

**In This Issue**[OURA 2013](#)[Standing Committee Update - Scholarships and Awards](#)[Standing Committee Update - Graduate Studies](#)[Standing Committee Update - Scholarships and Awards](#)[Standing Committee Update - Secondary School Liaison](#)[Standing Committee Update - Admissions](#)[Standing Committee Update - Records & Systems](#)[2013 OURA Nominations](#)**Quick Links**[Ontario University Registrars' Association](#)[Meet Your 2012 OURA Executive](#)[OURA Survey Articles](#)[Job Postings](#)[Calendar of Events](#)[Council of Ontario Universities](#)[Ontario Universities' Application Centre](#)[e-INFO](#)[Graduate Studies International Admission Placement Guide](#)[ARUCC](#)**Join Our List****Message from the OURA President****By: Effie Gatsinos  
President, OURA**

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the winter edition of OURA In Tune - the newsletter designed to keep you updated on your Association and industry activities. It has been my pleasure and honour to serve as OURA President, and to work alongside such dedicated members of our community who have volunteered their time and expertise to supporting our collective.

The Executive and Standing Committees have been busy planning the 2013 OURA Conference, Collaborating for Success! We are very excited to be presenting a conference program that we feel will be engaging, informative and enjoyable for all.

In the spirit of the conference theme, we encourage you to invite campus colleagues who you think might be interested in attending alongside your own teams. We feel there are many sessions, including the pre-conference workshops and keynote speakers, which would appeal to colleagues from various departments, including Student Life and academic counselling, just to name a few.

In addition to the initiatives and planning that each individual Standing Committee continues to be involved with, this year's Executive has also been committed to ensuring that future executives have a sound and structured foundation to build from, in terms of OURA policies, procedures and business administration - the type of work that lacks glamour but is integral to what we do!

I also want to take this opportunity to share a success story from one of the working groups that emerged from the UIP Review Committee. If you haven't had a chance to do so already, we invite you to view the [video](#) that was collaboratively produced by, and promotes, Ontario's universities!

In the spirit of the video's main message - World Class, Right Here - I encourage everyone to take advantage of the expertise and knowledge available within the OURA collective, and to continue to collaborate for success. If you have any suggestions for OURA in terms of our communications, professional development activities or advocacy initiatives,

Join Our Mailing List!

please do not hesitate to contact [me](#).

Wishing you all the best,

Effie Gatsinos, President

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## OURA Conference

**February 24 - 27, 2013**

Join us for the OURA 2013 Conference at the newly renovated Marriott Gateway on the Falls in Niagara Falls, Ontario, February 24-27.



Complete program, registration, accommodation, and travel information can be found at: [OURA Conference](#)

Highlights of this year's conference include:

- A multi-day format with pre-conference workshops and standing committee AGMs being offered on Sunday February 24th
- 4 outstanding plenary speakers, chosen to enhance personal and professional development:
  - **Craig Kielburger, Founder, Free the Children**
  - **Dr. Marc Wilchesky, Resilience and Stress Management expert**
  - **Dr. Greg Wells, CTV Sport Science Analyst and Physiologist**
  - **Brian Beamish, Assistant Commissioner (Access) - Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner - Ontario**
- Continued offering of our highly successful Leadership sessions
- Awards dinner celebration on Monday night

- OURA AGM on Tuesday morning
- A variety of organized activities to explore all the Niagara region has to offer on Tuesday evening

### **OURA Awards**

OURA Awards recognize the achievements and contributions OURA members make to the collective. This year we will be presenting the following two awards on Monday evening:

#### **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.

#### **OURA Innovation Award**

The OURA Innovation Award recognizes the achievements that improve the 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.

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## **Scholarships and Awards Updates**

**By: Brenda Denomme**  
**Chair, Standing Committee on Scholarships and Awards**

The Standing Committee on Scholarships and Awards is looking forward to this year's OURA conference in February. Our goal is to provide our members with a program that is interesting and informative and the opportunity to discuss issues and share ideas with colleagues within the awards community. To that end, we offer the following sessions:

Uniting the Team: Advancement & Student Awards Working Together

This session will look at why these two teams often feel at odds, and explore strategies for working together successfully, building and sustaining a culture of respect and collaboration, etc.

*Presented by Erin Sargeant Greenwood, Associate Vice President, Development from the University of Waterloo.*

#### **Developing Strategic Financial Aid Opportunities that Enhance Student Success**

This session will review how York University created and launched a family of unique work-study initiatives with specific

retention and career enhancement outcomes.

*Presented by Joanne Duklas, former University Registrar, York University.*

### **ScholarshipsCanada.com: Uncovering New Trends & Key Insights on Undergraduate & Graduate Awards**

This session will look at the latest research findings from Canada's largest database of scholarships and bursaries.

*Presented by Chris Wilkins, Christina Matteis and Ian Ray Barcarse of Edge Interactive.*

### **The Millennials Revisited**

This session will explore what today's students are looking for and how we can respond to their educational aspirations.

*Presented by Dr. Michael Atkinson from Western University.*

### **Scholarships and Awards Roundtable 1 and 2**

These sessions will be led by members of this year's Standing Committee and will provide an opportunity for the awards community to discuss hot topics and issues, share best practices, and re-connect with colleagues. Discussion topics may include:

- Promoting award opportunities to underrepresented students
- Entrance scholarships - are they achieving the intended outcomes?
- Impact of cancelled OTSS matching program
- Managing scholarships/awards with a financial need component
- Award policies and approvals
- Donation minimums
- Communicating with award recipients, requesting feedback for donor stewardship, etc.
- Other topics of interest? Feel free to send me any roundtable agenda items that you would like to have addressed.

The annual general meeting of the Standing Committee on Scholarships and Awards will be held on the Sunday evening of the conference. At this meeting, a vote will be held for committee membership and roles for the upcoming year. Committee involvement is a great way to get to know your colleagues at other institutions and to learn and share with one another. If you are interested in serving on this committee - either as a regular member or as Vice-chair - please send your name to me.

We hope to see you in February at the OURA 2013 Conference!

Brenda Denomme, Chair

**By: Sarah Hildebrandt**  
**Chair, Standing Committee on Graduate Studies**

The Standing Committee on Graduate Studies has met regularly over the last year with a recent focus on planning the sessions for our upcoming conference. In response to feedback received from our membership, we're planning two sessions of our very popular roundtable: one focused on recruitment and admissions, with a second session for any other hot topics. And on the subject of hot topics, there has been a lot of discussion in our community about the recent changes to the administration of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS). We're planning a panel presentation on this subject for the conference as a chance to learn about a variety of different models and best practices for OGS administration. More information on this and our other exciting sessions can be found here: [OURA Conference](#)

We are continuing to work on the development of an online OVGS (Ontario Visiting Graduate Student agreement) process. All Ontario universities have confirmed their interest in and support for such a process, and business and technical requirements have been drafted. We are currently working on a costing model and seeking a host for the online process, and hope to have an update for the Graduate Studies Group when we meet in Niagara Falls in February.

I am pleased to announce that Terry McAfee from Ryerson University has been appointed to the Vice-Chair position on our Standing Committee. Terry will become Chair following our Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Sunday night during the conference. At this meeting, a vote will be held for committee membership for the upcoming year. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in serving on this committee, please send your nominations to [me](#).

Finally, as the admissions cycle for 2013 commences and on behalf of all of us who use the International Placement Guide, I would like to thank Elena Arena (Lakehead) for maintaining the database again this year.

Looking forward to seeing you in February,

Sarah Hildebrandt

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**Secondary School Liaison Updates**

**By: Craig Chipps**  
**Chair, Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison**

The Standing Committee of Secondary School Liaison has had another busy and productive year, working collaboratively to

promote the opportunities that exist for students at Ontario's Universities. With all the work that has been done over the past 12 months, I think it is important to pause, and highlight some of our key accomplishments from 2012:

- In May, five different Universities hosted [Regional Dialogue events](#) for Guidance Counselors across the province. Once again, these annual events were well attended and well received by the Guidance Community.

- Shortly after the conclusion of the Regional Dialogues, the OUAC in partnership with the SCSSL sent out a survey to Ontario Guidance Counselors to solicit their feedback about SCSSL events and initiatives. A Regional Dialogue Review Committee was struck to examine the results and make recommendations to ensure the future success of these events.

- Over 150 Recruitment staff attended Guelph-Humber for our annual Liaison Workshop. This year's theme of Reach Your PotTENial was both a nod to the campus' 10th anniversary celebrations, and a fitting description of the quality training and professional development that took place.

- The [Ontario Universities' Fair](#) was attended by nearly 120,000 people during the last weekend in September. While no attendance records were set this year, we did enjoy an overall attendance increase compared to last year's event.

- Our centrally-managed [Post-Secondary Information Event](#) calendar saw a record, 96 Guidance Counselor-organized events posted this year.

- The annual [University Information Program](#) saw a slight decrease in attendance across the province this year, but still allowed over 22,000 students and family members connect with each one of Ontario's 21 Universities.

- Prominently featured during the UIPs was the video [Ontario's Universities: World Class, Here](#), a brand-new addition to our General Information Session for 2012. The video was made available for Liaison Reps., is linked on YouTube, and on the [eINFO](#), and the OUF website. To date, the video has had over 8,000 views.

The New Year sees us looking forward to the upcoming **OURA Conference** in February. We are excited to offer a number of pertinent and engaging Liaison focused breakout sessions to compliment a very strong overall conference program. Topics include:

[From Recruitment to Retention, A Holistic Approach to the Mature and Transfer Student Audiences](#)

[A panel discussion on explaining the value of a BA education](#)

[A round table discussion on the proliferation of Post-Secondary Information Events](#)

[The IB Diploma and University Recruitment](#)

[Livesteam Communication with Students](#)

[Client Relationship Management Software - Best Practices](#)

Whether you plan to attend the whole conference, or just select days, I am confident you will find a variety of sessions that will enhance your personal skill set, and inspire you with ideas you can take back to your school. I am looking forward to [Collaborating for Success](#) with you!

Craig Chipps, SCSSL Chair

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## Admissions Updates

**By: Jan Sage**  
**Chair, Standing on Admissions**

I am pleased to report on the activity of the Admissions Forum which met on Wednesday, April 11 from 10am to 3pm. After lively discussion on many subjects, the following items were to be brought to the attention of OUCA.

1. There still needs to be a new Standing Committee on Admissions elected. Key representatives were not able to attend OURA and the election will be done electronically and the results circulated as quickly as possible.
2. The Admission Directors would like to discuss the way OUAC statistics are reported, both by institution and by subject.
3. This group would like to formally strike a committee of relevant stakeholders to develop a discussion/working group to formulate greening the admission process across the university sector, reducing workload, mailing expenses and environmental resources.
4. With proposed changes to the 'Victory Lap' that current secondary school students engage in, the group would like to re-iterate its concerns about credits awarded by less-than-scrupulous for-profit schools.

The Standing Committee is excited that some of the more complicated issues around admissions will be well explored through the many sessions organized for the OURA conference in February. Recognition of the diversity of applicants and the wide range of needs to be considered has been the inspiration for many of the presentations. Taking a non-traditional approach to these prospective students will be the focus of the first session From Recruitment to Retention: A holistic Approach to the Mature and Transfer Student Audience.

These students, many who come to us with some post-secondary experience, also force us to be more sensitive to

the growing need for fluidity between post-secondary institutions. The presentation by the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) on the Transfer website and Transfer Credit Database will be a welcome update to admissions professionals across the system.

Diversity, equity and access are all terms that have become familiar to us over the last few years. What do they mean? How do we ensure that the principles are well-served in our practices? Equity is not Equality will attempt to make us examine our own prejudices and be open to accepting and accommodating who our students really are.

At the core of what we do as Admissions professionals is the actuality of making the admission decision. Ethical Decision Making, Parts 1 and 2, will be a great continuation of the work begun in Equity is not Equality. Key to this exploration, Part 1 will address the notions of equity, diversity and social justice and using these principles to build a framework for ethical decision making. Part 2 will provide participants with actual case studies and an opportunity to discuss the implementation of these values in smaller groups.

The Millennials Revisited promises to complete the conference by slamming us into the 21st century. Are students fundamentally different in any way? What role does technology and pop culture play in our experience of today's students? The session will give us some insights into the educational aspirations of this group and how to best address their expectations.

For more information about the total conference program please visit the [website](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Sage, Chair,

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## **Records & Systems Updates**

**By: Stella Holley**  
**Chair, Standing on Records & Systems**

I would like to thank the members of the Records and Systems Standing Committee for their hard work, dedication and contributions during this past year. The committee met once this year in Toronto on Friday, September 28, 2012. Our mandate was to establish potential sessions for the OURA 2013 conference. '[Collaborating for Success](#)' is the theme for OURA 2013. We had a very productive meeting resulting in the selection of six session topics. We feel that these sessions will reflect the changes that are occurring in the Records and System Sections of our Universities.

I would also like to express our appreciation for the information that was provided from the OURA delegates through the online survey. These suggestions provided valuable feedback and assistance as the committee worked together to determine session topics, workshops and keynote speakers. We hope you will find the sessions this year to be informative.

Once again, I would like to extend a big thank you to the Records and Systems Committee. It has been a real pleasure to work with such a great team.

Respectfully submitted

Stella Holley, Chair

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## Join the OURA Executive

Nominations are now open for the following OURA Executive positions:

- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Communications Officer
- Member-at-Large (2 positions)

Please forward your nominations to the Chair of the Nominating Committee by January 22, 2013:

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

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W. Aaron House  
Communications Officer  
Ontario University Registrars' Association, 2013

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