UNC Student Experiences during COVID-19: In collaboration with the Southern Oral History Program

Dr. Victoria Ekstrand's MEJO 448: Freedom of Expression in the US Fall 2020 class conducted interviews of fellow UNC students for the Southern Oral History Program, a group that works to preserve the voices of the Southern past through recorded interviews. These interviews documented the experiences of UNC students' through COVID-19, as well as their responses to the university's handling of the pandemic. These interviews additionally illuminated students' feelings on socialization, how they have been coping over time, and their own mental health. The class was divided into groups, with each group focusing on a particular segment of the student population (ranging from student athletes to members of the private Facebook group 'Bagels Who Discuss'). Regardless of group, certain sentiments prevailed throughout the various interviews. Following the conclusion of the class, student Abigail Leow was hired as an undergraduate research assistant with the intention of compiling the information for presentation. This three minute video is a very brief snapshot of the 20+ hours of interviews conducted.