005, April). *The ESL teacher as lynchpin in new literacies: Language learning, narrative development, and technology in the elementary school.* Invited keynote presentation at the Annual Toronto District School Board English as a Second Language Conference, The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

Lotherington, H. (2005, April). *Authentic language in digital environments*. Invited paper in CALL Research perspectives (coordinated by Joy Egbert and Gina Petrie) presented at the 39th Annual TESOL Convention and Exhibit, San Antonio, Texas.

Lotherington, H. (2005, April) *how 2 chat: Analyzing NetSpeak*. Invited paper presented to the Department of Languages. Literatures and Linguistics Lecture Series in Linguistics, York University.

Morbey, M. L. (Sept. 2005). *From cybercolonialism to cyberglocalization: A virtual shifting of cultural identity on national museum websites.* The First International Conference on the Histories of New Media, Science and Technology, Banff, Alberta. Live webstreaming at http://mitpress2.mit.edu/e-journals/Leonardo/.

Murphy, J. BETT 2005 Conference - British Education Teaching with Technology Jan 2005 - London England. BETT 2005 Conference - British Education Teaching with Technology Jan 2005 - London England; Ontario School Boards Association - Sept 2004; CANARIE Showcase events - Halifax Sept 2004, Vancouver Oct 2004 and Toronto Nov 2004; ORION events - Toronto - Dec 2004, ThunderBay Nov 2004; Leading Learning - E-Learning conference Feb 2005; OAME Conference - May 2005; ECOO Conference May 2005; EduTech Guest Speaker May 2005; Information Highways 2005 - Roundtable forum.

Owston, R.D., Kushniruk, A., Ho, F., & Pitts, K. (2005, June). *Evaluation of web-based games and simulations using the Virtual Usability Laboratory*. Paper presented at the DIGRA 2005 International Conference, Vancouver.

Sinclair, M. (2005) Audience and the design of mathematical learning objects, p. 66. In D. Jarvis (Ed), *Design Group Report*, pp 65-75, in G. Gadanidis, W. Higginson & K. Sedig (Eds), *Online Mathematical Investigation as a Narrative Experience*, *Proceedings of a Fields Institute Symposium, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario 11-13 June 2004,* London, Ontario.

Sinclair, M. (2005) Developing interactive geometry applets for use in research – Some methodological issues. In *Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Technology in Mathematics Teaching*, Bristol, UK, July 2005.

Selected Member Reports

Lotherington, H. (2004, June). *Report on the technological literacy needs of the Faculty of Education pre-service program.* Report commissioned by the Faculty of Education, York University.

Orpwood, G., Frempong, G., & **Sinclair, M.,** (2005). Measuring school improvement. Report prepared for the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, Ontario Ministry of Education,

Wideman, H.H. (2005). *Teacher eLearning SciTech Course Module C Evaluation Report.* Toronto: The Learning Partnership.

IRLT Technical Reports (all available at website)

2005 Technical Reports
- 2005-1 The Final Report on the Evaluation of the Science and Technology Program of the Teacher eLearning Project

2004 Technical Reports
- 2004-1 The ABEL Project Final Report

- 2004-2 Evaluation of the Mathematics Program of the Teacher eLearning Project
- 2004-3 Health Canada's Skills Enhancement for Health Surveillance
- 2004-4 Tablet PC use at Northern Lights Public School
- 2004-5 Blended Learning Practices at COHERE Universities

Other Selected Activities: Projects/Initiatives/Course Development/Grants

- **Stephen Chen.** SSHRC Small Grant with George Frempong for "Understanding Mathematical Relations through Learning Objects" was awarded $3500. This grant was used to attend the UWO symposium and support Chris Cudmore to develop a learning object. In 2005-06, the continuation of the project will support Haiying Zhu (with **Margaret Sinclair** and George Frempong) to develop lesson plans, and apply for a SSHRC RDI.

- **Avi Cohen** was Dean's Advisor on TEL Initiatives, Faculty of Arts. He was responsible for the development and delivery of recommendations of Faculty of Arts TEL Roundtable: *do TEL*, a 10 week Faculty Development Course for instructors interested in transforming an existing face-to-face course to take advantage of learning and accessibility possibilities afforded by the web; and for the *Student Technology Assistant (STA) Program*, to provide technical support for faculty members with TEL projects, and to improve the training and educational experiences of participating students.

- Project Mosaica (www.mosaica.ca) led by **Shelley Hornstein** presents contemporary Jewish culture in its current form on the Web. The project examines Jewish culture in the arts, and uses the Web in particular as an interactive cultural environment.

- **Richard Jarrell** of the Faculty of Science & Engineering is refining his recently-developed blended learning Natural Science course (*Science: Past, Present and Future*) and is now preparing a new, large, blended course on *Food, Science and Technology*.

- **Jennifer Jenson.** Co-Operative Learning Object Exchange, Learning Object Development Grant. Inukshuk Fund and University of Waterloo. $20,000.

- **Gail Lindsay** (2004-2005) developed a course for online the MScN Program and now is teaching the course: AK/NURS 5110 3.0 *Research-based nursing education praxis*.

- Singh, M., **Lindsay, G.**, Jeffrey, J., **Woodhouse, R.,** & **Owston, R.** (2005). Received a grant for the Masters of Science in Nursing Program Evaluation. Funded by Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, $50,000.00, June 2005.

- **Heather Lotherington** made three appearances this past year on Tech TV (Omni): *The Xbox vs. the EQAO: Where literacy and gaming meet*; *NetSpeak: How communicating online is changing language; NetSpeak: Nu wayz of using language.*

- **Mary Leigh Morbey.** Invited Guest Researcher, Louvre Museum, Paris, France, 2004 and 2005. New course design for EDUC 3600A, New Media Literacy and Technology, and EDUC 5470, Representation and Visual Culture redesigned and taken conceptually into cyberspace theoretical considerations and cross-listed with Art History.

- **Ananya Mukherjee Reed** developed a multilingual website for the Human Development Resource Network (HDRNet). It is a specialised multilingual information gateway and electronic library on human development and international co-operation. The site, which can be accessed at http://www.yorku.ca/hdrnet/, contains some 680 articles and has 462 subscribers to the monthly newsletter from 75 countries.

- **Janet Murphy** directed the Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning (ABEL) program (abelearn.ca) which makes use of CANet4 to provide school teachers and their students with videoconferencing and online learning resources. She conducted many videoconference mediated learning (curricular and professional development) events bringing in education experts and mentors i.e. Mock Trails involving Justice of the Peace Moran, faculty from U of Alberta and York U, professional acting troupes, Futurists, and Environmentalists.

- **Graham Orpwood** directs the York/Seneca Institute for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education (YSIMSTE) (ysiste.com), which is a partnership of York University (Faculty of Education and Faculty of Science and Engineering) and Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology (Faculty of Technology). Its mission is to create and undertake initiatives in teaching, curriculum, applied R&D, and outreach, with a view to improving the quantity and quality of education in mathematics, science, and technology at all levels of education.

- **Ron Owston** and **Katharine Janzen** (Seneca) co-direct the Technology Enhanced Learning Institute (TELi) (teli.ca), which is a partnership of Seneca College of Applied Arts & Technology and York University. Its mission is to encourage and showcase innovative collaborative projects that build on multidisciplinary and complementary strengths of Seneca and York.

- **Ron Owston** and **Jennifer Jenson** participate in the SSHRC New Economy project SAGE (Simulations and Game Enivronments) for Learning based at Simon Fraser University that is exploring the potential of games, simulations, and simulation games to support learning. Owston is leader of the Tools and Methodology domain where he and colleagues are developing a web-based

evaluation tool called the Virtual Usability Lab. Jenson, a principal investigator in the Learning with Simulations domain, is co-developing *Contagion*, a game meant to teach children about the transmission and prevention of contagious diseases.

- **Ron Owston, Herb Wideman, Razika Sanaoui, Margaret Sinclair,** and **Heather Lotherington** began the evaluation of *Learning Connections*, an online professional development pilot project for Junior level teachers of literacy and numeracy, which is being funded by the Ontario Secretariat.

- **Richard Saunders** is developing the online course POLS 4576 "Civil Society and the State in Africa", in collaboration with the Training and Research Support Centre (Harare, Zimbabwe) and the Centre for Civil Society, University of Kwazulu-Natal (Durban, South Africa). The course will be launched in Winter Term 2005/06, and will bring together York senior undergraduates with African-based university students and civil society organisation activists. The project is supported by a York Internationalization Grant. In Winter Term 2004/05 Saunders participated in the Arts doTEL course.

- **Margaret Sinclair**, **Herb Wideman**, Ray Bowers, and **Jane Kennedy** (graduate student) collaborated with **Ron Owston** on the final report for the evaluation of the Teacher eLearning Project sponsored by The Learning Partnership with at $75,000 grant. The project provided online and face-to-face professional development for elementary school mathematics and science teachers.

- **Roberta Sinyor** is developing the course IT 2030/IT3030 *Bologna: A city at the Crossroads of Italy and Europe.* It will become a blended learning course, the blended part happening in Toronto (the second half of the course is taught in Italy).

- **Zbigniew Stachniak** continues to curate the York University Computer Museum (YUCoM) which is a historical collection and a research center for the history of computing located in the Department of Computer Science. Its mission is to preserve, document, and interpret the history of the information age in Canada, with special emphasis on the creation and the development of the Canadian microcomputing industry.

- Microsoft and Intel have committed $20,000 to support **Herb Wideman** and **Ron Owston's** research in York Region School Board examining teacher use of Tablet PCs in elementary school.

- **Renate Wickens** organized the now annual Scholarship of Technology Enhanced Learning (SoTEL) Exchange day for the Faculty of Fine Arts in

April 2005 to discuss the ideas and issues related to teaching and learning with technology.

Member Awards

- Janet Murphy was winner of the Learning Partnership Technology Innovation Award 2005.
- Bill Found received the York University-Wide Teaching Award for 2005.

IRLT Speaker Series

To fulfill its mandate of public dialogue and dissemination of research, IRLT sponsors a speaker series each year. In 2004-05, the events below were held.

Date	Speaker	Topic
October 2004	Ron Owston and Kathryn Cook	*Blended learning at Canadian Universities*
November 2004	Heather Lotherington	*Netspeak: How English is changing online*
January 2005	Bill Muirhead, University of Ontario Institute of Technology	*How has UOIT planned for information and communication technology to support enhanced learning outcomes?*
February 2005	Evelyne Corcos and Peter Paolucci	*Project Tracker—a software tool for academic researchers who do not have time to learn complex project management software*

Advisory Board

As noted above under Governance, IRLT does not have a formal advisory board; however, we intend to establish one this year as recommended by the Senate interim reviewers.