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THE GUARDIAN

- Official Newsletter of MSU Tower Guard -

This Month in MSU History

12/3/2016 - Zeke IV's first solo performance at an MSU Men's Basketball game the day after Zeke III died.

12/10/1856 - President Williams, as well as other college faculty at the time, designed the college's first curriculum. Each student was also expected to devote a small part of each day to manual labor in which he would receive a small pay.

Birthdays

12/7 - Ashley Rowell
12/7 - Bailey Bowcutt
12/12 - Trevor Dalrymple
12/13 - Pamela Jones
12/20 - Krishna Gogineni
12/24 - Jordyn Kriegl
12/29 - Leila Melissa Wanjiru Mwangi
12/29 - Harrison Orwig
12/30 - Harrison Sykes

Semester Recap from Madi!

Greetings, Tower Guard!

As we come to the end of our first semester together, I wanted to reflect on what we have accomplished so far, as well as what we are working towards. Every Tower Guard member, past and present, have shared the same goal during their membership: connect with peers and other RCPD students, uphold the pillars of Tower Guard, work to earn the hours requirement, and overall make the most out of their time in Tower Guard. Our year is no exception, although it does come with the added challenge of being 100% virtual. Beginning with our induction ceremony, we have had an entirely unprecedented experience in Tower Guard. While the class of 2019-2020 was showing us the events and team building of previous years, it was hard not to reflect on how different our experience was going to be compared to previous years. However, we quickly came to realize just how important the work of Tower Guard was going to be given the circumstances of virtual learning.



Despite the challenges this year has posed, being remote has given us the opportunity to reflect on the true purpose of Tower Guard: to promote an inclusive and equitable campus environment at MSU. This goal is accomplished by partnering with students within the RCPD to provide them with the tools they need to be successful, and in a remote setting, this has meant a lot in terms of adaptation for Tower Guard. We are still able to connect with students within the RCPD, just a little differently. Through the BOND peer mentor program, Tower Guard members have been able to continue to directly mentor and form one on one relationships with students, replacing in-person meetings with texts and FaceTime calls. Instead of being in a gym, our members participate in adaptive sports by going to Zoom “smoothie” calls and other fun events. Our Spartan Ties and Spartan Study events still continue, with RCPD students now meeting directly with members over Zoom instead of in a library. We have seen a dramatic increase in the amount of captioning work done by Tower Guard this semester, as well as an increased need for all of our adaptive technologies. Instead of hayride and making the homecoming float, we have meditation nights and Kahoots. As for team building within Tower Guard, the best opportunities to meet everyone together come in the form of small breakout rooms in our general assembly meetings. Although our interactions with RCPD students look different this year, our relationships with them and each other are still very much real and an integral part of ensuring the success of Tower Guard’s mission.

In no way are our experiences in Tower Guard any less valuable or important than previous years. Although our connections with one another are formed online, they are just as authentic and valid. In some ways, this sometimes bizarre, unique experience allows us the opportunity to really reflect on the true meaning and importance of inclusivity, equity, and Tower Guard’s place at MSU. I am immensely proud of how Tower Guard has approached this first semester. Rather than focusing on the difficulties of virtual learning, we have come together to continue to provide services for those who need them and connect with one another. I dearly wish I could meet everyone in person, and I treasure the time and effort all of you have put into making this year just as meaningful as the preceding ones.

In the words of Tower Guard member Dylan McCarroll, this year has definitely been “distant, yet connected.” I am excited to continue to grow and learn with all of you in this upcoming semester, and wish everyone well for their finals.

“We know we can do anything, so we’re going to do everything we set our minds to.”

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

