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Longwood: Life during COVID-19

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Life During Covid-19

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May 6,

The campus was filled with animosity, wondering if or when our classes were to be cancelled. As schools across the nation began to close, we began to worry, stress, assume. The first day classes cancelled, there was a universal sigh of relief. About 12 in the morning, Longwood sent out an email. A collective of students in North and South lifted their windows to celebrate. More students went out to run in the lawn between the buildings. Little would we know the impact this cancellation would have.

As a junior, the impact had little effect on me at first. I was going home, going to see my dog, lie in my bed, and eat seasoned food. It was just an extended spring break. Most schools were going on spring break at that time; so, COVID-19 allowed for us to see friends that we missed and take trips we may not have had the chance to. But the numbers kept rise, countries were shutting down, and people started dying. Suddenly, it seemed like we needed to stop thinking of it as an extended stay and start taking the virus seriously.

Our generation is the first to grow up with social media. We utilized social media to find some solace in the unfortunate situations 2020 brought us. In the beginning of the year there was the threat of WW3, next Australia began to burn, then COVID-19. In times of uncertainty, social media provided a space to take our minds off the events going on in the world. We turned to Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, and Tik Tok to keep our spirits up, while things worsened

Longwood officially closed the campus after pushing the class cancellation another week. Luckily for myself, I only had a 45-minute ride from home to get to campus. Some people had to drive hours to pack their things, only to drive all the way back. It was clear corona was going to affect us more than we thought.

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Since being home, I have struggled tremendously. Eliminating the classroom workspace from the learning process has severely hindered my ability to learn. Even though we cannot go out, there are many distractions at home for me. I have been sleeping in and feeling unmotivated. Sitting in front of a laptop, attending a Zoom call, and writing a paper have been very unenticing. Self-discipline is the biggest factor in quarantine culture. Setting a schedule and planning goals are essential. As the days get lost upon us, it is important to have something to guide the day, that way everyday does not feel meaningless.

The worst part of quarantine is being separated from my suitemates. Late night POD trips, cooking dinner, going to the gym together. Facetime calls and group chats do not duplicate the same feeling as being together. Every day I miss my friends at Longwood. Since quarantine, there has been this overwhelming feeling of dissatisfaction and incompleteness.

Today I am feeling better. As I write this, I will be finishing my class and will be considered a senior. To my fellow students who did not get to walk, I feel immense compassion and sadness. Leaving our close community of Lancers without a goodbye and not getting to feel that sense of satisfaction in shaking President Revely's hand as you receive your diploma. Hopefully every contribution to Longwood's archive will demonstrate that your work was meaningful, and our hearts are with you.

To future students who view our contributions, know that this was a very trying time. From professors planning lessons to fit our predicament, students balancing home and school life, and everyone adjusting overall. Life during COVID-19 erupted a sense of community, to those who cared. We were all deeply hurt and deeply affected, but we all supported each other. We cheered in the streets, made music over lives, and shared laughs internationally. I wish for future Longwood students to enjoy their years in full. I wish for their pride as Lancers to equal

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their strength as students. In trying times, support one another. Wish only the best because uncertainty is out there. But it should never stop you.