Teaching and Learning News

Top Stories

Provost establishes $50,000 experiential learning fund

A new $50,000 fund will provide faculty, instructors and learning support staff with financial support to integrate experiential learning components into academic courses or programs at Carleton.

Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Jerry Tomberlin announced the fund at the Experiential Learning Symposium on Oct. 23. Co-hosted by Teaching and Learning Services and the Office of the Vice-Provost and Vice-President (Academic), the symposium brought over 150 faculty, contract instructors, teaching assistants and staff together for a full day of presentations, demonstrations, workshops and displays that showcased experiential learning at Carleton.

“There are clearly a good number of faculty engaging in innovative teaching practices and many more who want to engage in experiential learning on our campus,” said Tomberlin. “We recognize that these types of activities

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Events
Beginning a review of cuLearn

As educational technologies continue to evolve, it is important to regularly reflect and review our tools, strategies and infrastructure to ensure we are creating the best possible learning environment for our students. In the coming months, as part of Carleton's regular review process, we will be conducting a review of our current learning management system (LMS) - cuLearn. Powered by the Moodle platform, cuLearn has been the university's LMS for the past seven years. This review is needed to determine if Moodle is able to meet the requirements of the Carleton community today and into the future.

The review will include significant consultations with users, specifically instructors, students, teaching assistants, staff and administrators. As part of our review process, we will examine other LMS platforms so that we can better understand how Moodle, as we have it currently configured, compares to its competitors. We will also speak to our colleagues at other institutions to learn from their experiences. Our goal is to develop a deep understanding of our requirements that reflect the current and future needs of our community.

It is possible that this review will indicate that there are changes that need to be made to improve cuLearn. If significant change is required, the window of opportunity to implement a new platform would be May 2020. It is important to stress that conducting a review does NOT necessarily mean moving to a new product. It could mean that we choose to stay on Moodle, but we choose to change aspects of it to ensure it meets the needs of our teaching and learning community.

More information about the review and consultation process will be made available shortly via a dedicated webspace. Questions and feedback can be directed to oavptl@carleton.ca.
Call for nominations: D2L Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning

Do you take an innovative approach to your teaching, whether it’s through your course design, assessment methods or use of technologies? Then apply for a 2019 D2L Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning!

The award, sponsored by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) and Desire2Learn, recognizes innovative approaches that promote student-centred teaching and learning at the post-secondary level. Candidates do not need to be members of STLHE to apply.

Winners will receive $2,200 toward travel and registration costs for the annual STLHE conference, a two-year membership to STLHE and a certificate of recognition. As many as five awards are presented annually.

The deadline for applications is January 20, 2019. Get detailed information about the application process on the STLHE website. TLS is here to help you develop a successful application package. Please contact us at oavptl@carleton.ca to set up a consultation.

Effective use of study time

By Kevin Cheung, Associate Professor, School of Mathematics and Statistics

A recent article in Inside Higher Ed refers to a study that describes an unsuccessful attempt at helping students increase study time from 15 hours a week to 25 hours a week. Perhaps the results are not too surprising. Anyone who has attempted to go on a diet can attest to the difficulty of changing behaviours and habits and sustaining them. If students are used to spending 15 hours a week studying, nothing short of a shock (e.g. being put on academic probation) might be required to change their approach. Nudges might simply become noise that is ignored.

Before putting the blame entirely on students’ habits, it might be worth thinking about where the target number 25 could have come from. Read more.
Registration now open for the Certificate in University Teaching (CUT) winter cohort

Missed your chance to join our CUT program in the fall? Not to worry - by popular demand, we're bringing the program back for the winter term!

Over 10 sessions, you'll develop your teaching skills and connect with colleagues from across campus. Facilitated by 3M teaching fellow, Dr. Anthony Marini, CUT provides a safe and supportive environment to explore new approaches to instruction.

The program features a microteaching component and explores topics such as building effective assessment practices, managing both small and large classes and enhancing student engagement.

The winter cohort will run on Wednesdays from 1 – 4 p.m. beginning January 16 and ending March 27. Get more information on the program and register here.

Nominate a student for a 3M National Student Fellowship

Every year, 3M Canada invites post-secondary institutions to nominate their students for the prestigious 3M National Student Fellowship. This award honours full-time undergraduate students at Canadian post-secondary institutions who have demonstrated outstanding leadership at their post-secondary institution and who embrace a vision of education that enhances their academic experience and beyond.

Awardees will be invited to the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) annual conference in June 2019, and each recipient will also receive an award of $5,000.

The deadline for applications is January 31, 2019.

Information about the award, criteria, and the application procedure can be found on the STLHE website.

Call for presentation proposals: STLHE annual conference

Media in the Classroom

Nov. 30, 11:30 AM - 1 PM

The consequences of an increasingly “plugged-in” student population will influence our teaching, whether we embrace the use of technology in the classroom or not. Join us for a lively discussion about the use of cell phones, social media and the digital world in the classroom.

SAVE THE DATE

The Winter 2019 New Contract Instructor Orientation will take place on Thursday, Jan. 3 from 4:30-9 p.m. We'll also be hosting a workshop day to help all instructors get ready for a new term on Jan. 5 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Stay tuned for more details!
The Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) has put out a call for proposals for its upcoming annual conference, which will be hosted by the University of Manitoba from June 11-14, 2019.

The theme this year is "Learner - Teacher - Learner." The submission deadline for proposals is January 10, 2019. For more information, please visit the conference website.

TLS is here to help if you have an idea for a presentation or workshop that you would like to develop. Contact us at oavptl@carleton.ca or 613-520-2344 to set up an appointment.

Don't forget: Achievement award applications due soon

The deadline to submit an application for the Professional Achievement Awards (PAA), the Contract Instructor Teaching Awards (CITA) and the Contract Instructor Teaching Innovation Grant (CITI) is Nov. 20.

Get more details about these awards here.