

Teaching Commons News

And finally we see a summer breeze!

With summer finally here, it is time to reflect on the last academic year. What was your best teaching moment of 2014-15? What challenges arose? And perhaps more importantly, how can you carry these forward next academic year to do an even better job at teaching? Sarah Wessling, an Iowa English teacher named 2010 National Teacher of the Year by President Obama, explains: "the reason we always have to get better is because we always have different students in front of us."

With this thought in mind, we hope that you take some time for developing something new as part of your teaching plans. The Teaching Commons is open all summer to provide support via individual consultations, workshops and courses. In particular, we are offering an Experiential Education and an eLearning bootcamp, the scheduling of which is available in Upcoming Events in Brief to the right of this section.

To sign up, please follow this link:

EE bootcamp: <http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=143267>

eLearning bootcamp:

<http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=162762>

The Instructional Skills Workshops

If you are looking for a fresh start and would like to add a few skills to your teaching toolkit, the Instructional Skills Workshop, or ISW, is for you! The ISW is a 3-day intensive experiential learning program designed to develop teaching skills for both new and experienced instructors. Offered within a small-group setting, the ISW affords the participants the opportunity to teach mini-lessons and receive feedback from the other attendees. Participants gain useful theoretical and practical knowledge to enhance their teaching. The workshop encourages self-reflection and is centred on peer feedback.

We will be offering two sets of workshops in August:

August 5-7 ISW from 9-5:30 in TEL 1014.

<http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=251924>

August 24, 26, and 27 from 9-5:30 in TEL 1014. <http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=253691>

Upcoming Events

in Brief

Les cours hybrides / Blended Learning

July 8-9, 10 am - 1:15 pm
YH 170 (Glendon College)

Experiential Education Bootcamp

July 14, 10am-3pm
TEL 1014

eLearning Bootcamp

July 16, 10am-3pm
TEL 2114

Attention!

The TC is looking for contributors for a blog starting in the fall. Any topic related to teaching and learning is welcome!

For info :
teaching@yorku.ca

NEW PROFESSORS, WELCOME!

The Teaching Commons will be holding the **New Faculty Orientation Teaching Focus Day** on July 7 and again on August 26. Email teaching@yorku.ca for more information.

The TC Annual Retreat



In late June the Teaching Commons held its annual retreat to reflect on the past year. Among our many accomplishments, we established a more direct connection to individual faculties so that units can more easily get in touch and request support. To find out who your TC liaison is, identify your faculty and named contact here. 

Of course the retreat was also an opportunity to set common goals and work on expanding our offerings and programs. While our focus remains eLearning, Experiential Education and First-Year Experience, we also have plans to encourage scholarly conversation about teaching via initiatives such as **Let's TaLC** (the Teaching and Learning Collective) and **Teaching Squares** to be launched this fall.

Let's TaLC will meet monthly to support faculty in articulating and investigating a question they have about their students' learning. The **Teaching Squares** will provide faculty with an opportunity to engage in a reciprocal classroom observation cycle after which the group will reflect together on their practice in a supportive environment.

Training for the Recipients of the Academic Fund Initiative

In May and June, we provided several courses both for eLearning (fully online and blended learning) and experiential education. Now that the training is winding down, we invite all recipients to contact our lead educational developers in these two areas for one-on-one support. Contact Dr Yelin Su (ysu@yorku.ca) or Dr Geneviève Maheux-Pelletier (gmp@yorku.ca).

Increasing Capacity to Deliver More ISWs

Three of our instructional staff participated in the Facilitator Development Workshop this spring, which means that we will have more of us able to deliver the Instructional Skills Workshop. The TC already offers it regularly, but we will soon be able to offer it in different formats and for specific audiences. For example, we plan on making it available to the colleagues at Glendon College in the fall.

Globally Networked Learning

In early summer, Dr. Robin Roth gave an exciting workshop on Globally Networked Learning or GNL, a method for fostering online collaborative international education. Attendees were guided through the process of transforming a course into one that takes advantage of the online environment to deliver on internationalization in a productive way. Dr Roth experienced for herself how the use of online tools fosters greater global awareness and intercultural competencies amongst the students by grouping Toronto-based students and Thai refugees in her course on climate change. If you want to learn more about GNL or would like to be part of this AIF initiative, please visit <http://gnl.apps01.yorku.ca/>.

Who is the liaison for your faculty?

Arts, Media, Performance & Design
Natasha May

Education
Geneviève M-Pelletier

Environmental Studies
Barbara Kerr

Glendon College
Geneviève M-Pelletier

Health
Barbara Kerr

Lassonde School of Engineering
Mandy Frake-Mistak

Libraries
Barbara Kerr

Science
Yelin Su

LA&PS, Humanities
Geneviève M-Pelletier

LA&PS, Social Sciences
Natasha May

LA&PS, Professional Studies
Yelin Su

Osgoode Hall Law School
Barbara Kerr

Schulich School of Business
Natasha May

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