Hi, all,

Reluctantly, I have postponed President Goel’s visit to the GI. The President’s office and I agreed that, given the increase in COVID cases as well as the direct exposure to COVID by more than one GI member who would be at this visit, it makes no sense to hold it right now. We will inform you of the new date shortly; hopefully this new date will give COVID time to settle down properly – if possible.

There is NO change to the BBQ. Because it is outside and therefore much easier to manage from a distance and masking perspective (and just being outside of course), I am fine with it proceeding.

To those of you who prepared a research display for President Goel, I can only apologize. I promise that you will get a chance to use it.

Thank you,
Dr. Neil Randall (Executive Director, Games Institute)

[ANNOUNCEMENTS 🗣️]:
1. President Vivek’s visit has been moved to October 5th, 2022. The GI Barbeque will still happen on April 12th, at 4:00pm
2. Last day for GI Residents to fill out the Pod Renewal Form. Email Sophie at games.institute@uwaterloo.ca for the form.
Day:
- April 9: Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge
- April 14: International Day of Pink
- April 15: Good Friday
- April 17: Easter Sunday
- April 22: Earth Day

Month:
- Sikh Heritage Month
- Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month
- Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Muslim calendar, and the holy month of fasting. The dates for Ramadan change every year, in accordance with the beginning and end of the appearance of the crescent moon. Muslims believe it is during this time that God forgives the past sins of those who observe the holy month with fasting, prayer, and faithful intention. Other than fasting from dawn to sunset, Muslims refrain from all forms of immoral behavior during ṣawm. Iftar refers to the breaking of fast with a meal. The Ramadan fasting period ends with Eid al-Fitr.

Resources:
- Waterloo Masjid: Muslim Society of Waterloo and Wellington Counties
  - 2022 Ramadan 1443 timetable
- MAC Daily Ramadan Program: In the Shade of the Quran
  - Streaming every day on Facebook, 45 minutes before Iftar
- Course: Introduction to Islamic History
- Health resources during Ramadan
- Cambridge Ramadan Bazaar: Friday, April 15th @12:00pm-9:00pm

Games by Muslim creators
- Super Crate Box
- Nuclear Throne
- Article: Lack of Muslim Representation in Video Games
- Crysis Remastered Trilogy, and other games by Crytek
- Dead Mage Games

List of GI Resources:
- GI Equipment/Room Booking Form
- Events at the GI Form
- GI Wi-Fi
Network Name: GI-Research
Password: GIUwaterloo2021!

- Prayer mat in Agata's office for those who need it
- You can check the availability of the GI Labs, Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room via shared Outlook calendars. See list below.

a. Games Institute EC1-1237 – Presentation Room
b. Games Institute EC1-1249 – Living Room Lab
c. Games Institute EC1-1303 – Haptic Experience Lab
d. Games Institute EC1-1307 – VR Story Lab
e. Games Institute EC1-1318 – Immersion Room Lab
f. Games Institute EC1-1323 – Collaboration Space

To add these calendars to your Outlook app:

1. Open your calendar in the Outlook Desktop App.
2. Right-click beside "My Calendar".
3. Hover over "Add Calendar" and select "From Room List" to view availability.

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2. Last day for GI Residents to fill out the Pod Renewal Form. Email Sophie at games.institute@uwaterloo.ca for the form.
3. John Munoz needs volunteers to be part of co-designing for a serious game with social robots. Reach out to John at john.munoz.hci@uwaterloo.ca if you’re interested!
4. The Feminist ThinkTank event Mapping, Digitizing, and Materializing Emotions has been moved to April 13, 10:30am
5. UW is recruiting faculty and staff to be part of the Program Area Leads (PALs) program to embed EDI-R into their curriculum, programs, and units. More information and sign up here!
6. Sign The Green Office Pledge to show your support for our participation.
7. The University will suspend its mask and proof of vaccination requirements for entry to campus, effective May 1

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**[EVENTS]**:

| **GI Events** | **Feminist Think Tank: Mapping, Digitizing, & Materializing Emotion**
| **Wednesday, April 13 @10:30am** |
| In the first hour, FTT will chat with the creators of waterworks.digital to learn about their motivations, design processes, and hopes for the project, as well as the reception of waterworks. In the second hour, we work will through a #MeToo data visualization to consider the themes, emotions, and digital tactics present within the archive. |
| Join on Teams here! |

| **Imagined Histories of Sexual Technologies With Dr. Bo Ruberg**
| **Tuesday, April 18 @2:00pm** |
| Join Dr. Bo Ruberg as they present work from their forthcoming book, *Sex Dolls at Sea: Imagined Histories of Sexual Technologies* (MIT Press, June 2022). Explore the history of the |
sex doll, how they have led to the development of new computational technologies, and how to reclaim sex tech as a site of feminist and queer potential

- **Register here!**

| **UW Events** | **WISA Talks: Future Directions in Aeronautical Sustainability**  
*Wednesday, April 6 @10:00am* | Join Dr. Suzanne Kearns as the moderator in a panel discussing the significant challenges and opportunities facing the future social, environmental, and economic sustainability of the air transport sector.  
- **Register here!** |
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|  | **UW Human Factors and Ergonomics Society: Deepika Dixit**  
*Wednesday, April 13 @5:00pm* | Join Deepika Dixit, a Human Factors Engineer at Intuitive Surgical as she talks about her work towards integrating human-centered design in technology-driven innovation for healthcare.  
- **Register here!** |
|  | **UW Human Factors and Ergonomics Society: Hannah Rusak-Gillrie**  
*Monday, April 25 @4:00pm* | Join Hannah Rusak-Gillrie from StarFish Medical as she talks about the importance of Human Factors in workplace and process design, as well as medical device procurement practices within the hospital setting.  
- **Register here!** |
|  | **UW Human Factors and Ergonomics Society: Ryan Hilgers**  
*Tuesday, May 3 @10:00am* | Join Ryan Hillgers from Johnson & Johnson as he discusses contributions to the next generation of advanced surgical solutions and medical devices aimed at treating various therapeutic spaces.  
- **Register here!** |
| **Recurring Events** | **Feminist Think Tank**  
Happens every first Wednesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Sid Heeg. (syheeg@uwaterloo.ca). |
| **Work In Progress Seminar** | Happens every first Monday of the month from 1:30pm to 2:30pm!  
An informal occasion for Stratford researchers to present the multidisciplinary work occupying our minds in a friendly atmosphere.  
- **Join on Teams here!** |
| **Other Virtual Events** | **Thinking the Posthuman: An Ethics for Revolutionary New Technologies**  
*Saturday, April 9 @11:00am* | Join Kevin LaGrandeur from the New York Institute of Technology as he discusses multiple possible avenues for regulation to mitigate the dangers of unregulated emerging technology through examples of emerging technology and their looming hazards.  
- **Register here!** |
|  | **LEVEL UP with Anna Hollinrake! Harnessing Emotions in Game Illustration**  
*Friday, April 29 @1:00pm* | Join Anna Hollinrake as you learn how to create art styles and visual direction for video games through the harnessing of emotional themes and key inspiration. End the talk with a workshop on creating your own moodboard.  
- **Register here!** |
The Green Office program is well underway at the GI now (woo!), and as Sophie will be leaving her Operations Coordinator position to go back to classes, keep an eye out for a form coming soon if you would like to be part of the new GI Green Office committee to make yours and everyone else's office space more sustainable! This week on the newsletter, we'll look at sustainable commuting options around Waterloo 🏖️ 🏁. (ps: when I searched up 'transport' on emojipedia, one of the first results was a llama!)

GI Stats:
- Total office points: 15/48
- 31% to Bronze Certification

GI Updates:
- Notice next to all light switches, informing last person in the space to turn off all lights before they leave

Sustainable travel around Waterloo:
Believe it or not, transportation is the main emitter of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in the Waterloo region with an annual emission rate of over 2 million tones! This makes up 49% of all CO2 emissions in Waterloo, with it increasing over the years due to more personal vehicles. Though Canada is heavily automobile dependent, there are still plenty of transport alternatives you can use in Waterloo:

- **Map for all the bike lanes in Waterloo**
- The Grand River Transit (GRT) comprises of a rail system (ION), buses, and express buses than run throughout Waterloo and Kitchener, all the way down to Fairway. With 15-30 minute intervals for the buses, 15 minutes for the ION, and a well-connected system, this is a great transportation method to check out if you haven't already! By 2031, it's projected that the LRT will lead to a reduction of over 22,000 tons of greenhouse gases annually!
  - **U-Pass**: UW undergraduates can use their student cards to use the GRT, you already pay through your term fees
  - **Corporate Pass**: UW staff can purchase monthly transit passes at a reduced 15%
  - Buses that stop in a 10 minute walking distance of the GI: 202, 29, 12
- **VIA Rail**: For longer spans of travel (e.g. to Toronto), consider commuting there on the train instead of driving.
  - **UW staff get 10% off VIA Rail tickets!**
- **Communauto**: Consider car-sharing instead of owning your own car in order to reduce the amount of cars on the road
- Consider purchasing a hybrid or electric car as your next vehicle. Gas-powered vehicles are extremely inefficient with 70% of the energy going into the average car engine ending up lost.
  - **Map of charging stations in KW**

**Updated: March 1st, 2022**

1. Proof of vaccination will remain in place until at least the end of the Winter term
2. Masking remains mandatory in all indoor spaces, and outdoors when you cannot maintain 2 meters of physical distancing
You are able to remove your mask if your workspace is not accessible to the public and allows you to maintain two meters physical distance from others

3. Campus Check-in is no longer in effect

4. Capacity limits in indoor dining spaces, study and lounge areas, and athletics facilities are lifted

5. All research, including human-participant research, has resumed. More details here.

For questions about lab access, return to research, study spaces, how members without pods can use the space, and other general health and safety at the GI reach out to Pam (pmschmid@uwaterloo.ca or DM)

For questions about equipment and room bookings reach out to Sophie (games.institute@uwaterloo.ca or DM)

General:

6. To enter the GI, you must sign the Operational Safety Plan. If you have not done so already or are unsure, please reach out to Sophie (games.institute@uwaterloo.ca)

7. All UW facilities, which include the GI, are open from 8AM to 6PM from Monday-Friday. Staff are only on site from 8:30AM to 5PM.
   a. After hours or weekend access requires additional GI approvals. Please contact Pam (pmschmid@uwaterloo.ca or DM) with a cc to your supervisor if you would like to request after hours access.

8. Screen yourself for Covid-19 symptoms before arriving to campus. If you have any cold and flu symptoms, regardless of how mild, please stay at home.

9. According to guidance from the Government of Ontario, face coverings are required in workplaces (such as the GI), even those that are not open to the public however, you do NOT need to wear a face covering when you are working in an area that is NOT accessible to the public and allows you to maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from anyone else while you are indoors.

The GI must follow UW Policies on health and safety; for more information please note UW's Safety Office resources.

Masking

Vaccination Requirements

Return to Campus

Return to Research

Sign Up Safety Office's E-Newsletter

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE COVID

COVID-19 Resources:
  - A 5-minute game to protect you against COVID-19 misinformation
  - Q and A with the experts: COVID variants
  - Check out the University's health and safety guide's flow chart to see if you might have been exposed, and let the University know if you have been.

Vaccine appointments available at Health Services
Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine provide more protection from getting/transmitting Omicron than two doses. All Ontarians over 18 are eligible for a booster dose 84 days after their second dose.

Book your booster at Health Services, or through online resources such as Vaccine Ontario and Vaccine Hunters.

If you are an international student with questions about vaccines, please email ise@uwaterloo.ca.
If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.