

# im print

# p2

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Waterloo's Ezra Avenue only sees campus police, regional police, and municipal enforcement on St. Patrick's Day this year. **P2**



## OPINION

A student explains why storytelling might be good for you! **P10**

## NEWS P2

Want to know what UW has planned for the Fall 2021 term? Read on to find out.

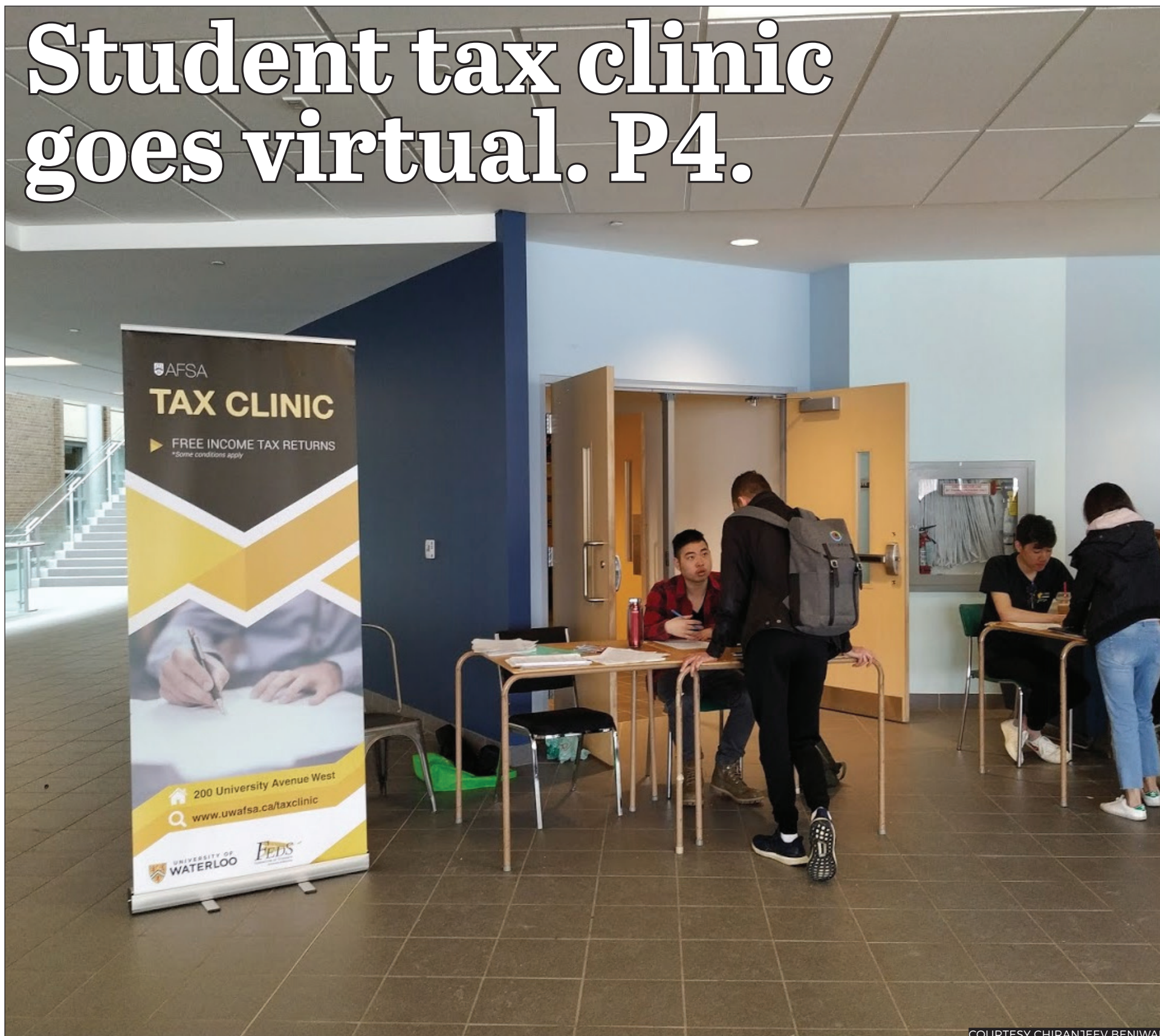
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COURTESY CHIRANJEEV BENIWAL



# UW Fall Term Update

## UW to return to in-person activities in fall 2021

**Rohit Kaushik**  
Opinions Editor

On March 17, 2021, Feridun Hamdullahpur, President and Vice-Chancellor of UW, announced UW's intent to return to in-person operations starting this fall.

A large number of staff and faculty members will return to campus to deliver an expanded on-campus learning experience. While in-person classes and activities will resume, UW will continue to remain vigilant about public health guidelines, in order to be flexible with plans for any scenarios that might come up in the future.

"The recent news of an increase in the number of vaccines across Canada is giving us reason for new hope. It is with that



sense of hope that I am pleased to announce that we are planning to deliver significantly more in-person learning, work, and research starting in the Fall 2021 term," Hamdullahpur said.

Due to the limitation on gatherings and observance of physical distancing, there might be small class sizes, which would imply more sections for every course.

UW will also retain measures already in place for online learning since many students may have to continue to rely on online learning, especially some international students who may not be able to get to Waterloo due to lengthy visa processing times and other travel restrictions.

The Keep Learning team and other learning resources will continue to be available to instructors to help them to ease into this transition.

## A Quiet St. Patrick's Day

**Karen Chen**  
News Editor

Thousands of students typically gather on Ezra Avenue for an unsanctioned street party on St. Patrick's Day. However, the COVID-19 pandemic kept things very quiet in the area this year. Ezra Avenue's St. Patrick's Day party is Waterloo's version of March Madness and has recently drawn crowds in tens of thousands each year. The 2019 street party had drawn an estimated

33,000 students.

This year, some of the only people walking up and down Ezra Avenue were campus police, regional police, and municipal enforcement, all there to answer a few calls about noise complaints and remind people to stay within the size limits of social gatherings.

"Overall, we appreciate and thank everyone for the general level of compliance and cooperation we received...The majority of students in our city recognize the importance of adhering to provincial rules around

gatherings and they clearly understand the seriousness of the current public health crisis we are all living through," said Nicole Papke, director of Waterloo's municipal enforcement services.

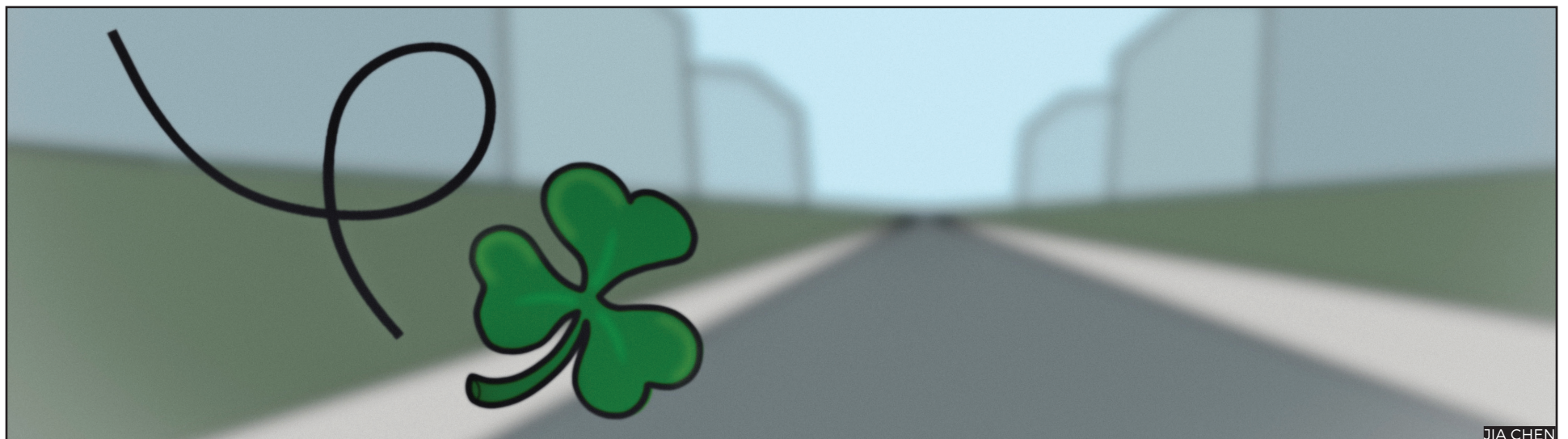
In both 2020 and 2021, law enforcement made it very clear that on March 17 there would be no warning for social gatherings and only fines – from \$800 to \$10,000 – for hosting parties.

Waterloo Mayor Dave Jaworsky stated publicly that he is very proud of students who didn't show up to the party and didn't

create a super spreader event.

Only seven fines were handed out on St. Patrick's Day in Waterloo for the 65 calls for service that offices responded to, two for the social gathering violations and five for noise complaints.

Notably, on March 17, 2020, St. Patrick's Day, Premier Doug Ford declared a state of emergency, making it the anniversary of the lockdown and pandemic life at home. Currently, Waterloo Region is in the Red-Control zone of Ontario's COVID-19 response framework.



# Waterloo and World Water Day

**Karen Chen**  
News Editor

**M**ar. 22 is World Water Day and this year's theme is Valuing Water.

"Water is fundamental to human health and a key social justice issue. Lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is one of the greatest human health and environmental threats facing the world's most vulnerable," the Water Institute stated.

Each year on Mar. 22, the University of Waterloo's Water Institute hosts a World Water Day celebration highlighting the importance of water for human, environmental, and economic health, while raising awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water.

The day is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis and to support the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030 and the many other SDGs linked to water.

This year's celebration was best experienced in the Water Institute's interactive workshop online. The big question being; what does water mean to you? This event featured great speakers like Ogamauh anag qwe (Sue Chiblow) who shared knowl-



edge on Anishinaabek N'bi pedagogies that 'we are water', 'water is life', 'water has a spirit', 'water is medicine', and is the 'lifeblood of Mother Earth'.

Other great speakers included Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, a marine biologist, policy expert, and co-founder of the All We Can Save Project. Johnson co-created the Blue New Deal for Senator Elizabeth Warren as a roadmap for including the ocean in future climate policy.

The Blue New Deal operates alongside the idea of the Green New Deal championed by US Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Focusing on the ocean is paramount in combating the immediate consequences of climate change in different facets and disciplines.

Among many other issues, the ocean has absorbed 93 per cent of the heat trapped by greenhouse gases. Warming of the waters disrupts migration patterns for fish that are overfished and over exploited. Warming also bleaches coral reefs and fuels sea level rise. Like forests, polar ice caps, and biodiversity in local ecosystems, oceans serve as a pillar for combating climate change and for measuring the Earth's planetary boundaries. 71 per cent of the planet is covered by the ocean and the future of humanity is directly tied to the severity of threats of the crisis of water.

## Imprint Feature: Catherine Dong

### Meet your new Vice President, Student Life

**Suhani Saigal**  
Managing Editor

**C**atherine Dong was voted Vice President, Student Life, with 736 (81.96%) yes votes in the recent WUSA elections.

#### How does it feel to be elected as a WUSA Executive?

Honestly, it's a bit surreal! I never expected to be taking on such a large role during my student career. When the idea was brought up for me to join the team though, I was nothing but excited—and that excitement is still very much with me now. There's so much to do and so little time!

#### What is the first thing you will do when you start your term?

Probably make myself a cup of coffee. And answer a lot of emails.

#### What are you most excited about?

There are a lot of moving pieces to the VPSL portfolio, but I'll admit that it's still our sustainability project that puts the most sparkle in my eye. I'm particularly looking forward to connecting with our fantastic Sustainability Commissioner (hi Michelle!) about how we can best collaborate in making the WUSA Sustainability Project everything it has the potential to be.

#### What is something you will do differently this year compared to last year?

Great work is built on existing foundations, so I'm incredibly grateful for all the time and energy that this year's Executives have poured into the WUSA that my team will be inheriting. In terms of one goal that my team has talked about, we're looking to be very proac-

tive about communicating what's going on to the at-large membership. Feeling left in the dark can be extremely frustrating, especially when it's your dollars being spent each term—I plan to be part of making sure that we're always letting students know what we're working on. Hopefully, that active engagement in one direction will encourage responses in the other!

#### Will you be working remotely? If yes, how do you feel about it?

At least for the foreseeable future, I imagine that I'll be working almost entirely remotely. It's not ideal of course, but it's an important arrangement to stick with to keep ourselves and each other safe. With regards to how I feel about it: bring it on! The virus can suck it; I'm staying home. At least I can have snacks all the time.

#### What is something you would

#### like to say to the student body?

Come May, I'll suddenly have a lot more responsibility than I ever thought I'd be entrusted with. That comes with a lot of opportunity to fight for the change I believe is right, and so I'd like to thank each and every person who took the time to vote. (Even if it was against me—if you're comfortable sharing, I'd love to know why!)

At the core of it all though, I am still a student. I take classes, pay my fees, and stay up late refreshing my interviews page. After this coming year is over, I'll be diving straight back into my degree. I hope that that gives you faith that, at heart, my interests truly do lie with students, and that I'll never make a decision that I wouldn't want to be on the receiving end of.

I also hope that all this keeps me approachable. I always, always want to hear from you, and my inbox is always open: catherine.dong@uwaterloo.ca.

# AFSA Annual Tax Clinic Goes Virtual

**Saihaj Dadhra**  
Assistant News Editor

The university's Accounting and Finance Student Association (AFSA) has pivoted to a virtual and modified drop-off format for their free annual Tax Clinic as a result of the pandemic. The clinic will provide low-income individuals and families with free tax return services.

In the past, the clinic operated in Hagey Hall. "We used to occupy an entire lecture hall and file people's returns on the spot. Our lines would be so long, they would circle around the lobby and out the door," Eric Fong, CPA, CA (MAcc '14), Tax Clinic Leader and UW graduate, said. He explained that the virtual format is similar to the experience that clients would receive at an accounting firm.

Fong and Ben Ma, CPA, CFA (MAcc '17), have been involved with the Tax Clinic since 2014 and 2013 respectively, and are leading the clinic.

"We have been working toward building the AFSA Tax Clinic into one of the top tax clinics in the region, with a focus toward delivering high quality work to students and members of the community," Fong said.

The three-week clinic takes a year to plan. "We coordinate hundreds of volunteers, coordinate with the CRA, coordinate with clients, coordinate to book rooms, advertising, provide tax advice," said Chiranjeev Beniwal, Deputy Vice-President of Internal Services (IS) of AFSA. Typically, the clinic has

more than 200 volunteers who are trained prior to completing the tax returns.

Helen Wang, a first-year Accounting and Financial Management student and Internal Services Project Manager volunteering for the TaxClinic, said Internal Services Deputy Vice Presidents - Beniwal and Yan Jin - work hard to mitigate any challenges; however, with the online nature of the event, "technical difficulties were bound to occur."

"I know there was an issue with the Tax Clinic emails ending up in people's spam inboxes, so they were missing what was sometimes vital information regarding training for volunteering," Wang explained. "Both hosting and attending this event online has its challenges, but it is a great learning experience."

The Tax Clinic is one of many involved in the Community Income Tax Program with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). AFSA's Internal Services Committee applied to the CRA to ensure volunteers were given access to the appropriate tax

filing software, while Internal Services "arranged for upper years from various accounting firms, such as EY and MNP, to guide the first-year students when doing tax returns," said Albert Li, AFSA Internal Services Project Manager.

Hadi Rasoul, a first-year Accounting and Financial Management student and volunteer, completed the virtual training and tax-filing. "I felt the tax clinic was very insightful on the work I will be doing as a CPA professional," Rasoul, an aspiring Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), said. "I also felt that the pacing of the workshop was adequate and Ben and Eric made sure to allocate time for questions."

He said he has not faced any major difficulties with the virtual format, given the past year of online learning. "I think the key thing to keep in mind, when volunteering online, is trying to make the best of it. It also helped that I tried to view the tax clinic as a learning opportunity for myself."

In 2014, the clinic served 400 clients and

saw rapid growth, serving 1200 clients in 2019. "As for how many we expect this year, that's anyone's guess - the online nature of the clinic makes everything unpredictable," Beniwal said.

"Anyone over the age of majority may be eligible for the \$300 climate action incentive. If they had a previous job, they should also file, as employers often withhold extra tax, and you could get a refund. If you have low/minimal income, you could get up to \$313 through the GST/HST credit. If you pay rent or property tax, you could get up to \$800 through the Ontario Energy Property Tax Credit," Beniwal said. "This is quite literally free money up for grabs."

AFSA has created a checklist for clients to ensure all necessary documents are provided. The clinic will provide guaranteed services for clients who fill out the form by Mar. 24 and cannot guarantee services if the form is filled out after this date. Both items can be found on the AFSA website.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

IMPRINT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO IS SITUATED ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE ATTAWANDARON (NEUTRAL), ANISHNAABEG, AND HAUDENOSAUNEE PEOPLES. THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO IS SITUATED ON THE HALDIMAND TRACT, LAND PROMISED TO SIX NATIONS, WHICH INCLUDES SIX MILES ON EACH SIDE OF THE GRAND RIVER. THEREFORE, IMPRINT RECOGNIZES AND RESPECTS THIS LAND THAT IT IS SITUATED UPON.

UW INDIGENOUS STUDENT ASSOCIATION



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## What are Freshwater Benthic Macroinvertebrates?

**Hayley Austin**  
Reporter

Freshwater benthic macroinvertebrates, also known as benthos, are ecologically important species to monitor, as they can tell us a lot about the quality of water bodies and the potential effectiveness of restoration efforts.

### What are benthos?

Freshwater benthic macroinvertebrates are bottom-dwelling aquatic invertebrates which include animals such as insects, crustaceans, mollusks, and annelids.

They live part or all of their life cycle in water and are often referred to as “benthos” due to their habitat on, in, or near the bottom of water bodies.

Benthos play a key role in nutrient cycling in aquatic environments, as they are largely responsible for the movement of organic matter through the aquatic food web.

### Benthos as Bioindicators

Benthos are incredibly sensitive to their environment, so their presence or absence is a good indicator of water quality.

They also cannot escape pollution and may show the cumulative impacts of said pollution in their biology, which makes them excellent bioindicators. In general, water bodies in good condition support an abundant, diverse community of macroinvertebrates, while water bodies in poor

condition are populated only by pollution-tolerant species. The Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) is a biomonitoring network which can evaluate aquatic ecosystem conditions and the effectiveness of conservation and pollution-reduction programs based on the sampling of benthos. Sampling strategies are determined based on the type of water body – whether it’s a stream, wetland, or lake.

With more and more stress being put on Canada’s 25 watersheds, monitoring is necessary to track changes and progress in restoration projects.

### New Developments

Lately, new global advances in environmental DNA metabarcoding, or eDNA for short, has shown a lot of potential in detecting environmental stress. It involves taking samples of soil or water and searching for fragments of DNA which are specific to certain species. It also overcomes the shortcomings of the OBBN, both in terms of time and money.

Still, 60 per cent of Canada’s sub-watersheds lack adequate data for health indicators – including benthos. Only 43 out of 167 were found to be in good or very good health. eDNA is our hope to help fill in some of the data gaps in monitoring efforts.

You can learn more about benthos and aquatic benthic macroinvertebrate identification through Ecology Lab workshops and resources.



COURTESY FRESHWATER BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATE SERVICES

Freshwater Benthic Macroinvertebrates are often referred to as “benthos” and play a key role in nutrient cycling in aquatic environments.

## UW professor Ihab Ilyas named 2020 ACM Fellow

**Simone Abdillahi**  
Reporter

Professor Ihab Ilyas, from the University of Waterloo, has been named a 2020 Association for Computing Machinery Fellow (ACM), the largest scientific computing society in the world. Only the top 1% of professionals in the organization are offered fellowships, making Ilyas one of 95 members being named a fellow this year. ACM strives to unite educators and professionals across the world in a variety of different fields as fellows for their contributions, and these nominations are made by peers. These fellows represent companies, research centers, and universities across the world.

“This year our task in selecting the 2020 Fellows was a little more challenging, as we

had a record number of nominations from around the world,” Gabriele Kotsis, ACM President, said.

“I’m honoured to receive ACM’s recognition as a Fellow and thank the Cheriton School of Computer Science for supporting my nomination,” Professor Ilyas said. “This recognition would not be possible without the diligent work of my awesome graduate students over the years as well as that of my talented colleagues and collaborators. I am grateful to all of them.”

Professor Ilyas has made significant contributions to the field since the beginning of his career in database technology, including data integration, data cleaning, and query processing. He received his PhD at Purdue University in 2004 where he completed this work and continued to focus on data quality in 2009.

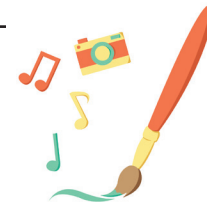
Professor Ilyas has also led the building of multiple start-ups such as NADEEF, a data cleaning system that detects and repairs data violations, and HoloClean, which helps to clean and enrich data with the help of his graduate students. Professor Ilyas also co-founded two other start-ups – Tamr and Inductiv. Tamr is a large-scale project that focuses on data cleaning, while Inductiv is used for AI, and has now become a part of Apple.

On top of multiple awards, Professor Ilyas has published multiple articles in leading journals in his field such as the Journal of Very Large DataBases (VLDB), and participated in a handful of conferences on databases. Professor Ilyas also held UW’s very own Cheriton Faculty Fellowship as a part of the school of Computer Science. He has been a distinguished member of ACM since 2014.



COURTESY UW

Ihab Ilyas, UW professor, receives 2020 ACM Fellow title.



## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

### ISAAC HUNTER

**Nicola Rose**  
*Assistant Arts & Life Editor*

Isaac Hunter Page was almost destined to become a musician.

Born into a musical family in Toronto, Page grew up surrounded by a range of musical influence. Classically trained as a composer and conductor, Page began to explore his songwriting more intently over the past year. In his songs, Page seeks to blend his classical and pop backgrounds, telling his stories in musically inventive ways.

Page studied composition and music theory at Wilfrid Laurier University for his undergraduate degree before moving to Ohio, where he completed a Master's degree in orchestral conducting at Bowling Green State University. During his time at Laurier, Page was well-integrated into the Kitchener-Waterloo music scene. He served as the assistant conductor for the Wilfrid Laurier Wind Orchestra and the Kitchener-Waterloo Youth Orchestra. He is also a founding member of The Yacht Club, a Waterloo-based contemporary music and theatre collective.

Page's musical pursuits extend far beyond the KW region. Among his many accomplishments, he was awarded a 2017 SOCAN Young Composer Award for his choral piece *A Mari Usque Ad Mare*.

Despite his many musical successes, Page hasn't always seen himself as a talented songwriter. Although he wrote occasionally as a teenager, he admits that his friends used to critique his work heavily, and he set aside his pop and indie songwriting explorations to pursue classical music in university.

During the pandemic, songwriting

has made a bit of a comeback. "Once everything changed around this time last year, I started writing songs again" he said. Under "Isaac Hunter," his first and middle names, Page released two EPs in 2020. One of his original songs, "Going to Kitchener-Waterloo," has somewhat blown up with students in the region. The video has over 50,000 views with hundreds of supportive comments.

Among the musicians who inspire his songwriting, Page highlights songwriter Gabriel Kahane, whose musical undertakings, like Page's, blend classical and popular influences.

"Gabriel's music really inspired me because it showed me that you can have musically academic concepts in popular music," Page said. "I think he does an absolutely beautiful job blending the two styles of classical and pop music. He comes from a classical-focused background, but also grew up playing the guitar."

There is another key similarity between Page and Kahane: both artists were raised by a famous musician. Page's father is Steven Page of the Barenaked Ladies, while Kahane's father Jeffrey Kahane has had an extremely successful career as a concert pianist, conductor and music director.

Page is also inspired by Kahane's storytelling through song. "Sometimes the production [for Kahane's music] can be very large or intricate, but at the core of it he's a fantastic songwriter and storyteller," he said. "That's where I draw inspiration; I really love when both the story of the song and the musical concept of the song can be held up and admired."

Page's songs from the past year combine classical musical concepts with clever storytelling. In "Going to Kitchener-Waterloo," his lyrics capture a classic university

experience – feeling drawn back to the city where you first stepped out on your own and made some of the most important memories of your life. As Page puts it in his song, "Those four years were the best I ever knew."

Page listed his father as another one of his musical influences. He explained that he connected deeply with his father's songs after he left home for university. Living on his own for the first time, the songs started to resonate in a very authentic way. "It wasn't my dad singing, it was, 'Wow, this songwriter gets me.' And then you realize, 'Oh shit! Was my dad cool at some point? Damn!'"

Page's parents offered musical guidance long before this realization, too. In addition to his rock singer, songwriter and guitarist father, Page's mother is a classical flautist. The two encouraged Page to follow his musical interests throughout his childhood.

The everpresent musical expertise was "a mixed blessing" according to Page. "It's incredibly inspiring on the one hand, because as me and my siblings have done before, you can all collaborate and feed off each other's energy. But on the other hand, you're all so good at different things that sometimes you want to compete about being better at different aspects of it."

There was also no escaping his parents' well-trained ears. Page, who started out as a pianist, picked up the violin so that he could slack off during music practices. "My mom was a flute player, my dad was a guitar player and they both knew how to play piano. Thinking that I was going to outsmart them, I decided to play the violin. I wasn't going to have to practice

because they couldn't tell me how to play it better. Little did I know, that's not how music works."

Having successful parents, especially a father like Steven Page, has provided an opening into the music industry. One of Page's favourite musical experiences was conducting the Hamilton Philharmonic chamber orchestra through orchestral arrangements of his father's music. Two of the arrangements are Page's own.

Page acknowledges that he's received a significant advantage, and emphasizes that it's important that his musical qualifications stand on their own. "I have done the most I can

to have my own success," he said.

Page's musical accomplishments speak for themselves. He has received numerous accolades for his classical work, and his original songs are becoming popular independently. Speaking about "Going to Kitchener-Waterloo," Page said, "It somehow made a lot of other people happy and that was shocking and humbling."

In terms of his next steps, Page's most immediate desire is "to play a live show." Beyond that, he hopes to explore his songwriting opportunities further, while still focusing on his passions for composition and conducting.

To see Page's work, visit [linktr.ee/isaachunterpage](http://linktr.ee/isaachunterpage).



COURTESY ISSAC HUNTER

# Scenes from 'carried away on the crest of a wave'

UW's Theatre and Performance Students Explore Global Disaster and Human Connection

**Nicola Rose**  
Assistant Arts & Life Editor

Art has often been inspired by tragedy. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, tragedy abounds.

This year, UW's Theatre and Performance program is producing scenes from 'carried away on the crest of a wave,' a play by David Yee that explores the aftermath of a global disaster and its impact on the global psyche.

In December, 2004, a massive earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, triggering the most deadly tsunami in recorded history.

The first waves hit Banda Aceh in the early morning. Wa-

ter crashed down from 100-foot high peaks, killing more than 100,000 people and devastating the city's infrastructure. Soon, coastlines across the Indian Ocean were overwhelmed as the tsunami spread out from its epicenter, hitting fourteen nations in two separate continents.

Yee's work captures the desolation of the Indian Ocean tsunami and the resilience demonstrated by the world's response to the event.

"His story is actually a collection of vignettes, so little stories, about the aftermath of how people lived with and lived through the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami," Mira J. Henderson, Associate Director, of the production, explained.

Henderson is one of the Theatre and Performance senior capstone students who make up the core of the creative team. At the start of term, the students reviewed several plays before selecting 'carried away on the crest of a wave' for their final performance. Their choice was influenced by their experiences of living through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We chose this one because it's related to our situation right now,"

Qing Wen, a member of the cast, said.

"I think it was true for all of us that wanted to do something where we could speak about the collective grief of a worldwide event like this, without directly doing something about the pandemic," Henderson added.

Theatre and performance was one of a select few classes with in-person activity this term, after almost a year of working from home.

"As a theatre student, so much of our work is in person, so online learning has been really difficult for us, especially those who are finishing up our degrees," Henderson noted. "I was hesitant at first, going back to campus, but there's been an underlying sense of comfort, like okay, we're able to navigate this, and do something we used to do."

Still, the setting is unfamiliar. Numerous safety measures have been implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These restrictions change the nature of the process.

The performances will have no in-person audience. Instead, the show will be recorded and live

streamed. "It's been a big pivot for us - bringing in the live streaming, making sure they're up to speed, figuring out how this is going to work," Henderson said.

Onstage, the experience is different too. "Actors will all be in masks," Henderson said. "We've been working with our costume designers to find the best designs - we're aiming to have a see through portion so you can see the actors' mouths."

Performers have also had to maintain six-feet of distance throughout the majority of the process. "At first it was difficult for me to keep a safe distance between the actors. It was very weird," Wen said. "It's kind of crazy for us, because we need to get used to maintaining distance but still acting together on stage. I feel like it's an interesting experience, because you're communicating with your partner but there's a separation."

Every moment of the show has been reviewed by safety experts.

"Every time we have a new transition, a new action, we need to go through the safety office and let them check if it's possible for us to do it. We often need to come back and change it again," Wen said.

The students have done an impressive job of navigating the new restrictions. Both Henderson and Wen emphasized the dedication their team has brought to the changing production.

These changes are a constant reminder that we are living through unprecedented events. A year ago, the world shut down. A year later, COVID-19 has claimed millions of lives and shaped billions more.

In the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami, the world came together in mourning and in support.

The central message of 'carried away on the crest of a wave' - that we are all connected - is conveyed through a collection of seemingly disparate characters who have all been affected by the same catastrophic event.

COVID-19 has removed all uncertainty. Never before has the world been so interconnected. Never before has an event had such a global reach.

As we endure this seemingly universal tragedy, UW's Theatre and Performance students have provided a space in which we can grapple with our collective pain and renew our hope in the world to come.

**Mar. 25, Mar. 26, Mar. 27**  
11:30am and 7:30pm

**Tickets:**

\$10 for general entrance  
\$5 for students and seniors.

Visit [uwcarriedaway.com](http://uwcarriedaway.com)  
to purchase tickets and learn  
more about the production.

## KW Little Theatre launches online improv soap opera, 'All Around the Square'

**Lauren Speight**  
Arts & Life Editor

Are you looking for a quirky drama to indulge in and pass the time? The KW Little Theatre (KWLT) has launched an improv-style soap opera called, "All Around the Square." Episodes will be released online each week in March starting Wed. Mar. 10, and will feature the life and times of Waterloo residents.

Viewers of All Around the Square are encouraged to use the hashtag #kwltimprov on social media before each episode airs to make suggestions and help guide

the storyline.

The team is looking for "seeds" to use in the show, like words or short phrases.

The episodes, which take place in modern-day Waterloo during pandemic times, are based on the "Harold" long-form improv style, with characters established in earlier scenes recurring in later ones (and later episodes). The show was inspired by the dramatic and quirky storytelling style of soap operas.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly impacted the theatre and entertainment industry, the KWLT has found ways to deliver performances remotely since its

doors closed in February 2020.

The nine actors involved in All Around the Square film their parts at home with a green screen and interact through earpieces.

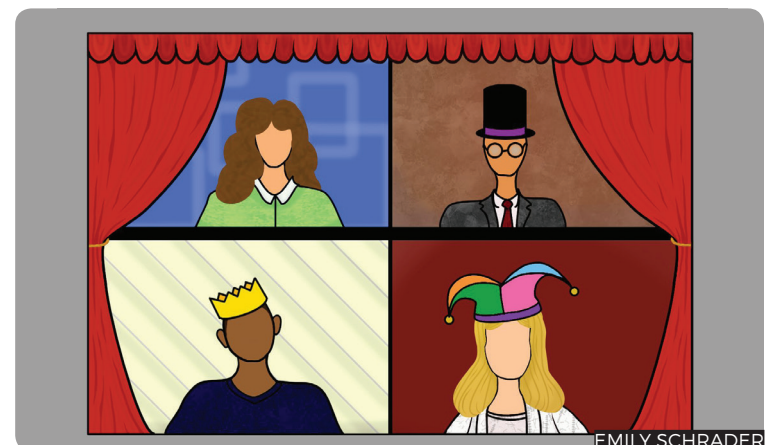
"What we end up with is two people in separate rooms, in separate spaces, coming together," said Peter Aitchison, a producer and director on the show. "Being a soap opera, we wanted there to be some melodrama, we wanted there to be some romance."

KWLT partnered with Create Waterloo, the City of Waterloo, and the Province of Ontario to bring this project to life and get the community excited about the local arts and culture scene once

again.

Episodes will be available as videos on IGTV through Create

Waterloo, in audio form on any podcast platform, and on Create Waterloo's Youtube channel.





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## Vaccination clinic at UW Health Sciences Campus, Kitchener

**Suhani Saigal**  
 Managing Editor

The University of Waterloo has partnered with the Region of Waterloo and Centre for Family Medicine to help the Kitchener-Waterloo community open a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at the Health Sciences Campus at the corner of King and Victoria streets in downtown Kitchener.

"The Health Sciences Campus Vaccination Clinic is an exciting initiative and we are proud to be able to support the vaccination effort in such a tangible way," Andrea Edginton Hallman, Director of the School of Pharmacy, said. The clinic, led by the Centre for Family Medicine, will run from Mar. 15 until the end of August and will be open seven days a week, once adequate supplies are procured. Like all other vaccination clinics, this one too operates on an appointment-only basis and eligible residents can pre-register on the Region of Waterloo website.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for the Region of Waterloo to partner with the University of Waterloo and the Centre for Family Medicine to bring another vaccination clinic to Waterloo Region," Shirley Hilton, Deputy Chief for Waterloo Region Police Service and head of the Waterloo Region Vaccine Distribution Task Force, said. "This large clinic will make it easier to get more vaccines into more people's arms as quickly as possible." Vaccina-



COURTESY MEGAN HANNATH

The vaccination clinic is led by the Centre for Family Medicine and will run on an appointment-only basis.

tions can be administered by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy students under Phase Two of Ontario's vaccine rollout plan.

"Our faculty, staff, graduate students, and PharmD students did not hesitate in coming forward to volunteer or work in the

clinic and this opportunity gives our students a real-world glimpse at the power of inter-professional collaboration and the important role that pharmacists play on the health care team," Edginton said. "The KW Community has been generous to the School of Pharmacy and the University of

Waterloo and we are pleased that we can give back and be a resource. KW is also my hometown and it feels amazing to be able to participate in the solution."

As of now, there is no information as to whether there will be a vaccination clinic opening at the Waterloo campus.

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# U Sports announces initiatives in fight against systemic racism

Anicka Bakos  
Reporter

U Sports, the national governing body of university sport in Canada, recently issued a Statement of Actions following the conclusion of Black History Month.

"The Statement of Actions are meant to reaffirm its commitment to the fight against systemic racism in North America," U Sports said.

On its website, U Sports reported that at its June 2020 annual meeting, members were unanimous in denouncing all forms of racism.

U Sports also acknowledged the accuracy of an earlier CBC Sports investigation that has revealed the lack of diversity and representation in Canadian university sports leadership.

In July 2020, the CBC Sports investigation found that of nearly 400 key positions at all 56 Canadian universities that compete under U Sports, only about 10 per cent of the top jobs were held by BIPOC folks.

These positions include the university's athletic director, as well as the head coaches of football, men's and women's basketball, hockey, soccer and track — positions which all "command seven-figure salaries."

According to CBC Sports, only one of the 56 universities had a non-white athletic director.

"The Canadian university sports system also falls short to a degree when it comes to the representation of people of colour at upper levels," CBC Sports concluded.

In response, a representative from U Sports said as an organization, it is now "reviewing our own internal practices around diversity and inclusion to ensure we are enforcing and proudly representing our communities."

In February 2021, U Sports launched its first Black History Month promotional campaign highlighting the contributions of its student-athletes, coaches and alumni.

The event was known as U Sports Conversations, a live virtual event that discussed matters concerning the Black community.

According to its website, other U Sports initiatives include renaming its Equity Committee to the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee, as well as expanding the EDI subcommittees to include both stakeholders and external experts to better represent BIPOC, women in sport, and LGBTQ+ communities.

U Sports also noted there are plans to launch a "Change Starts with U Sports" t-shirt campaign that provides stu-

dent-athletes, coaches, administrators and our community with an opportunity to raise funds to support EDI initiatives within university sport."

"It's time for change, and we know we need to do more. U Sports stands with the black community against police brutality and systematic racism.

We commit to better engage with and represent the diverse Canadian university sport landscape #BlackLivesMatter," U Sports tweeted on June 4, 2020.

Lori Campbell, director of the Waterloo Indigenous Student Centre at St. Paul's University College, said the U Sports initiatives are good but more needs to be done.

"I do think this is a good starting point but that is what it is, a starting point. It indicates the acknowledgement that racism in university sport exists. This has been something that most fields of sport have refused to acknowledge," said Campbell.

also watching the U Sports initiatives with interest.

"Yes, these initiatives do seem like a good effort. I would not say start because many of these things should have already been in place. While we are inclined to provide congratulations or acknowledgement of anti-racist efforts, we must at the same time instead acknowledge that U Sports is finally now recognizing its responsibility to ensure an environment free of anti-black sentiment and anti-black racism," Young said.

"So, yes, it's a good start at finally acknowledging that these efforts are needed and finally putting the necessary actions and resources behind them so they work. But more efforts and sustained commitments to change are also needed," he said.

Campbell also particularly likes the "Change Starts with U Sports" t-shirt campaign initiative, saying she thinks "they

to creating an inclusive and diverse work environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or disability," U Sports said.

As an anti-racist activist, Young believes that the U Sports initiatives are a big deal.

"The significance of these efforts is that U Sports has made a public declaration and commitment to listen and incorporate the voices of Black and Brown stakeholders.

That has not been the case in many organizations. That is what the word inclusion refers to in EDI, including those voices in all decision making efforts. So the big deal is that they are modelling inclusion," Young said.

But both Young and Campbell agree that more work needs to be done going forward.

"In general, both Canada and the USA can do better. They are not doing nearly enough yet. And Canada and USA, being so close in proximity and sharing in the sports arena (think of the NBA) could benefit both from friendly competition — who could be most equitable, diverse, and inclusive — but could better benefit by collaborating and stepping up their goals and efforts together," Young explained.

Campbell thinks that a logical next step would be to include representative stakeholders and external experts on all committees and subcommittees.

"BIPOC and Queer folk need to be at all decision-making and resource-allocation tables and not just those ones where issues are seen to directly affect them," Campbell noted.

"As a starting point, these are good initiatives. But if they only stand alone, without a metric to indicate impact and outcomes, they just become checkboxes. Addressing racism in sport has been overlooked for far too long. Real change takes leadership, political will, and desire to change," Campbell added.

Both Campbell and Young said they will be watching to see if U Sports is serious about fighting racism, and whether its initiatives will translate into meaningful action.

"Black, Brown, People of Color and Queer folk do not get to walk away from their identities just because they walk into a system of higher education or onto a sports playing field...Trust their experiences, take steps to learn how to lead change, and then make change happen. If it isn't uncomfortable then you are likely just holding up the status quo," Campbell said.



U Sports reported that at its June 2020 annual meeting, members were unanimous in denouncing all forms of racism.

"Sometimes sport tries to impose upon Black, Indigenous, People of Color and Queer folk that the sport and skillset for the sport is all that we need to think about. This perpetuates statements like, 'I don't see color' or 'color doesn't matter.' What that does is negate and invalidate the very real experiences of racism that occur," Campbell added.

Vershawn Young, a professor in the departments of Communication Arts and English Language and Literature and a member of the Black Faculty Collective at UW, is

can be effective in spreading a message."

"These efforts are only the beginning, and U Sports looks forward to continuing to showcase today's BIPOC leaders by listening to their experiences, educating our network and supporting our Black teammates and colleagues as they empower the next generation," U Sports noted on their website.

On March 11, U Sports announced that it is hiring for the position of Director of Sport.

"As an employer, U Sports is committed

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 | Vol. 43, No.26  
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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.

# Why we should tell stories

I will attempt to persuade you why we should tell stories by sharing a personal and critical analysis of the many experiences I have had with storytelling.

Fiction has a way of stimulating and engaging us on a psychological level and teaching us how to feel empathy in a way we never could, otherwise. Fiction takes us on adventures, forcing us to look outside of ourselves and discover new worlds. Stories of any kind, fiction or nonfiction, are a means to learn and experience other cultures or lives, outside of our own, that we, otherwise, would never have had the opportunity to understand.

Poets and writers of extraordinary ability are often able to redefine their nations' identities and cultures through exceptionally well-written works. Many epics, mythological tales and even historical literary works showcase societies in a way that was never seen before.

One of my favourite writers is Ferdowsi, the poet who wrote the Book of Kings (Shahnameh). In the foreword of the English translation of this epic, Azar Nafisi, another great Persian writer, wrote:

"My father always insisted that Persians basically did not have a home, except in their literature, especially in their poetry. This country, our country, he would say, has been attacked and invaded numerous times, and each time, when Persians had lost their sense of their own history, culture and language, they found their poets as the true guardians of their true home.

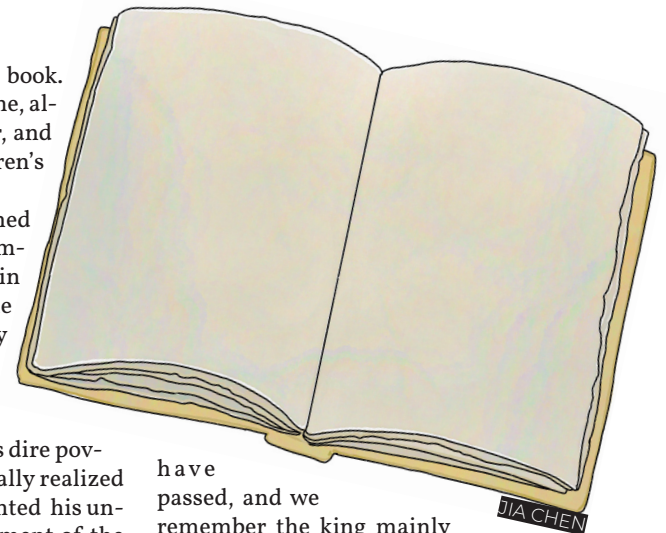
We have no other home but this, he would

say, pointing to the invisible book. This, he would repeat, is our home, always. For you, and your brother, and your children, and your children's children."

Long ago, the king had assigned the poet to write this epic, promising to pay him one gold coin for every couplet he wrote. The king, as it seems to be the way with many rulers, did not fulfill his promise. He sent the poet silver coins, in place of the gold ones, which the poet, despite his dire poverty, refused. The king, who finally realized the true worth of the poet, repented his unseemly behaviour and mistreatment of the poet and decided to travel to the city where the poet resided, in order to console himself. Upon arrival, the King realized he was too late; as his procession entered the main gate to the city, it encountered another procession - with the poet's coffin - leaving from the same gate.

This is extremely profound, and I wanted to share this epic's origin story, in order to effectively make you understand the significance of it. Relaying a story is far more important than explaining, with facts or science, how stories benefit our brains.

Nafisi goes on to say, "Implied in this legend, as in the Book of Kings itself, is the truth that in the struggle between the poet and the king, the latter might win this world but to the former belongs the glory that comes with the conquest of that most absolute of all tyrants - time. Nearly a thousand years



have passed, and we remember the king mainly because we remember the poet. It is the poet, who is the final victor."

Many people say that our time on earth is short, but I've always believed it to be terrifyingly and overwhelmingly long. Stories are like having the ability to weave our time together, to make sense of it all. Without them, we are easily lost and forgotten, suspended in limbo, and insignificant. Everything and everyone eventually becomes obsolete, but literature is the golden thread that transcends time and always persists. It is the only thing that will remain of us; it is the evidence that we were alive, that we lived and we loved, and that we mattered. This is why we should tell stories.

**Saba Gharagozli**  
 IB, Sociology and Legal Studies

# Meet the new Executive Editor

**Alexandra Holyk**  
 Executive Editor

When I saw the job posting for Executive Editor at Imprint, something told me I had to apply.

It was the start of summer job season, and I was scrolling on the various job sites hoping to find some sort of employment once online school lets out in April. As a second-year journalism student at Ryerson University and a news editor at *The Eyeopener* - Ryerson's independent student-run newspaper - I wanted to find something in my field of study that wasn't an unpaid internship.

Though I didn't have my journalism degree completed at the time I applied (or

now, for that matter), I was still confident in my application to join Imprint. With two years of experience in print and online production at a student campus paper, as well as a year of being a section managing editor, I was ready to take on a new role in a new city where I'd be able to provide my own expertise and learn tips and tricks along the way.

My goal as executive editor is to not only edit and develop stories to their fullest potential, I also hope to provide guidance to up and coming writers who may want to take the journalist career path.

One of the ways I hope to achieve these goals is by implementing more training sessions and communication between the team and volunteers in an effort to ease the transition between an online and in-person

newsroom. Whether you want to learn how to write, interview or copy edit, I want to ensure students that there's a place for them to contribute at Imprint.

When I'm not doing journalism work, you can find me doing my asynchronous lectures from the comfort of my bed, obviously wearing my pyjamas - the elite attire for Zoom University. In my spare time, I'm probably teaching dance lessons to children through Zoom; and you can probably imagine what that looks like.

Juggling class, working at Imprint and *The Eye* and trying to teach 20 kids how to dance through a web cam may seem like a lot, but I'm looking forward to working with the team and the volunteers to help develop stories and leave a lasting 'imprint' on the Kitchener-Waterloo community.



PHOTO/VIDEO



PROOFREADING



GRAPHICS



LAYOUT/WEB



REPORTING

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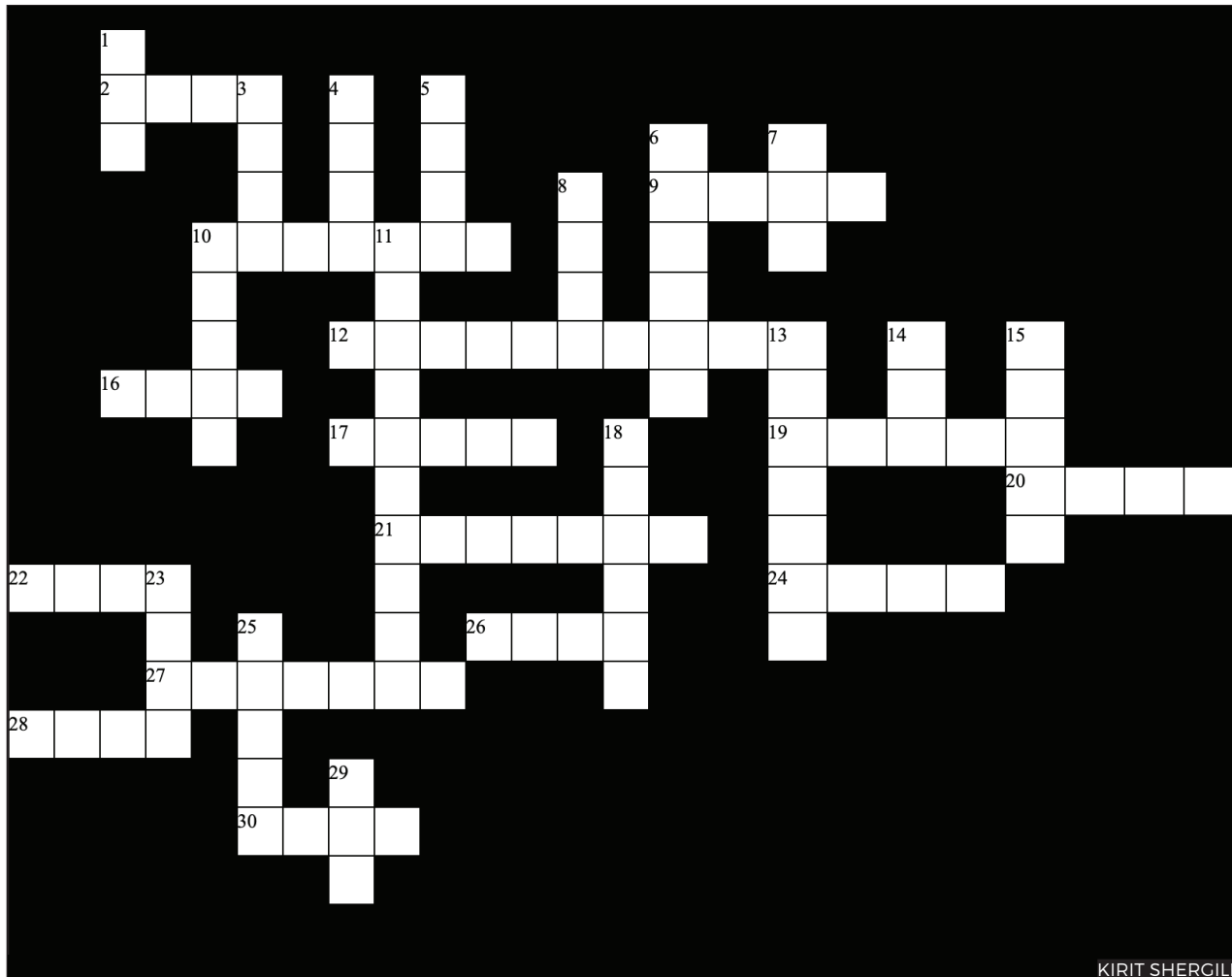
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# distractions



WHAT GOES UP WHEN THE RAIN GOES DOWN?  
UMBRELLAS!

## Imprint crosswords | March Maddness



KIRIT SHERGILL

### Across

- 2. It's not optional
- 9. Good enough
- 10. With the least delay
- 12. Evil fairy played by Angelina Jolie
- 16. Tibetan honorific
- 17. In a heap
- 19. Summarize
- 20. Grad
- 21. Hardheaded
- 22. "Bob's Burgers" sibling
- 24. "Sorry Not Sorry" singer Lovato
- 26. International gas brand
- 27. Trio in funny shorts
- 28. African river to the Mediterranean
- 30. Fellows

### Down

- 1. Explosive initials
- 3. Like Erté's art
- 4. "A New Day Has Come" singer
- 5. Kardashian matriarch
- 6. Like a busy chimney sweep's clothes
- 7. Touchscreen touch
- 8. Amazon berry
- 10. Mischief-maker
- 11. Subject to being wiped out
- 13. Storm often chased
- 14. Continuing story line
- 15. Compensate
- 18. Bleeping editor
- 23. Architectural recess
- 25. Alpine song
- 29. Many a poem by Sharon Olds



BRIANA OENPUTERA

### LAST WEEKS ANSWERS

