

Teaching Commons News For Grad Students



It's not luck, but it's worth celebrating

As graduate students it isn't luck that got you to where you are today, it is the hard work, dedication, grit and most importantly YOU who has led you down this path of opportunity! Too often we lose sight of this and let imposter syndrome get the best of us. It's time to celebrate you! There are a number of ways you can celebrate, but we hope that you will consider celebrating with us at the 5th Annual Supporting Teaching At York (STAY) Symposium.

Register for the 5th Annual STAY Symposium

A 5th anniversary is cause for celebration. No matter what your level of teaching experience, we invite you to join in the fun, learn from and share with others. The STAY Symposium is led by the Senior Teaching Assistants, who have been planning and delivering workshops all year and are looking forward to engaging with you once again in professional development sessions to enhance your teaching. We invite new friends as well as those who have joined us for one or more previous STAY symposia to celebrate with us. Come and STAY, let us know what you've been up to, share your experiences and network.

Date: Friday May 5th, 2017

[Register for the STAY Symposium at York](#)



Upcoming Workshops

How to Energize and Motivate Your Students through Community Building in Humanities Tutorials

Date and Location: Friday March 3rd, 2017, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm, Vanier College, Room 010

[Register for the How to Energize and Motivate Your Students through Community Building in Humanities Tutorials Workshop](#)

How do I know I'm on the Right Track? Strategies to evaluate my OWN Teaching

Date and Location: Tuesday March 7th, 2017, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm, DB 1014

[Register for How do I know I'm on the Right Track? Strategies to evaluate my OWN Teaching](#)

Something for Every Body: Getting to Know Embodied Teaching & Learning

Date and Location: Tuesday March 7th, 2017, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm, HNES 141

[Register for the Something for Every Body: Getting to Know Embodied Teaching & Learning Workshop](#)

Teaching Critical Reading Skills in the Humanities

Date and Location: Tuesday March 7th, 2017, from 1:30pm to 3:00pm, Vanier College, Room 010

[Register for the Teaching Critical Reading Skills in the Humanities Workshop](#)

How to Help Your Students Become Better Presenters

Date and Location: Wednesday March 8th, 2017, from 11:00am to 12:00pm, DB 1014

[Register for How to Help Your Students Become Better Presenters](#)

Creating an Active Learning Environment: How to Increase Participation in Your Tutorials

Date and Location: Friday March 10th, 2017, from 2:30pm to 3:30pm, DB 1014

[Register for the Creating an Active Learning Environment: How to Increase Participation in Your Tutorials Workshop](#)

Human Rights in the Classroom

Date and Location: Wednesday March 15th, 2017, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm, DB 1014

[Register for Human Rights in the Classroom](#)

Being an Effective Lab Demonstrator

Date and Location: March 21st, 2017, from 12:00pm to 1:00pm, PSE 317

[Register for Being an Effective Lab Demonstrator](#)

Graduate Student Monthly Blog

Richard Jarrell Teaching Assistant Award

By Uzma Nadeem



It was one of the best moments of my life when I received an email from the Chair of my Department that I have been selected as a recipient of the 2017 Richard Jarrell Teaching Assistant Award in the Faculty of Science. This award is named after Professor Richard Jarrell, a professor of Natural Science and program coordinator of the Science and Technology Studies. I am a fourth year PhD student in the Department of Biology and finished my Master's degree at York in the same discipline. I have been teaching students for many years. During my studies at York, I got an opportunity to work as a Teaching Assistant (TA) and apply my teaching skills.

Being a Biology TA, I worked as a Lab Demonstrator, Tutorial Leader, Marker, Grader and Lab Coordinator. Over these years as a Teaching Assistant, I strive to engage, challenge and inspire growth in my students. I foster a positive learning environment in my classroom and provide a variety of instructional techniques to

effectively engage students in class. Students are always at the center of my lesson planning and I motivate, encourage and engage students in the learning process. In order to attain these results, my most effective teaching tool is to create the curiosity about topics in the class. According to research, curiosity is the joy of exploration; it supercharges learning process and helps students to retain new information. I found that this hidden force not only triggers the learning process but also seems to be very contagious while students are working in groups. Also fostering a curious environment helps to cross-pollinate questions and brings new ideas in the classroom. I always deliver course contents in an organized way and provide students rationale as to why these contents are important to know. However, I believe my role in teaching is as a facilitator to facilitate the learning environment in which students can achieve their goals set in their education.

Along with my research and teaching duties, I joined Teaching Commons to further bolster my pedagogical knowledge, techniques and skills. During workshops and programs offered by Teaching Commons such as the TA Certificate in Teaching (TACT) and Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) certification programs, I further augment my knowledge on teaching and learning innovation. I would like to say that Teaching Commons is a place that helps individuals to explore and share their teaching and learning innovations across York University. The facilitators of the Teaching Commons act as a catalyst to enhance the pedagogical techniques and skills by providing everyone support, helpful resources and by connecting them with peer groups and senior TA mentors. Working as a Teaching Commons Tutor (TCT), I facilitate workshops, provide support and resources to fellow TAs.

For me, teaching is a lifetime journey to build the character, provide motivation and help students to determine their future. I believe that this award further encourages me to explore the teaching and learning innovation that can nurture the scholarly growth of students.