

University of Waterloo Annual Teaching and Learning Conference



Rethinking and **Reframing** the
Assessment of Learning

Thursday, May 1, 2014



Opportunities and New Directions

WORDS OF WELCOME

Welcome to the University of Waterloo's sixth annual teaching and learning conference, **Opportunities and New Directions (OND) 2014!**

The theme of this year's Conference is "Rethinking and Reframing the Assessment of Learning." As you may have experienced, assessing student learning can be both one of the most challenging and one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching. Perhaps unlike any other aspect of teaching, assessment provides an opportunity to gain insight into learners' developing understanding and thinking. What if we were to see assessment as something that is done *for learning*, rather than done *to students*? How can assessment be seen as a benefit, rather than a burden?

These questions and many others are explored through an exciting array of panel discussions, workshops, presentations, and roundtables on research and practice from across the disciplines. Assessment in online, face-to-face, and blended learning environments is explored, as is learning at the course level, program level, and on work-terms.

The Presidents' Colloquium morning keynote session will be facilitated by Dr. John Bean, an internationally-renowned speaker and author on the topic of writing. During this interactive session, Dr. Bean will explore how integrating problem-based writing assignments into our courses, whether we teach in the sciences, social sciences, or humanities, can enhance students' growth as disciplinary thinkers. Moreover, Dr. Bean will explore how this process need not be a burden to faculty members.

One of the highlights of the Conference is always the "Igniting Our Practice" plenary session. This year, Dr. Kelly Anthony and Dr. Hamid Jahed, two of uWaterloo's award-winning faculty members, will draw us into the learning spaces they create for their students by teaching us a concept from their own courses, and showing us how they engage students in disciplinary thinking. We will take the time to discuss and reflect on the ways in which we can integrate these ideas into our own teaching.

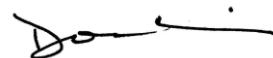
Our hope is that you will leave the Conference having established and deepened connections with colleagues and with insights that will infuse your teaching philosophy and practice with renewed vitality.

We look forward to sharing this day with you and thank you for your dedication to teaching and enhancing student learning at the University.

Mario Coniglio, Associate Vice President, Academic
University of Waterloo



Donna Ellis, Director
Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE), University of Waterloo



Julie Timmermans, OND Conference Chair
Instructional Developer – Consulting and Research,
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