

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

What Is OPUS at the University of Windsor?

Our Mission Statement:

OPUS is a dynamic organization that advocates and promotes a rewarding University of Windsor experience & collaborates with the University of Windsor community to identify and to promote the collective interests of part-time students.

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 1969 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.

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The OPUS Board & Staff consists of:

President	Dr. Edward King
Vice President	Anthony Meloche
Treasurer	Monsur Elahi
Directors' At Large	Berni Doctor Caroline Spencer Elizabeth Long Hussein Ahmed Chris Baillargeon Mahbub Khoda
Executive Director	Maryan Amalow
Health Plan Administrator	Steve Jancev
Work Study Students	Annum Waseem Elfadil Rahama Anab Warsame Ranya Nassereddine

A Message from the President



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS), I would like to welcome all part-time students to the University of Windsor. We hope that your time at the University will be fruitful and fulfilling. OPUS represents part-time students, provides a number of services, and advocates for students. We host orientation events for new students in January and August. We also have a number of activities for part-time students including a barbecue, an awards dinner, some potluck lunches, and several meetings with speakers on topics such as financial awards, student rights and responsibilities, stress management, and academic help. We are also members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and through this organization we lobby both the Federal and Provincial governments. We provide a health plan to our members with our CFS membership at a very competitive price.

We are primarily an advocacy organization. I am a voting member of the Board of Governors, which makes all financial decisions on behalf of the University. I also sit on committees of the Board of Governors. Along with three other OPUS members, I also sit on the Senate that makes the academic decisions for the University. Members of OPUS sit as voting members on all Senate Committees as well as many other committees at the University. In this way, we are able to represent the interests of part-time students on all issues both academic and financial. If you have a problem or think that any policies at the University should be changed, you can come to the OPUS office or email us at opus@uwindsor.ca, and we will see that the issue is taken to the appropriate committee.

We have an excellent “History of OPUS” written by Mary Schisler, a past president of OPUS. It is available online (www.uwindsor.ca/opus) or you can find a hard copy in the office.

We will also represent part-time distance education students who are taking distance education courses effective Sept. 1, 2011. I would recommend getting involved at the University outside of classes if your schedule allows. Going to the gym, being on an intramural team, joining a club or society, or getting involved with your students’ union will make your university experience richer.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Edward King

A Message from the Vice-President



Welcome OPUS members and congratulations on the decision to continue your educational journey. My name is Anthony Meloche; I have been a part time University of Windsor student since the summer of 2003. As a father, full time employee and part-time student I have an understanding of the unique challenges students face in earning a degree on a part-time basis. We share many of the same concerns as full time students such as raising tuition costs and the quality of education and services. There are many demands part-time students face that are different then encountered by full time students. Our personal, vocational and university experiences present us with unique challenges. OPUS is your voice in advocating for you the part-time student.

I would like to thank OPUS staff and Board Members for their commitment and efforts to help create a positive educational experience for all part-time students. For the past 4 years I have been on the Board of Directors of OPUS as your Vice President. This position has allowed me the opportunity to be your voice on committees and represent your concerns. The committees I continue to be directly involved in are the Policy Management Board of the CAW Centre, the Senate, Learning Management System and the Judicial Panel. I would encourage you to find out more about these committees and the important work we are involved in by searching for them on the University website.

As your Vice President, I look forward to the challenges and opportunities to advocate for you. Let me know what you feel would engage you and make your university experience more meaningful and successful.

I look forward to personally seeing you at one of our OPUS events. We have many events throughout the year. Last year's part-time student reception/pub night was a new initiative and it turned out to be a lot of fun. We have 2 open part time social meetings per semester and there is always food. These gatherings give you a chance to meet and discuss issues with part-time students and the OPUS Board Members. Your day planner lists many of our events and they can also be found on our website opus@uwindsor.ca.

Good luck in your pursuit of your personal and professional goals

Anthony Meloche

A Message from the Executive Director



My name is Maryan Amalow, I am pleased to represent and serve you as the Executive Director of the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS). On behalf of OPUS I'd like to welcome all part-time students to the University of Windsor! Attending university on a part-time basis is an exciting, rewarding experience, and one that can lead you to face a variety of challenges. The first step is to get to know the university and the best way to do that is to locate the organization that supports you, which is OPUS. In addition, OPUS is the organization on campus that cares deeply about the interest of students who study here on a part-time basis, including distance education. Therefore our mission is to support you and ensure that the university is responsive to those needs.

OPUS serves part-time students' on-campus, off-campus and distance education students. OPUS works within the University structure to further the interests of part-time students at

University of Windsor. Our members are kept informed of activities through regular monthly OPUS Associate meetings, newsletters and mass e-mails. Our organization represents part-time students on various committees including Senate, Board of Governors, Student Awards, Social Justice and Library among others. OPUS has been proudly serving part-time students at University of Windsor since 1969.

We offer 17 Awards and Bursaries annually. By studying part-time, you may qualify for one of the part-time student awards or bursaries. These awards fall into several categories, so check out the criteria in the Awards & Bursaries section of OPUS website as well as the Student Awards website. Applications are available through your Student Information System (SIS). In addition, the OPUS Drug and Dental Plan along with other services are available for part-time students at the University of Windsor. We will actively work to find out what is important to the student body using tools like open forums, surveys, suggestion boxes and the open door policy, and we will make every effort to ensure that suggestions are acted upon. You can also connect with us by phone at 971-3603, by e-mail at opus@uwindsor.ca or through our web-site at <http://www.uwindsor.ca/opus>.

I wish you much success this year in your academic pursuits. Get involved and hope to see you at our events! Once again, welcome to UWINDSOR and don't miss out on any OPUS events.

Sincerely,

Maryan Amalow

A Message from the Health Plan Administrator



Dear Members,

I'd like to welcome all part-time students to the University of Windsor and to the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS). As the OPUS Health Plan Administrator, I manage the operations for the OPUS drug and dental plan including the handling of all student inquiries regarding the plan and ensuring that each issue is dealt with appropriately.

The OPUS Drug and Dental Plan is now providing its 6th year of service to part-time undergraduate students for the 2012-13 benefit years. We have seen a greater volume of students becoming more aware of OPUS because of the growth of the OPUS Drug and Dental Plan along with the other services that we provide for our students. OPUS can only be as effective as the input it receives from its members. We believe that part-time undergraduate students have different needs from those of the student bodies on campus. In addition, as a fellow Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) member and as a student government that represents part-time undergraduate students at the University of Windsor, our first and primary commitment is to the OPUS membership.

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. For example, for dental services, students are only required to pay the difference.

For students who wish to OPT-OUT of the OPUS Drug and Dental Plan, they must have existing comparable coverage and 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. Distance Education, Co-op and Senior must OPT-IN to access this plan as they do not get charged through their student account. The primary benefits carrier for the OPUS Drug and Dental claims is Green Shield Canada. Detailed information regarding the plan can be found on the OPUS (<http://www.uwindsor.ca/opus>) or Green Shield Student Centre (<http://greenshield.ca/sites/student/en/Pages/default.aspx>) websites or students can pick up information in-office.

We also look forward to adding more benefits next year, as some of our members have requested.

Sincerely,

Steve Jancev

A Message from the Director at Large—Berni Doctor



Hello Part-time students! My name is Bernarda Camello-Doctor, and I will be discussing this year's Mental Health Awareness Week.

You made a difference supporting UWindsor Mental Health Awareness Week on Jan 14-18, 2013. The Mental Health yearly event was most comprehensive this year, lasting five days (instead of two). Mental Health was identified as all-encompassing affecting our heads, hearts, and hands. Introductory speakers indulged in the psychological functioning of our bodies. Individually, we have to critically think, feel, or sense all the factors that affect us daily. I had the opportunity to attend all of the important sessions. Personally speaking, I live one day at a time (*Carpe diem* in Latin), and I learned how to maximize my day's activities positively and healthily in all three mental health dimensions: head, heart, and hands.

For me, head refers to reading up appropriate materials, talking and listening, dancing and singing along, and planning the positives. The heart involves feeling truly in my mind's heart what my goals for the day will bring. The hands consist of doing the right things that benefit others and me. I consider myself share-driven; and this brings me joy and feeds my mind healthily.

For Part-time students, I suggest introspect and decide to focus on the positives in life. If need be, refer to the materials handed out during Mental Health Awareness Week (also available at OPUS).

Lastly, I would like to thank you for your continuing support of this most important annual project. Together, we made a difference collaborating with the University of Windsor and other Windsor/Essex Organizations and social communities.

Berni Doctor

A Message from the Director at Large—Hussein Ahmed



My name is Hussein Ahmed and I am a member of OPUS (Organization of Part-time University Students); students advocating on behalf of other students. I became an OPUS director at large about one year ago. I represent OPUS on three committees: The senate, IT (Information Technology Advisory Committee), and the Social Justice committee. I raise issues that concern part time university students on all of these committees. Not only that, but I also participate in other activities that concern part time students.

During Orientations, we welcome new part-time students each semester, and part-time students take advantage on this day to learn about the many different services the University offers. My first orientation was interesting, and I liked seeing new faces while meeting new part-time students in Vanier Hall. The session started at 11:30am on January 7, 2013 and ended at 3:30pm. New students had the opportunity to ask questions, were offered suggestions, and their questions were answered by a number of other students and staff who were able to answer their questions.

Also, some of them were lucky enough to win prizes, and what surprised me the most was when one new student won two different prizes twice! So many interesting events are planned for this year, so I encourage all part-time students to come out and not miss them. I wish all of you a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year.

Hussein Ahmed

A Message from the Director at Large—Chris Baillargeon



Dear OPUS Members,

My name is Chris Baillargeon and I am one of the OPUS Board members, currently elected as your Director-at-Large, OPUS Student Advocacy Coordinator. I advocate on your behalf by representing you on campus when problems arise, by bringing forward matters of concern and raising student awareness on all issues required to go before the Student Senate Steering Committee. I will continue to advocate on your behalf, as not only a current part-time student such as yourselves representing your interests, but also as your eyes and ears to help protect your individual student rights overall. Not only do I feel privileged and honored to do so, but I will also necessitate inspired change as your representative voice of reason for future success.

OPUS is a great organization, and as a member of the Canadian Federation of Students, it will not only make it a stronger, more valued and more respected union organization through the growth of its membership, but also through the greater strength in the number of students represented throughout Ontario.

I have been a member of OPUS for the previous 6 years, and I have taken part in advocating against increased tuition fee hikes and promoting for more affordable and accessible education for all current and prospective students alike. The road to inspired change lies with each and every one of us as students to be tomorrow's brightest leaders for a better future.

It is important to carry forward the tradition to fight the good fight as the struggle continues and to not let up accordingly. To lead will require everyone's tireless and effortless commitment to progressively move forward one step at a time to achieve the ultimate goal of success.

I wish you all the best in future growth, health and prosperity through this upcoming year! Welcome one and all!!! Make a lasting impression throughout your life by giving it your best effort in all you do!!!

In Solidarity,
OPUS Student Advocacy Coordinator
Chris Baillargeon

Leading Women Building Communities Recognition

Let's take a moment to congratulate the OPUS Executive Director Ms. Maryan H. Amalow on being awarded the "2012 Leading Women Building Communities Recognition Certificate". This award was presented by the Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Windsor West MPP at an awards presentation at Windsor Waterworld on June 8, 2012. The event was co-hosted by the Somali Community of Windsor and Windsor West MPP office. Maryan was also awarded the "2012 Exceptional Community Leadership to Improve the Lives of Women in Ontario" from the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues for Ontario the Honourable Laurel Broten. Congratulations Maryan on receiving these high level awards for your hard work and dedication for helping others in the community, especially women who have been living under extreme conditions while in refugee camps. She ensured that these women were well represented in helping them adapt to a new society. We also want to congratulate a fellow UWINDSOR student Zeinab Ahmed for receiving the "2012 Leading Girls Building Community Recognition Certificate". It was well-deserved indeed as Zeinab is an honour student who was also granted with multiple scholarships.

The event last Friday was a huge success with a lot of supporters from the City of Windsor and University of Windsor cheering on Maryan for her achievements. Special thanks to the University of Windsor Dean of Students Dr. Clayton Smith for his kind words in acknowledging Maryan's achievements in helping her fellow community members along with her student members at the university. "She always ensures to lend a helping hand for her students with her advocacy and leadership experience as she was a student who can relate to their issues. She consistently values the importance of community and student engagement." During the award presentation, Teresa read some points from Maryan's award nomination from the President of the Somali Community of Windsor Mr. Cisman who noted the following: "Ms. Amalow was the first women in this community to hold one the highest position in leadership when she became the Executive Director of The Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) an organization that provide a means for part-time students to have their voices heard on campus. She has since won numerous awards for her contribution as the Executive Director of OPUS. Our community is proud of Ms. Amalow's achievement in leadership both inside and outside of this community". The following day, Maryan was interviewed by the Somali National TV media for her receiving this high honour and also provided a community update. Thank you to all her supporters who were in attendance including colleagues, family and friends.

Please also take a look at some images from the event on the OPUS UWindsor Facebook page.

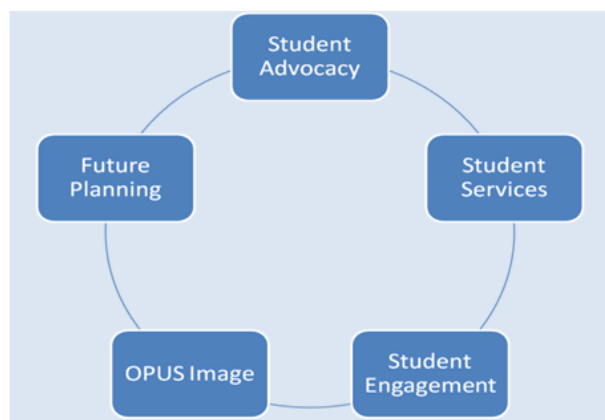
OPUS Strategic Plan 2012-2015

The Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS) is a student group at the University of Windsor made up of volunteer part-time students who provide services and advocate on behalf of part-time students.

OPUS has a long history on campus and was established in 1969 to provide a means for part-time students to have their voices heard on campus.

OPUS has had a strong and participative presence on campus. OPUS feels this Strategic Plan will continue to build on the foundation that has been laid.

The Strategic Plans Five Pillars guide OPUS's Strategic Direction and include; Student Advocacy, Student Services, Student Engagement, OPUS Image, and Future Planning. This plan outlines a disciplined approach to support the ongoing transformation and growth of OPUS in assisting to provide a rewarding and engaging student experience at the University of Windsor.



The Strategic Plan aligns well and is guided by the OPUS vision and mission.

OPUS Vision

The vision of OPUS is that all part-time students enjoy an engaging, fulfilling and rewarding experience at the University of Windsor.

OPUS Mission

OPUS is a dynamic organization that advocates and promotes a rewarding University of Windsor experience for part-time students.

The Goals of the Strategic Plan Five Pillars

Student Advocacy

To be a leader and resource for part-time students advocating for their interests at the University of Windsor, provincially, and nationally.

Student Services

To provide meaningful and value added services to part-time students. Services that provide a collective and/or an individual benefit to enhance the part-time student university experience.

Student Engagement

Be a leader in providing opportunities for part-time students to engage with each other. Be an agent in promoting and advocating for best practices for student engagement in the learning environment and on campus.

OPUS Image

Be admired by part-time students and the University of Windsor community as a leader and a value added service. Be seen by the university community as a valued contributor to the engagement, success and enjoyment in the educational life of part-time students and the entire university community.

Future Planning

Prepare OPUS for future challenges, ensure financial stability, succession planning and innovative ways to secure and expand OPUS services and viability.

Each Strategic Pillar will have activities, initiatives, and deliverables attached to them to achieve our goals from August 2012 to August 2015

Learn More....

Please review our website www.uwindsor.ca/opus for the complete OPUS 2012-2015 Strategic Plan and the many exciting events, activities and services OPUS has to offer.

OPUS Fall Orientation



The University of Windsor offers several orientation programs throughout the year. By attending these programs, new part-time students are introduced to the university's campus and student services. Students are also provided with the opportunity to meet faculty, staff, opus members, and other incoming students. The goal of all of our orientation programs is to prepare you for a successful university experience!

The circumstances under which you are starting university will determine the orientation programs that are right for you. In many situations, you will benefit from attending more than one orientation program as the focus of the information varies.



Appreciation Week 2012



OPUS BBQ

The annual OPUS Barbeque was held on September 18, 2012. Everyone was welcome to the BBQ that was held outside the CAW centre. 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 took place from 12:30pm until 2:30pm, and the BBQ was a great way for students to get a head start at the University of Windsor and for them to familiarize themselves with the campus.

During the event, OPUS staff, directors, and volunteers were available to answer any questions students may have about OPUS or the life of a part-time student in general. Students were also treated to other OPUS related freebies including the part-time student planner and t-shirts.

The BBQ was a huge success! Thanks to all those who attended!



OPUS Social

The OPUS social was held in the Ambassador Auditorium in the CAW Student Centre and featured a keynote address from Sean Moriarty from IT Services who provided information to students on the transition from Uwin webmail to G-mail.

One part-time student won a \$250 money prize toward their Holiday purchases from the Organization of Part-time University!



OPUS Pot-luck Lunch

On November 20th, 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 for any part time students to take some time out of their day and enjoy a friendly atmosphere. From time to time, we all come together to eat, drink, and have fun.

Our menu included a variety of ethnically diverse foods including Somali, Macedonian, Sudanese, Lebanese, Indian, and Pakistani dishes. OPUS staff and board members contributed to their part of the feast and were present to welcome students and spread the word about our organization.



OPUS Winter Orientation



Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) OGM Conference in Toronto



AN OVERVIEW OF TUITION FEES IN CANADA

FALL 2012

In the past fifteen years, tuition fees in Canada have grown to become the single largest expense for most university and college students. The dramatic tuition fee increases during this period were the direct result of cuts to public funding for post-secondary education by the federal government and, to a somewhat lesser extent, provincial governments. Public funding currently accounts for an average of approximately 57 percent of university and college operating funding, down from 80 percent just two decades ago. During the same period, tuition fees have grown from 14 percent of operating funding to over 35 percent.¹ This constitutes a rapid re-orientation of Canada's post-secondary education system away from a publicly funded model and towards a privatised, user fee system. Rapidly increasing tuition fees have caused post-secondary education to become unaffordable for many low- and middle-income Canadians.

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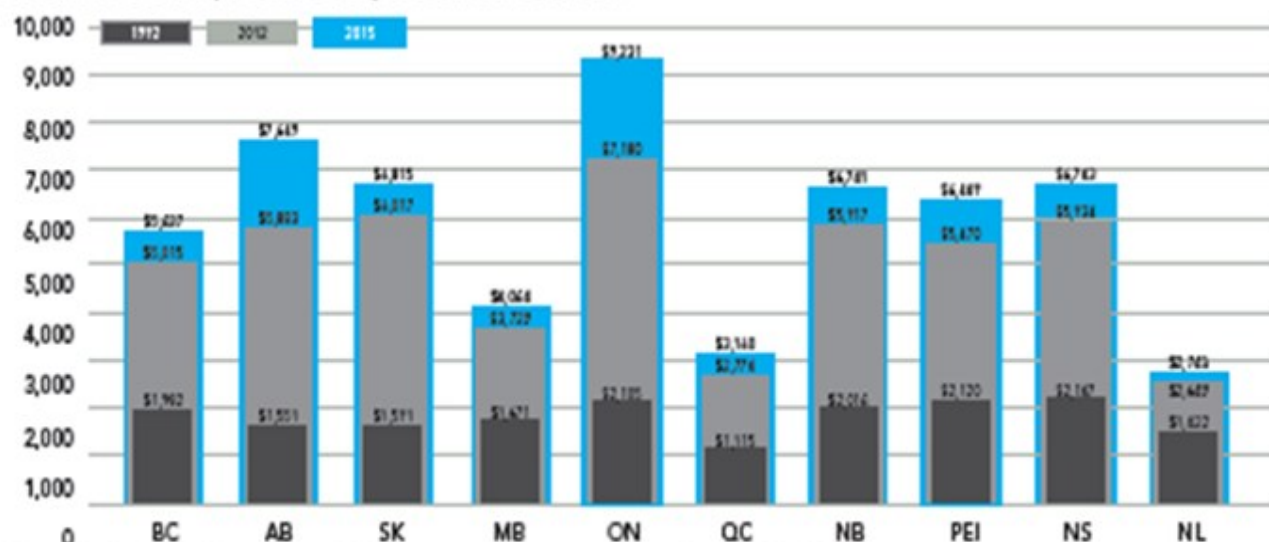
GRADUATE, PROFESSIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Master's, PhD, international students, and students in professional programs have faced the steepest increases in tuition fees. Unlike most undergraduate students,

graduate students are enrolled year-round, and therefore have to pay tuition fees during the summer months. Thus, not only do graduate students pay higher fees, they also pay them for four months more than undergraduate students on the typical fall and winter academic schedule.

The higher fees for graduate and professional students are often justified by arguing that those with advanced degrees earn more during their lifetimes in the workforce. However, the increased earnings of professionals have been notoriously exaggerated by university and college presidents in their campaign for higher fees. Recent research has found that a PhD graduate only nets an average of \$4,000 more per year over a master's

TUITION FEE LEVELS, 1992 TO 2015, IN CURRENT DOLLARS



Note: tuition fees for 2015 based on provincial government policy announcements, and current legislation.

OPUS Awards & Bursaries

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

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

Student With Disability Achievement Award

Value of \$500, this award is awarded annually towards tuition remission to a current part-time undergraduate student with a disability, as defined by the University of Windsor. 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 abilities within the University community by raising awareness and promoting accessibility.

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.

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 that have brought enthusiasm and a renewed spirit of energy at OPUS.

Alumni Association First Year Part-Time Undergraduate Student (OPUS) Award

Value of \$500, this award is awarded annually toward tuition remission, to a registered part-time student in their first year of study in any program at the University of Windsor. This award may not be combined with any other OPUS awards.

Alumni Association Academic Achievement (OPUS) Award

Value of \$750, this award is awarded annually toward tuition remission only to a registered part-time student who has a minimum cumulative GPA of 11.0. Must have successfully completed a minimum of 5 courses on a part-time basis as well as completing at least 30% of 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 who is enrolled 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 promotion of academic excellence and to the University of Windsor where she served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for 12 years.

Ken Long Memorial (OPUS) Award

Value: \$500. Applied towards tuition remission. 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 Language, Literatures and Cultures 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 GPA (Major Average) of 10.0. This award may not be combined with any other OPUS awards.

Mary C. Schisler Award in Dramatic Art

Value of \$500, this award is awarded annually towards tuition remission 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 given to a part-time student 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."

Wayne Girard Leadership Memorial Award

Value of \$750, this award is 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 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. This award may not be combined with any other OPUS awards.

Jeanne Latessa - Iannetta (OPUS) Bursaries

Value of \$500 each. Five bursaries applied to tuition remission for a single undergraduate course are offered annually by Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS). These bursaries are dedicated in Loving Memory of Jeanne Latessa - Iannetta who was the former president and founder of OPUS - Established in 1969 (years of service: 1969 - 1981). 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 undergraduate students, and meet strict financial and academic standards as determined by the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office.

Alumni Association Part-Time Undergraduate Student Bursaries

Value of \$750 each. Two bursaries applied to tuition remission for a single undergraduate course are offered annually by University of Windsor Alumni Association. Eligible applicants must be registered as part-time undergraduate students, and meet strict financial and academic standards as determined by the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office. Candidates must be Canadian citizens/Permanent Residents residing in Ontario.

Part-time Undergraduate International Student Bursaries

Value of \$500 each. Two bursaries applied to tuition remission for a single undergraduate course are offered annually by the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS). 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 undergraduate international students, and meet strict financial and academic standards as determined by the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office.

Part-Time Undergraduate Distance Education Student Bursary (OPUS)

Value of \$500, one bursary applied to tuition remission for a single undergraduate course are offered annually by the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS). 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 undergraduate distance education students, and meet strict financial and academic standards as determined by the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office.

Academic "Second Chance" Scholarship

Value of \$750. Applicants must have been registered in at least one undergraduate course at the University, and must have achieved a GPA of less than 5.0 in any one or more of the three annual semesters. Applicants must submit with the application, a short essay/paragraph, of about 100 words, on the theme of "Reason(s) not to give up on a University education."

2012 OPUS Award Recipients

**Gregory Marcotte, Registrar
OPUS Friend of Students Award**

**Stephen Brooks, Political Science
OPUS Teacher of the Year Award**

**Barbara Maitre, OPUS volunteer
OPUS Volunteer of the Year Award**

**Erica Stevens, Dramatic Arts & Randy Lippert, Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology
OPUS Faculty Awards**

**John Powell, Public Affairs and Communications & Joyce Pohjola, Catering Services
OPUS Support Staff Awards**

**Rosemary Briscoe, Campus Police
OPUS Disability Campus Community Recognition Award**

**Paul Cowan, Part-time Student
OPUS Student with Disability Achievement Award**

**Mike Binder, Part-time Student
Alumni Association Academic Achievement Award**

**Brittany Lepera, Part-time Student
Alumni Association First Year Part-time Undergraduate Student Award**

**Ferial Bachir, part-time student
OPUS Wayne Girard Leadership Memorial Award**

**Lisa Milne, Part-time Student
OPUS Ken Long Memorial Award**

**Helen Girgenti, Part-time Student
Dr. Kathleen McCrone Award (OPUS)**

**Vajo Stajic, OPUS Director at Large
OPUS Appreciation Award**

OPUS Bursaries 2012 (valued at \$500 each) are also going to be given to 10 part-time undergraduate students including two international and one distance ed, chosen based on financial need (two sponsored by Alumni Association).

2013 OPUS Biennial Election

Congratulations to the upcoming OPUS Board of Directors 2013-2015:

President: Dr. Edward King

Vice President: Anthony Meloche

Treasurer: Hussein Ahmed

Directors at Large: Bernarda Doctor, Mahbub Khoda, Erin Plumb, Michael Livingston, Peter Soteris & Chris Baillargeon



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 17 awards & bursaries annually, mostly 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

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's Plan of Action 2013-2014

- Various recruitment strategies with university administration including:
 - Availability of Courses offered in early morning, weekend, online, etc.
 - Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)
 - Part-time & Mature student open houses
 - Courses available with free no risk trial
- Volunteer selection & retention.
- Providing additional benefits to the OPUS Health & Dental Plan coverage.
- Promote and advance students interests and the student university experience.
- Focus on the impacts of the downtown campus and part-time student service needs.

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

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3P4**

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**opus@uwindsor.ca or
www.uwindsor.ca/
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**Newsletter Editor:
Annum Waseem**