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### Carleton Isn't Going To, And Then They Did

Anonymous Carleton Student

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Current Carleton Student

May 8th, 2020

“Originally, I was watching it [the pandemic] happen [spread] internationally and I was like ‘oh it’s not going to affect the United States’...You always watch other countries have crises and you’re like ‘oh, but I’m safe.’ And then I watched all the other colleges in the US cancel classes, but I was like ‘Carleton isn’t going to,’ and then they did. And I was like ‘okay... well we’ll come back in May, like it’s going to happen,’ and then that didn’t happen either. So, it’s definitely affected my life--pretty heavily. This is the longest I’ve been home since I’ve graduated high school, consecutively. I honestly think this might be the longest time I’ve been home in several years. And because I’m in New York City, it’s really hard to get out and do things because it’s so populated. So, I’ve been spending a lot of time with my family, which is the silver lining because before this all happened I was really worried that I wasn’t going to get to go home and spend time with them, and now I’m here. So, that’s a good thing because I have gotten to spend time with them, but it’s a lot--it’s a lot of time. I think I might switch locations to my grandparents’ [house] for a second, so I can have a break. And it has also changed dynamics with my friends... because at school I really relied on the swim team for connections but I also had other people who I could get meals with and catch up with and say hello to. But, it’s weird in the age of technology because it’s not like I am going to be like this person that I kind of sort of know that’s not my closest friend, I’m not going to be like ‘oh let’s facetime!’. That’s reserved for my closest friends, or at least that’s what I feel like. And so, I feel isolated because I can only talk to people that in my head it’s okay to FaceTime, like it wouldn’t be weird. A lot of it is the swim team and it’s really nice actually because I don’t know what I would do if I didn’t have a big group of people to talk to because then I would just be talking to the same four people and that would be it, and I would feel even more isolated. So it’s been nice to have a big group of people to be able to talk to. That’s another silver lining, I feel like at school it’s easy to get bogged down and be like ‘ugh we’re in the middle of nowhere and it’s cold,’...but this has made me realize how much I love being at school and how much I love all my friends; it’s made me appreciate everything so much more. And even having a place to come back to with wifi and stuff, I know some people don’t have that, and so it’s nice to have a family that welcomes me back.”