

Teaching Commons News

Teaching and Learning month at York

As the fall/winter session comes to a close, it is an opportune time to reflect on the past year and examine our teaching values and approaches. May is Teaching and Learning Month at York. Many Faculties are hosting teaching and learning related events. From the York *Teaching in Focus (TIF) conference* to a presentation on *Experiential Learning in Engineering Education* by Dr. Cristina Amon, Dean of Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering at the University of Toronto, to a *Workshop on Strengthening Student Success by Rethinking the Teaching of Undergraduate Research Skills* offered by York Libraries, several exciting events around campus have been planned. We hope you will have the opportunity to share and learn from colleagues.

Register for 2015 TIF conference



On May 21st and May 22nd, we will have a two-day Teaching in Focus conference to celebrate teaching and learning at York. This peer reviewed conference is for all who teach or support student learning at York to celebrate teaching, share experience and innovations in teaching practices, make connections, and build and expand a community and scholarship of teaching and learning.

We have an extensive schedule of sessions; including a keynote presentation from Dean Lorne Sossin, a plenary on the First Year experience, and our PUWTA award winners' panel moderated by Provost Lenton. The full program is available at <http://tinyurl.com/TIF052015-schedule> . Participants may register for all-day, morning, lunch and poster, or afternoon sessions, but we hope you will stay for the full two days.

We have an exciting program and limited seats available. To secure a place, register at your earliest convenience at: <http://tinyurl.com/tif2015-register> .

Other May Teaching and Learning Events at York

Please contact your Faculty to see what events they have planned for May. The following are two examples from our York colleagues.

Upcoming Workshops

Supporting Students' Academic Literacies

This workshop will take place on Wednesday May 20 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Register at [Supporting Students' Academic Literacies](#)

Course Curriculum Design Workshops - Principles and Practices

This workshop will take place on Tuesday June 16 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Register at [Principles and Practices](#)

For more information on these workshops visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-cds/workshops-and-courses-for-cds/>

Experiential Education in the Classroom

As part of their **Distinguished Speakers Series**, the **Mechanical Engineering Department, Lassonde School of Engineering** has invited **Dr. Christina Amon**, Dean of Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering, University of Toronto to speak on **Experiential Learning** on May 12th at 14:00. This talk builds on the challenges set out by the National Academy of Engineering in the Engineer of 2020 report, and articulates the importance of experiential learning as well as instilling professional transferable competencies including global fluency, teamwork, leadership and entrepreneurship in our engineering education. It also describes hands-on active learning in courses such as Interdisciplinary Approach to Global Challenges, and Cross-cultural and Multi-disciplinary Capstone Courses in partnership with industry, along with the relevance of collaborative learning environments. For more information regarding this event, please visit the Mechanical Engineering website at <http://mech.lassonde.yorku.ca/content/distinguished-speakers-series-engineering-education-university-toronto>

You are invited to register for Dr. Amon's talk at:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/publish?crumb=257386888907ca&eid=16816219766>

Strengthening Student Success by Rethinking the Teaching of Undergraduate Research Skills

In celebration of Teaching and Learning Month at York, the Libraries invite faculty members and course instructors from all faculties to attend this collaborative workshop: *Strengthening Student Success by Rethinking the Teaching of Undergraduate Research Skills* on May 28, 2015 from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm in Scott Library, room 503.

To register, please complete this online form: <http://ow.ly/L2D9F>

We will:

- 1) Identify major elements within a new research skills framework.
- 2) Discuss best practices for teaching research skills to students.
- 3) Provide the opportunity for participants to work in small groups to collaboratively develop subject-specific assignments that incorporate elements of this new research skills framework.

By the end of the session, participants will have begun the process of rethinking the design of research assignments for their courses and will have learned about new and innovative ways to develop students' research skills, setting them up for future success at York University. For additional information, please contact Dana Craig (dcraig@yorku.ca)

light refreshments will be served

Online Learning and Flexibility

In May and June 2015, we will have 2 offerings of eLearning@York: Designing blended instructions and 3 offerings of eLearning@York: Designing fully online instructions. We have combined the 4 in-class sessions into a two-day intensive workshop with three online modules to be completed independently.

For course schedule and registration, please visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-cds/workshops-and-courses-for-cds/courses/elearning-york-course/>

Instructional Skills Workshop

The ISW workshop continues to be popular with experienced and novice instructors alike. While the June ISW is full, we have multiple other opportunities for instructors to take part. You can contact Mandy Frake-Mistak at mfmistak@yorku.ca for June in case of a cancellation, or register for our July 15-17 ISW (<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/?p=19810>).

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