

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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U.VA. VACATED

**Classes move online for remainder
of spring semester due to COVID-19
concerns**

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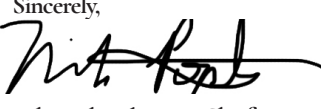
Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

To our readers:
On March 17, the University of Virginia moved courses online for the rest of the spring semester, asking students to vacate Grounds due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
As the spread of coronavirus has affected most aspects of our daily lives – from coursework, extracurricular activities and sports to socialization and mental health – The Cavalier Daily remains committed to providing the University community with new, relevant and insightful information that inspires critical conversation and impactful action.

Despite being away from Grounds, we aim to report on what University officials, professors, students and others in our community are doing to respond to a crisis that is unprecedented in its nature, and fully understand our commitment to keep you informed. Our volunteer staff members and editors are working around the clock to ensure that you can count on us to listen to your voices and keep you informed of important developments.
I'm proud of the dedication and attention to detail my colleagues have shown during this challenging period. We are ready and eager to cover all as-

pects of this unfolding story, and will do so with clarity, accuracy and timeliness. There is a lot to cover, and we are committed to staying on top of it all. I invite you all to share your thoughts and experiences with us for inclusion in our coverage.
As a public service, The Cavalier Daily will continue to publish articles online daily for the rest of the semester, and we proudly present this week's special print issue focused on how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed life at the University. Years from now, when future generations look back at how the University and Charlottesville

communities responded to this historic pandemic, I am honored that they will turn to these pages in The Cavalier Daily which chronicle how our community has coped and come together during this challenging time.
We will now pause print production for the remainder of the spring semester, and hopefully with your generous financial support be able to present our much-anticipated graduation issue featuring the Class of 2020.
I am grateful to those who have donated to The Cavalier Daily for making our free daily coverage possible. As a financially independent, non-profit

organization that receives no funding from the University of Virginia, we could not do our work without your generous support.
Thank you again for reading Virginia's oldest collegiate daily newspaper, The Cavalier Daily, as we remain committed to telling the 'History of Now.' Please stay safe and healthy during this historic public health crisis.
Sincerely,

Nik Popli, Editor-in-Chief,
131st term of The Cavalier Daily

NEWS

COVID-19 Timeline

CD News Staff

3.3

U.Va. urges students not to travel internationally or to affected domestic areas for Spring Break.

3.7

First case of COVID-19 in Va. confirmed.

3.11

U.Va. announces shift to online classes until tentative April 5 reassessment, cancels events of 100 attendees or more and strongly encourages students to return home.

3.12

Gov. Northam declares a State of Emergency.

3.14

Va. Department of Health announces first death due to COVID-19.

3.15

Northam bans events involving 100 or more people.

3.16

An employee of the U.Va. Women's Center is the first to test positive in Charlottesville.

3.17

Northam recommends public gatherings be limited to 10 people.

U.Va. Athletics and ACC cancel athletic activities.

3.18

U.Va. makes classes online all semester, scales back operations, cancels original plans for Final Exercises and all other on-Grounds events. Faculty and staff told to work remotely if possible.

The last day for students living on-Grounds to retrieve essentials.

U.Va. announces second case of COVID-19 in community is an employee of Biocomplexity Institute in Arlington.

U.Va. announces credit/no credit will be default grading system for undergraduates this semester.

3.19

Online classes begin.

3.20

All students living in on-Grounds residences must have made plans to leave, with some exceptions.

New employee plans for working in-person or remotely fully implemented.

5.15

University's cancellation of all on-Grounds events tentatively ends.

6.10

State of Emergency throughout the Commonwealth tentatively ends.

U.Va. moves classes online for remainder of semester

Students can request a pro-rated refund or credit for unused University Housing and Dining fees

Mackenzie Williams | Staff Writer

All classes will remain online throughout the semester, and Final Exercises will not proceed as planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic, University President Jim Ryan and Provost Liz Magill announced in an email to members of the University community March 17.

This decision came two weeks before the University was expected to determine if classes would return to Grounds and one day after Ryan confirmed that an employee at the Maxine Platzner-Lynn Women's Center tested positive for COVID-19.

"It is exceedingly unlikely, based on all that we know at this point, that this virus will have abated by the end of April," Ryan and Magill said in the email. "In light of the need for faculty, staff and students to make plans, we are making the decision now — rather than waiting until April 5 — to not hold any classes on Grounds this semester."

Ryan and Magill added that "significant, additional steps" were necessary to protect the community from the further spread of the coronavirus.

"We realize and regret that these additional steps will cause more disappointment and call for more sacrifice, but we see no other way to do our part to help confront this public health crisis," Ryan and Magill said. "At this point, it seems imperative that we do our very best to slow the progression of this virus in order to 'flatten the curve' of those infected and avoid overwhelming our health system, which would ultimately risk our patients, our community and our Charlottesville neighbors."

The announcement followed at least five emails from Ryan and Dean of Students Allen Groves imploring students to return to their homes to mitigate the coronavirus's impact on the community.

Classes

University professors will primarily use Zoom video and audio conferencing to hold classes remotely through the end of the semester. Some professors will be pre-recording lectures.

Ryan and Magill said the University may take additional steps to ease the transition to long-term online coursework, but did not detail the potential adjustments.

"We are in active discussions about what changes we might make to our normal grading system this semester," Ryan and Magill said. "We will be back in touch soon once we have made a decision."

Subsequent to this announcement, Magill announced March 18 the default grading system is now credit/no credit for all spring semester undergraduate courses that have not yet

completed coursework. Courses that are graded CR/NC — rather than with letter grades A through F — will not be factored into students' grade point average, but they will count toward curricular, major and graduation requirements if completed with a letter grade equivalent of C or better.

According to the announcement, students will also have the option to receive letter grades and have until the last day of spring semester classes, April 28, to decide. The University will indicate the circumstances surrounding CR/NC grades on transcripts, noting that the option was implemented to manage the transition to online learning.

Georgetown University and Northwestern University are offering a pass/fail option in light of similar operational changes. Northwestern, along with Stanford University, also made undergraduates' final assessments optional.

The University extended the deadline for withdrawing from classes to March 19 and is requiring faculty advisor meetings for fall 2020 enrollment to be held via phone, Skype, Zoom or FaceTime. Course enrollment begins April 6 as planned.

Final Exercises and on-Grounds events

Final Exercises are canceled for the first time since the tradition began in 1829. The graduation ceremony had previously been scheduled for May 16 and 17.

Ryan and Magill said the University made the "difficult decision" to cancel the event as planned "in light of the evidence about the likely progression of the virus over the next couple of months and when it will peak." Ryan and Magill noted, however, that a team has been working to develop alternatives to Final Exercises. The email did not say when fourth-year students should expect an updated graduation plan.

"We do not make this decision lightly, as we know how disappointing it will be to graduating students and their families," Ryan and Magill said.

Ryan and Magill also canceled all on-Grounds events until at least May 15, regardless of size, citing the Centers for Disease Control, White House and Commonwealth's "ever-shrinking size limitations."

The University's original size restriction in its previous announcement was for events with more than 100 people. Gov. Ralph Northam mandated gyms, restaurants and theaters reduce their capacities to 10 patrons beginning March 17.

The new University restriction applies to all events — even if they are not University-sponsored — that are scheduled to occur on Grounds, in-



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Final Exercises are canceled as planned for the first time since the tradition began in 1829.

cluding social gatherings.

The only exception will be "small internal meetings, where social distancing should be the touchstone," according to the email.

Almost all University spaces will be closed to students, including libraries, student activity spaces — like 1515 and Newcomb Hall — gyms and fitness facilities and the Rotunda, which will be closed to the public. Bus services will also be reduced.

Housing and dining

On-Grounds Housing will be further restricted under the new regulations to reinforce social distancing efforts, as only "a very limited number of residents" will be allowed to remain in University Housing, according to the email.

Students must vacate their on-Grounds Housing by March 20 unless they are either international students who are unable to return home, students who do not have other homes or students who would be severely risking their health or safety by traveling to their homes. Students who wish to remain in their on-Grounds Housing must submit a request to do so, or they will lose access to their residences.

Ryan and Magill noted that students have until March 18 at noon to collect their essential belongings from University Housing — and more information will be communicated soon about the University's move-out schedule.

Undergraduate and graduate students who live off-Grounds are urged to follow the new guidelines for on-Grounds Housing, as well.

In addition, all major dining facilities are closed, effective immediately, with the exception of Observatory Hill Dining Hall. Dining services are

limited to takeout and grab-and-go, and students who get their food from O'Hill "will not be able to eat inside the facility." Students who have their own kitchens are encouraged to prepare their own meals.

Compensation, employment and wages

Pro-rated housing and dining credits will be provided to student accounts for on-Grounds Housing and University dining contracts to offset the changes. Ryan and Magill said additional information about the partial refunds is forthcoming.

"As long as students remain enrolled through the end of the spring semester, financial aid will not be impacted," Ryan and Magill said.

The email did not mention tuition reimbursement.

Ryan and Magill also announced mandatory telecommuting for all faculty and staff, with the exception of employees who "must report in person to carry out key functions of their units, schools, or UVA Health." Some employees may be "re-deployed" to "take on tasks elsewhere at the University." Ryan and Magill expect all adjustments to work plans to be "fully implemented" by the end of the day March 20.

"To be clear, those who must report for work will have to do so," Ryan and Magill said. "Those who can work remotely will have to do so."

Professors are permitted to be in their classrooms and offices to teach online and Health System employees are allowed on Grounds to treat patients or support patient services.

The email assured all part-time and full-time employees that their compensation and benefits will remain unchanged "for the foreseeable future."

"The length of this crisis is difficult to predict at this point, as are the economic ramifications," Ryan and Magill said. "There may come a point where we need to reassess in light of the length of time of the crisis or significantly changed circumstances, but our hope and plan is to weather this crisis together."

Ryan and Magill did not make the same assurances to contract workers. An update on their compensation during the University's closure is forthcoming.

"We have relationships with a wide range of contractors across the University, which present a variety of situations," Ryan and Magill said. "We are in active conversations with these contractors and hope to be able to provide an update fairly soon."

Teaching assistants and paid student researchers whose supervisors allow them to continue their work remotely will continue to be paid at the same rates. Students in the Federal Work Study program will be paid an average of their current wages on a bi-weekly basis through the end of the semester.

The email acknowledged that some student workers who are not eligible for Federal Work Study will not be able to work remotely due to the nature of their jobs. These students will not be paid.

"We understand that this will cause some students financial hardship, and we will do whatever we can to help," Ryan and Magill said. "If you are in need of financial support, please connect with your supervisor, who has received a list of emergency financial resources available to displaced student employees."

Online transition raises concerns among students

How students are struggling with internet inaccessibility and financial instability with regard to new University guidelines

Patrick Roney | Senior Writer

Earlier this month, third-year College student Skylar Wampler attended classes on Grounds and worked 20 hours a week to pay rent for an off-Grounds apartment. Now — due to the University's response to COVID-19 which includes continuing the rest of the semester online and postponing Final Exercises — Wampler and all other University students will have to adjust to a new lifestyle.

For Wampler, that includes returning to her rural hometown to attend her online classes with unreliable internet access while working a job to pay rent for housing she no longer uses.

"It just feels strange to still be paying rent in a place that I'm not living," Wampler said.

Wampler's predicament exemplifies one of many stories at a University adjusting to a pandemic that has altered activities across the world.

"It's very difficult for some students — including myself — to know how to proceed and handle the changes that are being made," Wampler said.

Internet access

One of the biggest changes created by the University's response to COVID-19 will be a shift to virtual instruction — a method of teaching that will relay University courses online through Zoom, a video and audio conferencing application. However, this solution requires students to have access to reliable broadband connectivity.

Media Studies Associate Professor Christopher Ali currently researches policy regarding rural areas' accessibility to broadband — an internet connection's high-capacity transmission of digital information. Ali is concerned about students who may not have access to quality broadband, which he defines as a broadband that supports an always-on internet connection that runs too megabits per second downloads and uploads, because they would not have a system that supports live Zoom class sessions.

"They wouldn't be able to participate in a live classroom," Ali told The Cavalier Daily. "What does that mean for their educational experience? I think in this rush to Zoom we haven't exactly taken into account all of our students' broadband abilities or capabilities."

On March 16, the University uploaded answers to students' technology questions — including what to do if a student does not have WiFi access or a computer. Students are encouraged to find an

alternate location with WiFi available or ask their cellular provider for a WiFi hotspot. Students also can fill out a request to Student Financial Services to pay for technology-related costs.

Ali mentioned that the University's reliance on virtual instruction could pose a problem for students like Wampler whose homes do not have high speed internet. In order to complete her academic work during the transition to virtual instruction, she will have to go to her local church's library — a decision she fears will endanger her community due to COVID-19's ability to infect people easily.

"Just in terms of logistics — like handling Zoom sessions — I have had to find local places in my community that I can go to have access to the internet," Wampler said. "So in a way I feel kind of like I'm putting my own community more at risk by leaving Charlottesville."

Ali suggested that a solution to Wampler's unreliable internet access would involve the University making hotspots available. In fact, some libraries in rural areas — but not Wampler's — already have hotspots available for people to compensate for their area's poor internet connection.

"This student can't just will that [hotspot] into existence," Ali said. "As a University community, we have to make that happen for

her, and this is why we need to be having the types of conversations that you're having right now, and we need to make sure that the student is not being left out and not being deprived of her educational experience."

Educational quality

As for the educational experience, fifth-year College student Mark Felice does not think his politics seminars and discussion-based learning courses will be taught as well through virtual instruction. He is concerned with some professors' ability to manage the technology that the University will now rely on to educate students.

"I think most people at U.Va. would be able to agree that many of their professors ... aren't technology savvy," Felice said. "So transitioning to fully online courses poses a lot of challenges especially like if you're someone like me ... in upper-level politics courses that are discussion heavy, where it's really hard to do everything online when you're trying to engage with material and classmates."

To counter concerns like Felice's, Ali wants students to know that teachers are encouraged to ensure the student experience is not compromised during the transition. Ali mentioned that libraries hosted workshops Monday to

aid professors in creating online courses. Otherwise, the University has relied on professors to guide themselves and students into the next phase of classes.

"From the professor side — we're doing everything we can," Ali said. "We're doing the best we can to make sure that our students are getting what we feel they need out of our courses to go forward. But we're all doing the best we can. I know that I'll be spending the majority of next week tailoring my courses to an online experience but also making sure that my online experience matches what my students can access."

Wes Hester, director of media relations and deputy University spokesperson, stated the University is aiding faculty during the transition. For example, each school has a designated contact for faculty assistance in addition to each school's current efforts to pool together tools for virtual instruction.

The University has also assembled resources for faculty to help with virtual instruction, including a checklist of technology requirements from Information Technology Services — which explains how to connect to WiFi and Zoom — as well as tips that outline how to prepare for online sessions and applications professors should use. Hester also mentioned that The Center for Teaching Excellence

will hold sessions that will note how University instructors can maximize their educational instruction.

Job security

In addition to being a part-time student, Felice also works up to 40 hours a week as a bartender on the Corner and at a nearby movie theater. However, due to the COVID-19 threat, he believes the restaurant may close any day now, leaving him to say he is concerned about his source of income.

"For the past week I've been contemplating leaving," Felice said. "I know several people at my workplace are feeling the same way. We've already had people talk about leaving or have already left because they're worried about paying rent or basic life necessities."

Following the interview, Felice was laid off and the movie theater closed until further notice.

While Felice was anxious about losing his job that depends on customers buying beverages, he ultimately wants students who want to party on the Corner to think about the effects of their actions. The Centers for Disease Control suggests that social distancing is the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and University administration — like other schools across the country — has strongly urged students to leave Grounds. This announcement included canceling all University events of 100 people or more. However, students have continued to gather in large groups as late as Tuesday evening.

"Think about the implications of what you're doing and how there are a lot of students that are going to have to go home who financially can't afford to," Felice said. "There are a lot of students that have to work part-time, full-time jobs on top of going to school who are being affected by this. Don't be stupid."

Wampler said she wanted to make a smart decision about where to stay during the suspension of on Grounds activities. She decided to return home, which despite its difficulties, she knows it's the option that protects the most people.

"I feel very strongly about the fact that we do need to limit contact as much as possible," Wampler said. "I do think that we all as students — a part of this community — have a responsibility to practice distancing ourselves from one another. I don't want my ties to my friends in Charlottesville to put anyone else at risk."



ANGELA CHEN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Students congregate despite requests to return home

Several Charlottesville residents report seeing groups of students in Madison Bowl, fraternities and bars

Ali Sullivan | News Editor

Several community members expressed frustration with University students after many continued to congregate in groups in Madison Bowl, on the Corner and at fraternity houses Tuesday evening despite the University's calls for social distancing.

Charlottesville resident Karen Marsh, who lives on University Circle, said students and fraternity members near her home were blaring music and playing beer pong Tuesday afternoon. Her concerns stem largely from the fact that many of her neighbors are older individuals and are therefore more vulnerable to COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"We have all these very sensitive people here, within yards of the fraternities," Marsh said. "To see this behavior, seems to be risking the health of our own older and more vulnerable residents."

Marsh and other residents of University Circle sent an email to University officials March 17 evening to express their frustrations with the parties.

"We are literally in the middle of a fraternity and sorority neighborhood and yet we are a community of neighbors and residents who live here — many who are older and vulnerable," Marsh said.

Students were instructed March 17 to vacate their on-Grounds housing by March 20 unless they are international students who are unable to secure travel to return home, students who do not have other homes or students who would be severely risking their health or safety by traveling to their homes. Students living off-Grounds were advised to follow the same guidelines.

A few blocks from University Circle, students were also spotted March 17 lounging on picnic blankets in Madison Bowl and drinking outside bars on University Avenue — many in crowds greater than the state government's 10-person limit for restaurants, an executive order that Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam enacted Tuesday evening.

Trinity Irish Pub and Boylan Heights — two popular social bars on the Corner — declined to comment on the topic. However, Boylan Heights had reportedly closed around the time that Northam's executive order was enacted.

Marsh was not the only Charlottesville resident to express



GRACIE KRETH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Students were spotted lounging on picnic blankets in Madison Bowl and drinking at bars on the Corner.

disappointment with students socializing en masse — Kirt von Daacke, assistant dean and history professor, and Chad Wellmon, associate professor of Germanic Languages and Literature, posted on Twitter regarding their concerns as well.

"The entirety of UVA's student life staff has been working non-stop to get students out of dorms [and] home, [and] provide financial support for those who can't afford to," Wellmon wrote, referring to Student Financial Services' commitment to assist in paying for travel expenses for students on financial aid. "And so it boggles my mind to drive back home on campus [and] pass several fraternities in full beer pong mode."

Dean of Students Allen Groves said the University administration was aware of these community concerns, adding that he spoke with students at Madison Bowl before driving to University Circle, where he found many of the gatherings to have dissipated. Before Groves talked with the students, a staff member from the Office of Student Affairs as well as the Uni-

versity Police Department spoke with students at Madison Bowl.

"I spoke to students at two different fraternities that had what appeared to be gatherings in their front yards which, again, is not objectively illegal," Groves said. "It's more from a public health and safety standpoint — with what we know about social distancing and the spread of this virus — was an unsafe practice."

Social distancing has been found to be one of the best ways to slow viral spread of COVID-19. By avoiding crowds and maintaining personal space, community members can "flatten the curve" — or, help delay the spread of disease and reduce the number of individuals infected, which eases the burden on healthcare facilities.

The Inter Fraternity Council is aware of the importance of social distancing, according to IFC President Kyle Riopelle — a third-year College student, who sent an email March 15 imploring members to return home and avoid social gatherings.

"If you contract COVID-19, you will almost certainly be okay, and you might not even show

symptoms," Riopelle wrote in the email. "But just as certainly, you will pass it on to others, and for many such as the elderly or immunocompromised, the danger is life-threatening. Now is the time to think of others more than ourselves."

To further ensure social distancing among its members, the IFC has prohibited all events indefinitely.

However, because fraternity houses are private property, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life cannot mandate that students leave their fraternity or sorority housing. Marsh remains unsatisfied with this, saying that she views closing the fraternities as a matter of health and safety — especially in her neighborhood.

"As a parent myself, I have made the sacrifice of telling my own child, 'Hey, you've got to come home,'" Marsh said. "Where are all the parents of fraternity members? Why are they not calling their sons home?"

Although the University cannot mandate that any students living off-Grounds return home, Groves said that he continues to hope that University students

will place community welfare above social enjoyment.

"We have a lot of older people in the community that would be particularly at risk, as well as young people with compromised immune systems or underlying health conditions, including many of the peers of our students," Groves said. "Our hope has been through this fairly consistent and firm messaging that we could appeal to students' — to be blunt — better instincts, to actually have strong care for their fellow members of the community, and to do what we believe to be the right thing."

LIFE

Regaining perspective on the coronavirus crisis

Getting to the facts and staying positive without social media

Emma Keller | Life Columnist

We live in a world that is dominated by social media and in a culture that puts too much trust in its most-followed users. It is more obvious now — while the globe is battling COVID-19 — than ever before just how dependent we are on “reliable news sources” like Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

Popular media news sources and social media apps pride themselves on promoting fear and mass panic over factual information, and American consumers — myself included — just eat it up. The news leads us to flock to our local grocery stores, buying everything in sight. We clean every surface in our homes and are careful of who we touch. We refresh our phones to see the next best coronavirus meme and search for that viral video of two women fighting over the last package of toilet paper.

And for what? For group over-reaction? For the fear of leaving our front porches? For running to social media instead of accurate news reports for the latest updates on the coronavirus crisis? It is time that we regain perspective on the pandemic that has sent many of us back to our hometowns with no return to Grounds in the foreseeable future — without social media.

For the majority of our official spring break, I scrolled on my phone before going to bed — a horrible habit, I know — and read post after post about the coronavirus. The casual jokes that irritated me so much on Grounds — “See you after break! Try not to catch coronavirus, ha!” — were morphing into viral videos of college students in self-quarantine and notifications of public school closings all over the country. I saw my peers posting amazing pictures of Barcelona and Madrid simultaneously as I watched as Spain went under a Level 3 travel advisory due to its rapidly rising rate of infection while they were there.

It is nearly impossible to get any objective news from social media, and even popular newscasts like ABC World News spend 28 minutes of 30-minute segments discussing COVID-19. While I understand how important and world-shaking this virus is, I know that we as a public deserve better than news that promotes fear over fact.

So, how can we get to the facts? Do we need to completely detach from social media and delete the apps from our phones?

No — at least, I really do not think so. My search for clear vision on the subject of coronavirus started where most glasses-wearers do — cleaning my

coronavirus is to go to reliable sources like the World Health Organization, The New York Times’ Coronavirus Live Updates page and the Centers for Disease Control’s “Share Facts, Not Fear” factsheet for the most up-to-date information — instead of typing “coronavirus” in a social media

tragedy that is being offered to us on popular media all day really does change your outlook on the world. I know this from my own personal experience and from the way I see social media affecting my family and friends.

So, I want to speed up your journey to regaining perspective

better hygiene habits as a whole society.

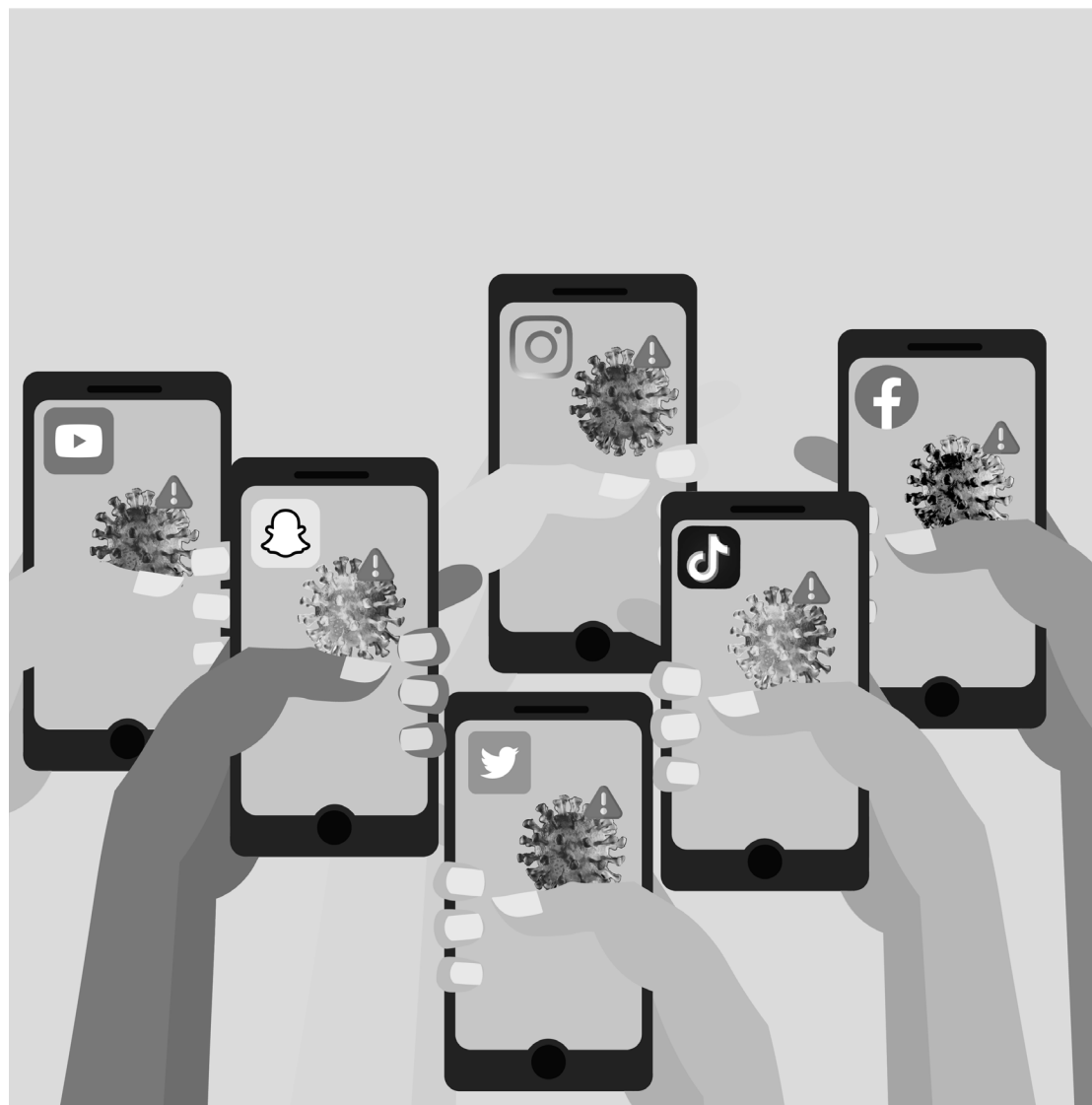
The University is taking progressive steps towards getting students home, and students are working together, creating mutual aid networks and circulating lists of resources to assist those who must stay.

We are getting more time to take a breath and work on ourselves as we stay at home to protect ourselves and those in our communities who are more vulnerable to the coronavirus.

In listing just a few of the positives, I am not trying to diminish the disastrous effects of the coronavirus. My goal is to highlight examples of humans coming together to support each other — at a distance, of course.

Continuing to use social media in times like these is not a bad choice or a wrong choice. But in a few short weeks, I have seen how social media’s opinion on the coronavirus pandemic has negatively impacted my mood and warped my perspective of the disease and its global effects.

So, please, continue to go on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, if you want — I probably will in a few days too. But look for, double-tap and share the stories of people buying and delivering groceries to their elderly neighbors and athletes donating money to cover the salaries of arena workers who will not be working just as much, if not more than, the tragedies that are in everyone’s immediate vision and no one’s best interests.



RACHEL CRAWFORD | THE CAVALIER DAILY

lenses. I tried, and am still trying, to cleanse my feed of fake news spreaders and people I follow that are contributing to the fear-mongering and negativity that social media thrives on.

And when I inevitably come across coronavirus-centered posts on my feeds, if it is not significant news or something worth spending time on, I keep scrolling. The easiest way to get to the facts when we are overwhelmed by the amount of people talking about a topic like

service’s search bar.

The second most important aspect of my struggle to regain perspective has been a mental cleanse. It is really easy at this point in time to focus on the negative that graces our social media feeds, putting on invisible blinders that block out the positive things in our periphery.

I am not trying to come across as a “look for the bright side,” annoyingly optimistic person when I say this, but we all need to focus on the positive. Breathing in the

on where the world is at right now by gathering some of the positives I have found in one place.

We are learning that public spaces like schools, museums and movie theaters can and should continue to be regularly sanitized.

We are finding that jobs that “could not be done remotely” actually can be done from home.

We are being more careful of what we touch, how often we wash our hands and are building

I was studying abroad in Italy when COVID-19 broke out

Life writer Maddie McNamee describes her experiences traveling and studying abroad during the rise of the pandemic

Maddie McNamee | Food Writer

"I can't wait until I'm abroad." These are the words I often told myself in times of stress throughout college. I found myself frequently stating this while struggling through my online financial accounting course, when I was up late writing papers or bored out of my mind at home. The simple words soothed any pain because it created the idea that there was this escape from reality in my future. As much as I love college, my incredibly amazing friends there and my family, sometimes you just need a break.

I decided to take this break in Florence, Italy. When I arrived, it was the exact paradise I pictured. I hate to be hyperbolic, but being in Florence was truly the best I have felt in years. I would make jokes that I would never return to the U.S. as most abroad students tend to do, but I felt this with immense sincerity. I knew I would obviously have to return at some point, but I didn't think it would happen so quickly or as the result of a global pandemic.

I wish I could pinpoint the exact moment I first heard of the coronavirus. However, I admit it wasn't something that crossed my mind much because it seemed like a distant issue. That was my first mistake — the idea that when something doesn't directly affect you, it doesn't matter. Empathy is important, and this is something that will stick with me. I was always sad for those affected by the outbreak in China, but it wasn't until it was imposed on my own plans that I really felt the effect of the virus.

Around late February, coronavirus became more of a topic in Italy. I was irrationally skeptical that it could actually spread to Florence. But Feb. 25, it came to Florence. Schools were starting to send students home, which seemed like an overreaction to me. I prayed that the University and my abroad program, the International Studies Institute, would not do the same. I constantly checked my email for alerts. We were just repeatedly told by ISI and the University that Florence was not dangerous and to simply mind normal hygiene.

While the outbreaks were rising, I was preparing for my spring break. I overheard girls in my classes from Pennsylvania State University canceling their spring break plans and flying home. I laughed at how ridiculous this seemed because ISI kept telling us we were safe. The University remained silent.

I headed to Portugal for a taste of a new environment Feb. 27. An email from the University finally came the same day, listing the

Centers for Disease Control precautions, but reminding us that Italy was still safe. It then mentioned we would have to return to the U.S. if Italy was given a Level 3 warning, meaning the CDC recommends not traveling there because of a widespread, ongoing transmission, and there would be an option for online class. However, there was no information on refunds, housing or a timeline for when this could happen, and there was no advisory to prepare for such an emergency.

The next day, we received an encouraging letter from the mayor of Florence. It mentioned how the emergency and infections were mainly in the north and there were no risks in Florence, so we should not spread unmotivated alarm. It also mentioned how stronger measures were not being considered. This only affirmed my view that Florence was fine and that I would be returning to Italy after break. That very same day, the CDC declared all of Italy a Level 3 warning country.

The University was not the first to inform me of this emergency. I arrived at my hostel in Lisbon, and somehow, three other girls from the University were in my room. They had been studying abroad in Milan, which I prematurely pitied because I knew more schools were closing there. They then informed me of the University's decision to close all study abroad programs in Italy, and I panicked. At first, I did not believe them because the University hadn't sent anything, but I called my parents and received an email from ISI soon after.

The University did not share the news with me until the middle of the night, hours after the news broke. As soon as I woke up, I responded to the person who sent the email, as well as the two people CC'd, asking numerous logistical questions and if I could still remain in Europe somewhere else. I received no answer. I followed up with a second email. As of Wednesday, no one has responded to either my emails or questions following the declaration, and any follow up communication from University officials simply told me classes would be online and I had to leave. Five days after we were told to leave, the University emailed all students studying in Italy that they had to self-quarantine, which I felt to be an unsafe delay of health information.

I was still in denial at this point and was experiencing all five stages of grief. I lashed out because I wanted to return to Florence. I was immensely selfish because I focused on the fact that I, a healthy young

adult, would not be at a high risk — a naive, dangerous view to have since I could be a carrier despite my age — and continued to want to travel. In those moments, I lacked empathy, and I am so regretful.

My dad kept begging me to come home, yet I still refused. With online class, it seemed too easy to stay in Europe, rather than returning home, since my location no longer mattered. In all honesty, I was dreading online class since my previous experience with my online financial accounting course was what had made me desire to go abroad in the first place. I could not imagine having to complete an entire course load via virtual instruction, and my anxiety began to build up.

We were given an extra two weeks without class after our spring break for our professors to figure out their courses online. However, it was never stated how exactly this would work. How could we tune into video classes when the time difference was so vast between the two continents? Emails poured in from professors admitting they had no idea how to use the online resources, and they begged for patience. These professors are people too — people forced to turn an in-person class to a completely online one in just two weeks while directly suffering from the trauma of the current circumstances in Italy — and their struggles need empathy too.

I actually returned to Florence for one day so I could grab my essentials. Despite being a Level 3 country, it was astonishingly normal upon my return. I made sure to hit all of my favorite spots to try to support local businesses, and aside from a few popular places being bare of tourists, the city really felt the same. People were still jovial, and it seemed unfair that a city with so few cases at that point had to suffer.

From Florence, I did not return to the U.S. I stuck by my desire to not return home. I completed the rest of my spring break plans since I had already paid for the flights. At one point, I was visiting my friend studying in Madrid, and she told me her apartment mates were nervous since I had been in Italy. This prejudice was something I had never felt in my life, and I quickly got angry and felt they were misinformed and overreacting. This small interaction opened my eyes to what so many others are facing on such a harsher level every day and how even in a crisis, people can become more individualistic and apathetic.

From Spain, I took the flight I

had booked to Prague before the pandemic started. From there, I took a train to Poland to stay with family. For me, it seemed like the perfect escape — I could stay in Europe and be in a country with zero reported cases of COVID-19. My friend from the University of Colorado, Boulder came with me, as she had also been studying in Florence and had quickly become my adventure buddy and, now, friend for life. It was only when I was in Poland, 11 days after the notice to leave, that U.Va. contacted me, asking about my return to the U.S. and my mandatory withdrawal form for ISI. Despite having my previous questions ignored, I was told refunds would only be given on need-based conditions and to have patience. This failure of communication is part of why I was refusing a flight home.

I am incredibly fortunate my family provided a place for me to stay in Poland for this indefinite time. I left my large suitcase in Italy to be shipped home, so I continuously wore dirty clothes just to make the situation work. It was getting exhausting though, and I just wanted to be in Florence. I kept traveling around Europe because of the glimmer of hope that maybe I could feasibly fly back to Florence if things got better. But once Italy was raised to a Level 4 by the CDC — meaning do not travel at all to the country — I realized this fantasy was nothing more than a pipe dream.

I eventually agreed to return to the U.S. after spending around two weeks outside of Italy — the equivalent of a typical self-quarantine period that I hoped would help me avoid self-quarantining in the U.S. I know this decision was selfish, and while I was not at risk, I could have harmed others. People keep trying to underestimate the virus by claiming that it only kills the elderly or those with preexisting health conditions, but the elderly and immunocompromised are people, too, so we should be concerned for their lives as well, not just our own.

A few days before I was scheduled to leave, the University announced it was sending home all study abroad students in Europe and canceling class on Grounds, causing immediate panic. Now, my peers back home were experiencing the pain I had been feeling for the past two weeks, as the issue started directly impacting them. It's interesting how that worked, how things suddenly seemed to matter once their world crashed too.

I am not trying to belittle the issue of canceled in-person classes

by any means. I never wanted others to feel the pain I felt when my semester ended. But I hope others take this as a chance to acknowledge the importance of empathy. While you may still feel safe, others may not. Think of how lucky you are. Think of your elderly professors or coaches who would be in danger if we continued classes and athletic events. It could be so much worse, and we need to prevent that.

I was sound asleep March 11 when President Donald Trump announced the travel ban from Europe, but my parents were awake. They rushed to book flights while sites were crashing and miraculously found me a way home. My friend and I woke up at 5 a.m. as if our bodies knew something was not right. I saw texts from friends asking if I was stuck, missed calls from my parents and ultimately an itinerary in my email for my return to the U.S.

I am so fortunate to have been in this specific situation where I could afford a last minute ticket, especially with the University's lack of an explicit offer to cover the cost of students' immediate return home. Through this experience, I realized how silly I was for thinking I was untouchable. Things could have gotten so much worse — I could have gotten sick or stuck abroad after the travel ban.

While I still dislike the outcome of my semester abroad, I am glad I am safe. I am glad I had the best two months, and I hope to return to Italy once the situation is better as the current situation in Italy is immensely upsetting. Our professors tell us they are not allowed to be out of their homes after 6 p.m., and during the day they can only leave for the grocery store and the pharmacy. However, in the evenings there are flash mobs from apartment balconies where people blast music and rejoice together. It is positivity like that which affirms my love for Italy and its optimistic and vibrant culture.

I try to think everything happens for a reason. But that does not mean we should be any less cautious or careless because we are dealing with a global emergency. Try to take a look at others' perspectives during this time. While you may feel like you are not sick, you could still be a risk to the people around you, even your most loved ones. Monitor your responses to those who are affected, and try to channel a little empathy. You never know when it could be you.

Top 10 ways to maintain your college lifestyle at home

Online will be just fine

Ben Rosenthal | Top 10 Writer

1. Use Zoom to host parties

In theory, our professors are supposed to use online remote conferencing platforms such as Zoom to give lectures over the next month. While I have little faith in my 77-year-old professors' ability to master such platforms while simultaneously being unable to play audio from a YouTube video, I have faith that we can use Zoom to our own advantage. No Rugby Road? No problem! Turn on your computer, open Zoom, connect with your friends and crack open a couple cold ones from the comfort of your own basement. It's actually better than a real party because you don't have to pay for an Uber to get home.

2. Ask your parents to undercook their food

The one thing I'll miss most about the University these next few weeks is the food. While I initially doubted its quality, my taste buds have adjusted to the point where I call the flavors of Newcomb "home." I mean, seasoning? What even is that? Fortunately, I've compiled a few cooking tips you can use to ensure that the flavors of Newcomb, O'Hill and Runk stay with you over the upcoming weeks. Simply take your mother's home-cooked roast chicken, scrape off the seasoning and leave it in the oven four hours less than she usually does.



TYRA KREHBIEL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

3. Rewatch our 2019 March Madness run

When my family and I first started discussing the possibility of being homebound, a common sentence was, "At least we'll have March Madness to keep us from losing our minds." Ah, how naive we were. Still, not all is lost. Since there is no tournament this year, we will remain the reigning national champions for the second year in a row. And since last year's run was so impressive and anxiety-inducing, why not just watch the reruns? Bonus points if you stand for the entirety of the game — despite very much wanting to sit — because of peer pressure.

4. Wear shower shoes

Ah, shower shoes. A first-year tradition. As someone who lived in a Dillard suite — where all we had was one shower stall and a roommate who spent every night at the Aquatic & Fitness Center — they were essential. Though I stopped wearing them as most second years do, I plan on bringing them back now that I'm living at home again just to remind myself of my roots — as someone who once attended an actual college.

5. Streak your front lawn

I have not gotten around to this proud University tradition myself, as I have a very shameful tattoo on my upper back that I don't want to expose to any Lawn residents. Luckily, I can now streak in relative privacy back home, and I encourage anybody else who hasn't knocked this item off of their bucket list to do so now as well.

6. Burn through plus dollars

Listen here, UVa. If you aren't willing to refund me my meal plan, I will keep using it despite your protests. Though I will not dare set foot in a dining hall, I have \$250 plus dollars to burn, and I trust the sanitary processes of Newcomb Starbucks enough to risk that journey. My current plan is to make the four-hour round trip every day to spend \$4.65 on grande white chocolate mochas until my plus dollars are refunded. That is 52 mini-protests against the capitalist machine. You're welcome, society.

7. Use your fake ID to get booze

Yes, Dad. My name is Andrew David Kiser, the 5-foot-7, 125-pound Chicagoan, born and raised in the Windy City since 1994. Why don't you believe that? What do you mean you were at my birth? 2000? Please. I am a 26-year-old man. Why don't you believe that? The bouncer at Coupe's does! Let me into your liquor cabinet!



TYRA KREHBIEL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

8. Maintain a bad sleep schedule

This is easy enough. No matter where you go, this is going to be your life. You can tell yourself, "school, sleep, social life, pick two!" all you like, but you know it isn't true. You can have it all — you're just too lazy. Just like always, you'll crawl into bed at midnight, then watch YouTube videos and scroll through Instagram for an hour and a half until sleep finally comes. Then you'll wake up tired and blame it on the school-work like you always do. Soon it will be your job and then your baby. There will always be an excuse. But it will always be you. And deep down, you will always know it.

9. Attend lecture hungover

Mom, Dad, I promise this isn't me. But to everybody else who lacks my supreme virtues and upright morality, I am happy to report that online classes are only going to make things better. Since it seems like most professors are keen to just upload lectures as PowerPoint slides and see what happens, you will no longer have to worry about waking up, dragging yourself out of bed, and so on. Now you can just wake up, grab your laptop, take an Advil and learn about the complexities of macroeconomic theory via a 26-slide PowerPoint.

10. Talk to your friends

At the end of the day, this change is a large disruption for all of us. Thankfully, I am a second year and will hopefully one day get to experience college life again. But until then, we have to adjust to the realities ahead of us — social distancing, monotony and lots and lots of time spent in front of your computer. To keep yourself from going crazy, keep in touch with your friends. We're all going through the same thing, and we're all going to go insane unless we go through it together.

Dining in France without breaching your quarantine

A beginner's guide to French cuisine — simple enough for us University students stuck at home to master

Lindsay Smith | Food Writer



LINDSAY SMITH | THE CAVALIER DAILY

This is a vegetarian-friendly, mushroom quiche variant of the quiche Lorraine recipe featured in the article.

While the world is shut down for the next few weeks as corona quarantines take over the social sphere, travel abroad is impossible. But fear not good people — in the midst of taking care of the health and safety of yourself and your neighbors, there is still a way to treat yourself to a couple bites of delicious French cuisine.

I lived in France last fall, and my diet consisted of bread, cheese and — you guessed it — wine. There was, however, one additional item that rounded out my meals and added some nutritious value to the stereotypical fare — eggs. Specifically, copious amounts of quiche. This was something I ate for breakfast, lunch and dinner with no com-

plaints.

To answer the question I'm sure some of you are asking yourselves now, quiche is basically an egg pie. Its two elements are the crust and the filling, and it can go very right — picture a delicious, flaky buttery crust with soft but not mushy egg in the middle, something that warms your tummy at breakfast and fills it at dinner — or very, very wrong. I have eaten some bad quiches in my day, and the dense, mushy things really explain why some French people use the word “quiche” to describe someone who is idiotic rather than idyllic.

So, I have decided to share a recipe for the best kind of quiche out there — quiche Lorraine,

which is just plain quiche with bits of ham and tons of cheese mixed in. If you are a vegetarian, substituting chopped grilled peppers, grilled tomato and grilled onion for the ham is possible. You could even be adventurous and try leeks inside, something I saw in many a Boulangerie. If you happen to be vegan, quiche probably is not the way to go.

The recipe that I'm sharing comes from The Spruce Eats, a comprehensive food blog that has recipes for just about everything, but I added my recommendations for substitutions based on my experiences in France. However, these are nothing more than recommendations — these are just culinary preferences I no-

ticed abroad that I really liked, but they might not be appealing to other people's palettes.

Prep Time: 15 to 30 minutes

Cook Time: 45 to 50 minutes

While you keep your distance from others in the grocery store, there are only a few ingredients you will need to pick up. In all seriousness, this is a very important time to stay safe and stay home — so please, make your grocery visits as efficient as possible by reviewing this list before you head to the store.

Ingredients:

1 pre-made pie pastry dough
4 slices chopped and cooked bacon
4 eggs
1 cup half-and-half or 1 ¼ cup creme fraiche
¼ teaspoon salt
⅛ teaspoon pepper
⅛ teaspoon nutmeg
1 cup grated Gruyere cheese

Instructions:

1. Let's start at the beginning. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees.
2. Grease a pie or tart tin with butter, Pam spray or whatever non-stick solution you generally use. Then unwrap your premade dough — I like the Pillsbury Pie Crusts, but you can use anything — and lay it in your tin. Spread it out so it covers the whole tin, then leave it to vibe on the side. If you make your own dough — which I never do — the recipe from Spruce Eats suggests that you rest your tin with the dough in the fridge for about half an hour.
3. Sprinkle your bacon — or, if you really want to be French, you can use lardon or diced pork belly — in the bottom of the tin. This is the base of the dish, both literally and figuratively, so make sure it's the kind of bacon you like and that it's cooked before it goes into the quiche.

4. In one bowl, beat the eggs, half-and-half, salt, pepper and nutmeg together. While this recipe calls for four eggs, I prefer my quiche with two. I also prefer using a cup and a quarter of creme fraiche — sour cream — to using a cup of half & half. These are personal preferences, but what is a food article by The Cavalier Daily supposed to be if not personal and preferential?

5. Pour in your fillings and sprinkle your grated cheese over

the top. In America, you would be hard pressed to find a quiche without cheese, but in France, few of the many — many — quiches I ate had cheese inside. In this instance, I side with the recipe. The cheese is an important and delicious component of the dish.

6. Bake your quiche. This recipe calls for 45 to 50 minutes in the oven, but if you use my substitutions — fewer eggs and creme fraiche instead of half-and-half — you can start checking at 20 to 25 minutes to see if it has begun to brown. Once it looks nice and golden, and no runny egg is spilling out when you move it, you can take your quiche out.

7. It is important to note that the quiche will continue to cook slightly even after it comes out, so don't let it get too crisp in the oven. But, you want your quiche to be safe to eat, so don't take it out too soon. A soft, “fluffy and neither rock hard nor drippy” consistency for the filling and a flaky, crumbly pastry that hasn't been burned is the ultimate goal.

8. Don't cut into your quiche right away. Leave it a few minutes to cool down once it's out of the oven, and then — finally — you can cut it into quarters or eighths to serve. You might want to make two because trust me — this baby will go fast.

The recipe and my experience abroad both dictate that this should be served with a fresh green salad. A salad complimented with a dijon mustard and vinegar base would be the most French, but I know intimately the annoyances of eating salad with dressing that isn't to my taste. So while I personally recommend the French vinaigrette, feel free to dress your lettuce however you think best.

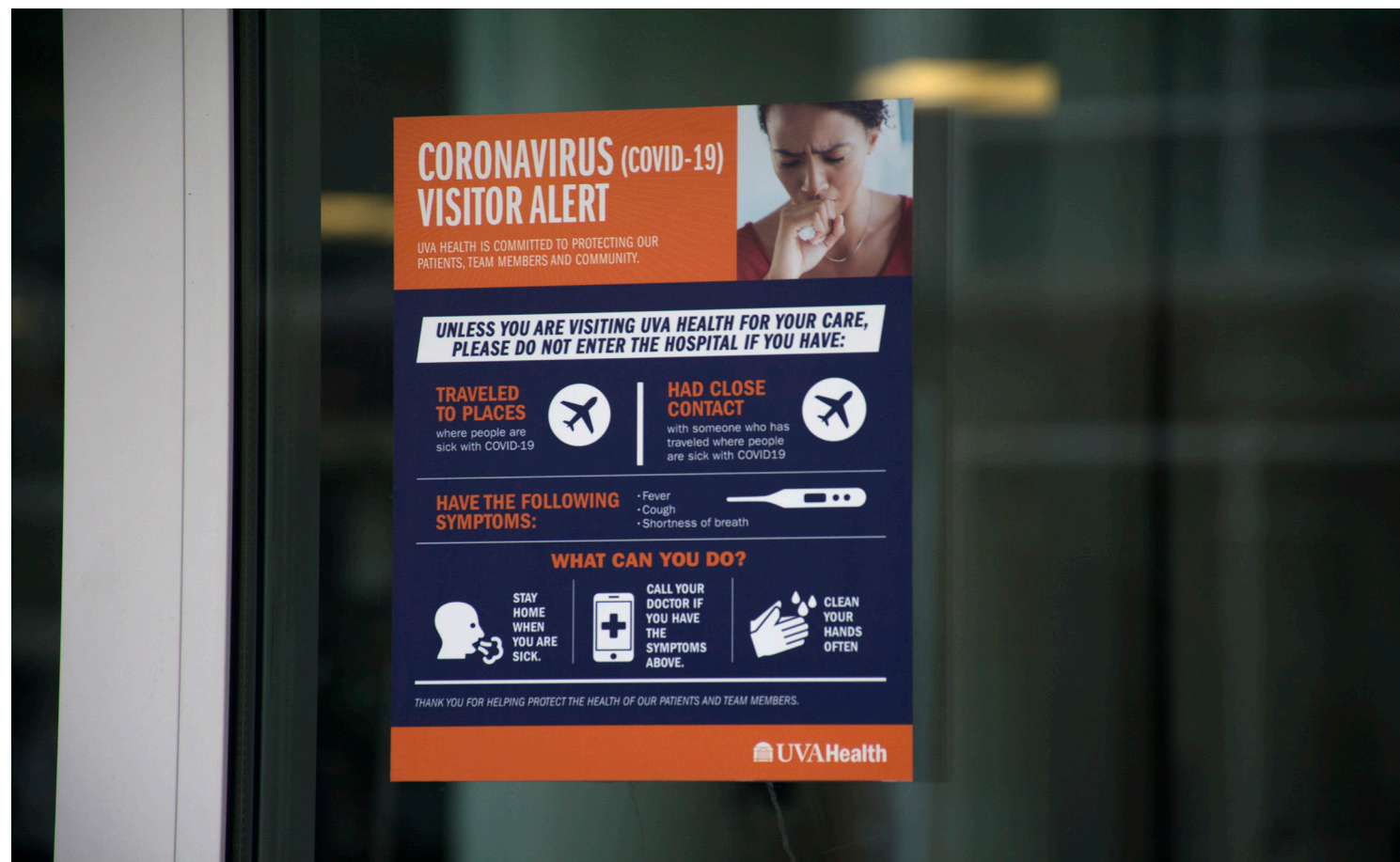
I hope this brings a little bit of European delight into your homes this quarantine season. I also hope those of you who go through the trouble to cook this up eat it with a glass of red wine under candlelight while wearing berets and practicing your French. Why? Because the best way to enjoy this dish is to fully dive into its stereotypical French nature. Stay safe and stay healthy, et bonne chance et bonne cuisine.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

University Health System prepares for COVID-19

Experts discuss plans for treating, testing and educating to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the University community and beyond

Callie Freeman | Health & Science Editor



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

The University Health System has instituted operational changes such as hospital visitor screenings and the rescheduling of all ambulatory visits due to COVID-19.

The University reported its first case of COVID-19 Monday, but the University Health System has been developing plans to treat COVID-19 patients since February. A diverse team of doctors, scientists and hospital administrators have created an action plan that involves screening clinics, overflow spaces and specially reserved intensive care unit rooms to effectively treat patients. As more COVID-19 cases arise in the United States and Virginia, the University Health System is implementing more and more of its action plan.

Chris Holstege, executive director of Student Health, and Costi Sifri, director of hospital epidemiology in the University Health System, are leading the initiative to fight COVID-19.

William Petri — medical professor and vice chair for research, who specializes in immunology — addressed the extent to which the health system has prepared.

“There are reserved ICU rooms,” Petri said. “We have made a new COVID-19 screening clinic in the Battle building. We also have addi-

tional overflow spaces prepared all throughout the health system.”

New guidelines have been put in place for the standard hospital and health system operations. All ambulatory clinic visits — outpatient medical care for routine and specialty consultation, diagnosis, observation and rehabilitation — between now and April 6 are to be rescheduled for a later date. Urgent care and sick visits will still be held.

In addition, all hospital visitors must be screened for respiratory symptoms and possible COVID-19 exposure before visiting patients, and patients are limited to two visitors ages 18 and older during their stay at the University hospital. Children under 18 are not allowed as visitors during this time.

Despite the planning and guidelines, there are still challenges operating under the pandemic, according to Petri.

Tests for COVID-19 must first travel to Richmond for processing before results can be obtained, which can take several days, though the health system hopes to have all testing steps local within the com-

ing days.

Tracey Hoke, chief of quality and performance improvement in the health system, further clarified the testing status.

“We are moving now towards three new platforms that will offer us some in-house testing,” Hoke said. “The first platform is low [sample volume] — one where not too many samples can go in — so we won’t have a lot of tests with this, but with it, we will soon have options for in-house testing.”

Circle Warren, associate professor of medicine in infectious diseases, explained the important testing guidelines that the health system is following in an email to The Cavalier Daily.

Those with a fever, cough, difficulty breathing or flu-like symptoms should first call their primary care physicians to see if testing is needed, according to Warren. For now, only individuals in two scenarios are prioritized for testing — those who have travelled to areas where there is a widespread, ongoing transmission of COVID-19 as defined by the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, including but not limited to China, South Korea and the United Kingdom, and those with severe symptoms that cannot be explained by other viruses.

Hoke believes the University’s first case of COVID-19, a Maxine Platzer-Lynn Women’s Center employee, was treated through her primary care physician and tested through LapCorp — a private lab testing company — as she was not seen or treated by the University Health System.

Hoke also confirmed the health system’s preparedness for challenges posed by COVID-19, like complications disrupting trade and travel to Asian countries and school closures creating staffing issues if hospital employees cannot find childcare.

“This isn’t the first time a pandemic has come around in healthcare, and we have a plan and [a] group in place for caring for patients who need to be hospitalized,” Hoke said. “We’ve also made plans for the staffing of [the health system] and plans to preserve our protective equipments, which many

are made in China and [other Asian countries].”

However, for those without severe symptoms, both Petri and Hoke agree that the best plan is perhaps the simplest — staying home, calling their primary care physician if necessary and practicing social distancing.

They encouraged people to follow the CDC’s guidelines, such as those to avoid events with more than 10 people. These practices are especially important because the virus is unusually contagious and often presents with no symptoms for days on end, during which individuals can infect others.

Petri traces the virus’s contagiousness to humans’ lack of immunity and calls for social distancing as the only way to slow the pandemic.

“What’s different about this coronavirus is that people don’t have immunity,” Petri said. “It has jumped from animals into people.”

According to Petri, the virus changed when it traveled from a bat into humans — leading to an entirely different virus for which humans do not possess immunity.

“If left unchecked, half the population [of] the U.S. will get infected because we don’t have a pre-existing immunity,” Petri said. “The whole idea is slowing down the epidemic so we don’t overwhelm hospitals because we have limited capacity.”

Hoke also emphasized the importance of social distancing to prevent shortages of medical supplies and hospital beds.

“If patients are not very sick, they should stay at home and call their primary care providers so [as to] not flood the healthcare system,” Hoke said. “The idea of flattening the curve, or lengthening the time it takes for COVID-19 to reach people in the community, is very important.”

The University Health System is consistently monitoring COVID-19 outbreaks in Virginia and the United States. The most recent updates, information, policies and contact numbers can be found on its website. Additionally, the CDC provides COVID-19 information for businesses, employers, schools, childcare and community and faith-based organizations — as well as information for individuals and families. For the most recent action plan, see the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America: 15 Days to Slow the Spread.

Coping with COVID-19 stigma and stress

University members emphasize student resiliency and kindness in response to pandemic preparations

Mahima Reddy | Senior Associate

In the past two weeks, life at the University and around the world has turned upside down as a result of the spread of coronavirus. The World Health Organization characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic March 11 while University President Jim Ryan and Provost Liz Magill announced Tuesday a shift to online classes for the remainder of the semester and requested students vacate Grounds to help mitigate the spread of the virus in the University community and greater Charlottesville area.

The student response to these operational changes — which includes the cancellation of Final Exercises as they were originally planned — consists of a mix of respect for the University's plan to keep its community safe, disappointment over the loss of on-Grounds activities and general worry over everyone's health and well-being.

"I think that is the most responsible action the University can take," fourth-year College student Jenny Lim said. "Of course, I'm not going to lie and say it's not a disappointment since it [is] unclear what [will definitively] happen to the graduation."

Tim Davis, associate professor in the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, previously served as the director of Student Resilience and Leadership Development at the Career Center and as the director of Counseling and Psychological Services. Complementing an apology statement released by President Ryan Sunday evening, Davis said that while students should entitle themselves to the disappointment over experiences that have been lost, it is important for them to not look too far ahead and fret over what might happen.

"When you're ready and when you've licked your wounds, which you're entitled to do, commit yourself to making meaning out of this in a way that could not have happened without it," Davis said. "As Coach Bronco [Mendenhall] said to me, 'Commit to finding the meaning in the madness.'"

Assoc. Dean of Students Laurie Casteen also addressed student concerns over how to manage studies online, how to access academic materials left in Charlottesville and how to adjust to abruptly leaving friends and activities apart from schoolwork.

"Librarians and IT professionals and others are doing wonder-

ful work to help students and faculty access materials and prepare to deliver instruction electronically," Casteen said in an email to The Cavalier Daily. "It will be bumpy ... but it definitely requires extraordinary patience and good humor as everyone adjusts."

Casteen also emphasized the importance of students reaching out to each other and staying virtually connected through social media platforms like FaceTime, WhatsApp and Skype that allow students to talk and see each other's faces.

"I know it is not the same as being in the same room, but it is absolutely critical for each of us to maintain these human connections that support us and help to keep us emotionally healthy," Casteen said.

Both Casteen and Davis stressed the importance of resilience and kindness when trying to overcome the feelings of unsettlement caused by the disruptions of students' daily lives.

Davis, who teaches a Batten course entitled "The Resilient Student: Transition, Thriving and Leadership," said that challenges and cognitive strain, such

as learning to deal more effectively with ambiguity and lack of structure, give students the opportunity to develop their emotional resilience and become more adept as leaders.

"The Student Council Mutual Aid Platform is just one example of student resilience and goodwill during this otherwise unsettling time," Casteen said. "This community has shown time and time again that it is resilient and thoughtful, and I anticipate the same now."

Likewise, Lim expressed how she was more worried about local employment levels, the economy and the rate of the spread of COVID-19 than about school being canceled.

"I am more concerned about just the disease ... and how it's going to affect the world in general and the community here, and I think about the small businesses that rely on, for example, students on the Corner or Downtown," Lim said.

Because the first COVID-19 cases were detected in Wuhan, China, some Asian and Asian American students have felt blamed or scapegoated for what is being felt by the global com-

munity. Last week, two Chinese international students reported that eggs were thrown at them near the Aquatic & Fitness Center — an incident that the Asian Student Union described as being "too unusual for it to be dismissed as a coincidence," but not necessarily a "targeted racial attack."

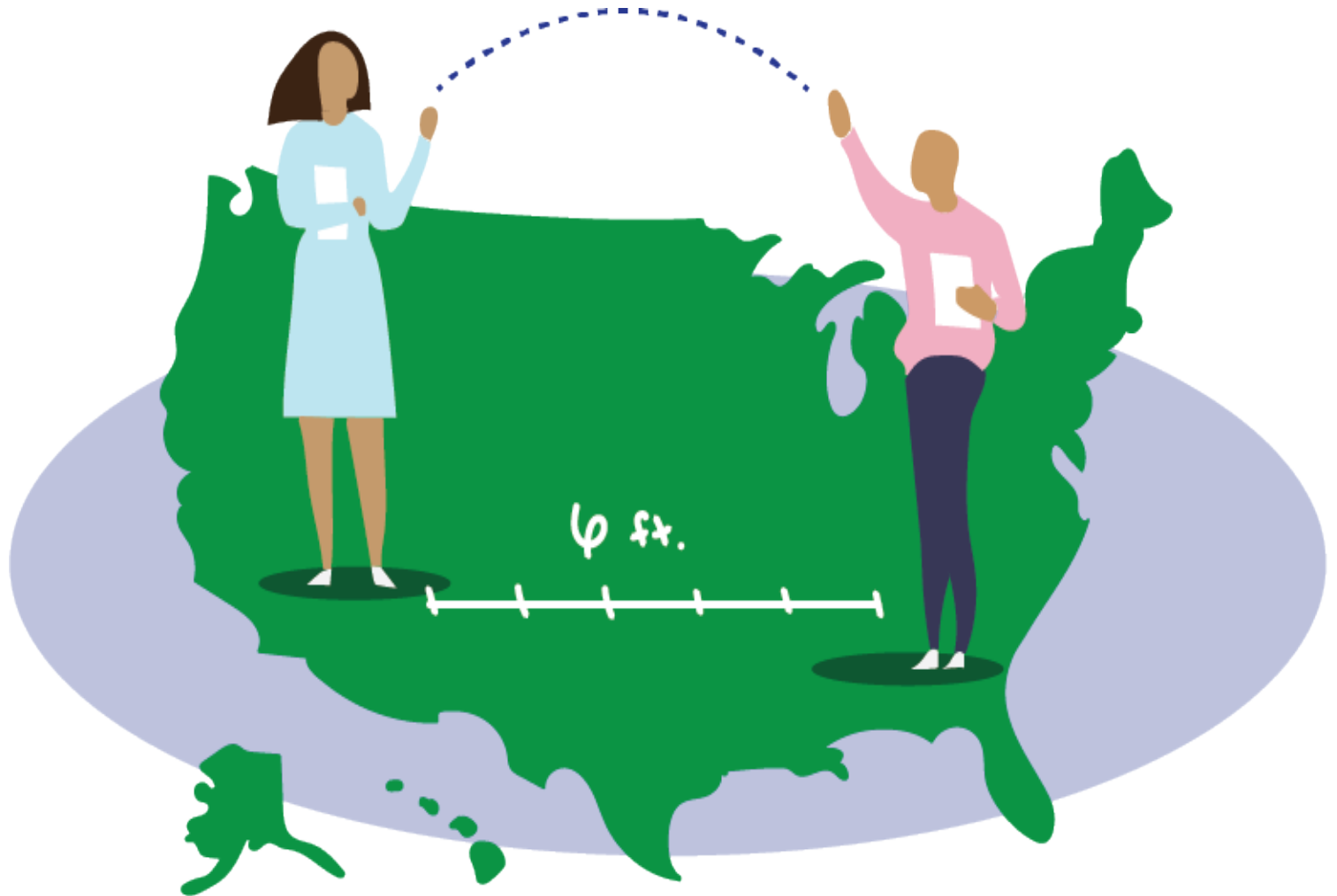
Lim, a Korean student, plans to leave Charlottesville in the coming days, but while on Grounds earlier in the week, she described how she did not feel safe walking around, especially as she thought the COVID-19 pandemic seemed to justify certain racist tendencies.

"I think this may be underway, but I also feel the need for the [administration] to address that part of the virus and the sociological effects as well because the people remaining, like the international students who don't have the ready means to go back ... will be continued to be profiled and possible attacked, whether it's verbally or physically," Lim said.

Both Lim and Davis emphasized how the virus does not discriminate against who it infects and called for solidarity and compassion.

"Find comfort in people who love you in your community and who treat you as the precious person that you are and that know better than to profile you or scapegoat you ... in a way that makes you feel anything other than the whole, authentic, genuine [and] wonderful person that you are," Davis said. "You might have to be selective about who those people are and where you find that support when society is anxious."

According to Casteen, CAPS is working to develop contingency plans for its services and has made available a free online mental health tool called SilverCloud. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also provided online resources for maintaining mental health and reducing COVID-19-related stigma.



TYRA KREHBIEL | THE CAVALIER DAILY

OPINION

LEAD EDITORIAL

The University must continue to keep students in mind

While there are still areas that need to be addressed, the University has demonstrated that the concerns of students are heard during this unprecedented situation

With the rapid rise in COVID-19 cases in the United States in recent weeks, colleges and universities throughout the country have put together plans for the remainder of the semester in order to slow the spread of the virus. The University, while still remaining open during this time, has extended the spring recess and moved all classes online for the remainder of the semester. Students were told to leave Grounds — however, students do have the option to request extended access to on-Grounds housing. While this situation has created numerous issues for many students — particularly first-generation and low-income students — the response from the University and the community has demonstrated a clear commitment to getting through this difficult time together.

The coronavirus pandemic has become an immense global threat. With a lack of resources available for testing, cases in this country will only continue to rise in the coming weeks.

With so many University students traveling for the recent spring recess, especially abroad, it is very possible that a student may have already unknowingly contracted the virus. As such, the University had no other option but to switch to an online learning environment in order to better contain the rapid spread of the virus.

Such a quick change in University procedures creates a multitude of problems for students — particularly those who are placed under an increased financial burden due to these changes. For out-of-state students, the need to purchase airfare or other methods of transportation in such a short amount of time can become incredibly expensive.

However, the University has also provided numerous resources to students during this time to help ease the process. Unlike many other schools — including Harvard University — students are not required to leave on-Grounds housing. Rather, students who have no other

option will be permitted to remain on-Grounds, such as international students. Forcing students to leave would have left countless students effectively homeless, and so enabling students to remain in their dorms and apartments when they are left with no other options was the right call from the University.

Students relying on the Federal Work Study Program and other part-time jobs to pay for their cost of attendance are also heavily burdened by this decision. Moreover, emergency funds for students who need help with traveling expenses have also been made available to students. Even more remarkable is the University's response to lost wages from Federal work-study recipients — these students will continue to be paid, regardless of their ability to actually work during this closure. This, however, does not take into account the negative effects on student-workers outside of this program — students who are losing their jobs because of

the operational changes may be at risk of losing rent or food money, and the University needs to take this into consideration regarding future compensation. Although the administration is discussing this very issue, a decision needs to be made soon in order to ease the worries of these students.

Aside from the University, however, student organizations have been fighting to make sure all students are able to make it through this time. Student Council, for example, has established Hoos Helping Hoos, “a mutual aid network designed to connect first-generation, low-income, international and working students with resources they may need.” This program has raised over \$4,000 so far, all for students who require financial assistance in these troubling times.

It is a scary and confusing time for all of us, and the University certainly must continue to mediate the situation at hand to adequately provide for students. Students are still facing countless issues that the Uni-

versity needs to address to provide adequate support to students during this situation. For example, the University must reschedule Final Exercises — the cancellation of the event is a disappointment for all graduating students, and rescheduling it is the only way to keep the community safe while also recognizing the hard work these students have put into their academic careers.

However, both University administration and student groups alike have provided some relief during this period of uncertainty. We are working our way through these unprecedented challenges together, and we must continue to act as a community in order to create an easier transition process for all students.

THE CAVALIER DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD is composed of the Executive Editor, the Editor-in-Chief, the two Opinion Editors and their Senior Associate. The board can be reached at eb@cavalierdaily.com.

THE CAVALIER DAILY

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The University must postpone Final Exercises

Everyone, including University officials, must do everything they can to help end this pandemic, but canceling Final Exercises is an insult to graduating students

This past Tuesday, President Ryan sent out an email to the University community announcing that the University would move classes online for the rest of the semester and cancel Final Exercises as originally planned. While the safety measures are more than justified, canceling the graduation ceremony would take away the experience for students to walk across the Lawn and receive their diploma. The University must commit to finding a later and safer time frame to hold Final Exercises in order to properly recognize the hard work and dedication of graduating University students.

In President Ryan's email, he mentions that the University is "focused on developing creating alternatives." Nothing that the University comes up with will be as meaningful as the graduation that has been promised to students since the day they stepped foot on Grounds. After the many days, weeks and months spent preparing for exams, writing final papers and being involved with student organizations, receiving a diploma at Final Exercises seems like the moment that would make it all worth it. Sadly, the University has not yet fully committed to allowing the Class of 2020 to experience this ceremony, which undermines the four years of strenuous work and the thousands of tuition dollars that students and their families put into their

education. Ryan later added on Twitter that the administration is still considering pushing back the date of Final Exercises. Nevertheless, this should be the solution, not an option.

It makes sense that Final Exercises cannot happen in May — the world is in the middle of a pandemic of proportions that no one that is currently living has seen before. However, if the University does not give the graduat-

be equivalent to a cancellation in the eyes of students who deserve this ceremony. Graduating students have made it clear that they want the event postponed, and that any other option will not live up to this tradition. By committing to postponed Final Exercises, the University would demonstrate that it cares about the student body while acknowledging their success and dedication.

graduates at an appropriate time" read a statement from Ohio State's president. This is messaging that prioritizes safety, but also does not take away potentially one of the most important days in someone's life.

The University should look to these other decisions made on graduation ceremonies and adjust their own plans accordingly. After announcing that classes would be moved online

times, a guarantee that they would at least be able to eventually return to participate in Final Exercises with their peers would provide some much needed solace.

Some students have already taken the initiative, pushing the University to still eventually hold final exercises through an online petition with nearly 5,000 signatures. The petition reads, "Walking The Lawn with our classmates to wear the Honors of Honor is something we have toiled for, tirelessly. We desire to postpone the 2020 Final Exercises to a later date... Please do not take this away from the University of Virginia Class of 2020." The University must postpone Final Exercises instead of deciding on any other alternative in order to properly honor the hard work and academic achievement of all graduating students. Graduating students deserve to know that the University will fulfill their promise in offering this unique tradition of Final Exercises. All who wish to stand in solidarity with these students should follow suit and sign the petition.

HUNTER HESS is an Opinion Columnist for *The Cavalier Daily*. He can be reached at opinion@cavalierdaily.com. The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of *The Cavalier Daily*. Columns represent the views of the authors alone.

Nothing that the University comes up with will be as meaningful as the graduation that has been promised to fourth-year students since the day they stepped foot on Grounds.

ing fourth-years the recognition they were promised and deserve, the University would ignore its own values by disregarding student achievement and breaking its own honor system.

If President Ryan and the rest of the administration would immediately commit to postponing final exercises for graduating students, it would acknowledge the disappointment fourth-years are currently feeling. This has been a rough time for everyone at the University, especially fourth-years who will never experience it under normal operations again. Any "creative alternative" that does not include simply postponing this ceremony would

The University is not the only institution of higher education that is struggling with this problem right now, but it should look to these other universities for a better solution to this problem that still properly honors graduating students. The University of Texas system recently announced that all graduating students will still receive their diplomas on time, but graduation ceremonies will be postponed until the fall. The Ohio State University has also announced that they will be postponing graduation ceremonies. "Commencement is one of our most cherished traditions, and we remain fully committed to celebrating our

and almost all parts of the University would be shut down, the Class of 2020 has already been informed that they will not be able to be together as they finish their undergraduate career. Now, they are being told that they will not be able to walk the Lawn this May, which is a huge blow to all that they have achieved over these past four years. President Ryan and the University must recognize the efforts of the fourth-years over these past few years by committing to a postponement of the ceremony this year, no matter how long this postponement must be. As these students are preparing for life after the University in such trying

U.Va. must consider reimbursements for students

The University must address potential compensation for tuition for its students in an effort to fairly reflect these policy changes

As the imminent danger of COVID-19, or coronavirus, has descended upon the United States, the University recently released their course of action regarding the pandemic. Beginning March 19, the University will hold all of its classes online. Additionally, they strongly urge all students to either stay home or return home if they are currently in Charlottesville. This policy will be reevaluated after April 5 at the earliest, but in light of many other schools having already committed to online courses for the rest of the semester, the University following suit would come as no surprise.

Make no mistake, what follows is not a critique of the University's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, but rather a suggestion as to where U.Va. ought to go from here. With all in-person classes being canceled and subsequently moved online for the time being, it is only fair that the University charge students online tuition rates while these changes are in place.

Currently, the average cost per credit hour across all under-

graduate programs is \$603 for in-state students and \$1,704 for out-of-state students. The 2019-20 cost for fully online undergraduate and certificate programs is listed as \$442 per credit hour. Students are required to complete 120 credits to graduate, so one can assume the average student is currently taking 15 credits this semester.

Students who are able to return home and heed the University's warning to stay away from U.Va. should not continue to be charged for housing and meals they are being advised to avoid.

There are roughly 19 weeks in the 2020 spring academic semester. The average semester tuition cost across undergraduate programs is currently \$9,045 in-state and \$25,560 out-of-state, which breaks down to \$476 and \$1,345 per week respectively. For online programs, the cost of a 15 credit semester would be \$6,630, about \$349 per week. If the University adjusts its costs to the new policy, the average cost of tuition will decrease by \$127 per week for

in-state students and \$996 per week for out-of-state students. With about 9 weeks left in the semester, and a reasonable chance students do not return to normal classes for the remainder of the year, converting to online tuition would lower the average cost for the rest of the semester by \$1,143 for in-state rates and \$5,823 out-of-state. Obviously, costs vary

by program at the University, meaning this calculation serves as a rough estimate, however, it provides an overview of how significant this tuition change would be.

I am aware President Jim Ryan and the rest of the University staff did not want to make the decision to cancel on-Grounds classes for the foreseeable future — however, great changes come with great repercussions. In this case, students deserve to

be reimbursed for the difference between the current tuition they pay and the lower cost of online tuition. I am not saying that the University is currently refusing to compensate their students, as they have not had the chance with the policy being announced only days ago. My goal here is to ensure we do not get wrapped up in the chaos which is COV-

ID-19 and forget to appropriately adjust the already high costs of attending college to levels that fairly reflect the University's policy change. The University is making an effort to do their best in a bad situation, but students did not sign up to attend the University of Virginia - Online.

Again, I commend the University's timely and responsible efforts for dealing with such unforeseen and potentially dangerous circumstances. I believe that

Ryan and the rest of the University's faculty are making all of their decisions with the best interests of students in mind. However, I am writing about reimbursement so that the University can also account for our financial interests as a result of their new policy. Students should be charged for the services they are provided, meaning if the University is moving online, students should pay online tuition. As we move forward under this new policy, I believe it is the responsibility of U.Va., as well as other colleges and universities adopting similar policies, to appropriately compensate their students.

CAMERON COX is a third-year in the Batten School. The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of *The Cavalier Daily*. Columns represent the views of the authors alone.

HUMOR

The benefits of being quarantined

Trust me, I get it. There's literally nothing to watch on Netflix, your parents just "don't get you," and for some inexplicable reason you can't get toilet paper anywhere. You're bored out of your mind, and since every place that isn't Charlottesville won't accept your fake that says you're 25 and from Ohio, you can't even drown your sorrows with double whipped cream Burnettes and mango Juul pods. Well, don't worry, as your self-proclaimed "mom friend" — you're NOT the mom friend Jeanette, just bossy — will be quick to tell you, there's PLENTY of ways to have fun at home!

For example, you could watch sports, the only thing that can make grown men jump, scream and cry because a 6-foot athlete magically managed to put a ball in a hoop. I'm sure there's PLENTY to watch this season, and you can really — what's that? March Madness AND the NBA are cancelled? And golf? And soccer? And hockey? And baseball? Hmmm, well I'm sure there's SOMETHING — what about poker or bowling? Those are just as entertaining, right?

Then, there's always the option of having some *squiggly* fun time *squiggly*. Think about it, all college kids will be trapped at home and so bored they might actually give you a chance! All you have to do is hop on Tinder, weed out all the 16 year olds

lying about their age and the high school seniors "looking for a date to the prom," and you're all set. That is, unless your parents are also working from home, and you have the same problem you had in high school all over again. Maybe you should just be some girl's date to the prom?

Okay fine, I'll admit it, being stuck at home sucks. So does paying \$32,000 even though you can't use your dorm or dining plan or office hours and have to watch your ancient professors try to figure out how to use what they insist on calling "the Zoom." You poor fourth-years don't even get to wait six hours on the Lawn to shake Jim Ryan's hand and pretentiously explain to your friends why it's called "Final Exercises" and not graduation. Still, at times like this it's important to think of the UPSIDES of this situation like —

1. Easily ghosting people

We ALL know somebody who we gave our number to at orientation or during the first few weeks of classes who keeps hitting us up to hang out even though we don't really want to and it's getting EXHAUSTING pretending that you're "too busy with work" every day. Plus, EVERY girl knows that one person who they did a group project with and literally said 3 words to but insists on asking them to "grab food" every few weeks.

Well, there's an easy fix now! Just

explain to them the importance of "social distancing" — although chances are people like them have been doing that they're whole lives, just unwillingly.

2. No more communal bathrooms

I would not wish dorm showers on my worst enemy. First, you have to walk all the way down your hall, holding on to your towel for dear life and praying it doesn't fall down. Then, assuming you don't have to wait in line because everybody is pre-comm and also has STAT 2120 at 9 a.m., you have to shower with other people RIGHT NEXT TO YOU. And you can't even start your day right by belting out the lyrics to your favorite 2000s throw-back.

Even ignoring the shower issues, dorm bathrooms are straight GROSS. For some reason, people love washing their dishes and leaving leftover food in the sink, not flushing urinals and maybe, I just roomed with sadists, but I swear people PURPOSEFULLY took their sweet time in there when I wanted to go #2 in privacy. Thankfully, the only noise I have to deal with now is my mom yelling the same line to my dad 10 times as he yells back "what?"

3. Five-star food for free

I know, I know, you thought dining halls were the COOLEST THING EVER when you first showed up and swiped in for ice cream three times a

day. But once that initial high wore off you realized that O'Hill plates are never even clean, Newcomb has long lines and a wide variety of foods that all taste bad and Runk is literally in the middle of nowhere. Sure, we'll all miss Miss Kathy greeting us, but at least now we're all guaranteed three edible meals a day!

4. Maybe the 'rents aren't that lame?

Seeing as you're quarantined with them for the "foreseeable future" — how long is foreseeable anyways? — maybe you could try and bond with your parents a little! Give it a try, they might be more interesting than you thought! I mean, wouldn't you LOVE to hear about your dad's good ol' days with his frat brothers, or that one time your mom got to see The Beatles live or ... okay my mom's not looking over my shoulder anymore I don't have to pretend. Real talk — whenever your parents launch into another boring story simply pretend you have a Zoom meeting soon!

5. U.Va. libraries actually suck

Look, I love the false sense of productivity I get from sitting in the library and being around people getting work done too, but if we're being honest, libraries kinda suck. It's so hard to find a seat during midterm season — which lasts for months because some professors don't know the definition

of "midterm" and think it makes logical sense to have a "midterm one" and "midterm two" — there's always a loud group of people who seem to think Clem 2 is a chill hangout spot — nerds — and if you go to Alderman you're not woke because Alderman was a racist. Sitting at home, working in our rooms is for the best — the only things that can distract us are our parents, dog, little siblings and sense of impending doom every time we turn on the news!

6. No more arguing over politics

"Trump is sexist!" "Bernie is a socialist!" "Biden keeps trying to physically fight everyone even though anybody under the age of 60 could beat him!" If you're anything like me, listening to your family argue about three old men with weird hair makes you want to rip your OWN hair out. Well, now that the 24/7 news cycle seems to only be interested in showing us how the whole world is dying and arguing over whose fault it is, I think we're politics-free for the foreseeable future.

Honestly, in times like this it's pretty hard to see the positive aspects of things. But, I guess we all kind of have to, or we'll actually go crazy AND have no toilet paper.

ESHAAN SARUP is the Humor Editor for The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at esarup@cavalierdaily.com

CARTOON

Zoom University

Eli Leffler | Cartoonist



PUZZLES

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Aaron Rose | Puzzle Master

* THE SOLUTION TO THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Across

- 1 Title of the Spanish language, Academy Award-winning film directed by Alfonso Cuaron; also, the Italian name for the Eternal City.
3 Meat from adult cattle; main ingredient of a hamburger.
6 A lead weight; can also refer to something that is perfectly vertical.
10 State of being a father; a male claiming parentage over a child.
11 A type of cylindrical hat used in old-fashioned Western military uniforms.
12 A confounding problem
13 Untanned animal skin; also the name of a 1960s Western TV show.
14 Additionally, furthermore, likewise.
16 To eat or to consume ravenously.
18 Used to steer or to move a boat forward.
21 To be mistaken or to do something incorrectly
22 Name of the creek in the Canadian TV sitcom written by Eugene and Dan Levy; a word play on a rather unpleasant exclamation.
23 Nicholas II and Alexander III, for example; title given to Russian emperors.
25 The audience ~~~~~ each time the principal called someone's name at graduation. It was exhausting.
27 Synonym for edible; something that can be consumed for sustenance.
29 To let thaw; to remove snow or frost from the windshield of a car, for example.
30 A person who has joint ownership in a business can be described as this.
31 Someone who is untrustworthy and acts outside of expected or approved behavior.
32 A mythical creature; also, a cup that will keep your drink hot or cold during the day.
33 A woven fabric with air holes; typically used for workout clothes.

Down

- 1 In law, to refuse to uphold a contract or agreement.
2 A place for motorists to stay while on a trip; rooms usually open directly to the outside parking lot.
4 British monarch that is the focus of Netflix's drama "The Crown."
5 An open room people first enter in a building; usually referred to as a lobby in hotels.
6 In order to mooch off of someone else's Netflix account, you'll need this.
7 When the entire electorate votes for a single nominee or candidate; an undivided group could be described as this.
8 Another word for an alcoholic drink or alcohol in general.
9 A scent that wafts through the air; typically has a positive connotation.
15 Netflix, Hulu, and Disney Plus are all examples of this type of service.
17 Phrase often used apologetically by professors who cold-call a student to answer a question or speak in front of the class without much warning. (Three words)
19 A group of 17 elements on the periodic table including cerium, erbium, and yttrium. (Two words)
20 Compound that is part of natural rubber; includes the elements carbon and hydrogen.
24 A complete change of direction; may or not be legal at some intersections.
25 Type of coniferous evergreen tree that is part of the pine family.
26 To publicly criticize or condemn.
28 To watch an entire season of a television show in one night, for example.

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CORRECTION

In the article “New Works Festival showcases the talent of the University” in Vol. 130 Issue 23 of The Cavalier Daily, the names of the festival’s design team were not included. The article has been updated online.



* SOLUTION FROM LAST ISSUE

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SPORTS

Virginia Athletics community reacts to sports shutdown

Administrators, players and coaches share their thoughts on the cancellation of athletics activities and NCAA championship events

Vignesh Mulay | Sports Editor

The world of college sports was stunned March 12. In a span of just four hours, conferences across the country canceled tournaments, the University suspended athletics activities and the NCAA canceled all championship events for winter and spring sports. Facing a public health crisis, collegiate athletic organizations were forced to act quickly to prevent the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, yet in the wake of these tough decisions, seasons and careers are over and lives have been changed. The entire Virginia Athletics community continues to grapple with the consequences of last week's events.

"It was incredibly difficult to tell our coaches and our student-athletes that their seasons were done," Athletics Director Carla Williams said. "But we've got great coaches, we've got great student athletes, and as disappointed as everyone was, everyone understands. Everyone understands that it's the right thing to do."

Amidst the turmoil of last week, Virginia Athletics spearheaded the movement to halt operations in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Along with Duke and Kansas, Virginia was one of the first major Division I schools to suspend all athletics activities until further notice.

Before making such a consequential decision — one that would affect 750 student-athletes across 27 sports — Williams and "an executive team" considered as much data as possible from various sources, according to Williams. The choice wasn't easy, but for them, the correct course of action became clear as more information became available.

"We've been meeting constantly about this and reading and gathering as much information as we could," Williams said. "And so we've just stayed as informed as we could try to stay ahead of the curve ... because we know [the situation] changed a lot in 72 hours, and there'll be a lot more changes as we move forward, and we will continue to meet and monitor and make decisions."

From staying in communication with all relevant parties to helping student-athletes with their living arrangements to meeting with every coach and administrator, Williams responded quickly to a dynamic and unprecedented situation.

While Williams and her team are tasked with the responsibility of making program-wide decisions,

coaches have the burden of being on the front line when these decisions are made. When Virginia officially suspended athletics activities Thursday afternoon, coaches of winter and spring sports had to immediately stop what they were doing and deal with the extraordinary situation.

Coach Brian O'Connor and the Virginia baseball team were en route to Pittsburgh for a series against the Panthers when Williams informed them to delay their departure from a Hagerstown, Md. mall. Eventually, the team was informed to turn around the bus and return to Charlottesville. Instead of a win, the only thing O'Connor brought home was glittery hand sanitizer from a Bath & Body Works store.

"I'll tell you, in those three hours on the bus ride, back from Hagerstown, just everything changed," O'Connor said. "You know ... we went from 'there's going to be a delay' to 'we're not going to play this series this weekend' to 'the college baseball season [is] being canceled.'"

While Virginia baseball was travelling Thursday, the men's lacrosse team was on Grounds, preparing for an upcoming game against Maryland. Even before the team meeting at 1 p.m., players and staff were hearing that athletic competitions across the country were being suspended. Knowing that his team may never see the field again this season, Coach Lars Tiffany gave the Cavaliers — defending national champions — one more chance to compete.

"I walk into this locker room and say, 'Fellas, forget the Maryland scouting report, grab your equipment, let's get out there and practice before they shut us down,'" Tiffany said. "The guys were like, 'Yeah, let's go,' and so we went out and had the most spirited, intense inter-squad scrimmage that I've ever been a part of."

Soon after the team finished practice, the news started rolling in — first, the University suspended athletics activities, and then during a team meeting around 4:30 p.m., NCAA winter and spring sport championships were canceled.

For men's lacrosse, and every other team competing at the time, the 2020 season was effectively over. Among many emotions, a sense of shock was felt across all of Virginia Athletics, especially for athletes and coaches.

"I looked at my men and didn't say anything for about 10 seconds

because I was floored," Tiffany said. "I think the men were absolutely floored too, and I was like, 'Fellas, I don't have any answers for you right now. Now, it seems like it's over.' ... The reality for our team is that this 2020 version is over. This is really hard to swallow."

O'Connor shared similar thoughts when reflecting on, what he called, the "emotional locker room" in the aftermath of the day's announcements.

"When you have kids that have poured their hearts and souls into ... being the best baseball player they can be and making the best team they can have and for it to come to an abrupt end is tough," O'Connor said.

Women's rowing Coach Kevin Sauer further emphasized the impact the season's suspension had on senior student-athletes, as suddenly, many Cavaliers lost what was meant to be their final season.

To honor the senior rowers, Sauer and others on the team recreated Senior Day on the Lawn Thursday night — a celebration usually reserved for the final home race. The seniors were gifted flowers and pictures in commemoration of accomplished careers that included three ACC titles.

"Our kids were just really devastated as every student-athlete around the country was," Sauer said. "This is important to them. It really is, and you can see it, especially in the fourth years. It gives it like all of a sudden, my career's over."

While baseball, men's lacrosse and women's rowing had barely started their respective seasons, winter athletes were preparing for the postseason. The wrestling team, for example, was set to send six Cavaliers to the NCAA Championships in Minneapolis, Minn. this weekend.

Instead, Coach Steve Garland had to console half a dozen student-athletes who were hoping to compete on the biggest stage in the country all year. The situation was especially difficult for junior Jay Aiello and senior Jack Mueller. Aiello was the fifth-ranked wrestler in the country at 197 pounds while Mueller was ranked No. 4 at 125 pounds, and both student-athletes had high championship hopes.

"By the time I walked in the locker room, it was already a pretty rough scene," Garland said. "The first guy I saw was Jack Mueller and ... The next guy I saw was Jay Aiello ... So you got two national title



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

No more Virginia games will be played for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year.

contenders right there who just got their hearts ripped out."

Many senior student-athletes had similar experiences and took to social media to share their thoughts. Mamadi Diakite, men's basketball senior forward and 2019 national champion, was hours away from competing in the ACC Tournament and a week away from playing in the NCAA Tournament when both events were cancelled.

"Nostalgic," Diakite tweeted. "It's over. So proud of all of the things I have accomplished coming from where I'm from. Leaving Charlottesville as a college grad and reigning champ. Thank you U.Va. for the athletic and academic success."

Moreover, Jordan Scott, senior track and field star, lost the opportunity to defend his 2019 ACC titles in the triple jump and long jump.

"[It's] hard to find the words to describe how I currently feel, but in reality, it's life," Scott wrote on his Instagram account. "The past 4 years were nothing short of amazing, and despite the abrupt end, I am grateful for all [I've] achieved and the different individuals I was blessed to call my teammates during this time."

Several Virginia coaches immediately encouraged the NCAA to consider giving affected student-athletes — like Scott — an additional year of eligibility, recognizing all the hard work they've put in throughout the year.

"Why not do the right thing?" Garland said. "If the NCAA cares

so much about student-athlete welfare, then I would think that this is something that should be getting worked on as we speak."

Every member of the community lost something — whether that be the opportunity to finish seasons, compete for championships or just practice. Regardless of the situation's challenges, many within Virginia Athletics reminded that, above all things, perspective is key.

"I feel for all the young men and women who had their college careers cut short and the experiences they will miss," Coach Tony Bennett said. "It is important in these circumstances for us to consider the bigger perspective and act toward the greater good."

As Virginia moves forward in a world without sports, members of the Virginia Athletics community emphasized that, at the end of the day, sports is truly just a game. While the shutdown of all college sports may seem significant now, it's important to recognize the bigger picture.

"[Sports] is not the most important thing in the world," Sauer said. "Your faith, your family, your relationships, your school — I keep things in perspective. This is important for the country, in the world and in the community."

The financial fallout of March Madness

With the cancellation of college basketball's biggest event of the year, the losses will be huge

Eva Surovell | Senior Associate

The cancellation of all winter and spring NCAA championships presents a clear issue for Virginia sports fans — no March Madness. However, missing the tournament is just the start of problems for student-athletes — this will also mean a massive loss of revenue for both Virginia Athletics and the NCAA.

Marketing and television rights

In addition to championship ticket sales, the NCAA's website lists Division I men's basketball marketing and television rights as the biggest component of its total revenue — these provide over \$850 million for the NCAA and by extension, all athletic programs. The extension of the NCAA's multimedia rights contract in 2016 with CBS Sports and Turner provides that more than 90 percent of revenue generated will directly benefit student-athletes through programs, services and funding such as scholarships and educational programming for student-athletes.

"The agreement ensures student-athletes across all three NCAA divisions will continue to be supported through a broad range of championship opportunities, access to funds for personal and educational needs, and through scholarships in Divisions I and II," reads the press release from when the contract was extended in 2016.

Without the funds generated from televising March Madness, it is unclear how the NCAA will be able to continue supporting not just basketball players, but all student-athletes at the same level. Furthermore, the extension of eligibility for spring athletes means that even more students will require financial aid, as the University has 11 spring sports teams alone.

The basketball fund

March Madness itself allows the NCAA to return almost 60 percent of overall revenue to Division I institutions through a "basketball fund." In this system, monetary values are assigned to units, which represent fractions of total revenue. The farther teams advance during March Madness, the more units their conference earns and can thus distribute to individual schools how they see fit. Teams earn one unit for just making it to the tournament itself, and the championship is an exception to the rule.

Units in 2019 were worth \$280,300 each — since Virginia played every round, the team earned 6 units, or over \$1.6 million, for the ACC. Units increase in value every year, typically by around three percent, and the money is distributed to conferences over a period of six years.

However, because the ACC typ-

ically splits money equally among member schools, Virginia Athletics can also benefit from its competitors going far in the tournament.

"The ACC conference received \$30.6 million from 18 total units in the 2017 tournament," a 2018 Cavalier Daily article read. "The University gained two units [in 2017] equaling \$3.4 million for the conference, but the way the distribution works, the \$30.6 million was divided by the 14 schools to be split as \$2.19 million per school."

Not only will the ACC and individual athletic departments hurt without units earned by Virginia, they will also suffer the loss of units from other schools that routinely qualify for the tournament, such as Duke, Louisville and Florida State. Further, without March Madness itself, it remains unclear if and how the NCAA will allocate units and, additionally, how much money the organization has to distribute.

This revenue is used to improve facilities and programs, sell merchandise, pay salaries, increase exposure, support travel and outreach, finance operational costs and recruit new talent. However, the basketball fund is just one of the many ways the ACC — and Virginia Athletics by extension — generates revenue from March Madness.

Alumni donations and exposure

The increased exposure that schools receive from performing well in March Madness is unquantifiable. After men's basketball won the tournament in 2019, the University over-enrolled the class of 2023 and received its largest early action applicant pool in history for the class of 2024. Undoubtedly, there were many reasons for these events — however, it's hard to deny that the University did receive plenty of free publicity to potential students from the tournament.

Additionally, tournaments like March Madness are a great way to remind alumni of fond memories and maximize school spirit, thus allowing universities to rake in donations — contributions made up \$27 million, or 25.3 percent of Virginia Athletics' total revenue in 2018.

"No financial value can be placed on the benefit of the [basketball] program," former Director of Athletics Craig Littlepage said in an interview with The Cavalier Daily in 2018. "And there's no way to market a university better than a few nights in March."

Student fees

Virginia Athletics often spends more money than it makes. For example, in 2017 and 2018, the department outspent itself by \$300,000 and \$7

million, respectively. This fluctuation means that students often foot a portion of the cost of sports programs by paying mandatory athletics fees as a part of tuition. In 2018, student fees at the University were the third largest component of Virginia Athletics' revenue, as they accounted for \$14.2 million, or 13.4 percent, of total revenue. These mandatory fees aren't just unique to Virginia, however. In 2014, the Power Five — the five wealthiest athletic conferences in college sports, including but not limited to the ACC, SEC and Big 10 — accrued a total of \$125.5 million from mandatory fees.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the University's athletics fee was \$657. It will increase by 3.2 percent for the 2020-2021 school year, making it \$678. However, with the loss of revenue from March Madness, it is unclear if students will be expected to pay an even higher fee in future years to mitigate this financial loss. Virginia Athletics does not seem to have developed a plan to address the financial fallout of March Madness yet.

"There will be an impact, but it's way too early to be able to determine what that will be," Director of Athletics Carla Williams said. "You [have] people around the country who are losing revenue from different sources and different businesses. So we'll see."

On a world without sports

Sports across the country take a hiatus as all efforts shift to managing the escalating coronavirus pandemic

Akhil Rekulapelli | Sports Editor

As the coronavirus pandemic tightens its grip on a worried nation, people across the United States have filled their gas tanks, pantries and cabinets in anticipation of a lockdown. Yet among the pantries laden with non-perishables and the cabinets flush with toilet paper, one thing remains empty — the place sports holds in many fans' hearts.

After center Rudy Gobert of the NBA's Utah Jazz tested positive for COVID-19 March 11 before a game against the Oklahoma City Thunder, the NBA decided to suspend all play until further notice. This triggered a domino effect that led to the cancellation of the college basketball season and national championship tournament, the postponement of the MLB and NHL seasons and the eventual cancellation of all NCAA winter and spring championships.

Although these measures were rightly taken to slow the spread of a virus that has infected over 8,700 individuals across the country as of Wednesday night, it is tough to forego

the positive effects sports can have on our community in times of hardship. Virginia alumnus Chris Dembitz — who runs the comedic Phony Bennett account on Twitter, which offers hilarious takes on Virginia sports to his 19,000 followers — knows this as well as anyone.

"For me, sports have always been there through the most challenging times of my life, offering an escape, a two- or three-hour distraction from my troubles," Dembitz said. "They don't make your worries disappear, but for a while, you can push those to the back burner while you care about something lighter."

There is something unique about watching a group of people donning your city or university's name try to shoot a ball into a hoop or hit a ball into the stands. You can lose yourself in the rhythm of the game, analyzing every cut, every spin, every bounce of the ball. You yell your own plays or call fouls with a foolish hope that the players, coaches and referees on the other side of the television hear your pleas.

Yet, even more so, you lose yourself in the narratives — the feel-good stories that captivate a nation, like Syracuse All-ACC guard Tiana Mangakahia and her valiant fight against breast cancer, or Virginia men's basketball's redemption tour that turned a historic loss to a No. 16 seed into a national-championship run for the ages. Whether or not you're a fan of Syracuse or Virginia — or even basketball itself — is secondary to the true tales of resiliency that sports show us — tales that can motivate and inspire us during this time of global struggle.

"In troubling times, we need to work even harder to find the beauty in life, to find a reason to smile, a reason to cheer and even a reason to laugh," Dembitz said. "Sports gives us that opportunity."

Even in the context of this crisis, sports have still found a way to play a role.

"I think for a lot of folks, the seriousness of the coronavirus outbreak was brought into focus by the cancellation of sports," Dembitz said. "For

sports fans who haven't been personally affected by the outbreak just yet, this carried weight."

For example, when the NCAA men's basketball tournament was cancelled March 12, many Virginia fans were heartbroken, especially given the eight-game winning streak the Cavaliers were on. The defending national champions looked poised to make a deep run in the ACC and NCAA tournaments, but now the Virginia faithful will never know how far the 2019-2020 Cavaliers could've gone.

But the fact that March Madness — an event that garnered \$933 million in revenue last year — was cancelled, has allowed coaches to use their platform to laud the decision and emphasize public safety.

"No one wanted it to end this way, but in light of all the uncertainty and people who would be put at risk, I support and understand the NCAA cancelling [March Madness]," Coach Tony Bennett said. "It is important in these circumstances for us to consider the bigger perspective and act toward

the greater good."

There is no doubt that many of us will miss sports during this time of international hardship. Sports have given us some of our highest highs and some of our lowest lows. They have brought about stories that even the authors of fairy tales look at in awe. Most importantly, they have carried us through the inevitable moments when life throws a wrench in our plans.

"I think we feel the loss of sports in trying times more than in good times, which speaks to their ultimate value to us," Dembitz said.

Yet, in this peculiar time where no balls are being bounced or laps being run, it is important that we realize the remarkable effects sports have on our lives. Sports will undoubtedly come back, but now knowing what a world without sports is like, you just might find yourself cheering a little louder, crying a little harder and smiling a lot more when they do.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arts classes prepare for switch to online learning

Professors and students weigh in on the transfer to online classes

Caitlin Woodford & Robin Schwartzkopf | Arts & Entertainment Editors

When the University announced the switch to online classes for the foreseeable future due to the coronavirus outbreak, professors and students from many different disciplines expressed apprehension about how smooth the transition from in-person to digital learning would be. Now that classes will be online for the remainder of the semester, professors and students must plan for the rest of the term. For departments like Studio Art and Drama, the change comes with a unique set of challenges.

“The way I teach is very interpersonal,” said Neal Rock, assistant professor of Studio Art. “It relies quite heavily on one-to-one mentorship and group participation — the group is very important, being together is very important.”

In Rock’s painting classes, he said he often mixes “practical, material-based exercises as well as history and conceptual tradition” — but for a medium like painting, the switch to online learning will present new challenges. Students will now embark on more independent study, along with class readings and written assignments, to work on projects outside of a traditional class setting.

“There’s issues with regards to access, what materials they have access to and whether they can paint or not,” Rock said. “But ... they can upload images to Collab or show them on Zoom when they’re doing a conference call.”

Both Rock and Bill Bennett,

an associate professor in the Studio Art department who teaches sculpture classes, plan to have students pursue projects on their own while checking in and maintaining a group dynamic, particularly in class critique situations. Bennett emphasized the importance of using available resources creatively when he spoke about how his classes will be conducted. Even without access to the industrial machinery available on Grounds, students can still create a space for artistic undertakings.

“I will be assembling material and tool kits for my entry level students,” Bennett said. “I will be asking them to create their own studio spaces to enable them to create their sculptures. This could be a garage, basement, outside picnic table or corner of a kitchen table.”

In addition to the difficulty of maintaining normalcy in a studio art context, classes and programs centered around performance have also struggled to adjust to an online sphere. Classes such as Musical Theatre Performance, which relies heavily on live performances and immediate workshopping, require unique ideas about how to preserve the learning environment without face-to-face interaction.

“Because data transmission latency will prevent me from providing accompaniment to a remote performance, students will be submitting videotaped performances of their songs in advance of our class meeting, where they can accompany themselves, sing to a track, ask a friend to accompany them or simply sing a cappella,” Musical Theatre Lecturer Greg Harris said. “We will then watch these performances as a group in a Zoom session and offer feedback online in the session.”

Harris’s class typically features five to seven live performances from students, which receive immediate feedback from himself

and his graduate assistant as well as peer feedback from classmates. Without the ability to provide accompaniment or perform live, the students lose some beneficial aspects of the class.

“My musical theatre class isn’t the same done online by sending videos, because we lose all the live aspects of theater that make it spontaneous — your classmates watching you perform, Greg accompanying on piano to your tempo, instant feedback from your teachers and classmates and utilizing the energy and space of the room in your performance. Our final was going to be a musical theatre recital but now our final is a written essay, which is just not the same,” second-year College student Karen Zipor said.

Despite these difficulties, Harris also noted room for new opportunities in the online format. In addition to building up skills for a cappella or “alternative accompaniment” — such as karaoke tracks — performance, Harris said that the digital setting would allow for more exploration of how “the performances of others can inform your own performance work.”

“With performances videoed in advance and existing as a Resource on Collab, students will have the ability to watch performances as often as they want, which is not something that otherwise happens in a live classroom

performance,” Harris said.

In classes that require more large-scale performances, some theatre students have not only been required to adjust to an unfamiliar online format, but have also been forced to cancel these long-term projects. The Drama Department’s spring production of “Once Upon a Mattress,” which was set to open March 26, was cancelled in accordance with the University’s policy regarding COVID-19. For students working on the show for months, the cancellation was a difficult process, especially in consideration of the course credits associated with production.

“[Associate Professor of Drama Marianne Kubik] said that the cast members would be receiving an email from her any day now about fulfilling requirements for course credit in lieu of performing the play,” second-year College student Micah Rucci said. “We have yet to be told what exactly that will look like, but I do know that nothing could ever be as fulfilling or as meaningful as the show we were creating. Hard, hard work. Four hours a night, six days a week. Because of COVID-19, we have done all the work for no reward, and don’t get to see the project come to fruition. It’s really a shame.”

Amongst a whirlwind of unexpected stress and disappointment, the reality of online classes will soon manifest. Questions about long-term viability and practical considerations abound, but professors and students in artistic fields will still work to create — a sentiment which struck Bennett as he was reminded of something he thought about at the beginning of the semester.

“I establish a motto or principle as an overriding theme for the Sculpture classes,” Bennett said. “The Motto for Spring 2020 was and is E Pluribus Unum. One of many U.S. mottos meaning ‘Out of Many, One’ ... We are many, and we are now spread out, but look forward to becoming ‘One’ through the common practice of sculpture, as we enter this new reality.”

As arts classes adapt to new class formats, the poignance of becoming one of many is a striking reminder of the creative expression that can happen, even in the most uncertain times.



ANGELA CHEN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

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Supporting the arts while social distancing

How you can contribute to the Charlottesville arts scene, even from afar

Kate Granruth | Senior Writer

Cancellation announcements and plans for flattening the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic have been rolling into inboxes at a breakneck pace over the past few weeks. At the local level, the University extended spring break and moved classes online, the Virginia Festival of the Book was canceled and multiple upcoming events at John Paul Jones Arena — including the Dan + Shay concert and the Harlem Globetrotters show — were postponed. Movie premieres have been delayed and museums are closing left and right.

News about the coronavirus has been unavoidable, and the fact that many forms of traditional escapism have been banned has made fear of the virus even more overwhelming. It's hard not to feel hopeless right now, and honestly, taking the time to wallow in disappointment is fully valid. We are allowed to be upset that our spring break plans were canceled, we are allowed to miss our friends and favorite classes and we are allowed to be scared.

That said, we also need to exhibit widespread compassion in the face of contagion. The disruption of social scenes across the globe will impact the incomes of many who make a living by interacting with the public, including those in the entertainment industry. The local Charlottesville arts scene has been a staple part of the student experience at the University, and one way we can all feel like we're doing something to help is by supporting the arts scene from afar. Here are a few ways you can do just that.

Donate a portion of ticket refunds

Large gatherings are being banned all across the nation, meaning that ticket refunds are in the fu-



EMMA KLEIN | THE CAVALIER DAILY

Many arts organizations and independent creators are struggling in these uncertain times. Here's how you can support the local arts scene, even from home.

tures of many disappointed patrons. This also means that a lot of local venues, organizations and people are losing money. One way to combat this is by donating a portion of your ticket refund to the theater or organization that was supposed to host the canceled event. The Paramount Theater, one of the premiere local venues in Charlottesville, sent an email out to past patrons asking for donations in lieu of ticket refunds. The Paramount is a nonprofit organization that already relies

on community donations to cover operating costs — donations alone usually cover only a third of the total cost. Now, with no ticket sales, the importance of donating is — pardon the pun — paramount. Information on donating to different venues can generally be found on the organization's website. Many of us expected to be out that amount of money anyway, so donating at least some portion so that we can go to events in the future is actually not an unreasonable ask.

If you are able, perhaps donate to events that usually aren't ticketed. The Virginia Festival of the Book, an event that is usually free to attend, published a short announcement on the importance of donating, reminding the public that, "the festival is free of charge, not free of cost."

Take advantage of the ways in which local businesses are adapting

For small business owners all across Charlottesville, the combination of social distancing and much of the University student population being gone means that a large chunk of the consumer base has disappeared. Many people still have to go out to work even in the face of social distancing, so look up how your favorite small businesses are adapting to the change. Many local restaurants and cafes — such as Milli Coffee Roasters — are offering curbside or delivery-based

service. The New Dominion Bookshop is following suit, closing their public browsing space but offering over the phone purchases that can be delivered to your doorstep or picked up curbside at the store. Gift cards can also be purchased over the phone.

Make use of digital money transferring

Many freelance creatives, activists and speakers — especially those on the local level — have had their main form of income completely eradicated due to social distancing. Events are being canceled months ahead of time, meaning a lot of these people have had their expected budgets and access to resources thrown into the unknown. Take a moment to search social media to see if the person you were going to see is promoting a Patreon or other form of digital content that you can financially support — this is a good place for a portion of ticket refunds to go to as well.

Through Patreon, financial support gets you exclusive content from the creator. If you're looking for a local activist to support, grassroots activist and first-year College student Zyahna Bryant, who has had all of her upcoming engagements canceled in the face of COVID-19, has set up a Patreon. If you were going to see a very famous artist, look up local equivalents that may need the money more. A good

place to start would be the lists of canceled shows and events provided by local venues.

Outside of the Patreon route, reach out directly to artists and creatives of all kinds to see if they offer direct digital downloads of their work, or, if the work is a physical piece of art, if they could accommodate shipping or curbside pickup. This allows the artist to set the price without any middlemen taking a cut. When it comes to music, keep streaming smaller artists, and maybe support the artist via Bandcamp, which provides fairer pay to artists compared to traditional streaming platforms.

These three methods are by no means a comprehensive list of everything that could be done to support the local arts scene, or of every organization, person or group that needs support, but they are a place to start. It's critical that we implement social distancing to protect the most vulnerable among us, even though the immediate sacrifice of the things we love and were excited for really stings. Supporting the local arts scene from afar, no matter how small the contribution, will help protect an industry that is based around bringing people together. There is a future beyond COVID-19 — let's make sure it's still full of the things we love.

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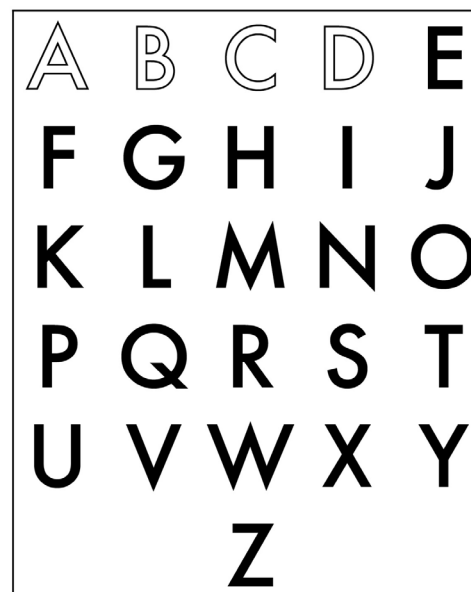
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