

Teaching Commons News For Graduate Students

Welcome 2014!!



Welcome to 2014 and welcome back to teaching. We, at the Teaching Commons, hope that you took time for yourself to reflect and celebrate on all of your achievements in 2013. Did you try something new in your teaching this year? How did it go? Should you be thinking that this year you'd really to try some new approaches in your classroom, or are thinking about applying for a teaching award, the

Teaching Commons is here to help and support you!

We will be kicking off 2014 with some innovations and exciting changes – some are included here but also watch the website, teachingcommons.yorku.ca for news and updates.

The Teaching Commons was recently featured in a YFile story about our accredited professional development courses, see <http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2013/12/10/four-courses-offered-by-york-us-teaching-commons-earn-certification-from-uk-based-seda/> for the full story! Our team recently posed for a new photo - from left, Educational Developers, Ellen Sims and Yelin Su; Director, Celia Popovic; Research Assistant, Mandy Frake-Mistak; Research Associate, Robindra Sidhu; and Mary Lynn Belmonte, administrative assistant.

AODA Compliance Starts Now!

The Teaching Commons is very pleased to inform you of our collection of resources to support good practice in inclusive approaches to curriculum and teaching. AODA legislation goes into effect in January 2014, but there are plenty of other good reasons to remove any unnecessary barriers to learning that can benefit all students.



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

Go directly to 'Tips' for accessible teaching:

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



Looking for a good read?

York subscribes to several journals on university level teaching. Speak to your Liaison Librarian to find articles on general issues and on teaching in your discipline

Read a good book or article on teaching lately? Contact us at teaching@yorku.ca

[We will share suggestions in the next newsletter](#)



Teaching Awards for Teaching Assistants

Have you ever considered putting yourself forward for a teaching award?

The President's University-Wide Teaching Awards honour those who, through innovation and commitment, have significantly enhanced the quality of learning by York students. One award is offered each year to a **Teaching Assistant**.

The purpose of this award is to provide significant recognition for excellence in teaching, to encourage its pursuit, to publicize such excellence when achieved across the University and in the wider community, and to promote informed discussion of teaching and its improvement. The awards demonstrate the value York University attaches to teaching. Recipients of the awards, selected by the Senate Committee on Awards, receive \$3,000 have their names engraved on the University-Wide Teaching Award plaques in Vari Hall and are recognized at convocation ceremonies.

Visit **[UWTA criteria](#)** -

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate/committees/awards/documents/UWTACriteria2014.pdf>

Online **[nomination form](http://cnsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/machform2/view.php?id=2)** **<http://cnsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/machform2/view.php?id=2>**.

New Space in the Teaching Commons

We are delighted to announce our new Teaching Commons Space in TEL 1050.

The newly refurbished area provides a space for all who teach at York to meet to share ideas, to discuss teaching related topics and to meet with like-minded individuals.

The Teaching Commons is an open area available for teachers (contract faculty, tenure stream faculty, TAs, new and experienced). We will be holding a series of events, but we are also encouraging you to suggest events and meetings you would like to host in the space.

STAY Symposium – Supporting Teaching At York

Come STAY!! (Come Support Teaching At York)

On May 2nd, the Teaching Commons will host its 2nd Annual STAY Symposium. The symposium is designed to celebrate the efforts and the achievements of those of who have completed the Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) Program as they showcase their dedications and contributions to enhance and enrich students learning. Participants who attend all conference events will receive a '**[Record of Completion](#)**' **[Certificate](#)**.

Details for the 2104 Symposium will be posted at **<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/sta-conference/>** later this month.

Highlights of Forthcoming Workshops and Events

Please remember all our courses are free of charge and are open to all Graduate Students (see <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-all-graduate-students/>).

Time Management for Neuroscience Students – January 16, 1-2pm, Brain Science Building (BSB) 163.

Creating a Positive and Engaging Learning Environment – January 22, 11-12pm, Bethune College 320.

Marking and Grading Re-Visited – January 23, 12-1pm, TEL 1009.

Teaching in an Online Environment – January 27, 12-1pm, TEL 1014.

Engaging your students using Interdisciplinary approaches – February 3, 1-2pm, Vanier College 010.

How to use Prezi for your Tutorials – February 6, 12-1pm, TEL 1014.

External Links of Interest

Anthology explores challenges for higher-education policy makers

- <http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2014/01/03/anthology-explores-challenges-for-higher-education-policy-makers/>

Developing Teaching Assistants as Members of the University Teaching Team

- <http://www.heqco.ca/en-CA/Research/Research%20Publications/Pages/Summary.aspx?link=117&title=Developing%20Teaching%20Assistants%20as%20Members%20of%20the%20University%20Teaching%20Team>

The State of eLearning in Canadian Universities

- <http://higherstrategy.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/InsightBrief42.pdf>

The TC continues to offer numerous courses, workshops, and certificate programs for Graduate Students at all levels of their teaching and professional development. See http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/ta_support/ for details.

Did you know?

You can easily access the upcoming TC events and programs by visiting our calendar <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/calendar/>

What do participants say about our workshops?

'Overall excellent workshop. I will definitely attend more'.

'The workshops have really been helpful to my own teaching and learning'.

