

Spartans Speak on COVID-19

Who could have predicted that this would happen? Who were we to know that something this chaotic and terrifying and horrible could affect so many people. It is crazy to think back to a couple of months ago where everything was so different. A time where I was still going to class, battling to win the hard duel between my bed and my ability to get up out of it. Back then I would make the argument that I needed to get out of bed for school, so that I would not be late to class. But now that's not true. Now everything is different. Now, everything is closed, and people are too scared to step out of their home out of fear of being infected. It is scary to think that everything that has happened in movies is actually happening in real time. If there is one thing that I've been able to reflect on during this time is how I spend my time. Time seems infinite these days. Some days I struggle to make the most of my time and others I'm on non-stop overdrive, running, studying, and spending time with my family. It's hard to think back to when we were not affected by COVID-19. It's even scarier for me to imagine just how long it will take to get back to the old lives I and everyone else use to live too. Some days I enjoy being home all day in the comfort of my home and others I want to rip my hair out and just scream. I know I'm not the only one who feels like this and I always try to keep in mind that someone may be struggling staying at home more than me and I remind myself to settle and be grateful for all that I have. Aside from losing my job and last semester of college to COVID-19 I also lost family members along the way. This year has been especially hard for me to overcome. Losing family members who were such a big part of my life for so long and somehow managing to move forward in the midst of everything that continues to infect and harm my world. I do sometimes feel like I'm drowning, struggling to keep my head above the water but somehow I keep floating above. I know that it has always been the fire within me that continues to fuel my

motivation to keep pushing forward but let me just tell you IT IS HARD. Everyday I try to do things to keep my mind preoccupied because I know that if I give myself the chance to wallow in my pain that it would consume me. And that is what I am most afraid of. The fear of losing the battle against myself. I want to “make it”, whatever that means. I want to be able to say that everything that I went through wasn't for nothing. That all of the time, money, and energy that I spent on school and education wasn't a complete waste. And in my heart I know that college has been a major turning point in my life but I don't want it to be the end. I want to continue moving upward and towards the goals that I set for myself. Even if I'm not 100% sure what those goals are. I guess COVID-19 showed me that I need to slow down and take care of myself because no one else is going to care about me as much as I do.