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COVID Journal

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The arrival of coronavirus quickly changed the daily routine for myself, and many others, indefinitely. The announcement of classes ending and everyone being told to move out came so quickly that I wasn't able to say goodbye to any of my friends or to have a moment to wrap my head around how rapidly life was going to change from that moment on. Previously, I rarely kept up with the news and I always felt I never had time to do so but from the moment the situation seemed to be escalating that completely changed. I have begun to value being informed and have tried to be more aware of things happening beyond my workplace or the Fisher community. Which has helped to further shape my perspective on government, healthcare, and other issues within the community and the world. Meanwhile, the adjustment to living life with all the uncertainty has not been easy and realizing that I might not be able to hug my friends, family, or even feel safe going to work for a while has been difficult. Generally, this time during the stay at home order has been a time to be thankful for the opportunities I have been given up to this point and to think of the activities I would like to be doing when this is all over.

I have kept busy by devoting my time to finishing up my classes and handling the transition from in-person to online for all areas of my life. Trying to stay distracted by watching shows I didn't have time for before, coloring in coloring books, and sending my friends postcards so they know I am thinking of them. Yet, when classes and finals ended, I was stuck in a rut because I found I have endless amounts of free time until my internship starts at the end of May. So, I had to figure out new ways to stay busy while the world outside remains at a standstill. A deep cleaning of my room followed, binge watching Netflix, and scrolling through social media, but that only lasted the first few days. Instead, I turned to reading and have taken on *Fahrenheit 451*, *Devil in the White City*, *Angela's Ashes*, and other books that I hadn't had the

opportunity to read while in high school. Reading has been another hobby that I had convinced myself I had no time for throughout the years, but that might have been because I was too impatient to appreciate good writing when I had so many other things I could be doing.

Overall, I am grateful that during this time I have been able to rediscover my love for reading and to also have more time to spend with my grandparents and parents, as we all live together. Most importantly, however, is that I have been able to take my dogs for more walks than they could ever imagine and they are beyond excited to have all this time with my family and I. I am sure I am not alone in realizing how much one can take for granted and that I am thrilled at the prospect of returning to Fisher when we are all safe and able.