



# IN THE LOOP

## The Monthly Newsletter from The Centre for Teaching Excellence

### May 2024

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**

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### Countdown to the UWTL Conference!

**The 2024 University of Waterloo Teaching & Learning Conference is mere days away: May 1 and 2!**

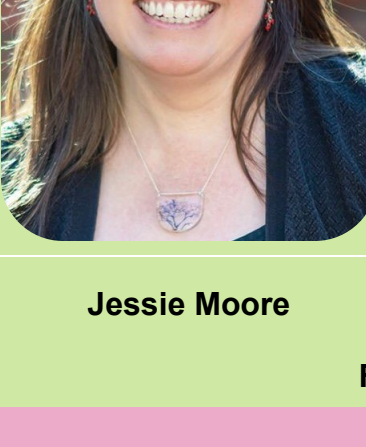
Our keynote speaker is **Jessie Moore**, Director of the Center for Engaged Learning at Elon University. Her keynote is entitled "Fostering Equitable, Engaged Learning In and Beyond the Classroom."

This is the 15th year of the conference, and our largest ever: we have 530 registered participants, 490 of whom will be attending the in-person sessions on May 2 (the sessions on May 1 are all online). Every Waterloo faculty is represented, as well as the Centre for Extended Learning, the Library, the Student Success Office, the Writing and Communication Centre, Work Integrated Learning, Campus Housing, and Organizational and Human Development.

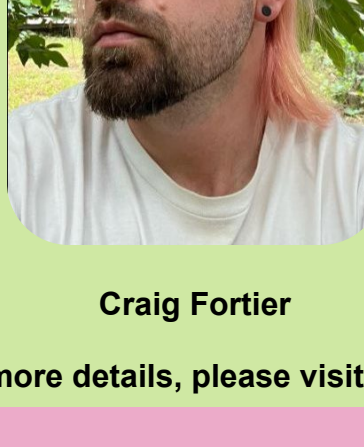
May 1 includes 16 online sessions, and May 2 includes 50 presentations, 6 panels, 5 workshops, 4 alternative sessions, and 17 posters.

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.

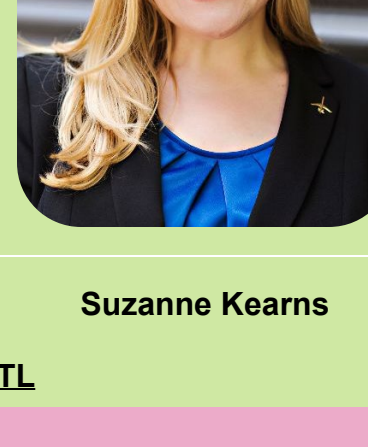
**It's going to be a great conference!** (But unfortunately, if you haven't yet registered, registration is closed.)



Jessie Moore



Craig Fortier



Suzanne Kearns

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

### Upcoming Workshops and Events

With a new spring term comes a new roster of CTE programming.

Workshops for **all instructors and staff** include **Working Effectively with TAs**, **Getting Started in LEARN**, **Cognitive Load Theory for Instructional Design**, **Course Redesign for Flipped and Other Models of Blended Learning**, and **more**.

Workshops for graduate students include **Teaching Dossiers for Graduate Students and Postdocs**, **Reflecting on Diversity in the Classroom**, **Teaching with Confidence**, and **more**.

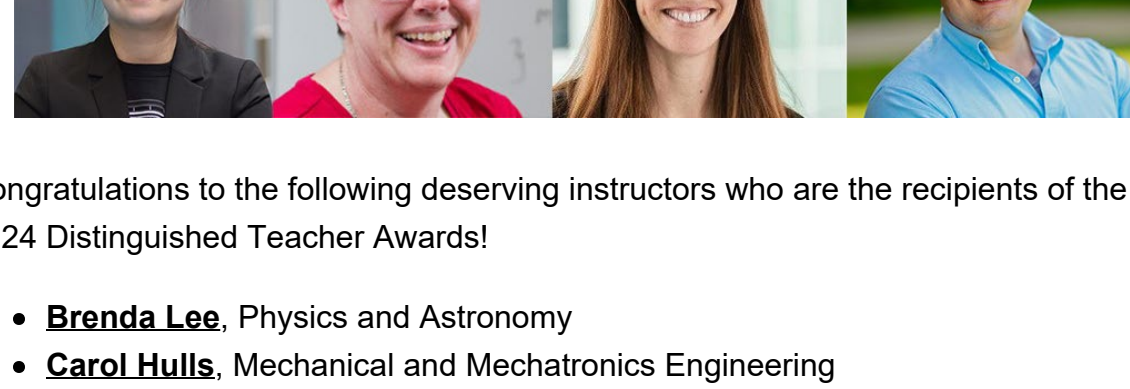
**The Digital Pedagogy Institute**—which is organized by faculty and staff from several institutions, including **Tim Ireland** from **Waterloo's Library**—will take place from August 13 to 15. The virtual conference offers sessions that focus on the innovative use of digital technologies to enhance and transform undergraduate and graduate teaching.

### The AVPA's First Annual Celebration of Teaching Excellence & Innovation

This casual reception, taking place on May 30 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, will celebrate faculty, student, and staff recipients of institutional-level or faculty-based teaching awards (2022-23); recognize and share information about innovative projects designed to re-imagine teaching at Waterloo; and facilitate networking and idea-sharing among like-minded faculty, students, and staff.

Watch a **promotional video** for the event! If you plan to attend, **please RSVP**.

### Distinguished Teacher Awards

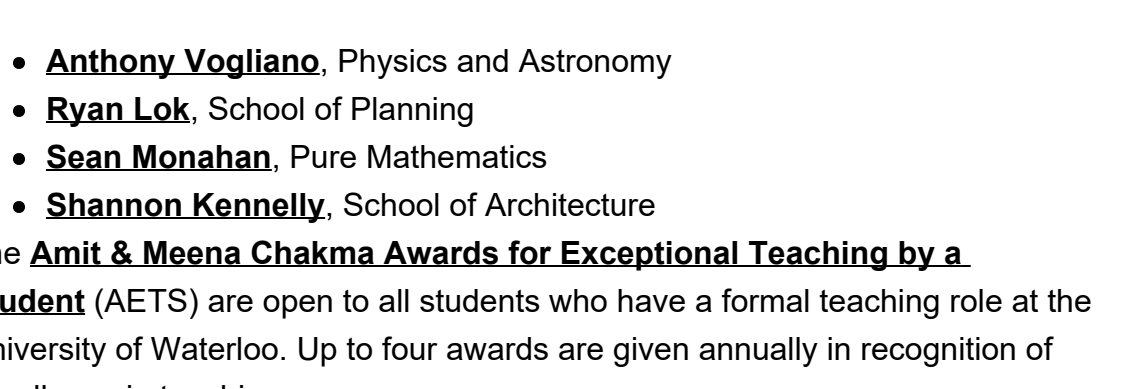


Congratulations to the following deserving instructors who are the recipients of the 2024 Distinguished Teacher Awards!

- **Brenda Lee**, Physics and Astronomy
- **Carol Hulls**, Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering
- **Cecilia Cotton**, Statistics and Actuarial Sciences
- **Jordan Hamilton**, Mathematics Undergraduate Group

The main criterion of the **Distinguished Teacher Awards** is a record of excellent teaching over an extended period at Waterloo.

### Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student



Congratulations to the following students who have each received a 2024 Amit & Meena Chakma Award for Exceptional Teaching by a Student.

- **Anthony Vogliano**, Physics and Astronomy
- **Ryan Lok**, School of Planning
- **Sean Monahan**, Pure Mathematics
- **Shannon Kennelly**, School of Architecture

The **Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student** (AETS) are open to all students who have a formal teaching role at the University of Waterloo. Up to four awards are given annually in recognition of excellence in teaching.

### Certificate of University Teaching Award

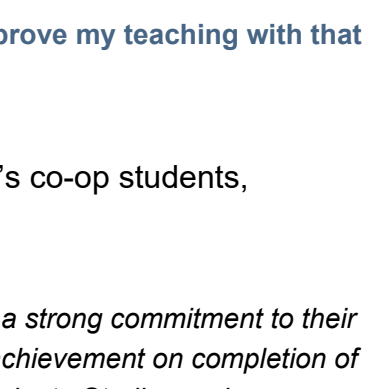
We are excited to announce that **Jennifer Ellingham** is the 2024 recipient of the Certificate in University Teaching (CUT) Award!

Jennifer is a PhD candidate in Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering, where she studies how smoke moves and how that movement impacts the safety of people within a building. Regarding her experience in the CUT program, Jennifer comments:

"The CUT program is a huge opportunity for PhD students. I've learned so much, and I would not be the instructor I am today without the CUT. I also loved the Instructional Skills Workshop — it was amazing to collaborate with my peers to improve my teaching with that program."

Read an **interview with Jennifer** conducted by one of CTE's co-op students, Ashdeep Gill.

The **CUT Award** is given annually to a graduate student who shows a strong commitment to their development as a university teacher and demonstrates the highest achievement on completion of the CUT program. The award is jointly administered by CTE and Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs.



# New & Improved

### New and Timely Resources

We've been updating, upgrading, and sometimes even uprooting our collection of 150+ Teaching Tips! Here are some that have been recently revised.

- **Writing Intended Learning Outcomes**
- **Accessibility Checklist for MS PowerPoint**
- **Accessibility Checklist for MS Word**
- **Optimizing Your LEARN Site for Students**  
(formerly Five Things to Make Your Students Appreciate Your LEARN Site)

### Community of Practice: About AI

Interested in joining a collaborative MS Teams site about teaching in the context of generative artificial intelligence? Please contact **Trevor Holmes**.



Additionally, please contact Trevor if you would like an Academic Support Unit team to come to your department to host discipline-specific discussions about the impact of genAI on pedagogy and curriculum.

### Farewells

CTE is saying farewell to a number of staff who have shared their talents, expertise, and dedication.

**Nahannee Schuitemaker**, Educational Developer for Anti-Racist Pedagogies, has taken up a new research-oriented role outside higher education and departed from the University April 26th. We are grateful in so many ways for Nahannee's time with us. Of special note has been her collaborative design of a Graduate Diploma in the Faculty of Health, along with her circle work with CTE staff in reading circles that has led to a collaborative wampum project.

**Jessica Rumboldt**, Educational Developer for Indigenous Knowledges, has accepted a position with leadership responsibilities in Indigenous initiatives elsewhere. We thank Jessica for her creativity, thoughtful engagement, and unstoppable energy across Faculties and at different levels of impact, from Math's Equity principles to course consultations and contributions in Arts (Sociology and Legal Studies), Science (Pharmacy), and Engineering (Systems Design Engineering). Her last day is May 6th.

We wish both Nahannee and Jessica all success in their next steps.

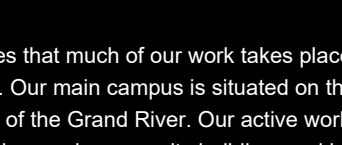
A number of graduate students who have been working with CTE as **Teaching Assistant Workshop Facilitators** (TAWFs) and **Graduate Educational Developers** (GEDs) have completed their time with us: Luke Hagar, Amanda Nova, Jerika Sanderson, Serena McDiarmid, Rachel Beaver, and Carina Filice. We wish them the best in their next endeavours!

We also have **new TAWFs and GEDs** joining our team. They are Humaira Shoaib, Harshina Brijlall, Fam Saeed, Rodrigo Curty Pereira, and Blessing Medon. Welcome aboard, all of you!

Every term we say goodbye to the **co-op students** whom we've come to appreciate and rely on! This term our "graduates" are:

**Clara Chao** brought strong data analysis, problem solving, and teamwork skills to the team. She assisted with the UWTL Conference, the Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement (LITE) Grants, and oversaw surveys for workshops. Clara was always eager to help and to share her humour and expertise!

**Ashdeep Gill** formed countless connections in and outside of CTE with his friendly demeanor! Ashdeep assisted with teaching awards, faculty and graduate workshops, and environmental projects, such as the weekly CTE Green Office newsletter and a donation drive for the Sustainability Office's Free Store.



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**.

Centre for Teaching Excellence  
University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, ON, Canada, N2H 3G1

Email: [cte@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cte@uwaterloo.ca)  
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