

# Graduate Student Conference on Teaching



Wednesday September 5, 2018 – Health Sciences Building (HSB) Room 40

**Opening Remarks (HSB 40) 9:00 – 9:15 am**

*Nanda Dimitrov*  
Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

*Lorraine Davies*  
Associate Vice-Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

**Keynote Presentation (HSB 40) 9:15 – 10:00 am**

**“To be a TA is to learn twice”**  
Professor Felix Lee • Department of Chemistry

**Introduction to TA Training Programs at Western (HSB 40) 10:00 – 10:15 am**

*Aisha Haque, Associate Director, Graduate Education, CTL*

**Coffee Break 10:15 – 10:30 am**

**Concurrent Sessions (Choose One) 10:30 – 11:25 am**

<b>The First Day of Class</b>	HSB 236	<b>Facilitating Discussions</b>	HSB 40	<b>Time Management Strategies for TAs</b>	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>Ana Gonzalez, CTL</i> Learn about starting and guiding class discussions effectively. Practice leading group discussions using Quesession and other kinds of brainstorming techniques.		<i>Tracey Ropp, Learning Skills Services</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.	

**Concurrent Sessions (Choose One) 11:30 am – 12:30 pm**

<b>Critical Incidents in the Life of a TA</b>	HSB 236	<b>Explaining Difficult Concepts in Science</b>	HSB 40	<b>Surviving and Thriving in Canadian Academia</b>	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>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>Aisha Haque, CTL</i> This session for international graduate students will explore strategies to help you make a successful transition to Canadian academia. Topics discussed will include building a positive relationship with your supervisor, communicating in the classroom, and clarifying expectations for TA roles.	

**The New TA Survival Kit and Lunch Break 12:30 – 1:30 pm**

**Pick up your FREE boxed lunch in HSB 35.** Visit with representatives from the **GTA Union, Equity and Human Rights Services, Society of Graduate Students, Wellness Education Centre, Western Libraries** and others outside of **HSB 40**. Learn about the important resources these organizations have to offer and have your questions answered!

**Concurrent Sessions (Choose One) 1:30 – 2:30 pm**

<b>Helping Your Students Write Better</b>	HSB 236	<b>Dealing with Difficult Students</b>	HSB 40	<b>Documenting Your Teaching for Future Careers</b>	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>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>Karyn Olsen, 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 2:30 – 2:45 pm**

**Thriving as a TA: Panel of Outstanding TAs (HSB 40) 2:45 – 4:00 pm**

Introductory Words by the Graduate TA Union (PSAC Local 610)

*Diana Fernandez (Hispanic Studies), Erika Katzman (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences),  
Jina Kum (Pathology and Laboratory Medicine), and Adam Roy (Music Theory)*

Experienced TA panelists will share strategies for effectively fulfilling the TA role, and address audience questions.

**Please register in advance at [teaching.uwo.ca](http://teaching.uwo.ca) Questions? Contact us at [ctl@uwo.ca](mailto:ctl@uwo.ca)**