

Teaching Commons News

Happy New Year from the Teaching Commons!



The new year is a great time to recommit to developing your teaching practice. Join us at the Teaching Commons for workshops, webinars, and events designed to help you explore teaching innovations, network with colleagues, and discover new strategies for supporting your students both inside and outside the classroom.

TIF Call for Proposals

The Teaching in Focus Conference (TIF) is an event designed to celebrate educational innovation & transformation. This year, there is the option to submit a proposal for an [interactive session](#), a [panel discussion](#), or a [poster presentation](#).

The deadline to submit proposals is **Friday, February 17**.

Questions can be sent to teaching@yorku.ca

Teaching Commons Journal Club: January 2017

The Teaching Commons Journal Club will begin again in the new year!

Join us on Wednesday, January 18 from 2-3:30pm in the Teaching Commons Lounge for an informal discussion of [Cutting the distance in distance education: Perspectives on what promotes positive, online learning experiences](#).

Journal Club participants are asked to read the chosen article in advance and come prepared to discuss their ideas, reactions, and questions with fellow colleagues interested in exploring innovation in teaching and learning.

Date: **Wednesday, January 18, 2017**

Location: **Victor Phillip Dahdaleh (formerly TEL) Building – 1050 (Teaching Commons Lounge)**



Upcoming Workshops

Putting Together Your Teaching Dossier

Tuesday, January 17
9:30am-11:30am

[Register](#)

Introduction to Experiential Education

Wednesday, January 18
9:30am-12pm

[Register](#)

Teaching 1000-Level Courses

Wednesday, January 25
10am-12pm

[Register](#)

ISW – Instructional Skills Workshops

January 20, 27, &
February 3 OR January
28, 29, 30

During this three-day workshop, participants will work collaboratively in a small group setting to further develop their teaching effectiveness while also receiving feedback on new teaching strategies & techniques.

[Register for Jan 20, 27, & Feb 3 ISW](#)

[Register for Jan 28-30 ISW](#)

Do you know your Educational Developer?

Each Educational Developer at the Teaching Commons is responsible for one or more Faculties at York. They are your first point of contact should you have any questions.

Educational Developer	Email	Faculties Supported
Dr. Mandy Frake-Mistak	mfmistak@yorku.ca	Lassonde, Continuing Studies
Dr. Barbara Kerr	kerrb@yorku.ca	Environmental Studies, Health, Glendon and Schulich
Dr. Natasha May	maynat@yorku.ca	AMPD, Social Sciences (LA&PS), and Osgoode
Dr. Yelin Su	ysu@yorku.ca	Science, Professional Studies (LA&PS)
Ms. Lisa Endersby	lendersb@yorku.ca	Humanities (LA&PS), Education
Dr. Lisa O'Neill	mloneill@yorku.ca	eLearning Support for all Faculties

Celebrating Teaching at the Teaching Commons

On December 5, 2016, over 30 faculty and graduate students came together to celebrate teaching and student learning. The Teaching Commons Lounge was filled with the sights, sounds and scents of celebration as attendees shared stories of their teaching experiences this past fall semester and exchanged strategies to try next semester, while enjoying refreshments and each other's company. A few even engaged in activities, like trying out virtual reality and identifying workshops they'd like to co-facilitate with a fellow educational developer from the Teaching Commons. If you are interested in co-facilitating a teaching workshop for faculty, please do not hesitate to contact us at teaching@yorku.ca!



Webinar: Copyright, Open Educational Resources, and Teaching

This workshop provides participants with the opportunity to become familiar with common open education practices. Hopefully this overview will support you in building your courses using open resources and provide you with some 'food for thought' about how to properly license your resources to make them shareable. By the end of the workshop you should be able to:

- Identify potential sources of open educational resources (OER's) suited to your curriculum
- Practice creating OER by posting educational media & assigning Creative Commons licensing

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 10:30am – 12:00pm

Registration: <http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=402076>

Webinar: AIF Category II Proposal Development

This webinar is for faculty members who are interested in submitting an AIF Category II proposal. The workshop will detail the process of executing an AIF Category II grant and answer questions on AIF proposal writing, submission, and the project execution. Please kindly note the participants are expected to review the application guidelines <http://aifprojects.yorku.ca/apply/> and form and submit your key questions prior to the webinar at <http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=403073>.

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Registration: <http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=402751>



RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Social Media: Implications for the University

Roberta Iannacito-Provenzano & Jana Vizmuller-Zocco (Editors)

The objective of the volume is to offer a balanced critical reflection on the role of social media in the workings of the engaged university by analyzing, critiquing, and exploring the rich ideological and pragmatic relationships ensuing from the intersection between social media and academic life. Using both established methodologies of scientific research and novel approaches, the content highlights the ways in which social media may be applied to research, teaching, and university administration.

Learn more at:

<http://www.aracneeditrice.it/aracneweb/index.php/pubblicazione.html?item=9788854897427>

Conference Report

International Consortia of Educational Developers (ICED) 2016

Celia Popovic, Director, Teaching Commons

I was most fortunate to attend the recent ICED Conference in Cape Town. Even though I had never visited South Africa before, it had the feeling of homecoming for me, as this is a bi-annual meeting of my professional family, drawing upwards of 600 educational developers from across the world. In my career spanning the UK and Canada, I have been most fortunate to meet some of the most caring and inspirational people working in colleges and universities to enhance teaching and learning. ICED gave me the chance to meet up with colleagues, who I consider friends, and to make new acquaintances, particularly from Africa and non-English speaking European countries, both of which were well-represented at the conference.

As many of you will know South Africa has been experiencing considerable turmoil recently with the student led campaign for zero fees for HE. A few weeks before the conference was due to take place the movement took a violent turn, such that the conference organizers were unable to access their offices, and ultimately had to relocate the conference from the campus to city hotels. Had I not been told about this I would never have guessed – the conference ran like clockwork, despite an ambitious program of parallel sessions, inspirational keynotes and multiple venues.

I attended numerous sessions which inspired and encouraged me in equal measure. I have a notebook full of ideas to share with my colleagues in the Teaching Commons, but perhaps even more importantly I have just as many indications of the universal nature of our work. The problems we face in Canada and more specifically at York, such as the widening profile of students, increasing numbers with dwindling resources, engaging students in study that isn't solely focused on exams and so forth, are all familiar to colleagues across the world. The context and the specifics may vary but the underlying themes remain the same. Bringing us together to share our challenges and compare approaches, both the successful and the not so successful, helps us all to learn and benefit.

In reflecting back on this trip it is the people and relationships that stand out for me. But I would be remiss if I didn't mention the non – conference high point of the trip, which for me was seeing a colony of African penguins on a beach on the Cape – quite the most amazing experience I have had!

Ontario eLearn Community of Practice (CoP) – Launch Meeting

The Teaching Commons is excited to be leading an initiative to develop a Community of Practice around eLearning. We have received funds from eCampus Ontario to develop links to and uses of the repository of resources and create a community of people interested in discussing eLearning. Further support and resources have been provided by the Teaching Commons at York University to launch the community, and act as hosts during its inaugural year.

Learn more:

Visit our CoP webspace: <http://www.ontarioelearncop.ca>

Watch our introductory video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAwph2M8ul8&feature=youtu.be>



CoP Launch Date: January 26th 2017 Time: 12pm - 4pm

Please arrive prior to noon (12pm) to sign-in and get settled.

Lunch will be served at 12pm

We will begin our Introductions launch at 12:20pm

Location: **SteelCase WorkLife Center** - Suite 2400, 200 King Street West

Because the SteelCase WorkLife Center has been designed around the belief that "the workplace needs to provide users choice and control over where and how they work" we thought it would be a perfect location to launch your community of practice!

Secure your spot for a productive time, with a spectacular view, and great food. [Register now!](#) (Space is limited)

