

9-22-2021

Living hell

Forrest Weeks

Name for posting: Forrest Weeks

Major and expected graduation: Music, 2022

Your experience during COVID-19:

Living hell.

In March 2020, my mother, who took care of my elderly father and disabled brother, fell ill. They live far away in another state and even though we (family & friends) had tried to convince them to adjust their fragile living situation, they would not, and the effects of my mother's illness proved deadly.

As I was simultaneously being furloughed & with most services being shut down or not working well (especially during the early months of the lock-downs), I had to deal with an unknown situation in my career due to being furloughed and still take over guardianship duties for all three of my close family members, as there was no one else to do so.

I have had to put them all in nursing homes and take over and deal with all of their affairs. On top of this, on Jan 21, 2021 of this year, my uncle succumbed to Covid-19 related illness and my mother also died, on the same day, just hours apart.

I saw my mother and talked to her just once between the time she was put in a home and the day she became unresponsive, went to hospice care, and ultimately died, because of the extreme nursing home lock-down situation.

My mother was a professional musician. As I have been attending EWU as a post graduate fellow for my Masters in Music degree, I felt that even with all of this happening, she would have wanted me to carry on with my dreams, especially given I am a musician as well. I am set to receive my MA from EWU in Spring of next year and I am hoping to continue my music project I am pursuing through a doctoral program at University of Birmingham in the UK, upon my completing my MA at EWU.

Accordingly, if nothing else, I hope that my story will at least prove to be a source of inspiration for those who seek to persevere through tough times. The last year + plus has been anything but normal and for me, it has been an absolute...

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