



IN THE LOOP

The Monthly Newsletter from
The Centre for Teaching Excellence

April 2024

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CTE's office is open Monday to Friday
8:30 am to 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Second floor of the East Campus 3 building

LITE Grant Recipients!

The recipients of the latest round of LITE Grants have been announced! **The LITE Grants Program**, funded by the Office of the Associate Vice President, Academic, are intended to investigate innovative approaches to enhancing teaching and fostering deep student learning at Waterloo.

- **Jeff Nagge** (Pharmacy), **Brianna Bennett** (CTE), **Cynthia Richard** (Pharmacy), **Fuqian Tang** (WatSPEED)
[Comparing the Value of In-Person Experiential Training to Simulated Clinical Experiential Training Using Artificial Intelligence in a Blended Learning Continuing Professional Development Course](#)
- **Laura Mae Lindo** (Philosophy)
["Doing" Critical Race Theory in Gender and Social Justice Classrooms](#)
- **Daniel Harley** (Stratford School), **Ville Mäkelä** (Stratford School), **Cayley MacArthur** (Stratford School)
[Examining Virtual Reality for Design Education in the Classroom](#)
- **Zille Huma Kamal** (Computer Science), **Mike Cooper-Stachowsky** (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
[Mycroft: Using AI to Build a Virtual Teaching Assistant to Enhance Learning and Teaching in Our Classrooms](#)
- **Michèle Martin** (Water Climate Institute), **Jose Di Bella** (Water Climate Institute), **Steffanie Scott** (Geography and Environmental Management), **Nadine Ibrahim** (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
[Supporting and Enhancing Climate Pedagogy Practices](#)
- **Carrie Mitchell** (Planning), **Kathryn S. Plaisance** (Knowledge Integration), **Christine Logel** (Social Development Studies)
[WISER@Waterloo: Implementing and Evaluating Evidence-Based Practices for Student Wellbeing, Belonging, and Equity](#)

UWTL Conference is Approaching!

Registration is open until April 19 for the 2024 University of Waterloo Teaching & Learning Conference! The conference will take place on Wednesday, May 1 with all sessions online and on Thursday, May 2 with all sessions in-person.

The keynote speaker is **Jessie Moore**, Director of the Center for Engaged Learning at Elon University. Her keynote is entitled "Fostering Equitable, Engaged Learning In and Beyond the Classroom."

Our ever-popular Igniting our Practice Session will feature Waterloo instructors **Craig Fortier**, Associate Professor of Social Development Studies, and **Suzanne Kearns**, Associate Professor of Geography.



Jessie Moore



Craig Fortier



Suzanne Kearns

For more details, please visit [UWTL](#)

Upcoming Workshops and Events

For graduate students and postdocs

- [Teaching Dossiers](#)

For all graduate student programming [CLICK HERE](#)

For instructors and staff

- [Getting Started in Learn](#)
- [SLICC Instructor Workshop](#)

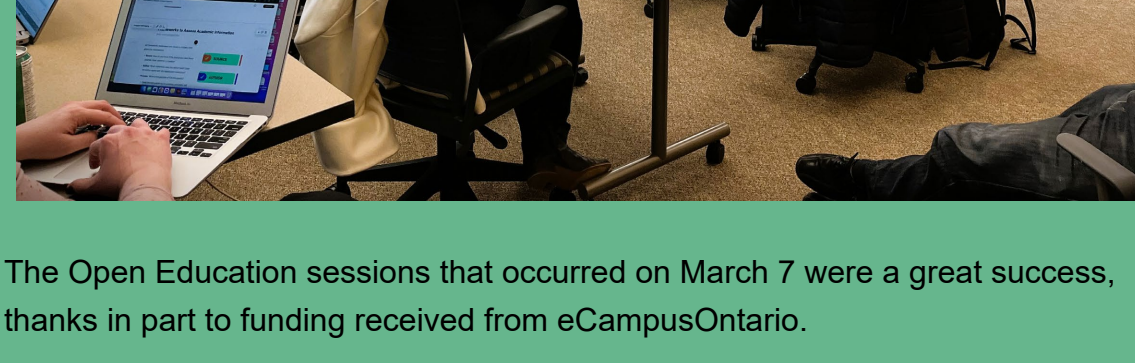
For all faculty and staff programming [CLICK HERE](#)

We'll have a full roster of new workshops and events ready for the Spring term!

The 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.

Open Education Week



The Open Education sessions that occurred on March 7 were a great success, thanks in part to funding received from eCampusOntario.

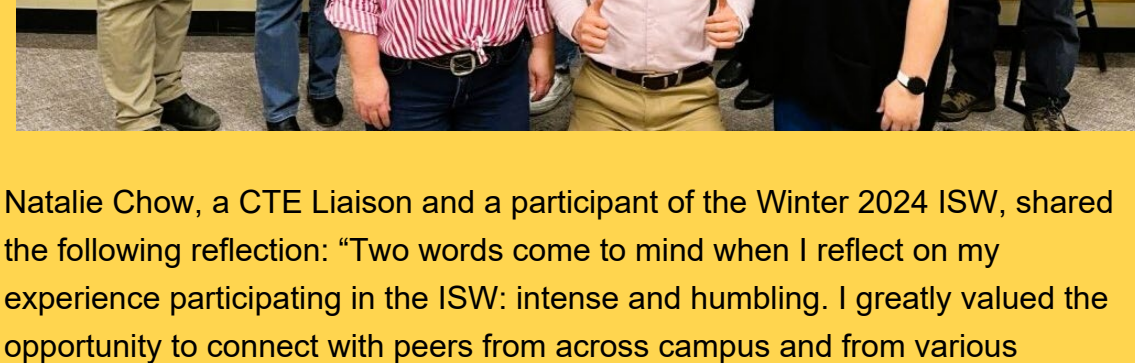
Of particular interest was the session featuring Vivian Dayeh and Dan Wolczuk, two of the Library's 2023 **Staebler Insurance OER Fellows Grant** recipients, who described how they used the Staebler funding to develop OERs for their students.

Dan's project was the creation of course notes for Calculus 1 and 2 for the Sciences. With the grant, he hired two students to read through the course notes and provide feedback about the clarity of the explanations, the level of challenge for various exercises, and general readability. Dan noted that having this student feedback was immensely helpful in making the course notes learner-based rather than instructor-based. Moreover, because these notes are Open Education Resources (OER), they are free and students never lose access to them (whereas online resources provided by traditional publishers typically cease to be available after the course has been completed). As an OER, Dan's course notes—to which more than a thousand hours have been invested—are also available to other instructors, who are free to adapt them to meet the needs of students at other institutions.

Vivian's project also involved students: she hired a cohort of student artists to create high quality OER images for human physiology, which are otherwise difficult to find. This library of OER images will decrease the cost for students while also enhancing their learning.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the latest graduates of the Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW)! On February 21, 22, and 23, eight participants took part in the ISW, an intensive workshop focused on micro-teaching and peer feedback. We would like to congratulate the graduates of the Winter 2024 ISW and thank the ISW facilitators for their time and support.



Natalie Chow, a CTE Liaison and a participant of the Winter 2024 ISW, shared the following reflection: "Two words come to mind when I reflect on my experience participating in the ISW: intense and humbling. I greatly valued the opportunity to connect with peers from across campus and from various disciplines. The facilitators were exceptional in fostering a supportive peer-to-peer learning environment and modelling teaching and learning strategies that I have added to my 'toolkit'! I highly recommend anyone who is interested in refining their teaching practices to consider participating in the ISW."

If you are interested in participating in a future offering of the ISW or have any questions about the ISW, please contact CTE's ISW Program Lead, **Richard Li**.

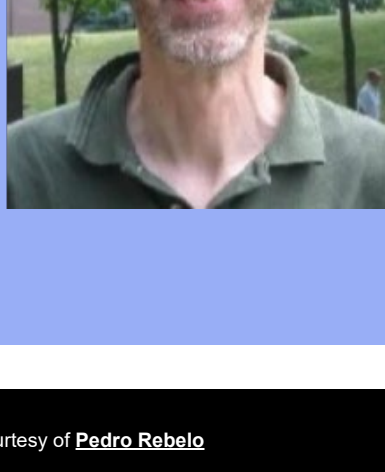
New and Timely Resources

IST has developed a resource called **Guidance on Artificial Intelligence Use**, which includes sections on General Policy, Responsible Use, Development, and Available AI Tools.

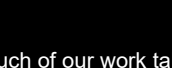
CTE's library of Teaching Tips is organized into nine categories, including one called **Support for Student Learning**, which comprises 19 different Teaching Tips. Check it out!

Farewells

Paul Kates, CTE's long-time Faculty Liaison for Mathematics, is retiring. Paul undertook his Liaison role more than twenty years ago with LT3, one of the precursors to CTE. His dedication to instructors, pedagogical expertise, and kindness are familiar to all who know him. We in CTE will miss him, the Faculty of Mathematics will miss him, and the university as a whole will miss him. If you would like to send well-wishes to Paul, you're welcome to **email them to Mary Power**, who is collecting them.



Clock image used under Creative Commons License BY-NC-ND 2.0, courtesy of [Pedro Rebelo](#)



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](#).

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