

Alondra Barragan, a beautiful, caring, loving goal driven young lady gone too soon.

Ever since Alondra was a little girl, she had a love and passion for education. When she first started school, she was a Spanish speaking student and although it was initially difficult for her, she never let that stop her. From an early age she was determined to do well in school and had grit like no other. Her years in elementary, middle, and most of high school came and went with no issues. However, in her senior year she began to see a decline in her health and often needed to leave school early. We could see her fighting and fighting to finish her commitments in her last year of school, even when it was difficult for her. She was diagnosed with Lupus that year, however, she never let her illness stop her from pursuing her dreams. Right after high school she committed to attending the University of California, Riverside. We could see how proud she was of herself to have been able to finish high school and start to begin her journey at the University. She was once again determined to take on the hard work and dedication. However, Lupus had other plans and shortly after being at UCR, she had to make the devastating decision to come home as her illness was taking more of a physical toll on her. Alondra was incredibly sad and felt unsure of her future, but once again she did not let that derail her from her dreams. She began to attend a community college near our home and began to see the bright side of continuing her education regardless of the campus. Shortly after she experienced a horrible lupus flare that caused her to have a series of mini strokes. Although it was not what she wanted to do, she knew she had to take some time from school and from pursuing her education. Those few months were exceedingly difficult for her, and she felt defeated. However, she held onto her strong faith in God, and she knew He had a plan for her. After a few months of rehabilitation and taking some time off, she returned to Citrus College. Alondra finished her classes and applied to several Universities. She was accepted to Biola and was ecstatic to attend. Alondra was so happy that she has been accepted to a Christian school and a school with an amazing Communications department. Alondra was natural with children, and although she never had children of her own, she was a wonderful aunt and nina. Her heart was truly made of gold, and she knew just how helpful she could be if she worked with children. For some time, she wanted to be a preschool teacher but as she continued her educational path, she realized she wanted to be a Speech and Language Pathologist. Alondra took her studies very seriously and always made it a priority to finish her classes and do the best she could no matter the circumstances. Her time at Biola was magnificent. She developed a closer relationship with God once she began attending Biola. I still remember seeing her study and putting in so much

time and effort into her classes. One of her Biola classmates described her as being, “full of life and had a lot of goals, often she spoke about how much she wanted to work with kids. When I found out about her illness and everything she went through in the past, it was so hard to believe because she looked so strong and never complained about anything.” Alondra was truly a warrior and never gave up and although she never got to finish school and earn her degree, she showed us the true definition of perseverance and hope. Alondra was beautiful inside and out. She had a passion for makeup and even on the days she did not feel well, she would sit in her room on her chair and apply the most beautiful makeup to herself. To her, makeup was a therapy, a way of putting on a beautiful face to an already beautiful canvas. Oftentimes I would see her applying this lavish makeup while listening to her favorite artist (Taylor Swift). Alondra loved one more thing more than her education and makeup, her family. She was the sweetest, most compassionate, and understanding person in our family. Alondra was the voice of reason and always brought forth to the table her true love for each of us. She would do anything for her family and she did it without wanting anything in return. Everyone in our family knew just how special Alondra was. She will live on in our hearts forever. We loved her so much and we are so proud of her.

-Long Live Alondra (Taylor’s Version).

Written by A.T