

im print

p3

CASE II COMPETITION

UW employees win gold and silver medal at CASE II competition. P3.



OPINION

Everything you need to know about the Houston Rockets fallout. P10

SPORTS & HEALTH P5

New online course will help university athletes better manage concussions and safely return to sports.

ARTS & LIFE P7

Black History Month: Imprint Feature on St. Paul's Chancellor Michaëlle Jean.

SCIENCE & TECH P9

A student's experience starting UW during the pandemic.

Did you know Warton Willie's predictions have been unreliable? P2.



COURTESY UW, SHALINI, BEI, AND CHARISSA



Wiarthon Willie's predictions wildly off the mark, UW students find

Anicka Bakos
Reporter

Every February, Wiarthon Willie's predictions have become something of an annual tradition for many.

Unfortunately, the famous Canadian groundhog's forecasts are a bit unreliable, according to UW students Shalini Kathirgamanathan, Bei Niu, and Charissa Abishiktha.

Kathirgamanathan, Niu, and Abishiktha are all taking a 4th-year Environmental Science course at UW this semester. For one of their assignments, they were asked to analyze local weather data and look at how climate change affects ecology "in an interesting way."

So, they did a study that analyzed how accurate Wiarthon Willie's predictions were since the turn of the century.

The study was done as part of ERS 431, the Ecological Consequences of Climate Change, currently taught by Dr. Andrew Trant, an Assistant Professor in the School of Environment, Resources, and Sustainability.

The students collected Wiarthon Willie's prediction data from the past twenty-two years and compared it to actual weather data.

For each year of Wiarthon Willie's predictions, they calculated the average daily temperature for February and March.

This average temperature over a twenty-two-year period was treated as the baseline or "normal" spring temperature.

"For the data between 1999 and 2019, we used a website called ClimateNA_MAP, which is an interactive platform for visualization and data access.

The data for 2020 comes from the Historical Climate Data website by the Government of Canada," Kathirgamanathan said.

The students then compared the two numbers - the average daily temperature for February and March, and the baseline or "normal" spring temperature - for each year to see whether it was warmer or cooler than "normal" and whether there was in fact an early spring.

Finally, this result was compared to Wiarthon Willie's prediction for that same year.

According to Kathirgamanathan, Wiarthon Willie's prediction was correct "if a warmer than normal year was predicted to



JIA CHEN

have an early spring (no shadow) and if a cooler than normal year was predicted to be a later spring (shadow)."

The students concluded that Wiarthon Willie's predictions were fairly unreliable. "What we found is that Willie's predictions were 32% accurate, meaning you have a better chance [to predict an early spring by] just

guessing," Kathirgamanathan quipped.

"From our study, Wiarthon Willie was more accurate in the latter half of the 22 year span - but only by 1 more correct prediction.

Willie's predictions had an accuracy of 27.27 per cent from 1999 to 2009, and an accuracy of 36.36 per cent from 2010 to 2020,"

Kathirgamanathan said.

"Last year an early spring was predicted but sadly it wasn't accurate.

Despite Willie's prediction getting better in terms of accuracy, he still isn't the very best!"

As for this year's prediction of an early spring, Kathirgamanathan doesn't yet know whether Wiarthon Willie's prediction was accurate or not.

"We'll have to get the Feb/Mar temperature data first to measure the accuracy of this year's predictions.

But, with the trend of increasing surface temperatures as an outcome of climate change that seems to be resulting in more and more early springs, I think it's fair to say that [this forecast] may be accurate," Kathirgamanathan explained.

"With climate change, we are experiencing fewer cold high-pressure systems [resulting] in blue skies and groundhog shadows..."

So, with Willie's accuracy increasing and climate change probably creating more early springs, we might just see more predictions of early springs in the future."

"Our findings would argue that, apart from sheer chance, climate change could account for why Wiarthon Willie does get his predictions correct from time to time," Abishiktha said.

Kathirgamanathan, Niu, and Abishiktha hope that their study will initiate some much-needed conversations about how climate change is affecting the local KW community.

"What we want people to take away from this fun analysis is that we, too, experience the effects of climate change in Southern Ontario. We aren't right beside the melting ice caps or flooding islands where the effect of climate change can be so evidently seen.

So, we hope that people begin to understand the very nature of climate change, that it affects everyone everywhere (differently and disproportionately).

Hopefully, this encourages others...to see how climate change is affecting the world we know here in [Waterloo region]," Kathirgamanathan said.

Despite his wrong predictions, Kathirgamanathan said that she is a fan of Wiarthon Willie.

"Wiarthon Willie brings the community together and, as we see, has provided us with the opportunity to talk about things like climate change."

UW brings home wins from CASE

Karen Chen
News Editor

On Jan. 22, 2021, it was announced that UW's own Matt Regehr and Beth Gallagher won gold in the Case II competition for creating the 'best general video', as well as a silver medal for 'Best Video on a Shoestring' highlighting the citizenship judge Albert Wong (BSc '80).

"These kinds of awards help us showcase University of Waterloo alumni within our own community but also across Canada and the world," Gallagher said.

This competition features video submissions from prestigious schools in the USA and Canada such as McGill and the University of Toronto. "Some of the U.S. colleges and universities have big budgets and are really creative, so it feels nice to do well against them," Matt Regehr stated. "Over the years, Waterloo has won awards in almost every category," he added. This just goes to show how wonderful and unique the Kitchener-Waterloo region is.

Celebrating who we are is important, and Gallagher and Regehr capture that in their short video on citizenship Judge Albert Wong.

"From a videographer's perspective it was a dream job. As soon as Beth pitched the idea, I knew it could be a powerful, emotional piece and I wanted to deliver on Beth's vision and do well for Waterloo," Re-

gehr stated. "Judge Wong is an amazing guy with a rich history and great story. We got so much good content we could have told multiple stories," Regehr continued.

"We decided to focus on the children and shape the story around the young New Canadians because they were obviously so important to Judge Wong; and Matt was able to capture so much beautiful, candid footage of the children," Gallagher remarked. In many ways, Judge Wong's story resonates with students of Waterloo and Canadians from coast to coast.

"I think Judge Wong is a really good example of why universities maintain relationships with their alumni.

People spend their very formative years at university and build connections that last a lifetime. Building and nurturing strong alumni communities can have a huge impact on the broader society and the institutions themselves," Gallagher observed.

When asked about what the best part of making this video was, Matt Regehr answered: "to experience the joy and happiness of each new Canadian was amazing. I attended three citizenship ceremonies and even though it was a long day, it was a really great experience and definitely worth it. Watching the faces of the parents as their children became Canadian citizens was priceless."

"Being able to capture these special moments was something I'll always remember. It's not something everyone gets to see," Regehr conveyed.



Matt Regehr, Multimedia Design Manager, UW.



COURTESY UW

Beth Gallagher, Manager, Communications, UW.

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UW INDIGENOUS STUDENT ASSOCIATION



UW professor Ming Li receives Lifetime Achievement Award in CS

Saihaj Dadhra
Assistant News Editor

UW professor Ming Li received the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award in Computer Science from CS-Can|Info-Can, a non-profit organization representing the computer science discipline across Canada.

The award, granted annually since 2014, is bestowed upon faculty members who have attained “outstanding and sustained achievement in research, teaching and service,” according to the Cheriton School of Computer Science website.

This achievement was celebrated by UW faculty and students, including Jacqueline Li, Chair of the Undergraduate Women in Computer Science committee.

“Congratulations to Professor Li on the lifetime achievement award!”

He shows us that hard work and dedication can lead to the achievement of great things.

It’s inspiring and makes me proud to be a student studying computer science at

UW,” she said.

Li joined UW in 1988, after completing a Ph.D. from Cornell University and a post-doctoral fellowship from Harvard University.

He was designated “University Professor” in 2009 and won the Killam Prize the following year for his contributions to computer science.

His contributions to computer science include developments in modern information theory and computational biology.

Li and his colleagues introduced Kolmogorov complexity into computer science. Kolmogorov complexity “provides a universal measure of information, information content, and randomness,” according to the university’s daily bulletin.

In addition to being a professor, Li is the Canada Research Chair in Bioinformatics, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Association for Computing Machinery, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Li is the eighth faculty member of the Cheriton School of Computer Science to win the Lifetime Achievement award from CS-Can|Info-Can.



HEATHER ECOBICHON

WUSA elections see low voter turnout, only one candidate for each position

Suhani Saigal
Managing Editor

Student politics at UW experienced low student engagement this year.

Of the 34,084 eligible voters, the number of students who participated was 1,729.

“The 2021 Winter Term elections, which opened on Nov. 20, concluded on Feb. 4, with a 5.07 per cent voter turnout,” Seun Adetunji, Communications and Media Relations Manager of WUSA, said.

With only one candidate choice for each executive position, students were required to vote yes or no instead of the usual ranking system.

“This year’s low voter turnout reflects the uniqueness of this election cycle.

The lack of contentious races leading to reduced student engagement and our new virtual world are some of the reasons why fewer undergraduates participated in the elections,” Adetunji said.

For the next WUSA President, Benjamin Easton, 935 votes were cast – 729 yes votes,

117 no votes, and 89 abstentions.

Matthew Schwarze, VP, Operations and Finance, for the next academic year, received 682 yes votes and 114 no votes, with 39 abstentions.

In total, 835 votes were cast for this position.

A total of 845 votes were cast for Stephanie Ye-Mowe, the next VP, Education.

Out of which, 688 were yes votes and 109 were no votes, with 48 abstentions.

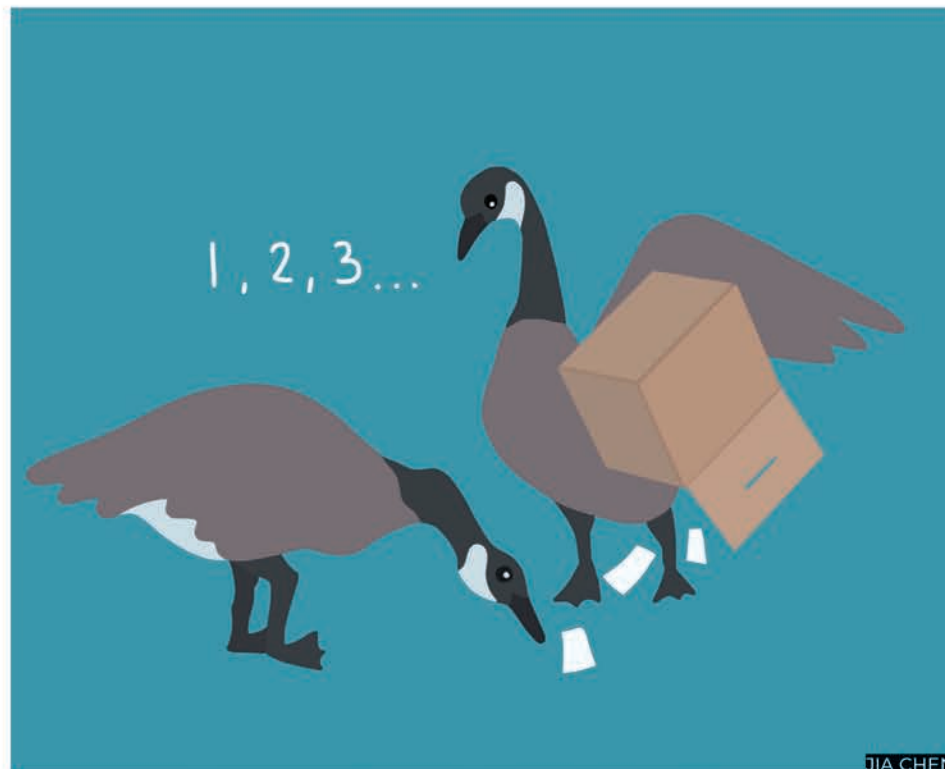
Catherine Dong, the elected VP, Student Life, received 736 yes votes and 123 no votes, with 39 abstentions, bringing the total to 898 total votes.

There was a 7.13 per cent drop in voter turnout this year compared to last year.

“The voters are, however, representative of the entire student community.

We congratulate all winners and look forward to the ideas they will bring and the contributions they will make to the undergraduate student experience at the University of Waterloo,” Adetunji said.

Easton, Schwarze, Ye-Mowe, and Dong will start their term as WUSA executives in Spring 2021.



JIA CHEN

sports & health



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Online “concussion” course launches

Designed to help speed up the recovery process for athletes who have concussions in order to get them back to playing and competing faster.

Tara De Boer
Sports and Health Editor

The launch of a new concussion management training course, Concussion Awareness Training Tool (CATT) was created to get athletes back to playing sports safely and more quickly. The course was specifically designed with varsity-athletes in mind, to aid in their recovery as they manage being both an athlete and a student.

Concussions can happen anywhere. Although they are more likely to occur on the football field, the hockey rink, or the basketball court, they can happen outside of sports as well. The implications can be damaging and negatively impactful in the long term if not taken care of properly.

CATT's design is similar to an online course, now familiar to a university student, having to learn fully online as a result of social distancing measures. CATT consists of a series of online educational modules and resources to work through at your own pace. The content is focused on building knowledge and awareness on concussions, such as recognition, diagnosis, proper treatment, and management of the condition. Ar-

ventive measures are being shared across Canada. eas that are often overlooked, yet critical to recovery and wellbeing in the short term, as well as the long term.

The content is also focused on mental health, as well as navigating the reporting process, advice on medication, and supporting a teammate who has experienced a concussion. The course is free and interactional for users, even consisting of personal stories of current and former student athletes across Canada who have suffered with concussions.

The course was created by Dr. Shelina Babul, associate director of the British Columbia Injury Research and Prevention Unit (BCIRPU) at BC Children's Hospital, clinical associate professor at the University of British Columbia's faculty of medicine and a sports injury specialist. Babul collaborated with U SPORTS, which represents 56 universities as the national governing body of university sport in Canada.

BCIRPU is an institution which operates on the basis of reducing the societal and economic burden of injury in BC. The unit uses high-quality and comprehensive injury data, and evidence-based practices to work to prevent injuries in BC. Now, with the collaboration of U SPORTS, these pre-

ventive measures are being shared across Canada.

If you, or someone you know, has suffered a concussion, you can

learn more at www.cattonline.com or on Twitter @cattonline.



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UW study finds isolation-induced mental health challenges of long-term care residents can be mitigated

Tara De Boer
Sports and Health Editor

Research at UW found that the negative mental health outcomes of COVID-19 isolation on long-term care residents can be mitigated through data-backed interventions.

The study, "Evaluating the Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic Lockdown on Long-Term Care Residents' Mental Health: A Data-Driven Approach in New Brunswick," was published in JAMDA and authored by Caitlin McArthur, Margaret Saari, George Heckman, Nathalie Wellens, Julie Weir, Paul Hebert, Luke Turcotte, Jalila Jbilou and John Hirdes.

Long term care residents have been among the most restricted groups in terms of their COVID-19

prevention protocols. After the virus quickly spread throughout multiple Canadian long-term care facilities in the first wave of the pandemic, isolation and other strong precautions were put in place to protect the vulnerable long-term care residents and to stop the spread of COVID-19.

However, studies have shown that COVID-19 isolation has had a negative impact on the mental health of long-term care residents, as a result of lack of daily interaction and socialization. UW created a research study regarding this issue and discovered that these unfavourable outcomes can in fact be mitigated.

The study was conducted in seven long-term care facilities in New Brunswick, where clinical information systems were used to track changes in resident's mental

health status.

The data from these systems proved to be crucial in helping homes to allocate resources, spotlighting what kinds of initiatives have a positive effect on the residents.

The tracking systems were used to keep residents engaged with others and keep their overall mood up. Some strategies used to raise resident morale included window visits with family and video chats – two contactless options to socialize. One of the homes even made a point to hire students to facilitate virtual calls, interact with the residents, and run internal recreation activities. All of these initiatives put in place to intentionally uplift the residents' spirits.

As the restrictions in long-term care facilities continue to mount, this data found from the status

tracking systems can be taken into account by policy makers. In particular, they can examine the data to implement better management strategies in the future to support the mental health of residents and prevent the virus from spreading.

John Hirdes, the principal investigator of the study and a professor at the School of Public Health and Health Systems, urges that there is an important balance between quality of life and physical health. By using the tracking systems, policy makers can get closer to understanding how to strike this balance for residents.

Seven francophone long-term care homes were also studied by the researchers, using a standardized assessment interRAI long-term care facility (LTCF), to evaluate the outcomes of certain strategies aimed to create improvement on mental health (like the ones mentioned above).

The researchers looked at 4,209 assessments from 765 residents between January 2017 and June 2020 and reviewed the changes in mental health over time. One factor to keep in mind is that these facilities were not experiencing COVID-19 deaths like Ontario and Quebec.

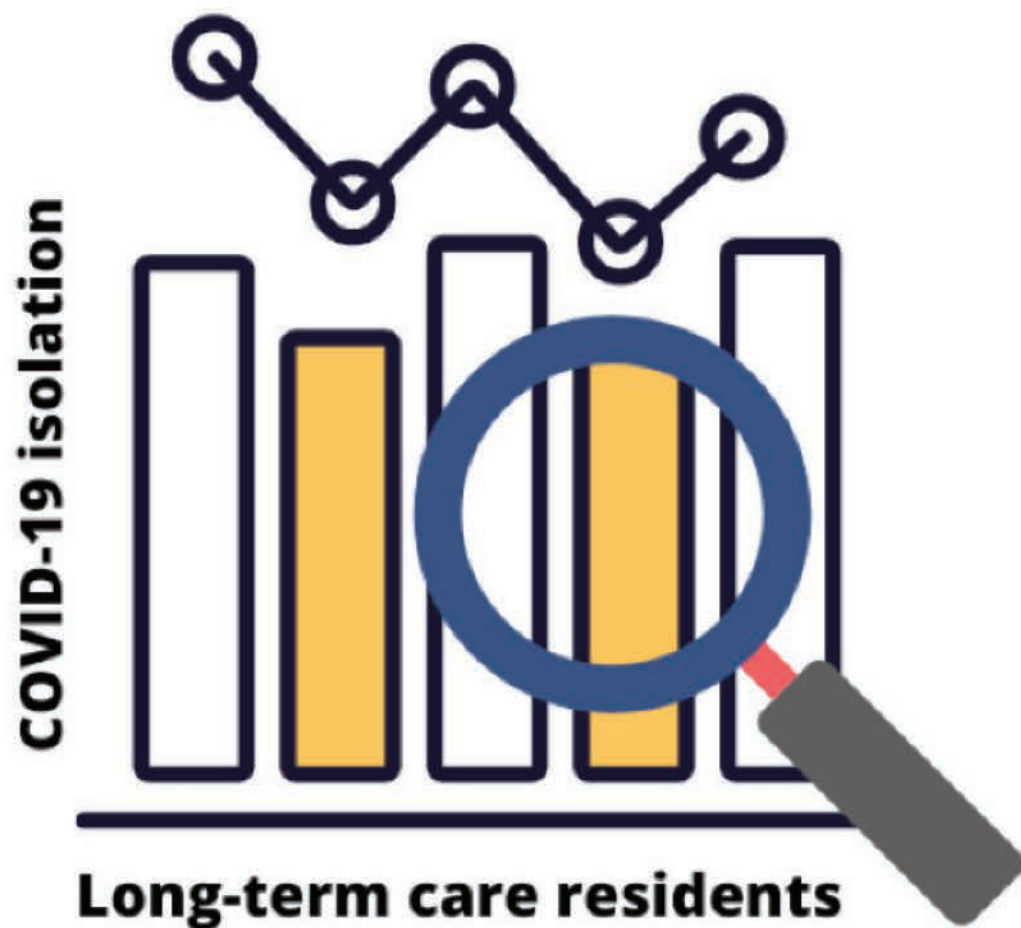
After implementing these strategies, the seven homes that were studied in New Brunswick showed that depression, delirium, and disruptive behaviour either stayed the same, or in some cases, decreased.

This study highlights that by implementing thoughtful strategies in long-term care facilities, the negative mental health outcomes of COVID-19 isolation can be controlled and potentially improved.

By continuing with the initiatives such as socially-distanced visits and consistent video calls, the negative mental health outcomes of residents can be mitigated. Homes can also take these findings into consideration and create other strategies for more interaction between residents and others, such as more organized activities internally and more opportunities to socialize safely.

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Black History Month | Michaëlle Jean

Nicola Rose
Reporter

Michaëlle Jean, the St. Paul's University College Chancellor, had a message to share for Black History Month.

Jean is a former governor-general of Canada who joined St. Paul's in 2020 as the next step of a vibrant career in academia, journalism, and politics. Her commitment to unity and justice has been a throughline of her life and she has advocated for oppressed groups throughout her career.

Jean used her message, which can be found in full on the UW/St. Paul website, to extend an invitation to the community to use Black History Month as a source of personal inspiration.

In her message, Jean wrote about Black history, acknowledging the "400 years of humiliation, abject violence, untold cruelty and endless suffering" caused by colonialism and slavery.

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jean escaped to Canada as a political asylee with

her family when she was just a child. Before her family left, Jean watched her father be arrested and tortured under François Duvalier's brutal totalitarian regime.

Colonized by the French in the 1600s, Haiti is known, among other things, for becoming the first black-led republic in the world, and the first independent Caribbean state. But Haiti's natural resources and infrastructure had already suffered massively at the hands of colonial forces, and the nation was forced to pay indemnity to France for over a century.

Hundreds of years later, immense debt, occupation, violent revolutions, and poor leadership have left the country in a poor state.

Jean's message acknowledges the complexity of Black history, from immense and ongoing suffering to revolutionary liberation movements.

"Every year, the month of February brings an opportunity to recognize painful historical truths, as well as the luminous, exemplary struggles for freedom that brought more humanity into all of our lives," Jean wrote. "Black history shows how strength of char-

acter and a collective capacity for protracted struggle can become the greatest force for change."

Jean herself has been a key figure of movements for justice and equality since coming to Canada.

After being granted Canadian citizenship, Jean's family settled in Quebec. A strong scholar, Jean studied at the Université de Montréal, where she eventually earned a master's degree in comparative literature. She then taught Italian in the Université's Department of Literature and Modern Languages before working as a journalist and presenter for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and Radio-Canada.

Jean earned numerous accolades during her time in journalism, and was recognized for her contributions to many social and political causes.

In Quebec, Jean became involved with the feminist movement, where she worked to create a network of resources for women who were victims of domestic abuse.

In 2005, Jean became Canada's 27th governor-general.

A lifelong activist, Jean used her time in

the role to promote unity and equality. She advocated for increased communication between Canada's Francophone and Anglophone communities, and between the country's provinces and territories.

As governor-general, Jean also continued her work in advancing women's rights.

In 2009, she was awarded the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Canada Award, for her outstanding contribution in advancing gender equality.

Jean's commitment to advocacy is reflected in her message for Black History Month. She writes about how the fight against racism, and discrimination, is "a fight for humanity itself."

Importantly, this fight cannot be confined to just February. Jean encourages people to continue to learn about Black history and cultural resistance, about abolition and civil rights, and about Black liberation.

"Countless stories await to sustain you. Look around. Read a book. Watch a movie. The CBC, the NFB, your local library all have tons to offer. This month and beyond, online and in the flesh, join the celebrations, join the work."

“Black history shows how strength of character and a collective capacity for protracted struggle can become the greatest force for change.”

MICHAËLLE JEAN



Kitchener postponed decision on funding for The Rolling Stones Exhibition

Claudia Tavara-Tello
Reporter

The Kitchener City Council has desperately tried to determine what the region needs during the pandemic, with financial limitations increasing due to COVID-19.

On Jan. 14, 2021, the council decided to postpone a \$100,000 one-time grant request from THEMUSEUM's CEO, David Marskell for an upcoming exhibition about The Rolling Stones.

As it stands, THEMUSEUM owns the exclusive rights to UNZIPPED, an exhibition to celebrate The Rolling Stones' 60th anniversary by exploring the untold history of their lives.

Tickets for the exhibition were put on sale a year before the opening date and THEMUSEUM plans to make announcements regarding progress for UNZIPPED throughout the year.

"We've had over \$100,000 in sales already. We're booking tours, bus tours, one from as far away as Nova Scotia. We have significant support from the Province of Ontario through the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund - \$150,000. We've got local corporations that have come together, and we've got well over \$100,000 collectively from them," Marskell said.

The grant, in addition to Ontario Cultural Attractions and local corporations, would give THEMUSEUM a total of \$350,000 in funding eight months before the grand opening. The exhibition's potential helps account for the high cost.

"We're going to be upwards, close to \$800,000 or \$900,000 when we're said and done with marketing, building out a merchandise store which we have opened online already, but we will open up one at the front of our building, and some of the other activities we intend to bring in and announce along the way," Marskell explained.

Marskell hopes the grand opening for the exhibition coincides with the widespread rollout of vaccines for COVID-19. He is predicting that a considerable number of people will go out and experience the UNZIPPED exhibition.

The idea behind the one-time grant was to give the economy a head-start in boosting the tourism industry back into shape. Marskell views the grant as the perfect opportunity to help the Kitchener-Waterloo region to attract tourists once more. He believes the exhibition will revive the regional economy as a whole as it will also help local restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and retailers.

"People are going to come from far away,

and if we can work together as a community to have them stay overnight, see something at Drayton at St. Jacobs, at the symphony, or what have you, we need to take advantage of that," Marskell said.

While Marskell hopes the exhibition will be a financial success, he is unsurprised by recommendations from regional staff that the council should not approve the grant request. Money is tight because of COVID-19, and many organizations need support.

"This will come back hugely, way more than the \$100,000 investment. If that prompts 10,000 people, and 10 per cent of them or 1,000 book a hotel for \$200, that's \$200,000, plus the restaurants and all the other things. So, it's not an easy decision for them, and I get that. And they do support us on an annual basis, but it's just them trying to balance things to make the community the best possible place it can be."

There are additional concerns regarding Marskell's statements, in particular regarding what would happen if the vaccine process is slower than expected. Will the region be forced to delay the exhibition to 2022?

Furthermore, since the exhibition is opening in November, how many people and tourists will they expect to have? Usually, most tourism occurs during the summer. It could take months for people and businesses to recover and return to normalcy.

Regardless, the council's decision was to postpone a decision on the one-time grant request, with potential for review at a later date.



“People are going to come from far away, and if we can work together as a community to have them stay overnight, see something at Drayton at St. Jacobs, at the symphony, or what have you, we need to take advantage of that.”

DAVID MARSKELL, THEMUSEUM'S CEO



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Online learning: the challenges faced by a UW engineering student

Neha Mistri
Reporter

The uncanny emotion I felt when I received my letter of acceptance from UW is difficult to express, if it would have been some other time maybe the arrival of this new beginning would have been just about happiness. But, this time it was different! We were (and are) in the midst of a pandemic that started affecting our lives slowly but with drastic changes. I was happy with the news of getting admitted to an esteemed university but at the same time I felt these upsetting emotions that only led to confusion – shall I accept the offer or not? Would deferring be a good option or not? As an international student and staying miles away from Canada, it felt as though luck was not in my favour and maybe good news had arrived at a bad time. However, I knew that there cannot be an “in-between situation”, a decision must be taken before time slips out of my hands, either I must accept this new beginning by getting admitted to the university and starting the course online or I continue with my routine – the 9 to 7 job. The later choice, though it had its own challenges, was still my comfort zone. And it was time I stepped out of it. Maybe, this quote by Meister Eckhart was literally what I needed to hear and follow too – “And suddenly you know: It’s time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.” So, yes as you rightly guessed I chose to accept the offer and trust the magic of this new beginning.

The challenge was not just the distance learning, managing finances – humongous tuition fees, taking care of family during a pandemic and finding a constant source of motivation were all together toiling. Although, with the help of extremely supportive family members managing finances was not bothersome. It

was now time to focus on my studies. It started with the selection of courses in the term, attending webinars to understand the culture of the university. I would like to mention that I have found many interesting and interactive resources that never made me doubt my decisions. The engage-

they were core subjects of Electrical Engineering. The lectures were asynchronous and because I am a morning person and attending lectures late at night for 2-3 hours was not my cup of tea, I preferred recorded lectures. All course contents were well arranged on LEARN and I never found it te-

think worked exceptionally hard to record perfect and to-the-point videos that made learning easy and interesting eventually. I was happy to have found a good mentor allotted by our department as well as classmates who had chosen the same subjects. Whenever I had any doubts or anxieties

was the only tonic that helped me stay on track. During the same time, I also had to travel to get my documents done for the visa. Managing household chores, studies, being in good health and staying motivated had now become the only purpose of my life. With the support of professors and good course content, I was able to learn effectively. Exams were approaching and it was already the end of a term. If I look back now, though the anxiety and confusion were burdening the spirit of moving forward, staying persevering and determined helped me get through difficult times. Sometimes you just need to do it and accept new things. I have a habit of writing musings, “Though being stagnant makes you feel comfortable and secure, keep flowing; stagnant things stale!” and choosing the flow helped this time. I am still anxious today and eagerly awaiting my visa and wish to travel to Waterloo to experience all the aspects of a graduate student’s life practically and not virtually. But I am happy that I chose a new beginning. Support from family, friends, and the UW community helped me stay firm to my goals and that’s how I even managed to pass the exams with good grades and successfully complete the Fall Term.

Time is flying, and a new term at UW has already begun. The anxieties are less than before but the urge to arrive and start lectures in-person is still constant. First-term helped me figure out how things work and now it’s time to focus again. This unforeseen event though was difficult it helped to look on to negative situations with a positive perspective. Learning can happen in the weirdest and the unimagined way if you have the grit to learn. I hope things get back to normal and everybody finds motivation to do good and be in good health. My journey at UW has just begun and there is more to encounter, trusting the magic of new beginnings.

ment of various student organizations and graduate associations like GSPA through emails and webinars made me feel as though I was a part of the university and that nothing is stagnant. Waterloo LEARN is the best online learning tool from my perspective. It actually made learning online easy and interactive.

To get acquainted with the learning schemes, I thought of enrolling for only 2 subjects and

dious to access any information on it. Notifications, discussions, lecture material, submission boxes and grades too, everything was easily accessible without any technical glitches. Being a student who is more attentive during classes and understands mostly from the in-person lectures, online learning through videos was initially a little less interactive and monotonous – I was losing interest. But thanks to the course instructors which I

these people were always there to hear me out. Though we were all distant and have never actually met, this new way of living and learning made us good friends and supporters. It was like we were all together in it and supported each other to walk through the anxieties of these difficult times.

It was mid-term and soon assignments, lectures, term papers started to feel a little burdensome. I would say “time management”

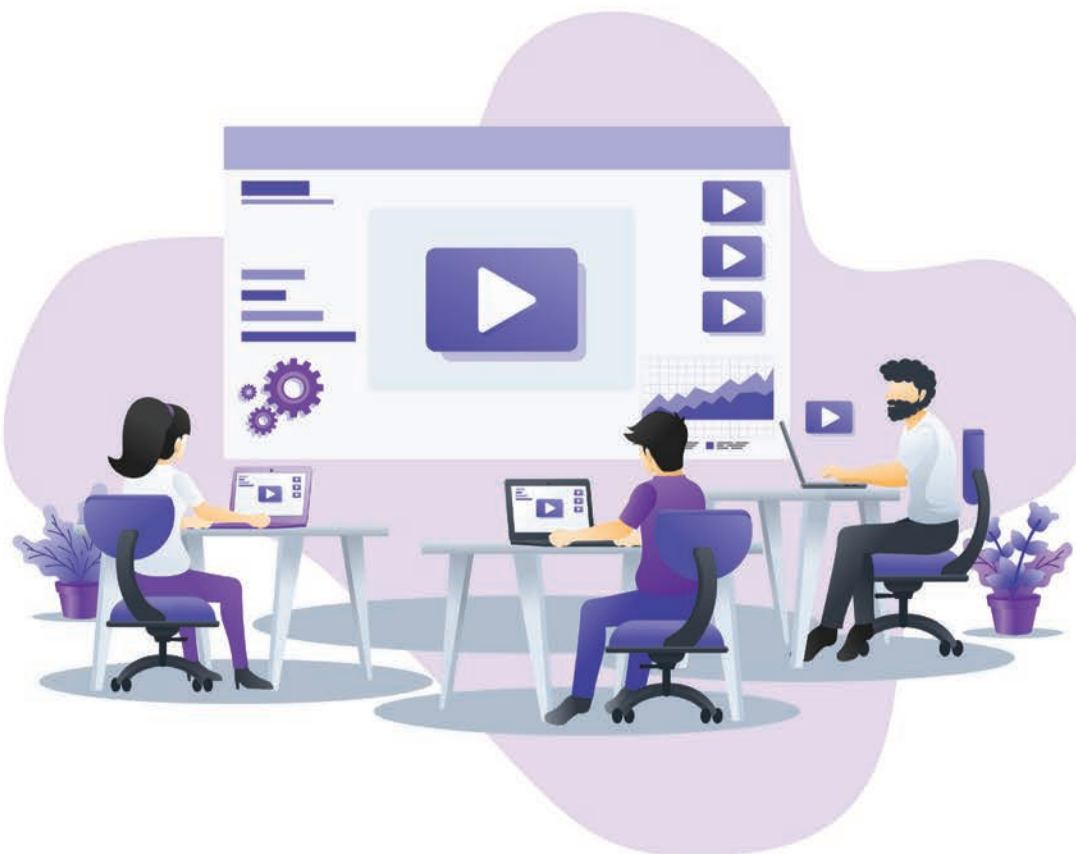


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Next scheduled post-mortem meeting:
 Virtual due to Covid-19

Next scheduled board of directors meeting:
 Virtual due to Covid-19

opinion



HAVE YOUR SAY

Submit your letter to the editor or your community editorial to opinion@uwimprint.ca. Find more opinions at uwimprint.ca.

Houston Rockets: Fallout

Is the management team behind the Rockets solely responsible for their fallout?

The dismantling of the star-studded Houston Rockets, which saw all-stars like Russel Westbrook, James Harden and Chris Paul leave the roster, along with promising newcomers like Trevor Ariza, was quite an unfortunate moment. This will probably go down as the fall of what could have been a championship team, had proper care been taken of the players and management style. Most of the players who were traded or waived were part of the franchise that led the Western Conference, and the League in Win-Loss at the end of the 2017-18 season, with 65 wins and only 17 losses.

What happened in two short years from that peak could be attributed, I believe, to issues that stemmed much earlier – at the time when James Harden completed his first season with the Houston Rockets in 2013.

In 2012, the Rockets were on their way to being acknowledged as a low-tier team due to their absence from the playoffs in the previous three years and inconsistency in performance. Then, James Harden arrived from the Oklahoma City Thunder and brought the best version of himself to Houston, only to get better every season thereafter.

The Rockets made a postseason appearance every year since then, the only team that can boast this. This success was largely credited to James Harden and, I believe, management revered him for saving the franchise from irrelevancy.

Consequently, management began to look the other way and let Harden live a lavish lifestyle throughout the seasons. Sure, he is

a great player and would perform his level best at LA after a night of partying before the game, but this power that was bestowed on Harden by the franchise had grown on him, and he was now accustomed to it. There were several problems that arose due to this.

James

view the franchise as incapable of sustaining itself without Harden's opinions in the mix. It is not surprising that this got the better of a world-class basketball player like Harden. Westbrook himself claimed that the culture of the Rockets was extremely callous, as opposed to the military-like discipline enforced at Oklahoma City Thunder.

This difference in views of basketball team culture eventually created a rift between the two stars, and best friends. It is unclear which one of them wanted to leave the team first, but they no longer wished to play together.

This was the final nail in the coffin of the feared Houston



Rockets.

I believe that when a player, a mere contracted employee, gets enough importance and power to be able to lobby for the removal of the head coach of the team, the organization is in disarray. Many blame Harden for the fallout of the Houston Rockets, but I believe that it was the carelessness of management that led to this fallout in the first place.

For someone who has been actively involved in every aspect of the organization for the better part of the decade, to suddenly not be considered in any decision making would affect their comfort in the team.

I believe that the management team behind the Rockets is solely responsible for the fallout, and it should be something they learn from as they rebuild the team almost from scratch.

would make the team stay an extra day or two on road trips to Phoenix or LA – his favorite cities in terms of nightlife. Harden had a say in which players the team would draft, and would express desire to be traded if management did not recruit players he wanted on the team.

This often led to management overspending on contracts simply because James wanted specific players on the team. An example of this was the acquisition of his childhood friend Russel Westbrook at the cost of Chris Paul, with whom they had their most stellar season ever.

With all the importance given to Harden, even in terms of decision making on behalf of management, I believe that he began to

Rohit Kaushik
 3A, Computer Science

WUSA General Meeting

Tuesday, March 9th, 2021

Call for agenda items

Submission Deadline:

Friday, February 26th at 5:00 PM EST

Email pres@wusa.ca

This is your chance to get the issues that affect you added to the March WUSA General Meeting agenda.

The agenda will be set and shared March 2nd, 2021.

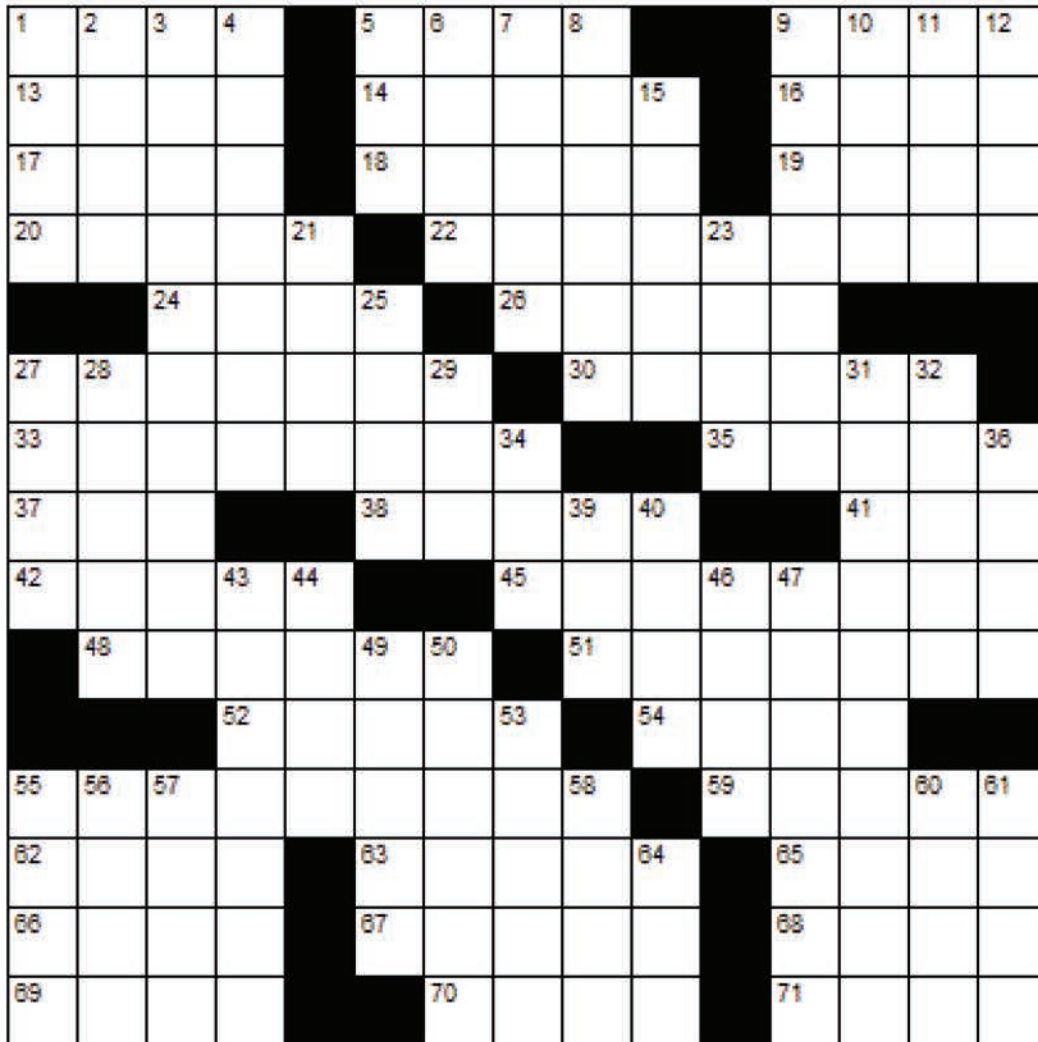
wusa.ca/governance | [#yourWUSA](https://twitter.com/yourWUSA)

distractions



Q: WHAT DO SNOWMEN TAKE WHEN IT GETS WARM?
A: A CHILL PILL.

Imprint crosswords | Welcome back



KIRIT SHERGILL

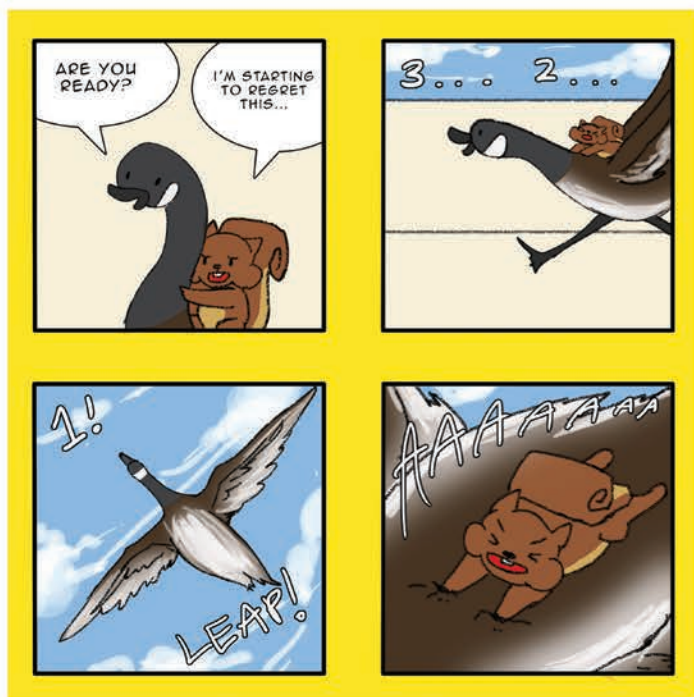
Across

- 1. Dad
- 5. Kiss
- 9. Cook in an oven
- 13. Utilized
- 14. Underground chambers
- 16. Blown away
- 17. Former Italian currency
- 18. Ancient Greek marketplace
- 19. Pigeon-____
- 20. Lights
- 22. Rustic
- 24. At the peak of
- 26. Stars on stage
- 27. Ointment ingredient
- 30. Against
- 33. Light opera
- 35. A bleaching vat
- 37. A large vase
- 38. Avoid
- 41. Unhappy
- 42. A bushel has 4 of these
- 45. Threatening
- 48. Calm
- 51. A type of keyboard instrument
- 52. It makes dough rise
- 54. Verruca
- 55. Makes up
- 59. French for "Storehouse"

- 62. Death notice
- 63. Locale
- 65. Nameless
- 66. Not stereo
- 67. Go in
- 68. Anagram of "Dice"
- 69. Existed
- 70. Anagram of "Sees"
- 71. Catches

Down

- 1. Tug
- 2. Largest continent
- 3. Imperishability
- 4. A connector between devices
- 5. Calypso offshoot
- 6. Near
- 7. Egg-shaped
- 8. An aromatic bulb
- 9. Thin plain-weave fabric
- 10. Absent Without Leave
- 11. Ship part
- 12. Countercurrent
- 15. Artillery burst
- 21. Only
- 23. Financial institution
- 25. Quarries
- 27. French for "Wolf"
- 28. French for "After"
- 29. Greatest possible
- 31. Opposition
- 32. ____-garde
- 34. Intent
- 36. Border
- 39. Record (abbrev.)
- 40. Was cognizant
- 43. Superman's home planet
- 44. Clairvoyant
- 46. Wings
- 47. Sure
- 49. Unsophisticated
- 50. Ancient ascetic
- 53. Canvas shelters
- 55. Grooming tool
- 56. Double-reed woodwind
- 57. Not yours
- 58. Litigates
- 60. He writes in verse
- 61. Concludes
- 64. Before, poetically



BRIANA OENPUTERA

LAST WEEKS ANSWERS

