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COVID-19 Journal | Emily Strange

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BishopHY201_StrangeEmily

March 30, 2020

Today was the first day at my Dad's house during the quarantine. Since they moved school to online, I did not want to stay back home by myself on campus. I decided yesterday to come to my Dad's house outside Savannah, Georgia. I figured if I have to be stuck somewhere, I would assume to be stuck here because there is a lot to do. Plus, back home with my mom, I don't have WIFI. I like coming to my Dad's because he lives on the coast and has a boat. We can go fishing or go to the islands, which is basically like going to the beach. Today I rode the four-wheeler around the island with my dog. My dog, Pearl, is 7lbs and loves to ride

I woke up this morning and helped my dad get the boat ready to take out on the water. He had been fixing some things on it from it sitting up during the winter. Then we went and put the boat in and drove it to the dock. He is letting it sit overnight to make sure no water leaks in. Then we went and got bait (shrimp) for fishing. I came home and we cooked steak and lamb chops for dinner. The only bad thing about quarantine is school online. For me personally, school online is harder than in class. For one, you do not have in class lectures. Mostly the hardest part is our online testing. Some teachers make the test a lot harder because they are scared people will cheat. I was given one minute per question in a science class; however, I'm used to having an hour for about forty minutes. As the day comes to an end, I am going to end the night with homework and hanging out with my nephews who are also visiting.

March 31, 2020

Today was just an average day. I woke up and my dad had breakfast cooked. He cooked biscuits with deer sausage. After I ate, I spent the majority of the day doing class work. My Dad went and got BBQ for lunch. I took a break around one and ate. Then I went outside to enjoy some fresh air. While I was outside, one of my nephews asked if I wanted bikes around the island. He brought his bike from home; however, I had to dig mine out of the garage. I haven't ridden my bike since middle school, but my dad kept it put up for me. I got it out and greased up the chain and aired up the tires. My nephew and I rode around the island for a while. My nephew was trying to run me off the side of the road into a sprinkler in someone's yard and made me wreck. I caught myself thank goodness and he was fine. He thought it was funny.

After I got back, I came inside to do homework. My nephew, Emery, came inside running yelling, "Emily, come look, Pepaw caught a big fish." So, my Dad (his Pepaw) fileted the fish and cooked it for dinner. I finished up the night by taking a history test. Finally, I'm getting to relax and watch a Disney movie with my nephews in the living room where were all

sleeping. I am on the air mattress, while they're on the couches. Tomorrow, if it does not rain, Dad wants us to work on my car or the boat. I can't wait to see how that goes especially considering I have a ton of online work to do!

April 2, 2020

Today was an eventful day. I woke up and ate breakfast with my nephews. My dad woke up early because he is building a shop and the workers came and poured the concrete slab. He cooked when he got up early this morning so breakfast would be ready for us when we woke up. After I got up, my nephew wanted to ride the four-wheeler, so I took him for a ride. I also zip tied a basket onto the front and sat my dog in it so she could go. After that, I did homework for a couple of hours.

The afternoon came around and my dad told me to call the crab company to see if they were doing to go orders. He wanted to take the boat out for a ride, so we rode to the crab company and docked to get our food. Once we got there, we waited a few minutes for our food to get ready. We all ate fresh shrimp for dinner on the boat with a view. My nephews were throwing fries to the seagulls, and I just knew one of them was going to poop on me. We finally made it back to the house, and I got a shower to get ready for bed. Now I am going to study for upcoming tests until I fall asleep.

April 4, 2020

Today has been consumed by school. I woke up and ate a pop tart outside in front of the water. I called my best friend back home and talked to her for a little while. Once I got done, I came inside to start school work. I have a test in two days in microbiology, and it is a lot of material. It is also a hard class, and I am spending a lot of time taking notes on the video lectures. After about six hours of studying, I went outside to take a break.

I thought I was going to take a break, but turns out my Dad needed me to fold a lot of laundry and cook bacon. He was grilling burgers outside while watching the boys. So, he asked me to cook a whole pack of bacon. After we ate, my nephews and I made homemade cupcakes. We make yellow cupcakes and made two different icings. I made homemade peanut butter, and my nephew made homemade chocolate icing. We split the icing between the cupcakes, and we all ate one with a glass of milk.

April 6, 2020

Today was pretty boring. I hung around the house for a while this morning. I finally got up and ate a pop tart for breakfast. After I ate breakfast, I went outside and helped my dad around the shop. We also cleaned up the boat so we can take it out. I think we are going to take it out in a few days to the island and hang out there all day.

I went with my Dad to the boat mechanic to look for a little motor for an old boat he bought. He wanted a project to work on during all this, and he got one. We started cleaning the

boat up and getting it ready to paint. We also got the rotten wood up and replaced it with new wood. My nephew was down at the dock fishing and caught some fish. My dad helped him clean it, and we ate it for dinner. It was a chill day overall.

April 8, 2020

Today was a very fun day. It started out storming this morning. I love sleeping when it is thundering and raining outside, however, when I heard storms this morning, I was sad. My dad and I had packed the boat up last night to go to island with everyone in the house. So, when I heard rain, I panicked, but Dad had watched the weather and it was supposed to be clear by ten. So, I got up and my step mom cooked pancakes. We all got on our bathing suits, ate, and we were out the door.

Once we got on the boat, it was about a thirty-minute ride to the island. We stopped and got McDonalds for lunch and ate it on the boat. The boat ride was not too bad, but it was a little choppy from the wind. I brought my dog because she loves the sand and basically goes everywhere, she can with me. She was playing with the frisbee, running around in the sand, and even running through the edge of the water. We all got some fresh air, which was needed from being cooped up in the house together. We also grilled for dinner on the island and ate before it was time to leave. We had a crazy ride home, and we were all soaked. The waves were coming over the boat and felt like a roller coaster. Overall, today was one of the best “quarantine” days yet. There was even a group of people that had a flag flying through the air that said “quarantine coronavirus”.

April 10, 2020

Today was a good day. My Dad’s friend called him late last night asking him if we wanted to go pick strawberries. My dad and I told him we would go. My Dad told him we would pick him up at nine this morning. He woke me up this morning and we went and got breakfast from McDonald’s at the drive thru. Then we went and picked up Kenny to go get strawberries.

We went and picked strawberries for about an hour or so. We ended up picking about fifty pounds of strawberries. Once we got home, we decided to go and get some fresh shrimp to have a low country boil for supper. We went to the seafood market and got some shrimp. While we were cooking, we ate probably a gallon of strawberries. The shrimp turned out good and we had potatoes to eat with them. Overall it was a good day.

April 12, 2020

Today I came back from Georgia to my apartment in Alabama near campus. I plan to finish out the semester here and go back when it’s over. Easter was yesterday, and it was not the same. I have never not woken up on Easter Sunday morning and not went to church, seen family, and gotten dressed up. I taught my nephews the meaning of Easter and what it was really about. It concerns me how some just think about the Easter bunny.

After we had a Sunday morning lesson, we went outside and sorted strawberries. We had to bag them in separate bags depending on if they were for smoothies, jelly, or just to eat. It was

a very time-consuming job. My Dad had a fire going, and we cooked smores and sat by the fire. My step mom put a roast on and we ate that for supper. Overall it was a great day spent with family.

April 14, 2020

Today was a long day. I drove home from my Dad's house back to Alabama. I went back to my apartment in Jacksonville, which is like a ghost town. None of my friends are there or any of my roommates. I have to stay here because I do not have Wi-Fi at my mom's house so it is going to be lonely for a while. Luckily, I have my dog Pearl to keep me company. I spent the afternoon unpacking my clothes and cleaning up because the apartment even smelled musky from no one being here. I am tired from driving all day, so I went to bed early. I bet I sleep like a rock because I was having to sleep on an air mattress at my Dad's house because my step sister had to move into the extra bedroom.

April 16, 2020

Today I came home to visit my mom. I have not seen her in a while since I have been quarantined at my Dad's. I also got to see all my other dogs and I was so excited. I miss my dogs a lot when I leave and they are always so excited to see me. My mom grilled steaks on the grill for dinner and I cooked okra, corn, and baked potatoes inside. She had done a lot of work in the garden and was showing me all of her flowers.

I finished my school work up for the day before I left, so I am staying at home. I am going to snuggle with my dog Molly and Pearl will sleep with me as usual, too. I am going to watch Netflix until I fall asleep. My mom is supposed to cook biscuits and gravy in the morning. That is my favorite meal especially with a glass of sweet tea.

April 18, 2020

Today was a fun day. I drove home after finishing a test at the apartment. My mom and I called in takeout from one of our favorite restaurants. We love eating at The Ark. I grew up working there through high school and my freshman year of college. Every time I go home, I at least get some hushpuppies. My mom and I ordered the same thing we always get. We got a grilled shrimp dinner with baked potato and okra. My mom always gets an extra side of okra, too. I went and picked the food up in my Mini Cooper. I put my dog's dog bed in the back and let my seats down so they could ride. I had all the windows down and took back roads so they enjoyed the ride. It was a good day overall.

April 20, 2020

I spent today in Jacksonville. I have a few friends that are stuck here with me. So, we decided to have a movie night. My friend Becky and I went to Little Caesar's and got a pizza and cheesy bread for us to eat. We ended up finding a new show on Netflix called outer banks. We

watched the first two episodes and it was so good. It was so good we all made a pact that we could only watch it when we were with each other. We also made brownies. We used my Grandmother's secret recipe and they were so good. We all ate brownies with a glass of milk and then everyone went home. I am going to go to bed here soon. Today was nice seeing a few friends.

April 22, 2020

I went and spent today at home. I did all my homework and studying before I left Jacksonville so I could visit with my family. My brother also drove home today. My brother and I went and got my little cousin to watch. He is always so much fun. We took him to the pasture to feed the horses and the donkey. He loves animals. My brother also has a snake that he loves to look at, but he is still scared of them. I went to the store and got some chicken because my brother wanted to cook tacos. Corbin was playing with Pearl and running around outside all afternoon. I gave him a bath before dinner was ready. We all ate tacos and me and Corbin watched Scooby Doo until his mom came and got him.

April 24, 2020

I spent today with one of my friends Brad. He called me and asked me if I wanted to go grocery shopping with him and help him with a finance project. We went to Walmart and got groceries and he bought stuff to make spaghetti. He wanted me to cook that night, so I told him I would. We got back from the grocery store and he got his work out. I helped him figure out the math part of his project so he was able to do well on his final and his homework. Then we both cooked spaghetti and watched tv. My dad called me right after he ate and told me I needed to come down for a few days that he needed me. So, I came home and packed and got ready to leave the next morning.

April 26, 2020

I spent the day with my dad today. He needed help with his business and needed me around the house. He helped me change the oil in my car today. We also spent most of the day outside. It is very hot over here, but there is big moss trees that shade the back yard and keep it cool. Pearl loves being over here. She has been running through the sand non-stop and playing with the cat. For dinner, my dad and I decided to get some fresh shrimp from Sunbury Crab Company. I got my favorite peel and eat shrimp and my dad got fried shrimp. That is one of the best things about living here is the fresh seafood all the time. I went and picked up our food. When I got back, we ate outside on the back porch and watched the sunset. My dad went to bed as soon as he ate, and I am going to watch tv and study until I fall asleep.

April 28, 2020

I finished this semester!! I took my last final, and all I have left is this journal. It has been a very interesting semester to say the least. It has actually just been a crazy year so far. Missing out on this semester of college was very sad. Being away from all my friends and just a change

in routine. I am glad this semester is over as far as school goes. School online has not been very fun and it was hard. It was stressful keeping up with everything online as well. I am back home in Jacksonville. I drove home yesterday. It was a long drive as usual, but I am glad to be home. I hope the virus continues to flatten so we can go back to our normal lives. I never thought I would miss school but I do. I also miss work; which I did not think I wouldn't say either. I am going to spend the rest of my afternoon relaxing and hanging out with my dog.

During Covid-19 I was back and forth between my Dad's house and my apartment in Jacksonville. I am a Sophomore here at JSU and majoring in Nursing. Throughout my journal, I just described what I did each day. It has been different as far as not going to school or work, but it has made me close with family as well. The only thing was that school was harder online than in class when you are not used to it. I hope my story helps people understand what it was like living during the pandemic.