

Teaching Commons News

Snow may fall and winds may blow but you can be sure of a warm welcome at the TC!

This month we seem to be looking back and looking ahead. Sadly for us one of our developers, Ellen Sims has left the TC – sad for us but a positive move for Ellen as she is taking up an exciting new role in the UK. Ellen's leaving event was an opportunity for us to look back over the two and half years Ellen has been at York and to reflect on the work that has been accomplished, but also to reflect on what lies ahead! However as one door closes another opens –in our case this means we are able to welcome Natasha May to the TC as an educational developer.



Natasha May holds her PhD (York, 2013) in pure mathematics, specifically specializing in set-theoretic topology. She has been involved with teaching and learning at York since 2007, completing the Senior Teaching Assistant Program and acting as a Teaching Commons Tutor with the Teaching Commons before joining them as a Research Assistant. She is an Instructional Skills Workshop Facilitator and has been involved in organizing the programming for Teaching Assistants. She has also been

teaching a variety of mathematics courses at York in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, including MATH 4100 - Topics in Mathematics Education: Theory and Practice. Now as an educational developer Natasha will be leading on First Year Experience and TA support. She is particularly passionate about the student experience at York University and is committed to supporting all initiatives at York!

Regular readers will be aware that we have had a number of new faces join the TC in recent months. We are now in a position to be able to have a named contact within the TC for each Faculty – see the side panel for details.

ISW – Instructional Skills Workshops

Check out the TC events page to register for the 3 day ISW – participants can't praise it more highly – this is for experienced and novice teachers alike. See <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/instructional-skills-workshop/> for details.

Follow the Teaching Commons on Twitter

If you use Twitter – follow us at YU Teaching Commons. We intend to make increasing use of Twitter to share news and stories from across the internet. None of us want to be inundated with messages, but Twitter can be a useful means to keep informed of what is going on around teaching and learning in PSE (Post-Secondary Education).

TC – Faculty contact:

AMPD – Natasha May

Education - Genevieve Maheux-Pelletier

Environmental Studies – Mandy Frake-Mistak

Glendon - Genevieve Maheux-Pelletier

Health – Mandy Frake-Mistak

LA&PS – Social Sciences – Natasha May

LA&PS – Humanities – Genevieve Maheux-Pelletier

LA&PS – Professional Studies – Yelin Su

Lassonde – Barbara Kerr

Osgoode - Barbara Kerr

Schulich - Barbara Kerr

Science – Yelin Su

Congratulations to successful OOI applicants

We were delighted to hear that several proposals from York for the Ontario Online Initiative have received funding. We would like to commend all 12 proposers for their commitment to enhancing student learning. Particular congratulations go to the 4 that received government funding – see below, and a special congratulation to Natural Science as they were recognized by the Office of the Provost for enhanced support. The TC looks forward to working with these colleagues in the next few months, together with Learning Technology Services (LTS) to support these exciting projects. The funded courses are:

Interactive Art and Design: Theory and Practice (AMPD) led by Michael Longford

Ethics and Legal Studies in Education (EDU) led by Theresa Shanahan

Elementary Modern Korean Language (LAPS) led by Mihyon Jeon

History in Practice: Community Informed Mental Health (LAPS) led by Megan J. Davies

Life Beyond Earth (SC) led by Michael De Robertis

All 12 proposals had great merit, and we would like to encourage any that were not funded to consider applying to the AIF – details can be found at <http://aifprojects.yorku.ca/>

York Teaching and Learning Resources

New Teaching and Learning website

Learn more about teaching and learning at York by visiting the new Teaching and Learning website <http://teachingandlearning.yorku.ca> This website was developed by the Office of Associate Vice-President Teaching and Learning and features our topnotch professors, work focused experience for students, community focused experience for students and learning through technology. While the intended audience is prospective students, there may be something to learn from this site for the whole community – share in the pride we have in our teachers and our teaching!

Student guide to elearning

Whether you're teaching a fully online course, a blended learning course, or using web-enhanced learning in your course, the Student Guide to eLearning available online at <http://elearning-guide.apps01.yorku.ca/> provides useful information for your students. There is advice, resources and information on such topics as, what to expect when you study online, netiquette, and checking your online learning readines

This newsletter is available as a .pdf at
<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/tcnewsletter/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

TIF is shaping up to be even more exciting this year as we move to a two day format. The schedule is being finalized and we look forward to sharing this with you in next month's issue. For more information regarding the conference see <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/teaching-commons-conferences/>

[Supervising Graduate Students – please note this course has been rescheduled – enrolment is still open with spaces filling fast – go to ...](#)