

Teaching Commons News

The Love of Teaching and Learning

February, the month of love and family, has arrived! This is the month of candy, flowers, and getting together to express and celebrate our love for family, friends, colleagues and teaching! This is also the month to spread your love and passion for teaching to colleagues in your department, faculty, the York community, and beyond. It is the month to think of your colleagues, connect with them, share your teaching with them, and spend some quality family time with York's teaching community. Together, this month, let's express our love for teaching and learning with the York family.



Show your 'Love for Learning' this Valentine's Day !

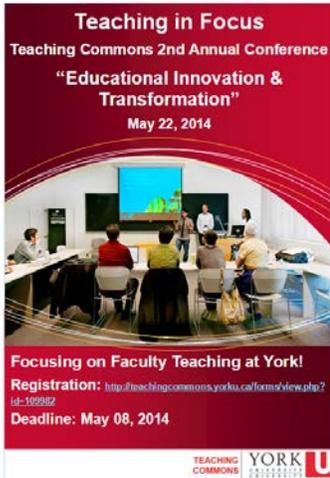
For the past 8 years, the Centre for Teaching Excellence at U Waterloo has coordinated 'Loving to Learn Day' on Feb 14th – an annual celebration of everyone's love of learning. 'Loving to Learn Day' has spread to other Canadian universities and colleges, and even as far as Australia. This year, everyone at York University is invited to show their love of learning by answering the question: 'What makes a great teacher?' Add your answer to this question online at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/love-to-learn-day/> by **February 14, 2014**, and see what others at York think! Are you a great teacher? Do you have or know a great teacher? Tell us about it!

New Space in Teaching Commons available



Our new Teaching Commons Space in TEL 1050 is ready for booking. The TC space has 2 round tables with 8 chairs and 6 armchairs. It can hold 15 people comfortably and is ideal for small events. This space is available to all who teach at York (contract faculty, tenure stream faculty, TAs, new and experienced) for **teaching related events/meetings**. If you need a place to host an event to share ideas, to discuss teaching related topics and to meet with like-minded individuals, please contact teaching@yorku.ca to arrange the booking.

Homecoming for Teaching: The 2nd Annual 'Teaching in Focus' Conference, May 22, 2014, 'Educational Innovation and Transformation'



Keynote speakers:

Dr. Rhonda Lenton, Vice-President Academic & Provost, York University; &

Dr. Harvey Wiengarten, President and CEO of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO)

To register to attend TIF, please complete the form by **May 08, 2014** at

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=109982>

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Love for eLearning

Showcase how creative you are using digital tools and environments in your teaching:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=102758>

or contact Ellen Sims
esims@yorku.ca

Feature Presentation*: Teaching with SPARK

* Each month until the conference we will feature one of the sessions to be presented.

Presenters:

Ron Sheese, Department of Psychology and Writing Department



Sophie Bury, Head, Bronfman Library, Schulich School of Business

Abstract: In this 60 minute interactive presentation, we will describe York's recently developed SPARK resource. SPARK (<http://www.yorku.ca/spark>) is a set of online modules designed to assist students in learning to write academic essays in the social sciences and humanities. The focus of our session will be how faculty members can make use of the resource in their teaching. We will discuss common problems that students face in the preparation of academic essays and how SPARK can be used in the context of a course to help students address these problems. SPARK and our session both address a range of problems including managing time, conducting library research, drafting, revising, and editing. We will invite participants to consider what they have found problematic in working with their students who are preparing essays, and we will respond with pointers to aspects of SPARK designed to address these problems. At the end of the presentation, participants will have a good knowledge of the content of the SPARK resource and ideas about how they can make use of it in their courses.



Upcoming Teaching Commons' Events

Building Experiential Education into the Classroom

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, February 12, 2014 in TEL 1014

What is experiential education, and what are its constituent elements? What options do you have for incorporating EE into your course? This workshop is an introductory orientation to the world of EE at York University and provides a starting point for individuals who are new to EE. To register, please visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=71226> .

Experiential Education @York Course

This workshop is offered over 2 sessions with tasks to compete between sessions.

Face to face sessions: 10am to 1pm, Feb 28th and March 21st, 2014 in TEL 1014

This course is open to all faculty and TAs with Course Director tickets. As an outcome of these sessions, participants will be able to develop a design for the delivery and evaluation of a course with an EE component. No experience of developing EE is required, but participants may prefer to choose to work with a course they are already planning or teaching.

Sign up: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=73872>

eLearning@York course

Face to face sessions: 9.30 AM -12.30 PM, Feb 26 and April 9, 2014 in TEL 1014

This is a blended learning course with 2 face to face meetings and 6 online modules. All participants will have the opportunity to adapt or develop and evaluate a blended or fully online course. It is not necessary for participants to be scheduled to teach online in the academic year, but you may wish to focus on a course you are already teaching or plan to develop. No experience of developing eLearning is required.

Sign up: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=103345>

February Copyright Workshop Series

- Copyright at York: Tools and Tips to Support Your Teaching

12.00 pm -1.00 pm, Feb 13, 2014, in TEL 1009

Registration: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=97338>

- Copyright: Course Materials Development

1.00 pm -2.00 pm, Feb 19, 2014, in TEL 1014

Registration: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=97516>

- For March and April sessions: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/winter-2014-copyright-workshop-series/>



Love for Accessible Teaching

AODA legislation came into effect in January 2014, resources and tips available at

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/resources/accessibility/>

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/resources/accessibility/#tips>

Applying for Teaching Awards? The Teaching Commons can help!

A list of awards is available on our website at:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/awards-grants/>. If you know of an award that we've not included, please let us know at teaching@yorku.ca

Internal Awards

At York we have a range of teaching awards available for different categories of experience and role. There are internal awards offered by most Faculties, as well as YUFA and CUPE, and a University wide President's Award. Many of these awards are aimed at Course Directors and Teaching Assistants. The Teaching Commons can offer general advice if you are considering submitting an application or seeking nomination for any internal award, but in the interests of fairness cannot offer personalized support in creating a submission.

External Awards

The Teaching Commons would like to provide individual support to candidates for any external teaching award.

Call for Nominations for the 2014 Alan Blizzard Award

The Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education announces the Call for Nominations for the 2014 Alan Blizzard Award. This award celebrates, and brings to national attention, exemplary collaborative faculty projects in Canadian universities that deepen and extend student learning. Information about the 2014 Alan Blizzard Award, including a description of the award, the criteria, eligibility, and application procedure, is available at <http://www.stlhe.ca/awards/alan-blizzard-award/>.

Deadline: **Friday, March 14, 2014.**

Support from the Teaching Commons: we can assist you in putting together a nomination. Please contact Dr. Celia Popovic cpopovic@yorku.ca by early February at the very latest.

3M Teaching Fellowships

This is the most prestigious award in Canada to honor exceptional contributions to teaching and learning at Canadian universities. Up to ten awards are presented each year to recognize teaching excellence as well as educational leadership, and are sponsored by 3M Canada, in collaboration with the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. More information is available on the 3M Teaching Fellowship Program website: <http://www.stlhe.ca/awards/3m-national-teaching-fellowships/>

Deadline: **Sunday, August 31, 2014.**

Support from the Teaching Commons: There is a considerable amount of work to be done for the nomination. If you feel you meet the criteria (having reviewed the award website) and would like to be considered for nomination, please submit your name in confidence to Celia Popovic cpopovic@yorku.ca by the end of February. The Teaching Commons will work closely with colleagues considered to have the best chance of success to ensure a strong application.



Love for Teaching Innovation

Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) and Desire to Learn (D2L) - Teaching Innovation Awards

Deadline for submissions: **Feb 2, 2014**

Details:

<http://www.stlhe.ca/awards/desire2learn-innovation-award/>



OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards

Each year OCUFA recognizes outstanding teachers and academic librarians in Ontario universities through its Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards. Since 1973 OCUFA has presented 383 awards. The recipients are selected by the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee. Approximately 7 awards are presented. Details are at: <http://ocufa.on.ca/ocufa-awards/teaching-and-academic-librarianship-awards/>

Deadline: **Friday, May 23, 2014.**

Support from the Teaching Commons: The TC is happy to assist nominators and nominees in honing their application to best represent the nominee's strengths – if you would like to avail yourself of this support please contact Dr. Celia Popovic cpopovic@yorku.ca as soon as possible.

Teaching Development Funding Opportunity

CUPE 3903 Unit 2 Teaching Development Grants

Each year, Contract Faculty are eligible to apply for grants through the CUPE 3903 Unit 2 Teaching Development Fund. The fund is intended to assist "contract faculty to develop a new program of study, new courses and teaching materials, and/or their teaching skills." Based on criteria specified in Article 15.18 of the Unit 2 Collective Agreement, each year the following grants are allocated:

- Two Major grants each in the amount of one full Course Directorship
- Five Minor grants in the amount of \$2,500 each

Further information, the application form and eligibility criteria can be found here: <http://3903.cupe.ca/updir/3903/ckfinder/files/TDF%202013%20CUPE%203903.pdf>

Deadline: The deadline for this year has been extended to *March 1, 2014.*

For more detailed information about the course and registration, please visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/elearning-york-course/>.

York University Accessibility Fund (YUAF)

A York University-wide fund has been established to make the York community (at both the Keele and Glendon campuses) more accessible to persons with disabilities participating in academic, social, or cultural events. You can bid for:

Classroom and Practicum Technological Equipment and Supports; Disability Awareness and Education; Supplemented Support for Extra/Co-curricular and Other Out-of-Class Activities; Supplemented Support for Conferences Hosted by the University; and more. Other requests may also be considered. For further details: <http://vpfa.info.yorku.ca/yuaf/>

Did you know?

You might be eligible to apply for an eLearning incentive program. Contact your faculty for details.





Student Engagement with Discussion Forums

Discussion forums are one of the most popular ways of adding engagement to your course. They are also a good way of extending in-class discussions, giving all students the opportunity to participate and time to reflect on the topic. And, when effectively designed, discussion forums can also promote higher order thinking skills and can help instructors assess student

achievement in relation to the course outcomes.

Did you know that it is possible to create group discussions in Moodle? For more information on using groups in Moodle Please refer to

https://moodle.yorku.ca/instructors/training/groups_about_groups_and_groupings.html

For more information on setting up a Discussion Forum in Moodle, please see our Discussion Forum resource at

https://moodle.yorku.ca/instructors/training/using_discussion_forums.html.



Consider these suggestions when including Discussion Forums in any of your courses:

- Design questions that ask student to draw upon the reading and lecture materials in order to use that knowledge in a new way (i.e. comparing, contrasting) or create their own or assess others' ideas.
- Set expectations with your students at the beginning of the course. *What makes a good contribution? How often will you be checking in and what kind of contributions can they expect you to make the discussions?*
- Make the rubric available to students and provide examples of good posts if you will be grading contributions.
- Set requirements for the number of postings and replies each student should contribute if you want to encourage discussion between students.
- Be prepared to guide the conversation.

News from the Library

We are currently collaborating on a number of initiatives to support the enhancement of teaching and learning including resources and professional development, for example an online Library orientation for new faculty and workshops on digital literacy and teaching academic skills.

Undergraduate Research Fair

York University Libraries' second annual multidisciplinary **Undergraduate Research Fair**, co-sponsored by the Libraries and *VP Research & Innovation*, will take place on **Tuesday, Feb. 25th, 2014** in the Scott Library *Collaboratory*. Please join the Fair participants and celebrate undergraduate research. More information here: undergradresearchfair.blog.yorku.ca .

SPARK recognized for innovation, to be broadcast live to the Province!

A Webinar Series highlighting ground-breaking innovation in online learning at Ontario public colleges and universities has been announced by Contact North, Ontario's Distance Education network. The series will be launched in January, with the February 10th webinar featuring York's Virtual Learning Commons, SPARK (www.yorku.ca/spark). For more info and to register, <http://www.contactnorth.ca/pockets-innovation/spark-virtual-learning-commons> . While you are there, check out more than 90 case studies of innovations, plus the really useful 'tips and tools' section.

For information about our programs, resources and much more, visit our website at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca>

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

