



IN THE LOOP

The Monthly Newsletter from The Centre for Teaching Excellence Hours & Location June 2024

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Success! The 2024 UWTL Conference

On May 1 and 2, the 15th Annual University of Waterloo Teaching and Learning Conference took place with great success: there were more than 530 participants from Waterloo and beyond. The keynote from **Jessie Moore**, Director of the Center for Engaged Learning at Elon University, was very well received, as were the Igniting Our Practice sessions by Waterloo's Craig Fortier and Susan Kearns.

Dr. Moore's keynote is available on the CTE YouTube channel as are the **Igniting Our Practice sessions** by Craig Fortier and Susan Kearns. Other conference highlights are **available on Waterloo News**.

In addition to our gratitude to the many presenters—both online and face-to-face—we want to thank our many student volunteers who helped ensure the conference went off without a hitch! The UWTL team is already thinking about next year's conference. If you have a conference theme to suggest, please contact **Annik Bilodeau**.

Also! The 2024 Teaching Excellence Academy



Another of our signature events that took place in April was also a hit: the 17th Annual Teaching Excellence Academy (TEA). Fifteen instructor participants representing all six faculties and one AFIW worked with the support of other instructors, as well as CTE and CEL facilitators, to redesign one of their courses. The passion and commitment of the participants was inspiring. Here's some of the feedback the TEA received:

- "It's the jumping off point to redesign the current course, and will be the starting point for my future courses."
- "So great to have the input from the others about what I was planning and also to see what they were up to."

Upcoming Workshops and Events

CTE has scheduled its roster of summer term workshops.

For all instructors:

- **Teaching with Confidence**
- **Interactive Lectures**
- **Cognitive Load Theory for Instructional Design**
- **Exploring Turnitin's Artificial Intelligence Detection Tool**
- **Teaching Dossiers and Philosophy Statements**
- **And many others!**

Especially for graduate students:

- **Equity-Minded Teaching for TAs**
- **Fundamentals Block Session**
- **Microteaching**
- **And more!**

ReTEA

For alumni of CTE's Teaching Excellence Academy (TEA), we are offering the **ReTEA** on Monday, June 17 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm in EV2-2069. Unlike the usual TEA, the ReTEA is very unstructured with the main aim being to give you the time and space to focus on a course design/redesign in a supportive and collegial atmosphere. You'll have the opportunity to revisit the course redesign process we use in the TEA, brainstorm and receive feedback from peers and facilitators, and have plenty of time to work as you choose. If you have a course you are looking to tweak or redesign, we hope you'll join us. Questions? Please contact **Mary Power**.

ISW Reunion

Instructors and staff who have completed the Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) are invited to the ISW Reunion. Join us to connect or reconnect with your peers in the ISW Community. To attend, please **register by Monday, June 3**. Richard Li, the ISW Program Lead at Waterloo, will follow up with a calendar invitation and an agenda once the registration is closed. The reunion itself will take place on Thursday, June 6 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in MC 2036. If you can't join us but would like to stay connected with the ISW Community, please **inform Richard** and he will add you to our ISW Community Group on MS Teams.

Digital Pedagogy Institute

The **Digital Pedagogy Institute**—which is organized by faculty and staff from several institutions, including Tim Ireland from Waterloo's Library—will take place from August 13 to 15. The virtual conference offers sessions that focus on the innovative use of digital technologies to enhance and transform undergraduate and graduate teaching.

CTE Congratulates!

We in CTE are delighted that our Director, **Donna Ellis**, who is also the President of the International Consortium for Educational Developers (ICED), will be delivering the closing keynote presentation at the **2024 ICED Conference** in Nairobi, Kenya on on June 7. **ICED** promotes educational development in higher education worldwide.



Donna's keynote will explore key mindsets that serve as the foundation for competencies needed by educational developers to thrive in ever-evolving higher education ecosystems.

We're also proud of our colleague **Rebecca McAlpine**, one of two recipients of the 2024 Warren Ober Award for Outstanding Teaching by Graduate Students Within the Faculty of Arts. Dr. Greta Kroeker, who nominated Rebecca for the award, comments that "one of the greatest characteristics of Rebecca as an instructor is the way she balances innovation and experimentation with proven pedagogical strategies."



CTE Welcomes!

CTE is pleased to welcome **Matthew Babela**, who has accepted the position of Faculty Liaison for Mathematics! Matthew will start on June 3. He comes to us from the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science where he has worked as an Instructional Support Coordinator, supporting instructors with their course delivery including the integration of technology, managing TAs, advising undergraduates, and teaching introductory statistics. Matthew has a BSc in Mathematics and Statistics, a BEd, and an MSc in Mathematical Physics from Brock University.



We also welcome our two new co-op students for the Spring Term, **Eleanor Walby** and **Katie Musleh**!

New & Improved

New and Timely Resources

We've updated one of CTE's most popular Teaching Tips, **Inclusive Engagement Activities**. These activities are suitable for almost any course and can be adapted for small classes, large classes, and the online context.

Additionally, Christine Zaza, Workplace Accessibility Specialist, has recently developed a **Postsecondary Course Accessibility Guide**. The guide aims to help instructors and instructional support specialists identify how a given course already meets accessibility requirements, where accessibility gaps can be addressed, and where institutional support or change is needed.



The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is coordinated within our **Office of Indigenous Relations**.

Centre for Teaching Excellence
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, ON, Canada, N2H 3G1

Email: cte@uwaterloo.ca
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