

Dr. Chris Houser, Professor & Dean of Science
Earth and Environmental Science, Faculty of Sciences
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1

Re: OE3C 2024 at University of Waterloo

Dear Dean Houser,

As a leader in science research and innovation, it is important the University of Waterloo (UW) remains integrated in scientific networks. From 2-4 May 2024, the trainees from the UW Biology department will be hosting the 54th annual Ontario Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution Colloquium (OE3C). OE3C is organized by students, for students, and provides opportunities for oral and poster presentations, academic and industry panels, and plenaries from academic leaders across Ontario universities. It has become a staple in the Ontario biology community, serving as the first conference experience for many undergraduate and graduate students. Not only is OE3C an opportunity to showcase emerging research from student scholars, but it is an opportunity to build collaborations across institutes and for student leaders to discuss issues at the forefront of ecology, ethology, and evolution with peers and professors.

The OE3C 2024 organizing committee (comprised of UW Biology postdocs, graduate, and undergraduate students) are hoping to continue the tradition of providing a subsidized conference experience for student attendees at a low registration fee. We have arranged for subsidized accommodations on campus and hope to provide breakfasts, lunches, coffee breaks, and a closing dinner as part of registration. This year we are making a big push to include more undergraduate students at the conference and hope to provide both UW undergraduates and indigenous attendees with awards to cover registration. As OE3C is not hosted by an academic society, all of these initiatives rely on donations and sponsorships from our supporters. This year we have a fundraising goal of \$35,000 to fund OE3C and be able to keep registration low for students. As OE3C 2024 will mark the 40-year anniversary of the last time the colloquium was held at UW, we are hoping to highlight UW Faculty of Science as the premier sponsor of the event. We kindly request a contribution of \$20,000 from the faculty to assist us in providing students with the best possible conference experience at UW.

In hosting OE3C, we aim to not only highlight the UW Biology department but the entire Faculty of Science. We are working to organize tours of the WATER facility, the Earth Science Museum, the Waterloo Centre for Astrophysics, morning birding at Columbia Lake, as well as other UW facilities including the Art Museum. When people think about science at Ontario institutes, we want them to immediately think about the University of Waterloo.

Thank you for your consideration, and we are happy to further discuss OE3C 2024 with you.

Sincerely,



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