

LIVE
WIRE

Corona Campus Closure Effects Ripple Across MCC Community

With the campus closed and many working from home, Live Wire checked in with people from different parts of the Manchester Community College community to talk about how they are coping.



Tanya Millner

with others in order to do our jobs well, in all situations, but particularly during a crisis. I am learning to be more patient with myself and everyone else, and I am learning to set up boundaries. I learned quickly that I must separate my work life and home life, even during a crisis.

Shutting down when I know people need immediate answers to difficult questions is nearly impossible, but it is necessary for me to maintain good health and a positive attitude. I have always known this, but I have been reminded that MCC students, faculty, and staff are resilient, flexible, and thoughtful. We are vulnerable at times as well, but we are able to overcome challenges quickly and compassionately.

How are coping with the quarantine and keeping your spirits up?

When the weather is temperate, I take a walk for 30-45 minutes. I read a few chapters each day; I am almost done with my third book since the quarantine - Just Mercy [by Bryan Stevenson]. My sons and I are finally up to date on our favorite anime, My Hero Academia... I check in with my friends and family every day via text, FaceTime, Facebook, and Twitter. And of course, there is the excessive snacking and mindless television watching.

What do you miss most?

I miss seeing people face-to-face and talking. I miss handshakes and hugs. I also miss going out to restaurants, concerts, and movies with friends and family and alone.

What has been the hardest part? The best part?

The most difficult part is not being on campus and not seeing students, faculty, and staff. Equally difficult was the decision to cancel Commencement exercises. That is the most wonderful time of the academic year. I know how painful this is for students and their families. My oldest son's college cancelled their ceremonies, and my middle son's high school is expecting to do the same. Both are seniors. We are all crushed, but hopefully, we will find ways to celebrate their major accomplishments as a community and as a family. The best part is reading more and relaxing more often.

What are you looking forward

to doing once quarantine ends?

I am looking forward to traveling. I had to cancel two trips due to the pandemic.

Ben Breault, Enrollment Services Coordinator

What have you learned during this crisis, about your job, yourself, MCC?



Ben Breault

I think we learn a lot during crisis – about ourselves, those close to us, our larger community. We learn to treat each other and ourselves with more care and sympathy, how complex our society is.

I'm so grateful to have a job to do in all of this – that I have been able to work remotely and maintain my connections to my colleagues and to our students; to have been able to maintain those connections and to have a certain amount of security is an enormous privilege – and to be able to

join my colleagues in making this experience as rewarding and helpful as possible for students is at the core of what MCC is all about.

It's almost exhilarating, although that's funny to say, to have an opportunity to be especially creative, to explore new ways of connecting and providing programming and services. While it's been crazy stressful, it's also been fun in its own way, too.

How are coping with the quarantine and keeping your spirits up?

Well, getting all of our services up and running in these new formats has certainly kept me busy, and often that's what you want to do: keep busy. The news is tough, of course, but I try to get the information I need and keep it moving because scrolling through my phone makes me anxious.

What do you miss most?

I'll say this: I'll never take it for granted again to be able to

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T.J. Barber and daughter Charlotte



Carla Adams



Contact

Email

livewire@mcc.commnet.edu
Web: <http://livewiremcc.org>
Room SSC L146

860.512.3290

Faculty Advisor: Stephania Davis
sdavis@mcc.commnet.edu

About Us

The Live Wire is a school-sponsored publication that exists to inform the public about issues that face the Manchester Community College campus and offer students, faculty and staff a reputable source for campus information and concerns on a regular basis.

It is also dedicated to promoting diversity and unity within the community. It is a forum for the discussion of social and political topics relevant to MCC, the state, the nation and the world.

Content is objectively selected to provide a diverse array of opinions that lack a clear malicious intent. In an effort to accommodate the entirety of our readership we welcome all criticism and will incorporate it to improve the content of the newspaper to the best of our ability.

We are dedicated to excellence in journalism ethics, participatory democracy and freedom of speech and the press.

Staff

Deidre Montague, Editor-in-Chief

Derek Rodriguez, Managing Editor

Christopher DiBella, Web Editor

Liz Pester – RedBird Design,
Layout & Design

FoodShare Distributing Food All Week

FoodShare will distribute food this week at Rentschler Field, 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford. From Monday, May 4, through Friday, May 8, 6 a.m. to noon, drivers can enter through the Silver Lane entrance. Each car will receive one allocation of food per car per day to ensure that there is enough food for everyone. For the safety of pedestrians, walk-ups are discouraged. But Foodshare continues to operate Mobile FoodShare on the weekdays throughout the region. Our mobile sites are much better suited for pedestrian traffic. To find a site near you please text "FOOD-SHARE" to 85511 or go to www.foodshare.org/mobile. To find a food pantry and other resources near you, call 2-1-1 or go to <https://www.211ct.org/>.

Stay in Shape in Quarantine with Student Videos

Students in the MCC Exercise Science program have been creating their own home workout videos. Meet Zach Albin, an MCC Powerlifter and Personal Trainer, with at home weightlifting and powerlifting ideas: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdY_Nj5L-uQ. Then check out Ben Salamatian, an MCC Ninja Warrior and Ninja Coach, with some much needed humor and body weight training ideas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vsAG0kxAM-Y&feature=youtu.be>. You will need two pieces of equipment though: toilet paper and hand sanitizer.

Ready to transfer your credits?

The annual Spring Transfer Fair will be held Thursday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Raymond F. Damato Learning Resource Center atrium on the first and second floors. Students will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from more than 40 different colleges and universities, who will be ready to answer questions regarding admission requirements, transfer scholarships and other educational opportunities. The snow date is March 20. The event is free and open to the public. For more information visit <https://www.manchestercc.edu/offices/student-affairs/advising-counseling/transfer-planning/> or contact Robert C. Turner, Jr. at rturner@manchestercc.edu, or 860-512-3328.

DivCon Brings Game Design Experts to MCC

MCC's first DivCon 2020 - Diversity in Games & Media Conference was a success on Saturday March 6, bring together more than 70 people, said Jenn Gutterman, who teaches Game Design at MCC and organized the conference. Speakers TreAndrea Russworm from UMASS Amherst, Kathryn Taccone from Open Pixel Studios in Springfield, Mass, and Wasan Hayajneh, an Eastern Connecticut State University graduate, discussed the industry and available career opportunities. In addition, Josh Yearsley from Leder Games of Minnesota ran a professional playtest for his company. We hope to run the conference again every year, if possible, said Gutterman.

Briefs

Please submit briefs to the Live Wire's advisor:
Professor Davis

e-mail:sdavis@mcc.commnet.edu

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SPRINGFIELD
COLLEGE



Corona Campus Closure... Continued from front page

just scoot over to a colleague's office to ask a question or to check in.
What has been the hardest part? The best part?

The hardest part has been balancing all the new tech and productivity tools. MyCommNet, Blackboard, Teams, Outlook, Gmail, WebEx, Zoom, Face-time, texts, chats, more emails! It can make your head spin. I thought that as an introvert, staying home would be easy. The silver lining, I suppose, is how necessity becomes the mother of invention – our crash course in using these tools has created opportunities that will still be there when we aren't under lockdown.

What are you looking forward to doing once quarantine ends?
 I miss campus, that's for sure. I can't wait to get back – to see our students on campus, to see my colleagues. Oh, and there's also that happy day I look forward to when I can go to the store without feeling like a crazy person 'bout to catch a virus!

T.J. Barber, director of Student Activities and Holistic Student Services

What have you learned during this crisis, about your job, yourself, MCC?
 Not as much learned, as much as has been reinforced: 99% of my work is much more satisfying working face-to-face with students. I am NOT a homebody, I suppose having moved 33 times before college and well into the 50s at this point in my life (six times in my 10 years at MCC alone) I'm just used to being a bit of a nomad. Needless to say, spending a month not even leaving to go to work has been a bit of a challenge.

How are coping with the quarantine and keeping your spirits up?
 Spending as much time as possible outside with the kids, lunch breaks, end of day, etc. We've done some hiking in areas without a lot of people to get a change of scenery.

What do you miss most?
 The day to day interaction with students, and my colleagues.

What has been the hardest part? The best part?

Staying put and keeping our two youngest [children] out of our bedroom so I can work on the computer. They don't understand working from home at 2 and 3 years old. The best part is extra time with our kids. I've always worked full-time, if not multiple jobs, so I've not spent a lot of time during the day

with any of our four kids during the work week. So being able to break up the day by eating lunch with everyone has been a nice change.

What are you looking forward to doing once quarantine ends?

Hugging my parents. They're 77 and 80 so that was the first thing to go. In 46 years, I've never been within 10 feet of my Mom and not hugged her until now.

Carla Adams, Professor of Business, Paralegal and Technology

What have you learned during this crisis, about your job, yourself, MCC?

During this crisis, I have learned that positivity and a forward-thinking mindset are critical as we encounter adversity. I have always considered myself a positive person, but this situation has certainly tested me.

I have marveled at how well students (and colleagues) have adjusted to remote learning, even those who were not initially fond of the online format. With the sudden disruption of work and home lives, many have risen to the occasion and are fulfilling their academic commitments despite facing financial and personal difficulties. Some have lost jobs, others are caring for and educating young children at home, and many continue to keep up with their classes despite the challenges. I always knew that MCC students and staff were "gritty," but this experience has underscored our toughness and resiliency. I am proud of the MCC community in so many ways.

How are coping with the quarantine and keeping your spirits up?

Self-discipline has been so important during the quarantine. Keeping a routine has been helpful in completing my daily professional and personal responsibilities. Nutrition, exercise, and sleep have always been a priority to me but now, more than ever, that balance so important to thriving (instead of just surviving) during the pandemic.

What do you miss most?

I miss the face-to-face interaction with students and colleagues. Technology has given us the ability to work and learn remotely but the richness of face-to-face communication can never be fully replicated, in my opinion. And, this viewpoint is coming from a technologist!

What has been the hardest part? The best part?

The hardest part has been not being able to see extended family, especially for birthdays, anniversaries, Easter, etc. I can't wait to see my parents, siblings, and in-laws who all live in Maine and Massachusetts. This situation has made me realize how close knit of a family we are and that being physically apart is challenging.

The best part has been spending quality time with my husband and two daughters (ages 13 and 18). We've been enjoying taking walks, cooking, decluttering, watching old home movies, doing jigsaw puzzles, etc. On a humorous note, I can't believe how much food teenagers eat!

What are you looking forward to doing

once quarantine ends?

There are many things that come to mind but the first thing would be to visit my parents in Maine and walk the beach. I am also looking forward to going out to a restaurant with friends (Zoom happy hours are just not as fun!) Lastly, I can't wait to see our beautiful campus again and connect (face-to-face) with all of my wonderful students and colleagues! Until then, stay healthy and positive, everyone.



CEO Millner has been catching up on her reading during quarantine.



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MCC Alum Part of Team Using Machine Learning to Discover Coronavirus Treatments

Story Courtesy of Columbia University

Two graduates of the Data Science Institute (DSI) at Columbia University are using computational design to quickly discover treatments for the coronavirus.

Andrew Satz and Brett Averso are chief executive officer and chief technology officer, respectively, of EVQLV, a startup creating algorithms capable of computationally generating, screening, and optimizing hun-

dreds of millions of therapeutic antibodies. They apply their technology to discover treatments most likely to help those infected by the virus responsible for COVID-19. The machine learning algorithms rapidly screen for therapeutic antibodies with a high probability of success.

Conducting antibody discovery in a laboratory typically takes years; it takes just a week for the algorithms to identify antibodies that can fight against the virus. Expediting the development of a treatment that could help infected people is critical says Satz, who is a 2018 DSI alumnus and 2015 graduate of Columbia's School of General Studies.

"We are reducing the time it takes to identify promising antibody candidates," he says. "Studies show it takes an average of five years and a half billion dollars to discover and optimize antibodies in a lab. Our

algorithms can significantly reduce that time and cost."

Speeding up the first stage of the process—antibody discovery—goes a long way toward expediting the discovery of a treatment for COVID-19. After EVQLV performs computational antibody discovery and optimization, it sends the promising antibody gene sequences

fail in the computer as much as possible to reduce the possibility of downstream failure in the laboratory. And that shaves a significant amount of time from laborious and time-consuming work."

Averso, who is an alumnus of Manchester Community College and a 2018 DSI alumnus, says some of the antibodies EVQLV is

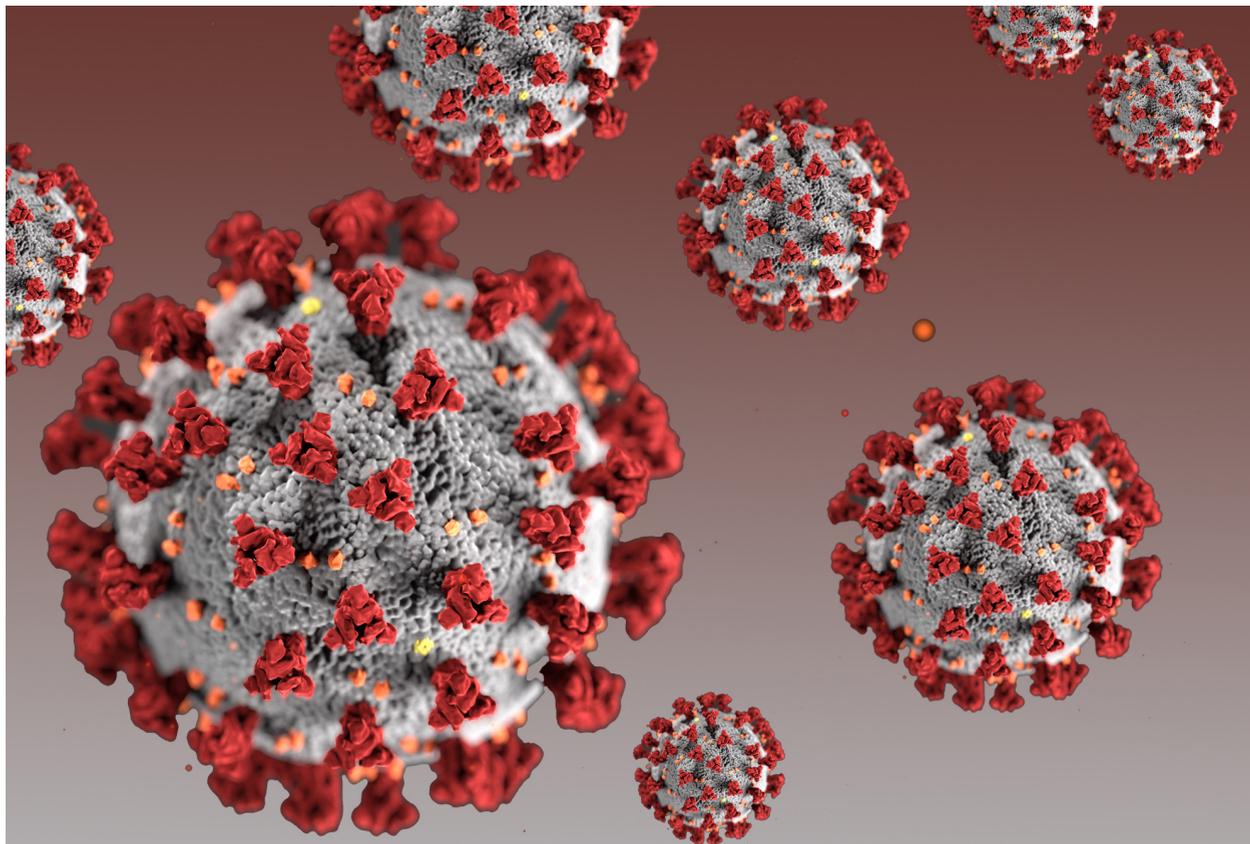
EVQLV collaborates with Immunoprecise Antibodies (IPA), a company focused on the discovery of therapeutic antibodies. The collaboration will accelerate the effort to develop therapeutic candidates against COVID-19. EVQLV will identify and screen hundreds of millions of potential antibody treatments in only a few days—far beyond the capacity of any laboratory. IPA will produce and test the most promising antibody candidates.

Satz and Averso, who met while students at DSI, are deeply committed to using "data for good." The pair has worked together for several years at the intersection of data science and health care and formed EVQLV in December 2019 to use AI to accelerate the speed at which healing is discovered, developed, and delivered. The company has already grown to 12 team members with skills ranging from machine learning and molecular biology to software engineering and antibody design, cloud

computing, and clinical development.

Both DSI graduates typically put in 100-hour work weeks because they are passionate about and committed to using data science to "help heal those in need."

"We are building a company that sits at the frontiers of AI and biotech," Satz says. "We are hard at work accelerating the speed at which healing is discovered and delivered and could not ask for a more fulfilling mission."



to its laboratory partners. Laboratory technicians then engineer and test the antibodies, a process that takes a few months, as opposed to several years. Antibodies found to be successful will move onto animal studies and, finally, human studies.

Given the international urgency to combat the coronavirus, Satz says it may be possible to have a treatment ready for patients before the end of 2020.

"What our algorithms do is reduce the likelihood of drug-discovery failure in the lab," he adds. "We

designing are intended to prevent the coronavirus from attaching to the human body. "The right-shaped antibodies bind to proteins that sit on the surface of human cells and the coronavirus, similar to a lock and key. Such binding can prevent the proliferation of the virus in the human body, potentially limiting the effects of the disease."

He also noted that the scientific community and the biotech industry are galvanized to forge collaborations that bring about therapeutics, diagnostics, and vaccines as quickly as possible.

Off Campus Community Voices

Joe Chaisson,
Journal Inquirer reporter covering East Windsor
and Windsor Locks



Joe Chaisson

Q: How has Coronavirus and the resulting quarantine changed your job? your life?

A: It has slowed a lot of things down and given a new perspective. I'm very grateful for our part of the state not being hit by the virus. My deadlines are the same though. There's just no face to face aspect.

Q: What do you miss most?

A: I miss going out and socializing. Interacting with people is very robotic and impersonal now so I really just miss being around people.

Q: Who or what has let you down?

A: The President. Some international media outlets as well for under reporting the issue. It feels like we were very under-prepared for this virus because of that. The CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] funding was cut a few years back as well so that doesn't help. The leader of the country sets the perspective for this kind of thing and he really hasn't done a good job with this whole thing so far.

Q: Who or what has given you hope?

A: The governors like [Connecticut Gov.] Ned Lamont, Charlie Baker [governor of Massachusetts] and the Cuomo brothers [Chris, of CNN, and Andrew, governor of New York]. They're doing a good job of speaking out about this whole thing. I mean one of the Cuomo brothers even has the virus. Nurses and doctors as well of course. They're unsung heroes because they go to work and risk their lives everyday while the rest of us stay home.

Q: What are you looking forward to doing again once the crisis ends?

A: Seeing my coworkers again, as weird as that sounds. Just going back to a normal routine again would be nice.

By Em Farnsworth

Diana Santa-Cruz, of Manchester,
Senior, Manchester High School,
Class of 2020



Diana Santa-Cruz

Q: How has corona virus and the resulting quarantine changed your job? Your life?

A: COVID-19 has had a major impact on my daily life, first off it made me realize I have taken for granted everyday tasks such as going to school, seeing friends and being able to support local businesses by going out. Understanding the significance of this quarantine is more important than trying to fight against it.

By staying inside we will prevent the further spread of this invisible enemy and be able to enjoy our communities and everyday lives sooner. Everyday my family and I stay inside unless we need to go out for essential items; even then, we are extra cautious, using ...gloves, masks, and keeping disinfectant handy. Working at a retire-

ment home, I understand the risk of what could happen if COVID-19 were to enter and affect our vulnerable community.

Q: What do you miss the most?

A: I miss my social life and being able to enjoy the activities Manchester has to offer. Time in quarantine has helped me develop habits such as getting back into reading and daily workouts that I can't wait to maintain in my life once this crisis is over.

Q: Who or what has let you down?

A: People who are not taking quarantining or social distancing seriously have let me down tremendously. Just because we are young and more likely to beat COVID-19 if we were to ever contract it doesn't mean you shouldn't care. I think it's extremely selfish of people to not take it seriously...

Q: Who or what gives you hope?

A: Healthcare workers, my family and friends, having a great support system through this all is great because it doesn't make me feel alone. My sister is currently working at Hartford Hospital helping people with COVID-19 and her bravery and resilience gives me hope because I know healthcare workers are working 24/7 giving aid and trying to find a cure to put an end to this world-wide pandemic.

Q: What are you looking forward to doing again once this crisis ends?

A: I'm looking forward to my future: graduation, starting college and being able to become more educated to, hopefully, someday work to prevent situations like these or if not be more prepared.

By Ben Margelony

Mark Shenstone,
of Trumansburg, NY,
owner of Graceful Gardens nursery

Q: How has Coronavirus and the resulting quarantine changed your job? Your life?

A: My wife and I have a horticultural greenhouse business. We sell our plants through mail order online. We sell to the consumer at the Ithaca Farmer's Market twice a year. We are not able to go to the farmer's market right now because it is considered non-essential. My life has changed because my wife and I are engaging in social distancing, staying at home, and working.

Q: What do you miss most?

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Community Voices ...Continued from page 5



Mark and Amanda Shenstone

A: I miss the employees. My wife and I grow the plants and ship them out. There is more stress right now because there is no extra help. The online part of the business is our main source of income at the moment.

Q: Who or What has let you down?

A: The number one person who has let me down is [President] Donald Trump and the Republican Congress. They care more about the economy than people's health.

Q: Who or what has given you hope?

A: Our governor, Andrew Cuomo, has given us hope. He seems like he is thinking about what it would take to keep our citizens alive and get our economy going.

Q: What are you looking forward to doing again once the crisis ends?

A: I'm looking forward to going mountain biking with a group of friends without having to stay six feet apart from them.

By Alec Boyce

**Beth Stafford,
CEO and Executive Director of the Manchester
Area Council of Churches, or MACC, Charities**

Q: How has Coronavirus and the resulting quarantine changed your job? your life?

A. Like everyone, uncharted waters for sure. It has been a time of learning what is most important, taking care of one's self and to be creative in fulfilling the mission while being mindful of safety. Frustration at times... but I believe we will get through this and be better for it.

Q: What do you miss most?

A. Freedom to move about and to touch people I love - hugs!!! Enjoying meals out, movies and

activities. Kissing on my grandson and attending church services.

Q: Who or what has let you down?

A. No one, but many have built me up. This is a disease and not personal on any level. I guess if I had to pick an area, it would be the media. It, as an industry, has disappointed me



Beth Stafford

on some levels by feasting on the sensational level of things and adding to the fear factor.

Q: Who or what has given you hope?

A. God and my faith in Him to provide and protect. I really do see miracles every day. Kindness from strangers and seeing most people giving as they can and being genuinely concerned about the well-being of others. Seeing the gratefulness of those who depend on the kindness of others is moving.

Q: What are you looking forward to doing again once the crisis ends?

Touching i.e. hugs, pats on the back, closeness of conversations and overall community activities. I miss community interaction. I do not think any of us will ever forget or take the simple things for granted again.

By Nick Morin

**Kevin Nathan,
of Glastonbury,
News Anchor at NBC30 CT**

Q: How has Coronavirus and the resulting quarantine changed your job? your life?

A: It has changed everything at my job because coronavirus is THE story and the only story that I'm currently covering. It impacts everything from health to the economy. My news segment

has changed from a half hour show to a full hour. Also managing the amount of press conferences from Governor Lamont and President Trump has been a new challenge to deal with as well. As for my home life it's different because everyone is at home. Being around my wife and kids has been a blessing.

Q: What do you miss most?

A: I miss the little interactions day to day. I miss the small chats with colleagues. The ones that last a minute, but might make your day. I miss going to church. Finally, I miss sports. As a former sportscaster for many years, once I moved to news I didn't find myself missing it as much as I thought I would. Now that we don't even have the option to watch I'm missing it almost more than anything.

Q: Who or what has let you down?

A: As a news anchor I like to say impartial. With that being said I don't think anyone has let us down. Our state and federal officials are doing the best they can under these unprecedented circumstances. I've never been a huge finger pointer so like I said we've never experienced anything like this before and everyone is doing the best that they can.



Kevin Nathan

Q: Who or what has given you hope?

A: I am a man of faith, so my faith gives me hope. I am optimistic that everything will be ok someday. I always have hope. History also gives me hope. The U.S. has gone through

worse during WWI and WWII where millions of Americans lost their lives as well as the Civil War. We're telling 20 year olds to stay home and watch Netflix compared to the war where they'd send you off to fight for your country.

Q: What are you looking forward to doing again once the crisis ends?

A: When it's totally over, and I mean when vaccines are here and the necessary testing is set up, I will look forward to not even thinking about the coronavirus. I look forward to waking up in the morning and the first thoughts not being Covid-19. I can't wait to give hugs again, shaking someone's hand, or giving a high-five. I can't wait to go to sporting events like a Yard Goats game. Finally, I look forward to appreciating the things that we all took for granted.

Q: Is there anything you want to say that I didn't ask you?

A: Yes, there is actually. I just want to say this because I feel like the media has been attacked throughout all this. The media, especially my team at NBC 30, has done a great job at informing the public with the facts. We have been giving and responding to the information that has been given to us. We are not reporting in the way that we do as a scare tactic. We'd be doing the public a disservice if Covid-19 wasn't the only story we are covering. This is a serious situation and deserves to be covered in that way. The media has shined in its role as the middleman to get the public all the right information about this virus and I couldn't be more proud of the work my colleagues and I have done.

By Josyah Howard

Customers come in with face masks on and you can't recognize them. The casual conversations are no longer. Dealing with Reps strictly by phone. It hampers marketing and development.

Q. Who or what has let you down?

A. The WHO [World Health Organization] has let us all down. They are conspiring with China. President Trump is doing an awesome job. He is right calling out China and the WHO.

Q. How has the coronavirus affected the schedule of your employees?

A. We have been very busy from the start, 7 days a week. My employees are open to extra hours. We have provided them with gloves, masks, plexiglass barriers at the registers. The staff has been awesome. We provide them with bonuses to show them that they are appreciated. We do free delivery to the elderly. We have been doing a huge amount of curbside service. We also have a lot of web orders delivered throughout the country.

Q. What are you looking forward to doing again once the crisis ends?

A. I am looking forward to getting the economy booming again. Trump is the man that will get us there again.

By Joseph Ringrose

Chad Ricketts, Hartford Firefighter

Q: How has Coronavirus and the resulting quarantine changed your job? your life?

A: As a first responder, the coronavirus has affected the awareness and safety of all of my co-workers. We take precaution when we enter the work area, we use masks and gloves to prevent spreading the virus. The quarantine didn't really affect how my job functions because we are first responders and considered essential so we don't shut down like restaurants. My life hasn't really changed since the quarantine, but I take less trips to the store and wear a mask when I enter any grocery store.

Q: What do you miss most?

A: What I miss most is being able to dine in to restaurants with my children. I also miss meeting with a group of my friends on a day off.

Q: Who or what has let you down?

A: I feel as if the government has let us down with the late initial response. I think they are doing their best to provide health personnel, but I also think they are letting us down by making it

hard for people to get tests.

Q: Who or what has given you hope?

A: My kids and my wife have given me hope, also the medical workers that are putting in a big effort to cure patients with coronavirus. The media has also given me hope because I'm seeing the efforts to social distance and self-quarantine in many places all over the world.

Q: What are you looking forward to doing again once the crisis ends?

A: I look forward to going to the theatre with my family and being able to eat at some of my favorite restaurants. I also look forward to going to more social events like the beach and the park.

By Ismael Diallo

Heriberto Santos, garbage collector for the city of Hartford



Heriberto Santos

Q. How has Coronavirus and the resulting quarantine changed your job? Your life?

A. It has caused concern and alarm for us since we work directly with the public during the course of our day. We all work closely together and we sit in the front seat of the truck. That has also caused concern for possible infection and transmission.

Q. What do you miss most?

A. Having frequent contact with my family members. I am unable to visit with both my parents since they are elderly and have underlying medical conditions. At work, I miss going out for lunch with my coworkers.

Jimmy Jacobsen, co-owner of Manchester Wine & Liquors



Q. How has Coronavirus and the resulting quarantine changed your job? your life?

A. It really changed the way I had to conduct business with customers and sales reps. We are not spending as much time with customers.

Community Voices ...Continued from page 7

Q. Who or what has let you down?

A. The city of Hartford has not provided us with adequate PPE-personal protective equipment, to execute our daily functions. I'm also disappointed with the inconsistent information we receive from our officials in charge both on a state and federal level.

Q. Who or what has given you hope?

A. What has given me hope are the reports that we are reaching the peak or flattening the curve of transmission infection and death.

Q. What are you looking forward to doing again once the crisis ends?

A. I look forward to going about my daily activities both professionally and personally without fear.

By Angel Rosado

Gary Knighton,

**Protestant Chaplain at University of Hartford,
Lead Pastor at Faith Fellowship Church of
West Hartford**



Gary Knighton

Q. How has Coronavirus and the resulting quarantine impacting the Church?

A. I think all churches at this point are suffering in some way, shape, or form. Some impacts have been positive, some impacts have been negative. I guess I'll start with the positive.

Positive impacts have been we are experiencing a growth in our audience. Whether it's a significant growth or not, is based on the church. We are able to get the Word out to more people because everything is literally online. Whether churches were online before or not is no nevermind, because everyone who is trying to do something with the means to do so is online, so naturally our impact is growing. Church is now in the home, which is good for many people who would not darken the door of a church, now we are able to potentially get

into the homes of other people who would not come into a church.

There are some negative impacts to this. The major one is financial of course. Many of our parishioners are furloughed from their jobs. They are not working. So it has impacted the church in that way. Most churches are bearing through it, some will have to close their doors, some may never reopen.

Q. As a campus Chaplain, how have you been able to encourage and connect to your students?

A. I'm using technology. I've mixed it up a bit. We use Zoom, as most people are using to do meetings. FaceTime, text messaging, pre-recorded content, pre-recorded sermons and services, phone calls, all of that stuff. So I have been able to encourage and minister to my students. We even have a special small group that meets on Thursday nights just to discuss the changes and promote their striving and thriving in this new setting for many of them who were not online students, prior to this event. Thank God, we were really connected before the virus hit. What I have seen is that some students have increased engagement, which is pretty cool.

Q. How has this impacted your preaching/campus ministry?

A. I am three weeks into preaching with no one in the room, so that has changed my preaching ministry drastically in terms of a pastoral sense. So, I'm learning, I'm adapting. But it's different. The engagement is different. You know, you are used to having some immediate feedback or some interaction with the crowd. And you have to imagine that, you have to be, a little, not act, but you have to imagine and be yourself. And I think that is incredibly important right now as we preach.

Another thing that has just been impacted, I guess preaching wise, is you have to think about the length a little bit more. Because people's attention span is shorter with preaching and watching online.

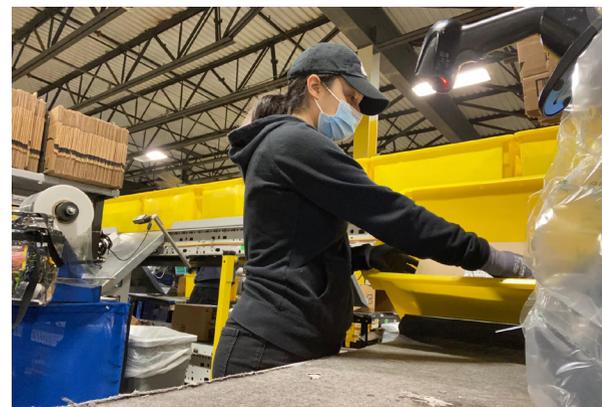
Q. How are you able to help your students if they are in need, since we must practice social distancing?

A. Currently, I'm pastoring to some students who their parents or their grandparents have Covid-19. So, we are there via Zoom, via text, via call. I cannot be there in person right now, it is not advised. But, if a student has a need that's financial, we can do that. If there are certain resources, like electronics stuff, that all turns into financial stuff. If there are disparities with food and resources, we are there to help - shipping stuff to people, either sending

it through Amazon or stuff like that. So, we are equipped to help. We have not had any major needs; we ask, but it's up to them (the students) to report their needs, so we can help meet those needs.

By Deidre Montague

Caroline Rodriguez,



Caroline Rodriguez

Amazon Fulfillment Center, Hartford

Q. How has Coronavirus and the resulting quarantine changed your job? your life?

A. At Amazon they have been increasing safety measures like required 6 ft. distance, constant cleaning of stations, required face masks, and separate break rooms.

Q. What do you miss most?

A. The thing I miss most is being able to come together as a team and to do their regular standup meeting where the managers give goals and encourage workers.

Q. Who or what has let you down?

A. The whole quarantine situation hasn't made me not want to go to work because I know that sending orders out to those who can't leave the house is important. On the other hand, I would like to stay home just to keep myself from bringing anything back home.

Q. Who or what has given you hope?

A. The increased pay and being able to have a job in the midst of the emergency while others do not have a job is what gives me hope.

Q. What are you looking forward to doing again once the crisis ends?

A. I just look forward to getting some fresh air, enjoying the sun as it caresses my beautiful face. Enjoying nature and looking at the blue sky.

By Derek Rodriguez

It's A Dark Time for MCC, But the Stars are Out



Photo by Bailey Packard

By Deidre Montague
Live Wire Editor-in-Chief

“No darkness lasts forever. And even there, there are stars.” – author Ursula K. Le Guin

Greetings MCC Community,

I feel like this quote sums up what we are going through as COVID-19 has impacted our daily lives - both individually and collectively as a society.

As I watch the news and listen to family and friends online, this disease seems to have hit someone close to home every day of the week. Loved ones are being hospitalized, and some are passing away from this vicious disease.

We are experiencing massive layoffs from our jobs, schools and colleges have been shut down, and have been advised to stay home in order to stay safe. If we do go out for necessary items at the local grocery store or pharmacy, our masks must be on at all times - instead of our smiles. We are more isolated from one another than ever before - and, for some of us, all of this is taking a toll on our mental health. From the outside looking in, it can appear that the darkness from COVID-19 is here to stay....at least for a long time.

However, I believe that there are stars in the midst of this darkness. Teachers are reaching out to elementary and secondary students by driving through local neighborhoods with signs to let them know that they are missed and cared for, in towns such as Vernon and Enfield, according to The Journal Inquirer and The Patch websites.

According to NBC CT.com, South Windsor residents took the time to celebrate Connecticut State Sen. Dr. Saud Anwar with a parade to thank him for working as a lung doctor at Manchester Memorial Hospital. To bring some Easter joy to the children in Granby, the Easter bunny teamed up with the local fire department and drove around greeting children from a fire truck. Three churches in Hartford, Mount Olive Ministries, Phillips Metropolitan CME, and The Citadel of Love, are teaming up together to provide free food to those in need.

Lastly, Manchester's UR Community Cares, Inc., a non-profit organization, has expanded to 45 towns in

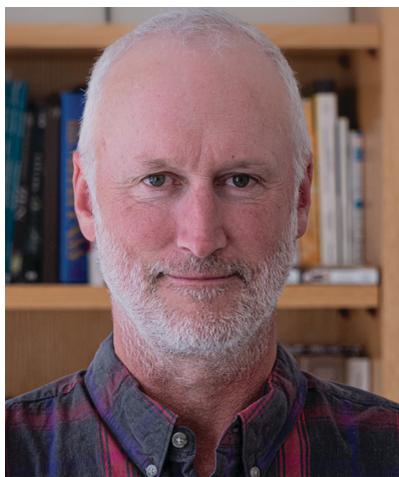
Connecticut, which allows more local volunteers to help those in need, particularly the elderly, who need help with yard work, grocery delivery, and phone calls for companionship, according to the Manchester Matters newsletter.

All of these positive deeds that are happening during Coronavirus pandemic, they are some of the stars that pierce the darkness that tries to engulf us. They provide glimmers of hope for us, that we really are in this together, even if we are currently apart physically, in our hearts.

My prayers and hopes are that you all adhere to the Gov. Ned Lamont's rules of staying home if you can, practicing social distancing of six feet when in public spaces, wearing your masks in public, and washing your hands for at least 20 seconds often during the day. In doing these things, we thank and honor all of those essential workers out there - our hospital staff, grocery clerks, postal delivery workers, public transportation workers, and countless others who are relying on us to do our part to flatten the curve.

MCC Community, as difficult as this time may be for us all, I encourage you to do your best to stay strong and look for the stars in your life. Whether that's taking a walk around your block and observing nature, or FaceTiming with your close family and friends, I promise that these stars will help us to know that the darkness will not last always, and sooner or later, the sun will shine in our lives will again.

Cleary's Corner Don't Just Survive the Quarantine, Thrive by Gardening, Cooking and Exercising



So many aspects of our lives have changed. The pandemic has turned lives and routines upside down. But strangely it has improved my life in three simple ways. The benefits of being ordered to stay at home include, for me anyway, gardening,

cooking, and exercise.

First, gardening. I have literally cleaned up six years of neglected leaves around the house. I've uncovered stone walls and garden beds I never knew were there. I've planted herbs and vegetables from seed inside in front of a sunny window. These will be transplanted outside by early May. Seeds and starter plants, I've heard, may be in high demand and short supply. They may be more difficult to get right now.

I'm no master gardener, but I know at least two people who are. Both have offered to give me seeds and starter plants for my summer garden. For anyone who has the ability and access, I recommend getting outside to garden. The fresh veggies that will soon be harvested will be healthy and right outside the door. No trip to the store required. This spring season is just now ready to burst with flowers, green grass, leaves, and in my yard a small vegetable garden. What a beautiful thing!

Second, home "chef'ing." I dusted off the slow cooker a few weeks ago. Using the

slow cooker is the easiest way to prepare amazing meals. I use it three or four times per week now. For me, simple is good in the kitchen. Here's an example. I found some old chicken in the freezer. I looked up a few recipes on YouTube. My favorite was this: toss a whole chicken leg, bones and skin and all, into the slow cooker. Add salt, pepper, chopped garlic, and whatever spices you have on hand. I used curry powder and chili powder. Cook for four hours. Honestly, it's that simple. The result is fall-off-the-bone chicken, stewed in its own juices, with slightly crispy skin on the top. I never knew I could do that. And if I can do that, it must be easy.

Third, exercise. It helps me keep my sanity as much as it gets the heart rate up. I have found that getting outside to walk or ride the bike has been essential. The local trails have never been so full of kind people also enjoying the benefits of exercise outdoors. Everyone is friendly and keeps a safe distance. I happen to golf too, and I feel safe on the golf course. Everyone stays six feet, no ten feet, away

from everyone else. No high fives or hand shakes. And no one touches any else's clubs or other stuff. It doesn't matter what you do for exercise; it only matters that you do it.

For students, final exams are coming up in a matter of days. The transition to all online classes was undoubtedly challenging for you. (Remember that the Academic Support Center is connecting students to tutors remotely: www.manchestercc.edu/asc) It may help you to stay focused on your studies if you can take some time, once a day at least, for yourself in the garden, the kitchen, or on the trail. Whatever you do, be safe.

Brian Cleary has been Director of the MCC Academic Support Center since 2009. In this column he will answer your questions about MCC, college life in general or other topics like school, life and work balance. Send your questions directly to him at bcleary@mcc.comnet.edu. You can do so anonymously if desired.

MCC Community Garden Offers Chance to Get Outside and Grow

By Melissa Fidler
Live Wire Staff Writer

Spring is here and that means a time for planting. Even though the college is closed, Manchester Community College has opened its Community Garden on campus and will operate during the season with social distancing rules in place. MCC CEO Tanya Millner gave permission last month for the garden, which is just off the West parking lot on Founder's Drive, to open, but no more than five people are allowed in to work at any time. Masks, keeping six feet apart and frequent hand-washing are encouraged.

And so is getting some fresh air, digging in the dirt and growing vegetables and flowers, said Patrick Sullivan, who teaches English at MCC and oversees the operations at the Community Garden.

"For many people during these difficult times the garden is going to be a sanctuary and a place that offers solace and comfort," wrote Sullivan in an email to the campus community. "It's always offered us that, of course, but we're all probably going to value that gift even more emphatically this year." The garden includes individual plots of land and raised planters to choose from along with a small faucet and an area to get larger amounts of water for plants. It is very early in the season, so not much was sprouting on a recent visit. But there are daffodils blooming and, in past years purple cone flowers and sunflowers have also thrived there.

When gardening there are a few things to keep in mind, like when to plant certain plants and how to plant them. Most vegetables such as onions, tomatoes and beans need to be planted after the last frost of the year, between late April or early



Photo by Melissa Fidler



Photo by Melissa Fidler

your outdoor plot.

Tomatoes are one of the best crops to get ready in a starter pot but remember once they start to grow you will want to use a small trellis to prop up the plant and allow it to grow to its best.

If you want to go further than a basic garden vegetable and attempt potatoes you want to start with potatoes that have a lot of eyes, or buds, on them and cut those potatoes in pieces so that each piece has an eye. Plant the potato in a straight, shallow trench about a foot apart. Once you harvest the potatoes you can save a few to allow them to grow eyes and replenish the crop.

One plant that has become more popular is the grape vine. Different types of grapes are used for eating directly while others are better for jams and juices. The Concord grape grows well in the New England area and is an excellent source for jams and juice ... or wine for those at least 21. Grapes are best planted in the ground and must have a trellis to climb up, which keeps the vines from breaking. Grape vines grow as big as they are allowed and continue to reach for more space.

Perhaps you want to plant a few flowers like Aster or Phlox, which are great for attracting pollinators like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. This kind of plant is very important to the environment. No matter what you are planting the most important things to remember to enjoy the watching food and flowers sprout from seeds, the sun, soil and rain, and your hard work!

For more information on gardening visit www.thespruce.com. You can also speak with workers in the gardening sections of most Home Depot or Lowe's stores.

For information on how to rent a plot at the MCC Community Garden contact Patrick Sullivan at

psullivan@manchestercc.edu.

May. Since this spring has been colder, it is best to wait until about mid-May for planting food. But you can plant seeds in a starter pot and keep it inside to get your plants growing before transferring it to

Got Time to Kill? Here are Some Games to Play During Quarantine

By Christopher DiBella
Live Wire Web Editor

Animal Crossing (Series)

(Platforms: N64, Gamecube, Wii, Wii U, 3DS, Mobile, Nintendo Switch)

What better way to spend your time inside that in the relaxing world of “Animal Crossing?” The “Animal Crossing” series is unlike most video games in pacing and tone. Instead of fighting monsters or progressing levels, you live peacefully in real time in a small town filled with animal residents unique to you. There’s no huge overarching goal aside from paying off debts with no time limits, dig some holes, plant flowers, chat with your neighbors and keep the town clean. The game runs in real time, so just check in every day or so, or spend a couple of hours visiting your friend’s towns. Relax, there’s no pressure here.

The Witcher (Series)

(Platforms: Windows PC for all 3 games, Witcher 2 and 3 are available on consoles)

While “The Witcher 3” is sprawling and justly acclaimed, the third installment tends to hog the spotlight from the rest of the brilliant RPG trilogy. The first and second games, are incredibly interesting, satisfying and open roleplaying games. The first Witcher is much more of an old-school 2000’s RPG, with simple (almost MMO-esq) combat and a focus on exploration, choices, and a heavier focus on alchemy than any other game in the series aside from #2. At nearly 40 hours long, it’s a game you will be chewing on for quite some time.

“The Witcher 2” is a slightly less open but even more engaging sequel with a fantastic, action-based, highly lethal combat system. The story is also significantly more focused, with your choices having a significant impact on the character’s lives, or the flow of the game. One choice in particular between allies determines in which location you will spend the entire last third of the game. However, a big reason as to why you want to play through these games in sequence is that choices you make in earlier games in the series echo down into later entries. If you import the save game from beating the previous game in the series to the new game, you will unlock exclusive items for each game, and also continuing consequences. For example, in “The Witcher 2” there is a sidequest where the titular character Geralt gets drunk and wakes up half-naked with an awful tattoo on his neck. While you can get rid of the tattoo, if you don’t and continue on with your quest the tattoo remains on Geralt’s neck in “The Witcher 3.”

Team Fortress 2

(Platforms: Windows PC)

Ever want to hit someone in the face with a fish? No? Just me?

“Team Fortress 2” is a glorious game that has been going since 2007, a game which started the class-based/hero shooter boom we are currently in. It is so full of personality, and with roles for everyone. The game has a lovely cartoonish arts style, and a strange charm to it. Because the game is free, you and your friends can hop in and just have a good solid go with no risk. Want to heal people or build defenses to support your team? Play Medic or Engineer. Want to be fast, hit people with a fish and be annoying? Play Scout.



The player digs up 1,000 bells in Animal Crossing: New Horizons for the Nintendo Switch!
Courtesy of .nintendo-insider.com

Kenshi

(Platforms: Windows PC)

This is for gamers who can take a kick in the teeth. “Kenshi” is an open world sandbox roleplaying/real time strategy game which takes place in a massive post-apocalyptic alien world. Technology has regressed to a dark age, which resembles a brutal form of feudal Japan, complete with rice hats, rusted hundred-year-old swords made from the scant metal that can be mined, strange non-human societies, and a world that just wants you dead.

There is no objective in “Kenshi” barring survival, you can do whatever you want from forming a group of roaming adventurers, establish a town, kidnap and enslave wayward travelers to freeing groups of slaves and captives. The world is fully simulated.

You will start out getting your butt kicked until you learn how to fight, but given time, allies, and clever actions you can start to carve out a place for yourself in this brutal world and at some point, even dominate it. There’s something addicting about “Kenshi,” a feeling that there is always more to do, always more to see across this massive, expansive world and this makes it the perfect game to dig your teeth into during these times.

RimWorld

(Platform: Windows PC, Mac, Linux)

“Rimworld” is a sci-fi colony simulator, where you manage a colony of miscreants who crashland on an alien planet and attempt to build a thriving settlement. Who can make it through the winter?! The game is similar to “Kenshi,” but it has more of a focus on planning and base-building and less focus on combat or lore. Unlike “Kenshi,” you do not have direct control over your followers, and can only issue orders, which they will follow if they are able.

“Rimworld,” like “Kenshi,” is almost as much of a story generator as it is a game.

Insane and memorable things happen constantly. Colonists become unhappy with their surroundings and may get into fights with one another or have to defend the colony from a stampede of hungry beavers who threaten to decimate your trees. They can lose appendages during fights or accidents, and they can get drunk or addicted to drugs and end up causing chaos in the colony. During all of this, you, the player are trying to keep these miscreants alive and if this sounds annoying, think of it more like “The Sims” meets “Survivor.” There is something so engaging about building a settlement or town and watching it grow slowly, piece by piece. Something so satisfying about having a fully functional virtual town that it’s hard to stop playing, and you can end losing hours to just building your town.

Streets of Rogue

(Platforms: Windows PC, XBOX One, PS4, Nintendo Switch)

“Streets of Rogue” is a roguelite RPG with open world elements, beat ‘em up combat and an impressive amount of options for dealing with problems. Sneaking, hacking, punching, shooting, wearing disguises, poisoning characters, turning people in the city against one another, hacking a refrigerator so it crashed through the wall of its apartment and crushes a target of yours walking on the sidewalk... if you can think of it in “Streets of Rogue” it is probably possible. On top of this, the

game is also playable with up to four friends, making it a great game for co-op with friends over the Internet. The game is easy to get into, difficult to master and relentlessly silly. One of the playable characters is a comedian who can tell jokes to get townspeople on his side. One is a gorilla, another a sick man who can turn enemies into zombies, or a doctor who knocks people out with chloroform. Your objective is the same regardless of character though: complete objectives and make it to the next part of the city until you reach the mayor, while creating absolute chaos in the process.

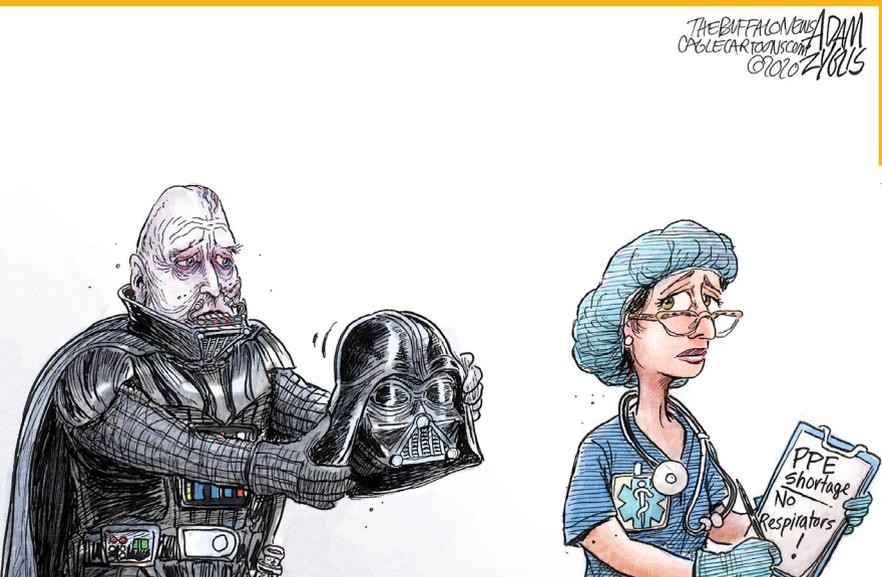
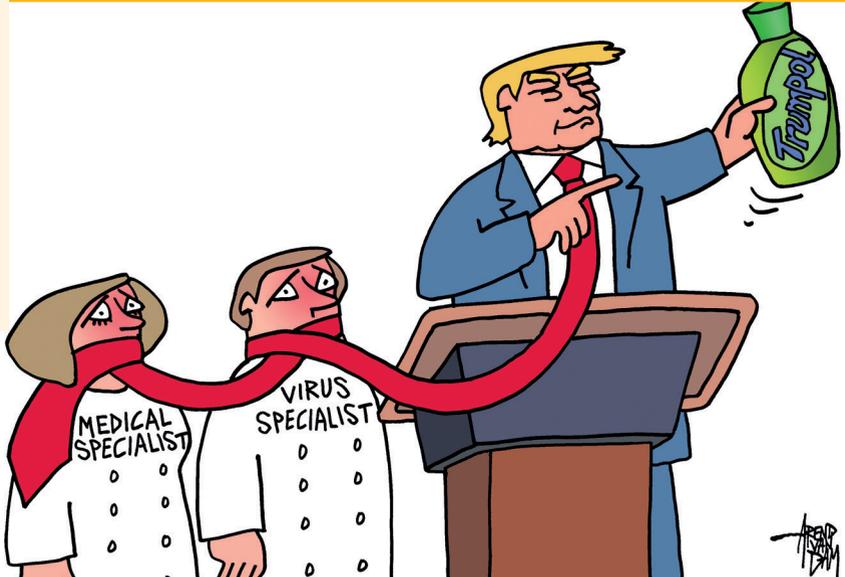
“Streets of Rogue” allows you to generate whirlwinds of interactive chaos like no other game. You might blow open a hole in a wall to get to a safe filled with money. A passing cop sees you and tries to arrest you. You flee and the cop takes chase, swinging his baton after you. The cop accidentally hits a gang member whose nearby posse begins attacking the cop. All nearby cops begin retaliating against the gang members, and during the scuffle the window of a nearby bar is broken. The bartender runs out to attack whoever broke his window and accidentally smashes a wall, setting free a gorilla imprisoned in a nearby laboratory. The gorilla goes on a rampage as the scientists leave their building to chase him down and attack the bartender who set him loose. In the span of about two minutes you have successfully caused complete chaos across an entire virtual city block without doing anything. And you can do this with your friends. It’s an amazing game.

Your Backlog

(Platforms: Whatever game systems you have)

Let’s face it, every person who plays games buys games they either don’t end up playing or don’t manage to finish. Some of these games aren’t worth playing, but a lot of them you just couldn’t be bothered to spend the time to get very far into it. Now, while you are stuck at home with little else to do is the perfect time to dive into that backlog, and especially to play Classic games you never found the time to play on their own. Games like “BioShock,” “Half Life 1 & 2,” “System Shock,” “Saints Row 2,” “Fallout 1,” “Far Cry 2,” “Brutal Legend” and more. All of these are excellent games you may have picked up from hearing about them or received as part of a bundle, but right now they sit unplayed in your game library. Some of these games are older, and might need a little bit of work to get running, or patience to get through their opening moments, but these games are fondly remembered for a reason, and deserve better than to sit on your hard drive or game library untouched. Have a good quarantine and stay well.

COMICS



ALL COMICS COURTESY OF
CABLE CARTOONS

Word off Campus

How effective has distance learning been for you?



"Switching to distance learning didn't work at all. I opted for pass/fail but without a computer right away and with no access to the schoolbooks there was not a way to do the assignments and I had to drop both my classes."

Barry Love
General Studies-Allied Health



"Overall it has been ok, but it is a lot more stressful for me personally. [Sometimes] it's like we're teaching ourselves."

Em Farnsworth
Communication: Journalism



"I've seen positives and negatives. In one class I'm still learning, but I'm taking Audio Production and we have no access to the equipment on campus. Without that we can't do anything."

Josyah Howard
Communication, Media



"It's working okay. The biggest transition has been the lack of lectures. Most classes have switched the syllabus to basically one large assignment to finish before the end of the semester. I have three 10-page papers due in May."

Kevin Mead
General Studies



"Effective? Mmm, I don't think I've learned anything new other than what's expected."

Stela Santiago
Liberal Arts & Science



"The classes are harder because English is my second language and communicating through email is a lot harder than talking face-to-face with the professor. Luckily my English teacher is willing to video chat to help with my understanding of the class work."

Anonymous Female student

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!!

