

Teaching Commons News For Grad Students



May – Teaching and Learning Month at York

The Teaching Commons is approaching its 5th anniversary. Over the past 5 years, the Teaching Commons has made May teaching and learning month by hosting two separate teaching and learning events at York. Among your own disciplinary research conferences, we hope you can find time to join us for one or both events and celebrate our 5th anniversary. The STAY Symposium is a great opportunity to learn more about the STA Program, which is promoted in this month's graduate

student blog. The Teaching in Focus (TiF) Conference provides opportunity to learn from and with faculty across York, hear from York's award winners and learn about the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

The 5th Annual STAY Symposium

The Senior Teaching Assistants are anxiously awaiting Friday May 5, 2017 when they will be showcasing what they have been working towards all year. We hope you can join us at 9am for a light breakfast in the main foyer of Life Science Building (outside room 103) before the opening plenary begins at 9:30am in LSB 103. Dr. Theresa Beesley, a York University alumna from the graduate program in Kinesiology and Health Sciences, will share with us her journey at York and beyond, including what she is up to now and how she has applied what she learned at York and the Teaching Commons. She aims to inspire our own reflections and next steps. There will be interactions throughout the day and celebrations during the closing plenary. Registration for the STAY Symposium has closed, but if you want to attend, please email teaching@yorku.ca and we'll be happy to include you, space permitting!



The 5th Annual Teaching in Focus (TiF) Conference



Planning has been underway for several months now for our annual TiF conference. The schedule has been completed and we are eagerly awaiting May 17th and 18th when we can welcome the York community to our annual celebration of teaching and learning. Professor Nancy Chick will launch the event with her keynote on what counts as Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) and how to get your research published in SoTL journals. On day 2 we will hear from the latest pan university teaching award winners, in conversation with the AVP Teaching and Learning, Prof. Will Gage. The main event will be interactive sessions and panels designed and facilitated by faculty and graduate students from across York. We will also offer a

Makerspace, where you can come experiment with technology and teaching and learning applications to create something for your course. Visit the [website](#) for more information and a link to [register](#). Registration closes on Friday May 5, 2017, so reserve your spot today. We look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Workshops

Introduction to Course Design Workshop for Graduate Students

Date, Time and Location: Tuesday May 16, 2017, from 9:30am to 12:30pm, DB 1014

[Register for Introduction to Course Design Workshop for Graduate Students](#)

Applications of Course Design Principles Workshop for Graduate Students

Date, Time and Location: Tuesday May 23, 2017, from 9:30am to 12:30pm, DB 1014

[Register for Applications of Course Design Principles Workshop for Graduate Students](#)

Graduate Student Monthly Blog

The Benefits of the STA Program

By: Christine Nguyen

One of the biggest factors of starting graduate school for me was the opportunity to teach. I've always had a passion for teaching and I'm grateful that our graduate studies allows for teaching opportunities. One of the pillars in my education as a teaching assistant is the Teaching Commons and all the resources they have available for graduate students. I remember attending workshops during my Masters year when I wasn't even teaching yet, and really enjoying them. There are three categories of workshops offered by the Teaching Commons: [Workshops on Planning and Design](#), [Workshops on Dealing with Challenges](#), and [Workshops on Graduate Student Personal and Professional Development](#). I found the latter extremely helpful to begin with. As I prepared to teach, the workshops on planning and design made every weekly tutorial much more enjoyable. The one thing that I enjoy most about the workshops is learning about so many new techniques and methods to try in the classroom, and also learning that it is okay to try things out (sometimes they work and sometimes they don't, but there is no harm in trying). Workshops were a place where many graduate students gathered and it was heartwarming to see familiar faces at these events. Not only did we learn from the workshops, but also it allowed for a sense of community building. I went on to participate in the [TACT program](#) and I really enjoyed that. I walked away with a fantastic Teaching Dossier and one of those definitely come in handy when you are planning for applying for course directorships or various grants and scholarships. Now, I am a [Senior Teaching Assistant in the STA program](#). The program is accredited with [SEDA](#), which is fantastic, and it allowed me to prepare three workshops and network with my fellow STA members. Each workshop has allowed me to learn new methods in my teaching, but also has made me feel more confident in my teaching. I don't feel quite as nervous going into tutorial anymore and I feel more open in terms of trying new teaching methods. This program has also led to some fantastic friendships I've had with my fellow colleagues and I can't wait to see everyone showcase their hard work from this year at the STAY Symposium. As graduate students, we work alone a lot of the time, and it is often hard to locate good support and resources within the academy. If you enjoyed the TACT program and the workshops, I highly recommend you try out the STA Program.

