

# Department of Physics and Astronomy Colloquium Series

**Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 2:30pm in PSE 317**

**Speaker:** Gloria Orchard

**Institution:** York University

**Title:** 1st Year Physics labs: Engaging Students During Labs

**Abstract:**

As an active member of the 1st year Physics lab community in the department of Physics and Astronomy at York University, spanning a time from the late 1990's to the present, I have observed a variety of changes in the laboratory experience. Over this time universities have navigated through a pandemic and rapid technological changes. Keeping pace with these changes continues to be a challenge. With the advent of AI, keeping students engaged during the labs and facilitating active learning is a constantly evolving and ongoing process. During this presentation I will share some of the changes and challenges I have experienced in the 1st year physics labs and open the floor to discuss ideas on how to better engage students during the lab sessions.