When words have no weight

UWAG exhibit explores felt experiences of trauma
Students and staff host holiday dinner for Ukrainian students

Meal held at United College featured turkey, along with traditional Ukrainian fare

Over 30 people gathered at Alumni Hall at United College over the holidays to share a special meal. Lisa ter Woort, international account manager and business developer with Co-operative and Experiential Education, organized the event because she wanted to ensure that Ukrainian students staying at the college had a way to celebrate the holidays when they were not all able to visit family or friends over the winter break.

With help from Halyna Padalko, an MA student in global governance, and Harold Godwin, Managing Director of the Waterloo Artificial Intelligence Institute, ter Woort planned and executed a turkey dinner on December 26. Students staying at the college over the break helped prepare the turkeys along with traditional Ukrainian dishes.

“It was absolutely amazing to prepare some Ukrainian salads that each of our students used to eat from our childhood for Christmas,” Padalko said. “It was something more than just Christmas dinner: it was an exchange of our cultures. We tried to go deeper to understand the history of both countries through our meal and how we prepared it.”

Others brought their own dishes to contribute to the event, like United College Principal Rick Myers and his family, who brought homemade chili.

While people were eating, Ukrainian songs and videos played in the background. Some of the videos were directed by students in attendance. After dinner, students sang Ukrainian carols, including the international classic “Carol of the Bells,” by Ukrainian composer Leontovych.

Waterloo Undergraduate Senate Elections

Nominations: Dec 8th - Jan 24th
All Candidates Meeting: Jan 25th
Campaign: Jan 26th - Feb 15th
Vote: Feb 13th-15th

Scan here to learn more!
DEC 29
UW President Emeritus Feridun Hamdullahpur appointed to Order of Canada

Former UW President Feridun Hamdullahpur was named to the Order of Canada in recognition of his research in mechanical engineering and his leadership in academia. UW alum John Lounds was also named a member of the order. Lounds is the former president and CEO of Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). He was appointed for his contributions to land conservation across Canada.

Source: Waterloo News

JAN 4
Kelly Scherr appointed as the 2023 Douglas Wright Engineer-in-Residence

Kelly Scherr has been appointed the 2023 Douglas Wright Engineer-in-Residence. Scherr is the deputy city manager of environment and infrastructure with the City of London, where she leads a team of over 800 who deliver a full suite of water, wastewater, drainage, solid waste, environmental, transportation, construction administration, infrastructure operations, rapid transit, major projects, forestry, and fleet services.

Scherr attended the University of Regina, where she received her degree in regional environmental systems engineering.

Source: UW Daily Bulletin

JAN 5
Masks strongly recommended but optional on campus this winter

UW has stated that masks will be optional on campus this term; however, this was accompanied with a strong encouragement that everyone wear a mask in indoor settings. The university also stated that if required, they will not hesitate to reinstate a mask mandate.

Masks will continue to be available on campus.

Source: Internal memo sent to all UW students and employees

JAN 9
UW creates new Trust in Science and Technology Research Network

The University of Waterloo has launched the Trust in Science and Technology Research Network, the first multidisciplinary research network of its kind in Canada to tackle the issue of combating misinformation and disinformation. The network will bring together researchers and practitioners from across disciplines to improve communication with the public and build trust in science and technology.

The inaugural co-directors of the network will be Donna Strickland, recipient of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics, and Ashley Rose Mehlenbacher, the Canada Research Chair in science, health, and technology communication.

Source: Waterloo News

UW appoints new Special Advisor to the Provost on Organizational Strategy

UW has created a new role of special advisor to the provost on organizational strategy to provide leadership support to the university Vice-President, Academic & Provost, James W.E. Rush, in planning and overseeing opportunities for process, system, and organizational improvements.

Marilyn Thompson will be filling this role starting Jan. 16, 2023. Thompson previously worked as associate provost of human resources.

Source: Internal memo sent to all UW employees
Be the **VOICE** of Waterloo students. 13 new positions on the **WUSA Board of Directors** are open. We **NEED** you to get involved.

Nomination period ends **January 25th**.

[Scan here to learn more.](#)
Over five billion photographs are taken each day — to capture moments, memories, tell stories, share news and more.

On Dec. 1, 2022, students showcased their photography in the Environment, Resources, and Sustainability (ERS) 318 Photography for Sustainability Open House held in EV2. The open house featured 132 photographs reflecting various sustainability themes, including food waste, energy consumption, affordable housing, sustainable materials, student sustainability, e-waste, restoration, greenwashing, sustainable education, eco-consumerism, and humanity’s overall relationship with nature.

“The class gave me a space to explore the topic of sustainability and accessibility, that is very important to me,” said student Care Rumer. “My work showcases the importance of creating accessible natural spaces for both environmental and social sustainability.”

Rumer’s exhibit, titled “The Beauty of Accessible Nature,” focuses on the intersection of social justice and sustainability.

Photography has long been used as a tool to create awareness and social change. By offering the viewers an opportunity to connect with a subject — whether it’s a person, landscape, or an animal — photography reinforces why the audience should care and take action. ERS 318 is a course where UWaterloo students can share topics they are passionate about and engage with the wider community in sustainability focused discussions.

Professor Rob de Loë, a lifelong photographer himself, began offering the Photography for Sustainability course in 2016. Each year the course has brought together students from all faculties to share their photography and storytelling.

In ERS 318 students learn skills like curation, printing, and how to create their display. There is also a focus on the directness of each student’s message. Before the final displays are created there are multiple peer critique sessions to help fine tune their work. Students’ exhibits are composed of six photographs, 50 words per caption and a 200-word statement. Working within these parameters students create concise stories for their audience.

With the magnitude of photos being posted online, the photos in the ERS 318 exhibit are only showcased in person. The Photography for Sustainability exhibit will be on display in EV2 until next December for the UW community to see.
Clubs & Societies Days is coming up!

- **January 19th & 20th**
- **11am - 3pm (19th)**
- **11am - 2pm (20th)**
- **Student Life Centre**

**Connect with Us**
Clubs Manager
Rachel Lui

clubs.manager@wusa.ca

SLC 2139

@wusaclubs

Follow us for updates
Imprint resolutions 2023

New year, new plans: Imprint Editorial staff resolutions that will motivate you to keep yours.

Imprint Staff

The New Year is officially here, and the editorial staff at Imprint plans to usher in 2023 with a fresh set of resolutions. As easy as it is to quit the gym come February, these actionable, specific goals will hopefully motivate you to reinforce new habits — or discard old ones.

Here’s what we at Imprint are striving for this year:

Reading 50 pages every night
One realistic way to read more is by scheduling it during a time when you have nothing else to do. That, for me, is the hour before bed, and I’ve already noticed improvements in my attention span, sleep, and mood the next morning.

To track my progress, I use the Goodreads Reading Challenge. It’s simple: type in the number of books you aim to read in 2023 on the Goodreads app or website — a goal you always have the option to change. Throughout the year, you can see whether you’re behind, on track, or ahead of your plan. By the year’s end, you also receive a set of reminders that stick.

— Nadia Khan, Arts & Life Editor

Try a fitness class or physical activity
When I was a kid, I was an avid swimmer. Routinely, I also enjoyed dancing, badminton, volleyball, yoga, and jump-roping. However, over the years I have lost touch with my love for physical activity (especially swimming!), and physical activity is often so closely tied to weight loss thanks to the diet industries that thrive particularly around this time of year. Personally, weight loss has been an unsustainable motive for engaging in physical activity and it sucks the fun and joy out of the experience, so this year I will attempt a fitness class or sport with the aim of becoming active — separate from notions of weight loss and diet.

UW has a variety of fitness classes and sports to try out, even if only once; presently, I’m quite interested in trying a kickboxing class! There are many benefits to physical activity that are exclusive from weight loss, thus focused more on having fun and feeling good physically and psychologically than how the body looks and weighs. It is good to stay active, and I hope to take back the ideas of fitness and the ‘ideal body’ created by the diet industries in order to try something new (even if it is intimidating), break a sweat, and reconnect with the part of myself that truly enjoyed fitness!

— Remy Leigh, News Editor

Learn Korean
Honest to god I didn’t have a resolution until maybe six hours ago as of writing this, but then I realized how easy it would be to focus on this now that stuff like Duolingo is so accessible. I’ve been interested in learning Korean for a while now. The writing system is relatively new compared to most languages, having been created in 1443, and it’s built in a way that is very logical and easy to follow. I’ve been a fan of Korean cinema for a few years now and it’d be nice to be able to watch those movies without subtitles. And in general it’s a very beautiful sounding language that I’d love to be able to understand, even if I probably won’t be able to speak it. I gave Japanese a try about eight years ago and it wasn’t really for me, so here’s hoping things go better this time around.

— Eduardo Matzumiya, Head Copy Editor

Complete even one writing project. Just one.
Since high school, it’s been an inside joke amongst my friends and I that I tend to generate far too many ideas for creative writing projects and never commit to finishing any one of them. Progress on these ideas can range to a prompt, coherent or not, in my Notes app, to an 80-page-long screenplay (a first draft, mind you). I couldn’t say whether it’s the sheer number of ideas, or how fast I bore of their potential, that has so far prevented me from completing any writing project that wasn’t graded, but as always, I’m hoping I’ll be able to break that cycle this year. Of course, the new year brought new themes, formats, and motifs to mind, and with them an entirely new project I can happily report having made some respectable progress on. I would like to aim for a cohesive second draft of the project by the end of the year, so here’s hoping that sticks.

— Alicia Wang, Editorial Assistant

Cook one new recipe a week
This past fall term, I studied abroad and pretty much lived out of a suitcase. I did not have many kitchen supplies, so my meals consisted of a lot of bland rice, beans and raw vegetables. And, whenever I get caught up in the stress of work and classes on a typical term, the first thing I tend to let go of is cooking fun and new dishes. This all has moved me into 2023 wanting to make more time and space for my hobby of cooking, exploring new recipes and creating my own. It’s something fun I can do on my own or with friends, and keep things exciting during another dreary winter in Waterloo.

— Charlie Dickson, Opinions Editor

Graduate and move on to the next chapter of my life
By the end of 2023 I'll have completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Waterloo, assuming that I make it through my last two semesters without hiccups. The real goal, however, is not to merely graduate, but to do so with confidence about my next step. I know a lot of people who are insecure about their life after university — career, place of residence, family — it can all create intense pressure. The goal is to solidify my ideas, plans and dreams, for when the day comes that I am no longer a part of this institution, I will not be overrun by unknowns and insecurities. Although life is filled with issues such as these, the best any of us can do is to work towards goals and dreams that we have confidence in.

— Charlie Dickson, Opinions Editor

Imprint is looking for arts writers! For more information, email arts@uwimprint.ca.

WWW.UWIMPRINT.CA
Keep up with the latest trends on campus and community news online.
What to do in Waterloo this January

From comfort food crawls to art exhibits, these winter-themed Waterloo events will be sure to keep you busy this January. Check out some of the events happening in Waterloo throughout the month below:

“Voices” Roundtable Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery
Jan. 14

As part of the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery’s “Voices” art exhibition, Behnaz Fatemi, Heidi McKenzie, and Jonah Straub will all speak about their art. They will then engage in a Q&A discussion on equity, diversity and inclusion in artistic spaces, which will also be livestreamed on Facebook.

For in-person and online registration options, visit theclayandglass.ca/exhibitions.

UpTown Gallery’s Celebration Show
The Shops Waterloo
Until Jan. 15

Calling all art aficionados: come check out this limited-time art collection from more than 30 local Waterloo artists.

No registration is required.

Winterloo Festival
Uptown Waterloo
Jan. 28

Create Waterloo and the City of Waterloo present this year’s Winterloo festival from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. for free winter-themed activities like ice carving and snow sculpture exhibits.

More information will be available soon on winterloofestival.ca.

Uptown Comfort Food Crawl
Revive Game Bar, Kentucky Bourbon & BBQ and The Prohibition Warehouse
Jan. 28

Are you a foodie who loves supporting local restaurants? Stop by Uptown Waterloo from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. for a multi-venue comfort food tasting experience complete with a Soup Showdown, Mac and Cheese Challenge, and more. After tasting meals from each of the three chosen restaurants, you will be invited to vote for your favorite dish for the chance to win one of three raffle prizes worth $25, $50 or $100.

More information and tickets will be available soon on winterloofestival.ca.

The Underground Studio Maker-Space: Open Studio
Lower level of THEMUSEUM in Downtown Kitchener
Every Saturday

Stop by on Saturdays anytime from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a free, drop-in creative session. Activities include using a sewing machine, soldering, circuit-making and 3D modeling. You can focus on one of these skills in more detail and bring your project home for $5.

No registration is required.

Snow Tubing
Chicopee Tube Park
All Winter

Dying to go dashing down a 250 feet hill of snow? Check out Chicopee Tube Park. Multiple chutes are available to reduce waiting times, and once you’re done having fun in the snow, you can warm up and relax in the Chalet Cafe.

Participants must buy tickets and fill a waiver form in advance at chicopeetubepark.com. 90-minute tickets are $32 + HST per person or $28 + HST per person on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Show up fifteen minutes before your scheduled session.

Jazz Jam Nights
The Jazz Room Waterloo
Jan. 21

Join this month’s Jazz Room Jam Night, a free, community-sponsored event hosted by local guitarist Lukas Bouda from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Jazz performers and listeners of all ages are invited to jam along to music from Real Book, Volume 1 (which will be provided). Performers interested in playing instruments besides the piano and drums should bring their own.

No registration is required, simply sign in when you arrive at the door.
Laura Magnusson tells her story of sexual violence on her own terms in *I was Wearing Clamshell Earrings*

The exhibition tells Magnusson’s story using everything except words: video, installation, sculpture, drawing, and archival materials. Water features prominently in the show as a medium with the power to heal and also, to destroy. A 16 by nine-foot projection wall features the show’s centerpiece — a 12-minute silent film where Magnusson traverses the bottom of the “tundra-like” ocean floor carrying an oxygen tank and wearing a parka and winter boots. The film was shot 70 feet underwater off the coast of Mexico, where Magnusson learned to dive following her assault.

“There’s a different kind of temporality associated with water,” she said. “Something inherently cyclical.”

Humans long to make sense of things and fit them into what is known. In this way, there is an attempt to classify trauma and contain it within linear time, the abstract ‘then’ versus ‘now’ — but for its victims, it is rarely experienced this way. Trauma is stored both in the physical body and the subconscious, often emerging periodically throughout life. It can be almost impossible to make sense of these sensations, and there is a tendency to disassociate in these moments. For Magnusson, learning to dive was an empowering experience, “she said. And that sort of became the first visualization and moving toward visual languages to express felt experiences of trauma.”

The metaphor of the clamshell also appears throughout the exhibit — from the parke seew to mimic a clam’s growth rings to the sexual assault examination kit cross-sectioned into pieces and cast in resin. Archival materials documenting Magnusson’s dissection experience as she moved through the law enforcement, medical, and legal systems are contrasted with archival documents associated with Hafrún, a 507-year-old live clam dredged from the seabed in North Iceland — the same waters Magnusson’s ancestors used to fish.

Magnusson was wearing clamshell earrings that night in 2013, and this is where the show takes its title. The wall between the archival materials reads, “the perpetrator ripped out the left valve; the RCMP confiscated the remaining one. Afterward, I began to see shells everywhere.”

“Sometimes, we attempt to silence these feelings and memories altogether, banishing them into the shadows. But what if there were another way to explore this darkness and the felt experiences that live there: rejection, abandonment, betrayal, trauma, and violence? When words stop having weight, where do you go?”

This notion of representing felt experiences — particularly experiences of sexual assault and violence — is at the forefront of Montreal-based artist Laura Magnusson’s show *I was Wearing Golden Clamshell Earrings*, opening at UWAG on Jan. 12.

In 2013, Magnusson sat in front of RCMP staff and attempted to translate the sexual assault committed against her into terms that the authorities could understand — to answer the question, what happened to you?

“I was asked to give a statement very shortly after the violence happened, and I couldn’t articulate in words,” she said. “So I drew. And that sort of became the first visualization.”

The opening reception for *I was Wearing Golden Clamshell Earrings* is Jan. 12 at UWAG from 5–7 p.m. The show runs until March 23.

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**Meagan Leonard**
Executive Editor

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**Trigger warning: This story contains references to sexual violence and assault which some individuals may find distressing.**
How consensual are your relationships?

Asking questions, setting boundaries, and communicating with empathy:
The small ways we can practice consent beyond the bedroom

7 Easy Ways to Practice Consent

1. When planning events or activities with friends, family, or a partner, ask for their input ahead of time instead of telling them what is happening. Ask about dietary preferences and budget restrictions before choosing a restaurant or planning an outing.
2. Determine how financial matters will be split ahead of time, whether it is groceries, concert tickets, or utility bills.
3. Ask permission before taking or posting photos or videos
4. Ask before touching (hugging, kissing, etc.) — even in non-sexual situations
5. Do not force people — even close friends or partners — to discuss subjects they are uncomfortable with or have said they do not want to talk about.
6. Do not share someone else’s personal information; i.e., a decision to quit a job, news about an engagement or pregnancy, information about gender, pronouns, or sexual orientation, details about a personal conflict or situation they are involved in, etc.
7. Do not pressure people to accept a gift, service, or invitation they did not ask for. Provide gift receipts and do not expect people to eat something just because you made it. Message people before stopping by or schedule time to talk on the phone instead of just calling or showing up.

Get Support

If you have been impacted by sexual violence, SVPRO can provide support, connect you to services and resources, and help you think through options and next steps that work best for you.

Contact SVPRO if:
You have experienced sexual violence
You have received a disclosure of sexual violence
You are supporting someone who has experienced sexual violence
You have questions about sexual violence, consent, etc.
You have been accused of perpetrating or have caused sexual violence
You have witnessed sexual violence or have questions about bystander intervention tips
You’d like to invite us to provide education or training, or want to work with us on an awareness initiative

Crisis Support

With consent from those we are supporting, SVPRO will:
Provide a safer space for people to disclose — in as little or as much detail — about their experience
Discuss resources, both on- and off-campus, that could provide further support or assistance, and provide referrals as directed by those with whom we are working
Discuss short-term coping strategies
Collaborate with departments and units on campus to facilitate requests for academic and workplace accommodations, residence adjustments, safety planning and other identified needs
Review available complaints and reporting options via university policy or the police, as directed by those with whom we are working

Coming to SVPRO does not automatically initiate an investigation. However, if you wish to pursue a formal complaint, we can support you through the process.

When was the last time you asked permission before hugging someone, posting a photo of your friends online, or petting a neighbour’s dog? During the pandemic, masking requirements and stickers on the ground made personal boundaries the law. Now that restrictions have been lifted, UW’s Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office (SVPRO) is working to demystify the role consent plays in our daily interactions — beyond the bedroom.

SVPRO’s project coordinator Stacey Jacobs believes that changing consent culture on campus requires a back-to-basics approach. The behaviours that influence the way we show up in our intimate relationships, show up in all of our relationships — whether it is between friends, coworkers, or family members. She says she wants to help people understand how their actions impact others — both positively and negatively, especially when it comes to setting and respecting boundaries.

“We need to learn to set our own boundaries and think through what those boundaries are,” Jacobs says. “Sometimes, we’re not 100 per cent certain — maybe something annoys us or upsets us, and we need to stop and think, okay, why am I upset about that? And it’s often because someone has crossed a boundary.”

Jacobs says her office often works with students to resolve conflicts with roommates through open, honest communication. She says conversations about boundaries should happen early in any relationship dynamic and involve asking many questions.

“Questions like, ‘Hey, what time do you get up in the morning? I get up really early — do you mind if I use the bathroom first?’ … or asking about things like food and who gets what spot in the refrigerator or the cupboards,” she says. “Just asking those questions shows that you care about the other person’s needs and wants.”

The other piece is letting people know if a boundary has changed — just because you were okay with something at one point does not mean you have to be fine with it forever. Firmly restate your position if others push you, says Jacobs, and respect others when they say ‘No.’

“We live in a world where people will pressure and push and pester people until they change their minds,” she says. “But when someone gets worn down over time because someone keeps pushing them, that’s not true consent.”

This concept applies to sexual interactions but also to something as simple as convincing a friend to go to a party when they’d rather stay home. It becomes about our needs and wants versus theirs, says Jacobs. “When you disregard people’s needs, boundaries, and autonomy, you’re choosing to act in your own self-interest.”

A large part of consent culture is simply pausing to consider what it is like in someone else’s shoes — acknowledging your power and privilege in different spaces — and looking for ways to help other people feel safe to share their thoughts and say ‘No’ if necessary.

“Think through, where do I have more power, and where do I have less?” Jacobs explains. “What can I do as someone who has more power to ensure people who have less power feel comfortable … or that their contributions are welcome.”

This type of consideration may take more effort, but it can be as simple as the difference between a period or a smiley emoji in a text message or asking someone how their day is going.

“I think we get in those habits of just being really direct. So instead of sending the text message that says, ‘I’m on my way,’ you could be like, ‘Good morning! I hope you’re having a good day! I’m on my way to pick you up!’” Jacobs says. “It’s not exactly consent, but it’s all related. It’s just treating each other well and with respect and in a positive way too.”

The way we show up has a ripple effect on everyone around us, says Jacobs. When we avoid pressuring others or putting them in situations they didn’t consent to, we empower each other and give people the freedom to make decisions confidently.

“We have to unlearn some of our old habits, and relearn how we can communicate and interact in more consensual ways,” she says. “It is sometimes extra work to be thinking through the needs of somebody else … but the more safe and supported and comfortable everyone feels, the more safe, comfortable, and supported you feel as well.”

SVPRO is not a crisis or walk-in service. If your need is non-urgent, staff can be reached at svpro@uwaterloo.ca. SVPRO does not automatically initiate an investigation.

For a full list of Consent Week events, visit https://uwaterloo.ca/sexual-violence-prevention-response-office/consent-week
Womens hockey carries momentum into second half of the season

The Warriors women’s hockey team picked up where they left off at the end of last year by pocketing two wins this past weekend. On Friday the Warriors hosted the Ontario Tech Ridgebacks and had a comfortable 4-1 victory at CIF. On Saturday the Queen’s Gaels gave the Warriors a more significant challenge, forcing the game into overtime, where Carley Olivier gave the black and gold the win. Olivier’s overtime winner capped off an impressive weekend where she racked up 3 goals and an assist. The performance earned her the female Warriors athlete of the week award.

The back-to-back weekend wins put the Warriors at 13-3-0 for the season, a record that has them top of the OUA West with 35 points. The Warriors strong performance this season is also reflected in the OUA stats where the Warriors’ Leah Herfort leads the scoring race with 10 goals as well as topping the overall points chart with 23 points. Tatum James follows closely with 22 points, making it a one-two for the Warriors at the top of the point chart. James is also the assist leader this season with 14 assists.

Up next the Warriors take a trip on Friday to St. Catherines to face the Brock Badgers, one of the three teams that have beaten them this season. They then return to CIF to face the Nippsissing Lakers, who also have 35 points this season, at 7:00 pm on Saturday.
ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

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- Build social connections
- Develop life skills
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- Intramural Deadline: January 16 at 1:00pm
- Instructional Deadline: January 16 at 1:00pm

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WOMEN’S HOCKEY

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The University of Waterloo’s Arts and Business (ARBUS) program does not adequately prepare students to navigate the business world because the material we study is too disconnected to provide a comprehensive overview of business and too superficial to provide a thorough understanding of individual business areas. Additionally, ARBUS provides limited training in practical business skills and limited exposure to relevant business technology, which further hinders students’ success in their careers.

UW’s approach to business ostensibly seeks to provide students with two areas of expertise: a non-business subject such as English or biology, plus general business, including marketing, finance, accounting, entrepreneurship, and more.

However, providing students with expertise in such a wide range of business areas is not possible in just 14 classes — the number of required ARBUS courses. Instead of fully understanding any of these business areas, ARBUS students gain only a basic awareness of the many fields of study.

A single economics course, for example, cannot sufficiently train students to address major economic issues, especially when the curriculum focuses primarily on the technical elements of basic economic principles and largely disregards the influence of real-world factors.

Furthermore, the ARBUS curriculum does not successfully build on itself. Professors do not seem to be aware of the content taught in other courses, so some concepts are introduced numerous times throughout a degree, while others are mentioned only once and are then largely ignored or forgotten — even when they are relevant to later areas of study.

In some cases, professors have even stated that we should have learned a concept in another class, and my peers and I have had to study the topic independently to keep up.

Not only do ARBUS classes feel disconnected from each other, but they also often feel disconnected from the arts majors. Few, if any, ARBUS courses reference ideas or abilities developed through studies in humanities, fine arts or social sciences.

By contrast, courses offered by UW’s other business programs are more directly related to the non-business area of study. ARBUS requires “ARBUS 302 — Principles of Marketing” and “ARBUS 303 — Marketing Strategic,” whereas, Recreation and Sport Business students can take courses like “REC 215 — Marketing Recreation and Sport Services” and ENBUS students can take courses like “ENBUS 211 — Principles of Marketing for Sustainability Professionals.”

Science and Business students can also take courses like “SGBUS 225 — Organizational Behaviour in Scientific and Technical Workplaces” and Environment and Business students can take courses like “ENBUS 314 — Sustainable Business Models,” but no comparable ARBUS courses are available.

Admittedly, arts are broad, encompassing 30 majors and numerous minors. However, marketing courses that focus on content creation could harness arts students’ writing and design abilities, while courses that focus on market research could harness the research and analysis skills developed in every arts discipline. Thus, students would gain a more thorough understanding of certain areas of marketing and develop practical marketing skills they can apply on co-op terms and after graduation.

But even changes that more directly connect the study of business to arts disciplines will not fully prepare students for success in the business world. If UW truly wants to develop multi-disciplinary experts, more than one course per discipline is necessary.

Rather than requiring all ARBUS students to take introductory business courses throughout their degree, the program could be designed to introduce students to a range of business areas in their first two years and specialize later on. Many of these specializations could be based on courses already offered by the university.

For example, students interested in entrepreneurship could take courses in Business, Entrepreneurship, and Technology from the Conrad School of Business, while students interested in finance could take courses in financial management and reporting through the School of Accounting and Finance.

Students would still gain a broad awareness of the business world, but they would also gain in-depth knowledge in specific areas that could more directly translate into business careers.

This approach would also help connect students’ business and non-business areas of focus. As an English and political science student, I would personally sacrifice courses in areas like entrepreneurship and accounting for the opportunity to take more courses that focus on marketing and government-business relationships.

A marketing specialization for ARBUS students could include the introductory marketing courses already offered, as well as courses that focus on content creation, market research and data analytics, social media and event management.

For students interested in government and business, the specialization could include courses like “PSCI 231 — Government and Business,” as well as courses in public economics, political economy, economic development and business regulation.

In these courses, students could also be trained in the technical skills relevant to their specialization. For example, marketing courses could introduce industry-standard design software and customer relationship management systems, which students could then list on job applications.

ARBUS students are wasting their time in overly general courses that provide few opportunities to develop practical business skills. As a result, many of us risk graduating with neither the technical abilities nor the understanding of the business world necessary to succeed in business careers. Additionally, the disconnect between ARBUS and other areas of study makes it difficult to develop truly interdisciplinary perspectives and skill-sets.
Artistic careers are inaccessible – where does that leave us?

Between TikTok hashtags such as #nepotismbaby and #nepobaby boasting 231.4 million and 211.1 million views, respectively, as well as hot-button articles like New York Magazine’s “How a Nepo Baby is Born”, social media has narrowed in on nepotism in the arts and entertainment industry. In the process, online discussions on the impact of socio-economic privilege in these fields have increased, but are also more diluted.

Even the issue of nepotism alone is one filled with gray areas — is taking advantage of the opportunities one has been granted from birth an exploitative way of getting ahead or an earnest way of paying one’s blessings forward? Why should singers, actors, and models dominate popular discourse on nepotism when it exists in law, business, politics, and virtually every other field? Even the Oxford Dictionary definition of nepotism poses a kind of ambiguity in how it characterizes nepotism as “giving unfair advantages to your own family if you are in a position of power, especially by giving them jobs.” When is an advantage deemed unfair?

I can only speak to the experiences I have had firsthand. When I first became serious about pursuing a career in screenwriting and journalism, I struggled to develop industry-relevant skills that would assist me later. I could hardly ask my parents for guidance when they had no access to the arts and disapproved of my pursuit of it. Prestigious summer programs were out of the question — and by the time I began entering writing contests, I soon started to recognize the names of the fancy preparatory schools that other finalists would often hail from.

Even now, I am more often than not surrounded by white students from middle to upper-class households. A friend in my program once casually mentioned that, as a childhood Christmas gift, her parents had hired a professional author to give her pointers on her writing. It was an offhand comment, and she had mentioned on previous occasions how lucky she was for her affluent upbringing, but I couldn’t help but hate her at that moment. It was easier to visualize financial privilege in an out-of-touch “nepo baby” celebrity than it was to recognize it in the people who I had come to befriend, work alongside and admire. It was especially tricky during instances in which wealth didn’t fully work — the same friend, even with connections and wealth, was struggling to find relevant work in the same manner that I was.

I have tried hard to distinguish myself from my peers to compensate for any shortcomings of my low-income upbringing and use whatever tools I had been lucky enough to have. I won my first writing contest in high school while living out of a cramped basement and enlisted English teachers to proofread my entries. I wrote obsessively, compulsively even, in part because I loved it, but also in part because I knew it was all I could do if I ever wanted a real shot at financial stability in a field that guarantees none.

I wanted so badly to believe that there was a way to work harder and secure a future that I had spent so long dreaming of — and that every talented artist and singer in my extended South Asian family who wound up pursuing a career in STEM were just too shortsighted and steeped in cynicism to succeed.

But I see now how many of my attempted strides forward fall short. I’ve been offered internship positions which would’ve given me valuable journalism and film industry experience only to find out after I had been offered the job that they were unpaid roles I could not afford to take on. I would later see an Ivy League student on LinkedIn who had worked in the same unpaid role I had rejected a few years prior move onto companies like NBC News and USA Today. I have had a newspaper turn me down for an entry-level position because even though they liked my portfolio, I didn’t have one to three years of prior work experience. When unpaid internships are resume-padding for the rich and privileged, and the few other jobs that exist are granted to individuals with connections, seniority, or both, where does that leave those of us who are just starting out?

I’m pursuing a career in the arts despite the financial risks that this choice entails because I can’t imagine my life doing anything else, nor do I want to. I love storytelling, and I believe that our books, songs, shows and films should represent our wide-spanning world for its many classes, creeds and colours. I’ve yet to figure out if that’s an act of bravery in a world where money talks and artists are situated at the bottom of the barrel — or if it’s just another naive shout into the void that won’t make much of a difference either way.

Nadia Khan
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Volunteer at IMPRINT

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**distractions**

Q: Why shouldn’t you write with a broken pencil?
A: Because it’s pointless.

**Imprint Sudoku**

Level: Moderate

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9 7 3
  6 2 8 5
  1 3 4
3 1 2 9
  4 7 8 5 1
  3 4
 9 1 6
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**DEC. 7 ANSWERS**

- RASP
- POCYTE
- COMB
- ISLE
- IRRATIONAL
- NACL
- TOETH LINE
- IDINA
- STEROS
- UWACCEOTCONCERT
- NASALS
- ELRIO
- IVAN
- ADAUCK
- DVD
- OEDS
- BRAES
- LIAO
- NSA
- PROMS
- LORDE
- PIANO
- BIGGER
- SAFETY IN NUMBERS
- ILLS
- SORBO
- REITERATES
- OPAL
- EXPERIMENT
- KALE
- DISREGARDS
- SCAN

Welcome Back Warriors