

FROM THE EDITOR

Moving forward in a crisis

By Mark Goodson

A global pandemic makes for a difficult time to launch a local paper. And like the launch of the *College Park Here & Now*, everything is difficult at the moment.

Simple activities, from shopping for groceries to a stroll on the trail, have become a source of stress and anxiety. Schools are closed, and our homes have become hubs for survival.

Before the pandemic hit, I imagined writing this debut editorial from one of College Park's hip gathering places. I pictured myself sitting in The Hall, inspired by the vitality of this new enterprise,

imagining the many ways the paper will be exploring the community we share.

Instead, I'm writing this editorial right where I've sat for the last eight weeks: my dining room table. At this table, I have homeschooled my kids and tele-taught literature classes for my high school students. And now I am finding new ways to connect the stories of our city to the writers who can tell them.

If circumstances were different, this edition would have focused on the two topics that surveyed residents wanted to read about most: upcoming city events and local business. Then, all of sudden, those events were cancelled, and businesses began to close.

But this inaugural issue of your own community newspaper speaks to our city in the here and now, and is, first and foremost, a tribute to the people of College Park. I hope that their stories — stories of dedication, service and resilience — will comfort and inspire you.

We expect to launch on the web, but in the meantime, I hope you enjoy holding these stories in your hands. May they serve as a reminder that there will always be a new page to turn.

And so, from my dining room table to yours. On behalf of the Hyattsville Community Newspaper Inc., its board, our associate editor Nancy Welch, our business manager Chris Currie, our advertis-

ing sales manager Brian Escobar, and our volunteer staff, I am humbled to bring you the *College Park Here & Now*.

Explain your story idea or indicate your interest in writing by emailing Mark at Mark@hyattsvillelife.com and Nancy at Nancy@hyattsvillelife.com. If you are interested in advertising with us, email Chris at Chris@hyattsvillelife.com and Brian at Brian@hyattsvillelife.com.



Mark Goodson is the managing editor of the *College Park Here & Now*.

Six housemates tackle quarantine in close quarters

By Alyssa Kraus

Whether they're making candles or concocting homemade hand sanitizer, the six housemates living on the outskirts of the University of Maryland (UMD) are keeping busy during this quarantine.

The residents, who come from around the world, are attempting to balance work, health and hobbies, all while maintaining social distancing guidelines.

Haoluan Wang, a doctoral student from Ningbo, China, is focusing on work and research, and is in frequent touch with his family in China. "They call me every single day to make sure I'm still alive," Wang said.

Housemate Mario Lopez is from Chicago, Ill., and is pursuing a doctorate in chemistry. Lopez said that he is mostly concerned about the economic impacts of the pandemic in the United States. He spends



The six students pose for a Christmas card. COURTESY OF HAOLUAN WANG

time researching stock market trends. "Maybe I should have went into finance in my undergrad," Lopez said.

Lopez began making his own hand sanitizer from alcohol and aloe vera. He has been urging his housemates to stay at home and have groceries delivered weekly instead of going to the store.

"If one person gets [the novel coronavirus] in the house, then everybody gets it in the house," Lopez said. He often informs his roommates about the number of cases across the county.

Wang said that he prefers getting his groceries at the store each week so he can select the produce he wants. He also said

going to the grocery store is cheaper than having food delivered.

Jacques De Beer, a doctoral student and South African native, said he's spending time during the quarantine chatting on Skype with his family. He worries about them, he said, because his parents are in a high-risk category for fatality from due to COVID-19.

His family had originally planned on visiting him in May and again in August, but they've cancelled their plans to keep everyone safe. De Beer said he thinks it could be up to a year before it is safe for him to visit his family.

Nika Jurov, a doctoral candidate in linguistics at UMD, was planning on going home to Celje, Slovenia in May. But global travel restrictions prompted her to return home earlier. She's currently completing her doctoral work online from her fam-

ily's home in Slovenia.

"I will be back as soon as they open the borders again," Jurov said. "But [when that will be] is something that I just don't know." She added that quarantine restrictions and the isolation factor of online classes have been difficult for her due to the lack of social interaction. Jurov said, "We're all doing it to help society, but I don't think it's psychologically healthy for anyone at all."

For Joey Willi, a fire protection engineer from Peoria, Ill., the hardest part of adapting to stay-at-home orders has been managing work productivity at home. Willi, a UMD alumnus, has been keeping busy by making candles in mason jars and coffee mugs.

Willi plans to grow out his beard during quarantine as a "way to track how many days have gone by," he said. He added that spending more time with his dog has been a real highlight of the quarantine.

Having a dog in the house has not been a highlight for Anouk Dieuleveut, though, as she's allergic to them. Dieuleveut said that she almost never goes downstairs because Willi keeps his dog on the house's lower level.

Aside from having to cope with her dog allergy, Dieuleveut, a linguistics student pursuing her doctorate at the university, noted that having a house full of roommates has helped her cope with the stress of quarantine. She's from Riom, France, and said that being away from family can be difficult.

"Having a virtual interaction, you don't see the eyes of people. You don't hear their real voice," she said. "Having [people] around is so important."

It's a good thing she has housemates, and busy ones, at that.

College Park Here & Now

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