



1974 Tornado Remembrance

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Connection to the College: Alumnus/alumna

Class Year: 1976

Please share your memories of April 3, 1974.

Tell us whatever you'd like at whatever length you'd like. Feel free to share stories of the impact of the tornado weeks and months after the event.

I was a sophomore living on the third floor of Katherine Parker Hall when the tornado hit campus on April 3, 1974. It was later afternoon right before dinner when the hail and high winds began. I'm from Southeastern Indiana and was listening to a radio station from home when they announced that a tornado was on the ground in Madison, Indiana. I looked out my window and there it was already on the ground swirling with debris and heading right for us, the sound like a train rolling by. I just starting running down the stairs and when I reached the ground floor the door was wrenched up by the wind. I grabbed the railing and proceeded downstairs and sat on the floor against the wall where we all would spend the rest of the day and night, without power and unsure of what was going on.

Meanwhile my parents had heard of the touchdown and had arrived on campus, walking and crawling over trees upon their arrival to make sure I was ok, since there were no cell phones or way to contact me any other way. They left after making sure I was ok, since no one was allowed to leave campus until everyone was accounted for. My Dad and brother would return the following week to help with cleanup.

The following day we were allowed to leave campus for an extended Spring Break. Campus was a mess and it was sad to see it in such disarray. It was indeed one of the most frightening experiences of my life. I reflect on it every year on April 3. When I hear tornado warnings now I take them seriously. Since we had basically no warning it was amazing that no one was seriously injured or lost their life. It was a day that I will always remember when God saved so many of us.