



December 17, 2018

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

Dear OISE Community,

This is my final community update for 2018. This has been a successful and productive year in so many ways, thanks to the efforts of OISE's wonderful faculty, staff and students. I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday with plenty of restful time with family and friends.

In this update you will find information about: (i) AERA Toronto; (ii) Graduate Student Research Conference; (iii) Teaching & Staff Excellence Awards Ceremony; (iv) Website & Intranet Project; and (v) OISE Building Closure.

### **AERA Toronto & OISE Reception**

The OISE-AERA Planning Committee is coordinating several events around the coming AERA conference, which takes place in Toronto from April 5-9, 2019. With the annual conference in Toronto in 2019, we have a wonderful opportunity to showcase our research and programs, network with colleagues and partners, and celebrate our OISE community within our home city. Plans for a few research-related events at OISE during the AERA conference are evolving. Of note, we will also have an OISE booth and presence in the Exhibit Hall at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre throughout the conference.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Monday April 8, 2019 in the evening promises to be an extra special OISE reception so please note this in your calendar. In the new year, we will send more details about all of our OISE-AERA related events.

### **Graduate Student Research Conference & Journal Launch**

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Graduate Student Research Conference will be held at OISE from Friday, March 29 to Saturday, March 30, 2019. The pre-conference workshop will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2019. Stacy Costa and Alysse Kennedy are the Co-Chairs, and the conference theme is "Educational Design: A Science, Art and/or Tool for Transforming Futures." Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows can apply to participate in one of several areas: workshop, research paper presentation, art installation, roundtable discussion, technology demonstration or poster presentation. For further information about the conference and how to submit a proposal by the January 11, 2019 deadline, please visit [www.oise-src.com](http://www.oise-src.com).

I am also very proud of our graduate student community for the recent launch of the inaugural issue of the OISE Graduate Students Research Conference Journal, a peer-reviewed journal for graduate students by graduate students. I encourage our OISE community to support the conference and journal by attending sessions and by reading the exciting first issue available at: [www.oise-src.com](http://www.oise-src.com).

### **Teaching & Staff Excellence Awards Ceremony**

Teaching plays a vital role at OISE, and honouring our colleagues who have made significant contributions to teaching is incredibly important. Our administrative staff also make many essential contributions to our success as an institution. Recently, we sent a call for nominations for the 2018-19 teaching excellence

awards, and I encourage you to visit the OISE [Teaching Awards website](#) for further details on OISE's teaching excellence awards and nomination procedures. Early in the new year, you will receive further information about nominating individuals for our staff excellence awards as well. I encourage everyone to take some time to consider nominating an outstanding colleague or teacher for one of OISE's teaching and staff excellence awards.

**SAVE THE DATE:** On the afternoon of Wednesday, March 27, 2019, OISE will host the Teaching and Staff Excellence Awards Ceremony. Please be sure to mark this special event in your calendar.

### **Web & Intranet Projects**

In 2017, under the guidance of the Deans and Chairs, the Education Commons (EC) and our Communications team launched the OISE Website Project. Sustaining a dynamic website is clearly an ongoing activity. With the support of many faculty and staff, excellent progress has been achieved in addressing the content phase. We have improved content, created coherence, and refreshed many parts of the website, thanks to a dedicated team in the EC and the incredible efforts of Marianne Lau, our Digital Communications Coordinator.

Under the joint leadership of the new Director of the Education Commons, Michel Kouadio, and the Director of Advancement and External Relations, Sim Kapoor, we are now moving forward with the design phase. The main goal at this time is to improve the look and user experience, particularly the experience on mobile devices, which will make our website more accessible. The process of creating the new design will be iterative and involve extensive consultation with our community. At the same time, the EC is working on an intranet tool to support the delivery of systems that will allow our community to more effectively communicate and share information internally, thereby reducing some of the content on our public website. The EC and the Communications team will continue to provide updates and seek input as the project continues.

### **Building Closure & Lobby Project**

This is a reminder that the main OISE Building at 252 Bloor Street West will be fully closed for the entire two-week holiday period starting at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 21, 2018 through to 7:00 am on Monday, January 7, 2019. The purpose of the closure is to allow the demolition component of our lobby renovation project to proceed with the least amount of disruption to our community. There is also some work being done in portions of the lobby area during the final week before the holiday period, December 17-21, 2018, in preparation for the demolition. If you are accessing the building this week, I encourage you to consult the "Re: OISE Holiday Closure" notice recently sent by our CAO Helen Huang for full details. Finally, if you have not done so already, you have until December 21, 2018 to provide your input by completing the Lobby Project [questionnaire](#).

Happy Holidays and take care!



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