



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

Outstanding Scholars Newsletter

November 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Monthly Program Updates

by Joshua Galasso

Welcome! This newsletter was created by the Outstanding Scholars Student Council (OSSC) to assist Outstanding Scholars (OS) Students in keeping up-to-date with everything related to the OS program.

What is Outstanding Scholars?

Outstanding Scholars are paid to do research outside of the classroom, working alongside faculty members on research projects! This unique opportunity lasts for three years, particularly in your second, third, and fourth years of undergraduate study.

Outstanding Scholars Mission

The Outstanding Scholars Program provides an exceptional and supportive undergraduate learning experience for high-achieving students, emphasizing depth and breadth of research-based academic inquiry, strong and ongoing faculty/student mentorship, effective communication of research achievement, and achievement of external recognition of academic excellence.

OS Events

During the month of November, OSSC held an Outstanding Scholars Informational Seminar on November 5th, 2020. The process

of becoming an official OS starting in second year was an instructive discussion in the seminar. Here is some pertinent information:

- 👤 In May 2021, the top 250 first-year students (based on average) are invited to apply; this includes both OS and non-OS students.
- 👤 The invited candidates are required to submit an application that gets ranked based on their academic achievements, desire to get involved with research, community service and leadership.
- 👤 The top 80 students are accepted into the OS program.
- 👤 To become eligible to apply in May, a student must attain a reference and complete the Health and Safety in the Workplace training modules.

You can learn more about the application process by visiting the OS Website.

Furthermore, we will be hosting additional OS events during the 2020-2021 academic year, so follow our social media (located on page 2) to keep up-to-date with what is happening in the program!



OS Student Achievements

The OS Student Achievement section highlights achievements of students in the OS program! This includes publications, scholarships/awards, and more. Email Jana Khanafer, OSSC President, at khanafej@uwindsor to be featured in future issues!

Page 2



Monthly Success Tips

The Monthly Success Tips section discusses new tips each month to help students to excel in their classes. Have any tips you would like to share? Let us know!

Page 3

Monthly Program Updates Continued

Outstanding Scholars Swag

Outstanding Scholars currently offers merchandise to be purchased to rep the OS program. Items available at the moment include OS hoodies, sweatshirts, t-shirts, and masks!

These items can be purchased online through the Outstanding Scholars Website. (<https://www.uwindsor.ca/outstandingscholars/339/outstanding-scholars-swap>)

Dr. du Toit's Office Hours

Dr. Simon du Toit offers weekly virtual office hours to give students a chance to ask any questions they may have about the OS program.

These office hours are held on Mondays and Thursdays at 4pm; the meetings can be joined by following the meeting link emailed to OS students weekly prior to 4pm.

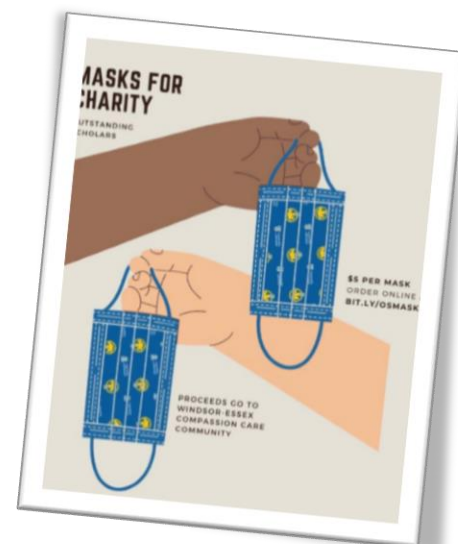
If you are not an OS student but would like to join office hours, you can reach out to Dr. du Toit at scholars@uwindsor.ca for the meeting link!

OSSC Fundraisers

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted our community in many ways. Charities, businesses, and most importantly, the residents in our community, have gone through difficult and unprecedented times during the pandemic. Outstanding Scholars realizes these times have been of great social change and would like to do its part in aiding COVID-19 relief. We would like to do our part through Outstanding Scholars Mask sales! They will be sold at bit.ly/osmasks for \$5! The proceeds will go to Windsor-Essex Compassion Care Community.

WECCC is a local organization that aims to "raise happiness, improve quality of life and reduce inequities for elderly and vulnerable citizens in Windsor-Essex." It is a local organization that aims to improve life for Windsor residents through the efforts of Windsor residents. Due to COVID-19, they need help more than ever. The proceeds of our mask sale charity will go towards various projects WECCC runs, including the purchase of grocery cards for community members in need.

If you are interested in purchasing a mask, please visit bit.ly/osmasks and place your order before December 15th, 2020.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the following Outstanding Scholar's social media accounts to receive updates about the program:



[outstandingscholars](https://www.facebook.com/outstandingscholars)



[uwindsor_os](https://www.instagram.com/uwindsor_os)



Franklin H. Ezenwa



OS Student Achievements

The OS Student Achievement section is used to highlight OS students who have made a notable accomplishment in either an academic or personal capacity.

The November 2020 OS Newsletter would like to recognize Franklin H. Ezenwa.

Having a strong interest in technology, Franklin H. Ezenwa migrated to Canada from Nigeria to pursue a BSc. degree in Computer Science with specialization in Software Engineering.

As a University of Windsor alumnus, he attained honours and recognitions for each academic year for which he was in session; these honours and recognitions included the Golden Key International Honour Society

membership, which is awarded to the top 15% in a program; the President's and Dean's Honour Roll List as well as Outstanding Scholar Awards, which are awarded to students with a GPA equivalent of at least 3.6 out of 4.

Franklin is the author of the book - "*Be A High Achiever: Achieving All-round Success in College & University*". In his book, he writes about invaluable success tips to direct students in the right direction with their future endeavors and encourage them to unlock their true potential.

In addition to writing, Franklin currently works as a software developer at IBM Canada where he continues to pursue his interest in technology.

RESEARCH



Research Opportunities

There are currently over 200 opportunities stored on the Outstanding Scholars Blackboard page, to which all OS students have access.



UWill Discover

OS students regularly present their research work at UWill Discover, the university's annual undergraduate research conference

EXPERIENCES

97%

of OS students remain on track to graduate, or graduate in a timely way

87%

of OS students say they are either "Well Satisfied" or "Extremely Well Satisfied" with the OS program

FAST FACTS

100 First Year OS Candidates

248 OS Students in Years 2, 3 and 4

\$10,450 Earnings Over 4 Years



During November, the Outstanding Scholars Student Council held an Outstanding Scholars informational Seminar discussing an overview of the OS program and the process of applying to become an official Scholar in your second year of university.

Monthly Success Tips

As the University of Windsor is approaching the end of the 2020 Fall Semester, here are a few tips to help you excel in your courses:

- 📅 Stay organized
- 🕒 Attend office hours
- 📅 Start studying for exams early

Stay Organized

In this online learning environment, it is easy to not realize you may have assignments and projects due sooner than you think. As the end of the semester approaches, review your syllabi to ensure you are aware of project and exam deadlines. Using a physical or digital calendar is a great way to keep track of everything you have to accomplish!

Attend Office Hours

Attending office hours offered by a professor or a TA/GA is a great way to clarify topics that you may have difficulty with. Office hours allow for real-time bilateral conversation, which prompts an in-depth understanding of topics taught in the classroom.

Start Studying for Exams Early

It is a great idea to start reviewing course concepts as early as possible as that allows you to effectively manage your time when you are very busy during exam season. Furthermore, by reviewing the course topics well in advance of exams, you will have more time to prioritize areas you are unclear on to effectively learn the content.

Upcoming Opportunities

Throughout the school year, Outstanding Scholars Students organize various events to support charitable causes and opportunities to network with other students. Here are a few examples of leadership development opportunities offered through OS:

Outstanding Scholars Student Council

The OSSC offers students the opportunity to help steer the OS program and organize activities for students in the program.

Elections for all positions, with the exception of First-Year Representative, are held in March of each year to elect members for the following school year.

Outstanding Scholars Peer Mentors

The OS program offers incoming first-year Candidates an opportunity to be paired with an upper year OS! The Peer Mentor program is coordinated by OS students, and it offers Scholars the opportunity to help new students transition into the scholarly life of the university. This mentorship lasts throughout the Fall and Winter semesters.

10,000 Coffees

Outstanding Scholars are encouraged to connect with the 10,000 Coffees program, which helps connect students who share career and professional interests.



Thanks for reading!

Thank you for reading the first issue of the Outstanding Scholars Newsletter. If you would like to see any additional topics covered in the future, please email Jana Khanafer, OSSC President, at khanafej@uwindsor.

www.uwindsor.ca/outstandingscholars/

Outstanding Scholars Newsletter

401 Sunset Ave
Windsor, ON N9B 3P4

Address

401 Sunset Ave
Windsor, ON N9B 3P4

