

THE RED CEDAR LOG

AS



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
ASMSU
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

14

**CAMPUS
COMMUNITY**

84

**ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE**

154

**VARSITY
SPORTS**

206

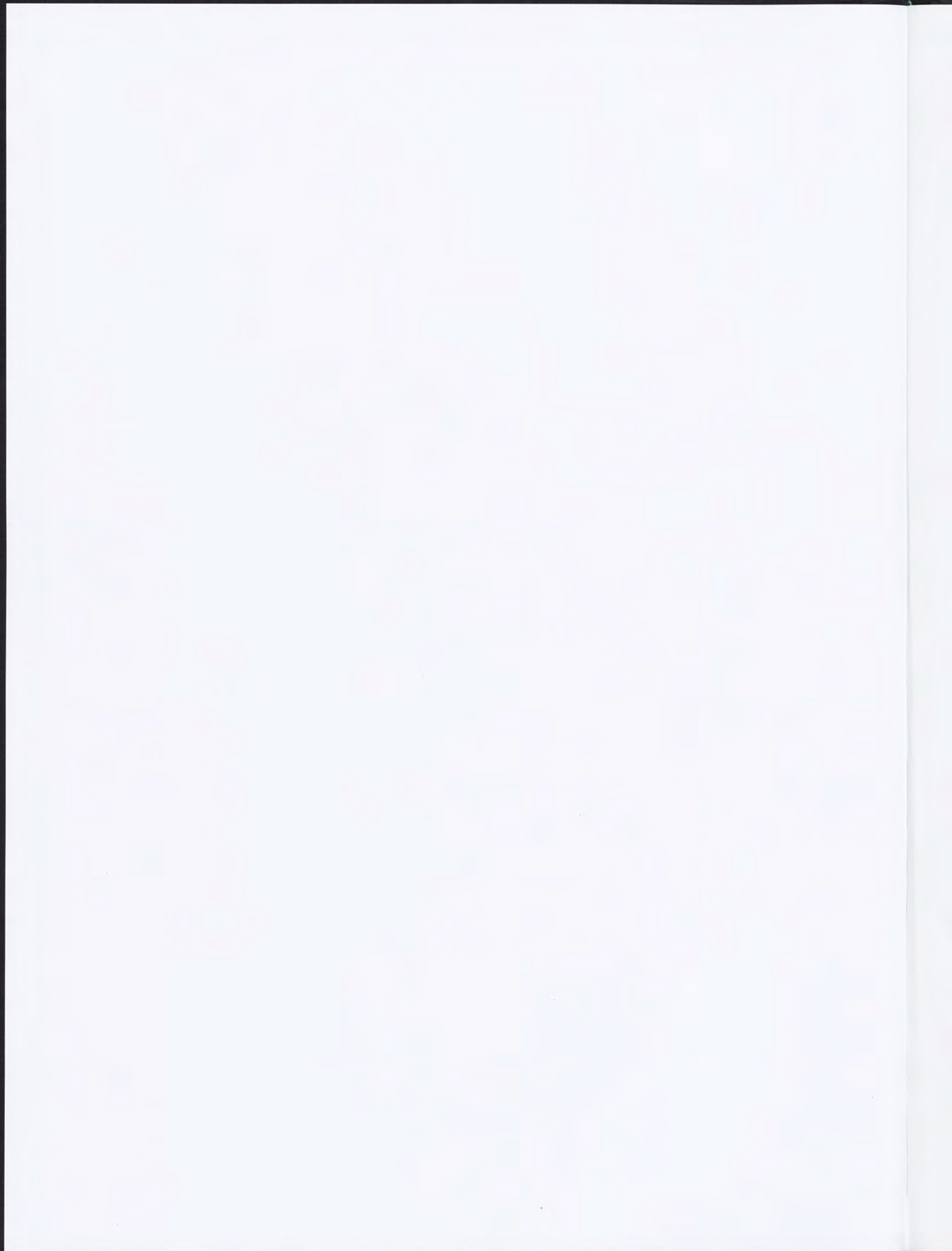
**UNCERTAIN:
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

224

**SPARTAN
EXPERIENCE**


294

SENIORS





MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Volume: 131
Enrollment: 49,809
East Lansing, MI 48825



PHOTO: HELEN KORNEFFEL





PHOTO: KEYUR PATEL



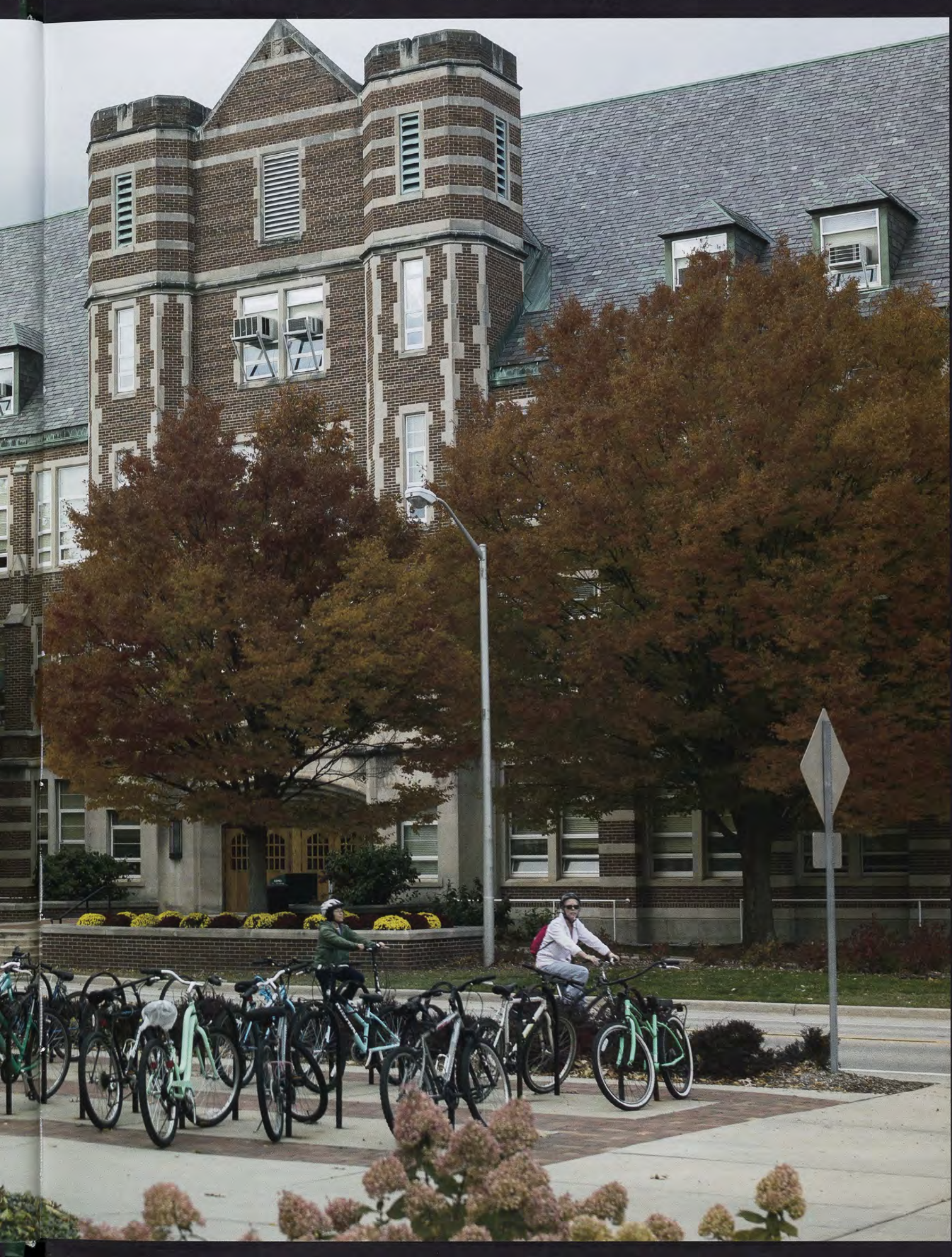




PHOTO: TOMMY MASSA



PHOTO: TOMMY MASSA



RED CEDAR LOG

Imagine your first day of college, walking around the Michigan State University campus as a student for the very first time. You admire the statuesque glory of Beaumont Tower, the flowing currents of the Red Cedar River, the blooming flowers and fragrant herbs of the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden and the faint scent of popcorn drifting from Spartan Stadium. It was all of what you expected and more — shining, scholarly and stimulating — but as your time as a Spartan continued on, you would soon realize there was more to MSU's culture than what met the eye.

In essence, you found that what made MSU so rich was what it held beyond the surface. The extraordinary students who were never recognized, the acts of social justice that were met with little attention and the clubs that made a difference with only a few members. MSU's livelihood stemmed from the people and places that seemingly worked like an underground network, flying undercover, yet making every experience so special.

Those people and places deserved the coverage they never asked for, even though they remained content in making campus run without recognition. The student baristas in the Wells Hall Starbucks who always made your grande iced latte perfectly cold, the Sparty workers who rang up your Oreos when you had a late-night craving, the RAs and ICAs who created a vibrant dorm atmosphere and organizations like the Responsible Hospitality Council who made nights out with friends a bit safer were all key parts of the MSU experience — they flew a bit under the radar, even though they deserved a spotlight.

Imagine your first day of college, knowing all that you learned after living as a Spartan for four years. What would you see now that hid in the shadows before?

RIGHT: The Red Cedar river, which runs through campus, is iconic to MSU.

"In essence, you found
what made MSU so rich
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A LETTER FROM THE ASMSU PRESIDENT

Mario Kakos
addresses the
MSU Class of 2020

When I was accepted to Michigan State, I was energized by the promise the campus held. The diverse community, academic opportunity and enriching programs the university offered lit a fire within me. I wanted to thoughtfully immerse myself into the full Michigan State experience. More importantly, I wanted to give back to the school that gave me so much. MSU has been my home for the last four years. I have put my heart, soul and mind into repaying MSU for the invaluable life lessons, opportunities and experiences it unlocked for me.

It was a hot, sunny August day in the Fall 2016. Like many freshmen, I was eager to attend my first college course in McDonel Hall. I put the address into Google maps and was on my way. Thirty minutes of walking later, I saw two golden arches, and it turned out I was walking to a McDonalds. Following my realization, feelings of confusion and panic quickly emerged. Sprinting to McDonel Hall, all I could think about was how much larger this campus was than I thought. **Thankfully, where we start our journey is not always where we end up.** This lesson was further emphasized during my time as a Spartan.

The start of my career at MSU was a particularly rocky one. It was the first time I was alone in a truly different environment without my family, and I took multiple challenging courses that did not play to my strengths. Despite my efforts, I ended up on academic probation following my first semester. I felt ashamed, embarrassed and viewed this obstacle as a failure. While it was a painful situation to work through, it was important for me to not allow it define what would be the rest of my Spartan experience. Changing my major and focusing on my strengths were productive steps toward reshaping my trajectory for the better.

That same semester, I joined the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) Freshman Class Council. My goal was to explore new ways to be involved — so I decided to run for leadership positions on the executive board. I ran for every position I could — losing each election that night. Despite not getting elected to any of these positions, I decided to continue my involvement with ASMSU. **I believe that you do not need a title to be a leader or to make a difference in your community.** There may be power in titles and status — but that alone does not make someone a leader.

I share these two experiences as some of the most defining moments I have had throughout my time in college — where I pushed through moments of discomfort and disappointment. No matter how much we strive to succeed, we need to be able to pivot and adapt to the uncertainty of life. **These moments of trying again, are the moments that define us.** Each of us have these moments, when we are presented with two options — to walk away or meet the challenge head on.

Spartans are no strangers to dealing with ambiguity. The student body weathered many storms this year. From a rapidly changing administration, scandals that rocked our campus and the COVID-19 pandemic. United — we have consistently overcome each obstacle. Collaborating with President Stanley — the newly selected 21st President of MSU — was meaningful. It was my honor to help

him nurture the important relationship between administration and the student body. Additionally, I served on the national search for the incoming provost. My presence solidified the perspective of the undergraduate population influencing the next generation of MSU leadership. As we close one decade, and enter a new one, we will have to confront different challenges in creative ways.

No Spartan stands alone, I have been fortunate in having supportive people in my life. My mother, Lillian, is my hero. Resourcefulness, grit and the importance of having a big heart were some of the traits she instilled in me at a young age. She has always been cheering for me through my failures and successes. Perfection was never the goal she had for me or my siblings. Being born into this world was good enough for her — anything beyond that was icing on the cake. Her incredible sacrifices motivate me to never squander the opportunities she helped me unlock.

I am grateful for the guidance of my older brother David, a 2016 Spartan graduate who exemplified the Spartan spirit by helping those who came after him. David blazed many trails — one of the trails led me and my siblings to MSU. My other older brother Michaelangelo (MSU 2019) was a reliable voice of reason and comfort to me on campus. My younger sister Maria (MSU 2022) is the definition of someone that weathers the storm with you with a heart of gold. A special shout out to my father James and non-Spartan siblings — Rosalie, Jonathan, Anthony, Gloria and my niece, Katherine — for their love and support during my college years.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge one of the most impactful people I met on campus, my ASMSU advisor, Erik. Whether it was his authentic communication style or useful soundboarding sessions — no challenge was too small or complex for Erik. I cannot emphasize enough how influential he has been to me both personally and professionally. With all my heart, thank you Erik!

To the class of 2020 — The end of our senior year was jarring and unexpected. I share your grief. As a senior myself, I have grappled with the far-reaching disruptions COVID-19 has brought to the end of our college experience. What should have been a time of celebration was instead clouded with uncertainty, fear and sorrow. **I am confident we will emerge from this experience more empathetic and resilient.** We have been sharpened by this trial in ways that will likely make sense over time.

To you, the Spartan reading this letter in the future — I leave this final thought: Bravery means finding something more important than fear. Promise to be brave for yourself, this campus and the world.

Go Forth and Go Green!

Mario Kakos

Mario Kakos
Student Body President, 2019-2020
Associated Students of Michigan State University
Class of 2020

STUDENT
SERVICES



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COMMUNITY

EVERYBODY'S DOG

Three hours away from kick off, Demonstration Field was crowded with tents as fans eagerly awaited the beginning of the football game. Among the fans, clad in a green bandana displaying the Spartan head, was Zeke the Wonderdog. Zeke mingled with children and students before the start of the second home football game of the season. The 4-year-old Labrador Retriever posed for pictures with adoring fans who pampered him with hugs and ear scratches. Caregiver and trainer Jim Foley beamed as a small child wrapped her arms around Zeke's furry neck.

"We do this for the love of the game, for the love of the tradition," said Foley. "This is the students' dog. We are simply his caretakers. I don't own Zeke. We love Zeke, but he's everybody's dog."

For over 19 years, Jim Foley and his wife Terry Foley were the caregivers and trainers of Zeke the Wonderdog. Training dogs since he was 14 years old, Jim Foley spent every day working with Zeke. From taking him to the shooting range to training him for duck hunting, Zeke thrived in any environment.

"He has a slow explosiveness about him," Foley said. "He explodes on the field, but he will be laid back, nice and relaxed at tailgate parties."

In 1977, the original Zeke the Wonderdog made his first appearance at the Rose Bowl when competing at the disc-catching national championship. Catching the eye of then Michigan State football coach Darryl Rogers, Zeke was dubbed the best receiver in the Big Ten and was awarded a football letter. Following his appearance in the Rose Bowl, Zeke began performing during halftime shows at Michigan State football games, giving birth to a tradition.

For many Michigan State students, watching Zeke the Wonderdog in action was a rite of passage. For Sarah Fetner, senior elementary education major, seeing Zeke catch Frisbees thrown from 60 yards away signified her identity as a Spartan.

"I had heard about him before coming to state, so when I saw him at the first game of the 2015 season, I was very excited," Fetner said. "He was running around, catching every Frisbee, and the crowd was going wild. I felt like a true Spartan at that point."

Zeke's purpose extended far greater than being an entertainment act. In addition to appearing in every halftime performance, Zeke engaged the student body by participating in events like Green and White Days. In particular, Zeke's work with the Michael Sadler Foundation held a special place in his trainers' hearts.

How Zeke the Wonderdog became a figurehead of MSU

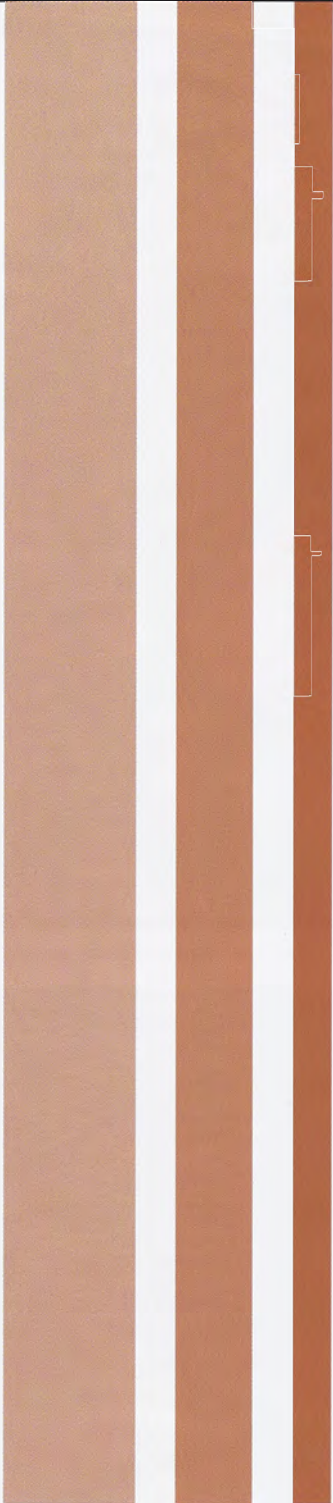


According to Terry, Zeke and former Michigan State punter Michael Sadler possessed a special relationship. After every game, Michael would come over and throw a Frisbee for Zeke. By partnering with the Michael Sadler Foundation, Zeke helped raise money to support the foundation's mission of inspiring character for kids.

"We truly look at him as a goodwill ambassador for Michigan State," Terry said. "We really work to engage with the community. Any opportunity we have for him to be a goodwill ambassador we appreciate and value."

Whether he was catching frisbees thrown from 50 yards away or marching in the Homecoming Parade, Zeke loved providing services to the Michigan State University community. For over 40 years, Zeke the Wonderdog astonished people of all ages and walks of life. Although Zeke may live a shorter life than his two-legged Spartan friends, he will leave behind a legacy that will outlast a lifetime.

ABOVE: The trick Zeke is most known for is catching his Frisbee.
RIGHT: Zeke the Wonderdog sits and poses for a picture between performing tricks for the audience.



"We do this for the love of the game, for the love of the tradition. This is the students' dog. We are simply his caretakers. I don't own Zeke. We love Zeke, but he's everybody's dog."



DAY AT THE MUSEUM

MSU Museum celebrates National Fossil Day

Hunched over a plastic container filled with wood chips, a 6-year-old girl armed herself with a shovel to search for fossils. Her eyes lit up with astonishment as she scooped up the skull of an oviraptor — a birdlike dinosaur that once hunted for eggs. After placing the skull on the table, the little girl continued her search for the numerous fossil heads waiting to be discovered. On Oct. 6, 2019, the Michigan State University Museum celebrated National Fossil Day. Beginning the day with the 5K Dino Dash run, members of the East Lansing community lined up outside the museum around 10 a.m.

For over 20 years, the Dino Dash was held in an effort to help fundraise for the museum. With over a hundred participants, the run attracted a large variety of individuals, ranging from young parents pushing strollers to college students. As a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. in kinesiology, Tyler Harris was eager to participate in his second 5K race.

"I've been to the Michigan State University Museum quite a few times, and I really enjoy the exhibits," Harris said. "I wanted to be supportive of the dinosaur fossils and all of the people running it."

Despite being normally closed on Sunday, the museum was buzzing with eager young children accompanied by their parents on the Sunday of National Fossil Day. In addition to viewing the normal exhibits, visitors had the opportunity to partake in a tour of fossils and specimens stored in the research section of the museum. As an education assistant at the Michigan State Museum, Nicholas Vanacker organized activities such as a scavenger hunt and the tour as a way to further engage the youth.

"A lot of people know Michigan State for football, but they don't know some of the in depth research that happens here," Vanacker said. "People tend to view museums as dead spaces that don't have anything happening in them, and in reality that's not how museums

are at all. Museums are full of scientists and full of life. People are constantly coming to learn things. Even if a dinosaur has been dead for 65 million years, it doesn't mean we still can't learn something new every single day from it."

On the second floor of the museum, Michigan State students explained the various fossils on display. From a T-Rex tooth extending a foot long to the skull of a modern day alligator, the tables were lined with specimens. Senior geology major Lynnea Jackson found great enjoyment in sharing her passion for fossils with the younger children. With plans of pursuing a career in paleontology, Jackson looked forward to spending time in the MSU Museum.

"When I was seven, I went to the field museum, and they had a whole dinosaur exhibit," Jackson said. "There was a paleontologist that explained how everything works, and I thought it was so cool. I thought that I should do it for the rest of my life, and I went with it."

From paleontologists giving lectures on mammoth fossils found in Michigan to the performance of poetry inspired by the fossils, there was an eye opening amount of things to see and experience that were the result of many years of paleontological research. There was no shortage of activities to partake in. With over 117,000 vertebrae fossils in its collection, the

Michigan State University Museum was undoubtedly a place worth exploring. Dino Dash runners, students pursuing paleontology and even children searching through buckets for fossils had an educational, fun-filled day appreciating and supporting the depth of paleontological research in which Michigan State University played a significant role.

"People tend to view museums as dead spaces that don't have anything happening in them, and in reality that's not how museums are at all. Even if a dinosaur has been dead for 65 million years, it doesn't mean we still can't learn something new every single day from it."

RIGHT: Participants race in MSUFCU's 34th Annual Dino Dash. Following the race the MSU Museum celebrated National Fossil Day



BEAUTY IN DECAY

Shadows
Collection
gives
fallen trees
a new life

Across Michigan State University's campus stood 30,000 towering trees. From evergreens to pine trees, each and every one added beauty to the campus. With trees older than the university itself, the historical roots ran deep. Once a tree died, thanks to the Michigan State Shadows Collection, its legacy lived on.

Through the Michigan State Shadows Collection, fallen trees were given a second life, transformed into beautiful works of furniture and art. As a specialist in the Department of Forestry, Dan Brown oversaw every aspect of the initiative of the Michigan State Shadows Collection since 2014.

"We work to increase the sustainability of Michigan State University by upcycling the trees that come down on our campus," Brown said. "Normally these trees are utilized for mulch. We have increased the value of these trees by converting them to lumber for products. Revenue generated from these products help pay for tree planting on campus, education in Urban Wood Utilization and additional carbon storage."

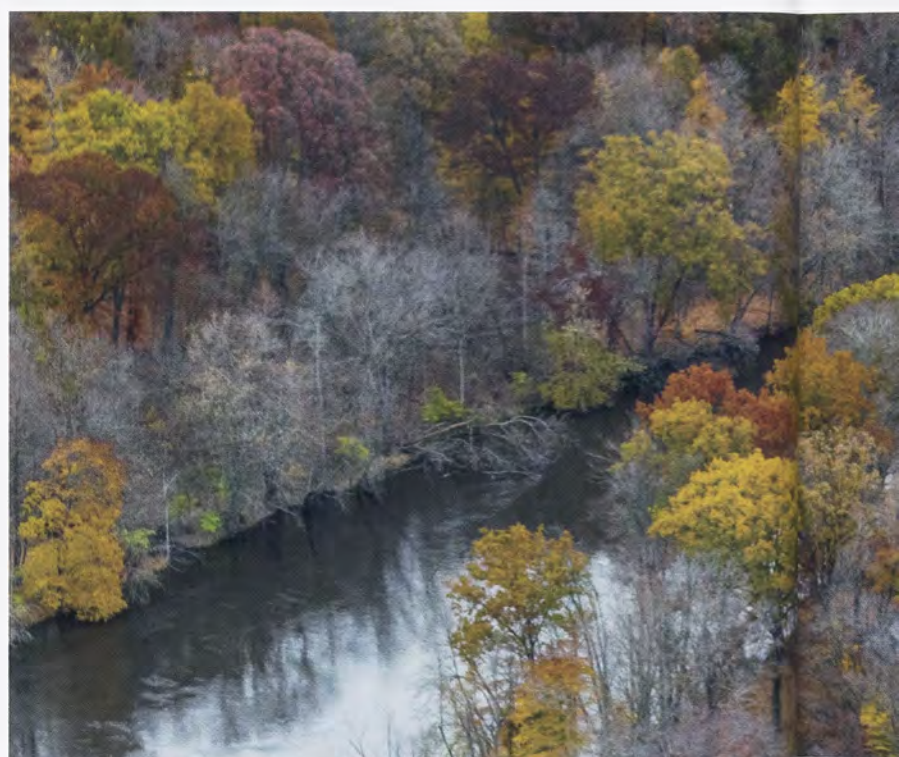
From coffee tables to diploma frames, the MSU Shadows Collection refurbished wood for almost any purpose. With an on-campus sawmill and kiln for drying wood, students were offered hands-on experiences that very few schools were able to provide. Sophomore environmental engineering major Connor Merchant worked with the Shadows Collection for a year and found great pride in creating high-quality products.

"My favorite part of working with Shadows is helping with the whole process from log to finished product," Merchant said. "It's really rewarding to see the look on the face of customers when they pick up their finished project."

As a part of the Sustainable Wood Recovery Initiative, the MSU Shadows Collection was a collaborative effort between the Department of Forestry, W.J. Beal Botanical Garden and Campus Arboretum. In addition, the initiative also utilized the creative minds of local artisans. In the 2014-2015 school year, the Shadows Collection invested approximately \$35,000 in Michigan artisans to aid in the making of their products.

"We like to make clear that we do not harvest trees to produce our products," Brown said. "These trees are coming down due to construction, disease, or natural disasters. Our primary concern is maintaining the diverse tree canopy we have here at Michigan State University. Our program is just a nice way to honor the history and provenance these trees hold after we have lost them on campus."

Located in the Michigan Surplus Store, members of the Michigan State community had the opportunity to stop by anytime to purchase





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items as small as cutting boards to items as large as outdoor tables sporting the Spartan emblem. The Shadows Collection possessed great passion for engaging the community in its recycling initiative. By holding sawmill demonstration with various youth groups, the Shadows Collection hoped to generate enthusiasm for the next generation to come.

Each year, Shadows created anywhere between 80 to 100 pieces of furniture. Because each piece is handcrafted, it could take up to six weeks to complete a table that seats six. According to senior environmental sustainability major Alex Gust, milling wood could be a painstakingly slow process.

“Large projects that require custom milling takes about four months to complete,” Gust said. “This is because drying lumber after milling takes time so it does not get ruined.”

The MSU Shadows Collection continued to grow while giving students the chance to develop their woodworking technique. Recycling these trees from MSU’s campus was the perfect way to carry on the legacy of a campus with such a rich history. Through the creative work from the students involved with The MSU Shadows Collection, dead trees would find a new life as furniture that brought joy to members of the MSU community.

TOP: The Red Cedar River flows through campus and provides nutrients to the surrounding foliage. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Michigan-shaped coin trays made by the Shadows team can be seen in the background. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A collection of items for sale including a picture frame, cutting board, wine cork and some kitchen utensils.



SERVING WITH CARE

Students volunteer to serve the community on National Day of Caring

The will to serve is a virtue that demonstrates one's care, selflessness and ability to sacrifice both time and convenience. The 470-plus Spartans who participated in the 2019 Spartan Day of Service on Sept. 21, 2019 were no exception to such attributes that define a good citizen. The event fittingly fell on the National Day of Caring and featured projects all over the Lansing community, ranging from Potter Park Zoo to various Lansing parks.

Having a call to serve begins with a purpose. Student Engagement Director, Daniel DiMaggio, said the goal of the day was to highlight the work Spartans do as students within the community and the impact they make when coming together.

"We've donated over 600,000 dollars worth of labor to help with projects that these organizations may not have gotten done, or things that would've got pushed off or their employees would have had to take time away to do other things," DiMaggio said. "So, it's meant a lot. That's why

we continue to do it. It shows the dedication of our student body to, you know, to care for the communities they live in, they work in and eventually...will be a permanent part of."

Setting aside personal priorities may not have been easy, especially as a busy college student. Saturday was not likely to be favored as a day to direct time and commitment away from these student's needs. Sophomore psychology major Will Hoppe took time out of his Saturday and volunteered for Spartan Day of Service as a site leader for the bird sanctuary at the Michigan Audubon Society. His group helped clean out bird boxes and install coordinated GPS signals on them.

"I wanted to help out and I also really like not only the ability to say I did something really meaningful on my Saturday morning, but also to give back to society," Hoppe said. "Birds are very important to the ecosystem, and they're very important to the functionality of MSU, East Lansing and the greater area."

Another participant, senior psychology major Jalah Armstrong, volunteered at the Gardner International Magnet School, a middle school in Lansing. Armstrong's intercultural aides invited her to come out in 2018, which inspired her to become an intercultural aid in 2019 and continue her service work. She felt service was the best way to build relationships and cross differences.

"I was happy to see such an upbeat and optimistic environment and grateful I had the opportunity to take part in something so significant in the lives of others," Armstrong said. "The staff was very encouraging, as it was evident they cared about their students as individuals."

The Spartan Day of Service proved to be a success. With over 3,000 volunteer hours recorded and over \$78,000 raised in economic impact for the community, Spartans were proud of the work they accomplished. The numbers were not always everything, though. The best impact is sometimes the one you leave on others, which in turn, might inspire them to carry on the good deed.

"It shows the dedication of our student body to, you know, to care for the communities they live in, they work in and eventually... will be a permanent part of."

RIGHT: Sophomores Jalah Armstrong and Will Hoppe worked diligently for Spartan Day of Service



THRIVE WHILE DINING

No matter the time or place, food was easily accessible for the average consumer. However, those with food allergies and specific, restricted diets did not have this same privilege. In July 2019, the dietitians of Michigan State's dining hall services, Eat at State, solved the dietary needs of many students when they opened the university's one-of-a-kind dining hall, Thrive at Riverwalk Market in Owen Hall.

Thrive was the university's first dining hall to be free of sesame, gluten and the eight biggest food allergies: milk, eggs, soy, wheat, peanuts, tree nuts, fish and shellfish. The dining hall was split into three separate stations ranging from meats like chicken strips, to grain bowls and even mac and cheese. All of the stations conformed to the dining hall's dietary restrictions.

The unique concept behind Thrive was not one that was decided overnight. Registered dietitian at Eat at State, Gina Keilen, said the process had been fueled by an expressed need from the public over time. Such intentions have already met expectations, according to Keilen, who has received a great deal of positive feedback.

"The last handful of years as we've been on campus and as with my role as dietitian, we have seen a continual increase of people that have contacted me with dietary restriction and different allergens," Keilen said.

"While anyone with an allergy can be anywhere, we thought that this would be kind of going that extra step for the guests and for the experience that they want and need. We've had people to tears of happiness. Both from the parents of knowing that their child will be safe, and also the relief of some students and people coming in that have never been able to eat out before and the experience that it's been able to give them."

Being an allergy-free dining hall entailed serious protocol that was to be met by all employees. A food provider that ensured its meals were safe had to take careful action in everything it did. Spencer McFarlane, a dining host at Thrive, said extra requirements were expected of the workers.

"They're really strict on washing your hands," McFarlane said. "If you leave the dining hall or have to go to the bathroom or something, you have to change out of your uniform. They take cleanliness really seriously."

Eat at State fulfills needs of those with restricted diets


Owen's new dining hall was open to the public and all students with a meal plan. Senior economics major Nicole Ramas did not have a food allergy, but she regularly ate in Owen Hall. Ramas said there were other perks to Thrive besides the overall concept.

"The concept of a dining hall is newer here [Owen]," Ramas said. "You don't see a lot of younger people here ... and it's more quiet so the atmosphere is just nicer."

Everyone wanted to feel assured their personal necessities were completely covered, especially if it applied to their way of life. Thrive at Owen provided a whole new opportunity for a section of the MSU community that had sought for their dietary needs to be noticed. The dining hall allowed its customers to do exactly what its name implied — thrive.

RIGHT: Thrive in Owen Hall is the tenth campus dining hall. The dining hall opened in July of 2019. **BELOW:** This dish features corned beef with sautéed cabbage, boiled parsley potatoes and a mustard cream sauce.





"We've had people to tears of happiness. Both from the parents of knowing that their child will be safe, and also the relief of some students and people coming in that have never been able to eat out before and the experience that it's been able to give them."

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Spartan Upcycle gives new life to old items

On the edge of MSU's scenic campus stood the MSU Surplus Store and Recycling Center, a hub for a plethora of used items destined to find new homes. Though it functioned as campus' personal thrift store, selling everything from old MacBooks to 1970s-esque sweaters, it held a nook dedicated to handcrafted items that easily could have been thrown out — the Spartan Upcycle Store. MSU Surplus Store and Recycling Center owner, Kris Jolley, opened the store with the purpose of combining the concepts of art and environmentalism through repurposing.

One of the main goals of Spartan Upcycle was to keep things out of landfills. Sarah Heckaman, the online sales manager and Spartan Upcycle manager, stressed the company's goal of repurposing items like glass bottles, vinyl records and even cardboard. Though some of the items could be sold like this on their own, Heckaman noted they often tried to get a bit craftier.

"We also try to take some of those products and make them into something new to show people what they can do with some of these hard-to-recycle products," Heckaman said.

Through partnerships with places like the Howell Nature Center that made a mini book library and putting on various events with the Broad Art Lab, the Spartan Upcycle created ties with companies that seemed contrary to its initial purpose. However, this could not have been further from the truth — it was the way they were trying to link creativity with efforts to save the environment that made them so attractive to the community. Katie Deska, education coordinator at the MSU Surplus Store and Recycling Center, explained how these endeavours, along with the general crafting of these old items, connected two seemingly different worlds into one.

"I think upcycling is a creative reuse — it's looking at a product or an item and saying, 'okay, maybe I can't reuse it exactly as it was intended... but maybe I can reuse this in some kind of craft project.'"

"I think the upcycling is really how we bridge the gap between recycling and general reuse," Deska said. "It's a creative reuse — it's looking at a product or an item and saying, 'okay, maybe I can't reuse it exactly as it was intended...but maybe I can reuse this in some kind of craft project.'"

With the help of two students, new projects were made every day to be put on display. Annie Barker, junior sustainable parks, recreation, and tourism and journalism major, was one of the "upcyclers"

responsible for creating things like decorated mason jars and the shape of Michigan made out of old wine corks. Though she believed the company was heading in the right direction, she knew there was still work to do.

"We still have a long way to go on campus," Barker said. "I have done a waste sort before through a class at the center and too many

things that are recyclable go into the trash. We need to really look at how much we are using. It adds up."

Any effort was better than none when it came to saving the environment. Combining this with the art community was Spartan Upcycle's area of expertise, and they did not have any plans to slow down soon. Whether it be worn sheets of cardboard or old mason jars, any item was worth repurposing. By showing the community that one person's junk could be another's treasure, they proved that reuse was not only smart, but stylish too.

TOP RIGHT: Junior journalism major Annie Barker draws color into her sustainable product. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Senior mechanical engineering major Josh Dean Meyer (left) and Annie Barker (right) recycle old boards for Halloween decorations. Their workshop turns wood into decorative products.



KICK BACK AND RELAX

Spartan Lanes:
The timeless
attraction beneath
the MSU Union

The lanes were polished. Bowling balls moved smoothly as if tossed up by a wave. Players laced up their bowling shoes and sized up the balls in a comfortable rhythm. Over the speakers, Bob Dylan's "Man in Me" played. Fans of "The Big Lebowski" immediately knew what Spartan Lanes was all about. Hidden away underneath the MSU Union, Spartan Lanes provided students a safe haven from the stress of classes and responsibilities since its establishment in 1949. Student groups, teams and birthday parties were common fixtures at each of the lanes. The lights were often turned down low and the music turned up to create an easy-going carefree atmosphere.

The staff consisted of almost entirely undergraduate students. Working at the alley constituted some long hours, but students such as supply chain major Jack Burke would not trade it for the world.

"In my opinion it's one of the best jobs on campus," Burke said. "You get to interact with a lot of people coming in and out, and it's pretty relaxing."

Most afternoons the lanes were not full, but Wednesday nights were the most popular for Spartan Lanes because The University Activities Board provided free bowling for students. Another unique feature of Spartan Lanes was that players scored themselves. This required a knowledge of bowling that many players may not have had. Bowling enthusiast and former student Thomas Pancy recalled many fond memories of bowling with friends on Wednesday nights and even admitted to taking advantage of his friends who did not know how to keep score by hand.

"There's definitely an old school feel with a modern twist," Pancy said.

Walking around the 16 lanes, students could feel nostalgic, but for the bowling equipment manager Scott Storey, the old school decor was a symbol of declined interest. The last renovation of the alley was in 1978, save a new carpet installation in 2000. For Storey, the vintage ambiance of the bowling alley did little to keep students interested in the sport.

"I have maintained these lanes for 23 years, and the vibe I get from most students is that we are way behind the times," Storey said.

Storey was hopeful of expanding the bowling alley into an entertainment center, following the trend of many bowling companies



in the twenty-first century. Despite his efforts, however, the upholstery continued to fade and the lanes lost their shine. While the future of Spartan Lanes was not certain, Storey was dedicated to maintaining the bowling alley and all its equipment.

Whether you were a pro bowler, a slow learner or completely uncoordinated, everyone could take a lesson from The Dude. In his words, "this is not 'Nam, this is bowling." The unchanged scene of Spartan Lanes welcomed students for 70 years, allowing them to take part in a historical staple of MSU culture. Even as Spartan Lanes began to fade, it lived on in the memory of all Spartans that thought of it as an escape from the stress of college life.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Spartan Lanes closed on May 1, 2020. MSU officials decided to close the bowling alley due to a lack of patrons, difficulty finding replacement parts and challenges meeting federal standards for people with disabilities.

ABOVE AND RIGHT: An MSU student bowls on free bowling night. Spartan Lanes opened in the late 1940s.

"You get to interact
with a lot of
people coming in
and out, and it's
pretty relaxing."



AIN'T I A WOMAN?

Students and staff jumped to their feet in an excited uproar the moment Laverne Cox set foot on stage. Their rambunctious cheers and claps confirmed the enthusiastic atmosphere for the inspiring presentation that was seconds away from beginning. A soft smile and a wave gestured the group to sit down, resulting in silence with all eyes on her. Cox's first words to MSU undoubtedly set the tone for the entire event — "Do you know how beautiful you are?"

As a star of the popular Netflix original series "Orange is the New Black," Cox was the first transgender person of color to have a leading role in an Emmy-winning television show. In honor of MSU's It's On Us: Week of Action, Cox was invited to give the keynote speech at the beginning of the week. Her speech, titled "Ain't I A Woman: My Journey to Womanhood," focused on her experiences with her gender, sexuality and the struggles that came with her journey. Students found solace in Cox's struggles, understanding that she was an inspiration. Christian Perry was a senior english major with a concentration in creative writing and an employee of MSU's Prevention, Outreach and Education Department. Perry cherished their work with The Prevention, Outreach and Education Department because of its ability to change the culture on campus.

"We make marked progress in our work just by talking with each other about these age-old taboo topics," Perry said. "Laverne Cox's speech connects with this week because it is all about broadening perspectives, understanding the realities of people's lives that experience the most institutionalized oppression in our society. Trans women of color hold multiple marginalized identities which intersect in ways that people might not see at first glance."

The audience was full of people from a variety of backgrounds, from young children accompanied by their parents to students who experienced similar struggles to Cox. Hailey Liverance, a sophomore majoring in political science, emphasized the importance of having these different perspectives in the audience.

"I will never know what it's like to be black, trans, or below working class status, so I do what I can to listen to and amplify the

"I will never know what it's like to be black, trans, or below working class status, so I do what I can to listen to and amplify the experiences of those with less privilege than I have. It's important to me that everyone feels seen and heard."

Keynote speaker Laverne Cox speaks during It's On Us Week

experiences of those with less privilege than I have," Liverance said. "It's important to me that everyone feels seen and heard. Speakers like Laverne Cox are important so students can gain a perspective on human experience unlike their own. Exposure to these types of topics are really beneficial to understanding one another."

Cox spoke about her process of growth, the internalized shame of her identities, and finally accepting herself for who she was. Haylee Sieg, a social relations and policy major and an employee for the Prevention, Outreach and Education Department believed that one of the MSU's goals should be to create a community to support survivors in their healing.

"The It's On Us Week of Action is about supporting and empowering survivors above all else," Sieg said. "Laverne Cox opened her speech asserting that she was proud of her identities, including being a survivor. Rates of sexual violence against trans women of color are strikingly high. Laverne Cox as the keynote speaker for the It's On Us Week of Action addresses this and empowers survivors who are trans women of color and all survivors."V

Every person in the room was hooked on Cox's words and some were moved to tears from her open confessions of her hardships. One of the concluding statements was a discussion on diversity in which Cox noted misconceptions will melt "if we all get to know people who are different than us." Cox's keynote speech concluded with another loud cheer, and yet again everyone standing in applause. Tears leaked down some of the audience member's faces by the end of the night, while others hugged each other in solidarity. The room stood together as one, shoulder-to-shoulder, smiling simultaneously at their new sense of appreciation for inspiring people like Laverne Cox.

RIGHT: Award winning actress Laverne Cox discusses her hardships growing up and overcoming adversity. Cox packed the new Edward J. Minskoff Pavilion with students wanting to hear her speak.



EXPLORE THE POWER OF WORDS

Kiosk on campus
shares student
stories with the world



A thin black modern sat in the library. Its towering screen glowed pearlescent white against the wooden paneling of Michigan State University's Main Library. Students examined the alien object with curiosity. It had not been there the previous year and looked as though it came from another planet. One brave student finally pressed a button on the monolith and a soft 'whirr' sounded. A thick, waxy strip of paper rolled out from the small slot at its base that relayed a tale lovingly crafted by one of over 8,000 authors. Impressed, the students gathered around for their turn to collect their own unique story.

Created by French publishing house — Short Edition — in 2015, the device was instantly a huge hit in the media world. Specializing in short literature, each device held over 80,000 stories. Short literature included poetry, flash fiction and short stories, all of which were found inside the Main Library's Short Story Dispenser. In August 2019, Michigan State installed one of four Short Story Dispensers in the Lansing area — at the Main Library, the MSU Dairy Store, Lansing's Capital Region International Airport and at the East Lansing Public Library. Michael Rodregiaz, one of the librarians who helped oversee the installation of the kiosk, had already seen the benefit the Short Story Dispenser had for students.

"When I tell writers they can potentially published their work on the website and on the machines they get excited," Rodregiaz said. "Even more exciting is that Short Edition has machines all over the world. There's the possibility that if your story or poem is published by the MSU Short Edition team, it may be picked up for world-wide distribution."

The Short Story Dispenser was constantly updated. Connected with 3G capabilities, stories were updated remotely with an internet connection. Even if students could not visit the

short story dispensers in person, they could view the stories online. Stories were separated into three lengths — one minute stories, three minute stories and five minute stories. Abigail Rhoades, a junior history major who worked at the Main Library saw the interactions students had with the dispenser firsthand.

"A lot of people pass by it and don't know what it is because it's

"Even more exciting is that Short Edition has machines all over the world. There's the possibility that if your story or poem is published by the MSU Short Edition team, it may be picked up for world-wide distribution."



so new," Rhoades said. "A lot of people like to do the shorter stories, like the one or three minute options, to read while walking."

The Short Story Dispenser was a great way to support all writers on campus — brand-new poets and established authors alike. Environmentally friendly and efficient, the kiosk showcased MSU's diverse range of voices. With thousands of stories at their fingertips and students being able to submit their own publications,

students were truly able to explore the power of words with Short Edition's Short Story Dispenser.

LEFT: Eric Lewis takes a moment to enjoy his short story in the MSU Library. The print out told the story of a child and his pet cat on an adventure. **RIGHT:** A student reads a short story about the adventures of a cat and a little boy. The short story machine can print out a one minute, three minute, or five minute story.

FINDING THE TIME

Sparty's convenience store employees manage college life



Time management was a crucial factor in the daily life of every Spartan. Between attending class, finishing homework, participating in clubs and contributing a share of school spirit at athletic events, balancing priorities was a concept that every student was all too familiar with. Working as an employee at MSU's chain of convenience stores, Sparty's, was no exception to such constraints. They worked long hours to satisfy the needs of their customers and fellow MSU community members. Whether you were grabbing a quick cup of coffee before your 8 a.m., or taking advantage of your Combo-X-Change for the day, Sparty's workers were there to fulfill everyone's requests.

Many students looked at their Sparty's job as a way to make a living while they were in school. It was a suitable way to pay for housing, tuition and daily necessities. Sophomore neuroscience major Diamond Harrison lived in Brody Neighborhood and found that the Brody location was a convenient way to pay for her bills. She also developed a liking to the friendly atmosphere that the store provided.

"Everyone's pretty cool here," Harrison said. "I realized that I had a lot of free time on my hands, so I thought I'd just choose Sparty's."

Finding time for other priorities around a job was difficult. Sparty's was well aware of schedule conflicts, as students made up the majority of their staff. Sophomore advertising management major Salina Saleh said Sparty's was lenient with her schedule during her employment at the McDonel Hall location.

"They work well around your class schedules and clubs and everything like that," Saleh said. "If you have a conflict with your schedule, they usually fix it. I don't have any problems."

Despite the schedule flexibility, the life of a Sparty's student was still difficult to manage at times. Social time occasionally had to be sacrificed for work, class and sleep, which in turn prepared students for life after college. For sophomore psychology major Enrique Urbina, the money he made at the library location of Sparty's was crucial.

"When I first moved out here, I was looking for the best paying job because I was living on my own," Urbina said. "I didn't have anyone to rely on. While I was working here last fall and last spring semester, I was working the overnight shifts. I'd get in at 10 p.m., get off at 6 a.m. I would have classes at 8 a.m. all the way up to like 2 p.m. Eventually, I decided I don't really need a social life if I'm getting paid and I'm going to school."



"Everyone's pretty cool here ... I realized that I had a lot of free time on my hands, so I thought I'd just choose Sparty's."

The typical components of college living had to be weighed by priority for the sake of providing for themselves outside of the classroom. Sparty's stores sought to work around their employees' schedules, but even then, time for social activities was often tight. These workers were there for your late night study sessions, your early morning breakfast and everything in between. Their schedules were sometimes difficult to sustain, but through a positive environment, working at Sparty's was worthwhile.

LEFT: Sophomore neuroscience major Diamond Harrison serves a customer. **TOP RIGHT:** Sophomore advertising management major Salina Saleh restocks shelves. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Sophomore psychology major Enrique Urbina greets a Sparty's customer.

COMING TOGETHER TO CHANGE

MSU Community looks to increase tolerance after acts of bias

After a toilet paper noose was hung on a student's door and a racist survey was sent to students, the MSU community was left thinking about necessary cultural adjustments. Protests and calls for change followed, including a list of 10 demands from Michigan State's Black Student Alliance and bills presented to ASMSU's general assembly and student forums. These two acts spurred a wave for change that washed over campus.

Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer of ASMSU Miracle Chatman had a position in the aftermath of these prejudice occurrences, a role which she believed double-sided. Chatman said ASMSU introduced multiple bills to the general assembly advocating for diversity, equity and inclusion training for faculty, staff and students.

"After the bias incident I reached out to the [Council of Racial and Ethnic Students and Council of Progressive Students] organizations to see how I could advocate for them and what I could do to assist them in their initiatives that address these issues," Chatman said. "This could shift the climate of campus."

Chatman also said, to prevent an event like this from happening again, the school should implement the 10-point plan released by the Council of Racial and Ethnic Students and Council of Progressive Students. This plan included demands for a general education course on race, racism, gender and ethnicity and the creation of a "free-standing multicultural building" on campus. In response to these incidents, many student groups on campus held forums where students could voice their feelings about what happened and how the university handled it.

"I think this created a space for students to vent and share their experiences of bias," Chatman said. "Students don't get that chance to share their stories, this was necessary so students would understand

that they aren't alone and that we as a community can come together and support one another during these hard times."

Freshman humanities major Kennedy Parker was one of many students who attended protests after the incident. Parker felt the protests were necessary to address the problems on campus.

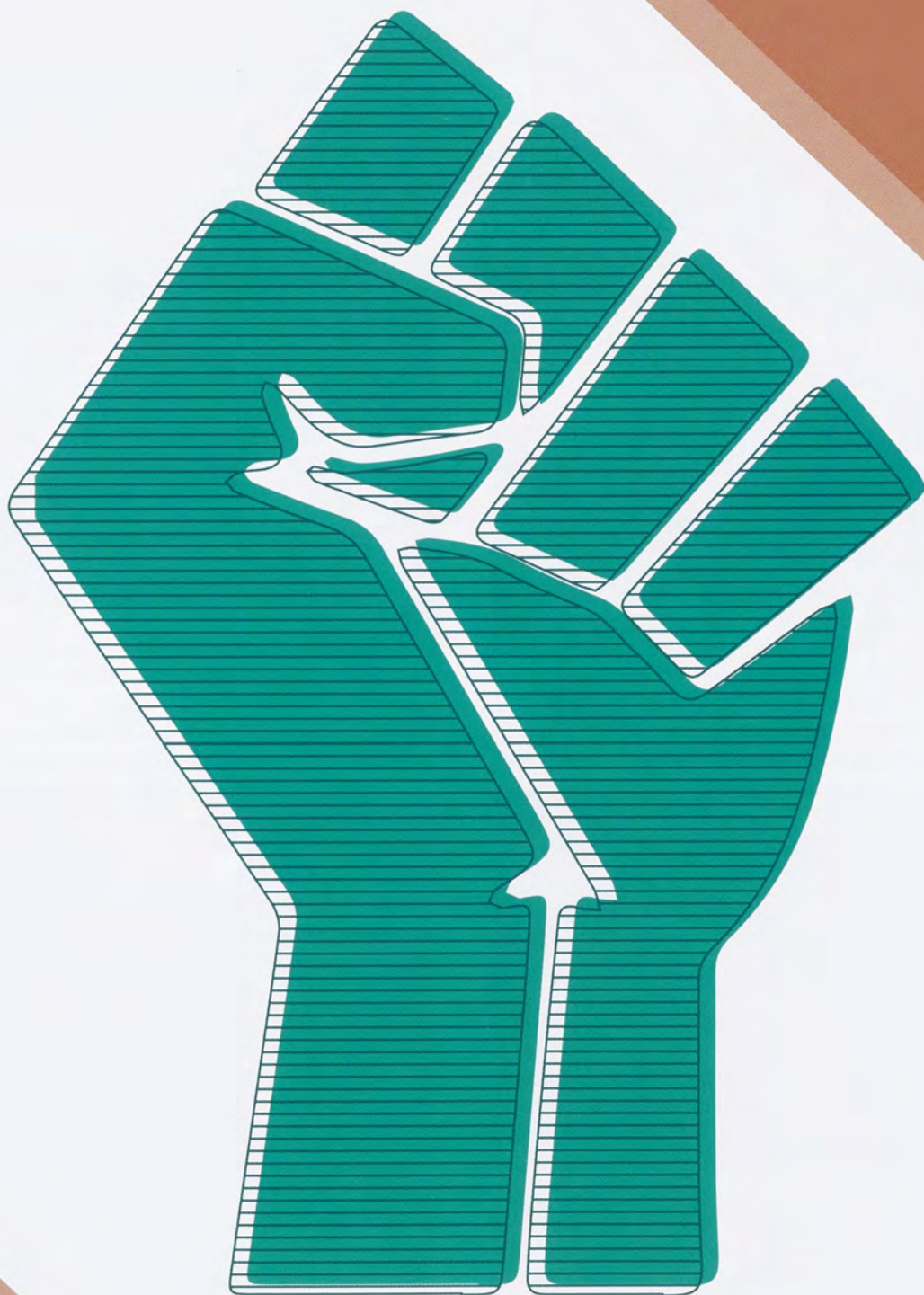
"I absolutely think that all of the student protests that have taken place during November and October will have a great impact on how the school responds to bias incidents because we've already received feedback on how administration members are working diligently to work together with minorities and specific groups on campus involving minorities," Parker said. "However, this is only a start, the university needs to be doing so much more."

These acts of prejudice were not just news on campus, students at other universities heard about these incidents as well, meaning the consequences reached further than just the MSU community. Chatman said these incidents were not isolated, and were products of the current political climate, which created a less tolerant attitude on campus.

"The lack of value for diversity and inclusion on this campus historically has made these acts of bias become a continuous cycle on this campus," Chatman said. "The way these incidents have been handled in the past on this campus contributes to the numerous amounts of incidents that keep happening."

These two acts were just examples of a larger issue at hand, both at Michigan State and in the United States as a whole — ignorance and lack of action. The aftermath, protests and forums, were examples of a generation that refuses inaction as a response. These two incidents unleashed a wave of students and faculty alike who did not call for change, but demanded it. Only time would tell if the call for change in 2019 would continue to be heard at Michigan State in the coming years.

"This could shift the
climate of campus."



GROWING UP SPARTAN

Spartan legacy
students reflect on
their journey

Michigan State was among the largest universities in the country boasting six neighborhoods each the size of an Ivy League school. Such a massive university could be intimidating for a first year student — a new campus with over 50,000 graduate and undergraduate new faces in it. But for some students, the MSU campus might have felt more like an intimate family business. These legacy students — students who had previous generations of their family attend MSU — had a deep knowledge of the campus and a love for the traditions that Michigan State held.

Spartans like Alex Sax, a fourth generation MSU student in her first year of James Madison, had a different perspective of campus life. As a fourth generation student, she had roots in the school going back to her great grandfather. With that kind of history, Sax fondly remembered visiting the campus numerous times.

"Every weekend [growing up] it was the B-dubs over there and then SBS," Sax said. "At SBS we were allowed to each pick out one thing."

It was natural for students to walk around campus and notice places where they had memorable experiences. For legacy students, the things that made the campus unique also made it home. The streets and sidewalks held more memories than just their own. Senior international relations major Erin Panter's parents met at MSU and always felt closer to them while she was at school.

"When other students walk past Harper's they see a popular bar, but I see the place where my parents went on their first date!" Panter said. "I think that campus for me holds a lot more memories than it does for other students."

Even with such deep roots, Sax and Panter never felt obligated to come to MSU. Both girls were encouraged to look at other colleges before deciding. However, for Sax it proved worthwhile to carry on

their family's legacy. In Panter's case, her family looked the other way while one sister attended University of Michigan.

For Ryan Ledbetter, senior finance major, Spartan Stadium was always home. The Lansing native had bonded with his family over football all his life. Through the ups and downs of Spartan Football history, Ledbetter's family stuck with the team. When it came time to choose a school, no other place held up to the one he spent at as a kid cheering, "Go Green!"

"My parents met at MSU and my dad worked at the capital," Ledbetter said. "Since he was a big MSU guy and sports fan we always used to come to MSU for sporting events."

You could not see them walking around, or pick them out of the crowd inside Spartan Stadium. Spartan legacy students went about Michigan State's campus carrying a hundred years of tradition on their shoulders. From Wells Hall to Beaumont Tower, the memories that Spartan Legacy students carried with them were etched in time forever. Whether you were the first MSU student in your family or the next one in line, the Spartan community had a place for you.

"When other students walk past Harper's they see a popular bar, but I see the place where my parents went on their first date!"



ABOVE: Ryan Ledbetter is a senior studying finance. As a child, Ryan would attend Michigan State football games and tailgates with his family.



ABOVE: Alex Sax's mom (far right) and dad (middle left) celebrate her dad's graduation from MSU with their parents, who were also MSU graduates.



ABOVE: Alex Sax's parents pose after her dad's graduation. Alex's parents met while they were studying at MSU. They had their first date at Harper's Restaurant & Brew Pub.



ABOVE: Freshman Alex Sax poses with her parents during a Michigan State tailgate. Alex's grandparents and great grandparents also attended Michigan State.

PURSuing THEIR PASSION

Students connect
with audiences
during Blue Owl
Coffee's open
mic night



The small coffee shop in East Lansing was filled to the brim with customers. Music played smoothly through the speakers before the performances began, muffling the noise of soft chatter that trickled from the small line of performers signing up to take the stage. A quiet murmur of anticipation hummed through the breaks in conversation as the Blue Owl baristas made drinks for the heavy traffic of patrons that roamed into the shop. The music stopped suddenly. The charismatic emcee took to the stage and after a quick introduction, the performances began.

Blue Owl Coffee's open mic nights were a routine, weekly event. Scheduled for Wednesday evenings, it was a relaxing activity for locals to unwind at the end of the day. Every customer was invited to perform, from the regular attendees to newcomers at the shop. Andre Reed, senior creative advertising major, loved the opportunity to connect with his audience.

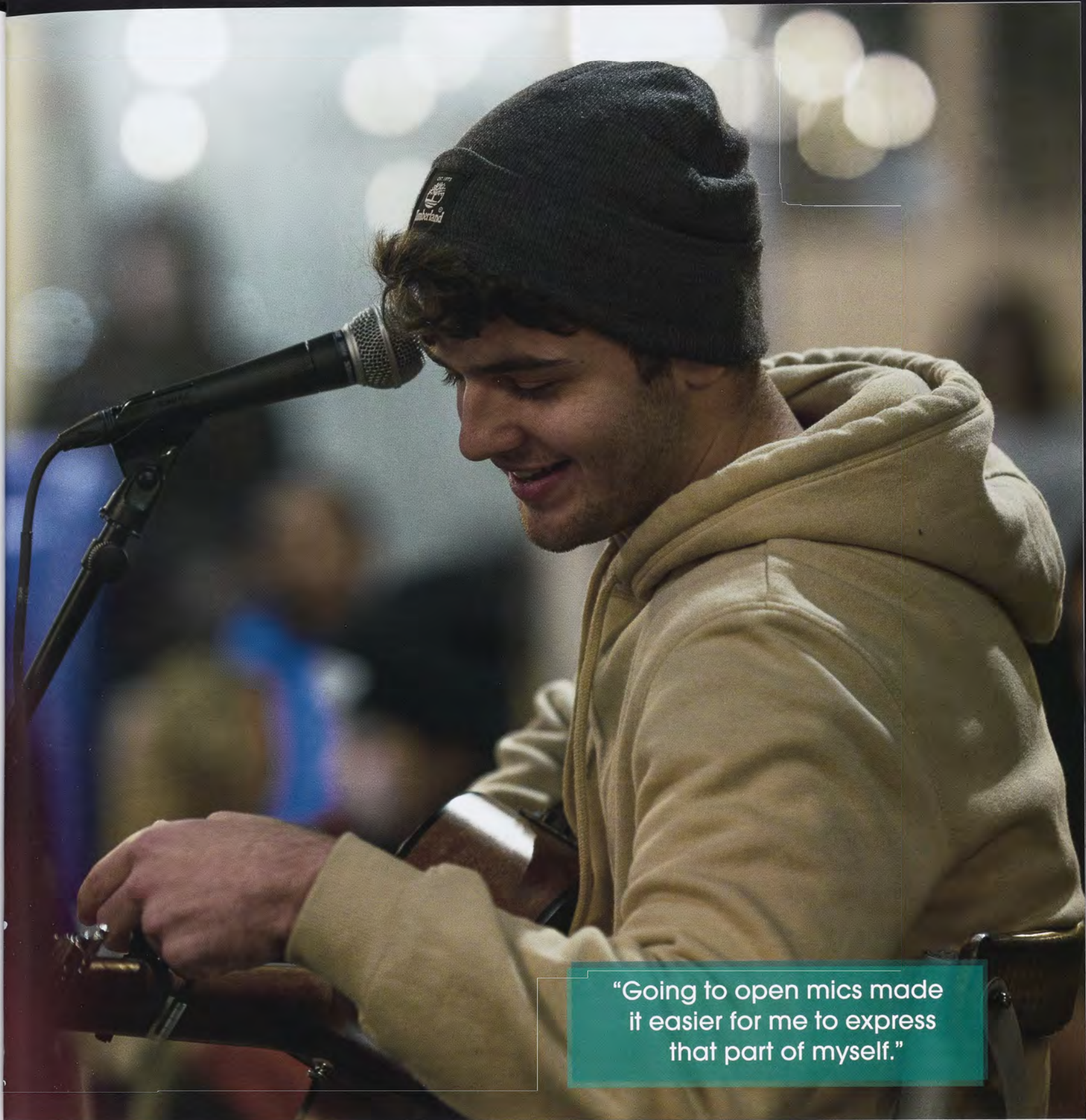
"What I like best about performing is the moment when you can tell when someone is listening attentively, your eyes are locked on theirs, and you can visually see the expressions on their face when they either connect with a line or just genuinely enjoy it," Reed said.

From poetry to singing, entertainers performed their passions behind the microphone. Each person was given the opportunity to perform two pieces. Zora Woodard, freshman social relations and policy major, grew to love singing in front of people after participating in Blue Owl's Open Mic Night.

"I used to hate singing in front of people, to the point where even my close friends didn't know that it was something I loved to do," Woodard said. "Going to open mics made it easier for me to express that part of myself, and by forcing myself to get up there, I feel like I'm not hiding such a big part of who I am. I'm able to show myself that I can make my time up there whatever I want it to be."

Blue Owl Coffee's open mic was a comfortable environment for first-time performers to start out. These open mic events allowed singers, comedians and poets to relish the crowd with old favorites or try out new material in front of a live audience. The near-constant attention from the crowd to the enthusiastic encouragement made the event a safe space for all performers. Will Clifford, freshman advertising major, was a beginner in the world of performing and loved it from day one.

"It is not like Blue Owl's open mic nights are just for amateur musicians and singers like me, it is a platform for highly talented creatives to display their talents and receive the love and support that



“Going to open mics made it easier for me to express that part of myself.”

is necessary to guide them forward in their careers,” Clifford said. “I love the support I received from the crowd. Especially as I am just starting out, it motivates and encourages me to continue my journey.”

After each performer had finished two pieces, customers would flock to their phones to make note of their favorite performers’ social media to support them in their future endeavors. The event benefited everyone involved. Performers were able to do what they loved, the coffee shop received more traffic and customers were able to hear

unique music while they enjoyed their beverages. Performers loved Blue Owl’s open mic nights because no matter how they did, there would always be love and support in the coffee shop.

RIGHT: Senior Andre Reed performs some of his original poetry in front of the crowd at Blue Owl’s Open mic night.

LEFT: Sophomore Will Clifford plays guitar and sings for his first open mic night performance at the Blue Owl.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Music had always been an integral part of the college scene. Whether it be a DJ spinning the latest hits at Harper's on a Saturday night or simply crafting a joint Spotify playlist with your best friends, music proved itself to be both a bonding activity and way of creative expression. Some Spartans went beyond just listening to music and decided to perform it, forming bands with those who were like-minded.

Between playing at local bars like Mac's or rocking it out at house shows, musically-inclined Spartans found ways to express themselves while simultaneously connecting with others. Senior composition major Hannah Boissonneault — a singer and bassist — had experience performing both on her own and in her band, Blank Slate. Though she had played with her guitarist since 2013, the band fully formed during the summer of 2016. This proved to be a major success, as her and her band were opened up to a world of opportunities performing in front of larger crowds.

"Although we typically perform in venues around Detroit like The Loving Touch and The Shelter, we've performed at Mac's Bar a few times, and it's one of my favorite venues," Boissonneault said. "The atmosphere is inviting and the audiences we've performed in front of have always been really friendly and supportive. I really enjoy playing in Lansing because we get a chance to reach out to the MSU community."

Seasoned musician and senior environmental studies and sustainability major Andrew Younker was also a frequent performer at bars in the Lansing area. Though he was part of the garage-rock group, Yay High, he often played on his own. Releasing a full-length album, *Well Wishes*, in 2018, along with several other singles, his music was readily available on streaming services for others to discover. The best part of this? The way people would tell him at shows how they found him on that platform.

"[It is] definitely a weird feeling to have someone know and enjoy your music before you've met them," Younker said. "If my music felt a little less vulnerable maybe I would feel cooler when someone told me they enjoyed my music. Right now it's more like a 'Oh, you've heard all my anxious thoughts and feelings...' type [of] thing. I try to

Musically-inclined Spartans go beyond jamming out in their parents' basements

remind myself that these people probably just feel the same as I do, and they're longing to be understood in the way I did when I was making that music.

The other part of Yay High was senior education major Benjamin Hickey, who mainly played the drums when performing live. Hickey could also play piano and guitar when producing music as well. Focusing on his projects Groovemaster B, WUNDERGROOVE., Kinda Culture and a currently unnamed act, he had plenty of advice to give to other Spartans who were once like him, wanting to make music and play it in front of others, but not knowing where to start.

"Release music and share it with people, find people to collaborate with and do it — don't wait around for stuff to happen. Go do something."

"Play a house show," Hickey said. "Just ask your friend if you can play live at their place or play your own place. Release music and share it with people, find people to collaborate with and do it — don't wait around for stuff to happen. Go do something."

When the bass thumped and everyone jumped around, live music in the Lansing and East Lansing communities proved itself to be a source of intense connectivity. Between hearing friends play at local venues to actually playing in a band, dance-induced sweat and feeling young were natural results to hearing the riff of a guitar less than five feet away.

RIGHT: MSU students went beyond jamming in their parents' basements — taking their acts out to play for the East Lansing community and beyond.



CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Indonesian
Cultural
Festival ignites
love of culture
on campus

Glittering in the dramatic stage lighting, two experienced performers spun in circles while performing a highly intricate dance. Twisting their hands, each dancer wore feathered pieces that signified what the dance represented — the Enggang bird from East Kalimantan. On Nov. 23, 2019, Erickson Kiva warmed up as people flooded into the Kiva to attend the Indonesian Cultural Festival, held by MSU's Indonesian student organization, PERMIAS MSU. The attendees were not just students, but families that permeated the audience with a diverse range of ages. Some audience members dressed in intricate, beaded dress, that were sparkling and eye-catching, while some arrived still wearing casual attire with friends, family, coworkers and significant others in tow. This event seemed different than most; it seemed like a celebration, a reunion, the event of the year, a shame to miss.

There was not just one organization behind this event. PERMIAS MSU hosted, but they were sponsored by Michigan State University, MSU's Asian Studies Center and MSU's Office for International Students and Scholars. Perhaps more importantly, PERMIAS MSU was supported by the community of Indonesian families, students and friends in East Lansing.

William Tjen, senior supply chain management major who also served as the president of PERMIAS MSU, explained that he appreciated the support from the community. In his opening speech, he stressed the magnitude of the relationship between the United States and Indonesia; these nations were interdependent, and that was a good thing. This interdependence, he explained, is how strong communities like the Indonesian-American community were fostered.

"We are a nation of ultimate diversity," Tjen said.

The event started with a bang. Andhika Adiantoro, junior mechanical engineering major, was the emcee for the event, and also was involved with the planning committee. He and another student in PERMIAS prepared skits for transitions between performances. They were funny snippets, but also educational, explaining and identifying aspects of Indonesian clothing, food, music and dance.

The highlight of the night, however, was the performances. The first performance came from a student band, Mana Lolo Banda, who played an Indonesian Folk Song from the region of Nusa Tenggara Timur. Exciting and electrifying, the band's harmonies and percussive beat amped the crowd up and excited the room for more. One of the band's members was Febri Daneswary, a freshman majoring in business, who played a percussive instrument for Mana Lolo Banda.

"The main thing [about the Indonesian Cultural Festival] is to really promote Indonesia. There's this cultural impact," Daneswary said. "Promoting this event... puts our country on the map."





"We are a nation of ultimate diversity."

During one dance, called "Gemu Famire," the hosts explained the importance of every attendee learning something new — even a little dance. This was accomplished by encouraging attendees to get out of their seats and dance with the club members. David Simanjuntak, senior mechanical engineering major serving as Vice President of PERMIAS MSU, commented that he appreciated the goals of the event and the support of the community.

"I believe that the preservation of culture is very important, and one of the most effective ways that we could do that is to expose the culture to as many people as we can," Simanjuntak said. "This is the whole point of the event and the organization in general, to show people our culture, to teach them, and also to have fun."

To end the night, PERMIAS MSU provided a spread of Indonesian food, such as beef rendang, a West Sumatran spicy beef curry with coconut milk, and sayur lodeh, vegetables cooked in spices, herbs and coconut milk. Every attendee talked, laughed and ate a plate, celebrating strength in community and culture.

LEFT: Febri Daneswary, freshman business major, played a percussion instrument in Mana Lolo Banda **RIGHT:** Andhika Adiantoro, mechanical engineering junior, was the emcee of the Indonesian Cultural Festival.

CRUNCH TIME

Stand-up comedy provides a creative outlet for the MSU Community

There was beer, there was laughter and there were lots of tots. There were students, sports fans and even a fan who attended the Weekly Crunch every week. Held at Crunchy's Bar every Tuesday night, the comedy show was one of only a few venues of Mid-Michigan to provide a platform for aspiring and amateur stand up comedians. With a weekly crowd made up of both comedy fans and unsuspecting diners, each show had unlimited potential.

Long-time fan and comedy enthusiast Bruce Howard had a special relationship with the comedians at the Crunch. He claimed they treated him more kindly than other audience members, and their "anything goes" attitude always kept him in attendance.

"Truth be told the main reason I support local comedy is I like to laugh," Howard said. "I laugh easily and a lot. It is like air; it is one of the rare places where true freedom of speech is at hand."

Louis Michael, a seasoned comic, was one of four co-hosts for the show. He inherited the position after the comedy night's creation in 2015 and, to avoid redundancy, he traded off with the other hosts each week. Michael opened the show with a provocative set, spicing up the audience for what was to come. He warmed up the crowd well, calling out newcomers and telling lewd jokes.

"This is the nuts and bolts of comedy," Michael said. "Like how hot dogs are made, this is the comedy version."

The Weekly Crunch invited audiences to witness the growth of aspiring comics. Audiences for the event came from Lansing, Grand Rapids and even as far away as Toledo. Each week listeners could expect to see beginners, veterans and everyone in between developing jokes and gaining comfort on stage.

Across the board, comedians relied on self-deprecating humor for laughs. This wasn't surprising, based on current trends in the world of comedy, but junior english major and amateur comedian Johnny Mocny warned against the myth that comedians had to be depressed

to be funny. It was an exception, not the rule. Mocny himself relied on darker humor during his set, as a way to balance out his other jokes. For Mocny, stand up comedy came naturally when he was at that difficult purgatory between childhood and adulthood. On stage he found ways to connect with the audience, especially within the supportive environment at Crunchy's.

"This is the nuts and bolts of comedy. Like how hot dogs are made, this is the comedy version."

"Comics are supportive in that I've never seen people demean other comics because they thought they weren't funny," Mocny said. "Whereas my mom will be really judgemental. She'll be like, 'only this one guy is funny.' I think comics generally find more things funny."

Arguably no one more than the overworked student could recall a time when they needed to laugh. Stand up comedy as a serious art form provided a relief from all the stressors from school, work and friends. For the performers at the weekly Crunch, making people laugh was what they were all about. You did not have to be a fan to enjoy it, and you did not need to understand it all to enjoy the night of comedy.

LEFT: Johnny Mocny had the entire room in tears during his stand-up set. Host Louie Michael introduced Mocny as a local legend. **MIDDLE:** Louie Michael opened the show. Michael is a recurring host of Crunchy's Comedy Night. **RIGHT:** Corey Barnes tries his hand at stand-up comedy. He was a big hit with the crowd and drew many laughs with his jokes.

Y CRUNCH

FREE
WEDNESDAY
EVEN PM
FUNNY
BEER
TOTS



EXIT



PETITIONING FOR IMPROVEMENT

Students called
for better parking
on campus

For students who did not live on campus, many got to their classes by car or moped. This meant scanning the parking lots for an open spot. If there was not a spot, then class was likely going to be skipped. If students were lucky enough to find a parking spot, they would be forced to pay by the hour, or not pay and hope they didn't receive a ticket. The walk back from class was a death march, filled with hopes that there would not be a slip of paper stuck in their windshield wipers. Most of the time, students were let down. This is a story most students knew all too well, so in the fall of 2019, a petition to improve on-campus parking received over 2,500 signatures from disgruntled students.

Sophomore hospitality business major Jenna Booher said she received 25 tickets for parking on-campus. The tickets piled up from parking at meters, in parking garages, in front of residential halls and at the parking office. These tickets ranged from \$10 to \$25, costing Booher at least \$250 altogether.

"I will literally not go to class if there isn't a parking spot," Booher said.

Students who drove mopeds to class also dealt with a lack of parking spots and being ticketed for this absence of sufficient parking. Senior advertising management major Abby Parsons said she received seven tickets in the last two years. While Parsons accepted the blame for some of the tickets, she said the majority of them were from parking in the designated moped parking area but not in the provided lines because there were too many mopeds. Parsons believed this was unfair because she already paid a \$50 fee to park her moped on campus and said the university needed to create more student parking on-campus.

"[Parking on-campus] is horrible, and students know it's the university trying to get more money out of us," Parsons said. "The fact

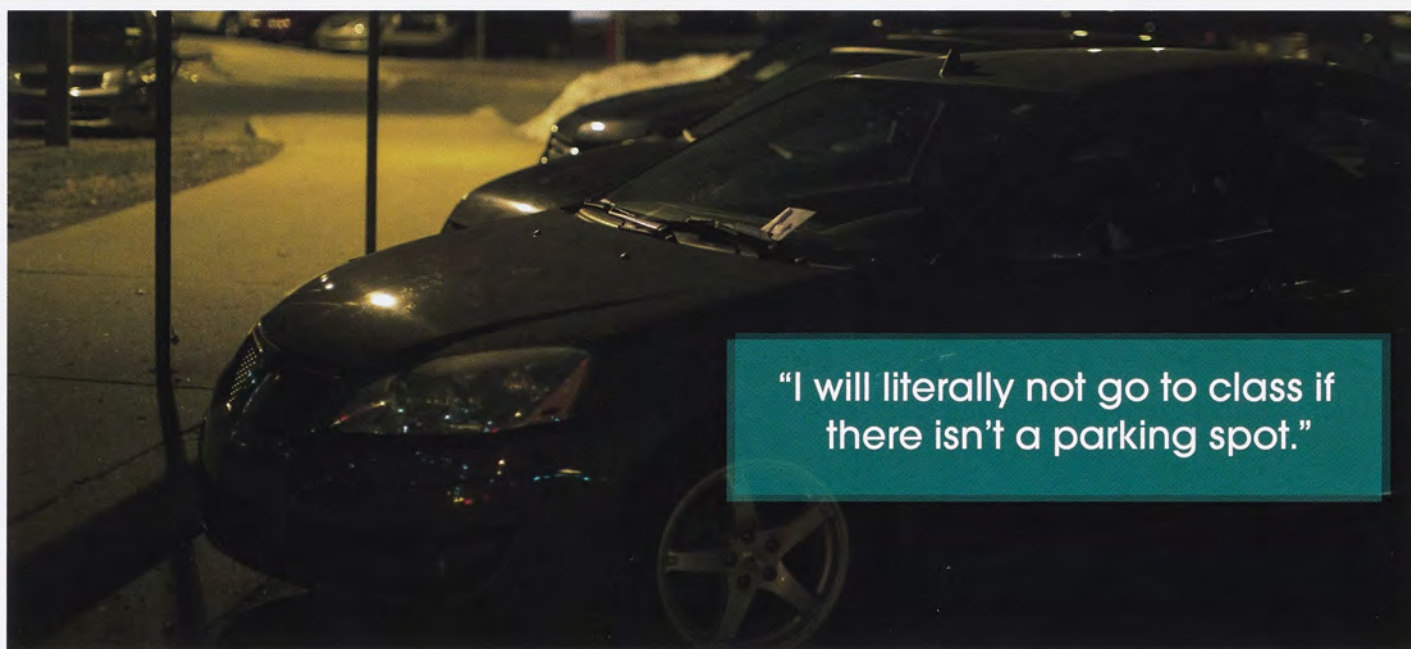
that I pay for a permit and can get a ticket for being in [the permitted area] proves it. Everyone I know that has tried to park on-campus, either by car or moped, has received at least one ticket."

Discontent among students over parking led to the creation of a petition on change.org to address issues with parking to Michigan State's president, Samuel L. Stanley. One of the students who signed this petition was senior psychology major Aidan Winters, who believed it was unfair that students had to pay for parking on top of what they paid for tuition.

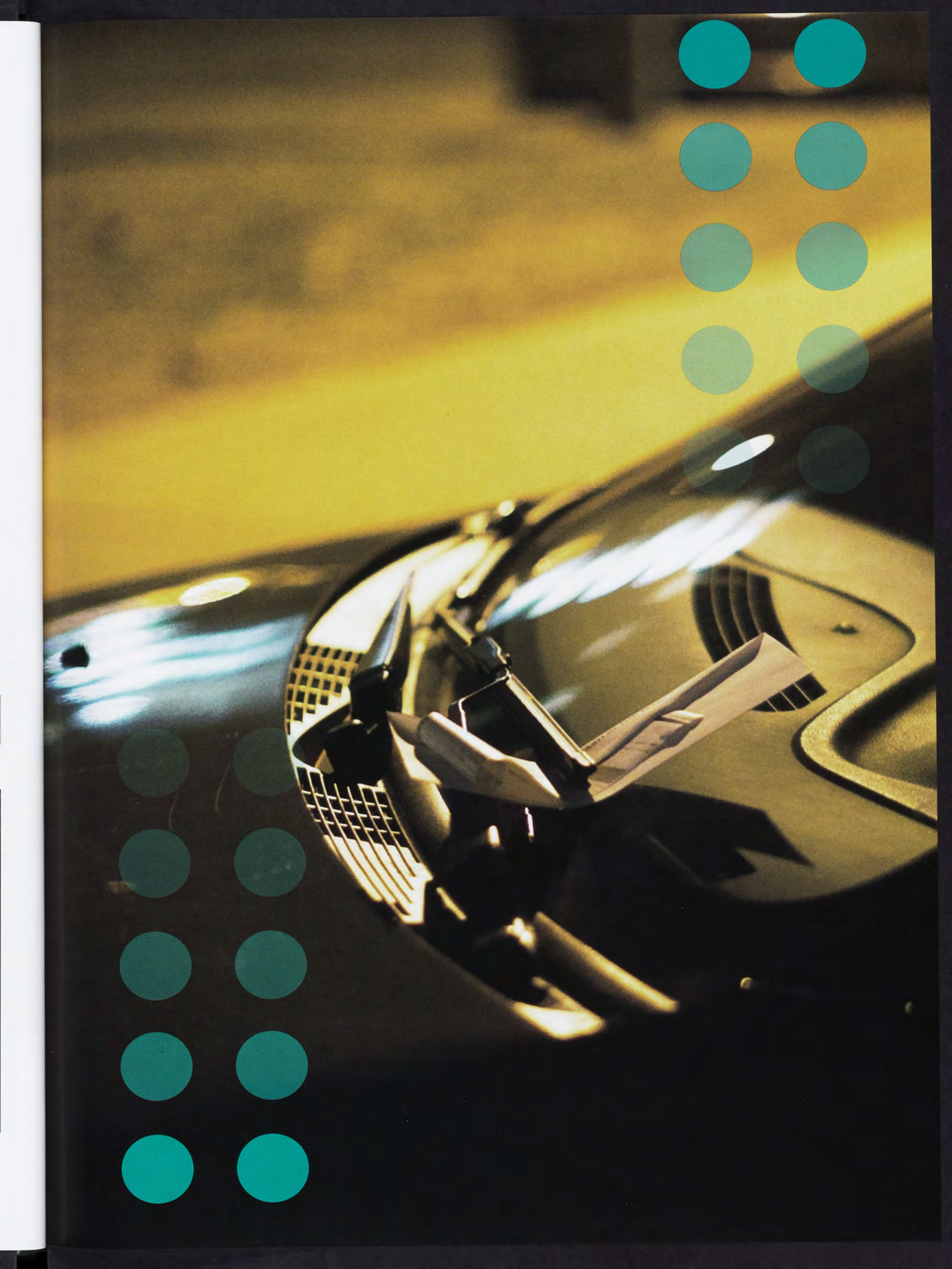
"I do not think it's fair how many tickets students get," Winters said. "I have gotten four this semester because there are times I have to go to work and there is no parking available, so I have to park somewhere I know I'm not supposed to. In order for me to make money to pay my bills, I have to risk getting a ticket. I don't know how MSU should pay for parking improvements. They certainly receive a lot of money from students and alumni so you would think it could be worked into the budget somehow. Maybe with the money they've been getting from all the tickets they're handing out?"

Despite the petition being signed by thousands of students, there was not much change throughout fall 2019. Students were still forced to choose between getting a ticket and skipping class, or scraping together enough money from a student's meager budget to afford parking every day. The petition circulated, changes were suggested and reform was on the horizon.

BELOW & RIGHT: After a long day of classes and studying, students returning to their cars may be faced with this dreaded sight — a parking ticket on their windshield.



"I will literally not go to class if there isn't a parking spot."



GETTING INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Local vendors set up shop for students and families for Winterglow

Shaved ice flew in every direction as a man carved an ice sculpture for a crowd of fascinated onlookers. Children sat around a fire with their parents, laughing as gooey marshmallow covered their hands. Vendors sold everything from baked goods to art of every medium. For a day, Grand River Avenue was transformed into a holiday market called Winterglow. East Lansing residents were invited to enjoy the event, bringing the community of families and students together.

Winterglow was put on Dec. 7, 2019 and included music, vendors and even an appearance from Mr. and Mrs. Claus themselves. The event was coordinated to appeal to all ages, which was important in a city like East Lansing, where there were just as many twentysomethings as there were families with toddlers. Senior arts management major Emily Malak worked for the City of East Lansing and helped put on Winterglow as Community Events Assistant, along with many other events put on throughout the year.

"Winterglow is a winter-inspired annual tradition that takes place in downtown East Lansing with a wide variety of fun-filled seasonal activities, including an outdoor holiday farmers market, the Jingle Jam Music Tent, marshmallow roasting, ice carvings, horse and carriage rides, children's activities, photos with Santa and more," Malak said.

Malak was responsible for reaching out to the vendors who took part in Winterglow, setting up and tearing down the event. Malak believed events like Winterglow that were created to appeal to all ages helped connect the East Lansing community. Her post during the event was at the information tent, right next to Santa's sleigh and the ice sculptures, and gave her the best point-of-view to see the impact of the event on East Lansing and student culture.

"It's always a joy to watch kids, families and adults alike sit up on the sleigh and have their pictures taken," Malak said. "It's not every day you get to sit in an ice sculpture of Santa's sleigh so it's always fun to watch their expressions and smiles of joy as they climb up on the sculpture."

While some of the attractions at Winterglow may have seemed to be made solely for kids, Malak said the event was also important because it contributed to student life and community at MSU.

"It is easy to get caught up in our daily lives, but events like this one help us to venture out and come together as a community and student body," Malak said. "It allows students to enjoy an event with other students and community members and is an avenue to help students venture outside of their everyday lives."

While student life could often feel disconnected from the larger East Lansing community, Winterglow was an opportunity for students to take a break from exams and enjoy the holiday spirit and for families to get their children excited for the coming holidays. These two lives came together for one event that helped to connect and grow the East Lansing community.

TOP RIGHT: A professional ice carver sculpted a snowman in front of a crowd. Ice carvers created small ice sculptures for the public to take photos during the event. **MID RIGHT:** Two festival-goers take photos in a giant ice sled created by ice artists. The ice sled created the perfect backdrop for a variety of participants' photos. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Families make S'mores over a fire pit at the festival.



"It is easy to get caught up in our daily lives, but events like this one help us to venture out and come together as a community and student body."



BEAUTIEFUL DESIGNS

The small glass building was filled with people milling around the cramped space. While the Broad Art Lab was usually filled with crafters in the evenings, this time, the art was already in front of them. Beautiful scarves and silky bow ties lay out on display for the public to see, garnering interest for their creative designs.

This was the second iteration of the BeauTIEful Project. The first time, the project's show held designs from Congress Elementary School in Grand Rapids. After its first major success, the beauTIEful project extended to MSU. Each phase of the project followed the same pattern: partner with a local organization, create patterns with community members and construct a final exhibit to launch BeauTIEful with community members.

The scarves and bowties were designed by 38 middle school and high school students. After the designs were made, they were shipped off to be digitally printed and then individually packaged. Bridgeen Shapton, the founder of the BeauTIEful Project, said her favorite part of the project was working with the high schoolers from the Lansing Refugee Development Center.

"I got to work one on one with each kids and go around to talk to them about what they chose to draw and why," Shapton said. "They were all asking so many questions and so curious about the project, making it even more exciting to show them the finished pieces."

The event was held in conjunction with the Open Call program. Open Call was an experimental platform hosted by MSU's Broad Art Museum. The program invited the community to share their creative ideas and programs with each other. Natalie Gentry, a masters art and cultural management major, worked as a graduate assistant on the Open Call Program.

"It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my time in school," Gentry said. "Especially projects like this where we get to see the results of our hard work in the end product and in the people we are working to help, it's truly worthwhile."

Students raise profits for the Refugee Development Center

Members from all around the community were able to attend the BeauTIEful Launch Party at the Broad Art Lab. Each of the designs were displayed and some of the creators were there to answer questions about their designs.

"Those that were able to make it to the launch were all super excited to unfold the scarves and point to their designs," Shapton said. "One of the artists could not wait and changed her hijab and put on one with her artwork. The kids had so much pride and excitement for their artwork."

"It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my time in school. Especially projects like this where we get to see the results of our hard work."

Any students who wanted to participate or support the initiative could purchase a scarf or a bowtie at the Broad Art Lab. Students could also purchase garments from their website or donate directly to BeauTIEful's GoFundMe. All of the proceeds went directly back to the Refugee Development Center of Lansing.

Smiling faces filled the Broad Art Museum as customers left with their new accessories, the carefully crafted designs safely tucked away in shopping bags. The artists were beaming with pride as they watched their hard work leave the store and finally make its way out into the world.

RIGHT: Community members pack the Broad Art Lab at the BeauTIEful Launch Party. In addition to buying handcrafted items, customers could choose to participate in the design of their own handmade products.



SPARTANS AGAINST WAR

Students protest military involvement with Iran

On Jan. 11, 2020, not even the cold, wet rain stopped over 100 students from dutifully protesting war at MSU's Rock. They gave up their warm, dry rooms and study spaces, brandishing signs and donning raincoats, while coming together for a cause. The rally — called Spartans Against War #NoWarWithIran Rally on Facebook — sought to protest the United States' recent military escalation in Iran. Students held signs painted with messages such as "The rich send the poor to fight their wars," "We can't feed the poor but we can fight a war?" and "Stop endless war."

They gathered in response to the United States government's decision to drone strike the Baghdad International Airport in Iraq on Jan. 3, 2020. This strike killed 10 people, including Qasem Soleimani, an Iranian general and one of the most powerful men in Iran. This act was one of many attacks exchanged between Iran and the United States since 2017. Uzair Bandagi, junior international relations and Arabic and Muslim studies major, hosted the event and explained in a post that the intent was to denounce any acts of war in Iran made by the United States.

"I want to say to our Iranian brothers and sisters, at MSU and across the world, that we all stand with you."

"We believe that an imperialist war with Iran is wrong," Bandagi said. "Past American interventions in Iran, particularly the American-run coup of 1953 that brought a brutal monarchy to power, have been disastrous for the Iranian people and for the cause of justice and democracy around the world. In the Middle East at large, too, America's wars have destroyed untold lives and only served to enrich the ruling elite. We therefore pledge to resist such a war however, wherever, and whenever we can. #NoWarWithIran"

As more students gathered around the Rock holding umbrellas in one hand and signs in the other, they sang and chanted together, echoing pacifist sentiments in united voices. These chants were often personal. Rumbling through the crowd were a hundred voices together: "No more war in the Middle East!/No justice, no peace!" and "Hey hey! Ho ho!/This president has got to go!" In Bandagi's speech that kicked off the event, he emphasized solidarity with Iran and Iranian people.

"We all need to stand together against the military industrial complex and the imperialist, war-mongering politicians that see war as a business," Bandagi said. "I want to say to our Iranian brothers and sisters, at MSU and across the world, that we all stand with you against Trump and his administration's racist, evil attacks against Iran."

As the rain continued to relentlessly fall, students listened to the passionate speeches, and further solidified their determination to halt the upcoming war. Lea Dyga, sophomore environmental plant biology major, felt that protests like this could be crucial for change.

"We should stand up to our government—because war is not something we need," Dyga said. "But more specifically I am interested in students who take on the initiative to organize. I think it's really nice to see young people getting involved in politics and standing up and organizing."

With a sense of unanimity, students hugged each other, exchanged information to organize together in the future, and left the Rock with a strengthened resolve to stand and fight for what was right. Whether it was about opposing war, environmental action, or justice for survivors on campus, students took the initiative to stand up, call for action and make their voices heard.

TOP AND BOTTOM RIGHT: The Rock was painted with the Iranian flag with, "No War With Iran", written on it for a protest on January 10. The rainy weather did not hold the students back from voicing their opinions.





EVERY DAY IS CATURDAY!

The soft tinkling of bells broke through the gaps in the hum of conversation as a cat toy was flicked around the floor. The delicate white paws of an otherwise black cat chased after its stuffed prey. A gasp of surprise and infectious laughter roared to life as another tuxedo kitten leaped up onto the table, sitting in the middle of a board game with little care to the players crowded around it. The players did not seem to mind, their laughter melting into gentle coos as multiple hands moved to pet the young kitten. With a lash of its tail and a quick glance filled with mischievous curiosity, the kitten leaped off the table, scattering the board game money across the table. This was a normal occurrence during Constellation Cat Cafe's board game nights.

Constellation Cat Cafe opened in late 2019 with a dozen cats. Portraits hung on the wall of each cat, with their small biographies listed below. Sticking to the theme, each cat's star sign constellation was also printed beneath each listing. The building was split in two, with the cat room on one side and the cafe on the other. McKenzie Javorka, MSU doctoral psychology student and a barista at the cafe, found the perfect job that combined her love of cats and making coffee.

"It's a really great community space," Javorka said. "People may not realize that all of the proceeds go directly to the care and feeding of the cats. They should come to the cafe for cats and they should come back for the cats and the coffee. I think a lot of people don't know that our coffee is also really good and that it's a whole experience."

From cat yoga to board game nights, the cafe had a rotating cast of events to keep the evenings unique. Junior geological sciences major Abigail Wolff claimed she was "pet deprived" and came to the board game night due to the cats' influence.

"It just sounded like something calm to do for a Saturday night," Wolff said. "The cats are adorable and comforting, especially since I can't see one normally."

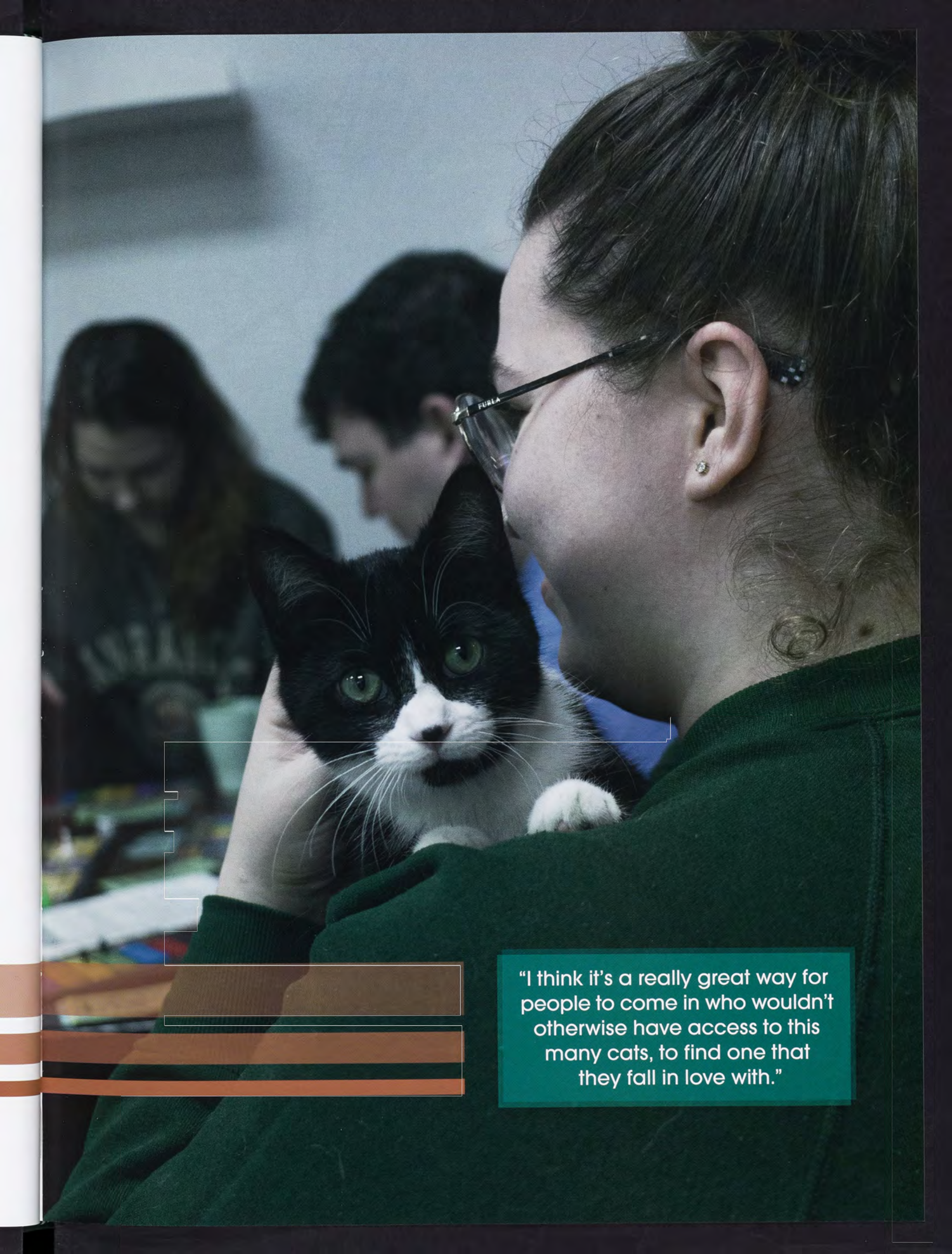
Students and cats play during Constellation Cat Cafe's game night

All of the cats were adoptable, and the proceeds from each adoption went toward vaccinations and medical care for the cats. Lauren Drew, a doctoral psychology student, was planning on adopting one of the kittens at the event.

"I love that the cats have so much exposure to other cats and also to people," Drew said. "I think it's a really great way for people to come in who wouldn't otherwise have access to this many cats, to find one that they fall in love with. I think it's such a huge success story and that's really exciting for me."

The 'employee only' door swung upon and each cat turned to watch with twitching tails as small dishes of food were placed next to the bundles of toys and beds that were littered among the ground. Tiny feet padded over to the dishes with haste, crouching and beginning to crunch at the food offered to them. Humans and cats sat together, both groups munching at the various treats given to them by Constellation Cat Cafe.

ABOVE AND RIGHT: East Lansing locals and students alike enjoyed spending time with mischievous cats at Constellation Cat Cafe's board game night.



"I think it's a really great way for people to come in who wouldn't otherwise have access to this many cats, to find one that they fall in love with."

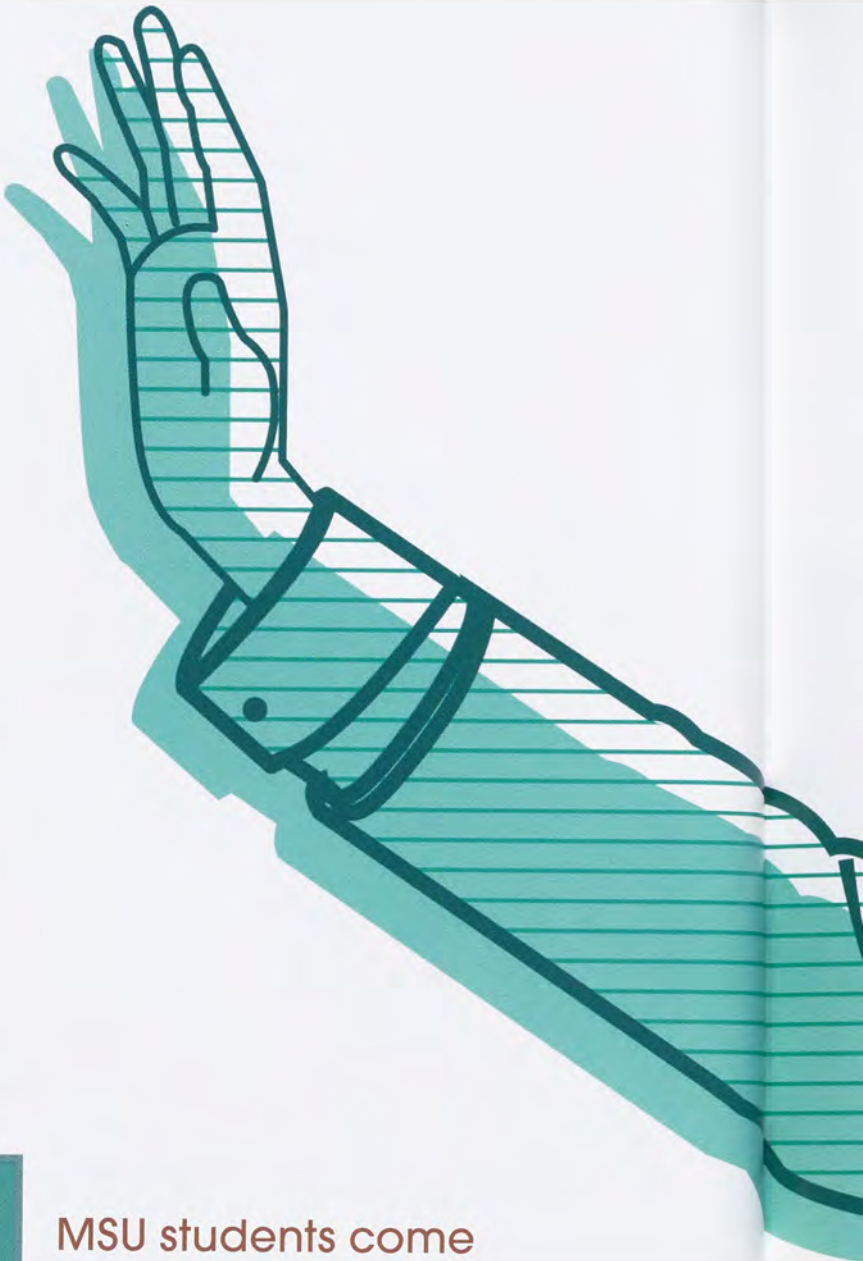


RISING IN RECOGNITION

Each year, the MSU community came together to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy. The campus-wide celebrations included concerts, student forums, a march and much more. Students were asked to participate however they felt inspired to, and many rose to the occasion.

At Fairchild Theatre, the MSU Jazz Studies program put on a commemorative performance titled "Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest." The concert featured an original composition by one of MSU's own, Jordyn Davis, an MSU graduate music performance major, was inspired by Maya Angelou's poem and the theme for this year's celebration, "Still I Rise." Davis had attended every single Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest concert since the beginning of her time at MSU in 2013, and when asked to compose a piece for the 2020 concert, she rose to the challenge.

"It is probably one of the most uplifting and empowering pieces of poetry I've ever read," Davis said. "It reminds me to keep my head high when things get hard and to continue pursuing music and sharing my voice with the world no matter what."

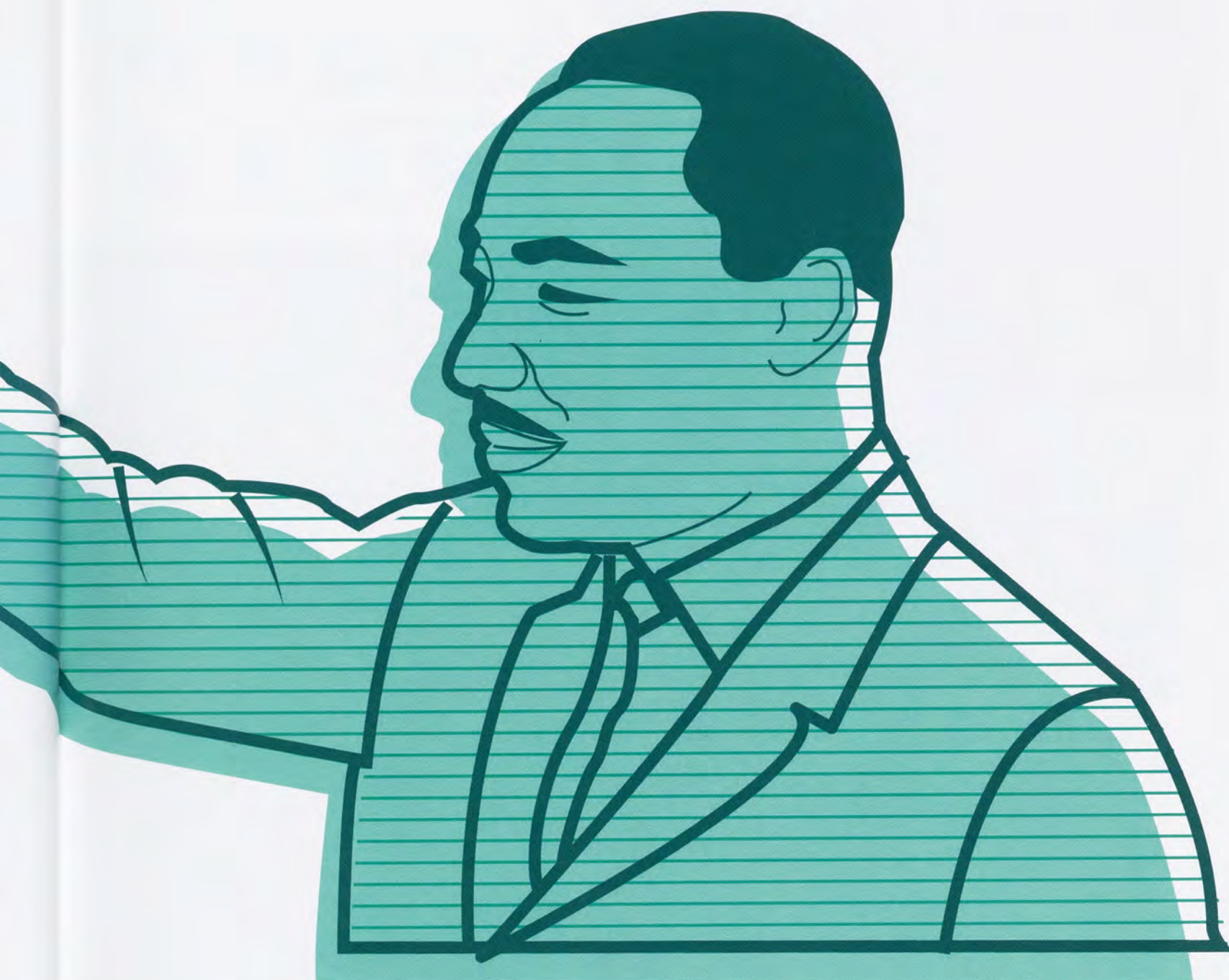


MSU students come together to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

For the entire week, "Still I Rise" was prevalent all over campus. At an event on campus, students had the opportunity to march in commemoration of Dr. King's message. Dre Nicholas was a senior marketing major, he and also served as president of The Zeta Delta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at MSU. His chapter was responsible each year for the March for Social Justice, another important part of carrying on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. To Nicholas and his fellow brothers, the march was a representation of Dr. King's non-violent tactics.

"This was more than a march, but a moment of solidarity amidst the many problems MSU still has yet to solve within the minority communities," Nicholas said. "I wanted people to feel important, and that they have a voice, and duty to fight for what is right."

Spartans were fighting for what was right at the Social Justice Arts Festival, where submissions of artwork that was inspired by the movement for social change was on display. Projects ranged from visual to performance art, and in the end four students were honored for their outstanding contributions. Spencer Arias was honored for his



musical composition, "What is Your World?", which asked performers and audience members to confront LGBT issues and experiences in a method of their choosing. Arias was a graduate student in the College of Music studying composition and specializing in music for instrumentalist and electronics.

"Gay people should have the agency to say something when they want to, and to say nothing when they don't want to, and so that was what the piece was really about," Arias said.

There were prayers, spirituals and protest. There were strides made in the way of progressive change. There was a promise that the future of MSU was a place where all students could feel safe and accepted. Dr. King would have been proud of the students fighting not only for racial equality, but for equality for all.

MLK JR.

"This was more than a march, but a moment of solidarity amidst the many problems MSU still has yet to solve within the minority communities."

A SPARTAN STAPLE

Conrad's Grill: The
go-to restaurant
for Spartans

An inevitable part of being in college was staying up late most nights. Whether it was from a fast-approaching paper deadline or a night out with friends, it happened. When there were late nights, there were late-night meals, and for Michigan State students that meant heading to Conrad's Grill. With four locations around town and a menu with greasy favorites like chicken tenders, tater tots and wraps stuffed with all the best greasy foods, Conrad's was something every Spartan likely experienced during their time at MSU.

Senior English education major Hannah Rosemurgy transferred to Michigan State as a junior and was immediately indoctrinated into the culture of Conrad's. The first week of classes had barely started and she was hooked.

"Every student, no matter if they have tried the food or not, will know what the restaurant is and what they serve."

"It is my go-to comfort food whenever I come home from a night out or I need a little pick-me-up," Rosemurgy said.

Rosemurgy started ordering Conrad's so frequently that she was on a first-name basis with the delivery drivers. Not only was the food good, but the experience of getting Conrad's was something she loved.

"There are four different locations in the East Lansing area, so no matter where you are on or off-campus, there is always a Conrad's within a short distance," Rosemurgy said. "Every student, no matter if they have tried the food or not, will know what the restaurant is and what they serve. Getting Conrad's is something that a majority of students can relate to, and even at a campus with so many different people, cultures and backgrounds, it is still a shared experience."

Not only was getting Conrad's a great experience, but many of the students who worked there enjoyed it too. Senior computer science major Logan McDonald worked at Conrad's from 2015 to 2018 and believed that it was a good experience. While it was busy, especially from 10 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., McDonald bonded with his



coworkers and made memories that would last a lifetime. McDonald also got to interact with a lot of students, which he said was a mixture of courteous customers and customers who were less than friendly.

"Lots of fights happened on and around Conrad's as drunk people would congregate," McDonald said. "So often I had to step in for the safety of customers and staff."

Conrad's success in East Lansing had allowed it to expand. Rosemurgy said she was excited that there was a location in Chicago



and one planned for Madison, Wisconsin.

"I think some alumni in these areas may remember Conrad's from their undergraduate years but may not be able to drive all the way to East Lansing just for a wrap," Rosemurgy said. "I'm excited to see the chain expand."

Whether it was after a few too many at Rick's or to de-stress from pounding out an essay due the next day, Conrad's greasy offerings had become a cultural foundation of MSU. Not only for the food, but

for the common ground it provided. Every Spartan could relate to memories of waiting in line late at night for Conrad's.

BOTTOM: Conrad's Grill's vibrant sign is a beacon for MSU students from all walks of life.



YOUR EXISTENCE IS RESISTANCE

Students
come together
to celebrate
their heritage
and culture

The silence was thick in the Pasant Theatre. Nobody dared to make a sound. Patrons sat on the edge of their seats, eyes glued to the stage as the dancers took their positions. The performers' bodies merged into a statue-like focus, shifting to pose in sync. Silence resumed once again and was held for a slight moment before they erupted into a dance, voices rising into a chant as they shifted and moved across the stage, perfectly in tune with one another.

Bringing together students and faculty, Cultural Vogue served as a platform to celebrate and learn about various Asian Pacific cultures. Those who attended the event learned about Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) cultures through dance, spoken word and other performances. Sophie Schmidt, senior professional writing major and the historian for Asian Pacific American Student Organization (APASO), wanted to use her writing prowess to help give APIDA students a voice.

"APASO is a great way to get more involved in the APIDA community at MSU. It's a group of likeminded students, and it's not always business. We like to do a lot of fun events and hang out as well."

"As the historian, it's my job to archive and preserve the presence of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American students on MSU's campus," Schmidt said. "I wanted to be the historian because I find power and empathy in human stories."

The theme of the 2020 Cultural Vogue event was immigration and deportation with guest speakers Simon Tam and Joe X Jiang. They

gave a Broadway-style performance that detailed their experience living as Asian Americans. Chloe Majzel, senior international relations major, was in charge of setting up and planning the Cultural Vogue event. She believed that the success of the event was due to powerful performances like Tam's and Jiang's.

"The best part for me is definitely hearing the audiences' reactions after the show," Majzel said. "How they were moved by a certain performance or they were astonished by someone's talent was really rewarding."

Hosted by the APASO, this was the 18th Cultural Vogue event. Students banded together to lift this event off the ground, all wanting it to succeed. The event began with Vince Nguyen, secretary of APASO, performing a song for the event. Titled "Your Existence is Resistance", the song was dedicated to the work APASO's members have done for the APIDA community at MSU.

"APASO is a great way to get more involved in the APIDA community at MSU," Schmidt said. "It's a group of likeminded students, and it's not always business. We like to do a lot of fun events and hang out as well."

Applause roared to life as the dancers finished their performance, and some audience members rose to give a standing ovation. The dancers bowed and waved before they left the stage and the next group took their spot. Each performer aimed to appreciate and celebrate their Asian culture and heritage through their various masterpieces, pouring their hearts into their chosen crafts. This dedication and appreciation for their backgrounds made the night a roaring success.

TOP: Junior comparative culture and politics major Myrah Rafiah Beverly and another MSU student present about homeland. "Do not forget the past to start a new chapter," Beverly said. BOTTOM: Students from Hmong American Student Association were performing Bamboo pole dance.





SPARTAN SPIRITS

Is MSU's North Neighborhood haunted?

As junior journalism major Tessa Osborne walked through North Neighborhood to her residential hall, Yakeley, she pointed at the fourth floor of Mary Mayo Hall. It had been closed off years ago, and Osborne specifically described the building as "boarded up." A dim green light shone from a fourth-floor window as Osborne continued; she described the many unsettling rumors that explained the closed-off floor. Residential staff, however, told students the closing was due to cancer causing minerals called asbestos.

Stories like these fueled rumors that North Neighborhood was haunted, specifically Mary Mayo Hall, the oldest residential hall on campus. Although Mary Mayo never actually stepped foot in the building named after her, it was rumored that she roamed the halls.

Osborne and her friend, freshman social work major Clare Walton, believed they experienced something otherworldly in Mayo Hall. It was around Halloween 2019 when the two were studying in a private room with friends. A shadow appeared outside the window, staring at the students for a few minutes until it disappeared without explanation.

"I don't know if I fully believe North is haunted, but I definitely don't rule it out."

"I don't believe it was a Halloween prank because they didn't actually scare us; they just stared, they never told us who they were," Osborne said. "We never saw a face."

That was not the only ghastly experience Osborne had while living in North Neighborhood. Although Mayo is the most infamous haunted hall, Osborne said she had an even scarier experience in her own hall, Yakeley. While getting dressed in her room, Osborne saw a woman walk through her door and then vanish. Both of these experiences led Osborne to believe the rumors about North Neighborhood.

"I do believe North is haunted, especially during the spooky months in the fall," Osborne said. "I feel like maybe I'm just a bit susceptible to superstition, but I have also experienced weird sightings through investing myself [in investigating the rumors] for The State News and on my own time."

Although Walton only experienced the stranger that peered through the window, she said the history of North Neighborhood made her believe it was haunted.

"I do believe that North is haunted because it's old and people do say that many things have happened that could point to it being haunted," Walton said.

Sarah Kutchinski, junior media and information major, also lived in Yakeley and had multiple experiences that made her question if the rumors surrounding North Neighborhood were true. Her motion sensor light would go on and off without her being near it and her dresser drawer mysteriously slammed shut.

"I don't know if I fully believe North is haunted, but I definitely don't rule it out," Kutchinski said. "The experiences I've had and the experience I've heard of others having makes me skeptical. I believe ghosts exist, and with North being the oldest neighborhood on campus, it makes sense that maybe there are a few ghosts sticking around."

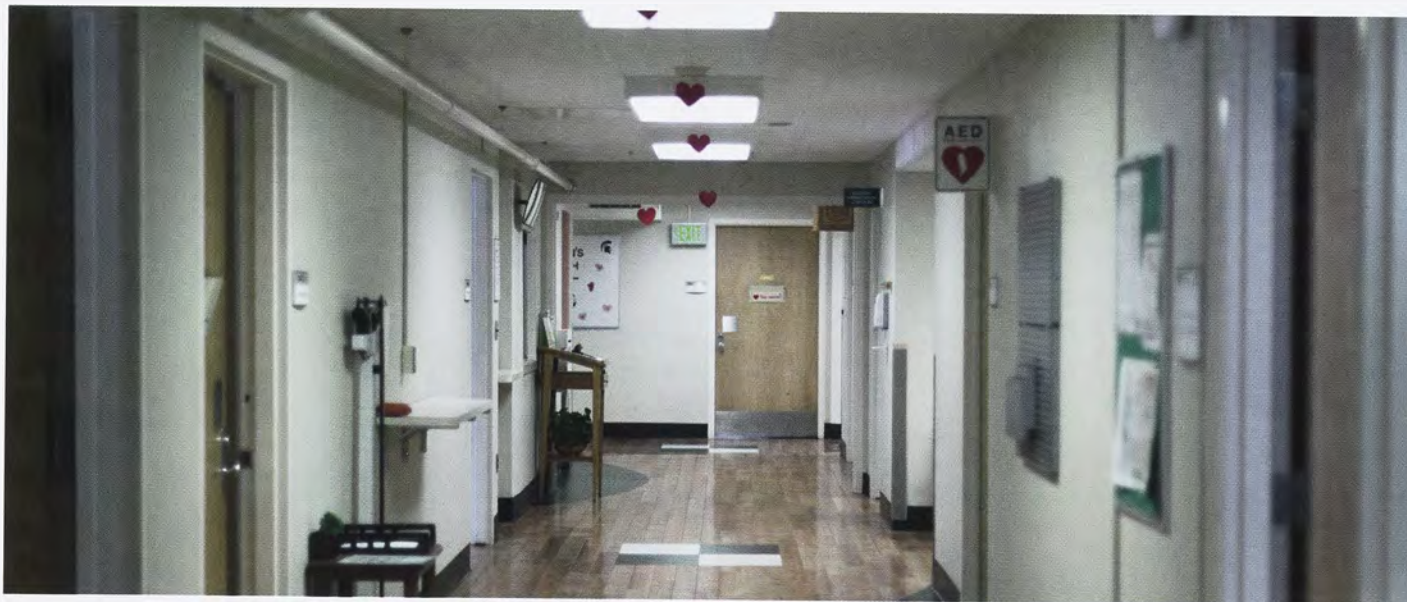
While they may have just been rumors and asbestos actually did exist on the fourth floor of Mayo Hall, Spartans still believed that North Neighborhood was haunted. Knocks on windows, the slamming shut of dresser drawers and staring strangers left a mark on Spartan culture. Students could not help but talk about the legends every time they saw the eerie green light dimly glowing in the boarded off fourth floor of Mayo Hall.

TOP LEFT: Abbi Wynsma plays a lonely piano in the lobby of Yakeley Hall. Despite her efforts no ghosts revealed themselves.

TOP RIGHT: An ominous lamp sits outside Yakeley Hall at twilight.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Sarah Kutchinski and Abbi Wynsma were sophomores at MSU. They found no ghosts on their hunt that evening.





FIGHTING THE STIGMA

CAPS provides students with free mental health care

Before 2016, if a student needed mental health care at Michigan State, there was not a central place to go. The few options scattered across campus left students confused and scared to get help. When the Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) was created as a single mental health care entity on campus, it made a world of difference to students like junior psychology major Madison Kearly.

"I've been to a few therapists before, but haven't ever felt like it was something that would help me, until I met my therapist at CAPS."

"My experience at CAPS has been better than I expected," Kearly said. "I went for the first time at the beginning of the fall semester, and have been going back regularly. I've been to a few therapists before, but haven't ever felt like it was something that would help me, until I met my therapist at CAPS."

CAPS Director Mark Patishnock credited the success of CAPS to students, who were the ones that advocated for a central, accessible place to go for mental health issues. Patishnock, who became director in 2018, said students especially wanted more resources to go into mental health programs.

"I see [CAPS] as a tangible example of successful student advocacy," Patishnock said.

The most important part of CAPS's accessibility was the fact that it was free to all students. All they had to do was make their way to the third floor of Olin Health Center, go through a mental health screening and they would be paired with a therapist — all for free.

"I think CAPS is one of the best things that MSU has provided its students," Kearly said. "I've recommended it to all of my friends who are struggling, because it's nice to have the option of actual professional help. With it being free for students, I think it makes receiving these services much more accessible for everyone than it would be otherwise."

The program had grown since 2016, including an increase in counselors from 12 to 20, a full-time crisis counselor, increased hospitalization services and a crisis line for when CAPS was closed. These changes also included an intensive clinical services unit, which served students needing more involved care.

Kearly said that while CAPS was extremely beneficial to her and her peers, it had its shortcomings. She said the lack of resources led to long waiting lists and some students were turned away based on the severity of their circumstances. Patishnock recognized the students' concerns and set out to address them.

"What I would like to see is continual university-wide investment, ownership, responsibility, and really a dialogue about what is the best way to help students with regard to their mental health needs, really identify what CAPS should be doing, what the university can be doing and then resource it to do that," Patishnock said.

While there were issues with the CAPS system, students were relieved to finally have a central place to turn to when they needed help with their mental health. Patishnock said that is what he is most proud of, that students walked in and received help the same day. The CAPS program was an important resource on campus that continued to change to fit students' needs.

LEFT: Olin Health Center offers a safe and inviting environment for MSU students to receive much-needed services. RIGHT: Mark Patishnock is the director of psychiatry at Olin Health Center.



SHOT IN THE DARK

Responsible Hospitality Council launches the Angel Shot

After a stressful week, many Spartans found that the ideal weekend activity was clinking vodka sodas and cans of beer in a bar filled with equally worn-out peers. These locations also served as popular date spots, thanks to the relaxed atmosphere that alcohol created. However, whenever drinking was involved, safety was an obvious concern. In attempt to help get women home safer after a night out, the Responsible Hospitality Council implemented the Angel Shot.

Started in 1988 by a cohort of restaurant owners in East Lansing who wanted to endorse safer alcohol sales and consumption, the Responsible Hospitality Council aimed toward creating an environment that provided optimum security for its members and patrons. With 15 current full-time members, including places like HopCat, Black Cat Bistro, FieldHouse, Beggar's Banquet and more,

"To have something like (the Angel Shot) to get you out of a sticky situation without being like, 'hey he might be dangerous...' (is) a good way to prevent possible rapes, or... just in general."

each member aimed to pair safety and fun when it came to drinking.

One way to do this was by posting signs in women's bathrooms advertising the Angel Shot, which assisted women who had been assaulted or had an odd feeling about someone they were with.

There were three different options for Angel Shots. Ordering an "Angel Shot Neat" resulted in a bartender escorting the woman outside in a cautious manner and walking them to their car. An "Angel Shot with Ice" meant the bartender would call the woman a driving service and wait with them until the vehicle showed up, and

an "Angel Shot with Lime" meant the bartender would call the police and remain with the woman to help point out the attacker. Dominique Maysonet, a bartender at FieldHouse, noted the importance of safety while living in a world that was so digitally driven.

"Nowadays, you have so many of these dating apps like Tinder, Bumble [and] Hinge, and a lot of these people don't know who they're meeting up with," Maysonet said. "To have something like [the Angel Shot] to get you out of a sticky situation without being like, 'hey he might be dangerous...' [is] a good way to prevent possible rapes, or... just in general."

However, some of the restaurants who were part of the Responsible Hospitality Council didn't have signs advertising the Angel Shot up in their bathrooms — many of the bartenders did not know what the Angel Shot was. Senior English major Olivia Dalby often enjoyed the bar scene, however, she was skeptical about the effectiveness of the Angel Shot.

"I've spent a lot of time in bar bathrooms reading the Angel Shot sign, and I don't think I've ever considered it a viable option if I did feel unsafe ... I have no way to know how well-trained the staff is in responding to sexually-dangerous situations or if I'm going to be able to get their attention in time," Dalby said.

While the Angel Shot was a good precautionary measure, it was not always enough to prevent assaults from actually happening. Senior experience architecture major Áine Dillane did not always feel safe in the college bar scene for this very reason.

"I think bar culture is too deeply troubled at this point," Dillane said. "As long as they exist they will continue to facilitate poor behavior, alcohol abuse and breed sexual assault. Having a cap on the number of drinks one could order might be a good start."

There was more that needed to be done to help maintain women's safety than just the Angel Shot. Even some of the restaurants involved in the Responsible Hospitality Council were not aware of what the "drink" was, which was problematic at best. The root to protecting women in alcohol-serving establishments included not only bathroom signs, but also comprehensive training on the bar staff's end and sexual assault education.



ANGEL SHOTS



ON THE ROCKS

A member from the bar staff will call you an Uber or Lyft



NEAT

A member from the bar staff will escort you to your car



WITH A LIME

A member from the bar staff will call the police

BACKSTAGE NETWORK

Students succeed
academically
while backstage
MSU's theatres

A sea of bodies created a roar of noise, standing shoulder-to-shoulder as they waited for the doors to open into the auditorium. Two ushers stood in front of the doors, smiles planted firmly on their faces and ticket counters gripped in their hands. The herd of people was daunting, but the experienced employees knew how to handle it. Opening the doors, the flood rushed forward with tickets outstretched in their hands. With practiced and patient ease, the ushers scanned each ticket, working quickly through the collective. This was the job of an usher at the Wharton Center.

From working as an usher at the Wharton Center to checking the sound during performances at the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH) Auditorium, these backstage staff positions offered job opportunities and experience for more theatrically-inclined students. Each job allowed students to see the backstage network that existed within each theatre.

Since the positions were made for students, these theatres were flexible with the students and their schedules. From making the shifts short to putting a limit on the amount of shifts a student could cover, they wanted students to put class first. Emily Towns, junior journalism major and usher at the Wharton Center, believed the short shifts benefitted her and allowed her to squeeze them into the gaps of her class schedule.

"There aren't that many shifts that each team of ushers has, therefore it really does not take up enough time to where it would conflict with my academic studies," Towns said. "There is always the option to sign up for more shifts, however, allowing for me to sort of make my own schedule."

At the Wharton Center, a Facebook page was made for the ushers to post a shift swap in case any conflicts came up with schedules and class times. Ushers were also allowed to work on homework during breaks.

"On weeks that I know I have lots of homework, I sign up for a ticket taking shift where about halfway through a performance, I can work on any non-digital homework as long as no patrons are needing assistance," Towns said. "Wharton really wants to see its employees succeed academically."

The RCAH Auditorium, located in Snyder-Phillips Hall, offered many different types of jobs for students. From being an usher to working admissions, the theatre operated the same as any major theatre. Zoe Beers, freshman arts and humanities major who worked on lighting design at the RCAH Auditorium, learned the reality of working at a theatre.

"Even though this theatre is pretty small, I still get to see what goes on in a professional theatre," Beers said. "I had only done work in my high school theatre prior to this. I want to work in theatres as a living, so this job has allowed me to see what it will be like."

As the herd of people began to trickle down, each person scrambled for their seat as the time for the performance grew closer and closer. On cue, the lights began to dim as the doors were closed and ushers moved to step out of their positions as the performance began. As the melodies of the musical began to trickle under the doors, an usher found a place to sit. She crossed her legs and looked around for any confused patrons in need of assistance. Finding none, she pulled out a book and tucked in until intermission, where the chaos would resurface and she would again be called into action.

RIGHT: The Wharton Center is a bustling hub for theatre lovers travelling to Michigan State's campus. Numerous Broadway shows and performances take place in the center every year.

"Wharton really
wants to see its
employees succeed
academically."

CLIFTON & DOLORES WHARTON CENTER FOR

W H
A R T
O N



CYCLING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Bikes Service Center provided students with more environmentally friendly transportation

Tucked into Bessey Hall along the Red Cedar River sat the Bike Services Center, noticeable because of the rows of bikes ready to rent, lined up outside the building. For 15 years, the center served as a place for students to go if they needed some help getting around the sprawling MSU campus. If Spartans wished to avoid the crowded buses, the long walks to class or the desperate search for a parking space, the Bike Services Center held the solution.

In 2003, a group of students started the MSU Bike Project. They would fix up bikes, spray paint them green and encourage staff and faculty to ride them around campus instead of driving. Sustainable Transportation Manager Tim Potter was a part of the project and noticed an overwhelmingly positive response from students and staff.

"We had a lot of interest and pressure from students to get bikes open to anyone on campus," Potter said. "Demand for bikes on campus exploded."

The project caught the attention of The State News, and they appealed to the university for funding. They found the space in Bessey Hall in the spring of 2006, and during the fall of 2018, the Bikes Service Center opened with Potter as general manager and self-proclaimed "bike guy."

Potter rode his bike to work every day, which made his commute more enjoyable and quicker than driving in rush hour traffic. The Bikes Service Center did repairs while also renting, selling and buying bikes. The bikes put up for rent were bikes that were abandoned during the academic year; Potter and his staff fixed them up and had accumulated over 400 of them.

"[Abandoned] bikes are turned into nicer, newer bikes, then they're not so nice or new," Potter said. "So we continue to add new bikes to the fleet and retire old bikes."

At its peak, the Bikes Service Center saw about 100 students a day, which Potter said meant the center was "flats 'r us," fixing an abundance of flat tires. Fixing and selling bikes meant fewer students were taking buses or cars and resulted in a more eco-friendly option for getting around campus.

Professor Robert Richardson taught in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the Department of Community Sustainability and believed bikes were one way to combat climate change in a world of oil-based transportation. Ride-sharing, public transportation, electric vehicles and of course, bikes, were all ways to commute more sustainably.





"Biking would probably be considered the most sustainable in that the act of biking generates no emissions at all."

"Of these, biking would probably be considered the most sustainable in that the act of biking generates no emissions at all," Richardson said. "The energy is, of course, entirely human-powered."

Potter, the bike expert, agreed. Bikes were the way to go, especially for those trying to get around a large campus with a lack of parking, like MSU.

"To me, it's such a no-brainer, but then again, I run a bike shop," Potter said.

For students and staff alike, bikes provided an easy and eco-friendly way to get around. No matter if you had a flat tire, a stolen bike or no bike at all, the Bikes Service Center was the place to go. Just ask for the bike guy, and you would be in good hands.

RIGHT: A MSU Bikes employee performs a brake adjustment on a bike. The MSU Bikes Service Center also offered flat tire replacements, tune ups and more. **TOP:** MSU Bikes is located next to the Red Cedar River on the south side of Bessey Hall.

NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Students get
together for
movie nights in
apartments and
dorm rooms





There were countless ways an evening could be spent in a college town. Sometimes, the ideal night for MSU students was to get away from all of the outside commotion and enjoy a relaxing movie night. Dimmed lights, comfy seats, perhaps something to snack on and of course, a movie, was all it took to put together the perfect entertainment event. Movie nights were often hosted in dorm rooms and apartments by students who were willing to provide entertainment.

Hosting the movie night came with some responsibility. Attendees expected a good movie and a fun time, both of which would depend on the host. Some people, like senior English major Johnny Mocny, truly embraced the role of the host.

"I think I've always had a dream to own a theater and curate the kinds of movies I'd want to show people, and I also wanted to have some kind of regular social experience to plan and look forward to," Mocny said. "I've also always been a fan of cult movies and good-bad movies, so my roommate and I thought it was a great idea to get our friends and other people who love movies to watch some films that they wouldn't have seen otherwise."

Making a fun event like movie night involved some creativity. Some people even decided to mix it up and show more than one movie. Mocny's friend, senior psychology major Brendan Tyler, had been part of discussion regarding presenting double features at the event.

"We were just spitballing ideas at first, like it would be fun to pair this movie with this movie, but then [Mocny] and his roommate actually made it happen," Tyler said. "My favorite pairing was

"I've always had a dream to own a theater and curate the kinds of movies I'd want to show people."

"Robocop" and "Steel" which honestly was the best lineup that they had. It was two super fun, super goofy movies that was great for a party experience like that."

Movie night was not just about the movies. Everything from food to trivia was being hosted by Mocny with each movie night being more ambitious than the last. Another friend of Mocny, sophomore film studies major Mary Telly, got to experience such aspects of Mocny's gatherings.

"It's just fun because there are people that you've never met before at every single one," Telly said. "[Mocny] loves throwing parties so he gets drinks, pizza, and sometimes there are prizes for trivia. I don't watch any of the movies that he watches, so it's kind of getting an inside look at Johnny Mocny's brain."

While there was so much MSU had to offer outside of education, it was nice to relax and watch a film with friends. Some people thought outside the box with their functions, as they sought for the best ways to get their guests active and more intrigued. At the end of the day, movie night was a time for people with common interests to all come together for community bonding. Whether you were a film fanatic, or just a friend looking for a good time, you could rely on movie nights for an eventful evening.

LEFT AND RIGHT: Grab your popcorn and settle in for a night at the movies! Many MSU students hosted movie nights in their dorms or apartments.



LIGHTING UP, LEGALLY

When Michigan residents decided to vote in favor of the legalization of recreational marijuana in November 2018, MSU's campus was filled with a glowing buzz. Marijuana, commonly known as "weed" to many young adults, would be legal to smoke at parties, purchase without a medical card and much more. Formerly, a medical marijuana card and other identification was needed to purchase it in the state of Michigan. While its legalization was both liberating and much needed, there were many stipulations that many young stoners were unaware of, affecting their psychoactive experiences. The key to ensuring both a safe and enjoyable smoking session? Education.

"You will benefit from the state taxation of marijuana in our schools and roads, and less people will be incarcerated for non-violent misdemeanors."

Senior neuroscience major Kat Ebert was the chapter co-president and founder of Students for Sensible Drug Policy at Michigan State. The organization fought to end the war on drugs, constructing a world that tore down the systemic oppression it spawned. Naturally, she knew about plenty of the rules and small details that went along with the legalization of recreational marijuana. Some big misconceptions? 18 year olds could smoke freely — you had to be 21 — and smoking was legal on campus — in the city of East Lansing, yes, but not on Michigan State grounds. The small details were bigger than most imagined.

"Employers still have the right to terminate your employment if they find that you're using recreational, or medical, cannabis," Ebert

The legalization of recreational marijuana in Michigan holds more weight than letting Spartans smoke freely

said. "I think it's also important to note that state lines are technically federal land, and you may be incarcerated and charged for possession on a federal level, even if both states are legalized. Education is key when it comes to recreational substance use and instead of abstinence-based education in schools, we need to start teaching harm reduction."

Another caveat to marijuana's legalization was that it was not safe to buy anywhere, from anyone. Junior social work major Joel Kotyk, who was co-president with Ebert for Students for Sensible Drug Policy, noted the importance of paying attention to where you purchase your cannabis from

"If students are of age, purchase from dispensaries...dispensaries ensure that the products you're getting are safe and actually are what they're labeled as," Ebert said. "Buying from someone illegal, no matter who it is, cannot guarantee this like a dispensary can. Especially with the concern of vaping related diseases, it is important to buy vape products that you know are safe."

When the conditions around recreational marijuana were clear, using it was more enjoyable. Senior political science major Grace Goddard was a frequent marijuana user, and noted how the legalities of the drug would become clearer as time went on. Even more so, it would even do more good than initially expected.

"In time, the stigma will lessen just as it did after prohibition for alcohol... you will benefit from the state taxation of marijuana in our schools and roads, and less people will be incarcerated for non-violent misdemeanors meaning more people have a chance to be employed," Goddard said.

When times were rough and anxiety peaked, many 21 and up Spartans could now use recreational marijuana to help take life's edge off a bit. Though many were skeptical of the drug being made legal, it would end up being something that would benefit more than those who smoked it. Blunts and edibles were already often being passed around at social gatherings, but there was a comfort in knowing it was legal now, along with the regulations behind it.



2020 VISION

2020 TEDxMSU conference: Vision

If you have ever seen a TED Talk, chances are you learned something new in a way you were not expecting. The foundation's style was to share ideas in a creative and captivating manner. From the fields of technology, entertainment and design these ideas were meant to change how people thought and went about their daily lives. In 2014, Michigan State University joined with the TED Foundation to begin yearly TEDxMSU conferences. Each year, students were asked to share their TED Talk ideas and a select few were chosen to present at the conference. Behind the scenes, a team of hard-working Spartans facilitated the entire event. In 2020, this team of Spartans was put to an unprecedented test, and they rose to the occasion.

"We wanted to make sure that everyone was as safe as possible, while still respecting that people put a lot of time and money into this event."

Eight talented speakers were chosen from a pool of over 200 applicants by a panel of four judges. As the lead director of speakers, Samyuktha Iyer and her team were responsible for rehearsing with the students for months leading up to the conference. Iyer was a third year economics major and was taking part in her last conference as a Spartan. When the special day arrived, Iyer was wrapping up with last minute preparations when she heard the news that MSU President Stanley was moving all classes online effective immediately due to growing concerns over the COVID-19 virus.

"The day of the conference started off with the COVID-19 announcement which immediately resulted in 17 people messaging me asking about the status of the conference," Iyer said. "We were unsure how big of an audience we would have given the

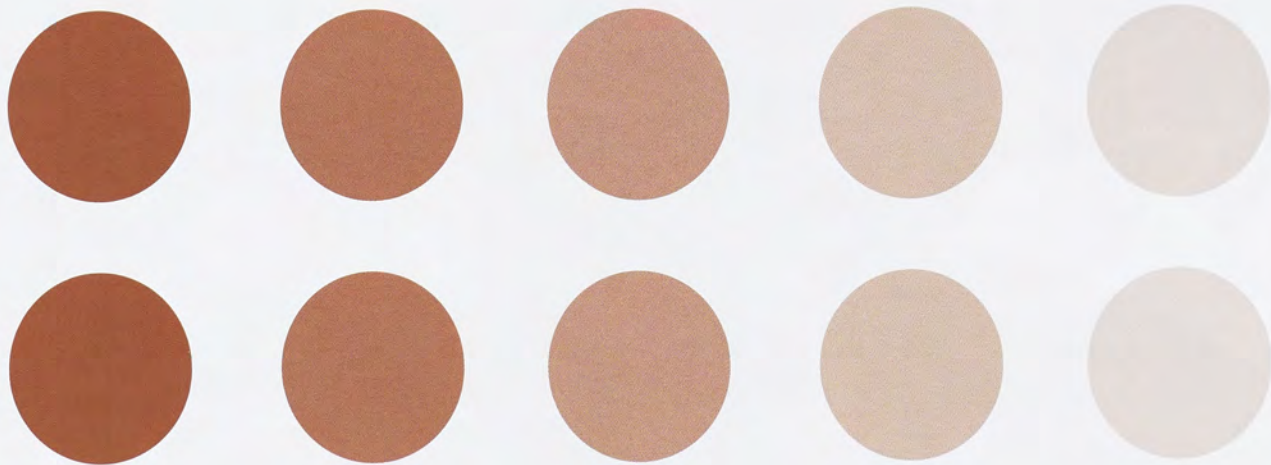
announcement and weren't sure in the beginning whether we would even be allowed to host the conference."

Every year, there was a theme to the TEDxMSU conference and speeches. The 2020 theme was vision, and although the team was caught blindsided by the virus's effect on the campus, the student leaders kept their eyes clear and focused on the task at hand.

As the lead director of marketing, Kaumundi Mahajan was responsible for encouraging people to attend the event. When she heard the announcement, her job became unbelievably more complicated, but the sophomore communications major remained calm and followed the proper precautions — such as supplying a ton of hand sanitizer — to ensure the event could run.

"The day of the event was beyond hectic," Mahajan said. "We wanted to make sure that everyone was as safe as possible, while still respecting that people put a lot of time and money into this event."

To both Iyer and Mahajan, the conference was a huge success. They were lucky; the conference was one of the last events allowed to take place on the campus before the coronavirus distancing measures went into full effect. Audience members were seated safely in the Wharton Center when the first speaker took the stage despite the day's turbulent developments. Through each speech and performance, students' ideas for the future were painted on stage. It was amazing to see these Spartans in action, and the crowd left wondering where their ideas would take them next.



TEDX
MSU



PHOTO: LOGAN COLES



Chipotle

PHOTO: KEYUR PATEL



AN
EXCEL

| | |
|---------|--|
| 86-87 | College of Arts and Letters |
| 88-89 | Started at the Bottom |
| 90-91 | MSU International |
| 92-93 | College of Nursing |
| 94-95 | James Madison College |
| 96-97 | College of Education |
| 98-99 | Small Town to Big University |
| 100-101 | MSU Resident Assistants |
| 102-103 | Honors College |
| 104-105 | College of Music |
| 106-107 | Where Tradition Meets Technology |
| 108-109 | College of Communication Arts & Sciences |
| 110-111 | College of Natural Science |
| 112-113 | Clocking in at Clinicals |
| 114-115 | College of Agriculture & Natural Resources |
| 116-117 | Residential College in the Arts & Humanities |
| 118-119 | Good for the Soul |
| 120-121 | College of Social Science |
| 122-123 | Thinking Through a Thesis |
| 124-125 | Finals Week Fire Support |
| 126-127 | Yes, and |
| 128-129 | Above and Beyond |
| 130-131 | Time for a Change |
| 132-133 | Hard Work Paying Off |
| 134-135 | Art for Justice |
| 136-137 | Broad College of Business |
| 138-139 | Lyman Briggs College |
| 140-141 | Just One Hour |
| 142-143 | Women of Wisdom |
| 144-145 | Value in a Vote |
| 146-147 | |

LENCE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

“Emergence”
mural emphasizes
the importance of
public art

Outside the Kresge Art Center, a burst of bold and bright colors drew gazes of passersby. Thanks to the “Public Art, Understanding, and Practice” course taught by professor Ben Duke, a group of 12 students worked to produce a mural completed in August 2019. The mural, titled “Emergence,” was the product of inspiration brought about by a trip to New York City and a need to shed light on the importance of public art.

The class itself was broken up into different parts — a trip to New York City to visit various galleries and exhibits, brainstorming what they wanted the mural to be and painting the mural. Senior studio art

major Jenny Hedden felt the New York City excursion was a crucial element of the process.

“I think the time we spent [together] as a group in New York was essential for establishing our group dynamic,” Hedden said. “Making a mural is hard and making a mural with 11 [other] voices is even harder, and we needed to learn how to work together.”

A variety of students from different educational backgrounds were enrolled in the course, making it one that both represented diversity and aimed to create something diverse. Junior Kathryn Resseguie had a major that was not necessarily rooted in art —



marketing. However, she explained how she got more out of the course than just a fun experience.

"I learned about art, artists, techniques, the significance of pieces and murals specifically and what pieces are made to portray. But other than just coursework, I learned a lot about

"Public art allows passersby to consider the value of the arts without having to speak to a Kresge department head. Hopefully this mural kick-starts a trend of sharing our work more widely."

myself as an artist, and other students as artists," Resseguie said.

One of the main points that "Emergence" wanted to make was that public art is needed, wanted and important. Senior graphic design major Madison Chaffer stressed the power public art had on both creators and communities.

"Public art allows passersby to consider the value of the arts without having to speak to a Kresge department head," Chaffer said. "Kresge is a largely closed community; if you're not in a class, you generally never see the work that is produced. Hopefully this mural kick-starts a trend of sharing our work more widely."

"Emergence" illustrated that creativity was never meant to be restrained. With the help of Professor Ben Duke, the students not only created a piece of public art that was easy on the eyes, but one that would inspire.

BELOW: MSU students created the mural titled "Emergence" during the summer semester 2019. The mural was inspired by a study-away trip in New York City.



STARTED FROM THE BOTTOM

Sebastian
Skinner opens
up about
his time in
foster care

For 14 years, Sebastian Skinner lived with his older sister, mother and grandpa in Wyandotte, Michigan. Unlike most adults, his childhood memories consisted of spending hours alone bored at home. While most children would find presents wrapped under the Christmas tree, Skinner would find heroin needles in drawers throughout the house. Instead of taking family trips to Disney World, Skinner would make trips with his mom to Detroit for drugs. While Skinner did not suffer from physical abuse, he did not receive the care he needed.

"I was about 11 or 12 when I started to notice. At school the way people talked about their families was completely different," Skinner said. "They would talk about going on vacation, going out to eat, having family game nights. I didn't know what they were talking about. I would just go home and sit there, play video games or do my homework. I wasn't forced to do my homework, I just did it because I was bored."

"I always thought people knew that I was really poor and lived in a drug house. It just made me realize that you never know what someone is going through, so to just treat people normally and equally."

Skinner was placed into foster care after 14 years of neglect. He described not being bothered by the transition since he would still be attending the same school and living in the same area. He was the only kid living with his foster parents, whom Skinner described as religious.

"It was kind of a culture shock because I was able to do anything I wanted when I lived at my old house," Skinner said. "Now I had to be home by 11, or have someone's mom call to say I could stay the night. It wasn't very strict, but it was more strict than I was used to."

Since Sebastian's sister was 16 years old when the case was filed, she had the choice of living with a friend as opposed to being placed into foster care. Being best friends with his sister growing up, it was extremely hard for Skinner to not live with her. Although Skinner had good friends, he still felt alone.

"They give you social workers and even my new foster parents, but those are just random adults that I have never met before, and I

am supposed to trust them with everything?" Skinner said. "No, I'm not doing that. I'm not eight years old. I had no one to talk to about what was going on."

While his foster care parents were supportive and loving, Skinner missed his mother. Skinner's mother passed away when he was 19. Skinner and his sister grew closer through his mother's death. In 2019, Skinner talked to his sister, a senior at Wayne State University, every day on the phone.

"A lot of people didn't know of our background or what I was going through until I was put into foster care," Skinner said. "I always thought people knew that I was really poor and lived in a drug house. It just made me realize that you never know what someone is going through, so to just treat people normally and equally."

With his background in foster care, Skinner hoped to bring a different perspective to his future career as a high school teacher. For Skinner, his teachers at school were the only role models and provided a sense of normalcy in his unstable life. Skinner dreamed of making school an enjoyable experience for students who did not come from a supportive home.



ABOVE: Senior Sebastian Skinner opens up about his time in foster care. With his background, he hopes to bring a different perspective to his future career as a high school teacher. **RIGHT:** Skinner described that he was placed into foster care after 14 years of neglect. Skinner dreamed of making a school an enjoyable experience for students who did not come from a supportive home.



Office of the Registrar

3,599

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Michigan State University was home to students from all over the world in 2019 and 2020, from China to India to Nigeria. While it could be hard for these students to leave what they've always known and go to a new place, many international students said Michigan State was welcoming and the transition was easier than expected. These students quickly immersed themselves in Spartan culture — football games, the variety of majors, the seemingly infinite clubs and student groups on campus. These students quickly found their place as a part of the culture, as Spartans.



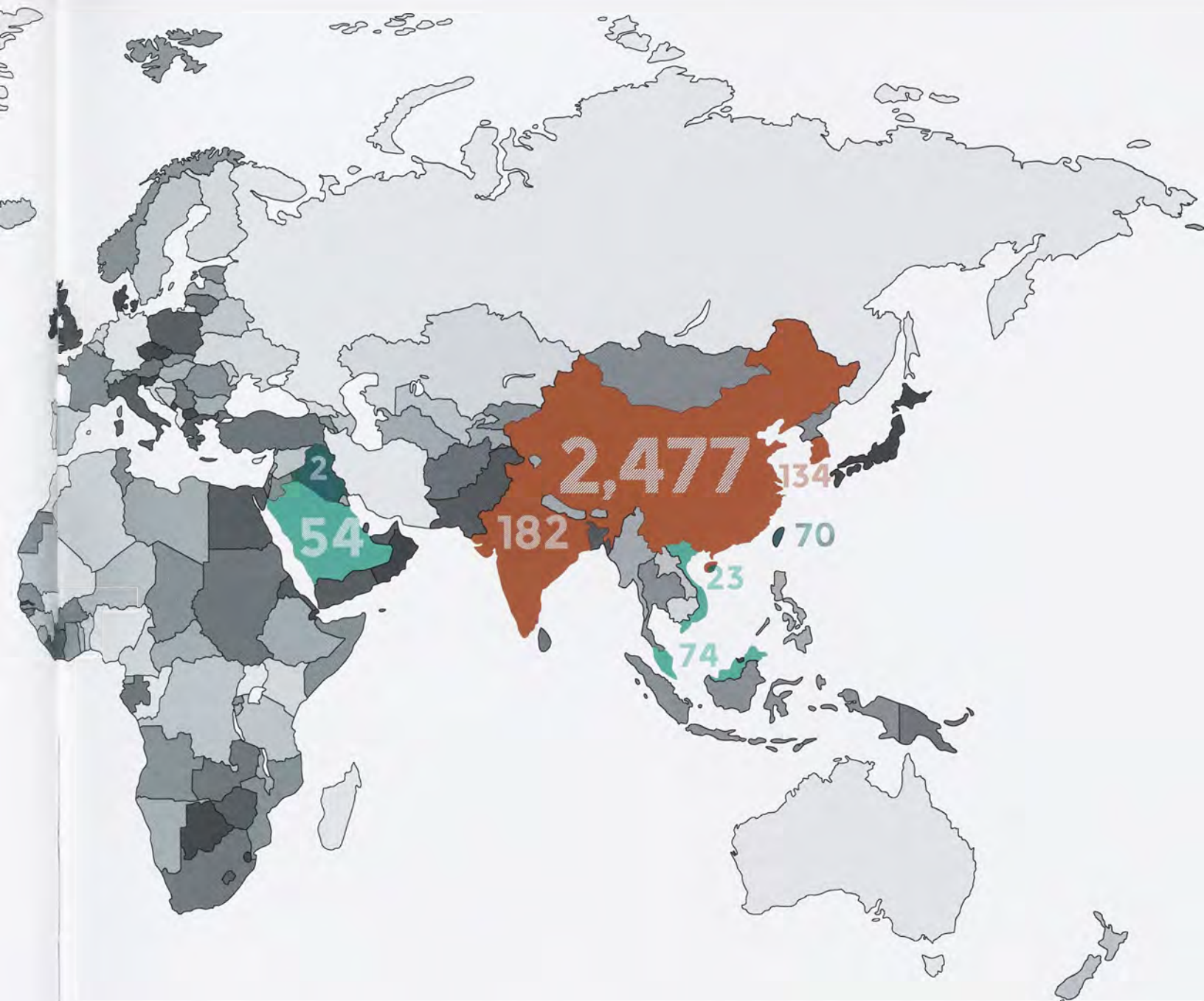
What is the biggest different between MSU and your home country?

Niya Guo, China, 1 yr at MSU

"I think the biggest difference between my home country and MSU is the crowding of the city. The high-rise buildings and buildings in my country are very dense, but the MSU buildings do not have very dense buildings, giving a comfortable feeling."

Yashika Kochhar, India, 3 yr

"From people to squirrels, everything is different at MSU. Initially it was so hard to catch onto the culture, but eventually I have understood so many things over the years. The biggest difference would be the diversity I have experienced after coming to MSU. The exposure to cross cultures has been very beneficial."



How have your experiences been at MSU?

Mounika Jetti, India, 2 yr at MSU

"It has been good so far. I would say there were many ups and downs. I made mistakes and I learned from them. I learned many life lessons here, and I would say I evolved as a completely different person. When I first came here, I was unable to speak proper English, and I wasn't able to mingle up with people. I was also too shy. I had roommate issues and also was unable to understand the culture here, so basically I was so confused. But in my second semester I started branching out and overcoming my fears, and I actually succeeded! I made many friends and improved my communication skills. I am doing good in my academics as well and also I worked as an International Student Orientation leader this summer. I was like a guide and the first friend to many international freshman on campus because I didn't want anyone to face the problems which I did. I am also a tutor now for ISS classes and was also elected as Assistant Director of Events for ISA. All this happened because I started expressing the real me and MSU accepted that real me with love."



What is your favorite part about MSU?

Yashika Kochhar, India, 3 yr

"It is hard to choose one, but I love how people have so much respect toward each other. We care about diversity and value it. It has given me a home away from home, and I'll be forever grateful for that."

Sade Omoniye, Nigeria, 1 yr

"I believe my favorite part about MSU is the opportunities available to students at MSU. I have the opportunity to meet and make connections with a diverse group of people. I can join numerous organizations and engage in activities to build my leadership skills and other skills as well. I can also get scholarships as a sophomore to reduce tuition. Here at MSU, the opportunities are unlimited."

Shalvi Save, India, 3 yr

"My favorite part is the school spirit! We don't have this concept back home, and I love the game day culture."

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Every day, the number of people moving to urban areas is growing. Cities provide more educational and economic opportunities but fewer places grow fresh foods. With the country moving away from an agricultural focus, the rise of urban farming might be the only way to ensure fresh food for a community.

What started as an interest became a unique career path for nursing student Mia McPherson. By immersing herself in the world of agriculture, McPherson emerged with a new outlook on the health care industry. In addition to her nursing degree, she pursued a minor in sustainable agriculture and food systems and through her work inside and outside the classroom, she has cultivated a love for serving the community.

Growing up in Ypsilanti, Michigan, McPherson witnessed first hand how local farming directly related to health. During her first year at Michigan State, she took an eye-opening class in food sustainability.

"Coming to the first land grant university in the country, with such a vibrant community of food and group initiatives fostered an interest, and from there I kept going," McPherson said.

Agriculture and health care were connected in a way that was overlooked by many individuals. It was about working together and finding ways to improve the health of a community by enhancing the foods available. Diet-related illnesses, such as diabetes, could be circumvented with access to fresher foods.

McPherson was inspired through gardening and distribution organizations which she volunteers at often in her free time. In 2019, she interned at The Farm at St. Joe's, at St. Joe's Hospital and had the chance to work with a group of people from diverse backgrounds.

"I think that's the beautiful thing about food," McPherson said. "We all come from different backgrounds and we all see how food intersects."

Volunteering was an important part of McPherson's life because it was fun and rewarding. She was passionately fulfilled while volunteering. It seemed the more she took on, the better she understood her own major.

"I don't think I would have quite the understanding of social determinants of health if I did not do food work or food justice work," McPherson said. "If you have other interests, you should foster them because they can help you be a better human and a better student."

Experiencing new things is a step toward possibility. McPherson combined her interest in improving agriculture with the possibility of a healthy lifestyle, and her community saw the transforming results.

Nursing student
looks at health
care through a
different lens



"I don't think I would have quite the understanding of social determinants of health if I did not do food work or food justice work. If you have other interests, you should foster them because they can help you be a better human and a better student."



RIGHT: Mia McPherson is a student in the College of Nursing and studies food sustainability to gain a broader knowledge of the health care industry.



JAMES MADISON COLLEGE

The Roosevelt Institute advocates for policy change

The James Madison College at Michigan State was known for housing a plethora of social justice warriors who worked hard at promoting legislative changes. Though just on a collegiate level, it was rational to say that the thinkers here would be the voices leading our nation in the near future. At the Roosevelt Institute, a progressive public policy organization that was a chapter of the Roosevelt Network, politically-active Spartans were given the opportunity to re-imagine the world they lived in.

"The best policies are made when people of different backgrounds can be at the table to make key decisions."

The Roosevelt Institute focused on six policy areas: energy and the environment, education, democratic access, economy, human rights and health care. Senior comparative cultures and politics and social relations and policy major Anna Cool appreciated the breadth of their research, but had particular areas of interest.

"The research areas that matters the most to me is democratic accountability," Cool said. "The best policies are made when people of different backgrounds can be at the table to make key decisions and that isn't possible when we don't have democratic institutions that are accessible, transparent and that everyday people can trust."

Senior comparative cultures and politics and social relations and policy major and co-chapter head of the Roosevelt Institute, Katarina

Huss, emphasized the various opportunities that the Roosevelt Institute gave her that being inside a classroom could not.

"Rarely does my education teach me how policy gets passed from the grassroots level, or how to write a piece of legislation," Huss said. "In the classroom, education deals with policy analysis, history of policy [and more, but] not necessarily mobilizing young people."

Though rooted in James Madison, the Roosevelt Institute was the ideal organization for any student who cared about bettering the political climate. Senior international relations and economics major, Perry Truscon, explained the organization's value for all students.

"Other majors are especially valuable because the students from other colleges offer perspectives and knowledge that JMC does not provide," Truscon said. "In turn, [the Roosevelt Institute] is beneficial to non-James Madison students because it offers them the inner workings of how policy works and affects their fields, such as energy policy affecting engineering regulations."

Transforming politics did not require one to be a lawmaker or to have a doctorate degree, but to simply be a student with a passion for advocacy. In the Roosevelt Institute, students who believed in bettering their world were able to do so through a connective desire to mold a brighter future, all through policy change and a little bit of vigor.

TOP RIGHT : Members of Roosevelt Institute met for a current political discussion. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Senior comparative cultures and politics and social relations and policy major, Katarina Huss spent her time getting policy passed from the grassroots level and wrote legislation with the Roosevelt Institute.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

No matter the career path, experience and connections were crucial for any student to obtain before entering the workforce. Through the Aspiring Educators of Michigan State organization, such necessities were guaranteed to develop aspiring teachers for future employment. Aspiring Educators of Michigan State was a pre-professional organization within the College of Education that prepared those eager to become teachers through professional development, community service, fundraising and networking events.

The organization participated in various community service projects for different schools during the 2019-2020 school year. Club president Brittany Perreault said that while the club impacted others through their works of service, its members were rewarded with satisfaction and valuable experience in return.

"They like to make a difference," Perreault said. "That's kind of why we're all teachers; we want to make that difference. This eventually will be them in those classrooms. They will be the ones teaching and doing these things — they see how it can directly impact a teacher's life and a student's life."

One of the many tools Aspiring Educators of Michigan State offered its members was a networking program. Members had the opportunity to meet teachers, other students in their field and students from different education practices. Junior elementary education major, Brooke Boyer, appreciated the connections she made through the organization.

"It's definitely given me a lot of resources," Boyer said. "Like a good network. I wouldn't know most of the people here if I wasn't involved in Aspiring Educators."

Secondary education students made up a small portion of the organization, given that they were not directly in the college. For secondary education junior, Haley Hinzmann, the experience gave a worthwhile insight to teaching in the modern classroom.


"Secondary [education] teachers don't usually get a ton of opportunities to get involved in education because you're so focused on your major a lot of the time," Hinzmann said. "So this gave me a chance to interact with other teachers, make connections, talk about different problems that we have."

Aspiring Educators of Michigan State provided students striving to become teachers with the tools and resources needed to succeed on their career paths. Members from different education practices came together to give, receive and learn. They served their communities, built their networks and expanded their practice and knowledge within their respective fields. The experience was everything a pursuing educator could ask for.

Equipping aspiring educators with tools to succeed



Left: Recruitment Director Haley Hinzmann works hard on her project during the October social. Aspiring Educators of Michigan State provides education students with the resources to partake in community building and professional development. **RIGHT:** President Brittany Perreault focuses on her project during the Aspiring Educators of Michigan State social. Brittany traveled to Washington D.C. this year to visit the National Education Association Headquarters.



"That's kind of why we're all teachers; we want to make that difference."

SMALL TOWN TO BIG UNIVERSITY

The trip to the local grocery store was a short pilgrimage that college students made once or twice a week. MSU students had the luxury to take a CATA bus to the local grocery store or choose to walk to one of many nearby convenience stores. Either way, a quick chip fix or a gallon of milk was not far out of reach for MSU students. However, for senior kinesiology major Peyton Waaso, it was an entire day's trip to go to the store when she lived on Mackinac Island.

Waaso moved to Mackinac Island when she was 11 years old from St. Joseph, Michigan. Her graduating high school class consisted of four people, while the class above her had seven students. Since there were so few students, everyone was like family. Her school was a combined K-12 school, meaning all of the students on the island went to school together. She never had a yearbook and was always taught by the same set of teachers. Even though the leap to the largest university in the state of Michigan was intimidating, she still wanted to go to Michigan State.

"I like having the opportunity to do my own things," Waaso said. "To go to the grocery store on my own time, take my car places, go to a movie theatre if I want to go see a movie and not have to plan everything out around a schedule. That's been the biggest thing about college. Yes, I have a schedule with classes but in my free time, I have the ability to do what I want to do. I really fell in love with MSU, and I loved how big it was. I liked how many people there were. Since I came from a really small school, I really wanted to branch out in the biggest way possible. I wanted to be the stand-out of my family."

When the snow created a thick blanket of silence over the state of Michigan, the island slowed down. The normal hustle and bustle of the tourist-packed summer was brought to a screeching halt. However, Waaso found herself busy with school activities. She was a four-sport athlete – participating in soccer, volleyball, basketball and golf.

"I stayed up there in my own little isolated world in the winter," Waaso said. "Sports were the best way to keep people occupied. It was the one thing to do on Friday nights. None of my friends from down state could relate to the stuff I was going through."

The move from Mackinac Island, which has a total population of 470 people, to Michigan State with over 50,000 students was a jarring experience. From the city of East Lansing and all its amenities to the diverse range of students, there was a massive difference between MSU's campus and the island Waaso called home.

Peyton Waaso discusses her move from Mackinac Island to MSU

"Orientation was kind of a culture shock, just because there were so many people and you were expected to interact with and hang out with for two days when I knew nobody," Waaso said. "It seemed like a lot of people already had friends going into it. That was a little daunting."

"Since I came from a really small school, I really wanted to branch out in the biggest way possible. I wanted to be the stand-out of my family."

When coming to a new city, some of the most interesting parts of the experience include learning about the locals and the sense of identity within their community. When tourists went to Mackinac Island, they had the opportunity to meet friendly locals like Peyton Waaso and connect with her different lifestyle. Waaso took the liberating opportunity to experience a different way of life for herself and was enthusiastically grateful for the chance to dive into the sea of Spartans.

RIGHT: Senior Peyton Waaso showed off her high school apparel as an alumni of Mackinac Island High School. Waaso came from a class of less than 10 students to a university with thousands of students.



LAKERS



MACKINAC ISLAND

BRODY



KAITLIN GAYNOR - "I have had a great experience so far this year as an RA in West Circle. The RA staff is great and so much fun to work with! I am a part of a supportive community amongst my floor and love interacting with my residents."

ABDOUL MBENGUE - "It is a position which allows me to build connections and relationships with strangers and allows me to challenge myself to be responsible and grow every single day."



KATIE VAN HAAREN - "Being an RA has introduced me to a great staff in Wonders. Being able to help so many freshmen get antiquated with MSU is very exciting! I also love expressing myself through creative, interactive bulletin boards."

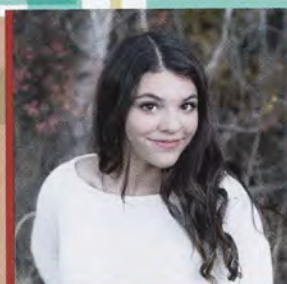
SOUTH

RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT

In every residential building on campus, a team of resident assistants worked constantly to promote a friendly environment for all Spartans. It was hard work to keep so many students safe and supported, but the job was rewarding. Some were inspired to give back by others that gave before them, and some simply wished to give residents the best introduction to MSU they could. Here are some of the Spartans who worked in your community.



MATTHEW FLEGEL- The greatest reward of being an RA is hands down being able to connect with the residents. I've had the opportunity to get to know my residents, hear them talk about their majors, passions, goals post graduation, and other things."



GRACE WHIPPLE- "I was an out of state student last year, and my RA was really sweet to me. She was a really good resource, and she helped me a lot in my transition. I thought it was something that I could do to help other kids, especially out of state students."

HONORS COLLEGE

Honors College students mentor first-generation and international students

Going to college was a nerve wracking time for many students, especially when coming to a school as large as MSU. For students whose parents went to college, they had someone with first-hand knowledge; for first-generation students and international students, however, it was like venturing into uncharted waters.

The Honors College Navigators Peer Mentorship Program was created to pair Honors College students to mentor first-year students. Sophomore human biology major Jill Risley was a mentee in the program in 2018 and said her and her mentor began getting coffee together to talk through complications that Risley experienced. After a few meetings, Risley began to look forward to these coffee chats.

"The program felt like a safety net for me," Risley said. "As a first-generation student, I felt I had no one to answer my questions about college. Once I joined the program, however, my mentor was able to answer my never-ending list of first-year student questions, and then some."

Risley said her mentor introduced her to her first club, the First Generation Honors Association, for which she became the social events coordinator on the club's executive board. The First Generation Honors Association co-sponsored the Navigators program. Jennifer Yoo, mentorship coordinator for First Generation Honors Association, paired students with their mentors and provided them with activities.

"Being a first-generation student can often be difficult because you may not know who to turn to for help and may not have knowledge on the diverse resources that are offered at MSU," Yoo said. "That is why this program serves as a meaningful experience for first-generation students because they can gain wonderful connections and explore opportunities offered on campus."

Risley said that based on her personal experience, this program helped first-generation students get answers to questions they did not even know they had, and also helped them find their place among all the co-curriculars and clubs that MSU had to offer.





"As a first-generation student, I felt I had no one to answer my questions about college. Once I joined the program, however, my mentor was able to answer my never-ending list of first-year student questions, and then some."

"This program has helped a lot of first-generation students find their home within this large campus," Risley said. "By having the guidance of an upperclassman mentor, first-year students have someone to help them get their foot in the door and find their purpose here on campus."

The Navigators Peer Mentorship program provided students with the support they might not know they needed. Even though leaving for college might be especially daunting for first-generation and international students, the Navigators Peer Mentorship program functioned as a compass for students who would otherwise be navigating uncharted waters

LEFT & RIGHT: First generation students and peer-mentors get together for coffee chats and celebrate their differences and what brings them together — Michigan State and the banks of the Red Cedar River.

COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Music in the Gardens season ends with a bang

The last of summer's remaining green leaves swayed in the breeze, carrying the scent of herbs growing in the garden. Along the lawn in the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden, white chairs were lined up in rows for the last Music in the Garden event of the season, put on by Michigan State's College of Music. With four total concerts throughout the summer that included a jazz ensemble and a harp performance, Music in the Gardens brought a diverse range of music to one of the most scenic parts of campus.

The musical season ended strong with "Modum Percussion Duo", performed by Henry Eichman and Mikayla Bertelsen, doctoral and master's degree music performance students. At the event, Eat at State food trucks conveniently parked nearby and the MSU Dairy Store scooped heaping cones of ice cream. Despite both being students at Michigan State, Bertelsen and Eichman's duo did not originate at the university.

"Henry and I did an educational residency at Marble Elementary last semester, and from there we were asked to do this garden performance ... we established our duo status as the "Modum Duo", and 'modum' means rhythm in Latin," Bertelsen said.

Both musicians were percussionists, but both also wanted to bring diversity to their set. Eichman described bringing in the elements of pulse, meter, ostinati and polyrhythm to their pieces, keeping each

of their compositions as those that could stand alone.

"Some pieces, like Steve Reich's "Clapping Music," take a simple repeated rhythmic figure and use that for the entire basis of the piece," Eichman said. "Another piece on our program, Askeel Masson's "Rhythm Strip," combined several of these musical concepts throughout the piece, giving the listener a taste of many different types of rhythm.

While Modum Percussion Duo stood out on their own, their performance was enhanced by the outdoor venue. Anna Zultowski, senior landscape architecture major who helped set up the event, credits the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden for being a prime concert location.

"I think the garden is a perfect space for small concerts because a lot of the artists' music is inspired and written about nature, so when they explain that and then perform their piece you get to simultaneously experience their music and what it's trying to describe or capture," Zultowski said.

With fall coming in full swing and the leaves changing to hues of red and yellow, Music in the Gardens ended its summer run with a bang. Thanks to the College of Music and Modum Percussion Duo, its legacy would carry over into next summer, reminding Spartans that music performed amongst blossoming flowers sounds best of all.



"The garden is a perfect space for small concerts because a lot of the artists' music is inspired and written about nature."

LEFT: Modum Percussion Duo members, Henry Eichman (right) and Mickey Bertelsen (left) speak to the audience.

RIGHT: Henry Eichman and Mickey Bertelsen play rhythm in numerous ways, working together to create exhilarating musical polyrhythm.



WHERE TRADITION MEETS TECHNOLOGY

Spartan Ashley
Kuhlman
uses drone
technology on
family farm



In the small town of Mendon, Michigan, a truck putters down the road. Two dogs sit in the backseat, panting with their tails wagging. Everyone knows they're the dogs of Kuhlman Farms, the farm that fifth-generation farmer Ashley Kuhlman grew up on. In a graduating class of 36 students, Kuhlman's family legacy followed her around, as she was known as "Phil Kuhlman's daughter" to everyone in town. Kuhlman grew up riding horses and participating in 4-H, eventually going on to graduate from Michigan State University's Institute of Agricultural Technology.

Kuhlman Farms and its meaning to Ashley was rooted in tradition and family pride, but she was also able to bring this legacy into the 21st century with the integration of drone technology to increase efficiency.

Kuhlman began using drones when she attended the Institute of Agricultural Technology. She took a class centered on unmanned aircraft systems in agriculture, and Federal Aviation Administration certification was required, which allowed her to fly drones. In this course, she learned about the benefits of using drones in agriculture.

"After completing the course," Kuhlman said. "My dad and I had a conversation about uses for drones in agriculture, and we came to the conclusion that a drone would be very beneficial on the farm."

The biggest benefit of the drone was its ability to reduce labor costs on the farm, with less time needing to be spent in the fields because of the drones ability to pinpoint problem areas with ease. Kuhlman, who graduated from the Institute of Agricultural Technology in April 2018 with a degree in Agricultural Operations, said the drone can be used for evaluating crop health, finding errors in the GPS planting system, and notifying farmers when irrigation sprinklers are clogged.

"We have been able to benefit from flying [the drone] over an irrigation system with the water running," Kuhlman said. "You can see where the water is not running by the different colors after it has been running for a little bit."

Kuhlman learned how to mix legacy with the efficiency of newer technology. However, the traditions and determination that came with being a farmer didn't change with technology. Kuhlman said growing up on a farm helped shape her work ethic.

"It taught me that hard work and determination are everything," Kuhlman said. "I have learned that a job is not done until it is to your best abilities. I apply this thought process to everything in life, including school."

Kuhlman used this work ethic to help her family's legacy improve through cutting cost with drone technology. She said she loved



"I have learned that a job is not done until it is to your best abilities. I apply this thought process to everything in life, including school."

the feeling of being able to help her family prosper with what they had been doing for so long. Drones helped push Kuhlman's tradition into a future where Kuhlman Farms would be around for another hundred years. A future where whenever someone sees two tails wagging out of the back of a pickup truck, they'll know who their owners are.

RIGHT & LEFT: Sophomore Ashley Kuhlman demonstrates how she uses her drone to help out with agricultural studies. Kuhlman received her drone license so that she could better help with agricultural studies.

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION ARTS & SCIENCES

The National
Association of
Black Journalists
brings inclusivity
to a media-
driven world





In the 21st century, diversity on college campuses was heavily encouraged. This included the promotion of inclusivity, sharing ideas and forming groups and organizations that gave everyone a space to grow. In the College of Communication Arts and Sciences, the addition of the Michigan State chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists in 2016 did just this. With a focus on giving black college journalists a safe space to flourish, it carved out a place for people of color in the field of media.

The association offered many opportunities for its members, from media contacts in Lansing to strong connections with the association's national chapter. Senior journalism major Alyssa Burr was the president of the Michigan State chapter for the 2019-2020 school year. Burr noted the crucial role that the National Association of Black Journalists held in the college.

"You cannot be in a journalism class without a member of [the National Association of Black Journalists] being in it," Burr said. "We are in a multitude of [organizations], leadership roles and have our own connections with professors and faculty inside the college."

Senior journalism major Jada Fisher was vice president of the association. Fisher emphasized the importance of the organization, noting that its existence was enough.

"When a lot of students on campus hear National Association of Black Journalists, they don't feel they belong in our organization," Fisher said. "But, this is how many black students feel all the time in newsrooms, classrooms and student publications. [The National Association of Black Journalists] provides a safe space for journalists

of color to thrive. We are very open to having members of any background to join with that mentality in mind — it's a safe space."

The bottom line for the National Association of Black Journalists was to give all journalists a chance to thrive. Senior journalism major Tania Boyd was the organization's treasurer, and she explained this in the most straightforward terms.

"The National Association of Black Journalists provides a safe space for journalists of color to thrive."

"We believe in [the] empowerment of students with aspirations of careers in the media, internships and opportunities," Boyd said.

The National Association of Black Journalists gave students of color that were involved in the world of media a place where they could dominate. Accepting of all backgrounds, they asserted the claim that everyone deserved a place to prosper on campus, especially in regards to their future careers.

ABOVE: Jada Fisher, senior journalism major, is the vice president of the MSU Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists. **TOP:** NextGen Media Innovation lab explores applications of the newest television broadcasting technologies.



COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Human Biology Club provides a leg-up to medical field hopefuls

In the College of Natural Science, clubs were a great way to give students hands-on opportunities. Whether it was shadowing in hospitals or simply networking with those in similar fields, there were many ways for them to be social while still furthering their skills. The Human Biology Club fell into this category, serving as both an academic and community environment.

Senior human biology major Lizzy Desellier was treasurer of the Human Biology Club for the 2019-2020 school year. She found the club as a junior and it ended up being a perfect fit.

"This club provides a way to meet other like-minded individuals," Desellier said. "The club also provides students interested in pursuing careers in the medical field the information and resources needed to help them achieve their goals. We know that being a science major can be very challenging at times, and this club aims to ease that struggle."

Senior human biology major Janet Wetzel, who was president of the club, noted the variety of events that the club put on, from hosting speakers to just getting dinner together.

"We know that being a science major can be very challenging at times, and this club aims to ease that struggle."

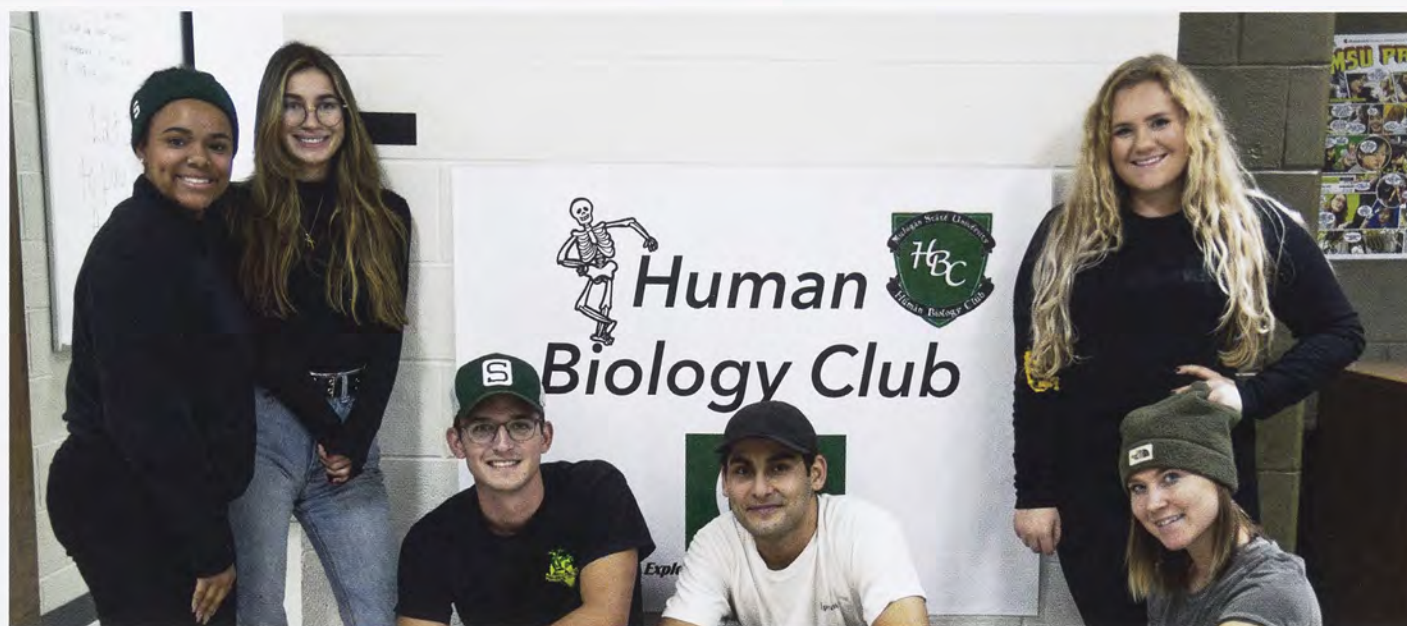
"[Human Biology Club] hosts a different speaker for each meeting so club members can ask questions about their career or how to attain their professional goals," Wetzel said. "The speakers consist of physicians, career counselors [and] professors ... We also set up a different volunteering event every other week such as helping out at Origami Brain Rehab or Haven House."

One major reason that many joined the Human Biology Club was for help applying to medical school. Junior human biology major Autumn Hoerauf, who was the club's vice president of career and academics, explained how much the club helped her with this.

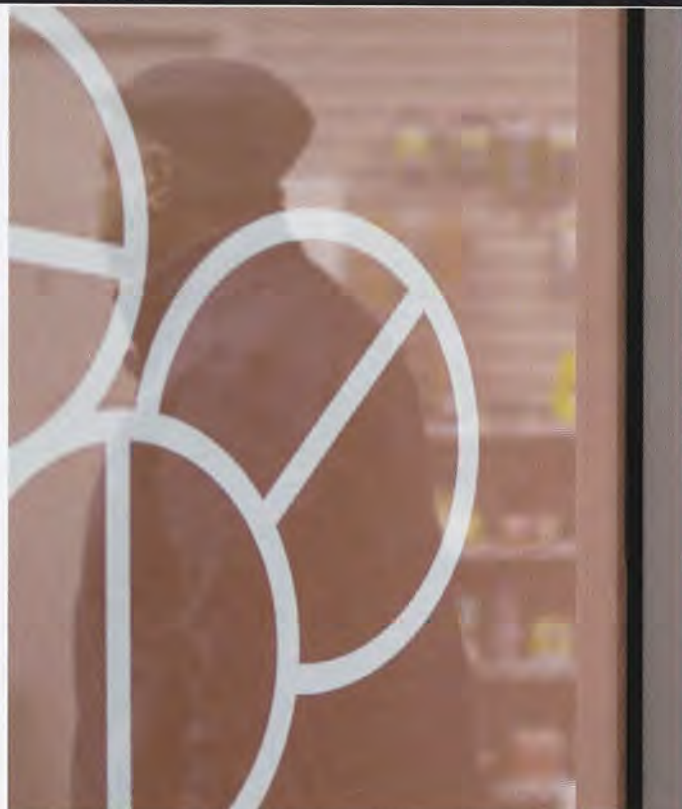
"Applying to medical school, which is the majority of our students, is very hard," Hoerauf said. "We want students to be able to get as much help as they need to become successful. We also have students who are not planning on applying to medical school, but are interested in the health field. This club gives them a look at different perspectives of various careers that they possibly would want to work with."

The Human Biology Club gave both human biology students and others vast opportunities, helping enrich their academic careers. Through various events and the formation of social connections, its members were able to push the envelope on what they learned in class through a more interactive focus.

BELOW: From left to right, Autumn Hoerauf, Lizzy DeSellier, Seth Vincent, Sevar Yaldo, Janet Wetzel and Angelica Parker represent the MSU Human Biology Club. **RIGHT:** Seth Vincent listens intently as guest speakers share their experience in the medical field.







CLOCKING IN AT CLINICALS

Trips to the hospital were often associated with chronic illness, sudden sickness or nights of drinking too heavily — especially in a college town. Luckily with Sparrow Hospital down the road, these kinds of health services were readily accessible to students. However, some Spartans had to travel across the state to visit specific hospitals and were not the ones wearing the blue-patterned gowns. Instead, they were nursing students working on their clinical rotations, logging in long hours of hands-on work that gave them the experience they needed for the professional world.

Clinicals were the opportunity for students from the College of Nursing to put their skills to the test. Starting the second semester during the student's nursing track, clinicals were when the student was able to get a real glimpse into what their future career would be like and take a step beyond their traditional classes. They could be assigned to a variety of units, from obstetrics to pediatrics to surgical. Senior nursing major Carmen Disler described her long days at clinicals that involved a variety of different tasks.

"A typical day at clinical usually involved being assigned at least one patient... or we get assigned to one nurse," Disler said. "After we get our assignments, we get [a] report from the nurses to be completely informed about our patient(s). After that, we introduce ourselves to our patients, usually get a set of vital signs from them... [and] do a full physical assessment. The rest of the shift involves administering medications according to the patient's schedule, fulfilling patient needs, and documenting in the chart."

Clinicals could happen anywhere from one to three times per week, and often lasted throughout the entire day. Because the hospital environment could be incredibly taxing, ample amounts of self-care was needed in between the long days. Senior nursing major Johnny Choi emphasized the importance of maintaining his own health, too.

Nursing students give a behind-the-scenes look at clinical rotations

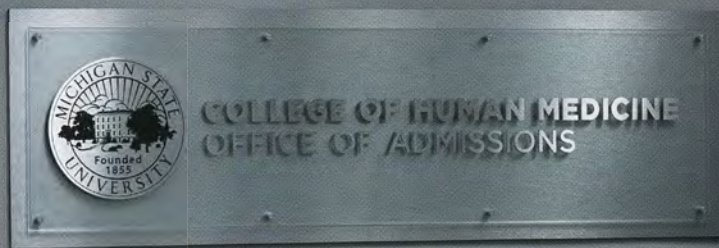
"It's so good to debrief with nurses throughout the day, but I try to leave my work at the hospital otherwise it would consume me," Choi said. "Some of the ways I relax is reading, watching TV, hanging out with friends, playing tennis, cooking, and pursuing my faith."

Though stressful, clinicals were more than worth it. The information that students learned inside their biology classes may have taught them how the human heart pumps blood, but working in a real medical setting allowed them to actually take a patient's heart rate. Senior nursing major Megan McHugh explained how thankful she was for having clinicals.

"Practicing on a mannequin is so much different than a real person," McHugh said. "It definitely took me a while to not feel anxious and get use to going into someone's room and asking to do an assessment on them. Without clinical experience, it would be such a harder transition into working in the hospital. Lecture and text books can teach you a lot, but it's not the same until you experience it."

Leaving the emergency room tired, slightly sweaty and with sore feet was a rewarding feeling for nursing-bound Spartans. Even though they occasionally had to travel across the state and leave at early hours in the morning for their clinicals, it made them realize how much they loved the field they were going into. When helping people be their healthiest, strongest selves, MSU nursing students were more than willing to work lengthy shifts.

RIGHT: The MSU Clinical Center is a main source of resources to hundreds of Michigan State nursing students as they prepare for a career in the medical field.



“Without clinical experience, it would be such a harder transition into working in the hospital.”



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Fisheries and Wildlife Club hosts annual Harvester's Banquet

Game, fish, mushrooms, greens and fruit overwhelmed the serving tables as friends and family came together to feast and celebrate the start of the holiday season. The Michigan State College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' Fisheries and Wildlife Club hosted their annual community event, the Harvester's Banquet, on Nov. 21, 2019 in the Natural Resources Building. The club united to share harvested foods while also participating in a raffle drawing, a photography contest and an award distribution for the best dishes. Members were allowed to invite guests to share in all of the fun.

The Harvester's Banquet had always been a much anticipated event for the Fisheries and Wildlife Club. Senior fisheries and wildlife major and club vice president Makayla Plekes believed the feast helped raise awareness of the college.

"For the past couple of years, it's been getting bigger," Plekes said. "Now students are bringing their families and it's turning into people cooking together, and hanging out together and getting to know the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources better, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, but also people outside of that."

Family members were encouraged to attend and share the fun-filled experience. Senior fisheries and wildlife major, Gloria Zurhorst, decided to bring her family along for the community event.

"They're all really into nature," Zurhorst said. "The wild game is a really, really big crowd drawer. It was good. And they like to support

me, anyway. We're [Fisheries and Wildlife] really inclusive. We're not competitive in the least, so we actually have a lot of fun."

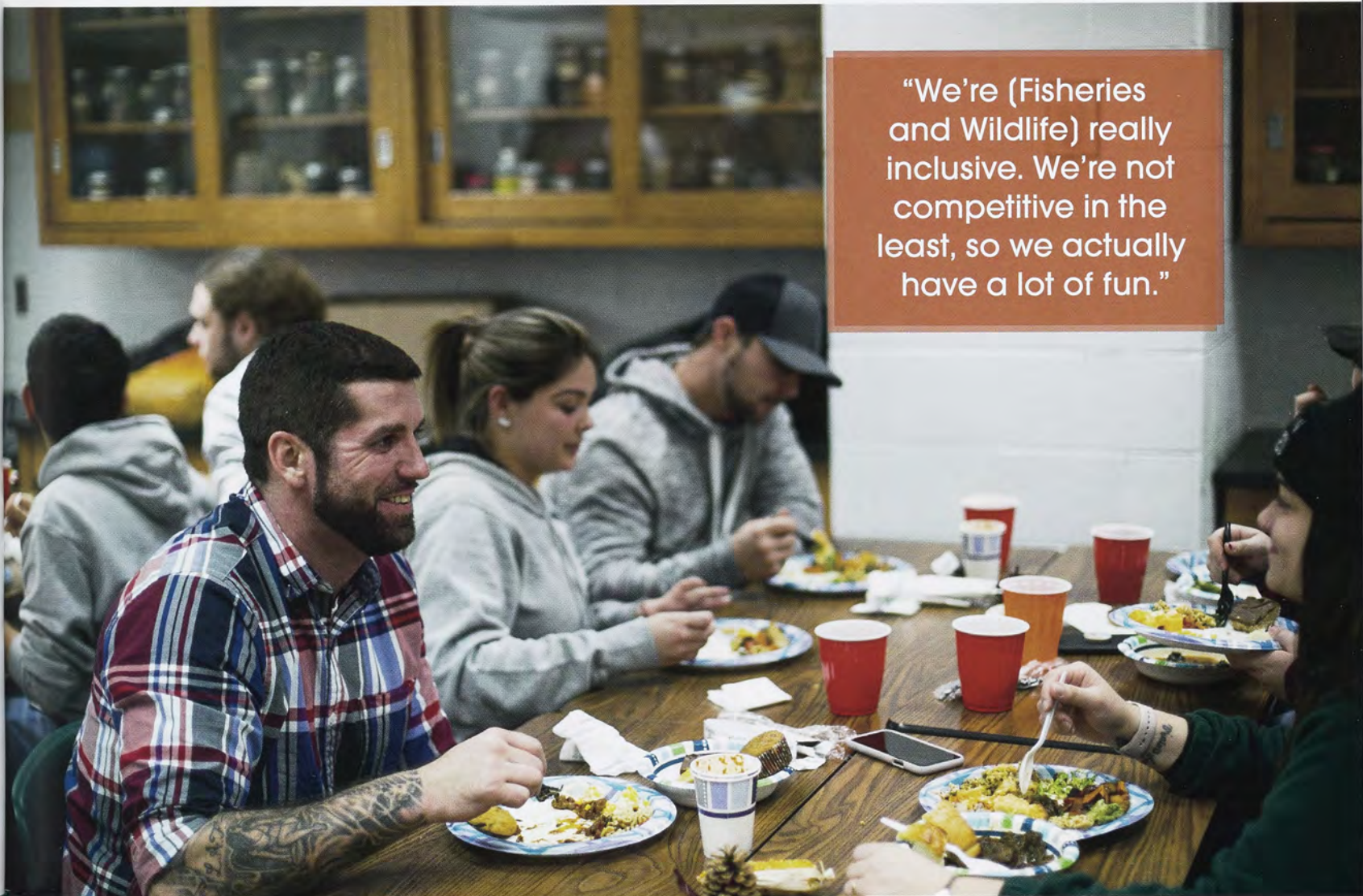
While club members were familiar with their peers and the college, many first time guests encountered a new atmosphere. Sophomore plant biology major Andrew Kelley was invited as a guest by one of the event organizers.

"I like the community feel," Kelley said. "There's a lot of people here. It's a friendsgiving, so it's kind of fun."

The Harvester's Banquet was successful once again. Friends and loved ones with an interest in fisheries and wildlife were able to dine together as one big community, while also meeting new people and learning more about the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Whether you were associated with the club or not, the community aspect and hospitality gave attendees a feeling of inclusiveness.

LEFT AND TOP RIGHT: Two guests deciding to vote their favorite photography entries. The Harvester's Banquet had always been a much anticipated event for the Fisheries and Wildlife Club. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The Harvester's Banquet encouraged families come together to feast and celebrate their upcoming holiday season. The club of Fisheries and Wildlife united to share harvested foods and all of the fun.





"We're (Fisheries and Wildlife) really inclusive. We're not competitive in the least, so we actually have a lot of fun."

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE IN THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

With diversity and innovation being the focal point of the Forbes Under 30 Scholar program, Arzelia Williams was the perfect candidate. Williams, a senior in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, was selected as a Forbes Under 30 Scholar and attended the Forbes Under 30 Summit in October 2019.

The summit was five days long and each scholar was able to choose a track and listen to thoughtful leaders and changemakers speak on the subject. Williams chose the marketing track and was able to hear from speakers such as Serena Williams and Shavone Charles. The summit also included a "Service Day," in which Williams was given the opportunity to hear business pitches by the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Michigan.

"They are in ninth grade, 10th grade, 11th grade and giving their pitches to the judges," Williams said. "They are so involved and so innovative at a young age, and it was a really great part of the Summit."

Williams majored in social relations and policy with a minor in public relations and graduated in December of 2019. Williams went on three separate study abroad adventures — Morocco, Costa Rica and Dubai. Her perceptions about women and their role in society changed while she was in Dubai.

"When we stepped foot over there and heard stories about women who were in positions of power in government and who are

Arzelia Williams: Forbes Under 30 Scholar

creating organizations and who are making these big changes in Dubai's economy, that opened my eyes to a lot of what was how women there are in leadership roles and are in power," Williams said.

Williams completed two summers at an internship in Missouri, where she worked at Veterans United Home Loans in the communications department. She was part of the first batch of interns the company had employed.

"If the opportunity presents itself, take it," Williams said. "If you don't like it, you can always come forward and say that it isn't a great fit for you. Some of the doors that you don't even choose to walk through could end up shaping your journey. Try it out, you'll never know what you will learn from the experience. As you're moving up, pull someone up with you."

Through integrating the lessons that she learned during her time at RCAH and at Forbes Under 30 Summit, Williams aimed to dominate in her future career. Although the future was not certain, she carried with her the wisdom that was imparted on her by Serena Williams and others at the Forbes Under 30 Summit.

RIGHT: Senior Arzelia Williams was selected as a Forbes Under 30 Scholar in Fall 2019. Because of the numerous charitable activities Williams participated in, she gained knowledge that she applied to her professional endeavors.

"Some of the doors that you don't even choose to walk through could end up shaping your journey. As you're moving up, pull someone up with you."



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

MSU Engineering students inspire a younger generation of female engineers

On a quiet Saturday morning, participants for the Wow! That's Engineering event wore periwinkle t-shirts and came together at the MSU Engineering Building. The annual event was geared toward girls in fourth through eighth grade interested in careers in science, technology, math and engineering. Through hands-on activities and peer discussions, participants were immersed in a prolific learning environment.

Isabel Woelke, senior electrical engineering major and co-chair for the event, moved from room to room, speaking with volunteers and participants about their projects. In the environmental engineering room, she came across a group of girls sitting on the classroom floor, laughing together and comparing their designs for a soda bottle water-wheel. Over in the civil engineering room, girls worked together to build weight-bearing structures while listening to Christmas jams. Together they discussed why teamwork was needed for such projects, and their educated responses left Woelke feeling impressed.

"I know when I was growing up, I didn't know what engineering was or what the different kinds of engineering were," Woelke said. "The goal of today is just to expose younger girls to the possibilities of engineering."

Stephanie Gardner was among the volunteers for the 2019 event. As a senior biosystems engineering major, she had seen the disparity in female students across the engineering disciplines.

"We're trying to expose them to engineering and have them see all these other women who are studying engineering, because I think a lot of the time they're not seeing women doing these types of things," Gardner said.

The event was entirely student run and organized down to the minute with volunteers running around the scene tirelessly to deliver snacks and supplies to each room. The girls were divided into groups and took turns learning about different branches of





"In science there's a lot of men working on things for men, but not a lot for women, which is half the population!"

engineering. MSU's Wow! That's Engineering was one of many events put on across the country by the Society of Women Engineers, an international organization with chapters across the United States. Toinu Rodgers, sophomore Lyman Briggs student and co-chair of the event, reflected on why this was so important.

"In science there's a lot of men working on things for men, but not a lot for women, which is half the population!" Rodgers said.

Change doesn't happen overnight, and it is likely that a few generations will pass before there's an equal representation within STEM fields. Thanks to the efforts of the MSU Engineering students involved, however, 88 girls were shown that they can succeed within the field of engineering.

RIGHT: Megan Greer helps teach participants how to complete her electrical engineering project. The young girls were able to rotate stations and complete different projects related to different fields of engineering.

TOP RIGHT: Junior engineering major Leslie Schuchardt helps a program participant in a chemical engineering activity.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A student volunteer helps explain the activity goal to a female participant. The program demonstrated electrical engineering by creating rotating wires on batteries.

GOOD FOR THE SOUL

Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative connects students with faculty

For many minority students on campus, it could be hard to find others in their community or to find a safe space to talk about issues specific to race. The Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative was an organization that looked to foster those community ties and safe spaces. The Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative began putting on Soul Food Fridays in 2015 to help black students have a place to go and voice their concerns.

Soul Food Friday — held once a month in the MSU Union — was just one event the Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative hosted throughout the year. Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative intern and senior social work major Jeanea Dunbar helped coordinate these events. She said they also held events such as Marathon of Majors, Finals Frenzy and other events that helped students cope with college stresses.

"These skills instill a life-long desire to learn and effect positive change in the world. We strive to close opportunity gaps for underserved students by increasing persistence, retention and graduation rates."

The mission of the Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative was being committed to empowering all undergraduate students to pursue knowledge, access resources and develop the skills needed for intellectual, social, local and global success.

"These skills instill a life-long desire to learn and effect positive change in the world. We strive to close opportunity gaps for underserved students by increasing persistence, retention and graduation rates," Dunbar said.

Not only did the Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative host Soul Food Fridays for the black community on campus, they

also hosted "Welcome Black" in early September. This event was designed to help the black community at MSU come together early on in the fall.

The idea for "Welcome Black" came about from black students saying they wanted a space and a time where they could meet and greet with other black students, staff and faculty. It was also a time where they could talk about academic and personal issues in the safe space with faculty.

"Welcome Black is a week of events which allows the Black community to come together and interact with each other," Dunbar said. "This gives students the opportunity to meet other students, faculty and become aware of some of the resources on campus."

Alongside students, faculty members like Dr. D'Wayne Jenkins attended Soul Food Fridays. Jenkins said the event was a great opportunity for students to engage in a dialogue with one another and meet new people. The dialogue focused on campus climate, and Jenkins' role was to listen as well as help direct students to resources on campus.

"I believe it's important for students to feel like they belong and have a space where they feel comfortable and welcomed," Jenkins said. "Students that possess a sense of belonging tend to be more engaged with campus resources and activities, which usually has a positive impact on their academics."

Throughout the year, the Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative provided safe spaces and opportunities to destress all students at Michigan State University. The organization allowed minority students to feel a stronger connection with other Spartans who could share their experiences and concerns. Soul Food Fridays was one of the events held by the group and was instrumental in fostering a strong sense of community all while providing a variety of delicious food options. As this event grew in popularity, so did the impact of the Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative.

RIGHT: Students gather and eat soul food at the Hall of Agriculture. Many different foods were served such as collard greens, macaroni and cheese and sweet potato.



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Students receive the Fulbright-Hays Fellowship

For doctoral students, research was the most important, and often most expensive, part of the process to receive their doctorate. For those who were pursuing research on an international topic, it got even more expensive and required an application for fellowships. During the fall of 2019, five students from the College of Social Science received the Fulbright-Hays fellowship.

The fellowship provided five Spartans — historians Patrick Buck, Erica Holt, Eric Kesse, Bernard Moore and anthropologist Brian Geyer — with funding for research abroad for six to 12 months. Geyer, who planned to go to Kenya, said the application included a 10-page statement about his research. He said getting the fellowship was a relief, because he did not have to worry about applying for grants while taking exams. Buck, who planned to go to China, expressed the same relief as Geyer.

"It took a few days for me to process that I had actually received the fellowship," Geyer said. "I had been applying to multiple different research grants every year for the past few years, hoping to get a year-long one like the Fulbright. After so many rejection letters, it felt wonderful to receive an acceptance letter from such an important fellowship like Fulbright."

The Fulbright Fellowship covered all the students' expenses, which will help them collect sources for their research, like Bernard

Moore, who planned to go to Namibia and South Africa.

"I'm most excited to be able to conduct additional oral history research, rather than focusing heavily on archives," Moore said. "This costs a good bit due to fuel costs in this massive territory, and the Fulbright funds are going to help immensely."

Five of the six Spartans who received the fellowship were from the College of Social Science, which Geyer believed spoke to the support the college provided its students.

"I think the number of Fulbright-Hays awards going to MSU this year is really emblematic of our commitment to top-tier and forward-thinking scholarship," Geyer said. "I wholeheartedly believe our success comes from the ground up, beginning with department and advisors that cultivate and support fantastic research ideas in graduate students."

The Fulbright-Hays fellowship setup these Spartans for the accomplishment of a lifetime and stories to tell for years to come. This award, and the funds it provided to these five students, allowed them to make leaps in their doctoral research and develop as scholars.

RIGHT: William Berkey Hall, located in Michigan State University's North Neighborhood, is home to many social science classes.

"I think the number of Fulbright-Hays awards going to MSU this year is really emblematic of our commitment to top-tier and forward-thinking scholarship."



THINKING THROUGH A THESIS

Spartans research
topics they're
passionate
about for their
senior theses

Senior year was a time filled with lasts. The last time going to the local and loved bar with friends, last time walking to the lecture hall you had several classes in, last time visiting the dining hall you had gone to since freshman year. This list of lasts also included the last time completing long and lengthy assignments, many of which happened to be essays. Some seniors chose to make their ultimate essay a thesis, which is a cumulative piece of work focused on an area of study they are most passionate about.

Senior theses were great ways for seniors to hone in on topics they wanted to learn more about during their time as an undergraduate while also preparing a focused piece of writing perfect for graduate school applications. Senior English major Gabrielle White worked on a thesis focused on gender rebellion in Victorian England through the 19th century with Dr. Kristin Mahoney. She had always been interested in gothic literature, but felt as if the classes she took never gave her the chance to fully explore it. When White met Dr. Mahoney, she knew she would be a great mentor that would help her expand her knowledge base on her favorite topic.

"[Dr. Mahoney] is so knowledgeable about Victorian Literature and queer people and writings during this time, so I knew that I wanted to work with her immediately upon thinking of a topic for my thesis," White said. "It was an obvious choice."

Some seniors felt that constructing a thesis was a good way to highlight all that they learned during their undergraduate years. Senior English major Greg McClure wrote their thesis essay on queer time. Also working with Dr. Mahoney, they found that the whole

experience of studying something they already loved was worth it, regardless of sleepless nights.

"It has been very rewarding to feel like I am at a level where I could write something like this," McClure said. "I've gone back to old essays throughout the process, and I feel proud of where I am."

Senior theses were not always researched-based, but could be made into creative bodies of work as well. Senior English major Madeline Bradley had a focus in creative writing and wanted her thesis to reflect her time spent honing her art. Working with Dr. Robin Silbergleid, Director of the Creative Writing department at MSU, she wrote a series of essays exploring personal growth and grief. Though this topic was difficult for her to write about, it was important for her to do.

"I have discovered many writing ways that simply don't work. But, when I find the ones that do, things begin to shift and take form — and it's beautiful."

"The thesis process is difficult on multiple levels, however, my biggest hurdle this semester has been finding the time, and emotional space, to write, and write, and write some more — to write through my struggles instead of around them," Bradley said. "There is no avoiding when it comes to a thesis, there is simply continuing forward. The rewarding part of the thesis, especially in terms of my subject matter, is the healing that has taken place. Trauma is a hard thing to write about, and to write well. I have discovered many writing ways that simply don't work. But, when I find the ones that do, things begin to shift and take form — and it's beautiful."

Hard work, a school year, and writing about something that one was passionate about were all important when working on a senior thesis. It was the perfect way to round out one's entire undergraduate experience while simultaneously creating a well-written piece for graduate school applications. Most importantly, it helped showcase everything that they had not yet accomplished, but wanted to.

LEFT: Senior Ashley Reynolds studying at the MSU Library, second floor. **TOP RIGHT:** Senior Sarah-Marie Sosa working on a final project for one of her art classes at the library. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Senior Abdoul Mbengue quietly prepares for his final exams in the library. Abdoul is a physiology major as well as a Rather Hall RA.





FINALS WEEK FIRE SUPPORT

Campus
organizations
help students
study and
relax during
final exams

Late at night on a seemingly typical Sunday, students around MSU waited in anticipation as the clock ticked. As it struck 12 a.m., yelling erupted throughout every nook, cranny and residence hall on campus as the semester midnight scream of finals week rang out. While the midnight scream was a strange tradition — one that allowed students to release their stress during one of the most demanding times of the year — it was a loud reminder of how challenging finals could be for students.

Because organizations around campus recognized how taxing finals week could be, many hosted events in order to alleviate student stress and provide resources and spaces that could help students during this exhausting endeavor. As one example, Michigan State University's Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center, or the LGBTRC, hosted an all-day event called "Fuel for Finals" for students. During the event they provided an array of snacks as well as small relaxing activities like tinker toys and coloring book pages for students. Camille Hollenquest, sophomore studying public policy who works at the LGBTRC, felt that it was important to provide a space catered toward students during finals week.

"You're so focused on yourself and your own studies... your friends and your colleagues are also focused on their individual studies as well... So, finals are a real time where you can forget about self-care — forgetting to eat, and forgetting to take care of yourself, because you're so stressed out about your grades, about what your future's going to turn into," Hollenquest said. "So when we do events like this, it centers students, and makes them feel more important."

Another event that supported students was the MSU Broad Art Museum's "Study Smart," a multi-day event that took place on December 8th, 10th and 11th. The Broad provided a quiet, open and dynamic space — the Alan and Rebecca Ross Education Wing in the Broad Art Museum — for students to relax and study for their exams. During the day-long sessions, the Broad provided free snacks and coffee, creative activities and workshops for students. Kelsie Lane, senior majoring in arts and humanities and studio art, who served as a student advisor for the Broad Art Museum, explained that finals could wear students down.

"[During finals], your schedule is disrupted, you're not seeing your friends as much as you usually do because you're so focused on studying, so I think it's really important to have a space where you can de-stress and you can... not be stuck in your dorm room cramming in a paper," Lane said. "Maybe you're still cramming in a paper, but at least you're in a pleasant space."

Erin Applebee, senior majoring in media and information, came to "Study Smart" in order to study for his exams. He commented that

though finals week can be stressful, events like this can help push students through the week.

"It's important for students to know they have a space to go to," Applebee said. "Not necessarily to have support but to study, to study openly. I think the Broad Art Museum is fantastic specifically for that reason."

When it came down to finals week at MSU, even these de-stress events wouldn't stop students from screaming at the stroke of midnight every day of final exams week. However, events like "Fuel for Finals" and "Study Smart," hosted by organizations and people that care about Spartans' well being helped undergraduates feel supported and ready to hunker down for the fall semester's exams.



ABOVE: A student works on flashcards and review guide before finals. The library provided a great atmosphere for students to gather to get work done. **RIGHT:** A student studies for upcoming finals with caffeine in hand — truly a student's best friend during finals week.

“Finals are a real time where you can forget about self-care — forgetting to eat, and forgetting to take care of yourself, because you’re so stressed out about your grades, about what your future’s going to turn into.”



YES, AND

Dressed in teams but functioning as a unit, the MSU Theatre Department freshmen put on a show they would likely remember for their entire tenure at MSU — not only those who participated, but also the tech and writing side as well. In a show where anything could happen, theatre students were put on the line in front of an audience of friends, classmates and family for the first time at MSU.

The freshman improv show acted as a catalyst for breaking the ice and forming a strong bond between the students. From a technical side, the set up required no props, minimal lighting and no licensing issues, which saved money and allowed students who would normally be behind the set to step into the spotlight. For freshman Mark Zummallen, it was the first time doing improv in a performance setting. After he and his classmates got over nerves and initial fears of performing for a live audience, they found it inspiring and rose to the challenge.

"Because it's an improv show we're not being labeled or separated into groups; like they're the actors, they're the leads, they're behind the scenes stage managers," Zummallen said. "Everybody's coming together; we're all on the same playing field and we're all doing it."

The freshman showcase had been a staple of the theatre department for many years. It had transformed into an improv show in 2017, when alumna Sarah Hendrickson argued for the inclusion of improv in the freshman curriculum. The showcase itself was not part of a course — it was a requirement for those completing their first year in the theatre program.

Before the show, Hendrickson could be found running around Studio 60, a black box theatre beneath Fairchild Auditorium. While students came and went, asking for advice and directions, Hendrickson gave guidance and encouragement to each one. With 2019 marking the second year of the improv program, the positive impact it had on students was already apparent.

"More than anything we wanted to do improv because it's a lovely way for people to come together and to learn to trust each

Theatre students leave their comfort zones and enter performance

other, be friendly and be collaborators," Hendrickson said. "We thought that it would be a good way for students that are new to the university and to adulthood to become fast friends."

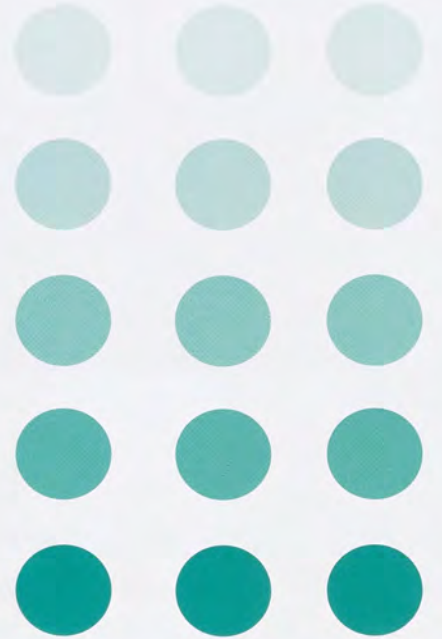
The show's title, "Yes, and" demonstrates the practical use of learning improv. Several students agreed that they had already used skills learned from the show in their daily lives. Freshman Maris Keller reflected on ways in which the show's message helped her to take what was given to her and run with it.

"In so many situations you're going to have to collaborate with people. And the way to do that is to say 'Yes, and...'"

"In so many situations you're going to have to collaborate with people," Keller said. "And the way to do that is to say 'Yes, and...'" The improv scene for students was already spreading over campus. Student groups including The Roial Players and Second Stage drew crowds of students and produced tons of laughs. The message of The Freshman Showcase was something Spartans could take with them off campus and into the world. The next time they would be asked to think on the spot or under pressure, all they had to do was start with "yes, and..."

TOP RIGHT: From left to right, freshmen Maris Keller, Veronica Thomas and Kelley Whitehouse perform an improv scene for the audience. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** From left to right, freshmen Kelly Whitehouse, Maris Keller, Griffin Hoover, Maya Joyce, Samuel Campion and Veronica Thomas showcase their acting talents.







ABOVE AND BEYOND

MSU Museum welcomes newest attraction

Michigan State continued to update its campus in groundbreaking fashion during the 2019-2020 school year. In 2019, the MSU Museum added the Science on a Sphere exhibit, a technological display developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Science on a Sphere contained countless datasets that provided animated depictions for a variety of subjects such as geological, economic and cultural topics. Museum visitors used the sphere's panel to choose the display they wished to examine. In a facility filled with rich history and culture, the Science on a Sphere exhibit added a revolutionary feature to the museum's attractions.

Science on a Sphere illuminated the center of a dark room with its bright projection of planet earth and other planets. The MSU Museum used its new exhibit both for show and educational purposes. Museum Education Assistant Nick VanAcker said Science on a Sphere caught the eye of many professors.

"We're getting more [classes], especially as the word's been spreading," VanAcker said. "This semester, we're getting booked up. We've got classes coming in at least once a week."

Museum faculty took great pride in Science on a Sphere. The exhibit would not have been the showcase it was without the effort and research that was put into it. Museum director, Mark Auslander, said students created the content that was shown on the globe.

"We think people will be coming from all over the state for this," Auslander said. "It's this sort of, newborn baby for us now. We have some ideas of what it could do. What we're really excited about is just turning our students loose on what can happen."

On Jan. 18, 2020, the MSU Museum hosted its first ever Science on a Sphere program, titled "Climate Clues: Visualizing Climate

Change." Students and families attended to witness different features the sphere had to offer and to learn about climate change. Senior environmental microbiology major Morgane Chretien was one of the student attendees.

"I'm in a geology and a geography class, and both of my professors recommended coming," Chretien said. "I think it's [the sphere] a really cool tool to study data."

Another event attendee, senior electrical engineering major, Jason Sargent, said it was difficult to grasp the concept of the sphere at first.

"There's so many possibilities... that I'm actually not sure what to think yet," Sargent said. "I see a lot of potential."

Science on a Sphere was a fun and academic way for MSU Museum visitors to interact with the unique technology the space had to offer. It wowed first-time viewers and instilled a sense of gratification in museum staff when they saw what they had accomplished. A typical trip to the museum was raised to another creative and interactive level when guests came across the Science on a Sphere room. It was the beginning of something that was well on its way to potentially becoming an iconic part of MSU's campus. More possibilities were in store for what Science on a Sphere could show, and it is sure to continue to awe those who have the opportunity to interact with it firsthand.

ABOVE and RIGHT: A projection of the moon is displayed on the Science on a Sphere gallery. The sphere was developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.



"It's this sort of, newborn baby for us now. We have some ideas of what it could do. What we're really excited about is just turning our students loose on what can happen."



TIME FOR A CHANGE

Spring semester student embraces a Spartan experience

Freshman Josie Kuchek found out she was accepted into MSU a week and a half before the start of the 2020 spring semester. The criminal justice major scrambled the rest of her holiday season with limited time to prepare for one of the biggest transitions of her life. She left for orientation on Thursday and started classes the next Monday. Many students who transferred to MSU at the spring semester could relate to the challenges Kuchek faced.

Kuchek, who spent most of her two post-high school years working at a local barbecue restaurant to save up for college, transferred to MSU after taking classes at her local community college in Midland, Michigan. Despite having to leave her family behind, including the close relationships with her two siblings, she decided MSU was a dream and ultimately an opportunity she could not pass up.

"I've always been interested in Michigan State," Kuchek said. "I thought it would be a good way to challenge myself academically and push me out of my comfort zone."

While many students were returning to a life they had been building for themselves since the fall, Kuchek and other transfer students started to construct their own lives. Kuchek believed that transferring in spring was challenging because she was starting out when many students were finally feeling comfortable with the campus and their new life.

"I don't know if transferring in the fall would have made the transition any easier, to be honest," Kuchek said. "I think the same challenges and transition process would've been present regardless of which semester I was accepted."

One unique challenge Kuchek faced was housing selection. Since she was accepted late, she had few options for housing and was assigned to a dormitory. This was just one of the issues Kuchek dealt with due to the timing of her transfer.

"Another challenge is trying to familiarize myself with campus by walking around," Kuchek said. "The winter weather can make that difficult."

Kuchek believed she missed out on a large part of the school year because she was not a student during football season, one of the biggest aspects of Spartan culture. But Kuchek was happy to conquer MSU in the spring and start a new chapter of her life. She thought that the students and staff on-campus helped her feel more at home.

"The best thing about MSU so far is the people I've met," Kuchek said. "I'm typically more reserved when I'm not familiar with people, but everyone has been really helpful and welcoming. I think living on campus will get easier with time, and I'm excited to see where my academic career at MSU takes me."

Students who transferred to MSU for the spring semester faced a slew of challenges, some the same as other students and some unique to their experience. They missed out on the chaos of Welcome Week and the adrenaline rush of football season, and had to start when most students were picking up where they had left off. However, so much of MSU still remained for them to enjoy.

RIGHT: Freshman Josie Kuchek began studying at Michigan State in Spring 2020. Her experience at the university has been positive overall, and she looks forward to making more lasting memories.

"I'm typically more reserved when I'm not familiar with people, but everyone has been really helpful and welcoming. I think living on campus will get easier with time, and I'm excited to see where my academic career at MSU takes me."



HARD WORK PAYING OFF

Engineering students display their projects at Design Day

The halls of the Engineering Building were packed with students, friends, family, judges and more at the fall 2019 Engineering Design Day. Hard-working engineering students came together on Dec. 6, 2019 to display projects they had worked on throughout the semester. Judges decided on the best projects that ultimately were rewarded with prizes. It was a day for the College of Engineering to acknowledge the effort students put in all semester.

There were a wide range of projects showcased at Design Day. Many students chose projects that related to topics they had strong connections to. Sophomore computer science major and MSU Formula Racing Team member Dave Yonkers and his group displayed their team's vehicle.

"Once you see it drive and you're able to show this product to people that you spent so long making and have them appreciate it, it's a really good feeling," Yonkers said. "This is something that I'm really passionate about. I'd like to work in automotives someday and this provides me great experience, so it's really easy for me to spend long hours at this job because I really like what I'm doing."

Design Day projects ranged from freshmen to senior level coursework. Freshman biosystems engineering major Christina Berels and her group chose to create an app for new MSU students. Berels said her group put a lot of time and effort into their project.

"We spent about a week designing, like two weeks doing the prototype and then the last two to three were working on the report, finalizing and doing some surveys to finish it up," Berels said. "I was very excited to hear that we could have the opportunity to go to Design Day when we started this project. We kind of had that in mind when we were trying to come up with an app and we wanted to make it look really nice and be user-friendly. We got to meet the University President, so that was pretty cool to show him our app a little bit."

While working on a project that entailed a lot of time and energy, students wanted to ensure they chose their topic carefully. Some students even chose topics that they felt would make a difference. Freshman chemical engineering major Ethan James and his group designed a solution for a school in Costa Rica that was facing location issues which negatively impacted the property.

"Once you see it drive and you're able to show this product to people that you spent so long making and have them appreciate it, it's a really good feeling."

"We thought that, you know, partly because this is a bit of a charitable cause and also, we wanted to make a design for a big, physical project," James said. This is a project where you could make like most difference, by making a plan that might get implemented somewhere."

Design Day was a fitting way to end the semester for the College of Engineering. Engineering students put thought, consideration and their valuable time into projects that they felt passionate about. Some were eager to display their finished product, some wanted to just enjoy the experience and some even wanted their project to have a meaningful purpose. The day was theirs to take pride in, and it was well deserved.



ABOVE: EGR 100 students show off their solar car at Design Day. EGR 100 is required for all engineering students. **BELOW:** An EGR 100 student shows off his solar car at Design Day. EGR 100 is required for all engineering students.



ABOVE: EGR 100 students present on their Shrioles Redesign project at Design Day. **BELOW:** An EGR 100 student shows off the app they created called PicLocate, using MIT App Inventor for Android.

ART FOR JUSTICE

Social Justice Art Festival inspires Spartans to listen and grow

Arranged neatly and displayed on the wall in Snyder-Phillips Hall were 17 4x6 portraits, all in different colors, of 17 different kids, seven to 19 years old. They were the faces of children who died from police brutality or other racial violence. These portraits were intricately painted with oil paint by artist Lillian Young, a first-year MFA candidate in studio art. Young's project submitted to the MSU Social Justice Art Festival, "Brown Baby," was striking mostly because of the solid black spray paint lines over each child's eyes. The black line symbolized the exploitation of each child after their death.

"Sometimes, being uncomfortable is okay. I think it's what allows us to grow."

"These children — they've been killed, murdered, they're dead, and you take away more of their humanity by making them a symbol for a movement instead of remembering that this was a person who had dreams, hopes and feelings," Young said.

Young was one of a handful of winners of the Social Justice Art Festival that also took home scholarship prizes for their winning artwork, but she was not the only winner that focused on community empowerment and giving a voice to underrepresented groups. Spencer Arias, a second-year doctoral music arts and music composition and first year masters in music theory student, created a project based around queer saxophonists and the queer music community's vision of the world.

"We wanted people from the [queer music] community to respond to the question in a single word, 'what is your world?' and we wanted all of those words incorporated into our piece in some way," Arias said. "We got 117 responses...and all four of the saxophonists and myself recorded ourselves saying these words and we put them

in a sound collage of text...I didn't want to set this text to a melody because I felt very strongly that I didn't want to tell other people's stories; I wanted to give a vehicle to tell people's stories."

Arias felt that the Social Justice Art Festival allowed students to put themselves in a place to grow as artists and people, and to engage in topics that may make them feel uncomfortable.

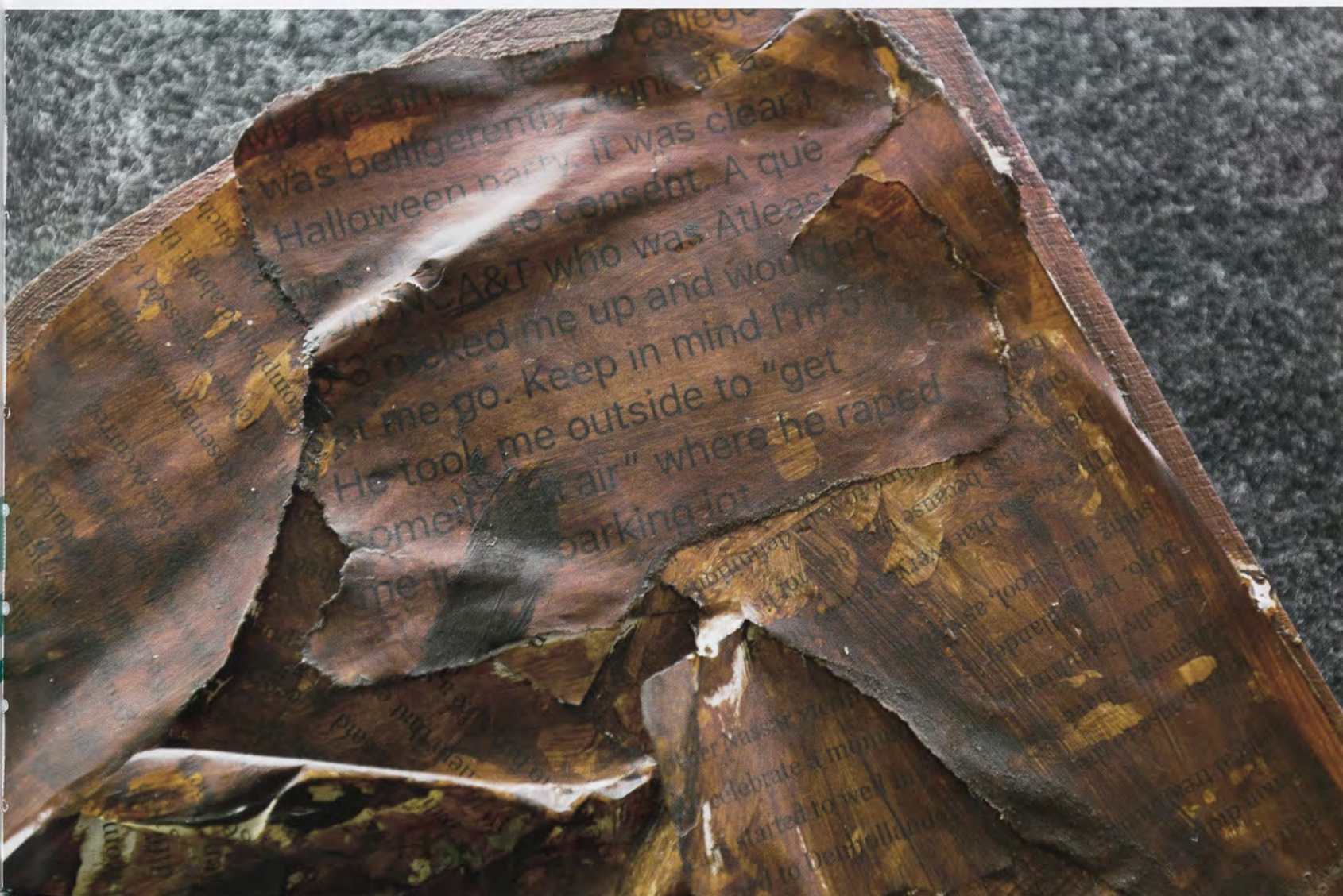
"I think that it's important for students to feel like they're allowed to make works that engage with these topics," Arias said. "I think a lot of times in the arts we're told to be careful to not upset anybody and also not to censor ourselves, but I think artists need a space to say what they're really feeling. Sometimes, being uncomfortable is okay. I think it's what allows us to grow."

Attendees to the festival felt similarly, and praised MSU's Social Justice Art Festival as an important platform for student voices. Olivia Erlewein, a senior studying arts and humanities, echoed this sentiment. She loved the festival because it was an open platform for important discussions to take place.

"A lot of these voices are often already marginalized in the community, especially the voices of survivors and the voices of people with different political affiliations," Erlewein said. "It's great to hear from people who just usually are muffled out by other voices... It's really an open space where you can talk about anything...It's a really great platform to speak."

As both festival artists and attendees left Snyder-Phillips in the evening of Jan. 24, 2020, they carried with them the messages of community, justice and social change. Inspired by opportunities to create and understand art through a mindful lens, Spartans continued to push for equality and justice in their lives every day.

TOP: Artist Tiffanie Quinn's piece of art is called, "#MeToo." It features online testimonies of sexual assault survivors pasted onto a wood cutout. **BOTTOM:** Azya Moore features her art called "Blue Black." It is a series of altered photographs.



ELI BROAD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

No other team stood above the Eli Broad College of Business team at the international Smith Travel Research (STR) Hotel Market Analysis Competition in New York in 2019. Five MSU hospitality business students won first place in a competition they spent months preparing for. As part of the competition, teams were asked to examine and analyze economic trends for a market of their choice. MSU's team chose Boston as their market and used the data they collected to decide which investments would be best for that market.

Being victorious came with being prepared. MSU hospitality students had to manage both their school work and the time they devoted to the STR competition. Katie Harding, senior hospitality business major, was able to juggle her busy schedule by organizing her time.

"I managed to get school work done while preparing for the competition by making sure I was planning ahead," Harding said. "I focused more on the competition when it was closer to it, and more on school at the beginning of the semester."

The team's bond grew through both time spent together and the shared accolade of coming out on top. Another senior hospitality business major Allie Clarkson believed the experience would not be forgotten.

"I enjoyed meeting other people on my team and combining our ideas to make a remarkable presentation," Clarkson said. "The memories of winning the STR Competition will last forever, along with the friendships made throughout the process."

Smith Travel Research Hotel Market Analysis Competition

The team claimed first place not only for themselves, but also vzLogan Fish, the trip and competition were stops along the way of a phenomenal journey.

"I owe it all to my great teammates for going through this process with me," Fish said. "My college career started with me praying to get into the business school, and will end with me and my teammates going down in school history."

"My college career started with me praying to get into the business school, and will end with me and my teammates going down in school history."

The team of hospitality business students went to New York prepared, and came away as winners. They did so by coming together as a team, and putting each other before themselves by devoting their time to the group. It was an accomplishment to remember. Their involvement in the competition was a beneficial experience that they all carried with them even after their time at MSU came to an end.

RIGHT: Senior hospitality business major Katie Harding placed first with her team at the Student Market Study Competition in New York in 2019.



LYMAN BRIGGS COLLEGE

A small school environment for like-minded students

Nestled within the far-reaching East Lansing campus, the Lyman Briggs College was like a small, hidden gemstone of talented researchers, mathematicians and scientists working hard to prepare for the challenges of tomorrow. The residential college was known for offering an immersive learning environment all in one place. Holmes Hall was the home of the Lyman Briggs College but also housed hundreds of Michigan State University undergraduates.

Emily Flohr was a sophomore studying Zoology in Lyman Briggs. Living in Holmes made it easy for her both to sleep in and get to class early. She had chosen Lyman Briggs because she was attracted to the small class sizes and sense of community fostered inside Holmes Hall.

"I recommend living in Holmes because everything is fairly close," Flohr said. "There aren't too many floors and there is a Sparty's and a cafe so things are readily available. Working in groups is much more fun when you can walk downstairs in pajama pants and meet with them."

Taha Muhammad-Ali felt an ease of mind while living in Holmes. Muhammad-Ali was a dual major in math and physiology, hoping to go to medical school. In his senior year he was an undergraduate learning assistant cultivating a lifetime passion for mathematics. He credited his success and happiness in the program to the inspiring people he met through Lyman Briggs.

"Taking classes and living within the hall made it so much easier to cultivate a relationship between my professors and I," Muhammad-Ali said. "The students I lived near or had met through Holmes challenged me further and further and always tested the limits of how much I could accomplish."

Living in close proximity to academics could seem overwhelming to some students who preferred not to take their work home with them. Rachel Dietz, sophomore physiology major, was able to find a healthy balance that facilitated her student experience.

"My favorite part of living in Holmes is the work hard, play hard atmosphere and sense of community," Dietz said. "I would always see people in my classes, in the cafeteria, or study lounge and it helped me make some great friends."

The cohesiveness of the Lyman Briggs College was a reflection of the larger MSU community. Inside Holmes Hall, students took part in a small-school learning environment while still experiencing a Big Ten University. The diverse minds at work were an important part of the MSU community.

TOP: Emily Flohr, sophomore Lyman Briggs College student, studies in her room in Holmes Hall. Lyman Briggs originally had 58 women housed on the sixth floor of West Holmes in 1967.

"The students I lived near or had met through Holmes challenged me further and further and always tested the limits of how much I could accomplish."



JUST ONE HOUR

Spartan-founded
group helps
children in need
across the country

The difficult beginning to the start of the semester motivated Jessica Halmaghi to prevent others from going through what she did. The human development and family studies major lost her best friend and her grandma in the same month. These individuals left a lasting impact on Halmaghi's life. Due to this loss, Halmaghi and her brother wanted to create something positive, which is why they founded Smile 4 Kids.

"They were both such incredible people that left a lasting impact on us," Halmaghi said. "We learned a lot about compassion from them and how to treat others in a manner that would add good to someone's life. Everybody faces adversity at some point in their life. If we could make persevering through adversity a habit for young children, we thought that we could hopefully leave a lasting impact on them that would aid their success through all stages of life."

"We work to develop long-lasting relationships with each child and put the fun of being a kid back into their lives."

Halmaghi and her brother started Smile 4 Kids as a Registered Student Organization in 2017. The group aimed to help children in need through spending time with them and volunteering. They mainly worked with foster children and chronically-ill children, but Halmaghi said, "We will never turn a child away."

"We have a great team of board members and volunteers that quickly adapt to best meet a child's needs while they overcome the adversity they are facing," Halmaghi said. "We work to develop long-lasting relationships with each child and put the fun of being a kid back into their lives."

After Smile 4 Kids' first year, students from other colleges began reaching out to Halmaghi and asking her to bring the group to their school. Halmaghi decided to establish it as an official non-profit

organization in March 2019. The process of turning the organization into a non-profit was complicated, but rather than hire a lawyer, Halmaghi did it herself.

"I looked into hiring a lawyer for the legal aspects of establishing a non-profit but I was quoted upwards of \$6,000," Halmaghi said. "To me, that was money taken away from the children we work with when I knew I could do research and figure out how to do it on my own."

Despite the difficulty of the process, turning Smile 4 Kids into a non-profit gave it the opportunity to make a nation-wide impact. A child Halmaghi worked with even told her that she wanted to work for Smile 4 Kids as an adult.

"It's things like that that make you realize there really isn't a reason why you shouldn't carve even an hour of time out of your day for someone who may need it," Halmaghi said. "There is not a single child in this world that deserves to go through any of the hardships they go through and being able to provide consistency in their lives is truly something else."

Halmaghi's work with Smile 4 Kids led her to be named Yahoo!'s Top Ten Female Leaders to Pay Attention To, which Halmaghi accredited to the volunteers and children she worked with. She said the children she worked with were her motivation for all of her accomplishments.

"I have learned more from kids who are not even one-third of my age than I have from anybody else," Halmaghi said. "They are truly incredible and deserve more recognition than I do. Being named as one of Yahoo!'s Top Ten Female Leaders to Pay Attention To was a huge accomplishment for me, but I will always owe it to the children."

Despite the hardships Halmaghi faced, she managed to turn that into a group that has had a nation-wide impact on a scale larger than most students can imagine. She turned an unfathomable loss into accomplishment and into helping those who need it most.

RIGHT: Jessica Halmaghi is a senior studying human development and family studies. Halmaghi is the CEO and founder of Smile 4 Kids. She founded the nonprofit in honor of the loss of her dear friend, Abhi Shah.




Aiden
Aiden is the oldest of four children, 10 years old, diagnosed with Neuroblastoma. He was diagnosed in October 2015, had a full body scan through the removal of chemotherapy, two stem cell transplants, and has six months of aggressive treatment.



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Thank you!
To give the best of life to a child, it takes the work of a team.

WOMEN OF WISDOM

Crystal Bernard
made a
podcast for
queer women
of color

Throughout her life, sophomore social relations and policy and international relations major Crystal Bernard was inspired by the wisdom of those who had come before her. As a queer black woman, she looked back on those who had been a part of social and political movements for guidance on how to navigate the world. She then decided to begin passing forth some wisdom of her own as a student and organizer through her podcast, Womxn of Color Organizing, or WoCo.

"The podcast came from the gratitude I have for the movement thinkers who've shown me the ways to justice," Bernard said. "I hope through sharing the lessons I've learned I can give my peers or predecessors the same cathartic gift that I received. I hope that the podcast will become a tool for budding organizers to gain insight from us via the ways we navigate systems of oppression. The podcast is a labor of love for young people of color organizers."

Together with her co-host, former MSU student Sariah Metcalfe, Bernard used her podcast to talk about structural inequality — inequality inherently built into the systems of society — and how to survive and thrive as a queer woman of color within this system.

"The goal of the podcast is to be a tool and a library for organizers to engage and grow with," Bernard said.

Bernard certainly had the experience to create this tool. In high school, she was president of her student body and co-president of their social justice club. During her senior year, she organized a bus trip to Washington, D.C. for 54 of her peers to attend the March For Our Lives; she was even featured in the Washington Post for this work. As a college student, she worked with the Michigan Student Power Network.


"My family has always been involved in activism in Metro Detroit, from very young I have been in movement spaces," Bernard said. "I've been to social forums, many protests, non-violence training, political education classes, and much more. My life has been full of social organizing and advocacy work."

Using this experience, Bernard hoped to use WoCo as a healing space for queer people of color. She believed her experience as a queer black woman provided her with a different perspective on current events, which was isolating. Bernard created her podcast to help ensure that other queer people of color would not feel the same isolation she did.

"I hope that my co-podcaster, Sariah Metcalfe, and I can offer understanding, empathy and motivation to our peers and beyond," Bernard said.

Whether it was organizing a bus ride so students could voice their opinions and become part of a movement or creating a podcast for those who often felt isolated, Bernard dedicated her time and intellect to helping those without a voice become heard. Just like she had used the knowledge of those who came before her, she created knowledge that could be used by those experiencing the same things she had, adding to the cycle that aimed to dismantle systematic oppression.

RIGHT: Crystal Bernard started the WoCo Podcast because her favorite type of work is to encourage college-aged students to engage critically with socio-political structures. She hopes to help inspire young leaders and game changers in the making.



"I hope through sharing the lessons I've learned I can give my peers or predecessors the same cathartic gift that I received."



THE VALUE IN A VOTE

Both Democrat and
Republican groups on
campus prepare for the
upcoming election cycle

In the United States, the ability to vote was not just a privilege, but a civil service. After Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, young activists and outspoken constituents were on the rise to make change happen and their voices heard. With flyers posted around campus urging Spartans to register to vote for the upcoming 2020 elections, political organizations were putting in extra time to help inform Spartans on the candidates they could choose from, along with the importance of voting itself. Naturally, there were clubs supporting various ends of the political spectrum, creating some friction.

"It is really critical for people to allow free speech and to have a conversation, rather than resorting to censoring."

One of the most politically active groups at Michigan State was the James Madison College Conservatives. Being a conservative group on a campus filled with many liberal thinkers was slightly difficult and they often faced discrimination or people simply ignoring their ideas. Sophomore James Madison and journalism major, Jack Harrison, was the freshmen representative for the James Madison College Conservatives, and noted how others attempted to censor their voice.

"Several of our posters have been taken down by those who do not agree with us," Harrison said. "It is really critical for people to allow free speech and to have a conversation, rather than resorting to censoring. I would hope people hold themselves to higher standards."

Senior political theory and constitutional democracy major, Katie Kobiljak, was the secretary of the James Madison College Conservatives, and urged how the organization was not putting their support behind a specific candidate because it often deterred others

from coming to their meetings. Like any political group, they wanted to promote bipartisanship. As long as students were given the chance to hear or meet the candidates, work together to meet a joint end goal and voted, things were more likely to get done.

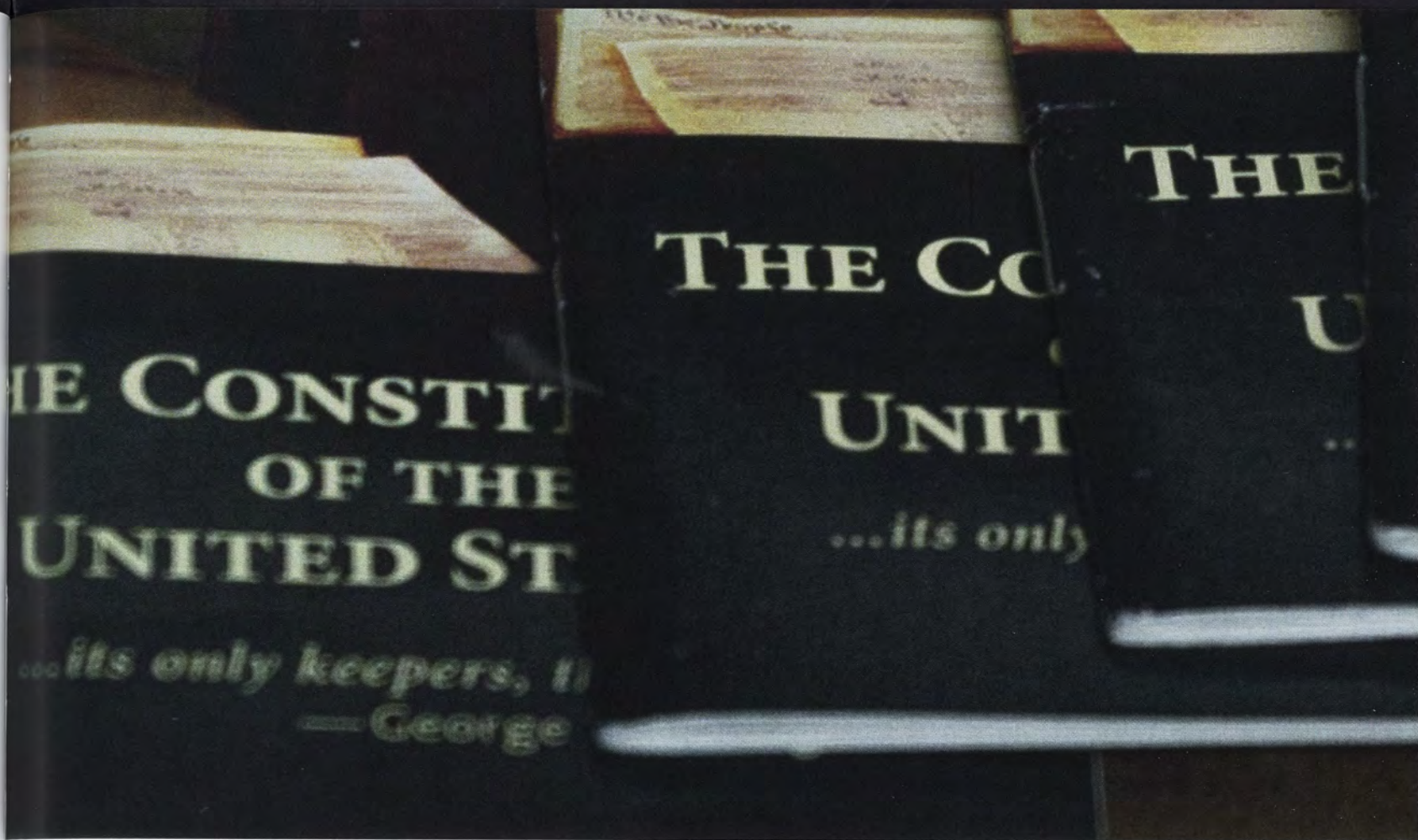
"The goal of James Madison College Conservatives is to promote civil discourse, so while we host and will continue to host debate nights, candidates and watch parties, we want to make sure that everyone feels encouragement to attend those events and share their own opinions, something that likely wouldn't happen if we were supporting a particular candidate," Kobiljak said.

On the other side of the spectrum were the MSU College Democrats. Senior biosystems engineering major, Conor Crennell, was the organization's social media chair and also noted how the group did not collectively put their support toward one candidate. Like many of the conservative groups on campus, the MSU College Democrats wanted to promote voter activity. This was often done through a plethora of different activities that engaged students politically.

"We have a lot of other promising events coming up like debate watch parties, debates among students, opportunities for students to register to vote and speakers at our general assembly meetings," Crennell said.

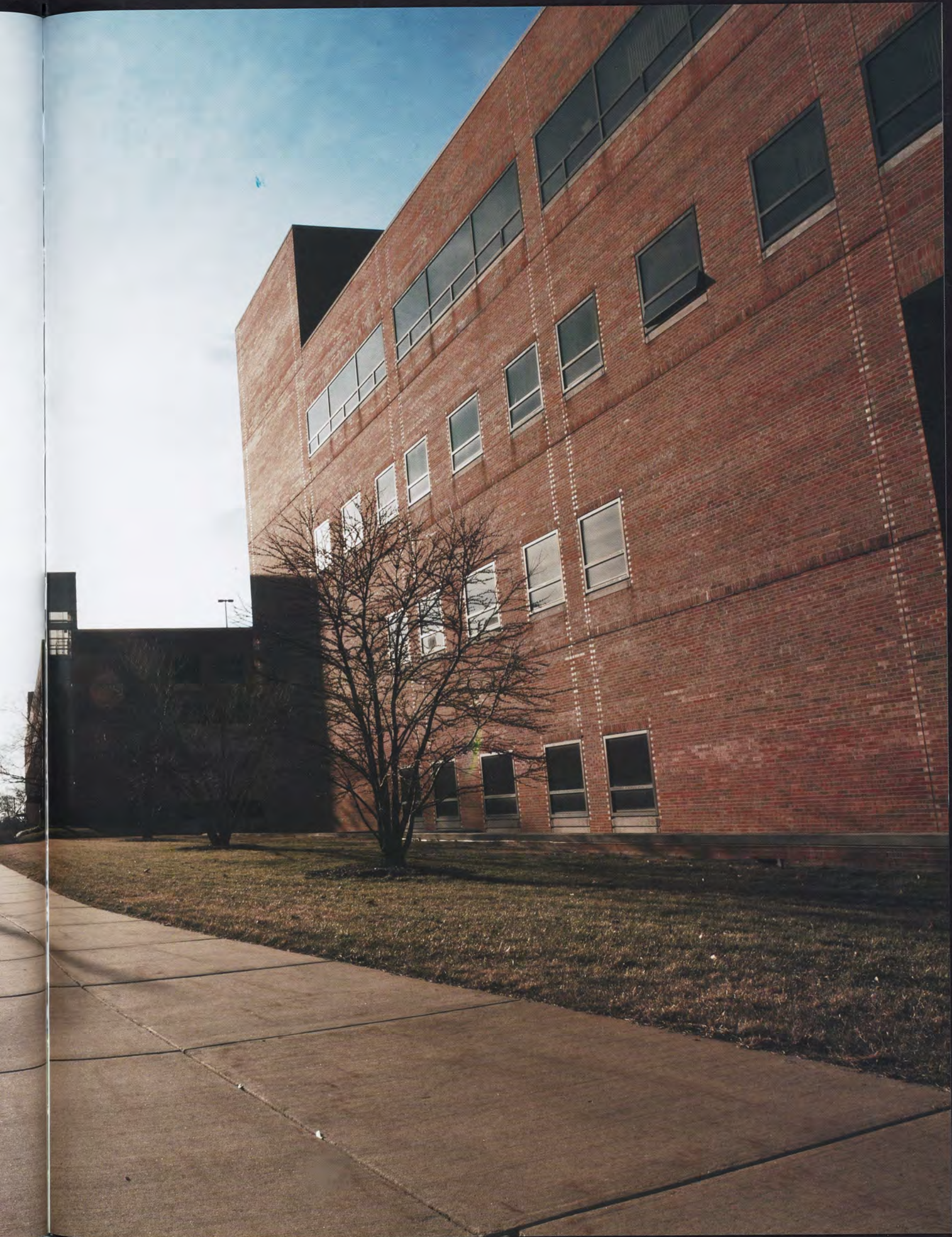
Time was all about optimization, and in the end of it all, both liberal and conservative groups at Michigan State wanted to work toward one goal — a functioning, productive country. Though they were comprised of young citizens, they had booming voices, and their collective goal was to get informed, get involved and get out and vote.

RIGHT: Student-run democratic and conservative clubs all hosted events leading up to the Michigan primary on March 10, 2020. They handed out shirts and served food to attract more students to get engaged.





MSU College of Law &
Gast Business Library →



A photograph of a stone lion statue on a ledge. The lion is positioned in the lower right corner, facing left. Its head is resting on the ledge, and its body is partially visible. The background is a soft-focus view of trees with green and yellow leaves, suggesting an outdoor setting. The lighting is natural, and the overall tone is calm and artistic.

PHOTO: GEORGE PHAM





**VARSI
SPORT**

SPORTS

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|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 156-157 | At the Top of History |
| 158-159 | Football Photography |
| 160-161 | Women's Cross Country Photography |
| 162-163 | Leading to Victory |
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AT THE TOP OF HISTORY

Mark Dantonio becomes MSU football's all-time winningest head coach



Mark Dantonio could not help but smile and accept the high-fives and handshakes from his players and coaches as his offense executed the victory formation. Michigan State Football had just defeated Northwestern and clinched Dantonio's right to be named the program's all-time winningest head coach. 110 wins. 110 times he and his team left the field victorious. These wins included some of MSU football's most memorable moments, such as the 2013 Big Ten Championship against Ohio State, the 2014 Rose Bowl win over Stanford and, of course, the time Michigan "had trouble with the snap." Memories like these and countless others could be credited to the successful coaching of Mark Dantonio.

"He teaches us it's not always going to be pretty. You have to get up off the mat. You have to respond. You have to rebound. I'm thankful for what he's taught us."

Even though it was a moment that was long anticipated by Spartan Nation, Dantonio directed the focus away from himself. He remained humble and focused on the season ahead. He was the program's leader, but he made sure to acknowledge those who had a role in the effort.

"I knew that sooner or later maybe it would come," Dantonio said. "It's not an individual thing. It's just so many people working towards it. Can't get there without players. You can't get there without coaches."

Dantonio's modesty did not keep his players from showing their pride in their head coach's accomplishment. Senior quarterback Brian Lewerke proudly wore a customized hat that displayed Dantonio's 110 wins after the game. Lewerke believed there was no coincidence as to why his coach had been so successful.

"Just the way he invests in people, the way that he invests in the program," Lewerke said. "He makes sure people are doing things the right way. That's what's kept him here so long and that's what kept people enjoying his company."

Being a successful coach meant succeeding at a personal level as well. One could not lead if their followers were not willing to fight for them. Senior linebacker, Joe Bachie praised Dantonio for the effect his coach had on his life.

"He's a great person," Bachie said. "He obviously gave me the opportunity to come here. He's built relationships with me and, you know, everyone else on his team. Just great people here. It's impacted my life tremendously; put me in a great spot in life."


Coach Dantonio also remained victorious due to the fact that he knew — at the end of the day — it was just a game. Winning was important to him, but he recognized there were greater lessons that could be taken away. Senior tight end, Matt Seybert, appreciated the way Dantonio applied the game to the real world.

"He's way more than just a football coach," Seybert said. "Especially with stuff like this, this year. When stuff's not going the way you want these last couple weeks, you know, it's just like real life. He teaches us it's not always going to be pretty. You have to get up off the mat. You have to respond. You have to rebound. I'm thankful for what he's taught us."

In a season of ups and downs, one thing was certain — coach Dantonio stood atop all who came before him. He did so through great leadership, both on and off the football field. He credited those who took part in the journey, but in Dantonio's eyes, the journey was not over. There were more wins to come and more opportunities to win titles of all forms. For a moment in the 2019-2020 season though, there was time to celebrate. The program reflected on their coach's history; on their history. The accomplishment was secured — 110 wins, 110 times the opponent was outdueled, 110 victories for MSU.

LEFT: An Indiana player gets ready to start the play. MSU survived the wild game by winning 40-31. **TOP RIGHT:** Sparty does a record breaking 12 push ups during his entry into the stadium during the ASU game. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Running back Elijah Collins rushes the ball away from Indiana. Collins had 56 yards and a TD on 17 carries.






LEFT: Senior tight end Matt Seybert fights for yards against Illinois. Seybert had 3 receptions for a total of 27 yards in the game. TOP RIGHT: Senior quarterback Brian Lewerke rushes the ball. BOTTOM RIGHT: Brian Lewerke rushes the ball. Lewerke had a 42 yard run for a touchdown against the Fighting Illini.

PHOTO: LOGAN COLES



A full-page photograph of two female cross-country runners competing in the Spartan Invitational. The runner on the right is wearing a black tank top with a white Spartan helmet logo and the word 'SPARTAN INVITATIONAL' above the number '156'. She is also wearing a black headband and white running shoes. The runner on the left is wearing a black tank top with a white 'BIG' logo, a white Spartan helmet logo, and the word 'SPARTAN INVITATIONAL' above the number '172'. She is also wearing black shorts and white running shoes. Both runners are in mid-stride on a grassy field. In the background, a crowd of spectators is visible, some standing and some sitting on the grass. The photo is taken from a low angle, emphasizing the runners' movement.

PICTURED: From right to left, junior India Johnson, sophomore Jenna Magness and senior Dillion McClintock run alongside each other during the Spartan Invitational. The women's cross country team placed first at the Spartan Invitational.

PHOTO: TOMMY MASSA



LEADING TO VICTORY

Spectacular seniors
bring cross country
team to a new level

Michigan State students have just a few pivotal years to both transform themselves into well-rounded individuals and make their mark on the campus they call home. For junior electrical engineering major Morgan Beadlescomb and senior kinesiology major Annie Fuller, running with the cross country team helped them achieve both. The unity of the team not only helped Beadlescomb and Fuller perform well in the Big Ten championship, but it also fulfilled their college experience.

Beadlescomb said the cross country and track teams made his transition from high school to college much smoother as a freshman. It could be hard to move to a university as large as MSU, but the training and bonding camp that the cross country team put on prior to fall semester provided Beadlescomb with a safety net of new friends.

"[Cross country has] made the college experience so much better," Beadlescomb said. "I came in and knew 30 people right away. I had 30 people I could go to for help."

After his third year on the team, Beadlescomb was determined to provide the same comfortable environment for newer teammates. However, he was just one of many guiding figures on the team.

"I hope to help the younger guys...assimilate into the team, not just athletically, but academically because in college it's so much different," Beadlescomb said.

Fuller, who was one of the leaders of the women's team, believed cross country helped her learn life lessons while building lasting relationships with her teammates.

"Growing up with a collegiate cross country coach for a father, I grew up with the sport," Fuller said. "It truly has molded me into who I am today. It teaches you endurance, time management and how to handle pressure."

Both Fuller and Beadlescomb performed well at the Big Ten Championship, where the women's team was named Big Ten Champions. Both Fuller and Beadlescomb were lauded with first

team All-Big Ten honors at the championship meet. Director of Cross Country and Track and Field Walt Drenth said Beadlescomb and Fuller always exceeded the goals their coaches laid out for them.

"We kind of expected them to be where they finished [in the Big Ten championship race], but expectations sort of weigh heavy sometimes, and I felt like they responded like the athletes we know they can be," Drenth said. "I think they'll both be high up on the podium at the nationals if they continue to race like this. I think that's their expectation."

At nationals, Beadlescomb earned All-American honors, and Fuller helped lead the team to a sixth-place finish. Fuller held higher expectations for herself at nationals, but she was proud of how she and the rest of the team performed at the earlier Big Ten race. Both Fuller and Beadlescomb were prouder of their team accomplishments rather than their individual performance, emphasizing the unity that a sport like cross country provided.

"Crossing the line, catching my breath and turning around to find several of my teammates had already crossed the line was one of the coolest experiences," Fuller said. "It was in that moment that I thought to myself, 'Wow, we just won a Big Ten title.'"

While Beadlescomb and Fuller both received individual honors and praise from The Big Ten and their coaches, they emphasized the importance and talent of their teammates at every opportunity, showcasing the community and support that was present on MSU's cross country team. For Fuller, it did not matter that they crossed the finish line into a Big Ten championship, but that their team had as a whole.

RIGHT: Junior Morgan Beadlescomb surges ahead of competitors during the Michigan State Spartan Invitational. Beadlescomb placed first in the 8k with a time of 24:24.9.

"It was in that moment that
I thought to myself, 'Wow, we
just won a Big Ten title.'"





PICTURED: Men's cross country runners take off and begin their race. The MSU cross country team finished seventh at the Big Ten Championship.

PHOTO: TOMMY MASSA



GROWING THROUGH GRIT

Women's field
hockey team
shines through
relentless hard work

The wind whipped the cold October air and the sun shone down through breaks in the clouds. At Ralph Young Field — located right next to the famous Spartan Stadium — the field hockey team practiced in preparation for their game against the tough competition that was Penn State. Sophomore goalkeeper Jade Arundell was one of the many players revving up for the upcoming game. Named the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week in early September, she felt charged up and appreciated through all of the recognition.

"It just makes me realize that I can get more, so that's a small step on a taller ladder," Arundell said. "It was a nice achievement, but I just don't want to be the best for a week, I want to be the best for a year."

Arundell went on to explain what would help the team in its game against Penn State and beyond — grit. Though the coaches came up with this guiding term for the season, the players were the ones who made it into an acronym. Standing for grind, relentless, intent and trust, it was a principle that carried the players into the right state of mind when they competed and helped them fight to the very end of the clock. Head Coach Helen Knull, who had lead the team for nine seasons, coached for 16 years and was a field hockey player herself, emphasized the importance of employing grit onto the field and beyond.

"It's a lifestyle, it's how we do everything," Knull said. "When you're gritty, you grind out in class [and] you grind out in everyday life. It's part of being a student athlete— you don't have all the time you want. You've got to prioritize and do different things. On the field, it means being gritty in terms of our second effort on the ball, not giving up, being relentless in our play...I think it's something that can take you in life, not just right now."

Though they ended the season with a record of 7-11 and failed to make it to the NCAA tournament, Spartan field hockey players did not let their losses discourage them. Junior forward Lia Sinisi recognized how strong the team was overall during the season. They

avoided having a dreaded hierarchy, which often develops on teams with players of varying ages, and always fought their hardest — thanks to the overarching theme of grit.

"We might be outplayed, there might be better teams, but if we bring the grit and effort to every game, that has better outcomes, so I think that's the most important thing," Sinisi said.

"On the field, it means being gritty in terms of our second effort on the ball, not giving up, being relentless in our play...I think it's something that can take you in life, not just right now."

Win or lose, Spartan field hockey players brought their all to their home field all the way to North Carolina during the 2019 season. As long as they were making good dives and willing to get their knees scraped all for the sake of obtaining the ball, nothing else truly mattered. Through the concept of grit, they were able to bring confidence, strength and empowerment into every play, no matter where they were.

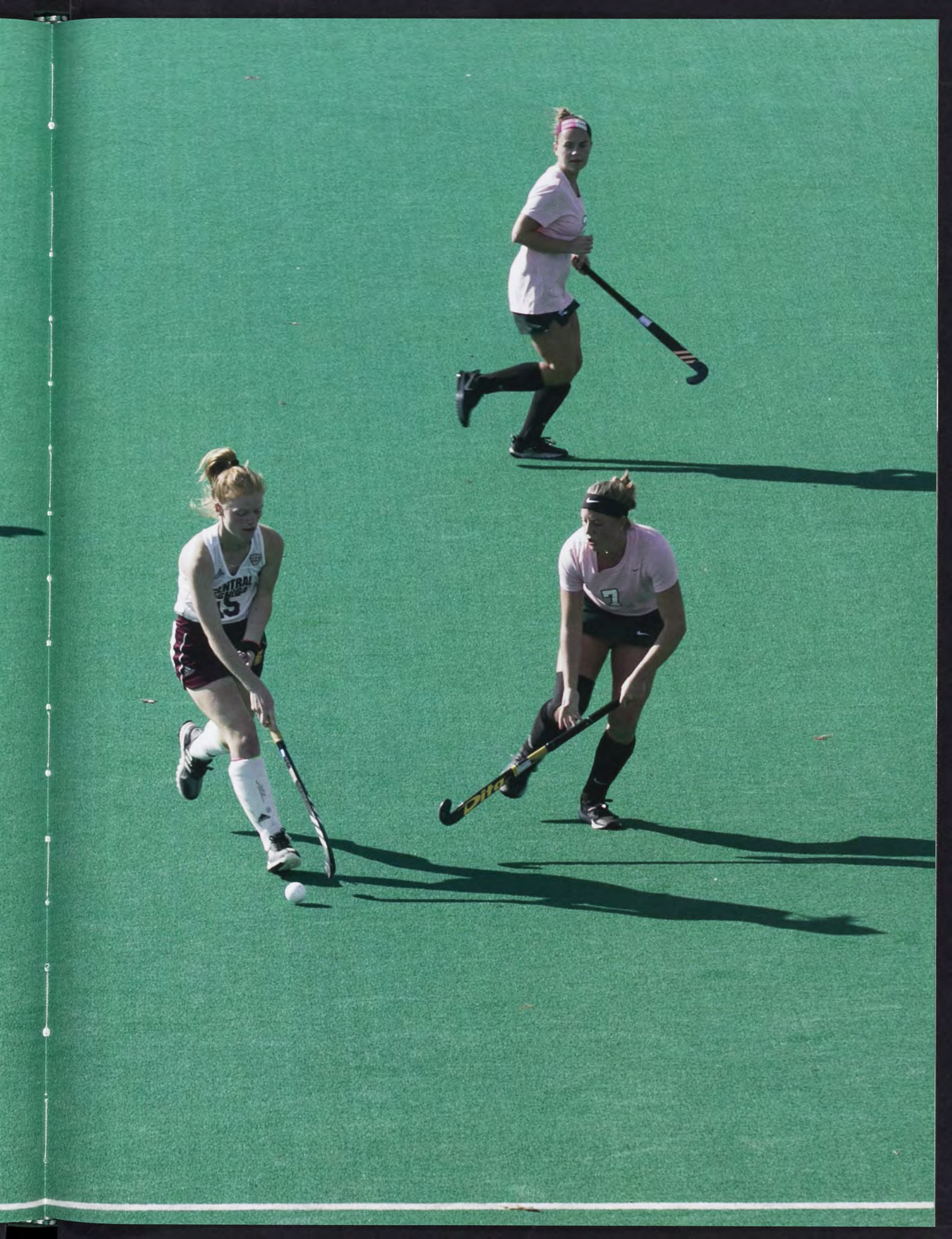
PICTURED: Junior field hockey forward Lia Sinisi defends the attack from a player from Central Michigan University.





PICTURED: Redshirt junior Meghan Cole steps forward to steal the ball from an offensive player. Michigan State field hockey tallied a season-high 36 shots en route to a dominant 3-0 win.

PHOTO: ZENGYI SUN







LEFT: Yurika Tanida plays in her junior season at the Mary Fossum Invitational. The Mary Fossum Invitational began in 1978 and is held annually at Michigan State's Forest Akers West Golf Course. **RIGHT:** Catherine McEvoy plays in her senior season at the Mary Fossum Invitational. She tied for 4th place in the tournament along with teammate Yurika Tanida.

PHOTO: ALEXA PIERZYNSKI

WARRIORS IN WHITE

Women's soccer celebrates a successful season

The day the MSU women's soccer team took on the University of Michigan Wolverines was highly anticipated. Fans could not have asked for better game weather; the air was crisp, but not too cold. Those from Michigan State roared into green and white smoke machines, while on the University of Michigan side of the bleachers, children rightfully howled and stomped. The scene was set for a memorable game.

The 2019 season was remarkable for the Spartans. Early in the season the team bested the Purdue Boilermakers 2-0 at home. This triumph was special, as it was their first Big Ten win in recent memory and helped fire up the players going into their highly anticipated game against the University of Michigan. Senior kinesiology major and outside back Sadie Misiewicz felt the excitement in the air as gametime became closer and closer.

"The rivalry games are fun because there's a lot going into it and a lot behind the scenes," Misiewicz said. "You get to see how everyone gets pumped up the week of practice before the game. Energy is always elevated because everyone's getting ready."

In the second half of the game, redshirt freshman goalkeeper and communications major Lauren Kozal made several incredible saves against the unrelenting Michigan attack. Then, with 15 minutes remaining, freshman forward and pre-nursing major Paige Weber scored another goal for the Spartans to tie it up. The game headed into overtime, which was narrowly won by the Wolverines in the final minutes. Looking back at the season, the Spartans celebrated an impeccable record at home. These warriors in white shut down team after team at DeMartin Stadium in East Lansing. Senior kinesiology major and midfielder Michaela Kovacs, known to her friends as Mouse, was excited about the progress made by the team. She recalled the victory over Purdue as one of her favorite memories of the year.

"Our team has always had a really great chemistry, but on the field it's finally kind of transitioning over," Kovacs said.

As the season went on the girls grew closer, and during the Michigan game, their connection showed. The crowd roared with support for the Spartans up until the very last play of the game. Head coach Tom Saxon only had good things to say about the team's performance during the game. Saxon had been with the Spartans

for 34 years and was the first head coach in the women's team's history. It was only 29 years ago that the men's and women's teams were each granted their own coaching staff. Together, Saxon and his staff worked to maintain the utmost equality between the men's and women's teams. Both teams had equal practice spaces and times, as well as their own autonomous coaching staff.

"One of our initial thoughts [when separating the teams] was that we have to do everything absolutely equal or this is never going to work," Saxon said. "I can tell you that in the Michigan State Soccer program, we've respected equity to the highest level."

On and off the field the Spartans functioned as a family, each looking to the other for support. No matter which opponent they took on, they fought with pride, unity and calculation. The warriors in white would remember this season for years to come and the unparalleled teamwork that made it happen.

"The rivalry games are fun because there's a lot going into it and a lot behind the scenes. You get to see how everyone gets pumped up the week of practice before the game. Energy is elevated because everyone's getting ready."

TOP RIGHT: Senior forward Lydia Franks charges to steal the ball from the Michigan defense. Spartans lost to Michigan after a well-played game with a score of 2-3. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Sophomore forward Caryn Evans battles with a Michigan player over the ball.

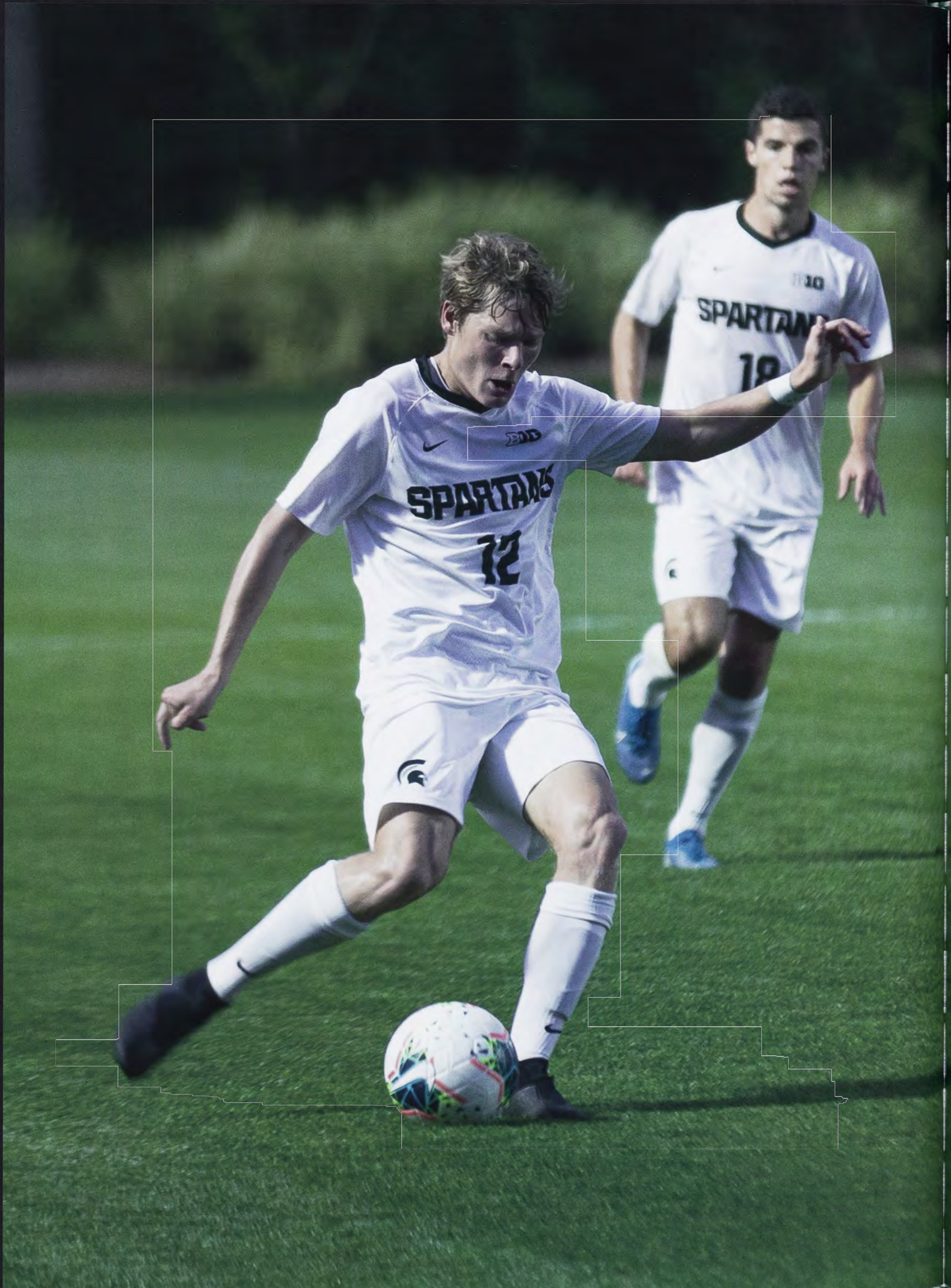


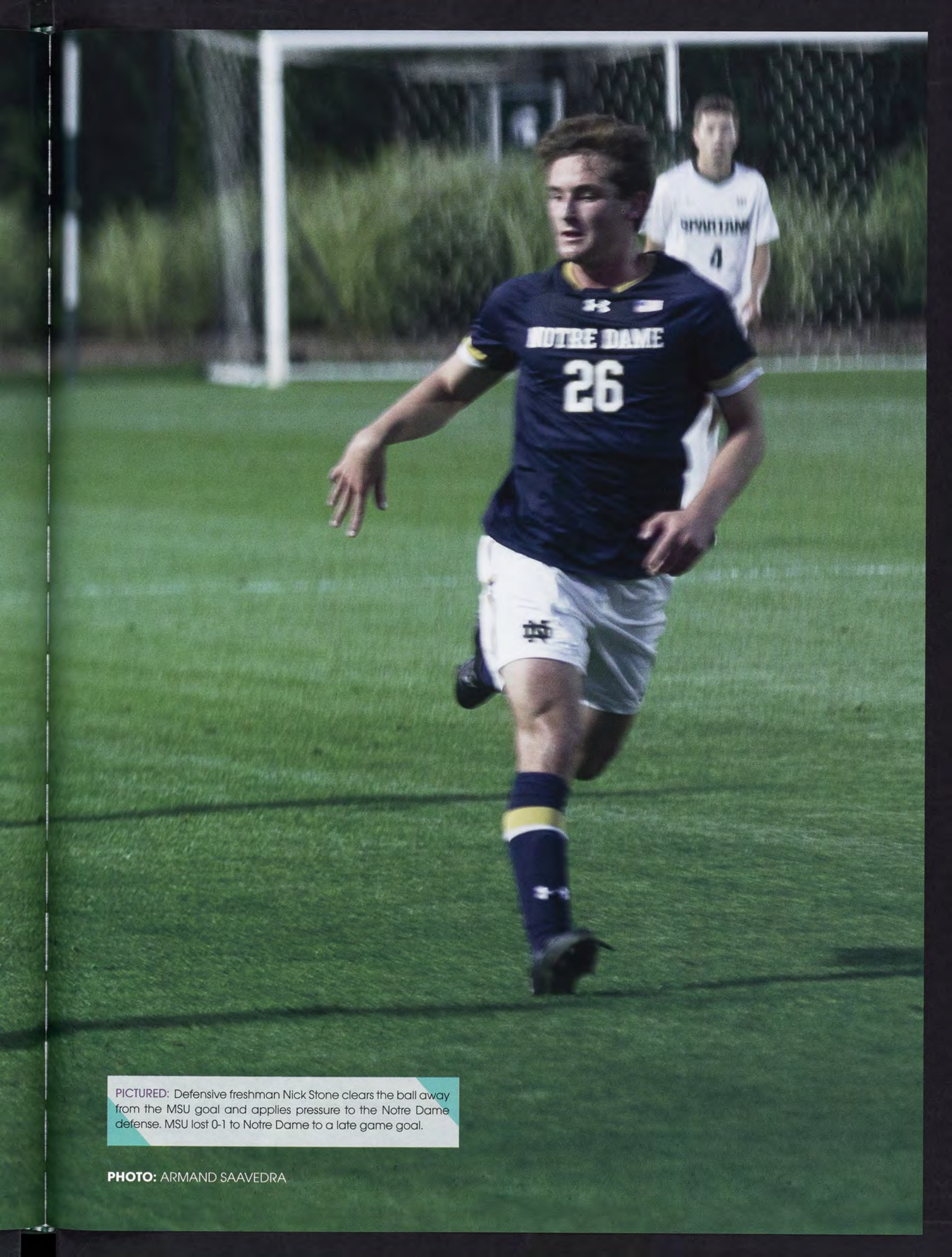


PICTURED: Freshman forward Paige Webber kicks the ball down the field in an attempt to score. Webber scored one of two goals during the Michigan game.

PHOTO: ALEXA PIERZYNSKI







PICTURED: Defensive freshman Nick Stone clears the ball away from the MSU goal and applies pressure to the Notre Dame defense. MSU lost 0-1 to Notre Dame to a late game goal.

PHOTO: ARMAND SAAVEDRA

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Women's volleyball finds support through their teammates

Players darted across the floor, eyes up with a laser focus on the ball that flew overhead. The team moved in sync, simultaneously stepping into their positions and shouting out their calls. One hit, one set and a spike over the net landed the ball in the opponent's court. The team convened for a brief moment, supporting each other with excited hugs and congratulatory pats on the shoulder before they got back into position and continued the match.

The MSU women's volleyball team was a solid competitor in the world of volleyball, with players having lived and breathed the sport. Made to win, the team cultivated a competitive, championship environment with players dominating on and off the court, such as the close-call games against Northwestern and Iowa. Samantha McLean, senior pre-med major and team captain, cherished the memories she and her teammates created together the most.

"Everyone brings so much energy, everyone is very competitive, and I think it's just we all want each other to do our best," McLean said. "It's a really great environment to play in. At Michigan State, we emphasize our championship environment all the time and that's been the standard for the past four years. Every single day, whether it's in a game or in practice, it's always competitive and it's always fun. A really big part of what makes that stable is the girls that I play with."

Being a full-time student-athlete could be taxing, and the students often had trouble balancing school and their sport. Elena Shlyar, sophomore journalism major, thanked her team for helping her through the struggles her freshman year.

"Last year, I was thrown into a starting position, which was awesome," Shlyar said. "However, with everything being new and

being a young team, there were a lot of struggles last year that I had never been a part of before. Every team we played every night were the best in the country, and you never really see that anywhere else. Every team and girl that you play against were really good."

Even if competitors could be tough, each member of the women's volleyball team held each other up. Through tough plays and hard-fought wins, the team created a network of constant social support. Alyssa Chronowski, junior physiology and Spanish major, believed her favorite memory was when her team went to the Elite 8 her freshman year.

"It was a really great experience to see hard work pay off and to see teamwork pay off at such a high scale level," Chronowski said. Seeing dreams being accomplished and finding value in everyone's contribution and seeing what you can do. It's not just you, it's about the team and what can really be accomplished through teamwork."

The buzzer sounded and the game slowed to a halt. Players, with their faces dampened with sweat and a proud, exhausted air about them, looked around at their teammates. The team lined up one last time to high-five the competition, tired smiles on their faces. They had won. With teamwork like theirs, nobody could stop them. Through thick and thin, the women's volleyball team triumphed over tough matches and came out on top.

RIGHT: Junior Rebecka Poljan goes up to hit the ball against North Carolina. Poljan had eight blocks in the game against North Carolina.

A photograph of a volleyball game in progress. A player in a white jersey is jumping high, reaching for a volleyball. Another player in a white jersey with the number 7 is in the foreground, also jumping. A player in a blue jersey is on the right, reaching up. The net is visible with "MICHIGAN STATE" written on it. In the background, a large crowd of spectators is seated in bleachers. The image has a teal and purple geometric overlay.

"At Michigan State, we emphasize our championship environment all the time, and that's been the standard for the past four years. Every single day, whether it's in a game or in practice, it's always competitive and it's always fun."



LEFT: Sophomore middle blocker Rebecka Poljan goes up for an attack as sophomore setter Elena Shklyar sets the ball. Spartans beat the North Carolina Tarheels in three consecutive sets. **RIGHT:** Rebecka Poljan and outside hitter Molly Johnson block North Carolina's outside attack. Poljan had eight blocks and Johnson had two block assists during the game against North Carolina.

PHOTO: ALEXA PIERZYNSKI



LIVING THE DREAM

Head basketball
coach embraces
chance to
coach his son

Tom Izzo was known as Michigan State's fan favorite head basketball coach. The school's all-time winningest head coach and national champion led the program to numerous Final Four appearances. These accomplishments came to be remembered among MSU Spartan Men's Basketball's most memorable seasons. While Izzo was known around campus as "coach," he was also known at home as "dad." Before the 2019-2020 season, Izzo's son, Steven Izzo, was welcomed to the team as a walk-on from Lansing Catholic High School. In his 25th season as head coach, Tom had the opportunity to coach his son.

MSU fans were gifted with multiple blowout victories at the Breslin Center throughout the season, and when Steven checked in during the final moments of those games, it was the perfect cherry on top. The crowd roared with praise as the son of their beloved coach saw the court. The excitement went back all the way to October 2019 when Steven, freshman communications major, made a free throw against Albion College in an exhibition game, making his introduction to the scoring column.

Eventually, Steven played in enough games to earn his varsity jacket. The honor of being a member of the team had now meant so much more. The suspense was something he had felt for much of the season.

"During every single game ... we just talked about how many games I was away," Steven said. "Just to get that mark of 10 was pretty cool. To be able to get my varsity jacket is just a cool thing that I'm gonna have for the rest of my life."

As special to Steven as this opportunity was, arguably no person in the program shared the pleasure more than his father. Tom was able to witness his son become a part of the community he helped build in the course of his many years of coaching at MSU. There were moments during his career when he would lose his temper, but the times he sent Steven to the scorer's table were some of his more joyous ones.

"It's a blessing," Tom said. "It's one thing that I wouldn't change now for the world. I do take great thrill in seeing your kid get to do something that few people get to do."

Steven's teammates also enjoyed having him in the locker room. Their support was right there with the fans whenever Steven was called to check in. His teammate Julius Marble, freshman forward and computer engineering major, enjoyed having him around.

"I'm just proud that he's sticking with it," Marble said. "Not too many guys get to play for their dads."






"It's a blessing. It's one thing that I wouldn't change now for the world."

The already family-like atmosphere of the MSU basketball team grew stronger with the addition of their coach's son. Tom dedicated his time and love to the program year after year. It was only right that he was rewarded with the chance to coach his son, Steven. Throughout his career, many of Tom's players viewed him as a mentor. He was their leader, but for the first time ever, one of his players knew him as something more: "dad."

LEFT: Junior forward Xavier Tillman takes the jump ball against Binghamton. MSU Men's Basketball defeated Binghamton 47 - 100. **RIGHT:** Senior point guard Cassius Winston takes a wide open jump shot from behind the arc. **TOP:** Freshman Steven Izzo takes the court to cheers from the Izzone.





PICTURED: Sophomores Gabe Brown (right) and Foster Loyer (left) look for a defensive stop against Rutgers. MSU defeated the Rutgers Scarlet Knights 65 - 77.

PHOTO: ARMAND SAAVEDRA





PICTURED: Mary Lewis getting ready to return a serve. She effectively controls her side of the court.

PHOTO: GEORGE PHAM



KEEP MAKING SHOTS

Women's
basketball team
overcomes injuries,
faces future

On the court of the Breslin Center, Taryn McCutcheon, star senior guard of the MSU women's basketball team, dribbled the ball on the polished wood. As it bounced easily back into her hand, she, along with the rest of the team, performed exercises and drills to hone their skills. However, putting effort into practices like these could be difficult for players when so many of their teammates were suffering from injuries like ACL tears and more. Despite a myriad of injuries, the team was determined to play at the highest level and support those who could no longer join them on the court.

"... just, playing for them and knowing that some of them can't even play, trying to keep fighting for them to send them out on a good note."

"We have so much talent, but I know the injuries are really hard to battle especially end-of-season injuries," McCutcheon said. "Like Claire [Hendrickson] — for her to not give up and come year after year and practice after practice says what this means to her and I think everybody looks up to that. Everybody wants to win but do we wanna do what it takes to win, is the question."

Taryn McCutcheon was a senior neuroscience major in her final season with the women's basketball team. Though the injuries baffled her, assistant coach Kristin Haynie's advice kept her motivated.

"I'm eternally grateful for her coming even if it's just for a year because she's just brought a whole different perspective to the game," McCutcheon said. "She's beyond encouraging and positive and she gives me confidence when I need it and I think that's a lot of what I feel like I was missing. I appreciate her knowledge of the game and not only that but the kind of person she is and how she wants to

have a relationship with you and it's really nice to have that in your corner and be able to look on the bench and see her and ask her questions and learn from her."

Suzy Merchant, the head coach of the women's basketball team felt that Kristin Haynie gave students hard truths, but the players, because they respected her, listened.

"She just tells it like it is," Merchant said. "She doesn't care. If you aren't doing what you're supposed to be doing off the court, she'll tell you. And that's refreshing. I think a lot of kids don't like to hear the truth. Always concerned with how to spin it. Haynie, she just tells it like it is and they take it."

Kristin Haynie's leadership was not the only thing keeping the team inspired. Tory Ozment, sophomore kinesiology major who played as a guard and forward for the team, felt that the identity of the women's basketball team remained strong through rough times that injuries caused.

"I don't think injuries hurt our dynamic," Ozment said. "We have a deep bench and it's February and we've been playing for so long, but I think we still have the same identity. Overall, the senior class keeps me motivated. There's only four or five of them... just, playing for them and knowing that some of them can't even play, trying to keep fighting for them to send them out on a good note."

As the women's basketball team moved forward through the 2019-2020 season, they faced obstacles and challenges, as well as more injuries. But with a solid identity, a world-class, record-setting assistant coach and strong senior leadership, the team was able to move forward and win.

TOP RIGHT: #42, forward Kayla Belles, tries to find a player to pass to. Kayla Belles started against Purdue and led the team in rebounding. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Taryn McCutcheon scored 16 points and led the team with 5 assists against Purdue. McCutcheon had her third straight game with four made 3-pointers against Purdue.





PICTURED LEFT: Freshman guard Julia Ayrault, #40, gets back on defense against Purdue. PICTURED RIGHT: Sophomore forward Tory Ozment, #1, makes her way to the basket.

PHOTO: KEYUR PATEL



GOING DOWN IN HISTORY

Seniors lead swim team with all-time top ten records

It's go time. They shed their warm-up gear, stretch out and step up to the blocks, carefully adjusting their caps and goggles. They take their marks and dive gracefully into the awaiting water as the official hits the start horn.

Seniors Ana Sortland and Ellie Roche spent four years in the pool for the MSU swim team. In their time as Spartan athletes, they both worked their way into the top ten all-time in several categories. Among several other top times, Sortland earned the top time in the women's 100 breaststroke, and Roche earned the second top time. Roche also took the top spot all-time in the women's 200 breaststroke. Between the two, they not only broke records, but also were leaders that moved the program in an upward direction as a whole.

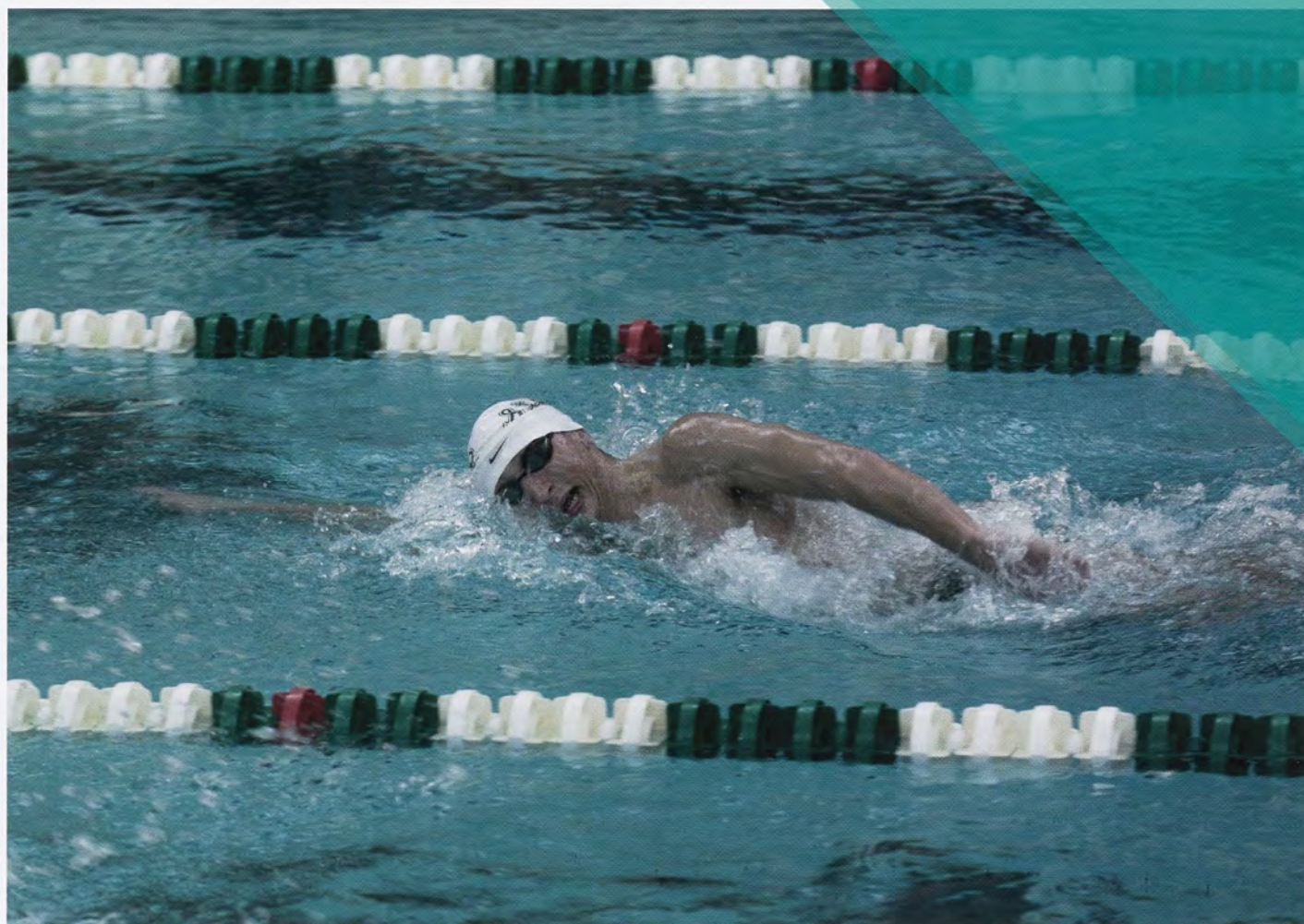
"[Ana and Ellie] have done a really great job and really improved quite a bit," said Head Coach Matt Gianiodis. "They came

in here as people who were right on the edge of being Big Ten level swimmers, and they pushed themselves to a level where they are national level kids."

Sortland was honored to represent MSU in such a positive light. Despite the lack of outstanding equipment and facilities other elite swimming programs enjoyed, Sortland was able to grit her teeth and work through the challenge with hard work and endless time spent in the pool. Not only was she able to break records and make huge time improvements, but she also left an impact on the team through leading by example.

"One time when I was a freshman we were practicing a block drill and [Coach Kathleen] told me 'You know, if you're not going to do this with confidence, don't even bother doing it at all,' and obviously when you're a freshman and you hear that you're a little





"It's really cool to see the times go down in history because you know that you're a part of the program and you're part of making the swim team faster, and I guess my greatest hope is that the girls will continue to break those records and top times."

taken aback," Sortland said. "If you don't have the confidence going into it, try to exude it — you know that sort of fake-it-till-you-make-it attitude — I think really stands true in just being comfortable out there as a student-athlete."

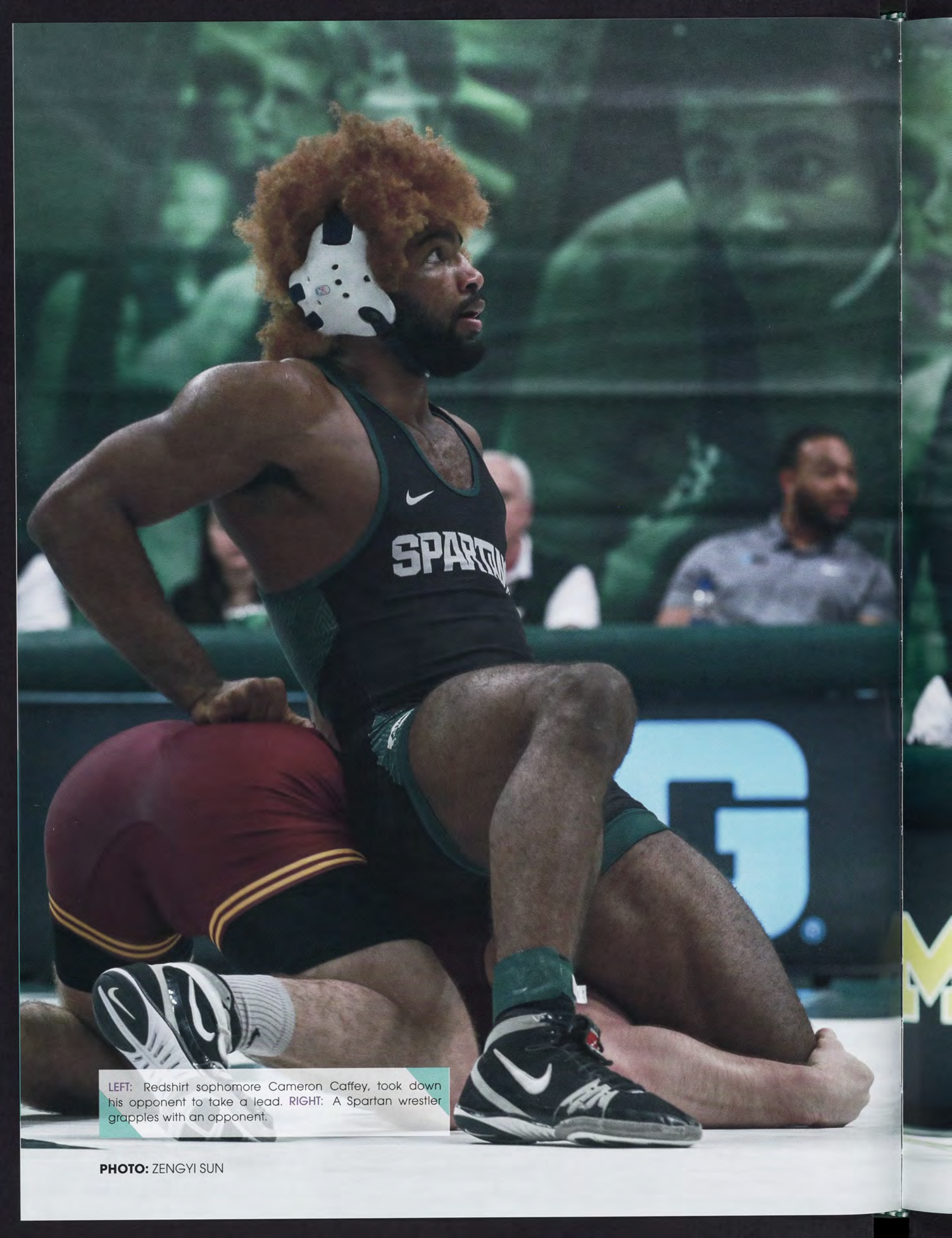
Roche, a senior special education major, came onto the swim team as a freshman — eager to have a spot on the team. She never saw herself a potential record holder, especially after struggling significantly in her first year. But she gradually improved, cut a

substantial amount of time and eventually became the positive leader that she hadn't dared to dream she would be. As her times improved in the pool, so did her confidence and work ethic. It took her an entire season to recognize that she was much more than just a member of the team, she could make a difference in the program.

"It's not something I ever thought was a possibility when I came to Michigan State," Roche said. "...just to have that place in history; it's really cool to see the times go down in history because you know that you're a part of the program and you're part of making the swim team faster, and I guess my greatest hope is that the girls will continue to break those records and top times."

The once still water quivers as they roar down their lanes toward the finish. Splashing with all of their might, they push their hands to the edge of the pool. All their time and hard work put in during the course of their four years as Spartans mirrors this moment, behind the scenes at IM West, racing in a pool by themselves. That was how records were broken — by the work put in when no one else was watching.

LEFT: Sophomore Claire Schenden prepares to start the 200 backstroke. Schenden clocked a time of 2:05:44 against Cleveland State University. **ABOVE:** The Spartan men's swim team captured victories in both the 50 m and 100 m freestyle.



LEFT: Redshirt sophomore Cameron Caffey, took down his opponent to take a lead. RIGHT: A Spartan wrestler grapples with an opponent.

PHOTO: ZENGYI SUN



FRESH FACES

MSU gymnastics team welcomes five young athletes



With chalky hands and sweat dripping down their brows, the MSU women's gymnastics team spent around 20 hours per week perfecting their moves, both on the floor and bar. The team was filled with dedicated, hard workers, and since a restructuring a couple of years back, the team had been working to get into their groove and qualify for the Big Ten championships. However, with the striking of COVID-19 cancelling all Big Ten events and the NCAA Regionals, the Spartan gymnasts were left to wonder — now what?

After bringing on five freshmen for the 2019-2020 season, the team itself was already raring to go and prepared to make a mark with some young blood. Though their season ended with a jarring halt, they knew they could continue to improve themselves once the next season began because they were such a young team. Freshman kinesiology major Nyah Smith noted how the team had still made long strides regardless.

"We have come a long way," Smith said. "I just remember from bootcamp, we were all struggling and couldn't wait until the season started. Now that it is, we've come out of the gate and have been kicking butt and I'm just so proud of this team. We've worked so hard and to be in the evening session is such a relief and so exciting... and it's not over yet."

With the time that the team did have to practice and compete, the younger gymnasts often sought out advice from their older teammates. The next year, they would not be the new-in-town competitors any longer — they too would be the ones to give advice to the upcoming, bright-eyed gymnasts. Freshman business major Chloe Bellmore appreciated the help she received from the team's more seasoned members and recognized how she would fulfill that role for others next year as well.

"They've been there for any questions that I've had, and [the older gymnasts] definitely have helped and have been available at any time, no matter what the question was or no matter what time it was," Bellmore said. "I think with all of the new coaches, it's just been a fresh season for everybody — not everyone is used to it yet. I'm excited for next year so that we can get the [upcoming] freshmen into the swing of things and help the transition be a little bit easier because we went through it this year. Hopefully we can make it easier for them next year."

Head coach Mike Rowe, who was in his third year as head coach of the team, saw the group of athletes beginning to evolve. With so



many gymnasts with their entire college careers ahead of them, the gymnasts began to thrive in an environment that was nothing but fresh.

"Changing that culture was our main goal, and you can't expect to flip a switch and happen overnight, so it's been a process," Rowe said. "It's been ongoing for the past three years. This year, the phrase is like 'they're drinking the Kool-aid,' they're understanding, and look at the results we're getting. They are really serious about wanting to bring Michigan State gymnastics back into the spotlight, obviously on a conference level, and eventually on a national level."

"They are really serious about wanting to bring Michigan State gymnastics back into the spotlight, obviously on a conference level, and eventually on a national level."

Having a season cut short, especially when there was a stronger hunger than ever to make it to the Big Ten championships, was never easy, but the team accepted the present for what it was. It would not change the fact that they began to adapt to a better team culture and worked harder than before with the time that they had, and with such a young cohort, they knew they would be able to keep progressing even before next season blossomed.



LEFT: Freshman Nyah Smith flips during her beam routine during the Big Ten meet against Nebraska. Smith earned a new career record by receiving an all-around score of 39.225 points. **TOP RIGHT:** Junior Tristan Brown leaps between bars during her routine. Spartans had a season best on bars with a combined score of 49.075 during the dual meet against Nebraska. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Senior Gabriella Douglas vaults during the Big Ten dual meet against Nebraska. Douglas scored a season best of 98.25 points on vault.

DREAMS COME TRUE

Men's hockey
team lives
childhood dreams

The grating sound of skates against the fresh, polished ice of the rink echoed off the walls of the empty Munn Ice Arena as the players practiced. To some, it could be hard to imagine the controlled chaos that would fill the arena in the coming few days with hundreds of Spartan fans filling the stands. Each hard, plastic seat would be filled with a hockey enthusiast, their excited cheers replacing the silence of the arena. The team was getting ready for a performance before their most devoted audience.

The men's hockey team was a very close-knit group. From practicing in the rink to travelling out of state for meets, they spent an abundant amount of time together. Even though the work was challenging, Gianluca Esteves, junior advertising major and a forward on the team, was never weighed down by the hard practices or the long distance travelling.

"Coming to the rink every day, we have fun," Esteves said. "No matter if it's on the ice or off the ice. Eating our meals, practicing, working out, we always find a way to have a good time with it."

Many of the players found that their biggest goals were accomplished by playing on the team. From scoring a special goal to defeating a certain team, the players made their dreams come true this past season. Adam Goodsir, sophomore kinesiology major, grew up coming to MSU's hockey games.

"My favorite memory was last year when I scored my first goal here at home," Goodsir said. "It was always a dream of mine to play with Michigan State and score a goal."

Butrus Ghafari, senior finance major, also grew up watching the games and playing hockey with the goal of joining the team in mind.

"I grew up a Michigan State fan and I went to the hockey camps when I was younger, so I always wanted to be a Spartan," Ghafari said. "Putting on the jersey for the first time, realizing how my dream came true . . . it's my favorite memory."

The team's success was the driving factor in making these dreams come true. With the thousands of eyes watching and the fans at the edge of their seats, the team not only had to play well for themselves, but perform for the entire university.

"Coming in, especially this year, our team was expected to do very well," Esteves said. "We have to make sure that we work harder





"Hard work, determination and a good team can accomplish anything if we work hard."

than other teams. I think we are one of the harder working teams in the Big Ten and in the nation. Hard work, determination and a good team can accomplish anything if we work hard."

Working hard was an understatement. The team practiced multiple times a week and games were often far away, requiring many hours of travel. These student athletes solved this by looking ahead and keeping a rigorous schedule so they did not fall behind on classwork. From tutoring hours to finishing their homework in advance, a rigorous schedule helped student-athletes recognize opportunities on and off the ice.

The player slid to a slow stop, carefully stepping out of the rink and making his way back to the locker room. Stopping in his tracks, he turned to look over his shoulder at the empty arena. To some, playing in this famed spot would have seemed an unthinkable goal. To the lucky players, this dream had become reality. The child-like awe and excitement remained and helped drive the team to success. Turning back around, the player made his way to the locker rooms, excitement putting a small bounce in his step.

LEFT: The student spirit bands pumps up the crowd with music and confetti during the hockey game against Penn State. **ABOVE:** Seniors Logan Lambdin, Jerad Rosburg and John Lethemon defend the goal against Penn State. **RIGHT:** Right wing senior Sam Saliba prepares for the puck drop during a close game with Penn State.






PICTURED: Senior John Lethemon saves the puck and keeps MSU in the lead. Lethemon became the first MSU goaltender since Jake Hildebrand to record an assist.

PHOTO: KEYUR PATEL





PICTURED: Junior Josh Mukherjee celebrates a successful serve facing off with his opponent from Crespo on the deciding court.

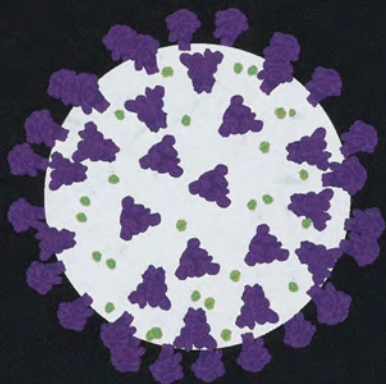
PHOTO: ZENGYI SUN



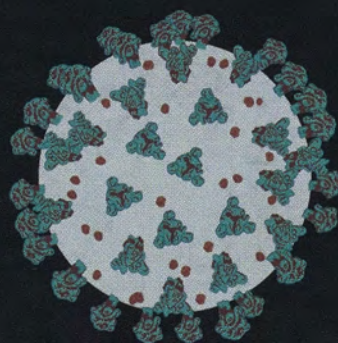
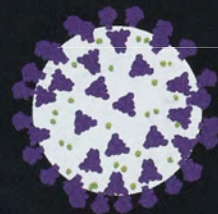
An aerial photograph of a large football stadium. The seating bowl is filled with rows of white seats, with some sections of darker seats visible. The field is green with white yard lines and numbers. The word 'WILSON' is visible on the field. The goalposts are visible at the bottom right.

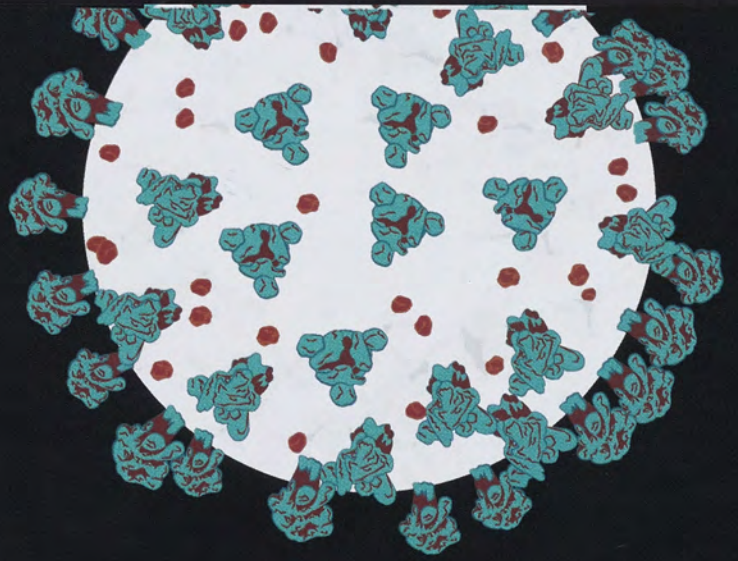
PHOTO: HELEN KORNEFFEL





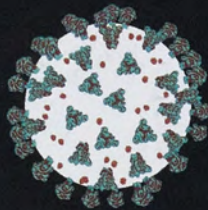
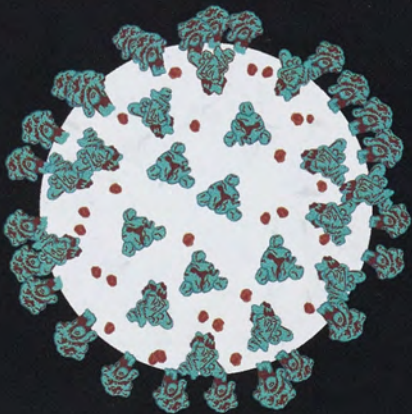
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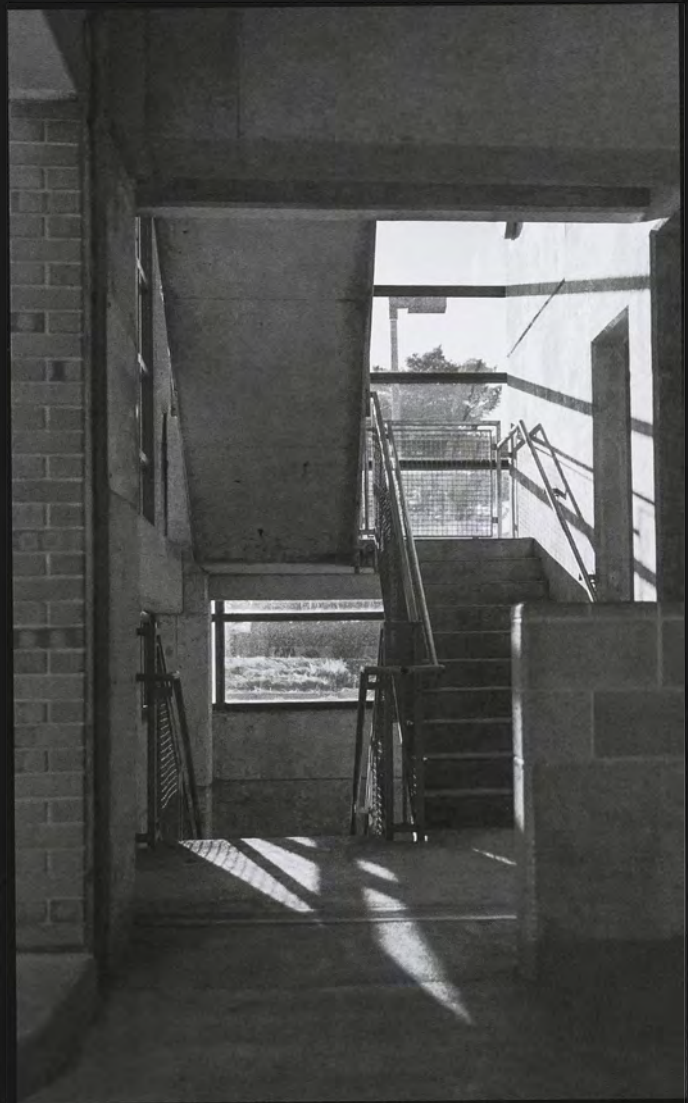
ONE MINUTE TO THE NEXT

Message
from an
MSU senior

As a result of the COVID-19 virus striking the entire world, many Michigan State Spartans' journeys were brought to a roaring, abrupt halt. The things that we often took for granted — crisp morning walks to class along the River Trail or grabbing a burger and drink with friends at HopCat after a long week — suddenly vanished like dust. The only thing left to do was sit and think, now what?

The bits of comfort we found on MSU's vast campus and the life we adapted to over the past four years proved to be even deeper beyond the surface. One minute we were sitting in a Wells Hall lecture, staring at the clock to see when we could pack up our laptops and grab our long-awaited, after-class Starbucks. The next minute, we packed up our belongings from our dorms and apartments to finish off the rest of the school year from our childhood bedrooms.

We soon learned that the friends we made in general education classes freshman year proved themselves to be lifelong companions. The wraps we grabbed in Heritage Commons at Landon before a long nighttime study session were more than pure sustenance. Crowded, jeering football games with friends from our sophomore year dorm were for more than just the sport. Everything we associated with daily life at Michigan State was more than just part of the "classic American college experience." It was our college experience.



12/31/19

Multiple cases of pneumonia in Wuhan, China, between December 12 and 29 are reported to the World Health Organization (WHO). At this point, the virus (what would become known as COVID-19) is unknown.



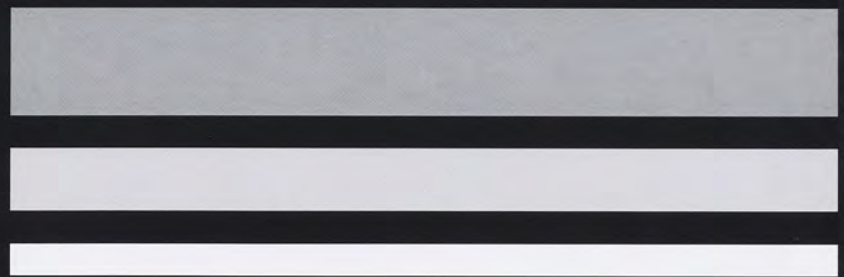
WE REMAIN SPARTAN STRONG.

Now, we must attend our "Zoom University" classes with as much motivation as we can muster, send extra memes to our roommates who now live across the country and remember that we remain Spartan strong, regardless of the circumstances. Just like the little parts of our daily routines in East Lansing, we will continue to hold so much depth, and grit, greater than what our exterior shows.

FAR LEFT: An empty stairway at the CATA bus station. **LEFT:** A CATA bus sits out of order, waiting for students to return, on March 16, 2020. **BOTTOM:** An empty CATA bus gets ready to depart the bus station, running the usual route with no one on it.

1/1/20

Chinese health officials close the Huanan Seafood Wholesale market, believing animals sold there may be the source of the virus.



"The only thing left to do was sit and think, now what?"



1/5/20

China announces the pneumonia cases are not SARS or MERS, implying the presence of an unknown respiratory disease.



1/11/20

The first death related to COVID-19 is reported. A 61-year-old man was exposed to the virus at the seafood market in Wuhan and died from respiratory failure caused by pneumonia.

1/13/20

The first infection in another country is reported in Thailand — a Chinese national who visited Wuhan.

PHOTO: GEORGE PHAM



1/17/20

The United States puts symptom screening operations in place at San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles airports.

1/20/20

The National Institute of Health announces they are working on a COVID-19 vaccine.

SWATHED IN UNCERTAINTY

It started at the tail end of 2019. Growing cases of a pneumonia-like sickness were reported in Wuhan, China. It was far away from East Lansing, and there seemed to be no cause for immediate alarm. The first American case was reported in Washington state a month later on Jan. 21, 2020. Amid growing concern, student life remained, for the most part, normal. Early reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cautioned only the elderly to stay out of public areas and everyone to avoid travel. Sports practices, band rehearsals and lectures continued on into the first week of March as students left for spring break.

By this time, the United States had confirmed only one recorded death and most students still traveled across the world to their spring break destinations. MSU had one of the earliest spring breaks compared to other universities, so there was no precedent for monitoring students when they returned to campus. Students and faculty returned to campus refreshed but tense. Soon after, the inevitable first few cases of the virus in the state of Michigan were reported.

March 11, 2020 started as a normal Wednesday. Varying whispers of "what's going to happen?" "nothing, who cares" and "I think we should be worried," could all be heard throughout the halls. Some professors shared with students that the Office of the President was preparing to take emergency actions if necessary. Then came MSU President Stanley's announcement that all classes would move to an entirely online format through April 20, 2020,

The story of the COVID-19 pandemic

nearly the end of the semester. It came to some as a surprise, whereas others had been bracing for the news for weeks.

Almost overnight, students were packing up and heading home. The sun shone down on students and parents carrying their lives out of their residential halls. It was a somber moment on campus. For so many, their Spartan experience was cut off at a pivotal time. Seniors felt robbed of their final moments while athletes, including the Spartan Men's Basketball team about to head into March Madness, felt the floor come out from under them.

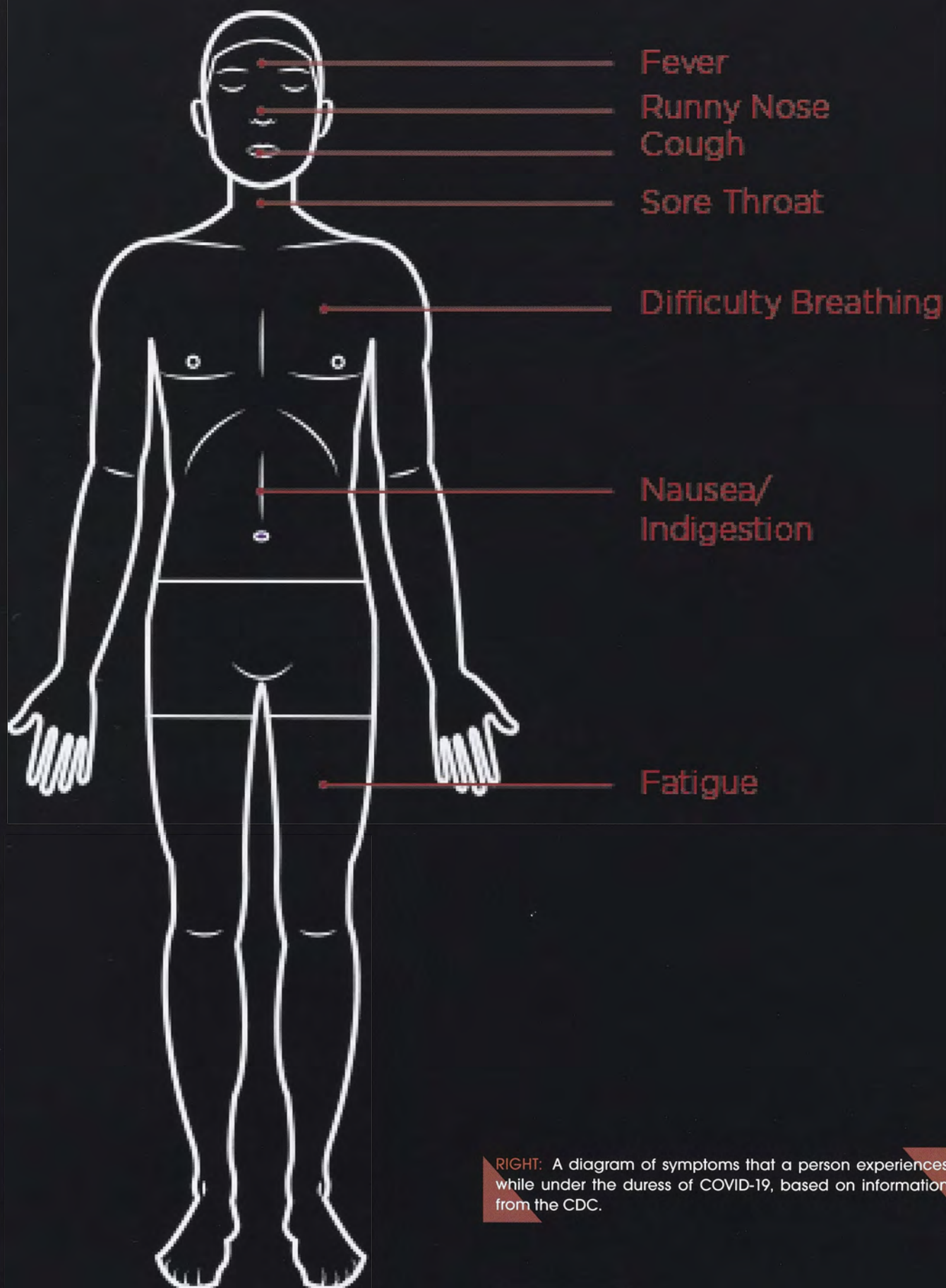
The streets of East Lansing suddenly became empty of students as they heeded Gov. Whitmer's "Stay at Home" ordinance. Many were confused; what started as a snow-day mentality quickly became a more serious concern. COVID-19's impact was being felt around the world, and its ability to spread undetected terrified health professionals. In a matter of weeks, the majority of Americans were under orders to stay in their homes.

While it was difficult to adjust to a new normal, especially when the end of the virus was nowhere in sight, students still found ways to connect online and helped each other through hard times. The empty campus remained a sad sight, but it served as a reminder that Spartans were doing their duty to one another by limiting the virus' ability to spread. Although the impact of the COVID-19 was far worse than initially expected, the East Lansing and MSU communities worked together to make our area as safe as it could be.

1/21/20

The first case of COVID-19 in the U.S. is confirmed in Washington state.





RIGHT: A diagram of symptoms that a person experiences while under the duress of COVID-19, based on information from the CDC.

1/29/20

The Trump Administration announces the assembly of a task force to help monitor and contain the spread of COVID-19.

1/30/20

The United States reports the first case of person-to-person transmission of the virus.



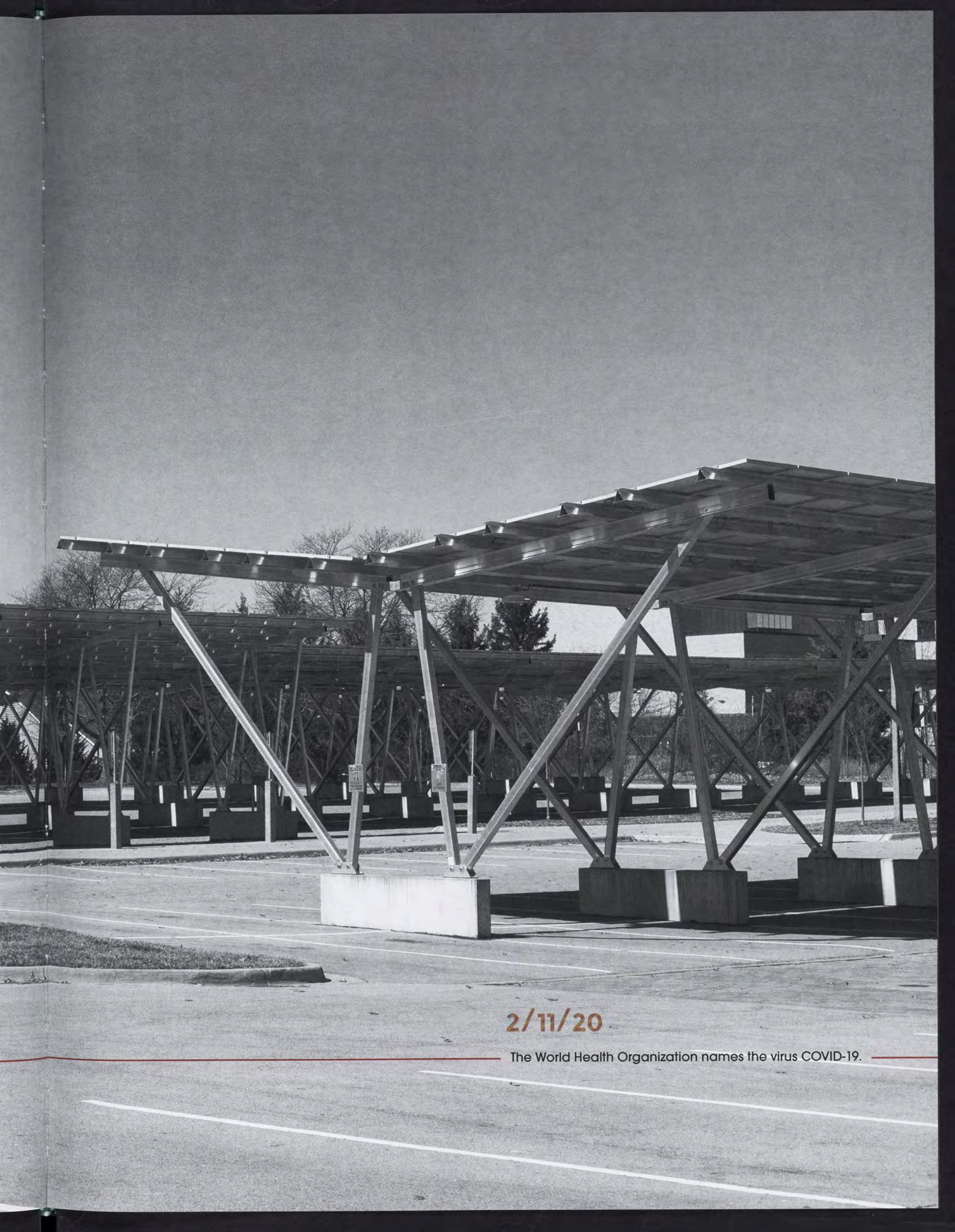
1/31/20

The Trump Administration places a travel ban on foreign nationals who had been to China in the past 14 days.

2/3/20

China's Foreign Ministry critiques the United States government's travel ban, claiming it was inappropriate and spread fear by enforcing travel restrictions.

PHOTO: LOGAN COLES



2/11/20

The World Health Organization names the virus COVID-19.

WHO SPARTANS BECOME

Students and
faculty talk about
missing jobs,
self-isolation and
an uncertain future

While professors made the slow transition to online classes and students packed up their dorm rooms, uncertainty and confusion made every Spartan wonder what was next. What would online exams be like? When would classes be reinstated? For some students, however, more pressing matters had come to mind, such as wondering when they would receive their next paycheck or wondering what they would do now that they were out of a job.

For some students, their jobs were more than just a way to make money, and they were difficult to abandon. This was the case for many of the tour guides on campus, whose fresh, smiling faces were the ones that would welcome prospective Spartans into life at MSU. Katie Birecki, senior journalism major, was a tour guide for three years and loved her job.

"I miss being able to connect with potential Spartans and working with my friends," Birecki said. "I also missed the chance to do my senior tour, something I was really looking forward to."

Students like Birecki were trying all they could to keep busy during self-isolation. YouTube was packed with in-home yoga and exercise tutorials, while social media apps like TikTok and Twitter were filled with trends that encouraged staying at home, like the #HappyAtHome and #SafeHands hashtags.

"I am doing a lot of cleaning and organizing," Birecki said. "I'm also trying to color through a whole coloring book."

From learning how to knit to sewing masks for nurses and other emergency staff, now-jobless students were trying to fill the void where their job once was. Kaylee Stevenson, a junior experience architecture major and a former student administrator in the Chemistry Building, had been playing video games and doing fun sewing projects to keep her occupied.

"To keep myself busy, I've been trying to revisit some hobbies," Stevenson said. "However, that's been hard because motivation is kind of through the floor for everything."

On Mar. 12, 2020 Brandon Van Der Heide, director of doctoral studies in the Department of Communications, wrote a letter to

students called "Who Spartans Become." This letter to students and their achievements quickly became popular on Facebook and other social media, becoming a motivator to students whose routines had been so drastically changed. In spite of the new abundance of free time and the immense transition from a social to remote life, Brandon Van Der Heide decided to focus on these changes in a unique lens.

"The last piece of all of this is that both [Dr. Jennifer Van Der Heide] and I badly hoped our students would know how we feel about them," Heide said. "I have a suspicion that sometimes students may badly underestimate how much we faculty care about them. I don't blame them for this, I get it."

The letter was written to encourage the graduating class of seniors to realize that they must not think back on their time at Michigan State as a "bad time," or wallow in self pity. This letter was written to encourage students to realize just the type of people they have become: Spartans who will change the world for the better.

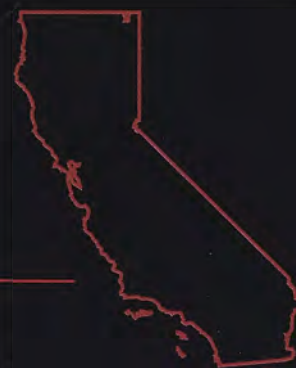
"That was the whole goal," Heide said. "That our student body would come to know for sure and understand that we [the faculty] see you and are proud of you. You've become the kind of folks we will brag about for decades. And we feel honored to have been a part of your story. So really, it was all just a big thank you to our students for letting us be a little part of their lives."

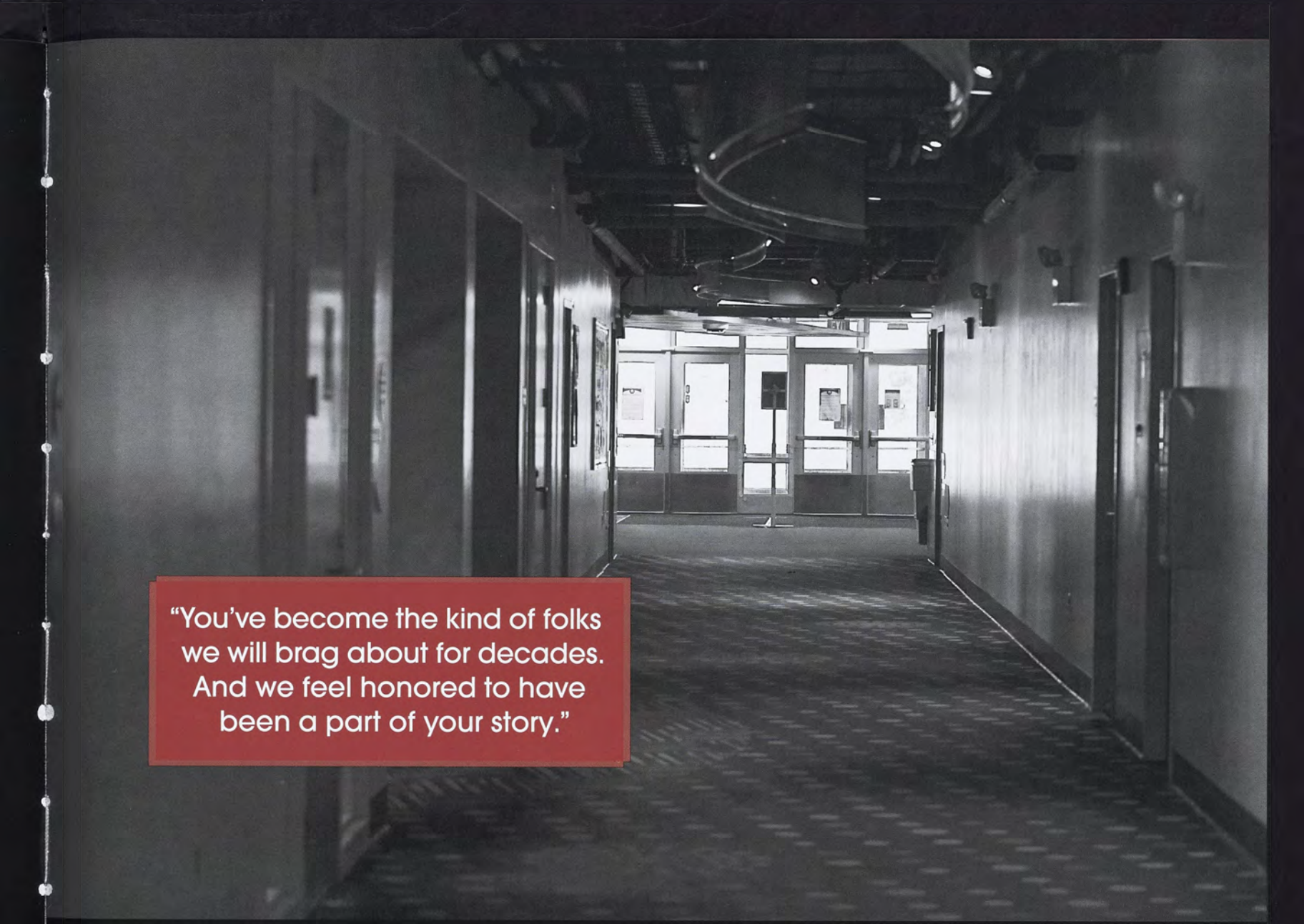
While the plans for thousands of students were dissolved and with an uncertain future ahead, students continued on. From attending online Zoom lectures to assisting in making masks for emergency responders, students and faculty ceaselessly continued on into the future, proving that Spartans will.

TOP: Loop in front of South Wonders Hall. LEFT: First floor of MSU Library. BOTTOM: East Wilson Hall Lobby.

2/25/20

Italy, the country with the largest outbreak in Europe, issues a list of towns and villages that are forced into complete lockdown.





"You've become the kind of folks
we will brag about for decades.
And we feel honored to have
been a part of your story."



2/26/20

A California patient is the first U.S. case of unknown origin, meaning they hadn't been exposed to someone with the virus or traveled to an infected area. On this same day, President Trump places Vice President Mike Pence in charge of the U.S. government's response to the virus.



2/29/20

A patient in Washington state dies of the virus, marking the first patient to die from the virus in the U.S. In response, Washington Governor Jay Inslee declares a state of emergency.

DEAR MSU STUDENTS,

An open letter to the
Class of 2020 from
Professor Brandon
Van Der Heide

Tonight, March 11, 2020, my wife (who is a faculty member in the Department of Teacher Education) and I had our brief nightly recap of the day as we often do. We usually talk about the things that made us laugh, the things that surprised us, the things that made us angry, or the things that gave us joy. But tonight, we talked about you.

You see, you have had an MSU experience that neither my wife nor I would call typical. Many of you joined us in the fall of 2016. You came to East Lansing at the end of what would become the most contentious and divisive presidential election in almost any living person's memory. You watched — and lived — families, classrooms, and friends being torn apart by heated political debate lived out from Facebook to Thanksgiving Day tables across the country. You have inhabited a world in which there is no middle ground, no safe perspective, and where moderation is simply a sign of weakness. No matter where you stood or stand on the outcome of that election, watching it and participating in it stretched thin the Spartan fabric.

And around that same time, in the fall of 2016, there was another thing happening on the banks of the Red Cedar. A group of brave women stood up and called out a sexual predator who had been hunting on this campus for 20 years. These women were particularly brave because other brave women before them had also spoken up and had been silenced, ignored, and discounted. But, these brave women spoke out. The brave women who had come before them spoke out again. And the nation listened. And the courts listened. And you listened. And because you listened, administrators and a dean and even a former president of this university are no more.

But, all of this didn't end quickly. Your experience at MSU was altered by this. From 2016 through 2018, you lived with this drama, you watched as the media did what the media does. It painted your alma mater as a uniformly corrupt place — the corrupt who deserved it and many of

those who didn't. You waited graciously as you were indicted — because you were concerned that speaking out would in some way belittle the bravery of those women who brought a monster to justice. And so, you took this criticism on the chin. And, nevertheless, you persisted. You (always) packed the Izzone, you (mostly) came to class, and you (definitely) dealt with more in those years than many of the rest of us. Once again, the Spartan fabric was stretched to the point of nearly breaking. But break it did not.

Just when you might have thought you'd traversed the darkest days of MSU, and one of the darkest times in American history, an American president was accused of colluding with a foreign government to win the presidency — the one person who was charged with executing the law was now charged with subverting and obstructing it. Then, many of you lived through the first presidential impeachment you'll remember. Once again, if the Thanksgiving table had calmed down by 2017, it was anything but congenial by November of 2019.

But some of you had been numbed to the political strife of the times. I can hardly blame you. I became numb, too. But then, when I needed it, you woke me up. When you became enraged about several bias incidents I had not heard of, you graciously and rightly alerted me to things I had missed. You led the way and you taught me to be a more alert, more wise, person. Some days, many days, I have become uncertain about who exactly is the professor and who exactly is the student.

YOU BECAME THE KIND OF SPARTANS WHO WILL CHANGE THE WORLD



3/9/20

The whole country of Italy goes on lockdown.

Unbeknownst to most of us at the time, at the very end of 2019, a little-known disease began spreading in mainland China. And, by March 11, 2020, today, that disease had spread the world over. And, today because of that disease many of you packed up your belongings, and you said goodbye to roommates, and you attended what may well have been your last face-to-face classes, and you got in a car and you drove home to be with your people. But, you also left your people. You couldn't make plans, you didn't get to spend one more night out with friends, you don't know if you'll attend your own graduation ceremony this year — or if there will even be one to attend.

As far as college experiences go, you pretty much drew the short straw. As faculty, it's easy for us to forget that your time here as a student comes with an expiration date. For us, there will always be another faculty meeting, another class to teach, another article to write. But, for all of you, this could have been it. The plans you made to celebrate your accomplishments here, on the banks of the Red Cedar, when the grass has again become green and the leaves have returned to the trees and the flowers are all in bloom, together with family and friends — parents and roommates and boyfriends and girlfriends — all of your people in one place together, and, that experience, that celebration, could be gone in the blink of an eye.

You couldn't be blamed for wallowing in self-pity, at least for a minute. But when my wife and I talked about you today, and we each told one another the stories of how you responded to the news that today might be the last day of your college experience, you humbled us. What we told one another were not the stories of entitled children — because that's just not what you are. Instead, your stories were those of gracious acceptance of new online measures that you didn't choose, but that you understood were important for something bigger than yourselves. Some of you suggested that you ought to secretly continue to come to class at our house! (Which is a heartwarming, kind thought...but no.) Some of you, very reasonably, wanted to go home, many of you international

students, who want nothing more than to be safe with your families, yet you exhibited gracious understanding when we didn't have answers to your legitimate questions.

So, this isn't a story about how bad you had it. Far from it. This is a story about who you became. You became the kind of Spartans who will change the world. You see things that need change and rather than descending into self-pity, you address what you perceive to be the great needs of the world.

Spartans, I don't know if I'll see you again. I don't yet know if you'll have a traditional graduation ceremony when the flowers are blooming on campus in early May — though I hope you do. But I know this: You're ready. You're ready to become who the generations to follow — your children and grandchildren — will one day soon come to know as truly great citizens. You're ready because you've demonstrated that where our leaders have failed, you have picked up the mantle and led to success. You're hungry, you're committed, you're kind, you're generous, and most of all you embody the very best of what it means to be Spartans. In some cases you've done that with us, in some cases you've done that in spite of us.

I don't know what the future holds, but I know that with you folks at the helm, we're going to be just fine.

GO GREEN,

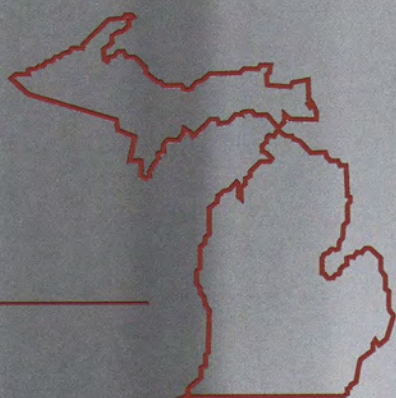
**DR. BRANDON
VAN DER HEIDE
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATION
MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

3/10/20

Michigan confirms its first two cases of COVID-19. Governor Gretchen Whitmer declares a state of emergency.

3/11/20


WHO declares the outbreak a pandemic. President Trump announces a 30-day travel ban from Europe to the United States. All of Michigan's public universities announce transition to online classes.



3/12/20

Michigan Governor Whitmer announces all K-12 schools will close March 16 through April 5.

PHOTO: GEORGE PHAM



Health Clinic +

EXIT

3/13/20

President Trump declares a national emergency to provide \$50 billion in resources.

3/29/20

MSU postpones commencement.



3/19/20

Two confirmed cases of COVID-19 are connected to MSU's campus.

3/23/20

Governor Gretchen Whitmer declares a "Stay Home Stay Safe" order, which calls for all non-essential workers to work from home and all non-essential businesses to temporarily close.

PHOTO: LOGAN COLES



3/25/20

A \$2 trillion stimulus deal is reached between the United States Congress and the White House to curb the economic damage of the pandemic.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The end of the COVID-19 timeline coincides with the completion of the 2019-2020 yearbook. As of April 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the world.

SPAR

T.A.

EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

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KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE

Spartan
Marching
Band reflects
on 150 years

Almost as iconic as the Michigan State University Spartan head, "Victory for MSU" resounded from the stadium walls and across campus. This was a familiar scene for many Spartan football fans. For 150 years, the band program at MSU had amazed and inspired audiences and future-Spartans alike. For members of the Spartan Marching Band, this incredible milestone was almost unbelievable.

Tradition ran deep in the Spartan Marching Band, and the anniversary was cause for much celebration. Lisa Lachowski, senior music performance major, was a member of the band since her freshman year, and after four years, she led the band as drum major. She reflected on the Spartan Marching Band's past.

"We've talked about how 149 bands came before us," Lachowski said. "So that's pretty cool to think about and to look forward to everyone coming back."

At the 2019 homecoming game, the band attempted a feat never before seen on the field of Spartan Stadium. In addition to the 300 members of the band, they aimed to have 700 Spartan Marching Band alumni marching. For Ilene Gould, senior media and information major, this task seemed insurmountable, yet she trusted the Spartan Marching Band could overcome this obstacle.

"We're trying to get 1,000 people on the field," Gould said. "To be a part of the 150th celebration really puts your time in the Spartan Marching Band in perspective. [David Thornton] is struggling to write the drill for all 1,000 of us right now. Alums are coming from all across the country."

The performance included selections from The Washington Post March, "Tradition" from Fiddler on the Roof, "A Taste of Honey" and "1812 Overture." These selections were chosen to honor the history and military roots of the band.

"Dr. Thornton said he's trying to get permission for us to set off fireworks for the 1812 portion," Gould said. David Thornton has been the leader of the Spartan Marching Band since 2017, and serves as Associate Director of Bands at the College of Music.

Current band members and alumni are connected almost like family through the blood, sweat and tears they put into the ensemble. Each could recall how, in learning things like the Series, they became a Spartan Marching Band member for life. The Series was an integral part of the band's repertoire, which celebrated its 50th birthday in 2016. The Series is one of the first drills the freshmen learned when they joined the band. It was a grueling yet rewarding process they go through during the pre-season training.

The anniversary is not limited to the Spartan Marching Band. The year 2019 marked the 150th year of college football and the 150th season of the MSU band program. In preparation, David Thornton encouraged students to reflect on the evolution of the program.

"It's a big number," said Thornton. "But I think it's equally important that we remember the legacy of so many things that have happened here at a really high level for a really long time."





"To be a part of the 150th celebration really puts your time in the Spartan Marching Band in perspective."

This season was thrilling for football players and musicians alike. Whether it was on the field, the stage or in the practice room, the tradition of hard work and excellent music making at MSU will prosper for generations to come.

RIGHT: Senior twirler Taylor Scheffer rehearses her routine for the Spartan Marching Band's 150th anniversary performance. Scheffer was recognized as the 2019 featured twirler. **LEFT:** The trumpets practice their formation for their halftime performance. The marching band rehearsed twice a week to prepare for their performance.

FUELING THE FIRE

MSU Solar Car Racing Team prepares for the next chapter

For the MSU Solar Car Racing Team, it was not just about winning races. These students had their eyes set on a much bigger prize; a future full of sustainable energy that was affordable for producers and consumers alike. That goal drove these students to put countless hours into the design, assembly and advancement of their solar powered car named Aurora, named after the Roman goddess of dawn.

Former vice president and business lead Michael Mazza worked on the business side of the project, budgeting for supplies and managing big sponsors from General Motors all the way to East Lansing based sponsors like S&S Die.

"There's a two year build cycle, the first year was all design," said Mazza. "The second year, which was the last school year, is when we start manufacturing to race for the summer."

The goal of the project was to help design a practical car for the future for anyone with a passion for saving the environment. Because the team raced every year, earlier cars were focused only on speed, but as their research advanced, the focus shifted to a commonplace car that had the consumer in mind. Project manager Subham Shedge lead the team in constructing the car.

"This is the first time we've made a car with more than one seat," said Shedge. "The whole point of Aurora, since it's a new type of car, is to usher in a new dawn for the team and to build a car more practical for the streets."

To save money, the team built the car entirely themselves. Under the solar panels, Aurora was made out of fiberglass, carbon fiber and core material. On the inside, however, the car sports some unique features, including its battery pack. Unlike other cars, Aurora's battery was not built for the purpose of being compact. Instead, lithium cells were spaced out in a handmade grid and ventilated to prevent overheating issues. Many students worked together to bring these concepts to life, which gave them a chance to operate alongside colleagues with different backgrounds. The former mechanical lead and MSU graduate student Lauren Chance knew the value in this.

"Yes, there are systems that are just mechanical or electrical, but you really need to be working together consistently to make those cohesive so things don't slide through the cracks," said Chance.

The Formula Sun Grand Prix and the American Solar Challenge were major solar car races in America, and the team was preparing Aurora for the 2020 races. Last year, at the Grand Prix, Aurora was



disqualified during a battery check before the race, which prompted the team to take a new approach when testing the car's abilities.

Solar-powered cars were only the beginning when it came to solar energy. Thanks to the research and developments made by this team of Spartans, a new dawn of sustainable energy was on the horizon. Because of the hard work, dedication and ingenuity of the Solar Car Racing Team, it was certain that Spartans would be on the forefront of an environmentally conscious future.

ABOVE: Aurora is MSU Solar Car's first multi-occupant vehicle. Shubham Shedge, Lauren Chance and Michael Mazza (from left to right) are pictured with the car. **RIGHT:** MSU Solar Racing Team built five vehicles, including this one. Aurora is the team's first multi-occupant vehicle.

"The whole point of Aurora, since it's a new type of car, is to usher in a new dawn for the team and to build a car more practical for the streets."



GO GREEK

MULTICULTURAL:

"I got to know the women of Delta Tau Lambda Sorority, Inc., by attending different events around campus. I saw the professionalism and leadership that they carried and I knew I wanted to be like them. I felt welcomed right away, it felt like a home away from home. I never felt pressured by them, whenever we talked it was never as them wanting me to join the organization. They genuinely wanted to be my friend. From there, I knew this is exactly what I wanted and I wanted to gain professionalism, leadership, and see a growth in me that I never expected. I wouldn't change this experience for anything else."

Yadira Corona, President of Delta Tau Lambda

PANHELLENIC:

"My sorority partners with many service organizations across the country to assist in their efforts to help others. Two of the main partnerships at this moment include March of Dimes and All of Us Research. March of Dimes raises money to educate mothers of premature babies and give supplies to them as well. As a chapter, we donate to this campaign and we also plan initiatives on campus that would give back to mothers of young children at MSU. Every year, in March, we hold a Community wide baby shower where we cook and give gifts to young mothers at MSU. We started with one mother and were able to transition to 7 this past year." **Maddie Haulenbeek, President of Kappa Delta**

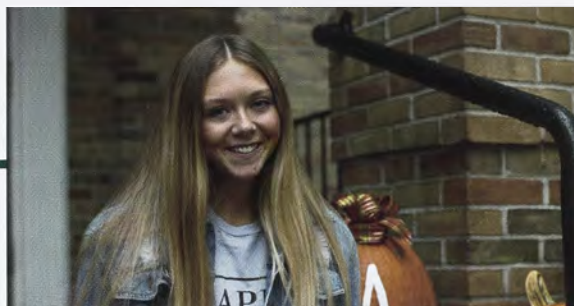
INTER-FRATERNITY:

"Alpha Sigma Phi requires that members hold themselves to our value and seek to better themselves in their time at college and beyond. I have incorporated the value and the standard of self-improvement into my daily life. I continually seek to find areas where I can improve and try to grow as a person. Being a member has helped to instill and fortify my character and desire to improve myself." **Duval Adair, VP of Communications of Alpha Sigma Phi**

NATIONAL-PANHELLENIC:

"A majority of the sororities and fraternities that are a part of National Pan-Hellenic Council were founded at a Historically Black College/University (HBCU). Most of the activities we participate in are rooted in black culture and geared toward the progression of black individuals. This is important because it creates a space where the needs of the black community can be directly met through organized efforts put on by black students." **Arielle Buckley, President of Zeta Phi Beta**

SORORITY AND FRATERNITY LIFE AT MSU



MULTICULTURAL

28 Chapters

Average cumulative GPA: 3.04-
Total members 117

PANHELLENIC

14 Chapters

Average cumulative GPA: 3.4
Total members 2,120

INTER- FRATERNITY

10 Chapters

Average cumulative GPA: 3.10
Total members 2,087

NATIONAL PANHELLENIC

9 Chapters

Average cumulative GPA: 3.07
Total members 104

GAMING WITH A PURPOSE

Intramural athletics at Michigan State featured sports' most commonly shared moments of intensity. These often included scrambling quarterbacks desperately searching for an open receiver, softball runners slyly attempting to steal second base while the pitcher was not looking and, in 2019, a gamer seeking to defeat their opponent with the tools and weapons at their disposal. The IM program added the E-Sports Association to its wide range of sports in 2019. The association consisted of clubs like League of Legends, Fighting Game, Smash Ultimate, Hearthstone and Counter-Strike.

A distinguishment had to be made in regards to what clubs qualified as an IM activity with so many participating in the Esports Association. Brendan Przy, Vice President of Esports, said Esport's prominent IM teams had more of a competitive emphasis, as opposed to a casual one. E-Sport clubs that fell under this category primarily included Counter-Strike, Overwatch and League of Legends.

"The best example would be our League of Legends Club," Przy said. "Our team for that is really good. They're recognized by Big Ten; they play in their league. They actually got flown out to California last season to play."

Intramural sports were typically characterized as physically demanding activities. E-Sports challenged the stereotypical intramural qualities because their only main physical aspect was hand and controller coordination. Przy said that besides the physical component, esports had a lot of the same characteristics as regular sports.

"In terms of critical thinking, decision making, team building ... a lot of those things are honestly just as important in esports as regular sports," Przy said. "For fighting games [Street Fighter, Dragon Ball FighterZ, Tekken 7], especially, you need to have excessive control of your character. You need to know exactly what your character's going to do. That takes hundreds, probably thousands of hours of practice."

E-Sports hosted multiple events for its club members, including a weekly Super Smash Bros. Ultimate tournament at the Communication Arts and Sciences Building. The tournament was a fun and competitive way for gamers to come out and demonstrate their gaming skills and compete for a chance to be the ultimate victor

MSU E-Sports joins intramural program

of the night. Liam Lantero, freshman statistics major, said he liked the game's fast-paced, constant action, but still found himself being challenged by other factors.

"Definitely just like mechanics," Lantero said. "Like actually pressing the right buttons. Sometimes you start pressing within frames of each other."

Gaming offered a number of benefits to its audience. One skill gamers profitted from was putting a temporary focus ahead of reality. Sophomore advertising major and E-Sports Association Hearthstone Club member Grant Alvado said he enjoyed the short-term distraction that gaming provided.

"In terms of critical thinking, decision making, team building ... a lot of those things are honestly just as important in esports as regular sports."

"It's just so different from the school life, so it's just a way to de-stress," Alvado said. "I play the game because it's fun and then the competitive part just comes along with it. At some point, being tested is also fun."

E-Sports' involvement in the IM program allowed its members the opportunity to add extra purpose to their gaming. They showcased their skills and competitive nature on another level as they competed within the MSU community and outside of it as well. It took brainpower and intense focus. No matter the sport or activity, E-Sports demonstrated that every action starts with a mental approach.

RIGHT: Two participants compete in an elimination race on a game called Super Smash Bros.



"FLASHLIGHT" ON THE FRONT BOTTOMS

Impact Radio
celebrates 30th
anniversary with a
concert featuring
The Front Bottoms

The Breslin Center lights dimmed low and the crowd began to rumble as The Front Bottoms, a punk band from New Jersey, prepared to take center stage for Impact Radio's 30th anniversary celebration. Warming the audience up with the bands Grey Matter and Beach Bunny, the fans were more than ready to mosh. With energetic college students packed like sardines on the main floor, the energy was high and alive. Everyone stood up once they played the first notes of their opening song, "Ocean", and it was clear that it would be an angsty night to remember.

Andy Campbell, senior interdisciplinary studies in social science education major and promotions director at Impact Radio, was in charge of booking The Front Bottoms for the radio station's anniversary celebration. Impact was known for having a heavy alternative and indie influence in its music rotation, so booking The Front Bottoms was a huge feat. Having over 700,000 monthly listeners on Spotify, it was one of the biggest bands Impact had featured in its 30 years. Campbell felt incredibly lucky to be one of the people responsible for bringing them to MSU.

"This is the first concert of this scale [that] Impact has ever put on," Campbell said. "To be at the forefront of it is a huge blessing, and the attendance and support from our listeners are part of the reason why the station has stayed afloat for so long."

It was one thing to bring in a popular band to campus, but it was another to have one that carried so much sentimentality. Many of MSU's current students ranged from the ages of 18-23, and students at the concert said their love of The Front Bottoms started during their high school years. Claire Ronan, junior international relations major, felt as if the concert brought her back in time.

"It's very nostalgic. I'm very excited," Ronan said. "All of the emotions I used to feel are coming back as memories now ... they haven't played 'Everything I Own' in a long time ... I know they played it at their last show for the first time in years so I'm hoping they do it again this time."

Mixing nostalgia with a well-loved band made for an unparalleled energy. Even though the light production that accompanied their performance was clean and simple, the theatrics of it all did not matter. Tiffany McIntyre, senior English and professional writing major who had loved The Front Bottoms since her teen years, was a strong believer in the power of concerts bringing people together.

"I think concerts and communities depend on the artist, their stage presence, the atmosphere, and the space the concert takes place in," McIntyre said. "Music definitely brings everyone together."



[The Front Bottoms,] in particular, encourage a lot of movement in the crowd whether that be moshing, crowd surfing and/or stage dives, all of which happened the night of the concert. When there is good energy, there's a sense of comradery where life takes a pause and everyone is enjoying themselves in the present music."

As the crowd left sweaty, happy and so alive, Impact rounded out their 30th anniversary strong with a show filled with teenage angst, thanks to The Front Bottoms. As fans filed out for the night, it was evident they would not forget the concert for a while, making the band one they would not just associate with their high school years.

ALL: The Front Bottoms performed for Michigan State students for the 30th anniversary of the IMPACT Radio station.

"When there is good energy, there's a sense of camaraderie where life takes a pause and everyone is enjoying themselves in the present music."



WE ALL BLEED THE SAME GREEN

Michigan State football student section energizes Spartans



TOP LEFT & BOTTOM RIGHT: Students fill in the Michigan State student corner in anticipation of the game. The student section is a long standing tradition of Michigan State football games. **BOTTOM LEFT & TOP RIGHT:** Four Michigan State Student section members enthusiastically cheer for Spartans during a home football game. Each game students lead cheers as they root for the Spartans.

It's ten minutes until kick-off at Spartan Stadium and a sea of green rises to their feet. Like a single-minded entity, all at once thousands of students in the MSU student section stood up onto the bleachers. They stayed on their feet all night, screaming, stomping and swearing for their Spartans. Students wrapped their arms around each other and swayed as the band played the alma mater.

Senior economics major Nico Mancini sat front row with hopes of being on the big screen, showing up five hours before kickoff to get this coveted position. But sometimes Mancini had to go to an even more extreme length to get good seats for some of the highest-profile games in Big Ten football.

"On a game like Michigan, last year I got there at 2 a.m.," said Mancini. "Ohio State was 4 a.m."

Mancini said the student section has been an integral part of his college experience, his fondest memory is meeting one of his closest friends in the student section his freshman year. His first game in the student section was as a freshman against Furman University and since then he has been hooked on the atmosphere of the student section.

Some Spartans were not as seasoned as Mancini, but freshman genomics and molecular genetics major Ethan Ohlrich said he already loved the feeling of being in the student section in the Big Ten's sixth-largest stadium for one of the state's highest-profile college football programs.

"It definitely feels different from high school and growing up I never really went to college or professional football games," said Ohlrich. "It really hasn't sunk in yet that I'm in one of the biggest football stadiums ever. But at the same time, it still feels like any other football game, just of a larger magnitude."

No matter what year students were, it seemed they all could agree on one thing: the MSU student section was a strong community that made everyone feel like a Spartan. Ohlrich had only been to two games but said he already felt like a part of the community.

"The atmosphere of the student section is exhilarating," said Ohlrich. "I love how everyone is so excited all the time, and when something good happens everyone screams and cheers. I feel welcomed, everyone is happy for the same things. I especially love the sense of unity the student section has, it makes me feel like I've been going here for four years already. I love every second of it."



“The student section brings a lot of energy to the games, it has a lot of passion involved. I feel like we can actually get involved and really help the team in a way.”

Keegan Sullivan, sophomore comparative cultures and politics major, had been a part of the student section for two years. Like Mancini, Sullivan went to the games with his group of friends, making it a large part of his college experience and social life.

“The student section brings a lot of energy to the games, it has a lot of passion involved,” said Sullivan. “I feel like we can actually get involved and really help the team in a way. It was electric tonight. It was really intense, there was a lot of energy out there and they were just bringing it.”

The game wore on, keys jingled and the fight song was sung. Every touchdown, first down and field goal was celebrated with ear-shattering screams, down to the last second. Thousands of students with one purpose — cheer for the Spartans. The clock ticked down, but they remained standing. The sea of green wavered on.



GENERATION JUSTICE

As report after report came out about the condition of the environment — heating oceans, more intense weather, and eventual drought and famine — activists decided to step up and demand justice for the earth. Generation Z decided to not put their future in the hands of others. Sophomore social relations and policy major Troy Distelrath was one of those Generation Z activists.

"At one point I had the realization that the [United Nations] says we have 11 years left," Distelrath said. "And I need to do something about this because even if we do elect someone next year who believes in man-made climate change, we're still many steps away from stopping it."

This epiphany spurred Distelrath to establish a branch of the climate justice advocacy group, Sunrise. Sunrise is the largest youth-led climate change group in the country, with over 270 branches around the country.

"The goal of Sunrise is to support policies and politicians that are going to bring an end to climate change and create jobs in the process," said Distelrath, the branch coordinator for Sunrise MSU.

Senior supply chain management major Jack Keais became involved in Sunrise when Distelrath asked for help setting up the MSU branch. Keais said it was important to show how students can make a difference.

"Climate change is a real problem, and unfortunately, our generation is the generation who needs to tackle this issue," Keais said.

Sunrise MSU's first action came to fruition on Friday, Sept. 20, 2019 at the Global Climate Strike. Junior film studies major Aaron Thiel attended the strike with Sunrise at Michigan's Capitol building. Thiel said the strike served as a warning to Michigan's politicians — taking campaign donations from the fossil fuel industry would result in their replacement during the next election cycle.

"The strike on Friday was one of many taking place across the globe calling world leaders to take a stand against climate change," Thiel said. "It was a show of solidarity."

Both Distelrath and Thiel considered the strike a success. With so many participants showing up, they were unable to go to Senator Gary Peters' office as planned. Sunrise had planned to confront Peters because he rescinded his pledge to not take money from the fossil fuel industry. Distelrath said Sunrise informed Peters' office of their plans to show up, but no accommodations were made. Distelrath called out Peters in his speech on the steps of the Capitol building.

"I have this to say to Mr. Peters — we can't replace our planet, but we can replace our Senator," Distelrath said.

Students in the Sunrise Movement participate in the global climate strike





"Climate change is a real problem, and unfortunately, our generation is the generation who needs to tackle this issue."

The global climate strike was just one of the many steps Sunrise planned to take to reach climate justice. Distelrath said the national movement had a path leading up to November, with smaller strikes that led up to a larger strike for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Distelrath said that along with protesting, voter registration was a big part of what Sunrise did to help combat climate change.

"Climate change is an issue so big that if you don't get neutral people, [people] that are less activist and more care about the planet,

if you don't get them out and caring and voting a certain way, then you can't achieve the big change you want," Distelrath said.

Through songs, chants, speeches and skipping school, the global climate strike was Generation Z's way of saying that they were prepared to do whatever it took to save Mother Earth while they still could. While the future was anything but certain, Generation Z was committed to standing up for the planet for the sake of their own future and the future of generations to come.

LEFT: Spartan students take to the steps of the Lansing capital building to protest for environmental rights. The Sunrise Environmental group encourages students to get involved in events all around East Lansing. **ABOVE:** (From left to right) Junior Caitlin Butcher, senior Manwinder Kaur, junior Pooja Gadiya and junior Kate Rogowski show off their posters for the march. Students participated in expressing their concerns by making posters for the protest.

976 MILES

Spartans participate in walking initiative on campus

Despite the 2019 Homecoming parade being cancelled due to rain, students and faculty still had the opportunity to participate in a parade of their own at Demonstration Field. For the fourth year, Exercise is Medicine hosted a walking competition on the Wednesday of Homecoming week. From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., not a cloud was in sight nor a drop of rain fell as students completed laps around the field.

Originally headed by students from the MSU Kinesiology Department, the Exercise is Medicine Initiative aimed to encourage the formation of healthy lifelong habits for students. By organizing the event this year, Fitness and Wellness Program Coordinator Kristin Traskie hoped to instill a culture of physical activity on campus. Exercising was not only important for physical health, but also mental health.

"That's what we are really trying to showcase to students that there are benefits beyond being physically fit when it comes to exercising," Traskie said. "It can help with their academic success when it comes to improving concentration and memorization as well as their mental health."

In 2018, Exercise is Medicine brought out 500 participants who walked over 1,500 laps. In 2019, the event attracted 553 participants. With over 3,904 laps completed around demonstration field, 976 miles were walked in the span of eight hours. This year the Exercise is Medicine chapter at Michigan State University challenged Penn State to hold their own event on campus. As vice president of the Exercise is Medicine organization, Senior kinesiology major Samantha Gowan partnered with Traskie to ensure Michigan State University's victory.

"On campus, a lot of students don't always have the opportunities to get active," Gowan said. They think that they have to join a gym, or spend a lot of money to be fit but there are so many other ways to be a healthy person just by moving around campus."

For many students, the walking competition was an opportunity to chat with friends or simply put in their ear buds. Initially enticed by the promise of extra credit for a class, junior psychology major Haley Fitzgerald completed eight laps around Demonstration Field. As an avid participant of hot yoga, Fitzgerald found great solace in exercise.

"It makes me feel a lot better," Fitzgerald said. "It definitely helps with managing the stresses of college."

Exercise is Medicine intended to communicate to students the importance of incorporating physical activity in their daily lives. Whether it was through a simple form of exercise like walking, or more advanced exercises like running or lifting weights, there were multiple opportunities both on and off campus to take advantage of.



At 3:55 p.m., with only five minutes left in the competition, Traskie packed up the remaining water bottles and protein bars. Throughout the day, Traskie and Gowan encountered students from all backgrounds, each on a different path in their fitness journey. From the walking trails along the Red Cedar River to the sidewalks lining the residential neighborhoods, students had the chance to challenge themselves one step at a time.

"They think that they have to join a gym or spend a lot of money to be fit but there are so many other ways to be a healthy person just by moving around campus."

BELOW: Many students line up to the check in/check out tent to receive their extra credit for their class. Many students came throughout the day to get some exercise and do better in class.



INFAMOUS ULTIMATE

Women's Ultimate
Frisbee team
showcase why they
are infamous



Arms laden with their post-workout gear and materials needed for the day, students claimed the corner of Demonstration Field. Bags lay strewn about as the team laced up their running shoes while chatting about the day's events. From their classes to how practice would be, friends stretched and began their warm up together. The herd of players formed together to jog around the shared field — prepared to dodge around the colorguard that practiced on the other side.

The Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team — otherwise known simply as Women's Ultimate was founded in 1981. After changing their name — and becoming infamous for doing so — the team took up the mascot of the moose. Senior Zoology major Amanda Decker, one of the three captains of the team, loved the rewarding aspect of the physicality of the sport.

"I think how competitive it is and how hard it is physically. It's the hardest sport I've ever played, and I've played everything you can think of," Decker said. "Everybody becomes really good friends. We hangout all the time, and a lot of us live together so it has a fun social aspect also."

"It's a growing sport and not as complicated as people make it out to be. Grab some friends, pick up a disk and throw it."

The team was like a family, according to many of the players. From movie nights to ice cream socials, the fun did not end with the school year. Mixed summer tournaments allowed both the women's and men's teams to play together and to keep the relationship between the two teams thriving. Maketa Mattimore, junior social relations and policy major and a captain, loved how the sport kept her on a schedule and active.

"Everyone is super welcoming and we spend a ridiculous amount of time together," Mattimore said. "A lot of us live with each other. It's also really nice to have something that keeps you on a schedule and keeps you active. It is one of the most competitive, hard-fought things I had been a part of."

Tournaments were an integral part of the sport. Lasting an entire weekend, players ran nearly a full marathon during their games. Playing constantly from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, students filled each game with a ton of cheers. Alexis Sanders, a senior studying experience architecture and who was a cutter on the field, loved the strong bond the team possessed.

"It's a growing sport and not as complicated as people make it out to be," Sanders said. "Grab some friends, pick up a disk and throw it. Playing a sport that's not really popular, but is slowly becoming popular and it's a super easy thing to pick up and play."

From waking up in the early morning to driving over 15 hours to tournaments, team members were dedicated to the sport of Ultimate Frisbee. No matter how long the practices were or how grueling the tournaments were, students found a family with the team. This bond transcended the sport and brought students together on and off the Ultimate Frisbee field. Since the beginning of the club in 1981, students were still finding families 38 years later.

RIGHT: The Infamous Ultimate Team has been a staple at MSU since 1981. Michigan State's Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team held practice for the fall semester weekly on Monday and Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. on Dem Hall Field.





ANTICIPATING VICTORY

Debate team
strives to
win through
preparation

"Audi partem alteram." The latin phrase meant "hear the other side," a saying that fittingly served as the 2019 Michigan State Debate Team motto. The team consisted of passionate competitors who were willing to hear the other side, but also prepared to counter it. They dedicated many weekends traveling to nationwide tournaments that they had spent countless hours preparing for, both individually and as a team. The team was ready for any argument it was to encounter.

The team debated in two-person teams at both national and intercollegiate tournaments, and also hosted public debates on campus. Each competitive season covered a single topic. The topic for 2019 was centered around international space cooperation with Russia and China. Program and Events Coordinator Carly Watson said a lot of work went in to debate preparation.

"Debate is primarily a research-driven activity," Watson said. "A lot of our preparation for tournaments involves in-depth academic research about the topic and arguments that other teams could make. It's common for the most dedicated students on the team to spend 20-plus hours a week researching the topic."

The debate team was largely made up of students with debate experience in high school, many of which competed in national tournaments. The team wanted their members to be familiar with rigorous debate at a high level. Evan Jones had much of the experience that appealed to the team.

"I did debate in high school and my dad was my high school debate coach," Jones said. "I went to debate camp at MSU and found an opportunity to continue competing as I make my way through college."

Students that had the same dedication as Jones were the reason the team had succeeded in the past. MSU Debate won the National Debate Tournament in 2004, 2006 and 2010. Such achievements placed the team in the same boat as some of the most prestigious schools in the nation. Experience and practice played a major role in the team's victorious reputation.

With a history of such prestige, it was easy to feel pressure. A lot of responsibility came with public speaking. Though for senior accounting major Christian Rodriguez, the nerves were minimalized because he knew he was not alone in the contest.

"I feel relatively calm because I've prepared a lot and the support of the team has been amazing," Rodriguez said. "I've never felt unprepared and the team works really well together to ensure we're ready for any argument."

The 2019 debate team prepared itself for any argument proposed by the other side — anticipation was crucial. The team members gathered information on any argument the other teams could make. The hours of research were not spent merely for the sake of protecting a claim, but for predicting and challenging the opposition. Their preparation was nearly perfect. They simulated different situations through practice debates and worked to improve their reaction. The team was dedicated to succeeding in all competition it was to face. It all started and ended with hearing the other side.

RIGHT: For the first time since 2014, MSU qualified three teams for the National Debate Tournament. They won three national championships in 2004, 2006, and 2010.



"A lot of our preparation for tournaments involves in-depth academic research about the topic and arguments that other teams could make. It's common for the most dedicated students on the team to spend 20-plus hours a week researching the topic."



TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM

Izzone
members
pack the
Breslin

Cheers and roars echoed throughout the Breslin Center as Michigan State's beloved all-time winningest head basketball coach, Tom Izzo, addressed the crowd. His infectious smile, witty humor and words of motivation kept the crowd engaged and eager for what they hoped to be another promising season of MSU basketball. Such a fan, coach and team connection could rarely be felt anywhere other than the annual Izzone Campout.

The event welcomed members of MSU's official basketball student section, iconically known as "The Izzone." It was a committed and passionate group that came ready to celebrate the team they would soon follow alongside all season long.

The 2019 campout occurred inside the Breslin Center due to weather conditions on Munn Field. It was announced just days prior to the event that Izzone memberships for the season were sold out — a record-number of members. Many fans like freshman human biology major, Koren King, attended the campout for the first time.

"There's a lot of people. I didn't have the chance to be able to experience it [Izzone Campout] outside, so I'm kind of looking forward to that next year. But, I think it turned out well this year," King said.

The doors opened at 3 p.m. for first check-in. Early attendees had the opportunity to watch an open team practice before Coach Izzo directed his attention toward the crowd. Izzo engaged with the crowd in a group attempt at "the wave," an imitation of sophomore forward, Gabe Brown's dance, "the Big Boy" and simultaneous clapping. At 6 p.m., the collective fun and laughs was captured in a large group photo. Fans were then allowed to wander the court to meet players and coaches. Junior environmental biology major Sean Burke enjoyed interacting with players the most.

"The highlight for me was Gabe Brown's dance," Burke said. "I met most of the team — Gabe, Tum Tum, Cassius and Izzo."

The campout had much to provide for the team's loyal fans. Not only was there a chance to meet the team, but attendees were also granted the opportunity to watch the Michigan State vs. Ohio State football game as one big community. Senior social science education major, Joe Janosik, said the experience brought out the vividness of the game.

"It honestly felt like a home game," Janosik said. "We were just missing the players on the field. It was a great social gathering. The way



"I didn't have the chance to be able to experience it (Izzone Campout) outside, so I'm kind of looking forward to that next year. But, I think it turned out well this year."



they had it set up in general ... watching the game on the jumbotron, I think it was a good idea.”

The Izzone Campout was not just a special meet and greet privilege — it was purposeful. Its intent was to bring the Izzone and team together to unite the two groups for the upcoming season. Coach Izzo stressed the importance of the Izzone to the success of the basketball team. He and the team hoped to accomplish something special in the 2019-2020 season, and it could not be done without the support of the student section. Laughs and tremendous excitement filled the Breslin that night. It surely would not be the last time the team and the Izzone would share such emotions together on Birch Road.

LEFT: Student fans watch intently in the Breslin Center as MSU takes on OSU football. **RIGHT:** MSU Basketball Coach Tom Izzo and students come together to watch MSU take on Ohio State football in the Breslin Center. Izzo hosted the event to give back to the dedicated basketball fans.

SPEAKING ACROSS DIFFERENCES

More than 60 years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruled against “separate but equal,” Michigan was still one of the most segregated states in the country. This meant that when most students in Michigan came to college — especially large universities such as MSU — they were coming from towns where the majority of people look, act and speak like they did. This could create friction when students began college and were faced with difference. This was where the MSU Dialogues program came in, which brought together diverse groups of students to discuss controversial topics such as race and gender.

The program came to MSU in spring 2018, but the University of Michigan was the flagship of Dialogues and was involved in the program for over 30 years. In 2018, an MSU student took it a step further — registering it as a student organization — MSU Students for Dialogue.

Patricia Stewart was the education programs director for the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, and her role in Dialogues was to provide support and oversee the program. Stewart worked in tandem with coordinator Jackie Heymann, who trained peer facilitators and placed students into discussion groups.

Stewart said MSU Dialogues had three goals — increasing personal awareness about privilege and oppression, improving intergroup understanding and finding ways to work together and create social change. The program was not a class, which Heymann believed made it more lively than a typical classroom setting.

“Everyone is really engaged and asking questions and seeing one another as co-learners,” Heymann said. “They’re working to problem-solve and no one really has the answer, everyone only has their own perspective.”

Each semester in 2018, groups of 20 students went through a series of sequential activities to understand race and gender. MSU Dialogues used peer facilitators to run these groups. One of these students was sophomore political science major Jayson Law. Law said that while there was no such thing as a typical session, the facilitators would start each week by defining a concept for the participants to discuss.

Students in the Dialogues program confront different social identities

“It’s important to discuss topics of race and gender because the complicit citizen is one of the most overwhelming obstacles to social justice,” Law said. “The public remains complicit when they treat topics such as race and gender as taboo. There is no way to protest systems of structural injustice if we as a collective are not able to acknowledge them and discuss further solutions to dissolve them.”

Both Heymann and Stewart had seen the effects of MSU Dialogues in the students’ ability to handle controversial topics. Before and after each semester they collected data about how students felt about confronting bias situations and their own internal biases. The data showed that students felt much more comfortable and knowledgeable after going through the program.

**“There is no way to protest
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“I believe that the program is a powerful catalyst for change, as evidenced by the amazing students, faculty and staff who participate and continue to be involved in the MSU Dialogues program,” Stewart said.

Although there was resistance to difference, MSU Dialogues was using conversation to confront hatred and turn it into understanding, preparing students for their lifelong endeavor to spark progressive change in the world.

TOP AND BOTTOM RIGHT: Members of the Dialogues program hold an inclusive discussion about taboo subjects, such as race and gender.



SHARED CULTURE OF SILLINESS

MSU Quidditch team strengthens bond on and off the pitch



Before the sun rose, tournament days began with students shuffling to their cars, arms laden with game uniforms. Exhaustion evaporated as soon as the car karaoke started. The tournament soon began with bright smiles and boundless enthusiasm. Passersby were treated to a spectacle unlike any other — students wielding broom handles and throwing kickballs at each other at incredible speeds.

Combining basketball, rugby and soccer, Quidditch was a sport derived from the cult-classic book and film series Harry Potter. The goal was simple — score more points than your opponents. The game was a mass of moving parts, with roles such as keeper, chaser, beaters and the seeker. This contact sport was played on broomsticks and each match did not end until the golden snitch — a player dressed in all yellow bobbing and weaving through the game — was caught. Ph.D. student and the head coach of the team Brandon Rohnke had been playing Quidditch since his undergraduate years.

"It's one of the most interesting sports out there," Rohnke said. "It's an up and coming sport that can grab more attention because it has so many different positions and what counts as good strategy is a lot of flexibility. I really love the sport; it keeps me thinking."

The team was split into two groups, IM and traveling. The only difference between then was the traveling team ventured across the country to compete in tournaments. The U.S. Quidditch Cup 12 was held in Texas, and teams gathered from all around the country to compete. While each team grew increasingly more competitive over

the years, there was no animosity between them. Sophomore chaser and neuroscience major Claire Jones enjoyed the shared sense of community with all of the Quidditch players.

"While playing Quidditch, you meet people because they want to do the sport," Jones said. "It's more than just wanting to be active — you can be active by going to the gym. This is something you're passionate about, this is something that derives joy."

The Quidditch team also focused on activities off the field. From cider mill trips to full-day movie marathons, the team had several bonding events. One of the most unique was Kidditch. A scaled-down version of the game, children were treated to a day of learning how Quidditch is played and had the opportunity to play for themselves. Sophomore chaser and political science major Nathan Feidner was the events coordinator and helped bring the team together with a slew of team-bonding experiences.

"Even if you're not completely sure and even if it's new and it kind of scares you, still go for it," Feidner said. "I was super shy when I first came on the team. I didn't say a word for the first four weeks of practice. I ended up loving the sport and loving the people I play with."

"It's more than just wanting to be active — you can be active by going to the gym. This is something you're passionate about, this is something that derives joy."

At the end of the day with their brooms down, the team convened back together. All of the students joined together to celebrate their nation-wide society of silliness. Hand in hand, they all broke out into MSU's fight song. It was not perfect. Their voices were sore and cracked from screaming and cheering during the day, but in that moment it didn't matter — the song was theirs.

TOP: The team hosted practice on a Sunday afternoon following a travel tournament in Indiana. The MSU Quidditch Team held their practices for the semester on the IM East field.

RIGHT: Ph.D. student Brandon Rohnke led practice. The MSU Quidditch Team had recently won three out of five matches at the Ball Brothers 5 tournament in Indiana.



CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE

Amateur Radio Club celebrates 100 years of radio

A 100 year anniversary was a rare and incredible accomplishment. Members of Michigan State's Amateur Radio Club were fortunate enough to celebrate such an achievement when the club celebrated its centennial year in 2019. The Amateur Radio Club had a tradition of promoting interest in amateur radio, providing a source of communication for the MSU community, educating its members in technology and broadcasting the school's name to the rest of the world.

MSU's first radio station was founded in 1919 and was originally established to broadcast weather reports and farm market prices. On Oct. 19, 2019, the club was able to use its call sign, WS8H/W8MSU, to commemorate its 100 year anniversary on air. They contacted 150 HAM radio [amateur radio] operators from around the world. They also displayed radios that dated all the way back to 1920 to show the technological evolution.

The Amateur Radio Club focused on how radio and various methods of radio communication worked. Activities within the club gave members the chance to have hands-on learning that expanded their knowledge of radio. Club vice president and electrical engineering major, Thomas Peterson, said there were multiple activities available for club members based on their interests.

"If you want to get more project experience, there are options such as building a small-scale transmitter or receiver where you make your own wire connections, do your own soldering, etc." Peterson said. "The radio room in the engineering building is also available for licensed members to use in operating the equipment and talking with other operators around the country, and even around the world."

Alumni played a large role in allowing the Amateur Radio Club to endure. Senior electrical engineering major Ramzy Samara believed alumni and student members taught and excited one another.

"Alumni, or what us MSUARC members call 'friends,' of the club play a tremendously important role in the success of the club," Samara said. "New members would be walking into the dark without alumni participation and support to hand them the lantern of enlightenment. Their contributions as shepherds and mentors have allowed for the metaphorical 'passing of the torch' that this club most sincerely appreciates and amateur radio needs as we progress through the digital age."

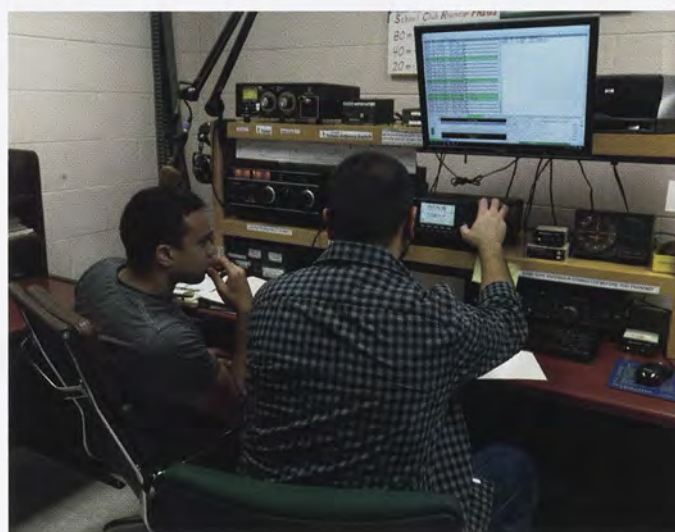
The club was faced with the challenge of continuing its legacy. A great weight ensued from a century of prosperity. For club president and senior mechanical engineering major, Volkan Yildirim, the future was bright.

"We are hoping that students from all colleges of the university will participate in this hobby and our club," Yildirim said. "Even though a technically oriented license is required to transmit, many

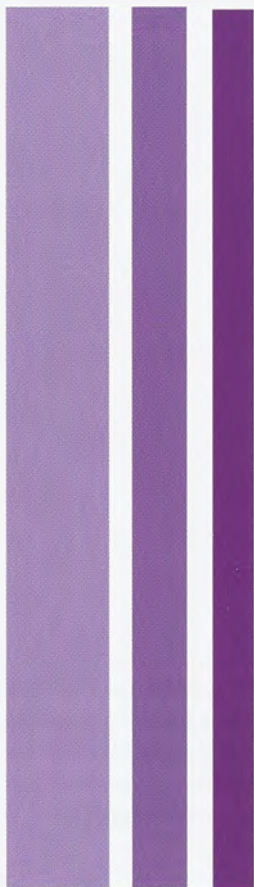
of our alumni are non-engineering people. We are positive that our 100-year-old club will survive another century."

The Amateur Radio Club reached a significant milestone in 2019. Turning 100 involved examining what the club did right and deciding what it could do better. Those who contributed to the club's upbringing also managed to teach and inspire the next generation. Every member of every era held a part in carrying on the legacy. As the club looked to the future, it was expected to grow in both members and efficiency. Tradition was aplenty at the Amateur Radio Club, and they looked forward to passing the torch to future members.

"We are positive that our
100-year-old club will survive
another century."



ABOVE: Senior Volkan Yildirim (right) demonstrates how they use their radio to communicate with people all over the world. **TOP RIGHT:** Amateur Radio Club alumni sign their names on the anniversary poster at the 100 year celebration. The club broadcasts weekly and alumni comes by to participate and work with current members. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Manager of the Amateur Radio Club Ed Ozer watches over the students as they try to contact other radio users. Ozer is alumni of the club and has been involved as a manager for years.



BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER

Sustainable Spartans reflect on a year of inspiration

Despite the fact that Michigan State's campus stood out as one of the best in the country, there were still many ways it could be improved. One problem was the cold and dark bus stops in which Spartans waited for CATA buses. Some students often felt miserable — and even sometimes unsafe — at these stops. Dealing with this issue became normal for most students, but the Sustainable Spartans club was determined to improve the situation. Through undertaking a project to improve the bus stops, along with a variety of other improvement projects on campus, the club was implemented technology for a better and more sustainable university.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Sustainable Spartans made a large impact on the daily life of individuals across campus. They undertook numerous eco-friendly projects to promote a more sustainable campus. The club gained an influx of motivation this year with more members than ever. Senior nutritional sciences major Hannah Rusgo was a part of the team since her freshman year.

"This year we've been able to push out a lot more projects than in the past," Rusgo said. "The club has become a lot more successful in the past year and a half, and it's been amazing to see our progression."

Both Rusgo and fellow student Ethan Jodoin shared a fascination with the magnetism of the club. Each recalled attending their first meeting at the request of friends and immediately signing up to be part of the team. The club was divided into groups that took on different year long projects. Projects ranged from building a "green wall" on campus to an art installation called "Trash Sparty."

In 2019, Sustainable Spartans was one of 10 school clubs globally granted \$25,000 from Ford Motor Company for an initiative to install solar powered lights at CATA bus stations around campus. This action aimed to provide students with a safer environment to wait for the bus. The grant was an outstanding achievement for the club, and environmental studies and sustainability major Alexa Marsh was thrilled that they were chosen to receive grant funding.

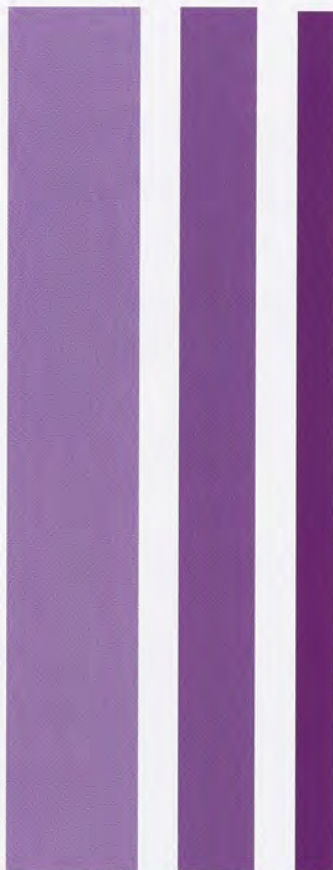
"It should have taken a long time, but we found out about the grant 24 hours before we had to turn it in," Marsh said. "We were really lucky we had information on our project to begin with."

According to Ethan Jodoin, a senior studying environmental studies and sustainability, the first installation was planned to be completed in the end of December 2019. This was just in time, as the early winter sunset only compounded student's fears of being left in the dark.

"We ordered one set of lights from Solar Illuminations, and then we have to see what tricky things go into installation, and then we'll order the rest of them together," Jodoin said.

While some team members dove into work on the solar lights, another group worked with the university on a quest to become a pollinator friendly campus. A culmination of this effort came in the form of plans to build a new bee garden between Shaw Hall and the Red Cedar River. According to Rusgo, countless hours of research went into this project, including insight into where to purchase the bees.





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Sustainability was an extensive issue, and clubs like Sustainable Spartans laid the groundwork for a more secure future. Recognizing the dark bus stops were an issue was the first step, and thanks to the efforts of the Sustainable Spartans, the MSU campus took further essential steps on the journey to sustainability.

ALL: MSU students browse previously owned clothes outside the MSU Auditorium at a thrift store and bake sale pop-up fundraiser hosted by Sustainable Spartans. All money raised went toward making MSU more sustainable.

WHO DONE IT?

Students
collaborate and
discuss some
of the nation's
most notorious
homicide cases

The small room in Bessey Hall was packed from wall to wall with students, all buzzing with excitement. A line continued out the door with students, all trying to pile into the enclosed space. Upon arrival, students were already in the midst of solving their first mystery — finding room for the abundance of excited members. The herd soon solved the preliminary case and moved to the massive lecture hall nearby, nearly filling the room. All of the students were there to discuss the same topic — murder and cold cases.

The MSU Cold Case Unit was a growing club, with the first meeting of 2019 being bigger than the previous year. The club branched out on social media, using Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to post about upcoming cases and updates about the club. The group's purpose was to help students utilize their critical thinking skills to understand the nation's most notorious cold cases. Senior Brittney Dick, the president of the Cold Case Unit, was one of the founding members of the club.

"We just felt like there wasn't anything really for the students who wanted something based off case studies and profiling, so we decided to create a club," Dick said.

Students came together to talk and learn about famous unsolved criminal investigations throughout history. Much like real detectives, they picked apart cases from the very beginning. Students went

through each victim and suspect, digging through the miniscule details to find as much information as possible. Not one stone was left unturned.

From the time of year when the murder occurred to other tragedies that happened in neighboring towns, every seemingly unimportant detail was taken into account. Students then worked together to build a profile of the suspects and discuss possible outcomes of each cold case. Senior Brittney Dick, the president of the Cold Case Unit, explained how she went about trying to uncover the mystery.

"We actually made a map that had all of our victims and suspects and everything on it," Dick said.

It was not just walking through cases and discussing murders in front of a slideshow. From movie nights to haunted houses, club members could enjoy a plethora of different events. One of the club's favorite events was Jeopardy, but with a twist. It was based on the subject of true crime, and the winning students were rewarded with candy. Senior Madeleine Dahm, the director of event planning, helped to create these fun events.

"We did a trivia night," Dahm said. "It was all based around murders, famous serial killers, profiling, etc."

The end goal for most students was to become a profiler, or perhaps a crime scene investigator. However, the club was not only for Criminal Justice majors. It was for any student that was interested in the subject. Students learned the importance of analyzing and paying attention to the details, all the while touching upon the topic of murder. Abi Jurrens, a senior criminal justice major and club vice president, believed that the club could be a place where everyone felt like they belonged.

"It's a welcoming community," Jurrens said. "People think that it's uncomfortable to talk about murder, but it doesn't have to be." By the end of the first meeting, all the students were grinning and chatting amongst themselves about the case and the future of the unit.

From RCAH majors to engineers, students from all around the university collaborated to attempt to solve some of the country's most elusive cold cases. They not only collaborated together to successfully solve a case, but they also found themselves in a new, inviting atmosphere.

RIGHT: President Brittney Dick showed her enthusiasm for the club as she asked other students their thoughts on the meeting topic. Dick encouraged all students to join, regardless of their major. **LEFT:** Club members were given the opportunity to present their thoughts and theories on the topic being discussed. MSU Cold Case unit covered a new topic at each meeting and all members had the chance to participate.





"It's a welcoming community. People think that it's uncomfortable to talk about murder, but it doesn't have to be."



DIFFERENT STRIDES ONE TEAM

Members of
all skills run
competitively
and leisurely



The fresh breeze collided with their faces as their bodies fell into the routine of finding a comfortable breathing rhythm. The members of Michigan State's Running Club ran in all different styles, using a variety of methods. The club was made up of runners of all skill levels. Some participated for the sake of staying in shape, while others competed against other club teams across the nation through cross country, indoor track and outdoor track. The club was competitive, but it also welcomed those who just had an interest in just getting out and running.

No matter their reason for joining the club, members were guaranteed to get a good workout in. It did not matter how fast you were or how far you could run. Senior biosystems engineering major and club treasurer, Matt Wholihan, joined the club to make new friends and stay in shape.

"The club helps me excel at running in two ways," Wholihan said. "First, it helps me through our training programs, as it allows me to follow a concrete training regimen. Also, the encouragement I get from my teammates helps me as well."

Senior accounting major and club vice president Natalie DePerno also enjoyed the encouragement she received through the club to be her best. Running was an individual sport in the sense that runners aimed to beat their personal best time, however, like any team sport, runners could only be successful when they worked together.

"The club helps me with running because I have a group of people to train with. They encourage me to push myself," DePerno





"The club helps me with running because I have a group of people to train with. They encourage me to push myself."

said. "The club also provides me with training plans that allow me to peak in time for the national meet."

The club based its purpose off of the goals it set. Whether it was beating a personal time, or hoping to earn a specific place in a tournament, everyone had a mark they wished to cross to demonstrate their improvement. Junior supply chain management major and club president, Austin Langlinais, had goals for himself, as well as for the club before he graduated from MSU.

"Personally, I would love to improve my club record in the 3k Steeple, and drop my 5k time below 15:30," Langlinais said. "As a club, I would love to see us continue to improve, and hopefully place top five at the national meet in either [cross country] or track by the time I graduate."

MSU Running Club came together to become faster and more efficient runners. They did this by practicing every day and keeping a consistent schedule. Its members set goals for themselves, and together they worked to achieve them. What made the club special was its ability to influence its runners and push them to excel at whatever milestones they sought to reach. It was a great opportunity for anyone looking to get fit, compete in races or just have a good time. Everyone may have had their own reason for wanting to run, but together, they fulfilled their intentions as a team.

ALL PHOTOS: MSU Running Club members compete on a brisk fall day. Racing to the finish line, men and women on the team alike push through foliage to meet their personal goals.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

One of the earliest experiences many Spartans had at Michigan State was their tour of campus prior to becoming a student. The tour guides of MSU sought to give prospective students the best introduction to the campus they knew well and admired greatly. They visited some of MSU's most iconic places, supplied their guests with interesting facts and gave helpful suggestions that could benefit the life of a future Spartan. They did all this with the hope that the people they engaged with would some day walk the same campus they had grown to love. The tour guides had the honor of giving their groups a look into the life of a Spartan.

Every tour guide had a different reason for enjoying their job. They were all passionate about presenting the place they called home for people to see firsthand. For senior supply chain management major, Lindsey Suchta, the decision was based off of her own past experience.

"My senior year of high school, I took a tour of MSU," Suchta said. "My tour guide made MSU seem so cool and was the main reason I decided to even come here in the first place. I also decided I wanted to have that same impact on people and also convince them to come to MSU as well."

Choosing the right school was a crucial decision for many high school graduates and transfers. For many, the first campus visit would dictate where they would decide to attend. Senior elementary education major Sophie Pfeffer believed tours were a vital part of the college decision process.

"I think going on a tour is important because you need to be able to see if you can envision yourself on campus for the next few years," Pfeffer said. "I also think my job is important because we are able to answer questions that only students can really answer, and it helps potential future students understand the college experience."

MSU tour guides had to be willing to give tours of the same places on campus time after time. Whether it was walking over the Red Cedar River or pointing out some of the oldest buildings on campus, the tour guides had a vast knowledge of all things MSU. Many guides, such as senior education major Meredith Jerome, had a favorite place they enjoyed visiting with their groups.

Michigan State tour guides recruit future Spartans

"My favorite place to show on campus is the Beaumont Tower," Jerome said. "The tower, along with its surrounding area, is protected. It will never change. It's a place that connects past, present and future Spartans."

"My tour guide made MSU seem so cool and was the main reason I decided to even come here in the first place. I also decided I wanted to have that same impact on people and also convince them to come to MSU as well."

MSU tour guides had a fun, yet very significant job. The initial impression they gave their group could play a key factor in a future college student's decision. The tour guides wanted to present MSU in a way that was just as special to them. The places they took their guests could have been the same places those potential Spartans would be passing for the coming years. For students touring MSU, the tour guides' efforts were the first chapter of lifelong memories that were soon to come.

TOP: Meredith Jerome, student supervisor for Michigan State tour guides, was named tour guide of the month in July. MSU tour guides provided a valuable first step in prospective students' transition to college. **BOTTOM:** Lindsey Suchta was a student supervisor on the Michigan State tour guide staff. Tour guides used their personal experiences and knowledge to allow prospective students to gain insight into the life of an undergraduate.



BUILDING YOUR BRAND

Spartan bloggers
create a platform
for their passions

Social media was something that many college students spent an ample amount of time on. Whether they were sharing artfully-crafted photos on Instagram or posting "Day In My Life" videos on YouTube, young people turned social media into a great way to craft a personal, shareable blog. For Spartans with a lot of passion and a need to share their interests, blogging became a great way for them to do so — all while building an ever-evolving portfolio.

Senior marketing major Rohan Makhecha was equally interested in filmmaking and photography. Mainly using a Panasonic GH5, he shot both for enjoyment and paid work, relishing in documenting his friends while on adventures. Though he mostly focused on the visual arts, he also posted podcasts on Spotify. In essence, he found that his blogging style flowed across various mediums, finding inspiration in nearly everything he did.

"I really just try to surround myself with creators that I look up to, which might be online or in person," Makhecha said. "Everyone is always making cool stuff and that pushes me to create more."

Photography was a common theme amongst Spartan bloggers. Senior studio art major Leah Croghan had been interested in photography since 2016. Picking up her love for it from the influence of a friend, she soon found that she not only wanted, but needed, to take photos every single day. In turn, she created a number of different series, but one continued to stand out over time.

"My favorite was during my "Women of Abuse" series, in which I told the story of a young woman who had been emotionally abused by an ex-boyfriend," Croghan said. "I used a 4x5 view camera, the kind of camera used in the early 1900s where the photographer has to have a black blanket over the entire rig in order to be able to take the photo. I love this shoot because it was challenging technically and also mentally. I had to lug around this huge ancient camera and change out the film slides in a black bag without being able to see anything. I only had 5 pieces of film, so I had to get the shot just right."

Senior kinesiology major Meghan Lloyd found a love for lifestyle blogging during the winter of 2019. Crafting a beautiful aesthetic by using consistent filters, she posted photos in hopes of creating a blog that promoted positivity, authenticity and self-love. Though she experimented on different platforms, she found that Instagram was her favorite. However, to Lloyd, it did not truly matter how she shared her genuine love of life with her followers, as long as it was shared.





"I really just post about things that touch my heart or the people and places I am passionate about."

"I really just post about things that touch my heart or the people and places I am passionate about," Lloyd said. "I stopped caring what people thought when I realized that at the end of the day, all that matters is that I am happy with the life I am living, not that people think I am. We are at the age where we have to start contending for our own joy and fulfillment in life, and I am not going to be able to do that if I am trying to please every person in my life including those who only view my life from the other side of a screen."

Blogging had become a way for Spartans to share their deepest passions. Whether it was through Instagram or a website, they were

able to connect with others who had similar interests and collaborate in a shared platform. Creativity was king for self-expression, and through blogging, many students were able to make a brand for themselves.

RIGHT: MSU senior Leah Croghan at the Broad Art Museum. Leah's Instagram page included traveling, filmmaking, photography and veganism.



READY AIM FIRE

Students use competitive spirit to go for the win

With adrenaline burning in their veins and excitement fueling the fire, paintball players ducked and weaved behind inflatable barriers as they avoided paintballs that flew through the air. The goal was simple: to either eliminate all of the competition's players or to hang the flag on the opposing start box. With muscles poised to launch the player towards the start box and with the flag curled in the player's fist, they got ready to run for it.

Founded in 2014, the MSU Paintball Club grouped together 20 paintball enthusiasts that were eager to compete for the glory of MSU. The club was part of the National Collegiate Paintball Association, which gave each team the chance to compete against clubs all around the country. During matches, the teams came together with a mutual love for the game. Eric Purr, a senior criminal justice major and the vice president of the Paintball Club, found the comradery between the teams to be his favorite aspect of the club.

"My favorite memory of playing on the team would be when the team went to Kissimmee, Florida for the National Collegiate Championships," Purr said. "I've never witnessed paintball at such a competitive level before, with copious amounts of college teams from all over the country in one place, battling for victory. Despite everyone trying to beat one another on the field, off the field is a different story."

A major part of the sport was communication. When paintballs were screaming through the air and chaos was unfolding all around the players, strong leadership skills and clear communication gave many Spartans an advantage on the field.

"Paintball is a great way to be able to learn leadership characteristics along with attributes from working as a team," Purr said. "Students join the team looking for comradery and great opportunities. Between practices, conditioning, meetings and team bonding, you end

up spending a lot of time with these people and end up making some really authentic relationships."

Competition was the name of the game. Between competitive practices and the explosive matches, players were treated to an energetic atmosphere on the team. Kristian Marutiak Vanderwarden, a first year law student, had been playing on the team for five years and considered the sport a great way to meet other competitive students

"I've never witnessed paintball at such a competitive level before, with copious amounts of college teams from all over the country in one place, battling for victory."

"As a club we are truly committed to both the sport we play and to the other members of the club," Vanderwarden said. "If people are looking for something new to try, paintball offers a chance to play a competitive sport or to just hang out with friends and have a good time, with the occasional chance to shoot at each other."

As a player took a chance and sprinted out from behind one of the barriers, he twisted to dodge a paintball that flew over his shoulder, flag in hand. The world seemed to slow as he neared the middle of the field, the flag raised in his hand as he stretched out and placed it on the opponent's start box. Excitement erupted from the Spartans as the match concluded, tired smiles adorning each of their faces and the glory of winning fueling their every step as they set up for the next match.



WORTH THE WAIT

MSU Starbucks location serves long lines of customers

There were a great number of options for students to grab a quick meal or beverage around Michigan State University's campus, but few places could compete with the famous Wells Hall Starbucks. The popular site drew crowds of students, staff and visitors, Monday through Friday. Depending on the time of day, the waiting line often snaked around the entrance and down the hall. Even when the day slowed down, there was no guarantee the line would stay short for long. With constant foot traffic through Wells Hall from students and professors, Starbucks was bound to have multiple rushes throughout the day.

If a student was hoping to stop by the Wells Hall Starbucks before class, they more than likely needed to plan their time accordingly. For many students, though, the busy lines were still worth the wait. Freshman computer science major Tommy Landa said there was a reason he was willing to wait in the long line.

"I think just the fact that I'm very tired and that I kind of need the coffee," Landa said. "It's very convenient."

Convenience was what made the Wells Hall Starbucks location so appealing. It was the center of campus for many students, and despite the long line, it was the perfect spot to visit in the middle of the day. Savannah Thomson, freshman animal science major, said she went to the location frequently.

"I have office hours, so I come here maybe twice a week before every office hour," Thomson said. "It's like a weird time where my class gets done and then I have an office hour. So, I just come in here and I usually get lunch or something like that. Just works better."

The Wells Hall Starbucks would not have been such a success if it was not for its employees. Their hard work and efficiency allowed customers to receive quality service. One employee, junior political science-prelaw major Bella Hadley, said she enjoyed working at the Wells Hall location, especially.

"We're like a Starbucks family," Hadley said. "All of us have parties together and hang out together. I really like that aspect of it. Even though it gets really busy, we get to talk to a lot of people. Also, our shifts go by really fast."

It got busy, and sometimes quiet, but the Wells Hall Starbucks provided an atmosphere that invited everyone to take a break from their day and pick up a coffee to destress. No matter the circumstance, employees were ready to fulfill their customers' needs. The Wells Hall Starbucks was there when you had an 8 a.m. class but lacked energy. It was there when you did not have time to go home for lunch in between classes. Perhaps it was even there when you needed comfort food after doing poorly on an assessment. The location found its way into its visitors' daily routines and in doing so, served as one of the many iconic components of the MSU experience.

ABOVE RIGHT: Senior dietetics major and Wells Hall Starbucks barista Tina Fu hands a drink to a customer. **BELOW RIGHT:** Wells Hall Starbucks employees take a short break before the next wave of students line up and wait for their daily coffee fix.



"We're like a Starbucks family. Even though it gets really busy, we get to talk to a lot of people."



YOU'VE BEEN SERVED

Student servers provide an inside look into their lives inside East Lansing restaurants

A common, relatable issue amongst college students was often their shortage of money. With student loans to pay off and clothes to be bought, many students picked up part-time jobs to help supplement themselves throughout their college years. Though a plethora of jobs were available, from gigs at retail stores to being a barista, one of the most common — and tippable — jobs was to become a server at a restaurant.

Senior international relations major Andrew Carpenter dedicated many of his free hours into working as a server at Beggar's Banquet. Entering the service industry at age 16, working a variation of the jobs he was already used to was a no brainer. Though the job was incredibly demanding, with him sometimes having to stay until 2 a.m., the clientele often made the job worth it.

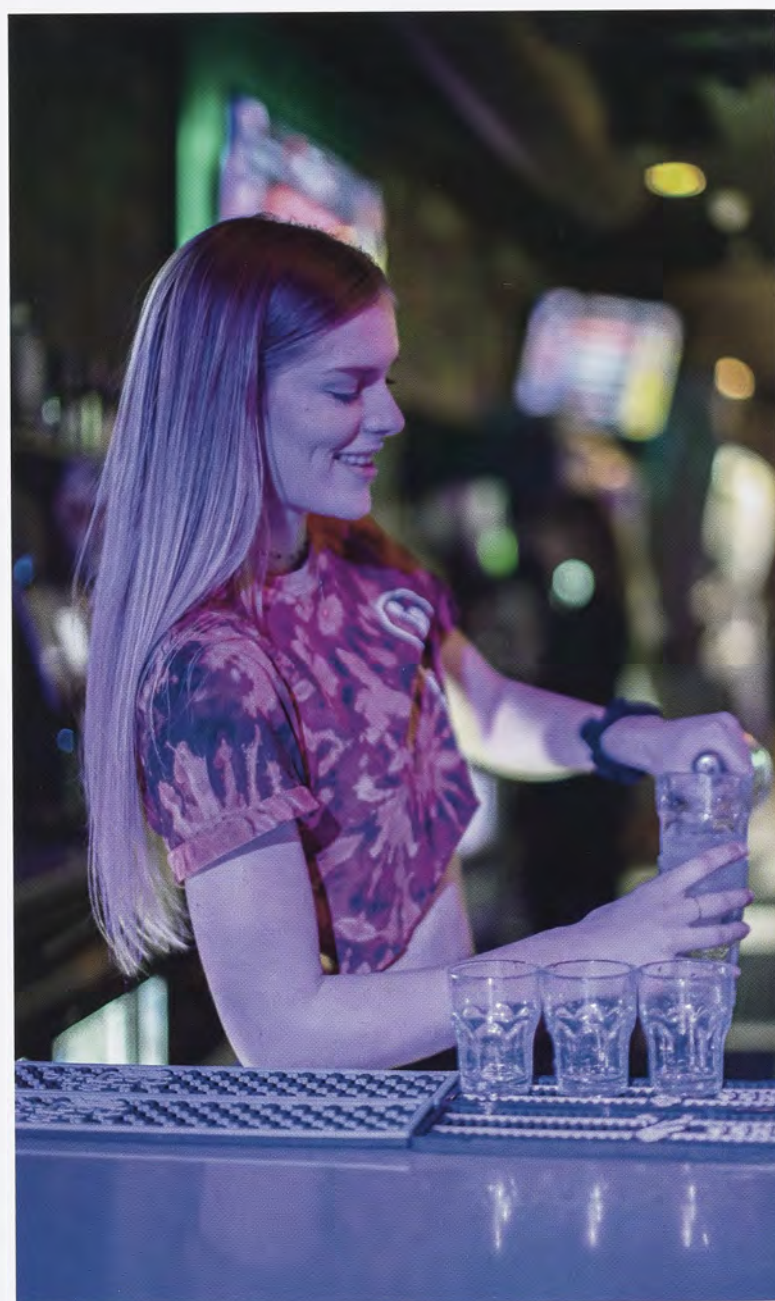
"I always enjoy serving guests that have been coming to Beggar's Banquet for a long time," Carpenter said. "We opened in 1973, and since then, we are often visited by MSU presidents, politicians and athletes. Just the other week we had Senator Debbie Stabenow in for a party with her staff."

At Lou and Harry's Bar and Grill, junior graphic design major Taylor Klassen initially started off as a server and worked her way up to being a bartender. She faced a fast-paced environment that was often quite stressful, juggling multiple tasks at once. Though this often felt like a downside, she recognized that it helped her gain an immeasurable amount of knowledge that could not be found in her graphic design classes.

"Some skills cannot be learned in the classroom, like more complicated money handling such as splitting tips and tipping out the back-of-house staff as well as customer service," Klassen said. "It is important to know your menus and how to help someone find what they are looking for or something that they would enjoy... you have to be able to roll with the punches and continue your night regardless of anything that happens."

Though many student servers worked in casual atmospheres, others worked in fine dining environments. Junior social relations and policy major Kenzie Warsen worked at The State Room, which had

ALL: Junior Taylor Klassen is a server and bartender at Lou and Harry's Bar and Grill. Taylor has been working at "LouHa's" since January 2019.



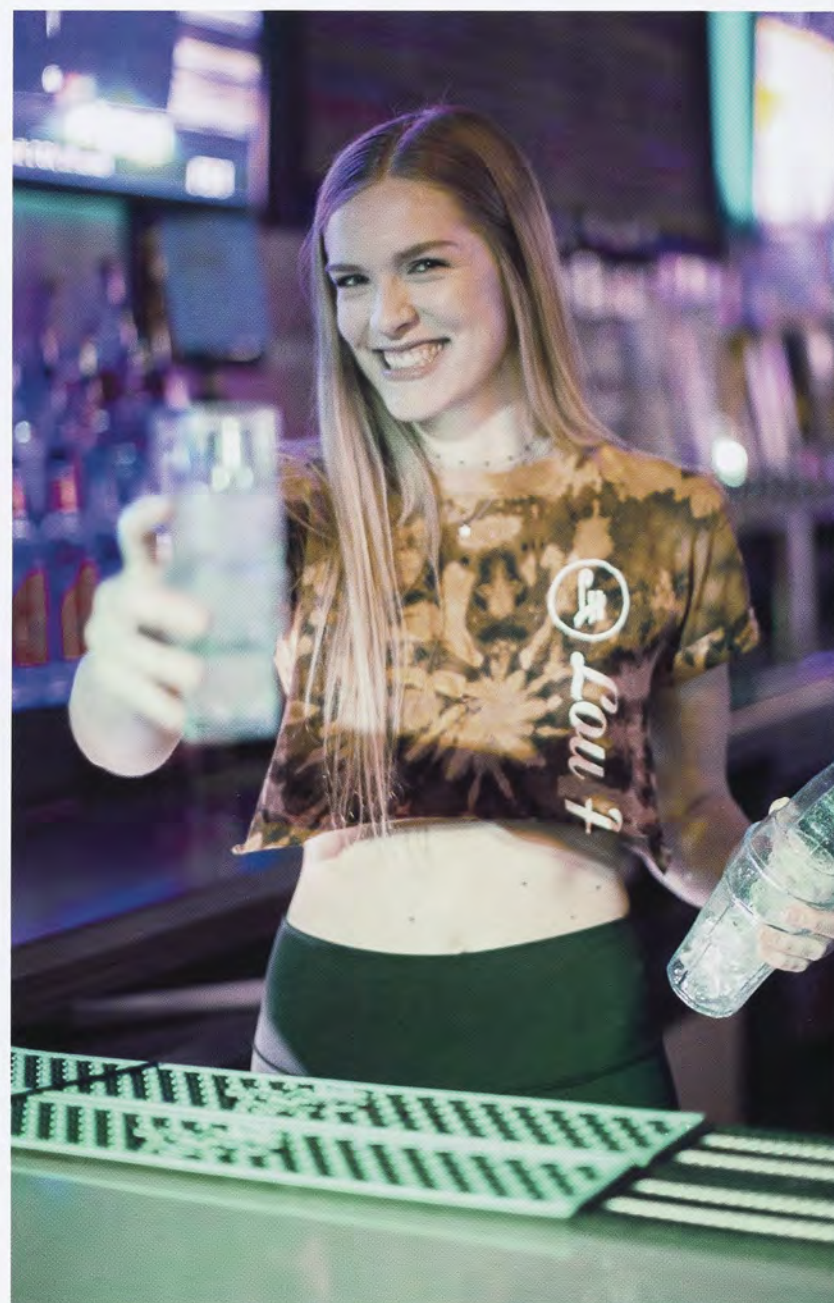
"Some skills cannot be learned in the classroom, like more complicated money handling such as splitting tips and tipping out the back-of-house staff as well as customer service."

tight stipulations and brought in an older crowd. With a more laid-back experience during the summer of 2019, moving to a stricter

establishment was quite the change for Warsen. However, she firmly believed that regardless of her surroundings, service industry jobs helped her adjust her own disposition.

"[Service jobs] are humbling," Warsen said. "Working in the service industry makes you realize how valuable everyone involved in the serving industry is. It makes you tip more, smile more and complain less."

Bringing in some extra coin was a necessity for Spartans who were sick of living off of dollar-ramen. East Lansing was a hub for a variety of businesses, but the allure of being a server was high for many reasons. From receiving tips to learning invaluable lessons that could only be acquired by serving up a hot plate of food, it was an ideal job for busy — and hungry — college students.



LET'S ERASE THE STIGMA

Project LETS provides mental health support for Spartans

On a quiet Tuesday night in early January, students flooded into Erickson Hall. Shedding their winter clothes, these Spartans greeted each other warmly, settled in, and began to talk. Emphasized by the fact that cold weather did not keep students from dedicating their night to the discussion of mental health, it was clear that this project was valued. Through this dedication sparked a conversation that would change the way that Michigan State University viewed mental health for good.

These Spartans were a part of Project Let's Erase the Stigma, or Project LETS, a national initiative to decrease stigma surrounding mental health issues. The organization had several chapters around the United States. One of the resources Project LETS provided to students who attended was the opportunity to be a part of its Peer Mental Health Advocate (PMHA) program. Through this program, students could apply to be matched with a peer that had a similar experience to them, and keep that contact for whatever they may need. During the meeting, student leaders stressed the PMHA program was for any student that was feeling overwhelmed, stressed or just in need of someone to talk to. Naomi Hatch, sophomore media and information major and the social chair of Project LETS MSU, participated in the PMHA program. Hatch believed Project LETS was a place for people to feel all emotions rawly and without any judgement.

"I trained to be a PMHA, a peer mental health advocate, and I now have a couple peers that I work with that I try to help with their mental health issues," Hatch said. "It's a very peer relationship;

nobody's in control, but you're a friend who's there to listen but not talk about your own problems. We have crisis training and more... we're able to help them cope with situations."

It was not only PMHAs that Project LETS MSU provided; their weekly meetings fostered a space of free communication as well as a supportive and welcoming atmosphere. After moving the chairs into a circular formation, ensuring each student could make eye contact with the next, students were encouraged to talk about their weeks, the new semester and their struggles. One message was emphasized throughout the conversation, especially when someone was struggling — "You are wanted here; you are valued here; we are glad you stayed alive and that you are here."

In a college campus so large, it could be easy to feel alone. Clayton Griffith, freshman interdisciplinary humanities major, commented that Project LETS wanted to address that problem and support students in a vacuum of mental health support.

"Receiving service, resources and support is heavily stigmatized," Griffith said. "It can be very difficult to achieve on college campuses, especially getting efficient support that students trust and feel really

RIGHT: Students gather for a Project Let's Erase the Stigma meeting. These students were encouraged to share their feelings and stresses to help with their mental health.

understand and speak to them, so organizations such as Project LETS help create good, firm, secure support networks for students.”

Mental health and treatment should not be stigmatized on campus and Project LETS led the discussion to release that stigma. Through the Peer Mental Health Advocate program, the organization was able to make significant progress in helping students cope with mental health issues more effectively. Because of their services and dedicated members, Project LETS was an invaluable addition to MSU’s campus.

PROJECT LETS

01/21/2020

“Organizations such as Project LETS help create good, firm, secure support networks for students.”



IN PREPARATION TO SERVE

Jack Kivi
describes life as
an MSU student
and future Marine

Life as an average college student was strenuous. Managing to get to class on time, eating a balanced diet, getting enough sleep, pursuing hobbies and hanging out with friends was a wild balancing act, yet it was done every day. However, some Spartans had another task to add to this list — train for life in the military post graduation. Junior neuroscience major Jack Kivi focused on hitting the books while simultaneously preparing for the Marines in a program called the Platoon Leaders Course — a two-summer program where two to six schools are attended that teach the basics of being an officer in the military.

Wanting to join the military was not a recent decision for Kivi. Like some people knew they wanted to be writers or firefighters from a young age, Kivi knew he was meant to be a Marine.

"I've been thinking about the military for a long time," Kivi said. "I watched a lot of the old military movies like *A Bridge Too Far* growing up so they made me want to serve in some capacity. I made the decision to enlist in high school."

Once he became a student at Michigan State, Kivi essentially had to train himself during the school year. A common misconception was that those enrolled in military-preparatory programs spent hours on end in classes specifically formulated for training, but this could not have been further from the truth. In turn, a strong sense of self discipline was built from self training.

"To get ready, I do all my own training during the school year," Kivi said. "I do a little with my Marine reserve unit because of my enlistment, but most students don't have that. It's largely up to each person to prepare themselves with guidance from the staff at the

recruiting office. There are monthly workouts the office puts on, but it really helps your self discipline for most of it to be on yourself."

Kivi's hard work and dedication to being a successful future Marine was clear to see. He was the winner of the Commandant's Trophy and earned the highest GPA in his class of approximately 200 candidates from across the country. Though both were admirable honors, Kivi noted that the scores he received were quite achievable — it was having a balanced life that was the hardest.

"The challenge comes in keeping up your grades, fitness and leadership scores when you are sleep deprived and stressed," Kivi said. "It took a lot of focus and determination and I'm glad I was able to get the honor of receiving the award. It all came down to doing all the little things right and the big stuff fell into place after that."

Hopefully for Kivi, things would continue to fall into place. After having a couple of months allotted to spend with the people he cared about, Kivi was set to begin training as an officer at the Marine Corps base in Quantico. Though he was unsure of the role he wanted to take on after graduating, he debated between becoming a pilot or staying in the infantry and taking on the role of an infantry officer. No matter what his final decision was, Kivi was making a difference and serving a land he held deep pride in, which was everything he was striving to accomplish.

RIGHT: Jack Kivi is a junior majoring in neuroscience and a Marine. He was awarded the Commandant's Trophy, which is awarded to the top graduate of each Office Candidates School class.



"The challenge comes in keeping up your grades, fitness and leadership scores when you are sleep deprived and stressed."

ENGAGING THROUGH ART

Broad Art Museum interns help younger generations interpret art

Easily recognized by its distinctive architecture, the Eli and Edyth Broad Art Museum was a staple of the MSU campus. The building was designed to be different, and specifically had no right angles anywhere in its construction. On a typical day, patrons visiting the museum ranged from children to the elderly, each drawn there by a love for art. Upon entering the museum, they were met by a team of student interns, trained and ready to provide guidance to all ages.

The Broad provided an alternative learning space for young children. Classes and special events were often held there to expose the younger generation to what can come from unlimited creative expression. Andrew Bracken, a student intern at the Broad and a freshman studying humanities, was impressed by their response.

"Children understand a lot more than adults give them credit for," Bracken said. "Most of the kids we have worked with have been really interested in the exhibit and connect what they see to their experiences. It's incredible watching these elementary or middle schoolers talking and engaging with really grown up concepts like economic depression, diaspora, memory and strained family relationships."

Bracken recalled a specific exhibit where he saw students reacting to the art in real time. It was the artwork of Katrin Sigurðardóttir, an Icelandic artist whose work focused on structural perception. As students reacted to images of broken and run down houses, they were able to connect them to property taxes and WWII bomb shelters, both topics they had covered in class.

Nariman Jacksi, senior education major, joined the Broad staff in fall 2019 and instantly felt at home. Working with the museum's education team allowed her to use his skills with lesson planning and creative expression in a way he never expected.

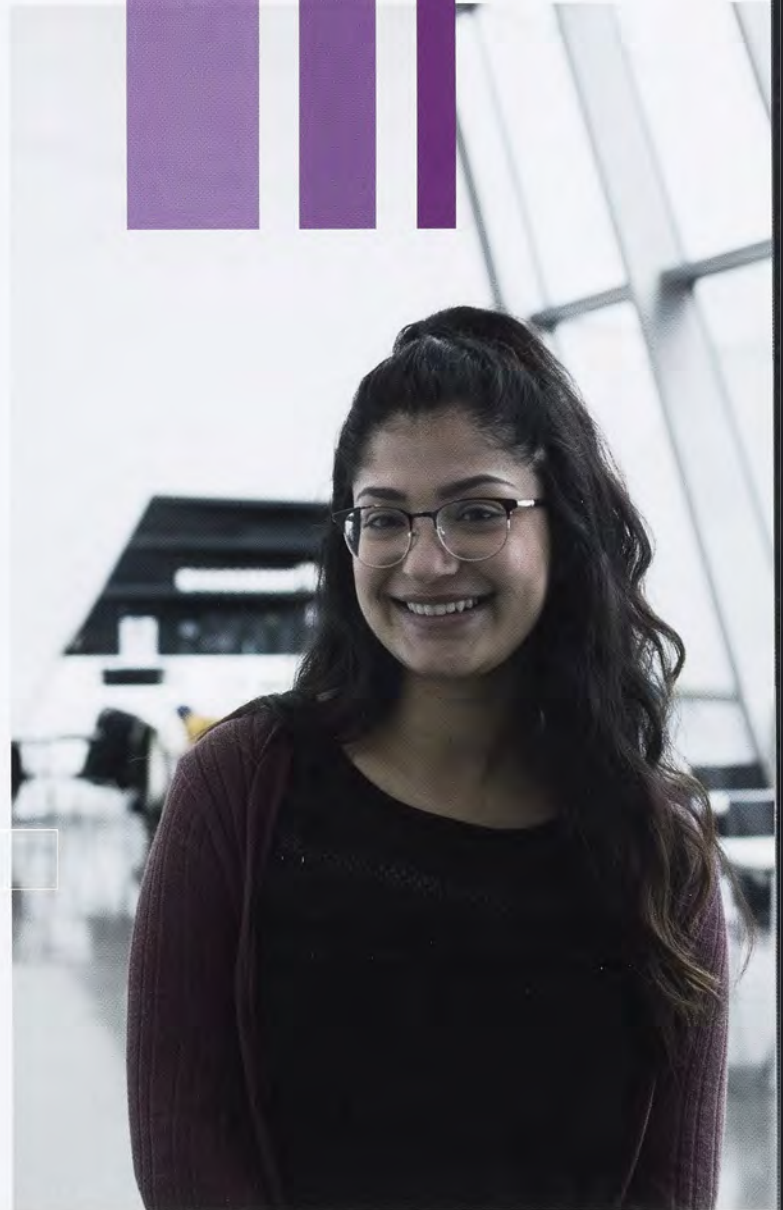
"What really intrigued me about this internship was the opportunity to not only construct a tour for a younger audience at the Broad Museum, but to also enhance the children's experience by visiting their schools," Jacksi said. "This unique aspect provides students the opportunity to intertwine their experience at the Broad with other art activities at school and beyond."

Jacksi and other team members made regular appearances at schools in order to engage students in the Greater Lansing area with art in their own classrooms. Another member of the education team was senior studio art and humanities major Ellie Anderson. Anderson loved that, at the Broad, every day was different. A big part of her job was Family Day, occurring on the first Saturday of each month. Anderson worked with her team to organize activities that families could work on together.

"It's been really cool to see grandparents and their children work on something together or work on their own piece and be able to talk about it," Anderson said.

The artistic expression flowing through the halls of the Broad made its way out of the icy walls and into the street. Inside, families walked hand and hand, admiring the exhibits and sharing in discussion about certain pieces. For the student interns, each day at work was a chance to make a lasting impression on someone's thoughts

LEFT: Ellie Anderson, senior studio art and humanities major, enjoyed working at the Broad and was engrained into Family Day, a huge event for the museum. **MIDDLE:** Andrew Bracken was a student intern at the Broad and a freshman studying humanities. **RIGHT:** Nariman Jacksi, senior education major, joined the Broad Art Museum staff in 2019.



“Children understand a lot more than adults give them credit for. Most of the kids we have worked with have been really interested in the exhibit and connect what they see to their experiences”.

RESET THE CLOCK

After a victorious 2019 season, the women's club water polo team strives for another win

Music blared over the speakers as the first group of players warmed up, swimming laps and playing catch with the balls. From the parents in the stands to the players in the pool, anxious excitement hummed through all who were in IM West. A whistle broke through the routine, players scrambling to get out of the water. Fingernails were checked for length and the excitement turned into a roar as cheers were exchanged and the players left back into the water. With the single blare of a whistle, the match began.

The women's water polo team was a successful team, having won the Collegiate Water Polo Association Big Ten Championship in 2019. A key reason, according to the players, was due to how close everyone was on the team. Abigail Parsons, senior advertising management major, co-captain and social chair of the team, loved the constant support the team gave each other.

"We have a lot of fun," Parsons said. "These are my best friends in college. They're the reason I make it through the day sometimes and come to practice. People ask me how I can come to the late practices, and I say that it's my favorite part of the day."

The women's water polo team practiced in the IM West pool on Monday through Thursday nights from 8 to 10 p.m. Players traveled to tournaments at universities across the Midwest, the farthest trip

being to the University of Iowa — a seven and a half hour drive. On the trips, players excelled in the pool and worked on classwork afterward. Sarah Williams, junior human biology major, co-captain and vice president of the team, shared her secret in keeping her academic and athletic lifestyles balanced.

"Being really straightforward about myself really helps," Williams said. "Being honest about my schedule and letting myself know that I need to do homework or 'I can't do this game' is a huge help."

A number of swimmers migrated to water polo, due to the team aspect the sport offered. Goalies and field players worked in tandem to make the game flow as seamlessly as possible. Leslie Schuchardt, junior chemical engineering major, president of the team and head goalie, was a swimmer before she started playing water polo in 2012. She found a home, friends and much more in water polo.

"I love the team atmosphere," Schuchardt said. "I love being a part of a group. It makes campus a lot smaller and it's so much fun being a part of a team."

The crowd that perched in the stands howled and cheered at every foul and success, some raising scratched cardboard signs to cheer on their fellow Spartans. Players on the sidelines encouraged their teammates in and out of the pool. The small IM West pool room





"People ask me how I can come to the late practices, and I say that it's my favorite part of the day."

made the successes even more fruitful and the losses that much more heavy-hitting, driving the team forward until the game was

over. Players climbed out of the pool slowly, lining up before shaking hands with their opponents, congratulating them on their win before setting up for the second game of the evening. The clock was reset, the players finished their warmup and all began again.

LEFT: Senior Hannah Frazier and junior Gillan Cain match up against each other during practice. **TOP RIGHT:** Senior Abby Parsons attempts to score a goal with her wicked shot. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Senior Madelaine Irwin and freshman Taylor Moilanen face off against each other during practice.

EDUCATION AFTER SERVICE

SVRC uplifts
student veterans
to overcome
difficulties

Marching down the streets of Washington D.C. in 2013, in a crisply pressed, pin-adorned uniform, Dylan Conway was thinking more about the steps directly in front of him than his far-away future. In 2020, as an undergraduate student at MSU, Conway faced the unique problems and situations that students with veteran status must work through.

Conway, junior criminal justice major, served in the United States Army Honor Guard from 2013 to 2016. He served in a special branch of the Honor Guard called the Presidential Escort Platoon that marched in Washington D.C. and performed ceremonies for high-ranking members of the United States government. When he enrolled in MSU, he relied on resources to help guide his transition. Conway felt that MSU's Student Veteran Resource Center allowed MSU's student veterans to connect.

"A large reason these centers could prove to be useful is that they allow newer veterans the ability to interact with other veterans," Conway said. "A huge struggle many veterans have is adapting back into the civilian sector, so forming these groups provides some students with a gathering of individuals with their same background and personalities acquired during service."

Cassadee Jackson, senior communication and public relations major, served from 2013 to 2018 in California as an electronics maintenance chief. She believed that students should be especially understanding of the challenges that student veterans face.

"Be patient with people that are transitioning," Jackson said. "Without having the Veteran's Resource Center, I probably would have struggled transitioning to Michigan State. I'm not from Michigan, I'm from North Carolina. Having that resource helps you feel that you're

still part of a little family — you don't know these people but you've been in the same situation."

Patrick Forystek, coordinator of the Student Veteran Resource Center at MSU since November 2018, explained that the center could be vital to the development and support of student veterans on campus. The existence of the center helped build feelings of belonging for student veterans.

"The SVRC provides resources that are specific to a very unique adult learner student," Forystek said. "[Student veterans] present very different challenges than a traditional college student, and it's important that they have resources for a couple of reasons. The first reason is to just have those resources, whatever they might be. A student might run into a housing crisis or have issues with their VA benefits and scheduling. The second reason is to provide an identity and a sense of belonging. Even the students that don't need help from the SVRC still likely benefit in knowing that MSU cares enough to provide the resources."

Whether coming home from an overseas deployment or returning from a stateside assignment, student veterans undertook a colossal task that was rife with unique challenges. MSU's Student Veteran Resource Center helped veterans with the transition into civilian life and with the journey of higher education. Through carefully tailored assistance, MSU student veterans were able to feel the support of a proud nation as they embarked on their life after service.

RIGHT: Dylan Conway is a current MSU senior. He came to MSU after finishing four years of service with the United States Military.



“Having that resource helps you feel that you’re still part of a little family — you don’t know these people but you’ve been in the same situation.”

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

MSU club forms close bond through table tennis

The Michigan State Table Tennis Club invited enthusiasts of the game to take part in the fast-paced, grueling and thrilling sport. The club members met every week at IM West to compete against one another and improve their skills. Players also traveled to compete in tournaments as representatives of MSU. Their hard work consisted of constant motion and intense hand-eye coordination that left them exhausted at the end of their match. No matter the result, club members were supported by a club that was accepting and hospitable.

The MSU Table Tennis Club was part of the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA). They were in the Ohio East division, where they were often matched up with teams from Ohio. With the absence of numerous players who had graduated, the club strived to bounce back and adapt to change.

Club members received the benefit of getting in a good workout while also having a fun time. The more players invested in it, the more they got out of it. Club president and senior environmental engineering major Liam Conlan became more serious about table tennis during his sophomore year.

"I play an offensive style of table tennis, so I like to play far back from the table," Conlan said. "It's just so much fun just running around, diving for the ball, just going as hard as you can in this sport that seems so simple. There's so much more you can do ... it's not restricted to just around the table."

The MSU Table Tennis Club was open to players of all skill levels. New members were even given the opportunity to work with a coach that came in each week to help players work on their game. Sullivan Costa, freshman geological sciences major, bettered his skills by playing with members that were at a higher skill level.

"They would play with me even though it's probably boring for them because I wasn't that good," Costa said. "It helped me

a lot. They taught me along the way. It showed they really cared about that."

The club was a tight-knit group. They bonded through a common interest that resulted in friendships. Graduate student and mathematics major Abhishek Mallick believed it was a genial atmosphere.

"It's quite a diverse team," Mallick said. "Everyone is very friendly from the get-go. Sometimes, if you go for a tournament, there's usually like six people on the team. Sometimes, more than that. So we all drive together. It's a lot of fun."

"There's so much more you can do ... it's not restricted to just around the table."

For the club, table tennis was much more than a game. It was an opportunity for people with a shared passion to come together and play a sport they loved while making acquaintances along the way. It did not matter how good you were; the club provided its members with the tools they needed to succeed. Whether it was a trip to a tournament, a match to be played or an upcoming practice, there was always something to look forward to when it came to table tennis. As members of the MSU Table Tennis Club, everyone was a winner.

ABOVE and BELOW: Table Tennis Club members face off during one of their practices. The club has been a part of the MSU Community for over 5 years. It was reorganized in 2008 by then-president, Ziru Li.



FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

MSU students celebrate at the Black Empowerment Festival

Throughout MSU's campus, there were a variety of cultures and ethnicities which were represented by dedicated and passionate students. These identities made up the cultural backbone of MSU, and their impact on the university deserved special recognition. The Black Empowerment Festival was a student-run event celebrating African American culture. There were crafts, speeches and t-shirts for sale. A crowd of students — made up of students of all races and majors — met at the MSU Student Union. No one was afraid that their hairstyle, skin color or racial background would be judged while they mingled with new faces.

Jazmine Walker was a guest of honor at the festival for her dedicated work as the vice president of the MSU African American Celebratory, an organization devoted to the advancement of black students. Walker was a senior studying health and society with a minor in global public health and epidemiology. She hoped that students who attended the event would leave with exactly what they came for — a sense of empowerment.

"With a lot of the racism and discrimination occurring on campus it can be demeaning to one's character," Walker said. "I think coming to these events and feeling empowered by everyone will help them get through those tough times and be able to make the impact they want."

In 2020, racism was present in the world and on MSU's campus. The students behind the Black Empowerment Festival did not simply reject the problem of racism, but instead focused on what could be done together to combat it. Deon Bennett, sophomore communications major, served on the committee responsible for the festival. He and his colleagues aimed to make an impact on those who attended.

"Even though it's called Black Empowerment Festival, we were hoping a lot of people would come explore and understand what it's like to be in our culture," Bennett said. "Our main goal for the festival was to bring people together, to gratify people and to show that we are together and we are part of this campus community."

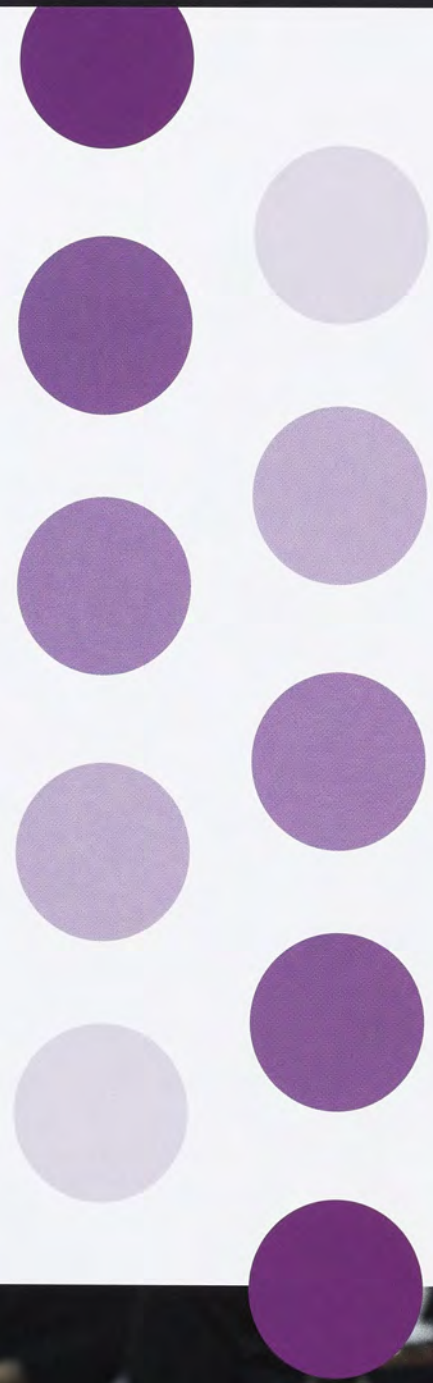
Another member of the committee was sophomore education major Cara Drew. Drew had been looking forward to the event as a time when she and her colleagues could celebrate their heritage unapologetically.

"Our main goal for the festival was to bring people together, to gratify people and to show that we are together and we are part of this campus community."

"At the event this year we can come out and enjoy being who we are," Drew said. "Everything that we've come from, everything that we are today and how we got here."

The festival drew a large crowd of diverse and passionate students, all coming to learn something they did not know before and hear from voices that had historically been silenced. Together, they were fighting for both equality and a voice in the MSU community. As the crowd left the Union, they took with them a sense of empowerment that came from the fact that they were not alone and had hundreds of community members supporting them. They set out, determined to make their voice heard and fight for what was right every day.

TOP RIGHT: An MSU student speaks about the purpose of the Black Empowerment Festival—to educate the MSU community.
BOTTOM RIGHT: The MSU community learned about traditional culture by making crafts in the Black Empowerment Festival.



ENDEAVOR FOR EMPLOYMENT

MSU program provides
job training for individuals
with disabilities

Michigan State's inclusive atmosphere offered all types of programs to benefit others. Spartan Project SEARCH was one of these programs that helped provide job training for young adults with disabilities. The program allowed its students to seek employment and discover what they were capable of. It was an experience that would ultimately have

a significant impact on their lives and prepare them for the career ahead of them.

Each student served as an intern at their respective location around MSU's campus. Interns were required to follow a schedule that consisted of their internship and classroom time provided by



'I'm getting a job, and I'm
gonna be independent. I'm
gonna do all these things.'



Ingham Intermediate School District. The school district also supported the program with an instructor, a curriculum and students from their schools.

The program's interns worked at numerous places around MSU such as the Dairy Store, 1855 Place, the Brody Sparty's, the MSU Bakery and Holden Dining Hall. Brandon Falcsik, one of the program's interns, worked at the Holden Dining Hall.

"I like that everybody's nice," Falcsik said. "They'll come and check on me and if I'm not doing something right, then they'll talk me through it, tell me what I did and tell me why it's wrong and what I should do."

Relationships were also forged at Spartan Project SEARCH. The bond between those involved in the program was one that had formed through the care and support they had for one another. According to John Wenzel, services coordinator for Spartan Project SEARCH, program alumni were still often involved with the program after their internships.

"Almost all of our interns end up getting hired on campus often in a place where they were an intern or they did an internship rotation," Wenzel said. "It's really cool to see them remain a part of the MSU community. We have events and we invite all of our alumni to those events."

Those who worked with the program spent a lot of time with the interns. They helped the interns stay on track, while still giving them

independence. Brooke Locher, Spartan Project SEARCH instructor, enjoyed her work with the students.

"I think the biggest thing for me is, over the year, being able to see the growth of the interns, and getting to see some of that self confidence and being able to see them out in the environment, out in the world with everybody, and just having their role, and having their part, and the ownership that they take over: 'I'm getting a job, and I'm gonna be independent. I'm gonna do all these things,'" Locher said.

Thanks to Spartan Project SEARCH, students were able to overcome the challenges that came with their disability. Students and employees in the program had to invest their time and put in the work for everyone to succeed. The interns were given an opportunity, and it was one they did not waste. Through Spartan Project SEARCH, students were able to be independent and develop skills that would help them thrive in the workforce.

TOP: Spartan Project Search instructor Brooke Locher was mentoring students how to operate in their positions. Student Parker smiling to us. **LEFT:** Sam Wiley was updating data by using his laptop. In his second internship rotation, he worked at Spartan Linen Services.



TO BE A SYMBOL

Admired mascot carries special responsibility

Michigan State's identity would not have carried the significance it did without the support of one of the most famous college mascots in the nation, Sparty. Thousands of Spartan fans roared as he ran onto the field of Spartan Stadium. The energy of the arena exploded as Sparty planted the school's flag in the middle of the field and proceeded to do one-handed push-ups. It was an event that occurred many times before, yet never got old. Despite being the brawny, fearless warrior that fans saw on the outside, there was a person behind the mask who had the responsibility of bringing Sparty alive.

"It's the fame of a celebrity that you can literally put on and take off — a true double life."

Sparty was chosen by a selection team made up of people who worked in the MSU Alumni Office and other program associates. Auditions for Sparty were held in the fall semester. A student who tried out to be Sparty had to meet the expectations that came with the tradition of the mascot. If one was chosen to be a Sparty, they had to keep their identity a secret.

So what exactly did it take to be a Sparty? 75 students had suited up as the mascot throughout its history, and each one of them acted as the brave face of MSU. Aimee Klevorn, communications manager for the Sparty Mascot Program, was very familiar with Sparty and his unique characteristics.

"If you've ever met Sparty, you know that he is outgoing, playful and has an abundance of energy and school spirit," Klevorn said. "The main qualities we look for are a love for the university, hardworking personality ... and ability to provide endless high-fives and selfies."

If someone had the honor of being Sparty, they were likely to hold on to the memories made for the rest of their life. Brad Collins, mascot coordinator for the Kansas City Royals, was a former Sparty. Collins' journey to becoming Sparty started with him looking for a "new, different and challenging" experience.

"There was pressure," Collins said. "However, it was a unique pressure of redefining Sparty's performance characteristics along with other members of the squad who wanted to bring as much energy and passion into the MSU Mascot Program. If you've ever worn the suit, you understand how physical of a job it is and the endorphin rush of a fun event as Sparty usually took care of any lingering worries."

At the end of the day, the person underneath the Sparty suit was just another student. They walked around campus, surrounded by the same people who praised and cheered for the most muscular mascot

at extracurricular events. For 2020 Sparty and senior advertising management major Joseph Hrabnicky, living a lifestyle of two extremes was one of the things he loved most about being Sparty.

"My second favorite thing about my position was the fact that I could do so many things that the average person never will, rub elbows with people on a level that the average person never will, carry the reputation of a university on my back and then turn around and become everybody else," Hrabnicky said. "It's the fame of a celebrity that you can literally put on and take off — a true double life."

Being a Sparty was an opportunity that only certain people were qualified for. Those who were equipped for the task of being the mascot, though, accepted the occasion and excelled at it. It took no

shortage of pride. They got to live a "double life," but ultimately, they were a Spartan in each one.

Sparty represented a whole university. That included generations of past, present and aspiring Spartans who all had a love for MSU. At the end of the day, when Sparty left an event, he was sure to have left fans with a feeling of joy. They watched as he departed, knowing the feeling of euphoria and thrill would return when they next saw him.

RIGHT: Sparty on the sidelines hyping up the crowd. Michigan State football defeated Tulsa 28-7. **LEFT:** Sparty points towards the student section as he's on the field. Michigan State Football defeated Maryland on senior day 19-16.





FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

MSU Swim Club leaves behind a legacy

Feb. 22, 2020 was a busy day for the MSU Swim Club. Before the meet started at IM West, team leaders worked together to fit touch pads in the pool as swimmers trickled in from all over Michigan, Ohio and Illinois. The three and a half hour meet was entirely student run and highlighted the tenacity of the members of the club sport. Hosting a meet that size was a big feat for the MSU Swim Club — 2020 marked only the fourth year of its existence.

Alexis Orr, the club president and a senior physiology major, ran up and down the pool, serving as the meet's only starter, referee and official. Orr joined the team as a freshman in the club's first year. When the club first started, membership was under 20 people, but by 2020 the team had grown to over 100 members.

"The entire goal of swim club is to have fun and exercise with like-minded people," Orr said. "I thought that everyone did just that at the meet. Everyone who helped organize the meet itself did an awesome job being able to anticipate and prepare for a larger meet than we have ever hosted before."

In 2008, Michigan State athletic regulations set a limit on the amount of club teams that would be allowed. Because there was no swim club at the time, it was not recognized as a club sport but instead just a club. Emma Hollowell, an MSU education graduate student and the first president of the club, transformed the club into a club sport against all the odds.

"As we are growing we are finding that it is more challenging to operate the same way we did three years ago," Hollowell said. "We are thankful to have many members willing to step up in a leadership position and help the swim club be as successful in all areas as it has been."

The home meet was a success on all accounts. The majority of the swimmers came from The Ohio State University, which ranked among the top teams in the nation in 2019. During the 2019-2020 academic year, the Spartan team was heavy in freshmen, which was exciting to Orr and other senior members of the team. Noah Mendiola, freshman packaging major, had joined the team in 2019. Mendiola joined the team not knowing what to expect, but after a few months he knew that he had made the right decision.

"Since joining the swim club I've met so many new people, people that I probably would have never met otherwise," Mendiola said. "Without the swim club, my experience here at Michigan State would feel too much like a routine."

Four nights a week, members of the swim club met at the IM Circle pool to train and attended meets around the country. Swim practice was a time to de-stress from a hard day of classes and meets were open to anyone with an interest in competing. The inclusive atmosphere was felt from all sides of the IM West indoor pool that day, and the visiting teams were invited to attend the club's fundraiser at Blaze Pizza after the meet. Coaches and swimmers exchanged stories on the pool deck about swimming, classes and life itself. Win or lose the race, each participant left with a swim on their face.

LEFT: Katherine Lundy, senior journalism major, races backstroke against other swimmers from Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. TOP RIGHT: MSU Swim Club members encouraged their teammates at the IM West pool. BOTTOM RIGHT: An MSU swimmer races freestyle against opponents from across the country.



"Without the swim club,
my experience here at
Michigan State would feel
too much like a routine."



A full-page photograph of a dense forest. The image is taken from a low angle, looking up into the canopy. Sunlight filters through the thick layer of green leaves, creating a dappled light effect. The leaves are mostly broad and green, with some showing signs of aging or damage. The background is dark and filled with more foliage, creating a sense of depth and enclosure. The overall mood is serene and natural.

PHOTO: TOMMY MASSA





PHOTO: AVERY TINGLEY



SEEN
LOD

1
RS

Haley Abbas
Christian Abbate
Brandon Abbo
Ahmad Abdallah
Diana Abdelhak
Alyssa Abdelnour
Chris Abell



Malik Abiola
Jessica Abraham
Camery Abram
Muhammad Abu Assan
Nour Abu-Haltam
Yussif Abuharaz
Feras Abulborghol



Carson Adams
Amber Addrow-Pierson
Indra Adhikari
Shalin Adhvaryu
Lauren Adler
Heba Afaneh
Babz Afolabi



Olatolu Afolabi
Will Agodu
Ximena Aguilar Estrella
Mariam Ahmad
Erisa Ahmad Rhobinuddin
Amani Ahnuar
Eustace Akagha



Bianca Akani
Husain Al Naji
Eliana Al-Alam
Maya Al-Saghir
Neil Al-Saidi
Ali Alaali
Shatha Alabbad



Abdullah Alahmad
Noora Alali
Dylan Albaum
Sarah Albus
Madeleine Alden
Sydney Aldridge
Lauren Alexander



Lily Alexander
Austin Alford
Fawaz Alghool
Ali Alhajji
Razan Alharthi
Asmaa Ali
Mohamad Aljahdali



Amyre Allah
Camille Allen
David Allen
Jack Allen
Leah Allen
Madison Allen
Norrlyn-Michael Allen





Selett Allen
Brooke Allgeier
Brendyn Allison
Jimmy Almacddissi
Michael Almany
Hawra Almasoud
Mohammed Almatrood

Mohammed Alneyadi
Kadie Alpers
Maddy Alpert
Masoud Alraqibah
Abdulla Alrashdi
Ali Alsraimi
Sam Althubiti

Araceli Alvarez
Julia Alvarez
Alessandra Alvarez-Paines
Hannah Alverson
Naif Alzahrani
Aliyah Alzian
Brad Ames

Eye Ampaiwan
Garrett Amstutz
Najiang An
Jimmy Anders
Aleksandra Andersen
Alexa Andersen
Alexis Anderson

Andrew Anderson
Anna Anderson
Josephine Anderson
Kristen Anderson
Kyonna Anderson
Micah Anderson
Taylor Anderson

Taylor Anderson
Swaka Andrew-Wani
Zac Andrews
Brian Andrus
Julianna Andujo
Brinley Ankenbauer
Irelyn Ankenbauer

Nathan Anthony
Scott Anthony
Justin Antoncic
Ashley Antone
Peri Applefield
Patrick Appold
Sabrina Araj

Lindsey Aranguren
Matthew Arenz
Alex Aresco
Kevin Arjasbi
Noa Arlow
Rachel Armock
Jalah Armstrong

Liam Armstrong
Jeremy Arsenault
Seema Arshed
Willow Ashley
Naiel Aslam
Albert Asta
Sahil Aswani



Omar Ataya
Chasity Atkins
Rachel Auer
Danielle Auger
Alex Austin
Devin Austin
Tiana Austin-Gardner



Alexa Avendt
Natalia Avery
Miriam Aviles
Amira Awang
Amni Azhar
Asyraf Azmi
Sarah Azzouz



Taylor Babbie
Devin Babi
Ryan Babiarez
Ryan Bacall
Melanie Baccay
Robert Bacheller
Jake Bade



Mariah Baez
Anna Baghdadi
Zarith Baharuddin
Yutong Bai
Zhuoyan Bai
Jessica Baik
Daria Bailey



Karanjai Bains
Alexis Baker
Blair Baker
Chris Baker
Samantha Baker
Audrey Bakos
Eric Balamucki



Jonathon Baldwin
Ryan Ball
Yanni Ballis
Hadi Baltagi
Dylan Baluyut
Olivia Banach
Chelsea Bandy



David Bang
Andrew Banitt
Marcos Barajas
Marissa Baranski
London Barber
Mike Barger
Matthew Barlow





Conner Barrett
Ryan Barrett
Steven Barrett
Will Barrett
Madison Barritt
Whitney Barry
Drew Bartlett

Dazjanae Barton
Bridget Bartos
Justice Bass
Samantha Bass
Alex Bastian
Ruth Bastien
Bryce Bateman

Taylor Bateman
Lauren Bates
Talaya Bates
Will Bates
Teagan Batis
Nick Battersby
Lauren Batu

Lydia Baudoux
Nick Baugh
Amelia Baumann
Niklas Baumgardner
Jessica Baxter
Kalin Bayes
Olivia Baylis

Jerri Bazinski
Isabella Beachnau
Wyatt Beachy
Rachael Beagle
Corey Beale
Jalen Bean
Josiah Bear

Alyssa Beauchamp
Haden Beaudoin
Danica Bebble
Alexis Beck
Nicole Beck
Alexa Becker
Leda Becker

Bryant Beem
Briana Beeman
Abby Beers
Ethan Begalka
Brad Behan
Brianna Belanger
Cara Beld

Matthew Belknap
Allison Bell
Jamar Bell
Kyle Bell
Shakia Bell
Emma Bellini
Grace Beltowski

Logan Ben-Ezra
Austin Benedict
Lindsay Benham
Carly Benjamin
Noah Benjamin
Marcell Benkes-Toth
Ally Bennett



Julianna Bennett
Kai Benson
Mike Benson
Ashley Bentley
Luke Bentley
Jarrod Berard
Matt Bergdolt



Lydia Berge
Taryn Berkal
Sarah Berke
Ellis Bernard
Christian Bernhagen
Eric Bernhardt
Alexa Bernstein



Kyle Berray
Reed Berry
Katie Berthet
Amanda Berthiaume
Dominic Bertucci
Seth Betman
Nicole Beto



Alaina Betz
Mohamad Beydoun
Jared Beyrer
Sakshi Bhardwaj
Shankho Bhattacharjee
Meera Bhattacharai
Ran Bi



Xinran Bian
Meredith Bieber
Hans Bierlein
Ryan Bieth
Nik Bigger
Chloe Bigwood
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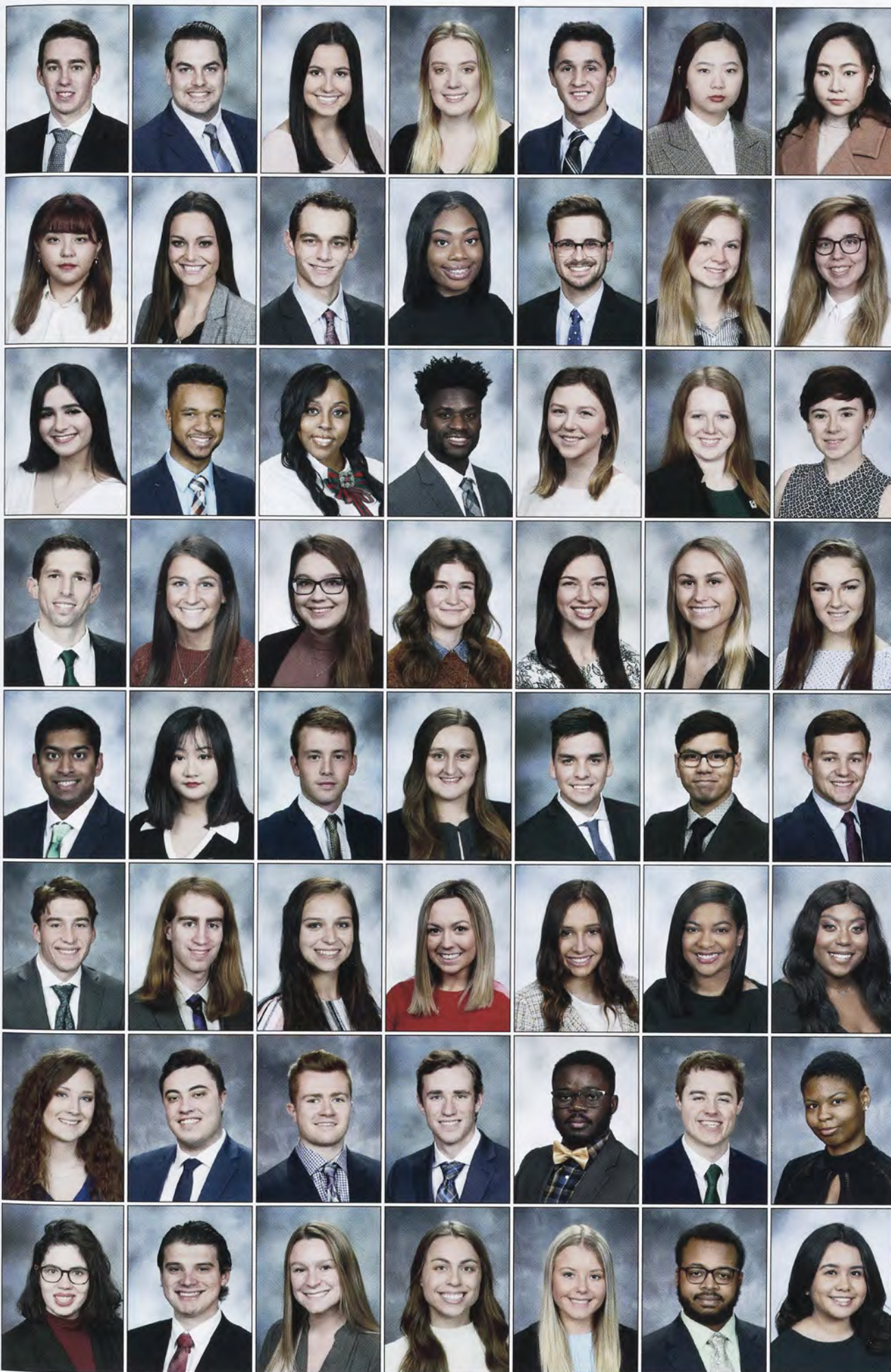


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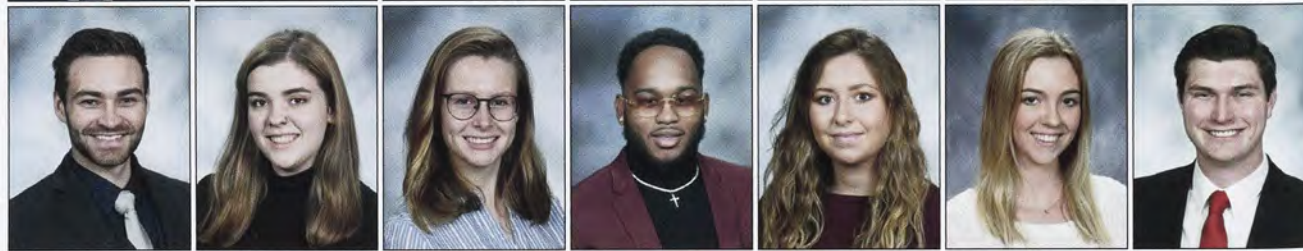
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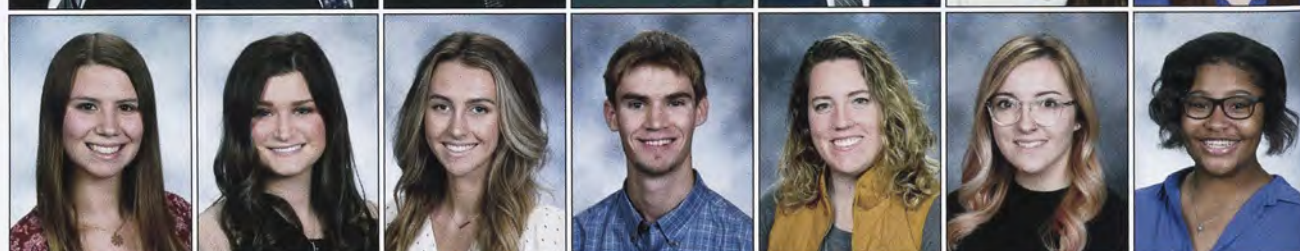
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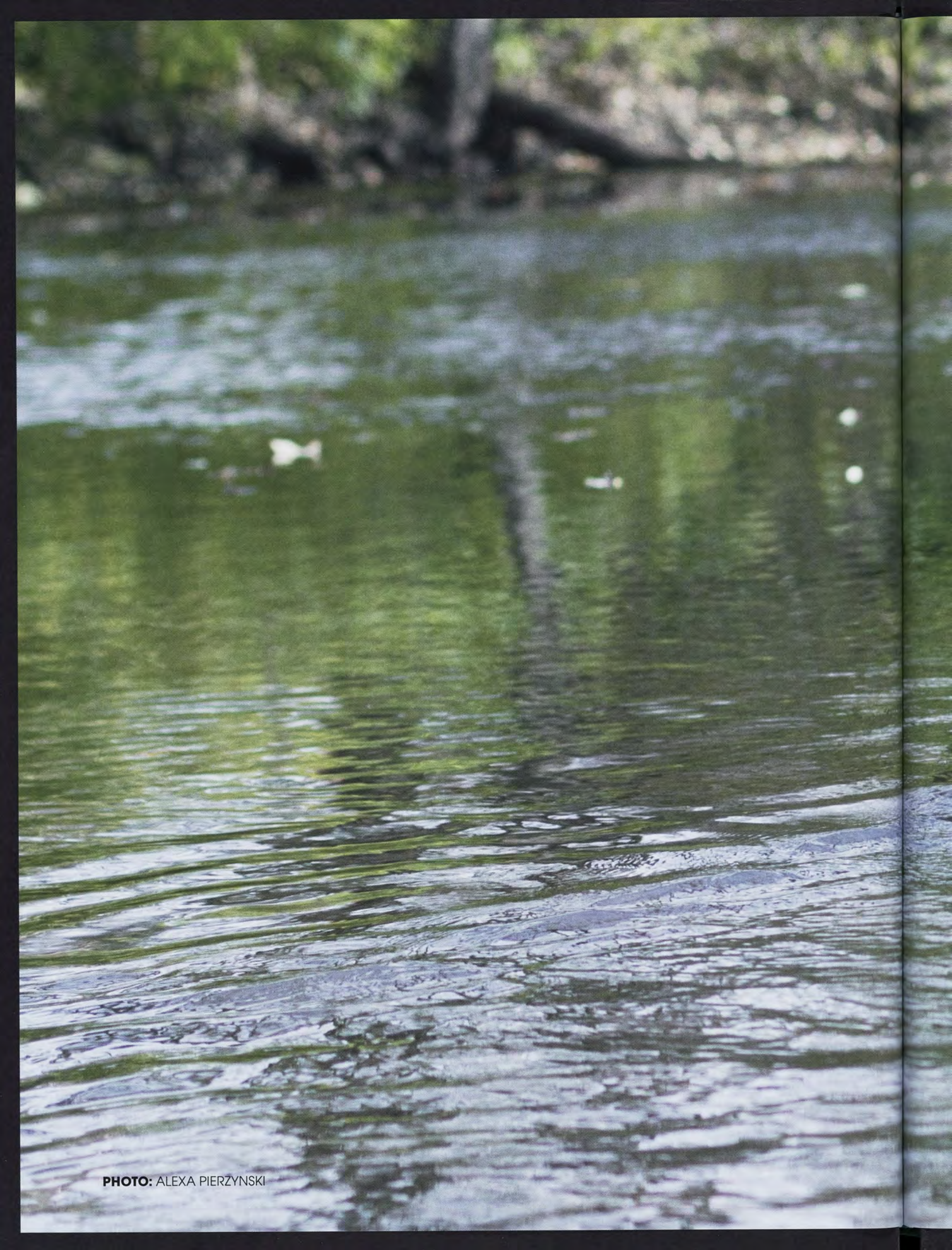
A photograph of a river with a large fallen tree trunk in the background and a small white object floating in the water.

PHOTO: ALEXA PIERZYNSKI





PHOTO: GEORGE PHAM





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RED CEDAR LOG

/the red cedar log/:

a group of hardworking individuals dedicated to sharing the stories of Michigan State University through written stories, photography and illustrative designs



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"THE RED CEDAR LOG
IS AND ALWAYS WILL
BE A HISTORY BOOK."

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Helen Korneffel
addresses the
Michigan State
Community

What does it mean to be a Spartan? Is it the way you wear green and white on game days? Is it when you know the words to "Victory for MSU" by heart? Is it if you kissed your significant other under the shadows of Beaumont Tower at midnight? Whether you have a Spartan helmet tattooed onto your bicep or not, all Michigan State University students are Spartans.

When The Red Cedar Log team thought about what the 2019-2020 yearbook should include, we thought about the people at MSU who may not have a strong voice in the crowd — the people who handed us our toasted bagel at Sparty's or the students standing next to us in Spartan Stadium as we cheered for our team. We talked with students who were innovators that started their own companies, broke ground on new products in their fields and made MSU run smoothly while working in every nook and cranny on campus. We wanted these individuals to have a voice — so we found them. The Red Cedar Log team gave voices to the students who worked behind the scenes and who deserved to have their stories told.

"Always remember that no matter where you are — you will always be a Spartan."

The pandemic that shook the nation in the spring of 2020 certainly impacted the way our staff approached the completion of this book you hold in your hands. We created a section in the book — named Uncertain — to show the impact of COVID-19 on our campus. The section is placed in the middle of the book, signifying the way in

which the pandemic came to MSU — in the middle of everything we were looking forward to. Because of the pandemic, we were not able to tell the stories of as many Spartans as we would have liked. To all the individuals who wanted a space in the 2019-2020 yearbook, we recognize you

and your unique stories. You too have a place in this piece of history.

The Red Cedar Log is — and always will be — a history book. Through interviews and photo shoots, our team captured the essence of MSU's campus and the Spartans who brought life to the university. We hope this yearbook will be a token of your time at Michigan State University, whether you open it a few days after your graduation or 20 years in the future.

Always remember that no matter where you are — you will always be a Spartan.

Helen Korneffel

Helen Korneffel
Editor-in-Chief, 2020
The Red Cedar Log



COLOPHON



CREATION:

The Red Cedar Log was produced entirely by Macintosh Computers for page layouts, photo editing and word processing. Software used included Adobe Creative Cloud, Google Drive and Monarch by Jostens.

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The photography in The Red Cedar Log, with the exception of senior portraits or unless created otherwise, is entirely the original works of the photographers who produced the 131st volume. The cameras and flash units used were a combination of Canon, Nikon and Sigma lenses.

CONTENT:

The articles in The Red Cedar Log are entirely the original works of the staff journalists, journalist interns, content and copy editors who produced the 131st volume. Quotes from sources within stories derived from interviews or otherwise sourced material.

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FINANCE AND OPERATIONS:

The Red Cedar Log is an entirely student-run publication. Each semester, ASMSU provided funds generated through student tax dollars, which equates to about \$2 per undergraduate student, for publishing the book. The previous year's book was available across campus at rack locations and at on-campus events held each semester. For a small fee, alumni can have books shipped to them anywhere in the United States. Content in the book was determined by the editor-in-chief and editorial staff with a consideration of requests from student organizations to be featured free of charge. No funds were received from the university. A total of 7,000 copies of the 396-page, full color publication were printed by Jostens, Inc.

COPYRIGHT:

Thank you all for your hard work, communication, support and creativity. The distribution and production of The Red Cedar log would not be the same without:

Rianne Price, Susan Lowell, everyone from the Jostens plant, Paul Bilgore and Lauren Studios, Abigail Kopcaz and our distribution team, Lily Burkhart, Mario Kakos, Tayte Rider, Maddie Neiman, Nicole Gonzales, Erik Maillard and the ASMSU Marketing Department.

DEAR CLASS OF 2020

A Message from the Board of Trustees

On behalf of the university and the people of Michigan we proudly represent, we send our heartiest congratulations and best wishes upon your graduation from Michigan State University.

Among the many highlights of trustees' service to the university is the vantage point we are privileged to occupy to observe, support and celebrate the many accomplishments and contributions of this graduating class.

These years we've been together at MSU have presented no shortage of challenges as well as triumphs, and you well deserve appreciation for your dedication and resilience. We understand how the changes to daily life in the final months of your enrollment were a jarring disruption to the exciting rhythms of this university at a meaningful time for you. But with the support of a creative, dedicated MSU faculty and staff, you unselfishly helped rewrite the script of your senior year to protect the greater community, particularly its most vulnerable members.

We are proud to call you Spartans. We know you will continue to honorably represent this university as alumni, going on to overcome new challenges, record greater accomplishments and enhance our world with the benefits of your understanding, talents and engagement.

Sincerely,
The Board of Trustees of Michigan State University

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A Letter from the Michigan State University President

It is a privilege to offer my congratulations upon your graduation. The satisfaction I feel in your accomplishment is shared by all at Michigan State University who have supported you in your undergraduate journey.

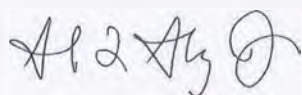
In my first year serving as president of MSU, among my warmest memories are those of the interactions with you and your fellow students. In formal meetings and gatherings, at sporting and other events, over meals and at brief meetings around campus, these encounters were rewarding. I have been most impressed with your dedication to your studies, your care for the welfare of others and your embrace of Spartan values such as diversity, engagement and excellence.

You may now depart a degreed Spartan with the confidence that you possess a solid foundation of knowledge and skills from which to proceed throughout your life. Thus equipped, you are ready to make a positive difference for yourself and the world around you. As my last counsel to you as your president, I would remind you that it is but a foundation for a life structure that will require the ongoing investment of your attention. For this, I urge you to continue to engage in the joys and challenges of life and to creatively apply your growing experience and wisdom to each new day.

I am aware your years here have seen more than their share of institutional and societal challenges. I want to recognize the many ways this class has responded to these challenges with a shared sense of purpose, even optimism, as your generation joins those obliged too soon to help carry society's burdens in extraordinarily challenging times. All of us would have preferred an uninterrupted time of personal growth and accomplishment surrounded by the entire academic community. But circumstances dictated otherwise, and you completed your final semester separated from your classmates, friends and campus community in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. As a university leader, as a parent and as a fellow scholar, I share your disappointment and I appreciate your understanding.

The circumstances that impacted this year's graduation season need not define your MSU experience. I hope you always feel welcome here on the banks of the Red Cedar and that you can and will return often. You now join the ranks of more than 600,000 living Spartan alumni worldwide, and I encourage you to continue your participation in the life of the university through MSU Alumni and other activities.

Please accept my very best wishes to you as you go forth, go confidently and Go Green!



Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President of MSU

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ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) is the undergraduate student body government of Michigan State University. Our mission is to enhance our individual and collective student experience through education, empowerment and advocacy by dedication to the needs and interests of students.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, ASMSU worked hard to fulfill this mission by maintaining and expanding services for the undergraduate student body population.

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