Opening Remarks (HSB 40)

9:30 – 9:45 am
Nanda Dimitrov
Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)
Margaret McGlynn
Acting Associate Vice-Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Keynote Presentation (HSB 40)

9:45 – 10:30 am
“It was the Best of Times: My Journey From TA to Teaching Faculty”
Professor Tom Stavraky • Department of Physiology & Pharmacology

Introduction to TA Training Programs at Western (HSB 40)

10:30 – 10:45 am
Aisha Haque, Associate Director, Graduate Education, CTL

Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:00 am

Concurrent Sessions (Choose One)

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

The First Day of Class HSB 236
Ken Meadows, CTL
Walking into the classroom on the first day can be intimidating for both students and TAs. Together, we will examine what you can do to ensure a successful beginning to the school year.

Facilitating Discussions HSB 40
Kelly Bylica, TATP Instructor, CTL
Learn about starting and guiding class discussions effectively. Practice leading group discussions using brainstorming and other kinds of discussion techniques.

Time Management Strategies for TAs HSB 240
Tracey Ropp, Learning Development and Success
To be successful in the dual roles of student and TA requires a carefully planned balancing act. We will discuss time management strategies that can help you be an effective and efficient student and TA.

Break

12:00 – 1:00 pm
Please bring your own bag lunch or refer to campus eateries for purchase options.

Concurrent Sessions (Choose One)

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Helping Your Students Write Better HSB 236
Paul Schmidt, Writing Support Centre
This session will focus on how TAs can help their students learn expectations for academic writing, and help them to become better writers.

Explaining Difficult Concepts in Science HSB 40
Christina Booker, CTL
Students often ask their TAs to help them understand tricky concepts presented in class. This session will provide specific advice on how to help undergraduate students succeed.

Thriving as International Graduate Students HSB 240
Ana Gonzalez, CTL
This session for international graduate students will explore strategies to help you be a successful TA and to develop a positive and effective relationship with your supervisor.

Concurrent Sessions (Choose One)

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Critical Incidents in the Life of a TA HSB 236
Yoah Sui, TATP Instructor, CTL
Join this session to discuss challenging student-instructor interactions using case studies that follow a semester in the life of a Western TA. You will walk away with a list of key resources and strategies for success in your upcoming TA-ships.

Dealing with Difficult Students HSB 40
Mike Atkinson, Psychology
Many TAs experience occasional situations in which students become “difficult” or disruptive. In this session, we discuss strategies you can use to deal with student behaviour that interferes with classroom learning.

Documenting Your Teaching for Future Careers HSB 240
Aisha Haque, CTL
This session shares strategies for effectively documenting your teaching experiences. Join us to learn how to identify the diverse skills developed during a TA-ship so that you can better emphasize them in future job searches.

Coffee Break & The New TA Survival Kit

3:00 – 3:30 pm
Enjoy coffee and snacks while visiting with representatives from the Centre for Teaching and Learning, GTA Union, Equity and Human Rights Services, Society of Graduate Students, Wellness Education Centre, Western Libraries, School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and Student Experience outside of HSB 40. Learn about the important resources these organizations offer and have your questions answered!

Please register in advance at teaching.uwo.ca
Questions? Contact us at ctl@uwo.ca