

*Studenting*

Mac campus is home for me, so I'm

**Meha**

Yeah, definitely. Mac campus is that close knit society. If you walk in the hallway, you'll end up talking and meeting people and you'll definitely lose the time as well. But it's really rewarding. Yeah, I miss talking to people these days. There's nobody here, but before there pandemic, we were a close-knit society.

**Margaret**

That's such an awesome thing to have as part of your undergraduate education, and I think that that makes a lot, lot of sense, Patricia, when you said it's less intimidating and there is this sort of flattened hierarchy.

So yeah, that's really awesome. I like the small-town comparison. And when it comes to that small town, I mean, Patricia, you mentioned that the word travels fast in terms of events and activities happening around campus. But what would you say to students looking to make the most of their time on my campus and really getting involved in this in this small community?

**Patricia**

I'd say the best way to enjoy community, non-academic life on campus would be to join a group. There are not that many, but there a



But that's awesome to hear that there's also winter activities for the current predicament, given that going inside has been a little touch and go there for a while. But yeah, what awesome advice Floor Fellows, newsletter, all great, great places to start.

And of course, like the pandemic, has been a bit of a wedge in terms of finding community building community, reaching out to people. But outside of that, is there any difficulty finding or building community in the Mac Campus context, particularly that you find?

**Shannon**

I mean, one comes to mind right off the bat. And I'm the non-student here, so I'm eager to see what the two of you say about this. But Mac doesn't have a lot of spaces to eat communally, and our res students don't have a cafeteria. They have a kitchen space that they during the pandemic had to schedule times to use and cook their meals. So, I think a big challenge is students coming in, particularly to residents or spending a lot of time in their rooms.

They're not going down at mealtime and sharing meals, and they're often going in the kitchen to cook a meal and then bringing their food back to their room. And even those not living in residence, even our grad students will say to me, like, there's not a lot of space to go and share a meal and have that time for connection. And I think meal sharing is a really important opportunity for connection. So, I could see that's maybe one downside is that we don't have, and I downtown has lots of those opportunities. But I think that's one of the things that we can do to help with that.

a lot of library fatigue because you're going to the same place over and over again. You need something new. And that was actually a good way of finding a space to go.

I don't think that's available anymore, so that would definitely be, a thing. Also, within residence when I was in residence, because a lot of the time you do spend on your floor and in your kitchen, you do isolate yourself from the rest of the residence. So, unless you have friends on different floors, it was very easy to not know other people or not know them well. In other floors, just because you would never have a reason to go upstairs and you never have a reason to go downstairs, you only come in and leave. That can be pretty isolating, especially in the winter or the second half of the fall, I'd say when your grades hit, especially in your first year and you're feeling kind of like it's all a little uneasy kind of so you're like, I should get back to studying properly. But everyone's thinking like you so the isolation can get too much.

### **Margaret**

That's absolutely true, and I think it's really funny that you bring up the residents floor divide because that is very real. I stayed in the downtown campus residence my first year, and I remember the only time I would leave my floor is if the washer and dryer was broken and I had to find a different one. But other than that, it was like my little lateral bubble. So, I think that's a good point that you bring up. And of course, all of these problems people have noticed across student services have just been exacerbated by the pandemic. So hopefully the very small light at the end of the very long tunnel is that eventually these common spaces and things like meal sharing, which is I agree is such an important part of making friends and meeting people. Hopefully, those things become more accessible somewhere in the future.

And then I was really curious actually to hear from each of you what community spaces you're involved in. You've already mentioned your roles in the introduction. But I was just curious what that looks like for you. Are you hosting sort of Zoom events? Are you participating in peer support? What does that look like? What are your specific community ties and how are those faring?

### **Patricia**

In pandemic times, we do have, I would say, a big variety of things that we're still doing as part of DHNUS, for example, we do online workshops. We normally collaborate with student services in some shape or form. So, whether that be CAPSs or Shannon, we always want to invite people. We've done a lot of reaching out to alumni and them talking to us or reaching out to different communities and them talking to us. Like this week, for example, we have dietitians who work in indigenous communities come to talk about their experience.

Those are all very academic and wellness related. We also have a lot of social media content. So, lots of reels, lots of TikToks, lots of stories, and they are getting a lot of engagement and they are very fun to make. And for me, I found it really good because I've learned a new skill set. Like I would say pre-pandemic, I've not been deeply interested in social media or content creating. In that semu reW\*n semu reW\*n semu reW\*n sake20(e)7(a)7(ke)72(of)-20( )7f )-8BT/F8 349Tm0 gy )-7e)7n)-20(t)7







