

# Due to COVID, college a challenge for freshman

By Linda Wilk

I am thankful that our daughters are sophomores in college, not freshman.

With the coronavirus dictating social distancing – isolation – on college campuses I am concerned about the ramifications this is having and will continue to have on college students until a vaccine is implemented.

I listen to parents of freshman college students who talk about how hard it has been for their students to get acclimated to school. The typical freshman orientation either did not occur or was virtual or a very scaled back form of meeting others.

The majority of classes are being held virtually, so students are unable to meet classmates. Our daughter Andrea who is studying statistics with an emphasis on sports, was looking forward to her



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



sports management class so she could meet others who liked to go to sporting events. Not this year – her class is on-line and there are no sports to go to right now.

In talking to my daughters about what must be the struggles of freshman becoming acclimated to campus, Andrea commented how she is involved in a Christian

organization that is set up to have team leaders recruit new students each year. One of her good friends is a team leader and as she introduced herself to a new student on campus, the student told her she was the first person she had met besides her roommate.

While they are working to engage students, that Christian organization is struggling to figure out how many can meet as the size of allowed gatherings fluctuates in Bloomington.

We also discussed the mental health of students, wondering if suicide rates on campus will rise due to this forced isolation. Andrea relayed how last year one of her friend’s dorms had a suicide and the measures the university went to ensure that students did not feel isolated. We discussed how that might be communi-

cated this year.

This month which is Suicide Prevention Month, I would encourage all, whether you have a college student on a campus, a friend who lives alone or an elderly parent, relative or acquaintance, to take time to reach out to these individuals. Give them a call. Send them a text or mail them a how you are doing card. Some way stay in contact, let them know you are there for them and care about them. It is so important that everyone knows they are not alone.

I will admit, since our one daughter Marissa is still in the dorm this year, both Larry and I have found ourselves asking how Marissa is doing. So, I texted her the other night, just simply saying, “How are Things Going?” We texted back and forth for a bit. She is

getting settled in, she said, figuring out the best time to study and do other things. She has gotten connected to a mid-week Bible study on campus.

Mental health is not something, growing up, my family discussed. Sure, we did our annual physical and dental check-ups, however, there was no mention of mentally how things were going. I always say that was because I was raised in a strong German home, where emotions were not readily shared. I will also give credit to the fact that as a family then and now I know I can turn to God for all my concerns. As I say that, I want to be clear that God has given us mental health professionals to use in addition to prayer.

Working at Family Service Society, Inc., a mental health social service agency, I have learned

how valuable mental health services are. I have also learned to focus in on the mental health needs of a person, in addition to their physical needs.

It is because of that and the state of society as we continue to work through the coronavirus that I again, implore all to pay attention to the mental health of yourself and your loved ones.

No longer should someone be shamed for sharing their emotional struggles. No matter who the person is, what their profession is or how they are perceived, we must give all the ability to be vulnerable. We must give all the permission to be human and show their emotions so that together we can get through this trying time and be stronger together in the end.

## Deaths

held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Saturday, September 12 at 10 am. Burial followed at Garden of Memory.

**Patricia Joan Gulley**  
**1933-2020**

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Friday, September 11 at 10 am. Burial followed at Gardens of Memory.

**Robert “Bob” L. Flynn**  
**1940-2020**

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Monday, September 14 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Mt. Etna Cemetery.

**Elizabeth “Carol” Thomas**  
**1934-2020**

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, Rybolt Chapel, on Wednesday, September 16 at 2 pm. Burial followed at Thraikill Cemetery.

**Betty Louise Mansbarger**  
**1930-2020**

A private graveside service will be held for immediate family only.

**Mary E. Heaton**  
**1932-2020**

Visitation is from 9 am to 10 am on Friday, September 18 at St. Paul Catholic Church, 1031 W. Kem Rd., Marion. Immediately following visitation, Father Christopher Roberts will celebrate

Mass beginning at 10 am. The Rite of Committal and burial will follow at Grant Memorial Park.

**Thomas D. Winslow**  
**1942-2020**

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Fairmount, on Sunday, September 13 at 3 pm. Burial followed at Park Cemetery.

**Alberta G. Ferguson**  
**1928-2020**

### Indiana History Answers

1. b   2. a   3. c

## continued from Page 1

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Jones-Smith Chapel of Armes-Hunt Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 259 N. Main St., Upland, where a visitation will be held from 11 am to 2 pm on Saturday, October 3. The funeral service will follow at 2 pm, with Rev. Jan Bunch officiating. Burial will be in Jefferson Cemetery, Upland.

## Crash continued from Page 2

Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. Adam suffered life threatening injuries. Ashley suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

Andre Bass, 43, Marion, a

passenger in the Chevrolet, was also flown from the crash scene to Lutheran Hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Drake was transported to a local hospital. She was

treated and released.

This is an ongoing investigation, but neither the use of alcohol nor drugs is suspected as having contributed to the crash.

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