UW’s highest paid employees are 80 per cent male
Mapping Waterloo’s bike lanes

A photo story by Eloise Fan

Beginning directly opposite to the newly expanded Columbia Ice Field, the Columbia St. cycling lanes extend until the intersection with King St. North. The University’s South Campus entrance onto Columbia St. is a broad intersection frequented by pedestrian and road traffic alike.

Columbia Street West

Pilot rubber dividers and bollards stretch down both sides of an entire block along King St. North. The pilot lanes link up with the pre-existing King St. separated bike lane further south of University Ave. West.

King Street North

The pilot cycling lanes on Erb St. East are situated in the heart of Uptown Waterloo, forming links between existing cycling infrastructure in the area. Bike paths already in operation near Erb St. East include Laurel Trail and an existing bike lane extending from Father David Bauer Drive.

Erb Street East

The shortest of the trial bike lanes, the Albert St. segment branches off of University Ave. West and includes planters in addition to the bollards seen along the other pilot lanes. Adjacent to Wilfrid Laurier University buildings, the planter separated bike paths will hopefully be filled with bright spots of vegetation come springtime.

Albert Street

With trial bike lane dividers running almost a full 1.5 kilometres along University Ave. West, this segment of the bike paths has the most potential to be used by UW students due to its proximity to campus and off-campus student residences.

University Ave. W
Blood donor crisis due to SLC renovations

Julie Dugaveits
Reporter

Blood donations on campus have undergone a drastic decline since renovations began at the SLC in 2017.

Gina Leyva, events coordinator, Canadian Blood Services, says that the targets set by local hospitals, which estimate the number of donations needed, have not been met since 2017.

“We typically would collect 100 per cent or more [of our target] before the (SLC) renovations started, and since renovations started, the average of our collection is only 84 per cent,” Leyva explained.

This year, the target was set for 360 units of blood at UW, but clinics have only managed to collect 300.

Leyva said that the drop is especially harmful because UW is generally a steady donation source for blood.

“Typically, we don’t have any issues, as UW is one of our highest collecting mobile blood donor clinics. Everyone is very giving, all of the students and staff at UW. So we never really had an issue with reaching our target,” she said. “Imagine, overall, we were steadily collecting 100 per cent, and then a 16 per cent drop, which for us, as a team, it’s shocking because we never ever had a problem reaching our goal at UW.”

Leyva mentioned that in the past, blood donations from the UW community have been outstanding.

“We have more blood donors at UW than maybe any university in Ontario and that’s why we have three days of blood donation clinics when we come,” she said. “Just to give you an idea, I know that Laurier is a much smaller school, but we only go there twice a year, for one day each time, and we come to UW five times a year for three days each time. So it’s huge, there’s no way we could ever collect as much blood.”

Leyva believes SLC renovations are preventing students from being aware that the blood drives are taking place.

“I believe that part of the reason is that students don’t realize that we’re still having the clinics there, maybe they thought that renovations would have disrupted the clinics, but they haven’t, so I just want to remind students that they are still there, and we absolutely still need their help.”

Renovations to the SLC over the past two years have consisted of the temporary closure of Brubakers, the SLC food court, and blocked access to different parts of the building as entryways and exits. Because of this, many students avoid passing through and near the SLC.

Seneca Velling, VP of Operations and Finance for WUSA, confirms that student foot traffic in the SLC has experienced a significant drop following the start of construction.

“We’ve seen a marked decline in student foot traffic here over the last few years as a result of the construction, particularly relative to 2014 levels,” he said.

Despite their best efforts, Leyva feels that with donation levels so low, Canadian Blood Services is running out of options.

“[We’re] just trying to essentially do whatever we can to draw attention to the clinics, and even though we’re working twice as hard, it’s just not enough,” she said. “We just had three clinics at the end of November, and on none of the three days were we able to reach our target. We sat down, and said what can we do; we’re really struggling.”

Velling said that WUSA was unaware that blood donations have undergone a decline, but that WUSA was trying to minimize construction impacts as much as possible and would readily lend a helping hand.

“We’re happy for them to reach out to us and see if we can plan something together because we [generate] awareness for various major student events,” he said.

“Blood drives make an immense difference for the community and help millions of Canadians a year, we recognize that and are part of that community engagement. We wouldn’t want something like that to depreciate in value just because we’re in a construction site.”

WUSA said it has tried to decrease the impact of the renovations on students as much as possible throughout the construction period.

“We’ve actually planned the construction schedule around student events and academic events in general so, for example, for convocation we shut down construction so that you’re not hearing clanking and hammering,” Velling explained.

In addition, Velling believes student traffic levels will increase on their own once renovations are complete.

Although student traffic has taken a negative plunge, Velling thinks the expansion will be well worth it for students.

“In the short term, we’ll see the same stagnant level, and in the long term, we’ll see substantial improvement in student foot traffic and use of the space because we’re building a 65,000 square foot addition that’s entirely dedicated to students,” he said. “It’s a minor inconvenience for a substantial long-term gain. With 65,000 square feet of additional space, we’re going to see tons of opportunities for student study rooms, silent studies, group study spaces, academic and recreational spaces, conference centres, and an expanded food court that will accommodate way more people.”

Leyva wants students to know that despite the disruptions caused by renovations, nothing concerning the blood drives has changed.

“I just want people to know it’s not their fault that this has happened, we just really want to remind students that we’re still there, we’re still in the same place, we’re still in the multipurpose room, nothing at all has changed as far as the clinic goes.”

According to Leyva, people should consider donating because a small contribution of your time can save lives.

“People should think about donating blood because it’s one hour of your time but when you donate blood you are the direct connection to saving someone’s life. You donate blood, one hour, and you save someone’s life. There’s nothing else you can really do that has such a great impact.”

Students are always looking for ways to get involved, especially at UW, students are exceptionally involved, and this is the best way to help someone.”

Blood donation clinics on campus run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the multipurpose room and are typically held every other month.

The next clinic that will be taking place on campus will be held on Jan. 29, 30, and 31. You can call 1-888-2-DONATE to book an appointment in the SLC during this time.
UW’s gender pay gap at the top

White rows denote women employees, gray rows denote male employees.

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Only 20 per cent of the highest paid employees at the University of Waterloo are women, despite the increase in the number of women employees last year.

Suhani Saigal
News Editor

Male employees are paid much more than their women counterparts at UW, according to the list of Ontario’s highest paid public sector workers.

The Sunshine list, published toward the end of 2019, has a total of 1,445,448 entries for the year 2019. The Sunshine list is released by the Ontario government every year with names of all employees who earn $600,000 or more, to ensure transparency.

The highest paid employee of UW is president Feridun Hamdullahpur, whose annual income is $478,549.24.

Among the forty highest paid employees of UW, only eight are women. Joanne Shoveller, Vice-President, advancement, is the highest paid female UW employee. Her annual income is $317,278.29, displaying a difference of $161,270.95 between the highest paid male employee and highest paid female employee at UW.

Furthermore, the top four women hold positions such as Vice-President and Dean, making it evident that no female professor at UW has made it into the top 20, as opposed to 11 male professors who have.

On average, UW’s top ten male employees earn $324,207.37 while the average for the ten highest paid female employees is $269,352.29.

This means that the mean wage gap is $54,850.08 between the highest paid male and female employees.

UW was granted the title of one of the best diversity employers in Canada due to its decision of allocating funds to initiatives that advance and promote wage equality between women and men.

The university is also committed to an Equity Office, Provost’s Advisory Committee on Equity, Status of Women and Equity Committee, Indigenous Advisory Circle, and Working Group on Sexual and Gender Diversity (LGBTQI+).
Campus Question

What do you want to see from the university in 2020?

Aliena Hoskins, 4B ERS

“I think the university needs to start listening to students more in terms of the foreseeable future and what they know is something that’s going to happen and something that’s going to change for the university. They shouldn’t be waiting and they should just start that process. Things like divesting from fossil fuels. Actually thinking about what do you prefer, seeing things actually happen in the next 10-15 years and start those processes now.”

Carolyn Liu, 3A Honours Kinesiology

“I would like to see the SLC expansion and I want to see the extra study rooms and all the extra spaces they have for the students. Also I’m wondering what they’re going to do to the Bomber space. I’m wondering if they’re going to open it to another food place again or make it a student study area”.

Nejra Dedic, 2B Honours Science

“I want to see something more to do with mental health like sessions to reduce stress; workshops to help you manage your time and how to deal with all the stressful deadlines especially during exam time. Personally I find that’s a tough time for me in terms of stress and I think something like that would be a good idea here on campus”.

Sriranjini Raman, 2B ERS

“Make UW MATES more accessible and student-friendly. Improve the number of sessions a student can have with respect to mental health. The student association and university in general are trying really hard to make mental health more accessible to students already but it would be great if they could increase the number of sessions from six to maybe double that”.

Gautham Gopinath, 2B Physics

“I’m an exchange student at Waterloo and I come from Hong Kong. What I’d like to see as an exchange student coming in, is to see a diverse and inclusive campus where people from all cultures can interact and be on the same platform, come together, share their experiences and I hope the University of Waterloo can give that platform to everyone to just be themselves and share their culture. Student associations would be a great way to do that.”

Death highlights academic pressure

Vaani Rajpal
Reporter

Content warning: potentially triggering information below.

Calls to prioritize mental health over grades at school abounded online after a Wilfrid Laurier University student ended their life on December 12, 2019 during the height of exams. The tragic incident happened at a high rise near King and Columbia Streets. Reports first surfaced on a Reddit post, two hours following the student’s death.

A UW student, Ryan Adair, was the first person to post about it. Ryan is in 2A Public Health and witnessed first responders on the scene. “I live on Spruce St, so my living room apartment window looks onto Luxe in the sort of way that the body was for lack of a better word, perfectly in view of the window,” Ryan told Imprint.

“I don’t know what to say to other students other than there will always be people in the world that care about you. Even strangers will care about you.” The Reddit posts where the incident was reported carried the same sentiment Ryan expressed. But at least one account wrote that they reported a post encouraging people to take their own life.

“For the universities it’s tough because there’s only so much you can offer, one problem I think is that they are open in normal business hours when students need someone to talk to probably need it more at midnight based on what our sleep schedule is like.” Ryan said.

“I was told to talk to someone about what I saw so I texted KidHelpPhone, to be honest, I didn’t get that much out of it but it helped a little bit. They responded quickly to the text, so I think the universities should be making more people aware of 24/7 helplines, while also supplementing it with their own mental health programs.”

Another student, who asked to stay anonymous, told Imprint they heard about the incident a few minutes after it happened through a friend. The student started a Reddit post, through which the incident was revealed.

“I found out about the event through a friend of mine a few minutes after it happened and immediately felt like my chest had sunk in,” the student said “Suicide is something I’m not unfamiliar with unfortunately and upon hearing the news, it broke my heart and took everything I had in me to not scream out of anger that another poor student had reached their limit and it was too late to do anything.”

The high-pressure academic atmosphere was an issue on a number of people’s minds.

“I feel that the mindset right now is to get a 4.0 GPA and study constantly every night when it should really be that we should strive to do our best but not exhaust ourselves to our breaking points over one failed test,” the student said.

“I think that once society as a whole starts to think like this, then we might see some change starting to happen. To all students at staff at UW and Laurier, look out for the people around you. Offer support if you can and never forget to remind someone how important they are to you. It could save someone’s life.”
Predictions: the Grammy Awards 2020

Calling all music lovers, it is finally that time of the year. Taking place on January 26, 2020, The Grammy Awards mark the end of a revolutionary year in music history. From Ariana Grande’s flowing list of hits to Lil Nas X’s 17-week rule at the Billboard Hot 100 to Taylor Swift’s colourful ‘Lover’ album, 2019 has proved to be a pivotal year in music. In honour of the prestigious award show taking place later this month, here are my predictions and views on the nominations for this year.

1. Record of the Year

Record of the year is presented in "honor of artistic achievement, technical proficiency and overall excellence in the recording industry, without regard to sales or chart position," according to the 54th Grammy Awards description guide.

Not to be confused with Song of the Year, Record of the Year is presented to the winning performing artist, recording engineer and/or mixer for that song.

Quite literally, the award refers to the physical recording of the song rather than the composition and lyrical content of the track. Here are the nominations for this year:

1. "Hey Ma" - Bon Iver
2. "Bad Guy" - Billie Eilish
3. "7 Rings" - Ariana Grande
5. "Talk" - Khalid
6. "Old Town Road" - Lil Nas X Ft. Billy Ray Cyrus
7. "Truth Hurts" - Lizzo
8. "Sunflower" - Post Malone and Swae Lee

Who should win: "Bad Guy" by Billie Eilish.

She’s all music critics can talk about lately—the alternative pop prodigy who scored her first number one hit with ‘Bad Guy,’ holds the title of international best selling album of 2019 with ‘When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?’ and got Justin Bieber as a featured artist—all at the age of 18.

Her unique dark and breathy sound, inspired by Lana Del Rey and Avril Lavigne, has helped establish her as one of the most distinct voices on pop radio today.

The song manages to cleverly mix Eilish’s slow style with a catchy, upbeat dance break followed by a dramatic fear-inducing outro. But what raises the song’s impressiveness at the other nominations is its use of negative space or silence. The instrumental composition is thin, giving it an atmosphere of uneasiness followed by moments of silence conjuring a spooky aura that has become deeply associated with Eilish’s image as an artist.

2. Album of the Year

According to the 54th Grammy Awards description guide, Album of the Year is presented to "albums containing at least 51 per cent playing time of new vocal or instrumental recordings. Awarded to the artist(s), and to the album producer(s), recording engineer(s) and/or mixer(s), and mastering engineer(s) if other than the artist.”

Grande’s struggle to hold a strong front amidst the harsh events she has faced over the past year. Songs such as “Fake Smile” convey a story of relatable sorrow and loss with a desire to no longer have to fake her emotions in front of the world.

The album flows into songs “Thank u, Next” and “7 Rings,” both songs that gave Grande her first two number-one hits on the Billboard Hot 100. The album also crowned her as the first solo artist in history to simultaneously hold the first, second and third position on the Hot 100 - a feat only matched by The Beatles.

The album has regularly been credited with reviving the chart performance of pop songs in a hip-hop dominated music era. Breaking major streaming records such as the biggest streaming week for an album and a week-long streak of Grande breaking her own record for most streams for a single song in a day,

3. Song of the Year

Song of the Year is presented to "honor of artistic achievement, technical proficiency and overall excellence in the recording industry, without regard to album sales or chart position,” according to the 54th Grammy Awards description guide. This year’s nominations are:

1. "1,000" - Billie Eilish
2. "Lose You To Love Me" - Selena Gomez
3. "Bad Guy" - Billie Eilish
5. "Lover" - Taylor Swift
6. "Norman F**king Rockwell" - Lana Del Rey
7. "Someone You Loved" - Lewis Capaldi
8. "Truth Hurts" - Lizzo

Who should win: "Truth Hurts" by Lizzo.

Lizzo’s unapologetic energy is perfectly captured in the lyrics of this track right from the get-go. Don’t be fooled by the name “Truth Hurts,” it’s a track far more soulful than the regretful-sounding ballads nominated in this category.

Lizzo transforms the track into a grand self-love anthem with lyrics like “I just took a DNA test, turns out I’m 100 per cent that bitch,” earning her high prestige in current pop culture while showcasing her bold approach to self-love, signature to Lizzo’s music style.

Although the song displays outrageous lyrical nature, there’s something about her lyrics’ authenticity on this track that draws listeners of all experiences to take a closer listen to Lizzo’s signature piece. From ghosting an ex online to skipping your own wedding, the song brings out “that bitch” in all listeners.

4. Best New Artist

According to the official 54th Grammy Awards description guide, Best New Artist is awarded “for a new artist who releases, during the Eligibility Year, the first recording which establishes the public identity of that artist.” The so called “first recording” does not have to be the artist’s first ever released project. This year’s nominations are:

1. Black Pumas
2. Billie Eilish
3. Lil Nas X
4. Lizzo
5. Maggie Rogers
6. Rosalía
7. Tank and the Bangas
8. Yola

Who should win: tough decision.

Many of the listed artists have contributed commendable feats to the world of music. Lil Nas X contributed “Old Town Road,” one of the biggest hits of the year. Lizzo and Billie Eilish, both already discussed, have impressive feats as well. Rosalía would be an interesting choice for this award. She can be single-handedly credited for introducing flamenco music to the international market in her pop and hip hop inspired music style.
Putting their best foot forward

Warriors’ track and field opens 2020 with strong showing at Sharon Anderson Meet.

Varun Venkataramanan
Sports Editor

While everyone else was enjoying the last weekend of the holiday break, the Warriors’ track and field team travelled to Toronto to compete in the annual Sharon Anderson Meet. It was an exceptional showing for the Warriors, who had 11 top-3 finishes as well as back-to-back gold medals in both the men’s and women’s 4x400m relay.

The annual Sharon Anderson Meet is hosted by the University of Toronto at the Athletic Centre Field House. Taking place on the first weekend in January, the meet is usually the second in the sport’s competitive season.

The Warriors entered the meet coming off a strong start to the season after capturing numerous medals at last month’s Bob Vigers Open. Furthermore, the Warriors finished 10th at last year’s OUA Championships, and a strong recruiting class has many expecting them to move up this year.

The Warriors set the tone early in the field, as Jon Halepenny and Richard Kang claimed bronze medals in the long jump and triple jump, respectively. Jocelyn Ertl added another bronze in the high jump, clearing 1.55m for the medal.

However, high jumper Solomon Davidson was a tier above the rest, clearing 2.00m for the gold medal and setting a personal-best in the process. It was the fourth-highest jump in Warriors history and moves him to fifth place in the USports rankings.

On the track, the team got off to a blazing start, as Emma Nero and Ashley Blayney-Hoffer finished as the top two qualifiers in the preliminaries of the women’s 60m hurdles. In the finals, Nero claimed the gold medal with a time of 8.80 seconds while Blayney-Hoffer took home bronze in 10.16 seconds. Nero, who joined the Warriors as a graduate student this year, won the USPORTS silver medal last year in the event.

In the 1500m, Alex Hoerner pulled away on the final lap and secured the gold medal with a time of 4:10.74. It was an impressive result for Hoerner, who set a new personal-best by over two seconds.

In the 100m, Olivia Scagnetto captured the silver medal with a time of 11.85. On the men’s side, rookie Griffin Anderson finished sixth with a time of 2:46.02.

The sprinters joined in on the action too, as Joshua Lorentz won silver in the 600m, unfortunately just missing out on gold by under two-tenths of a second. Owen Babcock wasn’t far behind, finishing fourth overall in the same race. It was a disappointing result for Babcock, who placed sixth overall in the USports final last year.

In the 300m, UW’s Nathan Hehn was edged out for the bronze medal and settled for fourth with a time of 36.74 seconds. Liam Clark finished seventh in the race with a time of 37.47 seconds.

For UW, the most anticipated events of the meet were the relays, specifically the 4x400m. At the Bob Vigers Open last month, the Warriors secured gold medals in both the men’s and women’s events, making them the favourites entering the race. The women took care of business first, securing their gold medal thanks to impressive anchor stretch. The men did the same right after, cruising to a gold medal of their own with a time of 3:51 minutes.

The story was similar in the 4 x 200m relay, as the men claimed gold with a time of 1:31.95, narrowly edging out the second-place Toronto Varsity Blues by under a second. The women finished second in the event with a time of 1:49.23 (timed final).

UW will look to channel its momentum into the Can-Am Challenge in Windsor from Jan. 10-11. It’s a short season for the team, who look to be in their best shape for the OUA Championships on Feb. 21-22.
Sarnovsky completes the comeback in overtime over the Lancers

Varun Venkataraman
Sports Editor

In front of their home crowd on Jan. 3, the Warriors’ women’s hockey team found some holiday magic with a 5-2 (OT) comeback victory over the visiting Windsor Lancers. Brooklyn Sarnovsky netted the overtime winner on the powerplay, capping off the comeback from down 2-1.

The Warriors went into the holiday break as the hottest team in the OUA, earning points in seven of their last 10 games to move into second place in the conference. They were dominant, outscoring their opponents 29-17 in the process, and touted the conference’s two leading scorers, Taytum Clairmont and Krystin Lawrence. The team began the 2020 calendar year with one goal in mind: passing York for the top spot in the province.

The path to that goal began at home against the Lancers, and the Warriors were ready. Just under three minutes after the opening faceoff, Lawrence put the home team on the board, intercepting a pass at centre ice before firing a shot over the shoulder of Lancers’ goaltender Jaydlin Spooner. The unassisted tally was Lawrence’s ninth of the season.

Three minutes later, UW’s Brooklyn Cole took an ill-advised penalty, tripping a Lancer defenceman in the offensive zone. The Warriors were strong on the penalty kill, but with under 30 seconds left, Clairmont took a goaltender interference penalty, crashing into Spooner on a rush to the net. The Lancers wasted no time on the ensuing 5-on-3 when Avery Mertz scored just 10 seconds in to tie the game.

Later in the period, the Warriors had a 5-on-3 of their own, but Spooner stood tall in net to keep the game tied at 1-1 heading into the first intermission.

Midway through the second period, Windsor scored a second goal. Following a faceoff win, defenceman Aubrey Lefler walked the line before floating a wrist shot towards the net. Lancers’ forward Avery Mertz tipped the shot in the high slot, sending it past Warriors’ goaltender Mikayla Schnarr to give the visitors a 2-1 lead.

In the third, the Warriors turned on the heat, sending shots from all angles towards the Windsor cage. However, Spooner turned away everything the Warriors threw at her to keep the lead for her team. Finally, after wearing down the Lancers during the lengthy 5-on-3, the Warriors broke through. Emma Pye sent a pass to a skilled cross-crease pass to Brooklyn Cole, who then fired the puck home to tie the game at 2-2.

Despite two more power play opportunities, the Warriors were unable to solve Spooner and score the go-ahead goal. Unfortunately for Windsor, with the game certain to go into overtime, Jessica Gribbin took a cross-checking penalty. After a mere four seconds in regulation, the penalty spilled over to become a 4-on-3 for the Warriors in overtime, who struck quickly with the extra ice.

With the puck in the high slot, Clairmont was able to get two Windsor defenders to commit to her. She then passed to Sarnovsky, who fired home the one-timer to earn the extra point for the home team.

Following her strong play at the end of the last calendar year, Schnarr earned the start for the Warriors. She stopped 29 shots to earn her seventh win of the season.

The victory was the 100th of head coach Shaun Reagan’s career, a fitting milestone considering the success he has brought the team over the last nine years.

The Warriors will play their next game on Jan. 12 on the road against the Ryerson Rams, before travelling to Sudbury to take on the Laurentian Voyageurs. The will be the first two games of a four-game road trip for the team.
The development of organisms through genetic engineering rises steadily in popularity each year. Although it is a controversial area in science, much of scientific progress has resulted from genetic engineering.

UW has its very own design team solely focused on synthetic biology. This team takes on real-world problems and designs methods to solve them through genetic engineering. This team is iGEM, which stands for international Genetically Engineered Machines.

iGEM is an international group of different research groups at undergraduate, graduate, and even high school levels,” said Ana Fernandez, a member of the iGEM Human Practices sub-team. “It focuses on doing research on different aspects of synthetic biology.”

The team consists of three sub-teams: Lab and Design, Math and Modelling, and Human Practice.

The Lab sub-team focuses on the design, creation, and testing of the biological aspects of the project.

The Math sub-team determines the efficiency of the project by analysis and then uses bioinformatics to provide improvements.

The Human Practices sub-team ensures that the guidelines for scientific ethics are being met.

They are also responsible for communication with the specialists helping to gather facts.

“The way iGEM works is that every team develops a project every year, and then you work on that project through the course of the year, all aspects of it, the math side, the human regulatory side, and the lab side,” Fernandez said.

Annually, the iGEM team develops a project and presents their idea at a competition in Boston known as the Giant Jamboree. This competition also provides a platform for the members to interact with other teams and discuss ideas.

iGEM was initially started at MIT on a small scale and is now at an international level with over 300 iGEM teams from all over the world participating.

Last year, iGEM worked on a project they named “Rooting for Symbiosis.”

In Canada, agriculture is very important, and in Canadian agriculture, soybeans are important. Due to the recent surge in the use of pesticides, the formation of root nodules, an essential component of healthy soybean growth is inhibited.

“What we were working with this year, is engineering rhizobia, which are a group of bacteria that live in soils,” said Clara Fikry, the co-lead of the Lab and Design sub-team. iGEM proposed a way using genetic engineering to alter rhizobia, a microorganism, in such a way that they interact with the roots of the soybean plant despite the presence of herbicides, which would normally disrupt their ability to form root nodules.

Root nodules give the crop nutrients and nitrogen that are needed for it to grow. This project earned iGEM silver standing.

iGEM is also a student led program through and through. Although supervisors are present, they are only there for advice and emergencies. The team is led by students and the projects are thought of and planned by students. Experiments are also developed by the students. They run them and figure out solutions to encountered problems on their own.

Although not the iGEM goal, the development of these projects may eventually lead to the formation of a product.

“Generally speaking, that’s not the goal of our team,” said Fikry, “it’s not about the product itself—it’s more about the process of giving students the opportunity to experience hands on learning.”

Another interesting project proposed and developed by iGEM is E. colight. To make E.colight, they engineered the bacterium E. coli, to emit light, creating a biofriendly light.

Every year, at the start of the winter term, iGEM recruits new team members. They accept team members from every faculty, and provide basic training for each sub-team. Each sub-team has a different application process for those interested in applying. They will be having an information session on Jan. 14.

They will also be sharing details on their social media:

Twitter: @Waterloo_iGEM

facebook: @WaterlooIGEM and

Insta: @waterloo.igem.
I almost got kicked out of COP25

UW student observes the global climate change summit hosted in Madrid in 2019 from two perspectives.

This year, I was fortunate enough to attend the Conference of Parties (COP), COP25, as part of the UW team. I was one of the 27,000 delegates who attended this mega event on the fight against climate change, organized by the United Nations and initially hosted by Chile.

This year’s COP had a difficult start as Brazil backed out and then the Chilean government was unable to host the event due to the country’s political uprising.

However, considering the current climate crisis and urgent need to address climate change issues, Spain stepped in and decided to host the event in Madrid.

As an observer, I witnessed two very different sides of COP. The first from the global leaders’ perspective who were optimistic towards achieving their Paris Targets. The second, from climate activists’ and youths’ perspective who showed their extreme anger by protesting and demanding climate justice and instant action.

One of the biggest protests I witnessed happened in the second week, outside the high-level event on climate action, where on one hand Mary McAleese, Ex-President of Ireland, one of the panelists, asked people to “get angry and get active!” While on the other hand around 200 activists were de-badged from the COP for taking part in a peaceful protest against climate injustice.

Being part of the protest and barely being able to escape from UN security guards was horrifying and made me doubt our global leadership.

However, seeing all the action and listening to young activists made me proud of our youth who are actively working to combat it.

Greta Thunberg, in her speech at the COP rightly said, “there is hope, but it will not come from the government or corporations, it will come from the people.”

Being a graduate student, I followed various events on sustainable transport, impact of climate change on the job market, gender responsive climate actions and sustainable fashion, etc.

Attending these events gave me the impression that global researchers and policy makers are well aware of the scientific facts and the forecasts of climate change impacts.

However, there is a significant lack of implementation strategies and laying out strict timelines being laid out.

This year’s COP failed to meet its targets as politicians only made promising statements with no serious actions being taken to implement the Paris Agreement.

The UN Secretary General said during the concluding meeting, that COP25 was disappointing as the countries failed to showcase their increased ambitions to tackle climate change.

Canada’s minister, Jonathan Wilkinson, while addressing the Canadian delegation reception, spoke about how Canada is on the right path to combat climate change.

He ambitiously assured that Canada will achieve its Paris Agreement by 2050 while becoming carbon neutral by 2050 considering the country continue to invest in non-renewable energy.

Attending COP was a life changing experience for me as I realized how our individual lifestyle choices, from food habits to online shopping can destroy households in some parts of the world.

The key message I took from COP25, is that today we are more aware of our surroundings, the only thing we need is to use this knowledge and awareness to increase our ambition to fight climate change together.
Opinions

Why do UW residences suck?

Why do Waterloo residences suck? Don’t get me wrong, I’m happy to have a place to live on campus. But with the amount I pay, why do I live in a room that looks like a Clark County Jail cell in Vancouver?

UW students pay about $6,000 to $8,000 per year for a residence room. That’s excluding the mandatory meal plan for three of the seven residences that costs between $2,400 to $2,800 per term.

In some of these residences, making your own food is not an option, as we have no access to a kitchen.

This makes those late-night hunger pangs especially hard to quell.

Some of our fees go towards “capital improvement and resident program enhancement.”

But if, theoretically, you live at Ron Eydt Village (REV), pronounced Ron “eight” Village and your meal court closes at 8 p.m., you’re stuck with Village I hamburgers and fries.

Where is our money going?

Where are the healthy late-night meal options?

And speaking of the food, I love our chef’s and their dedication to us, however the menu is not an everyday meal for most of us.

The aim is to make our food interesting, but we would prefer less interesting and more familiar. We resort to the sandwich bar instead.

Then, there’s the breakfast bar. We first years have jokes for days about our breakfast bars.

You can receive a meal worth of a 20-minute food coma or go to the same breakfast bar and be handed a snack. You can never guess what you’re going to get, because you aren’t allowed to serve yourself.

The gap is, it all costs the same, the meal and the snack, because you pay per item. That’s another funny thing, our hotdogs are paid by weight, but our scrambled eggs are paid by item (as in, one serving equals one item).

Can we also talk about room styles? Rooms in Mackenzie King Village are nicely furnished and genuinely attractive, but residents pay less on the whole because the meal plan is not mandatory, and students have a kitchen and their own rooms.

You walk a little further down to REV and the rooms are cramped spaces holding two people.

The room walls are composed of brick and mortar, painted over with a color closer to yellow than off white.

There’s no kitchen, and you’ll be lucky to get a nice view. Ask me and Mel, my roommate.

We stare at garbage trucks all day. And yet we pay more, because our meal plans are mandatory.

After all that complaining though, I must say I am grateful for the environment. I’ve met incredible people on residence, and have lived experiences I just wouldn’t have had hadn’t been here (4 a.m. Campus Pizza runs, anyone?).

So, all in all, it sucks, but it’s worth it.

Even if the most scenic my window view gets is Bob in his draws taking out garbage at 8 a.m.

Rissaille Mouajou
Undergraduate Student

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Solidarity with Muslims in India from UW students

We, the undersigned and affiliates, at UW, wish to express our solidarity with the students of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and other universities protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

In doing so, we condemn the police brutality and militaristic violence by the Indian state and police troops towards Muslim students and their allies in the violent encounters that have been occurring this past month.

The presence of paramilitary forces beating students with lathis (wooden sticks) and using teargas in a confined space like a university library, indicates the disregard for international law, human rights of unarmed students, and the university space by the government.

Article 14 of the Constitution of India, 1950 enshrines "equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India”.

Article 14 empowers the State to classify persons for the purposes of legislation provided it is based on intelligible differentia (which distinguishes those that are grouped together from others) and bears a rational nexus with the purpose of the Act.

The Indian Citizenship Act of 1955 sanctions citizenship by birth, citizenship by registration, citizenship by naturalization and citizenship by descent. Religion was not a requirement for citizenship.

The CAA enables the country to erase similarities by using differences and identify citizens based on the religion they adhere to.

We are distressed by the reports of violence targeting students, professors and journalists on the university campus of Jamia Millia Islamia on December 15, 2019. The right to dissent, which allows for protests, is a pillar of any democracy.

However, instead of encouraging such public discourse, the government has chosen to violate the rights of peaceful protesters over human rights laws and ensuring justice.

Therefore, we reject such attempts to stifle dissent. We also condemn the repeated violence on students and protests in Indian Occupied Kashmir and states of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.

India is recognized for its diversity, coexistence, embracing and celebrating differences, and appreciating similarities.

Us students from different religions, cultures, and national backgrounds express our solidarity to student groups and organizations combating state-sanctioned religion-based persecution.

The vicious project of consistently undermining universities that are meant to be spaces of academic freedom, critical thinking, and dissent is an attack on freedom of expression and the right to education.

Protecting the university space must remain a top priority for any democratic state.

We stand in solidarity with the students of Jamia Millia Islamia and AMU for peacefully protesting against this unconstitutional act.

We stand united in our humanity and refuse to be divided on the grounds of religion, legality, or citizenship.

We admire their resilience and we want to assure these students that they are not alone in this struggle and moment of crisis.

We are part of a growing global movement that is committed to the essence of secularism, democracy, and equality and condemn the state's attempt to inducing fear through violence, surveillance, and deleterious political control.

Signatory Organizations:
Racial Advocacy for Inclusion Solidarity and Equity, University of Waterloo.

Sriranjini Raman
ERS/ INDEV, 2A

Everybody has one. We want to hear yours!

Submit your opinion pieces to opinion@uwimprint.ca
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Instructional Martial Arts and Dance Week: January 13-17
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ATHLETICS & RECREATION REGISTRATION

Conditioning Classes Deadline: Friday, January 17
Intramural Deadline: Monday, January 13 at 3:00pm
Instructional Classes Deadline: Friday, January 24

Registration for shoe tags, aquatics, first aid, aquatics and personal training are continuous throughout term.

Some spots might be available for Instructional and Intramural programs past the deadline; email the coordinator for details. www.gowarriorsgo.ca/registration

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upcoming events

January 2020

For all of UpTown Waterloo Winter activities visit www.uptownwaterloobia.com.

**Savour in Stratford** — Saturday morning Market from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Rotary Complex, and more, www.visistratford.com.

**Unplug from screens.** Connect with friends. Sing your faith. Chapel Choir meets Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Sign up for an audition at uwatloo.ca/music/ensembles. No prep required. For more details ksteiner@uwaterloo.ca or 519-885-0220, ext 24226.

**Choral and Ensemble** auditions begin. Can be taken for credit (.25) or extracurricular activity. For more info www.uwaterloo.ca/music/ensemblesmusic@uwaterloo.ca.

**Saturday, January 11**
**KW Chamber Music** presents "Marko Pejanovic, piano" at 8 p.m. at KW Chamber Music, 57 Young Street, W., Waterloo (walkable from campus). To reserve tickets/ info contact jnarveso@uwaterloo.ca.

**Tuesday, January 14**
**KW Chamber Music** presents "Lance Oullette, violin" at 8 p.m. at KW Chamber Music Society, 57 Young Street, W., Waterloo (walkable from campus). To reserve tickets/info contact jnarveso@uwaterloo.ca.

**Saturday, January 18**
**The Great Winter Warm-up event is hoping to exceed their comforter-making 2019 number of 53,000. MCC (Mennonite Central Committee), 50 Kent Street, Kitchener is spreading the word for this region.** Visit mccanada.ca/great-winter-warm-up for more info.

**Sunday, January 19**
**KW Chamber Music** presents "Trey Lee, cello" at 4 p.m. at KW Chamber Music Society, 57 Young Street, W., Waterloo (walkable from campus). To reserve tickets/ info contact jnarveso@uwaterloo.ca.

**Emmanuel United Church** presents "James VanDeusen, folk/blues/old country" at 7 p.m. at 22 Bridgeport Road, W., Waterloo. 519-886-1471 or info@emmanueluc.ca.

**Wednesday, January 22**
**UW Housing Fair** is geared toward students searching for new accommodations. Come and chat with landlords and on-campus residence organizers to get your questions answered and collect info. The fair is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Life Centre Great Hall.

**Saturday, January 26**
**Emmanuel United Church** presents "Jeff Catto: The Only Love Tour" at 7 p.m. at 22 Bridgeport Road, W., Waterloo. 519-886-1471 or info@emmanueluc.ca.

**Wednesday, February 5**
**Partnerships for Employment (P4E) Job Fair** - meet with 200+ employers at the largest Fair of its kind in the country at Manulife Sportsplex at RIM Park (free busing from Ring Road at Hagey Hall). Begins at 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. from campus. For more info partners4employment.ca.

volunteering

**Bereaved Families of Ontario – Midwestern Region, The Family Centre, 65 Hanson Ave., Suite 1042, Kitchener.** We currently have a number of exciting volunteer opportunities. For more info, jaime@bfomidwest.org or 519-603-0196.

**Become a Meals On Wheels volunteer!** Call 519-772-8787 or www.communitysupportconnections.org/volunteer/apply.

help needed

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Across
1. Town destroyed in the days of Abraham
4. To teach
8. Successor to the European Common Market
11. To surround with an army
14. Like Legend of Zelda or The Witcher
16. Classic Dungeons & Dragons monster
18. To rip or shred
20. A striking solo performance
21. Beer glass
23. ___-Tok, social media platform
25. Draw sailors who hear them to their doom (British spelling)
26. Disgusting
29. South Indian and Sri Lankan language dating to 300 BCE
30. First shah of the Safavid Dynasty
33. 2015 single by Missy Elliot featuring Pharrell
35. They choose animal-welfare over fashion
38. Batteries 42.5 mm long and 8.5 mm in diameter
39. Hero of Legend of Zelda
41. Norse warriors who fought in fits of fury
43. Abbreviation for quiet
44. Printing from an intaglio plate or cylinder
45. Trade secrets, patents, trademarks, and copyrights (abbreviated)
46. Video game series; Shin Megami Tensei:
47. Plays Superboy on Titans, Joshua

Down
1. Related to or made for leaping
2. Youtube star vlogger David
3. A flat-topped mountain
5. Nerds or geeks
6. Only NBA player to play four different decades
7. Ancient Roman vestment
9. Neolithic burial chamber
10. Something given over in a will
12. A series of years identified by a common characteristic
13. Tissue in which teeth are lodged
15. Former Israeli President, Shimon
17. Singer Grande, as called by her fans
19. The worshipers of King Haile Selassie
22. A dramatic piece set to music
24. To revolve around
27. Japanese warrior-class
28. From Oman
31. Connecting feet and legs
32. Controversial search-engine and file-sharing site for ceny-righted
34. ___-kwondo
36. French red wine grape
37. Send to reserve a spot
38. Talk like a pirate!
40. Land surround by water
42. Typical currency in the European Union