



ORGANIZATION OF PART - TIME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

OPUS Newsletter

Issue 5

Winter 2010

What is OPUS at the University of Windsor?

OPUS is the Organization of Part-Time University Students, a student group made up of volunteer part-time students 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.

OPUS Board Members

The Current OPUS Executive/Staff consists of:

President	Dr. Edward King
Vice President	Anthony Meloche
Treasurer	Badaruddin Khuhro
Director at Large	Ken Ternoey Erin Plumb Bernarda Doctor Monsur Elahi Darryl Gallinger Abdel Babker
Executive Director	Maryan Amalow
Health Plan Administrator	Steve Jancev
Work Study Students 2009-2010	Ahmed Ali, Korey Togtema, Stephanie Oneschuk, Farah Arbab

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message From The President	2
Health and Dental Plan Update	7
Messages From Directors	11
Orientation	20
Events	23
OPUS Awards	25
In Memory of Past Members	30
Contact us	32

A Message From The President of OPUS

Dr. Edward King



I was pleased to serve as your President this past year and, in that capacity, I served on the Board of Governors, the Resource Allocation Committee, the Senate, Senate Steering, the Library Administrative Committee, the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee, the Search Committee for the University Librarian, the Library Committee on Renewal, Permanence and Promotion, the Alcohol Policy Committee, the Smoking and Tobacco Committee, the Free Protocol Committee and the Policy Management Board for the CAW Student Centre. I was also able to help with some individual student problems.

A major event at the University is the recent beginning of the construction of the New Engineering Building. This will provide additional classroom space for students and not exclusively for engineering students. It will also provide additional space for examinations. A new strategic plan is being worked on to be presented to the Senate and the Board of Governors in April. A key focus is the student experience. It is important that students provide as much input into this process as possible. This plan focusing on five goals will affect the directions of the University in years to come.

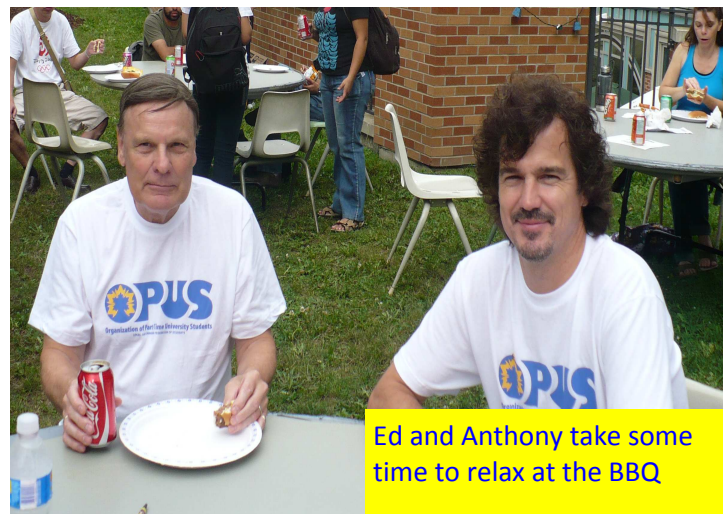
OPUS held a number of successful events including an awards dinner, a BBQ, two orientations, several OPUS Associate meetings and some potluck luncheons. The most important event is the awards dinner in which we honour faculty staff and students with the awards to students including a financial aspect.

The Health Plan continues to be a success and is used by a high percentage of our students at a very low cost. We invite you to come to our office in the CAW Student Centre for a free coffee, a quiet place to study and faxing and computer services if you need them. We welcome suggestions on how we may better serve part-time students.

Sincerely,
Dr. Edward King



Ed enjoys lunch at the annual OPUS pot luck.



Ed and Anthony take some time to relax at the BBQ

A Message From the President of the University of Windsor

Dr. Alan Wildeman

Let me welcome you to the University of Windsor. Your decision to attend as a part-time student continues a strong tradition and a strong priority for the University. You will be one of several thousand part time students on our campus, and I trust that you will find your time here to be fulfilling both inside and outside of the classroom.

Some of the services we provide to help you during your time here include:

- Part-time Student New Student Orientation
- Advising Centre (has an academic advisor for part-time students)
- Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition
- Evening and on-line classes
- Evening library hours
- Student Disability Services



We of course also have OPUS – the Organization for Part-time Undergraduate Students - which collaborates with the University community to identify and to promote the collective interests of part-time undergraduate students.

Part-time students have often had unique pathways that have led them here, bringing unique perspectives to our learning community. Some of you already have had careers and are now looking for new things to explore. Others have had family or other priorities and are returning to university after an absence. Whatever pathway your own life has taken, we are honoured that you are here at the University of Windsor. I invite you to be as engaged in your campus as you can be. Most importantly, I wish you the greatest success in your studies here. Our faculty and staff and students are what make this a special place.

Dr. Alan Wildeman
President and Vice-Chancellor

A Message From the Vice-Provost Students & Registrar of the University of Windsor

Dr. Clayton Smith

Welcome To the University of Windsor!

Congratulations on your decision to attend the University of Windsor as a part-time student!

Did you know that one-third of University of Windsor students attend on a part-time basis? Part-time students are a big part of who we are as a university community. In fact, frequently faculty members say how much they enjoy teaching adult learners. Some of my most memorable moments at the University include interactions with students like you.



You will find that the University of Windsor is a learner-centred educational community that puts student needs first – and that is important! In each of our nine faculties, you will find faculty inspiring student learning for a lifetime pursuit of knowledge. Added to that, we offer lots of academic support services to help you become successful!

What you may not know is how much you bring to our learning community. Some of you have successful careers and are now looking for new directions. Others have supported family needs and are now returning to university after an absence. Whatever path may have brought here is most likely a rich one. We believe that by sharing this you will enrich us all.

I wish you much success!

Sincerely,

Clayton Smith, Ed.D.



Dr. Beg, Dr. Smith, Keynote Speaker Barbara Hall & Dr. King at this year's Disability Awareness Event.

A Message From The Executive Director of OPUS

Maryan Amalow

Dear Members WELCOME to OPUS!

On behalf of the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS), I'd like to welcome all new and returning part-time students to the University of Windsor for the beginning of a new academic year!

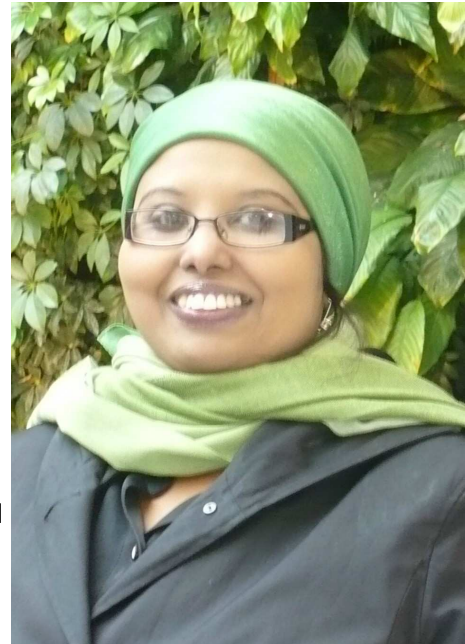
The 2008-2009 year was a successful one for OPUS with the help of hosting a variety of events. I am proud to be a part of the OPUS team and grateful for the assistance and support from the Health Plan Administrator, Executives, Board of Directors and our Work-Study Students as well as our volunteers. I would like to begin my report by thanking the many students associated with OPUS who have made this past year an enjoyable and memorable one, with events like the OPUS Award dinner, Potluck, Barbeque, Orientation, Outreach Program, Head start and OPUS Associate Meetings. It is my great pleasure and honour to serve as your Executive Director of the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS).

Attending university on a part-time basis is an exciting, rewarding experience, and one that can lead you to face a variety of challenges. OPUS recognizes that the needs of part-time students differ from the traditional student, so our mandate is to promote the interests of part-time students, and to assist you in any way we can. OPUS provides several bursaries applied to tuition remission for a single undergraduate course offered annually. The number of bursaries varies 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, and meet strict financial and academic standards as determined by the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office. Apply on-line through the University of Windsor Student Information System (SIS) web site: <http://www.uwindsor.ca/sis>.

We work closely with University of Windsor administration, faculty, staff and other student governments to improve the university academic life experience for part-time students. There is a good probability that the Degree in Liberal and Professional Studies will be advertised for part-time students with a guarantee that it can be obtained by taking only night courses and distance education courses. However, the final approval has not yet been made. We hope to make this official in due time and we would like to thank administration for their continued support.

We hope part time students will take advantage of the many student services and campus resources at OPUS that can help you succeed in your undergraduate student life. I enjoy helping students find the services they need, sometimes just sharing past problem solving experiences, is a comfort and encouragement to fellow students.

OPUS is a member of Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The Federations' primary purpose is Lobbying: represent students' issues and concerns to parliament. Clearly convey strong messages and contact with elected and non-elected officials and bureaucrats on a regular basis. Each member students' association has an equal say in setting the policies, direction and priorities of the Federation, including how funds are spent. All major decisions are made at provincial and national congresses at which every member students' association is represented.



To sum up, by listening to the students concerns and opinions the OPUS Board and Executive were able to allow our students voices to be heard on campus and make great changes for all. Foremost on the list would be the dedicated members of the OPUS Board of Directors. Without their constant support, I would not have been able to carry out my duties and organize various initiatives benefiting students. I would like to thank the Board for working so hard this past year for part-time students in general. It is great to see many different faces walking through the door of the office each day. I would like to thank each current and past member of the OPUS Board for their valued contribution over the past year. I also would like to thank our Work Study students, Ahmed Ali, Korey Togtema, Stephanie Oneschuk and Farah Arbab for their exceptional work. Without them we would not have accomplished as much as we did. Thank you all!

Lastly, I'd like to express my admiration and respect for the entire part-time student body, whose determination despite the odds to achieve their goal of a university education, has been inspirational. To my many friends and colleagues across campus, sincere thanks for your friendship and support over the years. These past years as Executive Director of OPUS have been memorable, full of excitement and successful and I am thankful to have been part of this wonderful organization.

Yours truly,
Maryan Amalow



A Message from the Health Plan Administrator of OPUS

Steve Jancev

Dear Members,

The OPUS Health and Dental Plan has provided 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 only pay \$154/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 withdraw from the plan or otherwise known as opting-out, 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 in full and get reimbursed later. 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. For example, for drug prescriptions, students are only required to pay the difference which is 10%, since the plan covers 90%.

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 primary 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.

In addition, we are pleased to inform that all part-time undergraduate students, regardless of when they start their academic year (either Sept or Jan) should get charged the same fee since they would receive the same amount of benefits and coverage. In previous years, OPUS was paying the differences out of pocket, while the plan was going through other adjustments. As we recently renewed our plan, it was identified that students who started in January received the same amount of coverage and paid less than those who started in September. Therefore, as mentioned above, the OPUS Board felt that it is fair to charge every student the same amount, since their benefits are exactly the same, regardless of when they begin their academic year.



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.

Last but not least, thank you to all OPUS Executive Director, Associates, Volunteers and Board Members for all their continued support and dedication in making the lives of part-time students more enjoyable. OPUS would not function properly without your help!

Regards,

Steve Jancev

DRUG PRESCRIPTION BENEFITS	
90% per prescription or refill up to a maximum of \$2,000 per person per benefit year	

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

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	Maximum plan pays:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech Therapist • Podiatrist 	\$15 per visit up to a maximum of 20 visits per practitioner, per benefit year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiropractor • Physiotherapist 	\$15 per visit up to a maximum of 20 visits for all practitioners combined, per benefit year

A Message From the Vice President of OPUS

Anthony Meloche

Welcome all part-time students! I have had the privilege to represent you as your OPUS Vice-President this past year.

As a part-time student, father, and full time employee I understand the challenges in earning your degree on a part-time basis while maintaining a good school, family and work life balance. I have been a part-time student since 2003 and have learned that there are many opportunities on campus to make a difference, enrich your university experience and feel part of the campus experience. I encourage you to visit the OPUS office in the CAW centre, talk with the OPUS staff, attend OPUS events and visit our web site opus@uwindsor.ca.



As your Vice President I understand the concerns of part-time students and advocate on your behalf to ensure your interests are heard and considered in University initiatives. Your OPUS Board of Directors meet regularly and plan events, activities and initiatives on behalf of you- our members. I sit on the Student Committee, Academic Policy Committee and the Judicial Panel. Information and meeting minutes are available on the University of Windsor website.

As part of the Student Committee I have been involved in discussions regarding the Fall UWIN week and the 13 point grade scale used by the University of Windsor. I ensure part-time student concerns are heard and welcome any one to contact OPUS to let us know what your concerns are regarding these items. Also OPUS has had the results of last semesters part-time student survey rolled up into a report and we will be working together to ensure your priorities and concerns are addressed. Without you there is no OPUS.

As we move forward, one of the main themes for the University is student engagement. I personally welcome this initiative. Students need an engaging learning environment that includes in-class methodologies and campus life. I will continue to advocate for you and ensure that part-time students are not forgotten in this initiative.

Thank you for your support. I wish you success in your academic goals and know we are here to support you in your success. I encourage you to become an active part-time student and look forward to meeting you at our OPUS events.

Sincerely,
Anthony Meloche



Anthony and fellow OPUS members
on Orientation Day.

A Message From the Treasurer of OPUS

Badaruddin Khuhro

On behalf of the Organization of Part-time University Student (OPUS), I welcome all new and returning part-time students. Undertaking tertiary study represents an important step in your life and choosing to study at University of Windsor will help you make the most of your potential.

OPUS is representing to you in the University of Windsor and it is your organization. I encourage you, please involve with the organization. It will benefit you during your studying here. OPUS office doors will always open for you and please give us your valuable suggestion to serve you better in the future. You can find more information about these services on our website (<http://uwindsor.ca/opus>).



I welcome you to OPUS office and encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities available to you as a part-time student at OPUS.

Regards

Badaruddin Khuhro

Badaruddin Khuhro receiving the
OPUS Lifetime Achievement Award



A Message From a Director at Large of OPUS

Ken Ternoey

Dear Members,

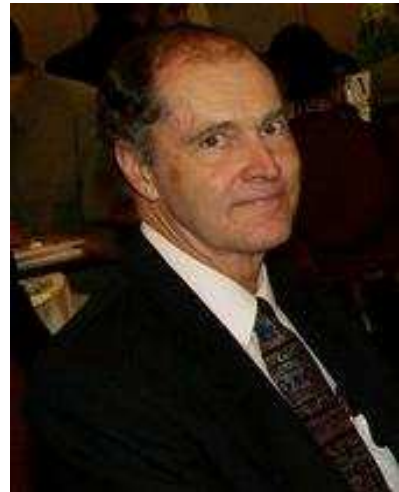
OPUS staff, representatives, and associates, participate directly with the University administration and faculty to solve student issues and research alternative opportunities applicable to part time students. The following is only a sample of the list of general challenges facing students today that require complex solutions demanding a strong interface between the University and student organizations.

Parking: The construction site for the new Engineering building has closed lot FF and it shall remain so for the construction period and thereafter be greatly reduced at best. The anticipated increase in student enrolment upon the building completion will further exacerbate parking in general. The parking issue itself will have a negative impact on potential commuter students from Essex and Chatham-Kent as well as the greater Windsor area where city services are inadequate or null.

Budget: The University as an institution is currently operating in the red. Donations and grants aside, the obvious student related correctional techniques that can be employed include raised tuition fees, in parcel with split fee surcharges for new students, the elimination of programs that are not profitable, compromise in the development of services offered for both disabled and gifted students, compromise of the historical practices of the U, and search for new qualified students.

Competition: The success of distance education aggressively offered by MSVU in the east and Athabasca in the west requires the U to compete for those students who require courses or that may be transferred. Other institutions at the college or private level are also considered for credit towards a program. Competition is a benefit to the student as long as the academic standards are not reduced in order to increase enrolment.

Quality: The recent reduction of semester terms to 12 from 13 weeks is not a benefit for any student. Graduates moving into professions requiring accreditation of the University are possibly at risk pending holiday and faculty sickness. Others seeking equal credit for fewer hours of class time may not see the loss.



International Flavour: Great efforts are made to expand the enrolment of international students. Student experience has always been richer with an international content but there are problems on campus in accommodating the customs of global cultures with respect to the following; scheduling class/lab/test times, providing a diverse meal service, accommodating rigid religious practices, and adjusting for new ideas.

OPUS doors are open for any part time student interested in the University, its students and the future. There is a continuous process of improving the medical/health plan, OPUS facilities, and the intensive one on one advocacy on behalf of students by OPUS staff. We welcome all part time students to the office/lounge @ room 172 in the CAW center.

Sincerely yours,

Ken Ternoey



Ken and Fadil receiving a special gift from the OPUS Staff at the annual OPUS Pot Luck



Ken enjoys the sunshine and food at the annual OPUS Barbeque.

A Message From A Director At Large of OPUS

Erin Plumb

Disability Awareness Event-January 2010

This year's Beyond Barriers: Breakfast Speaker Series was a huge success! With standing room only, the two engaging speakers talked about the difficulties facing a person with a mental illness. Our first speaker Jennifer Francis, an engineering student at the University of Western Ontario, talked about her own personal journey as she first became ill, sought a diagnosis and finally adapted to her disability. Jennifer was a passionate speaker who painted a vivid picture of the barriers she had to overcome as a result of her mental illness.

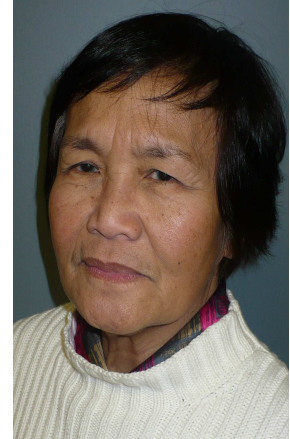
Among the barriers created by her disability were those unforeseen barriers thrown up by a society that had difficulty understanding and accepting her needs. Like many invisible disabilities a mental illness carries a tremendous amount of negative stigma associated with it. Many believe that unlike physical disabilities, which can be seen by others, the person is exaggerating their needs and taking advantage of supports the society has to offer. Having Jennifer and Spirit share their experiences with us as a community allows us to create "dialogues" as Ontario Human Rights Commissioner Barbara Hall, our second guest speaker, put it. These dialogues help to challenge old beliefs and attitudes that prevent us from becoming a more inclusive and therefore more enriched society.

This event has put invisible disabilities, specifically mental illnesses, out in the open where everyone can **see** them. Hopefully as a result of this event, as well as future events, we as a campus and a community can move forward to an encouraging and accessible society that fosters success in everyone of its individual constituents, regardless of their different abilities.



A Message From A Director At Large of OPUS

Bernarda Doctor



Mental Health: A Basic Need

The mental power of the brain generates the psychological energy and spirit needed in our daily activities which in turn are guided by mental processing. It is like the motor energy of a car to get it mobile to speed, to slow down, to turn or stop. It is basic need, therefore, to keep our mental process in optimum operation in as important as our physiological selves need food, clothing, and shelter. Could you imagine how we function without these basics? As students particularly, in this harsh winter?

Topnotch STUDENTSHIP should be our goal in want to stay mentally healthy...to be fit for any scholarly challenge, that we may achieve success in the best possible way we can.

Drawing from my own experiences (as a retired teacher, lifelong learner senior student) , I propose the following objectives:

1. To feed the brain with nutrient-rich food for proper functioning. Foods loaded with minerals and vitamins are fresh, unprocessed fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts, seeds, bean and lentils; eggs and milk; fatty fish like salmon and sardines. TO FIND OUT MORE, Go to Nutrition Resource Centre: www.nutritionc.ca.
2. To wear the mind on the heart and hands so that diligent, reasoned-out sensibility and actions prevail in daily engagements, personal or extra personal. Regrets and wrong doings are hurtful which we should minimize if not avoid.
3. To immerse self or di- or non-stressing surrounds and situations, such as games and exercise, hobbies of music and gardening, and social link aging which enhance friendship, social activism for community good. Music in songs emote our fear, sadness, excitement and joy; in instrument, effect emotional expressions unto our mind, body and spirit. Music has been researched and shown to enhance total academic performance. Our Art programs can speak to this through our professors and students. Victor Hugo professed: "Music expresses that which cannot be said, and is impossible to be silent."
4. To follow One's Dream or Passion with absolute determination and focus. A good model is Jennifer Francis, an Engineering student at the University of Western Ontario. Her passion is to become a proud alumna; and to achieve this is to be able to sustain a reasonably health brain/mental functioning since she is genetically mentally-ill. As main guest speaker for this year's OPUS-sponsored Mental Health Week, Jan. 18-22'10, she shared her life story of psychosocial struggles to overcome seemingly insurmountable deterrents for success. With her "soul mate" dog companion, and ever supportive Mom, she trudges on her 6-year university journey, looking to graduate this spring' 10.

Ms. Barbra Hall, Head of Ontario Human Rights Commission, second speaker at the MH event, emphasized the importance of mental health education for the public, pointing out that 1 in 5 Canadians will experience mental illness in their lifetime. She recommends open conversation about mental health/illness issues.

We, students at the UWindsor, have the capacity to spur interest both at the community-at-large and on campus. We should take the lead to talk mental health. Shall we?!

A Message From A Director At Large of OPUS

Darryl Gallinger

Day of Action

On November 5, 2009, a forum was held to discuss the direction post-secondary education is headed in, with a focus on tuition fees and how it contributes to local poverty as well as the inaccessibility of a university education. This event was organized by the Drop Fees Coalition, OPUS and GSS. Members of those organizations as well as speakers from other groups such as WUFA and Windsor's Peace Coalition spoke to these issues. The first part focused on wider-reaching issues of poverty while the second half of the forum emphasized post-secondary education issues in the province and at our own school.

This event was part of a province-wide Day of Action on CFS's Drop Fees campaign to reduce rapidly growing tuition fees and advocate for much more funding from the government for post-secondary education. University campuses all across the province held events and rallies to direct the province's attention towards this issue. This year, the campaign has been especially important given the fact that the province's Reaching Higher tuition framework, which regulates how high tuition fees can increase and how much funding universities receive from the government, will be expiring this year. It's essential to push the government to adopt a new plan that will increase funding and work to reduce tuition fees so that students can access a quality education and enter the workforce without a massive debt to pay off.

Sincerely,
Darryl Gallinger



Day of Action—Nov. 5, 2009

For immediate release

Windsor – Students, professors, and staff of the University of Windsor will gather in CAW Student Center on November 5th for the annual Drop Fees Day of Action. The Drop Fees Coalition is hosting a forum from 11am – 3pm in the Commons area. Several representatives from campus and community groups will be speaking on issues of poverty, tuition hikes, budget cuts on campus, the administration's Strategic Plan, and program cuts. Attendees are hoping to get informed on pressing issues on campus, in the Windsor community and the province and to discuss what can be done about them. Campus and community members are invited to share their concerns and discuss creative solutions. OPUS (the Organization of Part-time University Students) and GSS (Graduate Student Society), key participants in the campaign, will be present to advocate for their respective constituents and to help address students' concerns.

The primary focus for the provincial issue is the skyrocketing cost of tuition and how it is contributing to poverty.

"Thanks to Ontario's Reaching Higher plan tuition has been steadily rising for years and the higher fees are preventing many students from completing their education," says Drop Fees Coalition representative Ian Clough. "Youth unemployment and poverty in the community are also factors. Revitalizing Windsor's economy by re-educating the laid-off workforce would rectify this, but high tuition is also a barrier there."

Students are mobilizing all across the province for the Drop Fees Day of Action. With the current tuition framework expiring in September 2010 students need to take the opportunity to inform the provincial government what they would like to see in the new framework, which will be released some time next year.

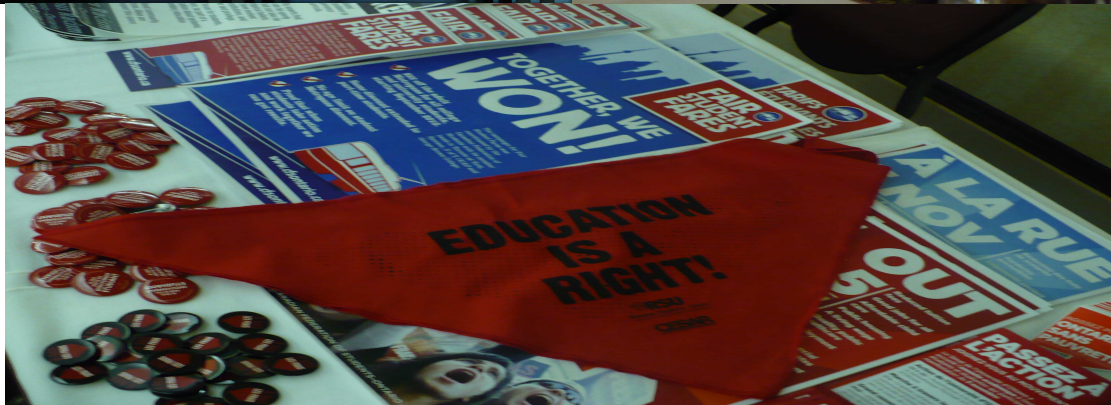
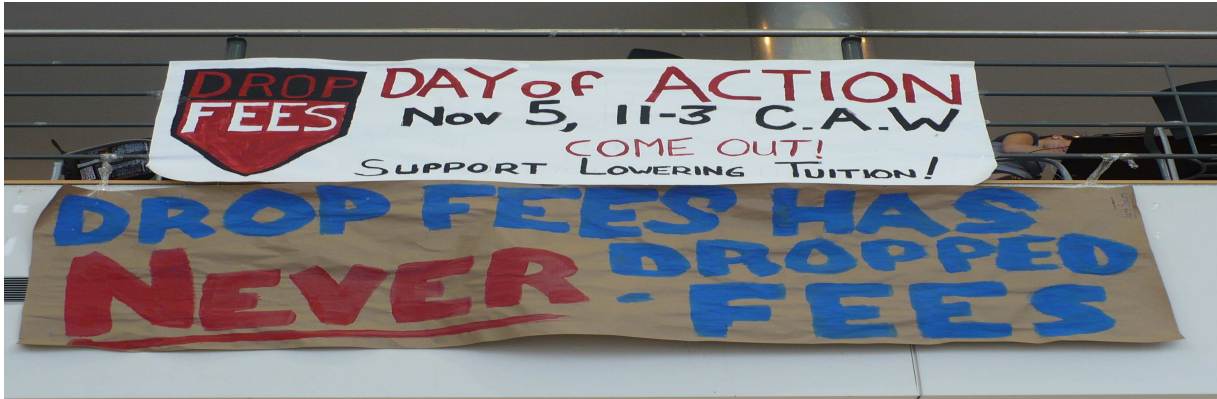
"Students and community members need to see a sharp decrease in tuition rates so they can access a post-secondary education. Current jobs are raising their standards and new jobs often require a higher education," says Darryl Gallinger, OPUS Director-at-Large.

Without a proper investment in post-secondary education students are looking at steep tuition hikes in addition to crippling budget cuts.

"Our local university's Board of Governors approved the maximum allowable tuition increase last year while implementing budget cuts averaging 4%," says Gallinger. "They've announced intentions of increasing tuition the maximum allowable both this year and next in addition to budget cuts ranging from 3% - 10%."

The Drop Fees Coalition is a grassroots organization that runs the Canadian Federation of Student's tuition reduction campaign on the University of Windsor's campus. Community and campus members alike are all invited to attend the forum on Thursday.

Darryl Gallinger



A Message From A Director At Large

Abdel Babker

My name is Abdel Babker I am your new OPUS board member -Director at Large- I received the first hand experience from a hard working advocate Abdulkadir Omar who dedicated two years volunteer on behalf of part time students.

As part time student I welcome you all in the first semester of 2010. I have attended several meetings at the Senate committee, alongside other board members Ken Ternoey, Erin Plumb and President of OPUS Dr. Edward King. We advocate on behave of part-time students to make sure your voice can be heard and addressed.

I am very pleased to inform you that our organization provides a lot of services such as access to computers, faxing, photocopying and the health and dental plan. These services are available to all part time students.

Our Executive Director Maryan Amalow and Health Alan Administrator Steve Jancev who are the dedicated employees for this great student government, are at your service and they will answer all your questions and assist you to overcome any obstacles during your studies.

I invite you all to get involved with OPUS; your INVOLVEMENT is very essential and important to us. Come out to our events, join our associate meetings and come to us with your suggestions and ideas that you wish to present. We value your opinions as well as your complaints and concerns.

For those who enroll on a part-time basis, our office is located at **(CAW Student Centre, Room 172 Windsor, Ontario N9B 3P4, and Tel: (519) 253-3000, Ext. 3603)**. For further information visit www.uwindsor.ca/opus

Yours Truly,
Abdel Babker



A Message From A Part-time student who Graduated



Dear OPUS friends:

Seven years ago I could not believe that I was attending University; now it is hard to believe that I am not. What seemed to be years ahead of me now seem to have been such a short while. The people of SIRC were there to guide me through the process. I would like to thank Susan Page who was there to answer my questions from the beginning to the end and I hope that me graduating will be a testament to her efforts.

Over the years, the faces changed at OPUS, but everyone there has done an excellent job. Maryan, it was a pleasure working with you on the orientation.

The end of July, I'm going to Poland to take a field work course in Mortuary Archaeology- I just couldn't stop studying cold turkey. Good luck to all and I hope our trails will cross again.

"Once again I feel under my heels the ribs of Rocinante. I return to the trail with my shield on my arms"
(Che Guevara)

Leonard Everett



A Message From Your Part-time Student Advisor of the University of Windsor

Susan Page, Part-Time Student Academic Advisor

Orientation for Part-time Students

New Part-Time Students!

I'm delighted to welcome you to the University of Windsor!

I know you are a widely diverse group but you have in common the choice to add education to your already busy schedule. Congratulations! It may be challenging, but it will surely be an enriching part of your life!

I would like to offer a few suggestions that may help pave your way to feeling comfortable as a U of W student.

First, I invite you to contact or visit the Advising Centre whenever you have a concern! My colleagues and I look forward to getting to know you. In fact, take advantage of all the Student Services outlined in this handbook. We understand that those first few courses can produce some confusing moments and we can help answer your questions!

As well, avoid the temptation of the "drive-thru education" defined by driving in every Tuesday evening just in time for class and that's all. Instead, have a "gourmet experience". Take a little time to meet other Part-Time Students in the OPUS lounge; get to know your professors and teaching assistants! You are now a valued part of the campus community. Come back for a play or concert. Bring the kids to a football game or BBQ.

Again, welcome, and I wish you success and enjoyment in your time at the University of Windsor!

Sincerely,

Susan Page
Academic Advisor for Part-Time Students



Our Executive Director
handing over the orienta-
tion bursary to a new stu-
dent!

Susan presenting the orienta-
tion session to new students.

OPUS Associate Meeting—February 2010

OPUS Members, Staff, University of Windsor President & Vice-Provost 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.



Students taking advantage of the Orientation sessions at the University



OPUS Staff and Board on Fall Open House & Orientation Day



Annual OPUS Barbeque

Our first big event of the year was held September 23, 2009. Everyone was welcome to the OPUS barbeque held outside the CAW. All OPUS members, part time students, and friends of the University were invited to come and enjoy free hamburgers, hot dogs, vegetarian fare, chips and beverages on the northwest corner of the lawn outside the CAW. Students were able to grab a quick bite to eat between their classes out in the open air on a beautiful day.

The event was held from 4:30pm until 6pm, allowing part-time students who work during the day and attend classes in the evening a chance to come out to the event. This barbeque is a great way for students to kick off their year at the University of Windsor, and allows part-time students to familiarize themselves with the campus. Throughout the event, OPUS staff, directors and volunteers were available to answer any questions students may have about OPUS or part-time student life in general. Students were also treated to other OPUS-related freebies, such as the part-time student planner and t-shirts.

Once again, this annual event was a huge success!



OPUS Pot Luck Luncheon

On November 25th, the OPUS office opened its doors to part time students for their annual pot luck luncheon. OPUS staff, and associates mingled with students over a wide variety of foods. Every year, near the end of the fall semester, OPUS organizes this feast in its office lounge at the student centre for any part time students to take some time out of their day and enjoy a friendly family atmosphere. For some, this event is the perfect way to be introduced to the OPUS environment, or to reconnect with old friends and other part-time students.



This past November's potluck was no exception; with a smorgasbord of food and refreshments just as culturally diverse as the people who attended, from North American dishes to recipes from around the world. Our menu that day included pizza, potatoes au gratin, pasta, a wide variety of Iraqi foods, Ken's famous spice cake, pumpkin pie, various other desserts, and much more. OPUS staff and board members contributed their part of the feast and were present to welcome students and spread the word about our organization.

The event was a great success and we hope to continue this event with as much enthusiasm, success, and fun in years to come. Many thanks to all those who brought the delicious chow and OPUS who provide the refreshments, and we look forward to a fun-filled event next year.



OPUS 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.

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

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.

Faculty Awards

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 Awards

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.

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.

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

Appreciation Award

This award has been initiated in 2003 by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) to recognize and applaud the efforts and dedication of OPUS Board of Director, Employee and Work Study who selflessly assist OPUS in contributing and fulfilling its mandate year after year. The OPUS Appreciation award recognizes outstanding members or staff that has brought enthusiasm and a renewed spirit of energy at OPUS. We, at OPUS, would like to thank them, even though they are departing or remaining, and recognize their efforts that have been provided throughout their years of service.

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!!



Marty Lowman receives the Friend of Students Award



Dr. Hamil receives the Teacher of Year Award



OPUS members and staff celebrating 40 years of existence during Awards Banquet

OPUS Scholarships/Bursaries

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.

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.

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/University Players".

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.

Wayne Girard Leadership Memorial Award

Value: \$500. Applied towards tuition remission. Awarded annually by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS). Established in 2009 in memory of Wayne Girard, who, while serving as the Treasurer of the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS), exhibited the values and interests of all part-time students. Preference will be given to a part-time student who values physical fitness and has provided volunteer services to the University of Windsor and/or the Windsor-Essex County Community. The recipient must be registered as a part-time student in any field of study or program at the University of Windsor. The successful applicant must have successfully completed a minimum of ten courses on a part-time basis at the University of Windsor.

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.

Applicants 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.

2009 OPUS AWARDS

The 2009 Annual OPUS Awards Reception & Dinner was a huge success with 11 award recipients and 150 guests that came to support the winners. 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 goes out to Dr. Edward King and Ms. Maryan Amalow, for being splendid hosts during the evening and to Mr. Steve Jancev for performing an outstanding job as the master of ceremony for the evening. OPUS is thankful to all those who attended and for being a part of this wonderful university community. **Below is the list of the OPUS Award Recipients for 2009!**

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Mr. Badaruddin Khuhro, Past President, OPUS

Faculty Awards

- Dr. Barry Brodie, Department of Dramatic Arts
- Dr. Stephen Pender, Department of English Language, Literature and Creative Writing

Friend of Students' Award

- Mr. Martin Lowman, Advisor, Advising Centre at University of Windsor

Teacher of the Year Award

- Dr. Mustapha Hamil, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Mary C. Schisler Award in Dramatic Art

- Ms. Helena Mackenzie

Volunteer of the Year Award

- There were no eligible candidates for this award

Support Staff Awards

- Mr. Urfan Ashraf, Department of Information Technology Services
- Mrs. Lena Razwan, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Disability Campus Community Recognition Award

- There were no eligible candidates for this award

OPUS Academic Achievement Award

- Mrs. Mirela Cerimagic

Dr. Kathleen E. McCrone Award

- Ms. Jacqueline Cardillo

Student With Disability Achievement Award

- There were no eligible candidates for this award

OPUS Bursaries

- OPUS bursaries 2009 (valued at \$500 each) were given to ten part-time undergraduate students, chosen based on financial need.





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 undergraduate 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!

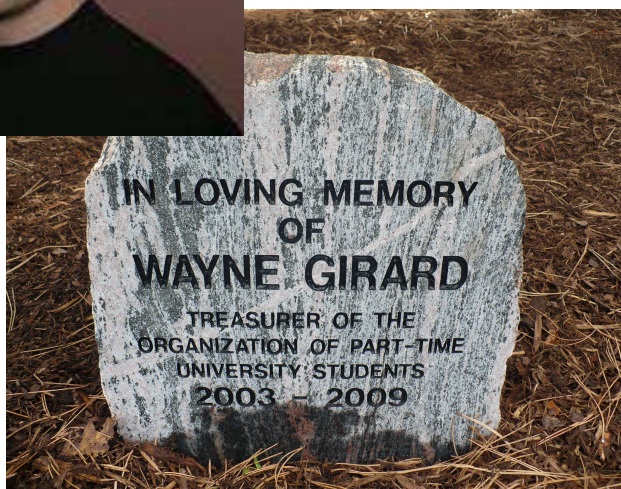
- Learn you are not alone
- Meet fellow part-time students
- Become better informed about issues that affect you on campus
- Help-part-time voices to be heard
- Become part of a support system that can benefit you and others



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

In Memory of Wayne Girard



In Memory of Valerie Doumani



ORGANIZATION OF PART-TIME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



**ADVOCATE • VOLUNTEER • MEET NEW PEOPLE • HEALTH AND DENTAL BENEFITS
AWARDS • BURSARIES • ORIENTATION • BOARD OF DIRECTORS • AGM**

OPUS was established in 1970 to provide a means for part-time students to have their voices heard on campus.

Become apart of our Board of Directors and serve on various committees advocating on behalf of part-time students. Enjoy our part-time student lounge with kitchen area, internet access, telephone services, and meeting opportunities. Essential services including printing, photocopying, and faxing. Volunteer as an OPUS Associate today or stop by our office or website and discover what OPUS has to offer you!

MISSION STATEMENT	HEATH & DENTAL BENEFITS	BENEFIT OPT-OUT
OPUS collaborates with the University Of Windsor community to identify and to promote the collective interests of the part-time undergraduate students.	Through our membership with the Canadian Federation of Students, the benefits carrier is Green Shield Canada, one of the best known non-profit benefits provider in the country.	All part-time undergraduate students are charged the same fee. You may Opt-Out of the plan if you are already covered by a comparable plan during the Opt-Out period.
Detailed information regarding your benefit plan, Opt-Out procedures, opting-in family member(s), and many more services and involvement opportunities are available on our website. Students can also pick up information in our office in the C.A.W. Student Centre.		

**C.A.W. Student Centre, 1st Floor, Room. 172
Telephone: 519-971-3603 opus@uwindsor.ca**

www.uwindsor.ca/opus

OPUS Plan of Action 2010

- Availability of 300/400 Level Courses offered in evenings/online, etc.
- Availability of Part-Time based programs in Nursing, Education and Engineering
- Availability of more classes during intersession/summer semesters
- Access to scholarships/bursaries through U of W
- Awareness of campus services and access including accessibility of the campus for students with disabilities
- After-hours Child Care Services
- Availability of the Academic Writing Centre
- Accommodate Study week during the March break period
- Extended UWIN Card Office Hours
- Enhancement to the OPUS Health/Dental Plan coverage by providing additional benefits

CONTACT US

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[Newsletter Editor: OPUS Staff](#)