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## Diary by Anonymous CSUSB Student #2 (10-18-2020)

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Everyday since this pandemic, I wish that things would go back to normal, but they will never go back to normal. We must help each other and we must change the way we view life, because life is so important and so valuable. Never take a day for granted, I learned that the hard way during this pandemic.

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March 13, 2020

It was Friday the 13th and it was my birthday and anniversary with the most special person in my life. We had a trip planned for San Diego that weekend and left early in the morning. While we waited for our check-in time, we went to a mall in San Diego and it felt like a horror movie. It was rainy and there were little to no people at this mall. This part of the day seemed off at the time. We went to a restaurant to eat and I didn't know this would be the last time we'd eat inside of a restaurant for a very long time. We got to our hotel and I scrolled on the internet and saw that school was going to be online, disney parks closed, and there was going to be a stay at home order. It was very scary to see on the screen of my phone. I went to sleep last night not knowing what would happen next.

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End of March

That weekend, CSUSB sent out an email stating that we would not meet on campus for the remainder of the quarter and that the CSUSB campus was going to close. My spanish professor emailed my class and told us that we would have to do our final online. That was the last final I had to complete for the winter 2020 quarter. That same weekend, we planned to go to

Disneyland for my birthday, but it closed before we could go. I did my spanish final online during the week and finished my winter quarter online. I did not know how the spring quarter was going to work. That same week, my family and I went to the store to pick up supplies because we did not know what could happen. We had to wear masks because it was mandatory and it was very weird because I had never worn a mask out in public before and it just felt strange. It was hard getting used to. When we got to the store, there was a sight that I have never seen in my life. All of the shelves were empty and there were little to no supplies left. It felt like the end of the world. We grabbed what was left and headed home. In my head, I could not stop thinking about what was happening in the world and how this could happen.

We had about 2 weeks off between the winter and spring quarters. I stayed at home with my family. Places were closing down and it felt like a nightmare. It was a nightmare. I was not working at the time, so at home I would do anything to keep me busy. I watched movies, watched Youtube, spent time with my dog, cleaned, and other things. My mom lost her job soon after quarantine happened and it was rough. My whole family and I were now all at home during quarantine. Days were long and dreadful. It was hard because I would get lonely and would get depressed being at home all the time. It was hard for me to get things out of my head and I just felt sad.

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*“One day I will be, where I was right there, right next to you and it’s hard, the days just seem so dark the moon and the stars, are nothing without you”*

*-Sam Smith*

April 2, 2020

I thought covid was the worst thing that was happening to my family and I, but this day changed that. It was late at night and I was at home and my mom was in her room. I heard that she got a call and she answered. I was sitting in the living room and all of a sudden, I heard her crying. I ran to her room and she was on a video call with some family members from Mexico. It was my grandma. They showed my grandma's face and my family told us that she was living her last breaths, but she wanted to see my mom. This night was horrible and I will never forget it. My grandma passed away and we were not able to say goodbye.

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*“You told me not to cry when you were gone, but the feeling's overwhelming it's much too strong”*

*-Sam Smith*

April 3, 2020

Even with everything happening in the world my family and I left for Mexico early in the morning. My grandma had passed away the night before, but we had to go see her and be with our family. Our travels were scary because of the pandemic, but that did not stop us from going. We took so much precaution, we took a lot of masks and hand sanitizer. The airport was very empty and I had never seen such an empty airplane before. In Mexico, there were many signs regarding to covid and I saw a couple of testing stations on the highways. My grandma's funeral service was very different due to the pandemic. The church only allowed a certain amount of people and they only opened the cemetery for a small amount of time for my family and I. It was a very sad service because it was very different and difficult to live through it. It was very hard for my family and I.

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October 2020

School started the week after and it was hard to adjust. School was online and I was very scared to start the spring quarter. I have a desktop computer at home, but I never used it because it does not work very well. With school being online, I needed a reliable laptop or computer. I borrowed a laptop from school and it helped me so much. It was hard adjusting to online class when we were so used to having class on campus. I never liked online classes, but I had to learn how to succeed in these types of classes. I had to change my daily routines because I was used to waking up early to go to school. School was now online, so I didn't have to drive anywhere. The good thing about online classes is that I had all the time to work on homework and keep up with my school work. With quarantine, I had time to finish everything, but it was still challenging. It can be hard to keep up with online classes because you have to do everything to keep track of what's due. I missed having face-to-face class because it was harder to talk to peers online than in actual class. I feel that in online classes, we don't connect the same because we're too scared to show our faces or can't be in class face-to-face.

Life changed so much during the pandemic. It has been really hard especially with school. Online classes have been tough, but I have been taking it week by week and I am trying my best. Without technology, we wouldn't be able to keep going to class and keep up with school. It has helped students everywhere, even though we had to adjust to distance learning. Some of my classes had to adjust their syllabus, because portions of those classes were face-to-face (lab for geology, playing the recorder in class, project presentations) and professors had to make it work for distance learning. Since the pandemic, I started following CSUSB pages on social media to

stay connected with the campus community. I've also had a couple of appointments with academic advisors through zoom. It sucks that school is online for the time being, but CSUSB has done many things to help us students to keep up with our education and our classes.

We are still in this pandemic and who knows what will happen next. We are still distance learning and I go to online class Monday through Friday. I also got a job and I work part-time to help pay rent and bills at my house. It has been hard, but we are in this together. One day this will all get better and we have to have hope and live life to the fullest.

*"Life is very short, and there's no time for fussing and fighting, my friend"*

*-The Beatles*