

Editorial



Kelly Armstrong

Editor

Coming back from spring break, my focus was entirely on my upcoming communications oral comprehensive exit exams, the biggest stress of any communication senior. Mine were to be taken that Friday, March 13.

After walking out of orals knowing that I had passed, the weight of the world lifted off my shoulders, only for it to come crashing down again.

As Carroll announced its transition to online learning in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, a sense of panic and confusion seemed to sweep the campus community.

The virus finally seemed real. COVID-19 had finally reached our borders. It was no longer over there. It was here.

In the days that followed, Carroll went completely online and many people went home to finish the semester.

As for me, I'm still sitting in the Carroll apartments, surrounded by my quarantine crew. My roommates and friends have been such a blessing to me during these weeks of struggle. We laugh together, drink together, and are making the most of the last of our senior year.

We do still grieve and are saddened by the loss of the rest of our spring semester, as everyone is. For us seniors, we had our "lasts" without knowing what they were. We lost the chance to remember them as lasts.

We lost graduation, our last Easter Egg Scramble, our Junior-Senior Banquet, our chance for graduation photos with our friends, and so much more.

In an effort to keep a sense of normalcy, we at The Prospector decided we needed one last issue to commiserate but also to commemorate.

In this issue, we have lots of student voices and student reactions to all that is occurring in our world and at Carroll, especially how people are reacting to online learning and being stuck in their homes.

We have the voices of our student athletes - many of whom saw their season cancelled or cut short.

We have a JibJabs with your voices, responding to the question, "Do you have anything to say in response to these crazy times?"

We also have four profiles about people in our community: a student, a STAC worker, a community member, and a professor.

We have information from the Student Success Center and a column on wheelchair accessibility, for when we are back on campus — and we will someday be back on campus.

Finally, we have a story on the 2020 graduating class, featuring many senior voices, including their laments, gratitude and advice for returning Saints.

This issue is dedicated to the seniors who are grieving the fun times the end of college can give, but who still deserve to celebrate our success.

We don't get to walk across a stage with each other. We don't get to see, one last time, all our professors who have helped us along the way.

But, let's not forget that we have done it! We finished college! We are actual adults! Woo!

Yes, we have much to grieve.

But we also have much to celebrate. This pandemic is showing just how resilient we are and just how good we are at handling the curve balls that life throws at us. As you read through this final issue of 2019-2020, you will undoubtedly hear the stories of loss, but you will also hear many stories of how the Carroll community has embraced the call to love and serve our neighbors in these unprecedented times.

And with that, I sign off for the last time as editor of The Prospector.

I am full of so much gratitude to the Carroll community.

To my professors: Thank you for all of your help and love.

To my friends: Thank you for becoming my family.

To Carroll: Thank you for being a place where my faith could grow.

To everyone who has made my time here what it has been, you have helped shape me into a better person.

And to the Class of 2020, we did it!

Love, Kelly Armstrong

COVID-19 Special Edition



President Cech stands on the steps of St. Charles

Photo courtesy of Gary Marshall

Kelly Armstrong

Editor

For the first time in Carroll's 111-year history, the snow is melting during spring semester with few people on campus to enjoy it.

The COVID-19 virus that swept across the world has virtually emptied campus. With only 190 students in the residence halls, many students went back to their hometowns and those that haven't are staying-at-home as instructed, or rather, in their dorms.

Faculty are leading class and having meetings from their home with guest visits from little children at times.

Administrators, too, are holding meetings from their homes, giving us the barest glimpse into their personal lives.

The semester will end with final exams, as it always has. But that's about all that's the same.

Just in case you missed it, this is what happened

On Thursday, March 12, Carroll students got the notification that Carroll would have testing days for online classes.

Other colleges and universities across the nation were already moving online and moving students home.

By Tuesday, March 17, Carroll was completely online, and the dorms started emptying. All public events got suspended including athletics, Mass, TEDx, and so much more. Life at Carroll as we knew it was to be re-evaluated after Easter.

Basketball missed going to NAIA nationals, both men's and women's teams.

Indoor Track and Field Nationals took place earlier in the semester. Outdoor track and field unfortunately missed most of their season.

Softball also missed most of their season.

Talking Saints missed two nationals in Chicago and Los Angeles. Their final round would have taken place last Monday night at the University of Chicago.

Choir, jazz band, theatre all missed their final performances of the semester.

On Monday, March 23, the email went out that Carroll would be an online school for the rest of the semester. Summer school would be online as well.

Commencement would be postponed. Students were encouraged to return home if they could.

Updates go out frequently from the COVID-19 response team, but none nearly as shocking as these.

Where are we now?

Campus is quiet. The world is pretty quiet too.

Michaela Beckman, a senior from Helena majoring in anthrozoology, spoke for many students, staff and faculty when she described just how quiet it's been.

"It's the silence that gets me," Beckman said.

"Whether it's the silence at work as people avoid each other, the silence of my room before my next class, or the silence of friends as we become cut off. It's just the silence. I'm not used to it."

Graduation, instead of being cancelled outright as many other institutions have done, has currently been postponed to May 16, 2021, the day after the class of 2021 graduates.

The administration is hopeful that everything will be back to "normal" by then.

"This is the last thing we want to do," said Cathy Day, Vice President for Academic Affairs. "I feel so bad. We are so lucky, we are healthy, most of us have homes to go to and those kinds of things. But I feel like you have been robbed, through no one's fault, of a really special experience. Your lives will go on, and you know that. We want to do what we can do to make it as special as possible for you. We'll do our best."

Due to the Class of 2020's graduation being on a Sunday, the Cathedral will be having their own Sunday Masses. So, instead of being at the Cathedral, Baccalaureate will be held in All Saints Chapel with Bishop Austin Anthony Vetter and Msgr. Kevin O'Neill.

Dean Day, too, mourns the loss of graduation to mark the end of the semester.

"One of my joys," said Day, "[is that] I read the names [at graduation]. I've become friends with some of the students this year. I'm really excited that we are going to get to do it. It won't be when we want it to be, but we will do it."

As of right now, no solid plan is in place, but hopes

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A gift from the Prospector to the Carroll family

Brent Northup

Prospector Adviser

This special “COVID-19 at Carroll” edition is a gift from the “Prospector” to the Carroll family – past, present and future.

As adviser, I initially canceled our final editions when students went online, and many left for home. Stress and fear were both so high, I did not want to increase the load on students who were clearly off balance and trying to adjust to their new abnormal normal.

I also worried that the campus could face a health crisis and that putting energy into being safe and caring for others had to be our top priority for the final two months of this semester.

But editor Kelly Armstrong, a senior from San Diego, California, majoring in communication studies and theology, insisted that the voices of students be shared in a final issue. She wanted to give students an opportunity to share with everyone what this semester has been like – and for seniors to reflect on this strange and abrupt end to their time at Carroll.

When I asked, again, if adding to the stress of students by assigning more stories, was wise, she in essence said: “I’ll do most of this myself, and I think Emma will help.”

Emma is Kelly’s friend, Emma Lambert, a senior from Concrete, Washington, majoring in communication studies, a former editor of the Prospector. She committed whole-heartedly to this issue when asked.

A few stories came from the journalism class as a final assignment. A few others were written before the pandemic reached Montana. But, mostly, this is the work of Kelly and Emma – with help from Wayne Klinkel who volunteered to handle design and to Veronica Mohrmann who assisted with copy editing. Wayne and Veronica are Carroll adjunct professors.



Kelly has been working 24/7 on this for weeks now. She sent a survey to all 312 seniors to let their voices be heard; nearly 60 responded. Kelly and Emma have volunteered to write more than 9,000 words for this issue, and spent countless hours on rewrites of their stories. I’ve never seen a team of editors do this much work for one issue. Stunning, impressive, unselfish.

And they did it as a gift to all of you, who are reading this.

We suspect this will be an historical edition, read years later. So, we decided length did not matter. There are magazine-length stories here, not edited for brevity, but only for thoroughness and readability.

I’m so very proud of Kelly and Emma. Amidst senioritis and a pandemic, they chose to give the college one final gift. They will break the tape exhausted, but smiling.

I am grateful.

And I hope you are, too.

Brent Northup

CAMPUS CALENDAR

- Seniors and Young Alumni Networking --**
Wednesday, April 29, 6 p.m.
- Final Senior Thesis due to Corette Library --**
Friday, May 1
- Last Day of Classes –**
Friday, May 1
- Sunday Night Mass –**
Sunday, May 3, 8 p.m.
- Final Exams --**
Mon-Thurs, May 4-7
- Campus Housing Closes for residence halls --**
Friday, May 8
- Campus Housing Closes for apartments --**
Sunday, May 10
- Graduate Session Summer Courses begin --**
Monday, May 11
- Final Spring Grades due from faculty --**
Thursday, May 14
- Spring Grades available to students –**
Friday, May 15
- Session 3W-1, 6W-1, 12W Courses begin --**
Monday, May 18
- Last Day to submit a request for Special Pass (P2) Grade:**
Monday, May 18

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A new Pass/Fail option for Spring 2020 only

A note from Cathy Day, Academic Dean

Pass/Fail option allows a student to replace a letter grade of ‘D’ or better with a grade of Pass which will appear as ‘P2’ on the transcript for Spring 2020 only. See your advisor before accepting this option. Deadline for choosing Pass/Fail is May 18, after grades are posted on May 15.

Before selecting the PASS/FAIL option, consult with your adviser and read the full policy on the main Carroll Website. See Page 14 in this issue for a full explanation how to request PASS/FAIL.

FINALS SCHEDULE

Spring 2020 - Finals Schedule

Time	Mon, May 4	Tue, May 5	Wed, May 6	Thu, May 7
8:00 - 9:45 a.m.	8:00 TTh	9:00 MWF	9:30 TTh	8:00 MWF 7:30 MW
10:00 - 11:45 a.m.	CO 101 All Sections	MA 122 MA 131 MA 314/315 All Sections	CH 102 CH 111 CH 302 All Sections	BI 172 BI 202 All Sections
12:00 - 1:45 p.m.	12:00 MWF	11:00 TTh	10:00 MWF	11:00 MWF
2:00 - 3:45 p.m.	2:00 MWF 2:15 MW	1:00 MWF	3:00 MWF	2:15 TTh
4:00 - 5:45 p.m.	3:45 TTh	5:15 TTh	3:45 MW 4:00 MWF	5:00 MWF 5:15 MW
6:00 p.m. and later	Monday Evening Classes	Tuesday Evening Classes	Wednesday Evening Classes	Thursday Evening Classes



Where have all the students gone, long time passing.

COVID Carroll

A spring semester like no other

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are that graduation will be as close to what it would have been - complete with a President's toast, Brick Laying Ceremony, and Baccalaureate Mass.

Day is looking to put together a committee to plan for next year's graduation. If you are hoping to attend graduation and are interested, please contact her at cdday@carroll.edu.

As for Softball Weekend and Junior-Senior Banquet, there will be no way of making up those events.

For athletes, however, NAIA has offered another year of eligibility to some sports who have found their seasons cut short. Those who qualified for nationals and were not able to compete, however, are out of luck.

"I am a track and field athlete and not getting the chance to have my senior season has been truly heartbreaking," said Hope Welhaven, a senior health sciences and public health major from Billings. "I have made nationals before and have been training to qualify for nationals and be an All-American my senior year. Not getting this opportunity shook me to my core."

Some events, such as SURF, while needing to be cancelled in person, have opted to be moved online. A virtual SURF was available to students on Friday, April 24, to view from the Library's Institutional Repository (<https://scholars.carroll.edu>).

Aside from these events, what students, especially seniors might be missing the most, is their friends. While students on campus or in Helena are hunkering down with their quarantine crews, students that are home only get to connect online.

"I decided to stay in Helena to try and make the most out of the rest of my senior year," said Therese McNicoll, a senior accounting and finance major from Newbury Park, California. "While it's been hard being away from my family. It's been nice getting to spend quality time with my roommates and hiking around Helena. We've already lost so much of our senior year to the quarantine that I didn't want to also lose that last two months I have left in Helena."

Students who decided to head home are making the most of the family time.

"This has been a great time to strengthen my relationships with both of my families," said Bridget Braden, a freshman

nursing major from San Diego. "I love being able to spend more intentional time with my family at home. It has also taught me what a blessing my Carroll family is, and it has been a good reminder that those relationships are not confined to the walls of Carroll."

Students are more than appreciative of all that their professors are doing for them.

"Even though everything was flipped upside down," said Maddison Gail, a senior English writing and history major from Cody, Wyoming, "I'm amazed by the professors here at Carroll. They put in so much extra work to completely change their courses and struggled every step of the way with us. They are always supportive and checking in to see how we are doing."

Faculty, too, are taking opportunities to gather together, online of course, to connect, chat, and sometimes pray together. Katherine Greiner, assistant professor of theology, saw the need for a daily prayer session open to her colleagues.

"One thing I anticipated missing," said Greiner, "was these little daily interactions with colleagues that we totally take for granted: grabbing a cup of coffee and saying 'hi' or bumping into Dr. Ries or Dr. Meyer and just saying, 'what are you teaching today? How's it going?' These things we totally take for granted. I anticipated missing seeing my colleagues. I also thought we need prayer at this time. Sometimes structured prayer is most helpful in times of uncertainty. Structure and ritual kind of anchor us. That was where I saw the need for this."

Greiner also noted an ulterior motive to these Zoom prayer meetings.

"Another reason I thought we would do this over Zoom, so many of us, myself included, when we were first going on to Zoom, we were nervous," said Greiner. "What if my speaker isn't working? What if I can't hear? All those little kinks that you don't want to go wrong in class, if we have a prayer meeting before, you catch it at the prayer meeting and it's not all that embarrassing. It's like a Zoom warmup."

Carroll's Campus Ministry is also working diligently to provide online access to campus ministry events. There are now digital opportunities such as Via/Cor, small groups, and Mass in addition to spiritual guidance from the Rev. Marc Lenneman, Campus Chaplain.

Fortunately, Carroll attracts a type of student who is resilient and looks to the bright side.

"Despite these struggles, it's been great to see the Carroll community band together and support each other, especially through the Carroll Cares program," said Theresa Trinh, a senior chemistry major from Hamilton, Montana. "I've realized how the Carroll community is our family away from home and is always finding ways to serve others even in the midst of struggles."

Carroll School Year 2020-2021

Carroll is working hard to maintain a sense of normalcy and hopes against hope that all will be well in time for students to return to campus in August for the 2020-2021 school year.

"It's hard to know what's going to happen one week from now, let alone four months from now," said Beth Groman, Dean of Students and Retention. "I'm not an epidemiologist. We'll monitor things closely over the summer to determine the right course of action."

At the moment, the administration is assuming Carroll will be able to open fully come August.

"We do not have a set date, but hope to have a firm announcement by mid-July at the latest," said Day. "Our intention is to resume with in-person classes."

The Incident Command Team put together by Dr. Cech has been monitoring the current situation and making plans for the fall.

"We are looking at both what we are doing now with any new directives that come in from the governor, but also for the future for business continuity," said Groman. "We are looking at different possibilities for the fall. We are not at the point where I can say this is the plan, we are still working on the plan. But the hope is that we are opening up as usual, that everyone will return to campus."

The team is monitoring the CDC recommendations and the governor's directives, but it is difficult to imagine what the future may hold.

"In the fall, I'm interested to see what's going to happen with the CDC recommendation of wearing masks and gloves," said Groman. "We want to encourage people to wear them, but we want to make sure that people know how to properly dispose of them or clean them. Wearing it, or dispos-

ing of things, or reusing things inappropriately is just ineffective. I'm really hopeful and prayerful that our students are being wise. We can only do so much to provide guidance and set expectations."

With final exams just around the corner, Carroll's been blessed with no confirmed cases among faculty, staff and students. The Borromeo Hall rooms reserved for quarantine, have thankfully not been needed.

"I haven't heard of any [cases] officially," said Groman. "We have been asking that folks notify the Wellness Center if they've been exposed or if they've been required to quarantine or isolate because they've been exposed, or they tested positive. As of yesterday's Incident Command Meeting, we haven't heard of any."

With the end of semester in sight, Student Life is looking into transforming Borromeo Hall back into student dorms.

"We haven't set a date on when we will move things back over there," said Groman, "but we will be open for the fall."

As for the rest of the semester, for those still on campus, residence halls close Friday, May 8 at noon using express checkout.

"We are asking students to coordinate with their RA when they are planning to leave so we can limit the number of folks that are coming to campus at any given time," said Groman. "The students that are still here will be staggered in their checkouts."

Those off campus, who still have possessions on campus should contact their RAs to schedule a time to come back.

"If students are unsure of what to do," said Groman, "they can reach out to studentlife@carroll.edu and we will guide them in the right direction."

The Helena community has not been severely affected by COVID-19. As of Monday, April 27, Lewis and Clark County has only 16 cases and no deaths. Montana has a total of 449 cases, the second lowest in the country, and 14 deaths. Montana, including Helena, was on a stay-at-home order from March 26 until April 26, with non-essential businesses closed.

"I hope and pray that in the fall we have a healthy, vibrant community of students, faculty and staff on campus who are ready and eager to engage in teaching and learning," said Day.

Campus Ministry keeps close in socially distant times

Kelly Armstrong
Editor

With the coronavirus pandemic and the enforcement of social distancing, Campus Ministry has been radically changed. The chapel is empty. Dorms are quiet. But the Catholic mission is alive and well – just in a new form.

Campus Ministry has worked hard to minister to the campus as students have returned home, become socially distant, and moved online.

“The main and most important thing Campus Ministry is doing right now is praying,” said Julia Malmo, the women’s peer minister on the third floor of St. Charles. “We are praying for our students, faculty, and staff, our college, our nation, and the world.”

Campus Ministry has moved online with Cor and Via, the men’s and women’s faith formation groups, led by Peer Ministers Brett Rotz and John Cooney, and Campus Minister Deidre Casey, respectively.

The Rev. Marc Lenneman is also offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment and is live streaming Sunday Mass on Carroll’s YouTube account.

Peer ministers are offering their small groups mostly online through Zoom.

“I have had a Zoom small group during which we shared how we were doing and prayed a rosary together keeping each other’s intentions in mind,” said Charly Clements, the women’s peer minister on St. Charles’ second floor. “My floor has

also been doing prayer text chains where I’ll reach out to someone and check in and ask for their prayer intentions and then they reach out to someone else and so on.”

Peer ministers are working to get creative with their small groups.

“I personally have been holding Zoom meetings at the time of my normal small group doing check-ins with my residents as well as giving them weekly or daily chal-

”

My floor has also been doing prayer text chains where I’ll reach out to someone and check in and ask for their prayer intentions and then they reach out to someone else and so on.

— Charly Clements

lenges as to how they can be living out their faith in new ways,” said Katie Korbuszewski, the women’s peer minister on fourth floor St. Charles.

Many are taking advantage of Zoom to keep in contact with their community here at Carroll.

“Obviously, none of it is as great as being able to connect with people in person and it is a difficult balance to walk between not overloading people with even more emails and more screen time while wanting to stay connected,” said Clements. “But I think a lot of people appreciate the continued sense of community in this time of isolation and the means to keep themselves grounded in their faith during such uncertainty.”

Balancing small group time on a computer with students’ constant need to be on the computer has been a challenge for all of the peer ministers.

“We have had to try and be creative on how to minister from a distance without being limited to technology,” said Clements. “One week for small group I encourage my floor instead of meeting virtually to take 20-30 minutes out of their week

to do some “active prayer” like going for a walk while praying the rosary, or any other prayer, or taking a hike and spending 20 minutes at the top to sit in silence and contemplate God’s creation.”

Outside of small groups, peer ministers are checking in on their peers through different means of communication.

“I’m still ministering by texting, snapchatting, and of course praying for all the ladies of Borro and Trin,” said Rose Ramos, the Borromeo and Trinity peer minister. “Asking prayer intentions has been a major part of ministry during the ‘rona.”

Without the daily brushes through the halls, peer ministers have had to be more intentional about their chats with their peers.

“I have also been individually texting them here and there since I no longer get to have those random brushing your teeth in the morning or passing in the hallway conversations anymore,” said Korbuszewski. “It’s been nice to see their beautiful smiling faces and see how everyone is doing.”

Through regular check-ins with the people on their floors, peer ministers are able to get a good look at how they are doing.

“I think most people are still trying to process how much the world has changed and the idea that this is not as temporary as a situation as we may have originally thought,” said Malmo. “Most people I’ve talked to are having a hard time being separated from friends and missing out on different events that were going to happen on campus. Some people have really grown in their faith during this situation while others are struggling with being away from support systems at Carroll and trusting in God’s plan.”

Challenge as Opportunities for Growth

Overall, everyone is handling this situation in their own way.

“It has been difficult for many people,” said Ramos. “The fairy-dust of being free of in person classes and school has settled and boredom is setting in. But I want to note that an attitude of gratitude is what all the happiest people have. The virus is real bad, but it’s brought people’s attention to how blessed they are to have each other and God who is very much alive and present with us every day, even if we have to look further than just the sacraments.”

Noah Gaudreau, the men’s peer minister on second floor St. Charles, agreed that Catholics are most definitely missing the sacraments, but also just being able to physically go to Church and get out of the house.

“I think people are definitely missing going to church and the community aspect of that as well as receiving Eucharist, if you are Catholic,” said Gaudreau. “Overall, I think people just want to get out of the house. Yesterday I just wanted to go to a movie or have a meal in a restaurant, but I couldn’t, so I ended up going on a hike. It’s not ideal but I think it could be a lot worse for all of us so it’s important to stay positive and look at the upside of this time.”

Students are struggling not only with prayer and being stuck inside all day, but also with motivation to continue schoolwork.

“It has been difficult for many men to stay motivated on schoolwork and to find a sense of normalcy amidst so much turbulence and uncertainty,” said Cooney, the men’s peer minister of third floor St. Charles. “That being said, I could not be

more proud of the men that I minister to; they have handled the situation with great maturity, courage, and hope.”

Peer ministers are recognizing in their peers that they are doing what they can to make the best of this situation, in spite of the challenges.

“Girls that I have talked to have been positive about this situation and been looking on the bright side,” said Taryn Neameyer, the women’s peer minister on third floor Guad. “Even though this time is tough they have the mindset of controlling what they can control and letting go on the things they cannot control. It is difficult because being at home and away from friends can make it lonelier, and harder to focus on studies because it feels like we are on break or that school is over.”

Only having classes and homework, students feel as though they have all of this extra time on their hands.

“I would challenge students to take time now and finally do that activity or make that project happen that you’ve always thought of doing, but never had the time to do,” said Alex Olmes, men’s peer minister on third floor Guad. “Don’t shy away from boredom, it’s when you get really creative.”

There is great opportunity for not only creative growth, but spiritual growth.

“People are still finding ways to connect spiritually,” said Gaudreau, “and I believe even though we are disconnected, there are going to be spiritual fruits that come out of this time for sure.”

These fruits can look very different amongst people.

“It has provided opportunities for people to develop their faith individually and grow in relationship with Christ in a different environment than campus,” said Ramos.

In these challenging times of being socially distant, there are great opportunities to work on yourself.

“I think personal growth given the circumstances that you can’t lean on the community as much,” said Gaudreau. “You have to make the time and effort more now that there is not as much communal prayer and church. I also think as a community, I hope we are aware just how important the priests and the sacraments are.”

The challenges we are overcoming provide opportunities to have greater trust in the Lord.

“There are obviously challenges regarding this whole situation,” said Maggie Phelan, the women’s peer minister on first floor Guad, “but I know a lot of people are beginning to recognize graces from wherever they are, whether that is at home or still on campus. The Lord is so faithful, and I think sometimes it just takes us opening our eyes to see and recognize the beauty that is right around us. I know that spending time with family has been a grace often shared and opportunities to be outside even though they are limited.”

Even with all of the personal challenges students are encountering and experiencing, Carroll students are, once again, keeping in mind others who suffer too.

“I’ve also found so many people that I’ve talked to that they are more concerned about how the quarantine is affecting other people rather than dwelling on how it is affecting them personally,” said Clements. “Of course, it’s not all rainbows and sunshine and people are sick of staring at computer screens and miss their friends and the independence that comes with college life and are experiencing real hardships, but

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overall, I’ve been blown away by people’s attitudes of compassion and gratitude.” This time provides a great opportunity to serve others.

“I think reaching out to people through technology or maybe a good old-fashioned letter is a great way to show people that they are not alone and even though we are socially distant this is a beautiful opportunity to grow spiritually close to one another,” said Phelan.

In spite of the challenges of the present and the worries of the future, Phelan wants to remind people of the words of Mother Teresa: “Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.”

With more time for boredom, comes more opportunities for prayer and trust in God.

“An opportunity is that I think a lot of people now have more time,” said Clements. “With more time can come boredom but it can also come with more time for meaningful reading, time spent in prayer, meaningful time spent with family, or even time spent in service of those in our community who are in need right now.”

Peer Minister Advice

With all the challenges in mind, and all these opportunities for great spiritual growth, these peer ministers would like to offer some words of wisdom.

“One piece of wisdom,” said Ramos, “take one hour of your day without technology and sit in the silence, ask your family how they are doing, and write down a note for someone you love. Another thing you should do is tell people what good you saw in the day, attitude of gratitude. Set aside time to pray, start with 5 min. and go up from there.”

“The most important thing is to keep praying especially for those that are really suffering during this time and to trust in God,” said Gaudreau.

“Hang in there if you’re feeling the isolation,” said Korbuszewski. “The two lies that the evil one loves to whisper into our hearts and minds is that, one, there is something wrong with us and, two, that we are alone. These contain a sliver of truth as we are not perfect beings, and when one is alone in a room, it can certainly feel isolating. However, Christ has come to conquer sin and through Him, with Him, and in Him, he works to make us perfect.

“We are also never alone because Christ is always with us,” said Korbuszewski. “I know I struggle with those two lies a lot and have to remind myself to invite Jesus into my heart to combat those and bring truth to my heart and mind. I have no doubt that all this social isolation and distancing is the evil one’s playground to be spreading those lies like wildfire so we must be on the offensive and defensive to protect our hearts and minds. With that I pray that everyone knows they are loved and never alone.”

“I would encourage people to reach out to other people when they are feeling alone,” said Malmo. “We are all in this together so just know that there are so many people praying for you and supporting you, even if you can’t be with them in person. Have faith and know that God is working through this. Always know that you are stronger than you think, and God will provide.

“God has given us an opportunity to reprioritize our lives and to partake in a prolonged Sabbath,” said Cooney. “Don’t

let this time go to waste: pray diligently, enjoy your family, create something, rest, spend time in the Scriptures, write something worth reading--just do something worthy of pouring your life into.”

“Some words of wisdom I would say are to take this time to reflect on the school year and to share it with your family,” said Neameyer. “Share with your family how you have grown this year and start a conversation of unexpected challenges and graces that have transformed you and your family throughout life. Through this reflection you will be able to see how God has worked to form you to the beautiful individual you are called to be. Also, we have to be on our screens a lot for school now with virtual learning so don’t spend any more time on your screens than you have to and get outside.”

Aside from peer ministers and Via/Cor, Campus Ministry has an app, Carroll Campus Ministry, where people can find many different online resources.

“For anyone who has downloaded the Campus Ministry app,” said Clements, “Father Marc frequently shares readings and videos filled with inspiring hopeful messages on that. There is a ‘prayer wall’ where people can post their intentions and keep in touch and pray for the needs of others in our Carroll community.

During Holy Week a video was also published that allows people to virtually walk through and pray the Stations of the Cross in All Saints’ Chapel.”

The Stations of the Cross, walking through the Passion and suffering of Christ, is something we can cling to during this time of hardships.

Thankfully the Christians are an Easter people with the belief and hope in all ending well. The tale of the Easter story includes suffering, includes struggle. It is that struggle that is overcome with the faith in a happy ending.

It is with this hope and faith that we await a full chapel, a full campus, a return to normalcy carrying with us the wisdom we gain through our struggles.

“Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.

— Mother Teresa

Movin’ time: From Borro to Trinity to Moses Lake

Abigail Thyssen

Staff Writer

Coming back from an awesome spring break in Florida, I was expecting to go back into classes just like before.

Boy, was I wrong. What ensued was one of the most difficult weeks of my life.

It started Monday, March 9. I was getting news from my friends at other colleges, that they were going online. I didn’t think that would happen to Carroll, but in the back of my mind I was starting to have my doubts.

I was beginning to become nervous and concerned about what effect this whole charade would have on me and my academic career.

By Wednesday the 11th there was starting to be a lot of talk about Carroll potentially going online. I had already had a rough start to my week with personal issues and I was hoping by Wednesday I would get out of my rut.

I ended up badly spraining my ankle that morning. Bad sign.

On Thursday the 12th Carroll President John Cech announced that Carroll was going to test online classes the following Tuesday and Wednesday. I was starting to think that it was getting pretty serious.

I remember calling my mom and ranting to her all the bad things from going online.

What would I do with my stuff? Would I go home? What if my grades slip because of the online format?

Friday the 13th –go figure - was when Coronavirus hit the fan.

President Cech announced we were going fully online from March 23 to April 9, and that all gatherings were to be cancelled or postponed immediately. My best friend was supposed to be giving a TED Talk the following day and her mom and sister flew in to see it. This was a blessing though.

I tried to stay in good spirits because my friend was crushed. She was depressed that her months of preparation for her TED talk had been wasted.

I received an email on that day at 6 p.m. saying that the Borromeo Hall residents were being moved as the building was selected to serve as a quarantine building. I had to be out by Tuesday the 17th.

I loved my room. I was neighbors with my best friend and I had to pack everything, all on a bad ankle. I cried myself to sleep on my last night in my Borro room.

My friend and I moved on Sunday the 15th up to third floor Trinity with the help of her mom and sister. We put everything

we did not need in a storage unit and only took the bare necessities to our new double.

My parents drove 12 hours round trip to get more of my things and take it home. Again, a blessing.

My friend and I spent that night in our new room, all set up and everything put away. We didn’t bother putting decorations up on the walls, because there was no point if we were only going to be there for about a month and a half - or so we thought.

Hoping that Monday the 16th would be a new better, less stressful day, I woke up to an email saying that Carroll was moving to fully online classes from Tuesday the 17th to April 9. Devastated, I decided to go home. So, after my Monday morning classes, I drove home with everything that I had in my new room: bedding, all my clothes, all my plants – and my fish.

My friend and I said our goodbyes, knowing there was a chance that we wouldn’t see each other until August.

We both felt the same: We were tired of all the uncertainty.

On March 23rd, President Cech sent an email saying that Carroll was admin-



istering classes online for the rest of the semester. Though this is hard for all Carroll students, it is probably a good decision.

Now that we have been in online classes for a while, I can say that my grades have not been affected.

I am glad to be home with my family. And I am glad that Carroll has been doing a good job in keeping us up-to-date with all their efforts to make things manageable.

Though college seems doable at this point, life does not. I cannot leave my house. When I do, it is depressing.

Businesses are “closed till further notice.” People are wearing masks everywhere.

No one looks happy. I have found myself more grateful than ever for what I have: a family, an education, and an outlook that life will get better. I know I can only control things that I can.

I know others are looking at the road ahead with fear and anxiety. Just know it has helped me to look ahead, only one day at a time.

Live in the present for a better future. I cannot wait until life becomes somewhat normal again, if that’s even possible.

I don’t know. Until then, I’m going to be as optimistic and happy as I can be, and hopefully spread happiness to others.

Cherry blossoms bloom

Finding beauty in stressful times



Rina Yamazaki amidst the Cherry blossoms near her home Kuwana City, in Mie prefecture, in Japan.

Photo courtesy Rina Yamazaki

Rina Yamazaki

Staff Writer

A few days ago, I found that cherry blossoms in my house garden in Mie, Japan were in beautiful bloom. At that time, I suddenly noticed that if I had not come back to Japan one month earlier from the United States because of the novel coronavirus, I could not have seen these beautiful full-blown flowers in Japan this year.

“It would be better for you to go back to Japan as soon as possible.”

I got this message from my home university in Japan on March 15th when novel coronavirus gradually became the menace in the U.S. They suggested to me that I end my study abroad and return to Japan before the situation got worse.

I have studied at Carroll College as an international student since last semester and was supposed to finish my coursework this May. There was only one month left to

reach my goal.

Who could have imagined that I would suddenly end my whole study abroad plan and return to Japan like this?

It was so hard to say a sudden goodbye to my friends. I feel so bad because I did not have enough time to make that one last good memory with them.

I cannot help feeling resentment against the notorious virus.

Why did I have to end my life at Carroll like this? Why do many people have to suffer pains? Why do we have to give up our normal lives?

However, even though ironically, I feel that this is a good time to realize and feel a little happiness and be grateful for many things in my daily life.

Without my unexpected return, I could not have enjoyed beautiful spring scenery in Japan.

Without a fear of the coronavirus, I would not have cared as much about my friends or family.

Without the order of stay-at-home, I

would not have had enough time to spend with my family at home.

Without online classes, I would not have been as grateful for my professors who worked so hard to make sure that we students could finish our studies.

Because of this pandemic, I found out how precious life is – and how fortunate I am to be able to lead my normal life, without any restrictions and fear with beloved people just like a few months before.

The virus has put a large number of people in jeopardy.

It has afflicted innocent people and claimed so many precious lives. A number of health-care workers are fighting against the virus on the front line at this moment.

The widespread of the virus has entirely changed our way of life.

There are so many people who have inevitably left their jobs. Many of the world's children have unavoidably given up their studies at school with their friends.

No one knows when this nightmare will end. However, many people have risked

their lives to fight against this menace.

It may sound too optimistic, but what I'm trying to say here is not we can just let the fear go. But rather, I'm saying that there are still some ways to find a faint ray of light that shines on our lives in this darkness.

I'm discovering, slowly, one way to defeat the fear and despair of this nightmare. We need to notice the happiness in our daily lives, no matter how small, and be thankful.

Even in today's world, we can find happiness – like the cherry blossoms outside my home here in Japan.

Rina Yamazaki was a study-abroad student from Kuwana City in Japan, studying abroad at Carroll during the 2019-2020 school year. She will be a junior majoring in English studies at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies in Kobe City. She hopes to pursue a career in journalism, as a reporter or a correspondent.

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Without a fear of the coronavirus, I would not have cared as much about my friends or family.

— Rina Yamazaki

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When we are down, *We can still choose joy*



Sarah Burton on the steps of St. Charles.

Photo courtesy Sarah Burton

Sarah Burton

Staff Writer

Before I went home for spring break, everything was normal on campus at Carroll. I went to classes and listened to lectures while taking notes. After coming back, COVID-19 was increasing where precautions had to be taken. We were told what to do to keep it from spreading more. Restrictions were placed on traveling internationally and state travel, including going back home. Next, emails flooded in telling us we could go home, or, if we wished, we could stay on campus. The cafeteria was staying open and the meals for pick up - in essence, meals to go. In the meanwhile, I tried settling down into my dorm to relax, listening in to lectures on Zoom, reading assignments, and completing my homework. Carroll eventually and inevitably decided to teach exclusively online for rest of the semester. I reported to my parents on my situation at Carroll and asked what I should do. I told them that I would wait for two weeks before deciding whether to stay

or head back home to Oregon. After I made my final decision, I texted back my parents telling them that I was coming home. I gathered all my dorm essentials, packed up everything in boxes and kept tuning into classes and completing homework. My dad texted me back that he would come and help me pack up. He was willing to drive 11 hours from my home in Beaverton, all the way to Helena. When the day came to drive home, my dad and I hopped in our car and took a few photos for our last memories there. We made it safely back. As days crept by, I pulled out my favorite hobbies. Soon a new feeling overtook me: I felt overjoyed and thankful for the wonderful life I have. I eventually decided I had two choices. I could either sit there and complain about how awful life is or I could find ways to bring joy into my world. Here is what I decided to do. The change of environment from being in classes with others to being alone with my computer in online class has been challenging. Then came the loss of May graduation and the rescheduling of the ceremony to Dec. 12, and then to next May 2021. I expected my last semester to be a time of making final memories with friends. I was looking forward to celebrating gradu-

ation with my friends and family to close this chapter of my journey. These dreams are shattered now. I feel worthless and humiliated at times with the precautions we are having to take. It's frustrating and annoying to keep the proper "social distance." I was frustrated by the daily messages flowing in from my family reacting to what was happening. I wanted to enjoy my life where I could to brighten up my mood. I decided that I was not letting fear get to me through this time. So, I counterattacked. I started watching funny videos, sketching, singing and playing online games with friends. I picked myself up, turned on my Bluetooth earbuds, cranked up the volume, and thanks to Spotify, danced and sang the night away. It was like I was making my own music video only I could see or hear. I'm determined to finish strong in my last year. I'm determined to create more beautiful memories despite the obstacles. Even when we are down, we can always focus on what brings us joy. I sing in the Carroll choir. Through our music, we all connect as one voice with the overflowing harmony of angelic voices in our practice room. Every time I close my eyes, I can hear our harmonic voices creating a wonderful sound that is beautiful and peaceful.

I have been part of choir for five years, although I took one semester off to find confidence in my voice. But now, without choir practice, I have struggled to fight off the sadness that I'm leaving my musical memories behind. My personal advice? I believe that in times of frustration, we need to find a fun playlist full of upbeat songs we can rock out to while drawing or coloring in an art book. I found singing, drawing and dancing brought joy to my heart. When I write songs, I can express my emotions. I highly recommend finding a peaceful spot in a room or dorm that is comfortable. We can read a good book while sipping warm tea in bed or at our desks. When we feel stuck or cooped up in our room all day, we can go outside to soak up the sun, smell the fresh air, go for a walk or take a bicycle ride. I eventually decided I had two choices. I could either sit there and complain about how awful life is or I could find ways to bring joy into my world. I'm doing my best to hone in on joy. Sarah Burton, a senior from Beaverton, Oregon, majored in Public Health with a minor in social media.

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I'm doing my best to hone in on joy.
—Sarah Burton

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The little things in life seem so much bigger now



Kelsey Jones, sitting proudly on Sacagawea Peak, the highest peak in the Bridger Range.

Photo courtesy Kelsey Jones

Kelsey Jones

Staff Writer

It took a worldwide pandemic and international economic crisis to make the people around the globe, myself included, open our eyes to how much we have taken for granted.

While I was sitting at home in quarantine, trying to balance babysitting, schoolwork, and boredom, I had an epiphany. The world has erupted into an unwelcome mayhem, but perhaps we needed an international meltdown to be thankful for what we thought were “normal everyday activities.”

Before going into lockdown, I did not think lunch with my friends every day at the STAC was an extraordinary activity – ordinary at best. On a good day.

However, this pandemic shook me awake.

I am now seeing the world in a colorful and bright light. The hard-as-rock classroom chairs, probably Bishop Carroll originals from our founding, now seem like a luxury item that I would gladly perch in all day long if it meant I could go back to class.

Moaning and huffing for air walking up Charlie’s steps would be welcome so long as the destination was sitting next to my peers and professors in the classroom.

It is impossible to put a price tag on an in-class education, that I once blindly took for granted. These “ordinary activities,” like attending class in person, are invaluable as this pandemic rambles on.

I see them through a new lens.

In a time of uncertainty, stress, and social distancing, I have never felt so thankful for the times that I was able to hug my friends, sit next to strangers in class and church, and shake someone’s hand. These simple and routine gestures will now be much more precious when we reach the end of this crisis.

When life returns to normal and we are not stuck inside our houses attending classes via Zoom and trying to fight boredom to stay sane, we will appreciate the questionable STAC food, and trying to decipher unreadable lecture notes on the whiteboard.

I learned valuable life lessons throughout this that I would never have learned without having what I thought were “ordinary activities” stripped from me. I have learned that small moments such as being able to catch up with someone over a drink and walking back to the dorms with a classmate aren’t at all “ordinary.” The times with my best friends over lunch at the STAC, when we laugh about our late-night Shellie’s runs, should never be taken for granted.

Being stuck at home in quarantine with no friends for entertainment, I start to replay little memory gems, realizing that I

truly never knew the value of those small gifts until now.

The gift of sitting next to a stranger at church and shaking their hand.

The gift of chanting “Tuck Fech” in the overcrowded student section.

The gift of seeing my professor’s eyes light up when he finishes his detailed lectures.

That handshake is a chance to look a stranger in their eye and be thankful that for this brief moment your lives have crossed paths.

That chanting and cheering that brings the Carroll family together.

That glisten in my professor’s eye that’s not visible on Zoom, rather he is just a floating head.

When I look back, I see a version of myself that I hope will vanish with the Coronavirus.

I see the error of not squeezing my friends in a bear hug when in passing when I had the chance, instead of the slight head nod with an underwhelming “heyyy, how are ya?”

I see the brat that was looking at the clock ticking away in class, instead of soaking in the lectures.

I see the gift of being taught in person, not behind a screen.

I hope I learn to be more mindful – to appreciate life in the moment that it is happening.

I hope I never take for granted a warm hug from a friend and a smile from a professor.

I hope we all learn that life can change in a heartbeat and we must appreciate the “ordinary” things because in the blink of an eye they can become extraordinary.

Never again will I take for granted a full stadium of chanting people, an overcrowded party of daft college students, or eating pancakes with my roommates on Sunday mornings

laughing about the weekend.

Perhaps this pandemic is a gift – the eye opener I needed to appreciate not just Carroll, but life.

When the virtual classes are over, perhaps, to put it simply, I’ll be more thankful, more grateful.

Perhaps I’ll know the meaning of a hug – and I’ll thank the pandemic for that gift.

Kelsey Jones is a sophomore, from Bozeman, Montana, who is majoring in Communication and Public Relations.

Parents in healthcare

Worried about mom and dad



Josie Snyder atop Mount Helena.

“
Before this pandemic, I never once worried about my parents. Now, I can’t help but to be terrified of what might lie ahead.
— Josie Snyder
”

Photo courtesy Josie Snyder

Josie Snyder
Staff Writer

It was all fun and games as we joked about the supposed global pandemic. My teammates and I had just finished a meeting with our coach in which we were given small warnings about what was yet to come. As I dialed in our locker room’s code and pushed open the door, I heard my friend and teammate, Blair Stapleton, give a tiny gasp. “We are officially online,” said Stapleton, a freshman communication major from Billings. I paused for a second and gave a half laugh. Not sure if it was a reality or a joke. I scanned my email to read the same announcement found on all students’ and faculty’s phones and laptops. That stunning email that made a joke and fantasy

turn into a looming reality. After shaking off any foreboding feeling, I decided that it can’t be all that bad. If we were out of school for two weeks, then so be it. Maybe it would give us all a little bit of a well-deserved break. However, worry crept in. My father, the medical director of the ICU at St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings, has rarely been in any serious danger while working. My mother, a very smart Physician Assistant, has also never experienced any major threats. Now, all of that has changed. Before this pandemic, I never once worried about my parents. Now, I can’t help but to be terrified of what might lie ahead. My mother and father are both older parents, and though they are strong and healthy, my dad has asthma. Suddenly, with this realization that my parents could be seriously hurt, along with my grandparents and aunts and uncles, I could not - and have not been able to - joke any more.

My parents are stressed. As they have every right to be. New rules have been created by my mother throughout the household. Before my parents come inside, they have to take off their shoes in the garage. Once inside, they have to immediately change out of their hospital gear and put on fresh, clean clothes. If there is even the smallest chance that either one of them have been exposed, they must quarantine themselves until their next shift at the hospital. It is normal for my parents to both exchange information during dinner time regarding the virus as my brother and I listen in silence. We both have made it a habit to listen and learn rather than interrupt. Thank God, there has yet to be a positive test of COVID-19 in Billings. However, it’s hard not to believe that this is only the calm before the storm. I’m sure you might agree, that this global pandemic sometimes doesn’t feel real. Sometimes, it’s hard to remember that there is a life-threatening disease that can

kill and harm all individuals. With that, it can be easy to ignore any warnings and go through life as if nothing has changed. We must not ignore these warnings. We must unite and remember those who are putting their lives on the line day after day. Be conscious of the essential workers who are at risk of exposing themselves to COVID-19. As students, adults and conscientious individuals it is up to us to maintain a respectful and understanding mindset. With a combined effort from us all, we will come out safe and healthy. Editor’s note: This story was written on March 31. As of the day of publication, Yellowstone County, where Billings is located, has 79 confirmed cases and one death. Josie Snyder is a junior from Billings, majoring in communication, with minors in public relations, psychology and social media.

Most students keep their distance – but not all

Warren Wolcott
Staff Writer

As a Carroll student, who stayed on campus longer than most, I’ve had the luxury of seeing how a lot of my fellow classmates have been reacting to stay-at-home orders and social distancing. A majority of my classmates have been good about keeping their distance from people. A good number never even leave their rooms. That being said, there’s not an insignificant number who are still going to see their friends on campus or are continuing to stay up late, enjoying a night out with their friends. The most common thing I observed was friends visiting each other in their dorms, even after they were told not to see others. I asked why they took this risk? Their answer? They said they visited each other so often anyway that it wouldn’t matter. If they were going to get sick, they would already be sick. Surely, these bright students realize the risks they are taking. I think that this logic

is wrong because any person in that group could have exposed themselves after you saw them last. So, if you party with them, you are now at risk. And if you were smart enough not to visit them, you wouldn’t be exposed to the virus. On the other hand, a good number of people have been social distancing. These people deserve our thanks because they are following advice and keeping this from spiraling out of control. These social distancers are the majority and deserve praise. Social distancing is hard for all of us. We all want to be with the people who we love. But this virus has put us in a world we haven’t thought of before. Normally during unpredictable times, we lean on the emotional support of our peers and family to get us through. Now, in order to get through this, we need to stay away from our friends. That being said, technology has given us ways that we can communicate and stay together. Already, I’ve seen people using Zoom to stay in touch with their families. In addition, other programs, such as Dis-

cord, make it easier for people to convene and do our favorite activities like watching Netflix or playing games over the internet. If you’re feeling the itch to do something with your friends, I would highly recommend an alternative like this. It has brought me a lot of solace when I’ve missed my friends. The best way I can close this column is with words from the Queen of England who has given me inspiration in these crazy times. “I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge,” said the Queen. The closing of the address was the most inspirational. Let’s let the Queen have the last word. “We will succeed – and that success will belong to every one of us. We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: We will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again.” Warren Wolcott is a junior from Moscow, Idaho, majoring in communication with an emphasis on TV production, with a theater minor



Warren Wolcott



Alyssa Young



Ayla Carpenter



John Cooney



Emma Nylin

Senior sadness at Carroll

Emma Lambert

Lead Writer

Do you ever just feel robbed? Like when you go to McDonald's with your friend and you both order the 10 piece chicken nugget but they get 11 and you only get 10? Yes, you technically got what you paid for but you are still feeling a little disappointed?

Like you are missing out on something greater?

That is kind of what this semester feels like.

Especially as seniors, while we are still getting our degrees, we are also missing out on a lot of beloved traditions and that extra-nugget excitement that comes with the home stretch of your senior year. We asked the 312-person class of 2020 to share what they are missing most about the semester, what good they saw coming out of this and what advice they would give to those returning to Carroll.

A healthy 57 seniors took the time to respond.

Empty gym on May 9

Losing graduation, of course, is a big one with 32 of 57 responding seniors singling it out as a major disappointment. As a first-generation college student, I could not even imagine how it was going to feel to put on that cap, gown, and sash and walk across the stage to receive my diploma in front of so many people.

Friends, family, professors.

And let's not forget all those faces I have seen so often, but have never really spoken to.

We never really think much about those people, do we? Not enough, anyway.

The ones you see everywhere and seem to know a lot about, but have never actually spent any time with? We don't think we'll miss them until without knowing it, we never see them again.

With no warning, they're gone.

Without our graduation, we did not get to stop and take in all the faces and people around us for the last time. Many seniors, when asked, shared a similar sadness about not being able to walk with their peers.

"I was most sad to see graduation be lost," said Michael Fuller, a biochemistry and molecular biology major from Helena. "I was practically raised on Carroll campus. It's been my dream for almost as long as I can remember to graduate

from Carroll and walk across the stage to receive my diploma. I cried but then had to continue with my school work and studying. The pain is still there but there is so much to do and very little time to accomplish it."

Graduation is about so much more than being handed your diploma. We stand next to one another and flip our tassels together – at the same time. We're a team, but really, a family. We've bonded from first-year orientation until senior year graduation. Scratch that: until the day we found out our friends had left campus yesterday.

"Knowing that I don't get to spend the last couple of months surrounded by my best friends in the lead up to graduation has been the hardest to stomach," said Gretchen Farkas, a public health major from Wallace, Idaho. "We have been dreaming and planning about graduation for so long, and while I am very thankful that a ceremony might still be a possibility, it still isn't the narrative that we had carved out in our minds. I'm sad that the end of the semester won't really feel like the end, because I won't have gotten that chance to say goodbye and find a sense of closure. I'm also heartbroken knowing that I won't get to interact with my professors and classmates the same way ever again. Carroll is truly full of the best people."

Many students are staying optimistic about the rescheduled graduation, now set for next May 16, the day after the class of 2021 graduates.

"I was very sad to not be able to walk in May with my classmates and closest friends," said Kailey Kleinjan, an anthropology major from Chinook, Montana. "But I am staying hopeful that next May, most of the class will be able to come back to have the ceremony we worked so hard for these last four years."

Besides graduation, there were a lot of events that on the outside may appear minor in the bigger scope of college life, but which hold special places in the hearts of Carroll students.

Empty dugouts

Softball weekend was a big deal, too, the second biggest senior disappointment.

"It's sad to know I had all of my 'lasts' without knowing they were the lasts," said Kelsie Verlin, an anthropology major from Stockton, California. "I wish I would have been able to know it was the last time I'd sit in class, the last time I'd play in softball weekend, and even the last time I'd have to search for parking on campus."

While this event might have had a notorious reputation among some, it was not just about getting drunk and goofing off – not all of the time anyway. Real memories were made, inside jokes created and friendships strengthened.

"I've played in softball weekend all three years that I have been here," said Alex Dickey, a health science major from Phoenix, Arizona. "Some of my favorite memories are playing with my friends and my co-workers and I'm super disappointed that I don't get to play this one last time with all my friends."

The dance ends early

This one feels personal. I was not able to go to Junior-Senior last year, and really wanted to attend my senior year. It feels like a full nine-nugget robbery.

I'm not alone.

"I'm sad that the Junior-Senior banquet was taken away because it's such a great opportunity to see students in our class all together and have conversations with people who I don't normally see on campus," said Theresa Trinh, a chemistry major from Hamilton, Montana. "I wasn't expecting to say goodbye to my friends so soon, so that was a hard hit to not be able to make more memories with them."

Seasons cut short

For our student athletes, they mourn their senior season and athletic awards on top of the aforementioned events.

"Halo Awards is a time for athletes to be recognized for not only academic achievements, but also athletic achievements during our seasons," said volleyball player Ayla Carpenter, a business administration major from Graham, Washington. "For Seniors ...it is one of the last times you are together with all of your teammates."

Now, when giving a "Prospector shout out!" opportunity to the seniors, we did not want it to be a sob story or a pity party. There is good in this I swear! Reading through the responses of the senior class, I was blown away by the hope, love and selflessness shown.

A fun fact about me, I take pride in not crying. Marley and Me? Dry eyes. Search? Not a single tear (publicly).

But this?

I'm telling you I got a little emotional reading the responses.

The gratitude and optimism shown in so many responses testifies to what a special place Carroll is and the community it fosters.

It would have been too easy for seniors to just get caught up in the "poor me, my

life sucks" mindset.

After reading through these responses, however, I realize how blessed we are to have had the opportunities and memories that came with our Carroll experience.

So, thank you, fellow seniors, for sharing your light with me and our readers.

Love and compassion during hard times

In highlighting the good that came in the midst of the stress, the seniors saluted the professors here at Carroll for their care for us during these hard times.

"The Carroll community is a family and that has been so relevant during these times," said Jessica Schmitz, an accounting and business administration major from Billings. "Professors are going out of their way to do anything they can to help students in this transition, student organizations are stepping up to help one another and the community, and so much more. The love shared for Carroll and their students is strong across campus and everyone is here for one another, that reminds me why I chose this school and why I am proud to graduate from here."

Some students also found this time of quarantine to be a great time to connect with their faith.

"My pastor at home has not been able to do in person services for weeks, so he posts them on the church website and his Facebook page," said Alyssa Young, an International Relations and French major from Saint Ignatius, Montana. "He also keeps us updated with hymns that he and his young children sing, and they love it. It is actually wonderful because I always miss his services when I am in Helena, and this is a way for me to be with my congregation in a way when I'm sequestered here."

Acts of kindness and community service shone through as one of the lights in the darkness.

"One of the coolest things I've seen is the willingness for people to be open with how they're feeling," said Emma Nylin, a psychology major and ASCC president, from Corvallis, Oregon. "In ways that feel unprecedented, we're talking about how hard things are, openly crying with each other, and leaning on each other. Also, the way that people have just used this crisis to create the most beautiful and heart-warming art, writing, acts of service, etc. is incredibly uplifting. Also, how easily people jumped to empathy and love for others."

Seniors continued page 11



Brenna Nordstrom



Kailey Kleinjan



Jessica Schmitz



Joyce Lui

Graduates reflect on what they've lost

Seniors from page 10

Home Sweet Home

The extra time at home has given many a chance to really bond with their roommates and spend that important time together before parting ways.

“Personally, a positive I have experienced through this pandemic is getting closer with my roommate and friend while in quarantine together,” said Joyce Lui, an elementary education major from Portland, Oregon. “Since the majority of our normal schedules are now online, we are now able to spend more time together compared to before this pandemic when our schedules were crazy busy. Now, I get to see them every day. I am so thankful that I get to create these last memories with my friends before my senior year is over.”

The class of 2020 is one of the most resilient groups of people I’ve encountered first hand. It is going to take more than a pandemic to break our spirits.

We are more than a cap and gown, more than a fancy dance and dinner, more than a piece of paper. I see pictures of my classmates, soak up time with my friends, and see how involved in the community and school Carroll students are, and I am blown away by how full of life this graduating class is.

We have people going on to graduate schools, joining seminary, and entering into married life. People moving home, leaving the country - and everything in between.

Each and every one of us has had a unique experience at Carroll that we will carry with us no matter the path in life we take.

Despite this confusing and unorthodox semester, our chapter at Carroll is now ending.

Looking back on the last four years, there are so many things I would have done differently and other seniors feel the same.

Seniors' advice to their returning friends

So, for those of you who are returning in the Fall, listen up because hindsight is 20/20 and we old folks know some things. Below are the top ten things Carroll students should do/know, compliments of this year’s senior class:

1)Thank your professors after every class. They do so much for us each and every day and especially when times are tough, they never give up on us. I have always had supportive professors during my time at Carroll and without that, college wouldn’t have been as great of

an experience as it was. *Kailey Kleinjan, anthrozoology from Chinook, Montana.*

2)Helena is such a wonderful place; the people here are so kind and generous, and I would really recommend getting out into the community. Community service is great, but just go out for a coffee and say hi to your favorite baristas. Support a local business and spend time with your friends. Academics are so important, but don't let them rule over your time at Carroll. You want to be able to look back and remember the fun times you had outside of class too! *Alyssa Young, international relations and French major from Saint Ignatius, Montana.*

3)Your education is not about you, do not let it consume your life; work hard, but don’t take it too seriously. Rather, make the time to have fun, to pray, to serve, to read good books, to have good conversations, to sled down Guad, to attend Mass, to cheer on our sports teams, to attend small group, to go to the fall art walk, and to live life to the full. *John Cooney, philosophy and theology from Spokane, Washington.*

4)Be vulnerable. Acknowledge that there is disappointment and grief and missed opportunities and memories. Don't take things for granted, because they can be taken away before you know it. *Brenna Nordstrom, health sciences from Seattle.*

5)Never think that you will get what was promised to you. Keep fighting everyday. *Thomas Austefford, business marketing and management from Roseville, California.*

6)When you get back, hug your friends. Hug your professors. Hug the administrator who fought for you during this crisis. Give all the hugs/high fives/smiles that the class of 2020 won't get to do. Say yes to as much as you can when you're back at Carroll. This place is a ridiculously powerful community, try your best to immerse yourself in it and realize the special relationships you have here. And don't forget to say your “I love yous!” *Emma Nylén, psychology from Corvallis, Oregon.*

7)Don't take for granted the time spent on campus. I never thought I would miss going to the library to study with friends or catching up with people while walking to class, but as I log into a virtual classroom I would do anything to be walking into a real classroom with friends. *Jessica Schmitz, accounting and business administration from Billings.*

8)Just know you are stronger than you know, and if you are feeling weak, you have one of the strongest and purest communities to support you here at Carroll. Never give up, and keep pushing forward. Good luck. *Maddison Gail, English writing and history from Cody, Wyoming.*

9)Make every moment count. Be present with people and don’t take anything for granted because it can all be taken away in the blink of an eye. Laugh lots and try new things. Don’t be afraid and have so much fun and know Carroll loves you so much. *Katie Korbuszewski, theology and communications from Sumner, Washington.*

10) Reach out and introduce yourself. You may get lucky and find your friends for life, or the friend who's going to be the maid of honor in your future wedding. *Maddy Nesbitt, international relations and business from Seattle, Washington.*

Emma knows best

My turn.
If you want some more unsolicited advice, I would advise you to do those little things that make Carroll its own.

- Go out on the fire escape in Charles during a fire drill instead of taking the stairs.
- Go down Guad Hill every possible way you can think of - ice blocking, sledding, skiing, slip-n-sliding.
- Play video games or watch a movie on the big screen in Simperman.
- Learn the names of the STAC workers.
- Get involved with the school paper where you can actually get credit to ramble on like me here.
- Take advantage of office hours even if it is just to say hi.
- Go to lectures, math debates, bingo, all of those activities that are held less than five minutes from where you live.

There are a lot of big events that happen at Carroll, but remember memories and relationships are built on the daily. Don’t wait for an excuse, because every day you are here is a reason to smile and make a difference.

Seniors look back

There is so much to say about the last few years, it can be hard to know just how to summarize your time here. I applaud those who are more well-written than I, and I think their final reflections on their journeys should be shared.

“These times are inviting us into greater reliance on God, a deeper love for

humanity, and a richer thankfulness for all with which we have been blessed,” said Cooney. “Our cohort is filled with some of the funniest and kindest people I know. It was truly a pleasure debating, learning, procrastinating, and laughing with them.”

“I always tell my friends and others that college is a journey about learning about who you are as a student and person in life where you find out what you love to do and doing what you love to do,” said Sarah Burton, a public health major from Beaverton, Oregon. “I wanted to give up every year but always found an answer to keep pushing strong which was keep persevering, being strong, being determined and continue to not give up.”

“Carroll College isn't the buildings, courses, majors, or even the administration,” said Shelbi Wall, a nursing major from Great Falls. “Carroll is the individuals who come together to show their love and respect for each other through acceptance, understanding, and kindness. When something happens at Carroll that does not align with your values as a person, remember that the opinions and ideas of single individuals are not a representation of what makes Carroll special. The students, faculty, and staff at Carroll show their love to one another every day by respecting each individual for their thoughts, ideas, and uniqueness.”

Final thoughts

Class of 2020, as we live out our last few weeks as Carroll students, I encourage you to look back on how far we have come.

We have experienced immense happiness, whether that be winning a tournament, landing your dream job, or simply realizing how loved you truly are.

We have been devastated, whether that be failing an important exam, not qualifying for something you worked hard towards, or having a much anticipated event cancelled.

We have seen beautiful Montana sunrises and sunsets, watched our fellow students both embarrass and wow us through midnight breakfast karaoke and the talent show. We have grown so much since we were wee 18 year olds. I know that for me, I did not realize just how big my heart was until I experienced life at Carroll. I have so much love for my friends, my family, my professors, and all those who have made Carroll home.

I cannot thank you enough.
Carroll is not just a school, it is not even just an experience. Carroll has been an adventure and we seniors have had one hell of a ride. I wish all of you the best from the bottom of my heart.

Just think, despite the letdown of this semester, we have just multiplied our family by 1,000.



Katie Huisman in Taiwan, at foot of Taipei Basin Volcano

Photo courtesy Katie Huisman



Tammy Compton is known for her warm smile

Photo courtesy Gary Marshall

Katie Huisman

Student without borders

Amber Brewer
Staff Writer

One morning Katie Huisman decided that the world was calling her. So, she packed her bags and didn't look back. "Traveling helps me feel more connected to this world and every time I go somewhere new I have even more curiosity and the list of places I want to go gets even bigger," said Huisman.

Huisman is a student-athlete on the Carroll College softball team from Great Falls majoring in biochemistry. She aspires to attend med school after Carroll to become an oncologist. On and off the field Huisman is a leader who is constantly working hard and learning new ways to build her brain and her game.

"I have known Katie since freshman year and she takes every opportunity she can to learn more about the world, whether it's traveling or just studying different cultures," said Brooke Brewer, a junior health sciences major from Phoenix.

Last year over Christmas break, Huisman traveled to Uganda with Engineers Without Borders and helped build a water well so a school could have clean water.

"We taught them a lot about sanitation like how to wash their hands," said Huisman.

She also spent a few days in Dubai during a flight layover and explored the culture.

Huisman is someone who will say yes to any adventure. Anyone who knows Huisman can assure you of that.

"Katie is the coolest girl I know and I don't mean that because I have nothing else to say about her, it's because she is genuinely so cool," said Emma Hamilton, a Spanish major from Lexington, Kentucky. "I love that she's so outgoing and able to make friends with anyone while also being down to do anything."

In December, Huisman travelled to Taiwan with one of her Taiwanese friends.

"We traveled down the island and learned a lot about Asian culture through mostly food," said Huisman. "I even picked up a little bit of Mandarin."

This past summer Huisman stayed in Helena to do research on green chemistry for Julie Kessler, an assistant professor in the Carroll chemistry department. This research group ended up presenting their findings at a Seattle conference.

Huisman is planning on going to med school and utilizing that to travel more.

"I think doctors without borders would be very fulfilling and I'm excited to see where my education takes me," said Huisman.

Tammy Compton

Pizza served with a smile

Josie Snyder
Staff Writer

The pizza line is a popular place during the STAC's lunch time. Tammy Compton, the pizza lady, is at the forefront of it all. Students at Carroll could all agree that seeing Tammy's smiling and loving face could turn a bad day around.

"I stay back here so I can take care of all the students who need me out there," Tammy says while gesturing towards the cafeteria.

Tammy claims not to be a Montanan native. She grew up in the "tiny" Ward, South Dakota. When asked if she did anything exciting while living in the town of 56, Tammy merely chuckled and described her life on the family farm.

"I knew all about hard work," says Tammy as she describes her time bailing hay and shearing sheep.

After meeting her husband, John, and having her two boys, Zac and Lynden, Tammy found herself moving to Helena, to work in the fencing business. It wasn't until 2011 that Tammy found her way into Carroll College's cafeteria. Little did anyone else know, Tammy was also trying to take care of her husband who was recovering from a near-fatal car accident.

"You have seven vertebrae in your neck. He broke four," says Compton. "It took

two weeks for me to decide to stay at Carroll while helping him recover."

When asked why she decided to come back and stay as an employee, Tammy smiled and gestured towards the students as they loaded up their breakfast plates.

"I noticed that I had a purpose here and that I could really make a difference with the kids" says Compton. "A lot of kids, especially those on campus, miss talking to their families. I like to think I can substitute as a second momma."

However, students couldn't have guessed Tammy had been going through difficulty. Just being herself allows individuals to relax. She makes no complaints about any challenge in her life.

"Tammy's always been extremely helpful and in a great mood no matter what type of day it is," says Dale Hansen, a senior in accounting, from Helena.

"Yes, she has such a big smile on her face that's hard to miss," adds Gwyneth O'Valley, a sophomore in finance, from Great Falls, Montana.

Most everyone on the Carroll College campus knows Tammy for her heart and love for all. It's thanks to her that so many individuals can walk from the pizza line with a smile.

"I wouldn't still be here if it weren't for you guys," says Compton. "You all are what's most important."

Carroll looks less welcoming from a wheelchair

Student Columnist
BROOKE BREWER



From a distance, Carroll is beautiful. The trees, the green grass and the beautiful brick building that started it all: St. Charles with its majestic steps leading up to the president's office.

But those steps aren't nearly as breathtaking when viewed by students with disabilities. They just see one more place on campus where they are not welcome.

Rachel Bechtel, a senior psychology major from Moscow, Idaho, is dedicated to making Carroll more accessible. Bechtel is a student representative for the Montana Independent Living Project and also for the Americans with Disabilities Act committee.

"The idea was that we would have student reps that have disabilities," said Bechtel, "but Carroll does a pretty good job at making those people self-select out because (the campus is) so inaccessible."

Bechtel has been a part of these programs since she was a freshman; she says that the college has been trying to increase access since before she joined.

The most recent program goal has been to evaluate the campus to see what changes need to be made. Next, they will work on obtaining funding on a strategic level so that the campus can become fully compliant with Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

One of the reasons it has been so hard is that ADA regulations regarding religious school have some grey areas.

"I realized that the administration wasn't going to do anything about it," said Bechtel.

In the Spring of 2019, Bechtel's commit-

tee sent out a survey asking students if they experienced access problems on campus.

"Maybe if we could show them that this is really affecting students, people will care," Bechtel said.

The committee received more than 160 responses from students reflecting about their own issues with the accessibility at Carroll.

"We had crazy personal stories that were just heartbreaking, and people having to be pulled in sleds to class, or people needing to find a bathroom in the library that was accessible and having to go all over campus to find an accessible bathroom," said Bechtel.

Later that year, in the Fall of 2019, the ADA committee presented its evaluations of the buildings at Carroll along with the changes that they believed were important to a cabinet that included President John Cech, Erik Rose, Cathy Day, Charlie

Gross, and Mike McMahon.

"I told the cabinet, 'This is where we're at with accessibility,'" said Bechtel, "Students really are being affected by this. These are the laws we're held to. This is the risk of lawsuit we are opening ourselves up to."

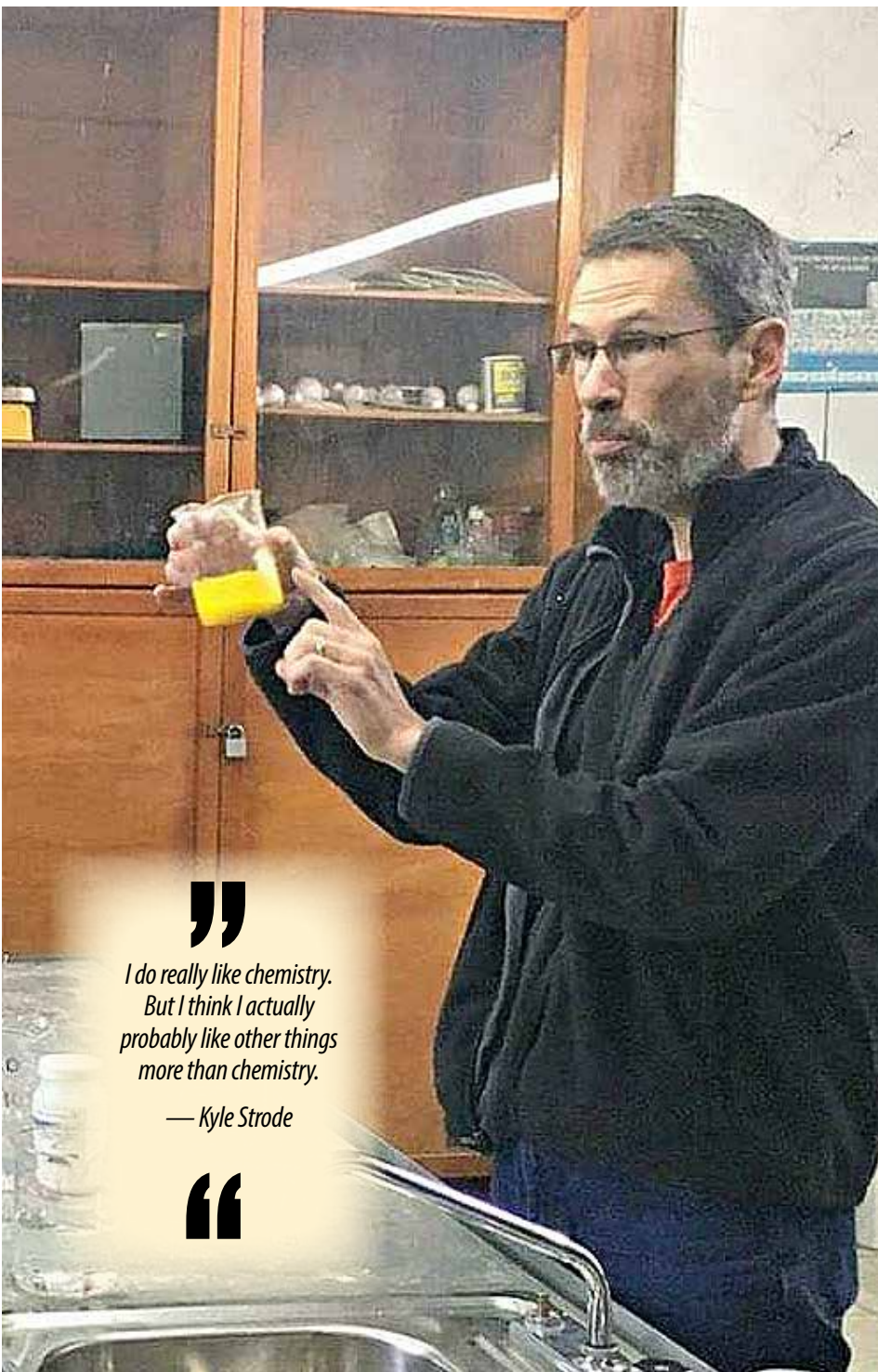
The response?

"We heard nothing back," said Bechtel.

According to Bechtel, most of the changes that are needed to create a more accessible environment can be easily and fiscally achieved. Some of those changes include allowing access to the Guadalupe Hall elevator, the lift in St. Charles, making bathrooms more wheelchair accessible, and making ramps less steep.

Bechtel thinks Carroll students need to use their voices to speak up about this issue.

"It is up to the students if we want to see these changes being made," says Bechtel.



“
*I do really like chemistry.
But I think I actually
probably like other things
more than chemistry.*
— Kyle Strode
“

Photo courtesy Kyle Strode
Kyle Strode teaching a chemistry lesson to middle school students at the Santa Maria del Mexicano School in Colon, Mexico.

Kyle Strode

Running marathons, running labs

Brooke Brewer
Staff Writer

Most students know Professor Kyle Strode as the general chemistry or quantum analysis professor in Carroll’s chemistry department, but few are aware of his humanitarian work - or his love of birding, running, and gardening.

And there’s more.

“I do really like chemistry,” Strode said. “But I think I actually probably like other things more than chemistry.”

Strode has enjoyed traveling throughout his life. In college, he signed up for two study abroad trips to provide medical relief for the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica in a small town with no running water or electricity. He and his wife then decided to quit their jobs and join the Peace Corps in Ghana and Togo in West Africa for two years before returning to the states.

More recently in 2018, Strode was asked to attend the Medicine in Mexico trip as a translator and faculty liaison. During that trip, Pre-Med students aided an orphanage and a nursing home in providing physical exams and performed basic medical treatment for those in need.

Throughout his travels, Strode discovered his love for different cultures and for foreign languages.

“I realized I not only love interacting with people from different cultures, but I love speaking Spanish and I love languages,” said Strode.

When Strode isn’t traveling, he’s running. He has been running marathons since his freshman year of high school and has

run a total of 35 marathons. His biggest accomplishment was competing in the Boston Marathon in 2018.

“The weather was incredibly terrible. They said in Boston it was the worst weather they ever had,” said Strode. “I felt like my accomplishment that day was that I was able to keep going, but I vowed that I would go back.”

He qualified and ran the Boston Marathon again in April of 2019 where he beat his first time by 52 minutes.

When he’s not running marathons, he’s running labs – and teaching courses. It’s clear Strode loves to teach.

“When I’m working with someone and then I can see the light bulb go on - that’s a terrible cliché - but if I can see that student suddenly get it and then do a follow-up problem correctly, that’s just the best gift in itself,” said Strode.

Strode says his own early failures in chemistry have motivated him to help struggling chemistry students. When he was a young student learning chemistry, he was told that he would never be able to pass. He used this frustrating experience with his teacher to motivate him to excel in chemistry. When he was chosen as a lab aide in college, he realized how much he loved teaching.

“When I find myself in any situation, I am driven always to try to be in that moment when I’m with that other person,” said Strode. “I don’t by any means always succeed, but I try to remember when I’m in an interaction with a person, I try to think, how can I interact with that person in a way so that when we part with each other, that person goes off in a better mood.”



Brett & Ashley Wiensch at 1889 Coffee House
Photo courtesy Brett Wiensch

Brett & Ashley Wiensch

Serving coffee, serving Carroll

Gwyneth O’Valley
Staff Writer

Over the past year, Carroll students have discovered a new place to go for their morning caffeine jolt while they write papers and study for exams: The 1889 coffee shop, on Prospect Ave. The 1889 website proudly boasts “Montana roasted coffee, sandwiches, pastries and more.”

But does Helena really need another coffee shop, to compete with The Merc, The Firetower and, of course, Starbucks?

Well, owners Brett and Ashley Wiensch are betting we do. And Carroll students seem to be voting yes. Students are frequently seen studying there, and sipping their cup of joe. They are appreciative of Carroll’s support and, in turn, they’ve been very active in campus life.

“It’s great having a friendly environment to study in as well as great customer service,” said Tatum Elmer, a sophomore.

Brett and Ashley have served food and drinks to students in town before. As a previous owner of Kentucky Fried Chicken in Great Falls and Helena, Wiensch decided to officially open 1889 Coffee House on November 12, 2018. Brett has also worked in the liquor industry for 17 years and represented 25 liquor companies.

Brett Wiensch was born and raised in Great Falls and graduated from Great Falls High School. Before opening 1889, Wiensch served in the U.S. Navy. After four years he started a family in Helena.

“We wanted to come up with something that represents Montana, but we didn’t want to do all the stereotypes of 406 or Sleeping Giant,” said Wiensch, who decided to name his coffee shop after the founding of our state in 1889.

Brett’s decision was inspired by the 1889 bourbon, which is brewed by Bozeman Spirits. Honoring the state, while being only 1 mile from the Montana State Capitol, seemed perfect.

Wiensch said that he hopes to expand their coffee shop within the local community.

“Our big dream right now is to work with the historical society on the new heritage center that they are building,”

Wiensch said.

Recently, the Montana legislature passed Senate Bill 338, for approval of renovation and expansion of the Montana Historical Society Museum. Wiensch hopes for an opportunity to expand 1889 into that new building.

Their original business plan included hopes to “possibly expand the shop to either state or federal buildings.”

Since the project will need a lot of funds, Wiensch says he will pitch in.

“On 406 day we will have a fundraiser in our shop to raise money for it,” Wiensch said.

The 1889 Coffee House has been a part of many events in Helena. And Brett and Ashley are already actively involved in Carroll life.

The coffee shop has hosted three coffee sessions at Carroll College during finals week and allowed the St. Jude’s board from Carroll to fundraise in their shop. Wiensch has sponsored multiple student athletes and has donated their coffee for many student events. The coffee shop is currently working on partnering with the Saints Athletic Association.

1889 even offers student discounts and is on the My Coffee Helper app making it convenient to anyone who wants to order food or drinks ahead of time.

“We like to work closely and support the community, especially Carroll College,” Brett said. “I enjoy being able to serve students.”

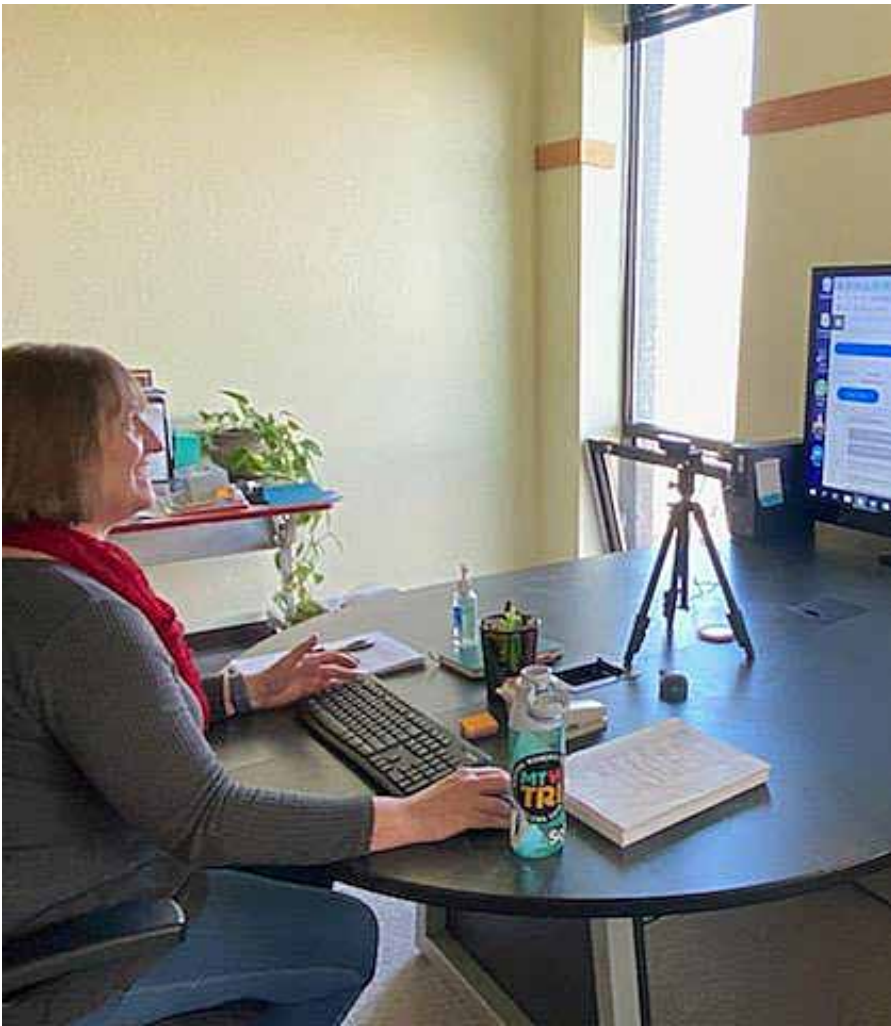
The employees of 1889 are excited to be a part of the family.

“I just started working for 1889 and it has been fun coming into work, especially having great co-workers and an energetic environment,” said Kenna Payne, a sophomore pre-vet major from Temecula, California.

Open for more than two years now the owners hope that the atmosphere of 1889 provides the Helena and Carroll community a place where they can relax and enjoy their time.

“I am so humble to be able to give back to the community,” Wiensch said. “It has been my dream to open up 1889 and to have a place for people to gather.”

A message from the Saints Success Center



Annette Walstad, Director of the Saints Success Center

Photo courtesy Saints Success Center

Morris Richardson

Saints Success Center

The staff at the Saints Success Center urges Carroll students to stay strong throughout this global pandemic, and reminds students that it is still providing academic support services such as advising, registration assistance, global learning, career services, internships, veteran services, accommodated testing, and accessibility services during this time.

“We want students to know that the Saints Success Center is committed to providing the academic support they need even if we can’t meet in person,” said Annette Walstad, Director of the Saints Success Center. “My Zoom advising appointments have been incredibly successful and the ‘share screen’ option helps make these conversations efficient and

accurate.”

Appointments for any of Saints Success Center’s services should be scheduled through Handshake. Phone and Zoom appointments are preferred; however, limited face-to-face appointments are still available (observing proper social distancing protocols).

International Studies Abroad is offering three global remote internship options: eight week individual placements, where students will work with a company located in U.K. or one of several countries in Asia, or one of two group projects, ranging from four to eight weeks, where students will work with a company located in Australia.

Career Services invites seniors and young alumni to a virtual networking session discussing networking and maintaining focus during COVID-19 on Wednesday, April 29, from 6 p.m. to 7:30

p.m. Career Services also encourages students to watch Candid Career Videos to answer various questions regarding internships, applications, resumes, and graduate school.

The Saints Success Center encourages students to apply for nationally competitive scholarships. Keep an eye on scholarships such as the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship, Boren Scholarship, Fulbright Scholarship, Marshall Scholarship, and Rhodes Scholarship.

During this difficult time, it may be hard to find positive news. However, organizations are still hiring! Some helpful resources include:

- o <https://learn.joinhandshake.com/students/hiring-on-handshake-500/>
- o https://app.joinhandshake.com/postings?page=1&per_page=100&sort_direction=desc&sort_column=default&status%5B%5D=approved

- o <https://candor.co/hiring-freezes/>
- o <https://github.com/gcreddy42/hiring2020>
- o <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/news/heres-whos-hiring-right-now-4525187/>

“Please let Career Services help with your resume and cover letter to help show off your skills and abilities for applications,” said Wesley Feist, the Saints Success Center Assistant Director.

Finally, the Saints Success Center commends the Carroll community for persevering in the face of a global pandemic. “I am so impressed with the resiliency of our students,” said Walstad. “This point in the semester, halfway between midterms and finals, is very stressful under normal circumstances, and the added pressure of remote classes, disrupted routines, and an uncertain future.”

Pass/Fail option for Spring 2020 only

Greetings Carroll Students, Faculty, Academic Advisors, and other Special Advisors,

As announced by Vice President Cathy Day earlier this week, Carroll will be implementing an interim grading policy for the **Spring 2020 semester only**. The interim policy is **optional** for all students. The interim policy will give students the ability to receive credit for course completion without impacting their grade point average (GPA) by electing a special Pass (‘P2’) grade in certain courses.

On May 1, the last day of regular classes, the Registrar’s Office will enable an online form that will be used to collect student requests to switch courses from letter grading to pass/fail grading. **Before completing a request form, students should ensure they know their final grade in each course, and they should consult with their advisors** to determine whether a grade of Pass will be sufficient or appropriate for meeting program (major, minor, certificate) requirements, making application to medical or graduate school, or impacting eligibility or financial aid status.

Final grades are due to the Registrar’s Office on May 14, and we anticipate being able to publish these grades to Self-Service on Friday, May 15. Students will then have through Monday, May 18 to submit their

online request forms.

Prior to submitting their form, students must read and confirm acknowledgement of each of the statements below. **We are providing these statements to you now so that advising conversations about the interim grading policy can begin and any questions can be answered.** Upon submission of the request form by the student, a notification email will be sent to the academic advisor asking for approval as a way to confirm that these discussions have occurred.

Acknowledgment Statements: Interim Grading Policy for Spring 2020

___ I understand that by choosing this option a letter grade of ‘D’ or better will be replaced with a grade of Pass which will appear as ‘P2’ on my transcript for Spring 2020 only. The Pass grade will provide credit for the completed course but will not be calculated into my term or cumulative grade point average (GPA). A failing grade will remain an ‘F’ on my transcript and will be calculated as such into my term and cumulative GPA.

___ I understand that a Pass grade **will not** satisfy requirements for programs (majors, minors, certificates) that require a minimum “C-” grade in each course; I have reviewed the list of these programs and consulted with my advisor. I also understand that a Pass grade will not satisfy

prerequisites for courses that require a minimum “C-” grade.

___ I understand that a Pass grade earned in Spring 2020 will satisfy Core requirements and major/minor requirements for programs that do not require a specific minimum grade.

___ I understand that all students are still subject to the overall GPA requirements of the program/degree, such as an overall 2.00 GPA for Core.

___ I understand that a minimum of 9 credits of letter graded courses and a minimum of 12 credits completed overall with a 3.50 term GPA are required to qualify for Dean’s List honors for Spring 2020. Courses receiving a grade of Pass are not considered to be graded credit and are not included in the GPA calculation.

___ I understand that graduation honors will continue to be calculated as outlined in the catalog. Requesting a Pass grade may impede my ability to attain the minimum GPA requirement for Latin Honors (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude) at graduation.

___ I understand that students who desire to improve their cumulative GPA for financial aid, athletic eligibility, or other reasons should consider that the Pass grade has no impact on GPA and may not be a better option for them.

___ I understand that students who are repeating a course in Spring 2020 for a better grade should consult with Annette Walstad (Director of Academic Support and Advising) or Cassie Hall (Registrar) about whether a letter grade or a Pass would be more beneficial in their situation.

___ I understand that some graduate or professional schools may require a letter grade rather than a Pass on prerequisites for graduate school admission.

As you have questions, please reach out to one of the following people/offices for assistance:

- Your academic advisor
- Saints Success Center advising staff
- Registrar’s Office staff
- Academic Affairs staff

Wishing you all the best as you close out the Spring 2020 semester!

Cassie E. Hall
Carroll College Registrar

Students should consult the Carroll COVID page for all details. Location: On Carroll main web home page, inside the red COVID banner in the middle of the page, click “Learn More” then click “FAQ.” All details are posted there.

Featured Internships & Jobs for April/May 2020

Information Technology Internship
State of Montana - Department of Revenue
\$17.00 / hour
Varied and Flexible Hours

Pharmacy Cashier
Albertsons
\$11.00 / hour
Flexible and Varied Hours

Summer Events Staff
Helena Business Improvement District and Downtown Helena
\$8.50 / hour
Organization will Provide Additional Certification

To view these, and many more opportunities, please see **handshake** to apply or schedule an appointment to visit with Career Services.

Jibber Jabber:

Do you have anything to say in response to these crazy times?

“I never thought I would ever say that I miss going to class.”
– **Kyla Dane**, junior in health sciences from Great Falls

“This is pretty crazy for everyone in the world but we're all in the same boat, so we have to make the best of it.”
– **Katie Huisman**, a junior in biochemistry from Great Falls

“People need to stop treating it like an apocalypse. Please, people, participate in social distancing. There is a reason why your public health officials are asking you to do this. I am personally in a high-risk group, and so your social distancing is actually affecting people in Helena.”
– **Sarah Swingley**, a freshman in public health and psychology from Helena

“I’m not afraid of getting the Corona-virus, but I’m kind of scared how it will affect us in the long run.”
– **Brie Cavalli**, a sophomore in elementary education from Napa, California.

“Just remember, storms make trees take deeper roots. And though things may feel painful now, pain is weakness leaving the body. We can only come out stronger through the times of trial, but we have to make that effort to see the trial to the end. Just think of yourself as a tree, and dig your roots deep, and you will remain standing through.”
– **Rachel Wall**, a senior in creative writing from Ketchikan, Alaska.

“Life is a gift. It’s difficult to take solace in that in hard times, and it’s hard to really feel like life is a gift when life is not difficult, but in all times, we take it day by day. The most simple shall be the most satisfying for us in these hard days - washing the dishes, taking a shower, enjoying a cup of coffee - and we’re never alone. Whatever it takes to remember we’re not alone, that is what will make the difference.”
– **Anna Stockdill**, a junior in nursing from Spokane, Washington.

“Now is the time to rely on faith.”
– **Madeline Wolter**, a junior in secondary English education from Napa, Idaho.

“The way I’ve thought of it is that this is like a snowstorm, there’s only so much we can do, and no matter what we have to ride out the storm.”
– **Sarah Homberg**, a sophomore in civil engineering from Portland, Oregon.

“Be understanding and conscious of others during this time, don't create mass hysteria. Instead try to practice little acts of kindness wherever and whenever you can.”
– **Brynn Shewman**, a sophomore in anthrozoology from Anchorage, Alaska.

“I think it’s a huge wake up call for humanity to see the damage being done to our planet.”
– **Devon Dietlin**, a sophomore in health sciences and theatre from Stanwood, Washington.

“I hate these crazy times because as a senior, getting a job is going to be almost impossible for a while. I’m having to change my plans entirely for a while and it’s frustrating.”
– **Jaymin Bernhardt**, a senior in communications from Beaverton, Oregon.

“I think it’s really hard for those who are missing monumental life moments such as college graduations, missing national championships, missing senior seasons or even missing half a year of school. But with that, I think it is also really important that we take this and learn from it in case there ever is a next time.”
– **Josie Barker**, sophomore health science major from Seattle

“As upsetting as it is to see such defining moments in our lives being postponed and cancelled, I am happy to see people taking proactive steps towards their health and the community’s health as a whole.”
– **Kailey Harrison**, senior health science major from Twin Falls, Idaho

“I never thought I would ever say that I miss going to class.”
– **Emma Hamilton**, a sophomore Spanish major from Lexington, Kentucky.

“I’m sick of it. It has been really stressful. I’m upset that the Commencement Ceremony was postponed... I don’t know if I can come back. I am trying to make plans.”
– **Maddison Gail**, a senior in English from Cody, Wyoming.

“The people stocking up is crazy, like people are on things like toilet paper. It is important to quarantine yourself to lower the rapid transfer of the virus but you don’t need to horde multiple Costco packs of product.”
– **Reid Rowsey**, a senior in English from Helena.

“I think it is a serious issue that needs to be respected but at the end of the day you have to trust God and see what he has planned for life.”
– **Matt McGinley**, sophomore, Education major, from Helena

“I am stressed to be honest; it has really been tough in Seattle and I have a lot of people there.”
– **Ben Dagg**, sophomore, business major, from Seattle, Washington

“I am very nervous, but optimistic. I am trying my best to stay as healthy as possible.”
– **Ashley Carlson**, sophomore, pre-med, from Helena

“After getting back home, I have been taking advantage of the nice weather by going on walks and taking long drives along the ocean.”
– **Shelby Sola**, sophomore, psychology major, from Graham, Washington

“On the bright side, I get to hang out with my niece for the next couple months at home.”
– **Mallory Triplett**, junior, nursing major, from Powell, Wyoming

“The adjustment is hard, but I think our Carroll community is becoming a little more united.”
– **Dana Beaty**, junior, health science major, from Sandpoint, Idaho

“I am going to work on making a better routine for myself because I am very routine oriented and this experience makes me feel like I’m slacking.”
– **Brenna Rohnkohl**, senior, health science major, from Las Vegas

“I will be washing my hands constantly and practicing good hygiene like people should always be doing with a virus or not.”
– **Kaitlynn Anderson**, junior, health science major, from Spokane, Washington

“I will be moving to my bed permanently.”
– **Brynn Walker**, nursing, from Helena

“Just getting my money up and staying out of the way.”
– **Jake Jones**, pre-med bio, from Spokane, Washington

“I have just been washing my hands and avoiding groups.”
– **Joseph Potkonjak**, business administration, from Bigfork, Montana

“Try to be smart spending money and always have emergency supplies.”
– **Lane Peasley**, pre-med major, from Wheatland, Wyoming

“It's the silence that gets me. Whether it's the silence at work as people avoid each other, the silence of my room before my next class, or the silence of friends as we become cut off. It's just the silence. I'm not used to it.”
– **Michaela Beckman**, a senior, majoring in anthrozoology from Helena

“I think the precautions that are being taken are important and useful as long as people don’t panic too much about it. The best thing to do is to not panic too much or panic too little, to just be aware of what they touch and whatever they interact with. All of the articles that are coming out all the time are super helpful because they tend to panic people. Carroll’s response was a bit slower than other colleges, but they are working hard to reduce the number of people exposed to their campus. It’s scary and it’s something none of us have been through, but I think we can be the difference and help find ways to help others that struggle more than others.”
– **Kiera Marshall**, a senior, in biology from Parker, Arizona

“As a history major, the events of coronavirus aren’t surprising, but we can come together to help each other out.”
– **Aaron Rau**, a senior, majoring in history from Helena

“I am completely enjoying the fact I have to stay indoors. I think of it as a forced stay-cation because life gets so crazy, this forces me to slow down.”
– **Clare Fogarty**, senior, international relations major Portland.

“It sucks that everything is closed in town because it is so hard for me to stay indoors all the time, but I respect the fact that social distancing is incredibly important during this time.”
– **Katherine Anderson**, senior international relations major from Redmond, Oregon

“I decided to stay at Carroll, and not go out unless it’s a necessity. I don't plan to go back home because of all the people who are infected.”
– **Jacob Clark**, junior, business major from Sumner, Washington

“I am staying here and going out when I need groceries. I have my Xbox so I’ll be spending a lot of time playing.”
– **Brandon Ahlgren**, junior, environmental science major from Canby, Oregon

“I decided to go home. I live in Coeur d'Alene so it's close enough that I can get home in a day. It will be nice to be around family in these crazy times.”
– **Anthony Donofrio**, junior, business major from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

“Eating well and making food for myself has helped, plus getting out into nature.”
– **Gwyneth Lyman**, sophomore, anthrozoology major from Seattle

“I've continued a bunch of craft things from before and my family and I learned how to play long distance card games and have been doing that a lot.”
– **Emma Rausch**, sophomore, business major from Helena

“Watching a lot of TV, eating a lot of food, and trying really, really hard to do my homework.”
– **Brooke Yarnall**, senior, computer studies major from Missoula

“It’s crazy to me that my freshman year of college was cut short because of an illness. I would have never expected that.”
– **Tug Smith**, freshman sociology major from Newport, Washington

“I’ve only been at Carroll for one full year and it was great, but I did not expect to go to online classes for the last part of my second year.”
– **Andrew Carter**, sophomore theatre major from Gooding, Idaho

“In a span of 7 days I lost my job and I lost sports. Sports have always been my go-to coping mechanism, so it has been tough trying to bounce back from losing my job without them. I was supposed to spend the last week in Kansas City covering the Carroll basketball team at the national tournament, now I’m spending my time on my couch.”
– **Daniel Salle**, recent graduate of Carroll College, sports reporter and “Voice of Carroll College” athletics, from Seattle

“I’ve definitely had more time to focus on myself and personal health. Getting more time in to work out and have time to cook and read.”
– **Isaiah Cech**, senior, secondary education, from Helena

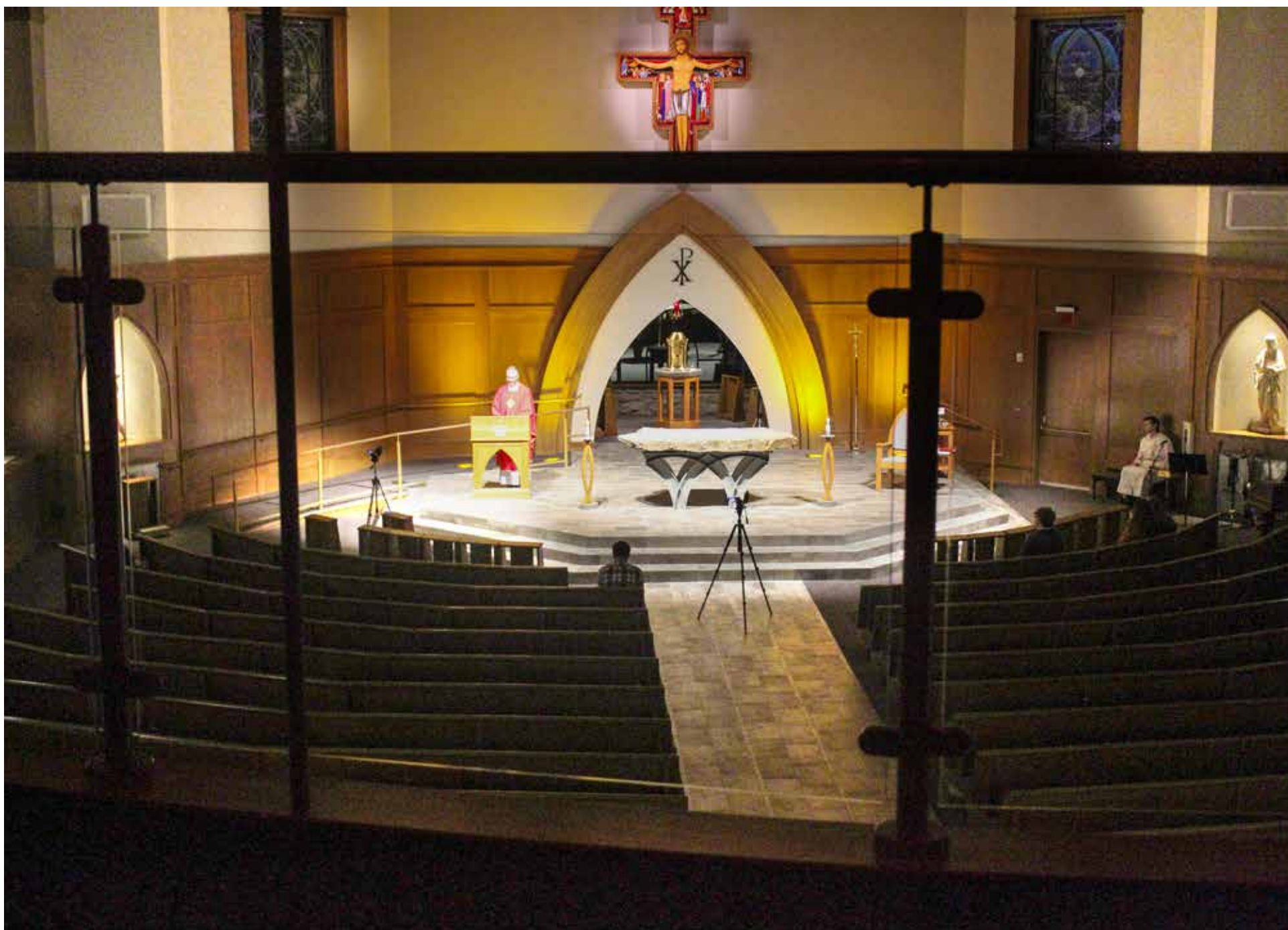
“COVID-19 is a serious pandemic that is showing our society’s true colors.”
– **Johnny Carstens**, sophomore mathematics major from Boring, Oregon

“We should focus more on the people in the country and our families during this time more than ever and stop worrying about politics/help the common person and middle class out.”
– **Micah Ans**, sophomore biology major from Billings, Montana

“I’m a little worried about the long-term effects after the threat of the virus has gone away... economics, defense, etc. I’m not as worried about the threat of the virus as I am about the consumption of resources that could potentially leave us more vulnerable. I think older generations should be more careful, but I feel relatively safe because our age group doesn’t feel the effects of the virus as harshly.”
– **Julia Devine**, sophomore biology major from Seattle

“It has affected me because I am scared to go to work every day because I work at a pharmacy and I see my life flash before my eyes every day.”
– **Carsyn Kraft**, senior health science major from Helena

“This is crazy times; this illness is making me fat and able to watch a lot of tv.”
– **Brooke Brown**, senior education major from Phoenix



Father Marc in a mostly empty All Saints Chapel

Photo courtesy Kelly Armstrong

Father Marc reflects on ministry amidst the pandemic

Father Marc

Carroll College Chaplain

I've been asked to write a bit about faith at Carroll amidst the coronavirus pandemic. That's a large topic for sure. Let me just begin by noting that Christianity in general and Catholicism in particular is vitally incarnational. Connecting and sharing with others in physical ways is crucially important. We are a faith that deeply values personal encounter. Obviously, then, this crisis has been a unique challenge. It has been hard not to see one another or be able to physically gather to worship, especially for the Triduum and Easter. Numerous students have commented on profoundly missing the reception of the Sacraments, particularly the Eucharist. There is also the very real risk of people feeling isolated and alone. With so much uncertainty in the world, at Carroll, and on a personal level, a sense of being adrift is very understandable. People have experienced loss and are suffering in different ways, sometimes very significantly.

Yet in the midst of these difficulties, the Lord continues to be with us, working among us and reminding us of who we truly are and what really matters. Too often we take important things in life for granted—a handshake, a hug, a shared meal with friends, simply being together,

going to church, etc. The current lack of these things ought to reawaken an appreciation for the beauty of being in real communion with the Lord and with each other. Strange as it may be, the crisis affords us an opportunity. To quote Pope Francis, "[Lord], you are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others."

The crisis has also forced us to remember some less apparent but nonetheless real truths about our faith. The Mystical Body of Christ of which St. Paul speaks in 1st Corinthians is real. Bonds forged in faith and through the Sacraments are stronger than the distances that divide us now. For example, there is no such thing as a "private" Mass. Whenever and wherever

a priest celebrates Mass, the entire Church is spiritually present and receiving the graces flowing from Christ's enduring

Sacrifice. The members of His Body are brought into real communion with Him and, consequently, with each other. Additionally, when Christianity first began, our forebears gathered in one another's homes to worship. Now, intentional families are restoring the "domus ecclesiae" (the "house church") by praying and reflecting together where they live. The home thus becomes a unique sort of "temple" where God abides. That will obviously bear good fruit.

Finally, I would say that this crisis has forced the Church (and all of us) to become more creative. Technology, often

misused to insulate us from real connection with people, has given us avenues of staying close to one another. Families are connecting via group chats. People are praying together as they join live-streamed worship services. People are

“
this crisis has forced the Church (and all of us) to become more creative
”

— Fr. Marc

listening to "retreats" and podcasts that help them navigate these unique times. Beautiful and selfless actions are being shared online as inspirations to others. Evangelization is happening in the midst of this period of social distancing. I'm reminded of what St. Paul writes, "All things work together for the good of those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

At the same time, we should be careful of relying too much on technology. Too much screen time dulls our senses and may lead us away from the deeper restoration of our humanity that could be a very positive outcome of this crisis. Whenever possible we ought to choose reality over anything virtual. Nothing coming through a screen compares to an in-person, incarnational experience. Our hunger for the authentic human connections that we must forego right now should be sharp.

Obviously, we're all very much looking forward to being together again. When it happens, I pray that we return to one another changed and better, more appreciative for the gift of life that the Lord has given us. In the meantime, we should meet the Risen Lord in prayer and love the people we are with. Make these days count. To quote St. Paul once again: "Behold, now is a very acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2).

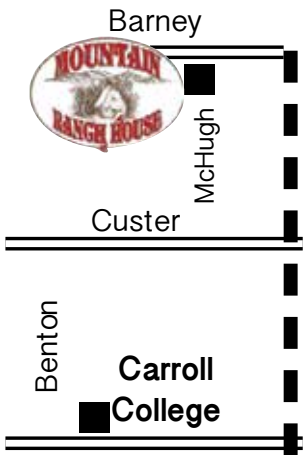
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Best way not to lose to Carroll teams?

Shut down the season

Basketball, football, softball, track, golf and forensics all grieve an early end to their seasons

Hunter Bledsoe & Reese Hiibel

Staff Writers

As spring break broke on Feb. 29, Carroll teams were dreaming big dreams. Both men's and women's basketball were headed to NAIA nationals: the ladies to Billings, the men to Kansas City.

The men had a modest goal: just win one more game than last year, when they lost in the national championship game.

The ladies, too, were dreaming of their short drive to Billings on March 18 followed by a nice long climb up the bracket. Clear the front row of the bus for the trophy and a four-hour victory drive home.

Simple.

COVID-19 dashed all those dreams.

All the other teams shut down, too.

Softball bats were silenced, with more than half their season ahead leading to the regional playoffs.

The runners and jumpers on the track team were anxious to follow a successful indoor season with a trip to nationals on May 20-22 in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Golf was getting ready to tee it up on May 6 after a quick start back in September, with their sights set on the championships on April 20 in Boise. Joe Potkonjak would be trying to improve on his 24th place finish in last year's championship.

The Talking Saints - hey, they are a team, too, who once won a game during softball weekend - had both national championships canceled.

Their voices, too, were muted as the national speech organizations put face masks over all the speakers.

Needless to say, all the team members were disappointed. Some seniors admitted to tears. They turned the corner, of course, and began to realize that there were bigger games being played - and that others around the globe were suffering more.

And so, in Carroll fashion, they huddled up, did an attitude check and set their sights on others - and on next season.

Track and Field

Shot put went caput - as the whole team tripped over the COVID hurdles.

The outdoor track and field season was cut short this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With five senior men and 10 senior women's seasons being cut short, track and field will be looking to restack the talent for next season.

"I miss the team and practices, but I have definitely enjoyed my time at home in California," said Alex Olmes, junior business marketing major from Benicia, California.

Many of the athletes are back at home

dreaming of what could have been, especially the seniors. Formal practices, as well as national meets, have all been canceled.

Everyone handles this sudden change differently.

"I've had the opportunity to take a break from a lot of things and relax, which I think is also fueling the fire for next season," said Olmes.

When it comes to training during this time, it's all up to the athlete.

"We have some workouts we can partake in, but nothing is mandatory at the moment," says Olmes.

Arguably one of the biggest impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic is the decrease in recruiting abilities.

"It's a whole new ball game," says head coach Harry Clark. "We have 25 new freshmen coming in this upcoming year."



Michaela Fetzner

Instead of face to face conversations and campus visits, the coach has continued recruiting through Zoom calls.

"It's been tough, but we are getting through it," says Clark.

No one truly knows the next time this team will be able to compete again, but they will be ready to hit the track come next season.

Softball

The softball team's closing game ended on a triple play. Ground ball to third, step on third base (large gatherings banned), throw to second (out-of-state travel prohibited) and relay to first (stay-at-home until further notice).

For the seven seniors on the softball team, the final season of their careers ended before it could truly begin. After an 8-11 start to the season and with 30 games left to go, softball was looking forward to a strong sprint towards the finish.

"We are upset and wish it did not have to end this way, especially with the weather being so nice this spring," said Courtney Schroeder, senior first-baseman from Great Falls.

Spring games, along with all formal team practices, have been canceled for the rest of the year.

As of now the team is having to continue working out on their own, until further progress is made with the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to stay in touch, the girls have been using Zoom once a week to meet virtually and talk, and have also been making TikTok videos on social media to keep team morale high.

The team hopes it can take the field together during workouts that are scheduled to begin this fall.

Golf

All the golfers saw their last shots hook into the ultimate sand trap with all balls buried deep in quicksand - and signs posted: Do Not Retrieve Balls. Stay at Home!

The six seniors - among the 13 on the men's and women's teams - will be left



Josh Neth

players and coaches alike fine-tune the team in preparation for the fall season.

After finishing the 2019 fall season with a 6-4 record, the program's first winning season since 2014, the Saints looked to use Spring Ball to build upon their success.

However, due to the COVID-19, this spring has offered road bumps and obstacles for the world's sports teams including the Saints. But the Saints have remained positive and are looking to hone their craft virtually and individually until they can reunite as a full unit.

"We try not to think about the negative side of it too much because this is the situation we are in and we have to do what we can," said wide receiver coach and



Matthew Burgess

recruiting coordinator Alex Pfannenstiel. "It has made everything more difficult as far as communication and training goes, but until things get back to normal, we are going to continue to find ways to get better."

Regardless of the loss of spring ball, Saints fans should be optimistic about the 2020 season. The Saints lost 21 seniors, but they bring back a plethora of talented, experienced underclassmen and have compiled one of the top recruiting classes in the Frontier Conference this offseason.

Until the young Saints can take the field again as a whole team, they will continue using Zoom to conduct meetings and continue to improve their game through workouts and training individually at home. In the Fall, Nelson Stadium will roar again as Coach Purcell builds the house of Troy.

wondering about what putts might have dropped.

Golf has been canceled for the remainder of the academic year.

"With golf it's hard because the courses are either closed or they're open with restrictions, such as no carts allowed and sanitary precautions," says Joe Potkonjak, senior business major from Bigfork.

For the seniors, this marks the end of a four-year-run walk around the courses.

"This was a tough way to go out," said Potkonjak, who was looking to improve on his 24th place finish in last year's conference championship.

Potkonjak is disappointed, but he's also philosophical.

"I don't really have a reaction other than it's just the world we live in now and we have to adjust to it," he said.

For senior women's golfer Madison Fernandez, adjusting was also tough.

"It was devastating," said Fernandez. "I'm sad that I couldn't finish out the season with my fellow seniors."

One piece of good news: The golfers don't have long to wait to pull out their TaylorMade drivers and tee up their dimpled Titleist balls - the season begins in September.

Football

The House that Mike built was eerily quiet this past weekend. No cheers. No touchdowns.

No booming. Only Zooming.

A year ago, on Saturday, April 27, new Fighting Saints coach Troy Purcell ran his first spring scrimmage at Nelson Stadium as he continued filling out those big Van Diest cleats.

Spring Ball typically consists of practices and intra-squad scrimmages where

Brent Northup contributed to this story. Sports photos courtesy Gary Marshall.



Sienna Swannack

Women’s Basketball

The Lady Saints were thrilled when they won a spot in the NAIA national tournament, set for Billings. But there were more games to win at MetraPark. The Saints won the conference, but were upset in the semi-finals of the conference tournament by Providence.

But the Lady Saints body of work - 21-10 and conference regular season champions - was strong and there was no doubt they would earn a ticket to the Big Dance in Billings. Coach Rachelle Sayers and her team were awarded a No. 5 seed and were set to face No. 4 Columbia College out of the American Midwest Conference in the first round, in the team’s third straight National Tournament.

The Lady Saints defense played well at nationals - they didn’t give up a single point.

But the Carroll offense didn’t score any either.

The NAIA national tournament was canceled.

The pandemic, which prohibited crowds from gathering, shut down March Madness and also shut down the Lady Saint dreams.

The offense had been led by juniors Christine Denny and Dani Wagner, who were both named to the NAIA All-American team. Denny was named second-team All American and Wagner was honorable mention.

“It was kind of a shock that it ended so abruptly,” Wagner said. “We had our opportunity to come together and we did. Now, we want the opportunity to be able to back to the National Tournament and make something big happen.”

Wagner was more blunt in an interview with the Independent Record.

“It sucks for all of us,” Wagner said.

The sudden end of the season had another impact, too.

During the months of April and May, collegiate basketball players are doing individual drills as well as partaking in collective team drills and practices. These months are crucial for player development and team camaraderie prior to players heading home for the summer months.

The pandemic halted not only the Lady Saints hope of a deep national postseason run, but also eliminated the vital practice time late spring months have to offer.

“It’s different because in the spring we usually start doing off-season workouts and lots of open gyms,” said Taylor Salonen, senior forward and elementary education major.

The Lady Saints were ranked as high as 7th this past season. Their hopes are high for 2021.

They are doing what they can in order to be well-prepared for the coming up winter season.

“Not having those [open gyms] and having to do makeshift workouts at home has been hard, but the players and coaches are making the most out of our given situation,” said Salonen.

Coach Sayers was philosophical, even spiritual, in her view of how it all ended.

“Everybody is talking about the seniors and what they lost but, even for the (other players), there are no guarantees that next year we will be able to get that back,” Sayers said in an interview with the Helena Independent Record. “It really puts it in perspective when we talk about taking full advantage of the opportunities in front of us. We learned how easily that can happen.”

Men’s Basketball

After finishing last season as national runner-ups and losing key seniors to graduation, the Saints men’s basketball team didn’t think of themselves as rebuilding - but just reloading.

The team was determined to prove they could compete with the best in the country even with a younger team. They did just that after finishing the season ranked 12th in the country and in second place in the Frontier Conference.

They roared to a 24-9 record, and were the runner up in the conference tournament. And they earned a spot in the national bracket in Kansas City.

Not to be.

“I thought we could have made another nice run in the NAIA Tournament,” Saints coach Kurt Paulson told the Independent Record. “We were playing our best ball at the end of the season. Who knows what could have happened?”

Star guard Dane Warp was proud of the team.

“This team had a ton of resilience,”



Dane Warp



Peri & Kelsie – Forensics Friends Forever

Photo courtesy Becca Poliquin

Instead, players have been responsible for improving their game individually, miles and miles away from their teammates and coaches.

“Not being able to see my teammates anymore and not being able to go into a gym or weight room has been different for me,” said freshman guard and Biology major Sayer Patton.

Transitioning into quarantine life and away from in-person communication and practice has inevitably impeded upon this vital time for the men’s basketball program, but Patton holds the bigger picture of this pandemic in mind despite his wishes to be back with his teammates.

“I feel grief for all the people that have lost loved ones,” said Patton. “Looking at

“We worried this might happen as the pandemic advanced,” said coach Brent Northup. “We practiced for a week after the news broke. Then students shifted focus to adjusting to online courses and preparing for finals. The online transition has been rough. They need to focus to survive the likes of Organic and statistics.”

Northup says recruiting is going well with the class of 2024 hoping to extend the streak.

“We may change our name to the Talking Lady Saints,” laughed Northup. “All but one of our new recruits is female. Once upon a patriarchy, speech was dominated by males. But no more. Our national debaters would have included six ladies and two guys. We’re excited to welcome Elissa, Melissa, Josephine, Elaina, Jasmine, Mackenzie and Sarah - and Finlay, too.”

Northup says seniors, like Michael Fuller and Kelsie Watkins, are grieving.

Fuller was headed to his fourth speech nationals having qualified five events. His entire family, including friends and relatives from Southern Cal, were coming to Santa Ana to watch, and to celebrate two 22nd birthdays. Both Michael and his twin brother Joshua were planning a special night out on April 5, Sunday night at Nationals, to celebrate their 22nd birthday. Michael often reminds Joshua who is older.

“I am by 10 minutes,” says Michael. Wiser, too?

“Yes, and smarter,” he laughs. Joshua could not be reached for comment.

Michael was in tears when the national committee silenced his voice. His black binder, which he was poised to open, retires to the shelf.

The debaters were also bummed by the news they wouldn’t be using their plane tickets to Chicago. Kelsie Watkins, the only graduating senior headed to debate nationals, was poised to make a run - only to hear the whole tournament was called off.

“I was really sad when nats was canceled. That news ended my career,” said Watkins, a communication and public relations major from Snohomish, Washington. “So, when I first found out, I couldn’t even process it. Now I’m feeling a lot better. I’m still sad and I still wish we had gone to Chicago last weekend as a team. And I’m especially bummed that Josh and I didn’t get a chance to at least see how far we could go. But the team has always been about more than competition for me and I’m grateful that I still get to keep the team as my second family, nats or no nats.”

Northup scaled back practice to let the team breathe after the cancelations took their dreams away.

“In times like these I always hark back to the Wordsworth poem that encourages us to grieve not, but find strength in what remains behind,” Northup said. “Easier said than done.”

the bigger picture, it would be very selfish to complain about not being able to go into a gym when people are losing their lives.”

Talking Saints

How do you silence the Talking Saints? Cover their mouths with face masks.

This school year marked the 30th straight year the Talking Saints had won or shared the regional title in the Northwest Forensics Conference. At the regional championships, they dominated debate and were anticipating the return to nationals to resume their battle with the Ivies.

Not to be.

Speech and debate, like all other competitive teams, canceled all national tournaments.

Senior Michael Fuller of Helena was taking five events to the national speech championships in Santa Ana on April 4-6. Four Carroll debate teams had booked plane tickets to take on Harvard, Yale and Stanford in the national debate championships on April 18-20 at the University of Chicago.

Faith in action:

Students leave the dorms to take food to the stay-at-homes



Taryn Neameyer in action.

Brent Northup
Prospector Adviser

When Helena’s vulnerable citizens were told to stay-at-home to stay safe and flatten the curve, groceries became a luxury. Some, of course, had family and friends to bring them food and toilet paper. But for others, there was no easy answer. Enter Carroll sophomore Hailey James of Helena who knew exactly how isolated seniors must feel. Her grandmother Barbara Bohn lives on a farm near Havre and hasn’t been able to leave “since the whole thing started.” With Grandma on her mind, Hailey decided not to wait for someone else to take action. Instead, the pre-med major set down her organic chemistry book and flew into action. She started at the top, by suggesting to President Cech she’d like to start a program where Carroll students would take food to those in need. Cech liked the idea and pointed her to Beth Groman, Patrick Harris, Deidre Casey and Father Marc. Everyone enthusiastically endorsed her idea. Now came the hard part. How would she invite students? Would any students join her, knowing the risks? “Patrick Harris helped me contact students, and we figured maybe 10 would volunteer,” she recalls. “But more than 40 volunteered.” But how to get the word out? Publicity of course. The Independent Record did a story, and KTVH followed. Next came Coffee Talk on KCAP. With the word spreading that Carroll students stood ready to bring food and

supplies to anyone who asked, requests started pouring in. “We had 20-plus right away,” she said. “Then Van’s said they needed students to deliver food from their store, and that was often 15-20 trips per day.” She had no trouble finding drivers among Carroll students. Hailey’s good idea had blossomed into “Carroll Cares,” a service project much like The Giving Tree, a Christmas program run by the Cathedral of Saint Helena and Good Samaritan. Donated toys are distributed to families so all children in our community might enjoy Christmas morning. “I’ve been doing the Giving Tree with my parents since second grade,” said Hailey. “They’d pick out gifts they’d like to give and bring me along. To see community members take gifts home to give to their children was so beautiful. I just couldn’t get enough of it.” From that beginning, bloomed a generous lady who didn’t hesitate to find a way to bring smiles to the faces of Helenans staying at home during the pandemic. And, of course, she thinks of her grandma as she answers calls and organizes deliveries. Of course, Hailey doesn’t take much credit. Instead, she talks of the generous spirit of the Carroll students who volunteered by the dozen to bring smiles to the faces of those receiving their food. “Why did the Carroll students come? I just believe that Carroll students have such big hearts and are so willing to help out. It’s just so beautiful to see,” Hailey said. When asked where her giving spirit came from Hailey talks of her faith. “We are Roman Catholic,” she says. “That’s a huge part of my life, to serve in any way I can. And I can trace that to my generous and loving upbringing. And, of course, to my grandma.” From those roots, sprang a generous spirit, who inspired other generous stu-

Photos courtesy Thom Bridge, Helena Independent Record

dents to put food on doorsteps. “Service has always been a part of our lives,” she says. “Giving isn’t always easy, but it’s always wonderful to see what good it brings to the world. It’s so beautiful to see God’s work here on earth. That’s the best part of it – the smiles on people’s faces.” Hailey believes the pandemic has brought out the best in people in the world, and at Carroll. “We need to be willing to do whatever we can,” she says. “We can’t waste an opportunity to let some good come out of it. That’s the big blessing that’s come out of this.”



Hailey James with her grandmother, Barbara Bohn.

Photo courtesy Hailey James

Not all on campus are practicing good social distancing.



Photo courtesy Patrick Hewes

Thank you

Thank you for reading our special edition.

We wanted the students’ voices to be heard. We are thankful to have a platform where we are able to recognize the struggles students are going through at this time.

So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your investment in Carroll’s students and your willingness to hear us out.

Our focus was the Carroll campus and the students.

We are painfully aware there’s a bigger story than learning online or going home or missing nationals.

There are countries being ravaged by COVID-19 — China, Italy, Spain, and so many other countries around the world.

We are grieving for the citizens of Lombardy, Italy, just as much as for those suffering in Shelby, Montana.

The world does not yet have control of COVID-19. We are not sure what the future holds.

Despite this chaos, we have seen some good come out of this.

Programs such as Carroll Cares, and the way people have shown a greater appreciation for teachers, healthcare workers and those little moments with loved ones are just a few of the ways people have stepped up in this hard time.

We send our love to everyone in our community, our country and around the world and we look forward to the day when we can be with each other again.

Sincerely,

All of us at The Prospector

April 27, 2020

We’d love to hear from you! Prospector@carroll.edu



Kelly Armstrong and Emma Lambert