



University
of Windsor

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Welcome Back Lancers!

UWindsor Students:

Academic year 2019-2020 is upon us. I hope you are all having a safe, fun, and productive summer and that you're excited about returning to campus or becoming a UWindsor student for the first time.

A majority of our incoming first-year students were born 2001 and this will be my fourth academic year in the role of Associate Vice-President, Student Experience. It is a tremendous privilege to have the job that I do, and every day I work with my colleagues to ensure your experience is as good as it can possibly be. Sometimes there are challenges, but overall, as a staff member here and as a UWindsor grad myself, I am proud of the work we do because I think we're doing a solid job at setting the table so that students and student leaders can have a powerful and important experience. This year will be no exception.

As has been the case for the last three years, and by way of this newsletter, I'd like to give you a sense of what you can expect this year. Granted, the following will be a bit long, but there's so much going on and, for those of you that are interested, I hope the following gives you a sense of how your hard-earned tuition dollars are being invested. If you want the cheat sheet version, [head to our one-page summary](#) that captures most of what we've got planned.

If you continue to read what's below, this is the Student Experience blueprint for the coming year in all of its **Blue & Gold** glory.

Ready. Here goes...



Last Year's Programs: A Self-Assessment for 2018-19

Last year, we tried our best to deliver several key initiatives. Once again, in my own completely objective, entirely unbiased opinion, here's what and how we did:

Activity/Program	Grade	Continuing?
Flip the Script (Women's Sexual Violence Prevention Program)	Solid	Participants #'s increased. Remains the best way for women to prevent sexual assault. Continues.
Revamped Welcome Week	Very Satisfied	Got this program where we want it. River Games shines. Great student leadership throughout. Continues.
Residence Upgrades	Done and Done	Cartier: elevator, accessible room, kitchens. Mac Hall: desks, chairs. Alumni: new room lighting, building generator; Food: New dining hall
"UWin Proud" school spirit program	Yes. Yes. And. Yes!	Included: UWin Day (free cake); Windsor Wednesdays; Free swag; Contests (Windsor Beautiful). Continues. Bigger and Better!
Alternative Spring Break	Work in Progress	Second group of students attended Walpole Island First Nation plus a group went to Costa Rica. Participation numbers, logistics, and costs were challenges. Participants had a powerful experience. Continues for at least one more year.
Student Mental Health Strategy	Superb Effort!	Launched Oct 3, 2018, with 39 recommendations. Fourteen recommendation responses well underway. Continues.
Leadership Conferences (January & February 2019)	Proof of Concept.	The first leadership conference was for student employees. The second was for student leaders

generally. Good execution, good participation.
Lots of potential here. Continues.

**Relay For Life (all faculty,
cancer fundraiser)**

Woot! Woot!

Student leaders hit it out of the park. Over 300 participants and \$50,000 raised. Second highest, first-time Relay For Life total of Ontario postsecondary institutions. Beyond amazing. Continues.

**Revamped Student
Experience Social Media
Presence**

Hitting Stride

Hired a full-time Student Experience Comms position. Everything online in social media is improved.

2019-2020 - This Year's Initiatives and News:

Dr. Robert Gordon:

Our Provost Dr. Kneale did solid work as Interim President, and now a new President has been found. Dr. Robert Gordon will become my boss' boss and a new era will begin at UWindsor. Dr. Gordon is coming to us from Wilfrid Laurier and previous to that he was at the University of Guelph. As you may know, both of these institutions are known for their exceptional student experiences, so I'm excited to both show off what we're doing here on our campus but also to receive ideas from him on what we can do differently and better at UWindsor. It is well known that Dr. Gordon is a student-focused university administrator, so I have a high degree of confidence the good progress we've made on student life and leadership here at UWindsor will continue apace.



UWin Proud Year 2:

Last year we undertook our first effort to increase student, staff and faculty pride of institution. We called this campaign several things, but this year we've officially come down on **UWin Proud**. Year two of this

program is going to amp up a lot of what we did last year and add a few things. Bottom line is that we want it to be easier for everyone on our campus to wear their **Blue & Gold** and to be proud of our university. You, UWindsor students are doing amazing things and our alumni go into the world and demonstrate that the UWindsor degree stands tall in all professions and marketplaces. Here is what's on tap for UWin Proud '19-20:

WINDSOR PROUD.



UWin Day – Oct 2: UWindsor's unofficial birthday will once again take place the Wednesday before Alumni Weekend. So, mark Wednesday, October 2nd in your calendar as the day to wear your **Blue & Gold**. Cake will abound and we will have Epic Bingo in the CAW Student Centre that night. This is our collective day to take pride in who we are.

Alumni Weekend Tailgate – Oct 5: Tailgating is now legal in the province of Ontario. My office is working with Athletics and others to design a program where we can make tailgating happen on our campus in advance of the October 5th football game vs Laurier. There are some hurdles to still overcome, but I'm entirely committed to making this happen. More to come on this, but please also mark October 5th as

another day to proudly don the **Blue & Gold**.



Windsor Wednesdays: This tradition is back. More swag, more contests, and more **Blue & Gold**. In addition to varsity athletes helping us get the word out, we're going to tap University Players and other groups on campus to help us engage you in the UWin Proud program.



Two Designated Varsity UWin Proud Games: We're going to put special efforts into getting students out to one fall varsity game and one winter term game. I've mentioned the Lancer vs Wilfrid Laurier football game on October 5th. In the winter term, on January 18th, we're going to execute a "Faculties Versus" night during our Men's and Women's volleyball games against Queens. Participating societies have the chance to win big.



Tigers Game – September 21:

University of Windsor
NIGHT AT COMERICA PARK



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

This is going to be a stellar evening. Working with the Detroit Tigers, the University has secured 250 \$40 tickets to a September 21st Tigers game. The ticket will get you onto a bus, into the game, a free UWindsor-Tigers branded ball cap, and \$2 from every purchase will be donated to the **Welcome Centre Shelter for Women and Families**. One of my fondest UWindsor memories from undergrad was going to see a game in old Tiger Stadium. There is no better park in the MLB than Comerica to see a ball game. Tickets are affordable and we've made it so easy for you to get there. Keep your eyes open for this opportunity once you're on campus. And remember to bring your passport with you this September.

[Buy Your Tickets NOW](#)

Residence Upgrades:

To improve our residence experience for students, we've invested nearly \$3M in the following projects:

- **Cartier:** new lighting in all rooms; a new alarm system
- **Mac Hall:** refurbished lounges on all floors; hallway painting and brand new bathrooms on the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors
- **Laurier Hall:** new desks and chairs in all rooms
- **Alumni:** new lobby floor; new alarm panel; new proximity locks on all doors



ALUMNI



CARTIER



LAURIER



MACDONALD

RESIDENCE HALLS

Hopefully, you'll notice the difference, particularly if you're living in Mac. The bathrooms look fabulous and to say that the improvements to the lounges are huge is an understatement.

Varsity Updates:

We are beyond fortunate to have some of the most competitive teams in the country here at UWindsor. If you are at all interested in sports, I would encourage you in the strongest of ways to come out and see an occasional game. While I understand that there are so many other things that compete for your time, it remains the case that coming to a varsity game with your friends and seeing your Lancers compete is a great way to easily build and enhance your student experience. To see how good these athletes are is just awesome.

That pitch aside, here are some developments across the tracks that I think you should be aware of for the coming year:



Football: While it was announced late last year, this will be Coach **Jean-Paul Circelli's** first season as Head Coach for what remains a young Lancer squad. Coach Circelli has recruited like a machine since arriving and he's brought on some top tier players. Our first on-campus game is September 7th. We're playing UWaterloo. It should be a competitive and great game. Plan to attend.



Basketball: Five-time national champion coach Chantal Vallée is back at the helm with the women's team this year after taking a year sabbatical and we have a new men's team coach, **Chris Cheng**. Coach Cheng comes to us via the University of Nipissing, where he got his squad to overachieve regularly. Like football, the recruitment of talent seems to have received a boost.



Volleyball: Both of our men's and women's teams made the playoffs last year. Both teams are keeping most of their players and will remain very competitive. Put their January 18th game in your calendar versus Queens as it's a part of our UWin Proud program.

Other notes: Women's soccer has a new coach, **Daniel Mendonca**. Deanna Iwanicka is going into her second year of coaching our women's hockey team. In her first year, the season was a grind, but she's recruited no less than **11 women** to join her team for the coming year. The grind will continue but with more games in the win column. Finally, as a testament to the calibre of coaching we have in our varsity programs, men's hockey coach, **Kevin Hamlin** coached



Canada's entry for the world university winter games (aka the Universiade) to a bronze medal. I can assure you this is no small feat.

Student Health, Counselling, and Wellness Centre:

As was recommended in the Student Mental Health Strategy, we have taken formal steps to bring together the Student Counselling Centre and Student Health Services. In 2019-2020, these two units will remain in their current locations, but they will both report to Dr. Mohsan Beg, who has been our Student Counselling Centre Director for many years. Having these two units combined into one functioning program is a best practice that is in place at many universities across Canada. Over this year, we will be looking to secure resources that will expand the current footprint of Student Health Services in the CAW Student Centre and will allow the University's counselling team to co-locate with Health Services, formally turning this new entity into a one-stop shop called the Student Health, Counselling and Wellness Centre.



CAW Student Centre:



Oi! This one is a slow burn. Truly, student affairs administration can be a marathon. In my newsletter last August, you may recall this was a priority for the UWSA, OPUS and the University and at that time, I indicated that there were hurdles to overcome to move this project forward. I'm pleased to report that our collective fortitude to make this building better has persevered and we've made progress over the past year. I am not able to provide further details at this time, but rest assured that our beloved Student Centre and its rehabilitation remains at the forefront of my mind and your student leaders.

Keeping You Informed:

Based on click rates and the rarity of students asking to be removed from our distribution list, we will continue with our bi-weekly student newsletter. In September, you'll get them weekly, but after that, our newsletter will drop into your inboxes every two weeks. We try to keep them brief (certainly briefer than the newsletter you're presently slogging through) and interesting such that you have a good sense of the most important things that are happening on campus on a regular basis. My sense is that this remains one of the best ways to keep you informed.

Signing Off

Welcome back.

As was the case last year, my door is open to any of you who want to discuss an issue or who need help. As many of you are aware, my office is in that glass box that is just outside of the CAW Student Centre, and while it may look like I'm busy doing something, in so long as I'm not meeting with someone, that means I would be free to have a visit with you. Even if it is just to make your acquaintance, I would nonetheless be delighted to speak with you. If you have something that you think will require time, simply write to me and we can set up a time.



Finally, it is always a time for reflection when you leave one decade and enter into a new one. As we enter into the '20s, it is my most sincere hope that you knock it out of the park this year. Whether that's your academics, developing new skills, building up your network, establishing a new important relationship, improving your health or some combination of these things, know that everyone at UWindsor wants you to do well and all of my colleagues across the Student Experience team wish you a year full of achievement, resilience and good times.

Go Lancers,

Ryan Flannagan

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