



The uncertain future of study abroad

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

THE SCOUT

ESTABLISHED 1898



The challenges and successes of opening a restaurant during COVID-19

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The Scout @bradley_scout

COVID-19 EDITION

Dear reader,

This edition serves to encapsulate the virus-plagued 2020-2021 school year. Faculty, staff and students alike were forced to adapt quickly amidst the constantly-changing local, state and national landscape. This edition could never fully reflect the impacts that COVID-19 had on the campus community. Nevertheless, we hope to present a well-representative perspective.

Results from Bradley's vaccination clinics

BY SAM MWAKASISI

Assistant News Editor

Following the opening of COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Peoria County, the continuing rollout of the vaccines officially made its way to Bradley in the past few weeks — alongside side effects important to consider as finals week rolls around.

On April 5, all Illinois residents 16 and older in Peoria County became eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Earlier prioritization was reserved for students in medical or childcare positions alongside frontline workers, and subsequently, people with medical conditions became eligible.

At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that while they were largely non-substantial, possible side effects from the vaccine ranged

from mild to severe, consisting of experiences including swelling, pain, redness, fatigue, head or body aches and nausea.

"You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection," the CDC website stated. "These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days."

Bradley issued an email to students on April 1 announcing the eligibility, in which the university stated that while they could schedule a vaccination in the surrounding area, Health Services did not have vaccines to administer directly on campus at the time.

On April 9, another email from the university announced that the Markin Center would host clinics for students to receive one of 1,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine by appointment on April 12 and 13.

On both clinic dates, Bradley

emailed students to inform them that vaccinations were also open to staff, faculty and family members over 18 years old, alongside those without appointments (referred to as "dose savers") at a select time.

According to Health Services director Jessica Higgs, the ultimate turnout of the two days was administering 745 vaccine doses. The university's email on April 13 added that 411 of the doses were delivered on the first day.

Higgs further addressed the vaccinations' side effects, an increased area of public concern as they have increased in accessibility, particularly due to effects reported after second doses.

She stated that only two patients of the 745 doses required assistance in the first 15 minutes following administration and that both felt normal after an additional 15 minutes. She further said that a handful of students voiced complaints of effects including

body aches after several days, but no cases required medical attention.

Higgs also assured that taking medication for the second dose's side effects was recommended after receiving it, as the effects are to be expected.

"There is a rumor floating that you cannot take medication such as Ibuprofen or Tylenol with the vaccine," Higgs said in an email interview. "There is no problem with taking Ibuprofen or Tylenol for the sore arm, body aches or fever that may accompany the shot. These are all normal immune reactions [which] means the vaccine is doing its job."

As the Moderna vaccine issued by the Markin Center is a two-dose process, with 28 days required between each, dates for the second dose will coincide with finals week, and the email announced an ongoing effort to adjust vaccine scheduling. However, the email

also advised students to be proactive and responsible about balancing both priorities.

"Please consider your final exam schedule when scheduling your second dose; you might want to consider getting it after your finals are complete," the email said. "While important, a vaccination is not an excuse for missing or rescheduling a class or final exam."

Even with the university's recommendation, Higgs confirmed how Health Services would respond if cases of students becoming ill from side effects during finals did transpire.

"We will be very ... happy to discuss any concerns any students, faculty and staff have with the timing of the vaccine and their ability to complete their finals and projects on time," Higgs said.

For additional information about the vaccine, visit the Peoria City/County Health Department.



A guide to the three main vaccines

BY VALERIE VASCONEZ

News Editor

Since COVID-19 surfaced, there have been scientists and researchers around the world working to develop vaccines. The vaccines that have been approved for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had approved all three for distribution to the public in a rank that would prioritize those in certain occupations or health statutes. The CDC advised that people should get the first vaccine available rather than waiting for a certain brand.

While there may be doubts about the vaccines or misinformation spread about vaccines, Bradley's Health Services director, Jessica Higgs, shared information about the injections.

Pfizer

The Pfizer vaccine, manufactured by Pfizer, Inc. and BioNTech, is given in two doses. The second dose should be given 21 days after the first injection.

Pfizer is currently the most effective vaccine in the U.S., with the CDC reporting a 95 percent efficiency rate when in clinical trials.

The CDC listed possible reactions to the vaccine, including pain, redness and swelling at the injection site. Body reactions include tiredness, headache,

muscle pain, chills, fever and nausea.

Pfizer is an mRNA vaccine. An mRNA, as Higgs said, tells cells in the body to duplicate the COVID-19 spike proteins. The change is recognized in the body and the body will learn to attack the virus with both shots.

The CDC further defined an mRNA vaccine's function as "[containing] material from the virus that causes COVID-19 that gives our cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus."

Moderna

The mRNA vaccine, Moderna, is given in two doses just like the Pfizer treatment, but calls for doses to be spaced out by around 28 days. It was reported to have a 94 percent efficiency rate in its clinical trials, according to the CDC.

Moderna has similar possible side effects compared to Pfizer. The CDC recommends applying a cool and wet cloth over the injection site and using the arm with the injection to reduce pain. Drinking fluids and dressing lightly to reduce fever discomfort is also recommended.

Moderna was the vaccine Bradley received from the Peoria Public Health Department to give to students on campus from April 12 to April 13.

Johnson & Johnson

Unlike the previously mentioned vaccines, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a viral vector

vaccine that requires only one dose.

A viral vector injection, Higgs said, is usually a virus that causes no harm to the human body that is filled with the genetic code of the COVID-19 virus. The body will again attack the virus and recognize how to handle the virus.

As the CDC described, viral vector injections "contain a modified version of a different virus than the one that causes COVID-19. Inside the shell of the modified virus, there is material from the virus that causes COVID-19."

As of April 13, the use and distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been paused.

In a joint statement from the FDA and CDC, six cases out of the nearly seven million already vaccinated had blood clots in their brain. The six cases were all women with ages ranging from women from ages 18 to 48.

The treatment that would usually be prescribed to these blood clots were found ineffective, Higgs said.

While it is temporarily taken out of the pool of potential vaccines, it may not be forever.

"It's very possible that if they do approve it ... there's going to be some limitations, specifically [in] the 18-45 female age group," Higgs said. "They put some restrictions around it, or they may not. They may say it's so rare that it really isn't outside the realm of normal."

Scientists should be looking into alternative treatments or if this vaccine can continue being

used, Higgs said.

"[The CDC and FDA are] not going to just go, 'OK, it's here and back,'" Higgs said. "There's going to be more information about what happened and also some limitations on who should get it would be my guess."

Allergies

While the CDC stated that people with allergies to eggs, preservatives and latex don't have to worry about that appearing on the ingredients list, there's still a chance for serious reactions to occur.

Higgs said that polyethylene glycol and polysorbate — two chemicals in the vaccine — are what could cause complications when receiving a dose.

"There really aren't that many people that can't get the vaccine," Higgs said. "Those are both chemicals that are used to make the vaccine and they're in a few other injectables, mostly cancer treating drugs. For the most part, it's a fairly rare allergy."

Doubts of the vaccine

While there may be people on the fence about getting the vaccine, Higgs said she and Health Services are listening closely to what students may worry about the injection.

"There's some hesitation because the vaccine was developed so quickly," Higgs said. "Some of that is because we're a lot smarter than when we developed vaccines 60 years ago, so we actually know

what we're doing. It doesn't take as long to develop because we have an idea how they work."

Even with quick development, Higgs said the vaccines went through multiple trials to ensure their effectiveness. There were 4,000 participants in the trial period. Testing in multiple parts of the globe, such as England and Israel, saw high rates of success, according to Higgs.

While there are a variety of side effects, such as the ones listed before, the side effects may outweigh the symptoms of the virus, Higgs said.

Those that are generally healthy may see less of these effects with COVID-19, but there are others that could see fatality when diagnosed.

"I know, those in the college age may say, 'Our age group never really got sick in the first place, so it doesn't make any difference,'" Higgs said. "But ... the relief to be able to hug your grandparents and not be worried about making them sick is huge."

The COVID-19 strain that was found in England has affected the youth at the same rate, Higgs said. Getting the vaccination could prevent a rise in mortality among youth and possibly even see society go back to normal.

"The idea of getting back to normal, the idea of hanging out with friends and doing the things that college kids get to do ... I think we're all ready to go back to the things that make college college," Higgs said.

Senior Column

Plans fall through



Kayla Johnson

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Sports Photographer

First, I'd like to say that college is nothing like the movies.

I imagined that I'd have this huge friend group who would hang out and take random road trips to the city. I thought I'd be on the verge of starting my career by now with some internships under my belt, and neither are the case at all.

It's hard to believe it's been four years since my life truly began. I was 17 with a list of dreams. My plan was to pursue my degree in journalism, and potentially minor in creative writing, so I could start my journey as an author.

My freshman year was easily the most traumatizing experience I've ever had. I experienced my first-ever mental breakdown. I cut off all but eight inches of my hair and was the spitting image of Lord Farquaad for a good four months. That was also the year Nasjay Murry died, and at that moment I knew whatever idea I had of college had gone out the window. Nothing was ever the same.

By my sophomore year, I had joined the Red Sea, The Scout and a couple of other organizations. I only had a few friends, but they were just enough for me. Even though everything was going right, I was having an identity crisis. I had no idea what I wanted to do and who I wanted to be. Because of this crisis, I hardly remember sophomore year. All I remember is coming home that summer, getting a car and working nearly every day to pay off my tuition.

Junior year was surprisingly very eventful — in the beginning, at least. I was roommates with a new friend and our relationship was flourishing. I even landed an internship that I genuinely enjoyed. This was also the year that I partied like my life depended on it.

All that came to a halt when I had to get an emergency surgery. Things became even worse when my recovery time overlapped with Arch Madness. This was my first time going as the photographer, and there was no way I was missing that opportunity.

So there I was, hobbling around the Enterprise Center with a donut pillow in one hand and my camera dangling from the other. Despite the pain, that unforgettable experience made me realize I didn't want to be a writer — I wanted to be a sports photographer.

Everything was on the up until COVID-19 ransacked the country and the rest of the world. All of a sudden, I was back at home, falling asleep on Zoom wondering when the grocery store was going to get their next shipment of tissue. I never really focused on my mental health

until COVID-19 prevented me from doing everything I once enjoyed and took me out of my element.

Now that it's been over a year in the pandemic world, I have picked up many hobbies, some of which have completely obliterated my original plan. At this point, I'm not sure if I want to be a photographer. I loved the idea of aesthetics during quarantine so much that I developed some skills to increase social media engagement. Now, I think I want to pursue a career in social media marketing, which has nothing to do with my "plan."

This story was chaotic and eventful, but it's mine. Over these four years, I have learned that there's no such thing as a plan, just ideas.

After writing this reflection, I am shocked. I am nothing that I wanted to be when I was a freshman. However, I am everything that I wanted to be as a person. I have the greatest friends who have kept me grounded as well as a supportive family. I love who I am now and can't wait to see what's ahead for me.

NEWS

A timeline of sports during COVID-19

BY LARRY LARSON

Sports Editor

It's often said that sports never stop. That wasn't the case during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, as sports fans know all too well. Here's a look at some of the sports events that shaped the first year of the ongoing pandemic on and off Bradley's campus.

Bradley men's basketball wins Missouri Valley Conference championship

After dispatching Southern Illinois and Drake in the first two rounds of Arch Madness, Bradley defeated Valparaiso 80-66 in the MVC tournament championship to clinch an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year. It was the first time ever that the program had captured back-to-back tournament titles.

Senior guard Darrell Brown was named the tournament's most outstanding player after exiting the floor to booming "MVP" chants from a large Bradley crowd in the stands.

March 8th, 2020

MVC cancels women's basketball tournament, suspends all athletic events until March 30

After the cancellation of all of the men's Power Five conference tournaments, the MVC canceled its women's basketball tournament, which was set to begin that evening.

After the most successful regular season in program history, Bradley was set to enter the tournament as the No. 3 seed. The Braves roster was led by senior center Chelsea Brackmann, who battled ulcerative colitis but still played the majority of the team's regular season games.

The squad was in a good position to receive an at-large bid to the WNIT (Women's National Invitation Tournament) for the first time ever. Bradley finished the season with a record of 22-7 (13-5 in MVC play).

"We had a WNIT berth, which women's basketball has never even done ... at Bradley," head coach Andrea Gorski said. "That and the chance to play for the NCAA Tournament ... was really important to us, to really make history in that in the postseason realm."

Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert tests positive for coronavirus, NBA suspends season

The NBA became the first professional sports league to suspend play after the Jazz star tested positive for COVID-19. Just days earlier, Gobert had poked fun at COVID-19 safety measures by going out of his way to touch the reporters' recording devices following a press conference.

March 11, 2020

Morning of March 12, 2020

NCAA cancels the men's and women's basketball tournaments

After announcing earlier that week that the tournaments would be held without fan attendance, the NCAA canceled its annual March Madness tournaments, marking the end of the season for Bradley men's basketball.

The cancellation would also mark the end of the careers of the three seniors on the Braves' roster: Brown, Koch Bar and Nate Kennell. "It's funny; you tell your guys, 'Seize the moment, make the most of every opportunity, you don't know when that opportunity is going to be presented again,'" Bradley head coach Brian Wardle said. "It's life lessons here. I think this year will always be remembered ... for Bradley basketball, as a special year, but obviously as a year (with) no NCAA Tournament."

The men's tournament had been played every year since its creation in 1939.

March 12, 2020

MVC cancels remainder of spring sports competition

A day after suspending all competition through March 30, the conference completely called off all competition through the end of the academic year.

Bradley's baseball, softball, tennis, men's and women's golf, and men's and women's outdoor track seasons would go unfinished.

March 13, 2020

Men's and women's basketball return to action

For the first time since March 10, 2020, a Bradley team was in action, as both the men's and women's basketball teams returned to the court in a victorious fashion.

The men defeated Toledo 61-59 on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by junior guard Terry Nolan.

The women took down UMKC 84-70 to open the season in grand fashion, behind 22 points from junior Lasha Petree and 19 from senior Gabi Haack.

MVC postpones all fall sports

After a summer of uncertainty, the conference announced that all fall sports would be postponed, including all of Bradley's fall sports — men's and women's cross country, volleyball and soccer.

Aug. 14, 2020

Nov. 25, 2020

Men's basketball pauses due to COVID-19

After playing its first nine games of the season as scheduled, Bradley's men's basketball team was forced to pause due to a positive COVID-19 test within its tier-one personnel, which includes

Dec. 30, 2020

Women's basketball receives positive COVID-19 test at MVC tournament

After defeating Northern Iowa 62-59 in the tournament quarterfinals, a member of the team's tier-one personnel tested positive for COVID-19, sparking a hectic Saturday at the Hoops in the Heartland tournament.

Despite the positive test, which Gorski later clarified was not from a player or coach, the MVC wanted Bradley to play its semifinal game against Missouri State that afternoon. Missouri State, who was in position for an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, withdrew from the remainder of the MVC tournament, fearing a possible spread of the virus between teams.

As a result, the bracket was reshuffled and the Braves beat Loyola 70-56 and went on to beat Drake on Sunday 78-70 to clinch the program's first-ever MVC tournament title and NCAA Tournament bid.

March 13, 2021

The uncertain future of study abroad

BY ELLIE HAWKINS

Copy Editor

As COVID-19 spread across the world in March 2020, students studying abroad were forced to leave countries they planned to spend the semester in and return home unexpectedly.

What hopeful students, as well as Kathleen Stinson, administrative coordinator of study abroad programs at Bradley, didn't know at the time was that the opportunity to spend a semester learning in a foreign country would be coming to an indefinite end.

Since that mid-semester change, there hasn't been much stability in future plans. The study abroad office canceled the May interim of 2020 and the May-term and January interim of 2021. Stinson said this was a decision made by the Bradley administration and the study abroad office, citing a lack of safety and an abundance of restrictions in the locations in which the trips were planned.

Students who want to go on semester-long trips are responsible for much more of the planning of their trips during any year, as opposed to May-term and J-term classes that are planned by the study abroad office. As a result, students have been much more hopeful, yet have no clear vision about the future of these programs.

For this reason, many students who had planned to go abroad this semester inevitably ended up not being able to.

"Programs were set to run ... but actually, what happened to the students this spring is the university administration pulled the plug on study abroad," Stinson said. "It was just, overall, the pandemic and the liability that [Bradley] might be responsible for. That's the main concern that I'm aware of."

As of right now, small groups of students are planning to go abroad for the fall semester 2021 to countries such as Denmark, Ireland and England. While Stinson and the students are remaining hopeful, they are planning for both the best and the worst.

"We haven't had any cancellations or heard anything yet ... we know the student demand is there and students are just dying to go," Stinson said.

Students are continuing with

orientations, registrations and other planning for their programs abroad as they would for a normal semester, but Stinson is also encouraging them to make a backup plan in case they are unable to travel in the fall.

Stinson always encourages students to make alternative plans so they are prepared for all unexpected events that may prevent them from going on their planned trips, but she has emphasized it during the pandemic.

Colton Wilder, a junior music and middle school education double major, was set to leave for Japan just a few weeks after word of the pandemic got to the U.S. to further his studies and assist in teaching students English in a local school.

"Vividly, I can remember preparing for the Bradley Symphony Orchestra dress rehearsal and my phone blowing up with emails [on March 1st] ... hearing that my program might be cancelled," Wilder said.

Within six days, his program was completely canceled and he enrolled in a similar program in Copenhagen for the fall semester of 2020. This program was soon cancelled as well.

"I was not only frustrated," Wilder said. "I was crushed."

Wilder is now set to go to Copenhagen in the fall of 2021, and if this program is cancelled, he will be out of time in his college career to study abroad.

With lots of help from Stinson and the program in Copenhagen, Wilder is confident his experience abroad will happen. He has picked up extra hours at work, applied for various scholarships and received different types of funding for the experience and hopes all this work and stress will pay off when he finally gets to go.

"Hopefully, all of this hard work will pay off when [I] study abroad in the Fall... third time's the charm," Wilder said.

Stinson said at least 20 students are interested in going abroad in the spring of 2022.

"Hopefully, by then the worst will be over," Stinson said. "I know there's a lot of students that are brokenhearted about everything. We know it's going to get back to normal at some point. We're crossing our fingers it's sometime soon."



The challenges and successes of opening a restaurant during COVID-19

BY MALLORY CLARK

Contributor

The pandemic has caused some businesses to shut their doors for good. The economic recession left restaurants that bustled with customers to be nothing more than pick-up spots for delivery drivers. However, some businesses opened or had their start in the pandemic.



The beginning of the pandemic forced restaurants and businesses to close their doors just as the Boyds were working hard to open theirs.

Alicia and Azadia Boyd opened their restaurant, Wing Work, in June of 2020 — almost three months later than originally planned.

Alicia Boyd, owner of the Wing Work restaurant in the Northwoods Mall, faced quite a few challenges while the world was on lockdown.

"We ran into issues because places like the sign store stopped production, [so] we couldn't get a sign," Boyd said. "A lot of places were not answering their phones ... we had to stay on our toes and constantly call people."

It was frustrating for Boyd to continually delay their opening day.

"That was the scariest part; that was the toughest part," Boyd said. "We had to continue just to stay hopeful."

Fortunately, Wing Work has found some success along the way and has found loyal support in the Peoria community.

"Our biggest success has been the way people have embraced us as a family," Boyd said. "The way that people wanted to support and help a business ... this town has really come together during the pandemic."

Wing Work is looking into finding a second location with more sit-down tables and continuing their success that they have worked to grow.



Dang Banh Mi & Poke in Campustown has also been navigating the pandemic, and Nhung Dang, the wife of the owner, has experienced it firsthand.

After a short soft opening on March 12, 2020, the restaurant was required to close its doors and only serve carry-out and delivery service.

"I still remember that day; it was such a unique situation," Dang said.

After having to remove dine-in options, the restaurant was struggling to get up and running again.

"It was hard for us to get our name out there and let people know we exist," Dang said. "For a new restaurant with no customer base, it was even harder during COVID-19."

Despite the marketing challenges during a pandemic, the slow start was beneficial. Their team was able to address the kinks of its workflow process, namely having only carryout, to make operations more efficient and train great employees.

It has been a little over a year since Dang Banh Mi & Poke has opened and the owner has high hopes for the future.

"I am hoping we can get more customers and tell people that there is a poke and boba restaurant in Peoria," Dang said.



Co-owner Dan Stambaugh has been working hard to satisfy customers after reopening Ernie's Dairy Dream earlier this month after years of operation in Peoria, experiencing difficulties with supplies and employment as costs have increased 30 percent.

With rising food prices and higher minimum wage, Stambaugh has had to make some adjustments. The new procedures that ensued have been demanding for the restaurant.

"Rethinking how you are going to do things with masks, hand sanitizers and such has been a challenge," Stambaugh said.

However, Stambaugh has learned lessons from the pandemic.

"We are a cook-to-order place, so it takes a little longer and people have a lot more patience since 2019," Stambaugh said.

With lots of positive reviews on Facebook and eager customers, Stambaugh is hoping that his great team will keep Ernie's up and running.

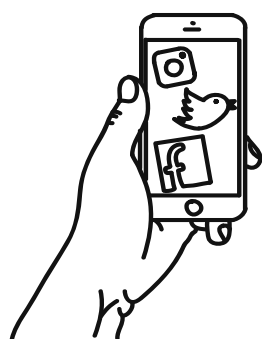
"In the future, I want to keep the employees I got," Stambaugh said. "We have a real good crew right now with good kids that want to work. I want to keep that tradition and hire local."

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Senior Column



Conor McEntee
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Copy Editor

The end of my four years at Bradley is finally approaching. These years would be best described through the words of author Charles Dickens: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

In the beginning, I came in as a wide-

A peaceful farewell

eyed kid looking to be a smashing success. I put myself 100 percent into schoolwork, Greek life and being of service to almost anyone I considered to be a friend at the time. I was doing so many things, but I had no idea what direction I wanted to go.

I would soon realize that I was burning the candle at both ends; I was trying to be everything to everybody.

As sophomore year rolled around, it all came to a head. I was inviting negativity from others into my life, letting them determine my self-worth. I dealt with this by avoiding responsibilities and going out every weekend to excess while playing immature games with myself and the people I cared about. I was in a state of self-pity and utter confusion about who I was and who I wanted to become. This vicious cycle continued into my junior year.

Then, COVID-19 happened, forcing me, as it did with everyone across the globe, to be with myself, void of all the distractions that kept me from doing so. One day, the truth finally hit me and hit hard. I can still remember the feeling of disappointment wash over as I was looking in the mirror, knowing that was not me. That was not the person I knew I was inside. It made me cry.

I was blaming others for my unhappiness, when deep down I knew that it all stemmed from the choices I was making in my life. I had to change my attitude, habits and people whom I was giving unnecessary time and effort towards. Once I swallowed that hard pill, everything became so much clearer.

As this unprecedented senior year occurred, I finally felt like me again. I stopped beating myself up for past mistakes, and learned that one person’s view of me did not dictate my self-worth. I also realized that success is defined on my own terms and not anyone else’s. I made the most of this year that would not have been possible if it had not been for that rough one-and-a-half-year period. I failed a lot, but I learned some meaningful lessons from each failure that will stick with me for the rest of my life.

If I could go back in time to my freshman year in 2017, I would give that young kid a big bear hug and tell him this: “All the pain and challenges ahead will not end you. It will create new chapters in your life that are going to make you wiser, kinder and stronger.”

It has been one heck of a journey these past four years and I would not change one thing about it, from the stuffy University Hall dorm room my freshman year to my turbulent sophomore and junior years, to the wonderful professors at the Slane College, to my rowdy Sigma Chi brothers and my lovingly dysfunctional Scout family. It has all made me who I am today and I am forever grateful for it all.

While I will miss everyone and everything at Bradley, I am looking forward to the new chapter ahead. Thank you for everything.

SCOUT ON THE STREET

Students' Views

What are the pros and cons of online learning?

PROS

CONS

“I like online classes because if I have an early class, I don’t have to wake up early (I’m a morning showerer) and get ready and go to class, I can just roll out of bed & open my laptop. I also like how the exams and homework assignments are online, so I can do them at my own pace. Taking tests in person has never been my favorite thing.”



KYLIE BJERS
Freshman, Nursing

“I have group chats for my classes, but it’s more of discussing lectures and less of hanging out. in middle school & high school I met my best friends through in person classes. Obviously, this year, I made friends regardless, but it was definitely harder.”

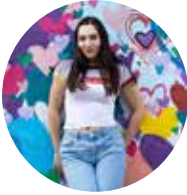
“A big pro is online classes are being able to sleep a little bit longer for the morning classes because I don’t need to get ready and walk across campus.



KAMRYN SAMOSKA
Sophomore, Psychology

“A con for me, though, is losing the personability of the classroom element. It’s harder to form relationships with my professors and classmates through a screen.”

“Pros: Being able to study on my own terms in my own house is definitely something I enjoy. Accessing class is that much easier.”



SHERIDAN HURTIG
Senior ,Television Arts

“Cons: If WiFi isn’t working, it makes it much harder to be a part of class. It’s also frustrating not being able to know your classmates or being able to see your professor in person.”

“Pros: Being able to study on my own terms in my own house is definitely something I enjoy. Accessing class is that much easier.”



SARAH SAMUEL
Graduate Student, Accounting

“Cons: If WiFi isn’t working, it makes it much harder to be a part of class. It’s also frustrating not being able to know your classmates or being able to see your professor in person.”

SCOUT ON THE STREET

Professors' Views

What are the pros and cons of online learning?

PROS

"Live delivery of courses also makes interactive demonstrations possible, which can really enhance the material, especially in a class like Brain and Behavior [PSY201]. The necessity of working online, on the other hand, has motivated me to be more creative in my delivery, making use of supplementary video recordings summarizing primary literature, and posting much more comprehensive and well-organized resources."



JOSEPH HARRIS

Assistant Professor, Psychology

CONS

"The cons of online classes are best summarized as lost engagement. There is a noticeable and very real benefit to sharing a space, where we enjoy much more of an exchange than the one-way transmission of information."

"The shift to online teaching has forced instructors to try new formats and technology that they otherwise may not have used before. While there has certainly been a learning curve in this process, the ultimate benefit has been the opportunity to re-evaluate the content of our courses and, in some cases, transform and innovate our teaching practices."



VALERIE SAN JUAN

Assistant Professor, Psychology

"As a developmental psychologist who studies social interactions and communication, I can definitely say the immediate drawback of online classes is the negative impact it can have on student engagement. That's why something as simple as turning on a camera during a Zoom meeting can make a huge difference. Sometimes we just need to see another face to feel connected."

"The only pro is that online is a way to keep students and faculty safe."



KEVIN CAPIÉ

Instructor, Journalism

"The cons are many. The biggest is the lack of interaction, not just in class itself, but in the hallways and those few minutes before and after class. That's when we can really get to know our students and they can get to know us better. Those online classes where I had students I've taught before the pandemic were so much better than those with new-to-me students."

- Remote learning has allowed us to adapt safely as needed to stem the spread of COVID, without hardly missing a beat. It's an amazing time to be alive!
- The commute is pretty easy.
- I still get to wear a shirt and tie :)



CHRISTOPHER MARSH

Instructor, Advertising

- I miss the opportunity to talk to students just before or after class, to find out where they're from, what their plans and hopes are, and so on.
- The majority of students in my classes do not have their cameras on, and I don't mandate they do. But I do miss seeing their faces.

"Learning new, remote teaching technologies has been helpful. Many of these technologies will be utilized to enhance my teaching after we return to in-person learning. Several of these technologies provide students with the opportunity to review lectures multiple times compared to in-person lectures representing a single exposure to lecture content."



CRAIG CADY

Associate Professor, Biology

"From an instructor's perspective, it is very difficult to assess a student's understanding remotely. The lack of direct interaction with students represents a challenge to both the instructor and student. In order to enhance student understanding I've had to provide additional remote interactions with students to help clarify complex topics and understanding."

Editorial

Dealing with the side effects of Moderna

With the first round of campus vaccines occurring last week, many students are preparing for their second dose during finals week.

Already, the second shot of Moderna has earned notoriety for its extreme side effects. Many students have missed class and several professors have canceled classes because of these side effects.

Vaccine recipients have reported muscle pains, headaches, fever, exhaustion,

nausea and chills, in addition to the arm soreness associated with shots.

Luckily, there are several things you can do to prevent these symptoms according to [bestcare.org](https://www.bestcare.org).

Avoid strenuous activity

Overworking your body with a weakened immune system is never a good idea. Take a rest day and spend time focusing on your health. Your body will thank you later.

Stay hydrated

Dehydration may exacerbate symptoms like headaches and exhaustion. Drinking water before and after injection is one of the best ways to avoid these symptoms. In order to stay hydrated, it's also best to avoid the consumption of alcohol. Since alcohol is a diuretic, it naturally dehydrates the body.

Take the day off

Since predicting your body's reaction to the vaccine is impossible, it's best to be prepared. If you have classes the day after receiving the vaccine, notify your professors that you might be feeling ill. Don't push yourself too hard; exercise self-compassion. Additionally, try to schedule your appointment on a day where a final is not due in the next two days, so you have ample time to focus on your physical health.

Get lots of rest

As college kids, it isn't always easy to get a full night of sleep. However, if you don't take the time to care for your body prior to the vaccine, you will pay the price later. In the days leading up to the second shot, aim to get a full nine hours of sleep.

THE SCOUT

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Senior Column

The beauty of losing control



Haley Johnson
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Editor-in-Chief

When I was asked to be the next Editor-in-Chief last February, I was absolutely paralyzed by the question. I sat across the table from the then – Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief – probably the most dedicated, punctual, Google Calendar-scheduling, room-commanding individuals I’ve ever met, aside from professors. I watched these two work tirelessly, balance meetings with administration, recruit at job fairs, conduct hours of countless interviews, pull overnights with graphic designers and wake up at 6 a.m. every time someone slept through distribution. They somehow did all this and more without breaking a business casual dress code. Seriously, I can count on one hand the number of times I saw Tony Xu in a T-shirt. Squeezing my hands into tight little fists at that table, I was grappling with a question of my own: how in the hell am I going to do that?

notebook, and I started planning. In psychology, the term “locus of control” describes the extent to which we, as humans, feel we can control our outcomes. Having an external locus of control is to believe we are powerless to our environments, our situations. By contrast, having an internal locus of control is to believe we hold inside ourselves the ability to impact our circumstances. Since entering Bradley, I lived my life with a firm belief in my internal locus of control – that my efforts would culminate in an established pattern of success. For example, If I studied five hours for my stats exam, I’d get an A. If I chose to join Greek life, I’d socialize more. If I research and prepare for my interviews, I’ll land the internship. My mind was a well-oiled machine of input and output functions. This all changed in March of 2020. As university emails, event cancelations and internship terminations flooded my B-mail, I was left scrambling for my locus of control. This feeling wasn’t exclusive to me though; it was felt across the globe. For months, I felt as though everything we put into our life before the pandemic was lost to our external circumstances – birthdays, holidays, jobs, the college experience. I felt entirely powerless. The ideas and training I prepared for back in February in order to lead The Scout became almost entirely irrelevant in our sudden shift to digital publications. The office we’d come to know as a place of laughter, obnoxiousness, helpfulness, sleeplessness – but ultimately togetherness – suddenly had a capacity limit of four. I’ll be honest; I was not optimistic about this year, despite the tone I knew I had to take in leadership. I kept comparing

our Zoom calls to former nights around the table in the office and felt resentful about this contrast. When cases rose on campus in September and the university announced restrictions were to remain after the all-student quarantine, two very important realizations surfaced to me. First, I needed to stop waiting for “normal.” Second, I was missing out on a lot by doing so. It was through months of anguish and waiting for the world to return to normal that I realized I was neglecting the present by harboring the past. There was a certain beauty in letting go of my sense of control, in forgetting about the way things are supposed to be and the way life should be lived. Sometimes we stayed on the Zoom calls just to joke around, despite it being 1 a.m. We played virtual Jeopardy and Mad Libs. We laugh-cried at each others’ April Fool’s Day stories. I experienced these moments for what they were instead of what they would have been, and I found so much happiness there. As I write this column, I am in isolation for COVID-19; you could say it’s certainly a way to pay homage to our COVID-19 edition. Right now, I battle the same sense of powerlessness I experienced when this all began. Despite this circumstance, I am able to remind myself that while I cannot always control the outcomes, I can still be present. I can be thankful for an editorial team that shows up outside my window with posters and gifts in a way that is unique to this year. Time is too precious to lose in comparisons. To Angeline, my favorite little planner: Know that my experience was much different from Tony’s and yours will be much different from mine. No matter where it takes you, remember to enjoy it.

Events on campus



All letters to the editor must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday for inclusion in Friday’s issue. Letters longer than 500 words will not be accepted. The Scout reserves the right to edit letters for inappropriate content. All letters must include the writer’s name, contact information and relationship to Bradley. Responses to published letters will be eligible for print only the week following their appearance in the Scout. Any emails directed to members of the Scout staff may be published as letters.

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Timeline of COVID-19 communications at Bradley

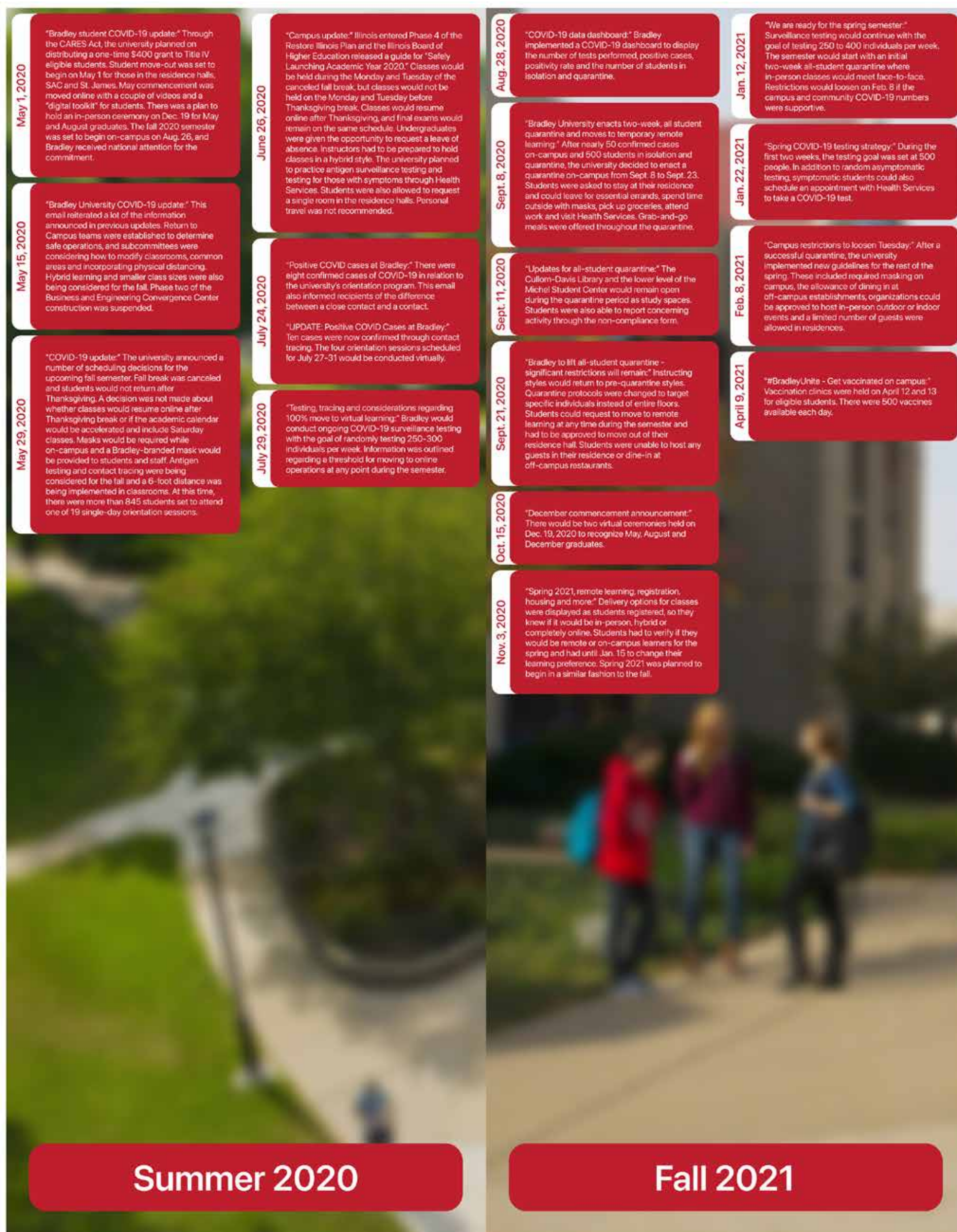
BY ANGELINE SCHMELZER
Managing Editor

As the pandemic progressed with evolving information from around the world, Bradley had to adapt, sometimes shifting its messages a few times in the same week. The university continued to keep students and faculty informed of campus operations and provided information and additional sources about COVID-19 guidelines, symptoms and vaccines.

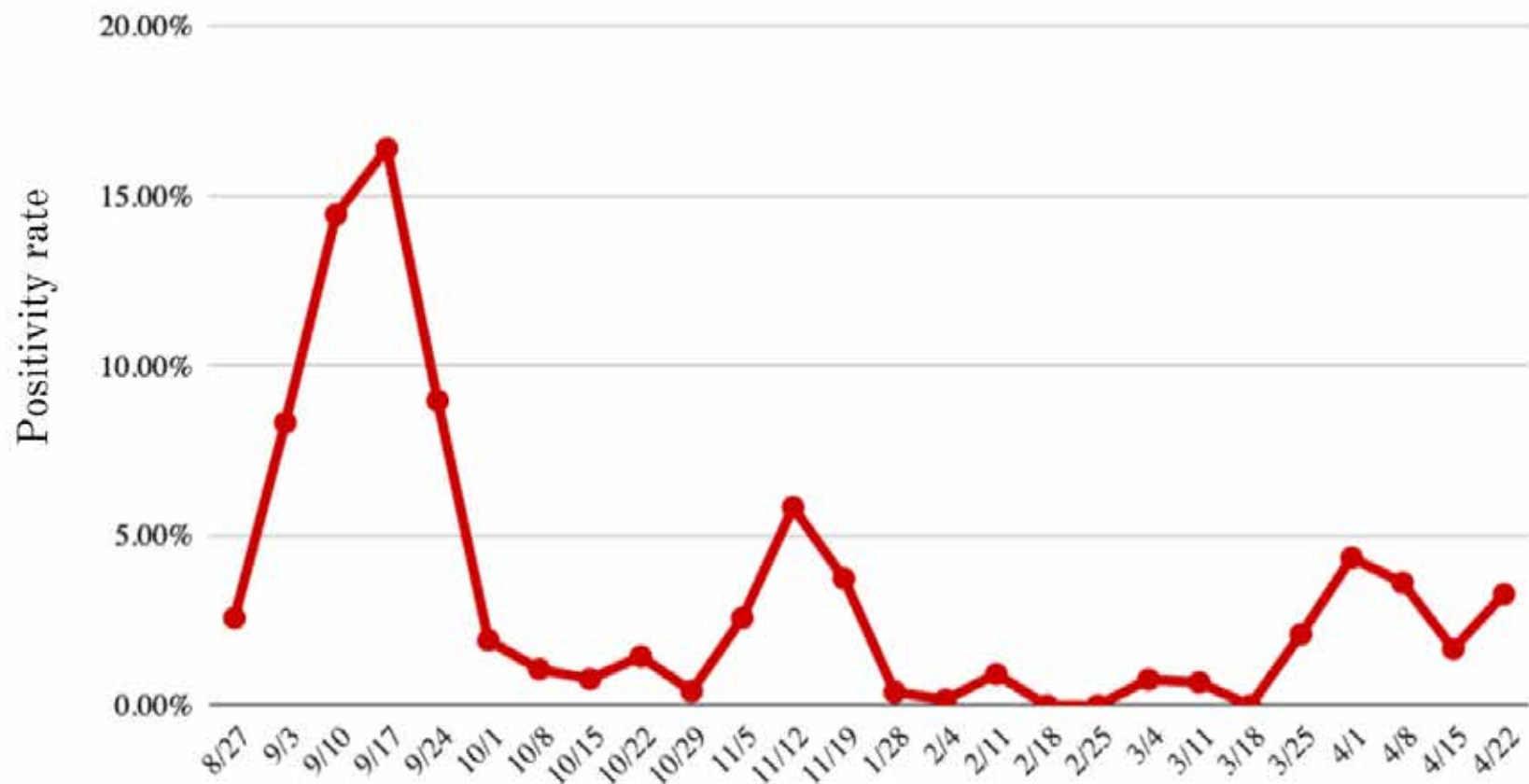


NEWS

Timeline of COVID-19 communications at Bradley cont.



2020-2021 COVID-19 positivity rate



2020-2021 COVID-19 cases in review

BY HALEY JOHNSON

Editor-in-Chief

In mid-summer, the university announced its plans to return to campus in the fall of 2020, along with schools like Illinois State University and the University of Illinois system. On July 29, the university released its COVID-19 surveillance testing procedures.

The goal was to randomly select anywhere from 250 to 300 students each week to undergo nasal swab testing in order to gauge the prevalence of COVID-19. Those selected each week were notified via email if selected and were then expected to book an appointment online through Bradley Health Services at no cost.

The July 29 email also included considerations in moving online,

which were too many positive tests to self-isolate, not screening fast enough or lack of personal protective equipment (PPE).

In-person learning was only possible so long as Illinois remained in Phase 4 of Gov. Pritzker's Restore Illinois plan. These considerations were to be compounded with external factors in the Peoria area like availability in the local hospitals, the rise of flu-like illnesses, the rise of positive cases, shortages of PPE and the inability to keep testing people.

First semester: an initial spike
During the first full week of the fall 2020 semester, the university tested 349 students and nine tests returned positive for COVID-19, making the average positivity rate 2.58 percent.

The following weeks saw a

steady increase in cases.

On the week of Sept. 3, the average positivity rate rose to 8.33 percent after 18 of 216 tests were positive.

As a result of this spike, the university enacted an "all-student quarantine" from Sept. 8 to Sept. 23 in which all in-person classes were to be conducted online and students were to leave their residences only for essential errands.

The rate nearly doubled on the week of Sept. 10 at 14.46 percent, when 47 of 325 tested positive. The escalation reached its peak — and the highest positivity rate as of publication — the week of Sept. 17 at 16.40 percent.

Cases dropped significantly during the all-student quarantine. The uUniversity reported an 8.98

percent positivity rate the week of Sept. 24 after 23 cases resulted from 256 tests.

The rest of the fall semester's weekly positivity rates did not surpass 5.84 percent, which was reported on the week of Nov. 12.

Second semester: relatively low rates

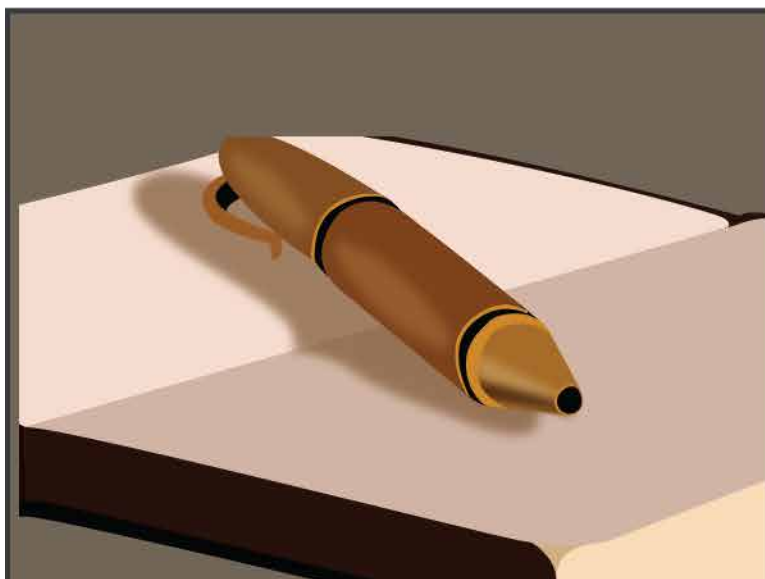
According to University Spokesperson Renee Charles, the Virus Response Team felt it had a firmer grasp on effective strategy and implementation after the first semester.

"We learned some valuable lessons from the past year and heard loud and clear from students how consistency was important," Charles said. "Our entry strategy of tight restrictions at the start and then loosening for the spring was derived from these lessons."

On Jan. 12, the university announced an initial two-week all-campus quarantine to begin the second semester. During this time, the university planned to test more students — with a target of 500 — in an effort to better assess the prevalence of COVID-19 following the extended winter break.

Quarantine restrictions, including the delay of in-person classes, were lifted on Feb. 8 after only two positive cases from 498 tests the week of Jan. 28 and one positive case of 580 the week of Feb. 24.

The semester's first six weeks of positivity rates did not exceed one percent. As of publication, the highest recorded weekly positivity rate during the second semester was on April 1 at 4.35 percent after 17 of 391 students tested positive.



Interested in writing for
THE SCOUT?

Email us at bradleyscout@gmail.com

NEWS

Top five biggest mistakes recorded on Zoom

BY JADE SEWELL

Voice Editor

With many Zoom lectures being recorded and the false sense of privacy that comes with attending class and working in one's own home, many people have committed egregious errors while participating in virtual meetings.

Attorney stuck as a kitten in court.

In February, lawyer Rod Ponton entered a court hearing on his secretary's computer. To his horror, he was trapped in a kitten filter. "I'm not a cat," Ponton clarified for the court. Judge Roy Ferguson of Texas' 394th judicial district responded, "I can see that." Although this situation was hilarious, the actual context of the case was quite serious: Ponton was representing the state of Texas in a case involving a person attempting to flee the U.S. with contraband and illegally obtained cash. This hilarious instance reminds all parents to check their camera screen before entering important meetings.

Woman resigns after using the toilet on Zoom.

Frances Cogelja, a trustee of the board of education in Hackensack, New Jersey, resigned in November of 2020, shortly after using the restroom on Zoom without turning off her camera. The meeting's participants, including the students present, all got a clear view of Cogelja using the toilet. After Cogelja finished, the board's vice president Scott James-Vickery addressed the lewd behavior. "As far as I'm concerned, while our teachers are being professional, and you're at home sitting on the toilet."

Pink penis sculpture appears in BBC news segment.

On Jan. 26, BBC viewers got more than they bargained for when they tuned into a segment about job struggles in the pandemic. Yvette Amos, the interviewee, had left her dildo on the bookshelf behind her, and many were quick to take to social media to comment on it. One user stated "Yvette Amos, national hero. She knows a bookcase isn't just for decoration. When in need, we all turn to our bookcases." Amos' mistake was our comedic gain and served as a good reminder to check our surroundings before turning on our camera.

Students send "private" chats in virtual classrooms.

While this crisis isn't unique to one student or instance, the discovery that chats are not so private was a shocking reality for many. At the beginning of the pandemic, Faith Bryant learned this the hard way when her professor sent her an email stating, "My class session is not the appropriate time to be sending messages like 'I'm a bougie a**', ratchet a**, freak b****..." While Bryant certainly wasn't the only student to experience this, she did teach an entire generation of college students to watch what they send on video conferencing apps.

The "New Yorker" suspends Jeff Toobin for masturbating in a meeting.

Last October, reporter Jeff Toobin was caught masturbating on camera during an election simulation. This meeting featured journalist Jane Mayer as establishment Republicans; Evan Osnos as Joe Biden, Toobin as the courts and Masha Gessen as Donald Trump, amongst others. Toobin, who thought he was off-camera, was clearly seen jerking off. He later released a statement, saying "I made an embarrassingly stupid mistake, believing I was off-camera. I apologize to my wife, family, friends and co-workers." This should go unsaid, but it's important to refrain from "self-pleasure" when in the middle of a video call. Some things can definitely wait.

Senior Column



Hernan Gutierrez

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Sports Reporter

Sunsets over the Murray Baker Bridge

colleges as a CS major. Then, through competitive speech my senior year, I found my voice. I realized that I wanted to become a journalist to speak for the voiceless.

Knowing that Bradley's communications school had a great reputation, and having played sports for the majority of my life, it was an obvious choice. Upon arrival at freshman orientation, I decided to pick up a sports communication major.

With two majors that had zero overlaps in classes, I knew my junior year that I would probably need to stick around for a fifth year.

While failing calculus twice and CS 102 once should have told me this, it turns out I wasn't cut out for computer science. However, because of scheduling conflicts with classes, I would still need an extra year.

Now as the sun sets on my fifth year and given how this school year has played out, I can't help but ask myself, "Was this year worth it?"

Before the pandemic hit, I justified taking this extra year by looking at the fact that I'd get an extra year of the "college experience." Coupling that with taking classes that I knew I'd love and reigniting

an old connection, it was easy to accept.

It would be easy for me to say this school year wasn't worth it. After all, I didn't get the extra year I thought I would, my dream internship got canceled and I got my heart broken.

Despite all of that, this extra year taught me so much about what I want in my career, in my relationships and in my friendships.

I learned that having conversations with coaches and players, getting to know them and telling their stories is why I love journalism. I learned that in relationships, people deserve communication just as much as they deserve space. I learned that it's okay to ask your friends for help when you need it; that's literally what friends are for. Finally, despite all of my insecurities in these areas of my life, I started to learn that I am worth it.

With that said, soon, a sunrise will come where I am no longer a student on the Hilltop.

My college experience obviously goes beyond my fifth year, but this year has been so consequential to who I am becoming. I don't regret the victory lap one bit.

In my closing weeks on campus, I can't help but be nostalgic over all of the

memories I've made over the course of my five years here. All of the all-nighters (regardless if they were in the library or elsewhere), the one-off food runs and the 2 a.m. porch talks will live in my heart rent-free.

As this sunset turns to dusk, I started to realize I may never talk to many of the people I made so many of these memories with again. So, I want to thank everyone from The Scout, BUTV, Lambda Chi Alpha and anyone else who has loved me into this moment.

My mental health has been the most volatile it has ever been this year. However, because of all of you, I have also felt the most love I have ever felt.

Like many of you, my time at Bradley has not been easy. This school has given me countless headaches, but I wouldn't be the journalist or the person I am today without it.

Our lives are filled with thousands of sunsets, some in the sky, others in our careers and relationships. Sometimes you can expect them at the end of the day. Other times you can't expect them, like the last goodbye to an old friend.

When you come across one, be sure to take a moment and admire it.