

Kariem Hashem

Diaries on Corona Fears

(16)

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Today was incredibly productive, and definitely the day with the most amount of social interaction I've had since I've started recorded these daily reflections. I had the one live lecture on Zoom today, with seventy-five people joining the same call and, as we've all become more familiar with the platform and how it works, interacting and speaking much more often. Moreover, we discovered that Zoom has a hilarious feature that allows you to set the background of your video to whatever photo you choose, and people were able to really test the limits of their creativity with that. I decided to keep it relevant and humorous, in a very dark way, and have my background be a popularized image of the COVID-19 cell itself. I recognize how morbid this sounds, but I am a firm believer in the purifying effect of dark humor when applied correctly, and the shock-factor in it was definitely entertaining. Following the class, I had three different meetings with three sets of people, each lasting approximately an hour, some extending beyond it. They were extremely productive, but the last fifteen-twenty minutes of each of those meetings were off-topic and consisted of everyone discussing how their daily lives have been, communicating random thoughts, wishing each other well; it seems as though I am not the only one who has been eager for some social interaction, and today seemed to be the lucky day for all. Finally, the decision to move all dormitory residents to Pennsylvania Avenue Residence (a topic I will be discussing further when I myself have to relocate there, in approximately two days) has brought in someone I have been meaning to meet for a long time. I will not mention her name for privacy purposes; however, she is one of the most influential figures on campus, an avid activist for minority rights, as well as an extremely bright, funny, and talented individual. We met today at the P.A.R Computer lab to study, keeping a good six feet apart (as the computer lab has been revamped to suit social distancing procedures), and have simultaneously interacting and talking while also having extended periods of concentrated study, and as I write this I can affirm that it was an extremely fruitful study session. Overall, this was probably the most enjoyable day so far, and I sincerely hope I can experience more of that same note.