

LIBERATED LEARNING RESEARCH STUDY CONDUCTED AT LANDMARK EAST SCHOOL



Nova Scotia's Landmark East School has been invited by the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (through the Learning Disabilities Association of Nova Scotia) and St. Mary's University - Universal Liberated Learning (www.liberatedlearning.com) to participate in a research project that deals with the use of assistive technology in the classroom. The first phase of the study was conducted in Mr. Tony Hadjisterkoti's Ancient History 10 class during the 2007-2008 school year. The second phase involves more teachers and students and is currently underway. The study should benefit any student having difficulty with note-taking, organization, processing information and study techniques.

When the teacher uses the speech recognition system in the classroom, this allows students to read as well as hear what their teacher is saying as the teachers words are translated into text that is projected onto a screen in the classroom in real time. This text, along with PowerPoint and video, is saved on the teacher's computer allowing for later access by the student. The voice files can be downloaded as MP3 files.

The student's views about the speech recognition technology are extremely important. In particular, their responses will help researchers understand whether or not speech recognition technology improves access to high school teaching for students facing a learning disability and language barriers.



This research will require students to complete questionnaires and/or to participate in focus groups in which they will be asked some basic questions about the support systems that they have used in high school and how they feel about the speech recognition technology being used in their Liberated Learning class, as well as the online notes that are made available to them after class.



Research Study partners **Heather Martin**, Trainer with the Liberated Learning Consortium (left) and **Jason Sharpe**, Literacy Coordinator with the Learning Disabilities Association of Nova Scotia (right) meet with Landmark East high school teacher **Tony Hadjisterkoti** to introduce him to *ViaScribe*, the voice recognition software used in the research study.



Annie Baert, Executive Director of the Learning Disabilities Association of Nova Scotia, and **Keith Bain**, Project Director of Universal Liberated Learning (ULL) at the Atlantic Centre of Support for Students with Disabilities at Saint Mary's University visited Landmark East in October 2007 to introduce the research study which will explore the merits of speech recognition for improving access to teaching content within the high school classroom.

**Landmark East is Canada's International Boarding School
for Students with Learning Disabilities – Established 1979**

www.landmarkeast.org

