

# THREADS OF YESTERDAY

Story and Photos by Paola Acosta

**A look back at childhood memories with Jimena Rocha.**



**A**s I take a seat on the cool grass under the warmth of the summer sun, I hear the water from the pool hit the walls gently. I await a special guest to join me. Mexican American, Jimena Rocha, takes us back to her childhood through stories, memories, and objects. Rocha joins me in the backyard on a nice summer evening to discuss her childhood and culture. Rocha is a 21-year-old fourth-year student at CSUB, majoring in Kinesiology with a concentration in Allied Health. Rocha was born on October 18, 2004, making her 21 years old. I had the privilege of getting to dive into Jimena's past and learn more about what made her childhood so special. Jimena brought three items that reminded her of her childhood. She brought a handmade bag, a digital camera, and a balero, a traditional Mexican toy. As Jimena showed me the items she brought, she recalled all the memories and touching stories behind all three items. When we think back to our childhood, we think back to elementary school,



**"These memories are very special to me"**



which was one of the most important transitions we went through. We learn how to read, write, and be independent. When Jimena looks back at her childhood morning routine, she vividly remembers her mom doing her hair every single morning before walking her to the bus stop.

There were a lot of early mornings for Jimena. No matter what the morning weather was like, Jimena remembers her mom always asking her what hairstyle she wanted that day and allowing her to choose what her hair would look like. This made Jimena happy. Jimena liked being able to choose any hairstyle, hard or easy to do, because she knew her mom would make it look great. She says getting her hair done was not always fun, because of the times when her mom had to rush.

After being away at school, I was playing and learning. Jimena was excited to head back home and eat some homemade food. Rocha says some of her favorite foods were those that her mom cooked for her. She enjoyed coming home and eating pozole or arroz. Pozole is a traditional Mexican soup that tends to be served during the colder seasons, made with corn and pork, and served with toppings and sopes.



Jimenas tells us about her after-school routine, which involved lots of fun and games. She says she would head down to her neighborhood's park to play tag or soccer. She recalls her favorite memory from that park would be getting to play with her cousins and neighbors. Some of Jimena's most cherished memories are spending her summers in Jalisco, Mexico, in a small town called San Julian. While in Mexico, Jimena would stay at her Abuelita Socorros' ranch. She describes this ranch as a place that feels peaceful with lots of open air and trees. She smiles and laughs as she recalls the times she would go to the pool and go down the slide. Jimena shares that if she could, she would want to relive the memory of going to her Abuelita's ranch and spending time with her cousins playing hide and seek. She holds this memory close to her heart because it is a memory in which all her cousins and grandparents were together. Jimena says, "It has been a long time since my cousins and I got together at my abuelita's ranch." Jimena says she misses those days of being around family. Jimena brought items that are nostalgic to her and recalled all the memories and touching stories behind all three. The three items



Jimena brought hold a special place in her heart because of the valuable memories they hold. The red digital camera has captured and holds many of Jimena's childhood memories. These pictures are physical copies of memories she sometimes does not even remember. The Balero, a traditional Mexican toy where the goal is to perfectly land the colorful wooden piece on the stick, holds playful memories of Rocha spending hours trying to land the colorful wooden ball on the stick. Now the most precious item she brought was a pink handmade bag which has its own monedero. A monedero is a bag in which coins are kept. This bag was made by her Abuelita Lupe after Jimena had mentioned to her that she really wanted a bag of her own. Abuelita Lupe not only made Jimena her very own bag, but she also made her a matching monedero, which is meant to carry coins. When Abuelita Lupe gifted Jimena her bag, she told her to collect coins, and so Jimena did. The bag is over a decade old and still holds the coins Jimena collected as a child. I hope you felt the same nostalgic spell I felt when learning about Jimena's childhood and the memories that are still special to her. After reading about Jimena's nostalgia, I think we can agree that she lived a special childhood. To look back at such beautiful memories with Jimena was a gift. Growing up as a Mexican American child, Jimena got to experience life in two countries. As a result, she got a double gift of childhood memories.