

Last year when I was serving as SAC president, I had a meeting with Dustin, Leah and Deb about the future of SAC. During this meeting I was asked what I thought students would enjoy or like about a certain style of events. I remember taking a minute to reflect and then sharing that I had no idea because I had never approached programming as a consumer, but always a provider.

Being a part of leadership and involvement certainly provided a different college career than most of my peers at Xavier. I spent my weekends and nights planning and hosting events. I was invited to meet with members of administration and discuss the student experience. And I even traveled to attend a student programming convention. And while in some fleeting moments I have certainly pondered what college would have looked like without involvement, I know in my heart I would not trade my experience for anything.

I consider it a great privilege to see Xavier through the lens of student programming. It has taught me to lead with empathy and to always dig deeper into small interactions. Approach the student that came to the event alone and keep tabs when an event regular stops attending. When I joined SAC I quickly understood that we were not just planning events, but creating community.

Seeing Xavier through the lens of student programming taught me gratitude and to be thankful for everyone who makes up Xavier. I was able to see and learn about so much that happens behind the scenes at Xavier and understand how many people are actively working to make sure that each Musketeer feels safe and welcome.

Seeing Xavier through the lens of student programming taught me the importance of finding the fun. Getting involved helped me find my people and make this big campus smaller. On days and nights when we were particularly discouraged or unmotivated, we knew we had to find the fun and remember the why behind what we were doing.

I am grateful that Xavier and the OSI specifically created a space in which I could grow and flourish but also where I could be vulnerable and open about my experiences, negative and positive. And so, while spending almost every day in an office and every weekend at an event was certainly not the most traditional or expected college experience, I am beyond glad that I chose to see Xavier through the lens of student programming.