

Annual Report of the OISE Library Student Advisory Committee (2023-2024)

Summary

List of Members

- **Co-chairs:** Yoonsuh Lee (CTL) and Ahmet Su (LHAE)
- **Secretary:** Tin Yuet (Tiffany) Tam (CTL)
- Bayan Akbik (LHAE)
- Noah Khan (SJE)
- Thacze Kuganesan (LHAE)
- Huda Salha (LHAE)
- Sydney VanDeWiel (SJE)

OISE Library Staff

- Jenaya Webb (Director, OISE Library, ex-officio)
- Desmond Wong (Outreach Librarian, OISE Library)
- Lenora Huynh (Outreach and Assessment Toronto Academic Library Intern, University of Toronto)

Meetings

Four hybrid meetings were held throughout the 2023 – 2024 academic year:

- Meeting 1: December 12, 2023 (12:00 – 1:30 PM)
- Meeting 2: January 17, 2024 (12:00 – 1:30 PM)
- Meeting 3: March 1, 2024 (12:00 – 1:30 PM)
- Meeting 4: March 20, 2024 (12:30 – 2:00 PM)

Achieved Tasks

- Committee members met regularly to propose and discuss ideas; Working groups were formed to turn ideas into actual programs.
 - The activities included improving the Un-study Spot, organizing a family event, collaborating on the promotion and organization of the Therapy Dog event in April.
- Promotion of programs were heavily discussed to ensure the student perspective was accounted for, and that optimal engagement for events was facilitated
- Some/most of committee members shared their suggestions for the OISE Picks.

OISE Student Parent Event

- OISE Library staff and the committee members worked together to organize a family event on the 3rd floor of the library. The event took place on Saturday, April 27th, from 11 am – 1 pm.
- The event was promoted through various channels such as social media accounts and *Inside OISE* newsletter.
- 10 students and their families attended the event.
- The participants were served age-appropriate light refreshments, i.e. tea and coffee for adults; a variety of fruit and snacks for children.
- OISE student-parents enjoyed coffee or tea while the children enjoyed books, toys, and puppets.
- A volunteer student supported the event, held a reading session, and played music for the kids.

OISE Picks

- A working group of 3 was formed and met separately to discuss how OISE Picks Summer 2024 could be conducted
- OISE Community such as faculty and students were invited to suggest book titles to the OISE Library by answering 3 simple questions
- Promotion was done via *Inside OISE* newsletter, messages to OISE faculty and students, Instagram posts and stories, and a Microsoft Forms
- The selected book suggestions will be displayed at the OISE Library and the blog by mid-summer with the participants' first names and short blurbs
- A U of T Libraries tote bag will be given to a chosen participant as a token of appreciation for their contribution to OISE Picks

Un-study Spot

- A working group of 3 made recommendations for improvements to the Un-study Spot to make it more attractive to OISE students.
- The improvements included:
 - More comfortable furniture
 - Window decorations

Therapy Dog Promotional Collaboration

- The committee reached consensus on creating graphics that were clear, easily legible, and not text-heavy, to ensure optimal promotion
- It was decided to pursue multiple promotional channels, including the OISE Library Instagram page (along with encouraging other OISE accounts to repost our graphic), the Personal Librarian emails, and the *Inside OISE* newsletter
- A short clip from one of the visits can be seen on OISE Library's Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5obM6_Ot43/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==

Recommendations

Recommendations for Projects

- Invite every student member of OLSAC to join at least one working group of a project, even though they may not be able to attend every meeting
- Including more committee contributions to library space re-design efforts in future iterations, similarly to the *Un-study Spot* in the current report
- Creating more events for students at the OISE Library that revolve promoting resources and fostering community
 - E.g. monthly library social gatherings, more library outreach on social media (through posts and live sessions)

Recommendations for Committee Meetings/Administration

- Continue to include a brainstorming session during the 1st meeting. It is very helpful for new committee members to ask questions, share expectations and suggest new ideas about OISE Library's Collections, Spaces and Events, Library Student Support, Effective Feedback and Outreach, Community Collaborations, etc.
- Include an end-of-year in-person meeting which committee members can meet and celebrate the completion of different projects

- Encourage all student members of OLSAC to attend at least two meetings. If they cannot be present at the meetings, they are still encouraged to contribute ideas and give feedback after reading the meeting minutes
 - Allowing for some asynchronous participation in meeting discussions, through MS Forms or Google Jamboard (and its alternatives), in the case that members are unable to attend certain meetings

Recommendations for Engagement

- Work with different OISE organizations and student associations
- Creating longer term partnerships with OISE academic departments and ROSE, to better engage more OISE students
 - As these sources are more readily accessed by OISE students
- Continue to promote events on OISE Library's social media
- Along with digital promotion of Library events, promoting via physical posters (bulletin boards near the elevators, etc.) can be helpful

Recommendations for the OISE Library Collections and OISE Picks

To be posted on the OISE Library blog!

Helen Chatburn recommended: Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2022). Thematic analysis: a practical guide. SAGE. (Title already held in the library:

https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991107189876606196)

Ahmet Su recommended: Altbach, P. G. (1998). Comparative higher education: knowledge, the university, and development. Comparative Education Research Centre, University of Hong Kong. (Title already held in the library:

https://librarysearch.library.utoronto.ca/permalink/01UTORONTO_INST/14bjeso/alma991106532988606196)

Thacze Kuganesan recommended [Student development in college: theory, research, and practice](#). As the book provides a simple yet deep dive on student development theories. It really puts into perspective how we as educators can support students. She recommends this book for those currently in or looking to enter the Student Affairs and Services field or supporting school/post-secondary aged students (including your own children!) in any capacity.

[Teacher and Child: A Book for Parents and Teachers \(Haim G. Ginott\)](#) was recommended by Tin Yuet (Tiffany) Tam. This book was written by a once frustrated and novice teacher, who dedicated his life to finding how to guide teachers and parents to listen to the needs of students. You may enjoy this book if you “feel anxious about teaching for the first time; for those who want to recharge during their teaching journey”

Yoonsuh Lee recommended [What School Could Be \(Ted Dintersmith\)](#). To anyone who is curious as to what this book is about, the title says it all: "What School Could Be." In his book, Ted Dintersmith explores a transformative vision for education, showcasing inspiring examples of innovative learning environments across America, offering his insights on what he has learned from his 40-week journey across the 50 states to visit 200 schools. This book is perfect for anyone who wonders what schools can be.

Kevin Southgate [Naturally Inclusive: Engaging Children of All Abilities Outdoors by Dr. Ruth Wilson](#). I am becoming increasingly interested in outdoor education and wanted to learn how to support children with special needs in outdoor settings. I love how the book uses lots of recent sources and information, while also being colorful and filled with photos and illustrations making it easy to read. I think any educator or parent interested in exploring the benefits of nature for children with special needs would find this book interesting.

[They Said This Would Be Fun" by Eternity Martis](#) is recommended by Imani King. She heard about three years ago, during her undergraduate studies from Victoria College here at U of T during its Race and Racism conference. It matters to me because I could relate heavily as a Black-identifying person who has always been the minority in academic spaces but still loved learning and interacting. She thinks this book is best for MT and MEd candidates, especially as this touches upon the transition between high school and postsecondary.

Sumeya Shash recommended *Black Boys Like Me: Confrontations with Race, Identity, and Belonging*, by Matthew R. Morris. It's a series of essays written by a TDSB teacher and touches on themes of Black masculinity, hip-hop education, identity and belonging. It talks about his experiences as a student growing up in Scarborough, and his later experiences as a Scarborough teacher. She thought it was important for all teachers and Master of Education students to read. This book is in the process of being added to the collection.

Walking Together – Picture Book by Elder Dr. Albert D. Marshall was a fantastic recommendation by Gabriella Cooper. This book offers diverse perspectives, unity, cooperation, and shared journeys. This book matters to me because there is a theme of cultural understanding as it offers Indigenous wisdom, values, and perspectives. The idea of "walking together" implies support within communities and connections. This theme is important because it encourages readers to value their connections and relationships with others (family, friends, communities), demonstrating the importance of empathy, cooperation, and mutual respect. Personal growth is also an important theme in this book, promoting reflection and self-awareness that encourages readers to reflect on their place in the world, values and relationships. This book is being added to the collection.

Michelly Peixoto recommended ["Black Skin, White Masks" by Frantz Fanon](#). The book is thought-provoking as it makes us reflect on the idea of colonized psychic and how blackness as an identity is constructed. This is a great reading for anyone interested in reflecting on how the society we live in, and the societal power dynamics influence our identity formation and establishes our place in the world.

Emily Doyle recommended [Babel by RF Kuang](#). Babel tells a fantastical tale of magic interwoven with history. Set in the 19th century at Oxford university, Kuang describes issues of colonialism and power imbalances in academia through the lens of languages and the mysteries of translation. If you're a fan of languages, history, or dark academia this is absolutely the book for you!

Ashley Bejoy recommended [Convenience Store Woman by Sayaka Murata](#). This book follows the story of 36-year-old Tokyo resident Keiko Furukura. She has worked in the same convenience store for 18 years. Keiko is seen as strange and an outsider in her society because she does not conform to its expectations of normalcy in terms of career and personal life. People interested in adult fiction, contemporary fiction, Japanese culture, and short but engaging reads.

Isabel Khudr recommended [The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides](#). The book is about a psychotherapist who is keen on helping an infamous artist reclaim her life after 7 years of silence after killing her husband. She has been in an institute and has not said a word. The book takes you on an emotional rollercoaster as the author tries to figure out what really happened the day she murdered the love of her life. Anyone interested in detective work and psychology. If you enjoy novels that are engaging and captivating this is for you.