

Good afternoon, USC!

Here are your updates for the week of July 19th-23rd

Important Information:

Parking:

Most lots campus-wide will have gates raised and parking will be complimentary until August 31st, 2021. Exceptions are the Medical Science and Kent Patient Lots where gates will be down (these lots are reserved for clinic patients only). Enjoy free parking at this time but please park only in regular unmarked parking spaces; do not park in reserved spaces, service vehicle spaces, fire lanes or hash lined areas.

Work From Home Stipend:

We are excited to announce that the work from home stipend will continue to the end of August!

Departmental Updates:

PURPLE STORE

We are going to make an announcement on July 16, 2021. The Purple Store has a new partner and here's a [hint](#). Make sure to visit us [online](#) to see the cool things we're doing.

PEOPLE AND DEVELOPMENT

Wellness Program:

Just a friendly reminder that if you would like access to a Headspace account you can enroll for free using this link! Headspace is a wonderful app that has guided meditation sessions, workouts, podcasts, and playlists created to help you focus while doing work!

<https://work.headspace.com/universitystudentscouncilofwesternuniversity/member-enroll>

FINANCE AP cheques will continue to be mailed be sure to include an address. Please reach out to the Finance team regarding deposits and payments. We will do our best to accommodate your financial needs in a timely manner. We have closed F2021 and are now strictly audit

focused, while responding to your financial needs. Our PWC audit is continuing this week. Lots of documentation moving back and forth, thank you to the team for managing the requests. :)

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Some good news this week. A paper co-authored by a couple of UofT PhD candidates concludes that *“[t]here is no scientific evidence that shows that smartphones and digital technology harm our biological cognitive abilities... You put all this technology) together with a naked human brain and you get something that's smarter... and the result is that we, supplemented by our technology, are actually capable of accomplishing much more complex tasks than we could with our un-supplemented biological abilities.”* (<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/07/210702154317.htm>). Ok, maybe not good news - now you can't blame that drunken late night text on your smartphone; just your plain old dumb brain.

A number of important security updates came out last week:

- **Windows.** If you don't have automated update installation enabled in Windows, check to make sure patches have been installed (Start > Settings > Update & Security). Your computer may require a reboot after the update.
- **Adobe** products, including Reader and Acrobat. Please look in the Help menu for the “Check for updates” option.
- **Chrome.** Eight security flaws have been identified and will be patched with release 91.0.4472.164, expected within the next few days. Type “**chrome://settings/help**” in the browser's address bar, and Chrome will automatically update. You'll need to Relaunch your browser for the update to take effect.

I wrote a few weeks ago about how scammers are starting to use telephone numbers instead of web links in their phishing emails. We have our first one pretending to be from Western IT. Please continue to be vigilant....

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Madison Miziolek** <madison.miziolek@mail.utoronto.ca>

Date: Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 9:11 AM

Subject: You have got an urgent message from the Western University.

To:

Dear User,

This is to let you know that our web-mail server will be upgraded and maintained soon.

If you don't want your e-mail account to be terminated during the upgrade,

Send "uwo--upgrade" to 6-0-4-3-7-3-7-5-1-0

You will receive instructions on how to upgrade your account via text message.

If you do not comply with the above, your email access will be disabled.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Regards

System Administrator

Western University

**PRODUCTIONS
RESERVATIONS & BUILDING SERVICES**