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MENTAL HEALTH

UW students investigate the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of nurses. P3



OPINION

Read more about the feelings of a student regarding intersectionality and human agency. P10

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Asian woman verbally attacked with racial slurs in Guelph.

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Concert in a box: Enjoy live music from the comfort of your home.

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COVID-19 outbreak at all UW residences. P2.



Outbreak at all UW residences

Grace Xie
Editorial Assistant

On Mar. 25, UW declared a COVID-19 outbreak in all of its residence buildings. This came after the university announced that five people that live on or near campus tested positive for the virus on Mar. 24 and 25.

According to UW Housing and Residences spokesperson Olufolakemi Owodunni, there are currently 27 active cases on campus. He added that variant strains of COVID-19 were found in the cases, which are known to spread more easily.

However, UW students currently living in residence said they aren't content with how the school is handling the outbreak, especially in trying to control the spread and supporting its students. When asked about their experience and thoughts on the outbreak, one student said they believe the outbreak was most likely due to social gatherings within the residences.

Similarly, Owodunni said the outbreak originated from various social gatherings that took place off-campus and in residence buildings.

"Residence has very clear protocols for preventing an outbreak...unfortunately, the decisions of a few students have impacted the larger community," Owodunni said.

Residence protocols include closing common spaces and not permitting visitors in individual rooms.

"Housing and Residences is containing the outbreak by monitoring students and staff in residence and enforcing tests, as advised by the Region of Waterloo Public Health," Owodunni said.



Students and staff living in the residence buildings are encouraged to get tested by booking an appointment through the online registration form included in the emails informing students of the outbreak.

Owodunni also mentioned that Campus Housing has closed all shared spaces such as study spaces, lounges and the cafeteria seating area.

"While we are working hard to control the outbreak, our priority remains to put students first and make sure that all students are supported through the outbreak," Owodunni said.

Owodunni added that the Residence Life team is providing students with meal and prescription delivery, laundry service, garbage removal, access to counselling, and frequent check-ins.

"I have to say I'm not surprised, I have seen many groups gathering outside my window.

I see groups of people in the hallways going to different rooms," said a first-year student living in Mackenzie King Village (MKV).

According to the student, the new measures that UW has implemented seem to be doing more bad than good, such as suspending food delivery services. This resulted in a lot of students struggling to find access to food.

The new measures also reportedly restrict students from being able to receive mail from Canada Post.

Additionally, the student said they are concerned over a potential increase in COVID-19 transmissions, especially with the introduction of a new measure that funnels students in all residences through one main entrance.

"We had food delivery first semester, and they got rid of it for the second semester, so now people like my one roommate, who

doesn't cook, has to walk to [Claudette Miller Hall] to get food which obviously would increase spread...I'm no expert on the spread of disease, but any funneling of people I would think increases cases," they said.

"We will continue to operate our residences to the highest standards of safety," Owodunni said.

"We trust that we'll see increased compliance among our students and hopefully a significantly reduced risk of any future outbreak."

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



UW students study the impact of COVID-19 on nurses' mental health

Grace Xie
Editorial Assistant

As the pandemic continues to affect everyone's lives, it is evident that the lives of frontline healthcare workers such as nurses, doctors and first responders have been hit the hardest. In recognition of this, UW students began a research project at the beginning of January in association with the ARTS 490 Global Engagement project, to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of nurses.

"With the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of the nurses and health care workers in general - have been experiencing a lot since the beginning of the pandemic; and as a group, we kind of wanted to look into their experience during the pandemic," said Selena Bahta, a member of the research group.

The group's findings show that the mental health of nurses was in fact negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. When comparing the responses to how stressed nurses were before and after the pandemic, almost all responses came back confirming that COVID-19 had increased stress among nurses.

The data also shows that there is inadequate mental health support for nurses during these challenging times, as over 90 per cent of the responses supported this claim. Over 80 per cent of participants said their work schedule changed drastically to accommodate for the large inflow of COVID-19 patients.

According to the data, the nurses also believe that the population is not complying with COVID-19 rules and regulations, especially the young adult age group.

"We know we've contributed to a lot of the COVID-19 cases — our group is having a harder time complying with COVID-19 protocol," Bahta said, adding that though



AHLAM IBRAHIM

the researchers focused their study on nurses, they also wanted to consider undergraduate students.

According to Bahta as well as other group members including Lea Victoria Gamas, Navjeet Kaur Ubhi, Fathima Marfath Kamoordeen and Daniyal Syed Naumani, their research was carried out using surveys created by SurveyMonkey. These surveys were sent out to nurses in the GTA, where responses were collected anonymously to examine the shared experiences of nurses during the pandemic.

"[The 10-question survey sent to nurses] asked what age group they thought were contributing the most to spreading the virus

amongst seniors, adults, and young adults," said Gamas. "At the end of the survey, we asked them what they think the general population could do to minimize the mental health burden that they're dealing with."

To assess their results and measure their outcomes, Kamoordeen said additional statistical analyses will be conducted.

"We're going to look at numbers, probably do stats graphs. We already know that the nurses are going to say that they're having a hard time...but I think our goal with this survey is to prove that point," Kamoordeen said.

"We could use this information and data just to show everyone, specifically the

younger population in Waterloo, that nurses are in fact going through a lot and how we could support them," Ubhi said. "We're hoping that with this information, we could spread that awareness once again and [say], 'Hey, this is something you can actually do to help people out,'" Ubhi added.

Regarding limitations and strengths in their research, the team members reflect that their short time frame from brainstorming in the beginning of January 2021 to conducting their research in March was a major barrier they had to overcome.

Additionally, they found that dealing with privacy issues was a challenge when trying to collect data.

"Although the surveys were anonymous, there are people who are still uncomfortable with giving out certain information. There is also a limitation to our reach, for example, actions that could [influence] the government, but hopefully someone gets someone who cares and gets motivated," Ubhi said.

They also said their resources are limited as students, which created barriers in their results as well as their outreach.

With the evidence garnered from this research, the group hopes to turn the conversation back to supporting frontline health workers, as well as continue to emphasize the seriousness of the pandemic. Especially in calling upon the UW community, the group urges students to take precautions in following COVID-19 protocols and minimizing social gatherings.

"Hopefully, our research will help nurses in this sort of setting — and obviously, this sort of change doesn't happen overnight — but [it will help] to just start talking about it again," Navjeet said.

"I don't think that it's talked about enough — how important nurses are, and while they do care for others, they need to be cared for as well."

Essential awareness

Research findings based on the survey issued to nurses in the GTA

Before the pandemic...

83%

of nurses reported extreme stress due to short staffing

Mental health effects of the pandemic

89%

of nurses surveyed said they felt stressed out during the pandemic

...

95%

of nurses said people who don't comply with COVID-19 protocols negatively impact their mental health

What can you do?

- follow COVID-19 safety protocols
- social distance & wear a mask
- educate yourself and others
- be responsible!

StackAdapt Inc. launches scholarship for first-year Black and Indigenous engineering students

Karen Chen
News Editor

Vitaly Pecherskiy, the co-founder and chief operating officer of StackAdapt Inc., recently launched a scholarship for first-year Black and Indigenous engineering students at UW.

Black and Indigenous students are underrepresented in engineering and other STEM fields of study, currently making up less than 10 per cent of the student population in STEM degrees.

In 2017, StackAdapt Inc., a self-serve advertising platform for digital marketers, produced a documentary about the issue of diversity in the technology industry, which is what originally sparked Pecherskiy's interest in the topic of diversity and inclusion.

"The documentary included an examination of the 'pipeline problem' — namely, how the comparatively low numbers of BI-POC individuals who study computer sciences and engineering, in turn, contributes to the lack of diversity in these areas in the workforce," writes Pecherskiy in his blog.

Pecherskiy intended to use this scholarship as a way of increasing accessibility to education and creating opportunities for these underrepresented groups.

The scholarship — called the Vitaly Pecherskiy Entrance Award — will be awarded to one student, valued at \$20,000, or two students, valued at \$10,000 each. Additional financial compensation will be provided to the recipients for participating in outreach initiatives and encouraging others from their community and high school to follow in their footsteps.

In order to be eligible, students must be in their first year of an engineering program, have an admission average of at least 80 per cent and should demonstrate financial need. Selection will be based on both academic achievement and extracurricular involvement. The application deadline is Apr. 15.

Although Pecherskiy graduated from the University of Ottawa with a bachelor of commerce degree, his company has hired many UW engineering graduates at StackAdapt Inc.

Pecherskiy chose engineering for the scholarship because knowledge of computer programming offers many career opportunities and these types of programs tend to be too costly for those who could benefit most from the future they have to offer.

"If this scholarship gets one more person into a great school, into a great program, who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend, then I think I have succeeded," Pecherskiy said.



HEATHER ECOBICHON

WUSA disappointed with Ontario's 2021 budget

Karen Chen
News Editor

The Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) said it will continue advocating for government funding in post-secondary education and support for students, following the unveiling of Ontario's 2021 budget.

In a press release on Mar. 31, WUSA stated that it is disappointed that the needs of students weren't prioritized in the provincial government's budget for the upcoming year.

The statement also highlighted concerns surrounding the rising unemployment rate, potential future income losses and long-term consequences of this period. More details are provided on the WUSA website.

"In the aftermath of the pandemic, young people are going to endure the most significant financial challenges," the statement reads.

"The government's failure to invest in students at this critical time demonstrates a lack of support for a vulnerable population and an unwillingness to invest in the economic success of the next generation."

"To combat these challenges WUSA implores the provincial government to implement OUSA's OSAP recommendations and implement a funded extension to the tuition freeze," WUSA stated.

Many youth in the workforce (ages 15 - 24) work in high risk jobs that are essential to the economy, and those who do not face financial challenges as it becomes difficult to make ends meet or afford tuition and basic necessities.

Ontario's 2021 budget, released on Mar. 24, has two vital priorities:

The first is to protect people's health by "defeating COVID-19," "fixing long-term care" and "caring for people," largely by providing integral resources like PPE to front-line workers and investing in health care to grow the workforce and provide healthcare

to those who need it most.

The second priority of the province's 2021 budget is to protect the economy by "supporting workers and families," "protecting jobs," "supporting communities" and "building a modern government" with a proposed "Ontario Jobs Training Tax Credit for 2021." This initiative will also include

another round of the Ontario small business support grant, expected to deliver an estimated \$3.4 billion to approximately 120,000 eligible small businesses. The government also plans to invest in infrastructure over the next 10 years, with a total of \$145.4 billion, including \$16.9 billion in 2021-22, specifically.

Ontario's Action Plan

Protecting People's Health and Our Economy

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board

2021 ONTARIO BUDGET



Ontario

COURTESY GOV'T OF ONTARIO

Environmental concerns over Region of Waterloo International Airport's plan to expand runway

Phoebe Wolfe
Reporter

City of Waterloo residents said they are concerned over the potential expansion of one of the two runways at the Region of Waterloo International Airport.

In 2017, the Waterloo Regional Council approved a 20-year plan for the growth of the airport with an estimated budget of \$375 million. Within the first stage of the plan, runway 14-32 is set to be extended from 1,200 metres to 2,100 metres.

The goal of the project is to make the runway accessible to larger planes and allow an increased variety of air traffic.

Local wetland and wildlife habitats in the region would suffer directly from the expansion, many of which are home to an assortment of endangered species.

"Wetlands are critical for increasing ecosystem resilience to climate change," said

Katana Cameron, an environmental, resources & sustainability student at UW.

"Even if the expansion generates new revenue, it will not make up for the biodiversity caused by damaging...the wetland."

The airport has proposed natural heritage management plans to navigate the impact of the project, but many residents feel as though this will not be enough to prevent irreversible damage.

"I understand the airport is an important asset to the region, but as we continue to urbanize, we are also increasing the stress on rural and natural lands that are putting wildlife at risk," said anthropology student Elise MacDonald.

Air travel has been significantly impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite this, the airport is eager to move ahead with the expansion in order to prepare for an expected influx of passengers once the pandemic is over.

The extension was partly proposed to

accommodate an estimated 20 million surplus travellers by the year 2031 that Toronto Pearson Airport will not have capacity for.

A larger runway also means that in poor weather conditions, aircrafts won't have to detour to Pearson, resulting in an extended

commute home for KW residents.

The project is currently being reviewed by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. The organization is seeking feedback from the public and will accept submissions until Apr. 18.



COURTESY REGION OF WATERLOO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Feedback submissions are open till Apr. 18.

Asian woman in Guelph verbally attacked with racial slurs

Suji Udayakumar
Reporter

Aaliyah Subang, a 25-year-old Filipino woman, was walking her dog on Mar. 28 when she said she was approached by a Middle Eastern man.

According to Subang, the man began a racist rant, in which he stated that she "did not belong here" and that she should go back to her home country.

Subang also mentioned that the man said Asians are the reason for COVID-19 in Canada.

Subang also said that the incident made her question herself, wondering if she should be ashamed of her own racial identity, before the realization that this behavior is unacceptable.

The incident occurred on the same day as the rally against anti-Asian racism in Toronto.

After she was attacked, Subang said the man walked away but continued to yell and make obscene gestures after another woman came and stood with her.

An increase in racist behavior toward the Asian community has been repeat-

edly observed since the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This rise has been described as "unacceptable" by Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade.

Reports of racist attacks and hate crimes have seen a substantial surge in Canada, typically in the form of spitting, verbal attacks and physical assaults.

Vancouver police documented a 717 per cent increase in cases of anti-Asian hate crimes in the past year alone.

Toronto and the GTA has the second highest number of cases involving anti-Asian hate crimes, following Vancouver.

Recently, it was reported that officers identified the man involved in the Guelph incident with Subang.

He was warned about his behaviour and told he could face criminal harassment charges should it happen again.

He was let off with a warning.

This harassment directed toward an Asian woman walking her dog on a Sunday afternoon in Guelph is one of many Asian discriminatory attacks seen recently.

During the incident, Subang stated publicly that she did not know what to do. "I didn't engage. I didn't know how to respond

to him."

Guelph Police officer Scott Tracey said victims of such crimes should call them and file a report.

He said this is one of the first steps in promoting conversation and increased awareness surrounding what is happening in the community.

"There are people who aren't able to speak out and defend themselves against issues like this," Subang said.

"So, I think it's important that they need somebody to raise awareness and to bring this issue to light."

Subang spoke to Global News and said she was a bit disappointed with the outcome.

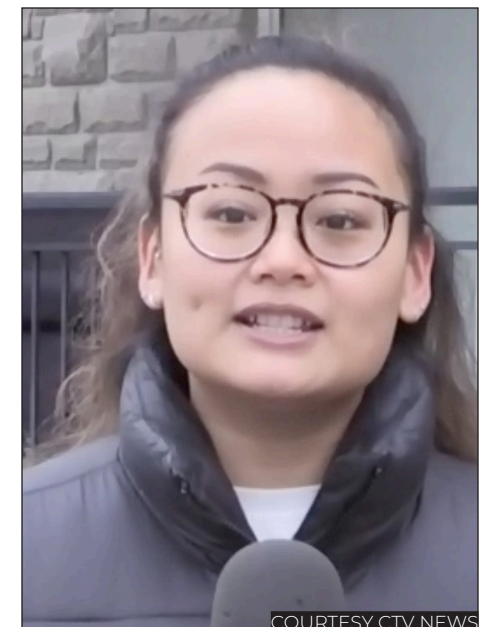
"I think what frustrates me the most is that he can't get charged until it happens again," she said.

The whole point of me speaking out about this and trying to raise awareness is so that this doesn't happen again."

Avvy Go, the director of the Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic in Toronto, said it is important for there to be more education on anti-Asian hate and support for programs that work against this racism.

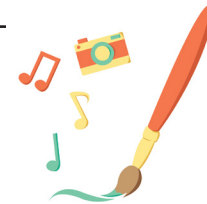
Anti-Asian racism and hate crimes in Canada can be reported on the following websites:

- Project1907.org
- CovidRacism.ca
- EliminateHate.org
- Act2EndRacism.org



COURTESY CTV NEWS

Aaliyah Subang, 25.



Flux 2021 review: UW copes with crisis and isolation through art

Claudia Tavara-Tello
Reporter

On Mar. 27, the university's department of Fine Arts opened Flux 2021, the 47th annual senior thesis exhibition.

The show features work by 20 fourth-year students from the department, whose pieces explore a wide range of themes including experiences in the diasporic community, family, gender, mortality, memory and connection.

The students have employed many mediums, such as traditional painting, textiles, digital art, drawing and installation to communicate their ideas.

Unlike the department's previous shows, Flux is a virtual experience.

The live-streamed opening on Youtube began with acknowledge-

ments from the Director of Special Programs Monica Leoni, and members of the Fine Arts faculty, Tara Cooper and Lois Andison.

Throughout the show, each artist shared their work and a part of their process or inspiration, from Shannon Stehr whose crocheted pieces were inspired by her grandmother to Kate Short's plant artworks that are connected to self-health.

The event also included the Curator's Choice Award, which was awarded to both Diana Tran, who reconstructed her father's memories in the form of a diorama, and Lupita Guerrero, who used translation as a way to describe generational gaps of understanding.

The graduating class selected the name "Flux" to represent the challenges of their final year in the program and the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on

their lives. "Flux means many things: a state of flow, an in-between space, a state of change, all while leaving room to ebb and flow," said Baz Kanold, one of the participating artists.

"Our graduating class has experienced quite a state of flux in our final year, along with our fellow students at UW and the rest of the world," Kanold added. "In the midst of this global crisis, we are drawing on our arts communities and artistic practices to reflect on the past and to unpack and seek change in our present."

Kanold noted that students have had to adapt their methods of work as they long for moments spent in their East Campus Hall Studio.

"The connections we have made are different than those past arts students have from struggling and succeeding together in person,"

they said.

The name "Flux" was also inspired by Fluxus: an international art movement of the 1960s and 1970s that emphasized the creative process and created space for chance, happy accidents, creative play and the use of nearby materials during artistic creation. Notably, Fluxus was centred on the democratization of art and the importance of making art accessible.

Themes of connection, social commentary and social revolution are present throughout the Flux 2021 exhibition. "You can't deny the new perspectives and avenues for change that artists have developed over the last 12 months. This change in how we view art in academia, and as a tool for change is a central focus in our show," Kanold said.

Kanold's artwork investigates and celebrates queerness, sexuali-

ty, and the fluidity of gender identity using mixed mediums. Dysphoria, their current project, is focused on the concept of gender dysphoria, and the difficulties of having your mind and body being in opposition to one another.

As a whole, experiencing Flux was powerful.

It is remarkable how each artist presents their work in a way that beautifully and insightfully explores themes such as family, identity, emotions, and language.

In a time when people are struggling with isolation and the social issues permeating our society, the UW fine arts students captured the spirit of their program's work that will hopefully continue to inspire others for years to come.

The artists' works, statements and interviews are available on the show's website.

Concert in a box: Local event brings live music to your home

Claudia Tavara-Tello
Reporter

There is no doubt that the music industry has been hit hard by the pandemic, but that hasn't stopped Good Company Productions from bringing live performances to local music lovers and beyond.

After the pandemic hit, the local music production company started Concert in a Box — an event that allows patrons to tune into a live-streamed show while enjoying food, drinks and merchandise delivered to their homes on the day of the show.

With the purchase of a ticket, patrons can expect a virtual concert featuring two acts, as well as a handmade gift box containing treats from local vendors.

Audience members are asked to keep the box closed until a half hour before the show so the performers and goodies are kept a surprise.

The creators at Good Company Productions have recently expanded the event in collaboration with the City of Kitchener Music and Film Office, along with Apollo Cinema.

At the beginning of March, concertgoers enjoyed a performance by the band Excuse Me from Guelph, as well as goodies from Apollo and other local companies.

With this new collaboration, the City of Kitchener is covering musician compensation, matching Good Company Productions' service for production.

This means that 100 per cent of box sales went to Apollo Cinema.

"There is a new awareness all across the world of the need of equity especially when it comes to artists and musicians," said Bob Egan, the city's film, music and interactive media officer.

"So yes, that is a part of the City of Kitchener's mandate and it's just the right thing to do."

The next event is Date Night in a Box on Apr. 16. Good Company is teaming up with the Walper Hotel to deliver a live-streamed concert featuring Toronto band The Free Label and a specially curated box for couples.

This box will include a Lokal Cocktail Kit, house-made Walper snack, couples intimacy kit, and a few more surprises.

Tickets for the event can be purchased on the Walper Hotel website.



And the Academy Award (hopefully) goes to...

Vishal Lilman
Reporter

After a long, drawn out, tiring and uncertain couple of months, it is finally the culmination of what has had everyone in the world glued to their screens: awards season (obviously).

As Waterloo students, we know that lectures, discussion boards, assignments, labs and quizzes may have kept you glued to your screen for the past few months. Thus, you may not be caught up with the latest and greatest Hollywood has to offer. No stress! We've got you covered with our *official* prediction list for the big categories that will have everyone talking.

Best Picture: "Nomadland" (Searchlight Pictures)

Verdict: "Nomadland" has been notorious and undisputed this awards season. "Nomadland" took home the Golden Globe for "Best Picture - Drama" on Feb. 28, which, in the past, has been stellar foreshadowing for Oscar winners. However, the last movie that had 'land' in the title *cough* "La La Land" *cough* didn't quite stick the landing.

Best Director: Chloé Zhao, "Nomadland" (Searchlight Pictures)

Verdict: The "Best Picture" is usually directed by the "Best Director," which is why we're tipping our hats off to the mind behind "Nomadland," Chloé Zhao. Zhao has already won big at the Golden Globes and the PGA Awards, so to count on her winning the Oscar is a safe bet.

Best Actor: Chadwick Boseman, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" (Netflix)

Verdict: The world came to a shocking stop last summer when it was announced that the late Chadwick Boseman had lost his battle with pancreatic cancer—a battle that was only known about by Boseman's inner circle.

Now, Boseman's true talent is clear. He portrayed several roles, giving life to his films, while keeping his fight with cancer secret and hiding any signs of pain. No one else in this category can come close.



Best Actress: Frances McDormand, "Nomadland" (Searchlight Pictures)

Verdict: One movie that's an almost sure bet to win big on Oscar night is "Nomadland," thanks to stellar critical reviews and the film's success over this year's awards season. Frances McDormand is a seasoned Oscar vet, with four "Best Actress" nominations and two wins, one in 1996 for "Fargo" and one in 2018 for "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri." As the lead performer in "Nomadland," McDormand's execution of her role adds to the movie's success and notoriety.

Best Supporting Actor: Sacha Baron Cohen, "The Trial of Chicago 7" (Netflix)

Verdict: For "The Trial of Chicago 7" not to pick up an award this year would be a crime to be put on trial of its own. Sacha Baron Cohen's performance is the perfect place for recognition. Cohen had a breakout year with the role of Abbie Hoffman in this historical flick, as well as with his role as Borat in "Borat Subsequent Movie Film," a reprise of the role that earned him an Oscar nomination back in 2006. I think this time around, Cohen will take home the gold.

Best Supporting Actress: Maria Bakalova, "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm" (Amazon Studios)

Verdict: First-time nominee Maria Bakalova has the highest chances of winning because she is the only actress in this category who was nominated by every other televised award show. It is important to note that she did lose out on the Golden Globes to Rosamund Pike, where she was nominated for "Best Actress," however the academy placed her in the "Supporting Actress" category, so this narrative isn't hard to predict.

Best Animated Feature: "Soul" (Pixar)

Verdict: When it comes to the "Best Animated Feature" award, choosing a Disney/Pixar film is a safe bet. Soul is a better pool pick than Onward not only because it has better reviews and more awareness, but also because director Pete Docter is an Oscar veteran with eight nominations and two wins. Those winning films? 2009's "Up" and 2015's "Inside Out."

JIA CHEN



Predictive AI partners with UW Artificial Intelligence Institute

Richard Joung
Reporter

On Mar. 16, Predictiv AI, a software and solution provider in the artificial intelligence market, announced a new collaboration with the University of Waterloo Artificial Intelligence Institute (Waterloo.AI).

This partnership will allow Predictiv AI's subsidiary, AI Labs, to pursue its various innovations through leveraging Waterloo.AI as an extension of the Predictiv AI team.

"We are thrilled to have Predictiv AI join as a partner with Waterloo," said Harold Godwin, managing director of Waterloo.AI.

"This is a very exciting time for our university and Waterloo.AI, and we are grateful for the interest and ongoing support of our partners, including our newest, Predictiv AI."

This collaboration will provide access to the world's most advanced artificial intelligence

resources, allowing for greater bandwidth in ideation, research, and development of solutions to real-world problems.

Predictiv AI is looking forward to participating in and supporting Waterloo.AI events, while also introducing the program to other synergistic partners. Apart from having access to a pool of talented academics and their research and development team, the partnership also provides for round table discussions amongst Waterloo.AI partners.

"We are very excited and honoured to be working with one of the world's leading artificial intelligence institutions. We will now be able to accelerate our innovations and scale our team's productivity while learning new ways to approach projects with new and unique technologies," said Michael Lende, CEO of Predictiv AI.

"The formalization of this relationship is a crucial building block in our growth plans as it allows us to remain asset-light while simultaneously accelerating innovation

on our artificial intelligence and deep machine learning-based solutions. We look forward to a long-term association with Waterloo.AI."

professor in the electrical and computer engineering programs and Peter van Beek, a computer science professor.

all six faculties at the university.

Their researchers tackle some of the most challenging problems in AI and machine learning.

"The formalization of this relationship [...] allows us to remain asset-light while simultaneously accelerating innovation on our artificial intelligence and deep machine learning-based solutions."

MICHAELLENDE, CEO OF PREDICTIV AI

Waterloo.AI was launched in early 2018 with support from various faculties and private industries.

The founding co-director of the institute are Fakhri Karray, a pro-

Waterloo.AI is dedicated to the research of all aspects of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). It consists of over 200 professors and research associates across

They believe that AI will change our lives, transform how we work, how we travel, how we treat disease, how we communicate and how we learn.

UW prof receives over \$200K from federal government to fund aquatic ecosystem study

Simone Abdillahi
Reporter

A UW professor is receiving more than \$200,000 over three years from the federal government to fund his research project on antidepressants in aquatic ecosystems. This comes as part of an announcement on Mar. 29 from Fisheries and Oceans Canada that said it will provide almost \$3 million over the next four years to study contaminants in aquatic ecosystems.

With this funding, biology professor Mark Servos will study how antidepressants accumu-

late and impact wild fish populations. He has previously been awarded more than \$1 million to test for COVID-19 in wastewater to gain a better understanding of how the virus is transmitted through communities.

Servos focuses most of his research on ecotoxicology in water systems. He currently serves as a Canada Research Chair in water quality protection and is also a member of the Water Institute.

Antidepressants are widely used across Ontario and can be easily introduced into bodies of water. These substances can be biotransformed into detectable molecules that can be detected

in untreated wastewater and can wreak havoc on ecosystems by causing chemical stress on the aquatic environment.

The chemicals have the ability to alter the behavioural responses of fish in these ecosystems that are exposed. Ecosystems near wastewater treatment plants also tend to suffer from higher nutrient loads, decreased oxygen levels and changes in temperature along with the presence of these chemicals.

"It is critical for us to examine how pharmaceuticals move in the environment, in particular how they bioaccumulate in fish and cause changes in key biological processes," said Charmaine Dean,

vice-president, research and international at UW.

"We are very pleased to have this important project led by professor Mark Servos...who has extensive knowledge in the areas of ecotoxicology and integrated water resources management."

The Government of Canada is invested in advancing research surrounding contamination in Canadian bodies of water and how they affect the animal populations in them.

Servos will be using the funding to perform field assessments and laboratory studies, as well as model and study the effects that municipal wastewater treatments

have on the bioaccumulation of pharmaceuticals in water.

The funding will allow nine different research facilities to address multiple issues surrounding the biological effects of contamination on aquatic species. These groups include the University of Toronto, which will receive \$217,870 over three years to investigate the ecological impact of microplastics on wild fish and their aquatic ecosystems.

The IISD Experimental Lakes Area will also receive \$220,736 over three years to investigate the effects of antipsychotic pharmaceuticals by analyzing ecosystem-based enclosures.



WRITE FOR SPORTS

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Warriors join U Sports' virtual university swimming challenge

Tara De Boer and Alexandra Holyk
Sports and Health Editor and Executive Editor

The Waterloo Swim team announced their participation in the U Sports 2021 virtual swimming challenge on Mar. 31. This year's challenge was in collaboration with Swimming Canada and ran from Feb. 27 to Apr. 4.

Over the past few weeks, university student swimmers competed in their home pools in races such as the 50-metre Freestyle, 100-metre Freestyle and the 50-metre Backstroke. All swims are conducted in a 25-metre short-course format.

Swimmers were able to participate in any number of events. Additionally, there was no limit on the number of relays swimmers could participate in. Though swimmers were allowed to post multiple times for the same event, only one time will be included in the final rankings.

According to the challenge's guidelines, all swim times must have been posted throughout the duration of the challenge, between Feb. 27 and Apr. 4. The final ranking must be submitted by midnight on Apr. 7, with the final results expected to be shared by Apr. 12.

All swimmers were welcome to this U Sports event. Since it was an unofficial national championship, participating swimmers were not required to attain a qualifying time in order to compete.

Twenty swimmers from UW's swimming program joined the virtual competition last week, with only five days before the end of the challenge. Although they entered the competition later than most participants, the Warrior swimmers have been back in the pool since Feb. 23, once restrictions loosened up.

"The swimmers on campus have been given the opportunity to attend eight training pool sessions per week in addition to one strength and conditioning gym session," said UW's swimming head coach, Jacqueline Beckford-Henriques.

"Preparation has gone well despite the ups and downs of the last year," said Beckford-Henriques. "I am very pleased that many swimmers...were very close to their all-time personal best times...We will wait and see where they will rank with other teams in Canada."

Beckford-Henriques also listed several swimmers to look out for in all of the events included in the virtual challenge. These included Olympic trials qualifier Aidan

Iapicco, as well as Christian Florea, Noah Rogozynski and Christina Ji.

Ji, a third-year biomedical engineering student, said training for and participating in the challenge was an opportunity to have something to look forward to amidst the pandemic.

"The first few weeks was just [spent] getting back into it, finding your rhythm and getting your endurance back," Ji said. "Leading up to [the challenge], it was a lot of technique work and building that mentality up."

Though the official results including UW's submissions have yet to be updated on Swimming Canada's website, Ji is set to take second place on the leaderboard for women's 100-metre individual medley — an event where swimmers use all four competitive strokes: butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle, consecutively.

"With just five weeks of training that we've had coming into [the challenge], it's hard to compare myself to where other people are at, especially since I don't know how much other people have been training," she said. Ji added that the team expects to have a "regular" season next year, so the rankings will mean more to her.

Beckford-Henriques also listed



Ian Prevost-Chambers, a third-year kinesiology student, as someone to keep an eye out for on the leaderboard.

Prevost-Chambers, who participated in the men's 50-metre freestyle, as well as the men's 50-metre and 200-metre breaststroke, said he saw this challenge as a way to motivate himself and rebuild his strength and skill set as a swimmer.

With a reduced capacity of swimmers in the pool, "I found that it was easier to work on...the finer details in swimming," Prevost-Chambers said, referring to particular tech-

niques such as holding his breath underwater longer than usual.

Prevost-Chambers also said the competition wasn't the same as in-person meets.

"Nothing can really top a nice [Ontario University Athletics] championship in Waterloo...it's really fun...and it's something that can't really be topped," he said. "But the virtual challenge still offered motivation," Prevost-Chambers added, referring to the competition between him and swimmers from other schools as well as swimmers from his home team.

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Next scheduled post-mortem meeting:
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opinion



HAVE YOUR SAY

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

Intersectionality and human agency

I went on a walk one night, in a strange city, alone. I felt that I would have a deeper and more thorough understanding of the world I was in if I was outside at night, more unfiltered, transparent and less sanitized. In the daytime, it is much easier to govern ourselves according to the way in which we believe is right. The night is concealing and fools us into thinking that we have a freedom in the darkness that we would not in the light. Which is why the world is always in such a raw, vulnerable state in the dark.

Immediately, I was scared and I thought about how I was lucky enough to grow up in a country like Canada — as a person of colour, as a woman — who would not have had the same autonomy or access to human rights in my own home country, Iran. While this remains something I am eternally grateful for, it often feels detrimental when I am forced to step outside. Although comparatively better than Iran in handling these issues, Canada is not perfect and we are capable of improvement as individuals as well as a society. In this article I have focused on feminist perspectives, intersectionality in itself is absolutely not limited to this. It is the examination of all its parts as a whole that we can truly understand it.

As a child I had always blindly believed that I was lucky enough to freely access these things simply because I was told so by my educators and my parents. I did not yet understand that, to my dismay, many minority groups here are still fighting to attain the same rights that people are back in Iran, too. Women in Canada and across North America are constantly battling through feminist movements, including but not lim-

ited to: the Women's Suffragists and Suffragettes, which fought for political representation of women, and the annual Women's Marches to obtain the same rights that men had been receiving for hundreds of years. This is tragically indicative of a patriarchal system, the same one my parents immigrated here to avoid.

These movements are made to urgently remind the world that laws may not be enough if people do not follow them, if they are not enforced and if they cannot be taken seriously and legitimately.

Epistemic violence is another important issue — especially under what concerns gender essentialism. Epistemic violence on its own indicates that some voices are inherently silenced because of predisposition to privilege and because of this so many important perspectives are left unheard. Tendency towards privilege is something the law should stray away from, and we need to be more understanding of how the law is a culprit of social exclusion and marginalization in this way because epistemic violence is extremely dangerous when we are not aware of its consequences.

As I walked alone with my thoughts, I was saddened by the state of our world. It is incredibly disheartening to acknowledge this simple truth: especially considering epistemic violence, that it may be easier to save the world itself than the people living in it. I wonder whether we are doomed to our self-destructive ways, a vicious cycle that has caused humanity to reach an advancement plateau.

However, with the background I have and the circumstances I have experienced firsthand, I want to fight and be an active person

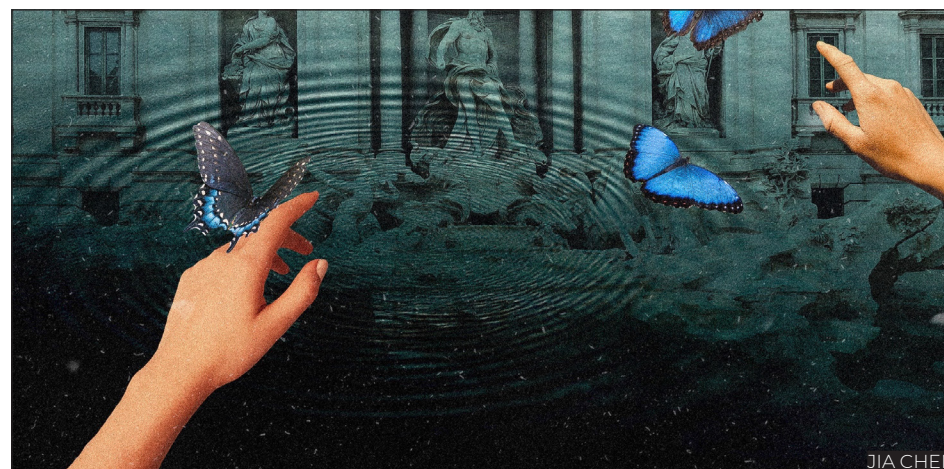
working toward global change, to make the world a better and safer place. I believe the United Nations is working on advocating for prevention of feminist subordination, as well.

The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women explicitly acknowledges that "extensive discrimination against women continues to exist," and emphasizes that such discrimination "violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity."

Similarly, in a book titled *Revolution at Point Zero*, Silvia Federici discusses the feminist struggle throughout history, and how we really need to empathize with marginalized groups and minorities in order for the legal system to change. She writes, "No common is possible unless we refuse to base our life, our reproduction on the suffering of others, unless we refuse to see ourselves as separate from them."

People don't realize that they are capable of causing butterfly effects on their own. Small things that can have direct impact on complex systems, or that a stone thrown into the river can be capable of so much more than we realize. People often don't realize that this change begins with them. Human agency — being our ability to make decisions and have those decisions directly influence and impact the world around us — is one of the most powerful tools in our arsenal. We often don't realize the effect that our small daily choices have on our external world. If we learn to be more aware of their consequences, perhaps we would behave and act more consciously and with a higher degree of consideration to the world. Everything we do has a ripple effect that we unfortunately take for granted.

I realize now that we have an obligation to the space that we fill. The reality we live in is what shapes the laws that are created, (the ones that ultimately govern the way we live). The two do not simply co-exist but are essential for each other's existence: one could not exist without the other, and in attempting to isolate law and understand it on its own would be counterproductive and extremely limiting. This is because law on its own, without a society and its people, simply does not exist.



JIA CHEN

Saba Gharagozli
 IB, Sociology and Legal Studies



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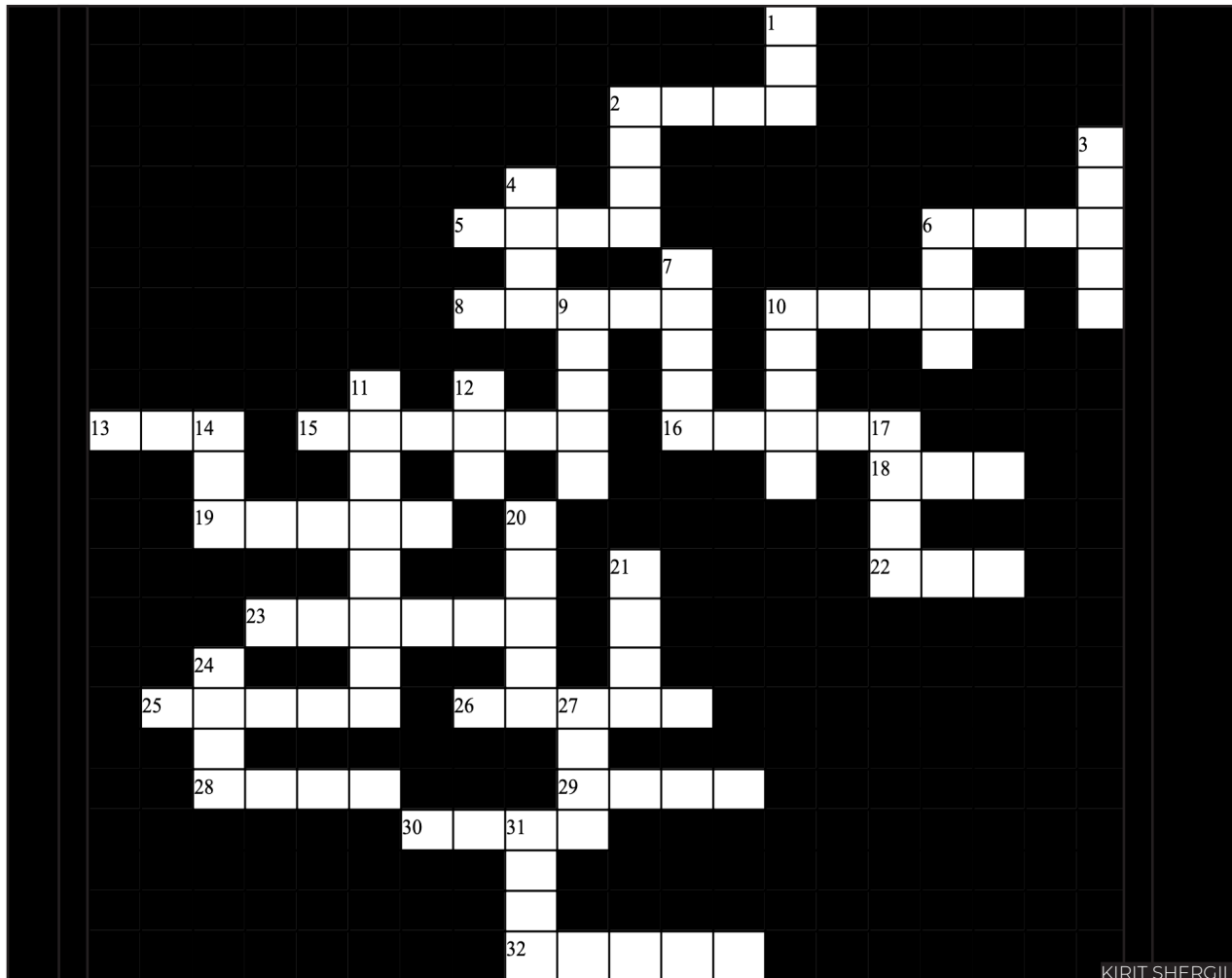
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ROSES ARE RED, APRIL IS GREY
THE NEXT TIME YOU LEAVE YOUR HOUSE
IS GONNA BE MAY

Imprint crosswords | Name that song



KIRIT SHERGILL

Across

- 2. Building extension
- 5. Midterm or final
- 6. Aussie hoppers
- 8. “__ Jacques”
- 10. Get in shape
- 13. Public health org.
- 15. Wedding destinations, often
- 16. Crime site
- 18. Celestial feline
- 19. Elvis’ “__ Dog”
- 22. List-ending abbr.
- 23. Oddball
- 25. Support for an injured limb
- 26. Dental care brand
- 28. Gawk at
- 29. Hoity-toity sort
- 30. Camera setting that does everything except point and shoot
- 32. Ctrl+V, commonly

Down

- 1. Brewery vessel
- 2. Jackson 5 ‘I __ You Back’
- 3. Emcees
- 4. Tolerate
- 6. Drops from the sky
- 7. Casual pants
- 9. Live and breathe
- 10. Unavailable
- 11. Weeknd ‘__ Lights’
- 12. Rowboat mover
- 14. Fire remains
- 17. Vogue alternative
- 20. Pancake maker’s need
- 21. Spiral shape
- 24. Sax type
- 27. Plus
- 31. Holiday sub



BRIANA OENPUTERA

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

