It is getting a bit frosty

At the Teaching Commons, the fall has been lively with workshop planning, faculty support, and the launch of our journal club. Curl up with some good research and then join us for the conversation.

The Teaching Commons Journal Club launches soon!

The Teaching Commons is hosting its inaugural Journal Club conversation on Wednesday, November 16 at 2pm. Join us at the Teaching Commons for an informal discussion of *The pedagogical balancing act: Teaching reflection in higher education*. Journal Club participants are asked to read the chosen article in advance and come prepared to discuss their ideas, reactions, and questions with fellow colleagues interested in exploring innovation in teaching and learning.

**Date:** November 16th, 2pm to 3:30pm  
**Location:** Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Building (TEL), Teaching Commons Lounge (1050)

The Instructional Skills Workshop

The ISW is a 3-day intensive experiential learning program designed to develop teaching skills for both new and experienced faculty. Offered within a small-group setting, the ISW affords participants the opportunity to teach micro lessons and receive feedback from participant learners. Participants gain practical knowledge to enhance their teaching. We will be offering the next workshop on:

**Keele campus; Friday, Saturday & Sunday**  
**Date:** November 18-20, 2016; 9am to 5:30pm  
**Location:** Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Building 1014  
[Register for the November 18th, 19th & 20th, 2016 ISW](#)

**Keele campus; Wednesday, Thursday & Friday**  
**Date:** December 7-9, 2016; 9am to 5:30pm  
**Location:** Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Building 1014  
[Submit your name to the waitlist](#)

Experiential Education

The EE workshops are designed to support faculty who wish to incorporate Experiential Education into their teaching, either in the classroom or in the community. The Bootcamp combines the content of the Teaching Commons *Introduction to Experiential Education* and *Experiential Education: Reflection and Assessment* workshops.

In the first half of the workshop, we will define EE and its three foci in the context of York, discuss the theory informing EE, and consider the critical role of structured reflection in experiential education. In the second half, we will brainstorm ideas for reflective activities and consider how to evaluate experiential learning. The workshop will be delivered via presentations, videos and hands-on activities designed to help participants develop an EE course that includes reflective learning and its assessment, for both in-class and community focused EE.

**Date:** December 13th from 10am to 3pm  
**Location:** Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Building (TEL) 2114  
[Register now for the Experiential Education Bootcamp on December 13th 2016](#)
Spotlight on Learner Services: New Developments

The Learning Commons is pleased to announce that several new service points are now available at Scott Library in the Learning Commons Hub (2nd floor) to help students build important academic skills. Please help spread the word by letting your students know!

**ESL Open Learning Centre**
The ESL OLC’s focus is on working with multilingual English language learners to help strengthen their academic communication skills.
See: [http://eslolc.laps.yorku.ca/](http://eslolc.laps.yorku.ca/)

**New Services for Students in the Learning Commons Hub**
The Learning Commons has introduced two new service points to help students build important academic skills, available at Scott Library in the Learning Commons Hub (2nd floor):
- ESL Open Learning Centre (OLC) is available four hours weekly to help multilingual English language learners with their academic communication skills
- Citation Station service is available four hours weekly, and offers drop-in help with citing resources, using Zotero and more.
Consult the [Learning Commons web site](http://learningcommons.laps.yorku.ca/) for full information on services and hours. Please help spread the word by letting your students know!

**Announcing the new SPARK brochure for Instructors**
For tips and ideas on how to use SPARK’s modules, resources (worksheets, activities, and checklists) and quizzes in teaching check out our recently launched brochure titled *Instructors’Guide to Teaching with SPARK*.

This brochure needs to be used in conjunction with the [SPARK faculty module](http://spark.yorku.ca/), a content module within SPARK designed specifically for York instructors to help them get the most out of SPARK in their teaching. Ron Sheese’s and Sophie Bury’s Teaching Commons blog post titled *SPARK your teaching* is also recommended reading on this theme.

**GNL-ing at York? Upcoming Faculty workshops at Keele and Glendon**
York University Faculty members are invited to participate in a series of workshops this fall to help visualize, design, and implement a Globally Networked Learning (GNL) environment here at York University. Lunch will be provided.

**Keele Campus Workshops:**
- November 2, 2016; 1 pm - 3 pm at 280N (York Lanes)
- November 16, 2016; 11 am - 1 pm at S802 (Ross Building)
Liberal Arts and Professional Studies (LAPS) faculty members, and other faculty are welcome

**Glendon Campus Workshop:**
- November 9, 2016; 3 - 5pm at A304
All Keele and Glendon faculty are welcome

**RSVP to secure your seat:** [http://eso.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=26779](http://eso.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=26779)

To learn more about this exciting York University initiative, and to follow the GNL Project as it develops, please visit [http://gnl.info.yorku.ca/](http://gnl.info.yorku.ca/). To learn more about the various manifestations of GNL, and GNL environments, implemented at other universities - including the [Centre for Collaborative Online International Learning at SUNY](http://collaborativelearning.suny.edu/), [Cultura at MIT](http://cultura.mit.edu/), and [Soliya](http://soliya.org/) - please visit the resources section of the website
Lisa Endersby’s Educational Developers Caucus (EDC) Institute Report

Oakville, ON, October 17 & 18, 2016

The theme of this year’s EDC Institute was The Changing Face of Higher Education: Implications for our Work with Faculty and their Classrooms. Over two very full days of presentations and discussion, a group of Educational Developers from across Canada and the UK came together at the intersection of our learner-practitioner identities. The sessions at the Institute emphasized an important exploration of what inclusion, diversity, differentiation, and equity could mean for our students, our faculty, and our practice.

Several sessions discussed inclusion and diversity as it relates to different populations that we interact with on campus. While we may have spent an hour and a half at a time discussing international students, multilingual students, or students who identify as having a disability, what was most striking were the group conversations and keynote speakers that highlighted the important and complex intersections of these identities and how they impact teaching and learning. Presenters shared stories that gave a human voice to the facts and theories that underpin our practice, allowing us to question how and where we might make space for emotion in our work. There was also a wonderful culture of sharing occurring in and between sessions, with colleagues offering practical examples and applications of our discussions in how we work with faculty. We shared videos and other resources to help shape discussions related to identifying and understanding assumptions, and theoretical models that chart student learning in ways that can support meaningful feedback, risk taking, and inclusive practice. We also shared ideas related to how teaching interventions and learning strategies can be assessed across multiple and diverse populations, particularly when the goal is to highlight and celebrate multiple learning styles and lived experiences.

The EDC Institute was an enriching and inspiring experience, knowing that the Educational Development community is full of so many professionals who are committed to the pursuit of inclusive and innovative teaching and learning. We are in an exciting time for the field as we work to keep pace with the changing landscape of higher education.

The TC Trick and Treat

A happy and healthy Halloween to everyone at York from the Teaching Commons team!