

Teaching Commons News For Graduate Students

Develop and Share Skills of Teaching

March is upon us and brings with it busy times and deadlines. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed and need some support, the Teaching Commons is here for you. We offer a number of workshops, including one to help you find the balance between teaching, research and a life!

As the month winds down and you have a chance for reflection, think about the skills you have acquired as a TA and consider sharing these skills with fellow TAs at the 2nd annual STAY Symposium. Moreover, if you find there are still skills you would like to develop, either as a TA yourself, or with your students, engaging with your peers and Senior Teaching Assistants (STAs) at the STAY Symposium will help, as will attending the TIF Conference and learning from more experienced faculty.

Developing Skills Beyond STA Workshops

Since September our Senior Teaching Assistants (STAs) have been engaged in developing teaching and learning with their peers. They have been heavily involved in the design and facilitation of many of our Professional Development Workshops. This experience has led to many initiatives outside of the program.



Equity Reading Group meets once a month for two hours to discuss a previously chosen article. Members from left to right are Rehanna Siew-Sarju, Nicole Bernhardt, Sandra Smele, Pat Breton and Julie Singleton. They are from various disciplines, including Gender, Feminist & Women's Studies, Political Science and Sociology. This promotes diverse viewpoints and more informed conversation.

STA, Pat Breton, organized and led a session titled 'Let's Talk About Social Inequalities: Addressing Critical and Often Emotionally-charged Issues in Tutorial' which was very successful. The participants were so engaged with one another and the topic that they decided to form a reading group to continue their conversations and develop ideas for their tutorials.



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](#)

STAY Symposium – Supporting Teaching At York

Come STAY!! (Come Support Teaching At York)

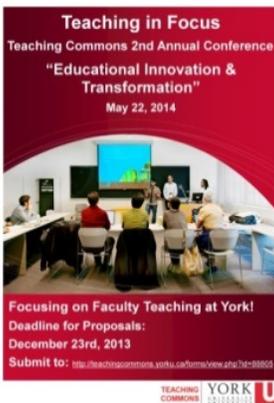
On May 2nd, the Teaching Commons will host its 2nd Annual STAY Symposium. The symposium is designed to celebrate the efforts and the achievements of those of who have completed the Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) Program as they showcase their dedications and contributions to enhance and enrich students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

For more details and to [Register](#) for the 2014 Symposium, please visit our website <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/sta-conference/>.



Teaching in Focus (TIF) Conference – Educational Innovation & Transformation

This conference is for ALL who teach at York. Graduate students are welcome to attend.



Join us on May 22nd for York's 2nd Annual TIF Conference. This peer reviewed conference is about celebrating teaching, community building, experience sharing, scholarship of teaching and learning, and making connections to our colleagues. The theme of this year's conference is Educational Innovation & Transformation, with sessions on enhancing teaching and learning, e-learning, experiential education and student transition and engagement.

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)

Feature Presentation*: e-Powering Tomorrow's Leaders

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

Presenters: Prof. Jean Adams (and Students), Schulich School of Business

This session will give an overview of e-learning research in web-based content creation focused on leadership soft-skills development, as used to support a highly personalized hands-on student project in a large undergraduate introductory business course offered at Schulich School of Business. Researcher/professor Jean Adams will present the pedagogical underpinning of the course as well as that of a self-directed action-learning competence development project tailored to deliver highly personalized student skill development outcomes. The presentation will be followed by presentations from a few students describing the approach each took to this project, personal lessons learned and the performance impact they experienced during and following the course. Throughout this session, participants with tablets/laptops will be able to actively participate in reviewing the online content, selecting a focus for skill development as well as planning an approach for completing the project to gain a true learner perspective. There will be open discussion and Q&A throughout.

Details for the 2014 TIF Conference are posted on our website <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/conferences-and-symposia/tif2014/>

[Register](http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=109982) by May 8, 2014 at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=109982>

March Copyright Workshop Series

Graduate students are encouraged to attend these workshops and they do count toward the Record of Completion Certificate requirements.

Copyright at York: Tools and Tips to Support Your Teaching – March 12, 2-3pm, TEL 1014 OR
March 25, 12-1pm, TEL 1014

This Copyright Workshop will focus on how to identify and manage copyright issues that may arise when you are creating your course materials for classroom or online delivery. This session will look at what is protected by copyright and why it should matter to you, including details on York's Copyright Policies & Fair Dealing Guidelines for the use of copyright-protected works (including music, books, newspapers, videos, music, YouTube, etc.)

Register at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=98489>

For April and May sessions, please visit our website:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/winter-2014-copyright-workshop-series/>

External Workshop at Ryerson University

Colleagues at Ryerson University would like to extend an invitation to York faculty and graduate students to join them for this special presentation.

On **Monday March 3rd** at **5 p.m.** Jose Bowen will be speaking about

“Teaching Naked: How Moving Technology Out Of Your Classroom Will Improve Student Learning”

Technology is changing higher education, but the greatest value of a physical university will remain its face-to-face (naked) interaction between faculty and students. The most important benefits to using technology occur outside of the classroom. New technology can increase student preparation and engagement between classes and create more time for the in-class dialogue that makes the campus experience worth the extra money it will always cost to deliver. Students already use online content, but need better ways to interact with material before every class. By using online quizzes and games, rethinking our assignments and course design, we can create more class time for the activities and interactions that most spark the critical thinking and change of mental models we seek.

Here is a direct link to the Eventbrite listing for this: <http://bit.ly/Ma33Te>

'Teaching Naked: How Moving Technology Out Of Your Classroom Will Improve Student Learning' – Monday March 3, 5pm

Speaker: Jose Bowen

Location: Peter Bronfman Learning Centre

7th floor, Heaslip House

The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education 297 Victoria Street

(1 block east of Yonge/Dundas subway)

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/>).

Engaging Diverse Learners: Learning Styles and Teaching Strategies – March 5, 2014, 10-11am, BC 203.

Teaching, Research, and a Life? Finding the balance – March 13, 2014, 12-1pm, TEL 1014.

Human Rights in the Classroom – March 18, 2014, 12-1pm, TEL 1014

Learn how to "DO" a Teaching Dossier – March 27, 2014, 12-1pm, TEL 1014.

External Links of Interest

Inquiry-based Training Improves Teaching Assistant Effectiveness, Student Outcomes

- <http://www.heqco.ca/en-CA/Research/Research%20Publications/Pages/Summary.aspx?link=125>

Expanding Opportunities for Graduate Studies: The Recent Experience of Ontario

- http://www.heqco.ca/en-CA/Research/At_Issue_Papers/Pages/Summary.aspx?link=9

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 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.

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

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?

'Develop strategies and techniques that can be used in the classroom with different types of learners.'

'Since I have become familiar with new aspects of teaching-learning procedure, I will definitely try to explore new approaches in my class and review my tools and use them more efficiently.'

