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2nd Year-in-Review

I was not sure if anything could match the craziness of the first-year experience, however the second year has been just as wild. Coming off the first summer into my first co-op semester, I believed things would really start steadying out. Instead, things have only become more confusing. Two semesters working in the engineering field has led me to question what I believed I was passionate about, and now I am in the process of exploring what kind of future I really would like.

After my first semester of co-op, I was content to chalk up my poor experience to just being new to it all. But as the spring semester of classes rolled along, I found myself less able to invest myself in my academics each day. I was able to join ROAR campus tour guides, and I found out how much I loved the interaction and ability to showcase something I care a lot about. While this does not incline me to switch to marketing, it has opened my eyes to the realization that I am not happy with where I am. Due to this, I am hoping that in the next year I can design an honors experience around this journey to figure out what path I would like to take. If I could go back and change something, I do think I would have just started thinking about all of this even earlier and been more proactive in seeking ways to prototype other ideas for my life. Now I am facing a lot of trepidation as I am two years in and every way seems like an impossible leap.

On a brighter note, I have made many invaluable relationships this past year. During the semester I was in classes, I was able to restructure my social circle to surround myself with people who encourage me to achieve my goals and support me when I struggle with the aforementioned issues. These friends range from friends I have met in ROAR to others I consider mentors in this process. I intend to continue expanding this trend by meeting with various advisors with hopes that their wisdom could bring some clarity to my situation.

As my third-year approaches, I want future me to focus on being intentional and not being discouraged. Most of my issues come from a feeling that I am incapable of achieving what I want, and then I end up thinking about it a lot with no action. I have already mind-mapped some actionable steps to move forward with the process but can already tell it will be a challenge to get up the energy to follow through. Unfortunately, since I am not infatuated with my co-op, I am often very drained by the time I get home. I am hoping in the next weeks that I can work with advisors to configure a schedule that I can feel good about for the fall and that I can begin to feel confident in my decisions. I certainly feel that I have learned much about who I am, and that is where much of this thought process is stemming from. I now can see that I care a lot about relationships and being able to ‘fight’ for something I believe in. I definitely still enjoy innovation and exercising my intellect, so ideally I can find a way to marry these attributes.

Unfortunately, I did not engage in UHP as much as I would have liked to this year. I am very passionate about the method UHP uses to build into students’ growth and hope I can work harder to invest in the program more. One regret I have is not capitalizing on my position as a UHP Ambassador, so I intend to see if I can reconcile there and begin to do my part for UHP. In addition to my pathfinding UHP experience, I would also like to enroll in a seminar or do a different experience so that I can finish this year out with two experiences. Despite having an incredibly rough year, I am resolved to brush it off and make the most of my situation going forward,