Take advantage of our Course Design Fundamentals experience

This month, we’re offering Carleton faculty and contract instructors the chance to receive formal recognition while revisiting foundational principles of course design and delivery that will translate into more effective teaching and learning experiences.

Course Design Fundamentals consists of five workshops appropriate for instructors wishing to cultivate essential course design strategies, regardless of years of experience, teaching modality, or class size. There are four required workshops (Learning Outcomes: Blueprints for Course Design, Designing Learning from Scratch, Assessment Fundamentals, and Learning Effectively with Multimedia) and one elective (Incorporating Activities into Smaller Lecture Classes or Incorporating Activities into Large Lecture Classes).

Most workshops, facilitated by the TLS team, are offered every term; this June 18-21, however, we’re offering participants the opportunity to complete the
cuLearn news: Fall courses now available with a new look and feel

Last month, Carleton updated cuLearn (Moodle) from version 3.1.12 to 3.6.3. The upgraded version of cuLearn provides a clean, modern interface with many useful improvements to the existing functionality. Some changes you will notice are:

- Editing turned on by default
- Automatic creation of lab/tutorial groups
- Fewer blocks and less clutter on your course page, with more customization options
- Specified assignment file types for student assignment uploads
- Kaltura Capture media server integration
- Gradebook exports that match the column order of E-grades uploads
- A hidden course total column by default in the grader report

You can find the latest information about the changes, including screenshots of the new interface, on the cuLearn support site.

Please take the opportunity to look at your courses in the new interface. If you have any questions or concerns about course appearance, navigation or functionality, please contact us. Our team is available to help transfer your course material to the Fall course shells, to create an entirely new course, or to discuss your teaching needs. To schedule a consultation, please email us at edtech@carleton.ca.

New blog: Emotional learners

By Ali Arya, Associate Dean (Planning and Awards), Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs and Associate Professor, School of Information Technology

A few years ago, I had a bright and enthusiastic student in one of my first-year classes who was always cheerful and eager to get involved in many academic and extracurricular activities, from volunteering in conferences to planning holiday parties. When I had her again in the fourth year, I noticed that she didn't
have the same attitude. She was quiet, less active and somewhat bitter. When I curiously asked her if everything was OK and what had happened, she said, “You guys did it,” referring to the university.

This encounter, and many other conversations with students, made me wonder how we emotionally affect our students. It is not uncommon to find those who are frustrated, overwhelmed, stressed and disappointed, those who can't wait to get out, don't trust us anymore, or have given up any lofty learning ideas and just want a passing grade.

There is a strong body of knowledge discussing the affective aspects of education, the role of emotional intelligence, and frameworks, such as social and emotional learning. But it seems that many of these topics are ignored or even unheard of among faculty, as many of us continue to think of learning as a purely cognitive process and our students as learning machines. Read more.

What to expect from the BigBlueButton update

BigBlueButton (BBB) is a web conferencing tool that allows instructors and TAs to host live online presentations, seminars, office hours, or other meetings from cuLearn.

We have recently moved to a new and improved version of BBB that has some notable changes to the interface. You might be wondering what this means for you, your TAs and your students. We've compiled some highlights of the major updates to the tool to help answer your questions here.

Technology enhanced learning resources policy updates

The Vice-Presidents' Academic and Research Committee recently reviewed the Adoption of Technology Enhanced Learning Resources policy. The maximum cost permitted per half-credit course for third-party technology enhanced learning resources has been updated. You can find all the details about the policy on the University Secretariat website.