



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

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A Message to Our Community from Interim Dean Glen Jones

Dear OISE Community:

With winter-term classes now completed, many of you will be pondering ways of enjoying the wonderful weather. I hope everyone finds some time to enjoy a bit of rest and rejuvenation over the next few months. In the meantime, I am writing to provide some updates and information.

OISE Review

As you will recall, the Provost commissioned a review of OISE during the 2015-16 academic year. The self-study component of the review was completed at the end of last year and is available on-line. Three external reviewers conducted interviews with many members of our community during a January site-visit. We anticipate that the report of the external reviewers will be circulated in early June. At that time we will also distribute a summary of the key issues identified in the report and outline a process of community consultation that will inform our response to the report in early October.

Promotions

Two exemplary members of our community were recently approved for promotions that will take effect on July 1, 2016.

Professor Ann Lopez of the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education will be promoted to the rank of *Associate Professor, Teaching Stream* and awarded continuing status at the University. Professor Lopez has taught for several years in the Initial Teacher Education Program and the graduate program in Educational Leadership & Policy, and has occupied a number of extremely important leadership roles in the Initial Teacher Education Program and the Concurrent Teacher Education Program.

Professor Ruth Sandwell of the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning will be promoted to the rank of *Full Professor*. Professor Sandwell has made outstanding, original, and widely recognized contributions to the scholarship on Canadian social history and Canadian history education, as well as demonstrating excellent teaching sustained over many years. Ruth has devoted considerable attention to the development of innovative resources supporting the teaching of Canadian history, initiatives that have received both national and international recognition.

Please join me in congratulating Professor Lopez and Professor Sandwell on their achievement!

Faculty Renewal

I am pleased to provide an update on this year's faculty renewal efforts. Two of our searches have led to the appointment of outstanding individuals who will be joining us as colleagues this summer, while a third search continues:

Mental Health and Special Education

Dr. Chloe Hamza will be joining the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development at the rank of Assistant Professor, effective July 1, 2016. Dr. Hamza has a Ph.D. (2015) from Brock University and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for School Mental Health at the University of Western Ontario through CIHR. She is a Vanier scholarship recipient, and was awarded the Distinguished Graduate Student Award for the doctoral program in psychology at Brock. Her research focuses on identifying risk and protective factors that predict stability and change in mental health and well-being over time among students (from elementary through to post-secondary school). In particular, Dr. Hamza has strong interests in the prevention of self-injurious behaviours among students, and her research focuses on facilitating the early detection of at-risk individuals, as well as developing a coordinated approach to self-injury assessment and intervention in schools. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, *Clinical Psychology Review*, as well as the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*.

School and Clinical Child Psychology

Dr. Todd Cunningham will be joining the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development at the rank of Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream effective July 1, 2016. Dr. Cunningham has been a lecturer in the department for the last 5 years. After graduating from the SCCP program, he completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Psychology Department at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Currently, his research investigates the integration of assistive technology and learning strategies for children with learning difficulties. Dr. Cunningham has shared his expertise with parents, students, educators, school boards, and other professionals across Canada. In addition he has conducted hundreds of workshops and presentations at educational and research conferences and appeared on CBC several times. Dr. Cunningham was co-awarded a Bell "Let's Talk" mental health grant to provide academic intervention support to northern Ontario communicates through telepsychology.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Hamza and Dr. Cunningham to OISE!

The Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning continues its search for a tenure-stream Assistant Professor in the area of *Literacy in Elementary Education*. My thanks go out to the members of all three search committees for their hard work, expertise, and judgment.

OISE Graduate Student Research Conference 2016

The OISE Graduate Student Research Conference was an incredible success and could not have occurred with the efforts of the many student volunteers who worked tirelessly to pull things together. Hosting a conference is always a significant academic endeavour and this event was no exception; over 200 individuals registered for the conference this year. I view the conference as an important component of our efforts to support the experience of our graduate students at OISE; it not only provides a friendly and support space for our graduate students to share their research and connect with students across the institution, it also a conference organized *by* students *for* students, and it provides the organizers and volunteers with a wonderful professional learning opportunity. This year the conference benefited from the hard work of a large number of dedicated volunteers under the masterful leadership of the co-chairs: Harriet Akanmori and Ashley McLellan.

Thanks and Appreciation

Finally, I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Professor Jim Hewitt as he completes his term on June 30th, 2016 as Interim Chair of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning. Many faculty, staff and students have benefitted from his leadership of the department and have appreciated his insightful and caring approach to academic matters including the Master of Teaching program. On behalf of the entire OISE Community, thank you Jim for all of your contributions over this past year.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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