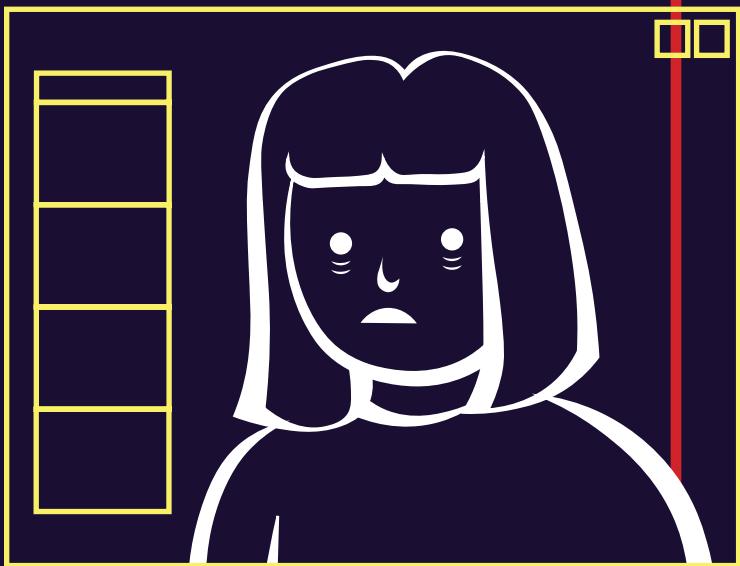


THE VIRTUAL SEMESTER EDITION

OUR
REVIEW
TRAILER
MAGAZINE



*oh it's all
gonna
be
alright*

COIN

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How My College Experience Has Changed



To get the easy stuff out of the way, it's virtual now so there's that.....

I keep on looking back on the start of the spring semester in 2020 with rose tinted glasses. For some reason all I can remember is this newfound confidence that I at the time had no idea where it came from. I know now that it was from a real sense of purpose and belonging that I got from the particular set of classes I was in. Up until that semester I was focused more on the programming and technology aspect of major and decided on a whim that I was going to pursue a graphic design minor. I was finally able to take a class that would challenge me creatively not in just a problem solving manner but in a visual aspect as well. Along with this I took two of my now favorite interactive multimedia classes: digital fabrication and speaking with confidence. I was always the kid who brought a sketchbook around wherever they went or happiest with some glue and popsicle sticks so being in design fundamentals and digital fabrication really centered me. Speaking with confidence, the class was a new concept to me but it really forced me to grow as both a speaker and a person.

And then we were sent home.

Digital fabrication turning into 3d modeling, the hands on aspect of prototyping, failing and prototyping again was gone. Speaking with confidence just felt wrong, the presence you feel when really working on your public speaking and connecting with your audience just was not the same. Design fundamentals was not so bad technology-wise but the transition from a six hour class to a one maybe two hour tutorial and working on our own time led to a lot of procrastination on my part. Not to mention it genuinely felt like the world was ending (to be fair it still does). All I could keep thinking in my head was "this sucks."

Despite all of this, once classes ended for the semester, I was faced with a new dark reality: absolute boredom. I had absolutely nothing to do and no motivation to find something. I woke up late and would spend all day on youtube while my parents worked from home. My only real solace was discovering my love for baking bread. With this current semester I think I am handling everything a bit better, I at least know what to expect now so there is less of an existential dread from fear of what I am missing out on. It is still not the same as in person classes but I am more involved now and do feel some sense of purpose again. If anything, once classes are in person again there will be a new level of appreciation and it is something to look forward to.

Other Perspectives

HOW DO YOU THINK A VIRTUAL SEMESTER WILL AFFECT YOU IN THE FUTURE?

As an engineering student, virtual learning takes away the hands on learning experience that i believe is really key for engineers to be able to grasp the concepts that we need later in life when we go into industry

-Dylan, Junior at The College of New Jersey



As a nursing major, the adjustment to online learning has been a bit difficult, as we have lost much of the vital hands-on experience that is so important to a field that focuses so strongly on tactile skills and human interaction. Our professors have been doing the best they can to supplement this lost opportunity, but I fear that my lack of experience may hinder me in my confidence and abilities in my future career.

-Alex, Junior at The College of New Jersey



Being a part of a research lab within the psychology department, I feel that online learning has taken away from the experience. A big part of research labs is working in small groups and conducting experiments through the PIPER system, but being remote has taken away these personal experiences, and made it harder for me to feel as invested in the research. I think this will impact my ability to work in a real research lab throughout graduate school because my experience has been so different from what it normally would be.

-April, Junior at The College of New Jersey

I'm definitely going to feel less prepared for job responsibilities and potential internships that might hopefully come this summer. At least for me the summer before senior year is pretty crucial to find an internship. So, I feel like I'm being robbed out of practice for that internship.

-Jess, Junior at The College of New Jersey

Remote Learning

Next + Campus

While in the thick of quarantine I was very out of it emotionally. I would wake up very late and all I would do all day was alternate between youtube, netflix and disney plus. My parents would be lucky if they could get me out of the house for a bike ride. The only thing that got me out of that funk was the thought of school again. With school came purpose again. Late summer President Foster confirmed that The College of New Jersey's classes would be flex, meaning some classes would be virtual, some would be in person, and they all had the option to be remote if needed. Within the upcoming days I learned that one of my interactive multimedia classes would be flex so I could go in person to that class. That alone made me feel so much better. Even if i had to wear a mask in a stuffy classroom for hours on end, it was still an in person class, it was still more normal than it had been.

Unfortunately, only a couple of weeks before classes were supposed to start TCNJ announced that classes would be fully remote. I thought I would be crushed but I actually handled it well. This is because I already started gathering things for my future apartment. Even with classes being remote I knew I needed a change of scenery and decided to move into the apartment despite it not being necessary.

Part of why I believe I have been able to adjust so much better to a remote semester now as opposed to the spring is because I am living in the off campus apartment. When I am at home with my family, I am not in a productive mindset, here in my apartment at least I know I am supposed to be doing work. I can trick myself into being productive. I will admit, that worked better earlier in the semester as opposed to now. Lately I have been taking walks around campus as a way of clearing my head and when I get back to my room I am more likely to do work and concentrate. At least when I walk around campus I can pretend everything is normal, and the empty campus is very serene this time of year. It's really nice to take a fresh breath of air in a familiar place, especially amidst all of the chaos that is going on. I am not in the place I expected nor wanted to be one year ago but I am grateful for what I have.

I don't know what is going to happen in the future but if anything, I know that it's all gonna be alright.

