

THE DISPATCH

Brock University

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CORONA in BROCK



Corona has been around for a considerable amount of time. It has brought about a significant change in our lives. Below are accounts of experiences narrated by some of the MBA Students at Brock University. From first online lecture to last GIC; students have shared how their lifestyles changed and what they are doing about it.

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“The pandemic has changed my lifestyle a lot. I loved visiting the outlet mall every month to shop for new clothes and shoes which is not possible today. Although online shopping options are available, I miss the old days of wandering and window shopping. Even my grocery shopping schedule has changed tremendously. I prefer to buy fresh vegetables and fruits which are healthier than frozen food. Unfortunately these days, I buy food that can be frozen and kept for a long time as I do grocery shopping ones in 3 weeks unlike before wherein I shopped ones a week.

What motivates me is that things are getting better and people are gradually taking pandemic seriously. Every time I go out and see people wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, I feel safe and secure. What has happened cannot be changed, we will get used to the new normal and hope for a better tomorrow.”

“I am one in those millions of people whose life has been severely impacted due to the Covid-19 outbreak. I went through financial and academic uncertainties which took a toll on my well-being. Economic instability created lesser hiring opportunities even for part-time job seekers like me. With GIC ending and my dad’s business getting shut further increased my list of turmoil. Luckily, I was not asked to buy many textbooks and software’s which reduced my expenses. Academically speaking, as I have chosen analytics stream and both the core subjects had to have hands-on teaching, the online classes were not much effective. I felt a classroom environment would further enhance our understanding. Coming to group projects, the coordination between teammates was hard. Online platforms like teams were not efficient enough which wasted our time. Online examination created a panic situation among us due to huge power outage and network connectivity issues.

I had made up my mind to manage my expenses on my own and only invested in things that were my priority. I kept on applying for job posting without deterring my hope. Today, I am working as a part-timer and supporting myself.”



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“As a full-time MBA student and a parent who is also working from home, I feel like the past year was as crazy as doing a triathlon. The only difference is that in a triathlon, it’s sequential. Since the pandemic started, all my MBA courses were moved online while my daughter’s learning from home as well. I’ve been juggling study, family and work, all of which happening simultaneously. Luckily, I survived – my course grades so far so good; business is going well and my little girl’s still happy and healthy. I don’t think many people have such experience and I think I could offer some tips to those who’s struggling in their graduate studies while having a busy life.

• **Make Plans**

Time management sounds like a cliché but it’s really the secret recipe for anyone who want to successfully achieve your goals. You not only have to make daily and monthly plans, plan to the hours and stick to your plans, but also remember to allow some flexibility to adjust your plans, because you’ll need to adapt to changes when you’re working in teams. Life is easier if you adjust your plans to level out the workloads. I use Excel spread sheet to plan my days, it’s very flexible and you can always develop a format that best suits you. I’ll also include weekly plans for entertainment, so I can loosen up while still following my schedule. If you have little kids at home, you’ll also need to

help them make their own daily plans because they are experts to mess up your schedule if they don’t know when to do what.

• **Stay Focused**

It’s important to learn how to briefly respond to distractions and quickly refocus on what you should be doing. Use a visual timer (the ones with red disk) to help you stay focused. If you’re learning from home with little kid(s), be prepared to get interrupted every 10 minutes.

• **Mental Wellness**

taking care of your own mental wellness as well as your families’ is more important than ever amidst a pandemic. Go out and get some fresh air everyday for at least one hour is something I must do no matter how busy I am. Encourage your family and friends to do the same but remember to stay safe!”



“In the initial part of the pandemic, I had ample amount of time to recover from a sports injury by doing physiotherapy. I invested a lot of time in helping myself to realize what skill sets are needed to be possessed and polished for my career growth. I was fortunate to have been selected as the Vice president of competitions for GBC which has motivated me. I am proud to say, I accomplished one of my long-time dream to write an article on LinkedIn and hope to write many more in the future.”



NAME:
MARK GRATIAN ROSARIO
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Travel Tips for 2020

Gotta admit—travelling has become very necessary to gain some sanity during COVID-19. However, as we are trying to adopt the new normal in life, travelling has not been the same.

Since May 2020 I have traveled to almost 9 cities (approx. 2475 kms) and here are the things I believe everyone should know before you pack your bags and head out to rediscover yourself.

1. Do not forget to carry Masks

Although wearing mask has been an alien behavior to the body but has now become a part of the new normal. Whether you visit any store, restroom or restaurants you must wear a mask. However, most of the sight seeing places such as beaches, lakes, Islands, camping grounds has no obligation for it.

2. Remember to pre-plan Bookings

Trust me you do not want to end up sleeping in the car as I did. As more people are willing to travel around and many rooms kept empty to avoid the spread of Corona you may find places being booked for more than a week or two. Thus, it is better to book a place before you leave.

3. Most of the Public Restrooms are closed

After gulping few beers, you surely got to take a leak. Imagine at this time you are stuck on a beach and the restroom is shut. The best thing you could do is to either stop at gas stations or google search 'public restrooms near me'.

Another place to go is Tim Hortons (do not forget to grab a Mocha Iccap).

4. Some places are still shut

As many places reopen, some are still either shut or under partial operations. To avoid the chaos at the last moment its better to give a call and enquire.

5. Do not forget to carry Sanitizer

This might sound funny to some but there will be times where you won't find sanitizer. Carry plenty of sanitizer during your travel. Whether you are on a boat and going to an Island or even going to a restroom, travelling gets ugly when you see no soap or sanitizer around.



~ Sana Pabani

7 Things I learned from the playing field & took into the Business World.

~ Mark Rosario

**“Sports don’t build character;
But they reveal It”**

~ Heywood Broun

I have been playing sports for the past 2 decades, predominantly field hockey. I have had my fair share of wins and losses and that has built my leadership and decision-making abilities. Due to my active involvement in sports, I was able to coach 3 teams in field hockey where my leadership skills were bolstered and, as was my confidence. Based on the work experiences I have had in academia and in the corporate world, I have come to realize that my association in sports has taught me some valuable lessons which I believe will help in having a successful career after my MBA.

1. The transition from follower to leader.

Life is all about transition and moving to the next level. I still remember my first tournament, where I ended up sitting on the bench. I knew that I could do much better and I didn't

disappoint myself. The very next year, I ended up being the captain of the team by arriving first for every practice session and being the last one to leave the field. Similarly, in the business sector, everyone starts at an entry-level position, and perhaps won't be fully utilized for at least a year. Then through dedication and leadership under various circumstances, you make a mark and earn a reputation.

**“Every champion was once a contender
Who refused to give up”**

~ Rocky Balboa

2. The transition from leader to mentor.

There always comes a time when a person realizes leading is amazing but mentoring a person or a team to a challenge is a different ball game. I was lucky to experience that the opportunity while coaching on three occasions and I had to step up at both times. Mentoring isn't easy as it looks; it requires critical thinking, decisiveness, and building acceptability with the team, all vital skills when working in a professional team.

**“A good coach can change a game
A great coach can change a life”**

~ John Wooden

3. Focus on the minute details to achieve the maximum output.

When I used to coach, there was a player who was amazing during practice games, but he just couldn't perform during tournaments. After a confidence-building chat and sharing tips based on detailed observations, he performed to his full potential. In the workplace, small details matter because they help transition individuals from potential to high performers. I look forward to focusing on those details as I transition to the business world.

4. KISS: Keep Things Simple Silly.

On the pitch or in the board room, everyone has a limited listening span and then they just zone out. Whether discussing set plays or having corporate discussions, it is better to keep it as simple as possible so that everyone gets the clearest picture as fast as possible.

5. Change for better.

One of the aspects taught in Six Sigma and Lean is the word Kaizen. Kaizen stands for change for the better. On the sports field, changes will occur in terms of new players coming along, old players going away, and injuries happening. There is no notice period for these but there is a change and we need to respect the change and improve ourselves. Similarly, at workplaces, employees come and go, policies change, projects change and these changes should strengthen the resolve to be better; that resolve is the spine of the organization.

6. An individual does the task, but the team gets the job done.

When I had the opportunity to coach a team for the first time, I knew I could deliver the task but deep down I also knew that if I have to get the job done I would need the whole teams cooperation. Similarly, in the workplace, it takes an entire team filled with individuals who perform synchronously for the projects to be delivered.

**“Talent wins games
But Talent AND Teamwork
wins Championships”**

~ Michael Jordan

7. The best is yet to come.

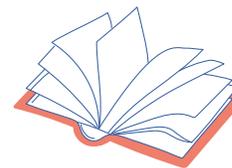
Looking back at my experience of playing sports and leading teams, it was a wonderful experience. If I had quit even for one day thinking this wouldn't go anywhere, I would definitely be wrong. I took part in every sports event possible and learned a new sport along the way. Similarly, in today's context of COVID-19 imposed quarantine, when we are sitting at home pondering what will happen to our jobs, despising our daily routine and wondering how we can ever recover from this situation, I just have to say that we will recover from this situation and the best is yet to come.

“You miss 100% of the shots you don't take”

~ Wayne Gretzky



Book Review



Book: Bezonomics: How Amazon Is Changing Our Lives and What the World's Best Companies Are Learning from It

Author: Brian Dumaine

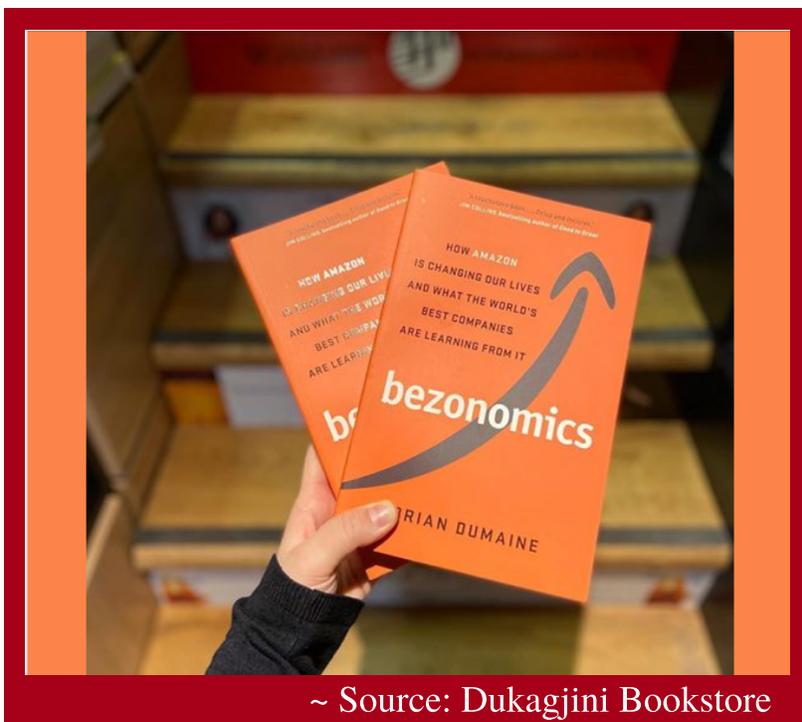
Unlike the reviews of most fiction books that manage to elicit intrigue in readers without giving away too many plot points in way of spoilers, I must warn the readers that this particular book review does more than just surface-level grazing of the subject matter. Thus, be prepared to dive deep into my thoughts about Bezonomics and at the end of it, feel free to make up your mind about whether to give it a read or not.

As evident from its title, the book is about Amazon, a multinational tech company that inspires wonder in some and wariness in others. I chose this particular book

because I was highly interested in finding out how and why Amazon and its founder Jeff Bezos have managed to remain under the global spotlight for years and how the business players

across the world are shaken to their core in the wake of Amazon's rapid growth. And I must admit that the author Brian Dumaine did an excellent job of sating my curiosity.

The author tells an unbiased yet gripping tale about how the man behind Amazon has managed to redefine the way to run a business so much so that we customers would be hard pressed to lead a comfortable life without its services. At first glance the book might seem like it would solely appeal to business people and business students. And although there is much to learn from



~ Source: Dukagjini Bookstore

its contents about developing sound business acumen, I am positive that business background or otherwise, one will find it extremely hard to put it down once they start reading. There simply

isn't one dull sentence in the book, and in the following paragraphs, I'll try to explain what makes it such a brilliant read.

The author adopts a story-telling tone throughout the book that sucks the reader into the world of Jeff Bezos right from page one. He shares valuable insights from his two years' worth of research on Amazon's growth trajectory that every business individual should be aware of in today's world. According to the author, we are all currently living in Jeff Bezos' world and for people not yet convinced of this fact, he does a spectacular job of persuading the readers to see his point of view.

He expounds the components behind Amazon's unparalleled success: customer-centric business, long-term vision and continuous innovation. And these components are fueled by the Artificial Intelligence powered Flywheel, an ingenious business concept that enables the momentum of the business growth to go faster and faster. The author takes his time explaining these vital business concepts in detail across various chapters and how Bezos has managed to wield them successfully in order to lend Amazon its pervasive and disruptive nature. He analyzes the reasoning behind Jeff Bezos' decisions to enter the different industries that he did and disrupting them due to Amazon's superior technological prowess.

I would like to bring up the fact that the author also extensively explores the other side of the coin. He talks about the ills of capitalism and the ever-increasing wealth gap because of it. He also paints a grim picture about the negative

consequences of automation from privacy violation to possible extinction of the blue collar jobs. He also offers tips on how to co-exist alongside Amazon without getting completely crushed by it if you are a business.

In conclusion, I would say that this is a must-read for all business students as it imparts some valuable knowledge in way of examining Amazon's growth and Jeff Bezos' business decisions under a magnifying glass. I took away many important lessons from it that no business textbook could have ever taught me. Sometimes all you need is a book about the world's richest person to find that extra bit of motivation to face the upcoming fall term.

~ Bhavishya Naidu

**EXPERIENCE.
MATTERS.**

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