

# ***SOCIAL CONNECTION***



# DISCORD, ITS BENEFITS, AND ITS STATUS ON CAMPUS

**KEVIN LIU**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Discord had become an almost indispensable tool for many UCC students to stay connected. Take myself as an example - almost everyday I spend some time on Discord. Sometimes I don't even say anything - I just enjoy being in a group of friends. While completing my homework, I don't mind listening to a friend playing piano in the same voice call, or if I need to clarify something, I could simply ask in the voice chat to get a quick answer. Once we're done with homework, we might spend time talking about school life and personal stories, or even play some games together.

I would say that Discord, a social media platform intended for "communities and friends", is in fact a much healthier one as compared to many other platforms such as Instagram and TikTok, which have algorithms intended to keep one addicted to them at whatever cost. On Discord, there is no "explore" page, no "for you" page, and no "recommended videos" meant to keep one glued to incessant and sometimes toxic pages. The user on Discord has full control on what to see, and therefore it is very easy to stay within safe and comfortable zones of the internet, such as within their own friend group. Instagram and Twitter, on the contrary, constantly push users to engage with strangers on the internet. Compared to these social networks, at least to me, Discord does feel more "social", as it simply facilitates direct communication with friends.

Over the years, I have seen or heard of stories that my fellow teenagers make major mistakes in terms of online profiling. On Instagram, Facebook, and other similar platforms, the user is pushed to build a profile and share aspects of one's life for the world to observe. Many teenagers fall into this trap by creating some online images or identities that they may eventually regret. On Discord, however,

it is much easier for a user to only chat with trustworthy friends, and even then, the user has no profile that their Discord friends need to see.

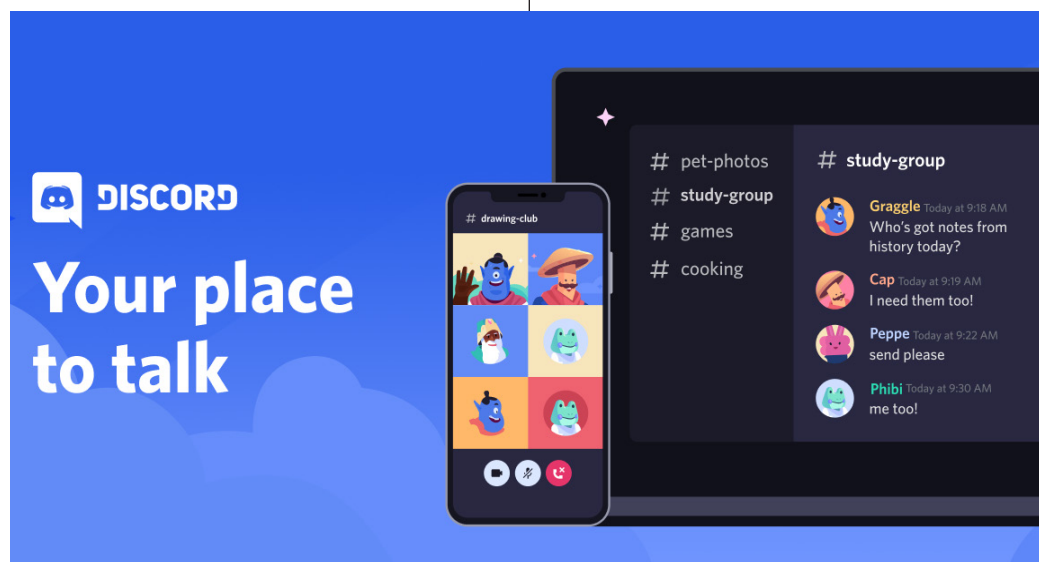
In a way, Discord is a healthier social media because of its monetization philosophy. To remain a viable business, Discord does have to make money. Fortunately, it chooses to use a simple, non-intrusive, and opt-in monetization system, where users can subscribe to receive "premium" features such as customized emojis. This is a much more restrained way to generate profits.

In contrast, most other social media networks heavily rely on advertising for revenue. This advertisement-based monetization model has major drawbacks. For example, in a recent article by the Globe and Mail, the paper pointed out that "studies analyzing user content and advertising found that teenagers were being exposed to materials touting dangerous diet fads and pro-anorexia resources", as such, "Instagram's potential to do harm was never hidden; it was right there, on the feed of every teenager worrying about being fat."

At UCC, Discord has already been used extensively and constructively for school-related purposes. There have been

many UCC-related servers such as the Year 11 official Discord server for instant support, the HL Music class-specific server, and various Discord servers for school clubs. Even during classes, before Discord was blocked on the school internet, I used to rely on it to communicate with my classmates about in-class material. For example, at times my friends and I might temporarily get lost during classes, but we didn't want to ask the teacher directly in fear of wasting valuable class time, derailing the teacher's presentation, or simply feeling self-conscious for asking a seemingly "simple" question. In such cases, we just typed the questions and got instant clarification from peers through Discord.

Currently, UCC has blocked Discord on the school internet, a decision that I totally understand. Obviously, during the early phase of the pandemic, students had identified Discord as a great tool to recuperate their social lives to some extent. The enthusiasm led to drastically increased use of Discord during classes, which in turn caused concern among the school administration. The concern was certainly legitimate and timely. Indeed, at that time, Discord was blamed by many teachers for disrupting classes and distracting students. The positive interpretation of this phenomenon, however, is that



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the increased use of Discord might also show the resilience of the social connections within the UCC community despite the COVID interruption.

I would not go as far as suggesting the school should directly lift the restriction now - I am writing this article just to provide the school with a student's perspective on Discord. I know for those lacking self-control, Discord (as well as other social media platforms) can be indeed distracting and disruptive. In order to keep students fully engaged in class, I

think the school might want to launch a campaign during advising periods to educate student on fostering healthy habits of using technology (even Discord-specific habits, such as keeping non-academic chats muted while at school). If such education campaign goes well, there might be a day when the school becomes comfortable enough to unban Discord on campus. In fact, some high schools and colleges are implementing Discord student hubs, and many summer programs UCC students have participated in, such as the SHAD program, have used Discord as a primary

form of communication.

At the end of the day, in my opinion, the Discord platform, if used properly, can be a lot healthier and more beneficial for students than platforms such as Youtube, Instagram, and TikTok. On its official website, Discord presents itself as "where just you and handful of friends can spend time together. A place that makes it easy to talk every day and hang out more often." I have found a lot of truth in this statement from my personal experience.

# MATTERMOST: THE NEW WAY TO COMMUNICATE AT UCC?

**ALEXANDER CHOW**  
STAFF REPORTER

This month, Convergence interviewed **Alan Cui**, one of the co-founders of the new Digital Communications Club. At the start of the school year, this club was founded with the goal of introducing a communication application named MatterMost to the rest of the school. So far, it seems that they've made great progress within a few clubs and applications of MatterMost are rapidly growing. With this article, hopefully we can answer some of your questions regarding what this platform is and how it's different from existing communication platforms like Discord.

## Tell us about your journey and why you started the club.

After the pandemic started, I felt that it became very difficult to connect with people from the UCC community. To be honest, I felt quite isolated and there weren't any systems that facilitated communication other than email. With this need in mind, I stumbled across Mattermost,

an open-source enterprise-grade instant communication platform. I knew that Mattermost could fill the communication gap left by email.

After doing some research and surveying within the UCC community, our team discovered many good use-cases for Mattermost at UCC. We also discovered that, due to Mattermost's open-source nature, it offered an opportunity for further business development and a fantastic way to expand our own programming skills. So, we founded the Digital Communications Club to share such opportunities, experiences, and discussions with our members.

## How is Mattermost different from existing communication platforms (e.g. Discord)?

Discord is a good communication tool. It's convenient, well-designed, and customizable. However, Discord isn't good at fostering healthy digital communities. Just like Discord, Mattermost is a fantastic communication platform that offers many of the same features as Discord, Slack, Hangouts, and much more. But

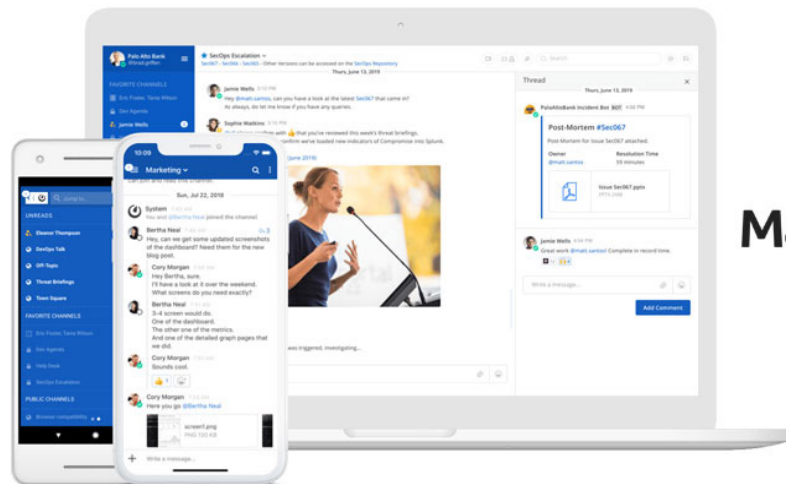
what sets us apart is our commitment to building a healthy, exclusively UCC digital community. We promote efficient and meaningful communication. With our club and our platform, we're able to facilitate that for UCC. In essence, Discord is a good tool, but a bad platform, and that's where we're better.

## What is your end goal for Mattermost and the Digital Communications Club?

The end goal for Mattermost and the Digital Communications Club has three components: Promotion, Development, and Healthy Communication. First, we wish to share our platform with the UCC community so that any member of our community can join our digital community. Second, we strive to develop new plugins and addons to further customize Mattermost for UCC and enhance our feature-rich platform with even more functionality. Finally, we hope that our discussions on healthy digital communication have an impact on our internal digital community and the digital communities that we're a part of.

## What progress have you made so far?

After less than two months of our initial test launch, our Mattermost server ([uccdigitalcomms.ca](https://uccdigitalcomms.ca)), has a steadily growing base of 90 active users. These users have sent a total 1878 messages on our platform. As of right now, Mattermost is an active and formidable digital community. As the number of our users grows, we hope to branch out the usage of our platform to a multitude of new use cases within our community.



**Mattermost**



# CONNECTING WITH FRIENDS OUTSIDE OF UCC

**DEREK CAI**  
COMMUNITY REPORTER

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives of every student at Upper Canada College, both on and off school grounds. At school, some of the most noticeable changes include canceled social events, athletic events, and competitions. Last year, students were separated into two cohorts, impacting the ability of students to connect with friends from school and friends outside of school. **Eric An** and **Maverick Oldham**, both in Year 10, have shared their opinions on this front in this interview.

## How often do you talk with friends outside of UCC?

**Eric:** I talk with my friends a couple of times a week outside of school. With most of my friends who are from UCC, I talk with them through Instagram and Snapchat. However once in a while I do go out with a friend or two and have some fun outside. I have been to a movie once, visited the library to study, and played football. However I also have some friends outside of school and I play with them a lot outside of school, like once a week or once or twice a month, something like that.

**Maverick:** I talk with my friends outside of UCC nearly every day, especially with one close friend. It is tough to see them in real life as most of my friends live in Brooklin Village, a small part of Whitby. However, I go back to Brooklin on the weekends so that I get to see them in per-

son. During the weeks I usually just call, text or play video games with them.

## What are some of the platforms and methods you use to communicate with your friends?

**Eric:** Well with most of my friends at UCC I keep in touch with them through Snapchat, Instagram and Gmail. I also talk with my closer friends through text.

**Maverick:** Over the course of the past two years, my ways of communication have changed a lot. Originally I really only used Discord, but then I began to use Snapchat and Houseparty (which has sadly shut down now). I used video game chats also. More recently I've been using iMessage a lot more. It really depends on what my friend uses.

## How has the pandemic affected your ability to socialize with friends outside of school?

**Eric:** When the pandemic first hit I stopped seeing most of my friends in person. For some of my closest friends from my middle school, I still haven't seen them in person to this day since the pandemic started. However nowadays after the mass vaccinations across Ontario, I think that it is no longer an issue - COVID really isn't an issue now with hanging out with friends outside of school.

**Maverick:** The pandemic really affected my ability to socialize with my friends outside of school. I moved to Brooklin Village for Grade 5 and have made a lot

of connections with my friends there. The pandemic hit near the end of our graduating year before we went to highschool, so we never got a proper send-off. This also happened to be my last year with them as I was going to UCC for Grade 9. Because of the pandemic it was a lot harder to maintain friendships and a lot of my friends slowly lost connection with me. Not only were we all going to high school, but I was going to a completely different school an hour away. I lost a lot of my friends but I maintained a few that have become a lot closer with me due to the pandemic.

## How has the pandemic affected your ability to make new friends at school?

**Eric:** Grade 9 being my first year and also my first full year in COVID, it was really hard to make new friends. I left all my close friends by coming here and for a while I thought I made a mistake coming to UCC. Everyone was nice, but I know close friends take a long time to make. Grade 10 however has been very good so far. Now I get to see everyone in the grade, not just half of the student population. And I feel that I've made a lot more friends this year than I have ever had in one year of school.

**Maverick:** The pandemic really affected my ability to make new friends at school initially. UCC has been a totally different experience from what I was used to. I was also trying to hold onto friendships from my old school. At the beginning, it was hard to interact with people at school because of all the cohorting, so I never really had a chance to make good bonds with people. I didn't talk with anyone after school and it was very quiet at school. A lot of this was due to the fact that it was my first year at the school. I think this wasn't all bad though. I was able to get a grasp for the school and what some of the kids were like. I also made some small connections which paved the way for this year. I've found that now the school is opening up more, and I'm making a lot more friends. I'm really enjoying everything now and have already made some good, close friends.

**Thank you so much, Eric and Maverick, for taking this interview.**





# SEASON RECAP - VARSITY SOCCER TEAM

**JAKE RIVETT**  
ATHLETICS REPORTER

The return of athletics to Upper Canada College has been among the most substantial changes in relation to the last academic year. With these new changes, competitive varsity sports were able to return and among them, soccer.

The Varsity Soccer season begins close to the start of the academic year, which means it is typically one of the first sports to begin their season. Tryouts began in mid-September and produced what was a novel team without much experience in varsity, under a brand-new coaching duo - **Head Coach Mr. Paschalidis** and **Assistant Coach Mr. Scatozza**.

The season began at Saint Andrew's College's homecoming on October 2nd. The team put up a solid performance but eventually fell to a 1-0 loss. Nevertheless, the team showed their grit and resilience on the pitch as well as solid teamwork. They proved themselves to be a force to be reckoned with in the matches to come in the rest of the season. Three days later, the Blues visited Crescent for their first and last meet of the season. The perfor-

mance was nothing short of dominance, featuring a hat trick from Will Swanson who would go on to become Man of the Match. Goals from Marshall Wong and Olamide Dinah would help the Blues secure a brilliant 5-1 win. The boys would go on to play five more matches and lose only one, to finish with a record of 5-2, five wins and two losses.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 regulations, the squad was unable to compete in the playoffs, as they were cancelled. The Blues were considered one of the favourites to win the championship which makes the circumstances all the more unfortunate. To get another perspective of the season, I interviewed centerback **Daniel Barr**, a first-year varsity player.

**How do you feel the season went? What were the expectations for the team, and did you live up to them?**

I think the team had a solid season. Going into it, we had high expectations for what we could achieve, so we intended on winning the championship. Ending with a 5-2 record was very decent, although it was very disappointing that we were not able to compete in a playoff for the cham-

pionship.

**What were some highlights of the season?**

There were a lot, but the most notable were freestyling on the bus to and from games, as well as Ben Ruthard's last-minute penalty kick to secure the win against St. John's Kilmarnock in a tight 3-2 game. Also among these highlights were Tiger Xie's incredible performances. He was a brick wall for us this season and a major part of our success.

**How did you find the coaching of the team?**

The coaching was great. Mr. Paschalidis and Mr. Scatozza did a great job of developing player-coach relationships. What was even more impressive is that it was their first season doing it. They did a good job in guiding us and helping us develop as players over the course of the season.

**Thank you so much Daniel, and congratulations on an amazing season!**



# THE NOVEL CLUBS OF UCC

## DEVLIN MONIZ CO-MANAGER

UCC is a school with an abundance of different clubs. Some have been at UCC for over a century, like the college times, however, as times change so do our interests and outlets for creativity. Below are several of the prominent new clubs created this year by students who are striving to follow and share their passions.

### The Real Estate Club

Adam Tarsky

#### Club Overview

The purpose of this club is to connect a group of like-minded peers who are interested in real estate to further our knowledge on the subject, and network to create new and meaningful connections. Real Estate has become a booming sector and people our age are already able to make waves in the space. The club plans to grow over the year, bringing in more members, taking on more disruptive topics, possibly branching out to other organizations, and entering formal conferences or competitions.

#### Club Meeting Description

It's a relaxed and laid-back environment where we give presentations, listen to established speakers, and talk amongst ourselves.

#### Why should people join it?

It's up to you. Join us if you want to learn or just be involved in a prestigious club, or just have some intellectual conversation and be able to ask questions.

### The UCC Photo Society

Yucheng Qin

#### Club Overview

Welcome to UCC Photo Society! This is a community dedicated to providing a platform for all UCC students to enjoy photography. Whether you are just

a beginner who knows nothing about taking photos but wants to give it a try or a passionate photographer who wants to learn more about skills and techniques, you will always find a place in this community. This year, we will be providing lectures that consist of all the basic knowledge, inspiring competition for you to showcase your photography skills, and also extra activities like workshops and photo walk for you to enjoy photography with other passionates.

#### Club Meeting Description

A typical UCC PhotoSoc club meeting starts with me or the other club head **Tre Ahn** lecturing photography basics. We will cover two to three topics every meeting and we will have five minutes for Q&A. Members can always email the club heads for extra topics they wanted to cover and we are always happy to talk about things you would like to know.

#### Why should people join it?

To learn more about photography! I know there are a lot of students who have always wanted to give photography a try but have met many obstacles such as not knowing where or how to start. Here, you will be able to meet a group of passionates who would like to help each other and improve themselves. I believe you will definitely have a great time enjoying photography in the UCC Photo Society.

### WGHS Investment Club

Henry Yan

#### Club Overview

Our club aims to prepare students for the Wharton Global High School (WGHS) Investment Competition. We host seminars for students looking to compete as well as students who want to learn about finance and investment in general.

#### Club Meeting Description

Our club operates mostly in seminars, where we teach fundamentals of invest-

ment, as well as pass on our experience with the competition.

#### Why should people join it?

If you want to learn about asset management from hands-on experience of building a portfolio for a client, you should consider joining the WGHS investment competition.

### The Product Design Club

Jack Orr

#### Club Overview

In this club, we will be taking on the role of product designers. The goal for this club is to design and create innovative solutions to complex problems, whether in groups or individually. As a member, you will learn to use both simple and complex modelling software as well as the basics of 3D printing and laser cutting. Throughout the year we will be taking on several small and large topics. These projects will be prompt-based or based on your own ideas. Towards the end of the year, we will be producing numerous tangible topics from these base ideas.

#### Club Meeting Description

In a typical club meeting, members will first be introduced to the overarching topic that we are discussing, for example, how to better the daily lives of disabled people. Members will then start to brainstorm ideas with sketches and drafts. From there, we will work towards a real 3D model of a product to showcase our solutions.

#### Why should people join it?

The Product Design Club is a great creative outlet that allows you to experiment with your own ideas and how you approach an idea. The club also gives you the opportunity to learn new skills and to better your collaboration skills with other students.



# UCC'S PATH TO INCLUSIVITY: INTERVIEW WITH CALLEGARO

**RAHUL NANDA AND RAYMOND LIU**  
EDITOR AND CO-MANAGER

Recently, *Convergence* interviewed **Patrice Callegaro**, our newly appointed Pluralism Coordinator, for their thoughts on Pride Week, and any overall impressions on our school's mission for inclusivity. Today, as the school strives to advance discussion around inclusivity, pluralism, and diversity, the GSA and other cultural, religious, and heritage clubs have been at the forefront of advocacy for the 2SLGBTQ+ and other communities around the college. We hope that with this interview, a few of your questions can be answered and that we can look at this article a few years later to evaluate our progress.

**With the recent occurrence of Pride Week, would you be able to provide a brief synopsis of the events and highlights of the week? What is the purpose of Pride Week?**

The purpose of Pride Week is to focus on the joy associated with being a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Oftentimes, when we talk about any issue, from a minority perspective, we always focus on the negative aspects. In this case, we focus on coming out, outlining how coming out is really hard, coming out is really tiring, and the challenges and violence that you faced.

We talk so much about the negative aspects of issues, while something like Pride focuses on members of the community coming together to celebrate and to recognize the challenges that we face and that we've made it through, that we're together and that we're here for one another.

So with that, there are a few staples that we always have in place for Pride Week. First, we always bring in a speaker. This year, we brought in Ryan Tran, Class of 2006, and I thought his speech was wonderful. He talked about his experiences at the college, and how that has informed his work and his life. Now he's working for ACAS, which is the Asian Community AIDS Services, a Toronto-based charity that focuses on supporting the intersectional identity of Asian 2SLGBTQ+ members. They spe-

cifically give them the support and resources that they need.

On Tuesday, we discussed Pride during the advising. As we've moved into the year-level-based advising groups, we're trying to target them as ways to communicate to specific age groups. On Wednesday, during House Meeting, we did a Kahoot. With advising providing a more serious approach to Pride and education, we wanted to pair it with some fun and joy as well. On Thursday, we played some music in the Quad during lunch, wanting to have some fun. Everyone on the playlist was either a vocal ally of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, or is a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. If you heard music during that Thursday lunch, that's whom you were hearing.

On the Friday, we finally released our Q&A Panel. The Q&A Panel is something I started when I first came to UCC because I thought there are always going to be students who have questions, but are afraid to ask them. While anonymity isn't always the best tool for students in the building, I found that over the years, students have shown less of the animosity that I used to see. But the GSA Q&A Panel is something that is really important and I am really proud of because it allows students regardless of their understanding of the 2SLGBTQ+ community to ask questions that they may feel are inappropriate or, at times, rude. This allows us to answer them in an open and honest way.

**As someone who has been at UCC for multiple years, what steps has the school taken in that time to become more inclusive towards all students?**

I think that, in general, the college has taken a firmer stance on what actions are appropriate and what actions are not. I think that assemblies have shown a larger variety of people, which allows more people to see themselves reflected in the building. When it comes to the new hires at the school, I think we see a lot more people of color and queer people being hired. I think that's the first step the school has taken.



The second is related to the topics discussed in advising, which include discussion around identity. I think it's for the positive. While some students may find it frustrating or challenging that it is not the chill hang out that it used to be, I still think there are elements of that that are still retained. But I think if you look at other schools, we're moving in a similar direction to what other schools are doing with their advising programming.

The third step that school has taken is that they have been giving more space, which has previously been lacking, for clubs or initiatives to really go forward. From a student perspective, if a student wants to plan an initiative, there are a lot of hoops to jump through. Now, I think it's a lot easier for a student to feel that they can run an event, initiative, or support a charity, which is being reflected through the events we see running and the clubs that are starting.

I think the last thing is that teachers are talking about identity and inclusivity more in their classes in addition to these elements coming up more in the curriculum. This is the big next step the college is going to take: making a more active choice around what we're seeing in the curriculum and what we're highlighting to ensure that all students see themselves reflected in the college.

**What are your roles and responsibilities as the Pluralism Coordinator and why do you think that this role is important towards improving UCC's social environment?**

As the Upper School Pluralism Coordinator, I not only work in the Upper School, but I work very closely with the Prep School Pluralism Coordinator, Ms. Tina Jagdeo, to plan whole school initiatives. When it diverts around Upper School versus Prep School, that is where we split.

Our jobs are divided into three buckets—in the way we describe it. Student programming is one. As students come up with initiatives, ideas, and clubs, and they want support, I'm going to help them run those initiatives. The second involves making sure that faculty and employees have the same baseline of understanding around cultural competency, bias, prejudice, and power, because these elements are really prevalent right now, especially in the dynamic between adults and students in the building. The last one is around curriculum, which involves helping the faculty develop a curriculum that is inclusive and pushing everyone to think past the heroes and holidays approach to diversity, equity and inclusion to ensure we move to a space where we're thinking about social action and social change, involving an element of service. Those are the three buckets that sit under my role.

### **Are there any other events the GSA is organizing this year?**

There are a couple events that are coming up. First, we always do two movie nights throughout the year, whether in-person or virtual. The last two years, we've done them virtual, however, I would like to see if we can return to an in-person situation. Usually, there are snacks there, but snacks wouldn't be provided this time because masks would need to stay on. But I'm hoping that as things begin to open up, maybe we can have events involving cross cohorting.

Next, April is International Day of Pink, which means we are going to be wearing our pink shirts to stand against bullying of all forms. The GSA fronts this event, but it's about bullying of all forms. It started as anti-bullying around 2SLGBTQ+ issues, but has since shifted into anti-bullying of all forms, which I think is really important. Those are the main things.

Ideally, if things open up the way I want them to, I want to be able to get out in the community a bit more with the GSA.

For example, we would like to get to Church Street and collaborate with the 519, which is an organization that resides on Church Street to support new refugees and members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. I would really like to build a partnership with them to ensure that we can support people in our community and build those relationships to provide others support given that we have some extra time on our hands.

### **How has UCC been progressing towards a more socially acceptable school? Have the attitudes and culture towards people identifying as 2SLGBTQ+ generally improved during your time at the college?**

I was talking about this in a meeting a couple days ago. I'm going to refer back to what I was hinting at in the first question. As a student, as you age, it's really hard for you to see culture shift because so many things around you are changing. But for me, as someone who's been in the building for four years, because I haven't had those monumental shifts that adolescence has, I have a better scope of what's really happening around the college.

The anonymous Google Form that we've released every year for the GSA Q&A has been the easiest reflection for me around culture related to inclusivity and acceptance. When I first released the Form, there were a lot of jokes, a lot of comments such as "can I identify as an attack helicopter," "what even is this?," and other similar comments generated by students who clearly have had a negative attitude towards the 2SLGBTQ+ community. And they wanted to take that out in the form of an anonymous Google Form. I think we only had around 10 responses back then. This time around, we got about 30 responses, of which only one was negative. It used to be a 50-50 split, with around 10 responses of inappropriate comments versus genuine questions. Now, we're at a place where we're getting a lot more responses, a lot more people asking questions, a lot more people wanting to engage in these conversations, and a lot less of a negative attitude toward it.

But like I said, I do really encourage less of a critique and more of a curiosity when asking questions. For example, asking questions such as "what is the difference between sex and gender?" or,

"what is the difference between gender identity and gender expression?" These are things that not a lot of people know. Being able to ask those questions in a safe space is really important. Personally, that's the biggest evidence of a shift in culture.

Also, I think we've gotten to a place where people can hold each other accountable, and not see it as a threat. Recently, I was talking with Ms. Marshall, and she and I have noticed that a lot more students are coming forward to tell us about issues related to bullying and around issues of identity. If we look back to the school five years ago, we didn't see many instances like that. We knew they were happening, but students weren't bringing them up to us. That's also a huge reflection of our culture, in how students now feel like something will be done if they bring an issue forward. Whereas, five years ago, they felt as if bringing forward an issue would not result in change. Now, I feel that students know that this is a safe space for them to be themselves, and to figure out who they are and who they want to be.

### **Thank you. Do you have any further comments to add, or anything to look forward to in the future?**

Yes, I think that we're in a growing phase right now. My job is new. Pluralism seems as if it is taking the spotlight right now. However, people still really want to pit identities against each other, making comments such as, "why does Pride week get a Week?," "why does Black History Month get a full month?," "why doesn't this get this?," etc. I think it's really easy to pit these ideas against each other, instead of being happy that we're starting to see more initiatives and events related to identity.

If you're a student who feels like your identity is not seen in the building, I really want you to reach out to me. I'm happy to support you and build out some initiatives or activities because I really want us to get to a place where students can see themselves in all aspects of the school. If you find yourself not reflected in what you currently experience in the building, I would love for you to come to me. I would love to talk about your culture and your identity, and to ensure that we can see it reflected in the college as well.