

Teaching Commons News For Graduate Students

Share the Love of Teaching and Learning

February is a month for love and family. We, at the Teaching Commons, would like to take this opportunity to share our family and space with you.

This issue will highlight the work of our Senior Teaching Assistants (STAs), who invite you to celebrate teaching with them at York's 2nd annual STAY Symposium.

We also ask that you share your love of teaching and learning...



Loving to Learn Day

For the past 8 years, the Centre for Teaching Excellence at U Waterloo has coordinated Loving to Learn Day on Feb 14th – an annual celebration of everyone's love of learning. Loving to Learn Day has spread to other Canadian universities and colleges, and even as far as Australia. This year, everyone at York University is invited to show their love of learning by answering the question: What makes a great teacher? Add your answer to this question online <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/love-to-learn-day/> by February 14, 2014, and see what others at York think! Are you a great teacher? Do you have a great teacher? Tell us about it!

Looking for a good read?

York subscribes to several journals on university level teaching. Speak to your Liaison Librarian to find articles on general issues and on teaching in your discipline

Teaching Commons Space

We are delighted to announce our new Teaching Commons Space in TEL 1050. The newly refurbished area provides a space for all who teach at York (contract faculty, tenure stream faculty, TAs, new and experienced) to meet with like-minded individuals, to share ideas and to discuss teaching related topics.



STAs Joanne Azevedo, Holly Clayton, Jennifer Farmer, Ramjeet Persaud Harinarain and Terri Jane Stapleton using the Teaching Commons space in TEL 1050 to discuss feedback and other teaching related topics. Have a **teaching related** event or meeting you would like to host in the space? Please send suggestions to teaching@yorku.ca

Read a good book or article on teaching lately? Contact us at teaching@yorku.ca

[We will share suggestions in the next newsletter](#)

STAY Symposium – Supporting Teaching At York

Come STAY!! (Come Support Teaching At York)

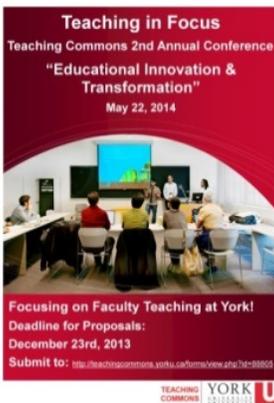
On May 2nd, the Teaching Commons will host its 2nd Annual STAY Symposium. The symposium is designed to celebrate the efforts and the achievements of those of who have completed the Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) Program as they showcase their dedications and contributions to enhance and enrich students learning. Participants who attend all conference events will receive a '[Record of Completion Certificate](#)'.

For more details and to [Register](#) for the 2014 Symposium, please visit our website <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/sta-conference/>.



Teaching in Focus (TIF) Conference – Educational Innovation & Transformation

This conference is for ALL who teach at York. Graduate students are welcome to attend.



Join us on May 22nd for York's 2nd Annual TIF Conference. This peer reviewed conference is about celebrating teaching, community building, experience sharing, scholarship of teaching and learning, and making connections to our colleagues. The theme of this year's conference is Educational Innovation & Transformation, with sessions on enhancing teaching and learning, e-learning, experiential education and student transition and engagement.

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Rhonda Lenton, Vice-President Academic & Provost, York University
Dr. Harvey Wiengarten, President and CEO of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO)

Feature Presentation*: Teaching with SPARK

* Each month until the conference we will feature one of the sessions to be presented.

Presenters: Ron Sheese, Department of Psychology and Writing Department
Sophie Bury, Head, Bronfman Library, Schulich School of Business

Abstract: In this 60 minutes interactive presentation, we will describe York's recently developed SPARK resource. SPARK is a set of online modules designed to assist students in learning to write academic essays in the social sciences and humanities. The focus of our session will be how faculty members can make use of the resource in their teaching. We will discuss common problems that students face in the preparation of academic essays and how SPARK can be used in the context of a course to help students address these problems. SPARK and our session both address a range of problems including managing time, conducting library research, drafting, revising, and editing. We will invite participants to consider what they have found problematic in working with their students who are preparing essays, and we will respond with pointers to aspects of SPARK designed to address these problems. At the end of the presentation, participants will have a good knowledge of the content of the SPARK resource and ideas about how they can make use of it in their courses.

Details for the 2014 TIF Conference are posted on our website <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/conferences-and-symposia/tif2014/>

[Register](http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=109982) by May 8, 2014 at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=109982>

Call for Papers - Teaching Innovation Projects Journal (TIPS)

Are you interested in writing an article about your teaching?

The Teaching Innovation Projects Journal (TIPS) is an open access journal publishing articles produced by graduate students that describe scholarly and pedagogical foundations for workshops on a variety of timely topics in higher education. Since the release of the inaugural issue in the Spring of 2011, topics such as strategies to maximize student learning from group projects, approaches for facilitating affective knowledge in the classroom, and creative assignments to promote the development of information literacy skills have been explored in workshop format. To date, the 39 articles housed in TIPS have been downloaded over 18,000 times by individual users across Canada and as far away as Singapore, Australia, and Sweden.

The editors of TIPS are extending a call for submissions to graduate students across Canada this spring.

Articles accepted through the national call will be published in an annual special issue of TIPS.

Please see the website for more information: <http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/tips>

The projected release date for the call for submissions is March 2014, so begin checking the website in March for further instructions.

February Copyright Workshop Series

Due to popular demand, we will be running more workshops on Copyright and associated issues. There will be 2 formats:

Copyright at York: Tools and Tips to Support Your Teaching – February 13, 12-1pm, TEL 1009

This Copyright Workshop will focus on how to identify and manage copyright issues that may arise when you are creating your course materials for classroom or online delivery. This session will look at what is protected by copyright and why it should matter to you, including details on York's Copyright Policies & Fair Dealing Guidelines for the use of copyright-protected works (including music, books, newspapers, videos, music, YouTube, etc.)

Register at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=97338>

Copyright: Course Materials Development – February 19, 1-2pm, TEL 1014

This workshop will be more specific to copyright in course materials development. If you are or will be involved in developing course materials, come to this workshop to learn how to deal with copyright issues.

Register at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=97516>

For March and April sessions, please visit our website:

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/winter-2014-copyright-workshop-series/>

Highlights of Forthcoming Workshops and Events

Please remember all our courses are free of charge and are open to all Graduate Students (see <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-all-graduate-students/>).

Using Active Learning Strategies in your Teaching – February 13, 12-1pm, TEL 1014.

(Mis)use of technology in the classroom: How educators can make sense of and make best use of technology in the classroom – February 13, 3-4:30pm, School of Social Work S802.

Nodding(s) to Nel - Using an 'Ethic of Care' to Teach – February 18, 12-1pm, TEL 1014.

Reading Week is Over - Strategies to maintain and inspire student motivation – February 25, 12-1pm, TEL 1014.

How do I know I'm on the right track? Strategies to evaluate my OWN teaching – March 4, 12-1pm, TEL 1014.

External Links of Interest

Experiential Education in Action at York University

- <http://yfile.news.yorku.ca/2014/01/10/international-and-dlll-students-share-culture-in-buddy-project/>

The Impact of the 'Teaching in the Canadian Classroom' Program on the Teaching Effectiveness of International Teaching Assistants

- <http://www.heqco.ca/en-ca/research/research%20publications/Pages/Summary.aspx?link=95&title=Bridging%20the%20Gap:%20The%20Impact%20of%20the%20%E2%80%99Teaching%20in%20the%20Canadian%20Classroom%E2%80%99Program%20on%20the%20Teaching%20Effectiveness%20of%20International%20Teaching%20Assistants>

The TC continues to offer numerous courses, workshops, and certificate programs for Graduate Students at all levels of their teaching and professional development. See http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/ta_support/ for details.

For information about our programs, resources and much more, visit our website at <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca>

Did you know?

You can easily access the upcoming TC events and programs by visiting our calendar <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/calendar/>

What do participants say about our workshops?

'This was a very sufficient training session'.

'I am going to prepare my next tutorial using the time distribution shown in this workshop'.

