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Fall 2017  
Issue 1

THE ADVISING COMPASS NEWSLETTER  
AIMS TO SHOWCASE THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY'S  
ACADEMIC ADVISING INFORMATION AND  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"Sharing guidance for any direction your life takes you"

# Advising Compass Newsletter



## Remember to use the PRAISE program

Deborah (FS), Holly (FEAS) and Kerry (FESNS) submitted a PRAISE certificate of recognition for Maria Jose-Martinez, a Client Services Representative in the Registrar's Office.

They wanted to recognize Maria for her willingness to take on the deferred exam process and for working collaboratively with Academic Advisors to create a process that is consistent for students in all Faculties.

Maria was selected as the winner from the quarterly draw and received a \$100 Visa Gift Card.

The P.R.A.I.S.E. (Peer Recognizing Achievements in Standout Employees) Program is run through Human Resources at UOIT.

[https://hr.uoit.ca/working\\_at\\_uoit/awards\\_and\\_recognition/praise-program/index.php](https://hr.uoit.ca/working_at_uoit/awards_and_recognition/praise-program/index.php)

## Now Presenting... Initiatives and information sessions provincially

Many UOIT Academic Advisors joined Advisors all across Ontario in attendance at the Ontario Academic Advising Professionals Conference (OAAP) at York University for a two day conference from October 26—27, 2017.

Multiple members from the deferred exam taskforce took to the stage and presented a session to colleagues across Ontario. The session was titled: "A Bad Case of Gastritis: How UOIT Academic Advisors dealt with Increasing Numbers of Final Examination Deferrals".

Holly MacPherson (FEAS), Deborah Treftlin (FS), and Kerry Morrison (FESNS) collaborated on increasing numbers of deferral applications as students were attempting to mitigate their exam stress. They identified trends in students deferring and discussed how UOIT moved to a centralized process of student forms being submitted to the Registrar's Office. The UOIT Academic Advisors had an engaged audience and received positive feedback from participants, such as:

*"Excellent presentation, we too are looking into a new process and this has given us invaluable tips."*

Patricia MacMillan (FSSH), presented at the OAAP conference on "What Can a NACADA Membership Do For You". She walked participants through learning more about the Global community for academic advising and the reciprocal benefits for NACADA and its members.



L-R: Kerry (FESNS), Deborah (FS), Holly (FEAS) presenting at OAAP on UOIT's new exam deferral process

For more information on this new process, see page 2.

# Advisors Welcome Back New and Returning Students

In September, Academic Advisors fired up their welcome wagons for the University's first-year orientation programming, themed IGNITE.

"Orientation is intended to make each new student feel welcome in their new community as they begin this exciting new chapter of their lives. There is a very strong participation rate in group activities. The University's program helps incoming students learn about academic expectations, how to get involved, and understand the value and importance of teamwork as part of the university experience." Scott Dempsey, Manager, Student Engagement and Equity, Office of Student Life.

This year saw over a thousand incoming students all cheering in their Faculty colours. There were over 130 peer orientation leaders on hand to guide these enthusiastic students to making their mark on campus. The yearly fight for the Stanley trophy was won by the Faculty of Science.



Science wins the coveted Stanley Trophy



Orientation Fun & Games

## Final Exam Deferral Changes

Students who missed their final exams, went through the new process of submitting an online application and uploading documentation electronically to the Registrar's Office. An increased fee of \$45 per exam was also implemented for this semester. The Registrar's office received over 500

Over 500  
Fall 2017  
final examination  
deferral  
applications

applications for the fall term, an increase of over 80 applications from the previous fall term. Through conversations with other advising teams across Ontario universities, we confirmed these increases in exam deferrals are not isolated. Some speculations regarding the increases in exam deferrals are: course load, scheduling of exams, exam type, exam weight, familial pressures, and learned peer behaviour. One

of the main goals of the process being re-routed was to increase efficiencies and make the process more consistent and equitable for all students. Advisors recognized an increased availability to be able to advise students rather than being bogged down in the paper deferral requests.



Academic Advisor, Susan (L) and few of her  
Faculty of Education co-workers at OUF 2017

## OUF Reaches Record Numbers

Academic Advisors from each Faculty joined their colleagues for the 2017 Ontario University's Fair (OUF). The 3 day event, held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre brought in over 139,000 people. The fair is always a great way to make connections with prospective students and their families. We were able to collect thousands of prospective student leads, which is part of the University's extensive targeted communication plan to stay connected and engaged with prospective students throughout the year.



FBIT Academic Advisor, Brianna (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) and  
some of her colleagues at OUF.

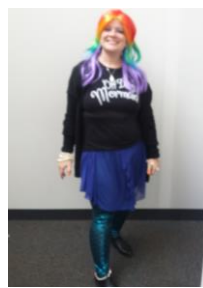




## HAPPY HALLOWEEN 2017



FSSH Academic Advising Team show their "CARE A LOT" community in their Care Bear Team Costume.



FESNS Academic Advisor Off Duty Mermaid



FBIT Advising Team in Bridesmaid Movie Characters and FEAS Advising Team as Pac Man.



L-R Patricia (FSSH), Kerry (FESNS) representing Academic Advising at the parade.

## Rain or Shine, Happy Holidays!

November 2017-Patricia (FSSH) and Kerry (FESNS) endured the pouring rain to participate in Oshawa Santa Claus Parade. UOIT was represented by multiple departments, from the Registrar's Office to OIRA, Athletics to Academic Advising, and many more.

### Doing Good >>>

## Advisors Friendly Food Drive Challenge

December 2017- The Faculty Academic Advising Teams challenged one another to a bragging rights friendly competition to see who could raise the most funds and food for the UOIT Food Drive. And the winner was...A tie between the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSH) and Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science (FEAS). Thank you to all those who contributed.

"The need is real: we hear stories about students having to choose between buying books or food throughout the school year. It can be particularly difficult for them during the holidays when they have to decide between purchasing school necessities or gifts for their families," says Brad MacIsaac, Co-chair, Holiday Food Drive. "We are thrilled that this year's campaign helped families enjoy happier holidays with a record number of 150 food hampers, thanks to the generosity of our campus community."



L-R Advisors: Holly (FEAS), Kerry (FESNS), Brittany (FEAS)

## FESNS Celebrates First Graduating Class 10 Year Reunion

*Time Flies! 2017 marks a decade of graduating students from UOIT's undergraduate programs. The Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science invited all graduates from its first graduating class to come back on campus to celebrate. When these students started at UOIT, there was only half of the UA building. A tour of the additional campus facilities helped solidify how far we've come since these students began in 2003. Along with the tour, the evening also included an alumni panel and time to mix and mingle with Faculty, staff, and fellow graduates.*



FESNS Alumni participating in a panel



### Advisor Updates >>>

- > Nicole Suss returned to FS, in the role of Senior Academic Advisor.
- > Patricia MacMillan returned to FSSH, in the Senior Academic Advisor role.
- > Alexandra Davidson returned to the role of Academic Advisor in FSSH.
- > Bryan Lee returned to the Registrar's Office.
- > Welcome to Dan Crouse, the Manager of Advising Operations in FHS.
- > Farewell to Bryan Butryn, Senior Academic Advisor in FEAS. We wish Bryan great success on his new adventures.
- > Kerry Morrison, Academic Advising Coordinator, is now located in ERC 3031

### Advisor Reminders >>>

*If you haven't posted your Team Advising Philosophies from the training to the Advising WISC site training area, please do so.*

*For those who need to complete the online Advising Assessment training course, please be in touch with the Academic Advising Coordinator*

## Academic Advising Featured Quote:

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*"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them to become what they are capable of being."*

*- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

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**Thoughts?**

If there is anything you want to see in the next issue of Advising Compass please contact Kerry Morrison  
Academic Advising Coordinator:  
[kerry.morrison@uoit.ca](mailto:kerry.morrison@uoit.ca)