

Unknown Speaker 0:02

Hello, welcome to the Wake Forest Oral History Project. These are student to student interviews. Today, I have Eleanor Grage. She's a junior here at Wake Forest. She's a theater major with minors in biology and chemistry. And she is currently in Jacksonville, Florida quarantined.

Unknown Speaker 0:22

Eleanor, thank you for talking with me today.

Unknown Speaker 0:26

Awesome. So we're just trying to get an idea of how COVID-19 has affected you being at home with your family or wherever you are quarantined in sort of how that's affected your life and how that's been a new normal for you. So our first question is just sort of talk about the first time you you like heard about COVID-19 When do you know like when the first time you realized it was gonna have a big impact on your life, were you at school or were you over spring break?

Unknown Speaker 0:57

Well, I guess the first time

Unknown Speaker 1:01

I think it was because I'm an RA so I had to come back to campus a little bit earlier. And I think it was done that I watched a podcast that I watch a lot and they were talking about the corona virus and I like I originally thought of it maybe like Ebola like, yeah, it'll probably a few cases here but it's not gonna

Unknown Speaker 1:21

hurt us and I thought I was terrified because

Unknown Speaker 1:25

I thought it would be also like Ebola in the sense that it went through recovery rates would be so low.

Unknown Speaker 1:37

Was the other part of that question? It

Unknown Speaker 1:39

was when you realized it was going to affect your life when the weight of it like it could affect school and your schedule for the future end of the summer.

Unknown Speaker 1:48

I guess when it hit my old town and your way Upstate.

Unknown Speaker 1:55

Like, really small kind of hc

Unknown Speaker 2:00

Like a lot of farms and things, and I just thought, Oh my gosh, there and they said was really bad.

Unknown Speaker 2:06

What does that mean?

Unknown Speaker 2:11

Oh no, you're fine. You're fine.

Unknown Speaker 2:13

Yeah, so one of the next question we have here is like, so what is what is your new normal look like? What did it look

like during, let's say, mid March in April when you were having like a full online schedule and sort of how does that transition to the being summer and or what are you currently doing right now?

Unknown Speaker 2:42

I guess

Unknown Speaker 2:46

it was just hard to be away from my friends because when other people were studying at the same time, it was easier to stay motivated. There was more like guilt. If I saw other people in the library, and I wasn't in the library. So I felt like there was much more time where I was just doing nothing because I didn't feel much pressure to do so my parents or my teachers told me, you know, don't worry about it too much. And there was a moment where my grades slipped a little bit and then I freaked out.

Unknown Speaker 3:17

Yeah, how did you how'd you handle like the pass fail? situation?

Unknown Speaker 3:22

Did you utilize that? or How did that work for you?

Unknown Speaker 3:31

That's awesome, man. That's really awesome. Thanks. So currently, so you're helping out with the oral history project? Are you doing like a part? Are you doing part time? Are you Are you full time with the project?

Unknown Speaker 3:44

full time 25 to 30 hours a week.

Unknown Speaker 3:45

Okay, cool. Are you doing anything else there in Jacksonville Are you you know, you just kind of laying low the virus.

Unknown Speaker 3:56

The opposite of civic and community engagement is also doing a book club. So Okay,

Unknown Speaker 4:01

I want to talk about

Unknown Speaker 4:06

Oh, okay, cool, awesome.

Unknown Speaker 4:09

thing. That's awesome. So one of the other questions is, so how did that transition look from, let's say, so, how about this? How was the move out when you went? Have you moved out your stuff yet? Oh, someone's doing it for you. Okay, so you have it. Have you been back to campus since spring break?

Unknown Speaker 4:32

Yeah, I went to another office of civic and community engagement trip. So when I got back, I just got my essentials and tried to get my room organized because I originally thought we would be back up there. So just, I tried to use all my time to make it easy for my parents to come and get my stuff. You know, I had a donate pile and a storage pile and a back to Florida pile.

Unknown Speaker 4:55

Which, I mean doesn't really matter now.

Unknown Speaker 5:00

So yeah.

Unknown Speaker 5:02

Is there any chance yet? Do you have any siblings that were in high school or anything? Or do you have any siblings right now?

Unknown Speaker 5:07

Yeah, two of them are kind of insignificant because they're older. Okay. I've got one twin sister who vacationed in California for spring break, and then she goes to University of Richmond. Okay, so she drove she within. So it went from, you have to go home for two weeks, one day to the next day. She's back in Richmond, and nobody's letting her inside the building. And so she had to sneak in because she was supposed to stay in a hotel, but maybe I shouldn't be saying this. But so she got one. So she traveled all that because it was all the way from California to Virginia. And then that night she got one night she had to scramble all her stuff together, drive down to Wake Forest, which was like three hours. And then that same day, we drove down to Florida, which was another seven or eight

Unknown Speaker 5:55

Gosh, whoa,

Unknown Speaker 6:00

I remember

Unknown Speaker 6:02

when I was putting myself in a car, I'm like, Kevin, you didn't leave any room for me and she was just making fun of me like you really expect me to think about anybody other than myself

Unknown Speaker 6:09

right now. Oh my goodness. That's crazy.

Unknown Speaker 6:15

That's crazy. So it's really

Unknown Speaker 6:18

how old are your parents or your parents? Are you with your parents in Jacksonville right now? Okay, and are they were they affected like workwise? Like by Coronavirus? Are they working from home now?

Unknown Speaker 6:32

My mom doesn't work and my dad is in medicine, but he's a radiologist so he can read everything from

Unknown Speaker 6:39

home. Okay. Wow. Okay. Wow,

Unknown Speaker 6:45

I'm still impressed. So you took you took so you took all the classes with letter grades? Did you did you have to think like was out because I know for me that was like, that was a big decision. I had my last foreign language requirement for Spanish and I'm not I'm not the biggest Spanish guy at all. foreign language for that matter, and I needed to get it out of the way. And I thought it was like a, like a miracle that they were allowing pass fail for the Spanish requirement for language. So I definitely took I took that and I took another, but like, was there any like long division for any class? You were sort of in between on?

Unknown Speaker 7:21

Yeah, probably chemistry 280 just because

Unknown Speaker 7:27

I think that the test got harder because he thought people were cheating.

Unknown Speaker 7:32

So that kind of hit me in the butt. But

Unknown Speaker 7:37

I don't know, part of it was that my parents were like, you know?

Unknown Speaker 7:45

Yeah. Yeah. I noticed that as well. I noticed that in a lot of my classes. professors were changing the way either making it seemed like some professors were making the material They lowered the bar was so low in some classes and then in other classes, it seemed like it was raised due to the fact that there was speculation of cheating or cutting corners and whatnot. So

Unknown Speaker 8:11

yeah, that was something for me. That was, that was interesting.

Unknown Speaker 8:14

But I took so I took online classes a lot in high school, because I traveled a lot for golf. And so it felt very reminiscent of high school when I was home doing stuff which I think I liked in some respects I didn't another but was that like, the first time you like did online class, like took online courses or anything?

Unknown Speaker 8:31

Yeah, and I just did not identify with it like, yeah, I sit in the front row. I want to, I want to, I'm a participator. And so it just felt so disconnected. It was so easy to just like,

Unknown Speaker 8:43

yes,

Unknown Speaker 8:45

play crosswords on my computer.

Unknown Speaker 8:48

Yeah, that's tough. I think it's weird to the setup of some of the client like some classes where like, I think it's similar to the low somewhere low bar somewhere high bar, like some of my classes. I'm a psych major and some one of my secrets Requirements our class met regularly at 8am. Eastern time. And I had kids. I mean, I had students in my class from all over the country, and I cannot imagine being on the west coast and waking up at 5am Tuesdays and Thursdays for this course.

Unknown Speaker 9:15

schedule, then, you know, you're getting less fun times.

Unknown Speaker 9:21

Yeah, it's, it is it is very crazy. I think for man for a college student. At this time, especially for the seniors, it must have felt like a really robbed time of you know, man, that was really tough. So, one of the questions these are sort of sort of wrapping up, but more in regard to like, your friends at Wake, and like missing activities and events during the springtime at time, like how is it sort of affected your relationships with them? Or have you been like keeping up in touch with them or has that been difficult due to, you know, like, the craziness of

Unknown Speaker 9:57

everything, everything that's happened with COVID

Unknown Speaker 10:03

I guess I'm an introvert so it's actually allowed me to avoid them which is probably gonna hurt me next time but

Unknown Speaker 10:11

I've spent

Unknown Speaker 10:14

I've spent more time with people from Syracuse that I probably never would wise want to spend time with. Which I wouldn't have expected and I don't know it just didn't feel as personal when like the Catholics got on the call, you know, because you can't break up into smaller little groups and size off people.

Unknown Speaker 10:36

Just and you don't know when to it's it's harder to talk.

Unknown Speaker 10:41

That is so true.

Unknown Speaker 10:42

Yeah.

Unknown Speaker 10:44

It is really crazy. Oh, man. Yeah, the zoom zooms are I think they were super like, I thought I thought was really funny. All the jokes that I love. I don't love it. I think they're I think they're really I think they're kind of funny. The jokes that say like, ever run zoom? Definitely started Coronavirus. So the ones that created Coronavirus, because zoom is just completely, like taken over everything, which is.

Unknown Speaker 11:15

Yeah, like, I've had that as well, like friends that like a group of friends like, Yeah, well, we'll get a zoom meeting going. I was like what? group face times are also a thing? That's fair. Yeah, I think it said, though, the jokes that talk about that and the jokes that say not this is not really joking, but this is just like sort of like a, like a realism. It's just like that, in the future. 2020 will be one of the biggest sections of like, tech history textbooks, which I think is very cool. But also, I don't know,

Unknown Speaker 11:46

it's sort of eye opening to think that we're living we're living in it right now.

Unknown Speaker 11:49

There's something going on with injustice and racial justice in the COVID-19. So one of the questions here, this is sort of up to you where you want to take this one. I think this is a really Question. So what effect has COVID-19 had on your on your values? So you can sort of take that as you may like family dynamics, where you've spent your time. I know it sounds like you're passionate about I mean medicine as well as the ater.

Unknown Speaker 12:16

So just speak

Unknown Speaker 12:17

to anything really.

Unknown Speaker 12:23

talks about the Black Lives Matter things going on.

Unknown Speaker 12:26

Yeah, please like

Unknown Speaker 12:29

I don't know, it just wasn't. I, I feel like this has been a very unique opportunity for those people of color or the eyes to see. To speak up and they seem very comfortable speaking and, and getting the word out. And I've never been in a situation like this where everything's out there right in front of me. And that's all the only thing I see. And I feel like it's

a really great opportunity for me to grow. definitely changed my values. Like I signed up for the book club before any of that happened. And I remember Oh, the first because it's all social justice issues. And I think because I'm a woman, I just naturally fall more towards feminism. And I'm a vegan, so I'm interested in that too. But I feel like it's, it's making me even though I don't don't identify with it, it would be people of color. I feel like I'm learning a lot. And I think I'm just really growing as a person learning how to talk about it. How to be different, my friends. I'm an RA. So this is this. I hope this transfers to being better. All right,

Unknown Speaker 13:38

huh. Wow. Yeah. So you're so yeah, you said you were an RA on campus. So were you an RA were you an RA this past semester to? Like, the fall of 2020. Oh, Fall of Yeah. No fall of 2019 in the spring of 2020. Okay, yeah. So how is that I just curious from like, how How is that? How I bet that was like really different from freshman year in a freshman dorm and wake forest? Become doing that to become an RA did that like your responsibilities change at all?

Unknown Speaker 14:13

Yeah, so like

Unknown Speaker 14:16

did you try to think?

Unknown Speaker 14:20

Did it did it? Did it impact the way that like you, you sort of schedule your day like, did you when you're when you're an RA

Unknown Speaker 14:28

I'm trying to think of how

Unknown Speaker 14:32

what what are the what are like what Yeah, what are like the basic responsibilities like that have changed, like from freshman year being in a dorm on, you know, south end of campus to like, Where are you in right now? Oh,

Unknown Speaker 14:49

that's awesome. Wow.

Unknown Speaker 14:50

Okay. But I guess I just remember from freshman year, our resident our our ra on third floor of valgus. Well, he had a lot of stuff Buddy and he was like a mentor to a lot of us. And I was wondering if that's any different profession here? I don't know maybe I was just

Unknown Speaker 15:13

talking about their own experiences with their

Unknown Speaker 15:17

era

Unknown Speaker 15:19

isn't really anything that there isn't really any requirements that forces you to be one way or the other. You do have to you just like I'm kind of a dork. I spent my weekend studying but like, you have to spend weekends in the like every other weekend. You have to spend one night in the dorm in the box, you know, I don't think that's too much. And then one night a week every two weeks in the week day, sitting in the box and just kind of patrolling the halls and then just being there people of prices.

Unknown Speaker 15:58

That's awesome. Wow. Awesome. So, so you're so you're an RA and you sounds like you're pretty active and like the civic engagement can be like the the department awake. So were you were you involved with that freshman year too? Or

is that or just sort of, is that like a community of people that like you got into maybe like into sophomore year or?

Unknown Speaker 16:23

Well, I have a friend who had done like an alternative spring break at her college. Okay, that's what made me into it. Spring of freshman year.

Unknown Speaker 16:32

And then I guess,

Unknown Speaker 16:34

I guess at spring break, spring break.

Unknown Speaker 16:41

In this spring break, did you spend Did you Did you do something with the engagement civic engagement community, did you? What were you doing this spring break?

Unknown Speaker 16:52

I really lucked out. It was really just a spring break. Walking. Cats and dogs. Oh, not walking the cats but play What

Unknown Speaker 17:02

was that? It was that around Winston was

Unknown Speaker 17:11

really cool. Wow. That's awesome. So did you go so you would say you were at Spring Break in Atlanta and then did you come? Did you say you came back to school or did you go back home to Jacksonville?

Unknown Speaker 17:26

altogether, so they had to bring it back to waco.

Unknown Speaker 17:30

Okay, wow. Okay, so you were on your trip when you heard that a class like I remember I, I kind of vaguely remember when we got the email or whatever it was that saying that. We I think the days leading up to it, we kind of knew it was coming because we'd seen other schools do it and wake took their time. And so we saw that it was going to at least school was going to be tentatively pushed back. But were you on that trip with like your friends when they when you got that email?

Unknown Speaker 17:55

Yeah. I was weirdly thankful that you know, people went home And then they were just with their families. But it was a unique situation where I was with all wake people. And so we were just experiencing together, experiencing it together. And there was two seniors. And they were devastated. And it was hard to escape from it because people had their like, Aha. Like, this is serious moments that separate time. So it just felt like very intense for the last couple days.

Unknown Speaker 18:27

Yeah, I think the man in the class of 2020, the high schoolers, or high schoolers in the in the college students, and I guess, grad and grad school and whatnot. I mean, that is, they're going to be remembered for a long time, but it's just an unfortunate, unfortunate thing. Well,

Unknown Speaker 18:44

well, I think that

Unknown Speaker 18:46

that wraps up a lot of the questions. But thank you so much for taking the time and

Unknown Speaker 18:53

that's awesome. Great

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