



Imprint

Your Stories, Your Voice

June 2026
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creative with
academic help
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declare for the
PWHL draft
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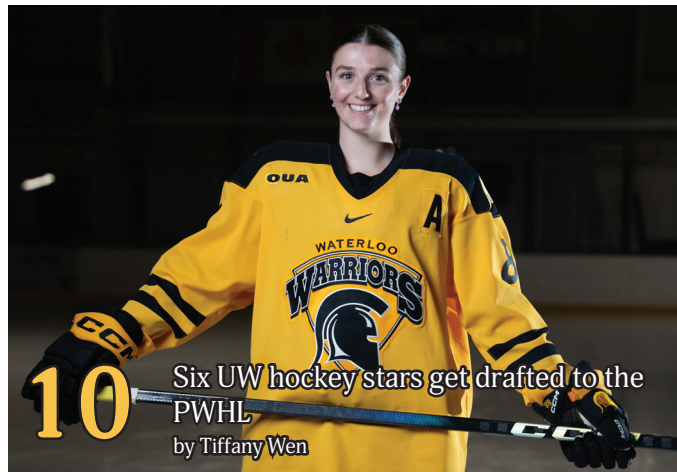
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University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1
P: 519.888.4048 | F: 519.884.7800
uwimprint.ca

Publisher: Andres Fuentes
Executive Editor: Veronica Reiner
Senior Editor: Emma Danesh
Cover Art: Gordon Lac
Cover Art Editing: Sarah An

Layout Team

Cece Ndiwa
Iqra Majeed
Nikaash Kulkarni
Nina Mathew
Sarah An

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So, will this job market get better?

Annora Jo, Contributor

During the pandemic, many layoffs and work model transition happened, but people still had the hope that the job market would recover within a few years. More specifically, what they expected about the job market's recovery was having an increase in the number of job opportunities. But the job market remained unstable as Statistics Canada data revealed that Canada lost 84,000 jobs in February 2026, while the unemployment rate of youths aged between 15 and 24 years reached 14.1 per cent, far above its pre-pandemic (2017-2019) average rate. Then, just as COVID-19 began to settle down, another shift took its place. Who would have imagined that the world reshaped by Artificial Intelligence (AI) to come by this fast? In the generation of the digital era, credentials and skills alone are no longer a sufficient factor for a successful career.

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Policy Options

Canada's labour protections aren't ready for the age of AI

Work no longer provides stability for millions of Canadians. Rising unemployment, declining job quality and the growing risk of AI-driven...

Mar 6, 2026

CTV News

The number of young people in Canada who are unemployed continues to rise. Here's what experts say

Job openings in Canada plummet to eight-year low as tech, retail hit hard

Job experts highlight a frustrating catch-22, where employers want more experience for an entry-level position, but youth can't get that experience.

Oct 1, 2025



CBC NEWS Sections

Canada's economy dropped 18,000 jobs in April as unemployment rose to 6-month high

Loss follows addition of 14,000 jobs in March

Thomson Reuters · Posted: May 08, 2026 8:59 AM EDT | Last Updated: May 8

Unemployment in Canada jumped 57% in 3 years, previously unseen outside a recession

Phillip Cross, former chief economic analyst at Statistics Canada

The Extraordinary Increase of Youth Unemployment in Canada

AI, fewer entry-level roles, and rising expectations: Why youth unemployment is surging in Canada

What to know ... The job market is not getting any kinder to young Canadians who are facing the worst of an already challenging moment according to a new report.

1 month ago

Why is the job market collapsing?

As you may have heard, the pandemic caused major job market instability, with Canada's unemployment rate reaching 13.7 per cent in May 2020, recording historic high levels since 1976. Many professionals, news and researchers predicted that hiring would begin recovering near the end of the COVID-19, and we waited, hoping for the stagnation to quickly pass. Although it has been exactly two years since the World Health Organization declared the end of a public health emergency of international concern, the job market has shifted its direction in the most unexpected way that people were not ready for.

Although there are many reasons behind what is making it harder for students to enter the job market today, there are a few commonly mentioned factors that are more relevant to students. The first is the hiring slowdown started during the pandemic which has never fully recovered. Due to lockdowns and protocols, companies had major layoffs and have maintained smaller teams since. The second is the increase of ghost job postings, which are listings that employers promote without actual intention to hire people. According to Ontario employer's legal expectations, publicly advertised job postings are now supposed to include whether AI is being used to screen or select applicants and whether the posting is for an actual vacancy. However, companies have been recently employing this tactic to attract investors, build applicant pipelines and make current employees feel replaceable.

Ajun Jo, a class of 2026 UW graduate from the honours mathematics program with a statistics major, provided a new grad's perspective about the reality of ghost postings. "There are a lot of job postings that have already finished recruiting, but [employers] never took it down or gave an update to the applicants," he said. "I think they should be letting us know whether they're hiring or not anymore, but because they wouldn't let us know, people like myself keep applying without knowing about it, which is really tough for the applicants.

However, the most significant shift is the adoption of AI. In the first six months of 2025 alone, 77,999 tech job cuts were specifically attributed to AI adoption according to statistics in 2026. For tech-focused schools like UW, especially with a co-op system that requires students to enter the workforce early on, it makes them feel this impact more directly. Ryon Jones, UW relations manager, on behalf of Co-oper-

ative and Experiential Education (CEE), noted the shifting environment of the job market. "We've seen some changes in the labour market with tariffs, trade disputes and technology, specifically AI, redefining roles." Jones pointed out that rather than students solely relying on WaterlooWorks, there has been an increase in securing jobs through diverse methods including Arrange Your Own Job, through connections or going back to their previous employer.

From a student's perspective, Jo shared a few thoughts about the impact of AI in the job market, as someone who is trying to enter the tech industry. He shared that out of around 70 applications for junior level full-time jobs, he received three interviews in the past few months. Jo stated that, despite his acceptance to a masters program on top of his UW mathematics degree and internship experiences, he feels that there are not as many job openings for individuals with similar educational background and practical experiences.

This reveals that even students with solid credentials are now feeling the pressure of the narrow prospect that the current job market offers. Joel Blit, a UW economics professor and the co-founder of the Canadian AI Adoption Initiative suggested a more cautious perspective on the impacts of AI in the current job market. "Anecdotally, certainly people are talking about there being fewer entry level jobs," he stated. "I haven't seen any really hard evidence on it or, and I certainly have not seen any causal evidence that, you know, that this is due to AI. On the other hand, it would at least fit what we might expect to happen." Adding onto this, Blit explained that companies that are adopting AI for entry-level work is a concern for students as it removes the stepping stone that allows them to learn and move up to the more complex jobs.

Are we losing or gaining from AI?

“Depending on what kind of skills you have, these technologies can either make you more productive and increase your wages, or they can replace you.”

- UW economics professor Joel Bilt

The reality is that the increase of jobs replaced by AI is not going to reduce any less. The World Economic Forum’s report found that 40 per cent of employers plan to reduce staff in roles where AI can automate tasks, and predicted that 92 million jobs would be replaced globally by 2030. Moreover, Goldman Sachs reported that AI substitution is eliminating roughly 25,000 jobs every month while its augmentation creates about 9,000 new roles.

Sean Song, a third-year mathematical finance and statistics student at UW, also shared a similar job seeking experience from the view of an international student. “For machine learning engineers, the number of recruitment has been somewhat decreased, but also the more important thing is what the companies expect for the applicants. They expect the applicants to know deeper foundational computer science knowledge than before and how to efficiently use AI.”

Song spoke about the additional barriers that international students face searching for jobs.

“There are a lot of hiring posts that require applicants to be permanent residents or have Canadian citizenship. This restricts all international students to limit the number of companies they can apply for.”

Along with his thoughts, Song recalled his experience where he had once received an offer form a U.S. company, but could not accept it due to the

tight deadline of the J1 visa application.

Regarding whether AI is a threat or help, Professor Blit made a historical comparison. “So with all these previous technologies, I guess a few things happened,” he said. “There’s a loss of jobs, and so there’s that transition period that’s difficult. Another thing that happens with all technologies is that there [are] winners and then there’s people that are adversely affected. And so depending on what kind of skills you have, these technologies can either make you more productive and increase your wages, or they can replace you.” Blit highlighted that unlike past waves of automation that replaced manufacturing workers, AI seemed to be targeting entry-level white-collar occupations.

At the same time, the daily use of AI tools raises questions about what we are losing along the integration. Blit compared the rise of AI to the introduction of calculators. “Before the invention of a calculator, people were very good at doing arithmetic. Once we had the calculator, we didn’t practice that nearly as much.” he stated.

“If we completely outsource all thinking activities to ChatGPT and we stop thinking, I’d be worried about that. But if it just changes the nature of what we do so that we focus more on tasks that are complementary to AI, things that AI can’t do, that is a natural progression.”

A new perspective is needed

These numbers and predictions may be discouraging for a generation that is just entering the professional field. However, this is not the end of successful career launching, but a complete beginning of something that did not exist before and an opportunity to become the pioneers of new forms of jobs.

Forget the past and rather than putting the emphasis on the loss of the skills that were needed in the job market before, think of it as an opportunity where we can invest in developing new skills that will be in demand in the coming job market.

“It’s often said that AI will not replace humans, but humans who use AI will replace those who do not. We’re hearing from small- to medium-sized businesses that they’re interested in learning how to bring AI into their organizations and our students are well positioned to make that happen,” Jones said, while also encouraging students to build transferable skills that can be amplified with the use of AI, such as communication, teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking and creativity.

As the nature of work itself is evolving, the job market is not going to look like it did for the past generations and we have to accept it. However, accepting reality does not mean becoming more capable than AI. It means adapting, being equipped with new kinds of expertise, and recognizing that even in this digital era shaped by automation, your humanity is the most valuable contribution you can make to this society. It is not the AI that is needed in the workforce right now, it is the new generation that is AI-native that will survive.

“AI will not replace humans, but
humans who use AI will replace
those who do not.”

-Ryon Jones, UW media relations manager

MathSoc Cartoons breaks down complex concepts

Radha Vyas, Contributor

Math and computer science at UW are getting the comic treatment through MathSoc Cartoons. The comic is published bi-weekly on Instagram and in MathNEWS. It covers a range of UW courses in statistics, computer science, combinatorics and optimization, pure mathematics, and calculus with an aim to make complex concepts easier to understand through humour and visual storytelling.

“I found the cartoons really cute. I really like drawing and topics related to math, and I think they are very informative,” said Tamar Gendler, a second-year mathematical physics student who particularly enjoyed a STAT 230 comic released last term.

The MathSoc comics were first started in winter 2020 by Gavin Orok. He was interested in educational technology and visual arts and wanted to combine the two by using cartoons to teach math concepts. He believed cartoons could make lessons more engaging while simplifying difficult technical concepts. So Orok reached out to the Visual Arts Club and recruited five artists who formed the original art team, while he personally wrote all of the sketches. The project was also inspired by a project called Sequential Math by Amanda Garcia and Giuseppe Sellaroli. Orok met them at the Canadian Mathe-

tical Society at a meeting in Toronto in the fall 2019. When he later began developing MathSoc Cartoons in winter 2020, Garcia and Sellaroli provided guidance in designing comics and correcting content errors with the original supervisor of the project, Professor Dan Wolczuk.

Although the comic’s activity gradually declined after spring 2023 due to difficulties finding students willing to continue leading the initiative, remnants of the organization continued intermittently through spring 2024 before a larger revival effort began in fall 2025.

The current MathSoc Vice President Academic (VPA) E-Therng Lee shared that their role involves overseeing academic concerns within MathSoc, including student advocacy related to courses, clubs, and academic initiatives. He said that the MathSoc Cartoons have historically been passed down through successive VPAs since their creation around 2021, remaining connected to the office primarily through budgeting and administrative support. Furthermore, Lee added that despite this connection, the initiative has largely operated independently. “They’re quite independent, so I don’t really have to oversee them or supervise them that much. But their budget passes through to me,” Lee commented.

Former VPA (in fall 2025) and current Councilor CS Representative, Valerie, shared that by fall 2025, much of the project's "institutional memory" had disappeared. Despite this, students continued to independently express interest in the initiative, even while it was inactive. She said several students approached MathSoc asking how they could get involved, including Li-Ahn Tang, the current producer of the comic. Valerie explained that reviving the initiative required rebuilding it almost entirely from scratch. This included reconnecting with former contributors, recovering old documentation, and reconstructing the organizational structure. She also worked to secure funding through MathSoc Council, the Math Endowment Fund, and the Student Life Endowment Fund. "I pulled in as many of the old guard as I could," Valerie mentioned.

Tang, a first-year mathematics and financial analysis and risk management student, has served as the producer of MathSoc Cartoons since fall 2025.

Tang described the large amount of work currently handled by the small executive team as the workload currently includes scheduling and project management responsibilities that would ideally be shared among more executive members. "We completely got rid of the design, the sketch artist, and the design role, as our artists are capable of designing their own characters themselves. The other producer roles or executive roles just weren't fulfilled," she mentioned.

Moreover, Tang explained that the comic currently operates through a collaborative structure involving writers, artists and

reviewers. Tang shared that the producer position is unpaid, while writers and artists receive compensation through the group's budget, funded through MathSoc and the Math Endowment Fund. Reviewers participate on a volunteer basis. At the end of each term, the team hosts a giveaway in which reviewers can receive a \$50 e-gift card of their choice.

One of the reviewers, Mica Morante, described the review process as involving emails and Google Forms containing prototype sketches of comics alongside information about the course each comic is based on. Morante said that while particularly reviewing a STAT 230 comic, they approached the material from the perspective of someone with limited background knowledge in math in order to evaluate whether the explanations were understandable to readers unfamiliar with the topic. "I actually downloaded the pictures on my iPad and drew directly on them to point out parts I didn't understand, or places where maybe the wording could be changed, or variables could be noted. I also added some suggestions," she said. Further, Morante added that reviewers are generally expected to review comics for courses they have already completed so they can better assess whether the material is being explained clearly and accurately. With that, Morante also expressed interest in seeing future comics focused on graph theory.

As Tang shared, the comic team is continuing to recruit new members, particularly reviewers. Any current UW math students interested in participating are encouraged to join.

CS 116: EFFICIENCY

STORY BY ATLASLYNK | ART BY YEJIN KIM

TODAY IS ANOTHER DAY OF LESSONS WITH THE MAGE AND HER APPRENTICE.

I WILL BE TEACHING YOU EFFICIENCY, THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO CAST A SPELL.

ALTHOUGH MAGIC IS INCALCULABLE AND GIVES US INFINITE POSSIBILITIES TO DO A SINGLE THING, A MAGE HAS ONLY SO MUCH ENERGY TO PUT INTO SPELLS, AND CAN ONLY MAINTAIN A SPELL FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME.

AN EXPERIENCED MAGE MUST LEARN TO REDUCE WASTED ENERGY AND TIME TO CAST POWERFUL SPELLS.

TO CLASSIFY A SPELL'S EFFICIENCY, MAGES USE BIG-O NOTATION TO DENOTE HOW ITS RUNTIME OR RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS GROW.

FRANK DEFINITION: LET z BE A REAL-VALUED FUNCTION OF n . THE ORDER OF z IS THE SMALLEST n SUCH THAT THERE EXISTS A CONSTANT c SUCH THAT $z(n) \leq c \cdot n^k$ FOR ALL $n \geq n_0$.

ORDINARY BEGINNER MAGE "LOOKS UP".

WHAT DOES O STAND FOR, MASTER?

WHEN COMPARING SPELLS, THE MOST EFFICIENT ONE SHALL HAVE THE LOWEST ORDER.

TODAY, I WILL SHOW YOU EXAMPLES OF THESE ORDERS.

THIS DRAGONSTEEL ANKLET I HAVE HERE, PLEASE REMEMBER IT.

I WILL THROW THIS WITHIN THE STACK OF STONES, AND I WANT YOU TO FIND IT.

VERY GOOD.

THIS IS $O(1)$ TIME. THE RUNNING TIME REMAINS CONSTANT REGARDLESS OF THE INPUT SIZE.

THAT'S EASY!

SINCE YOUR ANKLET IS MADE FROM METAL, I CAN FIND IT WITH A MAGNETISM SPELL.

$O(1) < O(\log n) < O(n) < O(n \log n) < O(n^2) < O(n^3) < O(2^n)$

MATHSOC

1

MEF

NEXT, NOTICE ALL THE STONES HAVE A UNIQUE SYMBOL ON IT.

THE OBVIOUS SOLUTION IS TO CHECK THE STONES ONE BY ONE, BUT...

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO FIND THE STONE ADORNED WITH THIS SYMBOL.

THIS WILL TAKE FOREVER!

THAT'S THE POINT, APPRENTICE.

WITH YOUR METHOD, THE SPELL RUNTIME INCREASES LINEARLY. THIS IS $O(n)$ TIME.

IN OTHER WORDS, EVERY STONE IN THIS PILE ADDS THE SAME AMOUNT OF WORK TO MAINTAIN YOUR SPELL.

THIS METHOD WORKS FOR A FEW STONES, BUT IT WOULD BE EXHAUSTING FOR A THOUSAND STONES, OR IF MY REQUEST WAS MORE COMPLICATED.

HOW ABOUT THIS I WILL ORGANIZE THESE STONES IN ORDER OF MAGICAL STRENGTH...

YOU CAN ASK ME YES OR NO QUESTIONS TO ELIMINATE THEIR UNTIL YOU FIND THE ONE.

IS THE STONE STRONGER THAN MALACHITE?

YES.

IS IT STRONGER THAN OBSIDIAN?

NO.

STRONGER THAN ONYX?

YES. VERY GOOD.

MATHSOC

2

MEF

THIS METHOD MIMICS $O(\log n)$ OR LOGARITHMIC TIME. THE SPELL'S RUNTIME WILL INCREASE VERY SLOWLY AS THE INPUT INCREASES.

IN PRACTICE, BECAUSE YOU WERE REDUCING THE NUMBER OF STONES TO CONSIDER FOR EVERY QUESTION AT A CONSTANT FACTOR, THE NUMBER OF STONES WE STARTED WITH IMPACTED THE TOTAL TIME VERY LITTLE.

HM...

MASTER, COULD YOU PLEASE CHOOSE ANOTHER STONE?

SURE!

IF I CREATE A SPELL THAT COMPARED EACH STONE AGAINST EVERY OTHER STONE, AND CHANGED EVERY OTHER STONE... THAT TO APPLY TO ALL STONES...

I THINK IT GOES LIKE THIS...

BOOM

THAT WAS A QUADRATIC $O(n^2)$ TIME SPELL YOU WERE MAKING!

EACH NEW INPUT ADDED MEANS ANOTHER FULL SPELL AGAINST EVERY EXISTING STONE, AND WITH EVERY EXISTING SPELL, YOU GAVE YOUR SPELL TOO MANY INPUTS TO HANDLE...

MATHSOC

3

MEF



Six UW hockey stars get drafted to the PWHL

Tiffany Wen, Staff Writer

Nationally and popularly, UW is known for its excellent STEM programs, its strides in innovation and intense academic rigour. However, the athletic success of UW students continuously proves itself to be just as impressive. UW's women's hockey team has players looking to leave their mark on sports history.

Prior to the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL), professional women's hockey was seen in the Canadian Women's Hockey League and the National Women's Hockey League. The Canadian league eventually ceased operations in 2019. As the PWHL was recently formed back in 2023, it started with three Canadian teams and three American teams. In its third season, the league has added two expansion teams, one in Seattle and one in Vancouver. The 2026 player draft features an all time high of 236 player declarations, with six of them being from the UW.

Members of the UW hockey team were recently the national champion runner ups in the 2024-2025 season, coming behind only the Bishop's University Gaiters. And from the 2025-2026 season, five of the PWHL draft eligible players were on the UW team.

But to look more personally at the girls who are in an incredibly special moment in their lives, many of them reflect fondly on their time at UW with the other girls on the team and look forward to what's ahead.

Carly Orth, originally from Bolton, has been playing hockey her entire life. When it came to choosing universities, she mentions that the National Collegiate Athletic Association is the route kids go to because it is looked at differently than U Sports. In her last season with the team, she managed to achieve an impressive 27 points across 32 games (12 goals, 15 assists). Her dad played hockey in Germany, her brother was a goalie, and her mother played competitive basketball. She mentions that having parents with a sports background and a competitive brother helped a lot. When there were times she didn't know what to do on the ice, she would go to her dad. When the sport was mentally challenging, she would go to her mom. As a kid she mentioned that there is not much to look up to in regards to female hockey players. However, she states, "but now, it's incredible to look up to and keeps me going and striving."

Now, as Orth has recently graduated with a masters in digital experience innovation and an undergraduate degree in recreational sports business and event management, she has always known she wanted to continue playing hockey. Orth states: "I put my name in the draft in case something comes up, but I'm looking to continue hockey no matter what, and whatever I can get I will definitely take." As for her

time in Waterloo, she's always been able to balance hockey, school, and work. "I love to be busy, and I got so organized and good at time management," Orth remarked. She even had a co-op experience that she sourced herself, in which she was able to work for a women's hockey team as part of a smaller league.

Orth notes: "I saw how much the girls love playing, even when there weren't thousands in the crowds. Now, there is so much more support."

As she

pre-
pares for
the draft,
Orth noted

she is incredibly excited and not taking the opportunity for granted. She continues to try and tries to live in the moment. While she's excited for what's ahead, she also mentions missing the other girls on the team. When talking about them, she says, "They're all hardworking girls and I'll miss them. When they put their mind to something, those girls are getting it done and that's why I love playing with them. They were there early and leaving late. But, whatever comes next, I'm excited for everything they do." In fact, Orth mentions living with another teammate and eligible draft player, Tatum James.



Carly Orth, Forward #16

Paul Sherk

James is originally from Stratford and has been playing hockey since she was about five years old. Both her brothers played hockey, and she wanted to be just like them. From a small town, she had to start playing on the boys team, but even moving onto the women's team, she couldn't play at a very high level in the small town.

She originally committed and went to Providence College in Rhode Island, but was not there for too long. When asked about why she decided to leave, she says "It didn't have anything to do with hockey, I just wanted to come closer to home." As she came back and toured a bunch of schools, she mentioned the culture of the Waterloo hockey team. When speaking about the other girls on the team, she states, "I'm so proud of them. I've gotten to play with so many amazing players. The girls are my best friends and we chat about it [the draft] everyday. I wish them all the best for the draft."

She recently graduated this past season with

an undergraduate degree in therapeutic recreation. But more specifically, when talking about her time playing hockey, she remarks, "When I step on the ice, I'm in a different world. I can be creative and competitive." In the past season, Tatum achieved 26 points in 32 games (15 goals, 11 assists). As she has declared eligibility for the draft as well, she talks about the conception of the PWHL and how it's "about time" that the hard work women put into hockey is finally receiving the recognition it deserves. As she waits for the draft, she mentions training everyday and playing in an off-season 4 versus 4 league in Waterloo. She's been taking the time to relax and

spend time with friends and family while trying to take in the moment. In saying farewell to UW, James states, "It was an incredible time and journey. Being at Waterloo really helped me grow as a player and person. Thank you, Waterloo and go Warriors!"



Tatum James, Forward #88

Katina Duscio, originally from Kitchener, has just finished her fourth year in psychology, and has recently transferred to UW. While she originally attended St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, she made the difficult decision as she wanted to be challenged on and off the ice. Coming to UW, Duscio met the head coach and the other girls on the team during the camps that were held. She mentions enjoying seeing the dynamic between the players and coaches.

Duscio has played hockey since she was six years old and has played a variety of sports, like softball, up until university. Interestingly, she's a triplet and her siblings also play high level hockey and softball, pushing each other to succeed. Duscio mentions loving the competitiveness of the game and always competing against her siblings. While there are days that aren't 100 per cent, she mentions the people on the team continue to get her on the rink. When

talking about declaring eligibility, Duscio states, "I've always dreamed of being a professional athlete and continuing to chase the dream is something I'm grateful for.

Having the opportunity to be eligible on its own is really special to me... I'd be grateful for any opportunity to play and the talent is incredible."

In the past season, she achieved 22 points in 31 games (4 goals, 18 assists).

Duscio is currently taking a full load of summer courses as she also tries to take things day by day, not trying to worry too much about what's ahead. As she continues to train, she also makes time for hobbies like biking and rollerblading.



Katina Duscio, #19

Keiara Raitt has also declared eligibility, having played the past season with Duscio, James, and Orth. She achieved 20 points in 20 games (14 goals, 6 assists). Lyndsy Acheson, another player on the team has declared, achieving 15 points in 32 games (3 goals, 12 assists). UW alum Krystin Lawrence has also declared eligibility.



Lyndsy Acheson, Defence #42



Keiara Raitt, Forward #23

“I’ve always dreamed of being a professional athlete and continuing to chase the dream is something I’m grateful for. Having the opportunity to be eligible on its own is really special to me... I’d be grateful for any opportunity to play and the talent is incredible.”

— Katina Duscio

“They’re all hardworking girls and I’ll miss them. When they put their mind to something, those girls are getting it done and that’s why I love playing with them.”

— Carly Orth

UW's classical studies department

earning global recognition

Zunairah Shahzad, Contributor

When people think of UW, classical studies is likely not the first program that comes to mind. Waterloo is internationally known for programs like engineering, mathematics, and computer science.

However, one of the newest international achievements comes from a surprisingly small department in the arts faculty. Earlier this year, UW announced that 15 of its subjects were ranked in the top 100 in the world in the QS World University Rankings. Classical studies was the only arts department to make the list. It ranked in the 51-100 range worldwide for classics and ancient history, and fourth in Canada.

For a department with just eight faculty members, the recognition was thrilling. "We were, of course, thrilled to hear this news," said Andrew Faulkner, chair of the classics department. "Given that we are a small department, it is a particular honour to be ranked amongst many of the best programs in classical studies globally." The ranking places Waterloo with many other universities that have bigger and well established classics departments.

Professor David Porreca, co director of medieval studies, said the achievement is especially notable given the department's size. "Our department punches way above its weight," he said. "The three other Canadian universities that were ranked above us in this category have at least double the number of faculty members in the relevant category than we have here at UW."

Both Faulkner and Porreca agree that the combination of great teaching, active research, and student success in the program plays a big role in establishing this reputation. "We strive to create a culture of high-quality teaching in combination with research productivity," Faulkner said. "The two are closely connected."

The department of classical studies at Waterloo provides

expertise in many areas, including languages, history, literature, and material cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world and medieval studies. "What makes Waterloo unique is that classical studies is an inherently interdisciplinary department," Faulkner said.

The department frequently collaborates across fields due to its breadth. "We have many organic connections with other departments and we hope that the breadth of our programs is appealing to students," he said.

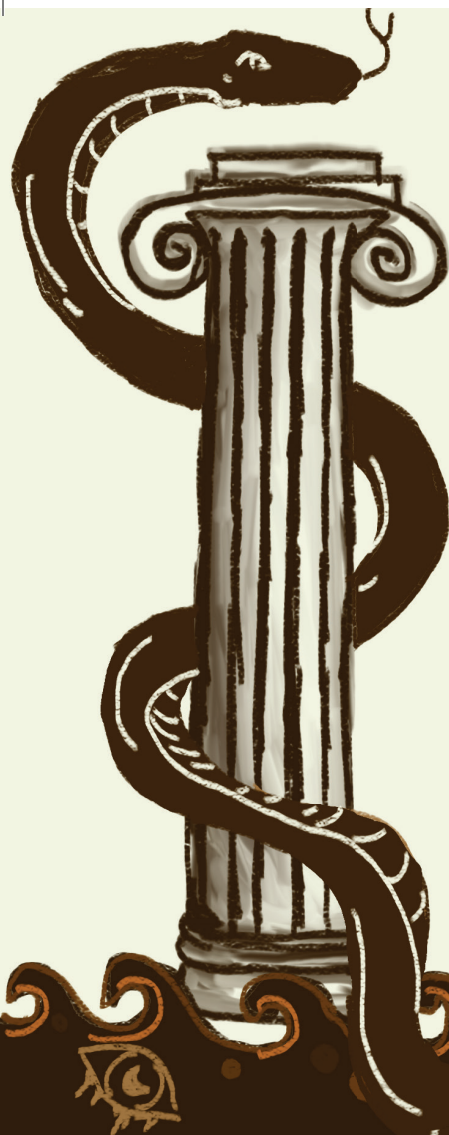
One of the department's biggest strengths is their close community. Students get to know their faculty better in smaller classes, and they are more directly involved in research and discussion. Faulkner said those personal connections are something the department values deeply. "We hope that the close interaction that our students have with all of the professors in the department makes a difference to them, both in advancing their learning and in creating a community."

The department's study abroad programs have also made a significant impact on the students. "Our study abroad courses are always life-changing experiences for our students," Faulkner said.

Faculty members also continue to be active participants in a range of international research initiatives outside of the classroom. "Our faculty members have many exciting research projects underway at the moment, which involve them and our students in international networks," Faulkner stated.

Most recently, the Waterloo Institute for Hellenistic Studies has been busy, holding a Homer Appreciation Day conference in April that brought together researchers and students. The ranking also reflects the success of Waterloo graduates.

According to Porreca, many alumni have furthered their education by earning doctorates at such prestigious schools as Harvard University, Columbia University, Oxford Univer-



sity, Cambridge University, and the University of Toronto. Nevertheless, the future of the department will not be without any challenges.

Some uncertainty about staffing exists because three of the eight faculty in the department will retire in the next few years. “It is critical for the success of our students and our programs that at least one of these positions get approval for a replacement,” Porreca said.

In addition, the department is also preparing for the restructuring of the faculty of arts effective July 1. With the restructuring, programs in classical studies will form part of the school of social, political, and historical research.

Faulkner sees opportunities in the change. “The interdisciplinary nature of our programs creates strong ties already with other programs in the new school and we feel that these can be strengthened further,” he said.

At the same time, he emphasized the importance of continued institutional support. “Our QS ranking shows that we can achieve a lot with the necessary support. As we move forward, we want to continue this success.”

The ranking may be recent, but the work behind it is not. For a department consisting of eight faculty members, the recognition is the result of countless hours spent teaching, researching, and supporting students. As the department enters a new chapter, the faculty hopes to build on that success in the years ahead.



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Check out active clubs at clubs.wusa.ca & follow [@wusaclubs](https://twitter.com/wusaclubs) for upcoming events!



Eight books to add to your summer reading list

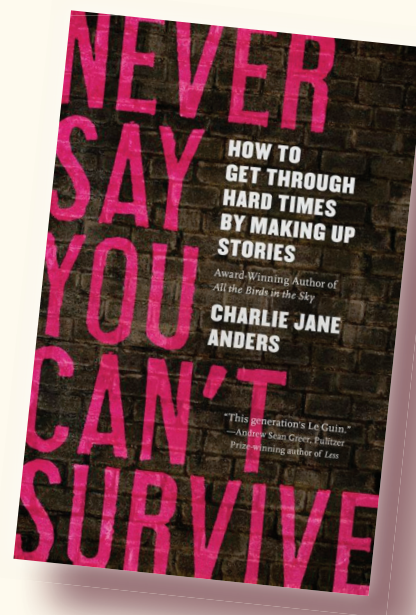
Angela Li, Senior Editor
Lylah Adler, Contributor

The cold of winter gives way to sunlight and the brightness of summer brings energy back into our lives, making it a great time to pick up a new book or two. Whether you're looking for a short and sweet read between classes or something adventurous for the travel season, we hope one of these reads will spark something inside you. Here are eight book recommendations for the summer, spanning a wide spectrum of genres and celebrating the diversity of human experiences highlighted across the summer months.

Never Say You Can't Survive

Written by Charlie Jane Anders, 240 pages
Genre: Non-fiction, memoir

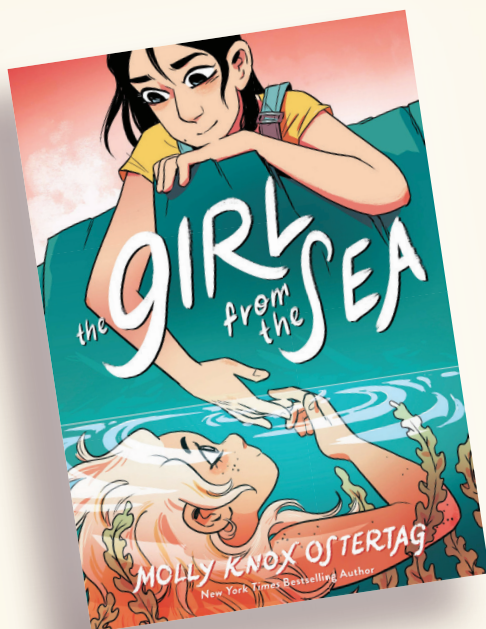
With the rise of AI and world events that make the future seem more uncertain than ever, creative pursuits can feel daunting and even irrelevant while you're trying to survive. This book says otherwise. Part pep talk and part general writing guide, *Never Say You Can't Survive* encourages readers to write as an act of resilience and resistance when the world feels like it's crashing down. Readers will find tips on how to shape a narrative, work through writer's block, and make storytelling an act of catharsis. All of that is interlaced with the author's personal anecdotes of writing during the COVID-19 lockdowns to make an accessible, and hopefully, inspiring non-fiction read.



The Girl from the Sea

Written and illustrated by Lee (formerly Molly) Knox Ostertag, 255 pages
Genre: Graphic novel, LGBT, fantasy

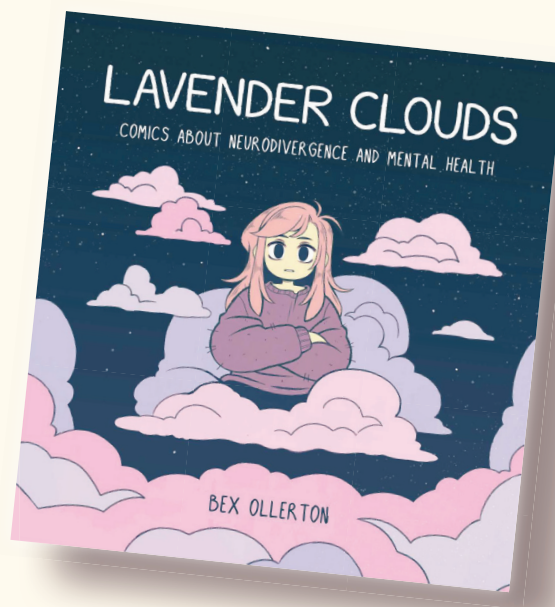
June is Pride Month, and this graphic novel features a cute queer story perfect for reading at the beach. Morgan Kwon has been dealing with a lot — her parents' divorce, feeling out of place among her friends, and the realization that she's gay. She's biding her time until she can leave for university, where she hopes she can be her true self. The sudden appearance of a selkie near her home in Nova Scotia sparks a summer romance that throws her plans into disarray. With beautiful art and story by a transgender author, this book is great for those starting to dip their toes into queer comics and stories.



Lavender Clouds

Written and illustrated by Bex Ollerton, 140 pages
Genre: Graphic novel, non-fiction, memoir

In honour of Disability Pride Month in July, here's a graphic novel for the members of UW's neurodivergent community. UK artist Bex Ollerton writes about living with autism and ADHD (AuDHD) while trying, and struggling sometimes, to balance her mental health. Her story chronicles common AuDHD struggles like executive dysfunction and social anxiety, but also the joys of self-acceptance as she learns to walk her own path at her own pace. This book provides a relatable glimpse into the life of someone with AuDHD and is a great starting point for anyone curious about what it's like to be neurodivergent, regardless of whether you're officially diagnosed.



Girl: A Novel

Written by Camille Laurens and translated by Adriana Hunter,
256 pages
Genre: Fiction, feminism
TW: sexual abuse and domestic violence

Growing up in 1960s northern France, Laurence Barraqué learns early on that being a girl means being less than. When her father answers a census question about children with, “no, I have two daughters,” the tone is set for a lifetime of quiet dismissals. The second half of the book shifts to Laurence as a mother, as she grapples with what it means to raise a daughter in the same world that diminished her — what to pass down and what to leave behind. If you are interested in feminism and a deep-seated look into the experience of being a girl, this might be the book for you!



The Book of Beijing

Edited by Bingbing Shi, 196 pages
Genre: Fiction, short stories

August is Women in Translation Month, created to showcase works by authors of marginalized genders who write in a language other than English. And what better time to dip into translated literature than during travel season? *The Book of Beijing* is an anthology that features 10 short stories, each by a different writer with ties to the city. Every story sheds light on Beijing and its people as the city changes over time. You'll meet characters like the fake ID seller known as “Mountain Goat” who watches his former comrades leave the black market for honest lives, the woman who mourns the Beijing of the past, and two college friends whose paths drifted apart before bumping into each other on the subway. This book is part of Comma Press's *Reading the City* series, a translated collection of works each focusing on a different city around the world through the eyes of those living in it.



The Vanishing Half

Written by Brit Bennett, 343 pages

Genre: Historical fiction

TW: domestic violence, sexual assault, lynching, racism

Black twin sisters Desiree and Estella Vignes grow up in Mallard, Louisiana, and run away together at 16, but that's where their shared story ends. Spanning from the 1950s to the 1990s, the novel follows their wildly diverging lives: one sister returns to their tight-knit hometown, while the other passes for white and builds an entirely new identity. When both of their daughters cross paths, long-buried secrets and the weight of their mothers' choices begin to surface. If you are interested in the Jim Crow era and black identity with a sisterly twist, this magical book might be your next pick!



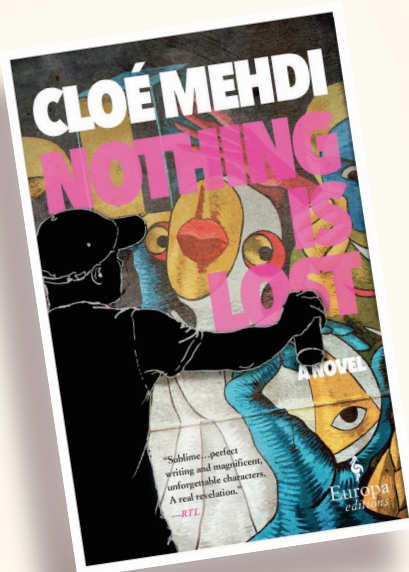
Nothing is Lost

Written by Cloé Mehdi and translated by Howard Curtis,
288 pages

Genre: Fiction, urban noir, murder mystery

TW: Suicide, police brutality

On the outskirts of Paris, 11-year-old Mattia is suspicious after 15-year-old Saïd is killed during a police check. He wants to uncover the truth behind all the death he has experienced, including his father who coincidentally killed himself after the protests for Saïd's death. After his sister ran away and his mother "gave" him away, Mattia is determined to uncover Saïd's case of political injustice and all of the mental health crises that keep occurring in the town. This thriller is sure to give you a new perspective on a murder mystery through the young eyes of Mattia.



Born at the End of the World

Written by Donica Merhazion, 384 pages

Genre: Historical fiction

TW: torture, child marriage, child abuse

Set in 1970s Ethiopia, 13-year-old Elen flees to Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, to find her aunt and escape an arranged marriage. Girmai, the male protagonist, flees to Asmara to escape his abusive stepmother after his father dies. The two protagonists separately build their prosperous lives until the Derg regime overthrows the Eritrean government and soldiers are deployed to torture and kill civilians. The novel follows them in alternating sections, eventually converging during their shared fight for justice. If you like historical fiction with a bittersweet love story, you will want to sink your teeth into this based-on-a-true-story novel.





Turning the tassel: Reflecting on graduation and growth

Carla Stocco, Staff Writer

After five years pursuing an undergraduate degree, five co-op work terms, a double major, double specialization, minor, finally, my degree had come to a close.

Seeing my degree awarded to me on Quest, I felt a sense of ambivalence about this accomplishment. On the surface, wasn't this what I'd worked for and shouldn't I be celebrating? I finally completed my bachelor's degree at UW and was accepted to every master's program I'd applied to. I made meaningful connections and friendships and learned so much more about who I was and what I cared about at university. Yet completing undergrad felt oddly like bitter-sweet relief, with a deeper undercurrent of grief. For me, perhaps the grief stems from a fear that the following one-year of grad school at UW will go by all too quickly - and I'll be faced with further changes. Convocation reminds us of the passage of time and sometimes, even with an idea of what kind of career you'd like post-graduation, you might still feel insecurity of what the future holds after your education is complete.

From convocation to the workplace: Insights from a math graduate

Catherine McCulloch, a recent UW math graduate, shared that it took her eight months of job searching to land a full-time position. After graduating, she began applying more consistently and upon doing so "got a job offer [she] liked in two months." As of present, McCulloch works at an insurance company, which although not in her field, "is related to what [she] want[s] to do." She adds that her current job responsibilities don't make use of what she learned via her degree, but that she hopes to gain more work experience, over time developing a clearer picture of what she wishes to do in her career.

Asked about any challenges transitioning from life as a student to that of a full-time worker, she admits that schedul-

ing appointments or activities during the day was simpler as a student. Due to daytime working hours, she shared "it can be tricky to schedule appointments outside of when I have to be at work." Otherwise, she enjoys the structure that working the same schedule offers.

As for what's supported her in successfully adapting to a new routine post-graduation, she credits intentionally scheduling time for friends, exercise, and hobbies as her main supports. She adds that she "still schedules blocks of 'leisure time' for [herself] otherwise [she can] get sidetracked with work and doomscrolling."

Between two chapters: The struggle of identity and ambiguity

Graduating from any degree is often advertised as a milestone, a celebratory moment. But what happens when you find yourself standing between two thresholds? With my student card no longer working on the Grand River Transit, it felt clear to me how quickly my five-year identity as an undergrad student was stripped. No longer an undergraduate student and not yet a graduate student, I feel a sense that I am untethered. Even just a temporary lack of a label, perhaps it should feel like freedom and yet it feels somewhat like drifting when constant structure has become a given for so many of us.

An article from Psychology Today by Rob Danzman, a Nationally Certified Counsellor, addresses the psychological toll of graduating and seeking to make sense of your next step. It describes how so many graduating university students experience a kind of 'identity crisis' upon graduating. For those choosing not to pursue graduate school, this hits even harder, as you are immediately thrust into the workplace where the syllabi and assignments of university are no more. He emphasizes that feelings of sadness, anxiety, or just feeling 'off' post-graduation are to be expected. After years of structured

education, those jumping straight into the workforce are met with a life of “infinite options and zero instructions.”

The ambiguity that follows a long life path of structured education is rarely a simple adjustment. Danzman touches on the very human longing for certainty and predictability. He adds, “When [graduates] enter this weird liminal space—between the life they’ve known and the one they’re still trying to build—it’s psychologically exhausting.” When the academic pressures along the way to receiving your degree finally end, it can feel overwhelming to find a new kind of pressure waiting: uncertainty.

Further, the article mentions how intertwined our identities can become to a university environment. Danzman describes how a student tends to feel during their undergrad years, “In college, their identity was basically baked in: their major, their friend group, their clubs, their frat, the late-night pizza place that knew their order. They were someone, in a community of someones.”

When convocation ceremonies and bouquets encourage us to view the end of our education as simply ‘moving forward’, we brush over the reality that even the happiest endings can feel like loss. At UW, with each year structured into fall, winter, and spring terms, there’s often an unspoken feeling that even if one term didn’t quite pan out as you’d hoped, there’s a chance to begin anew in the next term. Danzman describes this same feeling as, “The freedom to try stuff without the world watching. The chance to reinvent [yourself] every semester.” The very real loss of routine and familiarity is something we may try to gloss over, behind well-meaning sentiments of moving forward and finding your next big break. Yet, as Danzman suggests, “unprocessed grief doesn’t disappear.” Maybe the permission to give voice to loss can be the first step in processing this ending, in a way that doesn’t pretend to disguise an ending as void of grief.

Danzman acknowledges that while there is not concrete guide to navigating such ambiguity post-graduation, he offers some suggestions that may support new grads:

Normalize the challenge

Rather than avoiding open conversations about how you’re feeling, Danzman encourages grads to recognize that most of their friends are experiencing equally conflicting emotions. In sharing your experiences with others, you just might find some connection to ease this transition.



Avoid excessive future life planning

Although LinkedIn may make 10-year life plans appear the norm, the truth is that post-grad, focusing on your next step, whether it’s a full-time job, summer job, or preparing for grad school life, is your best option. Focus on what your next smallest step forward is and know your first full-time job or first month as a grad student doesn’t need to be perfect. Trial and error may just allow a broader vision to emerge.



Develop new routines

During your degree, structure was built-in via class schedules or extracurriculars. Try recreating a similar structure by having set wake-up times and intentionally scheduling workouts or activities.



Grieve this ending

It’s important to intentionally feel whatever emotions (be it sadness, excitement, or anxiety) that arise post-graduation. Danzman emphasizes acknowledging graduation as a real loss and remembering that it’s only through feeling in the present, that we can move towards the future.

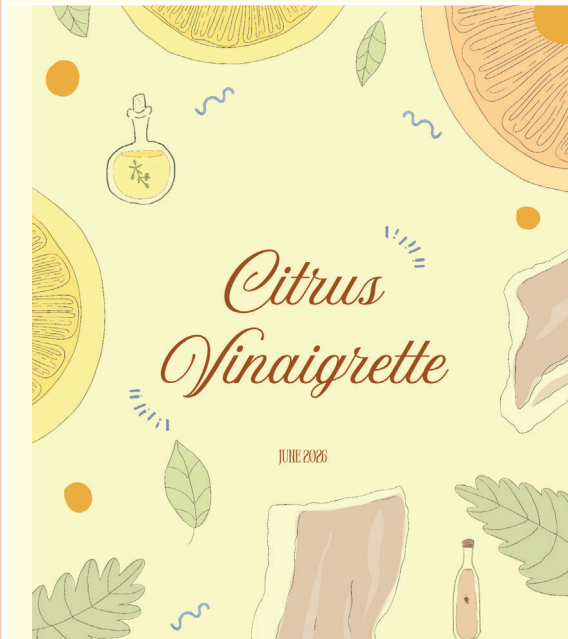


Make friends with uncertainty

Danzman puts it bluntly; “no one knows what they’re doing.” He adds that especially in one’s 20s, most of us are figuring things out along the way. Use ambiguity as a reminder that the future isn’t limited, meaning so much can be possible.

Prosciutto salad with citrus vinaigrette

Ingrid Au, Contributor



For each month of the spring term, I will introduce a primary ingredient and illustrate its capabilities through a key dish. For June, the ingredient of the month is... acid! Now, acids may sound intimidating. However, they come in many forms, often to enhance textures, balance flavours, or add a refreshing element. This includes citrus fruits, vinegar, wine, buttermilk, citric acid and many more. Acids, in the form of marinades, can enhance the texture of poultry by tenderising the meat. It may also balance flavours by reducing the richness of certain ingredients. For instance, wine is added to a bolognese sauce to reduce the richness of the meat. In other words, citrus and acids go perfectly with meats or cured meats due to their acidic characteristics.

For this month, a prosciutto salad with citrus vinaigrette is the perfect dish to illustrate these acidic characteristics. The citrus fruits and vinaigrette capture the refreshing element of acids while balancing the richness of the prosciutto. With that, I hope you enjoy this recipe and learn a bit about how acids perform!

Ingredients

Citrus vinaigrette:

- 3 tbsp of orange juice (without pulp)
- 2 tbsp of lemon juice
- 2 tbsp of red wine vinegar, apple cider vinegar or distilled white vinegar
- ¼ cup of extra virgin olive oil
- 1 ½ tbsp of honey
- 1 tsp of salt
- A pinch of black pepper

Prosciutto salad:

- ½ - ¾ cup of prosciutto, based on your preference of saltiness and richness
- 1 ¼ cup of Italian green mix or greens of your choice
- Optional: shaved parmesan or feta cheese

Tools

- Large mixing bowl
- Tongs and a mixing spoon
- Small jar or mason jar
- Optional: baking sheet and parchment paper

Instructions

1. In a small jar or mason jar, combine the orange and lemon juice, vinegar, extra virgin olive oil, honey, salt and black pepper. Shake to mix well.
2. In a large salad bowl, combine the Italian green mix, vinaigrette dressing and prosciutto.
3. Optionally, you can fry the prosciutto to add a crunchy element to the salad. Preheat the oven to 375F and line your baking sheet with parchment paper. Spread the prosciutto evenly across the baking sheet and bake in the oven for 10-15 minutes or until the prosciutto is crispy and slightly golden. The cooking time will depend on the thickness of your prosciutto, so be attentive to the oven to ensure they don't get burned.
4. Let the mixture completely cool and store the compote in a large mason jar or an airtight container.

With the hot summer approaching, a salad is the perfect dish to refresh your palate! I hope you learned and experienced a few things about acids. Enjoy!

June crossword

Joseph Cushman, Contributor

ACROSS

- 1 Fictional pairing, in fandom
 5 Former East German secret police
 10 Text message status it can be unpleasant to be left on
 14 Ross of Corus Entertainment
 15 Niall of One Direction
 16 Guthrie of folk
 17 Zilch
 18 Beloveds, in internet slang
 19 "Fiddlesticks!"
 20 Labour rights group
 22 Recesses within a cathedral
 24 With 38A, free ad-filtering browser extension
 26 ___: Legacy (film featuring music by Daft Punk)
 27 Category
 30 Wetland variety
 31 Nintendo dinosaur
 33 Sleep concern
 35 Focuses on, as a prize
 37 Confidentiality contract (abbreviated)
 38 See 24A
 39 ___ and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe (2012 coming-of-age novel)
 42 Often-cursed item
 45 Cry of frustration
 46 Desperate, as a situation
 50 Group of judges
 51 "I love my ___ - all my friends are inside it" (meme phrase)
 53 Company big boss (abbreviated)
 54 Programmer Lovelace
 55 Idle status
 57 Elementary school break time
 59 Like shiny floors
 61 Riz of Hollywood
 62 Blue-green colour
 64 "Superscar" artist
 66 Molecule component
 69 Star ___ (sci-fi franchise)
 70 Animal product-free diet
 71 Dreamcast maker
 72 Nabisco cookie
 73 Double-___ sword
 74 Where the sun rises?
- ## DOWN
- 1 ION stop (abbreviated)
 2 Neighbourhood rule-making group (abbreviated)

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- 3 Pamper
 4 Quietly, as on the instrument of the same name
 5 Sealed the deal, in a way (three words)
 6 Animated character
 7 What you've got up your sleeve?
 8 Default browser on iOS
 9 Reference material, as for an outfit (abbreviated)
 10 Hard-to-find
 11 Wiping the slate clean
 12 Netrunner Cunningham from the Cyberpunk franchise
 13 Sequel to card game UNO
 21 Standoffish
 23 Guard dog's warning
 24 Purple yam
 25 "When I was a young ___" (iconic My Chemical Romance lyric)
 26 "Not to be ___, but..." (two words)
 28 Hawaiian garland
 29 Reives Gao of Freebird Games
 32 Renison-based BA program (abbreviated)
 34 White-and-patterned ball python
 36 Discount event
 38 "On the ___..." (two words)
 40 Chill out
 41 Horse's high-energy food
 42 MLA alternative (abbreviated)
 43 Furious
 44 Oblivious
 47 Fuze or Brisk (two words)
 48 On-campus living quarters (abbreviated)
 49 Greek goddess of the dawn
 51 Embellished, as a résumé
 52 Sleep state known for dreams (abbreviated)
 56 Work on a loom
 58 Discontinue
 60 Furthermore
 61 Wings, as of a bug
 62 The only even prime number
 63 Musician's asset
 65 Contender in the "what came first?" debate
 67 Day-ones (abbreviated)
 68 Mudroom feature

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