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Feature Assignment

A Face Behind The MSU Birthday Party: Reiley Snavely

Missouri State University turned 116 years old last week. To celebrate the occasion, the Student Alumni Association joined together with several other organizations to plan a birthday party like no other.

Complete with music, trivia, cupcakes, painting, scavenger hunts, and an improv performance, Bears across campus had the opportunity to safely gather to honor 116 years of Missouri State.

While several individuals contributed to the success of this event, one in particular was integral in creating the celebration: Reiley Snavely.

Reiley Snavely, a senior at Missouri State, has been involved in SAA for nearly four years. Snavely has advanced through a variety of positions in SAA, including the social media chair, the VP of advancement, the VP of programming, and now, she serves as the president, a role that plays an important part in the planning of the MSU birthday party.

SAA began planning the birthday party in November, and things really picked up in March as they began pulling the last minute details of the event together.

On the day of the event, Snavely and her fellow executive board members made sure that the day was running smoothly. Although the COVID-19 pandemic altered how the birthday party usually functions, Snavely was pleased with how the event went.

“I feel great about everything we accomplished during the day and making sure people were having fun while celebrating MSU,” said Snavely. “I am incredibly happy with the turnout that we got considering many students are not on campus like they used to be.”

Snavely’s hard work was certainly appreciated both by those who worked with her to plan the event as well as students who attended the birthday party.

“I just recently joined SAA this semester, and the organization is small but mighty,” said Hope Sparks, an SAA member who worked with Snavely to plan the birthday celebration. “They do a lot more than I realized for the campus. I got to help with the promotional side of the event and worked at the SAA booth the day of the

birthday party. I really enjoyed being able to interact with all the students and spreading the word on what SAA does!"

Missouri State community members outside of SAA also appreciated the hard work that the organization put into the birthday party event.

Missouri State sophomore Jenna Sasse attended the birthday celebration and said "The birthday party was a super cute and fun way to celebrate the university! SAA did a wonderful job at putting together an event to involve students in recognizing our school."

Beyond her contribution to the fantastic Missouri State birthday party, Reiley has accomplished several other achievements in her time with SAA. One of her biggest accomplishments in the role is the opportunity she has to serve on the Missouri State University Alumni Association Board, as she gets to work with highly accomplished MSU alumni who are very passionate about everything SAA does. Snavely appreciates the ability to have a voice among such important alumni, as it is something not many undergraduates have the chance to experience.

In her day to day role as the president of SAA, Reiley spends her time focusing on the administration and advisement aspects of SAA. She attends a variety of meetings and often sends emails to SAA members, other organizations, and several other individuals, including University President Cliff Smart!

Snavely will be graduating in May, but she doesn't plan to leave Missouri State behind just yet. She will continue at Missouri State to earn her masters in Student Affairs in Higher Education. Reiley hopes to continue working on a college campus to help students find their path in college.

"I love the college atmosphere and am excited to find my place in that atmosphere!" Snavely said. Reiley Snavely is grateful for her time as an undergraduate at Missouri State University and for her involvement with SAA, and looks forward to her future at MSU.