

It wasn't until September of 2021 that I began my journey as a broadcast journalist in The Review. Like many other staffers in the publication, I entered this year thinking I would write. Multimedia wasn't even on my radar until one day, my editor-in-chief surveyed the room asking if anyone knew how to edit videos. Having managed a YouTube channel as part of an internship over the summer, I considered trying to apply my experience and raised my hand. After demonstrating that I could craft a short highlight reel of a recent football game, I was offered a spot on The Review's video staff. At that point, my trajectory for the rest of the year was sealed.

It's no secret that The Review's multimedia department was and still is relatively small. At the beginning of the year, video content production was the big elephant in the room since we weren't sure who would replace the former editor that had just graduated. I began the year filming each project with basically any photographer that I managed to convince into showing up. When it came to editing, I was entirely on my own. I spent hours each week at my workstation cutting, trimming, and manipulating footage until it became a film. It was a small scale operation, but I worked diligently. As more and more content became finalized and approved, that small trickle of videos turned into a steady stream. Suddenly, we were a full blown multimedia division, producing quality content each week.

My first big breakthrough was actually the third video that I ever made. For the past three years, a local nonprofit called Urban Harvest has run a farmers market in the Taub parking lot at our very own St. John's School each Saturday. I was interested in doing a story on the market, so I enlisted a couple of volunteer camera operators and showed up one Saturday morning to see what we could find. We weren't exactly sure how the narrative would unfold at first, but after finding out from the general manager that all of the vendors come from within 180 miles of Houston, the video became a think piece on the importance of buying local and supporting small businesses. We interviewed several local vendors and customers about their perceptions of sustainability and locavorism, and experienced the market's different offerings. This video was special to me because I had actually worked with Urban Harvest over the past summer, and it focuses on a cause that I am genuinely passionate about. The video ultimately won 8th in the nation at NSPA's best of show. This outcome not only validated the new Review multimedia division's production prowess, but also my decision to become a member of the team. I was thrilled that a film which I directed and edited had been recognized at a national competition. I was thrilled that I had found my place in The Review.

To me, journalism is about telling a story that creates positive impact. As the Multimedia Editor of The Review, my goal is bring attention to the lesser known people, groups, and events in our community. Throughout the year, we have featured four athletic teams, five student clubs, two bands, and two solo musicians. We have promoted mental health awareness, covered the Mountain Biking Club's attempts to revitalize Houston trails, explored the Automotive Club's efforts to increase inclusivity within the car community, captured GOrilla club's focus on making working out accessible to everyone, and so much more. I am proud of all the work in my

portfolio this year, but even more than that, I am proud of the positive impact that me and my small team have been able to create for our community.

“Families find fresh food at the Urban Harvest Farmers Market” (September 20, 2021)

This project was meaningful to me because it created legitimate impact in our community by promoting awareness on the importance of buying local and supporting small businesses. I was extremely proud of “Urban Harvest Farmers Market” because it was almost like my pet project. I spent hours planning preproduction, filming, editing, refining the film whenever I had time. Seeing my efforts get recognized at NSPA definitely validated my work as a fledgling multimedia content creator. And being able to spend the morning at the market meeting cool people, shopping at unique vendors, and supporting a worthy cause encapsulates everything I love about multimedia journalism.

“Automotive club” (February 1, 2022)

The genesis of this story emerged when I was having a conversation with my friend who led the Automotive club at St. John’s. We were talking about problems within the car community, and he told me that a big issue was that the people often feel excluded if they don’t have a “cool” vehicle. The Automotive Club has been working to eliminate that sentiment by promoting the idea that you can be a car enthusiast no matter what kind of car you own or like. We decided to collaborate on a project to address inclusivity within the car community, and this video was the result.

“Mental Health”

This film was part of a larger package created by the online team promoting awareness on student mental health issues. We interviewed Ashley LaGrange, the school’s licensed counselor, on the impact of pandemic isolation on student mental health as well as ways to address it. The piece also features responses from students around campus on ways they preserve their own mental health.

“Mountain Biking Club”

Unfortunately for the mountain biking community in Houston, the city is relatively flat geographically speaking which significantly limits options when it comes to trails. That being said, there are a few that have emerged over the years, and resourceful local riders have been slowly building out the parks to include jumps, gaps, and other types of terrain features.

Creativity is key when you have to make do with what you've got. This video explores the efforts that the MTB club at St. John's has gone through to enjoy their favorite hobby in an environment that's stacked against them.