Teaching and Learning News

Top Stories

Welcome to a new term, and a new year

The new year often brings with it the excitement of change and a fresh start, while also prompting us to reflect on the year we are leaving behind. This time, things continue to feel challenging given that we are still amidst a pandemic with all its consequences, notably the provision of remote learning. I know many of you worked hard over the holiday break to prepare your courses for Winter 2021. I want to take a moment to remind you of your incredible resiliency, and how together, we faced challenges and have worked through them as a community.

When the pandemic first hit, certainly the largest difficulty that our community faced from a teaching and learning perspective was the urgent transition to online

In this issue

- Welcome to a new term, and a new year
- Support for teaching online
- LMS update: A new year and a new LMS ahead!
- Instructor check-in: January
- New Zoom security feature puts you in control

Events

Getting Started with Zoom
Jan. 12 & 20, 10 - 11:30 AM

Getting Started with BigBlueButton
Jan. 13 & 19, 2:30 - 4 PM

Zoom for Teaching Online
Jan. 14 & 22, 10 - 11:30 AM

teaching. It was a large feat that seemed almost impossible, and yet with continued determination and open minds, our instructors went to work exploring new tools and approaches to find solutions that ensured students could continue their studies.

As the pandemic drags on, we should look back at our accomplishments: the successful completion of Winter, Spring/Summer and Fall 2020 terms; our compassionate approach to teaching and grading has ensured that some of the stresses of learning under a pandemic have been diminished. Of course, we faced difficulties along the way, but with persistence and determination, we solved issues and the success of our students prevailed.

Now a new term is upon us. Though new challenges await, it is under a context of hope. A vaccine is now available and will be rolled out in the coming months. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel and are planning for it. We, at TLS, are better equipped this term thanks to the experiences of the last year and some valuable lessons learned. I am confident that our instructors and community will further persevere, face new challenges head on, and continue the pursuit of teaching and learning excellence that Carleton is known for.

From the whole team at Teaching and Learning Services, and from me personally, thank you for your incredible drive and dedication to Carleton and its students. I wish you all the best as we begin this new year, and this new term. As ever, we stand ready to help you in achieving your pedagogical aspirations. Don't hesitate to reach out.

David J Hornsby
Associate Vice-President (Teaching and Learning)

Support for teaching online

As we begin the new term, remember that there is a variety of ongoing support available to you.

Web Conferencing Drop-in
Jan. 14, 2:30 - 4 PM
Jan. 21, 10 - 11:30 AM

BigBlueButton: Increasing Online Student Engagement
Jan. 15 & 21, 2:30 - 4 PM

Managing Student Behaviour in Online Environments
Jan. 20, 2 - 3 PM

Decolonizing your Syllabus Mini-Institute
Feb. 3 - March 3

Equipment loans are still available to help you develop and teach online courses. Types of equipment available for loan include Microsoft Tablets, iPads, document cameras and more. If you would like to borrow equipment, [submit your request here](#).

If you're interested in recording content or entire lectures in one of our studio classrooms, on-campus recording is available. [Fill out our request form](#) and one of our Carleton Online Technical Operators will get in touch with you to set it up.

Our [Teaching Online](#) page has various resources to help you design and deliver your course, work with your TAs, support your students, and more. We also continue to offer a [variety of workshops](#) and are always available for a one-on-one consultation. [Reach out to us here](#)!

LMS update: A new year and a new LMS ahead!

As we kick off 2021, we are one step closer to the launch of our new LMS, [Brightspace](#), in May. There's a lot to look forward to. The new LMS will be faster, more reliable, modern and feature-rich to meet Carleton's online teaching and learning needs. To date, two academic years' worth of courses (~6500) have been copied into Brightspace, and many more will be migrated in the coming weeks.

Pilot launch

This term, our Brightspace pilot launches, with 31 courses representing graduate and undergraduate programs across the disciplines. Instructors, students and TAs in the pilot will test out the settings and integrations in Brightspace and report back any adjustments that need to be made. This important project will help ensure that the new system will be optimized for the entire campus community when Brightspace launches for all courses in May.

Coming soon – sandboxes and training

Campus-wide access to Brightspace and to sandbox courses will be granted in February – just a few short weeks away! With the access to Brightspace, TLS will be offering a range of online training workshops next month. Registration will be available on our [events page](#). Check back in the coming weeks to sign up for a session.

In the spring, Brightspace pilot instructors will be showcasing their courses and inviting the campus in to explore what teaching and learning can look like in the new system. TLS will be taking the LMS on the road in a few weeks too! We'll be visiting departments across Carleton to discuss Brightspace, and the training and support plans for the campus.

Support

In preparation for course development, we've launched a new [Brightspace Support website](#) with some preliminary support pages, with many more pages to come over the next few months. Round-the-clock direct support for the LMS has also started with [24/7/365 support from D2L](#) for instructors, staff and students.

Curious to look inside the Brightspace interface? Check out the [Student Tour of Brightspace](#) video for a short introduction from the student point of view, or join the [Brightspace Community](#) to start your journey on a self-guided learning path.

We look forward to working with you to get your course ready in Carleton's new LMS, Brightspace!

Instructor check-in: January

As we continue with online teaching and learning, we've put together some check-ins for instructors to use and reflect upon at specific points in the term. Each month, we'll be sharing a new check-in with specific themes to focus on.

[This month's check-in](#) focuses on strategies for communication with students, online engagement, student buy-in and midterm assessment plans.

New Zoom security feature puts you in control

In a recent update, Zoom implemented a new security feature called Suspend Participant Activities. As the name implies, this feature stops all activity in its tracks during your Zoom session. With the click of a button, all microphones are muted, cameras turned off, screen sharing stops, breakout rooms end, chat is disabled, and the meeting is locked. At that point, only you (the host) can decide what happens next. This feature is the perfect answer to concerns around unwanted activity during your Zoom session. [Get detailed instructions on how to use this feature](#).

Don't forget to [download the latest version of Zoom](#) that includes the Suspend Participant Activities feature.

For more information about using Zoom and additional resources, visit our [Zoom at Carleton page](#).