

# HUMBER ET CETERA<sup>•</sup>

Humber's Student Newspaper

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JESS MUNDAY

Barbara Patrocínio and other Humber journalism students attend an online class while on the third floor of the Learning Resource Commons building on Sept. 13, 2021.

## GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

**Jess Munday**  
*News Reporter*

For Bailey Reinhart, the return to in-person courses this fall at the University of Guelph-Humber has been bittersweet, like returning to an old home or apartment that's familiar yet changed.

"I learn a lot better in person, so I'm really happy to be back into the educational work environment," the third-year media

studies student said.

"That being said, it's sad to see how dead the campus has become," Reinhart said. "All the food places are closed and you never see people hanging around anymore."

The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 saw nearly all classes move online and campus life nearly disappear. In-person classes resumed this fall under strict protocols and a new vacci-

nation policy.

For many students, the return to campus is their first time back in the school buildings after a long hiatus. Others are seeing it in person for the first time.

Reinhart is not alone in reacting to the new look of life at Humber, where students and staff are happy to see classmates' faces — even if half-covered by masks.

Klea Santiago, a Guelph-

Humber third-year media studies student, was excited to talk to classmates face-to-face once again, even if the reopening falls far short of returning to normal.

"I get to see actual people and not through the screen, real-time conversations with professors about questions after or before classes without having to worry about responding through emails," Santiago said.

Meanwhile, Logan Fargo, a

sustainable energy student at Humber College, lamented the end of attending online classes in pyjamas with little concern for hair or grooming.

"As nice as it is to not have to do group projects over Blackboard, I do kinda miss only having to get up 15 minutes before class, having a coffee, and just turning on my computer," Fargo said.

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SOCCER STAR  
KICKS OFF  
AGAINST  
HUSKIES P. 10**



**WOODBINE'S  
FANTASY FAIR  
GETS TAKEN  
OFF THE  
MARKET P. 4**





JESS MUNDAY

Students cross Arboretum Boulevard at Humber College North campus. They are among the thousands of students who have returned to campus for the first time in more than a year since the start of the pandemic as part of a hybrid model of online and in-person learning.

## Students return as COVID restrictions ease

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"My routine is very different for in-person classes, I gotta get ready and pack all my things needed for class," he said. "For online, I don't have to get ready

at all, I can just roll out of bed and attend class without having to do anything beforehand."

For first-year and second-year students coming to campus for the first time, their introduction to Humber has been mostly vir-

tual and lacking the conviviality of past years. But health and safety remains the chief concern.

Kelsey Williams, a Guelph-Humber student, noted the pandemic protocols had resulted in a pared-down frosh week for first-

year students, but applauded the principle of putting safety first.

"I think it's the safest option possible," Williams said. "It's better than not doing anything and safer than having thousands of students in a venue all at once."

## First week traditions impacted by pandemic

**Megan Rampersaud**

News Reporter

For culinary student Peter Gonzalez, smiling new faces filling the bleachers and splatters of colourful paint flying in the air are what he remembers most about Humber's pre-pandemic Frosh Week.

Now, memories of North campus before lockdowns are hard for Gonzales to conjure, as he returns to college to pursue culinary management.

"I was nervous about my first day at college," Gonzalez said. "My high-school friend that I [arrived with] was in a different program, so I didn't know anyone in mine at first."

Gonzalez met a new friend in 2016 during his orientation and food truck launching event.

"We hang out almost every day ever since and he is one of my closest friends," Gonzalez said.

But going back to school and making new friends looks different in 2021.

Recent Frosh Week and orientation were virtually available to students on Zoom and Microsoft Teams, making it difficult for students to introduce themselves to



JESS MUNDAY

Students line up outside Humber College North campus. The latest requirements include the Guardian app, proof of vaccination and ID.

new people.

Isha Decoito, a STEM educator and coordinator, found changes in student engagement as students were isolated for more than a year.

"We all have our bad days at times but I noticed a general loss of motivation," Decoito said. "The mental and emotional process of

traveling to campus, arriving in class, and interacting with peers helps to train and support our brains for the future."

It is also hard to meet people. COVID-19 restrictions remain in place — and will for the foreseeable future — and students need to wear masks and keep their distance indoors.

ETC<sup>o</sup>

Humber Et Cetera is the Humber College journalism program laboratory newspaper. It is created by second and third year journalism students. Et Cetera serves to inform the Humber community and give its readers well rounded coverage on the things that matter to them.

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KARL LEWIS

A billboard in downtown Brampton showing where to find information about the pandemic. The Mu variant has been recorded in the city.

## GTA records Mu variant, 28 Brampton cases to date

**Karl Lewis**  
News Reporter

Its scientific name is B.1.621, but it goes by Mu.

The COVID-19 variant was identified in January in Colombia. Now, it's showing up in Brampton.

Health officials in Peel Region said Brampton — already a community facing problems lowering the spread of COVID-19 — has reported 28 cases. They warned residents to take precautionary measures as research into the Mu variant continues.

Some locals, however, remained unaware of the variant and the risks it could present.

When asked if they knew what the Mu variant was, both Jacqueline Fagan and her friend Tiana Bernard, both of Brampton and are fully vaccinated, said they did not.

"With all the madness happening, we are not sure what to believe since everyone is so focused on back-to-school and enjoying the weather," Fagan said.

Only a low percentage of residents within the region remain unvaccinated as of Sept. 14. Sixty-five per cent of residents are fully vaccinated, and the number increases daily.

"These vaccines protect people from getting infected and severely ill — we do not know how effective the vaccines will be against new variants," according to a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) article. The CDC has been working assiduously in sharing information regarding vaccination and mutation of COVID-19 since its first case broke out.

The World Health Organization has called Mu a variant of interest. The organization has been tracking infection rates and transmissibility of the variant since the first case was reported amid "significant community transmission."

To date, Mu cases have appeared in both British Columbia and Ontario.

According to a risk assessment performed by the U.K government, the transmission rate is low compared to the Delta variant.

At present, the variant is not of primary concern since the Delta variant continues to affect countries more, according to the World Health Organization.

But to address public concern, Peel Region issued an information bulletin similar to one published on the Delta variant. The region alone reported the highest number of the Delta variant since June.

The City of Brampton continues to enforce its COVID-19 guidelines where indoor events and activities continue to be 50 per cent and outdoor 75 per cent. The city hopes that this policy will aid in limiting the spread of the virus.

Ontario's recent report on positive COVID-19 cases since the reopening of in-person learning and the start of a new school year shows that 59 out of 610 positive results are from Brampton alone. No Mu variant had been reported in schools.

"I am a bit concerned, but I am vaccinated as well," said Brampton resident Shaquinne Frazer. "So maybe the Mu won't be as bad as the Delta variant."

# Vaccine mandate angers hesitant non-believers

**Trishelle Dotson**  
News Reporter

Brampton resident Brenda Ramirez doesn't want to take a COVID-19 vaccine.

While she believes people should conduct themselves carefully, she explained that, in the end, the novel coronavirus is nothing more than a flu.

She's also concerned about being mandated to either be vaccinated or be excluded from much of her daily routines, including going to theatres, shopping and joining clubs.

"People shouldn't be excluded from certain services and stuff because they aren't vaccinated," Ramirez said.

She says that everyone is entitled to their own choice and the unvaccinated should not be punished.

Canada is now in its fourth COVID-19 wave — partially fuelled by the Delta variant — since it first struck in March 2020. There have been several lockdowns throughout the country since then in a bid to flatten the curve.

That difference from traditional vaccines has triggered fear or concern among some, making them at least hesitant and at most, defiant. Others just don't want to take a vaccine for a variety of reasons, including religion to personal interpretations of medical studies.

Dr. Lawrence Loh, Peel Region's top public health official, said it's a mistake to put all those who haven't taken a vaccine into one group of dissenters and officials must work to convince them to take the vaccine.

"There are lots of people who, for various reasons, whatever reasons don't necessarily feel confident or comfortable taking vaccine," he told Et Cetera.

"There are also lots of people who face access barriers, they have challenges if they're working, you know, multiple jobs or odd hours, difficult for them to get out and actually get to the centre," Lau said.

"The other thing that we're doing is we're working very closely with community groups,



TRISHELLE DOTSON

Brenda Ramirez doesn't want to be divided from others because of the choice she has made of not wanting to take a COVID-19 vaccine.

community ambassadors to try to reach out especially to a lot of groups within our community where there may be a historical distrust of authority or historical distrust in the medical system," he said.

Health Canada reports that 78.99 per cent of those eligible have received both doses of the vaccine. In Ontario, more than 10 million people received both doses and more than 11 million received one dose as of Sept. 13.

Concerns about adverse reactions to the vaccines are high among those who don't want to take them. Health Canada received 15,298 reports of reactions ranging from minor to serious. Of those, 4,172 were considered serious.

"So we know in terms of the vaccine, that there's a small range of side effects, but that range is much smaller than the potential range of outcomes with the disease," Loh said. "So the prevention is better than the rest."

Meanwhile, vaccine mandates have been issued and applies to the health care sector, civil servants, school boards, and students over the age of 12. Humber College placed a mandatory vaccination policy beginning Sept. 20.

Branded "anti-vaxxers", the unvaccinated claim their basic human rights are being taken away. The mandate has

prompted protests all over the country.

"I believe there is a virus, but I believe they have blown it out of proportion," said Beatta Kostka, an entrepreneur and mother of one.

She said there is little to no representation of those who are having adverse effects and that these adverse effects are what's causing the fourth wave.

The unvaccinated argue a passport is a form of government control and that is the intention to distributing the vaccine. Both Ramirez and Kostka said the mandates are causing divisions between people.

"Throughout history, we oftentimes had to impose certain mandates in order to protect the health and well-being of our community and our people," Loh said.

He said there have always been bans in place. They are for individual safety, but these precautions also protect others. Unlike those restrictions, the vaccine mandate is expected to be short-lived.

"The hope is that the mandate will be a temporary measure," Loh said. "Once the disease becomes endemic, like every other respiratory virus, the numerous restrictions and measures can be lifted."



ELI RIDDER

Fantasy Fair at Woodbine Mall, which opened in 1985, appears to be off the market now. It was listed for sale recently, and taken off just as quickly. The movie theatre and food court will be up for sale soon.

## Woodbine's indoor Fantasy Fair off the market, theatre for sale

**Carter Roy**  
News Reporter

For many Torontonians, Fantasy Fair at Woodbine Mall conjures happy memories of where they grew up, days of carnivals and concession stands, Ferris wheels and fun.

However, it was recently — and suddenly — put on the market for an undisclosed price, with the rides, concessions, games and animatronic animals included in the sale before being abruptly taken off the market.

Benaco, the company listing Fantasy Fair, told Humber Et Cetera it was no longer up for sale.

Woodbine Mall management had no comment on the fair's status, whether it was removed from sale or if it was sold. The mall's defunct theatre, however, is expected to be listed soon.

The amusement park, which opened in the mall in 1985, was a once busy place for parents to

bring their children, celebrate birthday parties and create memories to last a lifetime.

"We first went on Saturday afternoon for something to do, but after they came once or twice they wanted to come more frequently," said Jacklyn Gravelle, a mall goer since the early '90s.

"I have old photos of the kids

**"I HAVE SO MANY MEMORIES FROM COMING HERE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER AND I WAS GOING TO BE BRINGING MY NEWBORN SON IN A FEW YEARS"**

**Melanie Beaulieu**  
Shopper

there looking down at me, they had so much fun," Gravelle said as she looked at the Ferris wheel.

The mall is open, carnival music plays, the games are lit-up and the animatronic animals move. And, just this week, the fair itself fully re-opened after a period of off-and-on due to pandemic restrictions.

Over the years, many stores have closed their doors in the shopping centre causing less and less foot traffic, which caused Fantasy Fair to struggle, too, both financially and in popularity. The mall's movie theatre also shut down.

Melanie Beaulieu was admiring the carousel ride when asked how she felt about the fair being up for sale.

"It makes me kind of sad," she said.

"I have so many memories from coming here when I was younger and I was going to be bringing my newborn son in a few years, but that might not even be

an option now," Beaulieu said.

It is unclear if the decline in visitors and COVID-19 will cause the fair to eventually be torn down.

Or if a revitalized version might be built.

The amusement park's website does, after all, advertise two new upcoming rides.

## Threats of violence mars federal election

**Andrew Raghunandan**  
News Reporter

Veteran political experts found the campaign leading up to Monday's federal election was defined by ill temper and venom.

"I've never seen protestors so angry before at their leaders," Toronto Star columnist Susan Delacourt said. "I have travelled to almost every (Prime Minister Justin) Trudeau rally in Ontario for his campaign, and the stuff I've seen is really disturbing.

"At one rally I attended, outside the venue protestors were holding pictures of Trudeau, calling on him to be executed, and were yelling and cursing him off as he made his way out of his bus into the venue to speak," Delacourt said.

"Calling on an execution of any political authority is unacceptable," she said.

Canadians might have been exhausted, anxious, frustrated, or angry after 18 months of lockdowns, mask-wearing, social-distancing, and vaccinations. However, conduct that escalated from protest and dissent to violence earned a rebuke from all federal leaders.

Campaign signs were vandalized and torn down, campaign volunteers were assaulted, and one major federal party leader was egged.

Trudeau received death threats and was verbally abused during the federal campaign. He

was forced to cancel a campaign rally in Bolton, Ont., on Aug. 27 after a mob of angry protestors swarmed around his bus screaming and cursing at him.

A week later, gravel was thrown at him while he was boarding his campaign bus to leave a campaign event in London, Ont. An organizer with the People's Party of Canada, who was fired after the incident, was later charged with assault with a weapon.

Paul Rhodes said such abuse rarely has the effect of its perpetrator's hope.

Rhodes, an advisor to former Ontario Premier Mike Harris in the 1990s, said he wasn't new to protests from his time in office.

"I support people's right to protest but when they come into the face of a prime minister, that's when they cross the line," he said. "We couldn't control the protests and their behaviour, but we just stood firm and carried on."

"In Mr. Trudeau's case, he has to just stand firm and carry on with announcing his policies and continue to please Canadians," Rhodes said.

Randy Besco, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, said political leaders will inevitably make decisions that anger some section or other of the electorate.

"Protestors should use their privileges to protest wisely and not violate the law," he said.



CARYMA SA'D

A group of anti-vaccine protesters gathered in Toronto to protest COVID-19 restrictions, taunting politicians in the federal election.

## OPINION

## My pandemic is also your pandemic



**Barbara Patrocínio**  
News Reporter

I've heard somewhere that magic is about knowing how to manipulate where the other person looks.

Before arriving in the country, I used to think that Canada would be one of the most magical places I would ever visit, and considering that definition, it still is.

The thing is, following international news from my home country, Brazil, the pandemic situation in Canada seemed completely under control, especially when compared to the chaos of deaths and negligence verging on the ridicule by which Brazil was consumed — more than 589,000 deaths and 21 million confirmed cases.

However, upon arriving in

Toronto, I was able to perceive a reality quite different from the “magic” shown by newspapers and international media outlets that I accessed from Brazil.

People without masks on busy streets, such as Dundas and Yonge Streets, anti-vaccine protests and — my personal favourite — people who refuse to accept collective measures of security and containment of the virus, such as the vaccine passport, but that at the same time, don't want to give up attending public spaces and events.

In Toronto, the first place I visited, with much more awe and excitement than I had for the CN Tower or Ripley's Aquarium, was a Covid-19 vaccination centre, which accepted walk-ins and offered the option to choose between different vaccine options.

A real dream, considering that in Brazil vaccinations for my age group (25-year-olds) only started on Aug. 16, with no space for “vaccine *sommeliers*”: you have to take the vaccine that is available at the clinic, please and thank you.

Quite ironically, shortly after getting vaccinated, I met a Canadian acquaintance who differed from my admiration for the abundance of resources Canada

seemed to offer.

He told me he was afraid of possible reactions to the vaccine.

While greedily chewing on a potato chip that had fallen off the plate onto the filthy cafeteria table, and which was immediately retrieved and duly rubbed in ketchup before being shoved down his throat, he also told me he had always paid close attention to the things he decided to put inside of his body.

I believe that at a certain point during times of extreme health crisis, the human brain reaches a limit, becoming saturated and no longer able to discern between what is simply disgusting and what is really an explicit threat to the health and survival of the body it occupies.

From that point on, the reaction to either of the two categories mentioned becomes the same: the starting of a true journey of combat against any substance that might even remotely resemble a virus.

Having crossed that limit a long time ago, I immediately tightened the rubber band of my mask and sanitized my hands as I explained how frustrating it was for me to come across this kind of thinking when in Brazil we are dealing with a lack of vaccines, overcrowded hospitals



BARBARA PATROCINIO

**Protesters take to the streets of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, wanting access to vaccines and challenging Jair Bolsonaro's government.**

and the (un)government of Jair Bolsonaro.

Whether magic is really about knowing how to manipulate where the other looks or about something else, I couldn't say, but the feeling is definitely that I've been looking where they wanted me to look all this time when certainly a lot more than I could pick up from where I was,

was happening under the covers.

The truth is that I wish I could say “hocus-pocus” and stop being the only person on campus using an FFP2 mask, and guarantee access to better days, with a better sense of collective security and greater empathy for the protection of others, really making use of these features that are so easy to access around here.

## Networks make moving to Canada easier for newcomers

**Santiago Arias Orozco**  
News Reporter

After trekking through five countries within 72 hours, Vishwa Panchal arrived at Toronto Pearson International Airport to start what she calls her new life.

“I always wanted to come here. It is a dream come true,” Panchal said.

Panchal, an interior design student from India, is one of Humber College's many international students who arrived in Canada for fall semester. They are adjusting to a new country, new culture, new school, with little time to make the transition.

“They learn about this new environment as they go,” said Joshua Favaro, Humber's manager of international services.

As newcomers integrate into Canadian society, they face strange social cues and daily practices.

“Adapting to a new lifestyle is simply overwhelming,” said Julian Cortes, a Colombian user experience design student.

For Mary Grace Lao, a Humber sociology professor, this inner tension and conflict newcomers experience is an inevitable and non-permanent stage known as culture shock.

“The similarities or differences between a newcomer's native country and Canada determine how challenging this process might be,” Lao said.

While Panchal added the taxes to her purchase when paying, Aziza Nurakhunova did not. As a Kazakh graphic design student, she needed time to get used to not knowing how much her purchases would be until checkout.

“In Kazakhstan, the product label price includes taxes, you know how much you are going to pay, here it is always a surprise,” Nurakhunova said.

Newcomers will feel anxious, disoriented and uncertain while going through this stage. However, for Lao, feeling lonely is the most profound consequence. Easing this process relies on how the newcomer comes to terms with the new environment and embraces the new culture.

By addressing COVID-19 travel requirements, course registration, average living cost, banking, among others, the International Centre support students in the settling process.

This information has been provided in multiple formats from YouTube videos to online workshops, and is available on the centre's webpage.

Nurakhunova, who participated in some workshops, said they helped her have a problem-free customs and immigration experience.

Panchal said the instructions were helpful for banking and other transac-

tions. But both said there's a little information on culture shock.

“It would be helpful to have articles or videos relates to how to get used to the things that are different from other countries,” Nurakhunova said.

At the same time, Panchal emphasized her desire to have information, cultural cues, and Canadian manners, not just information about COVID-19 protocols.

Favaro said the adapting process comes to the student from experiences. He said it's something they want to develop based on feedback from the international centre and students.

Panchal expects her culture shock experience to last a while. She'll rely on the support network of Indian Humber students and relatives in the country.

“Without them, I would be in a totally different position. They have made my days and dream much easier,” Panchal said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CINEPLEX ENTERTAINMENT

Cineplex Kitchener is one of many theatres now open and expecting crowds to return for blockbusters.

## Studios commit to theatrical releases amid Delta concerns

**Jesse Glazer**  
Arts Reporter

Despite the looming fourth wave, Delta, and now Mu, some of the largest movie studios are committing to an exclusive theatrical release for their upcoming films through 2021.

Motivated by the success of Marvel Studios' *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, more see that there's not only a market but a thriving one. *Shang-Chi* shattered box-office projections and records to become the all-time Labour Day weekend box office holder, according to BoxOfficeMojo.

Erin Mandel, an official at Toronto Public Health, said getting more people vaccinated and maintaining other supportive protocols to battle COVID-19 is the key to keep luxuries like theatres open.

"The best way to prevent further closures is for as many people as possible to get vaccinated," she said.

In Canada, the Delta variant has become the dominant strain of the virus infecting Canadians throughout the fourth wave of this pandemic. The Canada COVID-19 weekly epidemiological report, published by Public Health Canada, showed variants of concern currently account for most reported COVID-19 cases at about 80 per cent.

The newest mutation of the virus, B.1.621 or "Mu" as the World Health Organization (WHO) has named it, first orig-

inated in Colombia and represents the newest in evolving mutations of the COVID-19 virus, which have been detected in Canada and the U.S.

"As many people as we have vaccinated is really encouraging, and the market is so saturated with vaccines now, that people are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel," Mandel said.

Theatres have suffered tremendously throughout the pandemic bringing in a meagre US\$2.1 billion, an 81 per cent drop from US\$11 billion in the previous year, according to BoxOfficeMojo.

*Shang-Chi* earning more than US\$94 million over the four-day Labour Day weekend proved movie theatres and the theatrical experience were something people were desiring.

Josh Fletcher, a physician at North York General Hospital, said that when it comes to studios making these decisions, the conversation might've included public health measures and protocols, but it's more likely motivated by other means.

"I'd be hard-pressed to find that the decision isn't motivated by financial incentives, rather than public health measures," he said.

Sony Pictures recently announced that *Venom: Let There Be Carnage*, which had been delayed a few times during the pandemic, would be moving up its release date to Oct. 1. Universal Studios, meanwhile, gave the James Bond film *No Time to Die* a final theatrical release date

of Oct. 7.

Melissa Pressacco, a spokesperson for Cineplex, said theatrical release windows mean more revenue for all stakeholders and prove the immersive theatrical experience is still desired safely and enjoyably.

"Although some consumer habits may have changed because of the pandemic...it hasn't dampened the desire to go out and enjoy a shared, immersive experience the escape that movie-going has always provided," Pressacco said.

Despite the looming threat of the Delta variant, she said Cineplex feels confident in its approach, noting its theatres welcomed millions of movie-lovers during the pandemic, and there have been zero instances of transmission traced back to any Cineplex Cinemas across the country.

Jessica Bay, an expert who has a master's degree in media and the theatrical model, thinks it's a two-sided story as the cost of going to the theatre has increased dramatically over the last 10 years.

"On the one hand, there's the argument of I can spend \$35 for my whole family to see this movie from the comfort of my home...but will I miss the spectacle of seeing it on the big screen?" Bay said.

While concerns of variants are warranted, the success of recent blockbuster films points towards theatrical releases surviving through the pandemic.

## Simu Liu's whirlwind ride from cornerstore to Marvel superhero

**Alex Muzychko**  
Arts Reporter

For aspiring actors, it can be a long way from Canada to Hollywood — and an even more challenging journey for Asian-Canadians.

But Simu Liu has made the trip. He rose from national to global acclaim by playing the lead role in the new Marvel film *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, highlighting the rare appearance of a superhero of Asian origin.

When *Shang-Chi* was released in September 2021, moviegoers and Marvel fans were happy to see that Hollywood had chosen a full Asian cast.

Francene Sy, an Asian-Canadian Marvel fan, said Hollywood has historically whitewashed Asian stories by portraying the community as exotic, book-smart, or as Kung Fu masters, while overlooking other elements of the Asian culture.

"In other words, it seemed that we were only included for comic relief instead of real characters," Sy said.

Simu Liu, 32, born in China and raised in Mississauga, starred in the Canadian hit sitcom *Kim's Convenience*, which was based on the play of the same name by Ins Choi and chronicled the experience of a first-generation Korean family running a variety store in the heart of Toronto's Regent Park area.

M. Night Shyamalan's *The Last Airbender* is a perfect example of the whitewashing happening in the industry.

"While I would not say that the film was an enormous step for the Asian community against whitewashing, I would agree that it is a step toward a better future in the film

industry for Asians around the world," Sy said.

Susan Tang, an Asian-Canadian student, said Marvel's casting made her very proud and happy.

"There were definitely mistakes made in the past with examples like *Ghost in the Shell* when they hired Scarlett Johansson to play an Asian woman," Tang said. "So I think with an all-Asian cast, it definitely speaks to how much Hollywood has improved its choice of casting."

Sy said she appreciated the efforts in finding actors and actresses who spoke Mandarin

instead of only English-speaking actors.

Sy said. "I think that Hollywood represented the Asian community positively in this film and it was delivered well to a very large audience," Sy said.

Simu Liu has now become an example

for Asian-Canadian actors of what's possible.

Cassie Peterson works for many movie sets and her whole life revolves around movies and acting.

"There have been a lot of successful Canadian actors before Simu Liu, but none that are Asian Canadian. If anything, I think that that makes a big difference for up-and-coming Asian Canadian actors who are trying to get their foot in the door and convince their parents this is a viable career for them," Peterson said.

"Personally, I really admire how Simu Liu has been advocating for Canada. He makes it seem so easy to make it in the field he definitely gives kids a better drive to make it big in the industry," Peterson said.



ALEX MUZYCHKO

A *Shang-Chi* poster at a Brampton, Ont. movie theatre.

## EDITORIAL

# School has role to play in improving financial literacy

Being money savvy is paramount, now more than ever. Before the pandemic, we were indebted. Throughout the pandemic, our debt got worse. According to Statistics Canada, Canadians owe \$1.77 for every dollar of household disposable income earned.

Young people are graduating laden in debt, patching multiple gigs together to create a living wage and relying on parents for down payments.

Canadians need policies and systems in place that take our behaviour when it comes to money into account and find a way to provide teachers with the right supports to teach financial literacy effectively in schools.

Teens and young adults should be learning how to save for both long-term goals and unforeseen emergencies as early as possible. It's obvious that more financial literacy in schools is long overdue and sorely needed.

Financial literacy among adults is abysmal. The federal government quizzed our finan-

cial capability on topics such as debt and banking fees in 2014 and only three per cent of participants answered all 14 questions correctly.

One way to better financial literacy is through school, starting as early as elementary school. A benefit of this approach is that it provides everyone with the opportunity to develop financial literacy, regardless of their families' income or wealth.

Prior to the Ontario government's revamped math curriculum in 2019, Ontario elementary school teachers were expected to make connections to financial literacy in all subjects in Grade 4, but how they did so was largely up to the teacher.

With that approach, teachers were relying on free, online resources, which are made or paid for by banks or other financial institutions. Materials made or paid for by financial institutions are more likely to focus on individual responsibility over social circumstances, like a pandemic, especially since banks make

money through debt and credit.

Focusing on individual responsibility without discussing social factors is likely to diminish the importance of these lessons for students whose circumstances make it difficult for their family to save money and avoid debt.

The importance of recognizing social factors that can affect personal finances is mentioned in Ontario's new financial literacy curriculum, and the province provides resources for teachers.

However, it's ultimately up to the teacher to implement curriculum expectations and use the resources they have. Teachers frequently adapt resources to their classroom context.

That's why government investment in financial literacy through professional development for teachers is necessary to improve their comfort and capacity with financial literacy education.

Without more detailed guidance and professional development, teachers may continue to rely on freely available online

materials, whether or not they are recommended by the Ministry of Education, potentially to the detriment of financially vulnerable students.

Students of all backgrounds, regardless of their current financial circumstances, can benefit from learning about money management skills in elementary school.

More than simply including financial literacy in the core curriculum will be required to achieve this goal. Teachers must be provided with the resources to accomplish this. Teachers will feel more at ease teaching financial concepts if they have access to ongoing professional development opportunities.

As a result, all students will have the financial literacy they need to deal with the next crisis to the best of their abilities.

However, bad financial decisions are around every corner with Canadians facing more financial products, more spending and investment choices, more risks and more fraud.

While more financial knowledge will help, it won't prevent Canadians from being preyed upon in scams and fraud. More than 30,000 Canadians have been victims of fraud this year. That equates to \$144 million stolen from Canadians' bank accounts.

The introduction of money concepts in Ontario schools should serve as a prompt to help students become financially literate and build a defence against fraud. However, systemic changes are also required to nudge people to make better decisions.

We need policies and systems that take our financial behaviour into account, such as simpler processes for enrolling in workplace retirement plans.

If we want our generation to be financially empowered, there needs to be a deeper dive into topics such as how to pay bills and taxes. The next step that needs to be taken is to institute post-secondary financial literacy courses since students are ripe to learn real-world lessons while in post-secondary education.

## OPINION

# Being published in Lit Review's Spotlight series rewarding experience



**Hannah Clarke**  
OPINION EDITOR

It all started near the end of my in my Literature and Composition 2: Journalism class.

My professor, Prasad Bidaye, assigned one final written piece before the end of the semester, and we were allowed to have one-on-one sessions with him to discuss what we wanted to write.

I wrote about the year 2033, where virtual reality is well advanced and everyone would

use it for escapism from the real world.

Also mentioned is an overabundance of VR in this reality, that some have even come to speculate the "reality of this world" is also in some sort of simulation.

I've tried to write in a way that left most of the details, themes and messages to the reader's interpretation, especially when it came to the main characters.

The first one, for the sake of the story, was nicknamed Chara. The other character in the piece was nicknamed Mentor, since they are meant to be a mentor-like figure towards Chara.

Although these are the nicknames for this story's characters, I wanted to stress the two of them could be anyone in the reader's interpretation.

There are also a lot of visuals presented and is in written in the first-person, making it easier for the reader to immerse themselves in this story's universe.

There was also an emphasis on

what I dubbed "Main Character Syndrome." A situation where the main character of a book, video game, or movie is placed in positions where it seems like what they say and do to themselves and others affects the story.

They have a lot of responsibilities, authority and stress placed on their shoulders, and must always have the right plan of action or thing to say to solve everyone else's problems.

This also involves the main character having to ignore their well-being and troubles and put on a façade for the sake of everyone.

Sure, some video games, movies or books could or have tried to bring this up and how it affects the main character physically or mentally. But not so much to what it can do to them psychologically.

Mentor makes it clear that having Main Character Syndrome isn't the end-all, be-all for the main character when Chara brings up their troubles.

They are quick to point out the importance of the main character's allies and enemies that form who they choose to be. They lighten their load of authority and responsibility by making them feel that they are not alone in their universe.

Mentor then leaves Chara, who then can leave the VR setting, reflecting on what they learned, with a smile on their face.

In a way, this could be related to the Plato's Allegory of the Cave or the Matrix franchise, with its themes of reality versus virtual reality.

So, after the piece was graded, my professor then emailed me, saying it got a high grade and that I could edit it a bit more and submit it to Humber's Literary Review (HLR) for the opportunity to have it featured in its Spotlight section for the upcoming Fall 2021 edition.

So, that's what I did.

I met my editor, Elizabeth Bates and went through the

editing process to make the piece more presentable.

Thankfully, not many major changes were made towards the final product, and I've even been told that one of my friends was on the editorial board before I knew my piece was going to be published.

It was also reassuring to know the choice to have my piece published was not because she knew me. I was also quick to share this kind of exciting news of this process with family and friends.

By the end of August, after anxiously checking my email and searching the HLR's website, I saw my piece was officially published.

It was very rewarding to know my work has been made known in this way, and I've even been invited to read a portion of it on Sept. 22.

If other Humber students are given this kind of opportunity in the future, take it and take it with pride.

# Back to the Matrix, for better or for worse



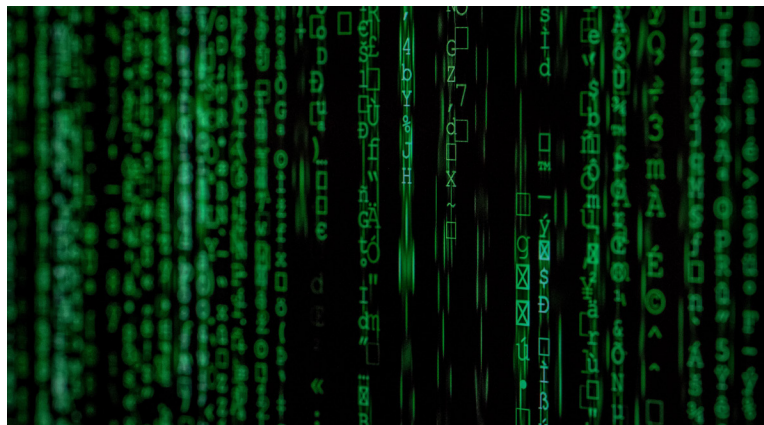
**Nicholas Seles**  
Arts Editor

ignore the events of *The Matrix: Reloaded* and *Revolution* and be a direct sequel to the original 1999 film.

The trailer debuted online to praise and excitement and seemed to elude the criticism of being unoriginal. In comparison, *Spider-Man: No Way Home* shattered records for trailer views, yet a lot of comments were about how we didn't need another *Spider-Man* movie.

In all fairness, comparing the *Matrix* films to soon-to-be eight *Spider-Man* films (not counting his appearance in team-up films like *Avengers*) is a bit of a stretch, but franchises and sequels don't differ based on the intellectual properties.

What many people seem to forget is Hollywood is easily swayed by those blue, purple and green pieces of paper we stuff into our wallets. History has shown original ideas that become popular enough will be



MARKUS SPIKE/ UNSPLASH

**The *Matrix: Resurrections* by director Lana Wachowski has Keanu Reeves and Carrie-Anne Moss returning as Neo and Trinity.**

inevitably milked and stretched into a franchise or sequel.

Take as an example *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, a film based on a ride at Disneyland. When it debuted on theatre screens in the summer of 2003, it performed so well that Disney booked theatre screens for re-releases that very summer. They didn't hesitate to

capitalize on popularity and success.

The Western genre that boomed in popularity from the 1920s through to the 1970s was a style that just seemed to have no end, and the Western was a style that dates back to some of the earliest forms of filmmaking with *The Great Train Robbery* in 1903.

When we have conversations about Hollywood's originality, we as viewers are to blame. Hear me out.

Films that make tremendous amounts of money are more likely to receive sequels even if none were planned, as is the case with *Pirates of the Caribbean*. But when films are as exciting as *Pirates*, or *John Wick* as another example, then naturally people will choose to see it and we shouldn't avoid good and entertaining films solely because they're part of a franchise or a blockbuster.

If the desire for more original films outweighs that for franchises, we need to see that reflected at the box office. At the present, it's not ideal due to the pandemic, of course, but in due time.

Otherwise, be prepared for more *Spider-Man* and *Matrix* movies, which I welcome.

## TALES FROM HUMBER

# The most difficult thing I've ever done — saying farewell from afar

**Allana Johnson**  
News Reporter

I woke up to the phone call I'd been dreading for two months at 6 a.m. on July 23, 2021. It was a Friday morning. My mother Natasha told me I needed to come home. And I knew.

I knew it was time to say goodbye.

Two months earlier, COVID-19 hit my family hard. My great-grandparents, my great-aunt and uncle, and my grandmother, and my mom and I all contracted it.

My great-grandfather and great-uncle were both hospitalized. A week later, my grandmother Stephanie Mae Price, 59, was rushed to the hospital with trouble breathing.

I broke down and sobbed uncontrollably when I got the news. Not being able to be there by her side, or even just waiting in the hospital because of the COVID-19 rules, was excruciating.

Before contracting the virus,

my Hamilton-born grandma didn't believe it was as bad as it was presented. She thought if she got it, she would overcome it, which might've proved true if she had got her vaccine in time. She had been scheduled to get it on the last day of May.

She was given oxygen for the first couple of days she was in the hospital. She slept a lot, so there wasn't much communication. Then one day I received a message from her, and relief filled my body.

Most of our texts would be me asking how she was doing that day, or her cracking jokes and being her bubbly self.

My great-aunt, Jenny, her sister, received updates twice a day on how she was doing. Everything seemed to be going alright until we were told that she would need to be intubated, which she refused at first until we all convinced her that everything would be fine.

After the intubation, her health seemed to rollercoaster.

Some days, she would be stable. On others, we were told to prepare for the worst. She had to be put onto dialysis for kidney failure, which came as a shock to all of us because we were unaware of any kidney issues she may have had.

It got to the point where she could only communicate with us by raising her eyebrows. The more she agreed with what we were saying the higher she would raise them.

The morning my mother called me, I just cried on the train ride to the hospital.

It was time to say goodbye to my grandmother, my best friend, and I didn't want to face the reality of it. I went into the ICU and couldn't bear to see her in that state.

All her siblings, children, and grandchildren were there to say goodbye to our most beloved family member. Standing around her bed as Ray Charles played, watching as she took her last breath, was one of the hardest



ALLANA JOHNSON

**Allana Johnson and her late grandmother Stephanie Mae Price, 59. COVID-19 claimed the Hamilton-born mom of four on July 23, 2021.**

moments I've faced in my life.

I held my great-grandmother as she watched her firstborn child succumb to the effects that COVID-19 caused.

"Stephanie! Come on! Wake up!" were the last words my great-grandmother said to her daughter as she slipped away.

"Wally, our baby girl is gone!" she wailed as she hugged my great-grandfather.

My grandmother and I had so many trips we planned to take, so many fun things we wanted to do together.

I know that when I do them, she'll be right beside me, always.



# Exiled Turkish cadets demand justice for jailed friends



**Nur Dogan**  
International Editor

There was an alleged military coup attempt in Turkey on July 15, 2016. The veracity of that statement depends on whom one believes, and the country's citizens are divided whether it was a coup attempt.

Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, the leader of Turkey's main opposition party CHP, called it "a controlled coup" suggesting Erdogan staged it to eradicate the growing number of opponents.

Nevertheless, after that night, tens of thousands of soldiers, police, and civil servants were dismissed or suspended from their jobs. Cadets from military, naval and air force academies were locked up with verdicts of lifetime prison sentences.

That night, during training, commanders of the country's military schools told students they were assigned to a military exercise. Some of the students were provided with real ammunition, unlike in previous training, and some were informed there was a potential terrorist attack on the grounds.

A group of cadets were sent without their commanders to the Bosphorus Bridge connecting Asia to Europe. The students, who thought they were going to a training exercise, encountered furious civilians urged to the streets by the government of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The angry crowd believed the students were on the bridge to stage a coup against Erdogan.

Normally, generals or commanders in the army attempt the military coup, not lowly cadets learning which end of a rifle to use. The civilians didn't listen to the cadets, who were told to obey their commanders. The students did not fire a single

bullet. Despite this, the cadets were locked up and sentenced.

That night two Air Force cadets Murat Tekin and Ragip Enes Katran were lynched by civilians on the bridge. More than 300 cadets remain in prison, but some immigrated out of Turkey, some to Canada.

Last Friday, I joined a peaceful protest at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto where some expelled cadets who came to Canada to study protested demanding the freedom their compatriots. They have a mission: to be the voice of their imprisoned friends.

Students wrote slogans on cardboard banners and let balloons fly into the sky to represent each imprisoned cadet.

During the protest, cadets demanding justice, wearing t-shirts bearing the call for freedom and distributed leaflets to passers-by. Talking through megaphones, some students revealed the human rights violations that expelled cadets are subjected to in prisons.

While they were shouting the slogans — "Turkey, Turkey hear me, all students should be free" — Torontonians curiously watched them. Expelled cadets explained to them, who showed interest in their actions, how their friends were arrested on the night of July 15 and tortured in prison.

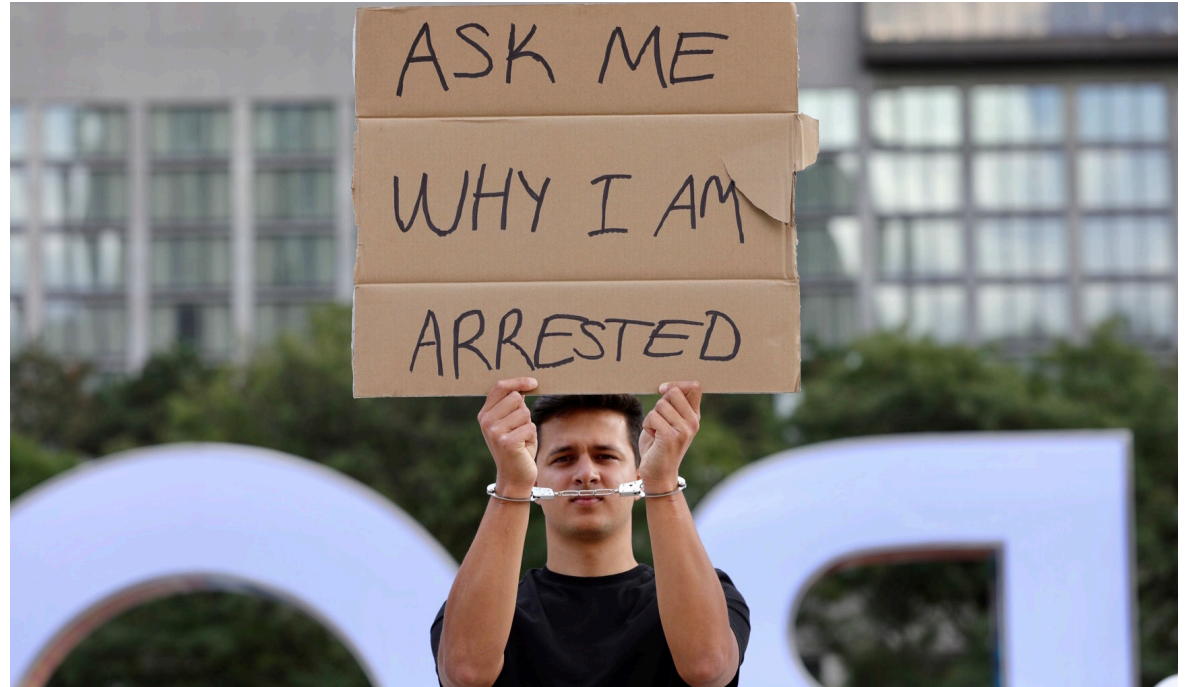
Ibrahim, who didn't want his last name used, who was expelled when he was in the last year of the Naval Academy, said his friends were sent off that fateful day for exercises devised by their commanders.

"These friends of ours were arrested without knowing anything. They were sentenced to life imprisonment," Ibrahim said. "Some were even sentenced to aggravated life imprisonment."

Aggravated life imprisonment replaced Turkey's death penalty and those convicted of it are kept in isolation and aren't eligible for parole between 30 and 40 years.

"Currently, these friends of ours have been in prison for more than five years," Ibrahim said. "We gathered in Toronto to be the voice of these friends."

He explained the two lynched cadet students were beheaded by civilians on the bridge. Ibrahim said their friends on the



NUR DOGAN

**Former Turkish military cadets protesting the jailing of other cadets accused of being involved in an alleged coup in 2016. The Sept. 10 protest of about 20 people happened at Nathan Phillips Square.**

buses dropped their weapons, sang the Turkish anthem, and surrendered to the police. Even though the cadets were obeying the orders of their commanders, these students were arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment within a year and a half.

Ibrahim said the jailed students are being tortured.

"The guards inflict not only physical but also psychological torture on our friends," he said. "The waters are cut off, 50 people stay in 10-person-wards and more. Our friend, a second-year student at the Air Force Academy, died of cancer inside."

"We will continue to be the voice of our friends," Ibrahim

said.

While many students have been jailed for five years, interestingly, the generals and commanders who sent the cadets to the bridge were not arrested or were released after detention.

Emre, who was a student at the Naval Academy and didn't want his full name used, said some military students went onto the streets believing there was a terrorist attack.

"In the military, you have to follow the orders of your commanders. Since our career as a military student is shaped by our future commanders, we have to do whatever they say," he said.

The United Nations (UN)

Human Rights Council Arbitrary Detention Working Group is concerned about the welfare of the imprisoned cadets. It ruled, for example, in February that cadet A. Dinçer Sakaoğlu, was unlawfully sentenced to life imprisonment, must immediately be released.

This decision has been a leading case for all military students but Turkey has by and large ignored the ruling.

"With all these demonstrations, we aim to get those judges and legislators to fulfill their duties," Emre said. "This sorrow impacts not only our friends in jails but also their families, their parents and also us here."



JACOB TYE

The Humber Hawks stand on the line for the national anthem before a game against the George Brown Huskies on Friday, Sept. 17, 2021. Hawks shut out the Huskies 6-0.

# Hawks soccer star returns in season opener

**Forward Marcos Nunes makes presence felt scoring hat trick against Huskies**

**Jacob Tye**

*Sports Reporter*

Now that college sports resumed after the COVID-19 layoff, Michael Aquino, coach of the Humber Hawks men's soccer team, leaves no doubt about his ambitions this season.

"If we fall short of going to nationals, then it's a disappointing season," said Aquino, after his team rolled to a 6-0 opening-game victory over the George Brown Huskies. "So, A, we want to get there. And then, B, we want to see if we can win it."

A key component of that plan is the return of star forward Marcos Nunes, who scored three goals in the Sept. 17 season-opener.

"He's a three-time national champion, he's been with us in previous years," Aquino said.

"Every time he's played with us, he's won a national championship."

Aquino was happy with the team's season opener and praised the new style of play the team ran.

"We stuck to our game plan for the most part," he said. "We wanted to play possession soccer and play our style of game. We had a particular system of play that we wanted to introduce and play."

"And I think that fairly good job," Aquino said. "There are some areas of improvement for sure. But it'll come."

Humber made another key addition along with Nunes, adding his former Toronto FC II teammate midfielder Luca Uccello, who was influential in the Hawks opening win.

When teammates heard about Nunes' return to the team, they were ecstatic.

"When I saw they signed Marcos I was, like, holy another superstar!" said Raphael Owusu, a defender for the Hawks.

"And they bring in Luca out of nowhere. It's good to bring in players like that because it shows where this team wants to go forward."

Nunes will be returning to Humber for his fifth season. During his time with the Hawks, he's won three national championships and returns to Humber with hopes of one more. Nunes first joined Humber in 2012, where he played with the Hawks for two seasons where they won back-to-back national championships.

He then left Humber to play in Europe before returning to North America to sign a deal with the USL for Toronto FC II in 2015. He returned to Humber in 2016 where he helped the program win its sixth national championship.

The 29-year-old returned to Humber to finish his electrical apprenticeship and play out his final year of eligibility with the Hawks. He sees himself getting closer to becoming the all-time leading scorer in the program's



HUMBER ATHLETICS

**Coach Michael Aquino looks on during a recent game. Aquino expects another championship-worthy season from the team.**

history. Humber Hall of Famer Jesse Calabro currently holds the current record with 43 goals.

Nunes shares his coach's ambition for another national

championship.

"This team's a lot better but it has to be a team effort and everybody has to help each other out," that's how we won in 2012."

# Humber gyms open but following strict COVID-19 protocols

**Antonio Clarke**  
Sports Reporter

Students are finding many differences on Humber College campuses this semester, with limited capacity, masks, sanitization, and social distancing now part of their daily experience as well as routine checks from security guards at entrances.

At North Campus, one of the things many want to know is the status of the gym.

James Depoe, manager of the North Campus athletic facilities, said he's got a plan.

"It'll be similar to a reservation system," Depoe said. "We're just figuring out the equipment-issuing process, and how that equipment is going to be cleaned and sanitized for the next user."

Weight rooms have reopened and Depoe aims to have the gymnasiums re-opened by Thanksgiving.

"The weight room and the cardio room are open," he said. "But it's by appointment only, and our max capacity right now is 50 people."

Students planning to use the gyms should be prepared to visit Humber athletics to book a time slot and come prepared to show proof of vaccination, Humber Guardian and student ID.

Vanessa Fiore, a member of Humber's women's soccer team, outlined some new requirements and practices.

"Everyone keeps their distance, and you don't have to work out with the mask on if you feel more comfortable to do that, and you can have up to 90 minutes in one slot while leaving 30 minutes for staff to get everything cleaned up," Fiore said.

Damian Charles, a former student, recalled the benefits of having easy access to the gym in the days before COVID-19.

"A lot of kids that aren't on any sports teams really look forward to classes, but also that form of de-stress that comes with going to shoot hoops in the gym," he said. "Even if it's a simple pick-up game, a lot of people see that as something that's necessary to the school experience."



HUMBER ATHLETICS

The Humber gym at North campus has been closed since March 2020. It's reopened with a 50 person maximum capacity.



HUMBER ATHLETICS

Men's soccer return from the pandemic and are so far undefeated, beating George Brown and Seneca.

## Hawks come back with a championship mindset

**Jack Albanna**  
Sports Reporter

Ontario college sports resumes this semester after the long COVID-19 shutdown, and Humber Hawks' soccer player Frederico Leal Suarez is just one of those student-athletes eager to let the games begin.

"We've got a really solid team this year and it's really fun to be playing with these guys again and being around school is an exciting atmosphere," said the midfielder.

Leal Suarez, a third-year athlete, hasn't played for the Hawks since a tournament was cancelled on March 14, 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic kicked in and emergency measures were ordered.

To the shock of Suarez and his teammates, this happened to be the day of the indoor provincial final. He received a call in the early morning of the final from one of the coaches who told him that it was cancelled.

Suarez, who grew up playing soccer, said the hiatus from sports took a toll on him mentally.

"I was alone, I wasn't able to see my teammates, my coaches, my people for a very long time," he said.

But now, to the thrill of Suarez, and athletes representing Humber in various sports, they have been given the green light to begin their seasons and tournaments.

The men's soccer team had an outstanding pre-season, going undefeated and making a statement in their first game of the season with a 6-0 thrashing of the George Brown Huskies.

Leal Suarez was quick to recognize the staff for the work they put in behind the scenes to achieve these results,

"I'd definitely like to credit the coaching staff," he said. "In terms of recruiting, they've done a really good job, they've really put out a solid team for us to compete and play with."

He said the long break from soccer does not mean that players will be easy on themselves.

"Our standards in terms of competing as a team are never low, it's a national championship year, we're going for it and we're going to win it and not take it easy on anyone."

The same attitude is shared by coaches and players in other sports.

Omar Miles, head coach of the men's basketball team who was hired in May 2020, is finally get-

ting the opportunity to lead his team into an official season, has high hopes for his squad.

Miles, who played university basketball at Wilfred Laurier for five years and was an assistant coach for a year, believes in the importance of relationships with the team, often comparing his connection with the players as a sense of fatherhood.

"Before you ask guys to run through walls for you, you have to build an understanding, relationship and trust," he said. "I think it's for me to earn their trust rather than the other way around."

After having the opportunity to host a training camp with his team in August, Miles described them as a hungry group that's ready to compete.

His goals are high, with a seventh national championship for Humber on his to-do list.

"I never looked at basketball as pressure, because it's what we do. I mean, I think life is pressure, no? But it's what you do," Miles said.

"You have kids, you have a wife, you have a family," he said. "I mean, is that pressure or is that something that we just have to take care of? I think it's life."

"So I look at basketball the same way as life," Miles said.

# Scarborough tennis coach inspires youth to compete

**Ana Todorovic**  
Sports Reporter

Kim Pallarca first picked up a racket in 2007 at a summer program offered in her Scarborough neighborhood of Malvern by the Philpott Tennis Centre.

The Philpott Tennis Centre is a multi-location organization in Greater Toronto Area that offers free tennis lessons for disadvantaged kids in inner-city communities.

Following years of volunteering, she was certified as an instructor in 2014. And

since 2015, she's been coaching at Philpott, sometimes on the very same courts she learned on. For the last three years, she's served as the charity's communications coordinator.

For Pallarca, now is pretty much the golden age of tennis, especially for Canada.

And especially when daughters of diversity such as Emma Raducanu — who is Toronto-born of parents who are Chinese and Romanian — and Canadian Leylah Fernandez — born in Montreal whose parents are Ecuadorian and Filipino descent — can showcase their talents in the recent U.S. Open final.

"The final was amazing to watch with my family — my parents have never seen a Filipino woman in the U.S. Open finals, especially someone so young so it was really exciting to be with them and watch their reaction," she said.

"I was cheering for Leylah because she's also from Canada and then I was cheering on Emma because Emma's so young because she's Canadian-born."

Pallarca knows the power of inspiration, of young people needing to see themselves

reflected in the places they dream of reaching.

"Leylah and Emma are an inspiration to all of us, especially Leylah for defeating such a big champion in the top 20 (in her seminal match) and making it all the way to the finals, such a huge accomplishment in itself," Pallarca said.

She vividly recalls the coach who turned her on to tennis.

"I remember her clearly. She had blue hair, she was tall and she always challenged me but class was always fun," she said.

"I don't think I realized until I grew up, the impact that had on me."

Pallarca's enthusiasm for the sport is evident.

"All you have to do is grab a racket, grab a ball and you can play tennis," she said. "All you have to do is get it over the net and if you can't get it over the net, you start off with hitting it

on your racket yourself and then you start with a brick wall, then you go onto the court and you just find another person."

Canadian tennis is, in recent years, an immigrant success story. Dennis Shapovalov, Felix Auger-Aliassime, Milos Raonic, Bianca Andreescu, Leylah Fernandez are all immigrants or children of immigrants.

Many communities have the talent and motivation to succeed in the sport, Pallarca said. What they often lack is the opportunity.

"I think it's an unsaid thing. But at the same time we do have the statistics, we've done surveys where almost everyone that did the survey — they would love to continue tennis after the summer but don't have the means."

"That's why I'm so passionate about what I do, and how my story becomes full circle," Pallarca said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM PALLARCA  
Kim Pallarca took on the sport in 2007 and is now an instructor at the Philpott Tennis Centre in Malvern, Scarborough.



PHOTO COURTESY HUMBER ATHLETICS

The home court of the Humber Hawks basketball and volleyball teams are expected to see fans for the first time since March 2020.

## Smells like 'team spirit'

**Hawks Nation celebrates the return of varsity athletics after 18 months**

**Khiana Gutierrez**  
Sports Reporter

As the doors of Humber College North campus reopen, athletes, faculty and students who support them are tickled blue and gold that college sports are back in action.

Bryan Lepp, coordinator for sports information and marketing for the Humber Hawks, said all athletes must complete a contact-tracing digital form prior to using college training facilities to ensure safety protocols are followed.

"We're fully equipped and ready in case anything does happen," he said. "So if someone tests positive, you know, we will be able to trace it back and anyone who was in close contact."

Athletes and fans now must be vaccinated before attending games.

"With the return of varsity athletics, we wanted to ensure the safety of our student-athletes, coaches, support staff, and fans," Ray Chateau, director of Athletics and Recreation, said in a media release.

"The vaccination requirement is an important part of that effort,

as we strive to get back to delivering an exceptional student-athlete experience," he said.

As the fall and winter seasons for both men and women sports resume, all teams have been educated on precautions to be followed during practices and games.

"Every team has therapists and coaches, and have all been informed on social distancing whenever possible," Lepp said. "The good news is because they're outdoor sports, it's a little more relaxed and the rules are a little more lenient."

Fans are welcome to come out and support on Hawks teams with their own personal protective equipment.

"I'm honestly, genuinely very excited that we get the opportunity to see them back in action because they've been prepping for this longer than we have with their practices in the weight room and things like that," said Mehuli Baugh, a third-year Humber College student, said.

Baugh cheered and supported the Humber Hawks men's and women's rugby teams amid the pandemic.

"My experience there was

exhilarating," Baugh said. "It is absolutely amazing. The rush that you get, the adrenaline thwat you get when it's, like, the last four minutes of the game and your team's leading."

"You know everybody's just together and screaming," Baugh said.

Lepp said protocols may change closer to the date in terms of the total capacity of the gym for indoor sports such as volleyball and basketball,

"Obviously, we have to wait and see how is that changing right between now and January," he said. "It can increase or decrease. There might not even be fans at all."

Humber is known as having one of the most competitive athletics department and it encourages students to get involved, either as players or supporters before they graduate.

"Just embrace it and do as much as you can with obviously without overwhelming yourself, but get involved," Lepp said. "I think athletics is the best way to get involved in college because you can be part of a family, not only your team, but the entire athletics department."