Thanks to our wonderful OISE Community Dancers for taking part in this year-end video: Interim Dean Normand Labrie, Professors Mary Reid and Whitnee Garrett-Walker, staffers Perry King and Anil Purandare, and students Athena Tassis and Anthonia Ikemeh.

And thanks Biljana Cuckovic for capturing the photo above and offering the reflection that “nature has a way of sharing ornamental beauty.”
Well Wishes to Marianne Lau and the little one!

Marianne Lau, who is part of OISE’s communications team, is expecting her first little one at the end of December!

Marianne has been an integral part of our OISE community since 2016. What you may not know is that she’s also a passionate community organizer who focuses on housing issues. During the pandemic, she started organizing tenants to defend those in their communities at the risk of eviction. She’s pictured here with her niece Samantha.

On behalf of the entire OISE community, thank you Marianne for all you do. Well wishes to you as you bring another little one into our world!

OISE Excellence Awards

Teaching is at the heart of OISE’s mission and OISE’s Teaching Awards are one important way of recognizing excellence in teaching.

Teaching Awards nominations are now welcome from the OISE community. Nominate an OISE teacher who inspires you. Learn more at: uoft.me/OISE-Teaching-Awards

All nominations must be submitted electronically to oise.programs@utoronto.ca by Friday, Jan. 28, 2022 at 5 p.m.

FACULTY AND STAFF TURN OUT FOR OISE FALL WELLNESS DAY 2021

On November 24, OISE faculty and staff turned out to the first-ever Fall Wellness Day to celebrate, practice, and embrace self-care.

The day was a success and featured well-attended sessions on managing and mitigating the symptoms of burnout, a meditative yoga flow session, a cooking demonstration with nutrition facts, face yoga, and more.

“Community wellness needs to be entrenched in everything we do at OISE,” says Chief Administrative Officer Helen Huang. “Being able to recognize and mitigate the symptoms of stress and burnout through self-care and community wellness is deeply important.”
the practice of self and community care is critical for our health and well-being. It is my hope that Fall Wellness Day helped to provide some key tools for all of us to use as we move forward.”

Congratulations to the winners of the photo contest, Jeananne Robertson, Anne Marie Kwan, Dorothy Piniarski, Lisa Smith, and Madeleine Taylor. The winning photos shared how they practice wellness and are featured below.

WELLNESS IS...

...when you are Smiling! ...when you are Hiking!

OISE Library

New! *Evening* Citation Management Sessions

Invest 90 minutes into learning about either RefWorks or Zotero and save countless hours managing your citations and creating bibliographies! By the end of one of our free library citation management workshops, you will be able to:

- Save references from a wide variety of platforms
- Organize references using tags, folders, and other features
- Generate citations and bibliographies with ease

Sign up to learn about RefWorks on Tuesday, December 14th, and/or Zotero on Tuesday, December 15th, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Check other U of T Libraries learning opportunities on the Library Workshop Calendar.

Happy Winter Break!

As we count down to the final few days of the semester, drop by the OISE Library to send some greetings and well wishes to your fellow students and colleagues!

At the OISE Library, you can write a message and post it on our Winter Break Greeting Wall.

Library Hours

The OISE Library will close at 3 p.m. on Tuesday Dec. 21, 2021 and will reopen Monday Jan. 3rd, 2022 at 11 a.m. OISE Library hours for the winter term have now been posted: https://oise.library.utoronto.ca/hours-and-location.

Looking for a space to study over the break? Please visit the Robarts Library at 130 St. George St.: https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/holiday-hours-and-closures
The **Office of the Registrar and Student Services (ORSS)** team welcomed several new teams members to OISE.

**Valene Cardoso** started on Dec. 6th, as the new **Assistant Registrar, Admissions** and is a key member of the admissions team. Valene will provide leadership and guidance for the ongoing creation, delivery, maintenance, and benchmarking of operations necessary for the admission of students with a focus on equity, diversity, inclusion and reconciliation.

For the past nine years, Valene was Assistant Registrar, Recruitment, Admissions and Transition In at U of T’s Victoria College. Previous to that role, she was Information Officer at Victoria College, U of T. Valene holds an HBSc from UTM, a Certificate in Leadership in Higher Education from OISE and is currently pursuing a Master of Pastoral Studies in Spiritual Care at Emmanuel College, of Victoria University in the University of Toronto. She is certified in Standard First Aid (CPR-C and AED), is a founding member of Victoria University’s Wellness Committee and has applied suicide interventional skills training.

**Dr. Jessica Lovett** has been appointed as our **Director, Recruitment & Admissions** and started on Oct. 12th, Jessica will be responsible for shaping our future student experience. Reporting to the Registrar & Senior Director, Student Experience, Jessica brings a strategic, data-driven and technology-enabled approach to all facets of recruitment and admissions. Providing overall leadership to our recruitment and outreach, admissions and conversion activities at OISE, she will utilize all forms of technology, marketing and communications to build positive relationships with future students. In particular, a top priority for Jessica is to infuse equity, diversity, inclusion and reconciliation into all marketing, communications, recruiting and events to reshape the student population at OISE by attracting, retaining and supporting Black and Indigenous students in particular.

Jessica comes to OISE from Georgian College, where she was Manager of Student Recruitment and most recently Director of Co-op, Career & Experiential Learning. She has over 10 years progressive experience in marketing, student recruitment, program development and teaching experience from the University of Toronto, Royal Conservatory of Music, Banff Centre and the Canadian Opera Company in addition to her work at Georgian. Jessica earned a PhD in Musicology and an MA in Musicology both from the University of Toronto as well as an Honour BMus in History from Western.

**ORSS also welcomed back Seemin Qureshi** in a full-time continuing role. Starting November 19th, Seemin is the **Doctoral Registration Advisor**. In this role, Seemin provides registrarial services to all PhD and EdD including course selection, registration, leave of absence, program extension, convocation and much more. She is the main point of contact for all Final Oral Examinations (FOE) including reviewing examination files for completion and compliance with program requirements, organizing the in-person or virtual FOE and communicating FOE results.

Most recently, Seemin was the Graduate Program Assistant at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at U of T. Prior to her secondment to the ORSS, she was International Experience Administrator with the Centre for International Experience, Graduate Admissions Assistant with the Daniels Faculty of Architecture and also Admissions Manager with Nord Anglia Education. Seemin holds an MA degree in Mass Communication from the University of Punjab and a BSc in Business Management from King’s College in London.

And on November 19th, ORSS welcomed **Dorothy Piniarski** as Awards and Registration Advisor. In this role, Dorothy supports the internal awards process ensuring that the award information for OISE students is accurate and timely and that award applications are created, updated, posted and adjudicated. She also is responsible for registrarial services for all our OISE students. This includes registration, change of program, leave of absence, application to graduate, conducting FOE’s and attending to many other student registrarial requests. She also produces digital and hardcopy transcripts and letters of confirmation for OISE degree and non-degree studies often derived from archival records.

Dorothy most recently joined the ORSS in July 2021 from U of T’s UTemp Office to help us with our many registration tasks. Prior to this, she was an English Communication Teacher and Consultant in Japan, Acting Project Manager for U of T’s Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry department, Research and Academic Life Administrative Coordinator for U of T’s Faculty of
Arts and Science and Acting Assistant Registrar at U of T’s Faculty of Law to name just a few. Dorothy holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from OCAD, as well as a TESOL Diploma, graduate certificate in Photography, and is an internationally certified teacher of yoga and meditation.

The OISE Education Commons is very pleased to welcome two new members to the team.

Welcome to Jed Dela Cruz our new Drupal Developer, and Rick Ramdeen Procurement & Vendor Management Specialist.

To find out more about Jed and Rick be sure to check out the Education Commons website and also the Discovery newsletter.

Acknowledgements

“A Time to Say Au Revoir..” from Charles Pascal

While December 31, 2021 marks the formal end of my time at OISE and the University more generally, it marks the beginning of my emeritus relationship that will ensure that my professional “home” will remain one we share.

The University’s eighth president, Claude Bissell, referred to U of T as a “great, good place.” This certainly rings true for me since I joined OISE on July 1, 1977 to formally establish a new department of higher education. While I stepped away from OISE and the University for various other opportunities, returning “home” on and off over the years always felt seamless.

I have been remarkably fortunate to have had so many special colleagues, so generous with their support, so inspiring with their impact within and well-beyond the university. My students? What a special opportunity to work with dedicated people who have provided me with embedded professional development that have kept me “current” with new ideas for generating evidence that matters. And nothing I have done at OISE and the University of any worth would have been possible without amazing staff who have complemented my work with incredible organizational talent, efficiency and warmth.

As I rewire, NOT retire, I hope that aspiring to be a better “great and good place” means that the institution I deeply care about becomes a global beacon of hope—a genuine opportunity for those who are disadvantaged through no fault of their own. In dealing with the difficult challenges that beset the human condition—racism, poverty, identity biases, the truth about the recurrent and devastating consequences of residential schools, and mental health issues that impact so many—education will always be the key driver for change. Going well-beyond public statements and actually being the changes necessary will take us to a future that needs to be healthier, safer, more just and prosperous for the many rather than the elite few.

So, while I have my hand on the doorknob when it comes to various daily commitments, I feel so grateful that the door remains open to maintain important friendships as I take on an exciting phase of new opportunities. In baseball terms, I will be a “free agent” to strengthen my evidence-driven advocacy and learn and do new things.

Thanks, merci et chi-miigwetch for all I have received from so many. As Alfred Lord Tennyson noted “Come my friends, tis not too late to seek a newer world”.

Please stay in touch.

Congratulations to Professor Emeritus Michael Connelly Doctor of Education, honoris causa

The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) announced the conferring of honorary doctorates, acknowledging
Professor Emeritus Michael Connelly for his academic contributions over many years. Mic said is was a “great honour to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Education, honoris causa.”

For more details review the EdUHK press release.

OISE Education Commons sends Seasons Greetings to the entire community.

Have a story you would like featured Inside OISE @ Home? Share it with us!

Here are more ways to connect

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- ORSS Student Services
- Indigenous Education Network (IEN)
- OISE Wellness
- The Discovery- Education Commons Newsletter
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View all upcoming virtual events.