WOLFVISION

Application in Education

University of Montréal
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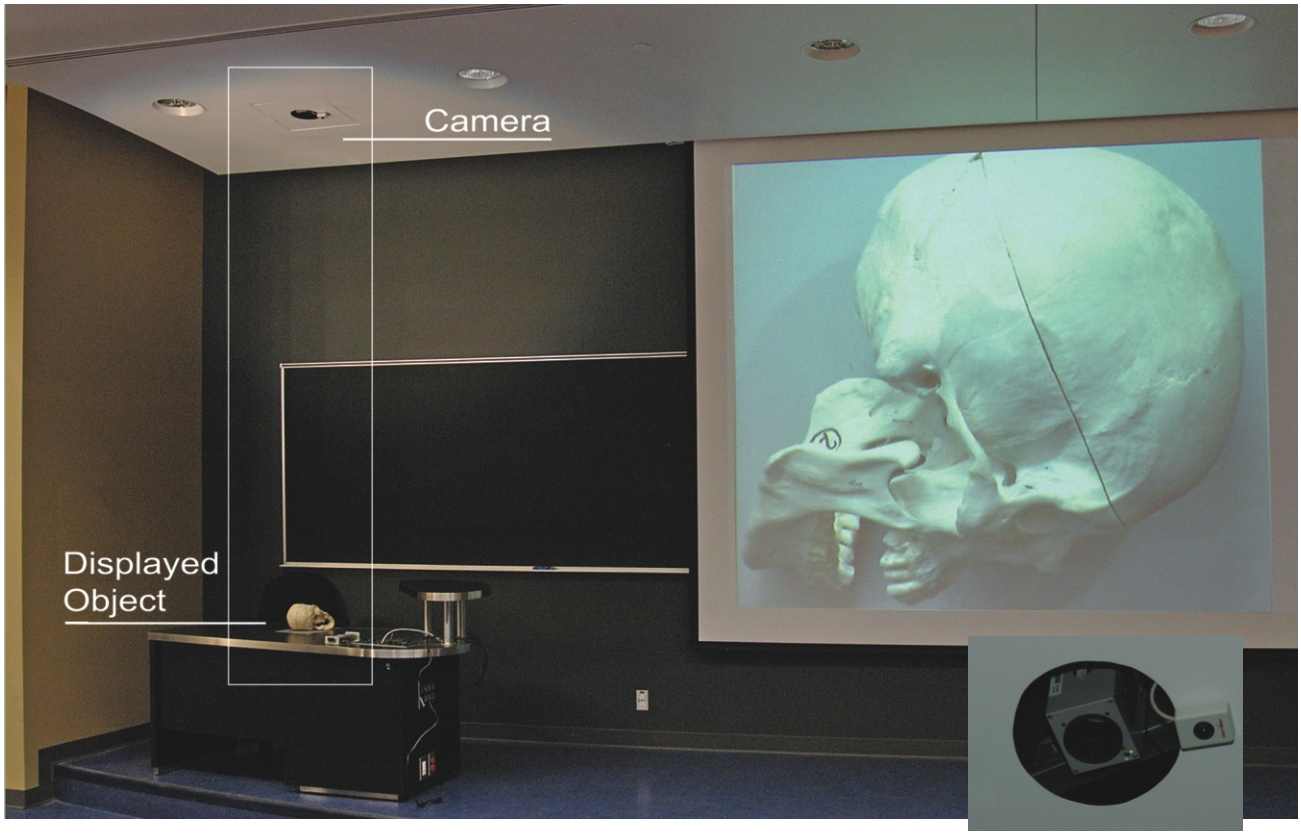

The Ceiling Visualizer (small photo above) is discretely installed above the lecture table (larger photo) so that it won't disrupt the student's view and frees up space for more participants.

The University of Montréal is the largest university in Quebec and the second largest in Canada. Despite the impressive size of the campus, which contains 80 departments and schools, 30 buildings and 13 faculties, the management of the university is always keen to optimise available space and improve study conditions. These were two of the main reasons why the university decided to introduce WolfVision's Progressive Scan Cameras to their pharmacological and medical faculty in September 2005 as part of their study programs.

The Progressive Scan Camera enables teachers to present live images of lecture related medical objects or teaching materials onto a very large screen. By means of the camera, installed directly above the lectern, teachers can now record the images from overhead easily and without any obstruction to students' views. Up till now, overhead projectors were used, taking up valuable seating space because they required being positioned several meters away from the screen and also completely in the middle of the screen to be able to project properly. This resulted in blocked views and less available seats.

With the Progressive Scan Camera's easy usage, teachers can concentrate completely on their presentations, without bothering with equipment technicalities and also free up valuable space on their lectern. They also no longer need to be limited to the use of transparencies, although they can still use them if they wish.

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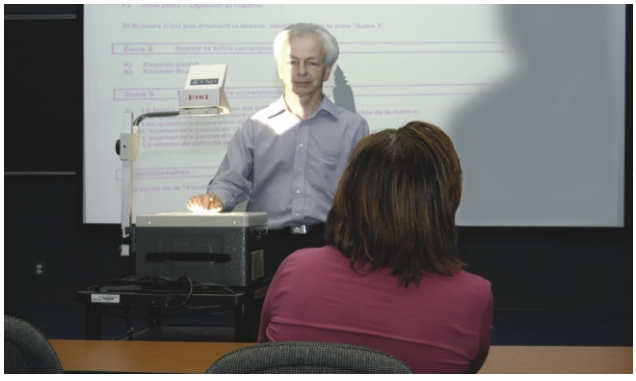
The university has also gone a step further by making use of the compatibility option of WolfVision Cameras, with their newly introduced video-conferencing systems. This is used to transfer entire lectures into other classroom faculties, thereby allowing even more students to participate. The room camera of the video-conference system transfers the image of the lecturer when he or she is talking and the WolfVision Progressive Scan Camera transfers detailed views of objects presented by the lecturer by an XGA-IP link. All images are then transferred into real-time motion and as a result, remote students can experience the lecture as if they would be present in the same room. Laptop and computer images as well as interactive whiteboards annotations are also transferred to other locations in the same way.

Ceiling Visualizers never block the view of the podium (see above). In the past, valuable seat room was used by bulky overhead projectors (see below) and finding a good view of the screen could cause disturbances in classrooms.



Normand Gagnon, audio-visual advisor, DGTIC of the Université de Montéal (pictured right) in one of the university's classrooms where entire lectures are transfered live onto student's computer screens.

With students being spoiled nowadays by high-quality and color-true images from laptops, Normand Gagnon, the Audio-Visual Advisor, DGTIC Université de Montréal says, “We found that the good resolution of WolfVision's XGA camera together with the high frame rate, makes it a great tool for live demonstrations and video-conferencing. We also noticed that an XGA type image, once transmitted by a web link, reproduces much clearer pictures on a projector than a video image from a traditional videoconferencing room camera. This is needed to present small prints from books or folders in a clear and legible way.”

Asked why they opted for WolfVision's stand-alone Progressive Scan Camera instead of a Visualizer on the lectern, Normand Gagnon comments “Because the camera can be directly mounted onto the low ceiling. This has several advantages: first of all, it frees up space in the lectern area for the teacher, also we can pick up images of objects larger than those that we could have picked up if the device was on a table, and finally, there is less chance of the camera getting into the wrong hands. All you have to put away at the end of the lecture is the remote control. All this and the fact that is an affordable alternative made it the perfect solution for us.”

WolfVision's Progressive Scan Cameras are part of a completely new project at University of Montreal. Normand Gagnon, who initiated it, is very satisfied with the results, "To this date, we can congratulate ourselves for the success. We are planning to adapt it for many of our seminar rooms in future.”