



Local Content & Service Report to the Community 2017



"We are so fortunate
to have access to these
educational opportunities
in East Central Indiana."

– RUTH PAYNE



The David Owsley Museum of Art at Ball State University.

Picture This

“We’re hoping to give the listener a chance to hear something fascinating about art that they might not have heard before.”

– SEAN ASHCRAFT

Indiana Public Radio launched a new weekly radio series in 2017 - *The Owsley Moment*.

Created by Ball State School of Art professor Lara Kuykendall, *The Owsley Moment* is a brief, informative program that describes one work on display at the David Owsley Museum of Art every week. Each *Moment* takes the listener on a small adventure, often telling the history of the piece, recounting the life of the artist, or vividly detailing the characteristics of the work.

The Owsley Moment is written by students of Kuykendall’s Art Museum Theory & Practice and Art in the United States classes at Ball State. They are produced in collaboration with the David Owsley Museum of Art and Indiana Public Radio and are voiced by Ball State students.

“It’s been great and an interesting challenge to work with everyone to produce these

Moments,” said IPR production manager Sean Ashcraft. “Everyone is passionate about their part and want to make the most out of the wonderful scripts that the Ball State students wrote. We’re hoping they give the listener a chance to hear something fascinating about art that they might not have heard before.”

“Our hope is that *The Owsley Moment* will remind radio listeners in Muncie and beyond of the rich and diverse collection at the David Owsley Museum of Art,” said Lara Kuykendall. “Few cities as small as Muncie have a world-class global art collection at their doorstep. We are extremely lucky and *The Owsley Moment* celebrates that.”

The Owsley Moment airs Thursdays at 11 a.m. during *Morning Musicale* and Saturdays at 3:04 p.m. during the *TED Radio Hour*.

Making a Difference

Indiana Public Radio teamed up with Ball State University to present a cutting-edge journalism project on the growing meth problem in Delaware County. **“Unmasked: The Stigma of Meth”** was a unique interdisciplinary, cross-platform student-led immersive experience that included a series of broadcasts on IPR, a 30-minute documentary that aired on WIPB-TV (our PBS station), a website with podcasts and web video and a 40-page magazine. Students from various majors (from film studies to telecommunications production to journalism) participated, storytelling across these multiple platforms.

This project was possible with a grant from the Ball Brothers Foundation and was created to take a deep dive into the meth epidemic in Muncie and Delaware County.

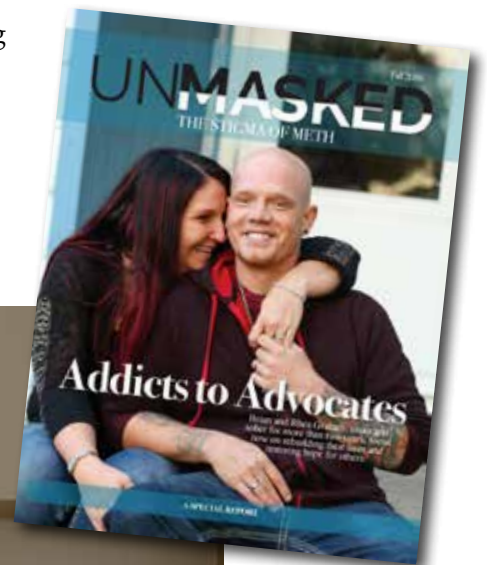
“Our objective was to give students a news story experience that forced them to think about storytelling across multiple platforms,” said Instructor Juli Metzger, who is an Instructor in the Journalism Department at Ball State.

The award-winning project detailed some of the progress we’ve made locally — from addicts turning their lives around and helping others — to a special drug court to help break the cycle of abuse.

“This project looked at what the community was doing to fight the disease and offer some insight into the lives it affects the most,” said Instructor Terry Heifetz, who also is News Director of Indiana Public Radio.

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– TERRY HEIFETZ



Members of the “Unmasked” team and above, the companion magazine.



The Cardinal Greenway, featured in *Community Connection*.

Connecting Communities

“Directly from hearing about our group on *Community Connection*, we gained at least two new, very enthusiastic board members and one volunteer.”

– KIM MCKENZIE

In 2017, IPR continued to offer *Community Connection*, an IPR original program that tells the story of nonprofit organizations in our region.

Each month we focus on one organization and what its volunteers and staff are doing to make our community a better place. We’re here to tell their story: what impact they have on our community, how they do what they do, and how our listeners can help.

Organizations featured in 2017 included **Moms Demand Action** (a gun safety group); **Muncie OUTreach**, a support center for LGBTQ youth/teens; **Cardinal Greenways** (a walking/biking trails system); **Motivate Our Minds** (an after-school enrichment program); **Pies for Peace** (a group that promotes unity through unique community events), and **Muncie Soup Kitchen**.

“We at Muncie OUTreach are grateful to have been invited to participate on *Community Connection*. Our group is intending to expand and draw in more folks, including LGBTQ youth participants, transgender adults, and adult supporters. For the month that our interview aired, I had over 10 people tell me in person that they heard the show. Directly from hearing about our group on *Community Connection*, we gained at least two new, very enthusiastic board members and one consistent volunteer who helps us weekly,” said Kim McKenzie, Muncie OUTreach, Assistant Director.

“*Community Connection* really was a kickoff and major motivator for our publicity and fundraising campaigns. It has also been a thread to tie us to the local community, and we have since had a stronger presence, tabling at more community events than we have in the past.”

Theater for the Mind

In collaboration with Ball State University's Department of Theatre and Dance, IPR's annual holiday **Radio Drama** returned again in December. This year's production featured an original piece, *A Christmas Truce*, written by Ball State playwriting professor Tom Horan.

Horan is the Playwright-in-Residence at Phoenix Theatre in Indianapolis. His new radio drama, *A Christmas Truce* tells the story of a ceasefire on Christmas Day during World War I.

The radio drama, which featured community and university actors and musicians, was directed by Jennifer Blackmer, Professor of Theatre and Associate Provost for Entrepreneurial Learning at Ball State. Blackmer has directed several IPR Radio Dramas, including *Gift of the Magi* and *A Christmas Carol*.

Authentic Foley sound effects were performed by Vanessa Theme Ament, Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball Endowed Chair in the telecommunications department.

Audience members were treated to a special pre-show program that included a Foley demonstration.

The Radio Drama was presented at Sursa Performance Hall also broadcast on our sister station, PBS affiliate WIPB-TV.

Cast and audience of *A Christmas Truce*.

"I hope
(the radio drama)
is produced in other
communities as the
message is perfect
for the season and
already this bit
of history is
fading away."
- TANIA SAID



News accolades

IPR's news team received seven awards during the spring's news awards season. The Indiana Associated Press Broadcaster's Association and the state Society of Professional Journalists chapter recognized stories and newscasts aired in 2016 from both IPR's professional news reporters and student reporters.

"We have an incredible pool of talented Ball State student reporters, and it's rewarding for us when they receive recognition and professional-level news awards," said ATC host Stephanie Wiechmann.

Indiana Associated Press:

- First Place, Best Feature for "Mastering Tech at Any Age at the Library,"
- Second Place, Local Radio Best Reporter – Stephanie Wiechmann
- Second Place, Best Long-Form Newscast – Stan Sollars
- Second Place, Best Public Affairs Program for "Madison County Fair,"
- Second Place, Best Student Reporter – Tony Sandleben

Society of Professional Journalists:

- Second Place, Best Newscast – *Indiana Weekend* with John Strauss
- Second Place, Student Sports Reporting, "Hoosiers at the Games" series



Stephanie Wiechmann and Tony Sandleben with their news awards.

State's top student boss

Sean Ashcraft, IPR Production Manager was named **Indiana's 2017 Student Employment Supervisor of the Year** by The Midwest Association of Student Employment Administrators. The award recognizes excellence, mentoring, professionalism and leadership. In a nomination letter to the committee, *The Scene* student Tyler Eads — on behalf of all of the BSU students who produce the weekly IPR music program — wrote: **"Sean has the heart of a teacher and will work tirelessly until every student employee feels competent in whatever area they may have been struggling."**



Sean Ashcraft receiving his BSU award.



Our cup runneth over

In 2017, IPR kicked off its **Coffee with Stan** events. We invite IPR fans and, specifically, fans of *Morning Edition* host **Stan Sollars**, into the studios the first Friday of each month for some coffee, provided by a local coffee house, and a conversation with the lively host. At the end of his on-air shift, Sollars even leads a tour of the studios. The popular event is open to the first six people who register online. Needless to say, it's filled every month. **"It was my pleasure to spend August's Coffee with Stan with you all. The morning was fun, informative and delicious. I enjoyed the behind-the-scenes look at my radio station. WBST is a gem,"** said Lynn Hale.



Tessa Lark, Steven Turpin and Peter Klimo during *Morning Musicale*.

In our studio

Last March, violinist Tessa Lark and pianist Peter Klimo were guests on *Morning Musicale*, playing live in the Performance Studio and talking with host **Steven Turpin** about their promising careers. In 2014, Tessa won the Silver Medal at the Ninth Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis and was awarded an Avery Fischer Career Grant in 2016. Peter won the Second Prize at the Tenth International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Utrecht, The Netherlands in 2016. Their appearance at IPR coincided with a recital they were giving in Portland, Indiana. The Ball State Graduate Flute Trio recorded in our studio in October. Their performance aired on *Morning Musicale*. Ball State School of Music faculty members Jim Rhinehart and Nathan Bogert recorded their own arrangements of standards in the Performance Studio. These were heard on *Morning Musicale* and during special edition of *The Scene* in December.

Jazzing it up

In its second year, *BlueNotes*, IPR's *Quarterly Jazz Digest* featured 8 hours of programming on modern American jazz, jazz legends, and holiday jazz, as well as a feature on local jazz musicians the Scott Routenberg Trio. Each episode featured host Larry Beck spinning historical recordings woven with commentary, and a new segment called "Is It Jazz?" that challenged listeners to evaluate a mystery composition and determine if it contains the essential elements of jazz. *BlueNotes* will continue in 2018.



On the scene

In 2017, IPR continued to produce the weekly public radio show *The Scene*. The program features music performances from all over Indiana. The goal is to promote the Indiana music scene by focusing on the music itself. It tells the stories of the music happening in our own backyards, gives listeners a bit of context about new and upcoming artists and often includes interviews with the musicians themselves. *The Scene* is a student-run production in collaboration with Ball State's Music & Media Production department.



A Spring 2017 immersive learning project expanded *The Scene's* online presence with video content produced by team of Ball State video students. The radio show itself featured a wide array of local talent and internationally-known artists that have roots in Indiana, such as Time for Three and Rob Dixon, producing over 30 hours of original radio recordings during the year. In November 2017, the student team was invited to cover Tonic Ball 16: a multi-stage fundraising event to benefit Second Helpings of Indianapolis.

Roads less traveled

Indiana Weekend continued to tell the stories about the people and places who call Indiana home – from a group of talented Muncie-area teen-agers headed to the world robotics championships, to the Early Bird Diner in New Castle, to a woman who was forced to flee her native Afghanistan as a teenager and now is an active Muncie volunteer, and a touching remembrance of our former GM, Al Rent. *Indiana Weekend's* host left Muncie last year to pursue other career interests and the show is currently on hiatus until further notice.



Students from Motivate Our Minds get special access to IPR's music library.

Tours

Indiana Public Radio led several educational tours of our studios, including one for **more than 70 students** from **Motivate Our Minds**, a local after-school program for children in grades 1-8. Many of those students told us after the tour how much they enjoyed it and wanted to “work” at the station. We also offered the first in a series of tours for the Ball State community — administrators, faculty, staff and students – designed to familiarize them with both studios and what we offer. Tours also came through from a local homeschool group, The Unity Center, Ball State University telecommunications classes and TeenWorks, an employment and college readiness program for teens.

Tables and more

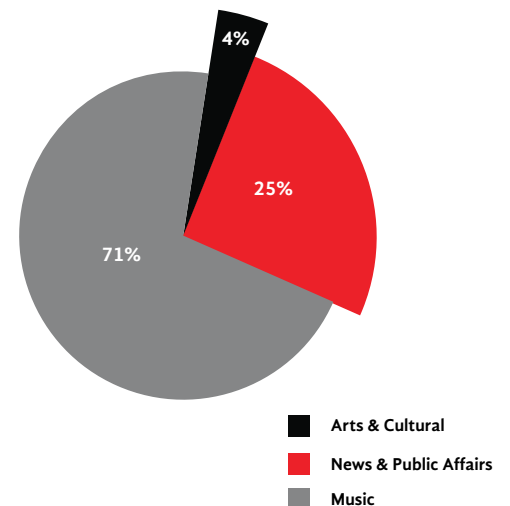
Indiana Public Radio, in ongoing effort to engage our listeners and attract new ones, participated in several community events in 2017. Events include the annual **Symphony On the Green**, which draws hundreds to the quad on the Ball State University campus for a Muncie Symphony Orchestra concert and arts festival. IPR also participated in **First Thursday** arts events in downtown Muncie, providing information about the station's local programs and events, such as **An Evening In the Vineyards** and **All Beers Considered**. IPR also set up tables at **TCOM Super Party** (for BSU students and faculty), **Citizens for Central Lunch Tables** (Muncie Community Schools) and a **Thanks for Giving** non-profit information event at MadJax, an arts collaborative in downtown Muncie. **MET Opera Theatrecasts** ticket giveaways have been a hit this year, and we have some new opera fans (and members) claiming giveaways for Fort Wayne and Indianapolis theatres.

Friends of IPR

These are some of our partners for arts and culture, programming and more during 2017:

- Alpha Center
- Anderson Symphony Orchestra
- Anderson's Mainstage Theatre
- Arts Place, Inc.
- BSU Department of Theatre & Dance
- BSU Music & Media Production Department
- Cardinal Greenways
- Civic Hall Performing Arts Center
- Cornerstone Center for the Arts
- Everyday Life in Middletown
- Honeywell Center
- Mainstage Theatre Anderson
- Marion Philharmonic Orchestra
- Masterworks Chorale
- Moms Demand Action for Guns Sense in America
- Motivate Our Minds
- Muncie Civic Theatre
- Muncie OUTreach
- Muncie Symphony Orchestra
- Muncie Three Trails Music Series
- Muncie Time Bank
- Muncie Unity Center
- Pies for Peace
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra
- We're Trying Collective

978 hours of local programming in 2017





Audience members enjoying IPR's Radio Drama, *A Christmas Truce*.

**“Thank you for all
the news and information
you bring to the community.**

So important!”

– MARNELL KENT



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