

Julie Tran

Spartan Speak on COVID-19

Before 2020 started, I decided to invest in a pretty pricey planner because 2020 was going to be a big year for me. When I received this planner in the mail, I filled out all the special dates, such as graduation and the last day of my first internship. This planner has some empty pages dedicated to goals that I wanted to accomplish in 3 to 6 months, 1 year, and then 3 years. I filled these pages out with specific goals and was so excited to take the steps to achieve these goals. 2020 was going to be a year full of growth...that is until COVID-19 stopped everything.

When Governor Gavin Newsome called a shelter in place order in March, it was a tough transition and turned my plans and life around a whole 180. My internship that was set to end in May ended in April due to company layoffs. I never thought that March was going to be the last time I was going to see my students in person. I remember hearing the news from my manager and had to stop what I was doing to wrap my head around what this all meant. It was sad and unexpected.

This semester is my last semester of my undergraduate career and I was definitely not expecting to end half the semester online. Graduation was one of the things I was looking forward to since I started my undergraduate journey. I was ready to walk the stage as soon as this semester started so it was really sad to hear the news that we were not going to be able to walk the stage in May. After some of the things in my life plan were put to an end or paused, I started to really lose motivation to keep going. It took me a while to actually get my rhythm going.

After 3 weeks of staying home, my mindset started to change. I saw this as a time to relax and reevaluate my goals. When the shelter in place order kept getting extended, I looked up courses I could take in order to sharpen my skills. I was staying productive by working on my classes and

taking additional free online courses, I felt really good about how things were going. In the beginning of the shelter in place, I was pretty upset about all my plans getting cancelled. The longer it was extended, the more I started to appreciate the little things. I had more time to spend outdoors, I was able to have breakfast and lunch with my mom every day, and I picked up some new hobbies that make me happy.

Although these events were unexpected and happened very quickly, I know we will all come out of this stronger and ready to take on new challenges!

-Julie Tran