



ORGANIZATION OF PART - TIME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

OPUS Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

WINTER 2009

What is OPUS at the University of Windsor?

OPUS is the Organization of Part-Time University Students, a student group made up of part-time student volunteers who advocate on behalf of part-time students. OPUS was established in 1970 to provide a means for part-time students to have their voices heard on campus.

At OPUS, we believe that part-time students have different needs, concerns and problems distinct from those of the rest of the undergraduate student body. These students work hard to balance their many responsibilities of home, family, work, and education.

OPUS attempts to help students cope with the additional pressure of studies and the adjustment to an academic environment.

Our Mission Statement:

OPUS collaborates with the University of Windsor community to identify and to promote the collective interests of part-time undergraduate students.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



OPUS Board Members

The current OPUS Executive/Staff consists of:

President	Dr. Edward King
Vice President	Chris Baillargeon
Treasurer	Wayne Girard
Past President	Badaruddin Khuhro
Director at Large	Abdulkadir Omar Jane Cacciavillani Ken Ternoey Erin Plumb Berni Doctor Anthony Meloche
Executive Director	Maryan Amalow
Health Plan Administrator	Steve Jancev
Work Study Students past and present 2008-2009	Shannyn Caspar Ahmed Ali, Amandeep Arora, Korey Togtema

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Message From The OPUS President

Dr. Edward King

I was pleased to serve as your President this past year and served on your behalf on the Board of Governors, Resource Allocation Committee, Senate, Senate Steering, Alcohol Policy Committee, President's Council on Student Life, University Library Administrative committee, Library Search Committee, University Committee on Renewal, Promotion and Permanence for Library Members and the Policy Management Board.

The biggest news item at the University of Windsor concerns the new President, Dr. Alan Wildeman. I was happy to welcome him to the University on behalf of OPUS at his Installation in October. We hope to have a mutually beneficial relationship for the next several years.

The other major event of the Fall Term was the Faculty Strike. I met with Administration, Faculty and Students many times and OPUS urged both parties to come to a quick resolution of their differences. Hopefully most of our students were not seriously harmed by the strike. My subjective impression in talking to students was that the negative impact of the strike was not severe. On a more happy note, OPUS held several successful events including the Fall BBQ, two orientation sessions, a Beyond Barriers Breakfast and at the end of the year, our upcoming Annual Awards Dinner, which should be another great success.

We are in the second year of the Health Plan which is very successful and an extraordinary bargain for the students who need this plan. We still hope that those who have coverage and do not need the plan will be able to opt out without having to be charged and reimbursed. But this is not something we can do unilaterally. Also, we are happy to announce that the Management Board of the CAW Student Centre approved hiring our Health Plan Administrator, Steve Jancev, to work 25% of his hours for them. In doing so, he is helping OPUS students gain awareness to facilities that were once thought to be just for full time students, and is creating more involvement of OPUS students within the school community.

Sincerely,
Dr. Edward King



Dr. King receiving the Life Time Achievement Award



Speaking at Disability Awareness day

Message From The OPUS Executive Director

Maryan Amalow

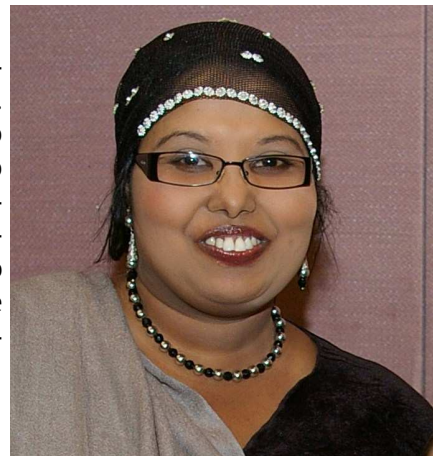
I would like to start by thanking the many people associated with OPUS who have made this past year an enjoyable and memorable one, with events such as the OPUS Potluck, Barbeque, Orientation, Day of Action, Outreach program, Head Start, and OPUS Associate Meetings. I am proud to be a part of the OPUS team and grateful for the assistance and support from the Health Plan Administrator, Executives, Board of Directors and our Work-Study Student's as well as our volunteers. What we have been able to achieve together this year has benefited part-time students, which in turn makes all the hard work worthwhile. I would like to thank each one individually, but there is not enough space to mention everyone. I will just like to say a simple, collective THANK YOU to them all.

The OPUS Board is, as you know, comprised of part-time student volunteers who selflessly give their time to the organization. We have been ably supported by the untiring efforts of a crew of committed and spirited volunteers that have breathed new life and infused a spirit of energy into our events. On behalf of OPUS, I would like to thank all of the University community that has helped us achieve this success in advocating for part-time student rights and access to a better education at the University of Windsor. Thanks to everyone who gave their time to ensure part-time students play a part in University decision making. I believe that through our membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) we can become part of a voice which part-time student concerns are raised and to have the same privileges as the full-time student body does such as services available to them.

It's always difficult to write a year-end report, especially when there have been numerous events. In that case, I will touch base on what I consider to be the highlights of the year. The first big event from the fall 2008 semester was the Faculty/Librarian Strike. The Windsor University Faculty Association (WUFA) union and the University of Windsor Librarian Members commenced a strike action against the university administration on September 17, 2009. This action discontinued classes and forced students to miss their classes for a lengthy period of time. The three student union leaders, voted to have the administration resume talks with the union's negotiating team, which they did. However, negotiations broke off shortly after. It took more than two weeks of serious rallies/protests throughout the campus from students, faculty and staff in order to finalize a resolution. The strike was finally settled after 3 weeks. It is hoped that all parties will forget the animosities the strike caused and begin to heal the wounds that were created.

The second major occurrence during the fall 2008 semester was the Day of Action University of Windsor Fax-off. Wednesday, November 5 was the province-wide Day of Action to Drop Fees. Students across Ontario were taking to the streets to demand that the government lower tuition fees and make education accessible to all. Petitions were sent by fax from various University of Windsor students to Queen's Park in Toronto, and to Dalton McGuinty's constituency office in Ottawa. There were thousands of fax petitions sent off and signed by numerous students who supported the drop tuition fees coalition.

As the Executive Director of OPUS, I also spoke on behalf of OPUS and part-time students about the fact that part-time students are a diverse group, and that tuition increases and funding cuts affect our part-time students in a variety of ways. For a certain segment of our student population, the combination of inaccessible or inadequate student loans, hefty tuition increases and looming debt



university education. This limits that range of part- time students that can attend university

Being the Executive Director of OPUS over these past years has been a wonderful experience; working on a variety of events such as orientation day, and helping students find many needed services by using past problem solving experiences. I hope we continue with this tradition in the coming years. This year, I hope to see more part-time students involved in OPUS advocacy, governance, and activities around campus

This past year our efforts have been directed at making clear the distinct advantages of facilitating the growth of the part-time student body by making services more user-friendly and making more resources available for part-time students. At the same time that we have been maintaining the current system of programs and services, we have been on the lookout for new services and programs for part-time students. With the cost of tuition rising each semester, we are gratified when OPUS bursaries are utilized. Often these awards are overlooked. They are held in reserve to assist part-time students who find themselves in financial need. In addition, the OPUS Academic Achievement Award, which is a monetary award, is presented each year at a reception in March. I enjoy working with a wide variety of students, of different ages, backgrounds, and with different goals. I like the idea of working with students who are making changes in their life, since I have gone through periods like this myself. We are hoping to turn our attention to issues of concern to part-time students. These include the recruitment and retention of part-time students as well as service provision part-time students.

In closing I would like to express my thanks, first to the OPUS Board of Directors whose vision, support and decisions have moved OPUS forward. I have enjoyed working with Board members, students and find my work at OPUS to be extremely rewarding. The OPUS door is always open for their part-time students. Drop into the office and come visit us in the main floor CAW Student Centre.

Yours Truly,

Maryan Amalow
Executive Director
OPUS



Maryan hosting the OPUS
potluck lunch!



Maryan at the information
fair 2008

Message from The OPUS Health Plan Administrator

Steve Jancev

The OPUS Health and Dental Plan is currently providing its second year of service to part-time undergraduate students. OPUS officially introduced the Health and Dental Plan in September of 2007 because of a Referendum in which was 3 days in length. Part-time students voted unanimously for an independent health and dental plan, with better rates than previous years and to be automatically charged along with their tuition. Since September of 2007, all three student organizations including OPUS, UWSA and GSS have the automatic charge for the health and dental plans. In previous years, part-time students were charged \$480/yr for the Health and Dental Plan, due to the Referendum, students currently pay only \$140/yr. Even though there are some students who do not need the plan as they have coverage through their employer, spouse or parent, there is still a high volume of students who wish to pursue with the plan because they have no such coverage. Therefore, students who have coverage are allowed to opt-out of the plan if they wish, so that this service can be focused on those who need it.



The benefits plan provided by OPUS is based on a pay direct financial model once the student has been officially active through the insurance carrier, which is Green Shield. The pay direct feature benefits members who require and utilize the plan because they are not required to pay up front for a drug or dental claim. OPUS was pleased to be able to accomplish this for their student body, as they would only need to pay for the difference of a health or dental claim rather than paying in full and being reimbursed later. For example, for drug prescriptions, students are only required to pay the difference which is 10%, since the plan covers 90%.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	Maximum plan pays:
• Speech Therapist • Podiatrist	\$15 per visit up to a maximum of 20 visits per practitioner, per benefit year
• Registered Massage Therapist (medical referral required) • Homeopath • Acupuncturist • Naturopath	\$15 per visit up to a maximum of 20 visits for all practitioners combined, per benefit year
• Chiropractor • Physiotherapist	\$15 per visit up to a maximum of 20 visits for all practitioners combined, per benefit year

Furthermore, Part-Time Undergraduate Students with comparable health and dental coverage may opt out of the OPUS Health and Dental Plan or combine the OPUS Health and Dental Plan to increase their benefits coverage and minimize their out of pocket expenses. If students wish to opt out of the OPUS Health and Dental Plan and ensure that they have existing comparable coverage, they must complete an opt out form online or in the OPUS office during the opt-out period. Part-time students can also purchase family benefits for their spouse and/or dependent children; please visit www.uwindsor.ca/opus for more information or contact the OPUS office for more details. Tel: (519) 971-3603 or E-mail: opus@uwindsor.ca.

The benefits carrier for the OPUS Health and Dental Plan is Green Shield Canada, one of the most known non-profit benefits provider in the country. Detailed information regarding the plan can be found on the OPUS (www.uwindsor.ca/opus) or Green Shield Student Centre (<http://www.greenshield.ca/English/StudentCentre/>) websites or students can pick up information in-office. By providing services such as the health and dental plan, OPUS expects to enhance all part-time student lives by ensuring a valuable investment in the present and future as well as their education.

As the OPUS Health Plan Administrator, I manage the operations for the OPUS health and dental plan including the handling of all student inquiries regarding the plan and ensuring that each issue is dealt with appropriately. The OPUS staff including the Executive Director and myself will continue to provide support and services such as this to ensure that part-time students are given the opportunity to take advantage of what OPUS offers other than the use of the facility including the study and lounge area.

Sincerely,
Steve Jancev
Health Plan Administrator-OPUS

MEDICAL ITEMS AND SERVICES	Maximum plan pays:
Optometric Eye Exams Braces and Crutches* Prosthesis* Other items and services listed below*	Once every 2 years, up to a maximum of \$65, beginning on date of first paid claim \$500 per person per benefit year \$1,500 per benefit year Reasonable and customary charges

DENTAL BENEFIT PLAN	
Basic & Comprehensive Basic Services	60% of eligible charges, up to a maximum of \$500 per covered person per benefit year

TRAVEL MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE	
Coverage Maximum Coverage Period	\$5,000,000 per coverage period per insured person 60 days per trip

Message From The OPUS Past President Badaruddin Khuhro

Dear Members,

It has been my great pleasure and honour to serve as the Past-President of Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS) for the years 2008-2009 at University of Windsor. The OPUS has been working tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the over 3000 part-time students in our University have an amazing year while they participate in our various events and services. We are all volunteering our time in hopes of making your University experience an unforgettable one! I have known from my volunteering experience that being a part of OPUS is very valuable and can be extremely exciting and fulfilling, but at the same time presents quite a number of challenges.



OPUS is serving and advocating for part-time student last 40 years. We hope part-time students will take advantage of the many student services and campus resources at the OPUS. These resources can help you succeed in your undergraduate student life. There are many ways to you can get connected with OPUS.

www.uwindsor.ca/opus OPUS services available to a part-time student

Stop by our office (CAW Student Centre, Room 172, Windsor, Ontario N9B 3P4)

Give us call (519-253-3000 extension 3603)

All of these endeavors were a huge success at OPUS. As you can see, OPUS is providing essential services for part-time students. Thank you all (part-time students, board members, staff members, family members, and volunteers) for your past and present involvement with OPUS. Your commitment and dedication has helped us make OPUS a successful and united student organization.

All the best from your former President,

Badaruddin Khuhro



The OPUS Past President
with students at the 08-09
BBQ

Message from the OPUS Vice President

Chris Baillargeon

As your OPUS Vice-President, I bid you welcome, both as a part-time student and as a fellow representative fighting for your rights. I have been a member of the organization for the past three years canvassing for you, the part-time student. It is not only my goal, but that also the goal of the organization to lobby and advocate on your behalf on all issues and concerns related to your education. This is our focus as your “voice” on all matters.

I have been your “voice”, as your elected representative, serving on various committees, organizational meetings, and other designated functions where there is a need. These committees’ include the Information Technology Services, the Campus Safety and Audit Committee, and most recently as an alternate on the Judicial Panel. These committees’ have served as a vehicle for addressing your concerns, deliberating on improvements for all students and taking the appropriate steps necessary for a successful future. The responsibility is ours to cease the moment, to ensure a brighter future, and to strive for continued achievement in all that we do as individuals.



I have maintained a commitment to the success of promoting shared ideas and cultivating new ideas where possible. Both as an individual and as an organization, through the efforts at both provincial and federal levels in lobbying for a reduction in tuition fees, the acknowledgement of care and concerns addressed during the faculty strike, and the support brought forward to other individuals organizations where help was needed overall.

In closing, I wish to say thank you for your support and wish you success in your educational goals now and in the future. Life is not always what you expect, but what you are determined to make of it, as it will always shine bright for those who endeavour to try for the best.

Sincerely,
Chris Baillargeon



Maryan and Chris enjoying a Board meeting held monthly



Dr. King, Bernarda and Ken having a discussion during an OPUS Board meeting

Message From The OPUS Treasurer

Wayne Girard

I have been studying at the University of Windsor for many years, and have been involved with OPUS as long as I have studied. My involvement stemmed from a positive message received at orientation, and an email asking for part time student involvement with OPUS.

My present functions with OPUS range from treasurer, to hearing judicial panel matters. As a part-time student I understand the challenges of maintaining balance between education, and lifestyle. OPUS exists to support part-time students, provide direction at the university, advocate for part-time student rights, and offer a comfortable location in the CAW student centre. As your treasurer, I monitor the fiscal aspects of the organization, and provide direction to the OPUS staff, regarding bank and investment decisions. Presently OPUS is solvent, and all GAAP procedures are being followed.

My involvement with OPUS has been an educating experience that helped me grow intellectually and developed my leadership abilities. Participating as a judicial panel member, while hearing academic discipline cases, offered a great experience for understanding the bylaw 31 protocol. Truly, the exposure to the academic integrity office at the University developed my knowledge of law. Another satisfying task was to sit as a member of the Policy Management Board for the CAW Student Center. We developed policy, decided on infrastructure needs and communicated important information between the UWSA and OPUS. Our highest achievement was to appoint our OPUS Benefits Administrator to a function at the CAW Student Center as a Special Projects Coordinator. This joint position offers a direct link in communication between the two student organizations and allows OPUS direct involvement with decisions made within the Center.

Winter 2009 will be the end of term as Treasurer for OPUS and I have decided to discontinue my studies at the University for now. My years with OPUS have been challenging and educating as mentioned previously. The present staff and members have been a joy to work with and I wish them all the best of luck with future endeavours.

Thanks and Peace my Friends

Wayne Girard
OPUS Treasurer



Message From An OPUS Director At Large

Anthony Meloche

MMMMM..Barbeque. This years OPUS barbeque was held on September 16, 2008. We enjoyed our barbeque location just outside the OPUS office on the north-west corner of the CAW centre. We had beautiful sunny weather and lots of food and give-a-ways that attracted a steady volume of staff and students. The purpose of our barbeque was to raise student and staff awareness of OPUS and allow them to meet and mingle with OPUS Board Members and staff.

Students and staff enjoyed fine give-a ways that included OPUS T-shirts, water bottles and the OPUS academic planners. The barbeque was free to all University of Windsor staff and students and was from 4:30 to 6:00. Having it at this time allowed many part-time students who work and attend school during the evening an opportunity to attend.

I enjoyed meeting staff and students at this event. It really allowed OPUS to share information and help kick off the school year. As the crowd died down I combed the student CAW centre and encouraged students to come to the OPUS barbeque – its funny how the announcement of free food can break up card games, quiet reading or group discussions.

It was great to see the OPUS Board Members, staff and volunteers pitch in and make this event fun and successful. It was a great opportunity to create OPUS awareness and work together as a team outside of the OPUS office and meeting room. It would be great to have that nice warm weather again for next years BBQ, and ...oh... the food.

Everyone is looking forward to next September's festivities!

Anthony Meloche
Director at Large



Students enjoying the annual BBQ



Our Health Administrator, Steve, Showing his appreciation for the beautiful day

An Article from The Daily News!

Daily News-University of Windsor Public Affairs & Communications

Barbecue welcomes part-time students

The Organization of Part-time University Students welcomed its members to campus with a free barbecue outside the CAW Student Centre yesterday, and Anthony Meloche, a member of its executive, says he is glad for its representation.

"Part-time students have different needs and concerns from most full-time students," says Meloche. He holds a full-time job with the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board and says his major in liberal and professional studies offers options for night classes.

"I like it because you get a lot of general-interest courses," he says. "I'm not in school for a professional upgrade, I just like lifelong learning, and I think a lot of part-time students are looking to supplement their working life."

Yesterday's barbecue was the fifth annual for OPUS, says executive director Maryan Amalow. In addition to free food, it featured the giveaway of OPUS-themed gear like T-shirts and laundry bags



OPUS executive director Maryan Amalow and director-at-large Anthony Meloche share a friendly moment with Daily News editor Kevin Johnson at yesterday's barbecue welcoming the organization's membership to campus.



**OPUS Staff and Students
Enjoying the day**



Our Health Plan Administrator and OPUS Board

Message From An OPUS Director At Large Ken Ternoey

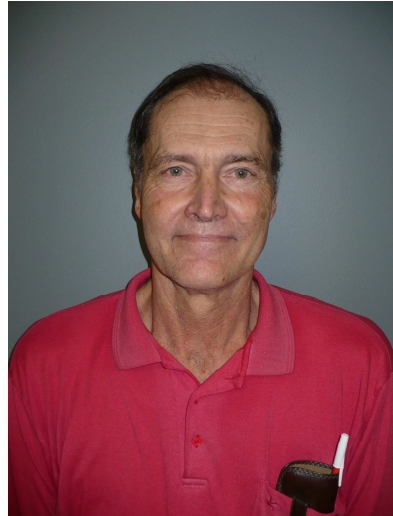
The tangible center heart of OPUS is the OPUS office located in the extreme North West corner of the CAW center. There are no large signs, posture or flashing lights to lead a stranger to its door, but every part time student is welcome.

Typically, part time students who have questions or problems contact the staff and/or representatives, electronically, by phone or mail. Certainly all questions and potential solutions can be answered by the staff, in like fashion, but a personal visit to the office has distinct advantages.

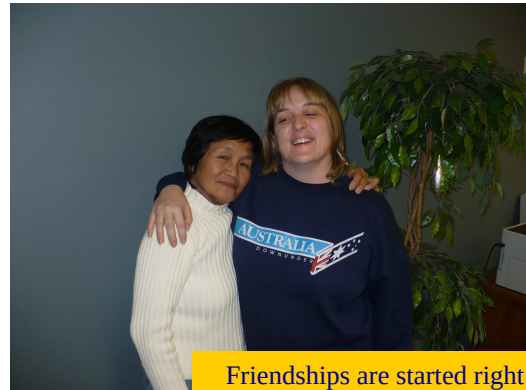
I encourage all part time students to drop in at the office with or without an issue. A personal visit often leads to extended insight, beyond the scope of one's concern, generally from fellow OPUS members. Here in the lounge you can have a coffee and join in discussion with others whose life experiences and cultural diversity both enlighten and offer challenging options on any issue. If you "dare to know," then visit the office and lounge; After all, it is your office too!

Sincerely yours,

Ken Ternoey
Director at Large



Friendly faces found in
the OPUS lounge



Friendships are started right
here in the lounge



More Friendly Faces!

Message from Part-time Student Advisor

Susan Page

Orientation for New Part-time Students

Everyone is a bit nervous at the start of a new venture. It's sometimes hard to find out where to go and what to do. These are common worries for new University Students and are compounded when the student is an adult who is returning to study while maintaining responsibility for a full time job and a family! That's what Orientation is all about! It provides the opportunity for new students to get to know the University and to meet other students. Then they can relax and concentrate on their studies knowing that they are "not alone".



This year orientations were held at the beginning of the fall and winter semesters. Students were welcomed by Dr Clayton Smith and Brooke White from the University and Dr Ed King, the President of OPUS. Experienced students volunteered answers to questions and set the example that "it can be done"!

Orientation sessions focused on issues that are questioned most frequently by new students such as Study Skills, finances, getting involved on campus and ensured that the students are registered in the appropriate courses. Of special interest was a session dedicated to issues faced by Part-Time and Adult Students: time management, the addition of school into an already busy schedule and talking to kids and employers about school. A highlight was the awarding of the OPUS bursary to a new Part-Time Student. The students who attended returned very positive evaluations.

Good orientation is critical to a successful academic career. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard leading tours and putting up signs and helping the new students feel prepared. Thanks also to dedicated staff who worked long hours of overtime to be sure everything went smoothly. This year we experimented with new formats yet everyone worked extra hard to keep the students needs in the forefront! Thank you very much...and hope to see you all in August for the next session!

Susan Page, Academic Advisor for Part-Time Students



Our Executive Director helping to present the OPUS Bursaries.



One of the bursary winners accepting her prize!

Hints for a Successful University Career

Susan Page, Part- Time Student Academic Advisor

When you arrive on campus for your very first university course, there may be a few academic worries in the back of your mind. When, exactly, was the last time you read a text book, wrote an essay or took an exam. If you are like most new Part-Time Students, it's been quite a while! This thought can be intimidating even if you were strong in these skills back in high school days. You know things have changed but still may be unsure "how?"

The Division of Student Development and Support offers many services that will help alleviate these concerns! (visit their websites and see how you can benefit from their services!)

Advising Centre: Advisors can answer your questions about what courses you need, understanding your degree audit, and help you plan your academic career so that you get where you want to go!

Academic Writing Centre: offers writing support individually and in workshops.

Student Disability Services: offers assistance for students with disabilities including test anxiety.

STEPS: is a series of workshops that teach the specific skills you need to be a competent student. They start with reading and note-taking and planning your semester and finish with preparation for exams. They are repeated frequently and scheduled throughout the day and evening so everyone can attend!

Finally, remember the old adage "The only stupid question is the one that doesn't get asked"! If you have a worry or if you just don't understand, ask! Your professors all have office hours when they are ready and willing to answer questions. The librarians are there to help as well. Even from home, you can "chat with a librarian" online!

If you're not sure who to ask, we in the advising Centre would be glad to make a suggestion!

Susan Page, Academic Advisor for Part-Time Students

Balancing Academics with your Career and Family

Susan Page, Part-Time Student Academic Advisor

Remaining in "good standing" on the job and at home may take a little bit of juggling now that you have added the exciting challenge of going back to school!

Here are some tips from Susan Page, Advisor for Part-Time Students:

Use a Planner (OPUS will give you one in September)

Record **all** your commitments and deadlines....for work, family and school. Include your planned study times. Post a copy on the fridge so no-one has any surprises! Be sure to let your family know both when you **are** and **are not** available.

Share Family Responsibilities

Ask your spouse & kids to help you with chores such as setting the table or washing the car. This frees up

your time while you still do things with your family. Make it more fun by working to music!

Declare one night a week as “Family Night”

Another way to let your family know you’ll still have time for them. Order pizza, play games, go for a walk; make it fun and relaxing not only for the kids but for yourself as well!

Be a role model

If you have school aged children set a block of time when you can all study together. Make study time fun by serving nutritious snacks. Discuss how you stay on schedule and plan for deadlines.

Discuss school at work

Consider sharing your academic goals with your co-workers and boss. This paves the way in case you decide to study rather than going out for lunch or if you ever need time off because of school.

Study during breaks

Always bring a textbook or set of study notes so you can make good use of coffee breaks or lunchtime.

“Something’s gotta give”

When you add studying to your schedule, it will take up time that used to be devoted to something else. Be prepared to postpone a few things till the semester’s over.

Stay healthy

Nutritious food, enough sleep, and exercise are even more important now

ADDITIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS PICTURES:

To learn more about the Disability Awareness event, flip to the next page....



OPUS Board and staff members who attended the event!



The U of W President welcoming those in attendance.



OPUS Board/Staff and other students who attended the event!



OPUS Executive Director and the President of University of Windsor talking about disability awareness.

The Sky Is The Limit, Says Paralympian

Article from Daily News-Kevin Johnson

The 22-year-old St. Clair College student followed up her bronze medal win at the 2004 Athens Games with appearances in three events in Beijing last summer, certifying as a scuba diver, and last October—her first solo flight as a pilot.

"That was truly one of the coolest things I ever got to do," Matassa told a crowd of about 50 students, staff and faculty yesterday at a campus breakfast intended to raise the profile of disability issues.

She said that equipping a plane to accommodate her—she has spina bifida—required some mechanical innovation and a great deal of paperwork.

"I have to give credit to the brave flying instructor who got into this plane with me," she said.

Paralympian Jesica Matassa spoke to about 50 students, staff and faculty yesterday for Disability Awareness

Next, Matassa plans to take up skydiving.

"That's one of those my mom doesn't want me to tell her about until afterward," she said.

Her disability may have slowed Matassa—it took about a year for her to win approval from licensing bodies to pursue flying lessons—but it cannot stop her .

"For me, it's about seeing what I want to do and figuring out how to get from point A to point B," she said.

Fourth-year nursing student Dan Côté called Matassa an inspiration. "It's amazing what she has done when she's still so young," he said.

Wednesday's breakfast was sponsored by the Campus Accessibility Advocacy Committee, the Organization of Part-time University Students and the Graduate Student Society.

Committee chair Anne Carrick said the group will begin a poster campaign next week to educate members of the campus community about mobility challenges for those in wheelchairs.

"It's just a simple reminder to be mindful of others," she said.



Disability Awareness Day (January 28, 2009)

Anne Carrick, Employment Equity Manager

This year's Disability Awareness Day was held January 28, 2009 to coincide with the launch of the new Disabilities Studies Program hosted two days earlier by the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences.

Themed "Beyond Barriers", members of OPUS, the Graduate Student Society, the Campus Accessibility Advocacy Committee, and student volunteers wanted to raise awareness about how to get involved with groups such as these to improve campus accessibility; how to get in contact with them and ways to advocate on their own behalf and on behalf of others with disabilities.

Another objective of the morning was to shift the emphasis away from the theme of last year's Disability Awareness Day, physical barriers, to attitudinal barriers that limit others and ourselves. The physical environment presents real challenges, but how to go about changing it and other barriers to studying and learning, and ultimately working, starts with attitude.

The can-do spirit of Jessica Matassa, a 22 year old St. Clair College engineering student, brought this message home when she spoke to students and staff as a guest presenter at the launch of a Breakfast Speaker Series.

Jessica told a compelling story about determination, endurance, exhilaration and health setbacks in her journey to Beijing in 2008. A qualified scuba diver, she has not allowed her spine bi-fida stop her from getting her pilot's license. She plans to sky dive next! Everyone was impressed with Jessica's extraordinary achievements and the animated, down-to earth way she addressed her audience.

Organizers want to encourage more students from related program areas to use this breakfast series as a springboard to more awareness events and activities throughout the academic year.

Sincerely,
Anne Carrick



OPUS President, U of W President and the Employment Equity Manager greeting one another.



Anne Carrick, Employment Equity Manager thanking all who attended the event!

OPUS Response To The Faculty Association Strike

Local 106 Canadian Federation of Students

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing on behalf of over 3,000 part-time students at the University of Windsor who are also members of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario. The Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) exists to support its members' needs and learning experiences on campus. Presently the right to continue studies and attend classes is being interrupted by the faculty strike.

Our position is one of continued support and respect for the labour negotiation process as facilitated by both of the parties involved. This can only be achieved through negotiation between the Faculty and Administration of the University of Windsor. We remain available to assist both parties in any capacity that would facilitate working towards an effective and efficient solution to the issues at hand.

Our student members want and need to be back in class to continue their education; we at OPUS insist that the process to seek resolution continue immediately. OPUS is attempting to provide updates to our members and to communicate current events leading to a resolution.

We request that an OPUS board member or employee attend, if possible the next negotiation session as an observer and for informational purposes only, so we could better inform our members. We are clearly aware of the labour bargaining–mediation rules and confidentiality issues, however we hope that an exception can be made and for this to be taken into consideration.

Our final request to the faculty and administration leaders is to inform OPUS of the ways in which we may help to expedite the negotiation process, as we support equality and fiscal responsibility; to inform us how we may be able to better advocate and assist part-time students during the strike, as many are concerned with quality of education they will receive in this particular term; to inform us as to how we as an organization will assist students upon the resolution of the strike, as students should be accommodated for the lost classroom/laboratory time which has occurred during this academic term.

OPUS is supporting a strong motion to get both sides talking and to encourage communication between all parties for a quick end to the strike and a quick resolution to all issues on the table, as well as to maintain strong support for part-time students and to act as advocates and exemplars to students. It is our mandate to advocate for rights of part-time students and we are asking that both parties work together in co-operation and fairness to resolve these issues with urgency.

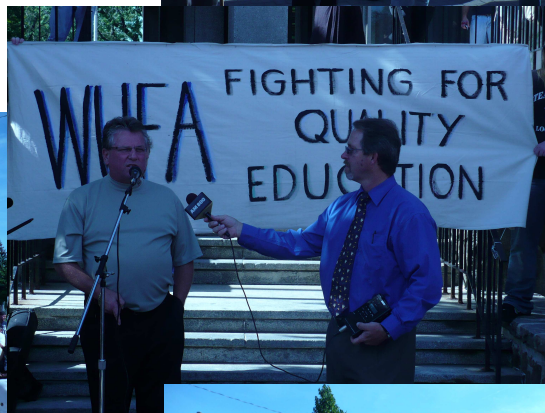
We plan to continue to support our students, because they are our top priority, and in order to ensure that students will have an enjoyable educational experience during their post-secondary endeavours.

We thank you all for understanding this crucial matter. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at opus@uwindsor.ca.

In solidarity,

OPUS Executive, Board and Staff

Pictures From the Strike



Media Release Regarding The Day of Action Fax-off

Students will deliver over 1000 petition signatures to President Dr. Alan Wildeman calling for lower tuition fees

Windsor- Students will deliver over one thousand petition signatures to the President of the University of Windsor, Dr. Alan Wildeman . The petition demands that the University work with students to lobby the government to reduce tuition fees. Students will also be faxing their messages to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and Finance Minister Dwight Duncan.

This action coincides with actions planned in 13 cities across Ontario including Toronto, Ottawa and Sudbury on the province-wide student day of action to drop fees.

“Students are fed-up with increasing tuition fees and we add our voices to the thousands of others across Ontario who will call on Dalton McGuinty to reduce tuition fees,” said Darryl Gallinger, a student organiser of the fax-off and petition delivery. “By sending faxes to McGuinty, students will be able to tell the premier exactly how rising tuition fees have made it more difficult to be attend university .”

“We are fighting for a reduction in tuition fees which would result in greater enrolment and would ensure a successful future for every student,” states a representative from OPUS.

From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the CAW Student Centre, students will collect more signatures which will be added to a Wall of Debt. At noon, they will launch the fax-off. Students will be able to fax personalised messages to McGuinty and Duncan from the Student Centre.

“We need our elected officials to seriously reconsider the current funding structure in place for post secondary education. Aside from this action, University of Windsor students will be heading to Queens park at the end of the month to offer educated solutions in conjunction with the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance.” Said Tiffany Gooch, president of the University of Windsor Students’ Alliance.

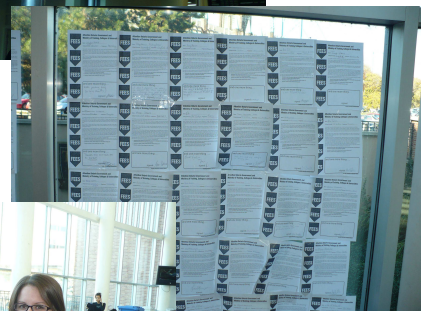
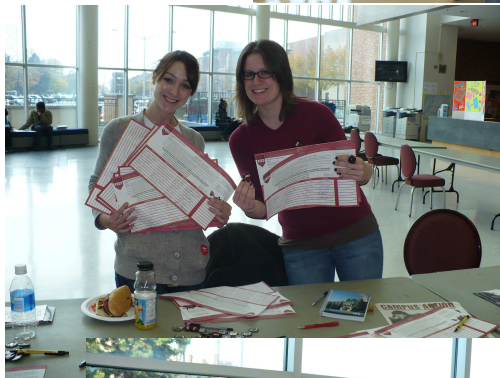
This year is the last year of Dalton McGuinty’s “Reaching Higher” framework for tuition fee increases. The framework has allowed Ontario’s fees to increase by the largest dollar amount in Canada this past year.

“Students at the University of Windsor are the key to the economic viability of Windsor and Ontario,” said Gallinger. “By investing in post-secondary education, the government would be making a long-term commitment to foster economic growth, innovation and a workforce suited to the knowledge-based economy. By not investing, the government is saddling a generation of students with debt-loads that can reach \$40,000 ” he said.

"Grad Students are suffering too, drop the fees and don't be slow," a representative from GSS adds. To date, the McGuinty government has announced no plans for any comprehensive post-secondary education policy following the expiry of the Reaching Higher framework.

The action today was organised by a coalition of students who were aided by the University of Windsor Students’ Alliance (UWSA), the Organisation of Part-Time University Students (OPUS), the Graduate Students Society (GSS), Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario (CFS).

Pictures From The Fax Off Event



OPUS Students Awards

OPUS Bursaries

Several bursaries applied to tuition remission for a single undergraduate course are offered annually. The number of bursaries vary from year to year, based on demand and financial resources as determined by the OPUS Board of Directors. Eligible applicants must be registered as part-time students, meet strict financial and academic standards as determined by the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office.

Applications are required to submit copies of the most recent Notice of Assessment from Revenue Canada for themselves, their spouse if applicable, and from their parents' if they are single and have not been out of high school for at least five years. Submit to the Student Awards Office with a cover sheet clearly indicating your name, ID # and the award to which you have applied.

OPUS Academic Achievement award

One award annually, valued at \$500, applied toward tuition remission only, to a registered part-time student, who has a minimum cumulative GPA of 11.0. The successful applicant must have successfully completed a minimum of five courses on a part-time basis as well as completed at least 30% of their program at the University of Windsor. This award may not be combined with any other OPUS awards. To apply for this award, please go to the awards webpage at www.uwindsor.ca/opus

Mary C. Schisler Award in Dramatic Art

One award of \$500, towards tuition remission, is awarded annually by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) to a student enrolled in the School of Dramatic Art.

Based on academic merit, preference will be shown to a part-time student (if no part-time student applies, applications from full-time students will be considered) with a minimum cumulative average of 10.5.

OPUS established this award in 2002 in recognition of Mary Schisler who, while President of the OPUS Board of Directors, supported the Arts and Humanities by establishing the "Alumni Evening with University Players". This award is automatic, no application is required

Ken Long Memorial Award

This annual award of \$500 applied towards tuition remission was established in 1996 in memory of Professor Ken Long, who, while serving both as Dean of Students and as a faculty member of the English Department, exhibited not only a concern for all students but displayed a special affinity for part-time students. The recipient must be registered as a part-time student in the third year of studies of the English Language, Literature, and Creative Writing program. The successful applicant must have successfully completed a minimum of ten courses on a part-time basis at the University of Windsor and possess a minimum Major GPA of 11.0. This award may not be combined with any other OPUS Awards. This award is automatic, no application is required

Dr. Kathleen McCrone Award

A single tuition remission award of \$500 is awarded annually to a part-time student who has the highest cumulative average and is enrolled in a program in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The one-time only recipient must be in Year 2 of studies with 80% of all courses completed as a part-time student while in attendance at the University of Windsor.

This award was established in 2002 by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) in recognition of Dr. Kathleen McCrone's dedicated service to the University of Windsor and promotion of academic excellence while serving as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for 13 years. This award is Automatic, no application is required.

OPUS Nominated Awards

Lifetime achievement Award

This award has been initiated in 2007 by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) to recognize and applaud the efforts of OPUS members and executives who selflessly assist part-time students in their efforts to achieve academic excellence. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes efforts of individuals that have contributed over a number of years to keep the Organization running at full steam and advocating for part-time student issues at the University of Windsor.

Volunteer of the Year Award

This award has been initiated in 2007 by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) to recognize and applaud the efforts and dedication of OPUS volunteers who selflessly assist OPUS in organizing events and fulfilling its mandate year after year. The OPUS Volunteer of the Year award recognizes outstanding volunteers that have brought enthusiasm and a renewed spirit of energy at OPUS events.

Faculty Award

This annual award was initiated in 1992 to recognize and applaud "the efforts of University of Windsor faculty members who unselfishly assist part-time students in their efforts to achieve academic excellence."

The 2002 Teaching and Learning Initiative at the University not only highlighted the importance of faculty recognition, but also recognized OPUS as a leader in acknowledging faculty for their support of student needs, desires and aspirations.

In keeping with this tradition, commencing 2003, a maximum of three faculty members may receive recognition for their teaching accomplishments. The range of recognized teaching accomplishment may include, but are not limited to, effectiveness in large-class teaching, effective implementation of teaching and learning innovations, or development of materials for flexible learning and delivery.

Support Staff Award

These annual awards were initiated in 2002 to acknowledge the important contributions of staff in supporting teaching and learning at the University of Windsor.

Outstanding support staff are all too often taken for granted, while few receive public acknowledgement. Their impact may be felt as, but not limited to, resource persons attending committee meetings, individuals maintaining a comfortable environment for students, faculty and staff providing timely advice or assistance with a professional demeanor or persons assisting students with dietary needs.

Friend of Students Award

This award was initiated in 2005, to give particular recognition, thanks and encouragement to those who have not only sought out and solicited the participation of students, but have reinforced their value as respected participants in a team of council members seeking to make change for the good at the University of Windsor.

Many changes have taken place at the University of Windsor - Changes for the good of all students. Students and professors alike have been working throughout the years on behalf of students, these improvements have touched many areas:

whether it is in facilitating the full access of the physical environment here at the University or, in the learning experience itself, giving effective feed-back to professors, or in ensuring capable visionaries in position of leadership

Student With Disability Campus Community Recognition Award

This annual award was established in 2002 by the Organization of Part-Time University Students to recognize a University of Windsor faculty or staff member, who has in the previous year, demonstrated guidance and leadership in advancing accommodations and accessibility for students at the University of Windsor. The nominee either demonstrated innovative and responsive accommodations and/or provided support for a student with a disability. Nominations may be made by anyone associated with the University of Windsor campus community

Teacher of the Year Award

This annual award has been initiated in 2006 to recognize those professors at the University of Windsor who demonstrate outstanding dedication to part-time students, helping them achieve academic excellence and greater learning.

The Professors nominated for OPUS Awards will be considered based on the letter submitted by the students, the OPUS Evaluation, and the Teacher Evaluation and ratings from the University of Windsor.

All nomination forms are to be filled out and returned to Maryan Amalow in the OPUS office. Forms are available online or can be picked up in the OPUS office.

Student With Disability Achievement Award

This is one annual award of \$500 towards tuition for a current part-time undergraduate student with a disability. The successful applicant must have completed a minimum of five (5) course credits at the University of Windsor at the time of nomination and have demonstrated leadership within the University community through awareness and promotion of campus accessibility. Nominations may be made by any faculty, staff and students.

To nominate a Student, Teacher or Faculty staff member just go to our awards page at www.uwindsor.ca/opus and fill out an application for the desired award. It's that easy!!



Elizabeth Fallaise receiving the OPUS Support Staff



Dr. Richard Lewis receiving the OPUS Teacher of the Year Award



Maryan Amalow Receiving the OPUS Support Staff Award



Brooke White receiving the OPUS Friend of Student Award

2008 OPUS AWARDS

The 2008 Annual OPUS Awards dinner was held on March 20th. It was a huge success with over 20 award recipients and 150 guests that came to support the winners and enjoy the food. It was a real celebration of those outstanding individuals that make our university a better place and those students that lead way to a brighter future. A special thank you to our health plan administrator Steve Jancev and our Treasurer Wayne Girard, for being great emcees for the event! OPUS is thankful to all those who attended and for being a part of this wonderful university community. We hope to have another great turn out this year, and hope to see you all at the banquets to come! **Below is the list of the awards and the recipients for 2008**

OPUS Lifetime Achievement Award

- Dr. Edward King, President, Organization of Part-Time University Students

OPUS Teacher of the Year Award

- Dr. Richard Lewis, Faculty, Department of Communication

OPUS Faculty Award

- Dr. Alan Hall, Department of Labour Studies
- Dr. Reza Nakhaie, Department of Sociology
- Dr. Philip Rose, Department of Philosophy

OPUS Student with Disability Campus and Community Recognition Award

- Dr. John Albanese, Faculty, Department of Sociology & Anthropology

OPUS Student With Disability Student Achievement Award

- Ms. Erin Plumb

OPUS Mary C. Schisler Award in Dramatic Award

- Ms. Cynthia Bernstein

OPUS Friend of Students Award

- Mrs. Brooke White, Director, Student Development & Support

OPUS Volunteer of the Year Award

- Mrs. Dawne Martens, MA Candidate, and long-time OPUS volunteer

OPUS Support Staff Award

- Ms. Maryan Amalow, Executive Director, Organization of Part-Time University Students
- Ms. Elizabeth Fallaise, Secretary/Exam Coordinator, Student Disability Services
- Mr. Tim Kenney, Staff, Department of House-keeping

OPUS Academic Achievement Award

- Ms. Mirela Cerimagic

OPUS Kathleen E. McCrone Award

- Ms. Lisa Milne

OPUS Bursaries

- **OPUS bursaries 2008 (valued at \$500 each) were given to four part-time undergraduate students, chosen based on financial need.**



Erin Plumb receiving the OPUS Student with Disability Achievement award presented by Elizabeth Oakley.



The award recipients showing off their achievements

OPUS Elections

The OPUS Board of Directors is made up of elected volunteer part-time students at the University of Windsor. Any part-time student as defined by the University shall be eligible to run for the OPUS Board of Directors provided they are not currently holding official office in another student government at the University of Windsor. To run for the position of President of OPUS you must have prior experience on the OPUS Board of Directors. The elected OPUS Board of Directors hold office for a two year term.

The OPUS Board of Directors comprised of the following elected members are elected by-annually by its members:

- a) President
- b) Vice President
- c) Treasurer
- d) Director at Large (maximum 6)

The following members of the OPUS Board of Directors are non-elected positions:

- e) Secretary (Performed by the Executive Director)
- f) Past President

For the **OPUS Elections 2009**, the OPUS office utilized various media in order to reach, communicate and appeal to part-time student members at the University of Windsor. These media included: mass-email sent to all part-time students, OPUS website, advertisements in the Daily News section, Lance News, OPIRG's List Serve as well as posters distributed around the campus. Nomination period for the elections was originally scheduled for February 12-March 5, 2009. **The voting process is scheduled for March 16-18, 2009.**

The following persons will form the 2007-2009 OPUS Board of Directors:

- 1. President: Dr. Edward King
- 2. Vice President: Mr. Chris Baillargeon
- 3. Treasurer: Mr. Wayne Girard
- 4. Director at Large: Mr. Abdulkadir Omar
- 5. Director at Large: Ms. Erin Plumb
- 6. Director at Large: Ms Jane Cacciavillani
- 7. Director at Large: Mr. Ken Ternoey
- 8. Director at Large Mr. Anthony Meloche
- 9. Director at Large Mrs. Berni Doctor
- 10. Past President: Mr. Badaruddin Khuhro



Who are we?

The Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) is the student body at the University of Windsor, which represents the part-time undergraduate students. A part-time student is defined as anyone registered in 3 or less courses, during the Fall or Winter semesters.

OPUS is led by a volunteer Executive Board of Directors who are all part-time students. The Executive, along with the volunteer Class Representatives, continue the OPUS Assembly of Representatives, which meet once a month during the regular school year.

What do we do?

The primary goal of OPUS is to ensure equal opportunity to quality education for all part-time under-graduate students.

The greatest function that OPUS performs is that of advocacy, through its participation in the decision making process of university government.

OPUS is concerned with both the academic and social well-being of their students and provides a number of services for them. OPUS offers 10 bursary awards in each of the Fall and Winter semesters, valued at \$500.00 each.

Are you a part-time student?

Benefits to you!

- Learn you are not alone
- Meet fellow part-time students
- Become better informed about issues that affect you on campus
- Help-part-time voices to be heard
- Become part of a support system that can benefit you and others



What does OPUS have to offer?

- A chance to be part of the Board of Directors and serve on various committees advocating on behalf of Part-time students
- A lounge for part-time students to study or meet friends. It also includes a kitchen area, access to the Internet and telephone services
- Ability to learn about the many issues that affect all students by volunteering as an OPUS Associate
- Several OPUS Awards and Bursaries awarded and Free Tuition Draw each year!
- Orientation for Part-Time Students, Annual BBQ and great chance to meet new people!
- Universal Health and Dental benefits for all Part-time students
- Essential Services including Printing, Photocopying and Faxing

OPUS DONATIONS 2008-2009

On occasion OPUS is approached if they will donate funds for various events or causes. OPUS is a non-profit organization and has a limited budget to provide donations. Generally, OPUS will consider causes which are related or benefiting to part-time students. OPUS is proud to provide annual donations to various groups that have various needs and require monetary assistance. OPUS is also glad to give back to their student body and university community.

Below is the list of donations given by OPUS during this fiscal year:

May 2008	OPIRG Global Resource Dinner	\$180
June 2008	President Ross Paul Farewell Dinner	\$100
August 2008	Shinerama	\$200
December 2008	Team Tanzania Faculty of Education	\$100
January 2009	Disability Awareness Day	\$100
January 2009	VISA Volunteer International Student Assistants	\$150
January 2009	Afro Fest	\$150
February 2009	I Got Five On It	\$100
February 2009	Students For Change	\$150
February 2009	Feminist Research Group	\$100
February 2009	African Union Sponsorship	\$100
February 2009	World University Service of Canada (WUSC-Burkina Faso)	\$200

To apply for a donation from OPUS on our donations webpage under the Awards fly out on our website: <http://www.uwindsor.ca/opus>

OPUS's Plan of Action for 2009-2010!

- Availability of Courses offered in the evenings
- Part-Time based programs in Nursing, Education and Engineering
- Availability of more classes during intersession/ summer semesters
- Additional access to financial aid (OSAP)
- Access to bursaries and scholarships
- Availability of parking spaces
- Awareness of campus services and access including
- Accessibility of the campus for those with physical disabilities
- On Campus Child Care Services
- Availability of athletic/fitness facilities
- Availability of the Academic Writing Centre
- Availability of the Financial Aid Office
- Enhancement to the OPUS Health/Dental Plan coverage

CONTACT US

**Organization of Part-time
University Students (OPUS)**

**CAW Student Centre,
Room 172
Windsor, Ontario N9B 3P4**

Phone: (519) 971-3603

Fax: (519) 971-3623

**E-mail: opus@uwindsor.ca
www.uwindsor.ca/opus**

**Newsletter Editor:
Shannyn Caspar**