



**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE**  
**FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION**

December 3, 2015

**A Message to Our Community from Interim Dean Glen Jones**

Dear OISE Faculty, Staff and Students,

We hope that you have had a very successful academic term. I am writing to provide you with an update on a few important matters.

**OISE Review**

The Provost has commissioned a review of OISE during this academic year and we are currently finalizing the self-study report. We received considerable input to the report through the community conversations that took place in the OISE Library on September 24th and October 27th as well as meetings with the Graduate Students' Association, Deans and Chairs, and Faculty Council. Several members of the community also provided detailed suggestions in response to the draft report that has been posted on-line at [http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/oise/About\\_OISE/Review.html](http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/oise/About_OISE/Review.html). The final draft of the report will be submitted this week and then posted to the website.

An external review team has been established by the Provost and includes: Dr. Blye Frank, Dean, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia; Dr. Mary Kalantzis, Dean, College of Education, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and Dr. Field Rickards, Dean, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne. The team will be visiting OISE from January 20-22, 2016.

We are currently assisting the Provost's Office in organizing the multitude of meetings that will take place during the site visit. There will be several opportunities for the external review team to meet with groups of faculty, staff and students during the site visit. Faculty and staff who would like to participate in group meetings with the reviewers should send a note to [dean.oise@utoronto.ca](mailto:dean.oise@utoronto.ca) by December 16th so that we can coordinate meeting rooms and arrangements. We will be working with the Student Teachers' Union and the Graduate Students' Association to coordinate student participation in the site visit.

**Safety and Security**

As highlighted in my last community update memo, OISE is committed to establishing a committee that will review and make recommendations on safety and security issues within the framework of University-wide policies and plans. We have now established a Safety and Security Committee that will support these efforts. I want to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals for agreeing to serve on this committee: Tanya Titchkosky, Faculty, SJE; Bonnie Burstow, Faculty, LHAE; Christina Mitas, President, Graduate Student Association; Eun Choi, Treasurer, Student Teacher Union; Frank Andricciola,

Co-Chair OISE Joint Health and Safety Committee and Program Assistant CPL; Bessie Giannikos, Finance Officer, CTL; Lara Cartmale: Director, Tri-Departmental Academic Operations and Administrative Services; Diane Giang, Business Officer, APHD; Elizabeth Broccoli, Managers, OISE Facilities and Services; and Helen Huang, CAO (Chair).

### **ORBIT Digitization Project**

As many of you will recall, OISE published a magazine entitled Orbit from 1969 to 2008. The publication was designed to provide teachers and other educational practitioners with useful summaries of educational research in order to inform practice. I am pleased to report that the OISE Library is planning to digitize all of the back issues of OISE's Orbit Magazine for Schools. We hope to make issues openly available through the Internet Archive with a Creative Commons License. Some of the more recent issues (1999 – 2008) are already available in full text through Proquest, but older issues (1969-1999) are currently only available in print.

For additional information, please contact Monique Flaccavento, Acting Director of the OISE Library ([monique.flaccavento@utoronto.ca](mailto:monique.flaccavento@utoronto.ca)).

### **Recruitment**

Earlier in the fall, we created a Recruitment Committee chaired by Doug McDougal, Associate Dean, Programs, to coordinate the recruitment activities at OISE. The committee met a number of times, directing our attention to Open Houses, print and electronic materials, and outreach to universities and other organizations. In late November, we created a sub-committee to focus on International recruitment. More details will be available in January about both of these initiatives.

### **Student Experience Committee**

We are just creating the framework for an OISE Student Experience Committee. The committee will facilitate and coordinate discussion and activities about the student experience at OISE. We will be asking faculty, staff and students to participate in this new committee.

### **Awards**

OISE will soon be disseminating calls for nominations for OISE teaching and staff awards. These awards represent important opportunities to recognize excellence within our community. Please take the time to consider nominating a teacher who has made a difference in your academic program, or a staff member who has made a significant contribution to the important work of your unit, or to the Institute as a whole.

### **Advancement**

OISE appreciates the important financial contributions it receives from donors and community partners. I am pleased to share a few recent highlights:

The Biggar-Hedges Foundation provides financial support for the Biggar Hedges Foundation's Special Award in Teaching and Technology. This award was designed to provide a financial incentive for five Master of Teaching students who develop innovative techniques for integrating teaching and technology within a subject area.

Recipients of this very special award will have the opportunity to present their work to faculty, staff and students in the MT program. They will also deliver a workshop for current teachers in the TDSB. In addition, their innovative ideas will be added to an evolving and expanding body of excellent teacher resources. In the end, the recipients will have a life-long connection to the growing community of teachers and students focused on on-line learning through the alumni database.

A call for proposals for this new award will be announced in January 2016.

The Vernon Douglas McCaw Memorial Fellowship was established in memory of OISE MEd graduate, Vernon McCaw. The Fellowship supports students in the Master of Teaching program who are doing community work in the arts (musical, theatrical or visual). MT students will be able to access applications on Pepper in 2016.

If you would like more information about how to contribute to these initiatives or have general questions about making a donation please contact Ina Hupponen, Associate Director, Development at 416-978-1126 or [ihupponen@oise.utoronto.ca](mailto:ihupponen@oise.utoronto.ca).

### **Holiday Season**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone the very best during the holiday season. Have a wonderful New Year!!

Take care,

Glen

Glen A. Jones, Ph.D.  
Professor and Interim Dean