



# Outstanding Scholars Newsletter

## December 2020

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR

IN THIS ISSUE

## Monthly Program Updates

by Joshua Galasso

Welcome! This is the second issue of the OS newsletter created to assist Outstanding Scholars (OS) Students in keeping up-to-date with everything related to the OS program. Although December is not a scheduled newsletter release month, we decided to publish this issue to let you know of OS developments given the current online learning environment.

### 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.

### OS Contracts updates

Winter 2021 OS Contracts (applies only to 2nd year OS and higher):

- 🕒 Must be submitted by January 27, 2021 for 100% of the hours; February 2, 2021 for 80% of the hours; and February 9, 2021 for 60% of the hours
- 📁 Proposals and contracts are found on the OS blackboard page

Starting next academic year, OS Proposals and Contracts will move into an online SharePoint process to make the procedure go more smoothly.

### OS Research-Based collaborations

Outstanding Scholars has been working to build research-based collaborations with partners in government and industry in the Windsor-Essex region.

There is a new folder called "Community Projects" available on the OS Blackboard page that contains three projects available to join this semester.

Students in any undergraduate faculty can join these projects and choose to enroll in an experiential learning course such as SCIE-3990, GART-3100, KINE-4980, or a range of business courses such as STEN-4950 (all courses have instructors that agreed to provide oversight of the OS community projects).

If you are interested in learning more about these projects, please email Dr. Simon du Toit at [scholars@uwindsor.ca](mailto:scholars@uwindsor.ca).

## BUT WHAT IS SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP?

### OS Student Research

The Featured OS Research highlights current projects of students in the OS program! Email Jana Khanafer, OSSC President, at [khanafej@uwindsor](mailto:khanafej@uwindsor) to have your work 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-swag>)

## 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.

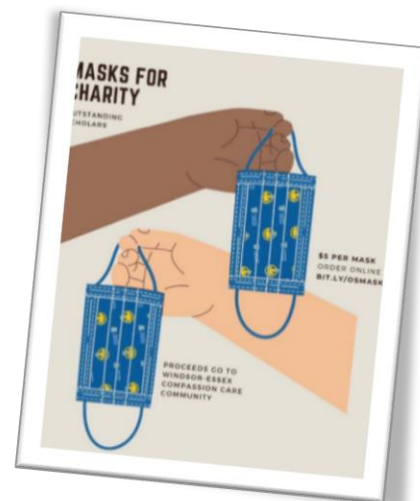
These office hours are held on Mondays and Thursdays at 4pm; the meetings can be joined by following the meeting link emailed to OS students weekly prior to 4pm. If you are not an OS student but would like to join office hours, you can reach out to Dr. du Toit at [scholars@uwindsor.ca](mailto:scholars@uwindsor.ca) for the link!

## OSSC Fundraisers

As a result of the OS mask sales, the OSSC successfully raised \$650, which was donated to the Windsor-Essex Compassion Care Community (WECCC) during the holiday season.

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 have needed help more than ever, and we are glad our donation went towards great initiatives they run, including the purchase of grocery cards for their members.

The fundraiser is now over, and we thank everyone for their support! We are still selling masks if you are interested at <https://www.uwindsor.ca/outstandingscholars/339/outstanding-scholars-swag>.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow our Outstanding Scholars social media accounts to stay updated with the program:



outstandingscholars



uwindsor\_os

# OS Student Research

The Featured OS Research highlights current projects of students in the OS program. This section helps identify what is happening in different disciplines on campus.

The December 2020 OS Newsletter would like to recognize Selina Pescara, a second-year business student. Here is what she had to say:

"Through my involvement in the Outstanding Scholars Program, I was granted the opportunity to assist in Dr. Schlosser's "Creating Entrepreneurial Awareness on Campus" project.

Through my studies and extracurricular activities, I have learned about the importance of entrepreneurship and social enterprises in both our local and global communities, and I knew that taking part in this project would enhance my knowledge even further.

Throughout my time working with the EPIC Centre team, I was provided the opportunity to help create a promotional video for their social entrepreneurship campaign in partnership with Libro Credit Union. This opportunity helped me grasp a greater understanding about the impact of social entrepreneurship and its ability to build better communities worldwide.

I was also able to meet and work alongside a very dedicated and supportive team. Wen Teoh, Sydney Thompson, and Layan B. were great leaders, and they have taught me lessons about collaboration, project management, and goal setting, all of which I will use as I continue to move along my educational and career pathways.

I thank Francine Schlosser and the entire EPIC Centre team for allowing me to assist in the production process; it was a great pleasure to work with you all! "



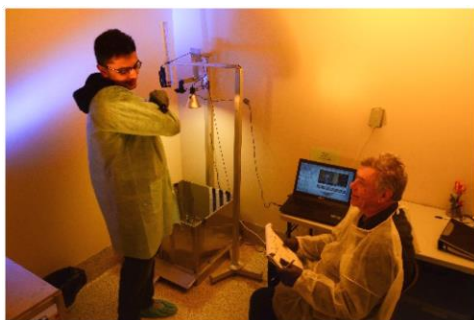
Watch the featured video here:



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fiu\\_aFKCp6E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fiu_aFKCp6E)



## 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



*Happy holidays and Happy New Year from the Outstanding Scholars Student Council!*

## Monthly Success Tips

Congratulations on finishing the Fall 2020 semester. Make sure to recharge during the Winter break to prepare for the Winter 2021 semester. Here are a few tips to help you excel in your next semester of courses:

- 🕒 Check your degree requirements
- 📖 Read your syllabi
- 📅 Update your calendar

## Check Your Degree Requirements

Every semester, you should ensure you are taking the recommended and required courses for your specific program. If you are unsure of what courses you need to take, you can book an appointment with an academic advisor to be aware of all the requirements in your program needed to graduate.

## Read Your Syllabi

As you are beginning a new semester of courses, you should review each syllabus to ensure you are prepared to attend the first lecture. For example, you should check to validate that you have taken all the required pre-requisites and to see if the syllabus recommends reviewing any specific topics before the first day of lectures.

## Update Your Calendar

While you are reviewing your syllabi to ensure you are prepared for your first day of lectures, you should update your physical or virtual calendar with the due dates of deliverables for each course. This makes you aware of everything you have due and helps you start out the semester strong.

## 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 second 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](mailto:khanafej@uwindsor).

[www.uwindsor.ca/outstandingscholars/](http://www.uwindsor.ca/outstandingscholars/)

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