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Lucas Demetriades's Oral History

Interview by Michael Schultz on May 17, 2020

How has the pandemic impacted your life?

Everything has changed, which I believe has shocked all of us. I always try and view things in perspective and view how fortunate I am. My classes have been going fine, some of them are more difficult and others are more simplified and easier. As a physics major it has been a bit more difficult for me because I am used to discussing my answers with other students and working together to complete assignments, however this environment has limited these interactions. The quality of education we are receiving has decrease, which is not the fault of the professors, but that is what happens with online classes. Even though school has been more difficult in some ways, I have found that people are willing to reach out and have meaningful conversations. Some of my professors are going out the extra mile by checking on me which I appreciate their kindness. That lack of control makes me feel anxious like everyone else. This entire experience has forced me to take more responsibility for my own life and my actions. I do like that I get to create my own schedule and it has helped me grow as an individual. I think I have transitioned well, but it still has been a shock to my system. I didn't have anything lined up for this summer before the pandemic, but since then I have been trying to work at around Carleton and I hoping and can work on this sustainability project and possible live in Porch. I do feel a bit pissed about this an entire ordeal; however, I do recognize that how fortunate I am compared to a lot of people. I really do miss Carleton and I really hope it opens in the fall for in person classes.

How did you come up with the idea of a Minecraft server?

I first started thinking about creating a Minecraft server after the end of winter term. I was playing Minecraft with several of my friends during spring break and we talked about creating our own server and building Carleton. I thought the best way to reach out to the Carleton community was on the Overheard Carleton Facebook group. I thought people would not be that interested and would likely be ignored. However, it quickly blew up and I received so many questions and comments about the server. I felt responsible for the enthusiasm so I decided I would create a server even though I really did not know what I was doing at the time. It took me a while to figure out how to set up the server, but after several hours I managed to set one up even though I would probably do things different if I was to create a new server.

Have you had any issues running the server or encountered any other challenges?

I had a few technological glitches in the beginning, but I was able to figure them out. When the server was first set up, the first Carleton building replicated was the Skinner Chapel. A few days after it was built, several Carleton community members alerted me that someone went onto the server and grieved the chapel and destroyed most of it with TNT. There have been a few other instances where the chapel or other buildings have been damaged, so I have rolled back the server, which seems to disincentivize the effort put into destroying the builds. Additionally, some of the vandalism was less malicious such as someone building a dick and repeatedly rebuilding it once the server was rolled back. Onetime some one placed unlit TNT on every building, but did not blow up anything, but eventually I decided to remove it. Some people as placed a bunch of rainbow sheep in the bald spot, which was funny. I have had to ban some people because of the vandalism. It has been mostly through trial and error by looking at the log

of who was on and when the damage took place. Some of the damage we think might have been caused by some St. Olaf students, but we are not entirely sure about that.

What has been the most rewarding thing about running the server and what are your future goals for the server?

I am very touched that people care so much about this server. I was shocked by the kindness and how many people to help build Carleton virtually. The builds on the server are incredible and I hope we can continue to make progress this summer. I cannot work on the server right now because school is keeping me busy, but I hope to finish building it this summer. I hope the community will continue to grow and we can make some great memories on the server. I work for admission, so I offered to provide guided tours on the Minecraft world as an alternative to visiting Carleton once it is finished. I have not heard back from them, but I am sure I can work something out with them. However, it is still important to understand that the server is not the same thing as Carleton, but it can help you feel more connected to the college and community.