

# CONVERGENCE

May 2020 Edition

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# PERSONAL PROJECTS IN RELIEF OF COVID-19



## DANIEL LU AND MATTHEW WONG

EDITOR AND STAFF REPORTER

During these times, it's been comforting to see so many UCC students establish initiatives to support front-line workers and members of our most vulnerable communities. Here's a brief description of four initiatives that are currently underway.

### PPE - THE HELLENIC HOME SCARBOROUGH

Yios Apostolos Zezos and Jamie Selfe (pictured above as part of Hellenic Culture Club) are raising funds to buy personal protection equipment (PPE) from a direct supplier for the Hellenic Home for the Aged in Scarborough. They chose this particular home due to a recent COVID-19 outbreak of over 40 cases. In addition, they have a personal and cultural connection to the Greek community and want to support one of the most vulnerable groups affected. They've Raised over \$18,000 (surpassing their \$15,000 goal) and donated the first shipment of 3,500 masks and 1,000 pairs of gloves. You can support their cause via their Facebook page or their GoFundMe.

### PANDEMIC PALS

Organized by Shaan Hooey, Luca de Grandpre, Jeff Zhu, Matt Sun, David Park, Robbie Evans, Ibrahim Fadel, Apostolos

Zezos, Justin Lee, and Kene Ochuba, Pan Pals is connecting seniors with student volunteers in the GTA to build meaningful relationships and combat social isolation among seniors through communicating via email, letter, or phone at least once a week. Shaan said "It's so important that we take care of seniors during this time. While social isolation can severely impact the mental health of all of us, nothing compares to going through it alone". They are hoping to expand this initiative to other major cities in the province, creating a "Seniors Calling Network" for the rest of this pandemic (and maybe after as well).

### HAIRCUTS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

YIIS Jack Hewitt and Aaron Ziedenberg faced the dilemma of cutting their own hair due to barber shops being closed but turned it into an opportunity to donate to a local hospital, North York General. They've raised over \$5,600 for its COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund from over 50 donors and have encouraged over 30 people to cut their hair so far. Follow their Instagram page @HaircutsToHelpFirstResponders to see photos of the haircuts and to donate.

### 3D PRINTING FACE SHIELDS

Y8 student Warren Richmond Kalaci has 3D printed over 160 face shields for frontline workers and patients at SickKids Hospital. He started this initiative because

he didn't "want to see frontline workers suffering" and his expertise in 3D printing gave him the opportunity to contribute. The manufacturing of face shields is particularly critical as PPE in hospitals is quickly running out. As epidemiologist Michael Edmond put it, face shields are considered a "safer and more effective alternative".

When Warren graduated from our prep school, his parents asked him what present he'd like to have. For an average grade 7 student, video games, toys and sports equipment would likely be the go-to gifts. However, Warren isn't average. He ambitiously asked for a "Prusa I3 MK3 3D printer" due to his immense passion for design and prototyping. This unparalleled graduation present later became the cornerstone for the production of 160 face shields.

After transitioning to the upper school, Warren immediately fell in love with the newly built design lab. He'd spend entire recesses and lunch breaks playing around with the 3D printers and discussing his innovative ideas with his friends and the design teachers. He and his friends are currently working on prototyping an electric skateboard and a replica Spiderman's web shooter. His passion for 3D printing stems from its "ability to allow me to express my creativity in ways that my younger-self never thought was possible".

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As Warren described, there were three steps in 3D printing of the shields. First, he designed the appearance and determined the material he'd build them with by using an app called Tinkercad. It's worth noting that he deliberately added superhero logos to the shields to make them seem "less intimidating" to the children at the hospital. He came up with over seven different designs based on iconic brands such as the Avengers, Spiderman, Flash, Superman, Black Panther, Wonder Woman, and even our beloved Toronto Maple Leafs. He then downloaded his design as a "cad" file and stored it in a SD card. Last, he inserted the SD card into his Prusa 3D-printer and printed out the shields by using additive manufacturing.

Aside from giving back to the community, Warren described the experience as a great learning process. He developed

great research skills when searching for the right materials and outstanding critical thinking skills through balancing the functionality and the aesthetic of the shields. He also learned about the significance of collaboration through contacting Armour Goaltending, a school for hockey goalies, and asking them to start a fundraising project that ultimately raised over \$6,487. The skills he acquired will be incredibly beneficial for him across all disciplines going forward.

When Warren delivered the face shields to frontline workers at SickKids Hospitals and the McMaster Children's Hospital, he described their reactions as "ecstatic" and "appreciative". Warren said that the "satisfaction and happiness" on their faces motivates him to work harder and print more shields. His end goal is to print 650 face masks and he's confident

that it'll be met by the end of the month.

On a broader scale, when Warren was asked about the future of 3D printing, he said that it'll "play a predominant role in various industries and in our daily lives". In the medical field, 3D printers have been used to produce pre-surgical planning models that increase the accuracy and precision of surgeries. When applied to projects done at NASA, it has made prototyping rockets and satellites much more accurate and affordable.

The benefits of 3D printing are undeniable and I highly recommend that you check out the 3D printers in the design lab once we get back to school. Who knows, you might also be like Warren one day: someone who uses their passion and expertise to make an impact on the people around them!

## THE CLP'S IMPACT ON THE MYP PERSONAL PROJECT

**A.J. SHULMAN**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

The Personal Project is a two-year culminating project for the Middle Years Program (MYP) that begins in Y9 and ends in March of Y10. The goal of the project is to showcase skills learned throughout the MYP in an independent way.

Projects in the past have ranged from sports tutorials to global recipe books, and the freedom that's given to students allows them to pursue their passions in a way that is unlike other opportunities at UCC.

### BENEFITS OF THE CLP TO THE PROJECT

Despite the obvious drawbacks, there are some benefits of the Continuous Learning Plan (CLP) schedule when it comes to the project. The increased independent time leaves more space for students to work on their investigation of choice (which takes 25 hours on average to complete) and allows for more meetings with advisors through Google Meet. The pandemic also allows for the opportunity to create a meaningful social impact on our community. From helping local businesses to leading medical equipment drives, there are many areas of the community that require major assistance during these times.

### DRAWBACKS OF THE CLP TO THE PROJECT

On April 15th, 2020, the Y9s began the preliminary stages of the project by selecting their ideas and were paired with advisors on May 1st. Despite a similar timeline to last year, many are worried that the pandemic will affect the project as it has with every other aspect of school-life.

Students may no longer use the resources and facilities at school, such as the Atkins Family Design Lab and the various fields, and will be unable to create a project that involves anyone outside their household.

# INTERVIEW ON THE VIRTUAL PLAY: ESSAY

**JUSTIN LEE**

GRADUATING HEAD LAYOUT EDITOR

I recently had the chance to interview Aman Rizwan, one of directors of this year's student directed play: *Essay*. Seeing that this year's play couldn't be held in a traditional theatre setting, the directors instead decided to present it in a successful virtual showing that gained hundreds of views online.

## COULD YOU WALK US THROUGH THE PROCESS OF ADAPTING THIS PLAY TO THE VIRTUAL PLATFORM?

When we first heard that we wouldn't be attending school physically for the rest of the year, we thought that the play would be cancelled. After hearing about the virtual play idea, a lot of us weren't sure what it'd look like, but we quickly decided that since a lot of people are doing virtual calls these days, that a recreational version of one of them wasn't too far-fetched.

It fit the topics and themes of the play in the ways that the structure didn't require any prompts, that the play didn't require too much staging, and that it was very dialogue based, so it worked very well. Our process focused on making sure that these characters were fleshed out and that their lines were reactive.

## WAS THIS PLAY PARTICULARLY EASY TO ADAPT TO A VIRTUAL FORMAT?

I think the way Hannah Moskowitch writes her plays helped us adapt effectively. Her plays are very dialogue focused, all the conflict is embedded in the dialogue, and there's not many stage directions.

For a play like *Antigone* that we did earlier this year and in which I was in the cast for, movement was really important and we spent a lot of our time focused on how we would be moving around the set. Even if *Essay* was a physical performance, I don't think that movement would've been much of a focus, so I think that the transition to virtual was great as we got to focus as much on dialogue, making it an outstanding performance.

## HOW DID YOU GO ABOUT SETTING UP THE BACKGROUND OF EACH CHARACTER'S ZOOM CALL?

That's a good question, we decided it based on the character's feels and descriptions that we got. [Emmy, the actress for Pixie] did it in her bedroom in her home country. She tried to make the room look as much as a dorm as possible by making it a little messier. The TA's office is described by the professor as a dingy, old looking office and he found a

place in his house that looked like that. For the professor's part, he just had an old book case in the background as a lot of our teachers on google meet are sitting in front of bookcases.

The zoom call gave us the freedom to put things in that would define our characters. If we had to do it on a stage, they would be in one space and you wouldn't get those instant cues of their personality, character, and role, so it was a nice advantage.

## WOULD YOU CONSIDER DOING A FUTURE PLAY IN THIS VIRTUAL FORMAT?

I would, I know that we talked about how it was easy to not have props but I think that it'd be interesting to see how a production with props would perform virtually. Would the cast pretend that they were passing props through the call and make it comical? There's a lot of things we didn't get to try since our script was so dialogue focused, but I think if we were to experiment more with this I'd go for something you wouldn't expect from a video call.

In terms of a video call play, ours is traditional in that it's dialogue focused. But you can try to break that by doing something visually through the screen.

# MR. HOEL'S 21-YEAR JOURNEY AT UCC

**KEVIN LIU**

CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

As a member of the cross-country team, I've been coached by Mr. Hoel over the past two years. It seems to me that Mr. Hoel never acts as though he is above us but instead as though he is one of us. I've never personally sat in his class, but from the stories I've heard, I know he's a humorous and easy-going teacher with a reputation for enriching his students' learning experience.

As Mr. Hoel will be retiring this year, I know that many of us would've loved to express our gratitude to him in person. Since the

current circumstances prevent us from doing that, I decided to interview him so that we can all appreciate his inspiring journey at UCC and his advice to all of us at the college.

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

I was hired at UCC in September 1999. This was a time of change. The Massy Quadrangle had just been converted to the Student Centre and the classrooms above it (the film room and design studio). Many teachers did not have their own computers and there were only a few digital projectors.

At the time, I wanted a change from my programming job (GIS applications mostly) and had some teaching experience at Ryerson University. As a result, I was hired as the Head of Geography to help the department transition to the new technology arriving in the classroom.

Over the years I have taught every Geography course, ToK, Business, Computer Science, and most recently, Design. I've also worked at the IB as the English Geography faculty member for the online curriculum center.

Of course, I've coached cricket with Dr. Hamr, soccer with Mr. Turner and

Mr. McKell, hockey with Mr. Williams, Mr. Vance, and Mr. Choptiany, and most recently have really enjoyed coaching cross country with Mr. Crawford and Mr. Williams.

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

I've always felt incredibly lucky to work at a place like UCC with the best students and resources. As a kid from a small town (Stayner, Ontario), I'm still a bit in awe of the place. Here are a few of my most cherished memories:

- \* My first day in assembly, with 800 boys in uniforms singing "Moses", I thought I was at Hogwarts!
- \* I've had many great students that I've kept in touch with over the years and I'm very proud to see all the great things they have achieved
- \* I've developed many friendships over the years with other staff members from every part of the school: faculty, grounds crew, cleaning, and of course food services
- \* I've really enjoyed playing Thursday night hockey for almost 20 years and the pub nights afterwards
- \* I've been in four different academic departments and I enjoyed learning new subjects. I loved learning about philosophy from Mr. Dick and Dr. Churchward. I learned a ton about computer hardware from Mr. Olds. I also have to thank Mr. Turner and Ms. Ridout for helping me early in my career when I was new to teaching teenagers.

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

My biggest achievements are all about my students:

- \* My students presented at the ESRI Canada conference in front of thousands of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) professionals about their digital maps and Minecraft projects. I was also invited to present this at the ESRI international conference in San Diego
- \* Students from my same class were also asked to present their GIS / Minecraft experiment at the City of Toronto GIS day
- \* I ran a Minecraft Java modding camp for grade 7 Horizons campers for five years - many thanks to Ms. Sehgal for

her help!

\* My grade 10 computer science students have created their own social networking applications, learning to be full stack programmers in the process. Google this - it's a hot skill right now!

My regrets have been the times when I lost my temper or didn't know the right thing to say to a student -- my mom always said it's better to be kind than right. I've forgotten this at times and I apologize to the students I was short with over the years.

Another regret that comes to mind was trying to set up a swear jar for my hockey team one year. Massive failure! It worked for cricket, but not hockey!

Last, I forgot to organize tea for a cricket match and the good people at Aramark (Cynthia Gallant!) bailed me out. She wasn't too pleased with me :)

### WHAT IS THE "SECRET" THAT HAS MADE YOU ONE OF THE MOST ADMIRE AND RESPECTED PEOPLE ON CAMPUS?

First of all, I'm relatively shy and try to keep a low profile so I dispute that I'm "one of the most admired and respected people on campus". This sounds more like something you would say about Ms. Ridout, Ms. MacNicol, Mr. Jeffrey, Dr. Hamr or Mr. Webb (retired a couple of years ago). I'm just a regular guy trying to do a good job and have some fun at the same time.

If I'm respected for anything, it's because I try to create lessons that I find interesting and meet IB standards, so that we can have fun in class. I hope that students can sense my enthusiasm. Kids can smell a fake a mile away.

### AS A TEACHER AND COACH FOR MANY YEARS, YOU'VE GIVEN NUMEROUS VALUABLE PIECES OF ADVICE TO VARIOUS STUDENTS AND PARENTS. IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR PIECE OF ADVICE YOU BELIEVE IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL STUDENTS TO HEAR?

Luckily I haven't had to give too much advice as UCC boys tend to know what they are doing :)

I think every kid at UCC should know that they've been given a huge gift and



they're one of the luckiest people on planet Earth. Millions of adults haven't even made a phone call and have to feed their families on \$2 a day. Enjoy life but don't take it for granted. Build your skill-set so you can provide for your future self and family just like your parents have provided for you. Pay it forward.

Other advice: don't use disposable cups and don't buy bottled water!

### WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR RETIREMENT?

I enjoy being outside. As someone who has spent 10 hours a day on a computer almost every day of the year, I need the break.

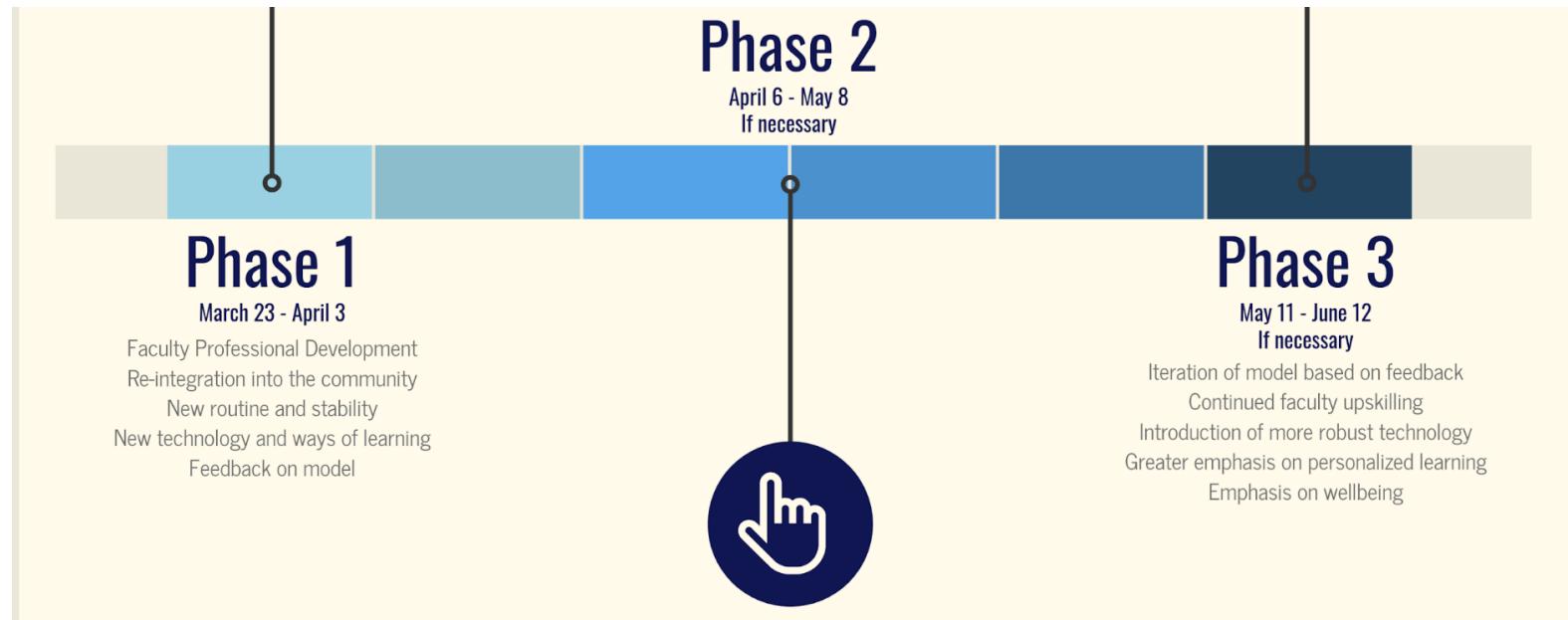
I bought a new bike and am looking forward to doing some big bike tours. I call them "hobo fests" as I don't take any technology and bring only a tent, blanket and one change of clothes. I also just sleep rough wherever I can. My first one post-COVID will be to Halifax, NS.

I also plan to work on my Spanish, Portuguese and French, in that order, by living in Latin America and Quebec at some point.

### AND LAST, ANY MESSAGE YOU'D LIKE TO SAY TO THE UCC COMMUNITY?

You are only young once, but you can be immature forever!

I hope that I will be allowed to visit the campus in the future and maybe even continue playing Thursday night hockey!



The CLP marks the start of an entirely new concept of school. The shortened classes are less interactive and assessments have been condensed to accommodate for this. These changes, coupled with the rule that marks can no longer decrease, have caused a shift in student mentalities: some have begun to slack off while others see an opportunity in the face of unusual circumstances.

However, regardless of anyone's take on the situation, the IB program continues to move ahead, and there is a significant chance that many students will be underprepared when school resumes on campus again.

## Motivation

Personally, I feel as though I've lost the sense of motivation that came with daily interaction with other students and teachers. However, this lack of external motivation is inevitable in the ongoing situation.

As a solution, I think beginning with a small step and building off of that has been a much better way to convince myself to start working. For example, the Extended Essay (EE), often referred to as a cornerstone of the IB program, appears daunting and working on it with limited resources may

feel like a tremendous task. However, beginning a research/writing session with a quick review of a secondary source rather than trying to come up with new arguments can lead to more note-taking, more ideas, and substantial progress on your paper as a whole.

## The EE

Although most EE subjects haven't been too impacted (e.g. English, History, etc.), one of the more popular groups of subjects has been: the sciences.

The pandemic has prevented any use of vital UCC experiment materials and labs, confining those doing experiment-based EEs to just completing background research and planning the experiment. This has caused some problems with the Interim Essay since many EEs simply can't start. Unfortunately, there's not a whole lot we can do and only time will tell how this will all play out.

## Year 11 Exams

Faculty have been in regular meetings during the past few weeks attempting to structure the exams in an effort to balance the variables of academic honesty and

performance.

It seems as though they will take it in one of two ways (although this should all be taken with a grain of salt):

1. Online Proctoring - Each student will take their exams on their computers from home and have online software monitoring/restricting their actions. These may include monitoring the student from their webcam and the actions done on the screen (opening tabs, copy/pasting, etc.).
2. Open-Book Testing - This format lets student access any physical resources at their disposal. It's unlikely that any online materials would be allowed but notes, textbooks, and cheat sheets would be available. One could expect the exams to subsequently be made more challenging or have a shorter timeframe.

Although it isn't clear which option is better (in terms of both academic honesty and student success), student preparation and studying habits will still play a large role in one's results regardless of the format. If there's a definite positive that comes out of this, it's that exam marks only matter if they benefit your grade.

WRITTEN BY:

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# BLAZER

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

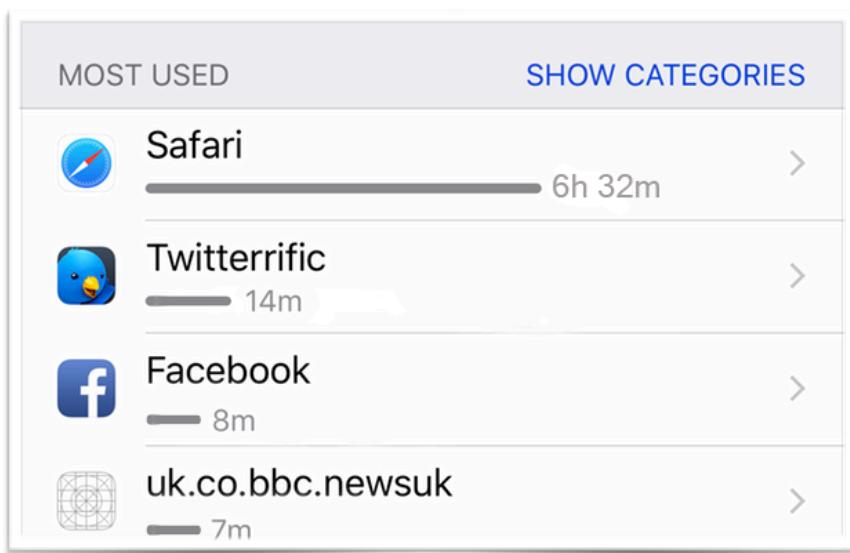
## Quarantine Check

The boys started off strong at the start of the quarantine, whipping out their A-game at pretending to be good boys to their parents. This includes the likes of doing their own laundry and downloading an Italian VPN for premium EE sources.

However, as time progresses and the days get longer, many of us have started to fall out of our normal school day habits and spend a lot more time on our screens.

## Increasing Screen Time

We've sent out emails asking some students how they are spending their time on the phone, and we picked out one quite interesting individual. His name will not be disclosed.



One can only imagine what activities this student has done during his 6 hours on Safari. Perhaps he was doing research for his EE. Perhaps he was searching past examples of TOK essays. Perhaps he was reading the latest Blazer article. I guess we will never know.

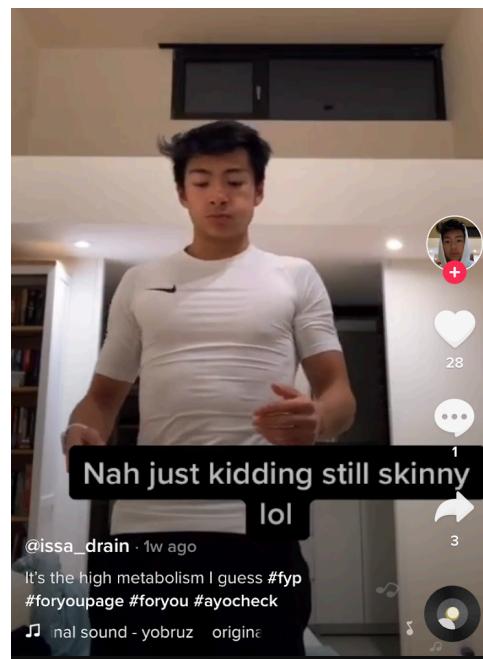
## Headlines

- Dr. Hamr has recently discovered a new form of life in the Scadding's futon (Aramark may add it to the UD menu)
- Ms. Boon volunteers to be the DJ for Stewards 2020
- Mowbray's clinches yet another first overall pick in the upcoming Year 7 draft
- Arjun Shah and his hand flute will accompany O Canada for all future Monday assemblies
- Student filled 3000 words on his EE with one weird trick; IB hates him
- SL AI Math students are allowed to hand pick marks for this term, boys still can't count past 3
- Day 204: He learns to read a new language - Mexican
- Should social distancing be prolonged, WAC 2021 attendance will likely be unaffected
- Year 8's reportedly 'in tears' after learning that their annual Norval trip has been cancelled \*emotional

## Famous TikToker - Adrian Hui

The boys have represented the college well on everyone's favourite hormonally charged form of social media, Tik Tok. @issa\_drain especially pulled out some top-notch content, with a viral video that has over 377k views.

Miraculously, fame and success have not changed his virtuous characteristics. The blazer staff noticed Adrian wearing a youth small Nike shirt, a gift from his 10th birthday, in one of his recent videos.



The level of discomfort was clearly unbearable and yet, Adrian still wants to show his humility and thriftiness by not wasting any piece of fabric or resource. His action reminds us to be grateful for what we have and he is truly a model for the Green initiative at UCC.

We encourage everyone to support his Tiktok career by clicking share, other, then back out on all of his videos.

## You'll Never Watch Alone

Netflix has been pumping out content lately with big productions including “Tiger King”, “The Last Dance”, and Zain Assaf’s personal favourite “Too Hot to Handle”. They’ve cornered the market to such a degree that our very own Creativity Steward Connell Cusinato is being asked to produce a brand new show thanks to his extreme loyalty to the company. It’s rumoured that the show is titled “Maineland” and features in-house celebrities Charmaine and Jermaine in their quest to recruit the 2020 - 21 UCC Bowling Team (year round, walk-on).

## Haircuts for First Responders

To support the fantastic fundraiser spearheaded by Y11 babes Jack Hewitt and Aaron Ziedenberg, students and faculty alike have been trimming their lettuce in an effort to support the first responders at North York General.

We here at Blazer firmly believe in reader involvement and therefore invite all of you to send us ([blazer@ucc.on.ca](mailto:blazer@ucc.on.ca) or @theblazer on instagram) the best doppelgänger for each of the following:

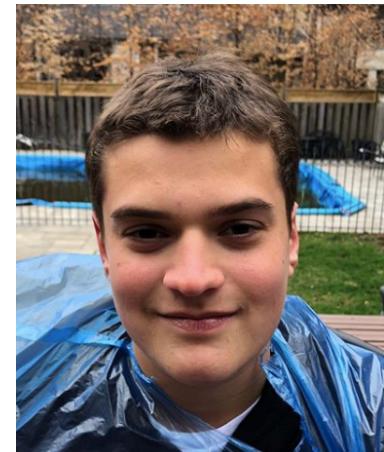
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\* the best responses will be featured in our next edition

Fortnite Tournaments are the worst thing to happen to UCC since losing Moses