

Teaching Commons News For Graduate Students

Professional Development

How will you grow?



As we enter the final stretch of this academic term, the intensity of our day-to-day responsibilities as Graduate TAs can make it difficult to maintain a clear focus on one's broader professional development goals. For this reason, our March issue will focus on a number of upcoming professional development opportunities offered by the Teaching Commons. See page 3 for how our 2014-2015 workshops and programs facilitate Graduate TAs' professional development using the Teaching Assistant and Graduate Student Advancement (TAGSA) Competency Framework. Whether you are just beginning your TA experience, or you are a veteran TA, the Teaching Commons provides inspiring and energizing professional development opportunities spanning ALL levels of experience and expertise.

Come and STAY (Supporting Teaching at York)

On behalf of the 2014-2015 Senior Teaching Assistants, we would like to invite **ALL** graduate students to join us on Friday May 1st, 2015 for the Third Annual Supporting Teaching At York (STAY) Symposium. Whether this is your

first experience at STAY or you are returning for a second or third year, our new line-up of presentations promises to deliver invaluable and transferable information across all disciplines and all levels of TA experience. Topics include supporting first year students,

marking and grading and TA/student relationships to name only a few. A complimentary lunch will be provided to all who register.

When: Friday, May 1st, 2015

Registration: 9:00am to 9:30am

Symposium runs from 9:30am to 3:30pm

Location: TEL 0016

Registration is a two-step process:

Step One: To register visit

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=210251>

Step Two: You are also required to register for individual sessions. For more information, download a detailed itinerary with links to register for each session:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/STAY-Agenda.pdf>

The Teaching Commons'
Senior Teaching Assistants Present

3rd Annual Symposium

Come and STAY

Friday May 1, 2015

Supporting Teaching
At York

Register at:
<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/sta-conference/>

@YUteaching
#YUSTAY2015

YORK
UNIVERSITY

March Drop-in Hours at the TC

Dear TA colleagues:

My name is Andrea Valente and I am a Ph.D. student in Humanities, LAPS Faculty, and a Senior TA in foundation courses. Are you feeling overwhelmed by the end of the winter term and wonder how you can still access extra teaching/learning resources and support? Are you an International Teaching Assistant and wonder how you can improve your classroom communication skills? As one of the Teaching Commons Tutors (TCT), I am pleased to invite you to my drop-in hours this month for a chat either about the questions above or any other TA matters (e.g. evaluating students, grading essays, mediating conflict). One of the most important things that I have learned at the Teaching Commons that I would like to share with you is the notion of 'community of practice' (CoP), that is, "share a common interest and desire to learn from and contribute to the community". So, let's build a CoP at the TC and come by my 'drop-in' hours this month!

Thursday March 5, 2015, 1:30-2:30pm. To register, please visit:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=240558>

Thursday March 19, 2015, 2:00-3:00pm. To register, please visit:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=241284>



For Andrea, the Teaching Commons (TC) has been at the heart of her educational professional development at York. As a graduate of the Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) Program, Andrea garnered extensive experience designing and conducting professional development workshops for TAs. In her current role as TCT she provides invaluable mentorship to participants of the Senior Teaching Assistant program. Over and above her involvement with the TC, Andrea brings a wealth of experience and expertise in teaching and learning. As an International Graduate Student, she has taught abroad, worked with ESL students in higher education, and supervised internship teachers. Andrea holds a Master's in Applied Linguistics with a focus on language and interaction in diverse and multicultural classrooms. She is currently completing her Ph.D. in Humanities.

Upcoming Professional Development Workshops by STAs

Guidelines for Exam Invigilation

Friday, March 5, 2015, 11:00am-12:00pm, Bethune College, Room 320

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce guidelines to help graduate students effectively invigilate exams. Specific information will come from the Faculty of Health; however, many of the generalities are applicable across different areas. The role of the invigilator will be discussed, in reference to before, during, and after the exam. Participants will be introduced to some of the University policies on exams, including Senate policy and guidelines on the conduct of examinations, and academic (dis)honesty. Different situations ("What happens if...") will be addressed, including, but not limited to: suspected academic dishonesty; building evacuation; and answering questions mid-exam. Case studies will also be presented and discussed amongst the group as to what the most appropriate course(s) of action could be. These situations and case studies will be discussed in small groups of 4-5, and then addressed to the whole group to compare strategies. Resources will also be made available, including handouts and online sources. The workshop style will include some lecture-based information (e.g. slides and handouts), as well as small and large group discussion on various topics. Facilitated by: Brian Nairn, Senior Teaching Assistant in Kinesiology and Health Science

To register, please visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=2311>

Making the Grade: How to Tackle this Intimidating Teaching Task

Friday, March 6, 2015, 10:30-11:30am, TEL 1009

Reading week has passed, and so approaches the end of the semester... and with it the dreaded final paper. You may be in the process of trying to articulate to your students your expectations for a complex assignment. Or you may be approaching a pile of papers on your desk, wondering how you can ensure consistency and provide productive feedback. We've all been there – with little to no training of how to do this. Let's share our experiences and strategies for managing these difficult tasks. In this interactive session we will discuss the challenges that come with grading papers, and explore how tools (such as rubrics) may potentially be helpful to both you and your students. Facilitated by: Andrea Kalmin, Senior Teaching Assistant in the Department of Sociology

To register, please visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=221764>

More Professional Development Workshops

How do I know I'm on the Right track? Strategies to evaluate my own teaching

Thursday, March 5, 2015, 12-1pm in TEL 1014

Register at: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=178852>

Teaching, Research and a Life? Finding the right balance.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 12-1pm in TEL 1014

Register at: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=179708>

Human Rights in the Classroom

Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 12-1pm in TEL 1014

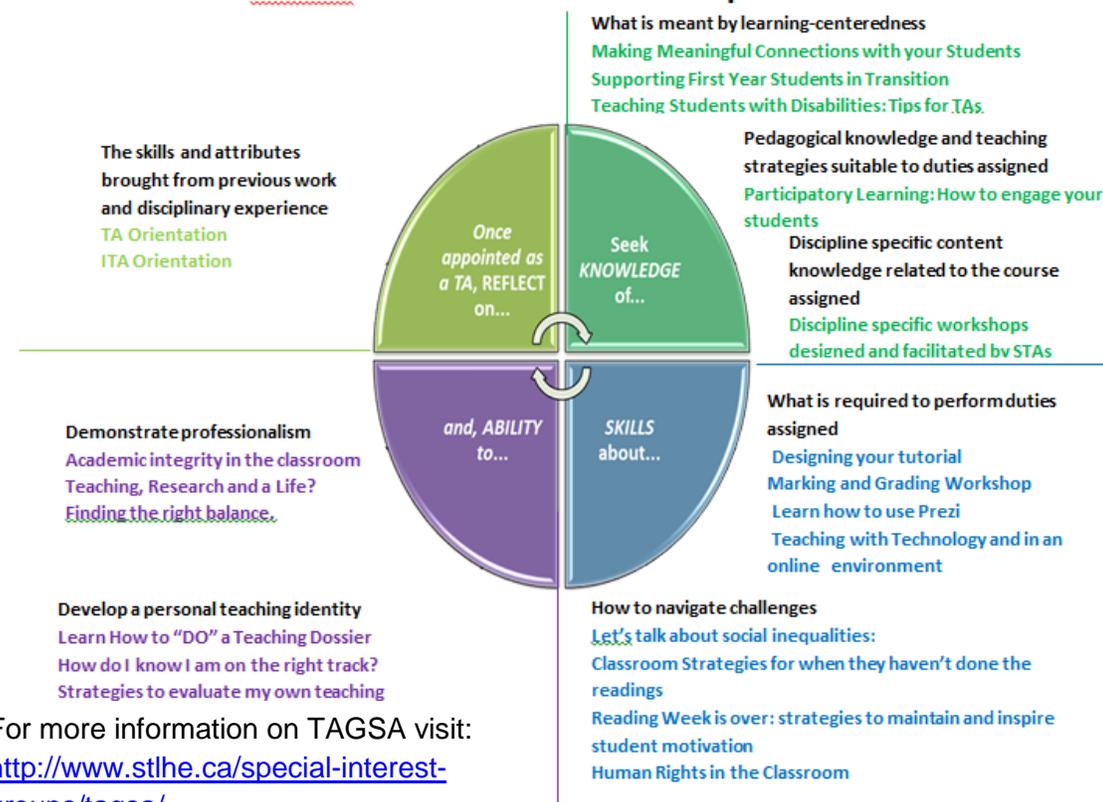
Register at: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=177467>

Teaching Assistant and Graduate Student Advancement (TAGSA)



All Professional Development Workshops count towards the Teaching Commons Record of Completion certificate (see <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/teaching-assistant-record-of-completion-certificate/>)

TAGSA Framework for TA Competencies



See how our 2014-15 Professional Development Workshops For Graduate Students facilitate YOUR on-going Professional Development using the TAGSA Framework for TA Competencies

This newsletter is available as a .pdf at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/newsletter-for-grad-students/>

For more information on TAGSA visit: <http://www.stlhe.ca/special-interest-groups/tagsa/>

