**COVID-19**

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My first year in college didn't go the way I planned it. When I first moved into the dorms back in August, I was expecting to be living there for the rest of the school year but, we ended up getting kicked out of the dorms after the first few weeks. I then had to transition from in-person class to online class. I ended up moving back home for the fall and spring semester to start working again so I could save up my money for my apartment when I move back in the fall of 2021. It did not take long for me to adjust from in-person to online; I had moments where it was difficult being online because I wasn't able to learn the material in person or ask for assistance. Graduating during a pandemic was probably the hardest thing I had ever done. You grow up around your friends dreaming of walking across the stage together and celebrating your hard work & accomplishments together but, we never got to celebrate together. The pandemic was affecting me because I was trying to get recruited to play soccer and, many colleges were canceling their I.D camps which did not allow me to showcase my talent. When the pandemic first started, I had just back from a tournament in Florida; I knew that my club season was the only way for me to get recruited but, unfortunately, they ended our season affecting my chances of getting recruited. I ended up getting a few offers from local D2 and D3 colleges and eventually committed to Lee-McRae but, due to personal reasons, I had to decommit at the last moment and transfer to ECU. My feelings and emotions surrounding the disease have stayed the same throughout the whole pandemic. I know that many people have lost loved ones & friends during the pandemic and, my condolences are to those people. It was very difficult not being able to see my grandparents daily which started to affect me emotionally. My grandparents are very old and, we did not go and visit a lot because we felt like each time, we went down we could be giving them covid and not know. Some long-term adjustments my family had to start making were staying in the same house together and not getting annoyed with each other. In my household, most of us are always on the go, and this was the first time in a while where we all had to stay in the same place over a significant period together. On most days, we would usually stay in our rooms and keep to ourselves but, eventually, we started watching movies again and playing video games with one another and enjoy spending quality time with each other. I learned a lot over these past few months; life is too short and, one day your, whole life can change in a matter of seconds and, it's best to enjoy each day like it's your last because one day it will be.