SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE with OISE Graduates!

The University of Toronto will host a virtual ceremony to celebrate our graduates on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 12 p.m. ET.

Following the U of T ceremony, OISE will host a special personalized virtual ceremony (details to come). This will allow us the opportunity to recognize the importance of our graduates’ remarkable achievements and hard work in reaching this significant milestone, even at a time when our traditional convocation ceremonies are not possible because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Interim Dean Normand Labrie

As of July 1, Professor Normand Labrie began his stint as Interim Dean of OISE.

To celebrate, OISE sat down with Professor Labrie to learn more about his journey to becoming interim dean and a 30 years at OISE—from studying the educational trajectories of Turkish-speaking children in Germany as an undergrad to lending his skills to the European Commission, UNESCO and Canadian institutions.

Research recognition

Congratulations to this year’s Connaught New Researcher Awardees!

Three of our faculty have been honoured this fall with the Connaught New Researcher Award!

The award, which is part of an internal program that provides U of T researchers with funding to further their work, helps new tenure stream faculty members establish competitive research programs. In the 2020-21 competition, about $1 million was rewarded across the University.
Assistant Professors Kaja Jasinska, Daniel Corral and Elizabeth Buckner are this year's winners from OISE. To celebrate, each professor spoke with us about their research and how the award will help with their overall academic goal.

Learn more Professor Jasinska’s research [here](#), Professor Corral [here](#), and Professor Buckner [here](#). You can learn about the Connaught program [here](#).

Congratulations to all three, for this prestigious award!

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**Focus on Research**

Please join the Focus on Research series, the virtual version of our OISE research brown bags. This year’s theme is innovative research methods, with talks featuring OISE faculty members whose cutting edge methods are providing new answers to a variety of timely and pressing research questions. All OISE faculty, students, postdoctoral fellows, and staff are welcome to attend.

At our November session, Professor Eunice Jang will give a talk entitled The Power of Diagnostic Scaffolding in Technology-Rich Learning-Oriented Assessment Environments. She will discuss her mixed-methods research on the use of BalanceAI, an innovative assessment platform that leverages artificial intelligence to provide adaptive feedback during task performance. In studying this platform, Professor Jang and her team have partnered with programs that offer tutoring support for children from urban shelters and immigrant and refugee families. She will share emerging findings on the use of BalanceAI in these community outreach programs for children ages 8-14. More broadly, Professor Jang will discuss technological affordances to support teaching in virtual spaces.

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 11 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

[Register in advance.](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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**Upcoming Events**

**CO-CURRICULAR CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES for STUDENTS**

Cultivating Personal Health & Wellness through Mindfulness

The OISE co-curricular credit opportunity (CCR) called Cultivating Personal Health & Wellness through Mindfulness is available to all OISE Students. By registering and completing the CCR, you will receive an official University of Toronto co-curricular credit on your record. By registering, you will also receive these weekly reminders.

Find out more about the program and how to register

**OISE WELLNESS - LIVING & WORKING LUNCH & LEARN SERIES**

Julie Kang (Health & Wellness Centre, U of T): *5 Ways to Well Being* | Tuesday, October 12, 2021 | 12:10pm -12:50pm | [Register](#)

**THE MINDFUL TEACHER/EDUCATOR LUNCH & LEARN SERIES**
Join us for one of the many wellness activities that we have planned. Whether it's a Living & Working Lunch & Learn session, a Mindful Teacher/Educator Lunch & Learn session, one of many weekly practice opportunities, a monthly Mindfulness Community of Practice meeting, or a wellness activity of your own, we hope you are able to devote some time to self-care this year, particularly during these challenging and uncertain times. Check out all of our events in October.

Find out more about all of the Wellness activities and how to register on our website at https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/wellness

OISE Faculty & Staff News

Welcome to OISE Shamelle Sutton

OISE welcomes Shamelle Sutton to the Office of the Registrar and Student Services (ORSS) team and to OISE. Shamelle has been appointed as our Student Recruitment Communications Specialist. Starting on October 4th, Shamelle will be responsible for a range of recruitment, marketing, publications, website and communications tasks ensuring that the core recruitment and student communication and information services of OISE’s Office of the Registrar and Student Services (ORSS) are effective, efficient and meeting the needs of OISE and its future and current students.

Shamelle comes to us from Sheridan College, where she has been a Social Media Specialist for the past 6 years and prior to that worked in student recruitment. She also has worked on a number of projects at the largest interdisciplinary health service provider in Ontario. Shamelle has won numerous awards for her marketing and communications campaigns with the most recent being gold in 2021 from the Canadian Public Relations Society for the Marketing Communications Campaign of the Year. Shamelle is completing a degree in marketing management from Sheridan College and also holds a diploma in graphic design from George Brown College, a diploma in business marketing from Sheridan College, a certificate in project management from Sheridan College and a certificate in social media strategy from Syracuse University and Hootsuite Media Inc.

Education Commons welcomes Bernie Spudic

Education Commons is excited to welcome our new Associate Director, Digital Products and System Architecture, Bernie Spudic.

From Bernie – “As Associate Director, I am continuously working with our team to provide reliable and responsive applications and infrastructure to OISE. Engagement with partners and the OISE community to understand and provide great service is a key area of focus. Together, we will look for opportunities to change and evolve to strengthen the services delivered through People & Technology. I am always open to questions, discussions and feedback and look forward to having them with everyone in the community. Fun fact, you’ll often find me with a cup of coffee in hand. I am easily convinced to have another.”

The community got to meet Bernie and the Team at the EC Virtual Open House that took place on Thursday, October 7.

Debut book from OISE’s Perry King

Coming soon, from Coach House Books, is a debut book from local author and OISE communications officer Perry King. Perry’s book, titled Rebound: Sports, Community and Inclusive City explores how sports has been used as a city building exercise. As the future brings challenges – gentrification and loss of public space, environmental devastation and ongoing pandemics – the book offers a roadmap for re-imagining neighbourhoods whose residents are active, healthy, and genuinely connected.

With original reporting, the book explores a number of sports – basketball, hockey, cricket – and a slew of
Retirement of Arlene Fockaert

Jenaya Webb from the OISE Library shares the news that after a remarkable 48 years at the OISE Library, Arlene Fockaert, Senior Acquisitions Specialist, has retired as of July 1, 2021.

Arlene began her career at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) in 1973 and joined the University of Toronto Libraries (UTL) when OISE and the U of T merged in 1996.

Over the course of her career, Arlene has worked through significant changes in the library landscape, from the days of card catalogues all the way up to collaborative cloud-based tools, and processes. Arlene was the driving force behind acquisitions at the OISE Library for many years, supporting faculty, students, and librarians with a range of simple and challenging order requests, ensuring that orders arrived, and making sure new acquisitions were promoted. She was also instrumental in many major changes in the library, such as helping transition the OISE Library’s acquisitions processes when we began to merge with central UTL’s ordering department. Through all these changes, Arlene adeptly picked up new technologies, took on to changing roles, and adapted to dramatic shifts in library work. Arlene was also an early library Twitter adopter, managing the OISE Library Twitter account for many years, starting all the way back in 2009!

One thing that has remained constant throughout Arlene’s career was her strong commitment to providing excellent service to the OISE and U of T communities. She brought a deep institutional knowledge to everything she did and shared this knowledge with all new staff and librarians who joined the OISE Library team. In reflecting on Arlene’s work in the OISE Library’s Acquisitions Department, many of her colleagues noted that in addition to being incredibly knowledgeable in her own work, Arlene was also very conscious of the bigger picture and how her work impacted the rest of the library, her colleagues, and library users.

Arlene was a mentor to many Student Library Assistants (SLAs) who worked in the OISE Library’s Acquisitions Department. She provided excellent supervision for our SLAs, guiding them through the detailed processes involved in their work while also teaching them how their work fit into the larger picture of the library and the university. Perhaps even more importantly, Arlene took the time to support our student staff in their own academic pursuits, as they worked to complete their degrees at the University. One former OISE SLA remarked that Arlene was always ready with a kind word and a snack exactly when students needed it most. Arlene’s guidance and support made a lasting impact on all these students, many of whom have gone on to pursue careers in libraries themselves.

Jenaya would like to thank Arlene for the significant contributions she has made to the OISE Library, the OISE community, and the University of Toronto. Please join her in thanking Arlene for her years of service and wishing her all the best in her retirement.

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