

Alumni Speaks

My name is Niranjana Pallipamula. I am a graduate of Spicer College in the year 1998. I graduated in two majors and one minor. I'm standing here because of Spicer Memorial College great success in my life. I have learned to complete all the tasks that I have been given because of the education that I received in Spicer College. I have excellent friends around me because of the social I have enjoyed there, and I am still a religious person. I am an Adventist because of the spiritual life I learned at Spicer College. All these put together have given me the best way of life. I really would like to appreciate the institution's beliefs and trust that the institution will continue to do its best for the rest of the community.



**Niranjana Pallipamula,
Maryland, USA.**

Students Speak



Leo Steve A. S.

The pandemic has been and still is a difficult time for everyone. Lockdown and Quarantine have become common to almost everyone, and each one has its own set of unique challenges and problems. As a student, I faced specific challenges that many of my peers could easily relate to. In this article, I will be sharing my experience as a university student learning online.

The most challenging aspect of having online classes is staying focused and in touch with my study material. Being in the same environment for almost the entire day makes it challenging to be attentive and focused. Attending classes becomes mundane and monotonous. Not due to the teachers or subjects but mainly due to the lack of change in the environment. Being in College or University meant a different form of education than High school, and it meant moving in between classes and gaining new experiences as independent or semi independent young adults.

Nevertheless, due to the pandemic, I was constrained from being home and my room for the most part. Another difficult aspect of learning online was a simple fact that it was all "online." Being online for me and many of my generations became associated with leisure activities, so having all our studies and learning online made it difficult as we became quickly and frequently distracted.

Learning and studying online made life very convenient for me. What I mean by the word "convenient" is that we were no longer required to get up and dress and get into the routine and mindset of preparing to learn. All we had to do was wake up, look presentable and attend classes. The new life-

style led many of us to become lethargic, lazy, and uninterested in following up properly in our classes. Another challenge I faced was dealing with and processing that my family, whom I was away from, had contracted the virus and were hospitalized. The unseen tragedy affected me emotionally and mentally and made it even more challenging to stay focused. All these distractions and challenges also challenged and affected my relationship with God. Not in terms of questioning or doubting Him but in terms of paying attention and spending time with Him. Ultimately, it was God's faithfulness and mercies that got us through. It is worth trusting God.

For me, being at home constantly meant that I mainly spent my time online on my phone or laptop watching TV shows, playing games, or passing my time doing other leisure activities. Of course, this was along with house chores and responsibilities, but that was not too different from regular day-to-day life before the pandemic. I was not affected by the pandemic directly in terms of contracting the virus, but I was affected, as many, if not all of us were, by the other restrictions and rules that we had to follow (of course, for our safety). Coping up with my studies proved to be a challenge due to the distraction of being online constantly. Though it proved to be more challenging, I managed to set aside time to try and stay in touch and be aware of what I was learning.

Having said all of this, I am pretty satisfied and grateful with how Spicer Adventist University has handled and responded to the Coronavirus pandemic. There is only so much a learning institution can do in the given circumstances for its students. In my opinion, Spicer Adventist University has done its best to provide us with students the means to continue and complete our college education.

In conclusion, having experienced both offline and online learning, I would say that I prefer to have offline classes. Although sometimes we students may complain or groan about physically attending class instead of our beds or desks at home, there is nothing like attending classes and learning offline. The experience is complete and fulfilling because we interact with our teachers and classmates.

**If you want to share your story being a
Spicerian, write to us at**

thespicerian@sau.edu.in