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President, OURA**

Welcome to the Winter edition of OURA In-Tune. It has been a busy year and we are happy to share some of the exciting and on-going developments initiated by the OURA Executive and the OURA Standing Committees.

**[OURA 2010 Conference](#)**

The online agenda and registration has been launched. The OURA conference will be held in Toronto at the Marriott Eaton Centre from March 1-3. Highlights include:

A revised two-day format with an award luncheon ceremony

Three outstanding keynote speakers:

Dr. David K. Foot, World-Renowned Demographics Expert;  
Max Valiquette, Youth Culture and Marketing Expert  
Colleen Clarke, Corporate Trainer and Career Specialist

Post-conference workshops in special interest areas

OURA AGM on Tuesday morning We look forward to seeing you in March!

**OURA Awards**

OURA Awards recognize the achievements and contributions OURA members make to the collective. There are three ways to recognize the work of your colleagues. We encourage you to consider nominating a colleague or submitting an application for the OURA Innovation Award. Here is quick overview of the various awards available to OURA members:

**[Award of Achievement](#)**

Honour long-standing members (minimum of 10 years) who have made significant contributions by participating through active membership on the Executive, standing committees and workshops, active enhancement and development of academic administration within the Ontario university system.

**[Honourary Membership](#)**

Individuals who are no longer eligible to be active members of OURA, however, contributed significantly to the various

activities of the Association. The individual shall enjoy a permanent invitation to attend OURA meetings and to maintain interest in OURA affairs.

Nomination deadline is January 15, 2010. For more information, please contact Heather Brown, Vice-President, OURA at [heatherb@nipissingu.ca](mailto:heatherb@nipissingu.ca)

#### OURA Innovation Award

The OURA Innovation Award recognizes the achievements that improve quality and reduce the cost of academic administration within an area under the OURA mandate (admissions, registration, examinations, scheduling, transcripts, systems, records, calendars, scholarships and awards, secondary school liaison, graduate studies). A \$5,000 donation will be made to the winning institution for student awards.

The application deadline is January 15, 2010. Please contact Heather Brown, Vice-President, OURA at [heatherb@nipissingu.ca](mailto:heatherb@nipissingu.ca)

#### **UIP Review Report**

The UIP Report has been submitted and approved by the OURA Executive and is being prepared to be submitted to OCAV for review and approval. The OURA Executive would like to thank the UIP Review team for all the great work that was put into this report. The team includes: Ken Lavigne (Waterloo) (Chair), George Granger (OUAC), Keith Alnwick (Ryerson), Iain Smith (Western), Michael Houston (Windsor), and Robert Perrier (Lakehead).

#### ARUCC Update

Changes to ARUCC constitution will now provide representatives from both Ontario colleges and universities. The new OURA representative position will begin with the 2010 term.

#### **Join the OURA Executive**

Nominations are now open for OURA Executive Members. Please forward your nominations to any member of the nominating committee:

Heather Brown (Vice-President) [heatherb@nipissingu.ca](mailto:heatherb@nipissingu.ca) or Nipissing University, 100 College Drive, North Bay, Ontario, P1B8L7

Robert Perrier (Member at Large) [reperrie@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:reperrie@lakeheadu.ca) or Lakehead University, 955 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 5E1

Ray Darling (Past President) [rdarling@wlu.ca](mailto:rdarling@wlu.ca) or Wilfrid Laurier University, 75 University Avenue West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3C5

Respectfully yours,

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Angelique Saweczko, President

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## Scholarships and Awards Updates

**By: Kelly Dickinson**  
**Chair, Standing Committee on Scholarships and Awards**

The Standing Committee on Scholarships & Awards is looking forward to this year's OURA conference. We've planned five breakout sessions over the two days of the conference that we think will pique the interest of both long-time scholarship administrators and individuals newer to this field. Based on feedback we have received from our members about their interests, we offer the following sessions:

- Funding Needs and Planning for the Graduate Student

Presented by Pauline Sinclair, Associate Registrar, Graduate Program Services, University of Guelph, this was the number one session topic requested by our members last year!

- Special Programs Under the Ontario Human Rights Code

Noël A. J. Badiou, Director, Centre for Human Rights, York University will help us understand how to successfully set up new scholarships and awards under the OHRC which provide access to disadvantaged or other targeted groups.

- Roundtable: Building a Community of Scholars

Join Aaron House, Manager, Student Awards, Brock University in a round-table discussion about civic engagement and scholarship programs. Aaron will talk about a new program he started at Brock, and moderate a discussion about some of the new initiatives happening at other institutions. You are encouraged to showcase any new initiatives you may be doing at your own institution.

- Net Tuition Fees

Presenter Dr. Paul Stenton, Vice Provost, University Planning, Ryerson University will unveil some of the research being done in Ontario on the perception of cost versus the actual cost of university once scholarships, bursaries and other forms of non-repayable aid are factored in.

- Ingredients for Satisfied Donors: Consistency and Timeliness

Back by popular demand, join Teresa Alm, Associate University Registrar (Student Awards) and Chris Coupland, Senior Awards Officer, Donor Relations, Queen's University in this not-to-be-missed session which debuted at CASFAA in June 2009.

We've designed the optional workshop day to have broad appeal to senior staff, support staff and front-line staff. We recommend you come for the conference and stay for the workshops! If your staff can't join you for the full conference, the single workshop day is an affordable professional development opportunity.

- Understanding and Supporting Students with Disabilities

Dr. Mike Condra, Director, Health Counselling and Disability Services, Queen's University will discuss the unique needs of students with disabilities so that we can better understand and support them in our work.

- Outreach and Access Through Social Media

Presenter David Blake, Director of Finance, Zinch, Inc. will provide some insight into how students use the Internet, and effective online tools and communication strategies that we might utilize to reach out to them.

- Session 2C - Technology in the Awards Office

Our student volume is rising, but our staff levels are staying the same or falling

Fiona Kay, York University (Glendon) will moderate this session on how technology can help the awards office through these challenging times. You are encouraged to share technology solutions that you are using that could be of benefit to others.

We look forward to seeing you and your staff at OURA 2010!

Kelly Dickinson, Chair

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## **Graduate Studies Updates**

**By: Carol Corkran**  
**Chair, Standing Committee on Graduate Studies**

The Graduate Studies Standing Committee is looking forward to this year's OURA conference and the sessions we have planned for you. Your feedback from the last conference

helped us to narrow down the hot topics for our sessions which we hope will provide you with useful and relevant information.

*1st Session:* New Directions in Quality Assurance in Ontario, presented by John ApSimon former executive director of OCGS

Come prepared to discuss the impact on your operations as a result of the dissolution of program appraisals through OCGS.

*2nd Session:* Transition of Graduate Studies Operations. Presented by Cathy Faye, Assistant Registrar, Ryerson

Cathy will lead us through the evolution of Graduate Studies Operations in the last decade.

*3rd Session:* What's going on with ETDs in Canada and how University of Guelph is getting it right.

Pauline Sinclair, Associate Registrar, Guelph will lead us through the process of how Guelph successfully implemented electronic thesis digitization.

Sharon Reeves, Manger Theses Canada, will bring us up to date on a national level.

*4th Session:* Graduate Student Experience, presented by members of your standing committee.

The session will promote a lively discussion starting with Recruitment, Admissions, Professional Development, Financial Aid, Records and Graduation. An opportunity to see what others are doing, discuss best practices and re-connect with colleagues.

We look forward to seeing you in Toronto,

Regards,

Carol Corkran, Chair

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## **Secondary School Liaison Updates**

**By: Jody Berringer**  
**Chair, Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison**

The Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison has had another busy year. 2009 started with a round of Regional Dialogues hosted at universities across the province and our interactions with counsellors have been the topic of many discussions throughout the year. We are currently focussing our efforts on a number of ways that we can enhance our efforts and provide better service to counsellors.

The Ontario Universities' Fair saw record attendance with over 116,000 prospective students and family members attending the event. The annual University Information Program (UIP) continued to attract thousands of parents and students and saw an overall increase in attendance of ~14%. The UIP Review continued throughout the year and was submitted to the OURA Executive in September. The review committee put a lot of time and effort into the report and we appreciate their diligence in ensuring that we continue to offer programming that meets the needs of our secondary school audiences.

The liaison collective has met regularly and has had the opportunity to highlight areas of interest. Based on those interests, the OURA 2010 Liaison stream provides a diverse range of professional development topics. We are especially excited to welcome colleagues from the Canadian Education Standards Institute to talk about the National Tracking Project and the Director for HR Advisory and Recruitment Services from Export Development Canada to discuss how to gain a competitive advantage when recruiting top talent. Sessions on social media, recruiting students from diverse background, and engaging alumni in recruitment initiatives fits nicely with emerging trends on many of our campuses. Rounding out the line up, sessions will focus on how to implement strong project management techniques, how to use statistics to support our work, and how to successfully manage teams from a distance. Whether you choose to join us for one day, two days, or all three, you will find numerous sessions to enhance your skills allowing you to return to your campus with new ideas!

I look forward to seeing you at OURA 2010.

Jody Berringer, Chair

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## **Systems and Records Updates**

**By: Josie Lalonde**  
**Chair, Standing Committee on Records & Systems**

The Records & Systems Standing Committee is very excited about the sessions planned for the OURA 2010 conference. We carefully considered your feedback from last year's conference, and have come up with sessions that address some of the issues and interests that you said are most relevant to the records and systems area:

- Document Imaging: Panel discussion on experiences from post-secondary institutions in implementing document imaging software to streamline the admission process
- Degree Verification Service: Learn what business is saying about education fraud, how the AuraData system

- works and one university's experience with it
- So you want to be a Registrar: Panel discussion on the career trajectories that can bring someone to a registrarial leadership position
  - The Partnership between IT and Registrars: University of Toronto's Registrar and CIO discuss challenges and strategies for managing change in the context of the University's initiative to build a Next Generation of Student Information Services
  - Managing the Inbox
  - Degree Audit System Pilot Project at York University
  - Web-based Academic Calendar Submission/Revision System at Brock University
  - On-line Appointment Booking System at York University

I look forward to seeing all of you at OURA 2010!

Josie Lalonde, Chair

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## Admissions Update

**By: Brandi Borman**  
**Chair, Standing Committee on Admissions**

The OURA Admissions Standing Committee has met via teleconference for all of their meetings for this year. There has been a great deal of discussion about the many of the challenges that we face in admissions. For instance, we talked about High Skills Majors, Lisbon Convention, and Dual Credits.

During this past year, the Admissions committee has hosted two Admissions Directors Forums on April 15th 2009 and November 11th, 2009 at Ryerson University. These Forums provide an informal opportunity for admissions directors to come together to discuss issues affecting their work.

We are looking forward to the OURA conference this year. There are sessions on Demographics, Cambridge University Pre-University Program, Changes to the Hong Kong Curriculum, A Ministry Update and Electronic Offers of Admission.

Brandi Borman, Chair

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SINCERELY,

W. Aaron House  
Communications Officer

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