

# Graduate Student Conference on Teaching

Wednesday September 4, 2019— Health Sciences Building (HSB) Room 40

# TA DAY

Opening Remarks (HSB 40)

9:30 – 9:45 am

<i>Nanda Dimitrov</i> <i>Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)</i>	<i>Margaret McGlynn</i> <i>Acting Associate Vice-Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</i>
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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	Facilitating Discussions	HSB 40	Time Management Strategies for TAs	HSB 240
<i>Ken Meadows, CTL</i> 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.		<i>Kelly Bylica, TATP Instructor, CTL</i> Learn about starting and guiding class discussions effectively. Practice leading group discussions using brainstorming and other kinds of discussion techniques.		<i>Tracey Ropp, Learning Development and Success</i> 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	Explaining Difficult Concepts in Science	HSB 40	Thriving as International Graduate Students	HSB 240
<i>Paul Schmidt, Writing Support Centre</i> This session will focus on how TAs can help their students learn expectations for academic writing, and help them to become better writers.		<i>Christina Booker, CTL</i> 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.		<i>Ana Gonzalez, CTL</i> 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	Dealing with Difficult Students	HSB 40	Documenting Your Teaching for Future Careers	HSB 240
<i>Yoah Sui, TATP Instructor, CTL</i> 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.		<i>Mike Atkinson, Psychology</i> 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.		<i>Aisha Haque, CTL</i> 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](https://teaching.uwo.ca)  
Questions? Contact us at [ctl@uwo.ca](mailto:ctl@uwo.ca)