Fall Perspectives on Teaching Conference
Monday, August 26, 2024
Spencer Engineering Bldg. (1200/2200/Zoom)

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Opening Remarks (SEB 2200/Zoom)

Aisha Haque (Director, Centre for Teaching and Learning)

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Keynote Session (SEB 2200/Zoom)

AI and the Future of Higher Education
Dr. Mark Daley, Chief AI Officer, Western University

Mark is the Chief AI Officer at Western University and a full professor in the Department of Computer Science with cross-appointments in five other departments, The Brain and Mind Institute, The Rotman Institute of Philosophy, and The Western Institute for Neuroscience. He is also a faculty affiliate of Toronto's Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence. Mark has previously served as the Vice-President (Research) at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), and Chief Digital Information Officer, Special Advisor to the President, and Associate Vice-President (Research) at Western. Mark is the past chair of Compute Ontario and serves on a number of other boards.

10:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Refreshment Break (outside SEB 2200)

10:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Panel (SEB 2200/Zoom)

Perspectives on Generative AI from the Western Learning Community
Andrews Tawiah (Health Science, Physical Therapy)
Ana Garcia-Allen (Arts & Humanities, Languages and Cultures)
Dan Bousfield (Social Science, Political Science)
Nandhitha Krishnan (4th Year Computer Science Student)
Laohnorian Madani (4th Year Student)

Moderator: Michael Atkinson (Social Science, Psychology)

This panel brings together faculty and student voices to reflect on the changing landscape of higher education in light of Generative AI. Panelists will share their perspectives on how Generative AI is and will continue to impact teaching and learning. The discussion will focus on both the positive potential and the concerns and perceived challenges of GenAI.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Break

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Session A (SEB 2200/Zoom)
From Access to Belonging: Accessibility Models and Mindsets
Kim Clark (Faculty of Social Science, Anthropology)

Dani Dilkes (Centre for Teaching and Learning)

In this session, we will discuss what "accessibility" means and examine different approaches to creating more accessible classes. We will compare a one-size-fits-one, one-size-fits-all, and a wardrobe approach to accessibility, examining the benefits and challenges of each. Participants will share low-cost, high-impact accessibility practices and start to think about what practices could enhance their own teaching. For instructors just starting to think about accessibility, this session will offer a place to begin. For instructors already working towards accessibility, this session will offer space to reflect, refine, and share. Participants are encouraged to bring a device to participate in the interactive activities, but multiple ways of participating will be possible.

Session B (SEB 1200)

Integrating Student Reflection across Disciplinary Boundaries and Traditions

Christina Booker (Science, Chemistry)
Charys Martin (Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Anatomy and Cell Biology)
Katrina Moser (Geography and Environment)

A panel of faculty will share their experiences embedding reflection into courses, contexts, and disciplines that tend not to explicitly ask students to reflect on their own learning. The panelists will discuss why they embedded reflection within these novel contexts, what forms these reflections took, the challenges that they faced and how they worked to address them, and the benefits that they saw. Please join us for a discussion of how reflective practices can enhance students' educational experience and foster deeper learning across disciplinary boundaries and traditions.

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Refreshment Break (outside SEB 2200)

2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Showcase (SEB 2200/Zoom)

Open Educational Resources Showcase

Alexis Smith, (Nursing, Health Science)
Courtney Casserly, (Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry)
Vera Sarina, (Education)

Facilitator: Emily Carlisle

Join us to learn more about Open Educational Resources (OERs) and hear about innovative OER projects completed by our peers at Western. OERs are openly licensed teaching and learning materials that support a more equitable learning experience by reducing student costs, improving accessibility, and democratizing the creation of course materials. This session will be structured as an introduction to open education and OER, followed by a series of lightning talks focused on different adoption and creation projects completed through the OER Grant and Support Program.

Registration is free. Please register at teaching.uwo.ca
Refreshments will be available at 8:45 a.m. and during the 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. breaks.
Note: the keynote Zoom will be recorded and made available on the CTL website.

Western Centre for Teaching and Learning