

**WEIU Radio & TV Center Advisory Board Meeting
April 7, 2022 at 12:00pm (In Person)**

Present: Matt Gill, Joe Gisondi, Marita Gronnvoll, Anne Thibault-Geen, Jeffrey Snell, Faith J Nuss, Everett Lau, Daniel Corrie, Provost Jay Gatrell, Dean Barbara Bonnekesen, Jeff Owens, Ke'an Armstrong

1. Welcome & Introductions

Gill asked members to introduce themselves. In attendance were: Barbara Bonnekesen, Dean of EIU's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; Jay Gatrell, EIU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Matt Gill, Chair of EIU's School of Communication & Journalism; Joe Gisondi, Professor of Journalism and Director of Student Publications at EIU; Jeff Owens, Interim General Manager of WEIU; Daniel Corrie, Corrie Appraisal & Consulting, Inc.; Anne Thibault Geen, Associate Professor of Theatre at EIU; Jeffrey Snell, School of Business; Faith Nuss, EIU student representative (Biology/Pre-med major); Everett Lau, recent EIU graduate and WTHI reporter and weekend meteorologist; and Ke'an Armstrong, Publicity/Promotions Associate of WEIU.

2. General Manager's Report

News Watch updates:

25 students involved in News Watch

2 Upcoming Graduates have already received employment prior to graduation.
Several students graduating from both news and radio in May 2022.

Dan Marvin 2022 Scholarship Award Winners

\$1000 each to Will Simmons and John Wills
\$330 to Heather Vosburgh, Drew Coffey & Isaac Wilson

\$19,741 in GIA/TSA money to our EIU Students with help from School of Communication and Journalism
Gatrell asked if students at WEIU received Work Study funds, Owens answered that anywhere from 5-10 students do received this. Gisondi voiced agreement with students receiving this funding.

TV AWARDS/NEWS

Stephen Elmore employed – 5News – Fayetteville, Arkansas – Meteorologist
Tristan Thomas employed – KXMC – Sports Anchor Reporter

Mid America EMMYS

Newscast – News Watch – Honorable Mention
Talent News/Sports – Stephen Elmore – Honorable Mention

SINBA Awards

Outstanding Television Newscast – 1st Place
outstanding Television Sports Reporting – 2nd Place Oscar R zodkiewicz
Outstanding Television News Reporting - 2nd Place Oscar R zodkiewicz

Silver Dome Awards

Best TV Sports Package – Tristan Thomas
Best TV Weather – Everett Lau
Best TV Weather – Stephen Elmore – 2nd Place

Best TV News Package – Oscar R zodkiewicz

Best TV Newscast – News Watch – 2nd Place

Best TV News Package – Everett Lau – 2nd Place

Roughly 25 students are currently volunteering in the newsroom.

This May nine students will graduate from EIU/News Watch

News Watch is enjoying and thankful for recent new equipment purchases including new camera gear, computers and vehicles.

TV & FM – Outstanding Senior Awards of the year coming in May 2022. Anonymous donor funds received this month for the amount of \$1000 to split among those awarded.

Hit-Mix 88.9 WEIU FM Updates:

Hit-Mix 88.9 WEIU FM – 30 students involved. Live from 6am – 7pm

FM Awards

2021 Katelyn Eddington/Daniel Jones Outstanding Radio Senior - WEIU

2021 Katelyn Eddington

Finalist - Illinois Broadcasters Association University Silver Dome Award - Radio News Story

2021 Mark Codo Finalist - Illinois Broadcasters Association University Silver Dome Award - Best Station Use of New Media

2022 Mark Codo, Jonathan Fong, Chandler Smith Finalist - Intercollegiate Broadcast System (IBS) - Best Podcast

2022 John Wills Dan Marvin Scholarship 2022 Heather Vosburgh Dan Marvin Scholarship

EIU Sports – FB and Basketball. Some online - Odyssey

Podcasters – Raised over \$15,000 last fall

New Television Programming:

Take A Hike – debuted Monday, April 4th. 6-episode series on hiking, biking and outdoor recreation in East Central Illinois.

Summer Television Production:

Crawford County: This Is Our Story. Airing Thursday, June 16th at 7:00pm

All local shows are moving forward. Issues & Attitudes, City Spotlight, Paw Report, Being Well, News Watch, and Coles County Clash “Scholastic Bowl”.

TV Production:

WEIU Productions is proud to share several accomplishments since our last Advisory Board Meeting. Our team was able to record and air another Coles County Clash Scholastic Bowl meet. We sat down with roughly 20 of WEIU’s biggest fans and recorded spots highlighting our purpose and need for sustaining membership support. Producer Rameen Karbassioon had great success with airing his “Bob Spoo’s Legacy at EIU” Documentary. It was even playing as new EIU Head Football Coach Chris Wilkerson was being announced to the campus community. WEIU Productions helped facilitate live streams of Sarah Bush Lincoln’s Holiday Auction as well as EIU’s Fall Commencements. Our station hosted a live, 12-hour Giving Tuesday Marathon to push for viewer support and showcase how we serve the community. City Spotlight continues production on Season 8, with many wonderful, returning locations featured. And, after time spent taping last fall and editing over the winter, WEIU is now airing its newest outdoor show Take a Hike: The Mini-Series featuring episodes at Lake Charleston, Lake Shelbyville, Lincoln Trail State

Park, Douglas Hart, Forest Glen, and Allerton Park. WEIU is planning to assist with streaming EIU's Spring Commencements in May. Then, looking ahead to this Summer, WEIU will move on to its 16th edition of the This is Our Story Series featuring Crawford County. This show will air mid-June. Production will also commence this summer for Season 12 of the Paw Report, and Season 15 of Being Well, which is planned to have a live one-hour season premiere to discuss what we've learned from the COVID-19 pandemic with a panel of local health experts. We're also excited to include training of student interns as we move forward with our summer production schedule. EIU Commencements.

Upcoming National PBS Programming:

1 week from tonight is part one of Ken Burns' 4-hour **Ben Franklin** documentary. Part two airs the following Thursday.

Coming in May on Thursday nights at 8 PM is the three part "**Rise of the Nazis: Dictators at War**" documentary.

Later this year-

The Great American Recipe- An uplifting cooking competition that celebrates the multiculturalism that makes American food unique and iconic. Hosted by Alejandra Ramos, and featuring judges Leah Cohen, Tiffany Derry and Graham Elliot, the series will give talented home cooks from different regions of the country the opportunity to showcase their beloved signature dishes and compete to win the national search for "The Great American Recipe."

The Boleyns: A Scandalous Family- Captures the drama of their ruthless plots, doomed love affairs, and the dangerous family in-fighting that made the Boleyn dynasty make ambitious plays for power.

Making Black America- Henry Louis Gates Jr. explores how, under the most oppressive systems of slavery and Jim Crow in the South and the North, created in the shaping hands of the African American people a world of belonging, of culture and invention.

Becoming Frederick Douglass- Using Frederick Douglass' own words, this documentary film tells the story of how a man born and raised in slavery became one of the most prominent elder statesmen and powerful voices for freedom in America.

Harriet Tubman: Visions Of Freedom- Tells a nuanced portrait of Harriet Tubman, the "Conductor" of the Underground Railroad, who risked her own freedom and life to free others from slavery. The film goes beyond the legend of Tubman to fill in and correct the record of the life and times of one of the greatest American heroes of all time.

Pledge/Membership:

July 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

Pledge/Membership

Remembering Ted's Documentary

Jul 9: \$3,675

Pledge Drives

Aug 7-22: \$3,105

Nov 25-Dec 12: \$3,173

Feb 19-Mar 13: \$5772

Adopt-A-Watt

Sep 12-17: \$15,800 (Record Setting Year for Fundraising)

Giving Tuesday Live 8am – 8pm on air and online. Incorporated 22 new Member Spots that were recorded on 10/19/21. These support spots are still airing on WEIU TV.

Nov 30: \$6,117

Membership

591 - Total Current Members

89 – New

118 – Rejoin/Renewal

384 – Additional gifts

Passport Members (PBS Streaming Program Benefit)

178 - Active

Other Funding: \$5000 –SBLHC winter auction.

3. Overall Updates:

ColesCountySports.com is managed by Owens and Gisondi and it offers students opportunities to highlight local sports. They are currently looking for more writers.

Corrie asked why the local newspaper doesn't highlight local sports anymore. Gisondi responded.

Corrie is happy to see the online presents available to showcase local athletes and thinks it is important.

New WEIU Fleet Vehicles were purchased with COVID CARES funding

Avid Upgrade for TV News & Local Production– training coming next month, new equipment installation along with new software.

Gatrell commented on WEIU being limited resource stewards and appreciates WEIU maximizing every dollar. Now is the time to invest wisely to secure WEIU's future.

Corrie stated that he appreciates being asked to become the newest Advisory Board member to represent the community. He enjoys the Our Story programs and looks forward to future productions.

Owens mentioned that Dieterich, IL is on the radar for the next "Our Story" production.

Next meeting Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 12:00pm in the WEIU Conference Room in Buzzard Hall

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm