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My Struggles During a Pandemic

I, like many of my fellow Bruins, have been struggling with the coronavirus pandemic. Our country has been suffering through this, and at times, our leaders are demonstrating to be inadequate to prevent this pandemic from spreading and causing more public health problems. As a soon to be graduate, I am facing challenges that I did not expect to face. I have put myself in a position that I am having a difficult time getting out of because I did not foresee this pandemic. My struggles are personal, financial, and academic. I know that my situation may not be as dire as others, but considering a pandemic is not something I have been challenged with before, I have found it difficult to get through it.

Some of the personal struggles I am dealing with include being resilient with the many different challenges I am facing. As I am soon to graduate, I am expected to become a citizen who enters the workforce and contribute to the economy; however, this task has been nearly impossible with the world's current problem. One of the many goals I have is to work in a museum. I am a history major, and I would really enjoy working in a place that is about history. During the early months of this year, I applied for some jobs in museums, but due to the coronavirus pandemic all museums closed, which meant that working in a museum would not happen any time soon. Even though museums are closed, I was emailed by some of the museums I applied to. With the closing of many different business I have found it difficult to find a job, and that has made it difficult for me to pay my bills. During the past two years, I have been fortunate enough to not have to work because I am supporting myself with the financial aid I

receive from UCLA. Now that I must find a job and become a productive member of society, the pandemic has made it nearly impossible. I am not below working at a fast food or other businesses that require customer interaction, but now my options are limited to just working in these types of jobs, at least for now. Another struggle I face, which also relates to finding a job, is future financial problems due to the shutdown. Two months before the shutdown started I moved to an apartment. Up until now I did not have to worry about rent because of the financial aid I receive from attending school, but as I mentioned before, finding a job has been difficult due to the shutdown.

The next challenge I am facing is being away from my family during a difficult time like this. When I was accepted to UCLA I had to move four hours north, which is not far considering other students who move a couple states, or a country away from home; however, it was a huge adjustment. I am very close to my mother and sister and constantly worry about their wellbeing, and during this time that has caused a lot of stress. My mother is a preschool teacher and she is also facing challenges that many teachers are facing. I worry that my mother will have a more difficult time making ends meet than she usually does. I worry for my family members who are severely ill, and are more prone to this virus. I have family members who I cannot visit because of the possibility that I can pass this virus to them. One of my family members has cancer, and receiving the proper care that he needs is difficult because he cannot go to a hospital if he feels ill, or to receive chemotherapy because he can be exposed to the virus.

One other way this pandemic has affected me is academically. I do not know if I am the only person who feels this way, but I genuinely miss attending classes. Attending classes was usually the only human interaction I would have daily, and although I am an introvert, I miss those interactions. I never knew how much going to school impacted my life until the option was

taken from me. Physically attending classes is my favorite way to learn and remote learning is not something I have been enjoying. Listening to PowerPoints and watching video lectures is not as fun as attending classes and interacting with my peers. I have been trying to adjust to this new way of learning because it seems that we as students are going to be attending class remotely for a while, but it is a difficult adjustment.

As a country, we are not doing enough to help health professionals and health organizations treat patients with or without the virus. Due to this virus, some health professionals and health organizations are dedicating themselves to treating patients with this virus, but are lacking in treating other patients who are not ill with coronavirus. Our government's job is to aid during a difficult time, and in some ways, they are helping a lot, but in other ways they are lacking. Our country is facing another economic collapse and are doing the most to relief some of the pressures people are feeling from not having an income, but their actions are delayed. The government's lack of action during the earlier months of this year have shown how inadequate it can be during pandemics or difficult times. This pandemic shows that we should have other committees in place, who are specialized to deal with these issues.

Historically, the world has faced many different diseases in the past that has killed thousands, if not millions of people. Epidemics can date back to the era of the black plague, which is possibly worse than the coronavirus pandemic because people did not know how to deal with diseases of that sort. Other diseases that the world has overcome are the Spanish Influenza during the 1918, the tuberculosis outbreaks, SARS, and many more. Fortunately, there are health professionals who help find cures or vaccines for these diseases. Certain health organizations, like the WHO and CDC, have been an incredible help to create vaccines to eradicate or decrease the spread of these diseases. At this point in this pandemic, the only possibility to overcome this

virus is to create a vaccine and not be greedy by not sharing it with other countries. The whole world is suffering through this pandemic, and the US is one of the countries with the most cases. It is mandatory that all countries help each other to find a vaccine to eradicate this disease, if we want to gain a semblance of what life used to be before this pandemic.

Currently all countries are suffering through this terrible virus, but I do believe that it will return to what it used to be before we all needed to wear masks and constantly sanitize everything we touch. The world once experienced a Spanish Influenza and various strains of the flu that have killed millions. Vaccines have proven that they are effective by eradicating diseases such as Polio. There is no doubt in my mind that the world will return to how it used to be. People with not be wary about hugging or kissing their loved ones.

During this pandemic, I have learned that the government will not do anything unless they see it is affecting their daily dealings. I have learned that citizens of this countries are not always supported by their government, even during a time of struggle. The government needs to face a serious reform that should be dedicated to assisting its constituents always during all types of struggles, not only when it's convenient for re-election. As for my personal woes, I know I will be fine regardless of whether I can find a job or not. The best support system I have is my family, and I can always rely on them. I know everyone is struggling for now, but we will survive this.