

Chatterbox #2– Off Campus

Transcript

Maura: Hello everyone it's Maura!

Harp: And Harp

Maura: With the Chatterbox podcast where we get to chat.

Harp: And chat and chat.

Maura: And if you want to see the transcripts and more explanations and quizzes for this episode you can go to our website, Culips.com.

Harp: And at the website you can see everything that we talk about because sometimes we talk very quickly.

Maura: Yes and definitely in Chatterbox.

Harp: So it is definitely word for word you can follow what we're saying.

Maura: Just click on Lipservice and you will find it there. In this episode we are continuing on the theme of university life and Harp, give us a little introduction on your university and college days.

Harp: Ok, so mine was different from yours in that I went to a 2-year **community college** program.

Maura: Ok.

Harp: And then I went for 2 years in university.

Maura: Really! I have never heard of that?

Harp: I ended up with a university degree.

Maura: Ok.

Harp: So it is considered the exact same as a 4 year program but you do 2 years in a college, you have smaller classes, it's less expensive and then all of the classes I took, every single one, transferred to University.

- Maura: Hmm
- Harp: So I don't know if it is just out west, I know in the United States it's very popular.
- Maura: Ok.
- Harp: But...
- Maura: It is popular then in Alberta?
- Harp: Yup, very popular.
- Maura: Ok.
- Harp: And even in Vancouver, in the Lower Mainland, it is very popular.
- Maura: Yeah because Harp is from the **western part of Canada**, in Alberta, that is the province, and B.C (*British Columbia*). But I'm from Ontario, which has Toronto, which is a pretty well known Canadian city which is in the middle and from that part I have never heard of 2 years in college and 2 years in university.
- Harp: Yup, so that is what I did.
- Maura: Ok.
- Harp: It was basically the exact same thing, the exact same professors taught at university and college.
- Maura: Wow.
- Harp: I don't know it was just the better option. I'm very happy I did it.
- Maura: **Yeah**, cool! As well you didn't go away like I did and live in *residence*, you stayed with your mom and dad.
- Harp: **Yup**, I stayed at home with my **folks**.
- Maura: So did you want to do that?
- Harp: I always wanted to go to *dorms and rez* but I had the advantages of my mom cooking me dinner and my mom helping clean the house and I didn't have all those extra responsibilities, I could focus on school, but I always dreamed of

living in dorms.

Maura: Yeah but as I said before the food wasn't so great.

Harp: Yeah that is true I didn't gain the *freshman 15*.

Maura: Yeah, I'm sure your dinners tasted a lot better than mine did.

Harp: Exactly, my mom is such a good cook. I miss my mom. She is such a good cook.

Maura: Yeah, was there anything else that you liked or didn't like about living at home?

Harp: I didn't like the **commute** because lot's of people drove and Edmonton, it is a very spread out city. I lived in a **suburb** which is part of the city but maybe a smaller area of it, it's very residential and the university was about a 10 minute drive but I took the bus.

Maura: Which obviously moves a lot slower.

Harp: Very much slower. And in the winter you have to wait outside in the cold and the snow.

Maura: Yeah.

Harp: It took me about an hour on the bus. Which is a big difference from 15, 10-15 minutes.

Maura: For sure and the stories about Canada being cold in the winter are true.

Harp: Definitely, definitely true.

Maura: The busses run a lot slower.

Harp: Yup, and when you are waiting outside in the cold, **time moves so slowly**. I think it moves backwards almost.

Maura: Almost, sometimes. Right, because I lived on campus so I only had to wake up a few minutes before class.

Harp: So jealous, still. College was that long ago and I am still jealous.

Maura: Well I used to take little **naps** in between my classes and one day I was

napping and I woke up and realized that my class was starting and I was going to be late. So I quickly got up and grabbed my books and went to class and I was probably there 5 minutes later. And I sat beside my friend and she told me that on my cheek I had a pillow **crease**, because of sleeping.

Harp: That is so funny.

Maura: Yeah so it is a bit embarrassing.

Harp: But I am jealous, I wanted to do that. You know, people would come in their **pyjamas** to school. Did you do that?

Maura: I never went that far yeah but people were pretty sweatpants and t-shirts. They were pretty lazy about this. So how did you meet people? Since you lived off campus, because I said that I met people in residence. How did you meet people?

Harp: Well I met people through a lot of different **clubs**.

Maura: Ok

Harp: Which you would join something that interested you. For me it was Political Science and the **Model UN club** but you must know there's lots of different clubs that people can join.

Maura: Well I remember that they have a couple special days where they have **booths** set up, usually in the university centre, there is usually a building that is a main building and they have all the different booths set up.

Harp: Exactly, so I think that there are at least over a hundred clubs.

Maura: At least. For every kind of person, for every kind of interest I guess.

Harp: Exactly so I think this is usually during Frosh Week. You know the introductory, the first week.

Maura: Which clubs were you in again?

Harp: Ok it was a little bit dorky, but I loved it. The **Model UN Club** was my favourite, but I was also in the **Political Science Club** because that was my **major**, I did a Political Science **major** and women studies as a **minor**. So that was a club that was focused on the, like, scholarly aspect because we had different events. It was a fun club but **Model UN** was my favourite.

- Maura: Yeah, I never joined any **clubs**.
- Harp: Really why not?
- Maura: You know, I don't know why. Maybe it was just living in residence and getting to know kind of what university life was like I didn't, I don't know, I didn't take on anything new. But, I wish I had. I really kind of regret it because I think I could have met different people and done some interesting things.
- Harp: Yeah, it takes time because you have to spend your evenings or your weekends and we did a lot of **fundraising** because we traveled to different conferences because of the **Model UN club**. I went to Vancouver, London, Ontario, McGill and there were some of my friends who went to Brazil, Argentina, China.
- Maura: Wow!
- Harp: So you have to **fundraise** a lot.
- Maura: But that is pretty awesome.
- Harp: We did some **fundraising** parties which were great.
- Maura: Yeah they have some other kinds of **clubs** too, like, if you are an international student there is probably a club for your country or culture.
- Harp: Yeah, definitely and I think they have the international students **club**. So you meet different students from around the world.
- Maura: Yeah, that is true. At my university to they had a *residence* for, like an international house. And what other kinds of **clubs** did they have?
- Harp: They had...
- Maura: They had all sorts of spiritual **clubs**, religious and stuff like that.
- Harp: And then they had game clubs, like you could be in the Chess **Club** or in the Ping-Pong **club** or Dungeons and Dragons **club** or I don't know, I can't remember anymore.
- Maura: Almost anything, it seems like. If you want to make a **club** you can probably make a club of anything that interests you.

- Harp: Exactly, definitely.
- Maura: Too bad we didn't have an ESL podcast **club**.
- Harp: Or the Culips **club**.
- Maura: And if you have any other questions about university life you can send them to us and we might do a podcast about it.
- Harp: We will try.
- Maura: You can send your questions to questions@culips.com
- Harp: So that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com
- Maura: That is it for the Chatterbox episode this week and we will be chatting with you next week.
- Harp: Bye everyone.
- Maura: Bye.

Detailed Explanation

Community college

In Canada and the United States, people usually finish high school when they are around 18 years old. At this point they have the option of going to university, college, a technical school or not continuing school. Some people chose to go to a college before university because it is cheaper and with smaller class sizes. College, community college and junior college are used in the same way and the differences between them are small.

Western part of Canada

As most of you probably know, Canada is a very large country with basically 3 large cities. Vancouver is on the West Coast and, Toronto and Montreal are in Central Canada. We will be including a map of Canada on our website soon.

Here is some more information about Canada. Western Canada includes the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatoon and Manitoba. Central Canada includes Ontario and Quebec. Eastern Canada is New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador. Northern Canada is the entire region to the North of these provinces which includes the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Canada is the second largest country in the world in terms of area, not population.

Yeah / Yup

Maura, Robin and I use both of “**Yeah**” and “**Yup**” OFTEN in our podcasts. This is a very natural way of saying “yes”. They are very casual words and it is not a good idea to use them in written form. We often use them with “OK” to mean the same thing as “yes” or to agree with someone or something.

Folks

Folks is an informal synonym for the word parents. Younger people often use this in casual conversation to refer to their parents.

Sometimes “**folks**” just means “people” but in this episode it means “parents”.

Dorms / Rez / Freshman 15

Please see Chatterbox #1 – On Campus for explanations for these words

Commute

“**Commute**” is the travelling that someone does to go to a place regularly, like work or school. The time or distance travelled is usually far. The time you travel and how you travel are called “**a commute**”. For example if you take the bus to work for 20 minutes, both the time (20 minutes) and the method of transportation (the bus) are your commute. In university my **commute** was about one hour. I **commuted** by bus.

Suburb

“**A suburb**” is sometimes a small town very close to a bigger city. For example when I lived in South Korea I lived in the city of Suwon which is a **suburb** of Seoul. Other times a **suburb** is a part of the big city but it is just far from the centre of town, or from the downtown.

Suburbs usually have lots of houses and apartments with families. There is usually not much commercial space in these areas.

Time moves so slowly

This is an expression because time always goes at the same rate, but sometimes when you are not having a good time or when you want something to happen quickly it feels like **time moves very slowly**.

Another idiom that is the opposite of this one is, “time flies when you’re having fun.” Again this is easy to explain. When you are having a good time you don’t look at your watch very often and time seems to pass very quickly.

Napping

When people sleep for a short time during the day it is called “**a nap**”. Sometimes it is referred to as “**a siesta**” which comes from cultures with warmer climates where people sometimes sleep in the middle of the day to avoid the hottest time of the day. Generally **naps** can be anywhere from 5 minutes to 2 or 3 hours.

Crease

“**A crease**” is a wrinkle or edge from folding. If you fold a piece of paper and then unfold it. There is a **crease** in the paper.

In this episode, Maura says there is a **crease** on her face from a pillow. Sometimes when we sleep and not move we get **creases** on our face and body from pillows and sheets. A wrinkle in a bed sheet makes a wrinkle on our skin.

Pyjamas

Pyjamas are the clothes that people wear to sleep. They are usually very comfortable and loose. In casual English you will hear people say PJ's which is a short form of **pyjamas**.

Clubs

A **club** is a group of people who come together because of some common interest or goal. They can be very structured or very loosely organized. When I was in University, I was in two **clubs**. Both of the groups that I was a member of had quite a bit of structure. There was a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and so forth. Sometimes clubs can just be more informal with no roles.

Model UN club

The full name is the **Model United Nations Club**. I believe that there are these clubs all around the world. Basically the club organizes a conference where students from around the country or world come to participate.

For example, at my first conference I represented Singapore in the Security Council (SC) and there was an emergency that we (the members of the SC) had to deal with as if we were real diplomats from the country with their particular foreign policy.

If you are interested in learning more check out this website <http://www.canimun.org/> I was a member of the staff for the first ever CANIMUN and it was sadly my last Model UN experience but one of my favourites.

Major

When used in the context of college or university "**major**" is used to describe the subject that you concentrated on, that you took the most classes in and that you were focused on. Sometimes people do what is called "**a double major**", where they had two areas of study that they focused on almost equally.

For example someone can say, "I did **a double major** in English and French."

Minor

Again when "**minor**" is used in the context of college or university, this is the discipline or subject area that you focused on the second most. You took a lot of courses in this area but less than your **major**.

At all Universities and colleges there is a required amount of courses for a **major** and a **minor**.

Fundraise

Fundraising is when you collect money for something such as a club (ex. Model UN Club), a cause (ex. fighting poverty), or an event (ex. a conference). There are so many things that you can **fundraise** for.

The word “**fundraise**” is made up of two words: “**fund**” and “**raise**”. “**Fund**” or “funds” means money and “**raise**” is for increasing the amount, to raise the amount of money needed.

Quiz

1. Sometimes people go to a school before University, and the classes there are used toward their University degree. Harp did this. What is the school called?

- a) high school
- b) college
- c) elementary school
- d) technical school

2. What are some good points about living at home during University according to Harp?

- a) the commute
- b) your parents help you out with responsibilities
- c) the Freshman 15
- d) parties

3. This is part of the city but a smaller, more residential area. What is it called?

- a) the suburbs
- b) the commute
- c) residence
- d) dorms

4. She lived at home during University but she lived quite far away. She had to _____ for four years everyday. She had to take the bus for more than one hour every morning and night.

Please fill in the blank.

- a) drive
- b) commute
- c) sleep
- d) study

5. Maura says she used to take short sleeps between her classes in University. What are these "short sleeps" called?

- a) snores
- b) napkins
- c) naps
- d) dozes

6. What is a good way to meet people at University?

- a) wearing pajamas
- b) taking naps
- c) joining clubs

Answers: 1. b 2. b 3. a 4. b 5. c 6. c