

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | MAY 2020



MADE IT

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»»»»» What did you learn being a part of *The Summit* this semester? »»»»»



Nick Coppo

I learned that one mind cannot make a good story.



Andrew Finley

I learned things are worth looking at a few times because you might have missed something the first few times.



Donovan Holland

I learned that it takes a dirty mind to run a clean paper.



Olivia Linstad

With only 26 letters, there are endless possibilities.



Annemarie Muñoz

I learned to never procrastinate but to write stories as soon as an idea comes to mind.



Jasmine Osuna

I've learned how to put myself out there, stay organized and lead a great team.



Desmond Rhea

The devil is in the details.



Matisse Sanchez

Never to procrastinate; stories aren't written in just an hour but take a couple rewrites and hours to perfect.



Terena Tarbor

I learned how to pay close attention to detail, and I got better at knowing what questions to ask in an interview.



Joe Valerio

How to write and express news stories to the student body.



Victoria Vigil

I learned to not be afraid to ask people if they want to be interviewed; the worst they can say is no.



Jeanette Calo

Sometimes the tough times can bring out the best in us.

The staff of *The Summit* is enrolled in an academic media news production course. A main function of *The Summit* is to provide a professional learning experience for students of any major classification who express an interest in journalism. To serve this function, *The Summit* is entirely student-run. Student editors are responsible for all editorial decisions, content and editing. The instructor/ adviser is available for training, guidance and advice, but has no control over the content or editing of the newspaper. Prior review is not exercised. These guidelines have been established to protect the First Amendment freedoms guaranteed to the student press, as well as a guarantee of valuable learning experience in all aspects of newspaper management for the students. **Please direct all inquiries, comments and letters to the editor to summit@gccd.edu.**



FINISHING STRONG

This semester, I lead a great team at *The Summit*. It's really been an honor to serve as editor-in-chief, and I couldn't have done it without my amazing deputy editor Olivia Linstad, some wonderful guidance from Professor Jeanette Calo and our awesome web editor Sharisse Cohee.

As the semester comes to an end along with my time as editor, I've reflected on how wonderful of an experience it's been. In this past year, I've grown as a person and really developed my skills. It's a bit disappointing for my time at Grossmont, and especially at *The Summit*, to end without in-person classes, but I have slowly but surely learned to adapt to the new situation, as all of us have had to. I'm glad we have continued to provide great content despite the added difficulties.

If you're considering joining *The Summit*, I really encourage you to do so. It's great to get hands-on experience, and it's a great way to give back to Grossmont by providing a much-needed resource on campus.

If you have any questions, feedback or just want to let us know you appreciate our coverage, please feel free to reach out and write a letter. Letters to the editor can be submitted to summit@gcccd.edu. Your input may be featured in a future issue.

Jasmine Osuna, Editor-in-Chief



Grossmont's Campus and Parking Services team, also known as CAPS, is dedicated to ensuring safety among all students and faculty at the college. Even with the campus closed for COVID-19, CAPS is performing routine and extra patrols of the campus. These events were among those noted on the crime log* for the month of April.

- **No Skating:** Santee patrol was called to campus for several young people riding skateboards on campus.
- **Helping Hand:** A deputy assisted with medical aid at the bus stop where an elderly man fell out of a wheel chair.
- **Suspicious People:** Deputies investigated three separate reports of a suspicious person near the Child Development Center, the theater and Building 23.

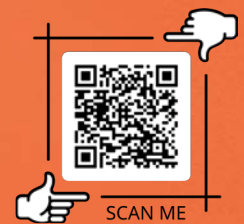
* *The Clery Act is a federal statute requiring colleges participating in federal financial aid programs to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information. A daily crime log is posted every Friday to Grossmont's website, allowing the public to view the most recent information.*

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

At *The Summit*, we are very concerned with the quality of our journalism. If you spot a factual error, please contact us at summit@gcccd.edu.

You're not alone.

We're all in this together. *The Summit* has the campus coronavirus coverage you need. Visit our website, gcsommit.com, or scan the QR code.



CAMPUS CAL

COMPILED BY ANDREW FINLEY

MAY 12: Virtual Student Success Fair, noon to 2 p.m. (RSVP: Text your name to 619-738-1136)

MAY 14: College Recognition Ceremony, 3 to 5 p.m.

MAY 25: Memorial Day - No Classes

MAY 25 - JUNE 1: Final Exams

MAY 30: Virtual Super Saturday, 9 or 10:30 a.m. (Register via tiny.cc/vsupersaturday)

JUNE 4: Virtual Commencement Ceremony, 5 p.m.

JUNE 5: Scholarship Application Deadline

JUNE 22: Summer Courses Begin

**Events subject to change; visit grossmont.edu for login and latest info.*



MISS YOUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY?

Join these ongoing virtual events!

TUESDAYS: The Common Ground Hangout, 3 to 4 p.m.

THURSDAYS:
Griffin Dialogues, 1 to 2 p.m.
Virtual Open Mic Night,
3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAYS: Virtual Dungeons & Dragons, 1 to 3 p.m.

Visit facebook.com/TheCommonGroundGrossmontCollege for info.

**LISTEN
LIVE
ON
TUNE
IN!**



tunein.com/radio/Griffin-Radio-s47478/

BRAIN BOOST



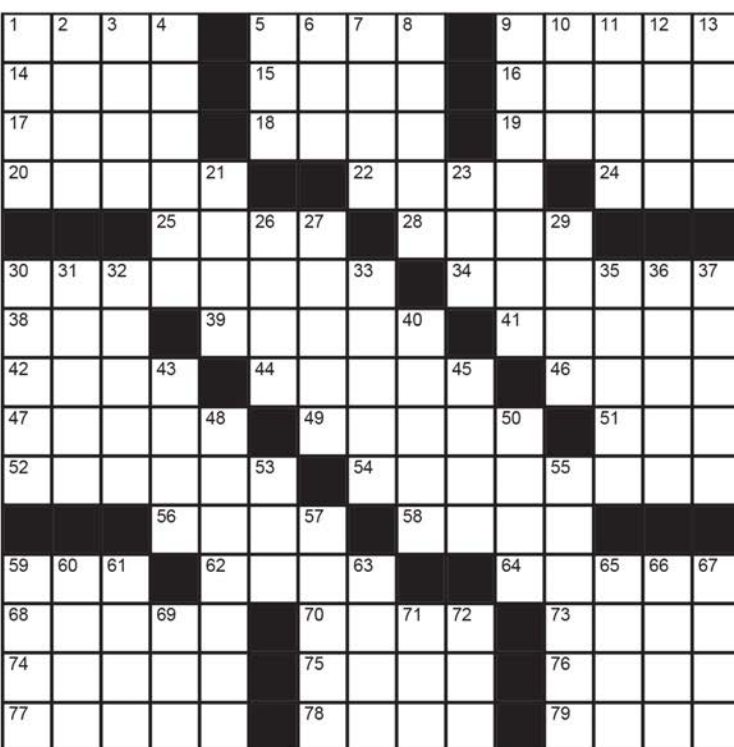
CEREBRAL MATTERS: Train your brain with puzzles.

[SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 18]

▼ CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Kind of moss
- 5 Oodles
- 9 Minimal
- 14 Sitar music
- 15 Blue-pencil
- 16 Host
- 17 ___ and anon
- 18 Salacious look
- 19 Some wedding guests
- 20 Royal pains
- 22 Try for a part
- 24 Consume
- 25 Church nook
- 28 Virtuoso
- 30 Orchestra member
- 34 Bad blood
- 38 "For ___ a jolly ..."
- 39 Religious scroll
- 41 Reeked
- 42 The good life
- 44 Full of excitement
- 46 Questionable
- 47 Frighten
- 49 Trial's partner
- 51 Restaurant calculation
- 52 Glistens
- 54 California park
- 56 Multitude
- 58 "Scream" star Campbell
- 59 ___ rule
- 62 Nectar flavor
- 64 Flippant
- 68 Vernacular
- 70 Toothpaste holder
- 73 One and only
- 74 Gallic goodbye



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- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 75 Gusto | 11 Teen affliction | 40 Graceful bird |
| 76 French silk center | 12 "La Scala di ___" (Rossini opera) | 43 Coastal raptors |
| 77 Kind of button | 13 Exam | 45 Medicine amount |
| 78 Split apart | 21 Roasting rod | 48 Burbot |
| 79 Swerves at sea | 23 Triumphant cry | 50 Ministers, briefly |
| | 26 Winter forecast | 53 Witness |
| | 27 Like "The X-Files" | 55 Slight |
| | 29 Tubular pasta | 57 No-cal drink |
| | 30 Kind of board | 59 Winged |
| | 31 Percolate | 60 Pro or con |
| | 32 Very, in music | 61 Spanish liqueur |
| | 33 Dawdle | 63 Govern |
| | 35 Civilian clothes | 65 Kind of bean |
| | 36 Ill-suited | 66 School zone sign |
| | 37 Internet | 67 Cravings |
| | | 69 "Wow!" |
| | | 71 Embargo |
| | | 72 Dissolve |

Down

- 1 Kind of school
- 2 Overhang
- 3 Mellows
- 4 Kind of sauce
- 5 Hair raiser?
- 6 Jonson work
- 7 Coffin
- 8 Spread around
- 9 News story parts
- 10 Ostrich relative

HODGEPODGE TRIVIA ▼

1. Who was the only person to be named Time Magazine's Man of the Year three times?
(a) Winston Churchill (b) Bill Gates (c) Franklin Roosevelt
2. The Hermitage was the home of what president?
(a) Andrew Jackson (b) John Adams (c) Thomas Jefferson
3. What country consisting of only small islands was once known as Pleasant island? (a) Fiji (b) Nauru (c) Tahiti
4. Where is the largest joint in the body?
(a) Hip (b) Shoulder (c) Knee
5. Queen Elizabeth II served in the British army during WWII doing what?
(a) Ambulance driver & mechanic (b) Dog Handler (c) Medic
6. Before video games Nintendo produced what?
(a) Playing cards (b) Dominoes (c) Chess sets
7. Where did Ice cream originate?
(a) Canada (b) Italy (c) Germany
8. Which of the following fruits did NOT originate in China?
(a) Kiwi (b) Peach (c) Melon
9. The human heart pumps roughly how many gallons of blood a day? (a) 1000 (b) 2000 (c) 1500
10. What state is known to have the most grade A farmland?
(a) Iowa (b) Virginia (c) Pennsylvania

BY ANNEMARIE MUÑOZ

COMMENCEMENT GOES VIRTUAL

With campus currently closed due to COVID-19, Grossmont's traditional spring graduation ceremony will proceed online.

As COVID-19 continues to sweep through the nation, social distancing is critical to defeating the pandemic. Regrettably, Grossmont has canceled its traditional on-campus commencement scheduled in June. School officials determined it would be irresponsible to gather in groups by the thousands. Instead, students will be celebrated at a physical distance, virtually.

As of the presidential forum on March 31, Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, the college's president, was uncertain about the form of the online celebration but said, "The idea of shaking hands with 700 students at five and a half seconds per student is not what today's world requires or suggests."

He added, "It would be irresponsible

to think that in seven to eight weeks from now everything will be just fine."

Rituals like a graduation ceremony provide a sense of meaning and community for students, which is needed now more than ever. Sometimes, distancing education can leave students feeling like they are not a part of the institution, and "studentship" is lost. This is why it's vital for colleges to make the most out of a bad situation and re-imagine commencement, according to Inside Higher Ed.

Commencement is a milestone achievement for students that will not be lessened by the unprecedented virtual ceremony. In a message, Dr. Lynn Neault, chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, said, "We plan to do everything possible to make our virtual commencement a meaningful celebration of these remarkable achievements."

Since most faculty and students have never experienced a virtual commencement, they are unsure as to how it will all come together.

Grossmont student Abril Sosa-Pineda said: "I don't really have any expectations...I just wonder how it's

all going to pan out."

So, what will Grossmont's virtual commencement look like? The chancellor provided Berkeley College's 2019 virtual commencement as an example of what Grossmont's commencement may be like. It included faculty speakers as well as graduate profiles and a certificate presentation. It can be compared to watching a YouTube video in the comfort of your home without the stress of searching for a parking spot or a good seat with a view of the stage.

"To be honest, with everything going on I completely forgot about commencement," Sosa-Pineda said. "Finding out it was going to be done virtually made me a bit bummed out, but at the end of the day I understand."

While she said she knows a virtual graduation is vital for the health and safety of students and their families, she said, "I would be lying if I said it didn't sting a bit."

During the forum, the president said: "That crushes my soul...I've attended a commencement every year for the last 30 years without break."

Fortunately, for students, besides losing the traditional on-campus ceremony, not much will be different. They will still be receiving their degree and pursuing their goals, whether that be transferring to a four-year university or joining the workforce. 🐦

GROSSMONT COLLEGE VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY: Thursday, June 4 at 5 p.m.

FIGURING IT OUT

Grossmont alumni offer advice on school and life. | BY DESMOND J. RHEA

Sometimes it takes a lot longer to finish college than you thought it would. No one said it would be easy, but students should think twice before giving up. You have no idea what is in store come the next 10 years of your life – or if you'll even enjoy the career you've followed – but Grossmont can help you get what you want.

"When I first enrolled at Grossmont, I didn't know what I wanted to do, and even now I don't know what I want to do," said Jimmy Elizondo, a 32-year-old Grossmont alumnus.

Elizondo described himself as a "super, super, super senior" who first enrolled in 2006. He, like so many of his friends, went to Grossmont, but Elizondo was working at a brokerage firm and making more money than anyone else he knew at the time. This led him to a job at Sharp Health Plan, where he manages small employer group accounts and a seven-year hiatus from school. Elizondo said he didn't see any point in continuing his education when he already had a full-time job.

The desire to make money by quitting school and starting work at a well-paying job can be enticing and overall beneficial for a young person, but it helps if you are certain you're doing what you really want. You could start living your life and maybe save money early, though this may come at a cost at some point later down the road. The *USA Today* article "Pay gap between college grads and everyone else at a record" reported college graduates earned 56% more than high school graduates, and that divide is increasing since the 2008 recession. Also, college graduates are more likely to start families and buy houses.

"You feel like you're making a lot of money, but in the grand scheme of things, you're not... As I got older, I wanted to have a family and I didn't want my kids to think that education isn't important," said Elizondo, who now raises his 2-year-old son while juggling work and school. In times like these, with a world health crisis on hand and another recession possible, a college education may be more important than any job a young person can get.

In addition, the longer someone waits to go back to school, the harder it gets; later in life, you may have responsibilities you didn't have when you were younger, and you may not be able to afford classes or rely on your parents for help. It can be an upward battle when you quit school and decide to return years later.

Elizondo finished at Grossmont in 2016 and has since been going to SDSU, working toward a bachelor's degree in business

administration with plans to get his master's degree after. "Hindsight is 20/20, but looking back I would have just finished. Now I'm 32, barely just getting my BA, which isn't a bad thing, but I could have taken advantage of a lot of time since then and now," he said.

It's not impossible to leave school and come back later to finish, but while you're young, it might be better to try and figure out what you really want before putting school on the back burner.

"How could you possibly know at 18 years old what you want to do with the rest of your life?" asked Jay Beard, a 26-year-old Grossmont alumnus. Even though he struggled for six years to figure out what he wanted, Beard never stopped attending Grossmont.

First attending back in 2013, he wasn't sure what he wanted

"Use the time you have in college to really discover who you are and try to envision what you want yourself to be like in the future." —Meg Santoni, Grossmont Alumna

from college, but said he has always been enrolled in at least two classes during the school semester. "I had absolutely no plan originally," Beard admitted. "I was just doing it to have something to do; eventually, a plan coalesced."

Now is a good time to figure out what you want while you have time at Grossmont; students should do some research and take time to figure out who they are. The Career Center on campus has a wide range of tools and resources to help guide students on a career path they're passionate about.

"Your attitude towards life and work will trickle down to how you engage with school. If you're not engaged in life, then you have pernicious attitudes about where you can go and what you can do, then you're not going to be very incentivized at work or school," Beard said. "Grossmont is kind of what you make of it, and I didn't make anything of it when I started. It was just something to do. When I reevaluated my approach, it became this vehicle for success, and I was able to get a lot out of it."

Beard graduated in 2019 and has now moved on to SDSU for accounting, working toward a future he said he feels has financial security.

Whether you're a returning student or someone who's become frustrated with your life and wants to change it, Grossmont has a place for you.

Meg Santoni, 32, the class president of the Orthopedic Technology program at Grossmont, returned in 2016 to change careers. She started going to Grossmont when she was 17 in 2005. She thought following a career in food and nutrition was what she wanted and didn't think she would come back to Grossmont.

"I thought I was on a track for a career that I would thoroughly enjoy, and once I was

[ALUMNI, CONT. ON PAGE 18]



With the end of the semester near, that means testing is coming up as well. But I can assure you this is probably not a test you want to take.

According to an article by Karen Kucher from *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, Grossmont College was asked by the county Health and Human Services Agency on April 25 if a parking lot on campus could be used as a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site. However, it was decided that the testing would take place in Griffin Gate.

"We always want to serve our community any way that we can," said Anne Krueger, communications and public information director at Grossmont College. "We are happy to accommodate the request."

The testing began Tuesday, May 5, with heavy demand causing waiting times of about two hours. At the time of publication, the testing was to run through May 9.

There are currently two types of tests available for COVID-19, a diagnostic that detects if you are currently infected and a serology that tells if you have previously been infected by the virus.

Across California, about 16,000 tests are being done per day. However, by the end of the month officials plan to increase that number to 25,000, Gov. Gavin Newsom said in an article by *The New York Times*.

In order to consider reopening the state, California must have between 60,000 to 80,000 tests per day.

The district is committed to serving the East County community, and everything is currently being worked out to get the drive-thru testing site up and running. The county has also started a mobile testing site to add to those already

operating in San Diego.

"Testing for COVID-19 will be important in controlling the spread of infection while trying to return to some normalcy when infection rates have dropped sufficiently," Grossmont College President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh said in an email.

According to a county news release, in San Diego as of May 3, 21.1% of all COVID-19 cases required hospitalization and 6.8% required intensive care.

The county has already begun testing at SDCCU Stadium, North Inland Live Well Center in Escondido, and at the Public Health Center in Chula Vista.

Testing is by appointment only and symptomatic individuals must have a referral from a doctor. If the individual does not have a health care provider or insurance, they can call 2-1-1 to request a referral through the COVID-19 nurse triage line. Appointments can be made by going online at lhi.care/covidtesting or by calling 888-634-1123, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The CDC advises people who have milder symptoms and can recover at home may not need to be tested or receive any medical care.

For the safety of everyone, the CDC advises individuals should take extra precautions by washing their hands for a full 20 seconds, wearing masks and following the guidelines of social distancing.

Remember, "We're all in this together," Zac Efron said in an introduction video for ABC.

For more information about Grossmont's COVID-19 testing site, email Anne Krueger at anne.krueger@gcccd.edu. ✎

COVID-19 TESTING, WHERE?

BY TERENA TARBOR



**Grossmont College opens
Griffin Gate for COVID-19 testing.**

After months of institutional closures, self-isolation and tragic losses of life, the COVID-19 pandemic has crippled the nation's economy into radical uncertainty. According to the Bureau Labor of Statistics, more than 26 million Americans have applied for unemployment benefits due to the effects of the pandemic. Inevitably, this drastically impacts the state's finances and eventually, there will be a reduction in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District's budget.

Put simply, a district budget is a plan for the upcoming school year in relation to anticipated revenues and expenditures. The budgeting process helps to make decisions among programs competing for limited available resources, according to the American Association of School Administrators.

In a message, Dr. Lynn Neault, the district's chancellor, explained the difficulty of preparing a tentative 2020-21 budget without knowing the amount of revenue the school will receive. What this means for Grossmont, according to Neault, is a 5% reduction in the 2020-21 budget and another 5% reduction in September. However, the numbers are subject to change.

"Reductions of this magnitude are going to be difficult on all of us," Neault said. "We are committed to doing everything possible to protect our contract employees going forward."

Alberd said she knows the school won't be able to aid student workers financially anymore but hopes they will be able to make courses like microbiology available in the upcoming fall semester since it will be limited in the summer.

Another cost reduction would be in vacant employee positions, which have about 70 open positions being carefully examined. Vacant employee positions are facing a \$3-million reduction by not filling positions and delaying hiring. In his March 31 presidential forum, Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh said one of the main concerns for students was the future of summer

"Reductions of this magnitude are going to be difficult on all of us."

—Chancellor Lynn Neault

semester classes, which was undetermined at the time. We now know the 2020 summer schedule will be significantly reduced as a budget strategy to protect the core fall and spring semesters. ♡

FACING OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

How will Grossmont respond to the economic crisis?

STORY BY ANNEMARIE MUÑOZ
DESIGN BY OLIVIA LINSTAD

While the district received a \$5-million stimulus check to offset the impacts of COVID-19 and support institutional needs, they are finding the funds are restrictive and may not be used to offset costs sustained to protect the campus.

Beginning May 8, one area where expenditures will begin reduction is temporary hourly workers, which are a \$600,000 monthly payroll expense. Many temporary hourly workers are unable to perform their work from home due to the closure. Grossmont is evaluating which positions are essential for operation. However, all work-study students will continue to be paid through June 1 in compliance with federal financial aid guidelines.

Student worker Caitlin Alberd, a lifeguard on campus said: "When I found out that I wouldn't be able to work on campus, I was really disappointed because I've got a lot of expenses that I needed to pay for. At the time, I had a \$500 car repair that I couldn't afford. Then I heard the school would continue to pay student workers and I really appreciated that because it showed they would still look after us for a while."



AN EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT UNDER COVID-19

Employment has changed for many students, introducing new difficulties.

STORY AND DESIGN BY JASMINE OSUNA

The coronavirus has changed many Grossmont students' lives in numerous ways. Some have had to risk their lives as essential workers, while others have dealt with the uncertainty of unemployment in these tumultuous times.



Grossmont student Craig Wildfong works at a Lowe's in the lumber department. As an essential worker, he interacts with people every time he goes into work. Since Wildfong lives with his grandmother who's in her 80s, he was originally worried about the risk of bringing home COVID-19.

"As this goes on, and you have to keep going to work because you have to keep paying the bills. It's like anything else where you're concerned about it, but

you can't do anything about it," Wildfong said over a video call. "I don't have an

"If you wrap someone up in a flag they don't have a face anymore."

—Grossmont Student Craig Wildfong

alternative where I can just float for an indeterminate period of time. I have to make money."

Many people online have been praising essential workers by calling them heroes. Some, including Wildfong, have criticized this. "I have a huge objection of calling anybody who has to risk their life a hero. It doesn't matter if you're talking about the military if you're talking about police, doctors, now grocery workers and retail workers," Wildfong said. "When you call somebody a hero you're wrapping them in a flag, and if you wrap someone up in a flag, they don't have a face anymore. They don't have needs, they don't have flaws; they're not a person, they're a figurehead. What's under that flag? I don't know. You don't know. For all you know, it's a wad of cloth. Because it's not a person anymore, it's a faceless, nameless, meaningless hero and you can pretty much completely ignore them at that point."

Wildfong said he would recommend not allowing people into your space, whether you're an essential worker or a shopper. He said he was surprised he still deals with customers invading his space. "There are still plenty of guys who keep stepping within a foot and a half of me and I'll be like, 'Back up.' I will literally have this little dance where they step closer and I back up but they step closer and I back up but they step closer again and I'm

just about ready to slap them," he said. "I've heard that it's worse for women."

Reflecting on the pandemic as a whole, Wildfong said: "We live in a time and in a nation where the profits of corporations are more valuable than a person's life. It means more to a corporation to give away one more dollar to give away to shareholders than it does to pay people a decent wage. That was before coronavirus in the first place."

Victor Izquierdo was working at Fuddruckers in La Mesa before COVID-19 shut the restaurant down. He applied for unemployment but was denied. Before Izquierdo was unemployed, he would help out his mother with utilities. "If she needs stuff she knows she can ask me," said Izquierdo over a video call. "We do work together to help support each other."

Izquierdo said he is unsure if there will be a job for him after businesses start opening up. The La Mesa Fuddruckers was already below its sales goals, and now that it's shut for business, "This may take them out," Izquierdo said.

He said he chose not to start looking for work because he lives with his mother, grandmother and grandfather in their one-bedroom apartment. "If

I get infected, there's nowhere for me to go and quarantine. I don't have any other family to go quarantine in their [extra] room for 14 days. All I have is this one-bedroom apartment," Izquierdo said. "It kinda makes me upset that I can't help my family, and I can't get the necessary tools that I need to better my education."

Before COVID-19 swept the country, Izquierdo was saving up for a new computer and alto saxophone. Because of his current financial situation, saving for these school supplies has been put on pause.

Since he was claimed as a dependent, Izquierdo doesn't qualify for the stimulus check most Americans received.

"We struggle as much as it is... I think we should just get the bump anyways," Izquierdo said.

"It's been a crazy year," he continued. "But it's okay because you know, I think that we just have to wait this out... and hopefully I'll get my job back." 🐦



"It kinda makes me upset that I can't help my family."

—Grossmont Student Victor Izquierdo

Digital Playground

Story
by Nick Coppo

Design
by Jasmine Osuna

With much of the world shut down, people are glued to screens now more than ever, putting the responsibility on social media platforms to entertain, inform and innovate.

There are many different battles being fought all over the world during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is one war, however, that is being waged across continents and is infiltrating nearly every household on earth: The social media battle for your attention.

The whole world is stuck in quarantine, and social media platforms are tasked with keeping the masses entertained while essential workers keep the world afloat. While it is not nearly as crucial as the work brave people are doing on the front lines, social media does have an elevated role in keeping people connected during this time where face-to-face contact is a lost art.

Students across the world and at Grossmont College are using social media to remain digitally a part of society. But are these apps doing enough to keep the consumers engaged while also maintaining positive mental health for their users?

Facebook is the most used social media platform by a wide margin, and the usage on the site has skyrocketed exponentially since the pandemic arose, according to Market Watch. This shouldn't be a shock to anyone, as a lot of people have more downtime than they are used to. Facebook also has a unique feel to some people, including Grossmont student Christina Buksa. "I find Facebook to be much purer in its intentions than other social media sites, so I tend to use Facebook the most anyway," she said.

Whether that has to do with its user base or the fact that it has been around longer than similar popular

platforms, it is clear Facebook has cultivated an online environment that is satisfying to many different demographics. While there haven't been many concrete changes to the platform itself, Buksa has noticed a change in one aspect of the site.

"I have seen a change in the subject of what people are posting," she said. "Before, it was just memes, but now more people are reaching out as well as spreading information about resources and showing gratitude to the essential workers. It's much more positive than it was before."

With so much negativity and tragedy in the world at the moment, it seems Facebook and its users are using the site as an opportunity to spread positivity and provide a digital refuge to people who desperately need it.

Other popular platforms are video-based sites such as YouTube and TikTok, whose users are getting creative with their content now more than ever. Grossmont student Emily Osorio has used one of these sites to make an important decision about her future. "I changed to YouTube as I started to get bored with Netflix. I then turned to something that I was interested in for my major and I decided that I wanted to go into criminology. What influenced it was watching fascinating videos on bounty hunting that actually brought up my mood and offered a place I could escape to."

YouTube is a place to get lost and can be a nice way to take the mind off of the current situation or, in Emily's case, be a deciding factor in a desired field of work. It has also been an opportunity for celebrities and figures in Hollywood to connect with their

fans while they are also out of work. Actor John Krasinski, who played "Jim" in *The Office*, has created a channel called "Some Good News," where he reminds the public there are still great and happy things going on during this time. It has provided relief to many in a negative news overload. The first video reached 17 million views on the platform and the channel has over 2 million subscribers.

While YouTube has been available for a while, TikTok is a newer platform that has gained steam recently and is benefiting from its young user base currently being out of school.

"I've been on TikTok quite a lot. Literally these videos have me dying," Grossmont student Briana Gonzalez said with a laugh. "There are all kinds of short videos that allow you to send important messages out to the world, funny videos, life hacks, tips and dances that are easy to learn."

TikTok usage has experienced a similar boom to Facebook, and part of that can be attributed to the innovative nature of the site, which contains unique aspects for creating videos other platforms cannot compete with.

It's impossible to discuss the impact of social media without bringing up Instagram and Twitter as well.

Popular trends have led the way on Instagram including the "30-Day Song Challenge" as well as the "See 20, do 20 Challenge," which involves filming yourself doing 20 pushups then nominating others to do the same. Users are taking advantage of the "story" and "live" features of the app in order to connect with their friends and followers they are unable to see in person. Instagram is also used by campus programs at Grossmont to keep the students informed such as providing links to helpful resources for those in need. Those resources can be found on Instagram accounts such as @grossmontedu, @viarapidagc and of course, @grossmontsummit.

Twitter has become the front page for all things COVID-19 and has changed its platform to give a daily overview of the latest news surrounding the virus. There is a lot of misinformation on Twitter, possibly now more than ever, but there are still reliable people supplying credible information to the public. The majority of the content on Twitter is either about the virus or virus-adjacent, which can be a good or bad thing depending on how you look at it.

**[SOCIAL, CONT.
ON PAGE 18]**

ZOOMING INTO CLASS

BY: MATISSE SANCHEZ



Whether it's lecture or lab, many students are struggling with remote learning.

Until a couple of weeks ago, going to class was something we all took for granted. Getting to school early enough to park in your desired spot or just studying at the library to make use of your time would have been a hassle but now we miss it. After the effects of COVID-19 and the fact that we have to stay inside for the majority of our days and weeks, classes have caused trouble for some students.

Although we have enough tools to keep in contact with teachers, such as Zoom, FaceTime and Emails, it is not enough to keep some of us engaged or even remotely interested in our classes. Labs and music classes are examples of essential hands-on classes which have struggled to keep student engagement. Students have mentioned the level of quality in their hands-on classes has decreased which caused learning obstacles.

"It's a big disadvantage for musicians," said Victor Izquierdo, a piano student. "I guess it's because we're so limited by Zoom. We're not able to get the same kind of quality we did before in a class."

Zoom, an online video conferencing program, has allowed students and teachers to connect virtually. In order for students to learn, teachers have now set up conferences to teach and go over homework or any questions that students might be having trouble with, but not all types of classes benefit from this new style of teaching.

"It's definitely harder for me to take the class," Amaya Ardilla said in an email. "Without those extra things [the piano rooms], I am having a harder time playing the pieces."

Motivation plays an even bigger part in the learning

process. Not only does it help students reach their goals, but motivation is what drives them to keep up their grades and do better on a test. With Zoom, many students now find it hard to concentrate, study or do school work at home. "I do not feel motivated in any way," Ardilla said. "Being at home all day, every day, makes me want to just lay down and watch TV the whole time."

Like music classes, students in lab classes have also had a difficult time trying to adjust to the new changes this semester. Unlike lecture classes, many labs cannot be done online and instead require hands-on experience for students to understand the material needed for assignments or tests. Due to COVID-19, on-campus labs are out of the question and teachers have now resorted to Zoom meetings.

Without the advantage of having a teacher in front of you to ask questions, many students are now having to resort to using the internet or the lectures being posted online that have been recorded by the teachers. For some students, online classes have been a disaster, but for others this means staying at home and doing the work in the style that suits them.

"My Biology 120 course has changed in a good way for me," Sam Jimenez said in an email. "Since I used to record lectures, now that the course is being taught online, I just need to watch the video lectures."

Although some students may be struggling from not having hands-on interactions, there are a number of students who are looking on the bright side and using the online lectures to their advantage.

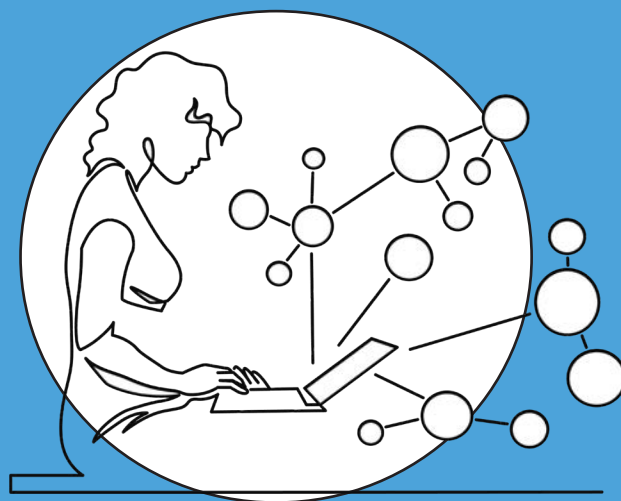
Jimenez said, "Honestly, online classes didn't affect me as

much as others.” Some people prefer to have online classes over going to an actual class because they learn differently and each style comes with benefits or disadvantages. Everyone has their own style of learning and will choose a class depending on what they like. Unfortunately, many of us didn’t choose to learn remotely this semester.

If you are struggling with your online classes, whether lab or lecture, remember teachers are there to help you. Not only are they available, but since classes are online, they may reply very quickly and help you with anything you need. Ask questions; professors want you to, even if it is through an email or online meeting.

It’s not impossible to do well in online courses, although there are difficulties that come with not being able to sit in a physical class. Still, there are ways to improve your classes even if they are online. Attending every Zoom meeting and sending emails to instructors are important ways to help you avoid any mistakes and gain clarification.

Remote learning classes may not be the easiest class format, but if we keep on asking questions and attending, then there is nothing we can’t do. It’s all about mindset and motivation. Although that may be hard to find in a situation like this, it’s helpful to find some friends to help you keep motivated and in the groove of classes.



Summer is just around the corner and we have a couple more weeks to go. Let’s put in the best of what we’ve got left in order to beat this virus and anything else that gets thrown at us. 🐦

Art students find motivation.

At the start of the semester, no one would have thought that we’d have to finish the rest of our classes online in the comfort of our homes. However, not every class is easily taken at home. Unlike history or English lectures, there are some classes that require classroom space and the physical presence of a teacher. This may include science labs, music classes and various art classes.

Many art students have been struggling with remote learning because they may not have the proper equipment to finish their courses. In addition, other students have lost motivation and are struggling to gather any kind of inspiration during this time.

“I have lost motivation. Physically I am healthy and I’m not worried about money. But mentally, I do feel suppressed,” Taylor Fuglseth, an art major, said in an email. “Sometimes it feels like I am not moving forward and I am stagnant, and I believe this quarantine has given me more time to think about that, which results in stress.”

Many students strive and excel with competition around them, which helps them move forward and bring more creativity to a canvas.

“I love being surrounded by talented students who challenge me to do better,” Fuglseth said.

When asked where she draws inspiration from, Fuglseth said from her

feelings and emotions. Since artists strive to make their work unique, gathering inspiration during this time of hardship, where one cannot find the necessary tools to work or think, can be stressful.

With so much confusion happening around classes and their format, it’s easy to fall behind and lose motivation to keep grades up or even study. For other students, it’s easier to remember where they are headed and what they want to achieve. The thought of that simply drives them to push through the stressful times and can help push motivation out onto a canvas. In an email, David Lux said he is still motivated and is striving to finish off the semester and open his art studio once the whole situation is over.

“Setting my art business up for when it is safe again, I can practice my business knowledge and gain experience,” Lux said in an email. Since falling behind because of the commotion due to the virus, he said he is hoping to finish strong and start a new learning experience once all of this passes by.

As a result of the pandemic, many departments have had to cancel several shows and performances, and the semesterly student art showcase is no exception. Alex DeCosta, the Hyde Art Gallery’s director, said in an email that the student’s art exhibition has been canceled for this semester.

While the showcase may not be



happening in person, the Hyde Art Gallery is finding ways to show and demonstrate art students have created, including through social media. However, even though the gallery may not be opening its doors for people, the award-of-merit and memorial award prize will still be awarded to outstanding art students this semester.

“From this experience, I hope to gain more positivity in my life and resilience,” Fuglseth said. “I believe that it is my job to do my best and I give the rest to God and let Him handle it. This is just another experience where I get to practice that.”

In times like these, negativity is often the easiest option, but for Fuglseth, it’s isn’t one. Although she may be dealing with finding motivation in this difficult time, she still finds a reason to persevere and create art. 🐦

BY MATISSE SANCHEZ

Final Bows: Coronavirus shuts down theater productions.

BY ANDREW FINLEY

Life has taken a pause for many people at the moment. Most are sitting at home, waiting for the “all clear” signs from our local governments to say it’s OK to go outside and play. As we all anticipate the thumbs-up, something is continuing to move, and will never stop moving; it can’t stop.

That something is called time, and right now, it’s ruthless. Days and days go by as if they’re minutes, and as those days pass, so do the opportunities to make the most out of them. This is no exception to the students and staff at Grossmont College. But time has been a little crueler to certain departments, such as the Theatre Department, which took a huge blow due to the pandemic that stopped everyone in their tracks while time continues to move.

The Stagehouse Theater was scheduled to host two more productions as part of their spring season. According to Grossmont theater instructor and director, Brian Rickel, those plays have been canceled and the department will not be reproducing them at a later date. The department’s high school tour of *Love Scenes* has been shut down as well.

“We are moving forward,” Rickel said in a phone call. “We are focusing on our future productions and how they’ll be shown.”

Productions that have been scheduled after the spring season are in limbo right now as the Theatre Department waits to see how long this quarantine and other restrictions last.

“The fall continues to be a moving target dependent on decisions not made by us,” Rickel said regarding fall productions. “Nothing has been canceled as of yet.”

With productions being shut down and others in a state of uncertainty, it would be easy to be discouraged and reasonably upset about this unfortunate situation. But Rickel is quick to find the bright side in all the drama surrounding the drama.

“We are all alive,” he said. “The situation stinks, but at least we’re still alive.”

Similar to many other people and companies, the Theatre Department has taken a big hit as a result of the pandemic. Similar to coaches and athletes, directors and actors are at the mercy of COVID-19, and it leaves them wondering if they’ll ever act or direct a show at Grossmont again.

Despite there being no cancellations to the summer productions or the fall season as of yet, the fear of the unknown still lingers, and some theater students just saw months of hard work get cast

away. They’ve been told that their show can not go on. One is theatre major and actor Ryan Manikowski, who was working on an original piece for the theatre fundraiser scheduled to be performed April 10-11. Manikowski said in an email his piece had been in production since last semester. He held rehearsals in early February, which was a lot of effort to then find out it would never be shown to an audience.

“Everything had been cut,” said Manikowski in an email, “There were only a few costume pieces that needed to be put together. Alex Wolfe had already designed and constructed a set of props.”

The production was meant to be a 15-20 minute political piece based on Manikowski’s poetry surrounding gun control. “The piece utilized the talent of seven actors, giving them a platform to illustrate their skills in comedy, drama and movement,” he said. “It was a joy to work with people on a political piece.”

After over four months of planning and designing an original production, the

virus shut everything down. No one will get to see the play and the staff that worked on it will never get to put it on display as they planned. This seems like the kind of unfortunate situation that would discourage many people from putting themselves out there and getting their voices heard.

Manikowski isn’t like many people. Instead of being a pessimist about not being able to show off his piece, he decided to put the situation into perspective during this wild time

and reflect on the positives of the process of creating the production. He said he is proud of the work he has done and is eager to get back to work when the pandemic passes.

“Even though people did not get to see the final product, I am proud of what we were able to do,” Manikowski said. “I miss my colleagues and I wish as quarantine persists, that they find something original to begin working on so that original works can be presented once the campus opens back up... I am very grateful for the Theatre Department in providing a space to work on something that means so much to me.”

Both theater faculty and students watched several months of hard work melt away. Some people might call this a tragedy, but if there’s any group of people who know how to deal with a tragedy, it’s the Theatre Department. To be able to focus on the positive shows a willingness to adapt, and it’s a point of view that many people can applaud in these crazy times. 🐦



SWEET VICTORY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GROSSMONT COLLEGE CULINARY ARTS



Grossmont's own pastry instructor James Foran wins the Food Network's television competition *Chopped*. BY VICTORIA VIGIL

Grossmont College's James Foran, a pastry instructor and head of the Culinary Arts Department, won the Food Network TV competition *Chopped*. Foran was on the March 24 season premiere titled "Chock-Full of Chocolate."

Foran earned a degree in pastry arts from Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. He started his career at the Drake Hotel in New York City, training under chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten. He then went on to work in San Francisco as an executive pastry chef at the prominent Vertigo Restaurant, One Market and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. He was also an executive pastry chef at Bellagio Hotel's Picasso restaurant in Las Vegas.

In *Chopped*, four chefs compete in a three-round contest where they are given various baskets of ingredients to use to create dishes. After each round, the judges select a chef to be "chopped," or eliminated from the competition.

The theme of Foran's episode was chocolate desserts. For the first round, the chefs had to make a dessert that was crunchy; the next round had to be gooey, and the final round had to be a fruit dessert.

The first round's basket of ingredients included milk and chocolate chip cookies, chocolate-covered shrimp chips, fermented honey and tamarillos. Foran decided to make a chocolate and honey ice cream with shrimp chip crumble since the theme was crunchy. The second round's basket included kumquats, miso, a chocolate ganache tart and spicy chocolate chicken wings. Foran chose to make a brown sugar brownie and miso caramel for the gooey theme.

The final round's basket had white chocolate banana pudding, freeze-dried raspberries, sweet beef jerky, and ruby chocolate candy bars. Foran made white chocolate raspberry frozen yogurt with chocolate beef jerky beignets. When asked by host Ted Allen why Foran wanted to win *Chopped*, he said he wants to represent all culinary instructors out there who have a lot of passion.

He admits that at first, he was not very interested in

doing the show. "I'm a chef/instructor and know the realities of being a day-to-day working chef," Foran explained. "Often, television glorifies and paints a very different picture of what a chef is, and most professionals mock these types of shows, including me."

When the time came for him to commit to a date to film the show, Foran said he was nervous, excited, anxious and curious about what to expect. "In retrospect, of course, I'm glad I went for it but there was a huge risk of being chopped early, which I had to expect," he said.

Foran said taping the show took around 15 hours and after not seeing his dish on the chopping block, he was beyond excited. He said the show is not really about creating great dishes but who can work under the show's impractical cooking circumstances. "No recipes, little time, strange ingredients, unfamiliar kitchen, unknown pantry, and cameras in your face isn't a creative and inspiring environment to cook your best," he said.

His episode was filmed in May 2019 in New York City, but he had to keep his winning a secret. He said "...there was a lot of time in-between to keep the results bottled up. Over time, the questions shifted to, 'When is the show going to finally air?' I had the hardest time not telling my students and family."

Foran also said that being on *Chopped* sets an example for his students that hard work is about actions, not words. "Students and teachers all around the country who watched were able to see that choosing to be a culinary instructor doesn't mean we are burnt out and don't have the fire under our asses to handle this kind of pressure," he said.

Grossmont President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh said: "Chef James provides further evidence that Grossmont College faculty stand among the best academically and professionally. We are proud of our colleague. He sets high standards for his students and inspires them to rise to the challenge as he has demonstrated on the national scene." 🦋

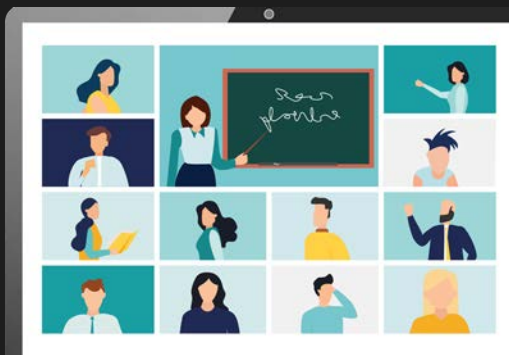


PHOTO COURTESY OF FOOD NETWORK

Foran's second round dish: brown sugar brownie with miso caramel.

CYBER TUTORING CENTER

BY VICTORIA VIGIL



Grossmont College's Tutoring Center helps students with classes online during pandemic.

Finals are approaching at Grossmont College and with remote learning, students can be feeling even more lost than usual when it comes to their coursework.

Grossmont College's Tutoring Center is here to help students with zero costs. The center hosts more than 30 subjects and is open Monday through Friday. Due to the current situation, they are now offering online tutoring as well as e-tutoring.

Tutoring is free to Grossmont students, and many of the tutors are current or former students of Grossmont. Working with the tutors at Grossmont College, a student is likely to get someone who has had the Grossmont experience, which can help give insight. The tutor can provide guidance beyond strictly the homework assignments. "They've had the same professors, the same courses, the same experience as a lot of students have had," said Niko Crumpton, head of Grossmont College's Tutoring Center. It's nice to have feedback from someone who is a little more like you."

The tutors also work with the English Writing Center and the Math Study Center, which are also located in the Tech Mall on the first floor. In total, the Tutoring Center has more than 100 tutors, sometimes a little more or less depending on the semester. "The college has really committed a lot to provide free tutoring," Crumpton said.

Students can feel intimidated asking for extra help on their coursework but the Tutoring Center is not just for students who are struggling. "It's very common to have fear and experience a sense of stigma when it comes to getting help in a lot of scenarios, like seeing their professor during office hours or using other services on campus," Crumpton said. "I totally get that. There can be a lot of hesitation for that initial encounter. I think if we can convince people to work on that first step, they can really enjoy the value in tutoring."

There's sometimes a sense of not knowing what tutoring is about and maybe students may feel unsure. The nature of asking for help can be a little intimidating. Tutoring Center Specialist Carolyn Fisher explained when a student uses their voice to express a question and they're trying to process a question on a particular subject, just that act of processing and asking it verbally helps the ears and the brain process the material. "It is not just going to a tutor and they give an answer," Fisher said. "It's the whole thing of processing, being aware, learning how to ask questions."

Becoming a tutor on Grossmont College's campus is a process that requires one's dedication and devotion to a major or subject. "Any student that at least has a B grade in their class," said Tutoring Center Specialist Keith Turner. "If they're really interested in it, we would really want someone who is passionate about the subject. Possibly a student taking a major in that subject. It would be someone who is an ideal candidate for that subject."

The center also looks for faculty referrals; a tutor's ability to communicate with their instructor to get that referral makes them an ideal candidate. Students who would like to apply to be a tutor

can also just come to the Tutoring Center.

The center is also planning to collaborate with Grossmont College Career Services— for example, putting on the Career Services job board that a tutor in chemistry is needed so students have another way of knowing about the Tutoring Center's job openings.

At the moment, tutors are mostly walk-ins or referral-based. "Not just someone who did well in the class because they may not be passionate about it; they may not be able to articulate in different ways," Turner clarified. "We want someone who is really enthusiastic about the subject matter."

They also provide training for tutors so students do not have to worry about not knowing how to teach another student. Many teachers start as tutors because being a tutor gives experience to that field. "Tutors are just in general successful," Crumpton said. "It's a way of becoming a better student, getting work experience, getting transfer experience, building a resume."

Fisher started as a communications tutor at Grossmont, where she was a tutor for six years. Crumpton started as a tutor in English and Japanese, and now runs the college's Tutoring Center.

Turner was recruited out of high school by a basketball coach, Doug Weber, to come to Grossmont. He used to be a student at Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges. He went to Minnesota State for his bachelor's degree and went overseas to London for his master's. Then he became an adjunct instructor at Grossmont and moved on and became full-time staff.

"Grossmont kind of built me and molded me," Turner said. "Coming back to under-served students has been my passion. Where I come from – low-income, single-parent, first-generation college student, African American – the cards are stacked against us. I feel like coming back to help those types of students is my passion and that's why I came back to Grossmont."

With COVID-19, the Tutoring Center is utilizing online scheduling. Instead of accepting walk-ins like it would on campus, all three centers are holding sessions by appointment because everything is online.

The Tutoring Center now provides primarily two kinds of tutoring: live online and online submissions. A student can either enter a live chat and discussion with a tutor or submit a question, small assignment or some information on which they want feedback, and a tutor will send you a response later. "

For students right now, they may be feeling even more isolated because they're not going onto campus," Crumpton said. "They're not seeing people face-to-face as much. That is one thing we like about live online tutoring; it allows people to get that social interaction that they may be missing."

Free tutoring is available for all Grossmont students, visit grossmont.mywconline.com. ↘

TRANSFERRING IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

Students reflect on their last semester
and fall transfers to universities.

BY VICTORIA VIGIL | DESIGN BY OLIVIA LINSTAD

With June approaching, Grossmont's transfer students are soon to graduate. Some may be sad they did not finish their last semester on campus, or they may feel ready to transfer and continue to the next step in their academic careers. The only difference this year is the COVID-19 global pandemic, forcing in-person classes to be transitioned all online. This may mean they already had their last in-person class at Grossmont, the last time as a student studying in the library or running into their friends randomly on campus.

Abril Sosa-Pineda is prepared to transfer to SDSU to major in journalism with an emphasis in public relations. Grossmont's Puente program, a Latinx-based program, would usually hold its own graduation celebration this time of year. "Coming in as a first-generation college student, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. Puente made me feel like I had people to support me in the process; they were my second family," Sosa-Pineda said. "Not being able to celebrate that big accomplishment with the coordinators and my fellow Puentistas did make me kind of sad."

Grossmont student Jaira Gabionza said she is ready to transfer. She is planning to go to either the USD or to the University of Santa Cruz to major in chemistry. "I'm a little sad because I miss the environment of being in school—the rush to go to classes, the chance to talk to my friends, being inside the library studying," she said.

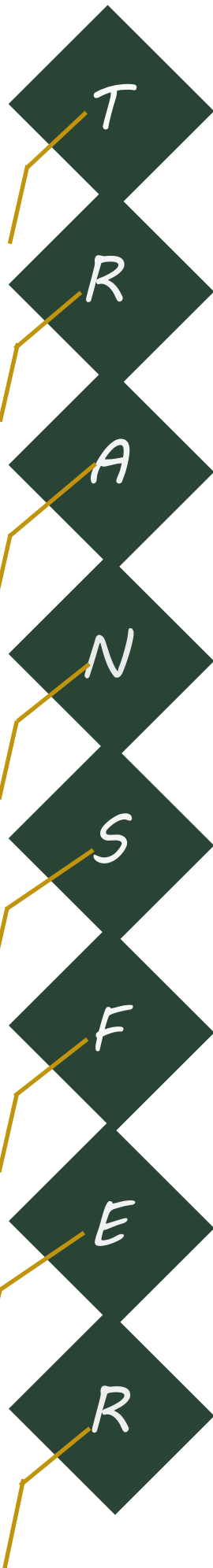
Gabionza and Sosa-Pineda can both agree what they will miss the most about Grossmont are the people they have met. "When I leave, I will definitely miss my friends the most, whether old or new, because they shared my experiences of being a student—all the struggles and victories," Gabionza said.

Amid the global pandemic, there is a feeling of uncertainty about how colleges might handle the next semester. Transfer students may or may not be able to experience their first semesters at a four-year university in the usual way. Gabionza said she assumes they will continue the same way it is going on right now—all online.

Sosa-Pineda agreed: "I don't feel like this pandemic will be solved quickly since it's such a delicate subject. I believe it will just be more online classes that hopefully accommodate all students."

With Grossmont finishing off the semester online, commencement will be held online June 4. Students will be able to view the graduation ceremony at 5 p.m. by going onto the Grossmont College Commencement website. All graduates will have their own slide during the virtual ceremony and students can even submit a photo and message to include on their slide. Students graduating this semester have the option to attend this moment in Grossmont history.

Here's to the class of 2020; wishing you all the best in your future endeavors! 🐦



CLUBBING ON CAMPUS

Put the "community" in college with campus clubs.

STORY, DESIGN AND PHOTO BY OLIVIA LINSTAD

The plethora of flyers posted throughout Grossmont College shows the integral role of campus clubs. Some students walk by the posters without glancing at the upcoming activities, but for many others, these events are included in their semester highlights.

Despite the lack of resident life, Grossmont proves commuter colleges can provide fulfilling campus life opportunities. According to Heriberto Vasquez, director of Student Development, "We are probably one of the most active, in terms of clubs and activities on campus, community colleges in region 10." This includes all community colleges in San Diego and Imperial counties.

Recently, Grossmont clubs have adjusted to the lack of in-person campus life when students, faculty and staff officially transitioned remotely on March 16. Since each club's leadership has the freedom to direct their club's future, club undertakings are varied for the rest of the spring semester.

"Some clubs have gone a little dormant," Vasquez said. "For me, as the overall advisor, I look at that and I think that is OK. Right? We're living through a pandemic—a global pandemic. It's not just happening at Grossmont."

"Not everyone can be expected to just shine," he added. "We have to be conscientious and aware of our emotional well-being as well."

Anime club president Amber Englebrecht said via email, "Unfortunately, we do not have anything planned for the rest of the semester, and we have decided to cease any activity for the remainder of it." This statement represents many of the clubs who have discontinued their meetings such as the California Students' Nursing Association and the Indivisible club. Other clubs have made some adjustments to their original schedule in order to still keep in touch with club members virtually. The advisor of the science club, Jeff Lehman, said via email they still meet weekly online but their time together consists of "catching up." Sistahood has also continued its regular meetings virtually.

Despite the temporary hiatus, students are still encouraged to find a club that resonates with their interests. With more than 30 clubs to choose from, Grossmont students have access to meetings and activities ranging from academic-focused or hobby-based. The American Medical Student Association, which assists future physicians with resources and education, is an example of a club designed to enrich the academic experience. Other clubs, such as the Griffin Gamers, are an opportunity to forget the homework and spend time in a recreational atmosphere. The International Club is one of the many clubs to offer peer support and connections to students with similar backgrounds.

Vasquez said the goal of every club on Grossmont's campus is "to keep the students attached to the campus in a fun and nurturing environment outside of the classroom setting."

Although there is a large variety of clubs already established on

[CLUBS, CONT. ON PAGE 18]

APOCALYPSE NOW

Shelter in place with these contagious films.

BY JOE VALERIO

The attack of the coronavirus seems like a post-apocalyptic movie brought to life as we stay home to shelter from this virus. Some people are not worried despite knowing that going outside could endanger their health. Others are optimistic the situation would get better, while others are extremely worried. Some have desperately sought help from any source, even looking to Hollywood movies for guidance and ways to cope with COVID-19.

If you want to watch movies that relate to current events, these movies are for you. These films depict scenarios of people's behavior during a pandemic like the current situation. If you want to watch a movie about a deadly virus, then you should watch *28 Days Later*.

If that isn't to your taste, my second recommendation is a classic for science fiction and apocalypse movie fans: *Planet of the Apes*. It deals with scientific experimentation among apes that changes the culture and also the evolution of mankind leaving the world a desolate wasteland. The movie will leave you

screaming, "It was earth the whole time!"

My third recommendation will want you to curl up with a blanket and popcorn because it is a beloved children's movie. Made by Pixar for Disney, *WALL-E* is a heroic story about a little robot living in the future. The earth's ecosystem has collapsed from neglect caused by human's overuse of futuristic technology. *WALL-E* shows viewers the cause and effect of their actions and encourages everyone to take care of the things around us before they are gone.

If you want a movie that is more modern, the next movie has a large fan following and most people reference this idea when in a state of panic or think the world is going to end. This idea is known as a zombie apocalypse. This brings us to the movie *Zombieland*. If you think there is going to be a zombie outbreak caused by the coronavirus and want to prepare yourself, then this is the movie for you.

If you're a fan of the apocalyptic genre and looking to relax with some good movies during quarantine, watch these recommended films. 🦋



ALUMNI [CONT. FROM PAGE 7]

in that field for six or seven years, I realized it wasn't something that would make me happy," Santoni said. I decided to make the change to medicine and found my way back to Grossmont for pre-requisites and the Orthopedic Technology program in order to gain experience to prepare for applications to PA school."

Regardless of who you are, what you've been through or how old you are, what matters is what you want and how you plan to get it. Grossmont will always be open to students, young and old.

"Use the time you have in college to really discover who you are and try to envision what you want yourself to be like in the future," Santoni advised. Life out in the working world can be busy. Set realistic expectations, and don't be too hard on yourself if you are struggling. I see college as an opportunity to absorb knowledge, culture, friendships, and the skill set in order to have a successful career." 🦋

SOCIAL [CONT. FROM PAGE 11]

With social media so prevalent in our current climate, the question must be posed about what consuming all this content is doing to the mental health of its users during this uncertain time.

"When we are kept inside the house, it allows us to get that social contact just in different forms," Buska said. "I think it's healthy to come together as a group and express emotions and social media allows us to do that."

There is no question that social media platforms have evolved to connect their users with each other more than ever with the addition of live streams, questionnaires, polls and many other forms of connecting. Some believe, however, that there is one thing social media cannot replace. "For our mental health, I believe in face-to-face human connection and contact. I don't think there's anything that could ever substitute that," Osorio said.

With the stay-at-home order still in affect, many people are craving that real human conversation that social media cannot provide.

"We take for granted the things that we have every day, and we don't realize how much we need them," Osorio added.

Whether social media is making a positive or negative impact on its users, it can at the least be an accessible distraction from the tragedy and negativity in the news. It's not clear when the virus will subside or when everything will go back to "normal," but social media will be there through the good and the bad. 🦋

CLUBS [CONT. FROM PAGE 17]

campus, students still have the option of starting a club where they see a need for it. Vasquez said if you feel the campus isn't offering something you want, "other students might be feeling the same way."

He also said starting and continuing clubs with a variety of interests and topics is important for students because "it's creating that dynamic where students feel like their interests are also being met, not just their academic goals." When this is achieved, a student's engagement on campus increases. Vasquez gave an example of the older population of students as an area Grossmont's clubs have not specifically represented, although students of any

age can join the clubs.

Whether it's in the midst of a pandemic-stricken semester or not, club leadership focuses on qualities such as team-building, identity and leadership. These attributes are taught and encouraged at workshops hosted by the college. All clubs are primarily student-led with four core roles of club president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. These roles provide students opportunities to explore and strengthen leadership qualities.

Vasquez emphasized the role of campus clubs in a student's life: "You can struggle academically and still be a student leader, and I think that's the focus that we've carried in Student Affairs." 🦋



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GROSSMONT BRIEFING

Grant to Help with Online Learning By Victoria Vigil

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District received \$90,000 from The San Diego Foundation as part of a grant to help community college students who need computers and internet connectivity. A \$500,000 grant was awarded by The San Diego Foundation to be shared evenly among the five community college districts in the county. The districts include Grossmont-Cuyamaca, San Diego City, Southwestern, MiraCosta and Palomar.

According to Chancellor Lynn Neault, the district is coming up with a plan to purchase laptops and internet service for those students who need it. "All students, regardless of economic status, need access to a computer and internet to improve their educational opportunities and ultimately, their futures," said Mark Stuart, president and CEO of The San Diego Foundation.

The grant that is given to the colleges comes from The San Diego Foundation's San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund with \$1.25 million from the foundation and \$1 million from San Diego Gas & Electric.

Due to this semester approaching its end, the resources will be provided for the 2020-2021 academic year. The college is figuring out who will need the provided technology the most. This consists of undocumented students and international students who do not qualify for federal stimulus funds.

Grossmont is going to purchase between 200-250 new Chromebooks. Students are not expected to return these computers. Cuyamaca is also looking into getting refurbished laptops by working with an organization that provides them. Along with the computer, students who qualify for the help will receive a year worth of internet service and technical support, provided by the organization as well.

"Since we moved to offering all of our courses online, many of our students have struggled because they don't have the resources they need to be successful in their classes," Neault said. "We're grateful for this grant from The San Diego Foundation to help more of our students bridge the digital divide."

Presidential Update to Staff By Annemarie Muñoz

Grossmont held a virtual presidential forum April 30 with Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh on hand to share updates and address concerns or questions from college faculty and staff. His main update was on the budget cut and decline in enrollment since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

While the college's enrollment has been declining over the last few years, it is now down by 5.2% since Spring 2019. This is not necessarily due to the coronavirus, but because of the need for some to join the workforce or difficulty registering, the president said. At the time of the forum, about 1,299 students had dropped one or more courses, and 417 students dropped all their courses due to COVID-19.

Abu-Ghazaleh explained the leniency and support of many universities that students are transferring to because of the environment we are in, but made it clear: "We are not encouraging students to withdraw and take the EW [excused withdrawal]... We are encouraging students to take the EW if they cannot maintain their enrollment. There is a difference in that nuance."

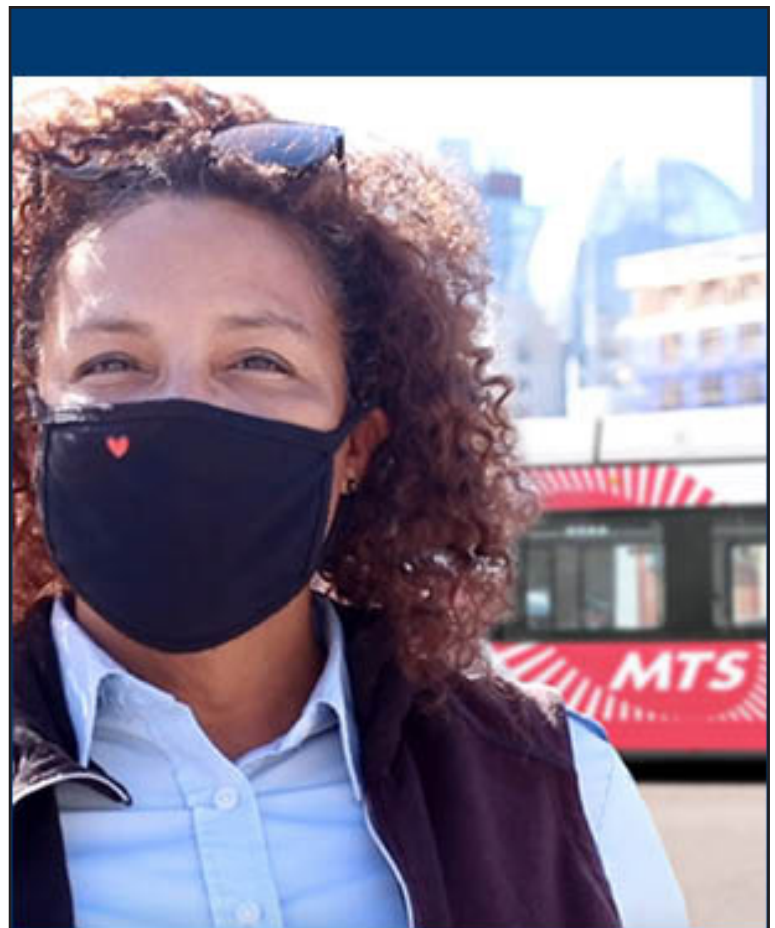
Another important update was the financial deficit the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District will face in the upcoming semesters. "For this year, they are going to shorten the district by about \$4.3 million district-wide because the state's revenue is less," the president said.

This means Grossmont College will be taking a \$2.3 million cut, causing the summer schedule to be dramatically reduced and hourly employees will only be paid for actual time worked effective May 8.

To deal with this, the college will limit the hiring of hourly workers, reduce section counts by about 7%, reduce travel, renegotiate contracts and reduce renovations.

Finally, the president gave a commencement update. While there is no physical way we can gather by the thousands in just a few months' time, Abu-Ghazaleh emphasized the tone of the developing virtual commencement will remain congratulatory.

"It's painful," he said, "but we need to do what we need to do, and we need to give to our students as good a farewell as we can, and that needs to be done."



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Learn More.



Summer is just around the corner and what better time, especially during this quarantine, to get around to reading books that could keep our minds off these uncertain times? Unlike many books you've heard of, here are a couple of underrated books that will entice you in the same way a fridge does these days.

The first book recommendation is *Call Me By Your Name* by André Aciman. This book pulls us into the world of 17-year-old Elio who is a young, well-read and very talented musician living on the Italian Riviera with his parents. Every summer, Elio and his family host a graduate student from the United States, until this strange and intriguing character names Oliver comes along.

Nicknamed as "il cauboi" and "la muvi star," Oliver quickly gets as famous and loved as you can get in a little town in northern Italy. Throughout the course of six weeks, Elio longs and scrutinizes every single detail pertaining to this handsome and charismatic Oliver. Dancing at midnight, swimming in the rivers, playing volleyball and in the pool, Elio's

world is disrupted everywhere Oliver is around.

Aciman does a good job of developing Elio's thoughts and putting them on pages, making the book sound like a poem itself. You'll want to discover this little world Elio has created for himself and will long for summer days like his.

Fantasy books are a perfect escape this upcoming summer, and who bring a new level of adventure and gruesome reading but Sabaa Tahir? Her book, *An Ember in the Ashes*, is one not to be overlooked.

In a world where the Masks rule the empire with a strict hand, we find Laia, a scholar willing to do anything to get her brother out of prison by spying on the commander from

the Blackcliff Academy. Blackcliff Academy is known to train some of the most brutal Masks, a world in which Elias lives. Elias is a Mask but has different ideas on how the empire should be so he is willing to risk his life in order to get out of the prison he calls Blackcliff.

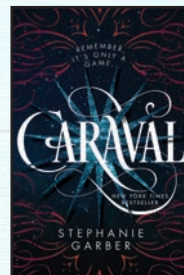
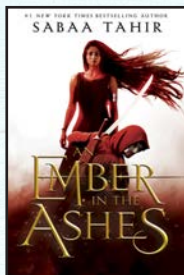
Elias is soon chosen to compete to be the next emperor of this city along with his best friend and two other candidates. With little time left, Laia is also willing to put her life on the line in order to get her brother out of prison and back home safe with her. In this story, we get to see two very different people brought together in order to do the one thing they both believe is right—to fight against the empire and its rule. The plot will put you on

edge every time Laia spies or Elias rebels and will keep you reading until you're done with the book.

The last fantasy book you should read this summer is by Stephanie Garber. If you haven't read *Caraval* then you're missing out on the roller coaster this book takes its readers on. Filled with deceit, love, magic and even

more fantasy, Garber brings the readers into the book and makes them want to stay.

Scarlett and Tella are sisters who are living under their powerful, yet cruel, father who is hoping to marry them off. Before Scarlett can get married, Tella whisks her away to Caraval. Caraval – the most exclusive performance where audiences get to participate in the show – makes Tella the main event and whoever finds her first is the winner. To Scarlett, this was the opposite of what she dreamed Caraval to be like but as she submerges herself more and more into this magical world, she finds herself longing to stay in it even more as she experiences love, heartbreak and more. ♡



Novel Novels

Underrated books for
SUMMER SURVIVAL.

By Matisse Sanchez
Design by Sara Shah



REEL TALK

CULT OF PERSONALITY

— BY DONOVAN HOLLAND

These badly reviewed films are now adored by audiences.



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THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU | Directed by Wes Anderson

A storybook-esque structure. A pastel-colored background. Whimsical and quirky characters. Bill Murray. Why, it must be a Wes Anderson film! A humorous narrative that observes Murray as a washed-up oceanographer and the exploits of his documentary crew, *The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou* exhibits the trademarks of its beloved director in spades. However, this wasn't enough to win over most critics back in 2004. *The Life Aquatic* was said to be pretentious and arrogant. Critics argued the film was devoid of meaning and artificially sentimental in its themes. However, it soon came into its own, both for fans of Anderson's work and the average movie enthusiast. It's developed a cult following, and is praised for its captivating characters, clever sense of humor and unique story beats. The cool visual aesthetic is also a plus, with the blue backdrop of the sea omnipresent in the film. This maritime setting is complemented by the film's charming style. Thanks to Anderson's unique touch, *The Life Aquatic* is the film equivalent of an extravagant bedtime story.

STEP BROTHERS | Directed by Adam McKay

A staple on just about every college sophomore's list of comedy favorites, *Step Brothers* needs no introduction. It's a film primarily composed of Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly being incompetent buffoons for a little under two hours. With that, it's pretty easy to see why sophisticated movie reviewers such as Roger Ebert had nothing pleasant to say about this crude satire. This is a film that the majority of critics who saw it view it as "immature" and "vulgar," and the remainder pleading the fifth, likely due to a speedy departure from the theater during the drum-set scene. However, when critics speak negatively about its lewd content, they are missing the forest for the trees. The movie is strategically unrefined; the audience is meant to observe the half-baked antics of this flippant duo to laugh and to cringe at their antics. In order to truly appreciate the film, Brennan and Dale are to be viewed as spectacles of absurdity. This is the secret genius of the film. Showcasing the blatant stupidity of two grown man-children, it may be more relevant than ever. ★★★★★



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DOGMA | Directed by Kevin Smith

A stoner comedy of the late '90s, *Dogma* was not a film that made it onto many critics' picks for movie of the year. Film reviewers didn't pay it much attention because, in their eyes, it was a cheap shot at disparaging religion, something *South Park* had been doing for almost three years. With 1999 as the year that gave us *American Beauty* and *Fight Club*, it's quite understandable to see why the irreverent flick did little more than cause the Catholic church to denounce the movie as blasphemy. However, any publicity is good publicity. After this criticism gained attention from the general public, *Dogma* became a cult favorite. It has all the makings of an enjoyable comedy—sporting solid running gags, ridiculous situations and a phenomenal ensemble cast including Salma Hayek, Chris Rock, Alan Rickman, Jason Lee, Ben Affleck and Matt Damon. More than that, *Dogma* takes time to flesh itself out. We are given a genuinely solid reflection on the multi-million-dollar business that is the Catholic church. Instead of taking potshots at those who have faith in a higher power, the film skillfully uses unfiltered satire to analyze the hypocrisy of religion. With church-bashing routine for many comedies, it's wholly refreshing to see it done this time with a bit of decorum and intellect. ★★★★★

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE | Directed by Jared Hess

Made with a budget of a mere \$400,000, *Napoleon Dynamite* was a resounding success with audiences, spawning various forms of apparel and decor, as well as even an animated TV series. Over 15 years later, fans can still be heard pulling quotes from this cult favorite, and Napoleon himself is an instantly recognizable icon of pop culture. In this case, why did critics dislike it so much? Critics' 2004 reviews were surprisingly harsh, stating the film was full of wooden performances and lacked any sort of plot structure. The truth is, these points are completely valid, but these facets work in the film's favor. In fact, this is what made the film so successful in the first place. *Napoleon Dynamite* is a masterclass in creating a solid piece of film without much of a story. Not much is resolved or altered plot-wise, and story developments are done for comedic effect. It certainly is rare for a film without a fully-structured story to not only work, but to excel; the film is known today as a coming-of-age classic. This movie is loved by many not because it necessarily has something to say, but more in the tone it uses in speaking. The primarily rudimentary humor is executed in a surprisingly intelligent, albeit deadpan, method. Most, if not all of this comedic commentary is delivered by the film's array of quirky characters, who give the film its own distinctive personality. In its essence, *Napoleon Dynamite* is down-to-earth, strangely endearing and absolutely hilarious. ★★★★★



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