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A Window Inside

La Salle community responds to COVID-19



A Window Inside

How the La Salle community is responding to COVID-19

Jacob Garwood
Editor

The Collegian sent out a short survey a few days ago, asking anyone willing to share what their thoughts were on the nationwide transition to social distancing and online learning. We received a number of responses from our social media followers — some were current or former La Salle students, but we also received responses from people of other walks of life, including some parents, family members and friends. The responses tend to follow a common theme: we as a campus community, and as a nation, are in a holding pattern. We are working to adjust to a new normal of life, and we're finding ways to adapt and cope.

La Salle students are currently in week two of spring break. Classes from March 23 to 27 were all cancelled for what many are referring to as the continuity planning period to allow professors to move all courses to an online-only format. When the continuity week was initially announced, courses were online until April 6; online learning has since been extended to last for the remainder of the spring semester. Some students have been using this time to make sure they're prepared as well; others have simply been making the best of extra free time.

Katherine Mathon '21 said that she is preparing by "making a very detailed virtual calendar planning out all of my assignments." Mathon continued by saying, "I have made an in-home workspace so I can focus better in my house."

A few students, perhaps somewhat sarcastically, said that they have been "charging [their] laptop." Others indicated varying levels of preparedness ranging from one sophomore who said they were "completely unprepared" to others who check emails and Canvas daily and are keeping detailed lists of tasks as they are assigned.

As the continuity planning period continues, students are beginning to get some indication from their professors as to how classes will proceed. Many are anticipating professors will share recorded lectures or powerpoints with voice overs; others have indicated that there will be Zoom sessions. One student said that they had a professor already test-run a synchronous discussion on a Canvas discussion board. Not everything is clear yet; for instance, there has been no university-wide guidance on whether or not classes should be held at their regularly scheduled times. As a result, some students, especially those who have yet to hear from their professors, are awaiting more guidance on what to expect in the upcoming weeks. The semester has five more weeks in it, and finals are still scheduled from May 4 - 7.

There tends to be some common themes among the ways in which people pass the time now that many are cooped up and socially distant. For instance, Rose Adkisson '20 and Jimmy Killoran '20 both solved a Rubik's cube. A lot of people, like Alina Snopkowski '22, are taking up different forms of art. Snopkowski said, "my sisters and I are going to have an 'art party' where we all draw together." Nicole Phillips '20 is doing photography, and a number of other students are taking the time to work on paintings and drawings. Rita Offutt '22, taking up a slightly different form of arts and crafts, and one that is very topical, said that she has taken up soap making.

Most people are generally aware that there is a run on toilet paper nationwide. But, the shortage that has been getting less press coverage is the flour and yeast shortage. People across the country have been using their down time at home to bake, especially breads and other baked goods that are time consuming and labor-intensive, and the La Salle community is not immune to this trend. Though she didn't respond to our survey, (she probably, understandably, has other things on her plate) La Salle University President Colleen Hanycz has joined the trend, and on March 16 posted a picture of her own baking creations on Twitter.

Even in the midst of great change and uncertainty, people are finding silver linings. And one of the most positive outcomes of social distancing is that people are finding themselves able to spend more time with their family members. Kimberly Moore, a high school English teacher, said that even though her 12-year-old may not be thrilled with the restrictions of quarantine and social distancing, "For me, however, I am enjoying the time I am getting to spend turning inward and focusing on projects I haven't had time for previously and the quality time I am spending with my family."

Mathon expressed similar sentiments, indicating that the response to COVID-19 is giving her the chance to catch up with those she doesn't see while at school. Mathon said, "I have been going out on walks with some old friends from my neighborhood and we all walk six feet apart. I am spending a lot of time with my younger brother building a bunch of LEGO sets."

To understate it, the virus is causing some concerns for people. In the most obvious sense, a global pandemic poses a huge threat to the health and wellbeing of people. Alumnus Gary DalCorso's work has been adjusted to online only. He works as a tax assessor and said he's always been able to work from home. DalCorso did express concern over some people's response to the virus, saying, "At 67, I'm beginning to hear some thoughtless individuals saying they'd die to save the economy and if we start thinking like that, we're doomed. They'll go out in public and foolishly sicken the nation tenfold."

What DalCorso observes as a possibility — people defying the imperatives of social distancing — has been the motivating factor in a number of governmental measures. When Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney issued his stay-at-home order, he said that the stricter language was as a result of observing people not taking the social distancing seriously.

But the response to the virus is causing tremendous economic pain and financial hardship. Pennsylvania's unemployment claims in the past week surpassed 500,000 - the previous record for a week was 61,181 new claims in early January 2010. That month also held the previous record for most new claims filed in a given month, having just over 168,000. Pennsylvania is not unique, as governors across the country are ordering all non-essential businesses to close. Patricia Fralinger, the mother of a La Salle student said, "I understand that this is a potentially serious matter, but I also think that some of the measures taken are way overboard. The government has totally shut down the economy and living in general. Also what is deemed essential for businesses? I can tell you for the guy that owns a barber shop, or store that doesn't sell food and is forced to close, his business is essential in that it provides the money it takes for him, his family and his employees to survive."

La Salle alumna Maggie Buck, '17 is currently living in Italy, where she is working as an au pair for her host family and taking courses in Italian. She too is baking and cooking, like many others, and has started to learn how to play the ukulele. "It's been very strange and surreal for me to live through this and then slowly watch the U.S. follow the exact same steps. It felt a bit like knowing the future, even if I didn't want the U.S. to follow the same pattern. I knew it was going to," Buck said. "It's my hope that the U.S. will continue to lockdown and stay closed, because here we are almost 2 weeks in and are starting to see that it is working. As hard as it is, it's absolutely necessary."

Ryan Wall, '17, works as an account executive for Brian Communications. "We've been trying to balance the immediate (and unprecedented) shift to a digital world, by sharing tips for remaining active, mental health best practices, recipes, interesting articles, professional development resources and uplifting stories," Wall said. "We've also been holding more agency virtual happy hours and check-ins."

Wall continued by saying, "I'm really fortunate to work with colleagues who 'get it;' everyone has been checking in with each other daily and it's been very heartening to see how much my team cares. One of the tenets of my agency is empathy, and I'm reminded daily how important that really is when dealing with a global crisis of this magnitude. I'm also fortunate that I am quarantined with some La Salle friends I've now known for years — being with my roommates has brought me a lot of joy and solace in an otherwise turbulent world … In times like this, I find myself drawn to the Lasallian notion of community — whether that community is local, regional, national or global. We're all in this together, and we need to help each other out as we navigate this rapidly evolving situation."

Mark Bisicchia, '19, now works as a fifth grade teacher. He said that the virus for him means that all of his teaching moved online. "Basically, I email my students a list of assignments in the morning for them to complete by the end of the normal school day," Bisicchia explained. "I've also had all my students migrate over to Google Classroom — which helps a lot for organizing assignments and allowing students to discuss things with each other."

Like many others, Bisicchia is looking for silver linings in the response to the global pandemic. "I think in some ways it's an interesting new perspective for our society in that we get to see what our daily lives might look like if we prioritized technology over face-to-face communication." From picking up new hobbies, to spending more time with loved ones, members of the La Salle community, and people everywhere, are making the best of things as they adapt to the new normal of social distancing.

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Editor's note: The survey did not require respondents to provide identifying information, some responses are, as a result, attributed to first names only or to other identifiers. Not all responses could be included - those included may have been edited for length and clarity.



Colleen Hanycz via Twitter

La Salle University's President, Colleen Hanycz, has been #stressbaking along with many other Americans.



Jacob Garwood

Collegian Editor-in-chief Jacob Garwood has also contributed to the nationwide flour and yeast shortage.

Collegian staff members reflect on the untimely end to their senior year

Jacob Garwood
Editor

On March 17, the dreaded beep (or ding, buzz or whatever other notification sound your devices have) rang out. And in an instant, senior year, as we knew it, was over. There was no time for goodbyes, no time to process and no chance to do a senior walk-through of campus. Because when that beep hit our ears, we were already home — already on spring break, already away from the people and places that now, we may never see again.

For many seniors, that is incredibly difficult to accept.

No matter how noble the reasoning behind a transition to online classes may be, it is natural to be upset. It's natural to feel hollow or empty, to feel an immense amount of sadness and pain at the realization that never again will we get to sit in classes at La Salle. Without realizing it, we each had our own series of "lasts." We ate in the dining halls for the last time, got lunch from the Union, a coffee from Starbucks or Saxbys and the P.O.D., all for the last time. At the Collegian, we had our last ever in-person editing night on March 5, which seems like years before classes had been moved online. We didn't get our end of the year celebration. The Masque didn't get its performance of "And Then There Were None." Clubs across campus had their events cancelled, service experiences ended, placements and clinicals brought to a halt.

And so to all of the seniors who have had their "lasts" stolen from them and to all of the students missing out on classes, friends and events, know that you're certainly not alone, and that your feelings are valid. We can both mourn the loss of senior year and acknowledge that this may have been the inevitable consequence of the coronavirus pandemic and panic. We can wish Commencement were still being held on May 9 and still take steps to reduce further spread of the virus.

Nikoleta Barboni, international business, has a positive perspective on what is happening right now. She said, "I know this is a very tough time for many people, including the Class of 2020, but this is also a time to self-reflect, take a breath and spend quality time with those closest to you. This too shall pass." Even in the midst of all the cancelations and endings, she is hopeful.

Rose Adkisson, a mathematics and secondary education major said, "It's been really difficult as a senior having my year cut short unexpectedly. Although graduation will be held at a later date, I know not everyone will be able to go and it's really tough thinking that there are some people who I won't see again because of it. I will treasure my days at La Salle, but it is difficult to think they are over now without any preparation. I wish that this had happened any other year than my senior year and I'm sure many other seniors feel the same way."

Adkisson also indicated that there remains a lot of uncertainty around her student teaching placement, saying, "It has been really difficult being in my full time student teaching semester during COVID-19, as my role feels like it is ever changing. It has been unclear if I am expected to return to student teaching if schools open back up, and I am from Oregon so I can't fly back and forth."

Elizabeth Rafter, an English major, said "It was something I was preparing myself for mentally, but it still stung when it became a reality. We were living like we had our last few months left to just be present. That's the most difficult thing about moving online. Yes, we'll have Zoom classes with our classmates and professors, but it's not the same thing as being there. The face-to-face interactions that we've learned to appreciate and hone over the past three years are out the window. The ease with which we were able to connect with our classmates and friends on that deeper personal level is significantly impeded by the screens we find ourselves behind. We're faced with the loss of events that we've been waiting for since the beginning of the year, and it's enough to drown in if you ruminate on it for too long. The best we can hope for and hang on to is that we'll eventually get to come back to the campus we never got to say goodbye to for a proper farewell."

Thomas Cahalan, a political science major with a communication minor, said, "Being someone who transferred to La Salle as a junior last year, seeing senior year cut short was a whirlwind to say the least. I'm sad but grateful I got to finish my undergraduate journey at La Salle. Knowing I won't be going off to misadventures with my friend on the streets of Olney anymore, experiencing the simple pleasures of life in St. Bernard Hall, hogging my favorite study spot on the second floor of the Connelly Library and realizing there are some people I will not get the chance to say goodbye to has been hard. However, even if this era of my life is coming to an end, the memories will remain with me. Even though the times may be uncertain, I can think back to all the times I laughed with friends, overslept and rushed to class, rode the subway into Center City with friends, expanded my mind and ultimately grew as a person."

Elyssa Loughlin, a communication major said, "The news of the cancellation of the rest of the semester didn't come as a shock, but it still stung. It's weird that I didn't know when our 'lasts' were happening. My last improv show, my last service meeting and perhaps most devastating, my last Collegian night.

"My heart aches for my fellow seniors as we are forced to face these unprecedented times alone, behind computer screens in our parents' houses (for the most part), when we were supposed to be heading into this next chapter together at our beloved campus on 20th and Olney," Loughlin continued. "I expect every single one of my 2020 peers to be at the five year reunion, and I look forward to continuing to learn from and live the Lasallian mission every day."

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Liz Rafter

Liz Rafter (second from right) and her fellow Class of 2020 members gathered for the first time for their convocation and to participate in move-in day tradition in Tom Gola Arena on August 26, 2016.

Timeline of University COVID-19 Updates

Prepared for print by Bianca Abbate

Friday, Jan. 31

University suspends travel to China for forthcoming study abroad and international education programs.

Wednesday, March 4

University suspends all University-sponsored international travel indefinitely, effective immediately.

Monday, March 9

The University requests a 14-day self-monitoring process for any students, faculty members or staff members who travel over the next two weeks to countries that have been designated by the CDC as having sustained transmissions of COVID-19.

Tuesday, March 10

The University suspends domestic Lasallian Immersion and Volunteer Experience (L.I.V.E.) trips to North Carolina and Kentucky and announces they are "likely to cancel remaining L.I.V.E. trips or University-sponsored domestic trips if the destinations to which they are scheduled declare states of emergency."

Thursday, March 12

The University cancels face-to-face courses on campus for one week, from Monday, March 23 – Friday, March 27; the University announces courses will resume through remote learning from Monday, March 30 to Friday, April 3 and that face-to-face instruction on campus will resume no earlier than Monday, April 6; the La Salle Department of Intercollegiate Athletics suspends all team practices and scheduled competitions until further notice.

Friday, March 13

The Office of the University Registrar extends the withdrawal deadline for spring 2020 full semester courses to Friday, April 3.

The Independence Blue Cross Fitness Center announces closure until further notice.

In an email to the University, President Hanycz announces that the University will suspend all face-to-face events and activities at University sites scheduled through April 5, reschedule all campus visitors or redirect them to virtual experiences, postpone the University's Day of Giving and asks employees to work remotely between Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 27.

Monday, March 16

President Hanycz releases an email statement to the community expressing both hope and uncertainty: "We will get through this—together and by association."

Tuesday, March 17

The University moves all instruction for the remainder of the spring semester to remote learning.

The University postpones Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020.

University suspends all events and activities on the University campus through May 11.

The University closes all University housing effective April 4 at 5 p.m.,

The Office of Operations and Community Development assigns each resident student a distinct move-out time.

Thursday, March 19

The Lasallian District of Eastern North America (DENA) hosts a virtual prayer service.

In an email to the University community, Brother Robert Kinzler offers resources for food, housing and financial accommodations.

In response to Governor Wolf's order, the University announces that only staff specifically designated by a vice president will continue to have an on-campus presence through at least Monday, April 13.

The La Salle University Helpdesk informs students they are able to temporarily access Adobe's Creative Cloud desktop applications.

Friday, March 20

The Office of Housing and Residence Life halts any student move-outs from campus residences beginning Sunday, March 22 at 12:00 p.m. until further notice.

Tuesday, March 24

President Hanycz releases a video message to the University community.

Wednesday, March 25

University announces a Temporary Grading Policy with an optional pass/fail addendum.

Assistant Vice President of Student Wellness Services Kate Ward-Gaus announces remote access options for student wellness services.

La Salle Career Center moves the Career Fair to a virtual experience.

For the most recent University news updates concerning COVID-19, bookmark https://www.lasalle.edu/news/covid-19/.

University to introduce optional pass/fail grading for Spring 2020

Change comes in wake of student initiatives

Elyssa Loughlin
Editor

It was announced on Wednesday, March 25, among COVID-19 advancements, that La Salle would be offering a pass/fail grading system for students to opt into. The temporary grading policy was introduced as a response to the "extraordinary circumstances" created by the global pandemic, the need for remote learning for the remainder of the semester as well as a student-led initiative to provide a pass/fail option for the spring semester.

On March 21, freshman undecided business major Ed Klos created a petition on change.org to encourage University administration to consider providing an optional pass/fail grading system for the spring semester. "I thought that the pass/fail would [incentivize] students to stay on top of their work while being stuck at home," Klos said. "We all know that online classes are not the same as learning in person, and students' GPAs shouldn't [be] negatively affected by this switch." Within a day of posting the petition, Klos had over 1,000 supporters, bringing him two-thirds of the way to his 1,500 goal. Among reasons for signing the petition, supporters cited unequal computer access, impending potential for miscommunication between professors, frustration with the University and, perhaps most uniquely, more time to focus on their "summer gains." Laniya Fleming shared that she was signing the petition "because it is unfair to those who do not have the right materials for online class. The school made the assumption that everyone will be successful with online courses."

Klos is excited that the initiative was picked up by the University. "I'm so happy the administration listened to their students, it's fantastic that we have a school that actually [hears its] students." Klos said. The Student Government Association got involved and helped bring the student-led initiative to the attention of the administration. "The University has heard our concerns and is moving forward with a temporary grading system for the spring semester," Secretary of Academic Affairs CJ Petetti shared in an Instagram Post from the SGA account on Tuesday evening. The next day, March 25, students received an email from the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs detailing the temporary policy.

For the spring semester, students can opt in to a Satisfactory/Pass/Unsatisfactory (S/P/U) grading system, which is consistent with the University's traditional option for pass/fail grading. For undergraduate students, letter grades of A through C will be marked as "satisfactory," meaning that the student will earn credit hours for the course and the class will count to the prerequisite requirements but will not count toward the student's GPA. Similarly, a letter grade of C- and D is counted as a "passing" grade and will allow a student to earn credit hours for the course, but it will not fulfill any prerequisite requirements; "pass" will also not affect a student's GPA. A failing grade, or an F, will be converted to a grade of Unsatisfactory, thus it will not earn any credit hours, nor will it affect the student's GPA.

The grading system is optional for all undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students, and there is no limit to the number of classes a student can convert from the traditional letter-grading system to the S/P/U system. Because some programs require certain letter grades and GPAs, the ability for students to opt into the grading system will be made on a case-by-case basis. "We will ensure that those who need evidence of academic achievements this Spring will be able to get it," the email from Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Lynne Texter read.

Students need not make a decision on whether they want to opt in to the S/P/U grading system until after finals week. Upon receiving their final grades, which are due by May 13, students will have five days, from May 14 to May 19, to elect to convert their grades to the corresponding S/P/U designation.

The University's decision to provide a pass/fail option for grading this semester is not unprecedented — many schools in the Greater Philadelphia Area have responded to remote learning and its anticipated shortcomings by introducing their own unique grading systems. The University of Pennsylvania is providing its students the opportunity to opt into a pass/fail grading system for one or more of their courses, but they must decide by April 13. Lehigh University, Rowan University and Haverford College have introduced similar programs to that which La Salle has offered its students. Temple University has yet to announce a pass/fail policy as of publication time.

As the University continues to navigate this unprecedented situation, Texter says that she and the rest of the administration will remain dedicated to providing guidance and resources to students. "This will be a semester unlike any other you ever have experienced. As we make the transition to remote learning, it's important that we continue to support and nurture one another, and always remember to practice patience," Texter said in the administration's email to students on March 25. "We remain committed to our students and supporting them during these extraordinary circumstances."

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Residence halls closed amidst pandemic, some students call for reimbursements

Rita Offutt
Editor

On March 17, President Colleen Hanycz informed the La Salle University community that the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester would be completed remotely, using online methods to finish academic material and cancelling any further on-campus events. Her email contained important information for students, faculty, staff and other community members, including the decision to close La Salle's on-campus student housing on April 4 at 5 p.m. Hanycz described the decision to be "in the best interests of our students and public health." The same day, resident students received additional information from Alan Wendell, the Assistant Vice President of Operations and Community Development. Wendell provided details on the move-out procedure: "All resident students…will be assigned a specific time slot for move-out between Monday, March 23 and Sunday, March 29. This procedure will prevent large numbers of people on specific floors or housing units to ensure that we are abiding by social distancing best practices."

Two days later, on March 19, students received another email from La Salle Emergency Management. In compliance with Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's stay-at-home order, the University has taken measures to limit the number of people on campus. Students were told to expect updates on the move-out procedure by March 19.

On March 21 at 12:53 p.m., residents received notice that the University would be halting "move outs from campus residences beginning Sunday, March 22 at 12:00 p.m. until further notice. If you have not retrieved your belongings and completed the move out process by then, you will need to wait to come back to campus until we notify you that the restriction has been lifted and the move-our process has restarted." In other words, any student interested in moving out of their residence hall would need to do so in less than 24 hours. Students and their families rushed to campus in an effort to clear out dorms, apartments and townhouses, which ironically, violated the social distancing rules and failed to adhere to best practices that the University and Governor were trying to uphold.

At the time of publication, no further information is available concerning when students may be able to access their residence halls and retrieve their belongings. Students should expect to stay at home until Governor Wolf lifts the order.

Many resident students reported feeling frustrated by the rapid changes and late notice regarding move-out. Some said they were unable to make it back to campus with less than 24 hours' notice. Others were unwilling to put themselves and their loved ones at risk by coming to campus in the midst of a mass move-out. Most residents are wondering whether they will receive a refund, since room and board is intended to cover fifteen weeks of housing and dining and residents were only able to make use of nine weeks. When asked about a potential refund, Chris Vito, La Salle's Senior Director of Strategic Communications, said, "We knew last week's announcement to the University community would prompt many questions for which we are still working on answers. With our commitment to keeping the health and wellness of our community as our top priority, we needed to make the announcement prior to having all the details finalized. We are working diligently behind the scenes to sort through the operational impacts of these strategic decisions and ensure that those are communicated responsibly and in a timely fashion. We appreciate your patience as we resolve the various details and challenges of this situation. We will have an update as soon as we can."

Despite the lack of finality from La Salle, several other universities have already guaranteed refunds. The Daily Collegian, Penn State's student paper, reported "The University will offer prorated reimbursement for housing and parking due to the shift to online." Penn State has not released any specific details of the reimbursement, but University officials have already said they are willing to accommodate individual circumstances. According to The Setonian, the Seton Hall Board of Regents has already passed a unanimous vote to issue prorated refunds or credits for room, board and parking. A prorated reimbursement is allocated proportionally, meaning students will be eligible for payback of the portion of their payments they were unable to receive the benefit of.

Many La Salle students shared their individual correspondences with Housing and Student Affairs in which they asked about the potential for reimbursement; the earliest email response presented was dated March 18. All administrative responses have echoed Vito's statement nearly verbatim. The same information can also be found on the FAQ's page of La Salle's COVID-19 response site.

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Letters, guest columns and opinion pieces will be considered for publication provided that they meet with the editorial standards of The Collegian and fit the allotted space. All letters must be signed and received by the end of the day Tuesday to be considered for the current issue. Letters can be submitted via email to thelsucollegian@outlook.com The Collegian reserves the right to condense or edit submissions. Weekly editorials reflect the views of the editorial staff and are not representative of the university or necessarily the views of the rest of the Collegian's staff. Columns and cartoons reflect the views of the respective writers and artists.

Collegian Editorial
Find and remember our shared humanity

Times of great tragedy have a tendency to unite people. They remind us that in life, there is much more that unites us than that which separates us.

Life is a series of bridges that we must each cross. Some people have more bridges to cross, others have less. But at different points of our lives, we each must face a series of adversity and cross the bridges in our lives. The coronavirus pandemic, like great tragedies before it, is a bridge that we must all cross.

And in finding these common bridges, we can be reminded of not only our common humanity but the shared struggle that is human progression.

So yes, social distancing is difficult to adapt to, especially when we are such social individuals and used to our freedoms. And yes, picking up all of our work, schooling, communication and moving it online in days is a daunting task. But it is one that we are all facing together.

And while an economic shutdown is disproportionately affecting some, the impending global recession will impact everyone.

A virus does not care about your social status, your income, your race, your gender, your sexual orientation, your religion or anything else; in the face of a global pandemic, the things which so often serve to divide us no longer matter.

And because we all carry this burden, we are seeing acts of shared humanity everywhere. Whether it be rallying to support local businesses or heightened positivity on social media, signs that we gain a sense of humanity in our shared struggle are clear.

But it is important to remember this shared humanity when the global crisis is over. We are at a turning point as a society; we are quite possibly in the middle of the defining moment of our lives. How we move forward will say a lot about us as people. So if you're demonstrating concern for the poor and the homeless now - don't forget that a year from now. If you're taking steps to care for the elderly - don't forget that a year from now. If you're supporting a local business - don't forget that a year from now. If you're posting videos or live-streams on social media to brighten the lives of those more than six feet from you - don't forget that a year from now.

The question becomes: how can we bring this increased shared humanity back to La Salle? How can we treat others in our community better? If we can continue the trend of unity which we see in the world, we would be better Lasallians for it. The questions which lie ahead of us are extremely daunting; but the idea that we can foster greater unity amongst people is quite inspiring.

Letters to the Editor from two La Salle Parents
Reflections from home on the coronavirus

Dear Editor.

After spending two weeks at home listening to the news and reading statistics about the virus, I want to reinforce the importance of data-driven decisions so we do not go crazy at our homes. Although we do not have control in university decisions, we still have our own choices to make to maintain our health. We have all heard about the importance of washing hands after returning home, cleaning surfaces regularly, and not travelling unless absolutely necessary. However, there are other things that can be done to improve the health of the place around you (especially since we are spending a lot more time in our homes). Now is the perfect time to take advantage of the time at home to get our home environments in order. Pick a closet or drawer and categorize everything inside as either trash, recycle, or keep. Spring is in the air -- weed, wash windows, or clean up leaves. Over the past few days I have looked around the house and asked the question "what else can we clean?" An organized environment can bring a much-needed calmness to the current unusual, hectic times, and completing projects and tasks, even things as simple as cleaning out a cabinet, brings a sense of fulfillment and gratification.

This situation is showing the necessity for adaptability and grit. These circumstances were not expected, however, we can and will be flexible and cognizant of the facts to determine what to do. We must look at what is happening around us and, instead of feeling helpless or afraid about things we cannot control, remember to be determined and find ways to take charge of the things we can. It is important to adjust to the new situation and never neglect the possibility to improve something in our lives, even something as small as cleaning out a closet.

Alexandra Snopkowski is the mother of Commentary Editor, Alina Snopkowski, and a graduate of Ohio University, '94, and Temple University '01.

Dear Editor,

As both the mother of a La Salle senior, and a higher education administrator, I knew a postponement of La Salle's commencement ceremony was highly likely. I appreciate that La Salle indicated it was a postponement and not a cancelation. I trust the university is committed to an in-person celebration at a later date. I will take this opportunity to express earlier disappointment that La Salle chose to move to multiple commencement ceremonies this year. Whereas my student's graduation is of the utmost importance, I am also proud of his roommates who have been with him since his freshman year. Perhaps a rescheduled commencement gives the university the opportunity to remember that as a La Salle community, we care about not only our own children, but their friends. The opportunity to celebrate the achievements and success of the entire Class of 2020 in one setting is even more important given the unprecedented situation we have faced and will overcome.

I wish to add that La Salle's decision to extend spring break, and provide professional development to prepare the faculty for remote teaching demonstrates the university's commitment to teaching excellence. Across the higher education community, faculty have had to quickly adapt to this new learning environment. La Salle's recognition that such a change does not come easily or seamlessly is commendable.

Victoria Garwood is the mother of Editor-in-chief, Jacob Garwood, and an administrator at a commonwealth campus of the Pennsylvania State University.

Reactions to pass/fail grading policy

Coronavirus classes: let's do a bad job

Karen Kerwick
Editor

Coronavirus has not only pervaded the news cycle for weeks but has also changed the life of every La Salle student this semester. On top of sending most students home and cancelling events for practically every club, coronavirus has forced students who signed up for in-person classes to take courses online. Along with many other adjustments, La Salle has now offered the option for students to choose the Satisfactory, Pass, Unsatisfactory (S/P/U) scale, making the right choice for students.

Since the inception of this idea, I have argued that La Salle should implement a Pass/Fail system, or some other kind of amendment to account for course changes for students who had expected to complete in-person courses. Even with this option, however, professors need to make changes along with the University. While the offer of S/P/U grading after final grades are released helps many students, coursework on the whole and the way teachers present it offers a challenge of its own to students.

Rebecca Barrett-Fox shared an article on the site "Any Good Thing" entitled "Please do a bad job of putting your courses online." This article outlines all of the reasons courses might not be students' priorities at this moment, and I think this presents a valuable point. Challenges - ranging from distractions at home to work obligations to general stress about the state of the world at the moment - consume more than enough time to offer a challenge to students.

There are many varieties of distractions at home. Some students have younger siblings and may have to take care of them while their parents are struggling with more work hours or trying to find a job that will offer hours during this pandemic to support their families. Other students might have children of their own, and with fewer care options, they are likely spending more time caring for their children on top of now becoming their children's teachers in some form or another. Outside of children, students also face the challenge of their parents thinking this time is free to put their kids to work around the house. Any one or any combination of these pressures, as well as many more home complications, make online learning during this crisis even more difficult.

Moving to challenges presented by work obligations, students will be working any number of jobs to help support their families, pay their rent, other bills or for other obligations. The increased demand for Amazon and grocery workers alike has caused many people to tack on hours at any time of the day. These hours likely take place in what would have been class time, preventing students from logging on for synchronous learning like classes on Zoom. If students are working and have overnight hours, this could also prevent them from even being awake for Zoom sessions. Other students might be under more pressure from jobs that were able to switch to an online format. I, for example, have been lucky enough to continue my internship from home, but they have significantly increased my workload because of the free time they now assume I have. As opposed to working 10 hours a week, I now work almost as many hours each day including conference calls, dozens of emails and research on companies day after day. While I am thrilled to be able to work given the crazy circumstances, even just a few hours of myday, every day, being dedicated to something other than school affects my ability to work on school assignments and even sometimes attend Zoom sessions.



La Salle University

The University's decision to offer pass fail grades gives students the option to choose which grading system works best for their situation.

Outside of family and work concerns, the health challenges facing our world combined with general stress and anxiety are enough to occupy a student's mind and prevent them from performing their best on any schoolwork or tests. Whether it is writing an essay for Intro to Economics or a senior thesis, it does not seem incredibly important when the health of loved ones is at stake. While this may be the least developed point here, I think it may resonate the most with students and professors alike. We are all living in this unforeseen time. None of us knows what tomorrow may look like. Each time we turn on the TV, health officials and the President present opposing information. Nothing is the same as it was when we signed on for this semester. How can grading or teaching or learning remain unchanged amidst this ever changing world?

La Salle has made a great choice by offering the S/P/U option, especially because the choice can be made after final grades are released. However, professors also need to look at the challenges surrounding their students. While experts say keeping a routine can help people during this time, classes being as difficult, or even more difficult, will not help most or, likely, any students. Professors, please do a bad job of putting your courses online. Students, please put yourselves and your wellbeing above your grades.

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Pass fail is an imperfect solution to a complex problem

Yosibeth Torres
Staff

As the coronavirus continues to rapidly infect thousands, government officials feel pressure from the World Health Organization (WHO) to pass legislation that encourages social distancing and limits public contact. Taking into consideration the severity of the coronavirus and the recommendations from the WHO, on Thursday, March 19, Governor Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania ordered all non life-sustaining businesses to close, including universities and colleges. In response, La Salle quickly shut down its operations and announced plans to switch to remote learning. Shortly after, a petition with over one-thousand signatures circled the internet and social media asking La Salle to convert grades to pass/fail for the spring semester.

La Salle students weren't the only ones to ask for the conversion. All all around the country, students from universities also switching to remote learning, like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Georgetown, and, more locally, the University of Pennsylvania, started petitions arguing the same three things: not every student has the resources to successfully participate in an online course, stress from the coronavirus prevents students from doing well in their courses, and that switching to a pass/fail grading system is the only way to fairly evaluate student performance given the circumstances.

Many students believe the pass/fail system will reduce stress and prevent any unfair damages to their transcripts and GPAs. However, other students believe the change does not help their chances of obtaining good grades and instead they find it unfair to grant the same "pass" grade to students with different letter grades. Anticipating some of these arguments, La Salle sent a survey asking students to voice any concerns with the switch. Similarly, the Student Government Association (SGA) asked students to share their opinions before a student member spoke to the University administration. After taking everything into consideration, La Salle announced students could choose a pass/fail grade for certain courses. Students must contact their academic advisors and department heads to see what courses can be graded on a pass/fail basis. Specifically, the University put restrictions on prerequisite courses in order to prevent students from potentially entering and failing courses they weren't prepared for. Under the pass/fail system, students obtaining a grade between A and C will receive a satisfactory grade, grades between C minus and D will receive a pass, and a grade of an F will receive a fail or unsatisfactory. These grades won't impact the GPA and will still count for college credit. Students can choose this option between May 14 and May 19 and professors won't know what grading option students chose.

While this option does help a lot of students, to an extent it ignores the core of the argument for pass/fail grades: to reduce stress and equalize student performance. The grading system forces students to consider the costs and benefits of both letter grades and pass/fail before deciding which grade they want on their transcript. Students planning to attend graduate school and graduating seniors hoping to graduate with honors especially face difficulty developing a strategy for how they want their performance to be portrayed on their transcripts.The differences between satisfactory, pass and fail also raise concern. Typically, La Salle only offers two grades: satisfactory and unsatisfactory. The additional option of pass limits the ambiguity of what grade a student received and while it appears as just a pass on the transcript, considering there's only two letter grades that receive a pass, it's very obvious what grade a student earned. What potentially reduces stress is the ambiguity on what grade a student received and the large range of grades that a pass or satisfactory usually represents, thus equalizing student performance. This new system does not allow for enough ambiguity. La Salle did give students the option to decide between a letter grade and the pass/fail, but arguably what this means is many students will see obtaining a C in a course as the optimal solution. A C offers the same conversion as an A, while reducing the amount of points required to obtain that grade substantially. However, grades are subjective and it's not always clear what amount of work students need to put in to receive a certain grade. With the coronavirus and the technological disadvantages, many students might find themselves having less control over their capability to turn in assignments and perform their best, which could lead to them obtaining grades less than favorable and putting them in the pass or even fail category instead of satisfactory.

Thankfully, none of the satisfactory, pass or fail grades impact student GPAs, but they speak volumes on transcripts, which is the key thing the decision to convert to these grades ignores.

The University deserves the utmost respect and admiration for acting responsibly and fairly in considering the opinions of all students. Perhaps no clear solution to the grading system for the spring semester exists, but the pass option offers no real relief for students that, because of the virus, are at risk for obtaining C minuses and Ds. While they will obtain college credit and the grade won't impact their GPAs, their transcript still will reflect the grade. Students who earn a satisfactory can benefit and especially both students who fail a course and decide to not have it impact their GPA and those who stick with a typical letter grade can benefit.

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Take a moment to reflect on the positive

Rayna Patel
Staff

In light of all the bad things in the world that are going around — I'm talking to you, coronavirus — let's discuss something happier like ice cream. Ice cream is one of my favorite food groups — and yes it is a food group to me. I love all flavors, and recently, with my absurd amount of leftover SFA, I had the opportunity to try a ridiculous amount of flavors from none other than the B&G Pod. My family and I taste-tested all the Ben and Jerry's flavors from Cherry Garcia to Cannoli to Half Baked; however, I have to say my favorite will forever be Friendly's Vienna Mocha Chunk. Since being home, I have devoured an entire carton within two days.

More importantly, recently ice cream has made me appreciate my family so much. When I'm away at school I eat my Ben and Jerry's alone, and while it's nice to have an entire container of ice cream to yourself and eat it in your room while watching "The Bachelor," being able to share my ice cream with my parents and siblings reminds me how much I love them. Eating my Vienna Mocha Chunk at home with my family is one of my favorite things to do because I can't while I'm away at college.

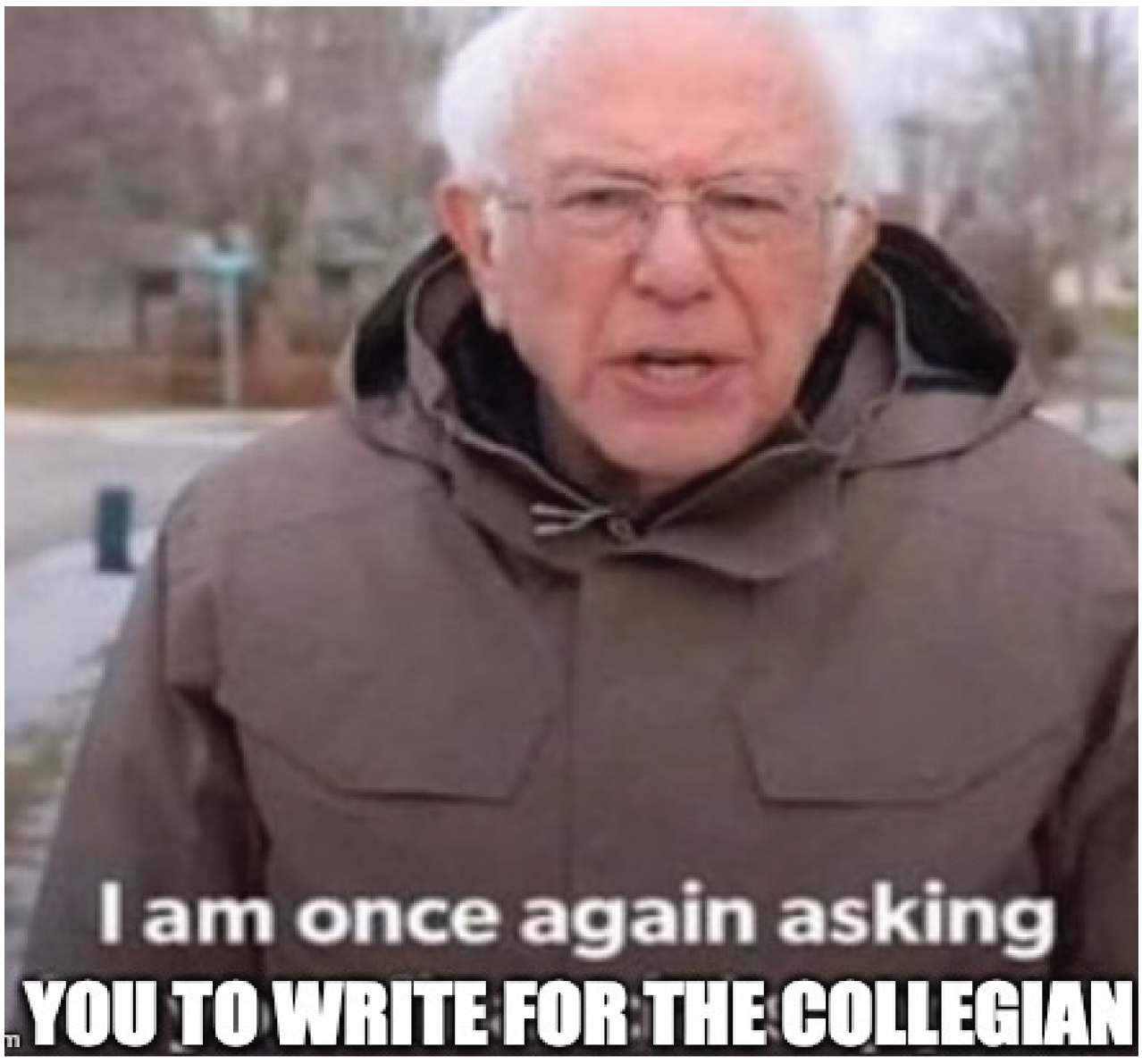
The coronavirus is causing many problems and difficult situations, and while I don't think anyone would say the current circumstances are positive, it is definitely possible to find small bits of positivity in this scary and crazy time we are in. I know for me — and I'm sure for many others — coronavirus has pushed many families to do things together that they probably would never have done without these circumstances. Never in my life did I imagine taking a family walk around the neighborhood would be the only time I step out of my house, nor have I ever thought playing UNO every night with them would be the highlight of my day, and that's not sad to me; it's a memory that I will keep forever. Although the coronavirus is horrible, it makes you appreciate the things you have. I hope you and your family are all staying safe out there. Make sure to eat tons of ice cream — and share it with the ones you love — after you wash your hands, of course.

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More opinions on pass/fail grades

"Honestly, I would be perfectly content with that, and I would encourage it since I'm assuming most teachers weren't prepared for this."
- Jimmy Killoran '20

"I appreciate La Salle's decision to allow students to make the choice that is best for them and their circumstances, and look forward to completing the semester under the typical grading system."
- Rita Offutt '22

"It would be a lot better. This situation was unexpected and it would be beneficial to the professors and students who might not be capable of learning online. Some classes are going to be tough to teach online."
- Nicole Phillips '20

"Strongly in favor."
- Rose Adkisson '20

"I think it would be good. I'm afraid for my GPA this semester. I'm not a good learner when it comes to online classes, which is why I never sign up for them. I need a physical meeting place and time to keep me accountable."
- Sophomore Student

"It would be helpful for those who are not as privileged."
- Ciara '22

"I think the pass/fail method should be optional for students if they have a valid reason to change grading, such as the type of class they're taking or their accessibility to a laptop/internet at home."
- Julie '20

"Not sure how I feel."
- Junior Student

"I am a firm believer that a lot of students will struggle with a transition to online classes and most coursework as is set up in face-to-face learning will be difficult to grade fairly online. I think a choice of pass/fail will lessen the stress of the current situation."
- Nikoleta Barboni '20

"I think it's good because it makes it fair for people who don't have the same privileges as others, but at the same time, if I'm paying for a class, I want to learn, and if it's only pass fail then I feel like I won't actually get much out of the class. It depends what the professor does with it."
- Sophomore Student

"I appreciate that La Salle is giving us the option to have pass fail grades, and I like how we don't have to choose until we see our final grades."
- Rayna '22

"I think that La Salle should consider offering pass fail for students. We did not sign up for online classes. I know for me personally, I work much better and find more success with in-person classes. I am very anxious about my grades at this point, especially since most of my classes are very in-person oriented."
- Kat Mathon '21

"I think it's good to have the option of pass fail, especially since we didn't sign up for or expect to have all our classes moved online, but I'm also glad we can choose to keep the regular grades if we want to."
- Sophomore Student

Fundraiser remembers student's legacy and inspires others to engage in service

"Bracelets for Brittany" supports "Touch a Child's Heart"

Elyssa Loughlin
Editor

In December, the La Salle community was rocked by the sudden loss of Brittany Stevens, a junior who embodied what it means to be Lasallian. The social work and Spanish double major was a member of the women's lacrosse team. She was also actively involved with service at La Salle. Last May, she was one of twelve students to travel to Nyeri, Kenya to participate in Project Mapendo, a Lasallian Immersion and Volunteer Experience that works with St. Mary's School for Boys & Child Rescue Center, a Lasallian institution. When she came home, she worked as a nanny for the Altmann family. Over the summer, Brittany took the Altmanns, Lainey, Tess and Macksen on adventures, from hiking to making crafts and going to the pool. In July, Brittany and the Altmanns celebrated Christmas in July and baked cupcakes that they brought to the firefighters. "Brittany is really nice, and she would do anything we wanted to do," Tess said. "She's really kind."

In the months since Brittany passed away, many people have come up with ways to remember her legacy. At the celebration of Brittany Stevens' life, people could take bracelets that read "what made you laugh today?" which was a question Brittany asked her family every night at the dinner table; Brittany's friends and family also shared stories about when Brittany made them laugh. The Catonsville High School Lacrosse team had shirts made with their nickname for Brittany, "B," that said "B-More," an homage to their home city of Baltimore. But perhaps the most unique idea for a way to honor Brittany came from Tess Altmann, and all of it came from a doodle on a page.

In December, Tess was drawing on a piece of paper when she wrote Brittany's name in bubble letters. Because Brittany always wore a lot of bracelets, she drew some bracelets too. To tie it all together, Tess made a bracelet and wrote "Bracelets for Brittany." After showing it to her mother Jess Altmann, they came up with the idea for a fundraiser: a bracelet sale to benefit the children Brittany had met in Kenya. With the name "Bracelets for Brittany," and an organization that directly benefited the boys at St. Mary's (Touch a Child's Heart, or TACH for short), all that was left to do was find some bracelets.

"We were looking online for a provider when we found Threads of Hope," Jess Altmann said. Threads of Hope is a Wisconsin based company that sells string bracelets, bookmarks and keychains, among other things, that provide support to remote villages in the Philippines. "We chose Threads of Hope, because it's somewhere that helps people, and that is what Brittany was all about."

In picking out the colors of the bracelets, the kids thought of Brittany's favorite colors, yellow and purple, and decided that the bracelets should be those two colors to represent her. "When we first ordered them, they sent us black and gold [bracelets]," Lainey remembers, laughing. But after they got bracelets that were the right color, the Altmann's got down to business.

While they said that their mom helps a lot, each of the kids has their own job. Lainey and Tess are in charge of packaging, and Macksen puts the stickers and thank you notes their mom writes into the packages. "The kids worked really hard," Jess said. "They gave up whole weekends to work on Bracelets for Brittany."

Brittany's family has been moved by the support they have received in the past few months. "We are overwhelmed with gratitude to the Altmann family for creating such an inspiring way to honor Brittany," the Stevens family said. "Seeing the excitement in the faces of Lainey, Tess and Mackson as they packaged the many orders brought us much comfort. We feel their love for her and know they will always remember her for the fun-loving crazy-idea filled nanny that she was, and for that, we are forever grateful."

After shipping costs are met, all proceeds will go to TACH, a non-government organization based in Nyeri, Kenya, where Brittany spent three weeks performing service and learning about Kenyan culture last May. "Brittany was most fulfilled when providing service to others," the Stevens family said. "The Project Mapendo trip to Kenya had a profound impact on her last summer, which makes the TACH program the perfect group to benefit from this fundraiser." The TACH organization was started by Kelvin Mugo, a St. Mary's alum and current university student in late 2013. TACH is an organization that provides support to Kenyan children in numerous ways so that they may focus on receiving an education. TACH has five projects aimed at helping Kenyan children in Nyeri: the scholarship fund, which provides an opportunity for "needy yet smart students to access the best quality education;" the feeding program, which provides food to vulnerable children so that they can focus on receiving an education rather than on where their next meal is coming from; the mentor program, which pairs young students with an older mentor to ensure academic success; the rite of passage program, which finances hygienic circumcision for young boys and the "you for her" program, which provides young girls with menstrual products so that they won't have to miss a week of school each month." This was the type of work Brittany was most passionate about, and I think the efforts contributed thus far truly embody who she was as a person," said Bobby Fanning, a fellow Project Mapendo participant andTACH co-director.



Jennifer Stevens

The original picture that Tess Altmann drew, beginning "Bracelets for Brittany."



Facebook

The "Bracelets for Brittany" staff works hard to create the colorful bracelets.

The fundraiser concluded on March 22, but over the three months it ran, Bracelets for Brittany sold 929 bracelets, 224 keychains and 89 bookmarks, receiving $5,222. Over $3,000 will go to TACH, which will provide crucial funds to ensure the success of the organization. "[Brittany] continues to have a lasting impact on disadvantaged populations across the globe," Fanning said. "The Bracelets for Brittany fundraiser has raised crucial funds to benefit poverty stricken individuals in Kenya and the Philippines. Her light continues to shine on those she touched and is even reaching those who did not have the pleasure of interacting with her. Brittany's legacy will continue to combat some of the world's toughest injustices, all while creating a better livelihood for the youth."

While their work on Bracelets for Brittany is almost done, the Altmann siblings will carry the lessons they learned with them forever. They told the Collegian that they learned "if you work hard, you can accomplish anything." The Altmanns are amazed by the support they have received. "The community has been amazing," Jess Altmann said. On the Facebook page Bracelets for Brittany, the family shared this message: "Your generosity has kept our B4B staff very busy. It has given us the opportunity to relive all of the amazing memories that Brittany left behind with our family. We are FOREVER grateful."

"We want to thank each and every person who donated to this cause," the Stevens family said. "It speaks to Brittany's passion for service and social justice and to her ability to impact the lives of those she met. We continue to be amazed at how she was able to touch people throughout the world. May these bracelets be a reminder of her giving spirit and may it encourage you to participate in service to your community."

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Facebook

The Stevens family went to visit the "Bracelets for Brittany" staff.



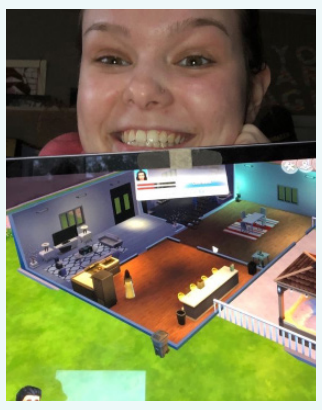
What's the Biz with Liz

What have you been doing to pass time in quarantine?

Liz Rafter
Editor

With COVID-19 taking away not only the rest of our semester but also most activities to do around town, I want to know what you're doing to occupy your time. I've been playing "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" and reading some new books. I've also been learning how to use Zoom and watching a lot of "Criminal Minds" reruns. Here's what some of your fellow Explorers are doing.

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"Playing a lot of "Sims"!"

Jessie Brain
Criminal Justice and Sociology
Class of '21



"I've been catching up on all the paintings I wanted to get done as well as going on daily walks to get some fresh air."

Frankie Knoll
Psychology and Criminal Justice
Class of '22



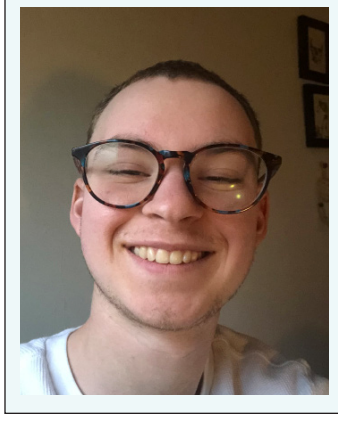
"I'm doing puzzles and practicing guitar."

Jake O'Neill
Economics
Class of '20



"Hiding from the news, click bait headlines and my friends who don't know what they're talking about."

Jonathan Colella
Communication
Class of '22



"I started getting ahead of work for the upcoming digital semester! I've continued to run in the Wissahickon, but more frequently since the gym on campus (and everywhere else) is closed."

Sebastian Scott
Political Science
Class of '23

Nursing senior shares thoughts on digital learning for hospital clinical

Julie Wood
Editor



Anisha Oommen

Oommen reflects on her nursing clinical experiences throughout the year.

Every Wednesday and Thursday, Anisha Oommen would wake up at 4:30 a.m. to get ready for the day. She would brush her teeth, do her hair, put on her scrubs, make sure she had everything for the hospital and then leave the house by 5:30 to meet her clinical group. After reconvening with her group, she began her nursing clinical, starting rounds at 7 a.m. by taking patient's vital signs and shadowing the nurses at the hospital, giving her a glimpse into her near future.

As a senior nursing major, Oommen was wrapping up her four years of hours of studying each night and learning how to care for patients in various hospital settings, anticipating the pinning ceremony at the end of the year in which she would receive a pin as a symbolic welcome into the nursing profession.

However, her weekly routine of being in a setting she has grown passionate about and her excitement for senior nursing ceremonies came to a halt as the University announced that students would be transitioning to remote learning, causing her nursing clinical to come to an end.

With her clinical now being changed to an online Zoom conference at the time she would usually begin her rounds at the hospital, Oommen is unsure how her training will continue for the remainder of the year.

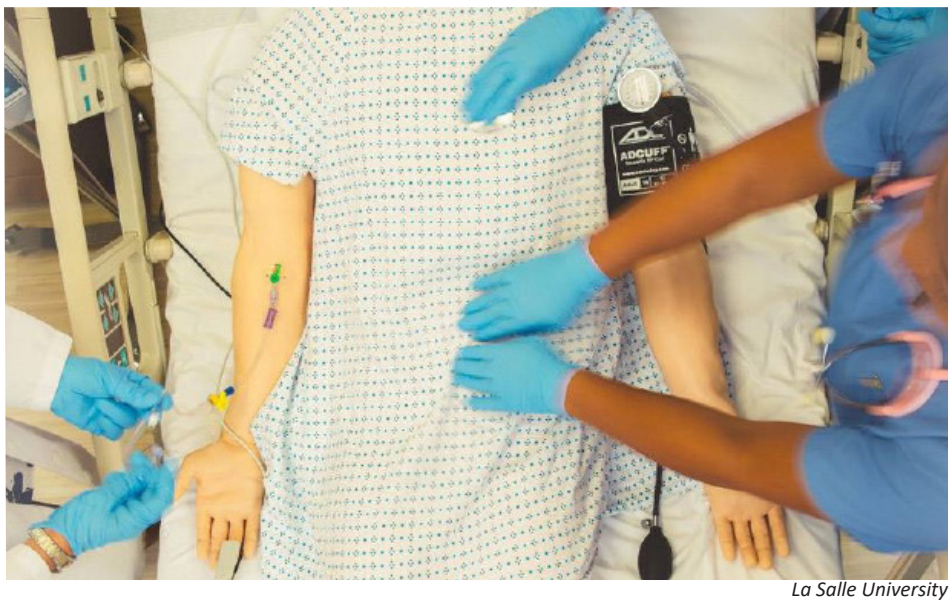
"Honestly, interacting with the patients and being able to talk to them was one of my favorite parts of clinical," shared Oommen. "I've really become better at communicating with patients throughout the years, and I've noticed that I've become more outgoing and confident because of it."

Oommen decided to pursue nursing at La Salle because of her mother, who was a nurse. "I really saw the impact that she seemed to have on her patients and how her patients impacted her." She also learned about the personal experiences of nurse leaders at her clinicals, hearing from hospice nurses, wound nurses, nurse educators and nurses from other departments. "The nurses really opened my eyes because it showed that there is so much more than bedside nursing," said Oommen, who was initially taught about bedside nursing at her first clinical. "There are so many different things you can do and so many avenues you can take as a nurse."

While cases of COVID-19 were still on the rise in the United States when her clinical ended, Oommen did learn about crisis management in a hospital setting and her role as part of the frontline of an emergency like a pandemic. "We are taught that there are policies and procedures that hospitals follow in case of an emergency," explained Oommen. "It's just part of the job, honestly, because that is what a nurse does. We take care of people at their sickest, even if it means risking our own safety, and I believe my four years of nursing school have prepared me to provide the best care for my future patients."

Before her online classes begin, Oommen has been taking a break from her all-night studying sessions and has been now catching up with her family and watching movies with them. For the remainder of the semester, Oommen said she will still be studying and working hard to finish her courses and applying for nursing jobs.

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La Salle University

Nursing majors gain valuable experience through clinicals each week.

Trump's optimistic response to COVID-19 clashes with consensus of medical community

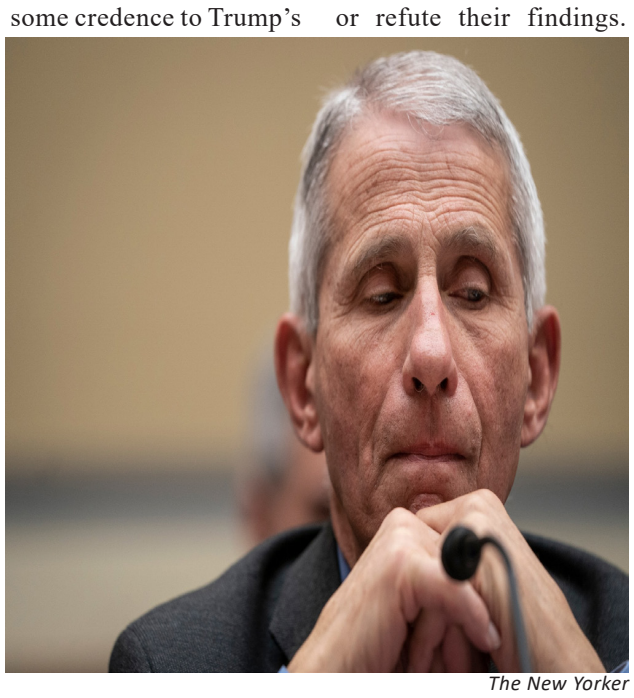
Bianca Abbate
Editor

Amid the COVID-19 national outbreak, United States President Donald Trump hinted on Tuesday, March 24 that the nation might soon be ready to phase out his 15-day self-isolation guidelines: "I give it two weeks. I guess by Monday or Tuesday, it's about two weeks. We will assess at that time and give it more time if we need a little more time. We have to open this country up." Further, he added that he envisioned the nation to be "opened up and just raring to go by Easter."

Why is Easter Sunday the golden date for the U.S. President? When asked why the Easter date became the national deadline and whether the date was based on data, President Trump told reporters that the date was his idea, saying, "It was based on a certain level of weeks from the time we started and it happened to arrive. We were thinking in terms of sooner. I'd love to see it come sooner." He added that the Easter deadline is a "beautiful deadline." Trump's response to COVID-19, some argue, echo national fears over economic collapse. "We have to go back to work much sooner than people thought," he said, "We lose thousands and thousands of people to the flu. We don't turn the country off."

Not everyone agrees with the President, however. In fact, the President has received a great deal of pushback from politicians on both sides of the aisle, as well as from experts in the medical community. Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.), for example, criticized the President's Easter plan, tweeting, "There will be no normally functioning economy if our hospitals are overwhelmed and thousands of Americans of all ages, including our doctors and nurses, lay dying because we have failed to do what's necessary to stop the virus." As New York has become the epicenter of the pandemic in the United States, Governor Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.) has also taken issue with the President's optimism: "We have not flattened the curve and the curve is actually increasing." While Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (D-Calif.) told reporters, "There are no moats, there are no force fields around any place in America. There may be some rays of sunshine in the months ahead, but right now there are still dark, dark clouds." Emergency physician Dara Kass expressed that President Trump's words scared her: "There is no magic fix to this. There is no correction of the economy if we don't address this as an issue." Other medical experts and political opponents have denounced Trump's plan as unwise and careless.

A new study conducted by researchers at Oxford University might add some credence to Trump's argument, however. Essentially, the Oxford study theorizes half of the United Kingdom's population may have already been infected with the Coronavirus, but only a small segment of the infected population needed treatment. A majority of the infected population, though ,showed few to no symptoms at all. Granted, this Oxford model is still in the hypothetical stages and needs to undergo more testing. The authors of the study hope to begin widespread testing of the U.K. population to verify or refute their findings.



The New Yorker

Dr. Anthony Fauci has become a major figure in the fight against the coronavirus and often offers an outlook that conflicts with Trump's.

However, if it is proven to be right, humans would be approaching levels of infection necessary to develop herd immunity. As a result, Trump and his proponent's argument about opening up the economy again might start to appear more sensible.

Despite the criticism over Trump's rhetoric, the President has yet to make any final decision and, according to one source, views the "beautiful deadline" as more of an aspirational one. During a daily press briefing, the President told reporters that, despite these aspirations, he would listen closely to two members of the White House coronavirus taskforce: Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious diseases, as well as Deborah Birx, the response coordinator for the White House coronavirus taskforce. "We'll only do it if it's good...I'm not sure that's going to be the day, but I would love to aim it right at Easter Sunday, so we're open for church service and services generally on Easter Sunday," said President Trump. Nonetheless, federal public health professionals are now drafting plans for the proposed deadline, some of which include "rolling" responses, in which isolation guidelines would be lifted in some parts of the country.

To-date, the COVID-19 death toll in the United States continues to rise with little sign of improvement; the World Health Organization (WHO) anticipates the United States to be the next epicenter of the pandemic after Italy and China. As the nation grapples with this pandemic, the La Salle University community too struggles with cancellations, postponements and shifts, as President Hanycz has shared words of encouragement: "We will get through this — together and by association."

Even while the Senate voted late on Wendesday to approve a $2 trillion relief package, Trump conituned to push for a swift reopneing of the economy.

"At some point in the not too distant future, certain states are going to come off the rolls," Trump said. "Maybe New York can't. And maybe California can't."

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Universal do not resuscitate orders are possible

Thomas Cahalan
Editor

Hospitals on the front lines of treatment against the coronavirus pandemic have begun to engage in an ethics debate over who lives and who dies. Doctors and nurses have begun to debate the "save at all costs" resuscitating dying patients against the real and potential danger of direct exposure of coronavirus to medical professionals.

Most conversations surrounding this debate stem from the realization that the risk the medical staff take — directly confronting the coronavirus —has become even more dangerous, as necessary protective equipment in hospitals around the country has continued to be in shortage. Necessary protective equipment includes masks, gowns and gloves. Seeing how this equipment remains a scarcity for many hospitals, some doctors and nurses have begun to wonder if the risk of doctors' and nurses' direct exposure to the coronavirus during treatment has become too great to justify the conventional response when a patient's heart stops.

One hospital that has seen serious discussion surrounding this debate is Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Northwestern Memorial Hospital staff have been discussing the implementation of a universal do-not-resuscitate policy for infected patients. If this policy were implemented, then coronavirus patients would not be resuscitated if their hearts or breathing stopped, regardless of the actual desires of the patient or patient's family. Many in the medical field view this ethical debate as a painful one.

Richard Wunderink, one of the directors of Northwestern's intensive-care unit, mentioned hospital administrators have asked Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker for assistance in clarifying state law and whether or not the policy shift is legally allowed. "It's a major concern for everyone," Wunderink said. "This is something about which we have had lots of communication with families and I think they are very aware of the grave circumstances."

Officials at George Washington University Hospital in Washington D.C. say they have had similar discussions, but have for now decided to continue to resuscitate COVID-19 patients using modified procedures, such as putting plastic sheeting over COVID-19 patients for the purpose of making a barrier. The University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle has decided to rectify the issue of a lack of protective equipment by decreasing the numbers of responders to a COVID-19 patient undergoing cardiac or respiratory arrest.



North Carolina Health News

This is an example of what a DNR form looks like. While there will be some variations between states, the general layout is similar.

Lewis Kaplan, President of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, as well as a surgeon at the University of Pennsylvania, discussed with the Washington Post how colleagues at different medical institutions are mentioning the idea of sharing draft policies to address the changing reality surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are now on crisis footing," he said to the Post. "What you take as first-come, first-served, no-holds-barred, everything-that-is-available-should-be-applied medicine is not where we are. We are now facing some difficult choices in how we apply medical resources – including staff."

The new protocols are part of a larger rationing effort by hospitals for the purpose of effectively using limited amounts of lifesaving equipment, such as ventilators. According to medical experts, the major concern prompting these less-than-ideal measures happens to be the concern of healthcare workers catching the virus and spreading it to other patients.

Alta Charo, a bioethicist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, explained that even though the idea of withholding treatment may be frightening, it is a pragmatic decision. "It doesn't help anybody if our doctors and nurses are felled by this virus and not able to care for us," she said.

Other medical officials, such as Scott Halpern, a bioethicist at the University of Pennsylvania, believe universal do-not-resuscitate orders would be too draconian for hospitals to implement. People do agree, though, that COVID-19 has changed life forever.

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What's Trending?

Jeriann Tripodi
Staff

Welcome to the world of entertainment. The following news includes highlights of celebrities and events in relation to the current pandemic.

Danny DeVito, Robert DeNiro and Ben Stiller join forces to urge New Yorkers to stay home

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has asked several A-list celebrities to help spread the message to New York residents that they need to stay home in order to beat this pandemic. Three of these celebrities are actors Ben Stiller, Robert DeNiro and Danny DeVito, who all shared the same message that if young people go out and contract the virus, they can cause great harm to older people with whom they come into contact. Governor Cuomo has posted each of their entertaining, yet informative videos to his Twitter. Stiller told fans to take up a hobby while at home, as he shares that he is learning how to pursue chainsaw art with his free time. DeNiro told New Yorkers, "I'm watching you," which is a line from his 2004 film "Meet the Fockers." DeVito told fans that old people, like himself, will be "outta here" if young people don't stay home.



@DannyDeVito via Twitter

DeVito is within the age range said to be most at risk for death.

Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively donate to Coronavirus relief efforts

Actor Ryan Reynolds and wife actress Blake Lively are donating $1 million to Feeding America and Food Banks Canada in order to help low income families and older adults receive food and comfort during this pandemic. Reynolds, who is Canadian, took to Twitter to make this announcement. The "Deadpool" star asked fans to also donate if they can and asked them to "call someone who's isolated and might need connection."

Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos donate to Coronavirus relief efforts

Talk show hostess Kelly Ripa and husband actor Mark Consuelos, who are Manhattan residents, are donating $1 million to help those affected by COVID-19 in New York. According to People, a portion of the money will go towards the purchase of ventilators. The rest will be donated to an organization that runs women's shelters across New York City.

Firefly Music Festival 2020 canceled

The ninth annual Firefly festival has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The four-day festival was to take place from June 18-21 at The Woodlands of Dover International Speedway. Famous performers that were supposed to take the stage included Billie Eilish, Halsey, Blink-182, Khalid and more. Fans were told that they can either receive a full refund or hold on to their tickets for Firefly 2021.

Tokyo 2020 Olympics postponed to 2021

The summer Olympics that were set to take place this summer in Tokyo will now take place in 2021. The International Olympic Committee and the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe have decided together that the games will take place no later than the summer of 2021, according to CNN. This is the first time the Olympic games have been postponed. It had been canceled before in wartime.



The Nation

The last Olympics had issues dealing with the Zika Virus.

Tom Hanks and wife Rita Wilson diagnosed

On March 11, actor Tom Hanks and actress Rita Wilson were the first celebrities to publicly announce that they tested positive for COVID-19. During the production of Hanks' Elvis Presley biopic in Australia, the couple felt ill with fatigue, colds and body aches. Hanks and Wilson were then hospitalized. They have since been released and are self-isolating. Hanks took to Twitter to inform fans that he and Rita are feeling better.

Idris Elba and wife Sabrina Dhowre diagnosed

On March 16, actor Idris Elba took to Twitter to announce to fans that he has tested positive for COVID-19. In the video message, Elba went on to state that although he felt no symptoms, he got tested because he was exposed to someone with the virus. Several days after, his wife, model Sabrina Dhowre, announced that she has also tested positive in a Facetime interview with Oprah. The couple are now in quarantine together.

Andy Cohen diagnosed

On March 20, the "Watch What Happens Live" host Andy Cohen took to Instagram to announce to fans that he has tested positive for COVID-19 after feeling ill for several days. Cohen posted a photo from bed. In the caption, he mentioned that he will take time off from his show in order to focus on his health and has urged everyone to stay home and take care of themselves.



CNN

Cohen said that he misses his son while in quarantine.

Colton Underwood diagnosed

On March 20, the former "Bachelor" Colton Underwood shared a video to Instagram and Twitter to announce that he has tested positive for COVID-19. In the video, the reality star shared that he wants to bring awareness that young and healthy people like himself can catch this virus. Underwood is currently self-isolating and being cared for by girlfriend Cassie Randolph, who is the winner of his season of "The Bachelor."

Prince Charles diagnosed

On March 25, Prince Charles tested positive for COVID-19. His spokesperson confirmed the news by stating that the Prince of Wales displayed mild symptoms before getting tested. He is currently quarantined in his Scotland Palace. His wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, is also being quarantined at the same residence, but is separated from Charles. She has tested negative for COVID-19. Prince Charles had previously been in contact with Prince Albert who also tested positive.

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Out on Break: Social Isolation Special

Jake Eiseman
Editor

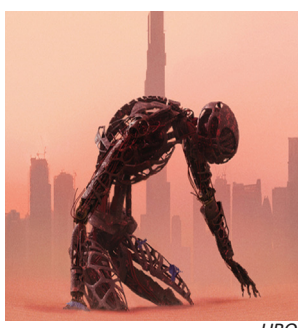
Here are five ways to take your mind off of things while distancing.

"Making the Cut"

Previous "Project Runway" hosts Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn star in their own fashion based reality show, "Making the Cut," which debuts on Amazon Prime Video on March 27. The show is largely similar to "Runway," in that it is a contest between fashion designers. But, Amazon isn't in the market to completely rip-off "Runway" entirely. "Making the Cut" features fashion designers working across the globe in America, France and Japan. The other gimmick of the series is that as soon as the winner is announced each episode, that designer's clothing will be available for purchase on Amazon. If you're looking for a low commitment binge and/or looking to get some new clothes delivered from Amazon, then "Making the Cut" is the quarantine series for you.

"Westworld Three"

Premiering on Sunday, March 15 and running weekly until May 3 is the third season of HBO's sci-fi western "Westworld." Without spoiling anything, "Westworld" can be recapped as a mind-bending blend of sci-fi, mystery and drama with classic western set-pieces and dialogue. The title of the show references the first season's setting, a hyper-futuristic amusement park in which androids live out realistic wild west lives and humans can run around acting as cowboys. Now in its third season, we follow two lone androids in the real world outside the park: Delores Abernathy, once a farmgirl, now a murderous vengeful AI, played by the voice of "Frozen II's" Iduna, Evan Rachel Wood, and Bernard Lowe, a runaway scientist being blamed for crimes he didn't commit, played by Jeffrey Wright. Mini-review: "Westworld" has always been one of my favorite series, being the stamp of 'HBO Quality' since 2016. Although season two did not live up to the storytelling masterpiece that was season one, I believe it set events in motion for the current run, which looks to be one of the greatest pieces of sci-fi on television. So far, "Westworld Three" is a ten out of ten.



HBO

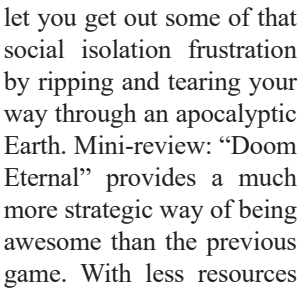
"Westworld" premiered in 2016 and quickly gained a following.

"Big Time Adolescence"

The third Hulu exclusive movie, "Big Time Adolescence" premiered on Friday, March 20. The Sundance Film Institute film is the directorial debut of Jason Orley, previous writer for TV series "Graves." "Adolescence" follows a sixteen-year-old boy named Monroe, played by "Locke and Key" actor Griffin Gluck, and his best friend, a self-destructive college drop-out named Zeke, played by "Saturday Night Live" cast member, Pete Davidson. Mini-review: Although I don't necessarily agree that a coming of age story shrouded in weed and lean is very inspiring, it is impactful on an emotional level. The comedy and chemistry between Gluck and Davidson allows for the messages of the film to be portrayed very well. When Monroe is busted for selling Zeke's drugs, he cuts him out of his life, and that feels very jarring for a film that was mainly about those two characters. That feeling of missing a character does a great job at showing how Monroe must feel without his best friend in his life. Then, when they meet up again, you see that sometimes you have to outgrow your heroes to find yourself, and that is what this movie drives home so well. Overall the film is a seven out of ten, but the comedy is on point and the story is extremely captivating.

"Animal Crossing"

Currently available is Nintendo's first major release of the year: "Animal Crossing: New Horizons." The "Animal Crossing" series has been a staple of handheld gaming since 2005 with the release of "Wild World" on the Nintendo DS, and continues to be with this iteration. Published by Nintendo and produced by Hisashi Nogami, the game sets the player on a deserted island with nothing but a tent, some animal neighbors, and a greedy landlord ready to take all of their money. For those unfamiliar with the series, "Animal Crossing" is a mellow sandbox city-builder that is all about relaxing and taking a break from the stress of reality. Mini-review: "New Horizons" captures that feeling I had as a kid building a village after school to a tee. Even though it is fundamentally different from previous titles, I still get the same vibe from the charming characters, relaxing music and extremely satisfying gameplay loop. Only one week in, and I'd already give "New Horizons" a nine out of 10 — and it could not have come at a better time.



@Spockitans via YouTube

"New Horizons" and "Doom" (See below) released on the same day, leading many to compare them.

"DOOM Eternal"

Developed by id Software and published by Bethesda Softworks is "Doom Eternal," the sequel to the critically acclaimed 2016 first person shooter "DOOM." The reboot of the 1993 PC classic series sold incredibly well and received critical scores in the high 80s, leading to the prompt development of a sequel. "DOOM" as a franchise of games, movies and shows follows the Doom Slayer on his rampage to kill every demon in Hell. Quite a different type of experience than "Animal Crossing," "Eternal" will let you get out some of that social isolation frustration by ripping and tearing your way through an apocalyptic Earth. Mini-review: "Doom Eternal" provides a much more strategic way of being awesome than the previous game. With less resources and enemies having specific weaknesses, "Eternal" gives the same feeling of being unstoppable while forcing the player to think carefully about how they proceed through levels. Players must use strategy to get from one area to another, and by doing so provides a new challenge and a lot of newfound fun, ten out of ten.

eisemanj1@student.lasalle.edu



@Spockitan via YouTube

Pictured is "Doom's" Slayer with "Animal Crossing's" Isabelle.

Enjoying Your Coronatine

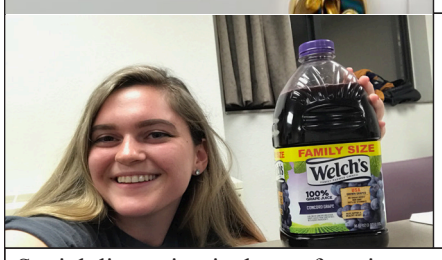
So yeah, maybe my last article about places to travel during the pandemic isn't that feasible anymore. But don't worry, Emily's got your back! While you may not be able to travel to Italy (or even Iowa) and meet the dream man (or corn) you desired, there are still ways to have fun during your corona-tine.



Take a nice long hike around your neighborhood
The biggest complaint people have had during social distancing is that they feel as though they're confined to one space and have no room to move or workout. If that's the case, then just go on a hike! Sure, a lot of the trails at parks are closed to encourage social distancing, but you can still walk around your neighborhood! You'll get to see all the things that will remind you why you never liked your neighbors, and you might even start to understand why that one group of old ladies does it every day in their matching tracksuits. I mean, you probably won't understand THAT, but hey, you might be able to find something weird to post on Twitter for some clout!



Lick some doorknobs
Sitting around all day in the same location can get pretty tiring, and while you're pretty sure no one in your houeshold has the virus, your roommate DID just open the door to a package and didn't douse themself in hand sanitizer before coming back inside. So, if you're feeling a bit risky, I vote for you to go and lick that doorknob. It'll be like a science experiement! Sure, you might die, but hey, at least you didn't have to do ANOTHER jigsaw puzzle!
*I feel like from a public safety perspective I must say that this is a JOKE and to NOT do this, unless you want us all to be quarantined and losing out on quality Kicks content for much longer.



Make some wine
I don't care what you think, but the reality is that we're going to be isolated for at least a few more weeks. As such, now is the PERFECT time to try to brew some cheap grape juice wine! All you need is grape juice, yeast and sugar! Sure, you might spend three weeks on something only for it to taste awful, but honestly, what else were you going to do?

Social distancing is the perfect time to try all those things you feel like you never have time for! Or, sleep. Sleep is always an option. However, I do fully expect all of you to have some wine samples for me to try once I come back to a clean campus in August (only if you're 21, of course).

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Social Distancing
by Marengo Comics

kicks

"I'm not funny"

-JJ and KT (BOTH of my zoom lab partners)

This Day in ANIMAL CROSSING

March 26, 2020



Today we're talking about "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" because I wanted to switch it up! I can't TRULY tell what today may bring you (because I'm sure many of you have already time-traveled and have upgraded your villages). However, I CAN tell you that there will be plenty of tarantulas out tonight, so make sure you get yourself a good net and go hunting! Those things go for 8,000 bells a piece, so you'll pay off that mortgage in no time!

Fonts are for farmers

Dear Kickies,

You might have noticed that half of my fonts have changed this week. Well at least I hope you have! I'm going to be offended if none of you noticed, because I spent a lot of time picking out my original ones!

Anyway, this change is (of course) a result of our transition into online learning, and as such, a transition into writing Kicks remotely from my beautiful mansion estate in the Southern Region of a Newer English Colony (my home in South Jersey). While I must reside in this locale, I am forced to write these articles on my brand new 2012 laptop that gives me a warning that I desperately need to change my battery or get a new laptop every time I use it. As such, the typical features of Kicks don't really *vibe* with my laptop's processor, and so I've had to make some sacrifices.

While this edition of Kicks may be atypical, I hope you don't take offense. I mean, you ARE the one who is still reading a campus newspaper even though you could probably get the same content from the Education Connection commercial at this point. If you don't like this, you'll have to wait until August to bully me. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Emily "TBH very offended none of my Kickies reached out to see if I was okay during this coronatine" Weintraut

Sudoku

This sudoku is definitely a hard one, which I planned. I mean, what else do you have to do right now? Zoom school? Really? I know you're saving AT LEAST 15 minutes a day by not having to walk to classes, so you BETTER use that time to do the sudoku! NOW!!

Comic!

Sure, NOW we all hate social distancing, but just wait until you start to have a thriving community on Animal Crossing. Once you beat Nook, there's no going back: you'll want to stay inside forever. At least, that's how I'm hoping I'll be able to adjust to this!

COMMENTS

If any of you have any comments, submissions or want to give me some validation, email me at: weintraute1@student.lasalle.edu :)

Things to do in QUARANTINE

- Stay inside
- Sleep
- Play games (Club Penguin, UNO, Tinder, etc.)
- Fight your siblings (sucks for you only children)
- Make TikToks
- Watch movies
- Order takeout from your local businesses
- Not go outside and infect yourself or other people



CAKE

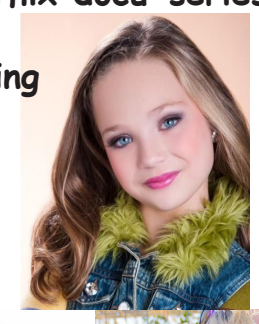
(;Hey CAKE is edited by Claire Kunzier. Here's stuff you probably don't need or want but are gonna get:)

Claire's FAVS of the Week

TWEET - "Please do not take medical advice from a man who looked directly at a solar eclipse." @HillaryClinton
SONG - RACECAR by Deaton Chris Anthony ft. Clario, Coco & Clair Clair
QUOTE - "I told her, her daughter looked like roadkill." - Abby Lee Miller
BUZZFEED QUIZ - This Personality Quiz Will Reveal Which White Claw Flavor You Are

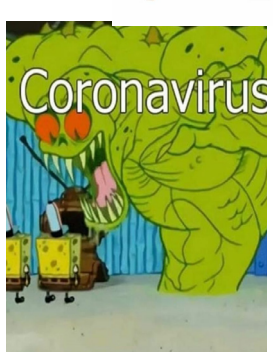
The Quarantine Pyramid

TOP TO BOTTOM LIST OF THE BEST/WORST ATM
- MADDIE - enough said
- Pets - you're just trying your best
- The Tiger King Netflix docu-series - was really good but I finished it in 2 days (not 1 because I was watching it with my mom)
- The internet - has been super slow
- President Trump - stared at the eclipse and should not be giving medical advice
- The coronavirus - really throwing off the spring semester of 2020













MAD LIB

(because everyone loves a good mad lib)

Are you sick and tired of looking _____ (DIRECTION) to see your favorite _____ (COLOR) _____ (ITEM OF CLOTHING) ruined by a pesky _____ (FOOD) stain… FOREVER? Have you been _____ (VERB ENDING IN "ING") yourself to sleep every night because the only _____ (ITEM OF CLOTHING) you own smells like _____ (BAD SMELL)? Well you no longer have to fret about keeping your _____ (ITEM OF CLOTHING) _____ (ADJECTIVE) because Tide® _____ (PLURAL NOUN) can take care of even the most _____ (ADJECTIVE) fabric disasters. Want to partake in the annual _____ (FOOD) fight in _____ (COUNTRY)? Have at it! _____ (LIQUID)-wrestling? That's A-okay because Tide _____ (PLURAL NOUN) will help clean up the aftermath. They're so _____ (LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY) even your _____ (PET) could do it. Simply toss one in the _____ (HOME APPLIANCE) with your laundry, and _____ (SOUND EFFECT) instant clean! For only _____ (AMOUNT OF MONEY) you can purchase a pack of _____ (NUMBER) _____ (PLURAL NOUN) so don't worry about not eating for the next _____ (PERIOD OF TIME). Whether you want to be the next Indiana Jones or the next _____ (MOVIE CHARACTER), go have an adventure because we got your _____ (BODY PART).

If It's got to be _____ (ADJECTIVE), it's got to be Tide!

StOrY tImE

So, the other day my little brother Brendan was playing with a drill and ripped out a chunk of his hair with the drill. That was only day five of the Corona Quarantine. Scan the code to see my TikTok about it---------->

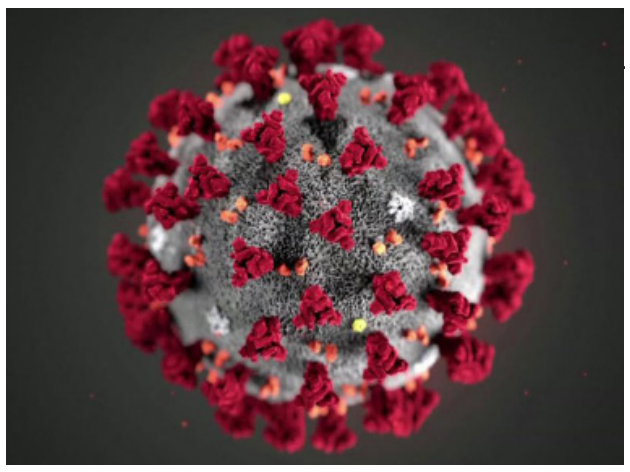


Knead a new hobby? People take up baking, and much more during the pandemic.

pg. 2

pg. 10

President Trump's looks to end procautions and shelter in place before Easter Sunday.



COLLEGIAN SPORTS

Coronavirus ends the Explorers seasons

Steven Silvestro
Editor

One day after announcing that all La Salle sporting events would be held without fans due to the Coronavirus, La Salle announced its decision to end the spring season and all sporting events. This came after the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) ended all spring sports and practices, and the Atlantic 10 canceled the men's basketball tournament.

"The well-being of our student-athletes, coaches, staff, fans and the La Salle community is always a top priority," said Brian Baptiste, Director of Athletics and Recreation. "Given the widespread impact of COVID-19, we appreciate the tough decisions made by the Atlantic 10, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference and NCAA to cancel all remaining competitions and championships."



La Salle University Athletics

Effective March 12, the NCAA canceled all championship and sporting events.

Decisions came down fast on Thursday, March 12 following the NBA's choosing to suspend its season after Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz tested positive for Coronavirus.

Moments before Massachusetts and VCU tipped off the second round of the Atlantic 10 men's basketball championship in Brooklyn, the A-10 announced the cancellation of the tournament. The A-10 was the fifth conference to cancel its tournament.

The Chair of the A-10 Presidents' Council, Mark C. Reed, President of Saint Joseph's University, announced this decision stating, "It is of utmost importance that our action as a conference be made in partnership with our campus policies and the health and safety of all of our students, faculty and staff."

Around 2:30 p.m. that same day, the MAAC ended the season for all sports which includes the La Salle's women's golf and women's water polo programs. A statement reads, "Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Council of Presidents has also unanimously voted to cancel all spring sports competitions, practices (including captain's practices), effective tomorrow, March 13 and other athletic related activities for the remainder of the 2020 Spring semester"

The NCAA waited until after 4 p.m. to make their announcement on Twitter that they canceled the March Madness tournaments for both men and women and the remaining winter and spring NCAA championships. The Board of Governors said, "This decision is based on the evolving COVID-19 public health threat, our ability to ensure the events do not contribute to spread of the pandemic."

The Division I Council Coordination Committee followed this by revealing plans to give athletes in spring sports an extra year of eligibility saying, "[it] is appropriate for all Division I student-athletes who participated in spring sports."



La Salle University Athletics

Student Athletes in Spring sports will be given an extra year of eligibilty by the NCAA.

Unfortunately, an extra year of eligibility does not help the student-athletes who will graduate this year. Baptiste empathized with them, "our hearts go out to our student-athletes and coaches who have worked tirelessly to represent La Salle with Class and excellence. Most especially we are thinking about the seniors that have had the final chapter of their careers impacted. We will explore a way to acknowledge their tremendous contributions as La Salle Explorers in the future, and know they will go on to do great things moving forward."

Ed Croswell to transfer to Providence

Tyler Small
Staff

As we all know, the La Salle Men's basketball season ended prematurely, less than 24 hours before their first matchup of the A10 Tournament against Davidson. Before the early retirement of the 2019-20 NCAA season however, star center Ed Croswell concluded his own season rather abruptly.

On Feb. 28, the sophomore announced his transfer from the program before a home matchup against St. Bonaventure. Head coach Ashley Howard had nothing but praise and respect for Croswell, as he stated, "Ed Croswell is a great kid and a valued member of this basketball program. We wish Ed and his family nothing but the best moving forward."

Croswell later announced that he would be taking his talents to a Power Five conference, as he will be attending Providence this upcoming fall to play for the Friars. Providence finished the 2019-20 season with a 19-12 overall record, and a 12-6 Big East Conference record, just one game back of sharing the Big East championship with Creighton, Villanova and Seton Hall.

The Friars are led by head coach Ed Cooley, who took the position in 2011. Through his nine seasons, he has a combined record of 181-122 overall and 83-79 in the conference. Cooley does not have a conference champion with the Friars, as the top position they have held is third place in three separate seasons, although he does have one March Madness victory from when, in 2016, they defeated eighth-seeded USC.

Croswell finished the 2019-20 season averaging 10.4 points per game while shooting 60 percent from the floor and led the Explorers with 7.6 boards per game. His best game this season was undoubtedly the Explorers matchup against Saint Louis, where Croswell dropped 24 points on 10 for 16 shooting, while also hauling in 18 rebounds, nine on each side.

The 6'8" sophomore proved he was ready for collegiate basketball early in his freshman season, as he shocked most with his immediate impact in the 2018-19 season. He appeared in 31 games and started in nine, and although he only averaged 4.6 points per game, he was a menace in the paint as he brought down nine rebounds a game and sent away 21 blocks on the year.

The rising junior will leave Philadelphia for the first time in his young career, and we here at the Collegian wish him nothing but luck.

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La Salle University Athletics

Sophomore Ed Croswell led the Epxlorers with 7.6 rebounds per game and second with 10.4 points per game.