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11-19-20
Hist 125
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My Experience with the Pandemic

When quarantine hit in March and we had to leave campus I was not sure what would come from it. I thought we would be back in a month when everything calmed down and everyone knew what to do if something were to happen again. I also thought there would be a vaccine that would come at least by June or July, but my hopes gave up on that possibility too. I slowly would come to the realization that we would not come back to Eau Claire for the rest of the spring semester and I would have to try and find a job. Finding a job was the hard part, I had something lined up prior to when Covid hit which was coaching baseball for younger kids. But this did not work out because of large gatherings and everybody touching the same equipment. I eventually found a job for my neighbor's company which was a landscaping business, a perfect job for Covid, everybody will be outside and I should not have to worry about getting the virus. This job lasted all summer up until I had to leave and come back to Eau Claire for the fall semester.

During the summer I had picked up on old hobbies I had participated in when I was younger, which was golf. I had golfed all the time when I was younger until baseball started to get real busy then I had to focus on baseball. Luckily golf courses were able to be opened and I could go golf at a local course not too far from my house. Golf allowed me to see my friends more frequently as well too, mostly because it was a safe thing to do and people do not need to be touching the same equipment. I would say I had golfed 4-5 times a week at this smaller course where I didn't need to get a tee

time or worry about paying. I often golfed after my landscaping job, which was very tiring and tough on my body. But golf really helped make quarantine not seem as long and was a good excuse to get out of the house.

I would go crazy always being home, I would often time just force myself to leave the house and drive around looking for deer or drive downtown Stillwater and see how empty it was. Turkey hunting also helped push time along as I would hunt pretty much every night and being outside really put my mind at ease. Nature has a funny way of reminding myself how calm I could and should be even with everything going on. Hunting also allowed me to see friends again due to it being outside and we were not that close. Towards the end of the summer, I had joined a softball league when a bunch of friends who I hadn't seen in months. In Stilwater, I didn't know anyone who had gotten Covid until later in the summer, and then the cases were luckily kept to a minimum. We also did not go to Minneapolis or St. Paul, places we knew were hotspots and were dangerous to go to. My family was safe so we never had to worry about getting any cases in our house.

I also had given some family friends a tour of Eau Claire since theirs had gotten canceled earlier in the spring semester. We drove out to Eau Claire from Stillwater, which is only an hour, and when I had gone back to Eau Claire for the first time it was crazy seeing everything again. Most buildings were luckily opened and toured them through the building and all the classrooms that I previously had been going to were either empty with desks and chairs or everything was socially distanced. But being able to see the campus again for the first time felt great. Here is a picture of us in our masks before I had brought them around. It was a very cold summer day!

