



# Nerdy Talk

## Planning for Term 2:



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Change your mind about an elective? Decide that you want to switch out of a term three class? Remember that the online registration system is still open: if you want to switch any courses for next term, all you have to do is log onto your my.brocku.ca portal and register! Just make sure you check to make sure your prerequisites for next year's courses are still met, and check all decisions with your Academic Advisor!

The winter booklist is also already available on the bookstore website if you want to get a head-start on readings! Start planning early, and you can save yourself a lot of work when the busier months come!

## The Great Flat Hunt



Starting to think about your living situation for next year? In this article we intend to give you a few things to consider before jumping into the flat hunt. Much of this information was given during the Off-Campus Living presentation at the start of December. You can find the OCL department in the Earp lobby. You can also find valuable information at: [www.brocku.ca/ocl](http://www.brocku.ca/ocl)

The first thing to remember is there are way more apartments in St. Catharines than there are students. So don't

ever feel rushed into finding an apartment or signing a lease. You'll find the most extensive and user friendly list of student housing on the Brock Off-Campus Living website. Not only are there posts from landlords, students also make posts looking for prospective roommates too.

Another important piece of advice is to know your rights! Did you know, a landlord cannot legally ask you for a damage deposit? There are countless rules that your landlord has to legally follow. Make

sure you are not being over charged. The Off-Campus Living

website has easy to read information about when and what your landlord can do.

You should also keep in mind that you don't have to leave residence. Although you are not guaranteed a spot in residence in your second year, many students are able to come back.

Application for returning students opens in mid-February, but deposits are not due until June. If you have enjoyed your residence experience, perhaps you would be a good fit on the Residence Life Staff. Don applications are currently open. If you are interested we

strongly suggest you speak with one of your Dons!

### Top 10: Ways to Stay Smart Over the Break!

- ✓ Sporcle: Trivia, Quizzes and Brain Games! [www.sporcle.com/](http://www.sporcle.com/)
- ✓ Follow Bill Nye on Twitter! @TheScienceGuy
- ✓ Read a book for fun!
- ✓ Get a head start on readings! Textbook list for Winter is now available online.
- ✓ Stay active! Physical activity can improve cognitive performance.
- ✓ Start a blog!
- ✓ Watch TED Talks on Youtube! You may even find one of your profs!
- ✓ Listen to academic podcasts.
- ✓ Meditate
- ✓ Increase your vocabulary! Look up a "word of the day" (ex. Defenestrate: Throw someone out a window!)





## Faculty Interview: Professor Dot Miners, Math Guru!

Favourite sport.. Walking and yoga, (although they may not be sports!) I walk the Niagara Falls Half Marathon race every year and have done the 'Round the Bay 30k' Hamilton many times and plan on it again next March. ( They have walk categories as well as run categories in these races. ) I am usually about half way of the finishing times , but it is more of doing it that counts than the finishing position.

Favourite vacation destination,: that's a tough one. In summer it would be camping and canoeing in Algonquin . In winter, Reading Week , it would be going somewhere with no snow , sometimes to the southwest of England where I grew up , and seeing daffodils blooming by the ocean as it is their spring in Feb, or more active like a hiking trip to Death Valley I did a year ago or kayaking in Roatan as I did this year.

Least favourite course in University: This was an electricity course lab, I was in physics at the time, the only female in the class, transferred into third year from another country, and the guys did

not want to be my lab partner . (But the following term , after the guys could see I had pretty good marks, this was not a problem! )

If I owned a yacht, what would I call it ? Maybe 'Namaste ' . (Meaning 'The good in me sees the good in you')

What time period would you want to live in:  
I think now is a pretty good time , I like that people can live long healthy lives and I like my iPhone and that I can keep in touch with my grown children easily and visit them easily . I like the fact that women and men are free to have equal opportunities, and that workers have certain rights . These things would not be possible in other eras . There are things wrong with the present era but sometimes we just take for granted the good things, they don't make the news.

Strangest thing you've eaten: I didn't think this was strange until

speaking about it recently, but when I was a kid in England we ate 'brains on toast' quite often , they were kind of soft and mushy, light brown colour and then put on crunchy buttered toast.

Latest book: recently A Tale for the Time Being , by Elizabeth Ozeki ... I recommend it, it is fiction and makes you think too. (But to be honest the real latest book ( today) is Wedding Night, Sophie Kinsella on an audiobook from the library download to iPhone , while driving.. no thinking involved but a chick-lit book to chill out on a long drive to Ottawa by yourself)

Latest song :Charlie Browns Christmas music



## Mythbusters... University Edition!

**Myth: I have to finish my degree in 4 years.**

A lot of people think that a University degree always takes 4 years to complete. However, there are actually a lot of different options: as long as you follow the requirements of your academic calendar, many programs allow you to take an extra year or two to finish your degree, or even look into ways to

graduate in 3 years.

If you are finding your course load too heavy, many programs have the option of taking fewer courses per year and taking more years to finish. You can also look into spring and summer courses to reduce workload. Some programs even have options for 3-year, 15-credit degrees if you're unsure if you can finish the 20-credit degree.

Talk to your Academic Advisor today if you want to pursue one of these options! Make sure you clear it by your advisor first, though: you need to make sure you can meet prerequisites for courses, and it is important to know whether you will be considered a full-time or part-time student, and how that will affect your enrollment. If you are unsure how to contact advising, ask your don of

