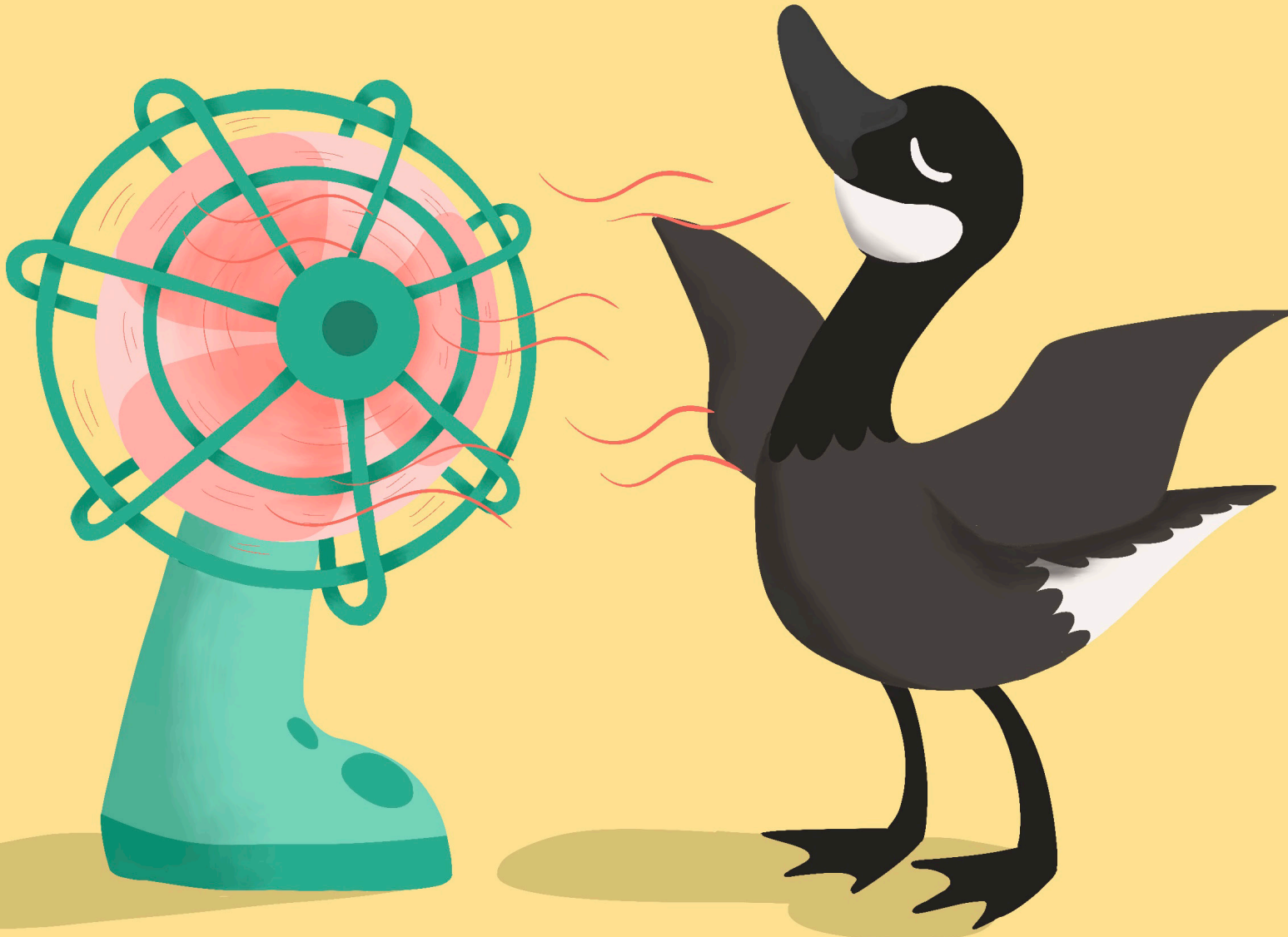




# Imprint

Your Stories, Your Voice

May 2025  
Volume 2 Issue 10



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# What has WUSA accomplished for students over the past year?

Jansher Saeed, Staff Writer

May 2025 marks the end of a one-year term for outgoing WUSA vice president (VP) Arya Razmjoo. The student leader remarked that WUSA has accomplished a lot this year – launching a new Ombuds Office, organizing several free events, advocating for student interests at the municipal, regional, provincial, and federal levels, and putting forward a referendum for partnership divestment. *Imprint* sat down with VP Razmjoo to discuss his time at the student union and plans for the future.

Razmjoo is a current communications and legal studies student, and vice president of both WUSA and Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA). Razmjoo began his journey with WUSA in his first year, sitting on multiple student committees including the Governance committee and Elections and Referenda Committee before running for the WUSA President role in 2024.

“My motivation for running [for President] was really just to give back and help my community. And I think this is one of the few roles that allows people in our age group to really have a substantial amount of impact, even though that impact is not always seen at the time. It often takes a year or two for the results of the things we work on to actually be initiated,” Razmjoo said.

Razmjoo was appointed VP by the student union, a more externally focused role that required advocating for student interests to key stakeholders. Instead of feeling unprepared for the new position, Razmjoo said he pivoted his focus. Coming into the role with no specific game plan, he felt played to his advantage.

“Taking an external focus, I looked at what was needed in the organization, and I think having no biases or no real previous plans really helped me find the areas where we lacked. I think we made some really strong investments in those areas this year as well,” Razmjoo said.

Student advocacy is central to the VP’s role. Razmjoo reflected on the recent creation of the WUSA advocacy department, the development of WUSA’s official policy stances on key student issues, and the launch of an advocacy representative survey platform that allows WUSA to interview thousands of students on key issues with ease.

Notably, Razmjoo is proud of WUSA’s external advocacy work at the federal level with an organization called Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), which WUSA joined over the past year as an observer.

“Through CASA, I had a whole week in Ottawa where we met with ministers, we met with MPs from all the political ridings, we even got the Prime Minister, which a year ago would have been impossible to think about,” Razmjoo said.

According to Razmjoo, a major advantage of working with CASA is the group’s independent advisory group for Indigenous issues, giving WUSA the opportunity to work with Indigenous students at the forefront of developing solutions for students’ education-related concerns.

At the municipal and regional level, WUSA worked closely with a Waterloo regional committee called Town and Gown that bridges the gap between students at post-secondary institutions and the communities they live

# WUSA



- Arya Razmjoo speaking at the 2025 WUSA Annual Members Meeting

WUSA also hosted OUSA's general assembly at Waterloo, contributing to the student union's provincial-level advocacy work.

"We hosted all the schools to come here and bring all their delegates and we formulated two policy papers on comprehensive access to university, so every student no matter their background or financial feasibility can actually come to university, but also one on tech enabled learning. With AI coming up, we quickly responded to that," Razmjoo said.

Despite engaging with all levels of government, Razmjoo noted that WUSA does not have the capacity to do all advocacy work. To target this issue, Razmjoo helped launch Change Engine, an initiative which provides students with resources to do their own grassroots advocacy work.

"Students come and they pitch their projects, and we lit-

in. Through negotiation efforts led by Razmjoo with the region, the committee gained a regional representative.

"So the committee now has a bigger scope. We can talk about both Waterloo issues and Kitchener issues, because we have a Kitchener campus, but also regional, which I believe is a lot more powerful than the municipality," Razmjoo said. "So even basic things like recycling and compost, which are not the sexiest things to talk about, but are still regional issues, including transit. The region has a lot of control over it."

This year, students saw a five per cent increase to their Grand River Transit (GRT) pass fees while the region announced cuts to GRT funding. Cuts to funding called for less buses, especially on Ring Road, and the removal of garbage cans from bus stops.

"I spoke to many, many regional councilors, we got the votes to actually defeat [the GRT budget cuts that impacted Waterloo city] which was something that really took a lot of energy and I was very proud of," Razmjoo said.

erally give them money, and we say, go do this advocacy. We had folks come and wanted to do safe walks programs, so we funded them and they can explore that. They had a passion for that, so we said we will fund it," Razmjoo said.

Razmjoo also shared his WUSA team was one of the first to do campus visits and speak with students in Stratford, Cambridge, and Kitchener in several years. WUSA is currently collecting data from these visits and formulating reports that will better inform advocacy efforts at all municipal and regional levels.

Switching focus toward internal efforts, WUSA also hosted several events this year, with a focus on providing students with free food, fun opportunities, and events across all university campuses. WUSA organized trips to Niagara Falls, the Cambridge Butterfly Museum, and snow tubing.



An increase in events also comes with a slight increase in this year's student WUSA events fee.

Some other projects WUSA launched this year include advocating for expanded student counselling hours, the 2024 Responsible Partnerships and Investments Referendum, advocating for athletic membership to be extended to students on co-op, and a campus goose statue.

Razmjoo noted the high-performance of commercial operations on campus over his term along with an increase in the variety of food options available on-campus to students. Chaska, an Indian street food retailer located in the SLC, was launched last year – a project Razmjoo said was in the works at WUSA for over 10 years.

Another 10-year-long project that was introduced in the past year is the Ombuds Office at UW. The office provides students with confidential, impartial, and independent resources for navigating academic and non-academic challenges, according to WUSA.

Razmjoo shared that a key concern faced by WUSA when bringing students new initiatives and projects is that larger scopes can take years to implement.

“Some projects can take a couple of years to get done. There are a few like Chaska, opening a new restaurant can take years frankly. Getting the permits, getting the university to allow us to open it, that was like six years of negotiations,” Razmjoo said.

Razmjoo stressed that all the initiatives undertaken by WUSA are almost exclusively done for the next generation of students. Fees are also structured so that future students who see the results of WUSA's work will also support paying for it.

“However, future students do not get to vote on those issues at all. It's a philosophical dilemma, but when folks want bigger projects, the reality is that future folks will benefit from it. So if students want us to do smaller projects, they will see the benefits more often,” Razmjoo said.

In the future, Razmjoo would like to see progress made on the 2024 Responsible Partnerships and Investments Referendum, full membership for CASA, and more advocacy work with the region and municipality.

“We really did a lot this year. It is just we had a lot of walls with the university saying no. So

I'm hoping that the next officers can come up with creative strategies for expanding their advocacy and getting that work really finished,” Razmjoo said.

Moving forward, Razmjoo will continue to engage with WUSA as a member of the elected board and Senate, hoping to engage the elected student representatives on issues of accountability and transparency when it comes to WUSA's internal processes.

“I'm on the board and the Senate, so my tentacles are still in. You guys have not gotten rid of me this year, so I'm still around,” Razmjoo said.

“But honestly, I'm excited to be a student again. I'm probably going to take the LSAT this summer and then prepare for law school. But really, I'm retired right? I'm excited to see what the upcoming officers and the upcoming folks can achieve and what they are passionate about. But for me, it's retirement baby, it's retirement.”



Iqra Majeed



# A reflection of UW fashion and merchandise

Bethany Helaine Pörtl, Contributor

As spring arrives so do the flocks of the geese, taking up their familiar places on campus as the temperatures warm up. This year, with the return of the geese comes the launch of the W Store's 2025 Nesting Season Collection, designed by Carol Li, a UW accounting student. This collection is a brand new selection of t-shirts, sweaters, tote bags, and even a postcard featuring Li's design made to encapsulate the UW student experience.

The Nesting Season Collection represents the latest in fashion offered at the W Store, which has been increasing its range of styles and selections over the last few years. "Our approach balances tradition with evolving trends. Our core collection features classic pieces with the official university crest [and] to keep our merchandise fresh, we continuously explore new styles and brands," said Ana Rivera, apparel buyer for the W Store.

As part of their continuous exploration several collections have launched over the years, including the successful Roots collection four years ago. The oversized collection was introduced three years ago, which Rivera described as becoming "a staple" in the W Store catalogue. This was followed by the expansion that began two years ago beyond traditional school colours of black and gold, in which merchandise now incorporates earthy and pastel tones for special editions. Currently featured on the W Store website is the most recent pastel tone hoodie collection, with cherry blossom, lily of the valley, and wisteria patterns available for buyers to "Spring Into Style" this season.

Rivera shared that post-COVID the store "saw a surge in demand for athleisure and sweatpants, making them key growth categories." With these categories on the rise now, what's been popular over previous decades?

The UW Retro collection launched in 2024, sharing archival photos from the beginning of university merchandise seen in the 1960s. The collection brings back the silhouettes and UW patches of these earlier merch items.

Nicole Marcogliese, an archivist at UW Libraries Special Collections & Archives shared some history of what has been popular on campus. "We have several jackets, tracksuits, t-shirts, and more. I'll also highlight that we do have one plush toy of Pounce de Lion. Pounce was the former mascot of the UW student alumni association. He was quite popular."

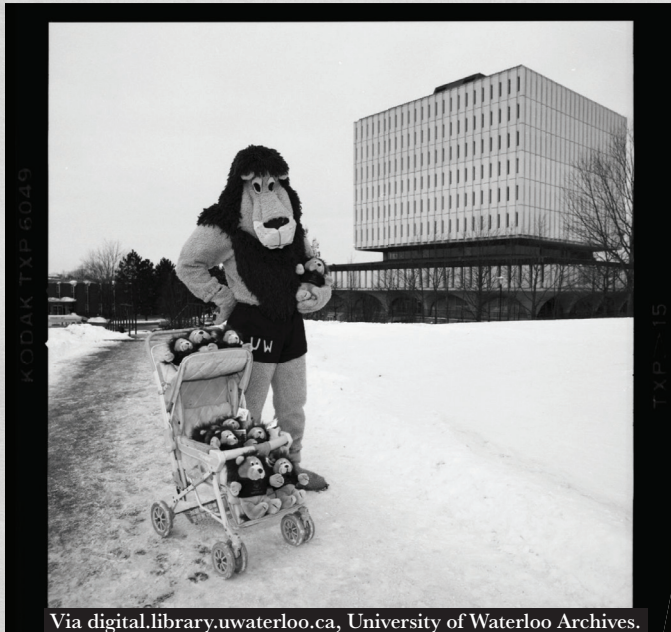
Pounce de Lion was recognized as the mascot for the UW Student Alumni Association from 1982 to 1995 and has also served as the mascot for the UW Alumni Affairs (UW Archives Database). It was said that Pounce jumped

off the UW crest. He was a six-foot, cuddly lion who was the older, and reportedly wiser, brother of the UW Athletics mascot King Warrior and St. Jerome's University's mascot Jerome. Pounce de Lion plush toys first became available in 1990, sold at the Open Door gift shop in South Campus Hall.

Plush toys remain popular with the UW branded goose plush toy, an always available character, as well as







Via digital.library.uwaterloo.ca, University of Waterloo Archives.

A negative from 1991, titled 'Pounce De Lion and babies'

non-UW plush toys recently brought into the store from the popular brand Jellycat.

Jennifer Ferguson, senior communications office at UW, wrote an article titled "Fashion flashback," featuring a timeline of UW branded clothing from 1958 to 1980. The evolution in jacket design is evident through the first six pieces, all jackets from various faculties and programs. A bright-teal coloured faculty of mathematics sweater from the 1980s is the last piece featured in Ferguson's flashback. This piece offers a connection to the pastel and non-UW brand coloured items retailed today. The desire for a variety of merchandise colors has seemingly been a long standing demand on campus.

With their evolving product design and style innovation, the intention behind designs is continually considered. Rivera said "We've introduced two Indigenous collections to align with the university's values."

Most recently, artwork from Tehatsistahawi (Tsista) Kennedy, an Anishinaabe Onyota a:ka artist from Beausoleil First Nation and Oneida Nation of the Thames, is featured on different merch items. His work is a variation of Woodland Style Art merging traditional aspects of his identity with contemporary perspectives, his design showcases a feathery feature of campus, the Canada Goose.

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Roots collection hoodie and 'Cozy Oversized Sweatpants'

wstore.uwaterloo.ca







# What the Queer Living and Learning Communities project means for the students at UW



Thea East, Staff Writer

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With guaranteed housing for first-year students and eight UW residences housing between 320 and 1,380 students per semester, it is accurate to say that on-campus living is an integral part of the school community and experience. It is also not just first years that take advantage of UW's residences as many upper-year students opt for on-campus housing as well. Ensuring that there are supportive housing options at UW for all community members is important to ensure students feel safe and seen during their academic career.

As part of this effort to provide housing that accommodates the needs of all students, a motion was passed at the 2025 WUSA Annual Members Meeting (AMM) advocating for the implementation of Queer Living and Learning Communities (QLLC) into UW's residences. The motion calls out the lack of sufficient housing options available for members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Many students belonging to this group do not feel safe in their housing environments, which can be a detriment to their mental health and academic success. The QLLC project advocates for residence options that are more inclusive in this regard by addressing the systemic issues that have created this problem in the first place and looks to incorporate practices from other institutions while also working towards providing more supportive residences.

The QLLC project and subsequent motion was created by Friday Saleh, a fourth year geoscience student at UW who ran for the presidency in the recent WUSA general election. Saleh began working on this project back in September 2024 but has been an avid student advocate for the Queer community throughout their undergraduate career. Notably, they helped to advocate for the addition of gender affirming care to the student health plan through a motion that was passed at the 2024 WUSA AMM. Another student advocate for the Queer community on campus was Remington Zhi, who also spoke in support of the QLLC motion during the 2025 AMM. Zhi is also the incoming vice president for WUSA for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Saleh highlighted how damaging it can be for non-gender conforming students to be forced into gendered living environments and how the university has failed the Queer community in this way. At the 2025 WUSA AMM, Saleh spoke for their motion and discussed how 45 per cent of non-binary students experience negative mental health due to on-campus safety concerns. Furthermore, they explained

how trans students who experience microaggressions are 3.3 times more likely to drop out from their post-secondary education.

One of the central aims of the QLLC is to provide students with the option to live in close proximity with others who share similar experiences, values, or identities. This would foster an inclusive, safe and supportive environment for trans and non-binary students on-campus. In contrast with the traditional gendered living environments, this community housing style would provide a more comfortable and affirming housing situation. There is concern, however, that the visible clustering of a marginalized group could inadvertently pose a safety risk in the event of a situation incited by hate, as seen on campus in 2023 with the stabbing of students and faculty in a gender studies class on campus. This underscores the need for careful, rights-based planning that prioritizes both community-building and institutional responsibility for student safety. Saleh went on to acknowledge how some see this form of housing as controversial and an example of reverse discrimination due to its isolationist nature, however they explained that while this form of community housing does provide the option of separation, this view overlooks the many proven benefits of this residence model.

Research that has been impactful to the QLLC project includes the works of Christopher C. Stone-Sewalish, associate director for housing administration at Michigan State University. Stone-Sewalish proposed a framework for implementing trans student housing-based equity programs into post-secondary residences – a seven step trans residential experience that has been included into the research and planning of the QLLC project. Stone-Sewalish emphasizes the importance of doing things in the correct way versus the quick way. As Saleh explained, “If you have to choose between putting something out in a rushed manner versus implementing it in a methodical and strategic way... choose the methodical and strategic way.”

Additionally, the project is not just relying on external research, but is conducting community surveys to further understand the individual lived experiences of gender-non conforming students in UW’s on-campus housing. These findings are intended to be published in a white paper written by Saleh, detailing the project as a whole and including the financial and business

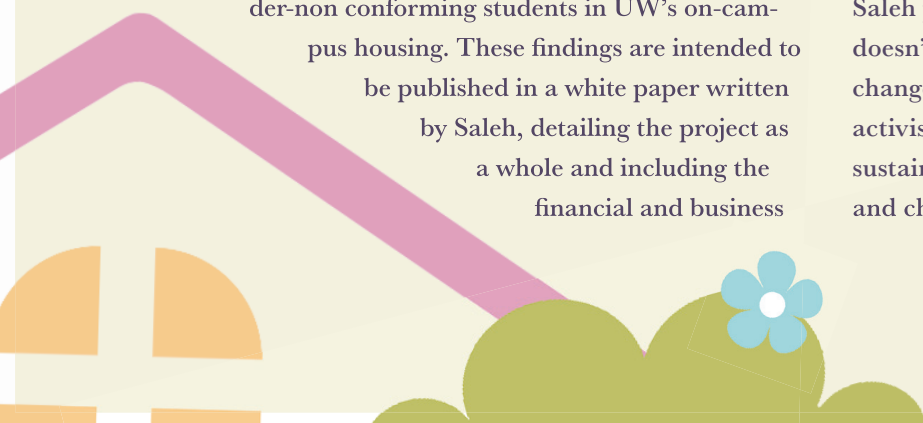
plan, health and safety barriers, common practices and laying out the substance of the program itself.

Both Saleh and Zhi expressed the urgent need to address this issue and the importance of bringing the QLLC project to fruition. Saleh hopes that the project could begin to be implemented into UW’s residences as early as fall of 2025, however they discussed how inciting change within an institution such as a university is a difficult and often slow process. They described institutions as being inherently resistant to change due to their structures, which poses an issue to student advocacy.

Zhi explained how burnout is a common experience in advocacy especially when working within an institution. However they went on to stress the importance of community within student advocacy as a way of combating burnout. “When I felt burnt out with advocacy, there were other great student advocates who took up the mantle, and I hope that by providing support to more student advocates, there’s just a bigger team of students who can be there for each other and work together,” Zhi said.

Outside of the challenge of operating within an institution designed to resist change, the project faces financial barriers as well. As explained by Saleh, due to the UW’s current position of being in a financial deficit, receiving funding from the school is currently not a reliable option to ensure the project’s success. The goal now is to turn to external funding to ensure the cost effectiveness of the project.

Looking forward, both Saleh and Zhi hope to see the continuations and expansion of Queer advocacy at UW and in Waterloo as whole. Unique financial barriers for Queer students, particularly in relation to gender-affirming care, needs to be highlighted and addressed. Both Zhi and Saleh explained the importance of expanding the Trans Bursary in supporting the Queer community financially in receiving gender-affirming care. This project represents the continuation of advocacy for the Queer community on campus and calls for institutional accountability and student support to make these visions a reality for the people that need it. For Saleh and the many students who are working in support of these issues, the fight doesn’t end with a single motion. As Saleh put it, “Just because I didn’t win the presidency, that doesn’t mean my advocacy mandates or convictions have changed.” Their words reflect a broader truth in student activism – that leadership isn’t limited to elected roles, it’s sustained through continued commitment to community and change.







- Friday Saleh speaking at the 2025 WUSA Annual Members Meeting



Iqra Majeed



# Two Warriors recognized at national level

Justin Gec, Staff Writer

**W**ith the winter term finally coming to an end, it is always worth looking into some of the outstanding accomplishments of our student athletes here at the UW.

This year, two UW hockey athletes were recognized at the national level for their success on the ice. On the women's team, Carly Orth was named as a First Team All-Canadian and deemed the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) player of the year. On the men's side, Matt Onuska was named the Goaltender of the Year and a First Team All-Canadian.

We chatted with Orth and Onuska to discuss their past season and learn more about them.

## Matt Onuska

This past season was nothing short of truly special for the man between the pipes on the Warriors. In 19 games played, Onuska was ranked first in the country with a .941 save percentage, third in the nation for total saves with 664, and third in the OUA for goals against average at 2.18. On top of this, Onuska was able to post four shutouts on the season, two of which he stopped 40 or more shots. To cap off a superb season, Onuska was selected as an OUA first team all-star, first team All-Canadian, OUA goalie of the year and U Sports goalie of the year.

Onuska returned to the Waterloo region after playing four years in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL). Drafted in the seventh round with the 133rd pick, Onuska bounced around between a few different teams but made his largest impact with the Windsor Spitfires. Across 26 games,

**"In 2023, it was a wild circumstance, but I was actually called up to play for the Toronto Maple Leafs. They were having some issues with their goalie's health and out of the blue, my agent gave me a call and said they wanted me to travel with them to Florida."**

**- Matt Onuska**



Ounsaka was able to lead the team to victory in 19 of them, posting a save percentage of .88, stopping 619 pucks.

Upon finishing his time playing junior hockey, Onuska had a big decision to make regarding his future and where he wanted to study. “When I finished up my time in the OHL, I knew I wanted to continue playing hockey, but getting a great education and being able to be a student first was very important to me,” Onuska shared. Instead of taking the NCAA path, Onuska decided to bring it home and attend UW.

When posed with why UW, Onuska shared: “Education is a huge priority of mine. When I was playing in the OHL, it felt like I was only a hockey player, and that was it... Waterloo was a great overall fit for multiple reasons but largely because it was close to home, and the hockey team and athletics department as a whole have a great balance

of taking hockey seriously but also put a large priority on education — developing people, not just athletes.”

Discussing his professional ambitions, Onuska shared that he already had an experience playing hockey at the highest possible level, the National Hockey League (NHL). “In 2023, it was a wild circumstance, but I was actually called up to play for the Toronto Maple Leafs. They were having some issues with their goalie’s health and out of the blue, my agent gave me a call and said they wanted me to travel with them to Florida.”

This experience was enough as far as professional goals go for Onuska as he has his eyes set on bigger things off the ice. He shared that after he wraps up his undergraduate studies, he wants to attend dental school and become a certified dentist.

With Onuska wrapping up his second season with the Warriors, the Warriors will be secured between the pipes for at least the next two years. With only three graduating seniors, the future is looking bright for men’s hockey.

**19 games played:**

**.941**

save percentage

**664**

total saves

**4**

shutouts

# Carly Orth

Carly Orth played an essential role in the women's hockey team's national runner-up finish. Across 24 regular season games, Orth led the OUA in total points, tallying 31. She was second in the league with 20 total assists and seventh with 11 total goals, including an OUA lead with four short-handed.

With a stat line like this, it's evident to see how she was selected as an OUA First Team All-Star and named OUA player of the year. The accolades did not stop on the provincial stage. Orth was also recognized nationally, being named a U Sports First Team All-Canadian.

Orth shared that playing and being around the world of hockey is something that she has known for as long as she could remember. "My family is a huge hockey family. My dad played goalie, and my older brother was also really big into it. I started skating at three years old, and I think around five was when I first started organized hockey." Orth's journey with the sport started with her playing on male teams and making the transition to female only in the ninth grade.

After posting some impressive statistics in her time playing junior with the Toronto Leaside Wildcats, Orth had to make the decision on where she wanted to continue her hockey and academic journey. "When I finished up my time playing junior, I was confident that I wanted to go to an NCAA school, but after further consideration and the guidance of my coach, I felt that the NCAA was not the path I wanted to take." Orth shared that as soon as she stepped foot on Waterloo's campus and gained an understanding of the team vibe and the support systems of academic and athletics, UW was the place where she wanted to be.



In discussing her success as a Warrior, specifically this past season, Orth shared that her goals coming in were not so much about individual success: "Coming into this season, I wanted to do whatever I had to do to ensure that I was helping the team be successful. If that meant being a top player in the OUA, or just a role player on the team, then so be it." She remarked that throughout the season she was not regularly checking her own stats, rather her family and friends kept her updated on where she stood in the league.

With this past season making Orth's penultimate year with the team as far as eligibility goes, her time as a Warrior is nearing an end. When asked about her next steps, she shared: "I have one more year of eligibility, so I will be coming back and hopefully be able to take it to the next level and finally earn that U Sports gold." Looking past UW, she is interested in playing hockey for as long as she can and has her eyes set on playing in the SDHL (Swedish Women's Hockey League), a premiere professional women's hockey league in Europe.

***Across 24 regular season games:***

**31**

*total points*

**20**

*assists*

**11**

*total goals*



# Books, blooms, and balance: The spring term at UW

Radha Vyas, Contributor

The snow melts, patios pop open, and bikes zoom past as boots get tucked away — spring has officially landed at UW. It's that magical time when classes remain, but the campus comes alive in a whole new way. Think sunny study spots, spontaneous adventures, and a fresh wave of motivation in the air. So come along with me as we dive into what the spring term really feels like on the UW campus.

## **An intensive and accelerated academic term**

UW's spring term compresses a full course load into just 12 weeks, compared to the 16-week fall and winter sessions. While the fast pace is challenging, many students see it as a strategic advantage: "Since I don't have co-op, I use this term to complete extra courses and minimize my time at Waterloo," shared Jahnvi Patel, a third-year arts student.

Some students take advantage of the spring to access courses that are either in high demand or not offered during fall or winter. For instance, the department of classical studies offers CLAS 390: Classical Studies Abroad, a course that combines classroom instruction with travel to ancient sites in Greece or Italy. Similarly,



the Cheriton School of Computer Science offers special topics courses like CS 453: Software and Systems Security and CS 459: Privacy, Cryptography, Network and Data Security during the spring, which aren't guaranteed in other terms. The faculty of science also makes strategic use of the spring term. Some specialized courses, like SCI 211: Traditional Medicines Land-Based Field Course, are available in the spring and offer hands-on, experiential learning not typically accessible in fall or winter. The faculty also publishes a detailed guide outlining which courses



are available in each term, helping students plan around spring availability to stay on track for graduation or lighten future workloads.

Some faculties, like environment, allow students to shift a course or two into the spring term to ease their first-year transition by reducing their fall and winter course loads. And for those in engineering, the spring term can help accelerate their path toward graduate studies, with the option to begin master's-level coursework while still being an undergraduate.

### **A campus transformed: less crowded, more connected**

The spring term brings noticeable changes to campus life. "Well, there's definitely less people compared to fall or winter terms. Other than that, I think it's pretty chill. I definitely go out to eat more and take more walks, and I study more outside 'cause the days are longer," said Tetiana Kang, a third-year biotechnology/chartered professional accountancy student. The lighter atmosphere also makes day-to-day life





on campus more accessible and enjoyable. Patel shared, “I prefer spring courses because the weather’s nice, and it’s easier to access everything.”

That accessibility carries over into academics as well. “My upcoming summer course has about 200 students. That might not seem small, but it is compared to fall courses with 1,200–1,400 students or winter courses with 700–800. Spring sections usually have 100 to 250 students, with only one section offered per course,” said Heidi Engelhardt, associate professor and undergraduate advisor for biomedical science. With fewer students around, interactions between classmates and instructors become more personal, fostering a stronger sense of connection within the campus community.

### **Spring in full bloom: social and outdoor experiences**

With sunshine and longer days, campus life at Waterloo naturally shifts outdoors. Student clubs, supported by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA), organize a wide range of events that make it easy to connect and unwind. This term, you can look forward to key events like the Welcome BBQ on May 12, the



Campus Life Fair on May 14, and the Clubs and Societies Fair on May 15. In addition, WUSA’s Spring Welcome Week takes place in the second week of May and features a fun mix of activities for everyone. Popular events include the beloved Warrior Breakfast, an Ice Cream Social, and a lively Carnival full of games and entertainment. There’s something about spring that makes it easier to meet people and get involved. Whether you’re joining a soccer match, exploring student clubs, or simply chatting at a picnic, the atmosphere feels relaxed, open, and welcoming.

### **A season of balance and growth**

Spring at Waterloo blends academic focus with a more chill campus vibe. Whether you’re catching up on credits, enjoying less crowded spaces, or soaking up the sun at a club event, the spring term delivers a valuable and refreshing university experience.



# Sun's out, laptops out: Best study spots in Waterloo

Shania T. W. Scotland, Contributor

Now that spring is here and the days are getting warmer, it's the perfect time to take your study sessions outside. Whether you're looking for a cozy café, a quiet park, or a bright space on campus, we asked students and staff at UW to share their favorite spots in and around Waterloo. Here are the top picks for places to study when the weather's is cooperating.

## EV3 third floor study space

**Location:** EV3 environment building on campus

**Vibe:** It's a great place to hunker down in between classes without feeling stuck inside. Bright, quiet, with a great view. "This spot has the vibes and views," Joey Sherritt said.

**Recommended by:** Joey Sherritt, second-year environment and business



## Seven Shores Community Café

**Location:** 10 Regina St. N., Waterloo

**Vibe:** Cozy café with a sunny patio. Serves locally sourced breakfast, sandwiches, and snacks.

"I love the outside tables, they're perfect for sunny days," says Charlotte Schwartz. "It's also super convenient since it's right [near] King Street."

Navya Vikraman Nair adds: "It's tucked away just enough to feel peaceful, but still right in the heart of Uptown. The food's fresh, and there's a great mix of shade and sun. Plus, it's close to Waterloo Park if you need a nature break."

**Recommended by:** Charlotte Schwartz, third-year geography and environmental management student and Navya Vikraman Nair, fourth-year SEED PhD student



## Pilot Coffee Roasters

**Location:** 15 King St. S., Waterloo

**Vibe:** Chill café with soft light and good matcha. Serves specialty coffee and baked goods.

"I love the calm feel here," says Arabella Hormillada. "It doesn't get too busy, so I'm not distracted. And the lighting is just right for reading or typing away — plus, their matcha is amazing."

**Recommended by:** Arabella Hormillada, second year global business and digital arts student

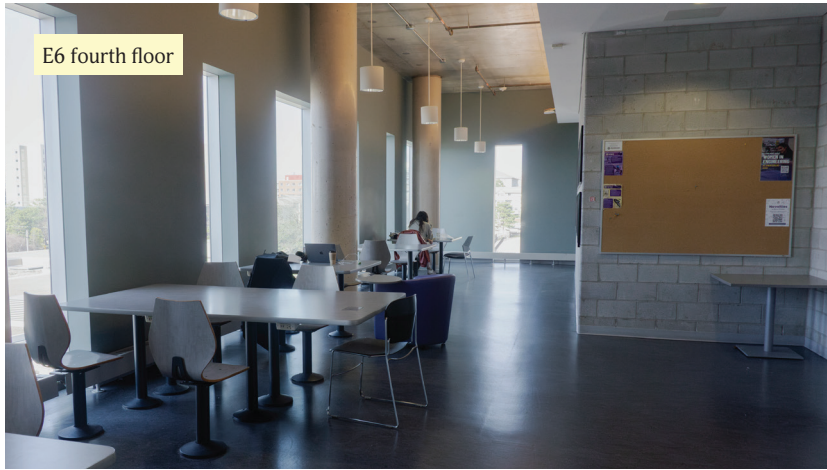
## Waterloo Park gazebos

**Location:** 50 Young St. W., Waterloo

**Vibe:** Quiet in nature, open sky, and fresh air.

Whether it's under a gazebo or under a tree, there's something calming about being in nature with your laptop or notebook.





E6 fourth floor

## E6 fourth floor

**Location:** Engineering 6 building on campus

**Vibe:** Bright and close to home.

“It’s the closest building to my residence and has lots of light,” Zahra Eudoxie says, who heads here when she wants to stay focused without going far.

**Recommended by:** Zahra Eudoxie, fourth-year chemical engineering student



Design studio in EV3

## Environment design studio / planning studio

**Location:** EV3 building on campus

**Vibe:** Airy, spacious, with big tables and lots of light.

“I adore big windows and natural light,” Amelia Upper remarked. “The space has lots of outlets, and I like being able to spread out all of my work. It’s not just a study space; it helps me feel inspired too.”

**Recommended by:** Amelia Upper, third-year environment, resources and sustainability student

## Thai Sun patio

**Location:** 16 King St. N., Waterloo

**Vibe:** A good mix of food and focus. Serves Thai staples, including papaya salad, cashew chicken, and green curry.

“If I have light work to do and I’m hungry, this spot works perfectly,” Luxman Nirumalan said. It’s a nice place for reading or working through emails with a pad thai on the side.

**Recommended by:** Luxman Nirumalan, third-year environment and business student

Whether you’re studying for finals, catching up on reading, or just looking for a change of scenery, there’s no better time than now to head outdoors and switch things up. From cafés to peaceful parks, Waterloo region has many sunny spots perfect for your next study session. Sometimes, a little fresh air and a change of environment can do wonders for you. So grab your books (or laptop), try one of these nice spots, and let the outdoors boost your mood.

## More Recommended Study Spots to Try:

- Café 1842 in Huether Hotel
- Midnight Run Café
- Princess Café



Midnight Run Café

Iqra Majeed

# Documentaries to watch this spring, post-Earth month

Bethany Helaine Pörtl, Contributor

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This past April 22 was the 55th Earth Day celebrated around the world. Billions of people participating in Earth Day activities, including on campus, with the UW Sustainability Office's Earth Day planting of 175 native trees and shrubs.

Since Earth Day was designated in 1970, April has also become recognized as Earth Month. It offers both a time to get involved both in local and global activities and reflect on how together, change can be made to protect our environment and communities. As the official Earth Day and Earth Month has passed, here are some short documentaries to continue engaging with environmental and sustainability work around the world and keep the momentum for collaborative change going!

## *Heart Of The Osa (WaterBear Network, 2024, 13 minutes)*

In this documentary we are taken on a journey through the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica, seeing several of the over 250,000 unique species that inhabit the landscape. The Osa Peninsula is highly biodiverse, but is at risk due to climate change. The high intensity use of pesticides in Costa Rica has polluted the local environment, along with urban areas contributing to plastic pollution in the water. Learn about how these challenges are being addressed by non-governmental organizations. Organizations such as Raising Coral, COPROT Tortugas de Osa, BioSur Foundation, Biriteca Agroecológica, and more are working together through the Global Sustainability Collective to promote positive change.

“We will maximize our impact if we all work together to accomplish our mutual goals.”

— Spencer Ocean, executive producer of Heart of Osa



Via Instagram, @wildreachproductions



## *Climb-It Change (WaterBear Network, 2017, 15 minutes)*

This documentary follows Trevor Bloom and Matt Kneipp as they conduct research at an Arctic alpine lab in the U.S. Their research is attempting to understand what climate in the past has led to the diversity of organisms today and how future changes in climate might impact the distribution and survival of these organisms. Alpine species are losing habitat due to the effects of climate change such as pathogen outbreaks, flooding, and wildfires. There is a rapid destruction of alpine ecosystems due to high altitude fires. Through their research, they determined at a burned site it is 3.5 times more likely to find an extinct species. They emphasize the importance of familiarizing yourself with the world around you and taking action to protect it.

“Some of these plants are hundreds of years old, when they burn they are not coming back.”

— Trevor Bloom, forest botanist

## *Meet the Guardians of Earth's Last Untouched Lands (WaterBear Network, 2024, 5 minutes)*

Learn about the work Indigenous Peoples' Rights International (IPRI) is doing to help amplify the voices of Indigenous peoples globally. Addressing human rights violations, protecting Indigenous land rights and supporting the Maasai in bringing forth to the United Nations their case of displacement due to corporate and government exploitation of resources and land.

“Our life cannot be without the trees, without the rivers, without the wild animals, without the cows that we keep.”

— Tina Timan, Maasai pastoralist



## *Shiringa (WaterBear Network, 2024, 11 minutes)*

From the documentary: “We do not take more than we need. We create beauty for us while respecting and protecting the beauty of the jungle.”

Hear from the Indigenous Awajún community in the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest, where they are making a bio-leather alternative to animal-derived and synthetic materials. The alternative comes from the shiringa tree, which the Awajún women have harvest sap from for years to create clothing. Their work creates with nature, not against it, taking only what they need and letting the trees rest. This tree is under threat from deforestation, which they are fighting against.

These four short documentaries are all available to watch for free on WaterBear Network, along with hundreds of other short and feature length documentaries across a range of climate, social and environmental topics. Keep learning and connecting with friends, family, and community to work together for change!

One of my favourite proverbs is “April showers bring May flowers,” which is beautifully depicted by the change in scenery during my train rides home. For months, I was used to seeing snow-blanketed landscapes and icicles hanging on the eaves of passing homes. Now, the gardens are starting to bloom, and the trees are coming back to life, painting a vibrant scenery. This revival inspired me to make a refreshing dish to honour the coming of spring: pesto pasta salad.

# Pesto pasta salad



**Ingrid Au, Contributor**

## Tools:

A salad bowl or any large bowl

Tongs or a mixing spoon

Measuring cup

## Ingredients:

2 cups of boxed pasta: Fusilli, Farfalle, or Penne

1 cup of zucchini, sliced and halved

½ cup of cherry tomatoes, halved (or ¼ cup of sun-dried tomatoes)

1 cup of chicken, sliced into cubes

¼ cup of fresh whole basil

2 cups of spinach

½ cup of store-bought pesto (adjust to your flavour preference)

Salt

Black pepper

## Instructions:

In a pot, cook your pasta according to the instructions on the back of the box. Once cooked, strain the pasta under cold water and set aside. Cook your chicken in a pan and season with salt and pepper. Repeat this process with the zucchini and spinach until the spinach has softened and the zucchini appears translucent.

In a large bowl, combine the cherry/sun-dried tomatoes, cooked pasta, chicken, spinach, and zucchini. Once combined, incorporate your store-bought pesto and season with basil, salt, and pepper. Taste and adjust the flavour according to your preference.

The best part of this dish is that it tastes better over time. The flavour of each ingredient develops and gets absorbed into the pasta. I know I say this about every recipe, but this is another perfect dish for meal prep. You may prepare this in advance and store it in an air-tight container in the fridge for 3–4 days. Enjoy!



# May crossword

Zoe Cushman, Contributor

## ACROSS

- 1 Record, the old-fashioned way
- 5 Golfer's shout
- 9 Twofold
- 13 Gear or consumable in a video game
- 14 Two-faced Roman deity
- 15 Jet-black
- 16 Illegitimate, as a credit card transaction
- 18 Father of Thor
- 19 Many a Christmas tree
- 20 The WHO, to French-speakers
- 21 Drain, as energy
- 23 And so on (abbreviated)
- 24 "Push It" hip-hop trio (three words)
- 27 Talk show host Winfrey
- 29 Greek goddess of the dawn
- 30 Bring into the country
- 32 Sides, as of a diamond
- 35 Vito of 'The Godfather'
- 38 Entirely
- 39 With 44A, a commonly-memed phrase from 'A Minecraft Movie'
- 41 Paddle
- 42 Particle with no electric charge
- 44 With 39A, a commonly-memed phrase from 'A Minecraft Movie'
- 46 1984 gas leak disaster location
- 47 Calgary university (abbreviated)
- 48 Campfire remnants, or what a phoenix rises from
- 50 Anti-hunger charity event (two words)
- 55 Lion constellation
- 56 Tessio of 'The Godfather'
- 58 Poet Scott-Heron
- 59 Flirt with by being insulting, in pickup artist slang
- 60 Burden, as of proof
- 62 Telephone-based job location
- 65 Canadian gas brand
- 66 Lauder of cosmetics
- 67 Skin feature
- 68 Future plant
- 69 Cast off, as fur
- 70 Price

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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60				61		62		63				64	
65						66					67		
68						69					70		

## DOWN

- 1 Squabbles
- 2 Chambers in the heart
- 3 Oyster's creation
- 4 Ostrich relative
- 5 Untrue
- 6 Number of instances of the letter V in this grid
- 7 Goes wild (two words)
- 8 \_\_\_ noche (tonight, in Spanish)
- 9 "It was me, \_\_\_!"
- 10 Tackled, as an endeavour
- 11 \_\_\_ Neru, yellow Miku module
- 12 String up, as in witch trials
- 14 Bails (two words)
- 17 Message on caution tape (three words)
- 22 Pasta-shaped water toy (two words)
- 25 Golf peg
- 26 High-pitched woodwind
- 28 Opposite of post-
- 31 Unreasonable bias
- 32 Enjoyer, as of media

- 33 Ginger drink
  - 34 Disney Mickey Mouse show
  - 36 When doubled, a hip-hop dance move
  - 37 Suffix of fish or confection
  - 40 Lightning-fast (three words)
  - 43 Word found in the clues for 1A and 35A, among others
  - 45 Standard passenger vehicle
  - 48 Medicinal plants
  - 49 Taste or touch, among others
  - 51 Gawked at
  - 52 \_\_\_ *Deep* (Sum 41 song, two words)
  - 53 Swerves
  - 54 White heron
  - 57 A standard deck has four of them
  - 61 Turf
  - 63 4G \_\_\_
  - 64 Supporting role in tabletop games (abbreviated)
- Crossword solutions are published on [uwimprint.ca](http://uwimprint.ca).



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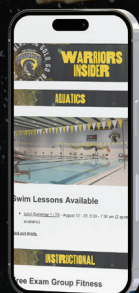
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- » **Warrior Rec Registration** opens Tuesday, May 6, 9:00 am
- » **Warrior Rec Swim Lessons** Registration opens Tuesday, May 6, 12:00 pm
- » **Intramurals** Registration closes Tuesday, May 13, 11:00 am
- » **Aquatics and Other Programming** Registration closes Monday, May 19, 12:00 pm
- » **Registration Opens:** May 6th 9 AM (12PM - aquatics)
  - Registration Closes:
    - IM: May 13th (11 AM)
    - Aquatics and other programming: May 19th (12 PM)
- » **Free Try-it:** May 5-11

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