

Angela Trimarchi
Department of Economics

Angela Trimarchi is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics. She started teaching at Laurier almost 30 years ago in 1995. She has also taught at times at McMaster University and the University of Guelph. She applied for the teaching position because of it involved explaining ideas in front of people – something she’d enjoyed doing in her MA work, and that a Myers-Briggs test suggested she’d be good at. Despite this, most of her teaching is now in the OC courses – in economics these are typically over 100 students, which she calls a “healthy” class size. She has been here long enough that she recalls the days when OC students submitted their work via a physical dropbox.

Angela’s MA thesis was on Canada’s payments system and bank flows, focusing on the role of debit cards in the financial system at a time when she did not yet have her own. This led to a later request that she redesign the OC version of the department’s popular Money and Banking course – one of the electives that we can always offer to healthy enrolments.

Probably Angela is best known to students for her work teaching our first year classes – both microeconomics and macroeconomics, and both in person and online. In these classes she works to engage students with updates on real life events and economics in the news. Over the years, she has amassed a long list of student questions, which she keeps on a USB key along with her responses and worked examples, so that she’s ready to answer the question if (when) it crops up again.

Angela points to the contradictions of teaching in a virtual asynchronous environment – that you’re invisible to students physically, but visible in a number of other ways. She has a goal of ensuring that her students are an engaged part of the Laurier learning community, working patiently with them in office hours or via email to help them when they are struggling to get the concepts of economics – something that is particularly common for the group of students she teaches. She has a philosophy of being on call for her students, particularly at the close of a dropbox, even if that is at midnight, and “killing them with kindness” when they are finding themselves stressed out and needing help to calm down.

Angela has also been an important contributor to the department, always participating in events, being a CF rep on Faculty Council, and especially always showing up to Convocation to help send students on their way into the world. She’s also recently taking up judging the ICE competition and is doing a lecture for LALL on April 17 on deforestation in the Amazon. Her experience with OC courses meant that she is one of the people who the university has relied on to provide advice about content management systems and platforms.

Angela was inducted into the Century Club in 2017 (in its second cohort), and with this award for 150 courses taught in 2025, it is obvious that she is a valued teacher. Congratulations Angela and thank you for your work over the decades.

Submitted by: Christine Neill, on behalf of the Department of Economics