

Teaching Commons News

Inspired Teaching



Welcome to this double-month newsletter. It has suddenly become very chilly in the morning and we are aware of the frost building as we depart from the warmth of our homes and head for our respective classrooms. With November already here it causes one to pause and question where the time has gone this term. Can the fall semester really be nearing its conclusion?? November is also an excellent time to pause and reflect on your teaching. Did you try

something new in your classrooms or online this year? If so, how did it go? Did you try something you heard about at last year's STAY Symposium? Or perhaps at another conference? Have you been inspired by any of the ideas shared at Teaching Commons workshops or courses? If so – we would like you to share your experiences. We would like to hear from you.

As always we have a range of **events and workshops** on offer – details can be found at our website – teachingcommons.yorku.ca. We encourage you to attend. Feedback from our events consistently tells us that, in addition to the content of the event, participants most value the opportunity to meet with fellow teachers and to discuss their work.

Spotlight on our STAs

Since September our Senior Teaching Assistants (STAs) have been heavily involved in the design and facilitation of many of our Professional Development Workshops. This year our cohort represents a broad range of disciplines, ranging from chemistry and education, to kinesiology and sociology. Not only have many of them completed their 'Record of Completion' Certificate, they were participants in the inaugural cohort of the Teaching Assistant Certificate in Teaching. Their vision, inspiration, passion, and dedication to teaching is spreading like wildfire as they continue to deliver outstanding and meaningful sessions that target the needs of graduate students at York. Attending any of our workshops counts as credit towards the achievement of the 'Record of Completion' Certificate. The Teaching Commons is proud to have these individuals participate in the STA program:

Joanne Azevedo
Bill Blackstock
Holly Clayton
Jennifer Farmer
Thiru Kanagasabai
Rachael Stone
Lauren Tristani

Theresa Beesley
Pat Breton
Alina Cohen
Ramjeet Persaud Harinarain
Khyati Nagar
Terri Jane Stapleton
Andrea Valente



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](#)

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/>).

Dealing with Classroom and Student Conflict – November 4, 12-1pm, TEL 1014.

How to grade students' classroom participation while creating a culture of writing? – November 5, 12-1pm, Vanier College 010. (**NB.** This session is targeted for Graduate Students in the Humanities).

Strategies for Humanities TAs: Student Preparedness and Participation – November 5, 1-2pm, Vanier College 010. (**NB.** This session is targeted for Graduate Students in the Humanities).

Classroom Strategies for when they haven't done the readings – November 13, 1-2pm, TEL 1014.

Time Management for Neuroscience Students– January 16, 1-2pm, Brain Science Building (BSB) 163. (**NB.** This session is targeted for Graduate Students in Neuroscience).

Course Design for Graduate Students - November 12th, 10am to 4pm, TEL 1014.

Will you be course director this coming academic year and are looking for some ideas, techniques and approaches to designing your course? This course is specifically for graduate students who will be a course director for the first time or are looking to improve their skills in course design. You will be introduced to the basics of course design, taking you through the content, activity assessment and evaluation development processes. The focus will be on a practical approach based on sound theory and evidence.

Teaching Related Conferences

FEED Summit – Faculty Engagement in Educational Development

In October, 19 of Ontario's 21 universities were represented at an event organized by the Council of Ontario Education Developers. Celia Popovic, Director of the Teaching Commons, is the Chair-Elect and member of the Executive of COED, she worked with colleagues to organize the event held at McMaster and the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). Over a hundred senior administrators, Teaching Centre directors, faculty members and union representatives met to discuss ways to raise the profile of teaching and learning at Ontario Universities. The healthy dialogue and engagement of all who attended was invigorating, as we shared good practice between different universities, and among delegates with differing perspectives.

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'.



External Links of Interest

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://higheredstrategy.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.

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