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Meet your OURA Executive

Staffing Updates

Ray Darling is excited to announce that he has been offered the position of Registrar at Wilfrid Laurier University as of August 1.

Ray will continue his role as Vice- President on the OURA Executive.

CONGRATULATIONS RAY!

Quick Links

[Ontario University Registrars' Association](#)

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WELCOME TO OURA IN TUNE!

By: Joanne Duklas, OURA President



Welcome to the first edition of OURA in Tune! This communications initiative has been developed to provide OURA colleagues with a snap-shot of some of the dynamic and robust projects underway.

It also serves as a platform for information-sharing in the Ontario education industry as it relates to current issues. Representing the Standing Committees and various sub-committees of Admissions, Records and Systems, Scholarships and Awards, Graduate Studies, Secondary School Liaison, the COU and ARUCC, we encourage and solicit your active participation as a member of OURA. The intention is to send OURA in Tune to the membership twice per year.

Here are some additional updates: the OURA 2008 conference will run from February 25 to 27 in Niagara Falls. The survey responses from last February's conference will help to inform the agenda and the OURA executive would like to extend thanks to the many individuals who took the time to share detailed feedback. The OURA Web site has been expanded extensively and now includes a job posting board, a survey archive, presentations from past conferences, access to various resource links relevant to the registrarial industry and a calendar of events. We would welcome your active support in updating the various sections of the site and encourage those interested to send items for posting to the OURA Executive Communications Officer, Marisa Modeski (modeski@qwemail.ryerson.ca).

New this year is an OURA listserv which will serve as the primary vehicle to communicate with the OURA membership during the year.

The OURA executive welcomes your ongoing input and welcomes the opportunity to work with the membership.

Ontario Universities' Fair Steering Committee Kicks Off

By: Effie Gatsinos, Chair

A retreat was held at the OUAC on April 17 and 18. The OUF SC worked with Rowley Mossop, the Task Force Review consultant, to identify task lists and timelines for '07 gaps that we would like filled for the upcoming Fair. We also developed a foundation for a long-term strategic plan, which included:



- Research and data collection
- Improving the 'experience' of the OUF
- Developing new sponsorship policies and guidelines,
- Use of technology in response to the needs of students, parents and high schools.

With respect to communication with key stakeholders, the OUF SC provided a full progress report to the OURA Executive on April 23; the Standing and General

[Council of Ontario Universities](#)

[Ontario Universities' Application Centre](#)

[e-INFO](#)

[Graduate Studies](#)
[International Admission](#)
[Placement Guide](#)

[ARUCC](#)

For Your Interest

[Degree Accreditation in Canada](#)

[Filling the Gaps: Calgary and the Post-Secondary Education Spectrum](#)

[Meaning of and Values that Influence Degree Recognition in Canada](#)

In the News

[McGuinty Government Expanding Postsecondary Opportunities ...](#)

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Committee on Secondary School Liaison on May 2 and the OUAC Advisory Board on May 14. A logistics and communications meeting was held with the OUAC, Events Management Plus (our administrative contractor) and myself on April 30.

We have commissioned Fifth Wave Communications to assist us in developing a new Sponsorship Policy which we hope to have finalized in Fall 2007 and fully implemented for the 2008 Fair. We have had meetings with both RBC and ICAO who are committed as Gold sponsors for one more year, as outlined in their contract. They have agreed to assist us in our Sponsorship Policy review.

From the logistics perspective, we have secured the entire South Building of the MTCC, as well as the Skywalk.

An independent Safety and Security audit was also conducted. On June 20, Ontario Liaison Managers met at the OUAC to discuss the outcomes of this audit, as well as the recommendations outlined in the revised OUF Policy Manual - particularly how it relates to university participation and conduct at the Fair.

The new OUF SC is extremely excited about the future of the OUF, and looks forward to working with universities in this new capacity!

The **OUF** will be held at the Toronto Metro Convention Centre Friday, September 28 to Sunday, September 30.

Streamlining Entrance Scholarship Applications

By: Rico Natale, Chair

Last August OURA was contacted by the Chair of the Ontario Council of Admissions (OUCA) to respond to a request for a Common Scholarship Application for all Ontario universities. Subsequently, the Standing Committee on Scholarships and Awards formed a sub-committee and determined that although a common application could not be presented in its entirety, components of scholarship applications could be streamlined to make the application process for applicants less onerous.

The common components identified include:

- Personal Information for Award Purposes
- Extracurricular Activities
- Leadership Activities
- Third-Party Endorsement/Nomination
- Financial Declaration
- Supplementary Information Form
- Academic Transcripts

To successfully implement this ongoing initiative, the Standing Committee on Scholarship and Awards is requesting input on the [Common Scholarship Application Proposal](#) from Ontario universities, the OUAC and other key stakeholders.

For further information and opportunity to provide feedback, please contact Rico Natale at rico.natale@Brocku.ca

Graduate Studies Initiatives

By: Chris Goody, Chair

The Graduate Studies committee worked intensively over the summer and Fall 2006 on recruitment initiatives (e-card and OntarioGraduateStudies.ca website). Although endorsed by the OCGS Deans, initiatives and budget were put on hold pending a review by a newly established COU Task Force on Graduate Enrolment

Expansion.

The Graduate Studies Standing Committee recently released the updated [International Admission Placement Guide](#). This valuable resource includes information on the education system of over 180 Countries. The guide also includes links to up-to-date information on some of the countries participating in the Bologna Agreement. Please contact your School of Graduate Studies or equivalent to obtain a username and password.

Other initiatives that we are considering include looking at ways to automate the Ontario Visiting Graduate Student (OVGS) process and continue updating the Admission Guide as information becomes available, in particular, countries under the new Bologna education system.

Liaison Examines New Ways to Promote Ontario's Universities

By: Beth Natale, Chair

The Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison had its first meeting in March at Ryerson University to start planning for the 2007/08 recruitment cycle.

All liaison initiatives are aimed at raising awareness among Ontario's secondary school students of the multitude of quality study options within Ontario's Universities. The 2007 University Information Program (UIP) schedule has been determined and the planning process is well underway.

NEW THIS YEAR! The SCSSL is proposing that a sub-committee be created to examine the UIP - specifically, its overall effectiveness, the collection of statistics, proliferation of mini fairs, geographic boundaries, event style, location and timing. The concept for a thorough and impartial review was put forward at our May meeting, at which time the liaison community expressed its support for further exploration.

The promotion plans put in place for the 2006 UIP will be carried forward to the coming cycle. In addition, further collaboration with the OUAC and for-profit organizations such as Edge Interactive, will be explored in order to further publicize the UIP.

Other exciting programs and resources that the liaison community continues to work on include [Provincial Dialogue 2008](#), Liaison Workshop, Liaison Community Website, [eINfo](#) and the [Ontario Universities' Fair](#) (OUF).

SINCERELY,

MARISA MODESKI

Communications Officer
Ontario University Registrars' Association, 2007

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