

FOSSA

NO. 19



Mark Hanson &
Mike Selby

Editors: Shunit
Waisenberg and
Sanyog Surana

pilates

Class

BY FOSSA

January 20th at 1:00pm

Hustl+Flow

120 King Street N



WILFS



21
JANUARY
2026



KAROKE

8-10 pm at Wilf's

DOG Therapy

JANUARY 27TH



Check out @wlu_fossa for the time and location!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

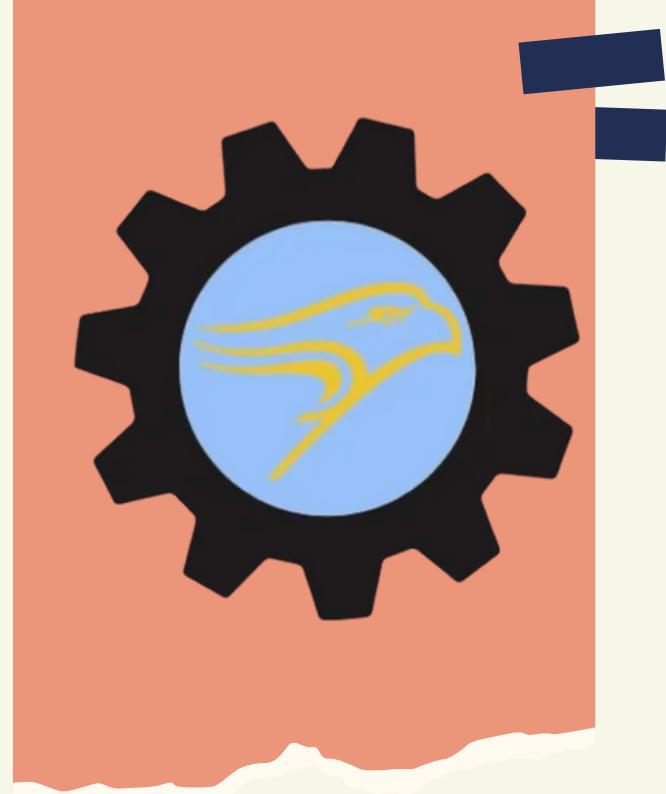
Laurier Innovation Society

January 2026



WHAT DO WE DO?

Are you a Laurier student who is looking to make a change in your community? Do you want to be a part of a like-minded group of students focused on bettering our future through innovation? Then the Laurier Innovation Society is the club for you! We aim to empower exceptional Laurier students like you to create a positive and immediate impact on the community through various activities such as innovation-fostering coffee houses and competitions. Through these activities you will learn more about innovative and modern topics in STEAM, gain a stronger appreciation and will for innovation, and have a great time making new friends in an encouraging and warm environment.



OUR TEAM



The Society is made up of an executive team (i.e., President, Vice-President, and a handful of executives) who are responsible for planning and facilitating the events. Anyone interested in an executive role should pay attention to their emails around the springtime, as every position is available. General Members are those who partake in our events.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

IMAAN KHANDWALA

3RD YEAR | PSYCH + NEUROSCIENCE



Summary of Research:

The retrosplenial cortex is a brain region known for its role in navigation and memory; however, its role in representing the location of other individuals within spatial maps is not well understood. This project hypothesizes that the retrosplenial cortex contains 'peer-direction cells', neurons that fire selectively when an animal orients toward a social partner at a particular direction in space. The subjects of this study are adult degus, a highly social rodent species with rich social interactions.

To measure brain activity, the degus were surgically implanted with small bundles of fine wires, known as tetrodes, into the retrosplenial cortex. These electrodes are designed to detect the tiny electrical impulses that neurons generate when they communicate. By capturing these signals, we are able to record the firing patterns of many individual cells, providing a window into how this brain region processes information. Each recording session began with a resting phase, followed by exposure to different experimental conditions, including jailed and social interactions, as well as object exploration. This design allows us to track how neuronal firing patterns changed across different types of encounters and over time.

Once the recordings were collected, the raw electrical activity was processed through spike sorting, which separates the overlapping signals into distinct "units," or putative single neurons, so we can study their activity individually. By aligning spikes with behaviour, we can determine how retrosplenial neurons represent spatial orientation in social and non-social situations.

MOVIES COMING OUT IN 2026...



Scream 7 - **February 27**



The Devil Wears Prada 2 - **May 1**



The Mandalorian & Grogu - **May 22**



Spider Man Brand New Day - **July 31**



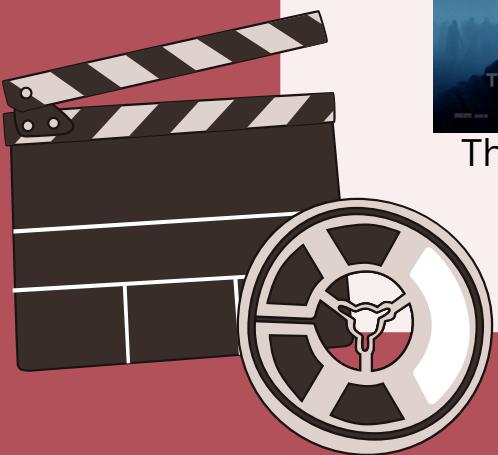
Avengers Doomsday - **December 18**



The Odyssey - **July 17**



The Hunger Games Sunrise on the Reaping - **November 20**



WORLD BRAILLE DAY

EDII

FOSSA



Braille is not a language, it can be used within a variety of languages! It is actually a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six raised dots to represent each letter and number. This allows for its users to feel the entire letter/number with a single touch.

Braille does not only extend to reading or communication, but as well as mathematics and scientific notation as well. This type of Braille is called Nemeth Code developed by Dr. Abraham Nemeth in 1946 which also uses 6 dot cells.



World Braille Day was created in honor of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille, a system that ultimately changed the lives of millions of blind and visually impaired individuals since 1809. This system is important as it breaks barriers in access to communication and education. Today we reflect on the importance of human rights for those with visual impairment.



Overall, the invention of Braille has become a symbol for our society to continue its pursuit to create better accessibility for those who are blind or have visual impairment. This tool breaks the barrier for these individuals in pursuit for equal opportunity globally which is why we need to continue to show support and awareness for expanded access to Braille. <https://www.wwhealthline.ca/displayService.aspx?id=214911> The Canadian Council of the Blind is a Waterloo regional club that aims to provide support and other social services to those with vision loss. Further Information on Braille Education: American Foundation for the Blind.

FOSSA JANUARY CHALLENGE

Start the New Year with some Sudoku!

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | | 5 | | | | | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| | | | | 9 | | | | 7 |
| 5 | | | | | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| | | | | 4 | 2 | | | |
| | 8 | 6 | | | | 1 | | |
| | 6 | 8 | | | | | 5 | |
| | 7 | 3 | 4 | | | | | 9 |
| 8 | | | | 3 | | | 2 | |

After completion, email communications@fossa.ca a screenshot of the finished puzzle to be entered for the winter semester giveaway!