

I should admit that ever since the COVID-19 pandemic, there are quite a lot of things changed in an unexpected way. Even since the pandemic broke out in January, I have been keeping an eye on it and prepared with a variety stock goods. However, the actual scenario went beyond my most conservative estimations as the country seemed to be not ready to cope with it at all. With everything moved online as well as keeping myself away from crowds for the rest of the spring semester, I do feel like being capsuled in some aspect of my life. Everything started to get sanitized on a weekly basis, I am wearing mask whenever I am going to the supermarket, hoping there would be no crowd. But for the most important change, it would probably be that despite waking up with a regular schedule every day, I have this feeling that I am losing that perception of time passing. With more pessimistic updates about the pandemic as well as restrictions in multiple aspects of daily life, I am not saying unbearable, but it is making the future unforeseeable in some ways. This has quite an impact on me as most of my goals have been clear. With all those things going on, more goals are not so clear, and I do occasionally get this feeling of losing direction somehow.

And this is probably where connecting with each other plays out. With my parent also in the process of staying at home. They managed to have time to Facetime with me every single day. We tend to build up pressure from long time indoors, and perhaps connecting with each other is one of the good ways that would let you have some release of it. As for my classmates, I do connect with them frequently in terms of online projects, groupwork, concerns, etc. I found it not just a way of communicating with other people, but also realize what was actually happening and bring some comfort to other people in stress. For instance, one of my classmates said in the group chat that he hasn't been meeting any real person for weeks. Hearing that, I realized that we need to reflect constantly, and through that we can realize some things or privilege we still have yet

some other people has already lost it.

If I am asked what I would like other people to know one thing about my current experience, I would say that this time-period is kind of testing me for the unexpected. I have been through the 2003 SARS crisis when my hometown went into some extent of lockdown, quite similar to what is happening almost two decades later. Despite being child at that time, I still have some memories about that time when there are poster and signs everywhere reminding people to take care. A few years later I learned more about what exactly happened, and I did hope that it would never happen again. And it happened, even beyond my expectations and preparations. With all those unexpected coming upon me, the only thing I can do is to maintain my regular schedule as much as possible, which requires mental readiness. After all, if a person is not mentally ready, there will be no chance of coming through any type of crisis.

As for communities, there are impacts like everyone is forced to stay at home. But in terms of incidents like racism or violence, I did not personally encounter any of those, but by the beginning of the pandemic back in March, I can feel that some people might be looking at me in a cautious way. Meanwhile, I have one friend being shouted at when he was shopping in a supermarket located in another state in US. I think due to a higher portion of international students and scholars here in West Lafayette, people know more about what is going on in the world and have a much more inclusive mind.