He submitted an application for a small amount of GBC Seed Funding in September of 2008 for an applied research project on machine intelligence. His application was approved by the Seed Funding Committee, and Leo also received funding from the Ontario Centres of Excellence Connections Program.

Innovative Research
– The project focuses on the concept of machine intelligence. It explores the use of a software package called the Numenta Platform for Intelligent Computing (NuPIC), to gain a thorough understanding of how... would encounter when monitoring or controlling a remote site such as a water pumping station located miles away.

Student Involvement
– Leo understands that by getting students involved in applied research projects, these students become the first choice of employers. The students' learning experience is enhanced as they take what they learn... working as part of an interprofessional team on a real life, cutting edge and innovative applied research project.

Industry Involvement
– Leo also sought out numerous partners for the project who contributed specialists to work with the students, equipment, and technical support and advice. This kind of industry involvement in a project strengthens the College's relationship with industry and keeps the College's curriculum aligned with what is important to industry.

The initial research project was completed this spring, but it has opened up more opportunities and Leo has plans for future research. As the remote site application is in place, his next step is to refine the features so they... Security for Commercial & Residential Dwellings, or in a Health Care Application for monitoring a home-care patient.

Our congratulations go out to Leo, along with our recognition as an outstanding faculty member. His research advances the learning environment at GBC and the esteem of the college. We are very fortunate to have a professor so dedicated and innovative.

Assistant Vice President's Message
Field notes on applied research

As the Fall semester gets underway, we turn to thinking about the relationships between applied research, innovation, productivity, and teaching and learning—our core mission as an educational institution. On Page 3 of this issue is a list of the recent successful GBC Seed Funding projects. These include applied research projects with external partners as well as a project funded under the new Teaching and Learning Innovation envelope, part of our Innovation Strategy. Our focus is on sponsoring creative, uniquely Canadian applied research that responds to external partner needs (through NSERC and CONII funding). We are also fostering crucial innovation within our teaching as part of our strategy to anticipate—and help fashion—the teaching environment of the future.

This is essential as we look forward and think about how GBC can play a key role as an enabler of the innovation economy. The innovation economy is both a driver and an outgrowth of a knowledge-based society that requires us to ensure our graduates are not only content experts in their fields of choice, but also expert learners, able to adapt to our changing world. By directly involving our students in applied research we promote innovation literacy, producing graduates who have research, problem solving, leadership and entrepreneurial skills, along with the ability to recognize innovation in their work contexts. This is in addition to the job-ready skills our graduates already possess.

College graduates are vital to the national economy. Canada ranks first in the OECD attainment of tertiary education only when College education is factored in. GBC has an important role in addressing both the skills shortage and the skills gap within Ontario and across Canada. Our role in promoting innovation literacy makes us ideal partners in an "ecology of innovation" that promotes partnerships, entrepreneurship, and educational pathways for students, industry and community partners alike.

All of us involved in the innovation economy are oriented toward the same goal of increasing social and economic productivity in Canada. The college applied research system will play a lead role in strengthening national and regional capacity to innovate, working with research centres, industry and community partners to enhance competitiveness in the sectors we serve. Funding for both basic and applied research that leads to innovation, advancement of knowledge, and commercialization is critical to improving community economic and social development. Call it a return on innovation.

Robert Luke Ph.D.

Visit our applied research projects and success stories online on the George Brown searchable repository at: archive.georgebrown.ca

Published by Research and Innovation at GBC
Please visit our Website at: www.georgebrown.ca/research
Graphics by Biz New Media
GBC Research and Innovation is always seeking new and meaningful partnerships with the understanding that support for local Small-to-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) is key to promoting innovation in Canada. The Mill Pond Cannery and Preserves Company was incorporated in 2006, when a historic abandoned grist-mill property in Bloomfield, Prince Edward County, was purchased as its founding site. The vision for this privately-owned family business was to establish an innovative small-batch canning and preserves agri-food business that leverages the immense agriculture assets of Ontario, and responds to key issues in today’s market and emerging consumer preferences and concerns. Knowing how important reducing the carbon footprint can be to today’s consumer, Mill Pond determined that local Ontario farmers and producers would be the sole suppliers of the key ingredients for their delicious preserved products.

For a small start-up business, research and development of recipes can present a major challenge. The fledgling company would need to develop and commercialize unique, high-quality agri-food products, using solely Ontario-grown fruits and vegetables, with the inclusion of heirloom varieties of fruits and vegetables, and functional food elements wherever possible. Dave Smythe, co-owner of Mill Pond, learned of the excellent work and support provided by GBC’s Culinary Studio during his research to develop a company business plan. He was seeking a collaborative partner to provide assistance with innovative recipe creation and testing, as well as nutritional analysis and labeling.

"My initial meetings with GBC were extremely helpful and informative, and indicated a strong commitment to innovative culinary research, as well as unparalleled knowledge and experience, combined with a rigorous and professional project management-based approach to the initiative," says Smythe. These characteristics were of significant importance to him in finding an academic partner.

Access to students, faculty expertise, research facilities, and a network of contacts that would otherwise not be easily available, were key for Mill Pond, increasing their opportunity for high quality innovative products and a shorter time-to-market. Since beginning this partnership, GBC is also deriving benefits from its work with Mill Pond, including the ongoing development of its staff and exposure of its students to real-life challenges, which will make them better able to meet the demands of the workforce after graduation.

The success of this project not only benefits GBC students and staff, but it is also enabling the start-up of an innovative small-batch agri-food business that supports local Ontario fruit and vegetable producers and addresses key environmental and healthy food concerns. This proud collaboration is surely a partnership in good taste.