

Transcript

Sedna: Hi this is Sedna Cordova-Hernandez and I am doing a major in biology with a minor in chemistry and education. I am a transfer student and this is my last semester at Butler.

Matthew: Hi, my name is Matthew Molloy I am a music education major, and I will be starting my junior year at Butler.

Gia-Noel: Hi, I am Gia-Noel Manokas and I am a junior at Butler with a major in health science and a minor in history. I consent to recording the video.

Gia-Noel: Sedna and Matthew, is it okay if we record this interview?

Matthew & Sedna: Yes.

Gia-Noel: The first question I wanted to ask is, how did the COVID-19 pandemic impact your relationship with your family?

Sedna: I have to say that the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on my family. When the emergency began we were fortunate to keep our jobs and work from home. This meant spending time at home with my 11 and 17-year-old daughters, which was a new challenge. Despite the distance, we stayed connected with my other daughter in Nebraska and our extended family in Mexico through Facetime. In June, we traveled to Mexico to spend time with family right before the U.S. closed its borders. We were looking to spend the rest of the lockdown in a peaceful place, renting a house in beautiful Playa Del Carmen, so that was great. We followed social distancing measures, wore masks outside the home, and avoided large outside gatherings. Despite the precautions, we spent time with loved ones, talked, and walked on the beach regularly in Mexico. For my husband, it was a little different because his family lives in Mexico City which was a red zone for covid, so we couldn't see them in person till late August. My husband was stressed because his job required him to return in person by September. Even though Mexico didn't close its borders it took us over three months to be able to fly back to Chicago International Airport.

Gia-Noel: I think it must have been challenging to face those setbacks of not being able to see parts of your family.

Sedna: Well, yes, living in Mexico was nice. The part of staying in the U.S. was more difficult.

Sedna: First question, Matthew, how did the COVID-19 pandemic impact your relationship with your family?

Matthew: I was a sophomore in high school when lockdown first started, so I found a lot of time spent doing a bunch of homework, but other than that, it gave me a bunch of extra time that I didn't usually have because I was always involved in extracurriculars so I had a lot more time at

home to be spending with family. I think we grew a lot closer as a family, me, my mom, my dad, and my sister, because my sister had just started college. So we found ourselves doing a lot of assignments asynchronously and had a lot of time to pass since we couldn't really go out to eat and do other stuff, so we played a lot of board games and watched TV with each other.

Matthew: Gia-Noel, how did the COVID-19 pandemic impact your relationship with your family?

Gia-Noel: I would say that my family was lucky to be at home together. My sister came back from college, and we spent a lot of time going on family walks. I was a little concerned at first to be home altogether under one roof with both of my siblings but it was a great opportunity to see everybody. It was a little challenging because my extended family does live nearby, but we wanted to stay safe, so we didn't see them as often but we would go and walk to my grandparents and sit on their porch, and they would be behind their screendoor.

Gia-Noel: Sedna, were there any news stories that stood out to you during lockdown?

Sedna: I have a short one I remember the first time we went to Walmart to buy groceries here in Indiana, and the store was completely empty. I felt like it was a scene from a zombie apocalypse movie. The few things left were on the floor, with many things here and there. There was no one brand of toilet paper, meat, or chicken. It was the first moment where I felt really afraid, not of the disease but of the people's response to fear, so that is something I will never forget.

Sedna: Matthew, were there any news stories that stood out to you during lockdown?

Matthew: Some of the stories that I caught onto were the news outlets advising against the vaccine because they were early stage. I remember personally being one of the ones to get the vaccine as soon as possible. A lot of the time I would be watching the news with my family, and we would be wondering why people wouldn't be getting vaccinated. Some were due to the fears, and some reported death associated with the vaccine. and we were just amazed at how skeptical people were with something that everyone was working towards fixing and individuals putting themselves and others at risk of possibly spreading the virus just because they were afraid of the vaccine.

Sedna: Thank you, Matthew.

Matthew: Gia-Noel, were there any news stories that stood out to you during lockdown?

Gia-Noel: One of the news stories that stood out to me was these two physicians in orthopedic residencies after their shift would sit on the hospital steps and sing "Imagine" by John Lennon. It was so beautiful and peaceful and it helped a sense of comfort during a time of unknown. It helped remind me and my family that there are still good things, even though this is such a tragic time throughout the world. It helped me remember some of the good in people.

Gia-Noel: Sedna, what was your initial response to being confined during the pandemic? How significantly did being confined impact your life?

Sedna: As I said before, we were privileged to have the opportunity to stay at home and work from home during the worst part of the pandemic. Even so, it was difficult for me, my husband, and my daughters because we moved to Indiana in August of 2019, so we were new in the area just before the COVID-19 pandemic, and we didn't have friends close to us, and we didn't know the area. I remember feeling anxious about getting sick, and we didn't even know of any medical facilities at the time. Second, we didn't know all of the places available because on TV you can see that there weren't any services. As immigrants, we had been already been exposed to personal situations that made us feel untrustworthy about going to American emergency medical facilities, so during the day, we spent at home watching the news and avoiding contact with others, so our anxiety levels went up. In lockdown, our apartment building services were closed including the pool and island chairs were removed. Initially, I worked out in my living room using YouTube videos, and as time continued, we went for long walks and bike rides. Despite having no prior experience, my 17-year-old daughter watched YouTube tutorials and cut my hair and my husband's hair. I experimented with cooking new dishes, watched Netflix, played board games, and interacted with neighbors from a safe distance. I also enrolled in online English classes and participated in yoga. The anxiety from being confined and concerns about our jobs, finances, and immigration status became especially overwhelming as the possibilities of an extended lockdown. It was rough.

Senda: Matthew, what was your initial response to being confined during the pandemic? How significantly did being confined impact your life?

Matthew: At first, for many people, including myself, it felt like an extended break from school, and I enjoyed it at first, but over time, it became very draining of energy being around the same scenario every day. Initially, I got a job for two years at Chipotle during the pandemic to get away from the house and a chance to change the scenario everyday. Being confined I wanted to find some way to make a different experience day to day for myself. Being confined definitely made me appreciate the privilege of being able to get out, go to school, visit friends, and appreciate my own sanitary health. Making sure I am staying clean and taking care of myself.

Sedna: Thank you, Matthew,

Matthew: Gia-Noel, what was your initial response to being confined during the pandemic? How significantly did being confined impact your life?

Gia-Noel: I think my initial response was that I was also a sophomore in high school, and it was Friday, March 13th, when everything started shutting down. We all thought maybe it was just an extended spring break, but it's going to be okay. They said to make sure to bring everything home. That was a little nerve-racking because it felt like the end, and we didn't realize it would be the end of the semester in person. I was on spring break and spending a lot of time with family, and people started taking a lot of toilet paper from stores; there was one limit on items so it felt like the end of the world because everything in grocery stores was empty. That went on for

a little while, feeling like the unknown, but then I got used to it and spent time having birthday parties with friends from our cars. We would talk through the car windows to maintain social distancing.

Gia-Noel: Sedna, how has your perspective on the world changed since the pandemic?

Sedna: For me, the phrase we are all in the same boat always has a meaning, but for Covid, that changed. Now I can say that we are not in the same boat. We are in the same sea. Some with boats, some with lifejackets and too many people with different needs. You cannot compare how different places and people were impacted differently by Covid. Covid has changed how people see infectious diseases and the risks. I think social media played a role; it is something new we didn't have before, and people have worldwide access to the good and bad that happened during the pandemic. Most of us have learned that the world is connected and the virus does not stop at borders. I learned that the most vulnerable people are the poorest, and only by reducing barriers of inequity can we help people. We learned that the socioeconomic system that supports a bunch of multimillionaires produces and exchanges billions of people without indispensable to live and expire because poverty and inequity impact the whole world. We also know that wouldn't be possible even when the group of intentional people is a big minority, so it made me think of the inevitable next pandemic. It is coming because it is inevitable.

Sedna: Matthew, how has your perspective on the world changed since the pandemic?

Matthew: I am much more conscious of my personal health and how illness is handled in public. We see the wide distribution of masks and mask requirements by the government. I am definitely more aware of that and how the media coverage is affecting us. I am much more aware of what the media represents and what they are trying to discuss. Before the pandemic, I didn't really listen to the media until they had something that impacted me, which was the pandemic.

Matthew: Gia-Noel, how has your perspective on the world changed since the pandemic?

Gia-Noel: I think my perspective on the world became a little different from the pandemic and realizing that in the U.S., it was concerning with how politicized masks became. I come from a family with a lot of health backgrounds and healthcare workers so I saw it from a healthcare standpoint of the importance of keeping yourself safe and other individuals. In the U.S. we had a lot of challenges of people not wanting to wear masks and it was scary because I think it was meant to help people, and I think it was something that was a concern for me of others not wanting to help the people around me. I am hoping it was more of a sense that people were scared and didn't know what to do, and I'm hoping that changes when we have a future pandemic.

Gia-Noel: I was asking Sedna were you involved in any extracurricular activities or hobbies that were affected by the pandemic?

Sedna: At that time we were working my husband and I. Since I was working for Carmel school district I kept my job. I started english classes online just doing some exercise like yoga. I practiced some new dishes, I tried to cook something different with the extra time. We had Netflix that helped me a lot.

Sedna: Matthew what about you?

Matthew: For extracurricular activities, I was in the band at this point in high school, and without access to the school, we had to bring our instruments home. I, being a percussionist, had to bring a lot of stuff to play. It was definitely difficult to find space in my house, and we had to do a zoom rehearsal I, where we practiced together. It was very difficult but it gave students opportunities to become a lot better. In that time I decided I wanted to come to Butler and study music education and help teach music. The extracurricular activities definitely inspired me to do more.

Matthew: Gia-Noel, were you involved in any extracurricular activities? How were those affected by the pandemic?

Gia-Noel: I played field hockey, so we started back in August, so there were still a lot of regulations. It was very strange because we would have to wait in our cars until a certain time, and then they would check us in and check our temperature, and then we would go out onto the field and spread out. It didn't make sense to me because we would play for 10 minutes, and then we would all have to social distance for 5 minutes, which I didn't think made sense because, at that point, I felt you would have already been exposed to others instead of separating and going back into it. It was a very strange regulation they had, but we were obviously following the rules of the Ohio sports regulations and Ohio Department of Health, and I think it is important to follow those guidelines I was just questioning the particular guidelines of why they chose the 10-minute increments.

Gia-Noel: I think those are the only questions we have so thank you for interviewing.

Matthew & Sedna: Thank you

Paragraph Reflection

The Covid-19 oral interview project was a unique experience to document our personal perspectives on the lockdown. I liked being a part of the pandemic discussion and felt that waiting nearly four years to share my story gave me time to reflect. From this experience, I realized that the pandemic taught me to become a more patient person because in 2020, there

was a lot of unknown and we had to wait it out until we learned more about Covid-19. At first, we did not know how to protect ourselves and others or how long we would be in lockdown. It was scary not to have answers, but over time, we started to better understand the virus. I think our group worked well together, and we each contributed questions to ask during the interview. We were all good at communicating when we were available and asking others if they needed help editing the video.

Questions:

1. How did the COVID-19 pandemic impact your relationship with your family?
2. Were there any news stories that stood out to you during lockdown?
3. what was your initial response to being confined during the pandemic? How significantly did being confined impact your life?
4. How has your perspective on the world changed since the pandemic?
5. Were you involved in any extracurricular activities or hobbies that were affected by the pandemic?