

IN THE LOOP

The Monthly Newsletter from the Centre for Teaching Excellence

August 2023

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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

Upcoming Workshops and Events

CTE's programming includes [workshops and events](#) for all instructors and staff, new instructors, graduate students, and postdocs. Of particular note, as the fall term approaches, are the upcoming [New Faculty Teaching Days](#) and a [workshop on using the Course Templates](#) available in LEARN.

Additionally, in October we'll be offering again the [Instructional Skills Workshop](#). This three-day workshop is an intensive, collaborative, and experiential learning model that uses video-recorded micro-teaching and peer feedback sessions to support the teaching reflection and development of both new and experienced instructors. The ISW promotes participatory learning and community building and encourages examination of teaching practices, with feedback focused on the learning process rather than on the specific content of the lesson.

Instructional Innovations Week

Stay tuned for details about CTE's Instructional Innovations Week, scheduled for October 16 to 20. This event is superseding Educational Technologies Week which CTE coordinated for a number of years — the change is motivated by a desire to open the sessions to teaching and learning innovations of all sorts, not just ones that leverage new technologies. Session topics for Instructional Innovations Week will include Sustainability, Extended Reality, Artificial Intelligence, Well-Being, and more.

Digital Pedagogy Institute

Our colleagues in Waterloo's Library are collaborating with several other libraries to coordinate the upcoming 9th Annual [Digital Pedagogy Institute](#), which will take place via Zoom on August 16 and 17. This year's themes are:



- Critical Ideologies and Digital Pedagogy
- Digital (De)colonialism
- Inclusivity, Accessibility, and Digital Pedagogy
- Sustainability, Renewability, and Environmental Costs in the Digital Sphere
- Digital Pedagogy and the Post-Truth Society

[Registration is now open.](#)

LITE Grants Deadline

The next deadline for CTE's LITE Grant program is approaching: **October 1**. LITE Grants provide support for investigating student learning and alternative approaches to teaching and assessing student learning at the individual, departmental, Faculty, or institutional levels. The overall aims are to foster deep student learning and promote curiosity, reflection, and exploration in the areas of teaching and learning.

More information about the LITE Grants, descriptions of projects by previous LITE Grant recipients, and the application form are available on the [Research and Grants](#) section of our website.

Training for Fall Teaching Assistants

Is your department interested in providing training for your fall Teaching Assistants? For an overview of TA training available through CTE, visit [Teaching Assistant Training: Information for Instructors and Coordinators](#). Some of the available training and resources include:

- [Preparing to TA at Waterloo LEARN site](#): A self-paced, asynchronous module available for departments, Faculties, and course instructors to offer to their TAs. This module will be available from August 22 and throughout the Fall term.
- [Workshops by request](#): CTE staff can facilitate workshops as part of your departmental or Faculty TA Training, by request, in the modality of your choice.
- [LEARN for TAs sessions](#): During the first month of term, CTE offers two sessions for TAs to introduce them to various LEARN tools.
- [Fundamentals of University Teaching Program](#): Each term, CTE offers workshops on a variety of teaching topics relevant to TAs and graduate students that can lead to a completion certificate.
- [TA Handbook](#): a resource of practical tips for TAs to refer to throughout their time as a TA.

Please spread the word about TA training opportunities to your program's graduate students! If you have questions, please contact cte-grad@uwaterloo.ca.

New Resources

CTE has recently published new teaching tips: [Teaching Effectiveness and the Student Course Perceptions \(SCP\) Survey](#) and [Reviewing and Analyzing Feedback from SCP Surveys](#).

These teaching tips, along with the [SCP Resources for Instructors](#) prepared by the [Teaching Assessment Processes \(TAP\) Office](#), were well-received by a group of instructors in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at a recent workshop entitled "Interpreting Your SCP Results" facilitated by Andrea Atkins (Teaching and Learning Champion in CEE) and Richard Li (CTE Faculty Liaison for Engineering). As part of the workshop, participants were invited to share their experiences with student feedback, ask questions, and discuss practical strategies for approaching SCP results positively and using SCP questions to improve teaching effectiveness proactively.

We invite instructors across campus to engage with these new resources and have conversations about SCP and the holistic teaching assessment processes in general. Instructors are always welcome to reach out to their [CTE Faculty Liaison](#) for assistance.

Staff Changes

CTE has several changes in staff to announce!

- [Annik Bilodeau](#) is taking on the role of Educational Developer, Research and Consulting, during Kyle Scholz's secondment as Interim Managing Director to Waterloo's Teaching Innovation Incubator. Annik comes to us from the Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies.
- [Katie Damphouse](#) has been hired into the position of Educational Developer, Faculty Programs and Consulting, formerly held by Monica Vesely, who has moved over to Waterloo's Centre for Work-Integrated Learning.
- [Brianna Bennett](#), formerly CTE's Program Coordinator for Faculty Programming, has taken on the role of CTE's Educational Research Associate.
- [Maris Weiss](#) has moved into the position of CTE's Program Coordinator for Faculty Programming.
- [Kim Boucher](#), as of September 5, will be CTE's new Administrative Assistant, coming to us from the Department of Knowledge Integration.

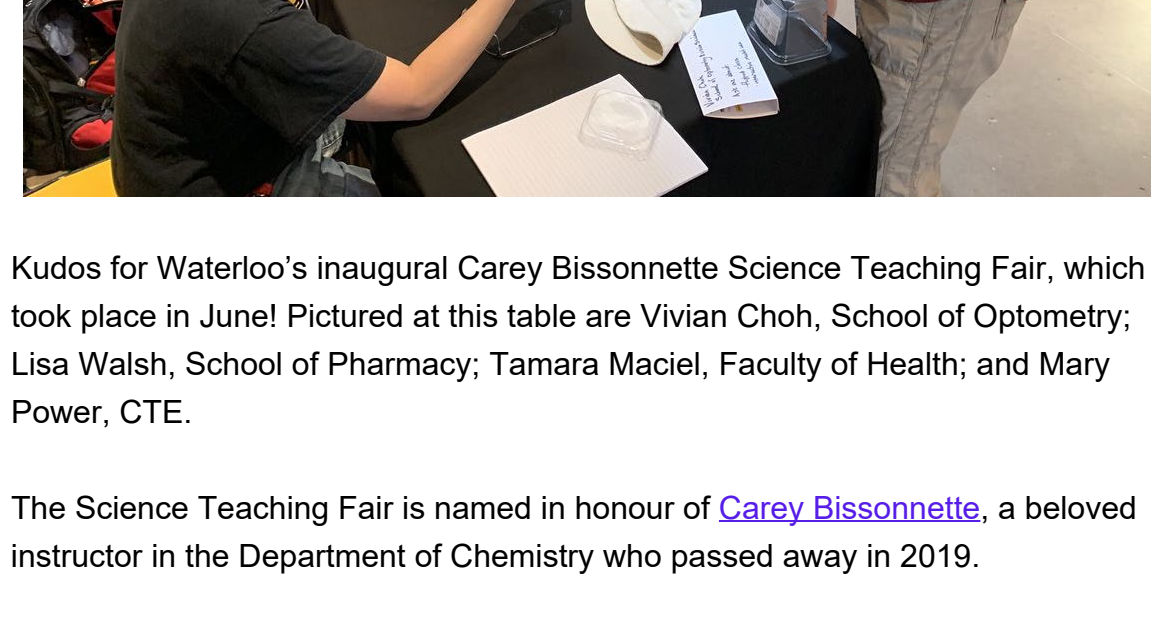
We welcome these individuals to their new positions in CTE! Exciting times, with fresh ideas and approaches, lie ahead! To see a complete list of CTE's staff members check out our [profiles page](#).

We also want to say farewell to the two co-op students who have contributed so much to CTE this term – not just in terms of their assistance with our programs, but also their contribution to the inclusive, collegial, and enthusiastic work culture that we value. [Charley Potter](#) and [Lauryn Quinn](#), we will miss you both!

Accessibility in Teaching

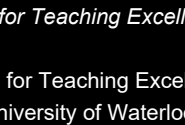
Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is an approach to teaching that aims to make learning accessible to all students, regardless of their individual learning needs and abilities. It recognizes that learners are diverse and therefore provides a flexible and inclusive approach to education so all students have equal opportunities to learn, participate, and succeed in the classroom. Diana Skrzydlo, Faculty of Mathematics, has used UDL to make her courses more inclusive. Find out more about Diana's implementation of UDL [in this profile](#) on Waterloo News.

Carey Bissonnette Science Teaching Fair



Kudos for Waterloo's inaugural Carey Bissonnette Science Teaching Fair, which took place in June! Pictured at this table are Vivian Choh, School of Optometry; Lisa Walsh, School of Pharmacy; Tamara Maciel, Faculty of Health; and Mary Power, CTE.

The Science Teaching Fair is named in honour of [Carey Bissonnette](#), a beloved instructor in the Department of Chemistry who passed away in 2019.



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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