Local Content & Service Report
to the Community 2019

“ I’m so grateful for the contribution of Indiana Public Radio to the civil discussion of pressing issues across society. IPR’s dedicated staff and broadcast professionals provide an enormous service to east-central Indiana and make our communities stronger, and I’m honored to support that effort. ”

— John Strauss
Group Effort

In September, IPR began airing All IN, a news program hosted by Indiana journalist Matt Pelsor.

The name reflects the statewide nature of the program that airs at 1 p.m. each weekday on all participating Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations.

The show touches on the issues and topics that excite and interest us, rooted in the belief that we can bring our passions and differences together in a civil, intelligent and non-judgmental environment.

The program began at WFYI in Indianapolis in July.

“The show will be rooted in hearing from and about people who affect public policy,” WFYI Chief Content Officer Matt Shafer Powell said. “We’ll have the full resources of IPB News to help deliver up-to-date information from all over Indiana, and we have a lifelong Hoosier with keen insights and natural curiosity that we think will keep listeners fully engaged.”

All IN, made possible through grant funding now airs on all nine Indiana NPR stations.

Topics covered in 2019 included school takeovers, stolen identity, vaping, infant and maternal mortality, recycling, marijuana prosecution, Indiana authors and addiction treatment.

In December, IPR’s Morning Edition host, Stan Sollars, was featured on an episode about Esophageal cancer, the sixth leading cause of cancer death in the world is also one of its least talked about forms. Sollars, a cancer survivor, shared his story and talked, along with his oncologist, about lifestyle risk factors, how to recognize symptoms of the disease, and what treatment is available.
NPR Experience

In June, IPR offered “An Evening with Audie Cornish” at Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie. The co-host of NPR’s award-winning All Things Considered was interviewed by our own ATC host Stephanie Wiechmann, answered questions from the audience, then chatted with guests during an “After Party with Audie.”

The after party included small plates created by Vera Mae’s Bistro paired with various wines, live music, IPR host experiences, and more. During the wine tasting, guests could participate in a wine pull where they chose a wrapped bottle from a selection of wines. Nearly 200 people attended the fundraising event, which many said was our best NPR host event to date.

WHAT THEY SAY

“I listen all the time.”
– Joan Moon

“My life is not complete without NPR.”
– Marian Cooley

“Keep up the good work. In addition to the programs we love, having an outstanding factual news source is more important than ever.”
– Marvin Gridley

“Listening to Stan is part of my morning routine.”
– Jean Decker

(T-B) Ball State University Associate Vice President for Inclusive Excellence Marsha McGriff, DeNeshia Stewart and Audie Cornish. IPR staff with Audie.
Honored Again

Stephanie Wiechmann, Stan Sollars, and Ball State students Zoe Dwiggins and Tony Sandleben, were all honored for their news reporting in 2019 by professional news organizations.

IPR’s news team received five awards from state contests in 2019 year for stories and newscasts broadcast in 2019.

Four awards came from the Indiana Associated Press Broadcasters Association.

Stephanie Wiechmann was awarded Best Reporter for the fifth time in her 11 years with the station. She also won first place in Best Spot News for the August 2019 story, “Ball State To Remove Papa John’s Name From Business Program.”

Stephanie also shared a second place award for Best Continuing Coverage of a Single Event with former student reporter, Tony Sandleben. Stephanie and Tony spent the 2019 legislative session covering the bill that would make Ball State University responsible for the future of Muncie Community Schools.

Stan Sollars won a second place award for Best Long-Form Newscast. It’s his 38th newscast award in many competitions since 1995.

One award came from the Indiana state wide competition hosted by the Society for Professional Journalists. There, student reporter Zoe Dwiggins won first place in Student News Reporting for radio.

Judges in both contests commended the small team for how it covered the community with a broad range of stories.
Facing Project
IPR produced several new episodes of the podcast/program The Facing Project in 2019. The monthly program that is “StoryCorps meets This American Life” and airs the last Saturday of the month at 3:30 p.m.

Founded in 2012 in Muncie by J.R. Jamison and Kelsey Timmerman, The Facing Project began as a one-off response to debates about the poverty statistic in Delaware County — to bring a human story to the numbers — but quickly grew into a program model and then into its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has now spread across the country to over 100 communities. While the original project took on the subject of poverty, The Facing Project has now collected over 1,500 stories on topics ranging from racism to disabilities.

Each episode of the IPR program is hosted by Jamison and Timmerman, who introduce the month’s theme followed by performances of two Facing Project stories from different points-of-view but related to the month’s theme. Every story is produced by two people who took the time to listen and share and collaborate on a monologue told from one of their lived experiences. Each episode ends with commentary on the theme between the hosts, leaving listeners with the courage to share their own stories and the empathy to listen to others.

Themes in 2019 included addiction, empathy, homelessness and police and community relations.

BlueNotes Jazz
BlueNotes began as a quarterly jazz digest in 2014 with an eclectic blend of classic and contemporary jazz and an occasional focus on specific genres and styles of jazz. BlueNotes joined the IPR program lineup as a regular monthly program offering in 2019. Larry Beck hosts the program, east central Indiana’s only jazz radio broadcast offering great music, news of local jazz events, and features with local jazz musicians. Guests in 2019 included filmmaker Robert Mugge; Mark Buselli, director of the jazz studies program at Ball State University; filmmaker, actress, and vocalist Vanessa Theme Ament, and musician Jim Rinehart.

Community Connection
In 2019, IPR continued to offer Community Connection, an IPR original program that tells the stories 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 2019 included Ross Community Center, Inside Out/Fresh Directions, ECI CASA, By5 Family navigators, Interlock ECI, Feed My Sheep, Second Harvest, Yes We Care! Reading Everywhere!, Alpha Center, Mid-Indiana Trails, Muncie Three Trails Music Fest and Muncie Pride.

The Scene
In 2019, IPR continued to offer the weekly, Ball State University student-produced 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.

Morning Musicale
Classical music host Steven Turpin delivered hours of classical music with information on local music performances, information about area musicians and more. One of IPR’s most popular local programs, Morning Musicale has been on the air for nearly three decades.

Owsley Moment
IPR continued the fourth season of the weekly radio series, The Owsley Moment in 2019. 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. 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.
Indiana Public Radio and the American Association of University Women teamed up for the 40th Used Book Sale at the Ball State Alumni Center in May and June. AAUW uses the money raised through its annual book sale to fund nontraditional student scholarships. Proceeds also benefit IPR.

**Coffee with Stan**

IPR continued its “Coffee with Stan” events in 2019. The monthly Coffee with Stan featured a tasting of delicious single origin coffees with light refreshments from The Caffeinery served by a professional barista, a look inside IPR studios and, of course, a chance to meet the man, the legend, Stan Sollars, host of Morning Edition. The event is limited to the first six people who register and each month all spaces were full. Coffee with Stan is the first Friday of every month from 8 to 10 am.

**IPR Nerds Trivia**

Indiana Public Radio continued its monthly IPR Nerds Trivia events in 2019. Designed as a way IPR fans could gather with like minded listeners, it was offered the last Thursday of each month at Books & Brews in Muncie. IPR Nerds Trivia was hosted by All Things Considered host Stephanie Wiechmann and Community Connection host Michelle Kinsey. The trivia nights were free to attend and winners received prizes (primarily “vintage” IPR and NPR items from our storage closet). Each trivia night drew about four teams, comprised of four “nerds” each (pictured above).

**Tours**

IPR welcomed several tours in 2019, including school groups, station members and our Ball State University campus community.

“"I look forward to hanging out with other IPR Nerds each month. They are definitely MY people."”

— Sara Gullion
Considering Beer

Indiana Public Radio’s annual celebration of local and regional craft beer, ALL BEERS CONSIDERED (with a nod to All Things Considered) was hosted in Oct. 2019. The 13th annual event has become this area’s premiere craft beer tasting and featured the works of artisans from Muncie Makers Market, a fun photo booth, live local, a variety of Cuban-inspired small plates by Harmony Café, a silent auction and of course, great craft beer hand selected by The Fickle Peach. Nearly 300 people attended the event and took home a keepsake beer tasting glass. Proceeds benefited IPR.

Dramatic Radio

Indiana Public Radio presented its annual Radio Drama on Dec. 13. “Christmas Gifts,” an authentic radio drama, was performed live on-air and before an audience in Sursa Performance Hall on the Ball State University campus. “Christmas Gifts” brought two O. Henry stories to life - “Gift of the Magi” and “The Last Leaf.” The drama was written by David Little, playwright and assistant teaching professor of theatre at Ball State, with material adapted from “Gift of the Magi” by Kirsten Novotny. Matthew Reeder, a Ball State University theater professor, returned to direct his third radio drama. The live broadcast aired from 8-9 p.m. and was taped for rebroadcast on IPR and videotaped to be shown on WIPB-TV that month. Those who attended the show in person were treated to a pre-show Foley demonstration; comments from the director, music director and writer, and a unique view of what is normally only heard.

IPR Friends

Here are some of the arts and culture and non-profit organizations we partnered with last year:

Alpha Center
Anderson Symphony Orchestra
Arts Place, Inc.
Ball State Dept of Theatre Dance
Ball State School of Music
Ball State TCOM Dept
By5 Family Navigators
Civic Hall Performing Arts Center
Cornfed Derby Dames
David Owsley Museum of Art
ECI CASA
Feed My Sheep
Honeywell Center
Inside Out/Fresh Directions
Interlock ECI
Mainstage Theatre Anderson
Marion Philharmonic Orchestra
Masterworks Chorale
Mid-Indiana Trails
Muncie Arts and Culture Council
Muncie Civic Theatre
Muncie Three Trails Music Festival
Muncie Makers Market
Muncie Pride
Muncie Symphony Orchestra
Richmond Symphony Orchestra
Ross Community Center
Second Harvest
Yes We Care! Reading Everywhere!
Production Manager, Sean Ashcraft leading a tour of school children in the IPR studios.

“Keep up the great work in the Muncie community!”

– Coleen Balukas