Editorial

Kelly Armstrong

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 commemorate but also to commiserate. 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! Wow!

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

FEbruary 16, 2020

Kelly Armstrong

Editor

On Saturday, March 14, students went home to finish the semester, and many people went home to finish the semester.

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Love, Kelly Armstrong

COVID-19

President Each stands on the steps of St. Charles

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 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 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 anthropology, 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

Covid continued page 3
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

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 advisor 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.

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

FINALS SCHEDULE

Spring 2020 - Finals Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mon, May 4</th>
<th>Tue, May 5</th>
<th>Wed, May 6</th>
<th>Thu, May 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>8:00 TTH</td>
<td>9:00 MWF</td>
<td>9:30 TTH</td>
<td>8:00 MWF</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>CO 101, MA 122, CH 102, BI 172</td>
<td>CO 101, MA 122, CH 111, BI 102</td>
<td>MA 314/315, CH 302, All Sections</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 1:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>11:00 TTH</td>
<td>10:00 MWF</td>
<td>11:00 MWF</td>
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<td>10:00 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>12:00 MWF</td>
<td>11:00 TTH</td>
<td>10:00 MWF</td>
<td>11:00 MWF</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 - 2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>2:00 MWF</td>
<td>1:00 MWF</td>
<td>3:00 MWF</td>
<td>2:15 TTH</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 - 5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>3:45 TTH</td>
<td>5:15 TTH</td>
<td>3:45 MWF</td>
<td>5:00 MWF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m. and later</td>
<td>Monday Evening Classes</td>
<td>Tuesday Evening Classes</td>
<td>Wednesday Evening Classes</td>
<td>Thursday Evening Classes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Covid from page 1

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 ciddy@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 shocked me to the core."

Some events, such as SURF, while needed 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 hunkering 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. Riess 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 ViaCor, 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 hard being away from my family at 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 disposing 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 keep each other safe."

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] official-ly," 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."

As 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 Gro- man, "but we will be open for the fall."

As for the rest of the semester, for those still on campus, residence halls are closed 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 check-outs."

Those off campus, who still possess options 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 ministry 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 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 Ministry groups, led by Peer Ministers Cor and Via, the men’s and women’s faith formation groups, led by Peer Ministers Cor and Via.

“Peer ministers are offering their small group students are encountering as receiving Eucharist, if they are, whether that is at home or still on campus. They are beginning to recognize that project happen that you’ve always wanted to do, but I couldn’t fit it in. Now I’ve got time to do it.”

Challenges as Opportunities for Growth

Overall, everyone is handling this situation in their own way. “We have been blessed with 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 much we are blessed and to the things that matter most.”

“Girls that I have talked to have been positive about this situation and been looking on the bright side,” said Jaryn Neameyer, the women’s peer minister on third floor Guad. “Even though this is totality different from how we used to control and let 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.

“Children challenge students to take time now and finally do that activity or make that project happen that you’ve always wanted to do, but never had the time to do,” said Alex Ottens, men’s peer ministers 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. “I challenge students to still put in the effort 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 on campus,” said Ramos.

In these challenging times of being so-socailly 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 the uncertainty among 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, but 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...
Ministry from page 4

overall, I’ve been blown away by people’s attitudes of compassion and gratitude.” I ended up providing 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 silence, ask your family how they are doing, and write down a note for someone you love. Another thing you should do is to talk about what 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 Cooney.

“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 not 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 take part 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.”

“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 not 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 take part in a prolonged Sabbath,” said Cooney. “Don’t

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 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 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 at keeping us up-to-date with all their efforts to make things manageable.

One thing that Carroll college seems double at this point, life does not. I cannot leave my house. When I do, it is depressing. Business 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 something we would like to see. It’s going to be a while.

— Abigail Thyssen
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 the 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 lost 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.
When we are down, 
We can still choose joy

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 while taking notes. 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 Beaver- ton, 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. 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 danc- ing 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 in on joy. —Sarah Burton
The little things in life seem so much bigger now

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 are not behind a screen. 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 glint 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 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 daff 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

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 even keep their distance from other students in their dorms.

The most common thing I observed was that students were following advice and keeping this from turning 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, it very much 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 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

Warren Wolcott is a junior from Moscow, Idaho, majoring in communication with an emphasis on TV production, with a theater minor.
Senior sadness at Carroll

Emma Lambert
Lead Writer

D
o you ever just feel robbed?
ike 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 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
singing 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 about those people,
do we? No way.
The ones you see everywhere and seem
to know a lot about, but have never actu-
ally 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 Hel-
enia. “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 headed from
first-year orientation until senior year
graduation. Scratch that: until the day we
found out our hands 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 possibil-
ity, 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 know-
ing that I won’t get to interact with my
professors and classmates the same way
ever again. Carroll is truly full of the best
goodbyes.
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 anthro-
poology 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
dering that I won’t get to interact with my
and this is a way for me to be with my
family and the memories that come with
them. 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 disappoint-
ed 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 last. It feels
as a full nine-nugget robbery. I’m not alone.
“I’m sad that the Junior-Senior ban-
quet 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 Threfin Trinh, a chemistry
major from Hamilton, Montana. “I wasn’t
expecting to say goodbye to my friends
so soon, 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 achieve-
ments during our seasons,” said volleyball
player Ayla Carpenter, a business admin-
istration major from Graham, Washing-
ton. “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 par-
ty. 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 spe-
cial 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,
hower, I realize how blessed we are to
have had the opportunities and memories
that Carroll has provided everyone.
So, thank you, fellow seniors, for shar-
ing 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 account-
ing 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
looking back gave them the 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 femes-
tered here.”

Acts of kindness and community ser-
vice 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
preclude us, 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
Graduates reflect on what they’ve lost

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. “Socially, 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 so crazy. 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, soaking in 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 school, people going to grad school and entering marriage, 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, 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. Having a good relationship with your professors is more than just credits. Think about your favorite professors this past year. They do so much for you each and every day. Support a local business and spend time with your friends. Academics are so important, but don’t let them rule 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.

2) 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 shed 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 fullest. John Cooney, philosophy and theology from Spokane, Washington.

3) Be valuable. 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, California.

5) Never think that you will get what was promised to you. Keep fighting everyday. Thomas Austeford, 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/five/ques/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. Don’t forget to say yes to “I love you” and “I love you too,” said Emma Nylin, 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 proudest communities to support you here at Carroll. Never give up, and keep pushing forward. Good luck. Maddison Gaill, 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 Sunnyside, 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 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 Shelby Wal, 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 18 year olds. I know that for some of you, 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.
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 Taiwan, at foot of Taipei Basin Volcano for several reasons. The trees, the green grass and the beautiful sky with one of her Taiwanese friends.

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 traveled 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.

“Traveling helps me feel more connected to the campus to find an accessible bathroom,” said Huisman.

“Making friends with anyone while also being down to do anything.”

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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.

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 committee 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, Kathy 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.
Kyle Strode

Running marathons, running labs

Brooke Brewer

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.

“Do I 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 or electricity. He and his wife then decided to quit their jobs and join the Peace Corps.

During that trip, Pre-Med students aided an aide in college, he realized how much he loved teaching.

“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.”

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.

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Kyle Strode teaching a chemistry lesson to middle school students at the Santa Maria del Monasterio School in Cozumel, Mexico.
Greetings Carroll Students, Faculty, Academic Advisors, and other Special Advisors,

As announced by Vice President Cathy Dy 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 starting 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/course, such as an overall 2.00 GPA for Core.

__ 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 grade 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!

Casie 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 "FAQs." All details are posted there.
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 Hughes, 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 me.”  
— 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 for me to really feel like life is a gift when it 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 taking advantage of the nice weather by going on walks and taking long drives along the seacoast.”  
— Reid Rowsey, a senior in English from Helena.

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

“As upbeat as it is to see such defining moments in our lives being postponed and cancelled, I am happy to see people taking proactive steps to keep 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 Gai, a senior in English from Rapid City, Wyoming.

“The people stocking up is crazy, like people touch 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, from Helena

“After getting back home, I have been taking advantage of the simple things such as going on walks and walking long drives along the seacoast.”  
— 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 Tripplett, junior, nursing major, from Powell, Wyoming

“The adjustment is hard, but I think our Carroll community is becoming a little more united.”  
— Dana Beatty, 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 Ramsay, sophomore, 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 perma-nently.”  
— Brynn Walker, nursing, from Helena

“Just getting my money up and staying out of the way.”  
— Jalen 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 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 anthropology 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 not to panic too much or panic too little, to just be aware of what you touch when you interact with others. 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 we do.”  
— Kiera Marshall, a senior, in biology from Parker, Arizona

“As a history major, the events of corona-virus aren’t surprising, but we can come together to help each other out.”  
— Arson Raw, a student, 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 because 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 mask so I’ll be spending a lot of time playing.”  
— Breanna Rohden, 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 would be nice to be around family in these crazy times.”  
— Anthony Donofrio, junior, business major from Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

“I am trying to make food for myself has helped, plus getting out into nature.”  
— Gwyneth Lyman, sophomore, anthropology major from Seattle

“I’ve continued a bunch of craft things from before and my family and I learned how to play several 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 was quite great, but I did not expect to go to online classes for the last part of my first year.”  
— Andrew Carter, sophomore theatre major from Gooding, Idaho

“In a span of 7 days I lost my job and I lost sports. I have always been my greatest source of motivation, 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 coach.”  
— 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 read.”  
— Isaiah Cech, senior, secondary education, from Helena

“COVID-19 is a serious pandemic that affects our society’s coping 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 policies/help the common person and middle class out.”  
— Mitch 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... obesity, defense, etc. I’m not as worried about the threat of the virus as I am about the consumption of resources that people use to leave us more vulnerable. I think older generations should be more careful, but I feel relatively safe because our group colors don’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. I work at a pharmacy and I see my life flash by my eyes every day.”  
— Joseph Potkonjak, a junior in Business Administration from Bigfork, Montana

“Eating well and making food for myself has helped, plus getting out into nature.”  
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Father Marc in a mostly empty All Saints Chapel

Father Marc reflects on ministry amidst the pandemic

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 used to insulate us from real connections that we must forego right now, has given us. In the meantime, we should obviously bear good fruit.

Clearly, 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: “Beloved, 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 gripe an early end to their seasons

Hunter Bledsoe & Reese Hibbeln

Staff Writers

A spring break broke on Feb. 29. Carroll teams were dreaming big dreams. Both men’s and women’s basketball were headed to NAIAs: 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-year 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.

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 wondering about what puts 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.

As he continued filling out those big Van TaylorMade drivers and tee up their putters, Potkonjak was looking to improve on his 24th place finish in last year’s championship.

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 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’s been tough, 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 closest 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 the season and with 30 games left, the program’s first winning season since 2014, the Saints 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 talent, 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.

Brent Northup contributed to this story.

**Women's Basketball**

The Lady Saints were thrilled when they won a spot in the NAIA national tournament for the first time. But there were more games to win at MetraPark.

The Saints won the conference, but were upset in the semifinals by the slender margin of one point against the conference tournament by Providence.

But the Lady Saints body of work - 21-10 and experience regular season champions - was strong and there was no doubt they would earn a ticket to the Big Dance in Billings. Coach 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' hopes of a deep national postseason run, but also eliminated the vital practice time late spring months to have off...

“It’s different because in the spring we usually start doing off-season workouts and get in shape,” 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.

In times like these I always hark back to my dreams away. "All but one of our new recruits is female. That was than done.”

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

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Not having those [open gyms] and gym rooms was hard. They need to focus to survive the likes of Organic and statistics.

“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, Elaine, 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 their 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 love 10 minutes,” says Michael. “Yes, and smarter,” he laughs. Joshua could be reached for comment.

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

Northup scaled back practice to let the team breathe after the cancellations 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.”

**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.

“My hope was that we could have another nice run in the NAIA Tournament,” Saints coach Kurt Paulson told the Independent Record. "We were looking for our big 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."

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 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 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 likes of Organic and statistics.

The future lies in good hands. Sophomore Daniel Northup says seniors, like Michael,

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**Peri & Kelsie – Forensics Friends Forever**

Photo courtesy Becca Poliquin
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, 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.

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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.

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