

NEWSLETTER OF THE
GOSHEN COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

COMMEDIA

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Noemi Salvador wins Peace
Oratorical Contest **p. 4**

The Record is Newspaper of the
Year; Globe top station **pp. 8-9**

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RIVERBEND FILM FESTIVAL COMES TO DOWNTOWN GOSHEN

Celebrating its 15th year, the film festival moved from South Bend to Goshen. Faculty and students in the Communication Department contributed to the festival, which packed out the historic Goshen Theater on opening night.

SUMMER 2016

COMMBRIEFS

Elizabeth Derstine wins Everence national video contest

For the second time in the past three years, a Goshen College student has brought home the award for the Everence national video contest called “Money Talks.”

Elizabeth Derstine, a film and English writing double major at Goshen College, claimed the award for her video, “Money Talks: The Wallet Diaries.”

The video personifies the wallet of a Goshen College student as the wallet confesses that it doesn’t have many friends—only acquaintances that come and go—until the wallet comes across an Everence debit card that sticks around.

“I was hoping to share the idea that money is important, but what can be equally important is how you chose to spend it,” said Derstine. “The final shot of the short shows how what gave the main character joy was using money for people and investing in relationships.”

The Everence Money Talks video contest is an opportunity for people ages 15-25 to create a video expressing a message about the role of finances in their lives.

Derstine credits much of her success in filmmaking to the hands-on experiences she gained through her production classes and FiveCore Media, Goshen College’s award-winning video production company.



Photo courtesy of FiveCore Media

Elizabeth Derstine, who graduated in May, works for Mennonite Central Committee.

Co-curricular Leaders for 2016-2017

The Communication Department appointed Jordan Waidelich as editor-in-chief for The Record in fall semester 2016. In the spring semester Maddie Birky will edit the publication. Both students are seniors.

Leaders for GCTV (The Correspondent) are Tim Litwiller, programmer; Karina Flores, Correspondent news director; and Dalton Shetler, GCTV operations manager.

JD Hershberger will serve as station manager for WGCS, 91.1 The Globe.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Kyle Hufford

In July 2015 Kyle shared on two different panels, one on storytelling and the other on international study abroad, at the Mennonite Church USA convention. In April Kyle also was a featured speaker on two different panels at the annual Broadcast Educators Association’s national convention in Las Vegas. The panels focused on connecting students with community projects and using the iPad in production classes. In June Kyle, the general manager of FiveCore Media, attended the NATAS Lower Great Lakes Regional Emmy Awards banquet. FiveCore Media was nominated for its second Emmy for the 2015 Festival of Carols TV program.

Under Kyle’s direction, FiveCore continues to attract clients from all over the region and this year has produced more videos than ever before. You can check out FiveCore’s work on the newly designed website. (FiveCoreMedia.com) In April, Kyle was on the planning committee for the River Bend Film Festival. Along with FiveCore students he helped produce promotion videos for the event and covered the various activities of the festival over the three day engagement in downtown Goshen. The festival was a huge success and the communication department will continue to partner with it for years to come.

“A Justice That Heals”

The producer and the priest and families featured in the documentary “A Justice That Heals” will visit Goshen College on Sept. 6 for a viewing and discussion of the documentary.

“A Justice That Heals” tells the story of a young man who kills another young man in Chicago, and the Catholic priest who helps lead the families on a path to forgiveness and reconciliation.



Carrie Lee Bland-Kendall interviews Jim Strouse, a film director and Goshen native, while Tim Litwiller, center left, and Jesse Bontreger record for FiveCore video.

Riverbend Film Festival in Goshen

For a decade and a half, River Bend Film Festival has been dazzling crowds by showcasing Indiana's filmmaking talent, as well as featuring films from around the globe.

In its 15th year, the River Bend Film Festival moved from South Bend to Goshen, transitioning from a conference center to an assortment of downtown venues like the Goshen Theater; Art House, an intimate black box theater; and Ignition Music Garage, a vinyl record store that was named by the Americana Music Association as one of the best live music venues in the country.

In collaboration with Eyedart Creative Studio, Goshen Theater, Art House and many other local businesses, the festival attracted hundreds of people during the three days.

"Moving the River Bend Film Festival from South Bend to Goshen is a really big deal," said Jesse Bontreger, a senior and FiveCore Media employee. "I think it speaks volumes about the support for the arts here in Goshen. There's a real culture of creativity here. Goshen has such a vibrant arts scene and the community really embraced and supported the film festival. It really shows how much this city cares about the arts."

Bontreger was one of many Goshen College students involved with the festival. Organizers reached out to students with opportunities for social media internships, conducting video interviews and more.

Dave Kendall, associate professor of communication, participated as an interviewer and discussion facilitator for all of the public Q&A sessions with the visiting film directors. Both Dave and Kyle Hufford served on the festival planning committee.

Students who weren't producing live coverage of the event at 91.1 The Globe or conducting personal interviews with

FiveCore Media were enjoying the many film showings and various other events.

One festival event called on the talents of other faculty members, including Jessica Baldanzi, associate professor of English, and Regina Shands-Stoltzfus, assistant professor of Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies, and students, as they were cast in the live reading of Jim Strouse's latest screenplay.

Many of the filmmakers whose work was featured had Goshen ties, including Strouse and Jon Helmuth, who attended Goshen College; Jordan Hodges, a Goshen native, was also present as a writer, director and actor at the festival.



Tim Litwiller captures a festival moment on film.

The festival did more than just show the films; a final award ceremony was held, celebrating not only awards for best picture, but also giving awards for best actor/actress, best screenplay and best picture, among others. And while the festival's feature films brought many to Goshen Theater, festival-goers also viewed short films, bumpers, student short films and more throughout the weekend.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Duane Stoltzfus

In October, Duane delivered a keynote lecture at the Saskatchewan Hutterian Educators Association and presented a paper at the Wisconsin Workshop, an international symposium sponsored by the Department of German and Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Both presentations were related to his book *Pacifists in Chains: The Persecution of Hutterites during the Great War*. He's looking forward to starting down a related research trail. Whereas the book focused on the treatment of conscientious objectors during World War I, the new project turns to science and medical experiments involving conscientious objectors during World War II. In February he spent several days in the archives at Swarthmore College and in May visited libraries in Washington, D.C. In July he directed the fourth annual Write on Sports Goshen camp for students in middle school.

Dave Kendall

Dave Kendall just finished his first year as an associate professor of communication at Goshen College. In addition to teaching film, digital media production, broadcasting and oral communication, Kendall supervised Goshen College's news program, *The Correspondent*. His involvement in this co-curricular was made extra special when several of the students won Indiana Association of School Broadcasters (IASB) awards. He and his spouse, Carrie Lee, were also key organizers in the 15th Annual River Bend Film Festival as it made its debut in Goshen. Kendall conducted coffee talks and Q&A sessions with filmmakers as well as organized GC student volunteers for the fest. His school year rounded out with a fruitful trip to the BEA and NAB conventions in Las Vegas with his departmental colleagues. "This year at Goshen College has been a wonderful experience," he said. "Great students, wonderful colleagues and meaningful experiences have made this a true dream job."

Jason Samuel on Americana music and college radio



Photo courtesy of Com-Mar

Jason Samuel in the Globe studio with Benjamin Kelly, a 2013 graduate.

How do you describe your show and how do you define what you play?

It's called "Wednesday Night Wax" because I like to play a lot of vinyl. Sometimes I'll go four straight hours spinning discs. Descriptors can be so hard on stations and formats. Just think of how some "country" music is "too country" for "country" radio. Trying to explain our format to a listener is complex. In short, we play music you won't hear on other radio stations in our market: roots rock, curbside troubadours, jam bands, college classics,

deep track icons, alt-country ... as Robert Earl Keen says, "The road goes on forever."

Where do you see Americana radio going in the future?

Converging. Growing. Expanding across genres. I think the Americana Music Association has done a lot to help grow the format. A Grammy category and the continued popularity of the annual festival in Nashville are exciting steps toward the mainstream. Not that I think Americana in and of itself will be

mainstream, but at least the artist will hopefully see more opportunities from it. Look at Chris Stapleton. Keep an eye on Aubrie Sellers. Is that Red Light's doing or Americana radio? Probably both ... and a few other factors.

Professor Jason Samuel was interviewed for a column in No Depression, the quarterly journal of roots music. Here is an excerpt from the interview, with the full article available at: <http://nodepression.com/article/jason-samuel-leading-college-americana-radio-movement>.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Anna Groff, 2006, is the new executive director of Dove's Nest: Faith Communities Keeping Children & Youth Safe. She works from a home office in Tucson, Ariz. She formerly served as editor of *The Mennonite*, the national denominational magazine.

Trisha Handrich, 2011, works as a development associate with Mennonite Mission Network in Elkhart. Earlier, she served as assistant news director and on-air announcer for KLG radio in Algona, Iowa.

Ezra Ocubamichael, 2014, and his wife, Winta, work for the Africa desk of the Voice of America. Vic Stoltzfus, former president of Goshen College, and his wife, Marie, traveled to Washington in the fall to attend the baptismal service for Ezra and Winta's son, Nathan.

Yolo Lopez Perez, 2012, and her husband, Sergio, are serving as missionaries in Panama on behalf of Yisrael Connection. To help support their ministry, they use video production skills to make ads and promotional pieces for small businesses in the region. "We are literally living

day to day and trusting that He will provide as He has in the past," Yolo writes. For more information, see hishandsandfeetca.com.

Samuel Prince Rosario, 2013, was accepted into Cal Western School of Law in San Diego. He plans to participate in the school's California Innocence Project, a nonprofit clinical program in which law professors and students work to free wrongly convicted prisoners in the state.

Chagan Sanathu, 2012, moved from Washington to California to take a position at the Greenlining Institute's Leadership Academy in Berkeley. The Greenlining Institute is a policy, research, organizing and leadership institute devoted to racial and economic justice. Chagan is the Casa Joaquin program manager, which provides support for first-generation UC Berkeley students.

Kate Stoltzfus, 2014, is commentary associate with Education Week, the leading national news source for K-12 teachers, leaders and policy makers. The publication is based in Bethesda, Md.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Jerron Jamerson '14

Jerron Jamerson, a 2014 graduate and former Maple Leaf basketball player, signed his first professional basketball contract with the Moncton Miracles, a charter member of the National Basketball League of Canada.

During his career as a Maple Leaf, Jamerson averaged four rebounds a game, 16 points a game for 964 total points, and 84 total blocks. During his junior year he finished 11th in the Crossroads League in scoring and was named to the All-Crossroads League Newcomer Team. The following year he received All-Crossroads League Honorable Mention.

After graduating from GC, Jamerson continued his basketball career with the Danville Riverhawks in the Premier Basketball League, but only four games into the beginning of his 2016 season with the Riverhawks, he received a call that confirmed a deal with the National Basketball League of Canada. Two days after he received that call, he flew out to Moncton, New Brunswick.

During his first two weeks in Canada, Jamerson played in a total of six games for the Miracles.

"Basketball-wise it was a bit of a transition just getting used to the style of play, but I've settled in now," Jamerson said. "All of my teammates, coaches and even the fans have done a great job welcoming me in and making me feel like I'm at home."



FIVECORE MEDIA INTERVIEW WITH IRA GLASS



Maple Scholars Research The Record, Downtown Theater

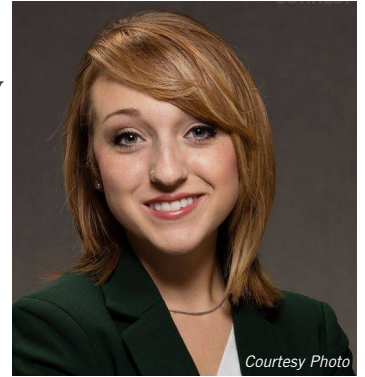
Two students advanced the digitization of The Record newspaper and created a long-form documentary feature on the Goshen downtown theater as part of the Maple Scholars summer research program.

Hannah Sauder picked up where Kolton Nay left off in 2014 in digitizing copies of The Record as a Maple Scholar. Issues from more than a dozen years of The Record can now be searched by topic or word courtesy of the college library. She also prepared a scholarly paper on gender patterns in op-ed publishing in The Record.

Meanwhile, Riley Mills interviewed former concessionaires, projectionists and others as a way of telling the story of the Goshen Theater in an extended documentary. A \$13.7

million renovation is planned for the theater to create a flexible use space for Broadway shows, dance and musical performances, cinema and more.

The students formed a community of scholars, sharing their research at colloquia on Fridays and visiting one another's project sites during the week. Kyle Hufford served as faculty mentor for the theater project, and Eric Bradley and Duane Stoltzfus for the Record project.



Riley Mills

Goshen Camp Combines Sports and Writing in Winning Team

The fourth annual Goshen Write on Sports camp was held at Goshen College in July, with nearly 30 middle-school students participating, a record number for the camp.

Students interviewed Tony Janzen, a Goshen College all-conference forward who played professionally in Cambodia; Jerron Jamerson, a 2014 GC grad who plays professional basketball; and Michelle Marquis, a Goshen High graduate who became the first USA BMX certified coach and who for nearly two decades worked with Indy driver Lyn St. James.

Students also learned interviewing techniques from journalists with The Goshen News and The Elkhart Truth. Field trips included a visit to Notre Dame and a South Bend Cubs game. Students were also given the opportunity to interview two Notre Dame football players and two South Bend Cubs players.

Students wrote sports stories and created videos during the two weeks; their work was published online and in a camp magazine.

The camp is free, with scholarships made possible by the Exchange Club of Elkhart County, the Maple Leaf Athletic Club, MutualBank, United Way of Elkhart County, the Windward Foundation and other donors.

The Goshen camp is a partnership of Goshen College and Goshen Community Schools and is an extension of the Write on Sports organization, based in New Jersey.

Byron Yake, a former national sports editor with The Associated Press and a Goshen College graduate, established the program in 2006. The Goshen camp was the first Write on Sports camp launched outside of New Jersey.

Students watched and participated in interviews with reporters and athletes, including Jerron Jamerson, who will play professional basketball in Australia this fall.



JUNIOR NOEMI SALVADOR WINS 2016 C. HENRY SMITH PEACE ORATORICAL CONTEST



Photo courtesy of Hannah Sauder

With her speech titled “Privatizing Agony, Protecting Sacred Waters,” Noemi Salvador won the college’s C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest on March 15, with a top prize of \$500 and a chance to enter her speech in the bi-national intercollegiate oratorical contest. Salvador, a junior peace, justice and conflict studies major from Kitu Cara, Ecuador, spoke about the privatization of water resources and its effect on communities.

“Let’s honor our moral fiber and choose which side you are on,” she said. “To be honest with you, I will rather fight until the day I die with the help of the Creator, than wake up to explain to my children why their home was destroyed and their water privatized, and we as a society did nothing about it.”

Christina Hofer, a senior theater major from Dolton, S.D., was runner-up with her speech titled “Discrediting the Single Story of Islam.”

Coming in third place, Morgan Yordy, a sophomore history and peace, justice and conflict studies major from Rochelle, Ill., spoke on “All About That Bass: It’s Time for a Body Revolution.”

The two other speakers included Alma Rosa Carrillo, a junior interdisciplinary (nursing, sociology, peace, justice and conflict studies) major from Mexico City, Mexico, whose

speech was titled “The Other Side of the Fence,” and Peter Meyer Reimer, a senior biology and interdisciplinary major from Goshen, whose speech was titled “What Evil Is, And Why It’s Us, You Included.”

In her winning speech, Salvador pointed out that oil and mining extraction companies are the source of much contamination and dislocation, justifying their actions in terms of economics.

“But tell me how can our lives be priced?” Salvador asked.

Salvador called for her audience to protect these indigenous communities and their water by not conforming to the system we live in and by putting pressure on these big companies and the government to move into an era free from fossil fuels.

“Imagine how many lives we will save if we dismantle this system we live in,” she said. “Water is essential. Who controls her, controls us.”

The judges for the contest included Regina Shands Stoltzfus, assistant professor of peace, justice and conflict studies at Goshen College; Carrie Lee Bland-Kendall, a local singer, actor and producer; and Michael Yeakey, an English teacher at Bethany Christian Schools. Duane Stoltzfus, professor of communication at Goshen College, and Achieng Agutu, a sophomore public relations and Spanish major, directed the contest.

Top Department Presenters at Academic Symposium

Jordan Waidelich and Paul Zehr and Christina Hofer were named the top presenters at the 18th annual Goshen College Student Academic Symposium on April 2.

Zehr and Hofer presented on “Gender Parity in GC Theater.” Waidelich, speaking on “Gender Equality in Academia,” presented her research findings on gender concerns among Goshen College faculty. She was invited to share her research at the monthly teaching faculty meeting in May.

The symposium is intended to acknowledge original undergraduate and graduate research at Goshen and to encourage contributions to the larger conversation about knowledge in the academy.



Photo courtesy of Com-Mar

Paul Zehr shares research on gender concerns in the Theater Department.

2015-2016 Department Awards

The GC Communication Department has recorded another successful year across several different programs including film, TV, radio and newspaper.

FiveCore Media received two **Telly Awards** and was nominated for a regional **Emmy award**. Students received Telly's highest award, a Silver Telly, for their work on "The Shopper," a commercial for the Goshen Chamber of Commerce as a part of the Good of Goshen Campaign. A six-video campaign for Merry Lea's educational programs earned FiveCore a bronze Telly.

Broadcasting students also won four video awards and two radio awards from the **Broadcast Education Association**.

"This is beyond any of our expectations based on the level of competition and number of entries this year," said Kyle Hufford, assistant professor of communication and FiveCore Media general manager. "It's hard to quantify how extraordinary it is for a school our size and with our resources to be mentioned in the same breath with the likes of USC, Arizona State or the University of Alabama. This does not normally happen in our discipline."

Additionally students and 91.1 The Globe (WGCS) won first place in two categories and were named finalists in one other category in the **College Broadcasters, Inc. (CBI) National Student Radio Production Awards**.

For the fourth time in five years, Goshen College earned the title of Indiana Radio School of the Year in the 2016 **Indiana Association of School Broadcasters' (IASB)** college competition, making it the winningest program in the contest's history. Goshen College was also a runner up for Indiana Television School of the Year, narrowly missing the title after winning it four times in the past six years.

Goshen College's radio station, 91.1 FM The Globe (WGCS), took home a first place Spectrum Award at the **Indiana Broadcasters Association's (IBA)** 28th annual awards, the highest professional broadcasting award in the state of Indiana. The Globe won for "Local Community Involvement"

with an anti-bullying PSA, written by Danielle Kerschhackl, a senior broadcasting and ASL double major from Elmwood Park, Ill.

The Goshen College Record claimed 28 **Indiana Collegiate Press Association (ICPA)** awards, including "Newspaper of the Year," in a competition among Indiana colleges. "These awards reflect the dedication and excellent work of dozens of students, who combine their talents in the newsroom each semester," said Duane Stoltzfus, professor of communication and adviser to The Record.

Samples of works from the winning students can be found at fivecoremedia.com, goshen.edu/gctv globeradio.org and record.goshen.edu.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Indiana Association of School Broadcasters

Radio

First place

- Radio Sportscast: Dalton Shetler
- Radio News Report: Victor Garcia
- Radio In-Depth: Dalton Shetler
- Radio Bit or Skit: Laura Hoover, JD Hershberger

Second place

- Radio Imaging: Victor Garcia and Maria Bischoff
- Radio News Report: Brad Stoltzfus
- Radio Copywriting: JD Hershberger
- Radio Newscast: Victor Garcia, Brad Stoltzfus and Spencer Buttermore
- Radio Bit or Skit: Samantha Horsch and Colin Samuel

Third place

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- Radio In-Depth: Maria Bischoff and Victor Garcia

Television

First place

- Corporate Video: Carley Wyse
- Television Anchor: Jesse Bontreger
- Short Film: Elizabeth Derstine, Jared Zook, Benson Hostetter, David Leaman-Miller

Second place

- Television Non-News Program: Abby Deaton, Jake Smucker, Carley Wyse, and Elizabeth Derstine
- Corporate Video: David Leaman-Miller

Third place

- Television Spot Production: Abby Deaton
- Music Video: Landon Weldy
- Television Sports Program: Dalton Shetler

- Cinematography: Elizabeth Derstine
- Video Sound Design: Tim Litwiller

Broadcast Education Association

Radio

- Signature Station – Runner Up: WGCS
- On Air Personality – Third Place: Victor Garcia

Video

- Student Narrative Video – Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Derstine, David Leaman-Miller, Jared Zook and Benson Hostetter
- Student Commercial Spot – Honorable Mention: Jake Smucker and Abby Deaton
- Student Studio Multicam Production – Honorable Mention: "Festival of Carols 2014"
- Faculty Promotional Video – Award of Excellence: "Wooden Music"

RECORD NAMED NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Staff members also collected a number of individual awards from the Indiana Collegiate Press Association.

First-place

- Grace Weaver, Best Feature Story
- Hayley Mann, Best Entertainment Story
- Achieng Agutu, Best Opinion Column
- Ashley Davenport, Liz Tecca and Leah Stebly for a series of Q&As with international students
- Alex Pletcher, Best Feature Photo
- Isaiah Friesen, Best Sports Photo

- Hannah Sauder, Best Photo Essay/Picture Story
- Emma Koop Liechty, Best Informational Graphic
- Katie Hurst, Best Front-Page Design
- Staff members for the “Goshen Election 2015” guide

Second-place

- The Nov. 12 issue, Best Single Issue
- Katie Hurst, Best Overall Design
- Karina Flores, Ashley Davenport and Liz Tecca, Best In-Depth Story
- Maddie Birky, Best Continuous Coverage of a Single Story

- Hannah Sauder, Best News Photo and Best Feature Photo
- Miranda Schlabach, Best Sports Photo

Third-place

- Grace Weaver and Danielle Kershhackl, Best In-Depth Story
- Danielle Kershhackl, Best Sports News Story
- Elsa Lantz, Sports Features
- Sadie Gustafson-Zook, Best Review
- Katie Hurst, Best Special Section
- Hannah Sauder, Best News Photo
- Reuben Ng, Best Editorial Cartoon



Photo courtesy of Duane Stoltzfus

Award winners, from left: Achieng Agutu, Ashley Davenport, Jordan Waidelich, Kayla Riportella, Grace Weaver, Sadie Gustafson-Zook, Maria Bischoff, Armarlie Grier.

Journalism students contribute to Elkhart Truth Series

Eight students contributed to a three-part series that The Elkhart Truth published in May on Elkhart County’s growing Latino community. The series was entitled “Hispanics at Home?” and sought to take a closer look at “how well the county’s growing Latino population is melding with the non-Hispanic residents and what it’s like to be a Latino living in a community that is still predominantly white.”

The series included interviews with dozens of Latinos, including high school and college students, undocumented immigrants, small-business owners, community activists and factory workers.

The Elkhart Truth invited the team of Goshen College students and ABC 57 News to serve as reporting partners.

“This partnership is enabling The Truth to provide its readers with an even broader look at what life is like for area Latinos,” said Mark Maley, managing editor. “Plus, it provides these students – some of whom will enter journalism after they graduate – with the opportunity for a professional experience that goes beyond the classroom.”

Students who contributed to “Hispanics at Home?” were Maria Bischoff, Karina Flores, Victor Garcia, Christina Hofer, Katie Hurst, Chandler Ingle, Kayla Riportella and Jordan Waidelich.



Photo courtesy of Com-Mar

The reporting team included, from left, Karina Flores, Katie Hurst, Christina Hofer and Victor Garcia.

DEPARTMENT RECEPTION

The Communication Department joined seniors and their families in a celebratory reception during commencement weekend in April.



Clockwise from top photo: Mikhail Fernandes with his father and Jason Samuel; Balazs Pirot with his parents; Ashley Davenport with her mother; Duane Stoltzfus; the Yost Room in Umble Center; Elizabeth Derstine with her parents and Kyle Hufford.

Photos courtesy of Com-Mar

Why working for FiveCore Media changed my life

Karen Ramos ('20) reflects on her internship

I believe it is every Goshen senior's dream to leave the town right after high school, and I was one of those students. I didn't think Goshen had the opportunities that I was looking for because it was such a small town. I wanted to experience the cliché idea of being a college student in a faraway city. I felt trapped in this town and the only place I ever felt comfortable in was room 1080, the GTV studio.

Since sophomore year, I participated in Goshen High School's GTV program. I was the main editor, a main anchor, occasionally played other roles, and I produced videos for the show. This was the class where my passion for video production began, and by my senior year I was awarded GTV MVP for all I contributed to the show and class.

After high school my plan was to move to a city like Chicago for college. I believed it was full of more opportunities that I knew would help me go far, but I didn't even have a plan. It was so overwhelming because I didn't want to fail; I wanted to go far. Then, I found myself being introduced to Kyle Hufford and Jake Smucker at FiveCore

Media at Goshen College, a company I had never heard of in my life.

I didn't know what to expect when I began working here at the beginning of the spring semester. I thought it would be just like working for GTV, but now that I have a week left at my internship and my senior year is almost over as well, I realized that this experience changed my life.

Spending two days a week on Goshen College's campus and in the communication building, I became comfortable with the campus, the department, the people; and for the first time in 18 years I became comfortable with this town, making it harder to leave.

I cherished every day I got to work here, whether it was filming an interview, working after school hours, during school hours or even during spring break. Everything I learned here I took back to GTV and applied it to my work and to the show. Working at the River Bend Film Festival with FiveCore was my favorite experience here. It made me realize that there is so much going on in Goshen that I didn't want to miss out on more.

Every minute spent labeling videos for two straight hours, cleaning lenses or equipment, editing interviews and B-roll, sitting in the same office for a full semester, learning new techniques and ideas was an unforgettable opportunity that will help me get to where I want to be.

I'm comfortable with the campus, the department, the staff, the students, but most importantly this town and it's because my internship teacher placed me on a campus, where I would find my new comfort zone.

Room 36 at Goshen College: I spent most of my time working here and and falling in love with a campus I never considered. It makes me happy knowing that there is a little part of me that I'll be leaving behind, there is a little piece of me in some videos. I made a certain cut that made it to the final draft of a video, I fixed the audio level to a certain sound byte, I added a certain B-roll shot that helps tell the story and that makes me so happy.

I'm excited to call Goshen College my home, and I thank FiveCore for the amazing experience.



Photo courtesy of FiveCore Media



Courtesy Photo

Pat Lehman, center, meets with, left, Patrick and Jennifer James, former Jamaica SST lecturers, and Jackie and Byron Hanna, former Jamaica SST coordinators.

Sacred Spaces: Holy Spaces

Pat Lehman reflects on her sabbatical experience.

I sat in the soft light of a February Florida Sunday afternoon and began to listen. This story was different than any I had heard before, and I could feel the pain and the transformation this divorced woman had experienced. The major focus of my sabbatical research has been gathering stories of divorced Mennonite women and writing the first draft of a play based on these gathered stories. Although I was eager to hear the story of each divorce, I was after much, much more. I wondered: How did these women survive what can only be described as a major trauma and rebuild their lives following these experiences?

As I interviewed women in Pennsylvania, New York, Florida and other states, I found myself less amazed at their stories and more amazed at their courage and transformation. Whether a story of betrayal after many years of marriage or a story of the need to survive an increasingly difficult relationship, they were profound and moving beyond anything I had imagined when this project began. I often left the interview needing a long amount of time to process and reflect and recognize that I had been on holy ground as I listened and took notes. Audio recordings assured that I could recheck any facts or direct quotes.

I traveled to the individual women's homes, sitting in their living rooms, sun rooms or kitchens, asking questions and listening...listening...listening. I interviewed one mother/daughter duo who both experienced divorce. I interviewed women who simply could and cannot imagine even now that they have gone through a divorce. I interviewed women who would gladly give their right arms today if they could have prevented the pain of divorce for their children. I interviewed women who can breathe now that they been divorced, finally feeling free from verbal or physical abuse.

Along the way I wrote and reflected while on a visit to Jamaica at my former SST location where I connected with my family and individuals who had hosted students in 2007 and 2008. Writing and reflecting by the Caribbean Sea gave me time to ponder the significance of my gathered stories and also to prepare for additional interviews.

Finally toward the end of my sabbatical I began writing a play in which the women (with different names and locations) share their stories. Much of the script will use direct quotes of the women themselves; this play falls within the category of ethnodrama in which the actual words of people interviewed are used by the playwright to create the play. In 2009 I wrote a similar play

based on the stories of Mennonite women of color; it was called "Heavenly Voices" and was performed over 10 times since its premier performance in the summer of 2010.

I hope that this play will also be performed in a variety of venues, helping audiences to better understand and empathize with the experiences of divorced women.

I share here some individual quotes from the women I have interviewed. Most of the comments will show up in the final play, so this really is a preview!

"I told my son that his mother and father loved him but that sometimes Mommy and Daddy do not get along. My ex-spouse did not spend time with Nathaniel; he was neglected and abandoned when he was with Eli."

"Sam has only seen our daughter once in the last six years. He has seen Marv more often, but their relationship has been on-again, off-again with painful lapses in communication, ugly words and, at least on Marv's part, the need and hope for more."

"I had a wonderful therapist, pastor and friends. I went from a victim to one who will stand up for myself. I am empowered. I will never be a victim again! I taught this to my daughters."

What have I learned? That we humans are fragile folks who long for the opportunity to share our stories. That the act of telling our story validates our own experiences and those whose stories we listen to. That story is sacred and that the sharing of story brings healing, both to the teller and the listener. Did I know this before? Yes. Do I know it more deeply now? Absolutely!

Additionally, although the focus of my sabbatical has been research and writing, I also had time to play with my granddaughter Nari, visit friends and family far and near, and read novels for the pure joy of reading. I am grateful to Goshen College for this opportunity to "sabbatical" and be rejuvenated as I begin teaching again in the fall of 2016.