

# Teaching Commons

## Graduate Students Newsletter

February 28, 2018



### Reflecting on My Time as a Teaching Commons Tutor By Jessica Whitehead (pictured left, second from the left)

This month I successfully defended my PhD, so my time as a Teaching Commons Tutor is ending after this term. While I am very sad to be leaving, I will always be grateful for my two years working in such a wonderful and supportive environment. I worked as a teaching assistant for both the TACT and STA courses, I organized several workshops for graduate students, and I was encouraged to take part in several professional development courses like the Instructional Skills Workshop. This past November, with the support of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, I presented at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies. I spoke about my experiences working at the Teaching Commons as part of a workshop on the importance of experiential education in Graduate Education. I reflected on the importance of both working and taking part in courses at the Teaching Commons for obtaining a well-rounded PhD degree.



### Search for Dean of FGS/AVP Graduate – Invitation for Input

York University is searching for a new Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies/Associate Vice-President Graduate, and is looking for input from students. The search committee would like to know:

1. What are the current strengths of FGS?
2. How do you see the role of FGS going forward?
3. What are the opportunities and challenges?
4. What are your goals and aspirations for graduate and postdoctoral education for FGS for the next five years?
5. What qualifications, experience, skills, and qualities should we be seeking candidates for Dean/AVP in order to move towards these goals?

Students are invited to send comments on these questions to the search committee's secretary Marla Chodak [mchodak@yorku.ca](mailto:mchodak@yorku.ca) by March 5, 2018.

## Workshops in March



How do I Know I'm on the Right Track? Strategies to Evaluate my OWN Teaching

Monday March 5th, 2018, 12-1 p.m., in DB 1014.

**Register.**

Inclusive Pedagogy: Addressing Social Inequality in Your Classroom

Monday March 12, 2018, 12 - 1 p.m., in HNES 140.

**Register.**

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## STAY



The STAY Symposium will take place on Friday May 4, 2018 from 9:30am to 3:30pm, (with registration from 9:00-9:30am) in the Life Sciences Building, Room 103. This free event is for all graduate students. Whether this is your first experience at STAY or you are returning for another year, our new line-up of presentations promises to deliver invaluable and transferable information across all disciplines and all levels of TA experience. So, come and STAY for what promises to be an inspiring and energizing day to engage with your peers. Learn how your participation can earn you a 'Record of Completion' Certificate.

**Register for the STAY Symposium**

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## Teaching in Focus Conference 2018



You are invited to attend the Teaching in Focus (TIF) Conference, which is the pan-university conference in teaching and learning at York University. This peer reviewed conference is for all who teach or support student learning at York to celebrate teaching, share experience and innovations in teaching practices, make connections, and build and expand a community and scholarship of teaching and learning. Our theme this year centres on exploring and discussing student engagement in its many forms. TIF will take place Wednesday May 16 and Thursday May 17, 2018, in the Life Sciences Building.

**Register for Teaching in Focus**