



IN THE LOOP

The Monthly Newsletter from
The Centre for Teaching Excellence

March 2024

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Subscribe to
In the Loop

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

UWTL Conference Registration is Open!

Registration for the 2024 University of Waterloo Teaching & Learning Conference is **now open!** 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

[Workshops for graduate students and postdocs](#)

- Registration is open for **New Instructor Foundations**, a three half-day series (April 10-12) for graduate student and postdoctoral instructors teaching a course in Spring or Fall 2024. If you know of such graduate students or postdocs, please encourage them to participate. Questions? Contact [Svitlana Taraban-Gordon](#).

For All Graduate Student Programming [CLICK HERE](#)

[Workshops for instructors and staff](#)

- VR Technologies and Cybersickness**
- Introduction to the Principles of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**
- Documenting Your Teaching for Tenure and Promotion**
- Course Outline Builder**
- Working Effectively with TAs**

For All Faculty and Staff Programming [CLICK HERE](#)

Additionally, our upcoming multi-day or multi-session programming includes the following:

New Faculty Teaching Days

Workshops for new faculty members are scheduled for February and March, including Course Design Foundations, Course Dynamics and Engagement, Who Are Our Learners?, Assessment as Learning, Course Outline Builder, and Working Effectively with TAs. Visit [New Faculty Teaching Days](#) for more information about each workshop, dates and times, and registration. Questions? Please contact [Katie Damphouse](#).

Teaching Excellence Academy

The Teaching Excellence Academy gives you an opportunity to intensively re-design one of your courses. You will engage in both small-group and individual activities to create a revised course that aligns intended learning outcomes, teaching activities, and student assessment. This four-day program takes place on April 17, 18, 19 & 22. Speak to your Department Chair regarding nomination.

Waterloo Assessment Institute

The fourth annual **Waterloo Assessment Institute (WAI)**, a two-day retreat, will be held on Tuesday, May 28 and Thursday, May 30 at Conrad Grebel University College. The WAI helps individuals or teams redesign key assignments in their courses through peer feedback, consultations, and guided work time. Whether you are an individual seeking to improve an assignment, or a team seeking to link an assignment or assignments "horizontally" (across courses in a term) or "vertically" (across courses in different terms or years), WAI provides space, time, expertise, and peer feedback. Please note, if you are attending as a team, each team member must register. [Katherine Lithgow](#) or [Veronica Stephenson](#) are available to answer your questions about the WAI.

Sparking and Sustaining Engagement...in Instructors

The upcoming UWTL conference is devoted to sparking and sustaining engagement in students. But how can instructors spark and sustain engagement in themselves? In [these sessions](#) leading up to the conference, we'll hear from instructors who have found ways to re-ignite or enhance their passion for designing stimulating learning activities and environments for their students.

Open Education Week

Open Education (OE) Week cometh! Sessions for March 7 include [Creating OE Resources at Waterloo](#), [Introduction to OE Resources with eCampus Ontario](#) (lunch provided), a panel featuring recipients of the [OE Resources Fellows Grants](#) (a program funded by Staebler Insurance), and [Inclusive Instruction and Facilitation Practices in OE Resources](#). Open Education Week is a [global initiative](#). At Waterloo, the series is coordinated by the Open Scholarship Committee, an umbrella group comprising staff from the Library, CTE, CEL, the Bookstore, as well as faculty members.



New and Timely Resources

Teaching Tips

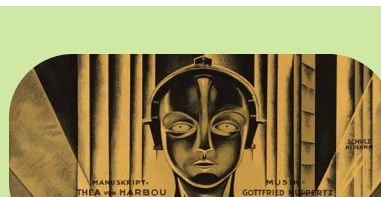
CTE's [Teaching Tips](#) are succinct documents that convey evidence-based ideas and strategies for effective teaching and learning. In this month's issue of In the Loop, we're featuring...[Data Visualization!](#) Data visualization is the graphical representation of information and data which helps reveal patterns, trends, gaps, and outliers in the data. Data visualization is a tool that can be taught to students, used to teach, or used to inform teaching practices.

From the Centre for Extended Learning

CTE's sibling unit—cousin unit? best friend unit?—The Centre for Extended Learning (CEL) has developed two comprehensive online resources: [High Quality Online Courses](#), which focuses on improving course design and delivery for post-secondary learners; and [Humanizing Virtual Learning](#), which aims to help post-secondary educators foster engagement, connection, and inclusivity in an online learning environment. A [brief overview](#) of the High Quality Online Course experience is available on YouTube.

Community of Practice: About AI

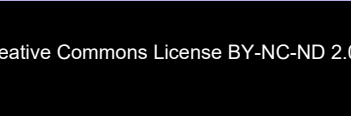
Interested in joining a new collaborative MS Teams site about teaching in the context of generative artificial intelligence? Please contact [Trevor Holmes](#).



CTE is proud of our own Dr. Mark Morton who recently published his first novel, [The Headmasters!](#)

Mark took advantage of Waterloo's [self-funded leave program](#) to find time to write (as he notes in the in the book's acknowledgements)

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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