

THE LANGFORD LETTERS

SERVING WITH CRU
AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | APRIL 2022



OUR SPRING BREAK CREW OUTSIDE OF CRU HEADQUARTERS IN ORLANDO; SOME OF MY FAVORITE FRESHMEN AT SPRING RETREAT

We Love Spring Break and Spring Retreat

Some synonyms for campus ministry: last minute ministry; interruption ready; not-sure-but-let's-try approach; flexibility-R-us; and we'll-get-a-headcount-when-we-arrive. Sometimes when I compare the crazy things we do and the relatively short planning and turnaround time in which we do them with similar outreaches or programs in our church, I laugh out loud.

Sometimes I think: "I'm too old for this!"

Our spring break trip to Orlando falls into these categories. The 50 students who participated grew personally and spiritually, in ministry skills and in depth of community. The Cru staff who led the trip defined grace and faith in the face of roadblock after roadblock in the weeks leading up to the trip.

When all was said and done, our students had places to stay; they had meeting space where they learned from MSU alumni who live in Orlando; they had time at a beach where they relaxed and had opportunities to share their faith; they bonded over dead geckos in pillowcases, torrential rain, shared sin struggles, and God's goodness. The overwhelming response was that the work and barriers we had to overcome were worth it.

Spring Retreat

Our annual Spring Retreat provided a great, final boost for our movement as we wind up the year. Filled with similar flexibility and steps of faith, but closer to home, the retreat is a long-time favorite of our students. One of the elements of the overnight is a time honoring our seniors. This portion ends

with us praying over them and commissioning them to take the Gospel where God sends them, followed by them leaving the retreat. Their absence is a sobering and empowering reminder to the remaining students of the need to fill in the gaps they will leave.

At the end of the year we try to provide as many face to face gatherings as we can. (I guess this is true of the beginning of the year too!) We want to give our students multiple chances to grow and prepare for their summers apart, as well as equip them for future leadership. *Thank you for enabling us to do this through your prayers and financial investments. Some days we really do feel tired, some days invigorated. It helps to know that God has provided YOU to partner with us as we reach out to students at MSU.*