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## COVID-19 Journal | Chloe Brasher

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Chloe Brasher

- March 30, 2020

Spring break just ended for JSU and because of the virus, I didn't get to go anywhere or see anyone. I know it's kind of silly to be mad about something like that when this virus is so much bigger than me and my problems, but still. I miss being able to be around my friends because it's something that everyone takes for granted. I never imagined I would be living through something that will definitely be talked about in future textbooks.

I'm also agitated. So many people are refusing to listen to the quarantine guidelines. They keep going out and hanging out in large groups. The more people stay inside, the quicker this can be over with. It seems like either that is a concept too confusing for some to understand, or they literally do not care. Regardless, they need to realize that they're putting not only themselves, but others at risk. I'm ready for this to be over.

- April 1,

I found out today that one of my friends has a confirmed case of coronavirus. I haven't seen her in a few weeks so I believe I wasn't exposed. She got it from her grandfather. She seems to be doing okay and that to her it's just "bad flu." Her grandfather however is currently in the hospital fighting it. As naive as it is, I didn't genuinely think anyone I knew would get it. I'm just praying for their recovery because that is really all I can do.

My best friend's dad works at UAB. He said that Alabama has almost entirely flattened our curve. He also said that people are getting over the virus more than the number of those dying, at least that is true for UAB. Here's another thing, when the people on the news panic and say "Oh there 50 NEW cases today!!", they are not telling you the right way. What happened is that 50 people who ALREADY had it got their test results back. The news tells it the scarier way so things seem worse than they are. Not that things aren't bad, it just isn't the way they are saying it is. Watch out for this kind of stuff because it seriously is everywhere.

- April 3,

In all honesty, I am tired. I'm learning that I much prefer going to school in person as opposed to online lectures. I miss driving 40 minutes to school everyday and 40 minutes home. This virus shows me more things everyday that I used to take for granted. I was looking through my camera roll on my phone and was able to narrow some dates down. I have been participating in quarantine since March 15. It hasn't even been a month yet and I'm already feeling so over what's going on.

My dad was telling me about some website saying Alabama is looking like it is going to have the 4th highest mortality rate. We don't know how legit the website is though. I'm really hoping and praying that isn't true. I feel bad for all the time I complained about how it seems like outside of college football, nothing really happens in Alabama. I think we have had enough going on to last us for a long time.

- April 5,

My sleep schedule is totally ruined. I'm typing this at 3:30 AM and I probably won't go to sleep until 5. Everyone around me seems really panicked about the virus, but I feel surprisingly calm about it all. I think things are inevitable and that things happen for a reason. I'm not saying we should give up and not listen to guidelines, I'm just saying that what happens,

happens. I know that might sound really weird or even selfish, but I genuinely believe God has a reason for this kind of stuff.

I'm ready to not have to hear about the virus anymore. It seems like nothing else is happening but COVID. It's depressing. I know that "there's a day after this" and all but I'm ready for this to be over. I'm so bored, and everyone is so scared. No one knows what to do. This is all just crazy. You grow up learning about stuff like this. The black plague and the Spanish flu are some examples. You never think that something like that would ever happen in your lifetime, but here we are.

- April 7,

Things lately have been kind of calm, which is weird. They finally put in place that you only should leave the house if necessary, and it's hilarious to go on social media and see how mad some of the teenagers are. It's like, "Oh no, how HORRIBLE is it that you have to quarantine like the rest of us have been doing for weeks." They are part of what is making this all worse. Their selfishness is dangerous

My church has moved our services online and it seems to be working well. I had to do tech support late last night for my uncle who is the pastor, but we got things figured out. I can't imagine how great it'll be to see my church family after this is all over.

- April 9,

My mom and brother went to the store today and were actually able to get a hold of some toilet paper which is good. I don't know why Americans chose to stress over that of all things, but I guess that's just how it goes. COVID is making people act all kinds of stupid. There's got to be something to go back to, and they're acting like that doesn't matter.

I have a test tomorrow, and as selfish as it sounds, I wish that they would've ended the semester or at least had let us have the option to take our grades and be done. School on top of everything really just sucks. I'm not learning nearly as much as I would in person. I'm ready for this semester to be done.

- April 11,

It is finally Saturday, so I don't have any work I have to do today. I've heard people saying that there are slowly less and less people with the virus, so maybe things will go back to normal sooner than we are thinking. If the curve flattens out more, then things will get better for sure. It is still irritating to see people hanging out with their friends even though they're being asked to stay home. People are really dumb sometimes.

Finals are in about a week, and I'm hoping that the majority of our finals are cancelled. It is hard to learn from home, I don't understand how home-schooled kids do it. I really hope that this fall semester isn't online too.

- April 12,

Happy Easter! Usually on this day, we go to church and then go see our family. Instead, we watched church online and are hearing about how bad the weather is supposed to be. COVID19 has officially ruined a major holiday. I'm not blaming it for the weather, obviously, but this is usually one of my favorite days in the year.

I miss my friends a little extra today. I don't know how much longer it will be before I see them, which is the worst part. Not knowing what is going to happen next is really unnerving. No one has lived through this before that is alive today. I just hope that we learn from this and that if it happens again, we will be better prepared.

- April 14

Finals start a week from tomorrow. I only know of two finals I have to take so far which is such a relief. I'm ready for this semester to be over. Everything started out so well and then the planet decided to try and end. I've seen a lot of people on social media saying how they felt like they were finally getting themselves together and then the virus attacked.

I'm trying to be hopeful for the rest of the year. If corona acts like the flu, then the summer heat may knock it out, especially here in the hot and humid south. People are saying that when quarantine ends it won't be all at once. A few places at a time may be allowed to return to normal life. I'm hoping we are done with this early.

- April 16

I just read that people from Harvard are thinking we may have intermittent quarantine until 2022. They had better be wrong, because I cannot do this for two more years. I hate being in quarantine so much, nothing about this is fun. You would think that not going to school for two months is fun, but it isn't. You still have all of your schoolwork and responsibilities, but you don't get to see your friends or make memories with them.

I am praying that this ends soon. I don't like having all online classes. I feel really bad for the class of 2020. I remember how much fun I had the last few months of high school. Prom and graduation are also two really memorable things for a high school senior. I'm glad I was class of 2019.

- April 19

I feel a little better today about everything going on. Things may not be like this for much longer. I'm thinking that even if only some things start going back to normal that people will have higher hopes for the future. Everything about COVID 19 blows my mind to think about. I never would have imagined that this would happen.

I also think it is funny how hopeful people were for this year versus everything that happened. Maybe the second half of this year will be better than the first. It wouldn't take that much to be better honestly. Quarantine is not fun at all.

- April 21

I really am feeling the pressure for finals. I only have three but one of them is so long. It is super hard to focus and learn from home, so I'm hoping I'm able to do well regardless of what is happening in the world. I don't have it nearly as bad as some people. There are kids from my brother's high school who had to have the school print all of their schoolwork because they don't have internet access at home.

I am grateful for technology through all of this. My dad says all the time that necessity leads to innovation and that a lot of new stuff will be created because of what is happening. The vacuum company Dyson is going to go from making vacuums to making ventilators. When it comes down to the wire, people get really creative.

- April 23

I finished two of my finals today which is such a relief. I didn't think that was how my freshman year of college would end but here we are. Things seem to be getting better as far as it goes with Alabama. I'm hoping that restrictions will start to be lifted soon so that we can try to start working towards getting our lives back.

I found pictures today from the last time I hung out with my friends and it is crazy to think about. We had no idea at that point that things would get to where they are. I feel like I was ungrateful with the time I had in class this year. I miss driving a whole lot for just 2-3 classes a day, as weird as that is.

- April 25

Some of my friends lately have been talking about how stuff in Alabama might start opening up May 1st. I know that everything won't be able to open at once, but it will be nice to be able to go out and see my friends soon. I really miss my family and friends. We usually see each other so often so this is a really weird change from that.

Alabama's curve is flattening a lot even though a lot of people are still hanging out in big groups. I know that it might not be a super big deal but it's annoying to see people ignoring what they are asked to do, when you are staying at home and following the guidelines.

- April 27

It seems that there are a lot of people recovering from corona. A lot of states are going to start opening stuff up soon so hopefully things will get better. Some people have started protesting businesses being closed and all of that. Trump suggested UV light and injecting disinfectant into your body to help treat corona. Times are weird for sure. I'm trying to be hopeful that this ends soon.

My last final for the semester is tomorrow and I'm praying that it's the end of online classes. If fall semester is all online too, I will be so disappointed. Being there in person makes such a difference. If it is online, I'll just have to deal with it I guess.

This journal covers the majority of April 2020. This journal talks about stuff going on in the world during the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of a college freshman. I have been home in Lincoln, AL in quarantine since March 17th, 2020. I am a freshman and my major is elementary education.