



## Disrupted plans

Students participating in study abroad programs across the globe had their plans interrupted this semester. Two Wofford students are sharing what they experienced, how they felt once learning they'd have to return home and how they're making sense of the past few weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 'Everything escalated overnight'

By Afreen Khimani '21

I was studying abroad in Berlin and was not supposed to come back home until the end of July. I was planning to obtain an internship there, but all of that was cut short when I returned to the United States a month after I got to Germany.

Berlin only had a handful of COVID-19 cases, so life was normal since most of those cases were concentrated in the lower part of Germany. Other than the trains not being as full, it didn't seem like anything had changed. Other study abroad programs in Europe were starting to be suspended and colleges and universities were pulling their students from our program, but none of it felt real until IES Berlin emailed us on the Saturday after the travel ban to say they suspended our program and we all had to go home immediately.

Everything escalated overnight. I went to bed thinking this would all go away when the exact opposite happened just a few hours later. The situation that we were put in was not ideal, however, it was something that I will remember for the rest of my life. Returning home was bittersweet because I was excited to see my friends and family again, but I was also sad leaving the friends I made in Berlin and the city I was not expecting to love as much as I do; this situation just gives me another reason to go back after coronavirus with my friends!

## **'Blissfully unaware of what was to come'**

By Margaret Roach '21

As the pandemic began spreading around the world, especially affecting European countries, I found myself thankful to be in the haven that South Africa provided, possibly the furthest I could be at the time from COVID-19.

I remained adamant that I wouldn't have to go home, up until the moment I found out I'd be leaving. South Africa had its first positive case of coronavirus on March 5, but it wasn't until March 15 when President Rhamaphosa called a state of emergency that my program canceled. Just the day prior, I had gone grocery shopping as a way to convince myself I'd be there another week, blissfully unaware of what was to come.

I originally was supposed to fly home on March 20 through London, but the travel ban canceled that flight, which is how I found myself flying home less than 24 hours later on March 16, with barely enough time to pack and say my goodbyes.

Like most people, I am doing my best to view and appreciate this situation as a growth opportunity — a time to be humbled by my own privilege and the amazing experiences it allowed me to have. Perhaps the weirdest part of not being in South Africa is seeing all of the events and trips I had planned written in my calendar. While I recognize that my emotions are valid and it is fully acceptable for me to be heartbroken, I'm trying to frame my thoughts about all the things I did get to do, rather than all the things I didn't.

After over a month of being back in the states, and with plenty of time to reflect, I have decided to reject the idea that I lost 12 weeks in Cape Town. Instead, I choose to see it as the seven weeks I gained because I was brave enough to do something I never thought I would be able to do — study abroad.

## **Season tickets for football are on sale**

Today is the first day to purchase season tickets for the 2020 football season! **CLICK HERE** for information, including the Terriers' schedule and an online portal to buy tickets to watch the back-to-back-to-back Southern Conference champions play at home. Refunds will be issued if the season is cancelled due to COVID-19.

## **Celebrate Wofford's Class of 2020 with a Facebook frame**

Facebook frames are available for Class of 2020 graduates, their families, friends

and supporters.

Here's how to add one to your profile picture:

1. Go to your Facebook page and click your profile picture.
2. Click "add frame."
3. Enter "Wofford College 2020" in the search bar.
4. Graduates should choose the "Class of 2020" frame. Family and friends should choose "Celebrating the Class of 2020."



### **ANTH 305 students offer insight on the course**

Students taking Dr. Alysa Handelsman's ANTH 305 class this semester produced this video, edited and directed by Olivia Free '22 of Moncks Corner, S.C., while working remotely. They share the concept of community-based learning, discuss their experiences in the class and promote engagement in the class and community to future students.

### **Update from town hall event for alumni, friends of the college**

If you missed last week's virtual town hall for alumni and friends of the college, **CLICK HERE** to watch the recording. Topics include plans for the fall semester, enrollment, Commencement and how to support Wofford students now.

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