Welcome May!

It seems that Spring has finally arrived and as is typical for the season, changes are afoot. There are a few changes in the TC’s May programming. Due to the ongoing labour dispute, the Teaching in Focus conference planned for May 16 and 17 at York University has been cancelled and the STAY Symposium, originally scheduled for May 4, has been postponed. However, we still have lots of workshops and activities in the coming months.

Writing Circle meetings

The Writing Circle offers dedicated, on-going writing opportunities for the purpose of making progress on a writing project, preferably but not limited to being focused on teaching and learning in higher education. It is structured to enable writing and reflection about your writing and offers the opportunity for feedback among peers. Upcoming dates: May 25, 9:30 – 1:30; June 22, 12:00 – 4:00; July 27, 9:30 – 12:30.

REGISTRATION

Putting together your Teaching Dossier Workshop

Wednesday May 23, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in DB 1014

The teaching dossier or teaching portfolio is a condensed reflection of your teaching philosophy and accomplishments. It serves as a tool that will provide evidence of your teaching quality and effectiveness. This interactive workshop will provide you with the tools to establish, recognize, and reflect upon your own teaching practices. Whether you are contract faculty, tenure-track, or new faculty, the Teaching Commons can provide you with the tools needed to (re)write, develop, or update your dossier for evaluation purposes, and in the preparation of materials for teaching award submissions.

REGISTRATION
An Overview of SoTL

In this workshop, we will discuss the nature of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), which aims to better understand student learning and the teaching practices that affect it. We begin from the standpoint that faculty are often already engaged in many aspects of SoTL, albeit unknowingly, and later provide a framework for a more systematic inquiry into teaching and learning. In doing so, we will highlight a 6-step process to engage in SoTL.

Session to be held on July 17, 2018 from 10am-12pm in room DB 1014

Please visit the following link to register for July 17, 2018: REGISTRATION

Course Design Intensive

July 23, 9:30 – 3:00

This is an intensive workshop to get you started designing or updating your course. We take a hands-on approach as we learn, discover, and discuss principles of inclusive course design, assessment and feedback, active learning and engagement strategies, and provide you with the resources you need to design great courses.

REGISTRATION

EduCATE

Beginning in July and running to May, faculty will meet once a month with core members of EduCATE or as part of an Action Learning Set. Through a peer-based structure, participants will form a Community of Practice as they develop, discuss, collaborate, and support each other while working through personal goals and a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) research project. Participants will have the opportunity to observe and provide feedback to their peers in a classroom environment.

To learn more about the course or to register:
http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-cds/workshops-and-courses-for-cds/courses/educate/

Highlights of Program Revision and Curriculum Reform

Programs were invited to share their experiences in program revisions and curriculum reforms in a Senate-sponsored Forum of Ideas in February 2018. See highlights of their sharing at
http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/quality-assurance/
Using LEGO in the Classroom – July 31, 2018

This workshop is designed to showcase new and innovative ways of using LEGO as a teaching tool in your classroom. LEGO is a powerful tool to help develop skills and demonstrate understanding beyond our traditional text-heavy learning activities while also overcoming some common challenges in unlocking our students’ creative potential.

Using a variety of interactive activities, participants will learn new strategies for incorporating LEGO into lessons teaching creativity, communication, and problem solving, as well as using these versatile building blocks for gathering formative assessment data. Participants will also learn from the facilitators’ experiences as both learners and teachers using LEGO in the classroom while discussing tips for how to use LEGO as an important classroom resource.

Please register early if you would like to attend as space for this session is limited. The workshop will be held in DB 1014.

Registration Link: http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=523287

Call for case stories from “Teaching Stream” Instructors

The International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning’s (ISSoTL) Advocacy and Outreach Committee is interested in gathering stories about full-time teaching-stream faculty’s experience engaging in SoTL. They wish to collect these stories to compile them (with no names or other identifiers unless you expressly ask us to include your name) into a web-based resource for members on the ISSoTL website. See https://listserv.unb.ca/cgi-bin/wa?A2=ind1804&L=STLHE-L&O=D&P=10421 for more information.
Instructional Skills Workshops

The ISW is a 3-day intensive experiential learning program designed to develop teaching skills for both new and experienced instructors. The workshop encourages reflection and examination of one’s teaching practices with feedback focused on the learning process rather than on the specific content of the lesson. The ISW engenders participatory learning and the building of community that can transfer back into the classroom and the institution.

We still have a few spaces left in the following workshops:

- June 11, 13, 15
- July 25, 26, 27
- August 20, 22, 24
- December 10, 11, 12

REGISTER for an ISW here

Teaching in Focus (TIF) 2018 conference cancelled

Due to the ongoing labour dispute, York’s Teaching in Focus (TIF) conference planned for May 16 and 17 has been cancelled. We look forward to seeing you at TIF 2019. Check out the TC website http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/conferences/ for information on York Teaching Conferences and External Teaching Conferences.

Supporting Teaching at York (STAY) Symposium postponed

We have postponed the STAY Symposium originally scheduled on May 4th 2018. The STAY Symposium is an event for graduate students and teaching assistants interested in networking with their peers and learning more about teaching and learning in higher education, specifically from the perspective as a teaching assistant. The STAY Symposium sessions are facilitated by our Senior Teaching Assistants as a requirement for the EDC accredited course Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) Program: Exploring Educational Development. Please complete the following form and share it widely to help us reschedule the STAY Symposium:

http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=513101