

# Fall Perspectives on Teaching

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Room 40, Arthur & Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building

## WELCOMING REMARKS

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

*Amit Chakma, President and Vice-Chancellor*

## KEYNOTE SESSION

9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Room 40

## The Lights Still Bright in the Rear-view Mirror

*Allan Gedalof, Department of Film Studies*



Two years after retiring, I think I might be able to make a start on answering some questions that Debra Dawson, Director of Western's Teaching Support Centre, got me thinking about at the time of my retirement. What still seems to have mattered most about what I did with and for my students and my colleagues and the disciplines within which I worked? How and with what success might I have managed the constant adjustments to all aspects of the academic life, from what we teach to how we teach it to those we teach and even to the evolving institution in which we do our jobs, and all that over a thirty-five year career? And what lights still shine brightly in the rear-view mirror?

*Dr. Allan Gedalof is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Film Studies at Western. For 35 years, he taught English Literature, Film, and Popular Culture. He is the recipient of numerous teaching awards including Western's Pleva Teaching Award, OCUFA Teaching Award, and the 3M Teaching Fellowship.*

Refreshment Break 10:30 - 10:45 a.m.

## PLENARY SESSION

10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Room 40

## Using the National Survey of Student Engagement to Enhance Student Academic Success: Best Practices on Canadian Campuses

*Debra Dawson, Teaching and Learning Services*

Since 2004, Western has participated three times in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). This survey is increasingly being used to measure institutional improvements in undergraduate education both inside and outside the classroom. To date 50 Canadian universities have completed the survey. The results of the NSSE survey indicate clear gaps on many NSSE benchmarks between Canadian and American universities. Faculty will leave the session with knowledge of the current Canadian NSSE research, an increased awareness of the levers (and barriers) for using NSSE to effect change, and a comprehensive list of best practices related to student engagement on Canadian campuses.

*Dr. Debra Dawson is the Director of Teaching and Learning Services at Western. Debra is an award winning teacher whose primary interests include issues related to enhancing student engagement both inside and outside the classroom, graduate student professional development, and competencies of educational developers. She has served on the selection committee for the 3M Teaching Fellowship (Canada's national teaching awards) and on the boards of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) and the Canadian Society for Studies in Higher Education (CSSHE).*

## Session A-1

Room 236

## The Professional Writing Portfolio (PWP) as a tool for professional development, engagement and student agency

**Brock Eayrs & Kathryn Alexander, Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication**

Writing 2299: The Professional Writing Portfolio is a required course in the Program in Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication. This course challenges students to take ownership of their own learning and writing, as they substantively revise a focused body of work that will target a specific audience – whether that is for professional, literary, technical or disciplinary purposes. Students have reported that their portfolios have contributed to successful applications to graduate programs, law school, journalism, publishing, science and technology, as well as to professional employment after graduation. We will bring samples of student work, discuss the challenges of a portfolio-based course for both faculty and students, share some of our resources, and observations we have about the role of the portfolio in formalizing professional skills for students about to graduate from university.

## Session A-2

Room 35

## Thinking Outside the Box: Innovative Uses of Wimba Tools

**Facilitator: Jane Winkler, Information Technology Services**

A panel of faculty will share creative examples of how each uses Wimba tools to extend and enrich the learning environment and beyond. Each panel member will provide a brief overview of use. Audience participation is encouraged in the discussion that follows. Bring along your suggestions and ideas to share.

Refreshment Break 2:45 - 3:00 p.m.

## Session B-1

Room 11

## Scholarship@Western: Your New Online Research Archive

**Adrian Ho, Western Libraries**

Scholarship@Western (<http://ir.lib.uwo.ca/>) collects, disseminates, archives, and preserves scholarly materials created or sponsored by The University of Western Ontario community. Come to this information session to learn about how Scholarship@Western can enhance access to your publications and help increase the impact and recognition of your academic achievements.

## Session B-2

Room 35

## The Rhetoric of Teaching and Learning: Aid or Impediment?

**Nadine Le Gros, Teaching Support Centre**

How you say it really does matter. Drawing from literature on intercultural communication, we will examine how the language we use to communicate across disciplines, with different audiences, and with different individuals impacts on communication in academic settings. This presentation will examine how the language that instructors use when teaching and that students use when posing questions either aids or interferes with learning.

Registration is free. Please register online at [www.uwo.ca/tsc](http://www.uwo.ca/tsc)

Refreshments will be available at the registration desk outside Room 40 at 8:45 a.m. and during the morning and afternoon breaks.