



## 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



(L-R) Ball State graduate Matt Pelsor is the host of ALL IN. IPR's Stan Sollars was featured in an episode of ALL IN discussing his cancer journey.



# 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.



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

## WHAT THEY SAY

“ I listen all the time. ”

– Joan Moon

“ My life is not complete without NPR. ”

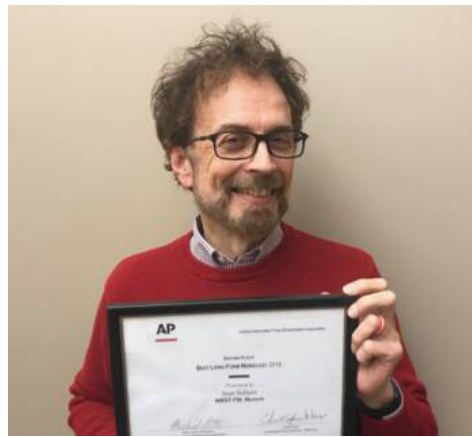
– Marian Cooley

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

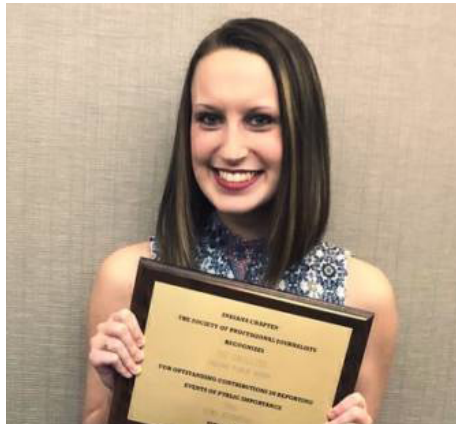
– Marvin Gridley

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

– Jean Decker



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.



# Honored Again

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.

# Original Productions

## 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.

## 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.



## 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.

## 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.

Photo: Bob Ball from Inside Out during a Community Connection taping.



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

– Sara Gullion

# Community Engagement

## Used Book Sale

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.

# 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.

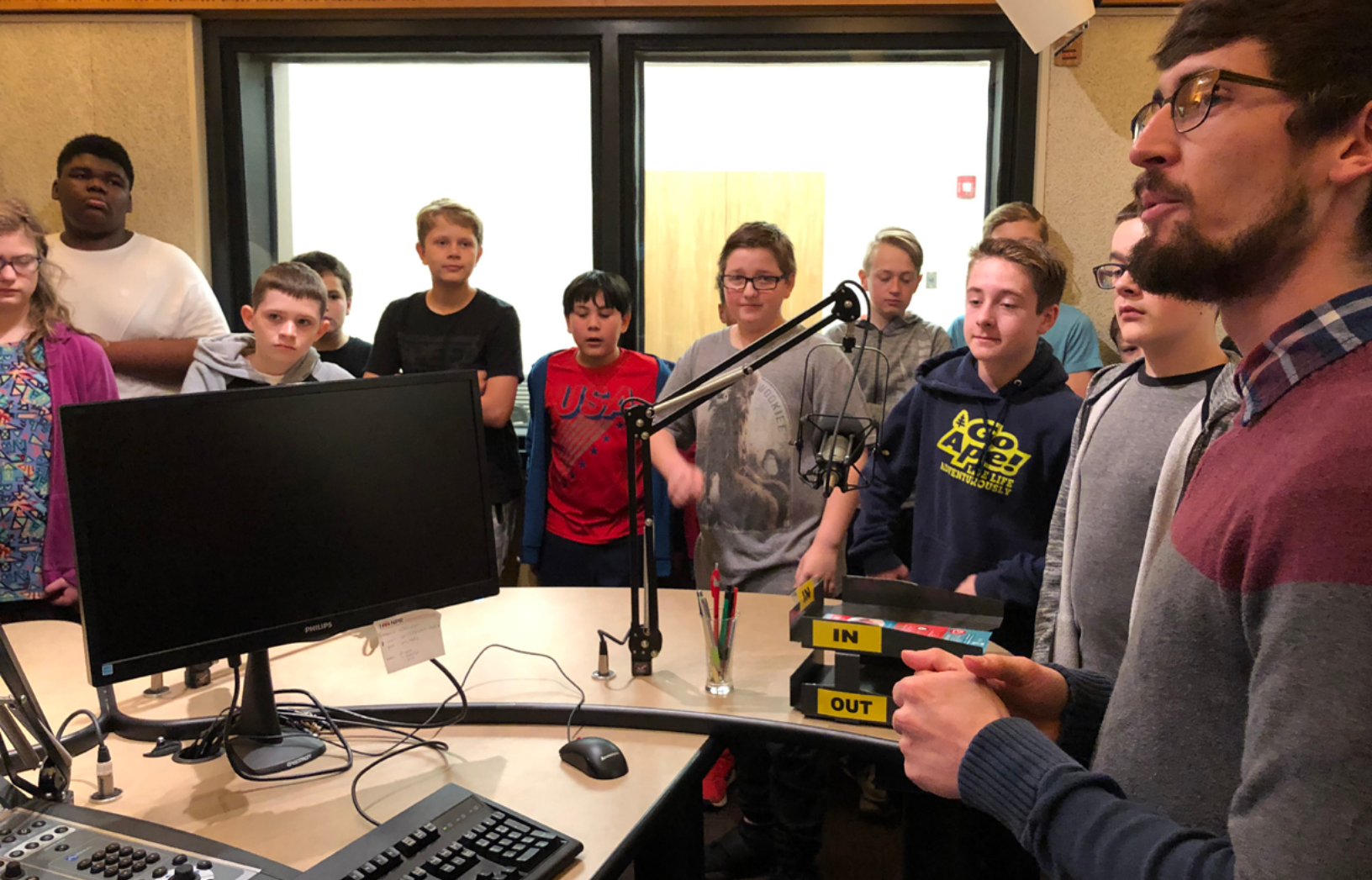


## IPR Friends

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



INDIANA PUBLIC RADIO  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306

[indianapublicradio.org](http://indianapublicradio.org)