

Teaching Commons News

Welcome

The arrival of spring and the end of the winter semester is an uplifting time of growth and new opportunities. What better time to reflect back on the past year and to start thinking about next year's teaching?

If you are considering trying something new, perhaps incorporating eLearning; would enjoy a chance to talk with others about teaching; or have a wonderful teaching success story you are itching to share – good news! The Teaching Commons can help.

Whether you want to meet others in person, or virtually via your keyboard, join us in the TC. In this newsletter you will find information about our inaugural annual teaching and learning conference – TIF, our spring and summer programming, and new developments on our website. We look forward to welcoming you (back) to the Teaching Commons.



What's New This Month?

Visit the newly designed TC website

We have been working on our website to make it more accessible and interactive. Please have a look at the resources, information and blogs. We want this to be the hub of a conversation at York on all matters relating to teaching and learning.

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

Become a movie star!

We are building a collection of video interviews with York teachers. The next topic we want to explore is Assessment. If you have an approach or strategy to assessing students' learning you would like to share, please contact Ellen Sims e.sims@yorku.ca

Enrol on Course Design @ York Course

Join us on May 28th and 29th for our 2013 Course Design @ York. The program provides opportunities for participants to revisit and reflect on their curriculum design and teaching practices through hands-on activities and discussions with colleagues. This year's program will focus on facilitating a classroom learning environment that is evidence-based, learning-centred, and promotes deep learning. To register go to

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/course-design-york>

Upcoming Brown Bag Lunches.

Building EE into the Curriculum –May 16.

12:00 to 1:30 in TEL

1014. Sign up at the

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/calendar/>

STAY and learn

All TAs are warmly invited to join us on May 3 for our first STA led symposium. We have a full day of teaching sessions planned. Visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/sta-conference/> to register for this event, but hurry as places are going fast.

There is still time to register for Teaching in Focus (TIF) our inaugural annual teaching and learning conference.

We have a wonderful day for May 23 with a wide range of sessions from colleagues across York. We are delighted to announce our two keynote speakers. Lorna Marsden is well known to many of you as a former President of York, while Megan Boler from the University of Toronto promises to intrigue us drawing on her work in pedagogies of discomfort.



Lorna Marsden



Megan Boler

To register your attendance at the conference, please visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/tif/> by **Thursday, May 16, 2013.**

Ongoing Activities

Working in Faculties

Aside from our published workshops and courses, we work with groups within Faculties. Recently we have been assisting colleagues in Science, Schulich and Nursing in their development of learning outcomes as they prepare their programs for cyclical review.

We also offer tailored workshops for specific groups. For example working closely with the Associate Dean Diane Beelen Woody we are offering four specially designed workshops for colleagues in LA&PS. These workshops, on the first year experience, active learning in large classes, learning outcomes and experiential education will be offered in the spring and repeated in the summer.

Please contact us if you would like support in facilitating similar events in your Faculty.

Did you know ...

Registrations for TIF have been flooding in. As we have limited spaces we recommend you sign up soon to avoid disappointment.



The Teaching Commons also collaborates with faculties and departments to arrange tailor-made seminars and workshops.

Contact us to arrange Faculty specific support - please email teaching@yorku.ca

Focus on eLearning!

We are anticipating increased demand for eLearning support. To meet this need, we have a range of support mechanisms in place to support faculty (tenure stream and contract) who would like help in making effective use of the array of technology on offer.

Coming this summer -- York eLearning Boot Camp!

One day workshop on Thursday July 11th ... Learn how to design a blended or online course or lesson, find out what students really want from online learning and how to engage them in participation. Register your interest now at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=32389>

eLearning @York Course

This is an introductory course for faculty members who would like to explore and develop eLearning (web enhanced, blended and online learning) in their teaching. The course has been externally accredited by the Staff and Educational Developers Association (SEDA) Professional Development Framework (PDF) award. Based on the philosophy of experiential learning and SEDA-PDF values and outcomes, the course guides participants through pedagogic theories, practical interventions and reflective practice, to create a blended or online course. This course is offered a minimum of three times each academic year. In addition we can tailor the course to the specific needs of individual Faculties.

Our May eLearning @ York course is scheduled to start on Monday, May 6th. To register, please visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/elearning-york-course/>.

We will be offering this popular course regularly throughout the academic year – so if you can't make the May 6th course but would like to take part, please let us know.

TC eLearning blog

As we trailed in last month's newsletter May sees the launch of the eLearning blog. Each week we have a different blogger stimulating discussion and debate around eLearning. Please join us!

If you would like to be a guest blogger contact Dr. Yelin Su ysu@yorku.ca for details.

Visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/groups/> to read the blog.

Website guide to eLearning We have created an extensive resource on our website, which is designed to guide Course Directors through the options available, whether you are interested in web enhanced, blended learning or fully online courses.

Conference Season!

We are not the only ones organizing a conference this season – in June STLHE – Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education – will be holding their annual conference, this year it is in Cape Breton. We are delighted that three of the Teaching Commons developers have had proposals accepted and will be representing York. Ellen Sims, Yelin Su and Mandy Frake-Mistak will report back the highlights of the conference – see the website in early July for their write up.

Details of STLHE can be found here <http://www.stlhe.ca/conferences-events/stlhe-annual-conference/>

If you are attending STLHE or any other HE related conference – please consider submitting a summary of your experience, we would love to share this with the wider community via our website.

See our conference page on our website for a list of forthcoming teaching related conferences, including a link to a full listing of all Higher Education Conferences Worldwide through Conference Alerts.

Here is a selection of Higher Education related Conferences

ISSOTL - In higher education around the world, inquiry into student learning is moving from isolated practice to systematic research, from peripheral projects to institutional integration, from the margins of disciplines and campuses toward a central position in the academy. This conference will focus on these and other transitions in scholarly teaching and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- October 2 to 5 2013, Raleigh, North Carolina. Details at <http://issotl13.com/>

7th Annual **Conference on Blended Learning** sponsored by COHERE (Collaboration for Online Higher Education & Research) and CSSHE (Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education)

- October 24/25th, 2013, Vancouver <http://cohere.ca/2013-call-for-proposals/>

Deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. MDT on June 30, 2013 For information about our programs, resources and much more, visit our website at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca>