

Unknown Speaker 0:01

Okay, so

Unknown Speaker 0:04

um,

Unknown Speaker 0:06

so tell me about the first time you heard about COVID-19. And when was the first time you realized it was gonna affect your life?

Unknown Speaker 0:14

Um, I first heard about it, I think like, pretty much the first couple days of January. And, like, yeah, my mind immediately went to like Ebola and SARS. So I didn't think it would be like, something that directly impacted me. Like I thought it'd be more contained in something that like within a couple of weeks would kind of have passed out of the, like the mainstream news cycle. But then, obviously it didn't, it kept getting worse and worse and worse. And, like I don't know, I kind of follow it all throughout the semester with my friends, it was something that we would like joke about as being, like something really bad on the horizon, like if you're, I don't know, if you like get a bad grade or something like it doesn't matter, like, everything's gonna shut down because of Coronavirus anyway, or something like that, kind of like facetiously, because I think maybe we didn't actually think it was going to be as severe as it ended up being. But I think the first couple of weeks before spring break, when like, the first cases occurred in Washington or whatever. I think we started to take it a lot more seriously. And now those cases got worse and worse, and there's that like nursing home or something that like, a bunch of their patients got it in Washington and we were like, Oh, this gonna be really bad. And then, like the day, like, I think was the Friday that we left for spring break. Like a bunch of our professors had told us that they'd been told to make like contingency plans in case we don't go back. We were all leaving that day to go on spring break together. And we were talking about it like when my one of my friends said, as we were leaving our suite that like, he would put money on us not going back. And I'm really I was like, that's ridiculous. Um, but then like, throughout the week of spring break, we kept seeing like other schools shutting down and like, I think when Duke just said that they were canceling classes. I knew like there's no way that Wake wasn't going to. Um, I think that was like maybe a day or two before we sent out the email.

Unknown Speaker 2:40

So yeah,

Unknown Speaker 2:41

yeah, Spring Break was definitely when I knew it was really going to affect my life.

Unknown Speaker 2:48

And then what is your new normal?

Unknown Speaker 2:54

um

Unknown Speaker 2:57

frankly,

Unknown Speaker 3:00

I guess, I don't know, my I feel like my life right now is not so different than it was, like this time last year, um, which is kind of crazy. But like, I don't know, I guess I don't go out nearly as much. And obviously, the masks everywhere is a new normal, and there's like a very heightened awareness about like sanitation and personal space. Um, that's definitely something that, you know, I did not have previously, um and I guess like a reluctance to go out. I'm like sometimes I think about whether it's really necessary for me to leave. Um, but frankly, other than that, at this point last year I was kind of doing the same stuff. For better or for worse. Um, yeah,

Unknown Speaker 4:06
that's my new normal.

Unknown Speaker 4:10
And then how did you transition into this new normal? And what factors of your life, socioeconomic status distance from home, all that? How did that affect this process?

Unknown Speaker 4:23
So I think

Unknown Speaker 4:25
like when I say that my new normal is not so different

Unknown Speaker 4:30
from what it was previously. I think that's in large part because of those various components of my identity. Because I'm extremely privileged that my new normal during this pandemic is pretty normal, frankly. You know, my parents still have their jobs, they work from home. I'm

Unknown Speaker 4:57
not like on the frontlines, this pandemic and I'm not struggling to

Unknown Speaker 5:03
find work. So

Unknown Speaker 5:08
those like those parts, my identity,

Unknown Speaker 5:12
my privilege is essentially what has made my transition so, so easy and so nonchalant because it's easy to see how if I was not in the financial situation I'm presently in, my new normal would be a lot different and the transition to that new normal would be much more arduous.

Unknown Speaker 5:37
So, yeah, my,

Unknown Speaker 5:40
all those components of my privilege and definitely eased that transition, I guess.

Unknown Speaker 5:48
How did you feel about virtual education?

Unknown Speaker 5:53
Frankly, I mean, I don't know, I guess mixed feelings. I, I think somewhat enjoyed the anonymity of it. Because I'm not a huge like class participation person. And I've never like really enjoyed, like group stuff. So I kind of like just sitting back and listening to a lecture.

Unknown Speaker 6:21
And

Unknown Speaker 6:23
in that aspect, I think I fairly enjoyed.

Unknown Speaker 6:28
However,

Unknown Speaker 6:31

the, I think, some of my professors didn't do a fantastic job of transitioning to online classes, which isn't frankly, their fault, because it was so abrupt. They didn't really know what they're doing. And neither did the students but like I definitely learned less than I would have otherwise.

Unknown Speaker 6:48

And

Unknown Speaker 6:50

like one of my classes, kind of just quit lectures altogether. And just assigned, she assigned work and then like optional calls every now and then, which I kind of liked on the one hand because I had to do a lot less work and had to talk to fewer people. But on the other hand, I've learned nothing.

Unknown Speaker 7:12

I had a professor do that too.

Unknown Speaker 7:14

Yeah, yeah yeah yeah. I mean, on the one hand, I get it. Like, I would also want to do a lot less work if I was in their shoes, but, you know, it was Political Methods. So it's kind of important that I learned that stuff. Um, and, I don't know I liked the recorded lectures, like where I would just log on and watch a video. Obviously, for the same reason that I don't have to interact with anyone. But on the other hand, if I have a question or want to add a comment or something, I don't have that option. And that's obviously like a valuable part of the in person class experience is the ability to deliberate with the professor and with the class. So I guess it's sort of multifaceted. I'd like the leisure and the sort of independence and the ability to do stuff in my own time, without like having interacted with people. But I did not like the sort of, I don't know, maybe like lackadaisical education and like lack of substance.

Unknown Speaker 8:30

Did you find like time management to be an issue?

Unknown Speaker 8:35

Um

Unknown Speaker 8:39

hmm.

Unknown Speaker 8:41

Not really, honestly. I, I mean, I don't know. Maybe it's just because my time management was never good. That's probably the reason actually, like I was never good at time management, I would always procrastinate. And this just gave me a platform to be much more successful with my procrastination. I would do all my stuff like, I don't know, the night before class then come to class like kind of unprepared. And now when I would do it, there'd be like no ramifications. Yeah.

Unknown Speaker 9:13

Yeah, that's so true. How has COVID-19 affected your relationships?

Unknown Speaker 9:23

Um, I mean, it's definitely made me a little more distant with my friends at Wake. Um, because, I mean, we still like talk every day, you know, like, through text and stuff, but, I mean, I used to like, I used to, like, live with these people. So it's a lot less interaction in that sense, which I think leads to a little more

Unknown Speaker 9:51

distance, if that makes sense.

Unknown Speaker 9:55
And like on top of that,

Unknown Speaker 9:59
like coming back to

Unknown Speaker 10:02
Atlanta. I guess I've gotten closer incrementally with my Atlanta friends and a little less so with my friends from Wake, and they've all done the same thing. So I think like, everyone's attention sort of shifted from their friends at Wake to their friends at home, in terms of like, I don't know time out of the day that they're allocating to that relationship. So slightly more distanced from my friends at Wake, slightly closer to my friends in Atlanta. Um obviously close with my family because I'm living with them now. Um,

Unknown Speaker 10:47
yeah, yeah.

Unknown Speaker 10:52
And then what effect has COVID-19 had on your values?

Unknown Speaker 11:01
Yeah, like you said, I think it's made me much more aware of the extent to which, the extent to which I'm a person in a society, I'm in a global society, and it's something, like oftentimes, um like I get really invested in political issues that like most people out in the world don't really know much about. That's like most the time like the political stuff that I glean from like Twitter that's like, pretty politically informed, most people in the United States don't really care about and if you ask them about it, they would have no idea what you're talking about. But I think like, that's, that's kind of where Coronavirus started for me was like this fringe thing that no one really cared about or knew about where um, and now, like, seeing everyone everywhere wearing masks, like people driving around in their cars wearing masks, people in lines of grocery stores and restaurants wearing masks, it's like something that every single person is affected by and knows about, and is aware of, and is experiencing all together. And obviously, that's like, terrible, you know, preferably that wouldn't be the case. However, in terms of shaping my values, I think it's been somewhat refreshing. And this is again, privileged, privileged of me to say, but it's like somewhat sort of refreshing to see this like shared experience. And like the, I guess shared reactions to it, and the steps people take to sort of get through it together. If that makes sense. I mean, which is maybe a little idealistic. But it definitely affects my perspective seeing that everywhere I go, there's this like very visual representation of the fact that this experience is affecting literally everyone. And that's something that like, I almost never see. Like maybe the equivalent is like presidential elections, then like, a lot of people know, you know, what's going on. But like the mask as being this very visual and very present, representation of that experience that everyone's having has really made me more aware of the extent to which I don't know, like you said, this sort of collective aspect of it. I think that's been pretty powerful in making me a more community minded person.

Unknown Speaker 14:04
Yeah, well, I completely agree. So

Unknown Speaker 14:09
but I think that's it. So

Unknown Speaker 14:12
great are we supposed to

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