

A JOURNAL OF THE PLAGUE YEAR: AN ARCHIVE OF COVID19

I will attempt to chronicle my memories regarding this pandemic in chronological order following the American dating system (MM/DD/YY).

When “memory” follows the date that means that I did not record those events but will be working from memory. I have included some relevant tweets from my account.

Approximately 03/09/2020-3/13/2020

APS announces closure <https://www.arlnow.com/2020/03/13/breaking-arlington-public-schools-closing-monday-through-spring-break/>

I had been student teaching and rumors had started about closing the school down. My sister who was enrolled at the school I was a student teaching at had heard they would be closing for 2 weeks plus spring break.

Then the school started conducting a home internet access survey in order to assess the situation. I remember helping a freshman (F) that didn't have a stable internet and being frustrated. “How could she be expected to do her class work?”

Around the same time I was frantic to make sure that my account was set up to access the school's website

03/11/20 Marymount extended spring break this was a relief as I would have time to catch up on work and sleep.

Of course the other students and teachers were becoming aware of the situation. Students and teachers were upset and confused about work expectations. At least of the rumors

On Thursday or Friday of that week during a cohort meeting I overheard a student yelling because there wasn't any water pressure for students to wash their hands with.

03/13/20 I texted my sister to find out which room she was in. I hurried up there and waited for the bell to ring. We rushed to my car and went home. That would be the last bell we would hear. During the night we went to a brewery to celebrate a friend's birthday then went to a few bars. It was a lot of fun. Little did we know that it would be the last time I would see them face-to-face

03/14/20 IN the morning I woke up to find out that Jay Electronica finally released his album. I was thankful to have something to listen to and distract me from the current situation.

Tweet: It's crazy knowing that with our economic system lots of healthy people will lose their homes and jobs. 10:18 PM <https://twitter.com/javierv2689/status/1239013021822914560>

I was definitely excited about not having to wake up so early to go student teaching.

There was some worry about how I would meet the required instructional hours but whatever I needed the sleep.

03/16/20 Marymount extends april 14th which was not a positive feeling because I hate online classes. And of course what would this mean for tuition and for grades

03/16/20 The VA supreme court orders the lower courts to cancel non-essential cases. And just like everything being released during this time no one really knows what that means for anyone. Does that mean no traffic court?

03/18/20 marymount ended in person classes. This occurs before the governor's order. I end up being upset and mad. I didn't sign up for this. I avoid signing up for online classes.

03/19/20 Shit is boring. Nothing to do nowhere to do. 11:36 PM

<https://twitter.com/javierv2689/status/1240844734148608002>

The boredom was getting difficult to deal with

03/19/20 Andy's carryout closed for the first time ever as far as I'm aware. Long time customer 11:37 PM <https://twitter.com/javierv2689/status/1240844964294262785>

This closure hit me hard as never in my time as a customer there had they been closed. Also let me know that this might actually change life in america moving forward.

03/19/20 No one wants to finish their semester online. No one is walking #classof2020 11:38 PM

<https://twitter.com/javiery2689/status/1240845172877021190> This may have been when I found out that we wouldn't be walking. I think this is around when we had been asked for alternatives.

03/20/20 Finally starting to do schoolwork 10:58 PM

<https://twitter.com/javiery2689/status/1241197412666007554> clearly I was having a difficult time actually being "productive."

03/22/20 I'm I dead yet? 12:22 PM <https://twitter.com/javiery2689/status/1242486915624026112>

not sure why I tweeted this but I'm sure COVID had something to do with it

03/23/20 APS decided to close schools for the end of the semester. This was exciting because I could catch up on sleep. But this is also when I really began to question what this meant for my teaching license. And no one knew what it would mean until later. I just figured the problem was far reaching enough that the state would have to intervene.

03/26/20 my mentor teacher wants us to share a clip with our students.

03/29/20 I send in my video for the students and ask them to write down how their feeling and what they're doing and to stay safe

03/30/20 stay at home order is released. This meant that finally the state was beginning to take this seriously.

04/01/20 I found out that a senior had dropped out. However, due to how many revisions would be applied to grades and to senior projects it was now viable for him to finish and graduate with his diploma.

Throughout this ordeal there was a sense of unfairness. Marymount set up a fund to apply for aid (up to 2000), teachers have been more lenient, deadlines have lost their meaning. Ceremonies are being canceled and altered. It has been a very sad experience.

Video Chats with friends are not the same as being with them. I've drunk more than I normally would but haven't been able to get drunk

05/05/20 the semester is about to end but I'm not as excited about it. I think this has a lot to do with there not being a celebration with friends. I don't care about walking but I did look forward to hanging out with them.

Of course all seems pointless as who knows what the world will look like come August. Like why bother doing schoolwork or applying for jobs. Why not just stress eat and watch netflix all day.

There's also a bit of hope in me that some of these changes become a little permanent. That we begin to realize that we the majority of people that keep the world going need to be treated better. That we should make enough money to actually not go broke. That we realize that we don't need to be open 24/7. Or for 16 hours everyday. Seems like the people that will benefit the most from this are the people that are already pretty well off and have jobs they can do from home. The lack of traffic is nice. However as it wears on it is becoming obvious that governments are unwilling to do what is necessary to end this. They are unwilling to freeze mortgages. At best everyone is looking at an eviction once however many months of rent becomes due. I hope the internet becomes a utility. Comcast loses the ability to impose fictitious data caps. That normal people actually have a safety net after this. That we realize how unfairly we are treated when we receive 1200 while companies receive billions and still lay off their workforce. Hopefully this shows us how flawed our current system is.

However, I doubt that'll happen. People are gathering in crowds, hanging out together, not covering their faces as if it's december. And as a whole we're a dumb people and love repeating the same mistakes over and over again

I'm tired of living through once in a lifetime historic events.