



IN THE LOOP

The Monthly Newsletter from The Centre for Teaching Excellence

October 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 has a full roster of workshops to offer instructors and staff, new instructors, graduate students, and postdocs. We offer workshops in several modes: face-to-face, hybrid, fully online, and self-directed (LEARN-based). Check out the [complete schedule](#).

Instructional Innovations Week



In celebration of evolving teaching practices, CTE has created **Instructional Innovations Week**, a series of sessions devoted to EdTech and Generative AI, Scholarship of Teaching & Learning, Student Engagement and Wellness, and Sustainability. Thirteen sessions will be delivered over four days. Registration is free and open to all instructors and instructional staff at Waterloo.

Instructional Innovations Week 2023

Save-the-Date! 2024 UW Teaching and Learning Conference

This year's conference will take place on May 1 and May 2. The first day of the conference (May 1) will take place online, on Zoom, and the second day (May 2), will take place on campus. The call for proposals will be disseminated in October, with proposals due in January, and registration will open in early February. Stay tuned for this year's theme reveal soon!

Helpful and Timely Resources

Teaching Tips

CTE maintains and updates a **repository of 150+ Teaching Tips**. The Teaching Tips provide succinct, evidence-based, practical strategies to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom and online. This month, we are highlighting teaching tips related to feedback and GenAI.

This is the point in term when we encourage you to check in with your students about their experience so far. And of course, this is likely the time when you will be giving students feedback on work completed in the first half of term.

- **Collecting and Using Student Midterm Feedback**
- **Enabling Uptake of Instructor Feedback Through Feedback Literacy**
- **Receiving and Giving Feedback**
- For more, see our **Assessment and Feedback** category!

Concerned about the use of GenAI? Consider incorporating some of these strategies:

- **Teaching Metacognitive Skills**
- **Promoting and Assessing Critical Thinking**
- **Conversations with Students about Generative Artificial Intelligence**

Congratulations Dr. Mark Morton et al!

CTE would like to congratulate our own Dr. Mark Morton, along with John Zhang (Chem Eng), Dr. Eric Croiset (Chem Eng), Dr. Mario Ioannidis (Chem Eng), and Felicia Pentazi (Centre for Extended Learning). Their project, "Experiential Learning through Integration of 360 VR Tours, Open-Source Based Simulation and Multimedia Assets" has been selected as an exemplar in the "Accessible and inclusive tools and processes" category of the *EDUCAUSE 2023 Horizon Report | Supporting the Holistic Student Experience Edition*. This next edition of the **Horizon Report** will be available in October.

Get to Know CTE's Fall Co-op Students

Charlie Uebele, Special Projects

Charlie is a third-year environment and business student, minoring in geography and environmental management. Even though it's only been a month, he really likes the work he's doing. Mainly, he is working with the workshop feedback surveys, and compiling the survey results to send to facilitators so they can better their teaching strategies. As someone who is interested in statistics and analytics in academia, he's excited to pursue that interest more at CTE.



Tanraj Dulai, Special Projects

Tanraj hopes to host fun activities for CTE staff alongside greeting visitors at reception, overseeing Green Office initiatives and supporting workshops. He is very excited to be working with CTE and hopes to make meaningful connections here. He is a third year here at UW (go Warriors) in ARBUS, majoring in History with a minor in Political Science. In his free time, he enjoys reading and writing as well as overanalyzing film and television.

Staff Changes

Grad Staff and Grad Team Changes

Welcome to our new TA Workshop Facilitators, who are joining CTE as of Fall term:

- **Karmvir Padma** (Sociology and Legal Studies)
- **Tara Chen** (Geography and Environmental Management)
- **Giuseppe Femia** (English Language and Literature)

And welcome to the Graduate Educational Developer team, **Rachel Beaver** (Biology), who was formerly in the TA Workshop Facilitator role at CTE.

Kristin Brown is starting her parental leave and **Monika Soczewinski** will be stepping into the role of Educational Developer, TA Training and Writing Support. Monika has been a key member of the grad team since 2013 in her role as Program Coordinator. She holds a master's degree in Education from the University of Calgary and has a lot of skills and experiences relevant to the role she'll be taking on. Congratulations, Monika!

Liaison Team Changes

CTE welcomes **Shayla Redlin Hume** in the role of CTE Liaison to the Faculty of Mathematics while Paul Kates is on leave. She has recently completed her PhD in Combinatorics and Optimization at the University of Waterloo and is currently teaching CO 250 (Introduction to Optimization). Shayla has a Certificate in University Teaching from the CTE and was awarded the **2023 Certificate in University Teaching Award**. She is particularly interested in research on **this topic** at the UWTL Conference. She is excited to meet and work with Math faculty and instructors!

We are also excited that **Rebecca MacAlpine** will continue in the role of CTE Liaison to the Faculty of Arts and the AFIW while **Victoria Feth** is on reassignment as Educational Developer, Curriculum: Accessibility and Inclusion. The **CTE Liaisons** support instructors in their Faculty with such things as blended learning, course and assignment design, and the effective use of technology in their courses. They also serve as a guide for instructors to access other CTE resources. From left to right, top row: Richard Li (Engineering), Jason Thompson (Science), Julia Burke (Environment, Arts); bottom row: Natalie Chow (Health, Arts, ASUs), Rebecca MacAlpine (Arts & AFIW), Shayla Redlin Hume (Math).



Curriculum Team Changes

Victoria Feth has accepted a two-year temporary re-assignment to work on the Accessible Education project through the **Teaching Innovation Incubator** (TII). As part of the Instructional Programs and Practices team, co-led by Diana Skrzydlo (Teaching Fellow, Math) and Donna Ellis (Director, Centre for Teaching Excellence), Victoria will help explore how to create alternate program pathways, develop accessibility standards for teaching and learning, and crucially, identify a process to establish bona fide and essential academic requirements for programs and courses.



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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Centre for Teaching Excellence
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, ON, Canada, N2H 3A3

Email: cte@uwaterloo.ca
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