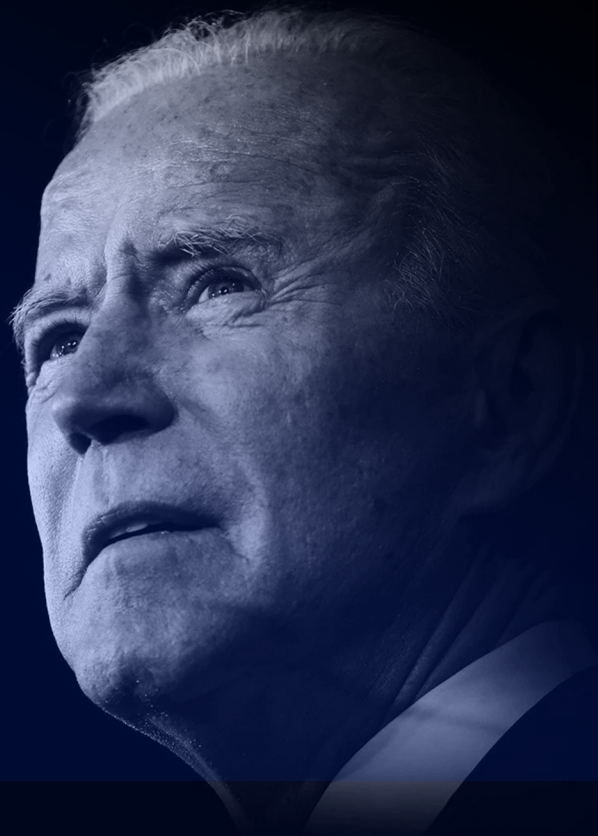


NOV. 2020 EDITION

# adapt.

CONVERGENCE



# BACK TO SCHOOL

**DEVLIN MONIZ AND RAHUL NANDA**  
STAFF REPORTERS

UCC has commenced a year like no other! Although we are in tough times and a global pandemic, UCC has done many things to improve the year and improve it for students throughout the college. These include new policies, rules, many fun events, and major changes to the way we run things!

## NEW POLICIES

We are really fortunate to be at UCC, a school which has done so much to make this school year as enjoyable as possible. UCC has made great changes to how we run things at the college, adopting advice from TPH (Toronto Public Health) to further adapt to these tough times and reduce both the risk and spread of COVID-19.

Currently, we are engaging in a process labeled cohorting. Every grade is divided up into two different groups by house. Each group physically and virtually goes to school on alternate days. Students also have the option to learn remotely, never actually entering within the school walls. Its purpose is to break the chain of infection and stop the spread of the virus once someone becomes infected.

The school made new policies restricting contact among grade levels. Each grade has a different entrance through which to enter the school. At each door, there are supervisors waiting to see the screening that students should have open on their phones to be allowed into the building. UCC has also implemented outdoor spaces where the students need to be when eating lunch. Each grade has a specific space outside of the school.

There are many other policies that the school has made in these tough times, including always wearing your mask when indoors and socially distancing at least 2 meters. However there are other ones more exclusive to UCC. For example, walking on the right hand side of stairwells or using

only the designated washroom of your grade level. You also have to wipe down your desk and area before taking a seat. All these policies are to ensure that students are the safest they can possibly be. So far, these strategies have worked exceptionally and are definitely maintainable for the rest of the school year.

## FUN EVENTS

There have been many new, fantastic, and fun events in the first few months of the return to school. These events have made major efforts to make the return to school lively, fun, and stress-relieving.

We had a fantastic A-day celebration. Although we could not have our usual A-day celebration, it did not force UCC to cease the fun! We held one highly participated in activity for each and every grade. The Year 8's participated in an Egg, Spoon, and Football Throw. The Year 9's had a fun time trying to throw tennis balls, from a considerable distance, into toilets that were located on the field. The Year 10's activity was exciting. They had to play a Head the Head target game. The Year 11s and 12s had an awesome Water Balloon Toss.

Quiddity is also setting up a spooky writing competition. Even though there may not be Halloween this year, Quiddity shows us that we can still get in the Halloween spirit! You can either write a poem or a 1,000 word scary story about something you can't see. If you win each of these categories you have the choice of amazing prizes. You can either choose a huge box of candy or a \$25 gift card. However if Quiddity can not distribute the candy due to the pandemic, the gift card will be the only available prize.

We have had many exciting house competitions. Just because we are in the process of cohorting, doesn't mean that the year-long strive for the Prefect's cup stops! Starting before the 2020/2021 school year even began, we held our very own summer cup. This included trickshot

challenges, selfie competitions and more terrific events, which were overall won by Jackson's. During the school year, our first house competition was the Terry Fox race. One student in each grade from each house ran a two kilometre race on the perimeter of the school grounds. It was a great event with all other house members watching on the fields, cheering on their housemates, submerged with a competitive and exciting spirit. Finally we now have the house tennis event. Two students from each grade in each house will compete in a doubles tournament against all other houses. It takes place at lunch-time and other students are welcome to watch. It's not over yet but one thing is certain, it will be a thriller.

## SPORTS

Whilst the pandemic inevitably prevented all UCC athletes from competing in the way they would be normally accustomed to through inter-school competitions, the UCC administration, Mr. MacKay, and Reid Gledhill were all able to successfully adapt to the apparent conditions to provide students the opportunity to remain active and practice fall sports with their usual teammates in a recreational manner.

Similarly, although CISAA prevented us from beating the customary Crescent and St. Mikes in just about every sport at the college, through staples of the UCC experience such as A-Day, each fall team — volleyball, cross country, soccer, and football — all received guidance from over 25 coaches at the beginning of September and were able to start practicing (non-contact of course) every day from Monday through Thursday depending on your given cohort.

As it stands, teams are able to practice exclusively outside using the mandatory reversible UCC singlets with students only from our cohort/grade as advised by TPH. All equipment is being closely monitored and sanitized using "fogging machines" to ensure every players' safety when they need to share any athletic-related equipment.

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In terms of logistics, the UCC athletic executives have carefully planned each sport in an organized way where each team has a specific spot to practice on campus. They have even provided the volleyball teams an outdoor net on Commons field, each assigned to a specific year level. Additionally, they have still been able to split every field on campus to accommodate all year levels for soccer and football. For example, Y8/9s currently

use Lord's fields for soccer, Y10s and 11s use the Prep fields, and Y12s have been using Commons field.

As the fall term winds down, UCC continues to face the challenge of Canadian weather which has begun to reach increasingly frigid temperatures as we near November. As a result, the UCC administration and Board of Stewards must begin to cautiously plan for the possibility of continuing the winter

athletics program and accommodating the Board of Stewards' annual Winterfest.

While countless things remain out of UCC's control — such as the pandemic or typical Canadian weather — we, as students have remained grateful for their efforts in attempting to present the normal UCC experience we all hope to return to in the coming months.

# ONLINE INTERACTION DURING COVID: WHO'S THE IMPOSTER?

**TYLER STENNETT**  
STAFF REPORTER

Amidst laughs and cries, the pleads "It was him!" "No, I saw him do it!" echoed through the speakers as a group of friends sitting miles away from one another clashed in a newly popular video game. "Among Us", alongside countless other digital applications, has seen a rapid surge in usage in correlation to the emergence of COVID-19, and rightfully so. Given the importance of maintaining social interactions with others in an age of technological prevalence, it is only natural to turn to technology in order to overcome the physical boundaries created by quarantining. For the more tech-savvy people, this change may even be minimalistic; however, in a time when technology was undeveloped, the social impacts of pandemics were much different.

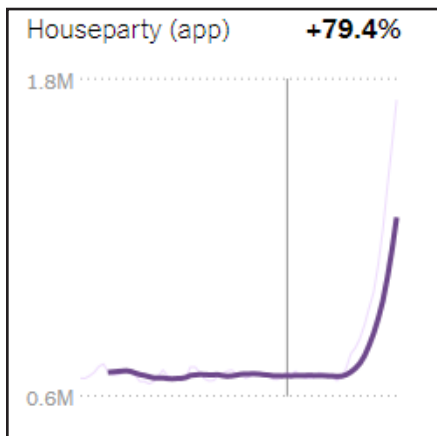
to the physical boundaries created by quarantining.



Take, for example, the catastrophic 1918 Influenza Pandemic. The deadly flu ravaged the world, with a death toll of around 50 million, but its damage was not limited to just statistics. Like today, the population during the Influenza pandemic was required to quarantine and faced unimaginable isolation as a result. The consequences of said isolation during those stressful times were growing distrust and mental health deterioration. Typical outlets for venting stress and receiving reassurance were unavailable, often resulting in pent-up unease and anxiety. These claims can be supported by a general increase in the suicide

rate during the 1918-1920 time period; for example, Seattle saw a consistent 30% increase in suicide rates annually during the time increment.

From analyzing the past, it is evident how technology is often demonized for being an "irresponsible waste of time", but video games and social media have been providing positives during the pandemic. Applications such as Twitch and Youtube are providing entertainment in the stead of the cancellation of sports and various outdoor activities, Discord and Houseparty are bringing distant communities and friends together, and games such as Among Us are bringing smiles to peoples' faces during despairful times. Even in the UCC community, students can be seen, whenever possible, organizing group sessions with friends. So, if you're feeling a bit lonely during your quarantine, grab a group of friends and try Among Us. Not long after you'll be saying, in-between chuckles and grins, "Who's the Imposter?"



Houseparty, a video communication platform, has seen an astounding 79.4% increase in usage from the time period between January 15 to March 24, as depicted in the graph. This is evidence of the natural social reaction





# UCC'S TWO FAST-GROWING FINANCE CLUBS

**KEVIN LIU**  
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

When the club signup results were sent to club heads, I was so happy for my friend Nikola that his Long Term Investment Club had apparently attracted 48 members. I know how much effort and time he has put into this initiative. I also know that there is another very reputable investment-related club, called the Financial Literacy Club, which also recruited over 40 members. With this kind of support from the student body, they have become two of UCC's largest and fastest-growing clubs. Apparently, UCC students crave the opportunity to learn and sharpen their finance-related knowledge and skills.

Although the two clubs are both related to investment and finance, they are actually quite different. This is why I reached out to the club heads of both clubs, Nikola Radan and Nicholas Knoth, with some simple yet fundamental questions, and I am hoping that their answer can help UCC students to decide which club is a better fit for them.

**UCC Long Term Investment Club**



## WHAT TOPICS DOES YOUR CLUB COVER, AND WHAT DO YOU DO DURING MEETINGS?

**Nikola Radan (Head of Long Term Investment Club):** The purpose of the Long Term Investment Club is to provide club members with the knowledge of: how to analyze stocks, how to make stock investments, how to manage a portfolio of stocks, the different investment accounts available to Canadians.

The club members are taught a twelve-step process to evaluate a company. Members will be asked to apply these steps to companies of their choice. As a club, we will rank the companies based on the analysis and build a portfolio of long-term stock investments in a practice account.

**Nicholas Knoth (Head of Financial Literacy Club):** At the Financial Literacy Club, we learn about a wide range of fundamental personal finance topics such as saving, budgeting, taxes, investing, and more. The list of topics that we will cover this year is vast and flexible depending on current events. In each meeting, we typically focus on one or two sub-topics. The first block of the meeting consists of an initial introduction to the topic using various online resources including presentations, videos, and articles. Following this, we discuss the content in smaller groups and then let students answer short questions based on the previous content. Finally, we play a large Kahoot or have occasional mini-tests from which students can win prizes ranging from candies to gift cards.

## WHO SHOULD JOIN YOUR CLUB?

**NR:** Anyone that is interested in empowering themselves to make investment decisions and take control of their financial future.

**NK:** The purpose of this club is to provide students with the knowledge toolkit they need to make smart decisions and prevent mistakes with their money now and in the future. Anyone who wants to gain a fundamental understanding of personal finance is strongly encouraged to join the Financial Literacy Club. It is important to recognize that having an understanding of financial concepts is not only important for those with aspirations to become bankers, but it is also a fundamental skill that all adults, university students, and high-school students need to have in order to achieve their financial goals and avoid common financial pitfalls, like paying interest on credit card balances. Regardless of their desired career choice, students will need to understand and manage their personal finances. It is especially important to start learning about personal finance early on so that mistakes in the future (such as in university or as adults) can be avoided. Now is the time!

## WHAT DOES YOUR CLUB OFFER THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CLUBS?

**NR:** The club fills an important gap that exists in the curriculum of high schools and even universities. Specifically, how to invest and what are those different investment options are not covered in

schools. Most university students graduate without a basic knowledge of investing. The ultimate goal of our club is to provide every UCC student with a high-level understanding of how to invest, which will have a positive impact on their lives going forward.

**NK:** The Financial Literacy Club is the only club that offers students the opportunity to delve into personal finance concepts that will affect their lives in high-school, university, and as adults. It is an invaluable skill that is largely undervalued and underrepresented in the education and club system.

## WILL THERE BE ANY EVENTS, CONTESTS, OR OTHER INITIATIVES HOSTED BY YOUR CLUB OVER THE YEAR?

**NR:** Once everyone in the club has gained a good understanding of the twelve-step investment analysis process we will begin to rank companies and build an investment portfolio in a practice account that we can all track. Ultimately I would love to enroll the club or a subset of the club into the Wharton School of Business Highschool Investment Competition.

**NK:** The Financial Literacy Club will host weekly Kahoot games which are mostly used as a fun way to end meetings and to check members' understanding. Additionally, we will have occasional short tests from which students can receive prizes. In terms of events, we will occasionally participate in online presentations hosted by industry experts. As we progress through the year, more events and opportunities will arise which give students the opportunity to get immersed in the world of finance.

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?

**NR:** There is no background knowledge required, Members are taught everything that they need to know. They will be amazed at how easy it is, how powerful the magic of compounding is, and how anyone can build an investment portfolio worth \$1,000,000 within 25 years.

**NK:** No prior experience is needed. Everyone is welcome to join and start learning.

# DR. HAMR'S TWO DECADES AT UCC



**ERIC AN AND ALEX WANG**  
LAYOUT EDITORS

Dr. Hamr. It doesn't matter if you're in year 8 or about to graduate, that name connects us all back to one word: legend. Whether it's on the pitch, in the classroom, or out in Norval, Dr. Hamr has become one of the most treasured members of our community. With his retirement we reached out to see if we could talk about his experiences during his 20 years at UCC.

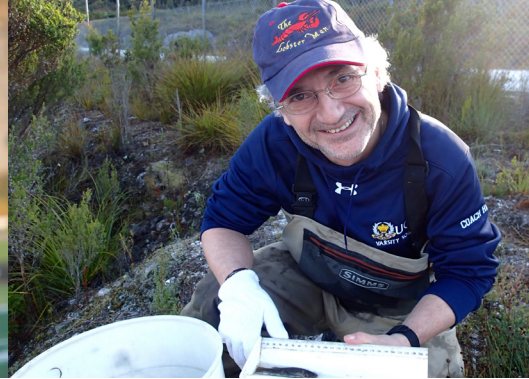
## HOW DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL? WHAT TYPES OF POSITIONS HAVE YOU TAKEN OVER THE YEARS?

I joined the school in September 2000 and came in as a one-year replacement for a teacher. I couldn't replace her since she went on maternity leave with her first baby and so initially, I was just supposed to be here for a year at UCC... and it's translated into 20. I began with teaching Systems and Grade 9 science as well as coaching JV soccer and cricket; 2003 was my first year of cricket.

## HOW HAS UCC CHANGED THROUGHOUT YOUR TIME HERE?

I think some of the biggest changes were when the grade 13s left. I was still there for, I think, their last two years. The big guys left (Year 13s) and the little guys came (Year 8s).

The other big change was computers because when I first started teaching in 2000 we didn't really have a lot of technology. I remember we had one old



stand-up PC in the office and you got one or two emails a day — most of mine were from my friends in Australia. If you had messages from somewhere, like administration, they were phone messages. Then we got laptops — initially we had these clunker Dells and then we switched to Macs and everything took off.

I think in some ways I like using computers and it's certainly way better to use my Mac to teach than to use overheads, which I don't think you guys even know about. So yeah, the technology was big but it didn't necessarily make things less complicated — I didn't have to watch an eight minute video to figure out how to write a report card or how to read my schedule.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS FROM YOUR TIME AT UCC?

That would be easy: my first soccer championship, which was JV (I'm still very proud of that). We won JV in 2003 and it's still the only JV championship that's ever been won. I've won 13 CISAA championships so that's pretty good and we hit a 7 year run where we won seven years in a row with Mr. Turner, so that was special. The first championship was really special because we won it at UCC in 2004 on Commons (back when we were still playing on Commons). The whole school was there. The principal let out the entire school — they were sitting there watching as we beat St. Mikes 2:1, so that was pretty memorable.



As far as teaching, it's hard to pick one. I love going to Norval and doing my field trips with my Systems guys but also later with the grade 8s where I used to do the crayfish study and I really enjoyed that. Besides that, I went on a service trip to the Amazon twice and that was an incredible and life-changing experience for all of us so it was very special.

## WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST EXPERIENCE FROM YOUR TIME AT UCC?

There have been some pretty funny things that happened in soccer but they're probably not that relevant because things like that don't happen anymore. Some of the funny stuff that happened was certainly at Norval. I remember one of the grade 8s once got swept down the river and I had to go fish him out because his waders were full of water. He wound up to be my top striker when he was in grade 11 and 12 on the varsity soccer team. We once got him a pair of water wings (those little floaties) and always reminded him about that so that was pretty funny.

There was a lot of funny stuff but I can't recall everything. I had a lot of fun with the Systems guys in class. We had the Wall of Fame and the Wall of Shame in [room] 317. The Wall of Shame was just all the late excuses (it's still up there) and the Wall of Fame is if you did something, you got your name on a poster or a picture (that's still up there I think. I don't know how long it's going to stay). The guys love looking at that when they come back.



## WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS? ARE THERE ANY REGRETS?

I realized my biggest achievements in coaching when I retired and I finally counted all the medals over the past 20 years; I got 37 medals and 31 of those were gold, so I'm very proud of that. I think they were in cricket and soccer: JV team soccer, national soccer and CISAA cricket. In fact, I used to coach at Appleby U16 volleyball and I won a medal there as well. So, in every sport that I've ever coached, we've gotten the gold medal and I think that's pretty special. Also, we have never lost once we reached a CISAA final and St. Mike's has never beaten us in the finals.

In terms of teaching, I'm proud of the record I've had with Systems. The Systems guys are not always the easiest guys to teach but I think they have the most character and are certainly the most fun guys to teach. I've managed to keep them at or above the world's average over the 20 years that I've taught systems so I'm pretty proud of that too.

As for my biggest regret, I used to be the "Dean of Green" when we had the green school. The only thing that's kind of left from this is that logo, the tower with the green leaf on it. We actually designed that when I was the head of the green school. I had two courses off to work on that in 2007-2008. We were really at the forefront of sustainability in private schools and that also fell through. I feel that was a great shame because we were leading the pack and now I think we're actually behind the pack in Sustainability. I don't think we have a very strong program and if I look at some of the other private schools, they seem to be doing stuff (activities) that we don't do anymore. It doesn't seem to be a big thing and I always regret how that happened.

## WHAT IMPACT HAS UCC MADE ON YOU? WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR YOUR LEGACY AT UCC TO LOOK LIKE?

I hope I've left a legacy not only with systems but also with the coaching. I

think some of the records that we had with Mr Turner are going to be hard to beat for anyone. But I've made some really good friends: Mr. Turner, Mr. Paschalidis, Mr. Hoel, among others. I've really enjoyed meeting the people and teaching with the faculty. I think we're lucky to have top-notch faculty at UCC and I know we say that all the time but it is true, you know. I came from a university to teach at UCC so we have some high-powered people in that regard.

I'm also proud of the crayfish stuff that I did while I was still teaching. I also published papers with a couple of the guys. I published a couple with Mr. Hoel and also some with the students. I'm analyzing and finalizing the stuff that we do at Norval and that's going to make another paper that actually a couple of the graduates are going to be on. They're alumni now but two of the guys that worked on it did their extended essays and IAs on it and they're going to get credit and I'll put their names on the paper.

## ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR PIECES OF ADVICE YOU BELIEVE ARE IMPORTANT FOR ALL STUDENTS TO HEAR?

I always tell the Systems guys: "why do it the hard way if you can do it the easy way?" I don't mean that in a way where you slouch off responsibility or don't do things properly. I just mean that there's always a hard way and an easy way, but sometimes there's no easy way like trying to beat St. Mike's in the soccer finals. But there are some things you can do to make it easier so I think you should always look for the best, simplest, and easiest way to get whatever your goal is done. I like that saying and the Systems guys always like it because I think they think that I mean that you should just do it the easy way which is not necessarily the best way, but that's not what I mean.

If I have to give advice to people: just do things that you love. I love crayfish and I've been working with them for 40 years. I love coaching and I really enjoyed it. I love teaching the System's guys even though it wasn't necessarily

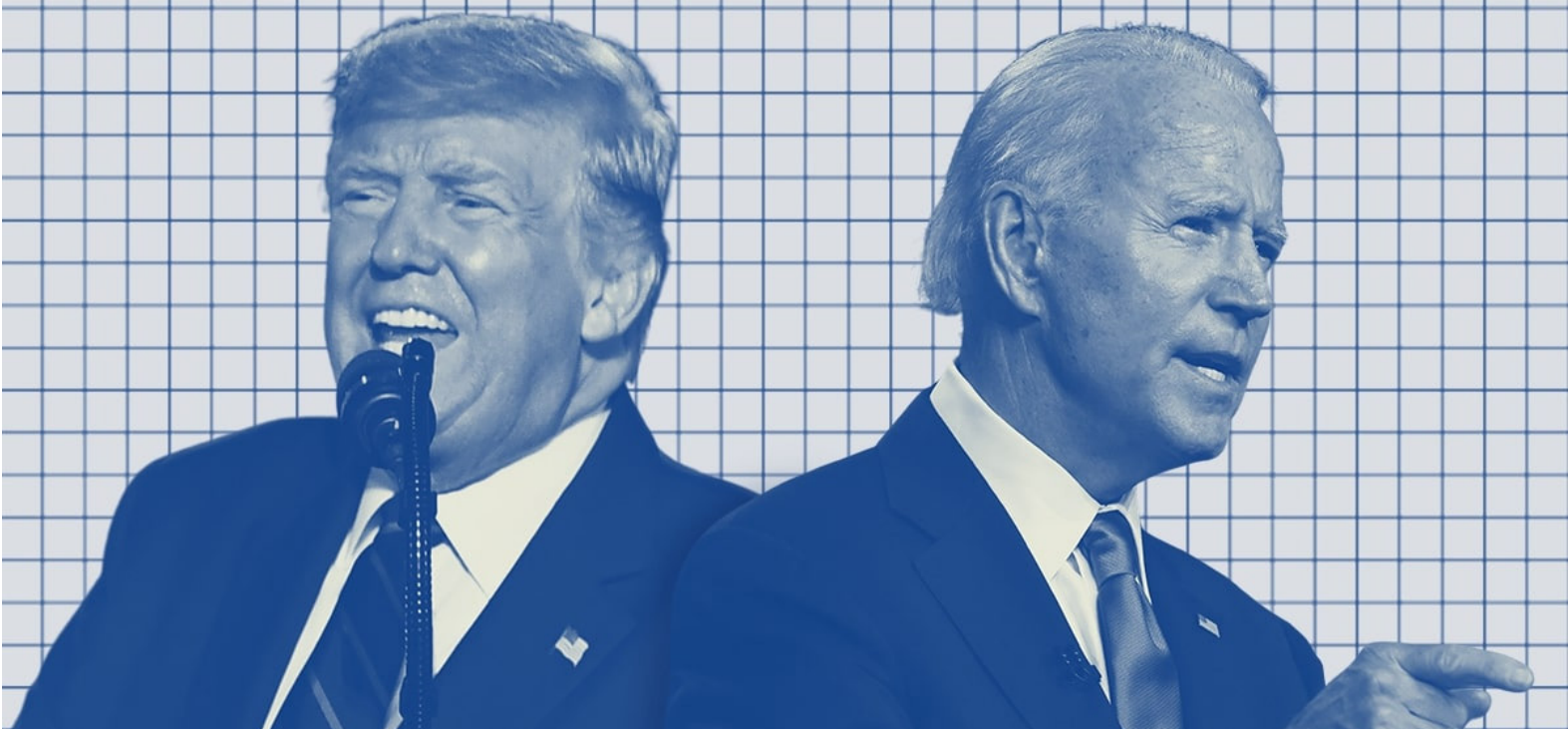
easy but I really enjoyed that and I think in life it's important to do the things that you love and enjoy and many people don't do that either for money or because they don't try hard enough or they can't see a way to do the things that they want to do.

I got to study crayfish my whole life not because I went to University but because I taught High School, because I had the free time in the summer to do whatever I wanted and I got to do whatever research I wanted, not whatever research someone would pay me to do or want me to do. I think that was really important for me. I don't regret that at all. I don't regret leaving University.

## WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR RETIREMENT? WILL YOU CONTINUE YOUR WORK WITH CRAYFISH?

I mean I've already done one study during isolation. I started it in the spring as soon as we went into lockdown. I started sampling once a week in the local stream here so I'm just going to keep working on it. It's unfortunate that things are the way they are because of Covid-19, otherwise I would be working with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Credit River Conservation Authority, and the Royal Ontario Museum. I have a project going with the ROM right now but we can't even get together because the ROM is closed right now. They're doing some genetics on crayfish for me so I'm working with the curator for invertebrates.

I'm planning to do lots of crayfish and I also plan to do a lot of drawing because I love arts and so I'm going to do illustration. What else? I'll do some reading, watch some soccer, watch some cricket, whatever I want. I'll go on long walks and just enjoy myself and do all the things that I really really want to do... My parents are very old and I want to see them too, so I'll go visit my 90 year old parents more often.



## Background

When Supreme Court Justice and Pop Culture icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away in September, the knee-jerk reaction for many, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, was to look to the future and the political implications of this vacancy on the most powerful court in the most influential country in the world.

As an American residing in Canada and a supporter of Justice Ginsburg's judicial philosophy and courage, I thought of the late Justice Antonin Scalia, arguably the most conservative judge, who cultivated a friendship with Ginsburg, perhaps the most liberal. This sort of friendship 'across the aisle' is becoming increasingly rare in American politics, a highly polarized and partisan climate, and this is nowhere more evident than in the Presidential election.

In Canada and here at UCC, we are privileged to have diversity of political thought and perspective. In fact, many of the trends and phenomena occurring in the highest offices of the US Government and voting constituency are indeed reflected in our own Canadian government and school community.

In the process of writing this piece, I spoke to a handful of boys to understand the election from slightly different perspectives. Special thanks to Robert Muroi for his analysis and commentary.

## Partisanship

"Founding Father and future President John Adams referred to America's two-party system as 'the greatest political evil under our constitution.' 231 years later, less than 20 days out from the 2020 U.S. election, it appears Adams' words were affirmed." - Robert Muroi

In American politics, bipartisan support is a fairytale of the past. From the outside looking in, one is left with an impression of conspicuous disarray. A Y10 student echoed this, commenting that the presidential election and everything stemming from it was "a complete mess."

Long gone are the days where President Dwight D. Eisenhower could have run under either the GOP or Democratic banner. Long gone, are the days of John McCain's bipartisan consensus building and civility in Congress.

This is the new normal in the US of A. This dangerous degree of partisanship

has led to the most ideologically divided country we have seen since a literal Civil War. Increasingly, party politics takes precedence over courage and legislative progress. The ugliness that has so readily characterized the US electorate these past few decades is a direct result of the 'fault line' that is political partisanship and the two-party US system.

An example of this in Congress is South Carolina senator Lindsey Graham. He has departed from being a courageous consensus builder in the mold of McCain (being the only Republican on the Senate Judiciary to vote for President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominees: Justices Kagan and Sotomayor) to President Donald J. Trump's greatest ally, abandoning, for the most part, traditional 'Licolnian' Republican values. As a result, he is being crushed in funding by Democrat Jaime Harrison and is breaking every rule in the book by soliciting donations on the Senate floor.

As one Y12 student put it: "Both sides seem to be doing a lot of identity politics rather than pushing policy." The media has only exacerbated the partisanship divide. Especially in the digital age, we are often quick to regurgitate headlines.



## The Press

The media, particularly the American press, skillfully employs tactics, deployed against politicians on all ends of the spectrum. At the school, in any given classroom debate over current affairs, much of the rhetoric one hears is often repeated storylines from the media machine.

"I've found the slandering of Trump to be only [exacerbated] by media outlets. The Washington Post, The New York Times, CNN, NBC, all seem to be out to get him. Have you noticed that whenever media outlets talk about Trump, they are always condemning him? Is Trump really that bad that there is nothing good to say about him?... When Trump mediated peace talks [with a high degree of success in the Middle East], NBC, the New York Times, and the Washington Post downplayed Trump's role in the talks, while CNN flat out refused to comment on them, and when Trump's economy boomed, media outlets mostly credited Obama." -Robert Muroi

There are two problems I can identify with major news outlets in the U.S. For one, the most visible and prestigious news outlets skew left. NBC, ABC and CBS are the biggest networks and CNN is the dominant force in cable news. They all skew left. National Public Radio, the same.

Besides the problems this presents, right-wing news outlets, with the exception of FOX and possibly the WSJ, fight to break into the Establishment. This results in highly insular content from outlets like Breitbart, the Daily Wire, and even FOX who often relinquish any pretense of proper journalism/reporting. This is then reflected back to the left (albeit to a different degree) and thus we get misreporting, sensationalist media coverage, and a significant drop in proper journalism abound.

As someone who religiously watched C-SPAN, observed nearly every statement and question in the 30+ hours of recent Supreme Court Confirmation hearings,

watched then re-watched Presidential, Vice Presidential and Senatorial Debates, and enjoys listening to Supreme Court oral arguments, it is always interesting to hear what the media chooses to run with.

As much as the first presidential debate did not resemble one, one-liners and short quotes like Biden telling Trump to "just shut up" and Trump telling a white supremacist group to "stand by" completely fail to capture what little substance there was in the debate and in this election as a whole. Yet the people I asked chose to reference these select moments in characterizing the race as a whole. And while Trump catching COVID-19 is certainly emblematic of his response, I would rather see reporting on positive efforts being made to combat the virus than a livestream of the President being airlifted to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

As a result, a lower and lower percentage of the voting age population is educated. Sensationalist media feeds into sensationalist politics and legislative progress, already hampered by filibusters and grandstanding, leadens further.

## So?

The four individuals on the Republican and Democratic tickets all have their faults. Mike Pence has shown a similarly laissez-faire attitude towards the virus as Trump and is not the conservative anchor that many Americans want in power. Biden can perhaps be blamed for sparking the partisanship issue in the United States when, as Chair of the Senate Judiciary, he blocked Robert Bork from being a Supreme Court Justice.

And while Kamala Harris represents a role model for me as an Asian rising in the judicial system and American politics, Robert posits that her troubling record as the Attorney General of California is being glossed over by the media ("Harris's past is filled with wrongs ranging from her attempts to block evidence to save a death row inmate as the Attorney General of California, to her sweeping justice reforms

as a Senator that saw police target minorities for minor drug offences.")

While I would love nothing more than a sweeping Democratic victory, I know better than to trust the polls (the one thing I agree with President Trump on). While phone banking for Biden, I have increasingly felt the concerns of an uncertain and scared American electorate. No matter what happens - with a Supreme Court nominee being pushed through at an unprecedented time, a U.S. election that is likely to be contested, all transpiring in a volatile national climate - the next few weeks will be action-packed. And it will not be pretty.

## Apathy is Boring

Another popular school of political thought, present at UCC and the world, is apathy.

The problem? Apathy is boring. In 2016, 55% of Voting-Age US Citizens cast a ballot. Canada is marginally better, at 66% in the 2019 election. This still means that well over 100 million Americans and close to 25 million Canadians are not exercising their right to vote. This fundamental freedom is being ignored by so many.

Apathy is understandable at a school where few boys are eligible to vote. Especially so at a school where policy makes very little difference in the day-to-day welfare of the vast majority of students. While asking people about their opinions, attempting to spark civil discourse, I was reminded of a troubling trend in political apathy at institutions of higher learning. At Princeton University in New Jersey, a school in a similar stratosphere of prestige and privilege as UCC, just 44% of eligible students voted, significantly less than the national average of 55% and even further below the national average for college students. In conversation, Prof. Julian Zelizer called it "embarrassing". Which it is.

Let's not play into this. Regardless of opinion, let's be involved, engaged citizens.

*Photo credit: FiveThirtyEight*



# BLAZER

| UCC's humour publication written by failed Creativity Stewards |

## Rotis aren't Coming Back

Rotis aren't coming back, Dr. Hamr isn't coming back, Mr. Sharpe isn't coming back, and nor is the LD. But COVID is coming back, and it's safe to say she's gonna steamroll us harder than a three way conference. However, we here at the Blazer have a 'class half full' mentality and so with that in mind, we hope you bust a gut to this fine piece of craftsmanship.

Most notable in this return school perhaps is the division of the students into Cohort A and Cohort Brutal (Orr's, Scadding's, 'nuff said). This split is setting up too potentially be the greatest showdown since Marshall vs Delaney or Bat vs the world or Breton vs Holt in the 1895 heavyweight title. But lads, now is not the time to divide this beautiful College. We must unite under the Bardain regime and find ways to make this year memorable for all of us. Here's a short list of ways we thought the students could use their powers for good:

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|---|---|
| 1. Pull the fire alarm - boys, we can never do the fire drill too many times, practice makes perfect!                               | 2. Wipe your friends desk - nothing says "brotherhood" like giving your friend a hearty wipe in class |
| 3. Email Mr. McKinney - reach out to our principal, he loves when students contact him for no reason!                               | 4. Follow uccblazer on instagram - or don't, honestly we don't care                                   |
| 5. Buy Aramark stock - it's the least we can do to keep our source of nutrition afloat (that's ARMK on the New York Stock Exchange) |   |

Simply put, it's a pleasure to be back.

## Photo of the Month



"The man is a bonafide scrub! Have you ever seen him in his Church basketball league?"  
- Stephen A.

## Headlines

- Max Domi shouts out Mr. McKell for making him the player he is today
- Borders may be closed, but there are still non-stop flights to Paris. Email [ss@gumr.on.ca](mailto:ss@gumr.on.ca) for inquiries
- Who's been doing donuts on the prep field??
- Nolan Murrell will miss his graduating year; has declared for the NBA draft
- Last assembly felt more like a 40 minute memorial in remembrance of A Day
- Administration enforces a "no shorts policy" after it's revealed that Ben Capo shaves his legs
- WHO officials have confirmed the origin of COVID-19 as the UCC pool
- Admin completely misinterprets the meaning of "UCC bubble" after leaving it up on the oval for almost a year.

## Student Seen Without Lanyard

Earlier this week, a student took off his hoodie after getting a sweat on from the intense mental workout that is HL Film. As he pulled his sweater off, his lanyard fell to the floor which led to an identity crisis on a scale of which the world has never seen. With the lanyard gone, how would anyone know if he was a UCC student? His classmates panicked as a stranger had suddenly appeared in their classroom. The teacher immediately ran down to security to call a lockdown for the unknown intruder.

Although the school was in a state of emergency and lives were at stake, social distancing was still respected and cohorts were still enforced. Even knowing the potential dangers of the intruder, the school nonetheless dismissed each grade at a ten minute interval.

Fortunately, the situation was eventually cleared up, and the student is being detained in Ms. Marshall's office to pay for his crime.

## UCC House Mask Design

Everyone was pretty hyped when news of the house masks was announced.

When the day finally arrived for us to receive the masks, we were all blown away by perfectly printed logos on the crisp white masks. We were even more surprised that McHugh's can keep getting away with blatantly breaking copyright laws and stealing the Timberwolves logo.

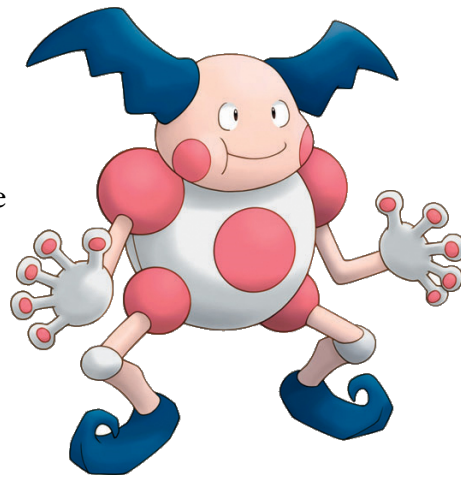
Moreover, that sentiment was hyped way up when the other side of the mask was revealed - there are two logos, perfectly symmetrical on both sides.

"Is the Halloween costume competition coming early?" Why is everyone looking like a clown, from pokemon?" The boys wondered.

With the overwhelming positive feedback, the school decided to make a second edition - this time with 7 logos. Here is a preview of the upcoming McHugh's house mask:



Wearing this mask, students can finally cosplay as Bane on a daily basis.



**Blazer x Chappatack EP in the works...?**