Words of Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Opportunities and New Directions Conference (OND) 2013!

This year’s OND Conference theme, “Barriers and Breakthroughs – Accounts of Change in Teaching and Learning,” will be explored through oral and poster presentations, panels, and workshops on research and practice from across a wide variety of disciplines. The conference agenda is brimming. It features a wide array of topics, many of which would have been inconceivable to ponder as recently as a decade ago. The creative use of new technologies to bridge the teaching-learning process, as well as new teaching and learning philosophies that aim squarely to put the teacher in the learner’s seat bring us both new barriers and the possibility of new breakthroughs.

The Presidents’ Colloquium morning keynote, “Breakthroughs in the Classroom: Reviving Teaching and Learning with Decoding the Disciplines” by Dr. David Pace and Dr. Leah Shopkow, will provide insights into the “bottlenecks” students experience in their learning and how we may help them get “unstuck” by articulating and modelling the ways in which experts resolve these bottlenecks. During the afternoon “Igniting Our Practice” plenary, Dr. Jean Andrey, Dr. Carey Bissonnette, and Dr. Troy Glover – three of uWaterloo’s outstanding faculty members – will draw us into their disciplines and into the learning spaces they create for their students by teaching us a concept from their own courses.

Celebrating the successes in our courses, understanding the disappointments when things didn’t quite work out as intended, and realizing the breadth of experience and expertise in our colleagues from the University of Waterloo and other local Universities will ultimately allow us to enhance our teaching and our students’ learning. Our hope is that you will leave the Conference having forged and strengthened connections with colleagues and with new insights that will allow you to return to your teaching feeling energized and inspired, and perhaps even willing to step out of your comfort zone.

We look forward to sharing this day with you and thank you for your dedication to teaching and learning.

Mario Coniglio, Associate Vice President, Academic University of Waterloo

Donna Ellis, Director Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE), University of Waterloo

Julie Timmermans, OND Conference Chair Instructional Developer – Consulting and Research, Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE), University of Waterloo
Proposal Review Process

Submissions for the conference underwent a blind peer review process. All submissions were sent to two reviewers. Authors were asked to address reviewers’ comments and amend their submissions. We recognize the extra work involved in revising the abstracts and thank the authors for their willingness to engage in this developmental process. We hope you will find the program book useful for following up on ideas and communicating with authors.

Proposal Reviewers

Our warmest thanks to these colleagues for contributing their time and expertise to reviewing proposals and for doing so with professionalism:

Kelly Anthony
Deb Bennett
Greg Berberich
Veronica Brown
Jay Dolmage
Carla Fehr
Dorothy Hadfield
Jane Holbrook
Patty Hrynchak
Timothy Ireland
Kevin Leung
Geoff Malleck
Mary Louise McAllister
Don McLeish
Ken Meadows
John Michela
Samar Mohamed
Mary Power
Susan Roy
Gordon Stubley
Monica Vesely
University of Waterloo
Mount Royal University
University of Waterloo
University of Waterloo
University of Waterloo
University of Waterloo
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Session Chairs

This year, sessions were created so as to group together similarly themed presentations. We would like to thank the following people for serving as Session Chairs and for helping to facilitate a rich exchange of ideas.

Jim Barnett
Mostafa Farrokhabadi
Kevin Leung
Sue McMillen
Christine Morgan
Christine Moresoli
Reza Ramezan
Joseph Sanderson
University of Waterloo
University of Waterloo
University of Waterloo
Buffalo State
Renison University College
University of Waterloo
University of Waterloo
University of Waterloo

Note of Appreciation

There have been countless people who have contributed in ways big and small to this year’s Conference. We extend our deepest gratitude to all of you. Your time, thoughts, skills, and energy have enabled the ideas for this Conference to come to fruition.