

COMMEDIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
GOSHEN COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

INSIDE

Communication Center
opens in Newcomer p. 2

Student and faculty summer
highlights p. 4

Ronit Gostwami wins C. Henry
Smith Peace Oratorical Contest p. 6



The new Communication Center opened its doors this fall. It has given 91.1 The Globe and The Record a revitalized space to collaborate and produce student-lead media.

Above: A look at the new Communication Center building on campus, adjacent to Newcomer Center.

FALL 2020

Communication Center Opens in Newcomer

The Center for Communication Studies, the communication department's new home in the west wing of Newcomer Center, was completed in time for the start of the school year in August.

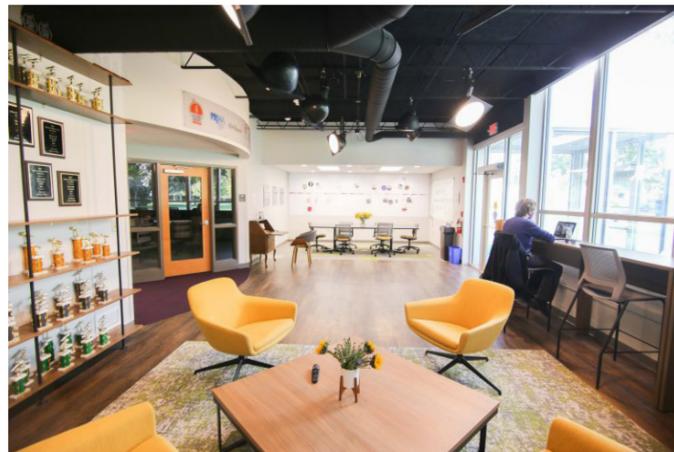
After decades of being spread out across campus -- from the basement of the library to the Hub in Kulp Hall to the Union's attic -- the department's co-curriculars are joined together in a state-of-the-art facility.

When was the official opening? One might make a case for 2 p.m. on Friday, July 31, when WGCS, better known as 91.1 the Globe, went live from Newcomer for the first time. Just as he had when the college changed its format from classical to Americana music in 2004, Jason Samuel, the general manager, played Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'" and then went on the air with a historic announcement.

Stuart Showalter, who served as department chair in the 1980s and 1990s, wrote from Harrisonburg, Va., to say: "I'm listening to Goshen College. . . . Great song choice, Jason."

Or the opening might be pegged to Aug. 18, when students returned to classes, two weeks early because of changes made in light of the coronavirus. The department is also planning a virtual celebration on Saturday, Oct. 3, as part of Homecoming Weekend.

Or one might say the center was completed the first week in August, when DJ Construction, which transformed the space from historical archives into a media complex, finished the last assignment: installing dimmers for the lights in Rooms 24 and 25.



As Deanna Risser, the vice president for finance, said, both DJ Construction and Goshen College's longtime director of facilities, Glenn Gilbert, agreed that "this was a very successful project, completed on time and within budget, even in the midst of a pandemic."

The \$1.4 million project delivers a 3,700-foot facility that includes a radio studio with a 9-by-6-foot set of windows overlooking the Beck Memorial Garden; a TV studio, with a set in the making, designed by Kyle Hufford, associate professor; a newsroom with a "dogbone" central desk modeled after one that Duane Stoltzfus admired in The Washington Post's office; a trophy wall; an 86-inch video screen; a conference table shaped from a hardwood trunk; a huddle room; and stools where students can enjoy a view of the lawn.

While the center includes the latest in audio and video



technology, history was not forgotten. Danielle Pagoria, an administrative assistant whose training is in interior design, guided many decisions in colors, furniture and unique touches, linking the old and the new.

For example, the U.P.I. teletype machine that was parked at the top of the stairs outside the WGCS station holds a prominent place in the lobby. Nearby is a desk that belonged to Lina Zook Ressler, an editor at the Mennonite Publishing House and instructor in the early 1900s at the Elkhart Institute, the forerunner to Goshen College. The desk is on loan from the Mennonite Historical Society.

The department and development office are also developing plans to thank the donors whose gifts financed the Center for Communication Studies. Their names will be listed in a plaque installed by the lobby.

The renovation of the wing was made possible by a lead gift from Joe and Tami Zehr, from Fort Wayne, Ind. Other transformational gifts came Don and Jody Smith, of San Diego; Stuart and Shirley Showalter, of Harrisonburg, Va.; and Dale and Kay Kempf, of Libertyville, Ill.

"Our Communication Department makes us proud each year -- not only our outstanding faculty but the many students who bring to life The Record, 99.1 The Globe, Globe TV and FiveCore Media," President Rebecca Stoltzfus said. "I am thrilled to see them in a new facility that is on par with their excellence."

The west wing of Newcomer Center had housed Mennonite Church archives since 1959. In 2017 the church moved the archives to the Mennonite Church USA offices in Elkhart. The last of Mennonite Historical Library and Goshen College archival materials, which were also stored in Newcomer, were moved to other locations on campus in February.

The steering committee for the project included Ann Vendrely, the academic dean; Glenn Gilbert, who retired this

summer as director of facilities; Paul Housholder, the associate director of ITS; Deanna Risser, vice president for finance; Todd Yoder, vice president for development; and Duane Stoltzfus, department chair.

President Stoltzfus, who identified finding a home for communication as a strategic priority shortly after her inauguration in early 2018, announced the building plans at an all-employee retreat in August of 2019.

A year later, the Center for Communication Studies is in place for a program that has won national and statewide awards in radio, television and journalism, including, in Indiana, Radio School of the Year, TV School of the Year and Newspaper of the Year.

"We are thrilled to have a department home," Duane Stoltzfus said. "We're looking forward to enjoying this collaborative space. There are songs to play, games to broadcast, stories to cover, speeches to deliver. It's a very good time to be in communication."



Comm students learn to adjust to remote work over the summer

by Nick Yutzy '21

The summer of COVID-19 was in full force for working people across the world, and that was no different for students within the communication department. Spread around the state and country, a number of students took on comm-related jobs and internships from the comfort of their own homes.

For Mackenzie Miller, a senior English major from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, it was a chance to take on more than one opportunity at a time.

Miller was an intern for the communication and marketing department at GC while also contributing as a feature writer for LNP, a daily newspaper in Lancaster.

"I continued to hone my skills with press releases, features and got a glimpse for what it looks like to write for a larger institution," Miller said. "It was a chance to be in two places at once."

Other students, like senior "DJ Kadie Daye," had their summer plans fairly unaffected.

DJ Kadie was able to continue her in-person internship as normal with U93 Today's Best Music, a radio station in South Bend.

"I still came in every day, and if anything, I ended up having more work to do because radio listenership skyrocketed during the pandemic," she said.

In an ever so uncertain time, COVID-19 was able to offer unique experiences to comm students wherever they were.



Faculty Highlights

Duane Stoltzfus

In May, courtesy of a Miner Grant, Duane Stoltzfus spent a week at Swarthmore College doing research in the Peace Collection for two projects about conscientious objectors. One stream of research led to an article about Mary Boe, among the scores of conscientious objectors who were denied citizenship in the 1920s and 1930s because, in responding to a hypothetical question, they refused to promise to take up arms in defense of the nation. She was born and raised in the U.S. but lost her citizenship when she married a Norwegian (a long story). The article has been submitted to the journal *Peace & Change*.

The second project concerns a series of medical experiments carried out during World War II, including a semi-starvation study at the University of Minnesota. His review of the book *Patriotic Murder: A World War I Hate Crime for Uncle Sam* was published in *The Historian*. Over the summer he teamed up with Nick Yutzy in conducting oral history research of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail as part of the Maple Scholars program. Nick interviewed the founders of the trail, among others, whose stories will now be permanently placed in the archives at the Elkhart County Historical Museum.

Kyle Hufford

This summer has been atypical for most of us but for the communication faculty it has even more unique than ever with the construction of the new communication wing. Professor Kyle Hufford has been actively involved in the construction of the new space. Participating in the design process, technical integration and set design for the new TV studio. Kyle led a team of FiveCore Media staff for the streaming of MCC's Centennial Celebration service at the end of June. Over 400 people from all over the world tuned in the multicam livestream. He also has continued work and research on the FiveCore Media documentary "Vital Passage", an hour long film that chronicles the life of a Jewish family from Goshen that helped 13 different families escape the Holocaust in WWII. The premiere was set for last April but is postponed until a screening is possible at the newly restored Goshen Theater. Earlier in the summer Kyle had the chance to get away with his family for a vacation in Orlando, Florida.

Marshall King

It was a good and busy summer of work on a range of projects for Marshall King.

As the director and marketing of communication for Community Foundation of Elkhart County, he helped oversee launching a new website and telling the story of how the foundation is responding to needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

King writes a weekly food column that has turned more to home cooking. You can sign up for the weekly email newsletter at <https://hungrymarshall.substack.com/>

A digital cookbook with recipes from local restaurants affected by the pandemic has come together in the past several months with the designers from LightBox. It will be online soon at hungrymarshall.com.

The crowning achievement for King, however, was agreeing to a book deal with Herald Press to write the story of Michael "MJ" Sharp, who was killed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in March 2017. The book is to come out around the fifth anniversary of his death and King will continue to do reporting and writing over the coming year.

Jason Samuel

It was a busy summer for Jason Samuel. Following a successful membership drive that raised over \$50,000, Jason and the Globe summer staff began making preparations for the radio station to move from its longtime home high atop the Union to the new Center for Communication Studies located in the west wing of Newcomer Center. Moving nearly 5,000 compact discs and vinyl records along with 62 years of memories took some time but the station is now co-located with Globe TV, The Record and our PRSSA offices. In addition to the move, Jason helped implement two new software programs that will vastly day-to-day station operations.

Lehman to teach from Seattle



Pat Lehman, who has lived in Goshen and taught at Goshen College for more than 25 years, will move to Seattle in August. She will teach remotely, including two courses in the fall, Communication Across Cultures and Oral Communication. In Seattle, she will share a house with her daughter, Jennifer McFarlane-Harris, who recently joined the faculty at Seattle Pacific University, and her family.

Pat retired from full-time teaching in 2019. In October, the communication department paid tribute to her teaching and scholarship in an event at the College Cabin. For many years she served as director of the C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest and as adviser to the Goshen chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Pat began teaching at Goshen College in the fall of 1994. She earned a master's degree from Georgetown and a doctorate from the California Institute of Integral Studies. Her research on stories of Mennonite women of color led to a play, "Heavenly Voices," which was performed in the Umble Center and other venues, as well as to a documentary. She led SST units in Peru and in Jamaica and taught Comm Across Cultures for many years.

"I love adventure," Pat said. "Our family moved from California to Goshen in the fall of 1993. Now the West is pulling me back for the next stage of my life. I am delighted to have the opportunity to continue teaching remotely at Goshen College. Truly the best of both worlds!"

Ronit Gostwami wins 2020 C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest

A version of this article was originally published by Communications and Marketing

Goshen College student Ronit Goswami, a sophomore exercise science major from Goshen, won the 2020 C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest and \$300 in prize money on Feb. 18 with his speech titled “Finding Peace in the Trenches: The War on Homelessness.”

Goswami spoke about homelessness around the world and here in Goshen, explaining common causes of homelessness, global statistics and his personal experiences.

“Oftentimes, our own personal agenda reigns supreme in our lives,” Goswami said. “We think about ourselves because self-care is important. It’s all about me right? But what about them? What about the outsiders? The outcasts? If we want to create peace with one another, we must find peace within ourselves. Peace starts with us. So what can we do then?”

He laid out three calls to action with regards to homelessness: Educate ourselves, respect people who are homeless and advocate for them.

“The outlets to help are available but it’s up to you to make the change you want to see,” he said. “We are all human. Our common goal is to move forward. We may not resolve this issue immediately, but choosing compassion toward others over ignorance could be the first step to figuring out the solution.”

With this win, Goswami will be entered into the binational intercollegiate Mennonite Central Committee C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest.

Taking second place was Nasim Rasoulipour, a senior interdisciplinary studies major from Tehran, Iran, with her speech titled “Two Paths Converged in 2016: My Life With Donald Trump.”

Rasoulipour spoke about her experience as an Iranian student living in the United States since the 2016 election.

“As an Iranian, I realized that interestingly enough, President Trump and I have lots in common,” she said. “Not only are my country and his name in the news constantly, but we both started our life-changing, four-year commitment around the same time.”



Photo cotributed by Commar

Gostwami wins 2020 oratorical contest

She encouraged listeners to use their differences to build bridges rather than burn them.

The other contestants included Jazmine Macias, a junior biology major from West Covina, California, whose speech was titled “Fermented Pain: Living With an Alcoholic;” Jace Longenecker, a senior history major from South Bend, Indiana, whose speech was titled “Anabaptist History and the Climate Crisis;” and Mandira Panta, a senior sustainability studies major from Bhaktapur, Nepal, whose speech was titled “The World Is Burning.”

The judges who made up the panel were Allan Kauffman, a 1971 Goshen College graduate who served nearly two decades as mayor of the city of Goshen; Adrienne Nesbitt, a 2008 Goshen College graduate with degrees in music and theater, and event coordinator for Eyedart Creative Studio; and Dr. Regina Shands Stoltzfus, chair of the Department of Bible and religion and peace, justice and conflict studies at Goshen College.

Duane Stoltzfus, professor of communication, directed the event.

A Maple Scholars summer: Telling the story of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

by Nick Yutzy '21

There are few places in Elkhart County as beautiful as the 17 mile stretch of greenery that is the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

However, I learned this past summer that the beauty goes beyond the winding path engulfed with native trees and plentiful farmland.

As a part of the Maple Scholars Summer Program, I spent eight weeks hearing the countless stories of how the founders of the trail dedicated years of their lives fighting fierce opposition in order to give the Goshen, Middlebury and Shipshewana communities a recreational treasure.

Duane Stoltzfus was my advisor throughout the process.

I started my time as a Maple Scholar researching what had already been published about the Pumpkinvine and reading the plethora of internal documents the Friends of the Pumpkinvine had stored.

Once I felt as though I had a grasp of the brief history of the trail, I delved into my oral history interviews with founders, key contributors and even some of the initial opposition of the trail.

My first and primary contacts throughout the summer were John Yoder, co-founder and former president of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine; Norm Kauffmann, a co-founder; and Jim Smith, a key contributor throughout.

I heard stories of court cases, property damage, memorable bike ride events and more.



Photos cotributed by Nick Yutzy

Yutzy and Stoltzfus stand for a picture following one of their weekly check-ins during the summer.



The Maple Scholars professors and participants taking a ride on the Pumpkinvine with stories along the way courtesy of John Yoder.



Stories that you cannot find written in the cottonwoods or tulip poplars, but only from the original sources themselves. Stories of setback and frustration as well as progress and achievement.

With strong opposition battling over the land the corridor encompasses, the trail that can be found today is a product of sincere negotiation, communal hardwork and extarordinary gifts.

This oral history project allowed me to also get out on the Pumpkinvine more than I would have. Knowing the rich history makes the ride that much better!

In total, I interviewed 13 people, collecting over eight hours of recordings and transcriptions.

These transcripts and other materials will soon be made available at the Elkhart County Historical Museum.

91.1 The Globe wins sixth state title as “Radio School of the Year”



2019 WGCS staff

The Record named ‘Newspaper of the Year’ for third year running

A version of this article was originally published by Communications and Marketing

The Indiana Collegiate Press Association (ICPA) named The Record, Goshen College’s student newspaper, “Newspaper of the Year” for the third consecutive time in the college division during an online ceremony that was conducted via Facebook and Twitter on April 29.

More than 20 Goshen College students collected 39 awards at the ICPA’s annual awards ceremony, which was scheduled to be held in Indianapolis. In March, the ICPA canceled the convention and awards ceremony because of the coronavirus pandemic.

This is the fourth time in five years that The Record, which publishes a weekly print edition and competes against schools across the state with enrollment under 3,000, received the top billing.

The awards recognized Record staff from the spring of 2019, when Siana Emery, a senior from North Yarmouth, Maine, served as editor in chief, and the fall of 2019, when Abby King, a senior from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was editor.

The Record swept the top places in several categories, including best breaking news, with Nick Yutzy (first place) covering hate language on a campus sidewalk and Mackenzie Miller (second place) reporting on Gilberto Perez Jr. becoming the first college employee and first Latino elected to serve on the Goshen City Council.

In feature writing, Gabe Miller took first for a profile of a GPS-controlled robot that trims the grass at the College Cabin. A judge wrote: “Reading about a lawn mower has never been more entertaining.” Sierra Ross Richer took second for a feature about a student who moved to Texas, leaving “more than 70 Goshen College students without a barber.”

For critics who might question whether The Record has a sense of humor, judges put that to rest by awarding first place to Gabe Miller for an entertainment story ranking the best pranks at the college. Judges suggested 2020 could yet be a year for hijinks: “Not only was this entertaining to read, but serves as a quick and helpful guide.”

“There were so many indicators that this was a standout year for journalism at Goshen College,” said Duane Stoltzfus,

Individual Awards

First Place

- Cecilia Garcia, Greta Klassen, Mackenzie Miller and Nick Yutzy - best continuous coverage
- Sierra Ross Richer and Nick Yutzy - best sports news story
- Siana Emery - best front page design
- Dillon Hershey - best design of a special front page; best information graphic; and best feature photo
- Yujin Kim - best design of a sports page
- Rachael Klink - best entertainment column
- C.C. Lilford - best review
- Gabe Miller - best feature story; best entertainment story; and best news/feature series
- Nathan Pauls - best photo essay
- Nick Walter - best design of a feature page
- Katie Yoder - best illustration
- Nick Yutzy - best breaking news; best sports feature
- Record Staff - best overall design; best single issue; best special issue; and best pull-out section

Second Place

- Zack Begly - best opinion column
- Jason Grooms - best sports column
- Dillon Hershey - best front page
- C.C. Lilford - best entertainment column
- Gabe Miller - best feature photo and best news photo
- Mackenzie Miller - best breaking news
- Sierra Ross Richer - best feature story
- Nathan Pauls - best illustration
- Juan Perez - best sports photo
- Record Staff - best themed issue

Third Place

- Dillon Hershey - best information graphic
- Gabe Miller - best non-deadline news
- Sierra Ross Richer - best sports column
- Record Staff - best single issue

Individual Awards

First Place

- Riley Friesner - radio air personality; radio interview
- Alyson Prigge, Riley Friesner and William Troyer - radio newscast
- Kadie Spoor - radio morning show; radio in-depth; radio talk show; television copywriting
- Nathan Pauls, Ben Hathaway and Alyson Prigge - television non-news/sports program

Second Place

- Riley Friesner, Zack Begly, William Troyer and Alyson Prigge - radio morning show
- Tanner Camp and Zack Begly - radio talk show
- Alyson Prigge - radio in-depth and radio interview
- Kadie Spoor - radio air personality, radio news report and video sound design
- William Troyer and Alyson Prigge - radio sportscast and radio sporting event broadcast
- Ash Caldera - television spot production

Third Place

- Zack Begly - television copywriting
- Jeremiah Sherrill - radio newscast
- Kadie Spoor - radio morning show; radio in-depth; radio talk show; radio imagin and television spot production

A version of this article was originally published by Communications and Marketing

For the sixth time in program history, Goshen College was named “Radio School of the Year” by the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters (IASB). Students from 91.1 The Globe (WGCS), the Goshen College Communication Department’s student-run radio station, earned 15 awards, including six first-place honors. Globe TV student staff picked up six awards for their efforts.

“For us to win our sixth title in nine years is a testament to the culture of excellence at Goshen College, said Jason Samuel, general manager, assistant professor of communication. “Our students know what it takes to be part of that legacy and their awards are the by-product of master storytelling through repetition, frequency, and a dynamic work ethic.”

In a separate competition, FiveCore Media, the college’s video production company, was honored with a first-place award for student multimedia website.

This is the sixth state championship in nine years for the radio station, with the 2020 team joining the winners from 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2019. The six titles are the most by any school since the competition was first held in 2005. Ball State University, the University of Indianapolis and the University of Southern Indiana finished in a three-way tie for second in the contest this year.

professor of communication and adviser to The Record. “The staff members turned out in force for weekly critiques and clearly appreciated one another’s company and talents. These awards from the Indiana Collegiate Press Association are yet another affirmation of a year to remember.”

91.1 The Globe in pandemic mode: a conversation with general manager Jason Samuel

Nathan Pauls had the opportunity to ask Jason Samuel, General Manager for 91.1 The Globe on May 12 about how COVID-19 has affected the radio station.

Nathan Pauls: Despite the campus that it lives on being shut down, Goshen College's 91.1, The Globe is still running. Today, I have with me general manager of The Globe, Jason Samuel. Jason, now that the station has shifted into pandemic mode, and on top of that is running its membership drive for the first two weeks of May, can you tell me what a usual day at 91.1 The Globe looks like?

Jason Samuel: Well, a lot of us are experiencing a new normal, Nathan, and The Globe is no exception. I'm here six days a week. And it's kind of been that way since we all had to scatter. Typically, I come in in the morning and I leave after dinner. That's usually how the day goes. So nine or 10 hours. It just depends.

Fortunately for us, we've had some people help out behind the scenes tremendously. So when I come in and whether I'm on live or maybe we have a guest, D.J., live somebody is live every day and we update the weather throughout the day as well. And that's mainly so that we can let everybody know that we're here and The Globe's not going anywhere.

ITS Media has been a huge help behind the scenes with a lot of the things that we're trying to do in regard to how the infrastructure, the radio station runs. You know, there's the music and there's the programming backbone to the radio station. So typically it's just making sure that we're playing the music.

And that hasn't changed. There are concerts right now, Nathan. But, albums are still coming out. Singles are still being released. And so those things have to go into our programming.

NP: Now, you've talked about having a new normal at the Globe. How does that affect cleaning practices around the station?

JS: It's kind of crazy. We've all got our masks. And you sanitize after everybody uses something. And you know what it's like with the console and the monitors, mouse, keyboards. Well, all that has to be sanitized after every person uses it. And so that's an extra step. I don't talk with the mask on when I'm on the air unless... there was one time that we did like a hand-off.

NP: As a Globe staff member myself, I know I sorely miss working at the Globe. Do you miss having a whole crew of students to help run the station?

JS: More than words. More than words. There are days where—

it's kind of crazy—but you guys feel close to me, because we can interact like you and I are now, or [via] emails, texts, some social media stuff. And there can be times where I might not see a student, even though they're on campus and part of the staff, for a week or so. But it's almost like I'm playing that same tape over and over again. And eventually you're like, they're not here.

But more than that, the daily interaction that I would have with you and you would have with the station, even if it wasn't us together at the same time, we'd eventually see each other several times a week. There is none of that. The radio station is still living and breathing, but it's not nearly the same without you here. Yeah, sure. I've talked to most all of you either through Zoom or on the phone or via text. But it's not, it's nothing, nothing close to what it would be, should be or could be.

NP: Because all The Globe staff are spread out around "The Globe" that severely limits in-person DJing, production work and other jobs around the station. That being said, are there any ways that Globe staff are keeping involved with the station from afar?

JS: Well, I can tell you one of the easiest things to point to would be, especially now during the membership drive, most of you are doing a great job of sharing and liking our posts on social platforms, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter about the membership drive.

I've mostly interacted with staff one-on-one or two-on-one in those types of environments. Also, a couple of students are either recorded, or are working on recordings that I can use and kind of like what we call Evergreens. So they can record some content and it has a little bit of shelf life because it's not tied specifically necessarily to a particular event or time. In some ways that's the best we can do. Everything from the work that the staff can do remotely like a promo, cutting a promo and sending it or swinging in when nobody else is here because you're local and you can cut a bunch of liners. I know it's not the same for anybody, you know, but it's still it's still something.

NP: Thanks so much for sitting down with me, Jason. I super appreciate it. Thanks for your time.

JS: Nathan, it's actually, it's a pleasure to talk to you. I'm excited for the future. I'm excited for you to be back in the fall and the rest of the students and we're going to be in some new digs. So that's something to look forward to for all of us.



2020 Globe student leaders pose for their physically distanced photo



Kadie Spoor, senior, on-air for the Breakfast Blend morning show



Inside the renovated Globe Radio Station

Communication department student leaders announced

Kadie Spoor will serve as student station manager for 91.1 the Globe in the coming academic year, and Zack Begly, Mackenzie Miller and Nick Yutzy will lead The Record as executive editors in the fall and spring. The faculty members in the communication department announced their selection of leaders this week. Joining Kadie at the Globe will be Nathan Pauls, program director; William Troyer, sports director; and

Gabriella Klopfenstein, public relations director. Meanwhile, in the fall, Mackenzie will serve as executive editor, joined by Nathan, who will be managing editor for digital content; in the spring, Nick and Zack will team up as executive editors along with Sierra Ross Richer, as managing editor. Congratulations to the incoming leadership team!

Senior Colin Flowers reflects on Black Lives Matter



Photo by Anya Igel

A version of this article was originally published by The Times of Northwest Indiana.

Honestly, I was probably about 10 years old when I started to realize and learn that I may be treated differently because I'm black. And initially, it wasn't really because my parents warned me about it. It was from just observing everything. I remember being dropped off at the mall on Saturdays with my friends and then being followed around the store or food court — as if I was expected to commit a crime.

I was about 13 or 14 at the time. That's when I really started having those talks about race with my parents. After that, I always made sure I was aware of where I was and who I was with and how I may be perceived.

But even then, I never really felt the need to speak up until George Floyd was killed. That changed everything, and honestly, there's a simple reason why.

It didn't faze me.

I saw it and thought, "Well, this is an everyday thing." But when I began to notice how numb I was to the tragedy I had just witnessed, I got mad. I mean, how could I — as a black man — be numb to the death of another black man?

That moment of self-reflection really showed me that I have to do something. I'm still trying to figure out what that exactly is, but either way, I'm more than willing to use whatever platform I have to push for change.

When I watched the video for the first time, it's like I already knew what was about to happen because we've seen it so many times before.

That still didn't make it any easier, though. It was one of those things where I just watched it one time and never watched it again.

It was really hard to take in because at the end of the day, I realized that could have been me or that could have been my dad or my cousins or my uncle. And the same thing could have happened to a black woman, as well, because they're also dealing with police brutality and racial injustice.

So although I'm blessed to not personally be in that situation, I still have to remember that George Floyd was a real person, and what happened to him shouldn't happen to anyone.

That's still somebody's son. That's still somebody's dad.

Anybody who is trying to justify what happened, they're basically saying that whatever mistake he made outweighed his right to live, and that's just not right. Obviously, if he was out here harming people or killing people then that significantly changes the situation. But he was arrested for allegedly using a fake \$20 bill.

You mean to tell me his life is only worth \$20?

I can't accept that.

Sometimes I get frustrated because the solution seems so simple, yet nothing seems to be changing. But whenever I start to get overwhelmed, I just pray that God helps my faith take over my emotions, rather than having my emotions take over my faith.

No matter what happens, I know I can't give up. It's just not in my blood. My maternal grandmother, she was a part of the sit-ins in Greensboro, North Carolina.

She got arrested and went to jail for what she knew was right. And then with my parents, they grew up in Gary when it was still pretty much a segregated city, so I just know that I have to keep it going.

We deserve more, and it's time for more.

Some white people will never see where black people are coming from, but we're not asking for anything special. All we want is justice.

Justice for George Floyd. Justice for Breonna Taylor.

Justice for all black people — even before they take their last breath.

Colin Flowers is a Black senior student-athlete from Gary, Indiana. He is a communication major and a member of the men's basketball team.

This newsletter was edited and designed by Nick Yutzy, a senior from Iowa City, Iowa majoring in communication and minoring in graphic design.

