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**www.wuis.org**

**OUR MISSION**  
 WUIS-WIPA will satisfy a curious,  
 societally-engaged audience  
 through programming  
 and community outreach.

The University of Illinois is an affirmative  
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# sound view

Summer 2005

91.9 FM WUIS / Public Radio  
 89.3 FM WIPA / Public Radio

## BLUEGRASS BARBECUE *Birthday Bash* on July 10

*Event also Benefits the  
 Springfield Children's  
 Museum and Kumler  
 Food Pantry*

The WUIS/WIPA family invites you and your family to help celebrate our 30th birthday year in a fun-filled afternoon of music, great food and family activities. The event is a "thank you" to all those who have supported the station over the years.

Highlighting the event will be the appearance of the Lovell Sisters Band, one of the hottest new music groups to come on the bluegrass, folk, country and contemporary acoustic scenes in years. Based in Calhoun, Georgia, the Lovells won the recent *Prairie Home Companion* Talent Under Twenty competition. In addition, they were finalists in the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America (SPBGMA) Band



Lovell Sisters Band

competition and won the 2004 Strawberry Festival Band contest. This exciting, young group of talented musicians includes sisters Jessica, Megan and Rebecca Lovell on vocals, Fiddle, Dobro and Mandolin, and Andrew Nall and Josh Miller, Bass, Guitar, and vocals.

WUIS Bluegrass host Mark Mathewson and his daughter Molly will open for the Lovells with their own distinctive, down-home style of Illinois music.

Continued...

# BLUEGRASS BARBECUE

*Birthday Bash*

## Food and Activities

Some of the best barbeque in central Illinois, courtesy of Turasky Catering, will be served up with all the trimmings including soft drinks, wine and beer. Beverage sponsors include the Corkscrew Wine Emporium.

A special children's tent is being put together by the Children's Museum, including music making and performing on stage. The WUIS studios will be open for tours with station staff members and volunteers on hand to take visitors behind the scenes.

## Schedule

The Bluegrass and Barbeque Birthday Bash will be held in the courtyard by the radio station, located on the UIS campus.

### 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Kids and family activities, station tours, Mark Mathewson & daughter Molly take the stage

### 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Barbeque with all the trimmings and beverages

### 6:00-7:00 p.m.

The Lovell Sisters Band

Make your plans now to join in the fun. Families are asked to provide a \$10 donation plus canned food item, which will be shared with the Children's Museum and the Kumler Food Pantry. For directions to the UIS campus and up-to-date information, go to [www.wuis.org](http://www.wuis.org).

## Bluegrass Breakdown: 30 Years of Loyal Fans and Dedicated Hosts

In 2001, the multi-million-selling soundtrack "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" attracted huge audiences for bluegrass and traditional country music. It was a pop culture moment that opened up the genre to listeners who eagerly welcomed this high-energy, all-acoustic sound. According to the International Bluegrass Music Association, since 2000, bluegrass music has experienced a 104% increase in consumers and a growth in popularity unprecedented in recent bluegrass history.

But long before bluegrass tunes dotted popular music charts, fans could turn to 91.9 FM for bluegrass and folk programming regularly. From its opening days in 1975, WUIS has been committed to offering a variety of music. Mark Mathewson, current co-host of the program *Bluegrass Breakdown*, has been a familiar voice to bluegrass and folk audiences since 1995 when he took over the show from long-time host Bill Rintz.



WUIS' local music hosts are always very knowledgeable about music, and most always musicians themselves. Bill Rintz (right), original host of *Folk Festival* and later *Bluegrass Breakdown*, plays with friend Mike Anderson in 1978.

## BUSINESS PARTNERS – When you visit these businesses or utilize their services, please let them know you appreciate their support of WUIS-WIPA.

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## MEMBERS

Help support the radio programming you enjoy. Become a member for the first time! Or, check your mailing label for the date of your last gift. If it's been longer than one year, renew your membership now! For membership questions, call (217) 206-6403.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 - 2 full days of programs  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 - (Day Sponsorship)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - 20 hours of programs      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 - 4 hours of programs (Mug)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$365 - Dollar-a-Day Club (Lunch) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 - 3 hours of programs (Member card) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 - 10 hours of programs      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____                           |

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Your gift is processed by the University of Illinois Foundation. Every dollar of your gift is used for the exclusive support of WUIS-WIPA.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
5	Morning Edition (begins at 4 am)					Classics	Classics	
6						Inside Europe SWR	Lincoln Library Concert	
7						Weekend Edition	Sound & Spirit	
8							Weekend Edition	
9	Classics with Karl Scroggin					Car Talk	To the Best of Our Knowledge	
10						Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me		
11						Whad'Ya Know	A Prairie Home Companion	
1						Performance Today		
2	Fresh Air Weekend							
3	Fresh Air					The Changing World	Sound Treatment Living in Illinois	
4	All Things Considered					All Things Considered	All Things Considered	
5						Marketplace	A Prairie Home Companion	Thistle & Shamrock
6								
7	Jazz with Bob Parlocha					This American Life	Riverwalk Jazz	
8						Beale Street Carvan	Jazz Profiles	Nightsounds
9						Blues Before Sunrise	Jazz with Bob Parlocha	
10	Classics Through the Night						Classics	Classics
11								

SWR = State Week In Review (Oct-May)

Questions? Call (217) 206-9847 or (866) 206-9847 or email wuis@uis.edu

When not preparing his show, Mark is the director of Legal Publishing for the Illinois State Bar Association. He plays guitar and sings with two groups: Threshers, an old-time bluegrass band, and with his 15-year-old daughter Molly. A successful songwriter, Mark has had songs recorded by the Lonesome River Band, Blue Highway, and singers Mark Newton and Josh Williams.

Although its popularity has risen considerably in the past few years, bluegrass music remains a niche genre, explains Mark. "With a few exceptions, bluegrass is not part of the popular music scene. But over the years it has enjoyed a few major moments in the pop culture sun. It was the theme music for the movie 'Bonnie and Clyde.' The song 'Dueling Banjos,' from the movie 'Deliverance,' became a top 40 hit. Whenever a pop culture moment happens it prompts more people to listen to the music."

Bluegrass may not be a routine feature on commercial stations, but awareness of current stars of the genre is certainly rising. Mark attributes the trend, in part, to the changing musical interests of younger listeners. "Generations X and Y have very eclectic listening tastes. They don't listen to a steady diet of anything, but almost everything is in the mix. There was a time when some listeners' ears would be closed to certain musical genres. But this generation has a real open mindedness about music. They load these CDs into their iPods and hit mix."

Mark and co-host Jennifer Ramm play a range of selections designed to appeal to traditional bluegrass fans as well as more progressive tunes that push the boundaries of the genre.

Jennifer, who began co-hosting in 2001, has cultivated her love of bluegrass since she was a child of 8, playing fiddle and singing in the family's bluegrass band. Over the years as both a bluegrass musician and host of the program, she has seen the pendulum of the bluegrass style shift back and forth between traditional and nontraditional.



Mark Mathewson and Jennifer Ramm program alternating weeks.

"When my family began playing bluegrass there was a more progressive push. In the '80s it shifted to more traditional sounds. Many of the new songs today cover the range of the style from the traditional bluegrass to more progressive selections by bands that use drums, electric guitars, more complicated chord progressions, and more involved melodies and rhythms," explains Jennifer. When Jennifer is not live on the air or performing with her current band, The River Ramblers, she's teaching chemistry at Lincoln Land Community College.

The rising national popularity of bluegrass is reflected locally in listener financial support for the show and media recognition. In 2003, the *Illinois Times's* "Best of Springfield" list recognized *Bluegrass Breakdown* as the best public radio show.

As has been demonstrated on WUIS over the past three decades, the people who host the station's bluegrass program aren't the standard commercial radio broadcasters. It is a labor of love that is evident in their passion for the music and the depth of their understanding of this genre whose roots can be traced back to the early days of America when settlers of Jamestown, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Kentucky and the Virginias chronicled their day-to-day lives in the lyrics and melodies that would one day become known as bluegrass music.

## NPR Chief Klose Praises WUIS Progress

### Celebration of Public Affairs Reporting at Executive Mansion



Kevin Klose, president and chief executive officer of National Public Radio, lauded WUIS' thirty years of progress at "A Celebration of Excellence" held Feb. 24, 2005, at the Executive Mansion in Springfield. The event was a joint recognition of three decades of public affairs reporting by WUIS and *Illinois Issues* magazine.



Addressing over 200 enthusiastic WUIS supporters, Klose re-enforced the public broadcasting philosophy of service to the community in a "fair and balanced" way. "We are experiencing a rising tide of imbalance today in broadcasting," he said, speaking of commercial broadcasting's tilt toward opinion journalism. "The influence of narrow corporate and political views can be heard and seen throughout the day," he said. "Public radio and TV,

however, are the only broadcast entities that remain true to objective journalism, the truth and aggressive, investigative news-gathering."

Klose challenged WUIS and those gathered to keep the commitment to excellence alive. "We (public radio) are defying the odds," he said. "At a time when you would think our fortunes would be waning, listenership is increasing." NPR's audience has grown from 13 million in 1999 to 23 million today. "In this world where many offer seemingly easy answers to more and more complex problems, people are hungry for real facts and details delivered by credible sources," Klose said. "They want reasons and rationale for political and policy decisions and what those decisions mean to their daily lives," he emphasized. "Most commercial broadcasters will not or cannot devote the time to satisfy those public desires, but that is where public radio serves best."



Kevin Klose chats with Jane Luers and Annabelle Patton.

The February event was also a reunion of sorts, facilitating a gathering of WUIS veterans from first General Manager Dale Outzs to recently retired GM Brad Swanson.

## Fifth Graders Produce a Radio Play at WUIS



Mrs. Reyman's Fifth Grade Class, Owen Marsh

After discussing the possibility with WUIS' former General Manager Brad Swanson in the fall of 2004, Laura Reyman's fifth grade class at Owen Marsh Elementary School wrote and received a grant from the Springfield Public Schools Foundation. The grant was to research the health conditions and times former presidents lived in, how doctors treated patients and the secrecy that surrounded presidents when they fell ill.

Their research resulted in "To Your Health, Mr. President," a simulated radio broadcast written and presented by the students to educate intermediate students, along with the creation of a puppet theatre presentation for primary students. The class visited the WUIS studios twice to learn about radio broadcasting from Kavitha Cardoza, and then, with her help, taped the twenty minute radio piece. On June 5, it aired on *Sound Treatment*, which can still be heard on our web site at [wuis.org](http://wuis.org).

Excerpt from "To Your Health, Mr. President":

- Jesica: Eight Presidents have died in office: four from assassination and four from natural causes. One out of five didn't survive being president.
- Ali: William Harrison died of pneumonia after a month in office. Zachary Taylor died from some kind of intestinal problem.
- Maddie: Franklin Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage and Warren Hardin probably died from a heart attack, although there was no autopsy to prove it. That makes four who died of natural causes.
- DeCarlos: Presidents Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley and John Kennedy were all killed by assassins' bullets.
- Jasmine: President Reagan had a close call. He was shot two months after he took office.
- Maddie: His bodyguards were able to get him to medical help fast enough that surgeons were able to save his life and he recovered. He was healthy enough to serve a second term, even though he was the oldest man ever elected to the presidency.

### WUIS Staff

Rich Bradley – News Director/Acting GM  
 Bill Wheelhouse – Statehouse Bureau Chief  
 Sean Crawford – Statehouse Reporter  
 Amanda Vinicky – Statehouse PAR intern  
 Elizabeth Braun – PAR intern  
 Kavitha Cardoza – Springfield Bureau Chief  
 Kathy LeComte – All Things Considered Host  
 Kim Woosley – Morning Edition Local News  
 Sinta Seiber – Program Director  
 Bob Meyer – Production Director  
 Ed Barnett – Weekend Host

Mark Mathewson – Bluegrass Breakdown Host  
 Jennifer Ramm – Bluegrass Breakdown Host  
 Dave Leonatti – Nightsounds Host  
 Jim Huston – Lincoln Library Concert Host  
 Jim Dunn – Engineer  
 Karl Scroggin – Music Director  
 Lisa Clemmons Stott – Development Director  
 Jiffy Johnson – Major Gifts  
 Becky Yaeger – Radio Information Service (RIS)  
 Emily Chase – RIS/Development  
 Denise Rothenbach – Business Manager

## Listeners Pledge New Record of \$107,500 for Programming!

What does cutting back on a pledge drive by a day and then adding a day equal? Success! Driven by the perception that members wanted fewer days devoted to pledge drives, we cut back. Then, when we were short of our goal on the last day, we had to add the day we cut. Result? We came very close to our increased goal of \$110,000 for programming needs. A special WUIS valentine goes to the individual who offered the generous challenge grant the "extra" day.

Thank you to all the hundreds of stalwart, renewing members and the 207 brand new members, including the 44 new members under 30 years of age who responded to our 30 Under 30 campaign.

And finally, thanks to the businesses who fed the more than 150 volunteers who made the membership drive run smoothly:

### Spring Membership Drive Sponsors

Jewel Foods  
Meijer's  
Pepsi Cola Bottling of Springfield  
Humphrey's Market  
Food Fantasies Naturally  
The Trout Lilly Cafe  
Breadstretcher's Gourmet Subs  
Monical's Pizza  
Mel-O-Cream Donuts  
Godfather's Pizza  
Grab a Java  
Jimmy Johns  
Gateway to India Restaurant  
Bellacino's Pizza and Grinders

## New *All Things Considered* Weekend Host



Photo Credit: Kathryn Aiken 1999

The new host of *All Things Considered* – Weekend, starting in mid-August, has a personal connection to WUIS. Debbie Elliott has most recently done outstanding work as NPR's correspondent in the Gulf South region. She was in Tallahassee, Florida, at Bush Headquarters in November 2000, covering the presidential election night that wouldn't end. Debbie has reported extensively on tobacco litigation and recently covered the fraud trial of Health South CEO Richard Scrushy.

Back in the late 80's, she moved with her husband and away from a News Director position at a public radio station in Alabama. Through the Public Radio News Directors Inc. (PRNDI), she knew WUIS' Interim GM and News Director Rich Bradley. Rich was a founding member of PRNDI, served on the board, and took part in the decision to hire Debbie as the association's first Executive Director. During her association with PRNDI, both Debbie and Rich remember his advocacy of a more professionalized association with better pay for the Executive Director!

## WUIS Pig Poo Story Wins AP Award



Most reporters have to dig and dig for an award-winning story. Not so with WUIS' **Kavitha Cardoza**. Her keen news nose rooted out a prize-winning story at the 2004 Illinois State Fair.

Entitled "Same Old Shift" and winner of the 2004 Chicago - St. Louis division of the Illinois Associated Press Broadcaster's Association Best Radio Feature of 2004, Kavitha's clever story oozed of the sweat and smell of the job of cleaning the state fair swine pens by Central Illinois high

school students. "In the words of many pig farmers, the students 'smell only the money'," Kavitha says. "They vie for this prestigious, poop-pushing project to raise funds for their schools."

As one student interviewed for the piece put it, "The first hour is torture, but in the end, the rewards are nothing to turn your nose up at."

Cardoza's story was among the many public radio features recognized by AP. And, ironically, public broadcasting stations in Illinois beat out their commercial counterparts in the sports category, according to Bill Wheelhouse, WUIS Statehouse Bureau Chief. Bill and reporter Sean Crawford also garnered "Highest Honor" awards from the Association of Capitol Reporters and Editors (ACRE) late last year. Wheelhouse and Crawford were honored at the association's 5th annual Excellence in State Coverage Awards national competition, winning first and second place, respectively.



## World's Best Blues Come to WUIS

beale street caravan BROADCAST NETWORK

*Beale Street Caravan* debuted April 8 on WUIS/WIPA, bringing "the world's best blues" to Central Illinois.

Broadcast from Memphis, Tennessee, *Beale Street Caravan* attracts more than 2.4 million listeners worldwide each week, according to WUIS Program Director Sinta Seiber-Lane. "This hour-long program features the absolute top-of-the-line blues artists," she says. "It airs Fridays immediately following *This American Life*."

"Beale Street is a welcome addition to the

variety of programming offered on Friday nights, which also includes *Blues Before Sunrise*," Seiber-Lane says. "Beale Street bridges the two, beginning at 8 p.m."

Beal Street Caravan is hosted by Pat Mitchell and features artists from Memphis' most outstanding Blues venues. Groups like Huey's and the Rum Boogie and Bo-Keys highlight each program along with coverage and music of the top blues festivals.

To check on artists featured on upcoming shows, go to [www.wuis.org](http://www.wuis.org).

## Our Radio Information Service: Through the Eyes of Radio

The Radio Information Service flickered to life as a fully-funded service of WUIS in December 1981, becoming the first official radio reading service for the print disabled in central Illinois. Over the past 24 years, the service has evolved into an essential source of programming and information for the visually impaired community.

As is the challenge for virtually any new program, generating awareness was the primary objective during the first several months of operations. "We purchased receivers and began actively promoting the service," explains Jeanne Enlow Urbanek, the station's first Radio Information Service director. With one staff member and a part-time student worker, the need for volunteers was evident immediately. UIS students and members of the community responded generously. "We were fortunate because we had several volunteers who were interested in helping and they would begin reading at 8 a.m. and keep programming on the air until 6 p.m."

Among the first programs offered was the daily reading of the *State Journal-Register*. The station soon added newspaper ads, the *Illinois Times*, and one hour each day was reserved for book reading. The station also sought to involve the listeners more actively in the sideband service and began an interview program focused on pastimes and special interests of those with visual impairments.

"I hosted a program in which I would interview one of our listeners," explains Jeanne. "Each of them had different hobbies and activities that they enjoyed, and they would talk about them from a visually impaired perspective. For example, one woman was a gardener, and she talked about how she took care of her vegetable garden. Another

woman sewed most of her own clothing; another gentleman would fix things around the house. It was a fun show, and it was valuable because listeners could learn how another person with a similar disability could have a vegetable garden, or sew, or fix things around the house." Each day would close with a second reading of the *Journal-Register* at 6 p.m.

Today the Radio Information Service operates around the clock and is run by Becky Yaeger. "We have eight hours of local programs and the remaining hours are filled with national programming out of New York," explains Becky. The offerings have expanded considerably over the last several years. In particular, the station has significantly increased the number of local newspapers read either daily or weekly.



"We've added the *Pana News-Palladium*, *Decatur Herald Tribune*, *Lincoln Courier*, the *Taylorville Breeze Courier*, and the *Quincy Whig*. We've also added grocery-store ads," she adds. The national programming includes excerpts from the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, *People* magazine, and numerous other popular publications. The Service continues to host a book reading program called "Book Nook," in which volunteer readers read the book of their choice. "When I am reading, I try to choose books that are bestsellers and I try to read local books as well, which will never be available on tape," says Becky.

The Radio Information Service is broadcast on a closed-circuit, sideband channel on WUIS-WIPA's main signal. It can be heard on a special radio called a sideband receiver. The receivers are provided at no cost to listeners in central and west-central Illinois. Currently about 500 radios designed to receive the sideband service are assigned to individuals throughout the WUIS listening area.

According to Illinois Radio Information Services Inc. (IRIS), an association of radio infor-



Matt and Helen Haavind (seated) show a friend an RIS radio. Staff Bill Hickerson fiddles with the volume.

mation services for people who are print disabled, thousands of Illinois residents use radio information services each day. IRIS cites figures from the Library of Congress which estimate that 1.5 percent of the population is print disabled. More than 1,790,000 of Illinois' nearly 12 million residents qualify for a radio information service.

### The Reading Information Service

still relies on the willingness of volunteers to keep the programming on air. Currently, the service enjoys the help of some 30 - 40 volunteers but would welcome ten to twenty more. The reading time slots range from 30 minutes to 2.5 hours. "Some volunteers read in two-person teams, because to read by yourself for over an hour can become very tiring, but two-person teams work very well. One person is sufficient for the 30-minute spots," explains RIS Director Becky Yaeger. Interested readers or potential users can find out more by calling Becky at 206-6405.

### Special Thanks

We would be seriously remiss if we didn't credit Tess Fyalka, a former reporter at WSSU and now owner of a public relations firm, as the author of the historical articles you've been reading throughout this 30th broadcast year.

Also, thanks to George King, who has been putting together the rest of the newsletter as a volunteer and further helping guide the staff in the creation of a long-term, cohesive marketing campaign. MidAmerica Billboard Advertising is donating space for a WUIS billboard. Look for the results of George's experience and mentoring coming to air space near you in July!

Last but definitely not least, we're thankful for more than two years (and counting!) of Michael Purnell's volunteerism. After taking early retirement from the state in 2002, Michael has been an invaluable member of the staff in a fast-paced environment that prizes time, attention to detail, and good old-fashioned smarts.