

Waterloo ExL Symposium

The Waterloo ExL Symposium will highlight experiential learning (EL) initiatives and associated resources on campus. This event is geared towards instructors who want to integrate, or enhance their integration of EL within their courses. Additionally, any campus or community partner who engages with and supports experiential learning at Waterloo will benefit from attending. Concurrent sessions will include presentations from instructors, students, and community partners on best practices, challenges, and innovative ideas on how EL may be integrated into teaching and learning.

9:00am – 9:45am Morning Keynote

Dr. Norah McRae, Associate Provost, Co-operative and Experiential Education, University of Waterloo

Norah McRae is known nationally and internationally as a leader in co-operative and experiential education. Her involvement in co-operative education, work-integrated learning and community engagement spans more than twenty years, over which time she has led strategic program development and research on student engagement, work-integrated learning and intercultural competency development. Norah will be presenting on the evolving landscape of experiential learning and creating quality EL experiences.

9:45am – 10:45am Concurrent Session

Experiential Learning 101 – Fed Hall

Anne-Marie Fannon, Director, WatPD
Katherine Lithgow, Senior Instructional Developer, Centre for Teaching Excellence

Interested in experiential learning but don't know where to start? Come and join us for a session exploring experiential learning fundamentals. We'll discuss definitions and forms of experiential learning, identify EL related resources at Waterloo, and share challenges and opportunities associated with integrating EL in the curriculum.

Experiential Learning Logistics – Columbia A

Anne Grant, Manager, Ecology Lab

Heidi Swanson, Assistant Professor and University Research Chair, Department of Biology

Thinking of taking your class on a field trip? Want to provide a hands on experience beyond your lecture room walls? Want to be the fun and informative instructor that implements experiential learning in a field trip setting? Perhaps you have tried to organize an outing and realized it is easier to show lecture slides in a classroom! Planning field trips may feel like a daunting task but with the right information, support staff and planning, it can be done efficiently, safely and provide a wonderful learning experience for the students. The Faculty of Environment Ecology lab staff supports many courses and related logistics associated with field trips and outdoor activities. Join me as I explain how the lab staff support course instructors and their courses to ensure a positive learning experience—for everyone involved!

Experiential Learning in a Large Class – Columbia B

Carrie Mitchell, Assistant Professor, School of Planning

Dorothy Hadfield, Lecturer/Extended Learning Co-ordinator, English Language and Literature

Bruce Dadey, Lecturer, English Language and Literature

A common misconception about experiential learning is that it can't be done with a large class size or in an online class. In this session, Carrie Mitchell will describe how she encourages collaborative, creative experiential learning in a large, first-year, class. Carrie will outline how she runs a real-time communications competition in a class of 130+ students and how the major experiential assignment fits into the course learning objectives. Next, Dorothy Hadfield and Bruce Dadey will present their online course ENGL 210F: Genres of Business Communication. Dorothy and Bruce have developed a simulated business environment so that students can experience the effects of their communication choices in a more authentic context. In both courses, the experiential learning assignments enable students to assess the theory in the context of applied practice.

Learning by Doing: Local food systems in Jamaica – Westmount

Bruce Frayne, Director, School of Environment, Enterprise and Development
Mariana Sanchez Soto and Maria Minerca Carmona, Students, School of Environment, Enterprise and Development

What are the learning outcomes for students on field courses? What impact can field experiences have on student learning? Are field experiences worthwhile? Bruce Frayne, Director of School of Environment, Enterprise and Development has taken his students to Saint Ann Parish in Jamaica for an immersive experience focused on the local food system. Attend this session to hear his perspective on the tremendous impact field experience can have on student learning. Bruce will be joined by two students who will discuss how going out into the field impacted their understanding of course concepts, self-reflection, and how their experience will serve them in the future.

11:00am – 12:00pm Concurrent Session

Bringing Industry Issues into the Classroom – Fed Hall

Jennifer Lynes, Associate Professor, School of Environment, Enterprise and Development
Sean Geobey, Associate Professor, School of Environment, Enterprise and Development

Can the complexity of problem-based learning with industry partners be successfully coupled with in-class pedagogical supports? This talk will outline the approach in INDEV308: Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship to bring students and industry partners together in the classroom to explore complex problems. Over the course of a semester industry partners selected for their shared interest in a common issue (ex. sustainable food systems in Waterloo Region) are brought into the classroom twice for three-hour long world café-style discussions with students and a third time at the end of the course to judge student pitches. This approach sits between classroom-focused problem-based learning approaches such as written case studies and highly immersive approaches such as co-op placements. In addition to outlining the approach taken in INDEV308, changes in the approach through multiple offerings, observed results, in-classroom pedagogical scaffolding and the use of this approach as preparation for other experiential education with industry partners will also be discussed.

Roadblocks and Blindspots: When potential mastery goes awry? – Columbia A

Kelly Anthony, Teaching Professor, School of Health and Health Sciences
Corey Johnson, Professor, Recreation and Leisure Studies

Ever try something billed as 'high impact teaching ' and wind up wishing you had just pulled out the weathered old course notes and just lectured? Even seasoned instructors sometimes have a course that doesn't go as planned, and even ones that go poorly. This session will be co-chaired by two mid-career committed and award winning instructors who will share some recent 'faceplants' of their own and how they learned from them, picked themselves up and tried again. As a result, both feel they have improved their teaching, not by doing per-se, but by encouraging each other to do some hard reflection and offering each other peer support. Join Dr. Kelly Anthony and Dr. Corey Johnson who will share some of their own war stories about how to hop back on a strong teaching track when you may feel deflated or even permanently derailed.

Edge 101 – Columbia B

Jessica Lang, Manager, EDGE
Anne Fannon, Director, WatPD

In 2017 the University of Waterloo launched an Experiential Education Certificate for non-co-op undergraduate students. Titled EDGE, the program helps students develop professional skills and how to better articulate these skills to target audiences. To satisfy EDGE requirements, students have the option of drawing on their experiential learning coursework. Participants that attend EDGE 101 will be able to define the program requirements and will better understand the criteria used in approving courses as EDGE eligible.

12:45pm – 1:45pm Afternoon Keynote

Victor Saad, Founder, Experience Institute

Victor Saad is an author, educator, and community builder. In 2012, he designed his own Masters by completing 12 projects in 12 months, he titled The Leap Year Project. His experiences culminated with staging his graduation at a local TEDx and publishing a book of stories focused on the power of learning through risk. He subsequently launched Experience

Institute, an organization helping college students and career professionals learn and grow through short-term, real-world experiences.

1:45pm – 2:45pm Concurrent Session

What do our students say? – Fed Hall

Frank Hayes, Lecturer, School of Accounting and Finance
Jacqueline Sue, Anna Puri, and Dominic Lau, Students, School of Accounting and Finance

Oscar Nespoli, Continuing Lecturer, Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering
Ada Hurst, Continuing Lecturer, Management Sciences
Thomas Willert, Student, Management Sciences

Join us to hear what students from the School of Accounting and Finance (SAF), and from Engineering, along with their instructors, have to say about participating in experiential learning opportunities.

Launched with \$500K in funding from an anonymous donor in September 2017, the Student Venture Fund (SVF). Students in SAF and the Conrad School of Entrepreneurship and Business apply and interview to fill the SVF's positions each term. Hear what the students learned, with faculty supervision, while working with industry experts to review company pitches, conduct due diligence, and present investment recommendations to the SVF's Investment Committee.

Interdisciplinary student teams were hired by Bata Innovation Lab, and then FULLSOUL Canada as part of new academic programming called iCapstone. Instructors remotely facilitated the learning of problem finding, formulating and solving while students were immersed in authentic practice contexts in international locations. The pedagogical approach taken was to adapt Schon's theory of reflective practice to Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) placements. Students reported that they learned more deeply than in a classroom because they were in constant engagement with the problems they were trying to solve.

Engaging community partners – Columbia A

Wayne Chang, Lecturer, Conrad School of Entrepreneurship and Business
Leeann Ferries, Associate Dean Undergraduate Studies, Recreation and Leisure Studies
Brendan Wylie-Toal, Program Manager, GreenHouse

TBA

SoTL Research and Experiential Learning: Getting Started - Columbia B

Alice Schmidt Hanbidge, Associate Professor, School of Social Work

Judene Pretti, Director, WatCACE

Katherine Lithgow, Senior Instructional Developer, Centre for Teaching Excellence

Interested in learning how to build your research agenda by turning your classroom experiential learning activities into Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) research?

Join us for this session where we will share the:

- Five key steps to conduct SoTL research
- Highlight Resources available to help get your proposal funded
- Offer insights and lessons learned from a successful project

Co-operative Education: learning and work - Westmount

Richard Wikkerink, Director, Student & Faculty Relations, Co-operative Education

This interactive workshop will explore the purpose of co-op at Waterloo and how new initiatives expand and strengthen engagement in work and learning. Participants will learn more about the variety of co-op experiences in the workplace, learn about resources available to students and Faculties, including a high-level review of the supports and services in Co-operative Education.