Congratulations to the Communication Department’s graduating seniors of 2011! (Left to right, back row) Kate Walker, Brett Bridges, Kevin Kleptz, Jacob Landis-Eigsti, Chris Johnston, Kelsey Shue, Anita Fonseca, Alicia Schwartzentruber, Katelyn Yoder, Christine Ludin; (front row) Katie Gencay, Martin Brubaker, Trisha Handrich, Moises Santos, Adriel Santiago, Alysha Landis.

‘Beautiful’ Finish:
Filmmaker & graduating senior Jacob Landis-Eigsti earns awards for Nashville artist’s music video shot on and around campus. >> p. 3

Speaking Justice:
Speech on immigrant labor by sophomore Jair Hernandez wins top prize at C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest >> p. 8

And the Winner is...
91.1 The Globe, named ‘Best College Station in the Nation.’ The Record and The Correspondent also take honors >> See pages 4-8

Spring 2011
Sophomore Ben Sutter represented the communication department in participating in the 2011 Goshen College Academic Research Symposium on April 2. He presented an original research titled, “A New Medium: An Investigation into the Creation of GC Journal.”

Sutter, who has been involved in Goshen College Television (GCTV) since his first year on campus, noted that GCTV is “closing in on 20 years from its first broadcast” and in 2010 received the Indiana Television School of the Year from the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters.

“With both of these landmarks in mind, preservation of early GCTV broadcasts and of the stories behind its student-driven creation are important,” Sutter stated in his research abstract.

GC Journal started in 1991 as a student initiative aimed at providing practical experience in television news gathering and production. The first show aired on Oct. 4, 1991, and aired live every other Friday following chapel.

“I think one of the most exciting things that I discovered was the importance of student involvement from the start,” said Sutter. “Through the suggestion of media services faculty member Bill Frisbie, a group of students gathered to talk about the possibility of starting a news magazine. Those students then basically ran with the idea, putting in late nights and lots of work. It was extremely impressive to see the drive of students working as news directors and technical directors taking their jobs seriously and pushing the program to its best.”

Sutter discovered that subsequent years brought “road blocks along the journey” as ups and downs in student and faculty interest brought some inconsistencies over the years. Yet two decades later, the station is still up and running, and GC Journal’s successor, The Correspondent, is inspiring “some of the passion that the founding students had for video journalism,” according to Sutter.

“For the professional development of communication and broadcasting students, I think these shows have created an opportunity too for practical experience,” continued Sutter. “These shows teach students how to write and edit video for news, how to anchor, and how to work behind the scenes to produce something they can put their name on.”

GCTV is also a service. Goshen College’s television news programs not only serve the campus, but can provide alumni and others who view The Correspondent online with perspectives on campus happenings, Sutter said.

Sutter’s research into the history of GCTV began in May term in 2010 as a project in the Communication Research course taught by Professor of Communication Duane Stoltzfus.

Said Stoltzfus, “As academic researchers, we draw energy from finding a subject that has not been explored or knowledge that has not been saved in just the way that we intend to go about it. Ben tapped into that energy source with his Communication Research project. In this case, one of the chief beneficiaries is the Communication Department.”

“The story of the beginning of GCTV adds new voices to the rich history of Goshen College and of the Goshen College communication department,” Sutter concluded in his symposium research abstract.

In the upcoming academic year, Sutter will serve The Correspondent – the renamed GC Journal, GCTV’s campus news program – as news director.
When Jacob Landis-Eigsti was 9 years old, the second "Star Wars" trilogy of movies inspired him and his friends to make their own version of the iconic films. When he was in eighth grade, he wrote, directed and edited his first feature-length film, "Lord of the Onion Rings."

Now, in his senior year at Goshen College, Landis-Eigsti's passion and growing professionalism is being rewarded. In February, he found out that he won a second-place prize for his music video "Beautiful" in a national competition of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA). He was also honored by the Indiana Association of School Broadcasting (IASB) with a first-place prize, his second from the organization following a 2010 win.

Then in April, the Goshen College Business Department awarded the filmmaker with an entrepreneurship grant to jump-start his production company, Reimagine Cinema.

"Beautiful" features musician Phoebe Sharp and was directed by Landis-Eigsti around the Goshen College campus and in the city of Goshen.

Landis-Eigsti told the Goshen College Record that the song is about "trying to find beauty in everyday life," and that the video "shows beauty in people, beauty in nature around us ... like the stuff that we walk by that we don't really notice."

In April, Landis-Eigsti traveled to Las Vegas with Seth Conley and Jason Samuel, assistant professors of communication, and fellow senior Chanuk Algama. There, he accepted his award at this year's BEA National Festival of Media Arts. More than 1,600 professors, students and media professionals are currently individual members of BEA and approximately 275 college and university departments and schools are institutional members.

Conley encouraged Landis-Eigsti to submit his work for the national award.

"This is a great continuation of Jacob's success after he won first place for a different music video in a state competition last year, contributing to Goshen College being named 2010 Television School of the Year," said Conley. "BEA is the premiere radio and television education organization in the United States and the competition is highly competitive. His award is a great accomplishment."

After the success of "Beautiful," which was also his first professionally compensated work, Landis-Eigsti has several new projects lined up for his one-man crew.

His latest release is a music video for Kansas Bible Company's "How to Build a Planet." In 2009, he created a video for another student music group, Happy Camper and the Bees. He hopes to continue this kind of work with Reimagine Cinema.

A proud first: The Globe radio named ‘Best College Station’ in the nation

Goshen College’s radio station, WGCS 91.1 FM-The Globe – which can be found at www.globeradio.org – isn’t a gigantic operation, but the sounds coming out of it are making a big impact.

Competing against every U.S. college and university of all sizes, the student-operated station was named this year’s “Best College Station in the Nation” on March 12 at the 71st Annual Conference of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) in New York City (the oldest college radio association in the country).

The station’s General Manager Jason Samuel and a group of his students who work at the station were present to accept the award. “I am so proud of them,” Samuel said. “Emotionally, I am happier about this than I have ever been winning awards for my individual work. For a group of industry professionals to examine our work and determine our station is number one, that says a lot about what our students are doing and the excellence of their work.”

Each campus station considered for the award submitted an audition recording providing examples of different kinds of programming that was reviewed by judges from across the radio industry. The Globe and the radio station of DePaul University (Chicago) – a college with 25,000 students, which won the award last year – came out as the top two overall finalists. Then, The Globe came out on top. This is the first time that the college’s radio station has won a national award.

“This competition is for all of IBS’s members, of all sizes. I like that we are all in the same pool, because when our students graduate and want to get a broadcasting job, they will be competing with everyone anyway,” Samuel said. “Our students are committed to their craft, and being recognized by the IBS shows that they can compete with anyone for jobs at any level when they are done here.”

In addition, individual Goshen College students won national awards. Senior Trisha Handrich, a communication major from Goshen, received a first place award for the Best Promotional Series. Sophomore Jimmy Cassoday, a broadcasting major from Whiting, Ind., received first place for Best Specialty Music Show. And sophomore Benjamin Kelly, a broadcasting major from LaGrange, Ind., won first place for Best Sports Talk Show. The college had eight finalists in seven categories.

The Globe has been on the air since 1958. Managed by faculty members of the Communication Department with support from ITS Media, it is staffed by about 40 student workers and community volunteers. The Globe is one of the college’s significant co-curricular activities, preparing students to become broadcast professionals while providing a service to the Michiana community.

“Unlike most schools, when you come to Goshen College and join the communication department, you can get plugged into working at The Globe or any of our co-curriculars right away in your first year,” Samuel said. “This makes our station stronger because our students have ownership, they are engaged, they are excited and they want to do better every time.”

Each week The Globe features a fresh and eclectic mix of Americana, alternative acoustic, folk, singer-songwriters and world beat music. The Globe is one of a select number of reporting stations to the Americana Airplay Chart. It provides 24-hour programming, which includes music, news, public affairs and sports.

The Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Inc., is a not for profit educational association and foundation founded in 1940, by Dr. George Abraham, Ph.D. and David W. Borst, and has over 1,000 college/school, webcasting and podcasting members in the country.
Goshen College broadcasters honored for on-air excellence

While the bright lights of Times Square in New York City brought a fun adventure for a group of broadcasting students attending the 71st Annual Conference of the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS), it was the March 12 awards ceremony that provided the weekend’s true highlight. The Goshen College broadcasters competed with students across the country from campus radio stations of all sizes. Senior Trisha Handrich, far right, won first place for “Best Promotional Series.” Sophomore Jimmy Cassoday, far left, received first place for “Best Specialty Music Show.” Sophomore Benjamin Kelly, center, topped the category with a first place win for “Best Sports Talk Show.”

Taking time to celebrate

“This is not the end of the story; this is the first chapter of a new one,” said senior Trisha Handrich (above right), the student manager of The Globe, during a May 22 campus celebration of the station’s “Best College Station in the Nation” award.

Faculty and students turned out for station logo cookies, balloons, a visit and comments from City of Goshen Mayor Allan Kauffman and congratulations from GC President Jim Brenneman, and to see the award plaque from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System. The event was planned by Communication Department faculty and students.

Kauffman, whose two sons were involved with the campus radio station, said, “Goshen College and the Globe are gems of Goshen.”

Handrich said that she hopes the award will attract more students to be interested in the radio station and the Communication Department. “We can only go up from here; the evidence is in the awards,” she said.

Banners recognizing the award were installed on the clock tower of the Union Building, home to The Globe, in early April.
Radio & TV broadcast students honored

By Alysha Landis

Goshen College television students won six awards in the 2011 Indiana Association of School Broadcasting’s (IASB) college broadcasting competition, including four first-place finishes.

The Correspondent is the college’s bi-weekly television news broadcast produced by students and distributed via the campus cable system and the Internet. The adviser for The Correspondent is Assistant Professor of Communication Seth Conley.

Goshen earned the second most points overall in this year’s competition, trailing Ball State University by just one point.

Last year, Goshen earned the title of 2010 Television School of the Year in the same competition.

The television awards were:

First place:
- Television spot production: Lauren Morales (2010 graduate)
- Music video: Senior Jacob Landis-Eigsti (Lakewood, Colo.)
- Entertainment video: Senior Jacob Landis-Eigsti (Lakewood, Colo.)
- Television anchor: Sophomore Benjamin Kelly (LaGrange, Ind.)

Second place:
- Music video: Sophomore Sammy Rosario (Tao Baja, Puerto Rico)
- Video in-depth: Junior Yolo Lopez-Perez (Elkhart, Ind.) and junior Daniel Penner (Harper, Kan.)

Goshen College radio students won three awards in this year’s IASB competition, including one first-place award.

WGCS-91.1 FM, The Globe, is Goshen College’s on campus radio station, with studios located in the Union Building. Run by Goshen students and community volunteers, the station provides 24-hour programming, including music, news, public affairs and sports. The adviser for The Globe is Assistant Professor of Communication Jason Samuel.

The radio awards were:

First place:
- Radio sportscast: Sophomore Benjamin Kelly (LaGrange, Ind.)

Second place:
- Radio play-by-play: Sophomore Benjamin Kelly, (LaGrange, Ind.)
- Radio air personality: Senior Trisha Handrich (Goshen, Ind.)
Student journalists make headlines by winning state newspaper awards

Goshen College student journalists won 15 awards in the Indiana College Press Association annual awards for 2011 and The Record placed second overall in its newspaper division.

The awards were presented Saturday (April 2) in Bloomington at the annual convention and awards program for Indiana college journalists. Goshen College is in the association’s Division III for colleges enrolling less than 3,000 students producing non-daily newspapers.

The awards cover the calendar year 2010, during which Marlys Weaver was the Record editor in the spring semester and Laura Schlabach in the fall.

Duane Stoltzfus, professor of communication, is the ongoing advisor for the student newspaper, which is published and distributed on campus every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters, and is available at goshen.edu/record. (Stoltzfus is on sabbatical this academic year and Marshall V. King, adjunct professor of communication, advises this year’s staff.)

The awards are:

First place:
• Breaking-news reporting: Kelsey Shue, Marlys Weaver & Chase Snyder, “Anthem premieres”
• In-depth story: Laura Schlabach & Chase Snyder, “County command vehicle”
• Opinion column: Matt Lehman, “Purls of wisdom”

Second place:
• Overall design: Marlys Weaver & Laura Schlabach, Nov. 18, 2010
• Single issue: Laura Schlabach & Marlys Weaver, Nov. 18, 2010
• In-depth story: Hannah Groff & Lauren Morales, “Immigrants struggle”
• Opinion column: Jeffrey Moore, “On being ‘part cow’”
• Feature story: Laura Schlabach, “Bowing out”
• Non-deadline story: Brett Bridges, Keith Beber & Kevin Kleptz, “Campus underpass decision at a standstill”
• Feature photo: Andrea Kraybill, “Inferno inside the kiln”
• Entertainment story: Josh Yoder, “Wailin’ Jennys voices”
• Sports page design: Laura Schlabach, Oct. 14, 2010
• Sports photo: Martin Brubaker, “Taking on Spring Arbor”
• Editorial cartoon: Michael Neumann, “Becoming a .5”

Third place:
• News or feature series: Marlys Weaver, Kelsey Shue & Emily Taylor, “Radicals replace flags”

First-place award excerpts:

“Goshen College made history on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 12:58 p.m. as the national anthem was played for the first time since 1957 when intercollegiate athletics began. The anthem was played for the baseball game against Siena Heights University as well as the softball game against St. Joseph’s College.”

—Kelsey Shue, Marlys Weaver & Chase Snyder, “Anthem premieres”

“Ten of Indiana’s counties received money from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security after Sept. 11, 2001, to purchase incident command vehicles that could be used to coordinate communication between fire, police and medical officials in times of crisis. The money spent on these vehicles in Indiana totaled over $2 million, and as of yet, the vehicles have been used only a few times.”

—Laura Schlabach & Chase Snyder, “County command vehicle”

“I knit. Some guys work on cars, play sports or play video games. But I knit.”

—Matt Lehman, “Purls of wisdom”

Martin Brubaker, a senior, captured a dynamic moment in last year’s game between the Goshen College women’s basketball team and their Spring Arbor University opponents. His efforts earned him a second-place award from the Indiana College Press Association.
Speech on immigration wins peace speech contest

By Alysha Landis

Sophomore Jair Hernandez said that “Migrant farm workers really are the invisible backbone of the American agricultural system,” during his speech titled “Migrant Farm Workers,” that won first place in the annual Goshen College C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest on Feb. 22. Hernandez, a public relations major from Goshen, was one of six students who spoke about a variety of peace and justice issues during the contest.

Hernandez participated in the college’s Latino Study-Service Term last summer and spent time with farm workers near Toledo, Ohio. He glimpsed their everyday lives as they dealt with bedbug infested living conditions, frequent moves and harsh work.

Hernandez called for awareness and action for farm worker justice as he urged the audience to sign up for the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) newsletter. FLOC is an Ohio-based social movement and labor union that seeks justice and human rights for farm workers who have been marginalized and exploited.

He concluded his speech with a quote from Cesar Chavez: “The fight is never about grapes or lettuce. It is always about people.”

Hernandez received a $500 prize, and his speech will be entered in the Mennonite Central Committee’s C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest.

Taking second place, and a $250 prize, was Sae Jin Lee, a fifth-year senior Bible and religion and art double major from Elkhart, Ind. Her speech was titled “Rethinking SST: Beyond a Three-Months Long Requirement to a Life-Long Commitment to Intercultural Intentionality.”

Lee encouraged further intercultural intentionality on the Goshen College campus. She noted that last year’s cultural audit reflected “a gap between what is believed on a theoretical level, and what is implemented on a personal level.”

Lee surveyed several international students on campus, and discovered that many have found it difficult to have close relationships with U.S.-born students. Some shared stories of exclusiveness among U.S.

students, and as a Korean-American herself, Lee related to a feeling of separation.

“Our Study-Service Term experience overseas must be in unity with our interactions here on campus,” said Lee.

Jeffery Moore, a sophomore majoring in communication from Ashland, Ohio, spoke about how labeling simplifies a person’s character in his speech, “The Games We Play: How Labeling Leads to Violence.”

“Labeling reduces a person’s identity to one idea, and denies him or her the right to be perceived as a multi-faceted human being,” said Moore.

Karina Rohrer-Meck, a sophomore nursing major from Archbold, Ohio, talked about texting and driving in her speech “Everyday Justice In Your Hands.” She stated, “Violently and unexpectedly taking lives is an injustice. Do justice and put your phone away.”

Madi Ouedraogo, a sophomore TESOL major from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, discussed lack of education as the root of the injustice in Africa in his speech “A Peaceful Future for Africa Requires Education.”

“The education of women is the building block for peace in Africa,” said Ouedraogo.

“Educated women can teach their children about peaceful problem solving, which can lead to a peaceful community, country and continent.”

Michael Fecher, a junior molecular biology and biochemistry major from Goshen, spoke about issues relating to the college’s 2010 decision to play the national anthem at some sporting events. In his speech titled “The National Anthem and the Anabaptist Vision,” Fecher urged people to come to the table of conversation not with arguments or agendas, but with stories about how they have come to believe what they do.

A donation from alumni Hans and Bonnie Hillerbrand, former C. Henry Smith competitors, has granted contest winners a more substantial cash prize in the past two years.

Speeches were judged on development to a social justice theme, use of supporting evidence and organization, as well as on the elements of presentation such as vocal variety, eye contact and spiritedness.

The trust of C. Henry Smith, a Mennonite historian and professor at Goshen and Bluffton (Ohio) colleges, funds the contest, which has been part of Goshen College’s history since the early 1900s.
Beyond the Classroom

Spring 2011 communication internships

Chanuk Algama
Senior, communication major

Internship: Goshen College Sports Information office

He writes: “I shot and edited recap videos for the basketball teams, season previews for softball and baseball and an indoor nationals preview for track and field. The project I most recently completed was the 2011 Senior Athletes Video which premiered at the 2011 Senior Show at Sauder Concert Hall on April 30. I am thankful for this opportunity because it has helped me keep my production techniques and collaboration skills in practice.”

Anita Fonseca
Senior, communication major

Internship: El Puente, Spanish-language newspaper

She writes: “I found this experience to be very rewarding for many reasons, one of them being the multiculturalism. I got to interview people from many different places, with so many different experiences. It was very enriching. I also got to do photojournalism, which is something that I love but haven’t gotten opportunities to practice very much. Working with Zulma and Jimmer Prieto (the editors) was wonderful because they are very open-minded, experienced people. I learned a lot from them and from my time at El Puente.”

Katie Gencay
Senior, communication & English double major

Internship: WNDU, South Bend, Ind., NBC affiliate

She writes: “I had an amazing time this semester working at WNDU in South Bend. Every shift was a little bit different, and I was always on my toes. I had a blast writing scripts, going out on assignments with reporters and videographers, and getting a feel for what life is like at a news station. I built some great relationships, and have grown a lot as a writer and communicator through my time at WNDU. My internship has been one of my best collegiate experiences!”

Trisha Handrich
Senior, communication major, concentration in public relations

Internship: Springer Design Inc.

She writes: “I worked exclusively with Tyler Springer to develop promotional items for the company and their spin off distribution network. Through working with Springers I was able to gain a better understanding of putting my marketing skills and design skills together. Although I loved being their intern this experience just reinforced my passion for media and radio.”

Chris Johnston
Senior, communication major

He writes: “Working at Better World Books provided me with the opportunity to work in a variety of capacities both in and outside my field of communication. My work could be broken down into three distinct areas: stock and inventory, sales, and advertising and marketing. The first major project I worked on was completing the underwriting for a local NPR station Better World Books sponsorship. The second major project was creating an in-store activity to generate sales for February. I developed BookerShuffle [the name was later changed to “BookerShuffle”] – a book speed dating event for reading enthusiasts.”

Christine Ludin
Senior, communication major, concentration in public relations

She writes: “I was working at the Elkhart County Community Foundation. I did a lot of work with scholarships, such as print, review and score scholarship applications. I further had the opportunity to coordinate and participate in scholarship and grant committee meetings; scheduling, preparing materials, distribution of materials, recording and other activities. I worked with the 21st Century Scholarship mostly, going to schools and training guidance counselors on how to do the online enrollment, calling parents, and hosting enrollment nights to get sixth, seventh and eighth graders signed up. I assisted with event planning and performed social media updates (Facebook) on a weekly basis.”

View Algama’s 2011 Senior Athletes video online at www.goleafs.net.

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COMMUNICATION FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

SETH CONLEY
Seth Conley joined Jason Samuel and students Chanuk Algama and Jacob Landis-Eigsti in Las Vegas for the Broadcasting Education Association’s annual convention in the second week of April (see photo at right).

On May 9, Conley hosted “GCTV Video Showcase” campus convolution highlighting a few of the many videos produced by students for “The Correspondent” and Broadcast Media Production I and II classes throughout the past year.

In May term 2012, Seth’s Broadcast Media Production III students will join with youth ministry director Bob Yoder’s Bible and religion class touring Rome and Greece and following the journeys of Paul to early churches in sites like Corinth and Thessalonika as described in the Epistles.

PAT MCFARLANE
Patricia Lehman McFarlane successfully defended her dissertation entitled “Performing the ‘Other’ in Religious Community: A Basic Interpretive Qualitative Inquiry Among American Mennonite Women” on March 8. She graduated May 28, 2011 from the California Institute of Integral Studies (San Francisco, Calif.), with a doctorate in transformative studies; her area of concentration was intercultural communication.

This spring Pat taught Communicating Across Cultures, and co-led the Communication/Theater Senior Seminar with Doug Liechty Caskey, professor of theater. She also served as department chair and headed up the annual C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest. In May term she taught Oral Communication.

This summer Pat plans to study Spanish in Malaga, Spain for two weeks. She will also explore Spanish life and culture while she works to strengthen her language skills.

JASON SAMUEL
A busy and rewarding semester began in January with a trip with GC admissions counselors to Prescott, Ariz., for recruitment activities.

In March, he accompanied five GC students to the Intercollegiate Broadcasters Association for the annual conference and awards banquet in New York City. Samuel and his students led over a dozen panels during the three day event and the station was awarded the Abraham & Borst Award as the Best College Station in the Nation.

Later that month, Jason was a special guest of Six Shooter Records and was in attendance at the Annual Juno Music Awards and Festival held at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto, Canada.

In April, Jason joined department colleague, Seth Conley, in attendance at the Broadcast Educators Association Annual conference and the National Association of Broadcasters trade show in Las Vegas (see photo above right).

Students named to head 2011-12 co-curriculars

The Communication Department named eight students to lead campus co-curricular activities in the coming academic year:

- Sara Alvarez, editor of The Record (fall semester)
- Matthew Amstutz, editor of The Record (spring semester)
- Hannah Bartel, editor of The Maple Leaf yearbook
- Summer Hassan, student station manager of 91.1 FM-The Globe
- Joel Meyer, operations manager for The Correspondent
- Jeffrey Moore, GCTV coordinator
- Kelsey Morris, assistant news director & sports producer for The Correspondent
- Ben Sutter, news director for The Correspondent

Follow the work of these student leaders and their staffs in 2011-2012 at www.goshen.edu/communication.

Davidson remembered as a leader in communication studies at U. of Wisconsin

Goshen College alumnus Bill Davidson, remembered for shaping one of the country’s first comprehensive university communication programs during his distinguished career at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, passed away on March 11, 2011.

A native of Elkhart, Ind., Davidson earned his undergraduate degree at Goshen College, graduating in 1963, before going on to complete his master’s degree and doctorate at the University of Kansas. He married Carmen Grace Snyder in 1966.

After completing postgraduate work in 1971, Davidson worked with the Cherokee Nation before taking a faculty post at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he would spend the next 43 years.

Davidson’s many contributions in the division of communication helped build it into one of the largest and most successful majors at the university, and one of the nation’s first comprehensive communication studies programs. He served as the program’s director of its required public speaking course for more than 15 years, and directed the division of communication graduate program. He also authored the public speaking texts *You and Your Speeches: A Venture in Self Discovery* and *Communicate*.

Interest in international exchange led his family to be one of the first to take a car trip to Moscow when Russia opened travel in 1959. Davidson brought famed Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko to the UWSP campus. He and his wife translated a collection of Yevtushenko’s poems, *Walk on the Ledge*, to English. The Davidsons also led UWSP’s semester abroad to Australia in 2001 and to New Zealand in 2007.

Former student Bassey Eyo said, “I think the world of Bill, whose connection with me since late 70s has morphed from professor/student to authentic life-long friendship. His authentic ways in my world makes him a breed apart.”

Davidson succumbed to Bronchioloalveolar carcinoma, a rare form of lung cancer. According to a commemorative Facebook page, he died surrounded by his loving family while listening to his favorite big band tunes while his wife, daughter, siblings, nieces and nephews recalled favorite stories to him of the rich and happy life they shared.

Davidson is survived by his wife and a daughter and an extended family that will miss his greatly. To close his obituary his family used the words of his favorite poet and good friend, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, “I love you more than nature…”

—Compiled by Julia Baker & Rachel Lapp Whitt
Miller soars in unexpected job

By Julia Baker

If you have ever used the web search engine Bing to look at a map of an area in the United States, there’s a good chance you have seen images captured by Keystone Aerial Surveys and 2010 Goshen College graduate Kris Miller. Miller takes pictures with high-resolution cameras from a light twin-engine aircraft from altitudes between 1,000 to 28,000 feet. Keystone dispatches a crew including Miller to take pictures of various locations around the country.

Miller has always planned to be a pilot. Due to the economic recession, and an especially tough job market for pilots, he had to get creative to stay in the air. Miller studied aviation for two years at Heston College, then transferred to Goshen and graduated with a degree in communication. While he needed a background in both, it is his communication major that Miller credits for this job opportunity, helping him stand out from the more than 50 résumés Keystone receives weekly.

Additionally, a year-long teaching assistant position during his senior year with Seth Conley, assistant professor of communication, provided valuable experience in media management – skills that he says have been crucial to his job.

“Goshen College provided me with opportunities to plan out, capture, edit and manage videos and photos which is very similar to what I do on a daily basis,” Miller said.

Miller’s job comes with a range of unique opportunities. His first flight took him over New York City to map JFK airport. It was the first time he had ever seen the city, he said, and it was through a digital camera at 3,500 feet. His most memorable experience was a month-long, paid “working vacation” in Puerto Rico. While he was there he got to try his hand at kite surfing, and after only three lessons he was able to stand up and ride!

Miller’s job keeps him on his toes as well as in the air, as he never knows when he might get to jet off to a new part of the country for aerial photographs. In early April, Miller was on the East Coast to take pictures of the famous departure point. He then flew west for stops in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

With a pilot’s dreams, Miller’s goal is to move up from his current position as the eye in the sky to be the one to sit in the pilot’s seat on these photo trips. He sometimes gets the opportunity to try out that post, recently taking a twin engine over the hills of West Virginia and across central Ohio, then down to a fuel stop in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Even if it isn’t exactly what he saw on the other side of the commencement stage when he graduated last spring with his diploma, Miller’s openness has landed him in an exciting job that combines his interests, with blue skies ahead.