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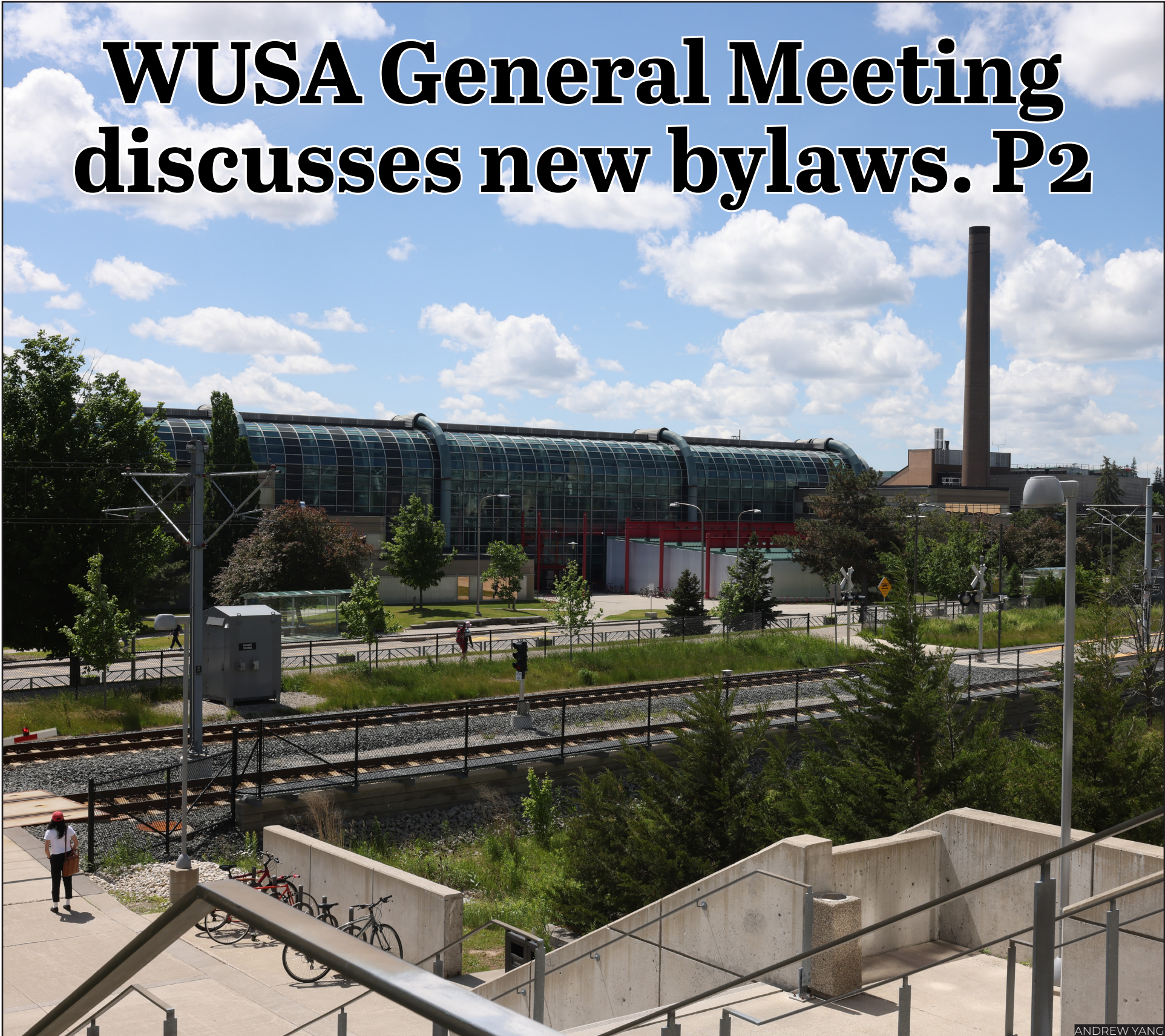
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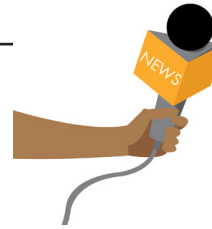
**SUPPORTING UKRAINE P2**

UW creates internship to help Ukrainian students continue their education.

# WUSA General Meeting discusses new bylaws. P2



ANDREW YANG



# WUSA General Meeting discussed changing bylaws; no vote occurred

Abhiraj Lamba  
Arts & Life Editor

**W**USA held a Special General Meeting on May 25, 2022, at which the undergraduate student body discussed approving new bylaws to enact structural change to the current WUSA governance system. However, at the end of this two-hour and 50-minute meeting (originally scheduled for two hours), the meeting was adjourned without a vote on the motion.

“This governance review process really originated as a commitment from your 2020 to 2025 strategic plan,” said WUSA President Benjamin Easton.

The proposed bylaws would move WUSA from a bicameral system to a unicameral one. Currently, WUSA has two governing bodies — Council, a representative legislative body, which is responsible for budgeting, establishing administered programs, regulating

elections, and governing Societies, services, and clubs, and Board, WUSA’s strategic-decision making body, which is responsible for guiding WUSA’s financial, human resources, legal, and contractual affairs. Under the proposed bylaws, there would be a single Board of Directors responsible for both the representative advocacy and the fiduciary functions of the association.

“This is the culmination of eight months or more of work and student leaders have done their due diligence to make sure that these changes are in the best interest of the organisation,” Easton said.

Concerns were raised by some students regarding the eight-month-long process that had taken place for these bylaws to be drafted. In particular, students raised the issue of lack of consultation with the student body. It was remarked that students who weren’t actively trying to remain updated with what WUSA was doing weren’t necessarily aware of what changes were being

made, or how they affected the student association and its membership.

WUSA Vice President of Operations and Finance, Matthew Schwarze, responded to these concerns regarding students’ awareness of the proposed bylaws. “To a degree. I can see it, but I think that we put really as much into getting students involved and getting students aware as we could. From the beginning of this process, we’ve been putting out articles and details about this process on our website that are explaining the thought behind it, what’s currently going on, what the steps ahead are. These have in turn been put on our social channels as well as I believe sent out in mass emails to all students. So every student had this sent right to their inbox,” Schwarze said.

“And additionally, this [General Meeting] with the agenda and with all the details has gone to every student inbox and the details of this whole process. And that’s before you get into the process that happened at

Council or when me and Ben [Easton] went around to every student society and presented individually to their bodies so we could get a better sense on the ground of those student societies,” he continued.

To counter the issue of student engagement in the decision-making process, an amendment to the motion was presented that would delay the bylaw change by another year, during which time a referendum could be organised with a yes and no committee to inform and engage students. This referendum would then be ratified by a general meeting. The motion for this amendment failed.

Debate continued until adjournment time, which had been extended during the meeting. This left no time to vote on the bylaw change motion or move on to the next motion regarding COVID-19 public health measures. Both these motions are now scheduled to be discussed at another WUSA Special General Meeting scheduled to be held on June 22, 2022, at 5 p.m.

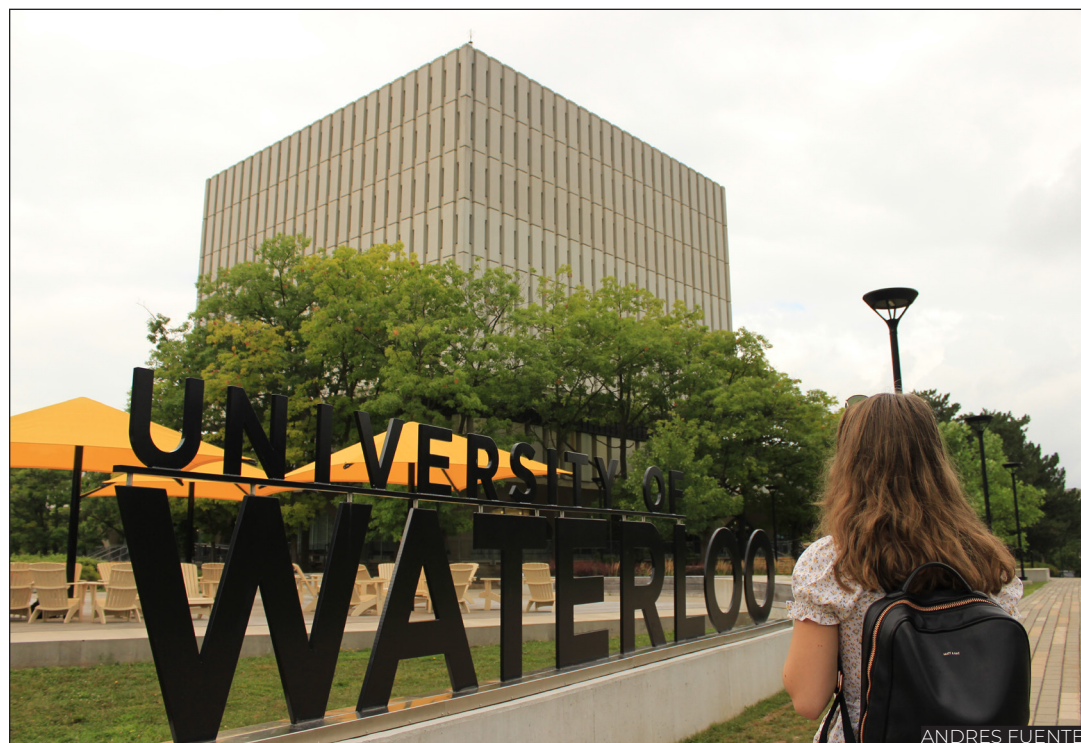
# UW internship helps Ukrainian students continue their education

Isabelle Sinclair  
Reporter

**T**he war in Ukraine has halted academics for thousands of students. In response to the war, the University of Waterloo has provided 34 Ukrainian undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to enroll in an academic internship.

Inspired by a similar initiative at the University of Toronto, engineering professors from UW brought up this program to the Dean of Engineering, Mary Wells, and suggested extending it to UW. 42 applicants were offered a placement, 34 of whom accepted a spot.

The internship will provide students spanning various faculties with hands-on lab tours, academic research opportunities, and artificial intelligence workshops facilitated by the Vector Institute.



ANDRES FUENTES

Throughout Ontario, post-secondary institutions have risen to support their Ukrainian students. Wilfrid Laurier University is providing affected students with emergency bursaries, counseling services, and immigration counseling. Conestoga College has joined forces with 17 other colleges across Ontario to provide \$200,000 in financial relief to UNICEF’s Ukrainian emergency fund.

Western University is also providing six to 12 month research opportunities for visiting students who have been displaced by the war in Ukraine. Several institutions such as Seneca College, Humber College, Centennial College, and George Brown College are providing financial aid and assistance for housing and allocating mental health resources.

George Brown College has allocated \$250,000 in additional financial assistance to students who have been affected by hostilities in Ukraine, Russia, and Eastern Europe.

# UW announces recipients of two prestigious teaching awards



From left to right: Upkar Arora, Paul McKone, Justin Shmordok, Sanaz Saadatmand Hashemi, Urja Nandivada and Urzula Pasterkiewicz

Alicia Wang  
News Editor

The recipients of the Distinguished Teacher Award (DTA) and the Amit & Meena Chakma Award for Exceptional Teaching by a Student (AETS) were announced on April 19.

The DTA, established in 1975, is awarded to a maximum of four recipients annually to recognize exemplary instructors at UW. Since its inception, there have been 150 DTAs given out, with the main criteria being an outstanding teaching record over the course of at least five years at UW.

This year's DTA has been awarded to Upkar Arora, a lecturer at the school of accounting and finance, and Paul McKone, the senior design instructor in the faculty of environment's department of knowledge integration.

Arora, described by colleagues as "someone who has a vast amount of industry experience, who would take time to mentor countless students on a one-to-one basis", emphasizes a student-centric approach to teaching. His seminar series Success Beyond the Classroom, which helps students make informed career choices by showing them career paths beyond the usual accounting and finance roles, has earned the admiration of both his students and colleagues, the latter of which praised Arora's ability to "continually help students through critical inflection points and... guide them throughout many challenges that they face in their careers."

Arora's work with Rally Assets, an impact investing firm, also demonstrates his

commitment to social and environmental justice, encouraging students to apply their knowledge and energy to create meaningful impact in the world.

McKone, whose teaching style focuses on experiential, hands-on learning methods, involves his students in innovative projects that encourage real-world thinking, such as an environmental design project for which students proposed designs to complement a new light rail system. "I love seeing people try new things and develop new understanding, learning through trial, error, and iteration," McKone said in an email. "I like to say, 'We learn to walk by falling down,' and I think that students should be able to risk failure without risking their academic standing... Everyone is always teaching; everyone is always learning."

Described as a kind, humorous and approachable instructor who prioritizes his students' best interests, a former student noted McKone's open approach to knowledge, saying, "He treated every activity in the program as a valuable learning opportunity, and he confidently presented all of what he had to share."

The AETS, established through a donation by Dr. and Mrs. Chakma, is meant to recognize excellence in teaching by registered students, including TAs, laboratory demonstrators, and sessional lecturers. Each recipient receives acknowledgement of the award at convocation, a certificate, and a prize of approximately \$1,000.

This year's AETS has been awarded to Justin Shmordok, a PhD student in chemistry, Sanaz Saadatmand Hashemi, a PhD candidate in

systems design engineering (SYDE), Urja Nandivada, an undergraduate student in physics and astronomy, and Urszula Pasterkiewicz, a PhD student in public health sciences.

Shmordok, known for creating an "inviting and fun" atmosphere in which his students may develop their ideas, has been a TA for many courses. Shmordok has also supervised co-op students, volunteers in research laboratories, and fourth-year research projects. Through these experiences, Shmordok has thrived as a mentor by patiently guiding his students' academic development.

One student praised Shmordok's ability to treat students as both adults and young learners, stating, "Justin finds that balance by validating our struggles, personally and academically, while still creating an environment where he challenges us to do our best." Shmordok has held TA positions for CHEM 250L, CHEM 212, and has been a graduate lab supervisor for CHEM 494.

Hashemi's efforts in fostering a positive learning environment for students have been praised by colleagues and students alike. To create such a space, Hashemi often volunteers time outside of office hours to help accommodate all students. Hashemi has also taken up initiatives like creating scheduling systems to help students book lab time in order to ensure data collection in a safe, conflict-free way. An undergraduate student praised Hashemi for her "efforts, approachable nature and supportive attitude, [which] made the course and its content that much easier to absorb." Hashemi has held TA positions for ME 321, MTE 219, SYDE 182, SYDE 286, SYDE 362 and BME 355.

Nandivada, whose bright personality has helped students overcome difficulties in the classroom, has worked to create a welcoming, inclusive environment for students. Despite chronic illness, she continues to make a positive impact on students with her passion for teaching, with one student stating that "her knowledge in the field helps the students prosper when doubts arise in the lab." Another student recalled Nandivada's "words of encouragement to keep going and not give up." Nandivada has held TA positions for PHYS 121L, PHYS 131L, and PHYS 122L.

Pasterkiewicz, known as a supportive and enthusiastic teacher who prioritizes her students' learning and mental health, has designed a course called HLTH 373: Design Your Future, which Pasterkiewicz states is based on continuous instructor-student dialogue leading to scientific discoveries. "My priority [when teaching] is getting students' full attention and active involvement," Pasterkiewicz stated in an email. "I find it very rewarding to be able to evoke students' true interest... and engage them in research and scientific collaboration. Quite early in my teaching career... I discovered that experiential learning as well as individual approach in the classroom creates opportunities for every single student to succeed."

Students noted her ability to provide effective clarification and look out for her students, with one stating that she is "always open to listening to our input and giving us constructive criticism and encouragement to put out the best work." Pasterkiewicz has held teaching positions for HLTH 373, HLTH 273, HLTH 340 and HLTH 320.

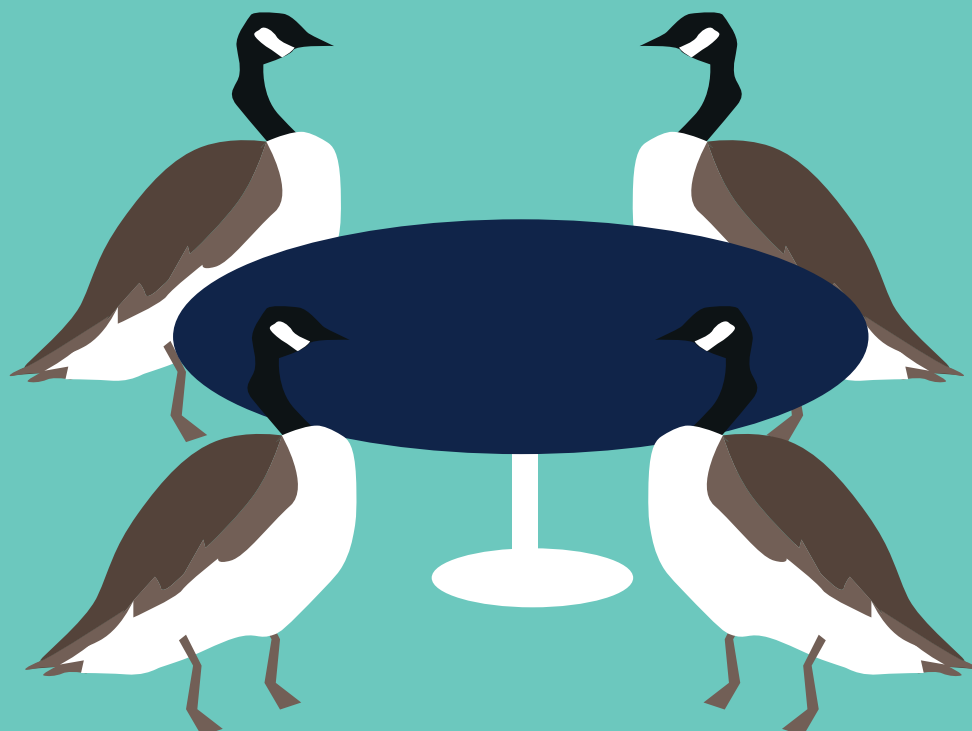
# We're calling the flock!

## WUSA Special General Meeting

We're ready to ratify the new governance structure by-laws, and we need you to have your say!

Wednesday, June 22nd  
5:00PM via Microsoft Teams

Learn more:



# sports & health



**WRITE FOR SPORTS**  
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## Recipe: Berry Bark

By Ingrid Au

I don't know about you but for me, summer is the snacking season. I often feel peckish, so on top of my meals I will have small bites of something delicious here and there. A great snack for those peckish moods are these berry barks. A dark chocolate base with excellent rich notes to support the freshness that summer berries bring.

**Ingredients:**

- A pot
- A heat-safe bowl (width must be smaller than the pot; this is so that the bottom of the bowl can sit perfectly on top of the boiling water)
- Baking sheet pan

**Ingredients:**

- 1 ¾ cup of dark chocolate (Do not use chocolate chips! Make sure to use chocolate bars)
- 1 cup of berries (raspberries, strawberries, cherries etc; can be frozen or fresh)
- ½ cup of chia seeds
- Honey or brown sugar

**Instructions:**

- Prepare your berry compote by heating your berries until softened and the juices are released; this should take 5 to 6 minutes. Once softened, taste and adjust the sweetness to your liking. Stir in the chia seeds and take the berries off the stove. Let the berry compote sit until it thickens; this is due to the chia seeds absorbing the berry juice. This should take 30 to 40 minutes.
- Using the double boiler method, we will heat

up the chocolate. This method gently melts and yields the smoothest tasting chocolate, rather than melting it in the microwave which risks burning the chocolate. Place the bowl of chocolate in a pot of boiling water. As mentioned, the bowl should be heat-safe, and its width should be small enough for the bottom to fit into the pot, slightly above the boiling water, but big enough for the top half of the bowl to be exposed out of the pot. The chocolate should take about 3 to 4 minutes to melt.

- Carefully pour the melted chocolate onto a sheet pan and let it cool. Once hardened, spread the berry compote onto the chocolate base and place it in the freezer overnight. The next morning, you can break the sheet of goodness into pieces.
- Please make sure you pay careful attention to the spoilage signs above and make sure to eat them within a week of opening the jar! Enjoy!

Writing this recipe reminded me that summer is also picnic season! This is great for any social gatherings with that one person who always needs to nibble on something (a.k.a. me!) The slight tartness of the berries breaks the richness of the chocolate and of course, we have some fibre and fat from the chia seeds to keep your stomach happy until the next snack! I hope you enjoyed this summery bite and I can't wait until you see the other summer goodies I have for you in the next upcoming weeks!



INGRID AU

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## Advancing eye care: a visionary collaboration between UW researchers

Shaza Syed  
Reporter

When physicists collaborate with professors at the UW School of Optometry and Vision Science, the resulting innovation is visionary.

Dmitry Pushin, a UW professor in the department of physics and astronomy, has been researching the human eye's ability to see quantum light alongside his team at the Institute for Quantum Computing (IQC).

Pushin and his team found that humans can see quantum light. Now, they just needed to find a way to apply this finding in the real world.

A discussion between Pushin and another physicist brought his attention to the work

of Ben Thompson, a professor at the School of Optometry and Vision Science.

Thompson and his team have been researching macular degeneration and how light is perceived in both the brain and the eyes.

The two teams collaborated to develop a device that can potentially be used by optometrists in clinical settings to see how an eye tracks polarized light. This allows optometrists to detect early signs of macular degeneration, as opposed to later stages when irreversible damage has already occurred.

In a patient with a healthy eye, detection of polarized light will appear as a fuzzy spot in their vision known as Haidinger's brush. Haidinger's brushes are caused when the eye produces an image within itself in response to perceiving polarized light.

The device, which consists of a camera that shines polarized light onto the retina, was built by Connor Kapahi, a PhD student, and Dusan Sarenac, technical lead at IQC'S Transformative Quantum Technologies (TQT) group. It is currently being tested at UW's Optometry Clinic, and will also be tested at the Centre for Eye and Vision Research (CEVR) in Hong Kong, of which Thompson is the CEO.

"Our collaboration is an unusual one, not only because it connects a relatively abstract topic in quantum technology to an established medical field in vision research, but also because it spans continents," Kapahi told UW Magazine.

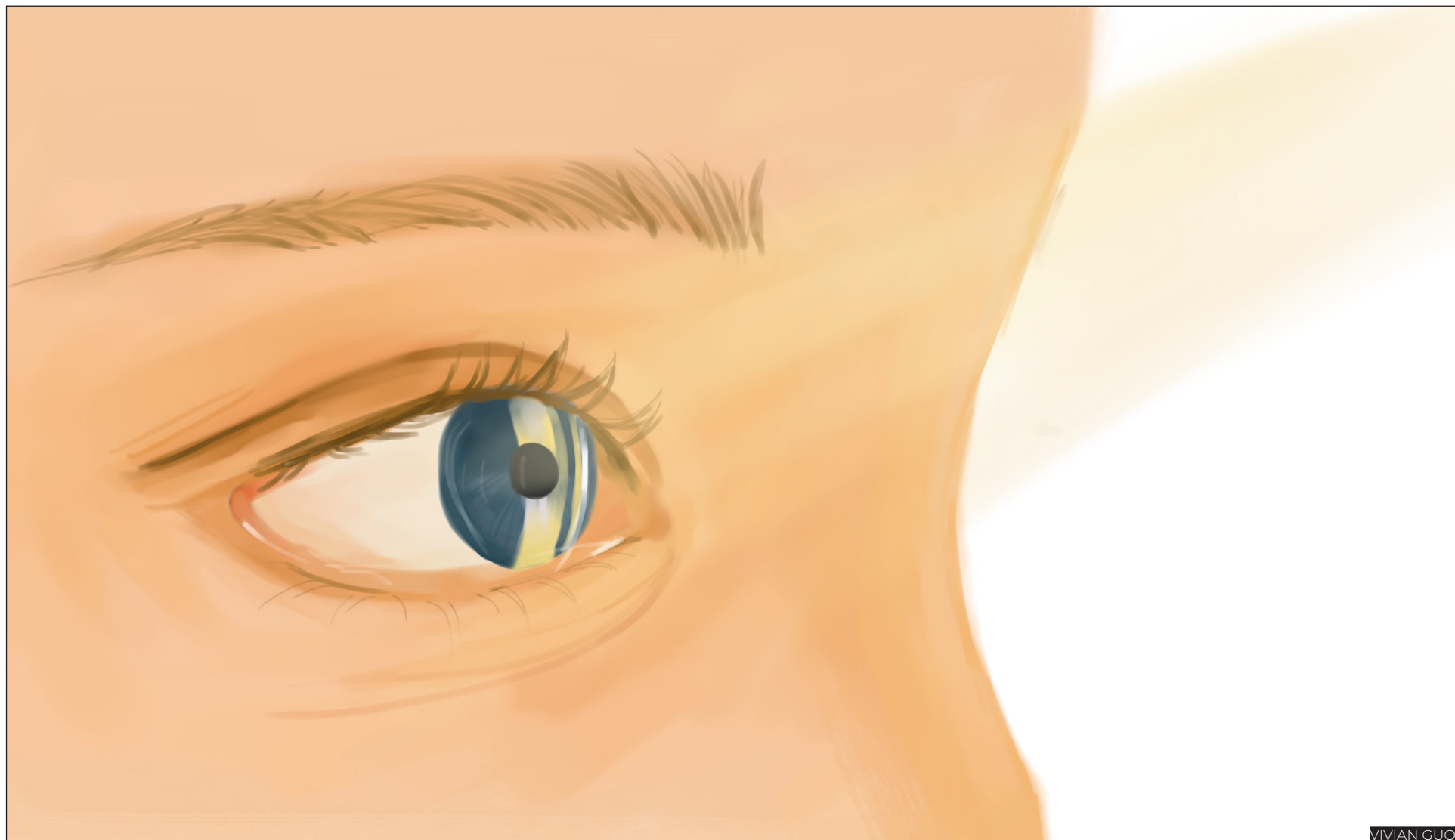
This interdisciplinary research was made possible by UW's unique IP policy, which permits researchers ownership over their

intellectual property while fostering collaboration across multiple teams.

"Its unique intellectual property policy, that allows researchers to own what they invent, encourages people to work together and try out new areas," Pushin told UW Magazine.

Interdisciplinary collaboration can lead to monumental innovations and find solutions to problems that would otherwise go unsolved.

"Something extra can be found through collaboration," Kapahi told UW Magazine. "By collaborating across fields that have historically been separate, researchers can find opportunities to solve problems that their colleagues might have thought intractable. I see interdisciplinary collaboration as a cornerstone of the future of academic research."



# A new way to differentiate between cancerous and benign mutations?

JIA CHEN

Researchers are exploring ways to identify disease-causing mutations with the help of big data

Bryanna Oriuwa  
Reporter

**E**volutionary biologists say there are more differences between groups than within them, but how does that translate to the differences within our own bodies?

Our genome is composed of trillions of cells full of DNA inherited from our parents — molecules that contain all the instructions that make us who we are. However, our cells can undergo changes that affect how our body functions, becoming antagonists to our survival. The most common changes made to our DNA are harmful mutations that can cause cells to grow uncontrollably, forming new abnormal cells. These mutations can result in tumours and illnesses that are especially difficult to treat, such as cancers.

Researchers are exploring ways to directly target tumours, identifying the specific genetic changes that lead to their

formation. For example, the HER-2-positive cancer is a result of the overexpression of HER2 — human epidermal growth factor receptor 2. Targeted therapies are being used to prevent the continued growth of the tumour. Other researchers are interested in understanding how we can identify cancer-causing mutations and differentiate them from the benign ones. However, these efforts have a long way to go before they can effectively prevent cancer.

In response to this unrelenting need for further developments in cancer research, Dr. Ryan Layer, a computer scientist in the Human Genetics Department at the University of Colorado Boulder, has made strides to use big data to narrow down the genetic changes in the genome. Layer is focused on verification of genetic mutations, as opposed to mere detection. Verification allows for harmful mutations to be identified, whereas detection would only identify mutations—whether harmful or not.

Layer's team uses a public DNA database to determine which cancers are benign or

malignant depending on their frequency in the population. Natural selection tends to eliminate detrimental mutations over successive generations, as these mutations would hinder the cell's survival. By analysing the frequency of specific mutations in the genomic database, researchers are able to distinguish between genetic changes that are potentially cancerous and those that are common and benign.

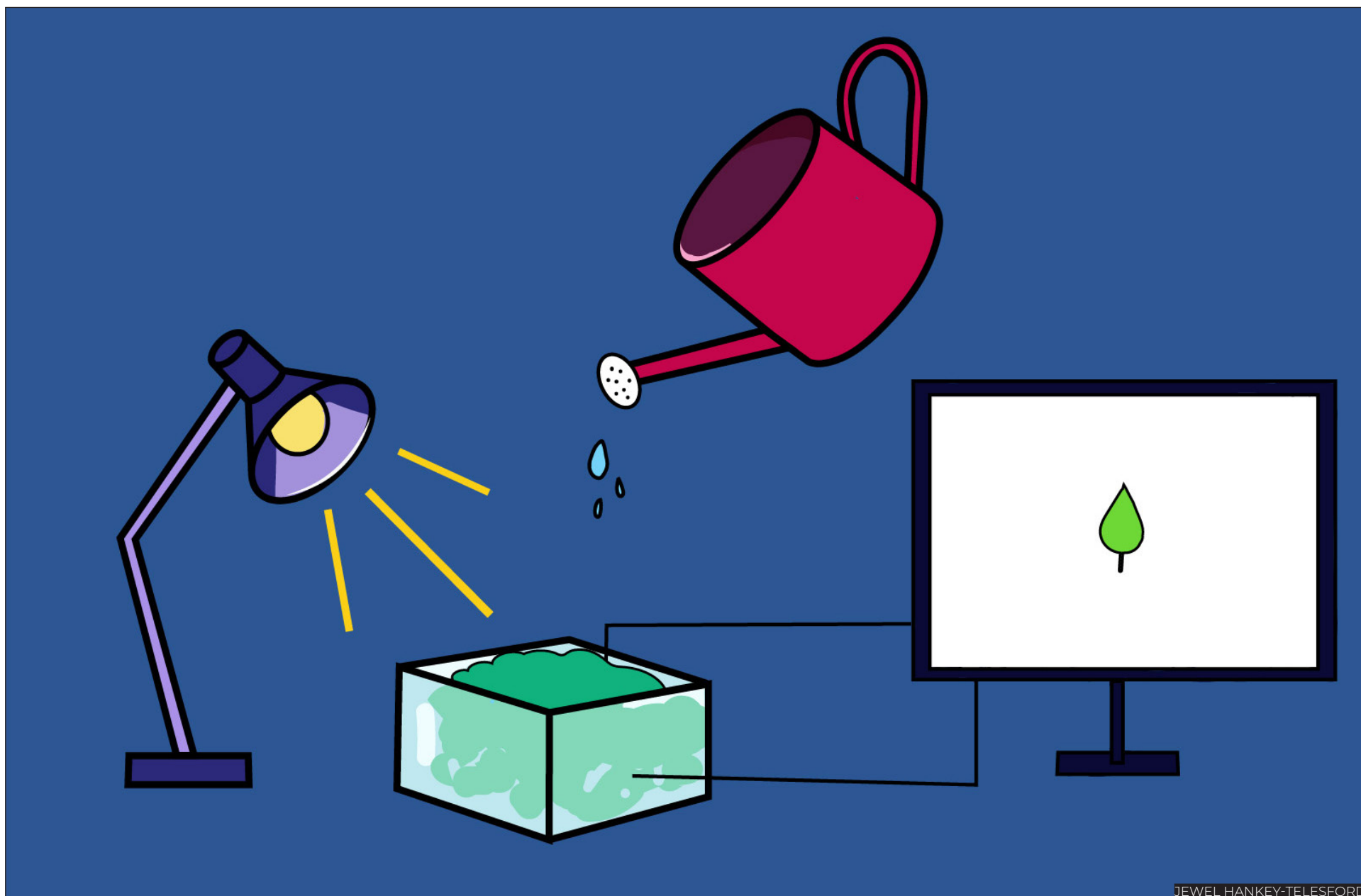
Paven Bassi, a UW Bachelor of Science graduate in Biomedical Sciences and current UW Master of Science candidate from the Faculty of Health, shared some valuable information pertaining to Layer's methodology.

"As a student that has always focused on the molecular side of things, it is refreshing and intriguing to see a new approach to cancer treatment with the use of mathematics and computer science," Bassi said. "Being able to make the distinction between cancerous and non-cancerous mutations will allow for efforts to be put forth towards targeted treatments at an earlier stage, which could lead to increased survival rates."

While Bassi is intrigued by Layer's method, she has some concerns about the implications of his approach. "Structural variants in DNA are especially complicated, could this method of using algorithms potentially overlook a cancerous mutation? How much certainty and reliability do we place in these models?" she asked.

Although big data research is relatively new, Layer's methods have performed just as well as the traditional techniques of analysing healthy and cancerous tumour samples. This could facilitate the reduction of costs associated with mutated cells analysis, and increase accessibility to these services to better identify cancers and start treatment.

In the near future, there could be an efficient way of identifying tumour origins to accelerate the process of prognosis and treatment by indicating whether or not the tumour has metastasized. Using computer science and big data is just the beginning of the innovations in cancer research to come.



JEWEL HANKEY-TELESFORD

# The power of algae

Computer powered by blue-green algae runs for over a year

Calliope Brown  
Reporter

Researchers at Cambridge University recently reported in the journal *Energy and Environmental Science* that they have powered a microprocessor using blue-green algae, light, and water for over a year. The microprocessor, acting as the brain of a computer, was connected to a case of plastic and aluminum roughly the size of an AA battery containing the algae.

Blue-green algae, named after the pigment that gives it a blue-green appearance, was once thought to be algae, but is now classified as a type of bacteria. More specifically, it is a cyanobacteria, one of the oldest kinds of organisms on Earth. They were also the first photosynthesizing organisms on the planet that produced oxygen, leading to the early accumulation of oxygen in

the atmosphere. During photosynthesis, in addition to oxygen, cyanobacteria also produce sugars on which the organism feeds, generating a small electrical current. Most interestingly, because blue-green algae continue to produce sugars even when the sun is not shining, the researcher's device does not need to be recharged as a regular battery would.

The device was constructed with plastic, aluminum, and stainless steel—all of which are inexpensive and largely recyclable materials compared to more expensive, less abundant, and potentially hazardous materials that are used for conventional batteries. The device was used to power an Arm Cortex M0+ microprocessor, which are common in many smart devices. The battery was then placed on a windowsill where the bacteria would photosynthesize in the presence of sunlight, producing an electrical current as a byproduct that researchers

could use to power the microprocessor. The microprocessor was programmed to compute sums for 45 minutes and then have a 15 minute rest period.

One of the Cambridge researchers and lead author of the report, Paolo Bombelli, said in a press release that they were “impressed by how consistently the system worked over a long period of time, we thought it might stop after a few weeks but it just kept going.”

While the algae battery does not produce electricity in large quantities, it can be used to charge phones and other portable devices. It would be a sustainable and affordable option, especially for locations that are remote or off-the-grid. Another application is for small sensors in smart devices. The Internet of Things (IoT) is a network of devices which collect data and communicate with each other. There are currently several billion IoT devices and it is expected to

reach one trillion by 2035. As they typically consume small amounts of power, they are usually powered by batteries. Using the traditional lithium-ion batteries for that many devices would not be sustainable as it would require 109,000 tonnes of lithium, roughly three times more than the world's production in 2017. The blue-algae device would be suitable to power IoT devices as it is less expensive, non-toxic, uses common materials and would not have to be routinely recharged as conventional batteries do.

Another author of the report, Christopher Howe sees the device as being useful in “rural areas of low and middle income countries, for example, in applications where a small amount of power might be very useful, such as environmental sensors or charging a mobile phone.” While conventional lithium-ion batteries only store energy, the blue-algae battery generates energy which is useful for our growing power demand.





## Muddying the rainbow: Pink capitalism misconstrues the heart of Pride

Remy Leigh  
Assistant Arts & Life Editor

It has become a meme within LGBTQ+ circles: When the clock strikes midnight on June 1st, companies and corporations on social media dress their posters in rainbow colours. Their logos display the pride flag, and it seems like every company suddenly holds values of equity, diversity, inclusion and commitment to combating marginalization... until June is over, and all of the logos return to normal. With an uncritical eye, it may seem that these colourful advertisements are increasing representation and promoting a mainstream culture of inclusion and pride for LGBTQ+ folk — however, the truth is much more insidious.

These displays of so-called inclusion are examples of a concept called “rainbow capitalism” (sometimes called “pink capitalism” or “pinkwashing”), referring to corporations who take advantage of the purchasing power of the LGBTQ+ community by marketing their brand and products using Pride-related themes.

For many LGBTQ+ individuals, deciding where to shop requires careful consideration, since ultimately very few people want to financially support companies that back queerphobic politicians or bills, or have queerphobic people in positions of power (e.g. CEO). Thus, to continue driving consumerism and encourage queer people to financially support their company and feel secure while doing it, many companies take advantage of Pride Month in particular to repaint their marketing rainbow, sell Pride-themed merch, and even donate a small portion of proceeds to LGBTQ+-oriented charities — all while upholding the systems that oppress queer people in other areas of their lives. Rainbow capitalism is targeted, strategic, and it sees the queer community as a means to profit.

One of the greatest issues with rainbow capitalism is how it misconstrues the entire point of Pride, particularly the historical element. Pride, as we know of it in the Western world, took off with the Stonewall Riots of 1969. The first Pride was a powerful demonstration of resistance to queerphobic police violence and, more broadly, LGBTQ+ oppression. This sentiment has never faltered. For years, Pride has not simply been a party or a parade, it has been a celebration of an ongoing fight for liberation.



RICHARD XIE

I attended Pride Toronto in 2018, and it was my first Pride celebration. It was a fantastic experience for me as a young queer person — thousands of people celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, numerous independent queer vendors, loud music, drag artists, colourful flags, and big smiles everywhere. It was a beautiful celebration of radical acceptance and diversity. I connected with a handful of other queer people who spotted me in the crowd and recognized our similarities, and it filled my heart with joy. At times, even a grand celebration such as Pride Toronto felt raw, authentic, and homegrown.

However, I will never forget the corporate billboards — they were Pride-themed, plastered everywhere, and fully using this opportunity to boost their Pride advertising campaign, social and political context were damned. I remember the many corpora-

tions that walked in the parade handing out rainbow corporate merchandise: TELUS, RBC, SkipTheDishes, Winners, Marshalls, Homesense, and countless others.

Ultimately my overall experience had not been dampened by their presence, but as I drove home with a bag full of free corporate merchandise, a question arose in the back of my head: Why do these corporations get to lead the parade during Pride, literally and metaphorically? Even if these corporations are donating thousands of dollars to charities such as The Trevor Project or The 519, Why does it feel disingenuous?

Years later, I have reached the answers to these questions. At the end of the day, Pride will always be more than a parade to me. It is, and always has been, political. It is a fierce proclamation of how far we have come as a community — our accomplishments, our

liberation, our beauty and uniqueness — as well as all those we have lost due to centuries of queerphobia. We dance in the streets for those who cannot afford to come out of the closet and dance with us.

Rainbow capitalism does not fit into this picture. Multibillion dollar corporations do not represent our pride and grief, in spite of the facade that capitalism wants to create. Consumerism paints a deceitful picture of free choice, but freedom is not having a dozen different brands of soda to choose from in the grocery store, even if the can is coloured rainbow and the corporation claims to celebrate Pride with us. To quote the writer Kravitz M. in his article “On Hyperpersonalized Sexual Identity,” “Many people think LGBTQ liberation is achieved when people have a plethora of options to choose from to perfectly fit their being, but this is nothing more than capitalist market logic: ‘more options for the consumer = happier consumer.’ [...] In reality, this sense of freedom is illusory. Sexualities shouldn’t be commodities, and buying into the branding distracts us from change.”

Then how do we create the change? The answer to this issue is complicated, and it becomes a double-edged sword. We need to be critical of rainbow capitalism and the corporations that feed into it, yet ultimately they still hold power and wealth that can be redistributed to initiatives that work tirelessly to uplift the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals. We can decide to lift some of our dependency on corporations to represent and speak for us by actively supporting LGBTQ-owned businesses, yet this suggestion is complicated in itself. The way things stand, there will continue to be billboards and corporate merch at Pride festivals. Fighting a concept that feels so much bigger than ourselves, as individuals, is convoluted, since we all live and work under capitalism.

Having said this, I think one powerful way to fight the issue is to remember that there is strength in numbers. Collective action is a direct challenge to individualistic capitalism and, after all, we cannot dismantle such a great issue if we are made to carry the weight individually.

We should hold the power, not the corporations. We will only ever be free when we stop feeding into the strategic processes that only seek to profit off of our joys and losses, and we return to our roots as an interdependent community that relies on each other — for survival, for fortitude, for representation, for hope.

**imprint**

Wednesday, June 15, 2022 | Vol. 45, No. 3  
 Student Life Centre, Rm 0137  
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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

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UW INDIGENOUS STUDENT ASSOCIATION



# opinions



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# Student minimum wage is legal discrimination



ANDREW YANG

Canada still suffers from unequal minimum wages set based on age. Under the divisions of power, each individual province is responsible for setting their own minimum wage. This responsibility comes not only in the form of the value of the general minimum wage, but also for specific sectors and groups. For example, heavy construction workers have different minimum wages in Manitoba and homeworkers have different minimum wages in Ontario.

This flexibility is what allows Ontario, and Alberta in recent years, to pay students under 18 who work less than 28 hours a week a lower minimum wage. Alberta's law goes even further to only pay minors the standard rate for time exceeding 28 hours. These laws apply whether school is in session or not. Currently, Ontario's student minimum wage is \$0.90 below the standard minimum wage, while Alberta's is \$2 less.

Many students growing up in Ontario and Alberta will undoubtedly be familiar with this, especially if they worked during high school. The argument that a lower wage incentivizes employers to hire students is likely one that falls on deaf ears for those who rely on the money they earned during secondary school to pay for post-secondary tuition. According to Statistics Canada, the average cost of undergraduate tuition in Ontario is estimated to be over \$1,300 more than the national average. Ontario's student

minimum wage is just below the national average, making the lower wage an even bigger concern in this province.

On top of that, some high school students rely on their wages not only for their own future, but for their households' income as essential contributors. This lower wage challenges their ability to be breadwinners while in school — a task difficult enough under any circumstances.

According to the Canadian Federation of Students—Ontario, 11 per cent of Ontario employees were making subminimum wage as of 2019 — a number that includes student minimum wage and server minimum wage, both of which are lower than the provincial minimum wage. For students, that has been estimated to constitute a loss of \$25 million in wages per year.

But even beyond the economic dilemma of the student minimum wage is the legal and ethical one. The fact is that student minimum wage allows for equal work to be valued differently based on age. Two people can have the same job and work the same hours, yet because they were born a year apart, their work is compensated differently.

This would seem contrary to the principles of equality that we often pride ourselves as a country for. In fact, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms explicitly mentions equal treatment under the law "without discrimination based on race, national

or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability." Further, the Ontario Human Rights Commission states the Code gives equal treatment free of discrimination and harassment for these same groups, specifically when it comes to employment. It goes on to say this concerns a number of aspects of employment including "rate of pay." The Alberta Human Rights Commission has similar provisions.

If our provinces try to uphold these principles based off race, sex, and religion, then why is there a double standard for age? Why is it that we allow for work to be valued unfairly for minors? Perhaps it is because they do not yet have the right to vote and so, without a voice, there is nobody to stand up for them.

If a similar law was made to allow people of a certain ethnicity to be paid at a lower rate, with the argument made being that it would bolster that group's employment rates, there would be outrage to say the least. And in the same way, there should be outrage regarding student minimum wage because it is still discrimination, just in a different form. As a province and as a country, we must work to eliminate these kinds of laws because our principles are only as strong as their implementation.

Yasseen Mobada  
 Reporter

# BEYOND BORDERS

## Primary Colours Part II: Trump Loses His Grip

Over the past few weeks, about ten American states held primary elections for positions ranging from Senator to Comptroller. The races on May 17 and 24 have been tests for Donald Trump and they didn't produce lucrative results.

The Pennsylvania Gubernatorial race was, on the surface, a win for Trump. Douglas Mastriano, with Trump's endorsement, handily won his primary with 43.8 per cent of the vote in a crowded nine-candidate field, however, this race dealt some blows to Trump. Mastriano, like most of Trump's endorsees, is extremely Trumpy, too Trumpy in fact for the GOP. Mastriano was on the Capital lawn at Trump's January 6 rally and had helped organise some of the buses. He's taken a hardline stance on abortion, saying he would ban it through executive order, without exception, and has advocated for completely eliminating property taxes. Insider Republicans feared that Mastriano would be too extreme for suburban and independent Pennsylvanians, much like Trump was in 2020. In the week leading up to the May 17 election, the GOP establishment in Pennsylvania pushed most of Mastriano's opponents to drop out of the race and coalesce around the candidate with the best polling. None did, and Mastriano won.

In 2020, Georgia went from reliably red to surprisingly blue. Voters picked Democratic Senators for the first time since 1996 and a Democratic president for the first time since 1992. Trump was not happy with the results as this reflected poorly on him as the head of the Republican Party. He contacted the Georgia Secretary of State, Brad Raffensperger, to "find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we have" to overturn the Presidential results. Thankfully Raffensperger refused. Both Raffensperger and the Governor, Brian Kemp, pushed back against Trump's Big Lie, which incurred Trump's wrath. By the May 24 election, Trump had endorsed a slew of candidates in positions ranging from Senators to the more obscure position of Georgia Insurance Commissioner.

In the gubernatorial primary, Trump endorsed David Perdue, a 2020 Senatorial candidate, to unseat Kemp, and in the race for Secretary of State, he endorsed Jody Hice to unseat Raffensperger. Both Perdue and Hice supported the Big Lie and made Trump a focal point of their campaign. On Hice's campaign website, "ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP" is in bold at the top of the page, the endorsement is highlighted again at the bottom of the page, and there is also an entire section on his website dedicated to the endorsement.

Yet despite the fanfare of the former

President's endorsements, both Perdue and Hice badly lost their primaries to the incumbents. This comes as no surprise as polling for Trump's picks were extremely low, and Trump knew this. Towards the end of the campaign, Trump stopped making appearances in the state because he knew these elections were a lost cause.

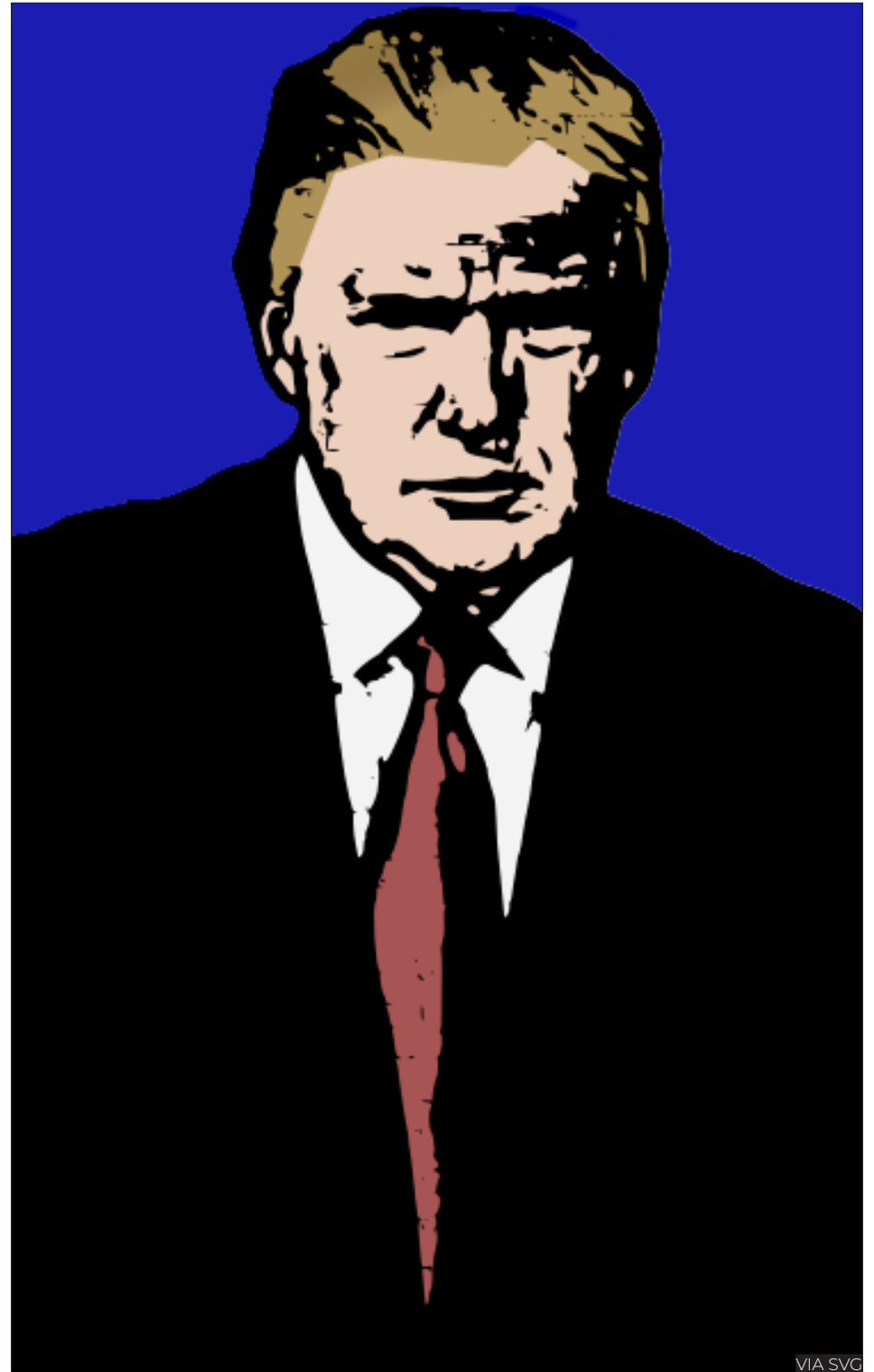
The Georgia races, for Trump, were never about having Perdue and Hice win their elections — it was about having Kemp and Raffensperger lose. Trump was extremely angry with both Kemp and Raffensperger for not overturning the election results, so in a move considered taboo in American politics, he endorsed Trumpy candidates in a failed attempt to get back at them.

In Pennsylvania and Nebraska Trump's picks for Governor went against the political establishment, and in many statewide races, notably Georgia, Trump's picks lost. In statewide races, you need to appease most people from your state, which usually means moving more to the political centre and being a "quality candidate," in a House race you can afford to be more partisan. Trump endorsements are always going to be figures who have divisive views and wouldn't typically be considered quality candidates.

About 89 per cent of Trump's picks for the House of Representatives were incumbents, and about 52 per cent of those races were uncontested. Of the House candidates Trump has endorsed who are not incumbents, all of them were not facing an incumbent in their election and of all of Trump's House picks, only one lost their election. Trump can maintain the illusion that he has influence over House races simply because it's easy.

It's easy to endorse an incumbent candidate with no challengers or a non-incumbent in an open race for a relatively small seat, but this illusion ends when you look at statewide races. Of the statewide races in which Trump has endorsed a candidate, only about 42 per cent of his picks are incumbents, and all of those candidates won their elections. Of the roughly 58 per cent of statewide non-incumbent candidates Trump has endorsed, only about 57 per cent won their primaries. In short, this tells us that Trump doesn't really have any kingmaking abilities. It might only look that way because he picks safe candidates for the sole purpose of making himself look better, and nowhere was this more clearly demonstrated than in Alabama.

Trump originally endorsed Mo Brooks for Senate, but in March 2022 he pulled his endorsement, citing how Brooks went "woke" and wanted to move past the 2020 election. But Trump's unendorsement came only one day after polling showed Brooks in third place and some believe that Trump was only



VIA SVG

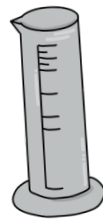
ditching Brooks to "save face."

Trump picks his endorsements mostly for himself. The easy endorsements in House races will obviously look like wins for the former President. In Alabama, he ditched Brooks after unfavourable polling and Georgia was just a revenge tour. It's still unclear whether Trump's endorsement generally helps or hurts a candidate, that prob-

ably comes down to each specific race. But it's now clear that he can't make a candidate win, and with his missteps and selfish picks in statewide races, the GOP might be moving towards a future without Donald Trump.

Matthew Bilopavlovic  
4A, Honors Science

# distractions



**Q: WHAT DO BRAND NEW ALUMNI AND LAB EQUIPMENT HAVE IN COMMON?**

**A: THEY'RE BOTH GRADUATED!**

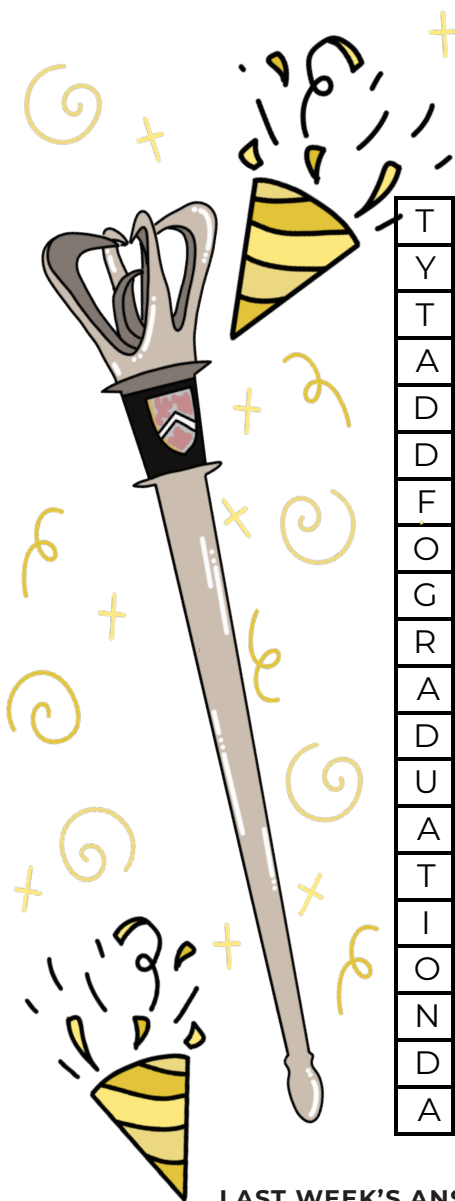
## Imprint Word Search

### Convocation

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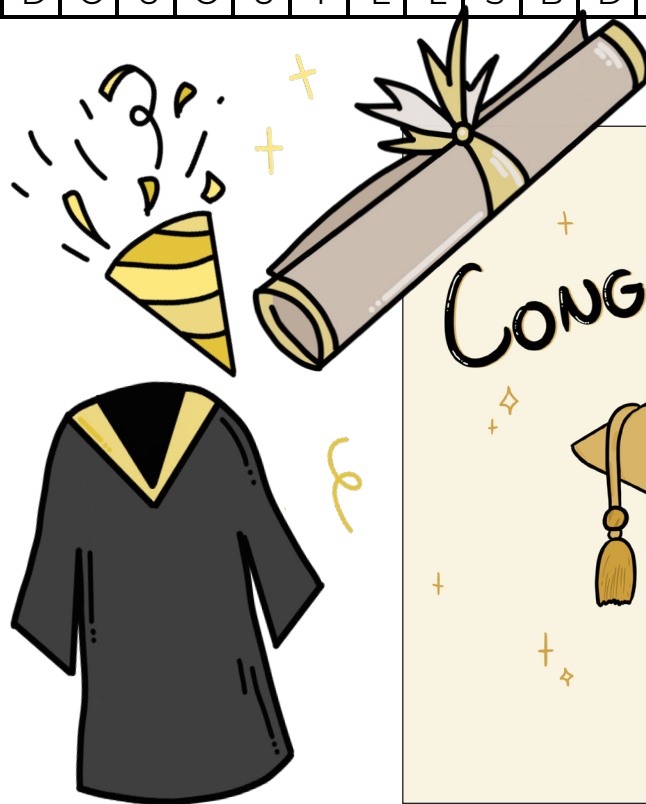
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- GRADUATION
- FACULTY
- CHANCELLOR
- DEGREE
- DIPLOMA
- UNDERGRADUATE
- SCIENCE
- ARTS
- ENGINEERING
- MATHEMATICS
- HEALTH
- ENVIRONMENT
- WATERLOO
- GOOSE
- PARTY
- POST DOCTORATE



#### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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3	9	8	6	2	4	5	1	7
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8	4	9	3	5	7	1	2	6
7	1	3	2	8	6	9	5	4
5	2	6	4	1	9	3	7	8

JOHAN ALANT



ANNIE ZHANG