



O'SNAP

Guelph Engineering Society Monthly Magazine

IN THIS ISSUE

**MY FIVE YEARS AT
GUELPH**

**INTRODUCING THE NEW
O'SNAP COORDINATOR**

**11 BOOKS FOR THE 12
WEEKS OF SUMMER**

Student of the Month

By Alexia Pittas

Hi Everyone!

My student of the month nomination is Olivia Gair who will be the 2021-2022 O'Snap coordinator. She has just completed her first year of Biomedical Engineering completely online and is excited to begin her second year at Guelph in the fall of 2021.

When Olivia isn't busy with school she's writing and taking photos for her clientele as a freelance artist. Now I can't imagine a more multitalented individual who is capable of curating O'Snap articles for the incoming year.

Besides being engaged in arts and sciences Olivia loves collecting patches you should definitely message her if you have a rare patch you want to trade.



Photo Courtesy of Olivia Gair



My five years at Guelph

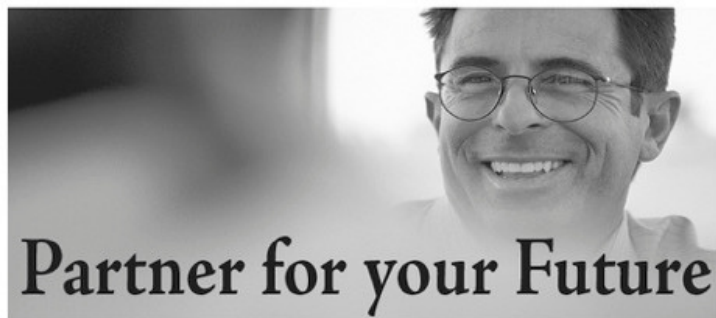
by Alexia Pittas

Sometime in March of 2016, I remember ripping open mail from the University of Guelph and letting out an excited squeal when I saw the word congratulations on my acceptance letter, Class of 2020 here I come. Then September 2016 came and I moved into 123 Seaway Maritime where I spent many late nights doing mastering chemistry and eating spicy fries from the Mountain Caf.

After finishing what I thought was the hardest school year of my life second year came and I failed two classes. A record-breaking 100+ students would have to retake ENGG*2400 and I'm glad I did because that is where I met my best friend ever who helped me realize that it is okay to fall as long as you get back up.

Together we crushed 2400 and couldn't wait for what the rest of undergrad had prepared for us.

Next was my third year and oh boy was I ever ready to pull my grades up, but anxiety got the best of me and I was suffering from panic attacks daily. Once I found support from my amazing peers, family and friends I was able to manage those anxious symptoms and get back to academics. From this I learned that there was no "normal" way to do life or school you just do your best and that is all you can ask of yourself. Also, it was only after reaching out and realizing out for help that I found that I wasn't alone in struggling with my mental health. From my experiences I met the most wonderful group of girls that I would spend the rest of undergrad studying and (more importantly) partying with.



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After my third year came fourth, where it was smooth sailing being in only four classes with no 8:30 am starts insight. I moved into a new house with the best roommates ever and attended many engineering events where I networked with professors and students across Canada. Unfortunately, COVID-19 stole the remainder of the school year and we entered unprecedented times and well you know the rest.

Last but not least was my fifth year where I was ready to Zoom into lectures wearing my pyjamas and slippers. Globally we got to experience full-price tuition from behind our computer screens... who doesn't just love that? During this time Remote Access and Microsoft Teams became my best friends. With that being said I along with my peers who starting in 2016 or 2017, were the first fully graduating class to completely do their final year online during a pandemic and that is definitely one for the history books! Besides worrying about what plans Ford had for Ontario's Covid restrictions I had to focus on completing my finals. My friend and I spent hours reciting Tort and Contract Law cases to each other so that we could crush that Law and Ethics exam. After completing my W21 set of examinations I was finished and all 5 years of my Engineering degree were done just like that.

After sharing my experience with you the reader, and seeing challenging my schooling was I would still not have wanted to complete my undergrad in any other way. As cliché as it is all the challenges, I faced made me stronger and I am better for it!



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Introducing the New O'Snap Coordinator

by Alexia Pittas & Olivia Gair

Hey, it's Alexia here and this is my last issue of O'Snap that I will be publishing for the 2020-2021 academic year. This was the first (and hopefully last) school year we had completely online due to COVID-19 and what a wild time it has been. Before I go I have a couple of things I need to complete before I hand off my position to the incoming O'Snap Coordinator. First, I wanna thank all Eng Soc members who helped contribute to articles this semester I love the creativity that everyone brought. Next, I wanna say thank you to CU Advertising as they do an amazing job supplying adverts for each month's issue! And lastly, I wanna say thank you to my close friends whom I constantly pestered to check my articles for errors and fluidity. The most important piece of information on my list is introducing you to the new O'Snap Coordinator Olivia Gair. Read the statement below to get to know her better!

"Hi! I'm Olivia - but most people call me Liv - and I'll be the O'Snap coordinator for the 2021-2022 school year. I'm beyond excited to get started, and I'm hoping to try out a few new things this coming year!

When I'm not doing engineering, you'll probably find me nose-deep in the nearest book, or in search of goldfish crackers.

Connect with me on Instagram at @oliveeeya_g !"



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11 Books for the 12 Weeks of Summer

by Olivia Gair

We're all glad to be done with exams, but twelve weeks off is a long time, especially in a pandemic. To help you (and me) cope with being stuck more or less inside while we wait on vaccines, I've compiled a list of some of my favourite and most-anticipated books for the summer. Whether you're a fan of mysteries, fantasy, historical fiction, or non-fiction, there's something on this list for you.

Mysteries/Thrillers

1. **The Guest List** - Lucy Foley

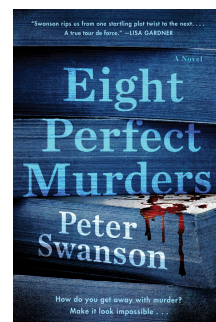
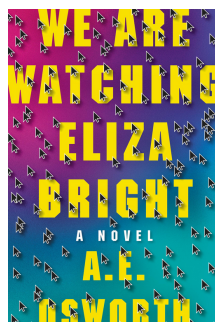
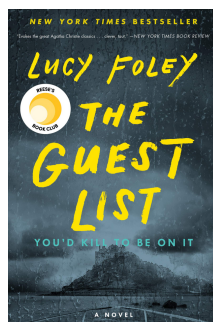
The bride, the bridesmaid, the best man, the wedding planner, and the plus-one. The Guest List follows several guests at a high-profile wedding, at which there's been a murder. Who the victim is is anyone's guess, but everyone on the guest list has a motive. The best part? They're stuck on an island in the middle of nowhere together until the wedding is over. This book was one of my favourite reads over the holidays. As someone who often gets bored of thrillers because the guilty party is too easy to guess, this one kept me thinking until the very end.

2. **We Are Watching Eliza Bright** - A.E. Osworth

We Are Watching Eliza Bright takes on sexism in the video game industry in the form of a make-your-skin-crawl thriller, largely told from the perspective of a collective group of entitled white men. Eliza Bright is a self-taught, up-and-coming video game developer at one of the hottest game companies in the country. When someone who doesn't think she deserves her place in the industry leaks her entire personnel file online, it's open season on her personal life. The out-of-the-box narrative style of this book takes a little getting used to, but once you do, it makes the book incredibly captivating. So captivating, in fact, that I read this one in full while I was supposed to be cramming for exams 😊

3. **Eight Perfect Murders** - Peter Swanson

What do you do when people start getting killed based on methods detailed in classic mysteries? What about when they're all mysteries pulled from a blog post you wrote? Malcolm Kershaw, the owner of a mystery bookstore in Boston, has exactly this happen to him. When the FBI gets involved, he's suspect number one on their list. Though, as more people die, it becomes clear that this killer is trying to get Malcolm's attention. So commences a game of cat-and-mouse, where it's up to Malcolm to help the FBI solve the case before people close to him get hurt, or before he gets sent to prison for something he didn't do – or did he?



4. **The Other Black Girl – Zakiya Dalila Harris (out June 1st)**

Get Out meets The Stepford Wives, set against the all-too-white backdrop of the North American publishing industry. Nella is tired of being the only Black employee at her publishing house, so when Hazel gets hired, Nella is ecstatic. That is, until the threatening notes telling Nella to quit her job start appearing at her desk, following an odd incident between her and Hazel. As time goes on, Nella begins to realize that there's a lot more at stake than her position at Wagner Books.

Non-Fiction

5. **Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice – Yusef Salaam (out May 18th)**

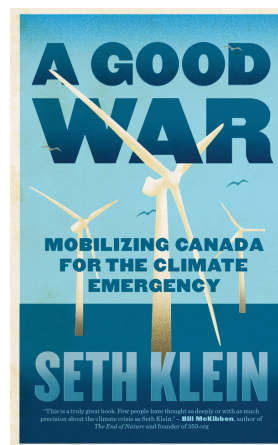
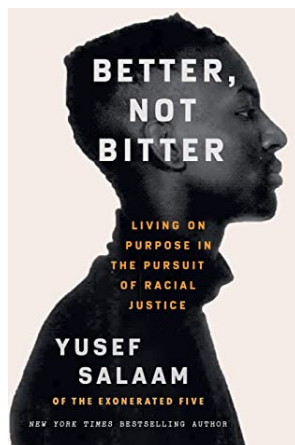
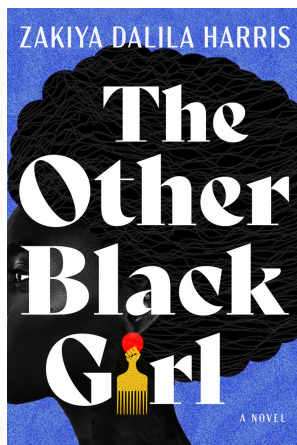
Yusef Salaam is one of the Exonerated Five – formerly known as the Central Park Five, a group of five Black boys who were wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for a rape they had nothing to do within 1989. Yusef spent seven years in prison – a sentence that started when he was only fifteen – before his conviction was overturned in 2002. Now, Yusef writes his memoir of growing up in Harlem in the '80s, what he learned while he was in prison, and what deep-seated oppression of Black and Brown people that cases like his really point to in our society and the way we conduct our justice system.

6. **A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency – Seth Klein**

Sister of climate activist Naomi Klein, recommended by David Suzuki, and one of our country's best policy analysts, Seth Klein uses the example of Canada's actions during World War II to outline exactly how we can make a difference to climate change, all while creating jobs and reducing inequality in Canada.

7. **Press Reset: Ruin and Recovery in the Video Game Industry – Jason Schreier (out May 11th)**

Lauded investigative journalist Jason Schreier, author of Blood, Sweat, and Pixels, is back with a deep dive into the world of video game development. Told through interviews and a lot of research, Jason investigates what caused the collapse of some of the biggest game studios in the last decade, as well as the volatility of the industry as a whole: why is it almost impossible to make a living in video games, when it's one of the biggest industries on the planet right now?



Fantasy & Retellings

8. *Sisters of the Snake* – Sarena & Sasha Nanua (out June 15th)

Debut Canadian authors Sarena and Sasha Nanua are twins writing about twins – or are they? *Sisters of the Snake* tells the story of Ria and Rani, a beggar and a princess who happen to look identical. When they switch places, dark magic, hidden temples, and prophecies get in the way of their saving their lives as they know them.

9. *These Violent Delights* – Chloe Gong

Chloe Gong took *Romeo and Juliet* and made it gangster – literally. *These Violent Delights* follow Juliette and Roma, leaders of opposing gangs with a complicated history in 1920s Shanghai. When a mysterious disease leaves members of both gangs ripping their own throats out, Juliette and Roma have to put their differences aside to save the Shanghai they both love, before it's too late.

General Fiction

10. *The Rose Code* – Kate Quinn

For fans of *The Imitation Game*, Kate Quinn's *The Rose Code* tells the story of three women, once friends, who are recruited as codebreakers at Bletchley Park during World War II. After the end of the war, these women have no desire to ever speak again – that is, until a cryptic letter to each of them holds the threat of a spy from their war-torn past, and they must reunite to crack one last code.

11. *The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* – Stuart Turton

I read this book a few years ago, and it remains one of my favourite books of all time. Think *Groundhog Day*, but add body-hopping, and make it a locked-room mystery. Aiden wakes up trapped in a lavish manor on the day of a massive party, at which a woman will die. Aiden has to repeat the exact same day – in the body of a different person each time – until he can figure out who killed her. The longer it goes on, the more the bodies that Aiden inhabits start to take over, and he begins to forget who he is and why he's there: who killed Evelyn Hardcastle?

