

Coronavirus Diaries:

Going into a new decade, having such hopes and excitement to start afresh, all plummeted before my eyes. If someone had told me a few months ago that this is where we would be at, a pandemic, the stock market falling, millions unemployed, deaths, I probably wouldn't have believed it. The hardships we have faced have affected the world emotionally, physically, and mentally. So many disasters still lie ahead of us and one can only hope that things get better. I remember reading about it through twitter about a virus taking place in China but little did I know that virus would reach us and eventually spread globally. The severity of it didn't really cross my mind and I dismissed it thinking it wasn't a big deal until I saw the economy go drastically down. Then everything followed, like a domino effect things took a turn for worse. I remember going to school a day before they sent out an email about classes now being virtual, me being more worried about midterms that week than anything else. The next day, I was told at work that things were gonna change and we needed to prepare carefully and take extreme measures in being able to still operate while taking heavy precaution. Social distancing had taken into effect immediately and we began to limit how many people could go into the bank.

Every time I opened any form of social media, I would see, "NBA players tested positive for COVID-19, Tom Hanks and wife tested positive for COVID-19, British Prime Minister also tested positive for the virus, etc". Everyone was just getting infected and it was surreal to me when I kept seeing the number sky rocket and the deaths following after. My mom would turn on the news every morning after hoping to see some light at the end of the tunnel. That's when we saw that the governor of California was going to issue a stay at home order and asked for many business to shutdown until further notice. We were in quarantine.

This year was supposed to be a very important, I was graduating and applying to law school for next year. Everything was set for me and I was more than excited to embark on a new journey in another city and experience being a law student. Before leaving, I wanted to enjoy having more of a social life by going to fun events with my friends and spending more time with my family since I'd be leaving to another city that was 6 hours away. Now, we're being told that social distancing might have to be ongoing until 2022 by the CDC. This virus has had such a negative impact with many challenges affecting me. With my mom being laid off has stressed me financially by having to take over the payments of the house and all the bills. I am more than grateful to still have both my jobs which has allowed me to continue to make each payment and keep my family afloat until things go back to normal. With classes now being virtually offered has made things a little both easier and difficult for me. I enjoyed going to school and socializing with my classmates and professors. There are so many distractions for me here at home whereas at school I felt like I could focus more. It has helped though that many Professors are allowing for zoom meetings to be optional given the circumstances in which they have uploaded video recordings that allows me to view the lecture at a more convenient time. I usually watch these lectures late at night when everyone is sleeping which has caused an irregular sleeping schedule for me. Things have been overwhelming by trying to put in as many hours as I can from both my jobs just to get us by that has caused me to stress so much on school. My education has always

been my priority and with everything that's going on has made me breakdown from time to time because now I worry more about my finances. I haven't really been as focused on school as I would have wanted to but I've learned to adapt to this new form of learning. I've learned to cope with it but things have not been easy.

I know there are many people out there who are going through much worse circumstances and I could only hope things get better soon. Having to adapt to this new way of living has only brought new challenges in which I hope I'm able to continue to overcome. The one good thing I see coming out of this is how our world is able to breathe now. With many people staying home and industrial factories shutting down, all the pollution has stopped from going to our Earth's atmosphere. Our Earth is getting stronger and healing as well as we will once this is all over. We will get through these unprecedented times. This too shall pass.