

focus on Contract Faculty

TO INFORM & BE INFORMED

Please join us for coffee & conversation!

Waterloo Oct 24 , 12-1:30, Veritas

Kitchener Oct 22, 1-2:30, Matter of Taste

Brantford Oct 27 , 2:30-4, Coffee Cultures

Updates...

In addition to the traditional start-of-term demands, this September was even busier as it marked a number of firsts:

Teaching began earlier in order to accommodate the new Fall Break. For many, particularly those teaching first year courses, low first week attendance resulted in a challenging start to term.

With the recent change in service calculation, 31 Contract Faculty (CF) were acknowledged at Laurier's *Long Service Awards* in September (some have been here well beyond 15 years but CF teaching records only go back to 1996).

September also saw the first '*focus on Contract Faculty*' go out and CF coffee/conversations were run on all three campuses. Thanks to all who commented, made suggestions and attended. Your engagement is a positive sign and we look forward to much more.

September also saw the airing of CBC's documentary 'Class Struggle'. It has, and continues to have, received unprecedented response from across the country.

The page was visited well over 200,000 times and thousands of parents, students, faculty, administrators and others were concerned enough to leave comments. This is a good thing. It initiates the possibility of openness about political positions held and opportunities to be created. Please do not allow the demands of teaching, research, service and the pressures leveled on us by budget cuts to overshadow this opportunity to talk openly about our conditions of work and to work towards improving them.

One such outcome was our meeting with Dr. Blouw during which it was agreed that an open dialogue between CF and himself was needed. There are no guarantees but talking and exchanging concerns and ideas is a start. Please join us for a conversation with Dr. Blouw on Dec 9 from 4:30-5:30 in the WLUSU Board Room, 3rd Floor Fred Nichols Building.

Helen Ramirez hramirez@wlu.ca
Kimberly Ellis-Hale kellis@wlu.ca



Pension Information

CF are eligible to participate in [Laurier's pension plan](#) once they have met either of the following for 2 consecutive calendar years: earnings greater than 35% of the Canada Pension Plan Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE in 2013 was \$51,100 and 2014 is \$52,500) **OR** have worked a minimum of 700 hours.

Human Resources monitors pension eligibility for CF and advises them once they have met the eligibility criteria. They are provided with a summary of the pension plan and the required employee and employer contributions, along with an Enrolment Form to complete if they wish to enrol in the plan.

CF members are not required to join the WLU Pension Plan. A Waiver Form is also provided for those who do not wish to join the plan.

Once a CF member has enrolled in the Pension Plan, they are eligible to participate in the Plan during subsequent appointment periods. If there is a break in service with the University of more than 24 consecutive months, the Pension Plan membership shall terminate and Pension Termination Options will be sent to the Member.

For more information please contact:
Mary Jo DaSilva, Pension & Benefits Specialist
Email: mdasilva@wul.ca , 519-884-0710 Ext.4368



Writing Centre

Welcome new & returning CAS members to the Waterloo campus Writing Centre! We offer many services to assist you & your students with writing development, including:

- Individual tutoring for all students (appointments & drop-ins). Students can schedule appointments at wlu.ca/writing.
- In-class curriculum support. We work with you on writing assignment design or to create discipline-specific writing workshops.
- Grammar workshops for students
- Writing events such as the Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP)
- Online resources such as the Assignment Planner and writing handouts

Stay informed about the Writing Centre at: wlu.ca/writing, Twitter: @LaurierWriting, FB: Laurier Writing Centre

We are located in DAWB 1-102. We encourage you and your students to come in and say hello.

Please contact us if you are interested in working with the Writing Centre this year (e.g., in-class presentations and workshops, consultation about your course syllabus).

Boba Samuels
bsamuels@wlu.ca



Jordana Garbati
jgarbati@wlu.ca



Sunday Edition Documentary 'Class Struggle'

Ira Basen's documentary looks at the plight of part-time teachers in Canadian universities.

[Read and listen now](#)