[ANNOUNCEMENTS]: GI digital backgrounds; Maker Space Lab construction has begun!

[EVENTS]: GI Halloween Event this Friday; UW THRIVE workshops for mental health next week

[POWER UPS]: Check out all the spooky content including some game bundles, last year's Halloween panel, and other horror related content GI members have created!

[RESEARCH UPDATES]: Podcast recommendations from our Discord community

[SLACK/DISCORD DIGEST]: "Virtually There" contest update; GI Halloween Costume Contest!

Halloween is coming up, and though it won't look the same this year, we are excited to see everyone what looks everyone comes up with for any distanced celebrations! (Also, reminder to submit your spooky costume looks for the Halloween Contest!)

To help us promote our Halloween costume party, Pam has agreed to let us feature her newest spooky makeup look from yesterday (image on the left), featuring her cat, Louis, and one from two years ago (image on the right):
Announcements:

1. GI Background Bundle:
   As requested, we have created a GI Digital Background Bundle. If you miss being in the GI as much as we do, you can now pick from your favourite labs and workspaces to have your meetings.

   If anyone would like to submit art or photographs to this collection, email submissions to Grace at games.institute@uwaterloo.ca.

2. Fishing emails regarding Covid-19 benefits from the University are being sent out. Please be vigilant.

3. A little birdie (or rather, our Slack ghost) has let us know that due to the entirely virtual format of CHI Play this year, tickets are going for the really (once in a lifetime) price of $15.00 USD. The GI has decided that we will fund 15 CHI tickets for students who are 1) not going to CHI; or 2) Not from HCI and would like to learn more on a first come first serve basis. Please email Grace Van Dam @ games.institute@uwaterloo.ca if you're interested!

   For those considering this event but don't know much about it, talks include;
   o How a Live Streamer’s Choice in Played Game Affects Mental Health Conversations
   o A Cheating Mood: The Emotional and Psychological Benefits of Cheating in Single Player Games
   o Toxic Behaviour in Team-based Competitive Gaming: The Case of League of Legends

   To find out more about presentation topics and times check out the event page here.

4. GI Masks are officially here! More info on how to get yours will be coming soon :) Stay tuned!

5. Even though we're physically away from the GI, lot's has been going on. Check out the preliminary construction on the new "Maker Lab" funded by Dr. Oliver Schneider's CFI grant!
Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GI SavePoint Socials</th>
<th>1. <strong>&quot;Coffee N' Chill&quot; of the term</strong></th>
<th>WEDNESDAY, October 28th @9am</th>
<th>Discord</th>
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<td>2. <strong>GI Halloween Haunt</strong></td>
<td>FRIDAY, October 30th @4pm</td>
<td>Discord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. <strong>Afternoon Gaming</strong></td>
<td>FRIDAY, November 13th @4pm</td>
<td>Discord</td>
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Join us for an afternoon of Spooktacular games, movies, and supernatural stellar socializing; what we do will be up to you! We’ve already started to prepare for the season, and have hung up cobwebs and ghoulies all around the digital space to set the mood for the days leading up to our ghastly gala.

On top of games and chats, a GI Halloween party wouldn’t be complete without a costume contest either, so be sure to either dress up on the day of, or send us in a photo or social media link to jrickert@uwaterloo.ca by November 1st, 2020! Be sure to mention the Halloween party in your email subject line and give us your favourite Halloween, Horror, or Autumn fun fact or trivia question. Additionally, please include whether or not you authorize use of your submission on GI social media.

**UW Events**

We encourage you to join us for **Thrive Week 2020 from November 2-6**. Check out [Thrive events here](#). We are in the midst of a global pandemic and are dealing with multiple challenges both individually and as a society. Employees have been asked to work in ways like never before, while juggling families and personal lives. During this time, it is normal to feel overwhelmed, stressed, anxious, and experience difficulties. Please know that you are not alone. When you are faced with these challenges, we encourage you to reach out to your colleagues, supervisors and friends.

**Thrive** is a series of events focused on building a culture of wellbeing and normalizing mental health struggles for University of Waterloo students and employees (including CUPE). It is also a mindset that encourages one to flourish.

Check out some of the Thrive Week events:

- **Mindful Morsels: Thrive through cooking** (Students and Employees)
  Join us and our special guest [award-winning Chef Javier](#), for a virtual home cooking event on November 2 and 6. You will also receive tips on healthy, mindful eating and its connection to mental wellness from [Nicole Pin, Dietitian](#) at Food Services.
• **Student Mental Health Research Conference:** The Committee on Student Mental Health will be hosting the University of Waterloo’s inaugural [Student Mental Health Research Conference](#) on November 5.

• **Noon Hour Concert: Noondaagochige:** A recital by Olivia Shortt, Saxophonist. Did you know that music can have such positive effects on your mood and mental health? Enjoy the noon hour concert series and listen to some amazing musical talent.

• **Resiliency Campaign:** Read stories of challenge, belonging and resiliency from your classmates and colleagues and consider sharing your own. These stories contribute to a sense of belonging and a culture where adversity is normalized and expected.

Check out other events on the [Thrive events page](#).

With the help of our Halloween Queen (Marisa Benjamin), please see below for all of our spooky recommendations for this years festivities:

- **GI Friday Night at Freddy's Panel**
- **GI Alum Alexandra Orlando: Canadian Horror Games**
- **FPS Horror Game Articles**
- **Thrills and Chills Humble Bundle**
- **Steam's House of Horrors**

Lillian A. Black and Alex Fleck will be giving talks for the Digital Scholars Lecture Series:

• Register for Lillian’s talk, "**It's Queerly Identifiable: Transgender Narrative Reclamation in Overwatch**" on November 19th at 4pm
• Register for Alex's talk, "**Communities in Care in Platform Construction: Understanding Video Game Preservation in 2020**" on December 3rd at 4pm

[Check out game Podcast recommendations from our Discord community](#) and then watch the latest episode of the [Games Institute Podcast on YouTube](#).
Watch Dr. Stacey Scott’s Lasting Impact Award talk at CSCW 2020: "Territoriality in collaborative tabletop workspaces" by Stacey D. Scott, M. Sheelagh T. Carpendale, and Kori Inkpen

Not yet a member? Join our Discord here and start your social adventure with us today!

| VIRTUALLY EXTENDED 🌍 |

Did you remember that contest we totally had back in the end of Spring term?? Well, if you happened to miss the Town Hall 🏛️, you might be wondering what happened to the contest & the prizes (especially if you’ve submitted one!). The timing of the contest proved to be difficult to fully engage with due to end of term responsibilities and start of Fall term complications. As a result, we’ve extended the contest to run through December 2020! As a special thank-you to those who submitted in the spring, we’ll be giving out automatic “secret achievement” prizes. If you’re one of those folks, be sure to keep an eye on your email!

Otherwise new entrants can check out the official guidelines and rules for updated timelines, but entries are now being accepted until December 1st, 2020 via the Google Form or by email to jrickert@uwaterloo.ca.

| LET’S GET SPOOKY 🎃 |

Spooktober is officially underway and we’re quickly approaching what would be our definitely epic tradition of Halloween treats and costume dress-up. Just because we’re all at home doesn’t mean we can’t still celebrate the most spine-tingling of the holidays as a community! So we’ve hung up cobwebs and ghoulies all around the digital space to set the mood for the days leading up to our ghastly gala. So dust off your costume of choice and log into “▲ The Spooky Point” on our Discord server for games, movies, and supernaturally stellar socializing on Friday, October 30th, 2020 at 4pm EDT.

A GI Halloween party wouldn’t be complete without a costume contest either, so be sure to either gear up on the day
or send us in a photo or social media link to jrickett@uwaterloo.ca by November 1st, 2020! Be sure to mention the Halloween party in your email subject line and give us your favourite Halloween, Horror, or Autumn fun fact or trivia question. Additionally, please include whether or not you authorize use of your submission on GI social media🦇.