

“Everywhere there are going to be different kinds of people, and [they] are going to interact differently, and if I can have a common ground with [them], we’re going to connect easier. It’s a basic connection that I have. ...I think that’s going to help me in the future because I can relate to a lot of different people.”

Much of her volunteer work traces back to her desire to give back and help others who share her culture and background. Lizama-Rodas’ mom raised her and her three sisters, one of whom is special needs, while working two jobs.

Starting her junior year of high school, Lizama-Rodas began volunteering for the Chambersburg Hispanic American Center (CHAC) for a few hours after school each day. She said she loved it so much that she still returns to volunteer with CHAC several times each month. Whether it’s answering phones or trying to connect more people to the center’s services, Lizama-Rodas said it’s rewarding to help others who are experiencing similar challenges that she once faced. “For me, it’s a sense of giving back to my community.”

Lizama-Rodas also mentors high school students through the Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12, which is based in Chambersburg, and works with the Modern Languages Department at Ship. Many of the students who are a part of the program speak a language other than English. In the summer, she volunteers at Building our Pride in Chambersburg, a program for low-income students.

Most recently, Lizama-Rodas was voted vice president of SU’s Spanish club, which she has been a member of for the past year-and-a-half. She hopes to revamp the club and extend its outreach. “I want to get all of the students in the Modern Languages Department involved in the club as well,” she said.

Lizama-Rodas plans to get her master’s degree and might pursue a PhD one day. Ultimately, she said she would like to use her Spanish on an international level by helping the US government communicate with people from Spanish-speaking countries. “It would be rewarding for me because I would be doing something good for my country, for my cultures.”

Natalie Eastwood '17 is an intern for *SU Magazine*.

JASON GREENSPAN '17

Hometown: Rockville, Maryland | **Major:** Marketing | **Year:** Junior



When did you realize that you wanted to help others with testicular cancer? About a week after I was diagnosed. I wanted to help others who have the same fear that I had when I was diagnosed. Not many people know about this type of cancer, and I want to help spread awareness.

What message do you want to spread through your fundraiser, Stamp Out Cancer Now? Testicular Cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in young men between the ages of 15 and 35, so it is very important for men around that age to perform monthly testicular self-exams.

How have you spread awareness at Ship? I am the vice president of the Colleges Against Cancer club at Ship. I have been involved with CAC since my freshman year. Every year since I’ve been at Ship, I’ve had my fundraiser at the Relay for Life on campus.

What was something that helped you get through your treatment? My mom took off work for about three months and was with me every day during my treatment and all of my appointments. My fundraiser helped keep my mind off of treatment some days because it gave me something to do to be productive while I was at home most of the day. I knew that I needed to be a fighter, because I had a future after being in remission.

What’s one piece of advice you would give to someone with testicular cancer? Hope is so powerful, and it’s so important. Always keep looking forward beyond treatment, and always keep a positive mindset.

Where do you see Stamp Out Cancer Now in five years? At minimum, double my fundraiser donations to the LIVESTRONG Foundation. I also would like to have my fundraiser on a national television talk show.

What was it like to be featured on ABC27’s Good Day PA? I had a great time! I was able to talk about my cancer story, my fundraiser, and the importance of testicular self-exams. I had never been on television before that day, so it was so cool going to the studio, being on the set, and seeing everything that goes on backstage for the show.

What is your dream job? My dream job would be doing advertising, promotions, and event planning for a cancer foundation.

What’s one thing you would change about your past? Honestly, absolutely nothing! Being diagnosed and enduring chemotherapy has made me the person I am today. I am stronger than I used to be, and I make sure to cherish every day. I used to take being healthy for granted but I don’t anymore. I’m just glad that I’m now able to make a difference and help others from my own personal experience.