Good News: Mission Growth!

From the Local Community Radio Act of 2010 to receiving licensure in 2013, then ribbon-cutting in 2015, our dream was and is to provide voice, visibility, dignity, and respect to the many outstanding local organizations, events, projects and people that aren't heard on commercial radio, and transmit infinite varieties of music from here to beyond. Streaming in 2016...broadcasting in 2017...the next leap was made in 2020 with the expansion of WRUU capacity, made possible in part by the Fund for Unitarian Universalism. We are strategizing and accomplishing sustainability and growth by having our first paid part-time station manager; targeting more expansive marketing of our community-based and Unitarian Universalist programming; and increasing, even more, the diversity of our program hosts, volunteers, and Executive Task Force members.

We thank all of you who have donated your time and money to keep basic operations going during the last tumultuous 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, we need you more than ever to bolster our volunteer teams that support all operations, programming, and growth; and as always, your generous donations to rebalance the financial impacts of a pandemic year. Info can be found at wruu.org.
The outstanding programming on WRUU has again achieved in 2021 Connect Savannah's award of “Best Local Radio Station” and “Best Talk Radio.” This outstanding programming is the result of the hard work of currently 60 volunteer program hosts who offer over 63 locally produced live programs and 42 locally produced automated programs. In addition we have 12 nationally syndicated talk programs.

Our music mix continues to be the most diverse in Savannah. We have jazz on Monday nights from 6-8pm, around the noon hour Mondays to Thursdays, Sunday evenings and individual hours peppered throughout the week. We have classical music and/or the Metropolitan Opera on Saturday afternoons. We have unique selections of indie rock and pop on Monday nights from 8-10pm, many afternoons and on Thursday evenings. In addition to this we have Punk and Metal, Rockabilly, Electronic, World, Acoustic (Americana), Blues, the history of rock, reggae, soul and R&B, Ambient, and even the eclectic and obscure. Many shows feature interviews with local musicians as well as interviews with nationally known musicians, bands and composers.

Our talk shows such as Women on Top, The Happy Homeschooler, The Sister Perspective, Bring It In, Taking the Journey Together, Men on the Block, Real Estate Real Talk, Teen Talk with Lulu, Zeal Reel, Hello Neighbor, No Barks About It, OE with Andarge, The Verb Altitude Hour and Spirit Talk have made a deep connection with the Savannah community with our emphasis on community issues. Nationally syndicated programming such as Democracy Now, Background Briefing and For the Wild address broader civic, national and international issues.

Our Sunday morning programming including Interfaith Voices, The Heart and the Hand, Unitarian Universalist worship services and the Gospel Music Hour offers an exploration of faith issues from a variety of perspectives.

The best places to learn about what is happening on WRUU or your favorite shows are the schedule on www.wruu.org, the downloadable schedule on the website, and the information on our Facebook page and our active Twitter feed.

From the Program Team

Dave Lake

The outstanding programming on WRUU has again achieved in 2021 Connect Savannah’s award of “Best Local Radio Station” and “Best Talk Radio.” This outstanding programming is the result of the hard work of currently 60 volunteer program hosts who offer over 63 locally produced live programs and 42 locally produced automated programs. In addition we have 12 nationally syndicated talk programs.

Our music mix continues to be the most diverse in Savannah. We have jazz on Monday nights from 6-8pm, around the noon hour Mondays to Thursdays, Sunday evenings and individual hours peppered throughout the week. We have classical music and/or the Metropolitan Opera on Saturday afternoons. We have unique selections of indie rock and pop on Monday nights from 8-10pm, many afternoons and on Thursday evenings. In addition to this we have Punk and Metal, Rockabilly, Electronic, World, Acoustic (Americana), Blues, the history of rock, reggae, soul and R&B, Ambient, and even the eclectic and obscure. Many shows feature interviews with local musicians as well as interviews with nationally known musicians, bands and composers.

Our talk shows such as Women on Top, The Happy Homeschooler, The Sister Perspective, Bring It In, Taking the Journey Together, Men on the Block, Real Estate Real Talk, Teen Talk with Lulu, Zeal Reel, Hello Neighbor, No Barks About It, OE with Andarge, The Verb Altitude Hour and Spirit Talk have made a deep connection with the Savannah community with our emphasis on community issues. Nationally syndicated programming such as Democracy Now, Background Briefing and For the Wild address broader civic, national and international issues.

Our Sunday morning programming including Interfaith Voices, The Heart and the Hand, Unitarian Universalist worship services and the Gospel Music Hour offers an exploration of faith issues from a variety of perspectives.

The best places to learn about what is happening on WRUU or your favorite shows are the schedule on www.wruu.org, the downloadable schedule on the website, and the information on our Facebook page and our active Twitter feed.

From the Media and Marketing Team

Our new team leader! Andarge

Hi, my name is Andarge and I'm originally from the DC metropolitan area. I started my radio career in college, as the director of WODU. After graduation, I started working at Entercom (now Audacy) Radio. Moving to Savannah was a bit nerve-wracking at first, but WRUU has made it feel like home. The station’s dedication to providing authenticity, laughter and knowledge has been inspiring. As the new Media & Marketing Team Leader, I hope to continue making WRUU a staple in the community.
Continuance of the COVID-19 pandemic during the last twelve months put lowlights rather than highlights on WRUU’s event schedule--where we all like to meet and greet and support Savannah’s community radio station while having a lot of fun. While the lights may stay dim for just a bit longer, our donors and friends certainly extended their generosity as best they could with donations to support WRUU operations. We are extremely grateful to all of you for keeping up your monthly pledges and one-time (or two- or three-time!) donations during the year, as this stream of funding is our most reliable source of income. In addition, our beloved underwriters and businesses who provided in-kind services or goods stayed steady. And best of all, we had a magnanimous benefactor who helped see us through the shortfall when COVID-19 hit the pockets of some of our members and friends.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Trent Kissinger who has steadfastly volunteered as the Fundraising Team Leader since the very beginning of the WRUU Adventure in 2015. While he will still be involved with WRUU on a limited basis, Trent is adding new opportunities to his professional work, and we wish him the best!

If you or someone you know has fundraising experience and would like to become involved in our Fundraising Team at any capacity, please let us know what your interests and skills are by contacting info@wruu.org

Stay tuned! You know where: WRUU 107.5 FM and www.wruu.org

The infrastructure team is responsible for WRUU’s computer and radio equipment as well as the building and furnishings. Much of our activity is responding when something doesn't work right, from failed light fixtures to resolving the dreaded “dead air” if our broadcast is down. At the same time, we try to improve our systems as we go along. When we get that right, the overall system is much better and our capabilities expand.

When WRUU first started on a very tight budget, our IT system was rudimentary. If a computer went down, we were in big trouble. Since then we’ve added network accessible storage (NAS) and highly functional routers. These have been huge improvements, and we can now do things we had not even imagined:

- During the pandemic, Program Hosts can create their shows at home and securely upload them to our server
- Some of our syndicated shows are automatically downloaded and prepared for broadcast
- Support Staff has remote desktop access to our computers and can handle routine tasks and quickly resolve some problems from home.

As we go forward, we realize we don't even know all the questions, so we certainly don't have all the answers. We would welcome new volunteers who have an interest in radio station operations to lend a hand, learn with us, and help build the next chapter at WRUU. Contact me at infrastructure@wruu.org
INTRODUCING STATION MANAGER, DR. JAY P. JACOBS II, M.D.

We welcome Dr. Jay and would like to introduce him to the WRUU family! Dr. Jay has an extensive background as a family physician (now retired), and is a wartime Air Force Veteran (Panama Crisis and Desert Storm). Prior to medical school, Jay was an on-air host for his local university radio stations 91.1 FM, WRUW Cleveland, and 91.1 FM WPSU State College of PSU.

While rock and roll is his favorite music genre, he likes almost all music, and hopes listeners enjoy our eclectic mix of shows. Dr. Jay sees community radio as a gem and wants more people to know what a great treasure we are, and expand our listener numbers and make sure our shows are fresh and intriguing. Jay feels we are lucky to live in such a beautiful city, where the artistic community is so rich and enjoyable. Add the unique music that we supply to this whole mix, and we are truly fortunate (in his "not so humble opinion!").

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW RIGHT HERE

107.5 FM ~ wruu.org/schedule ~ wruu.org/donate ~ wruu.org (listen!) wruu.bigcartel.com (shop!)
underwriting@wruu.org ~ wruu.org/contact
Physical address - 307A E Harris, Savannah, GA 31401
Mailing address - 311 E Harris, Savannah, GA 31401
Phone - 912-712-5077

WRUU is a project of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah (UUCS)

THANK YOU TO OUR OCT 2020–SEP 2021 EXECUTIVE TASK FORCE

Gram Wohlust, Chairperson/Governance Team
John Miller, Vice-Chairperson/Treasurer/UUCS Rep
Dave Lake, Studio Manager/Program Team
Bill Rolfe, Co-Secretary/Infrastructure Team
Trent Kissinger, Co-Secretary/Fundraising Team
Emanuela Curtale, Media and Marketing Team
Jessica McBride, Volunteer Coordinator
Judy Dinehart, UUCS Rep
Louis Clauisi, Community Rep
Louise Frazier, Community Advisory Board Liaison
Vicki Weeks, Ex-Officio CAB Chairperson
Reverend Susan Karlson, Ex-Officio UUCS Minister

GRANTS, UNDERWRITING, & IN-KIND

Fund for Unitarian Universalism
Starlandia Art Supply
Ships of the Sea Museum
Brighter Day
North Beach Bar and Grill
Event Rap, Inc.

2020–2021 MEMBERSHIP

Student ($25) - 12
Member ($50) - 27
Serious Fan ($107.50) - 23
DJ’s Circle ($200) - 12
Broadcaster’s Circle ($500) - 4
Engineer’s Circle ($1,000) - 4
Producer’s Circle ($2,500) - 1

THE NUMBERS ENDING 6–30–21

Cash Assets $23,470
Grant Income $18,000
Other Income $20,569
In-Kind Services $2,100
Expenses $23,801
Behind the Mic
By Adam Messer, Host of The Adam Messer Show

Bill Cooper retired from the Savannah At Night Show on Sunday September 26. We want to thank him and the entire crew for four wonderful years of radio entertainment. We had the opportunity to interview him about his show and future endeavors. We wish you well and from all of us here at the WRUU family, thank you for everything!

You are retiring Savannah At Night. Please talk about what you have planned on the horizon.
COOPER: After my final SAVANNAH at Night on Sept. 26, 2021, I will keep busy with acting. I am currently acting in The Savannah Underground's production at 415 E. Boundary St. I am honored to have been chosen by them to act with such talented young Savannah actors. I will continue to appear at stand-up comedy venues. Currently I am hosting a comedy show at the VFW Post 660 5115 Ogeechee Rd the 2nd Thursday. each month, 7 to 9:30 pm. I have been spending a good deal of time painting watercolors, which have been selling! Only started it as a hobby and are shocked that friends of mine who have seen them are offering to purchase them. Planning to do some more travel with Mary Ann as travel opens up more.

Please talk about a memorable anecdote about something you really loved about doing the show.
COOPER: With over 200 shows, I have many memorable moments. I always enjoy it when several guests say, "I couldn't talk for 1 & 1/2 hrs. but I'll try." Every one of them said, after the show, "Wow that was easy!"

What is something you have learned about hosting a radio show over the last four years at WRUU?
COOPER: I learned that if I told my first time guests to just imagine that we are sitting in a coffee shop talking about what we love to do, acting, directing, painting, comedy etc. they would relax and give real good interviews.

What do you love about radio?
COOPER: I have loved radio since I was about 3 yrs. old listening to, The Lone Ranger, and picturing in my mind what all the characters looked like. As a teen I had a desire to be a DJ spinning the hand clapping, toe tapping, finger snapping, back slapping sounds out through the airways. Still love radio as imagining how the characters on it might look and listening to how they pronounce words intrigues me.

Talk about something that really made you laugh while on air.
COOPER: Because of the great assistance I had from Hai Dang, Chad Carvell, Louis Clausi, Adam Messer and Dave Lake, I have tons of great funny moments. We all used our sense of humor to put our guests at ease and to let the listeners know that you shouldn't take yourself too seriously, just sit back, relax and enjoy. One funny moment was when a local comic friend blurted out the F-bomb. I wildly shook my head at him and pointed to the 7 no-no words sign on the wall. A few mins later he did it again. After the show I told him of my dismay for not respecting the station rules and told him I wouldn't have him back. For months he apologized and pleaded for another chance to come back on....I made him wait about a year and a half before giving him another shot on the show. He behaved.

Leigh Rich is a woman of many skills and talents. She is a writer, publisher, and the host of Listening to Literature on WRUU, as well as being a professor. She is an avid reader as well and takes the time to do an in-depth study of the guests she has on the show. Leigh advocates for literacy and helping new writers with their craft.

Please introduce yourself to the WRUU newsletter reader.
RICH: Whether I should, I like to frame my journey and background using a quote from Chekhov (which may not be the best phrasing in the twenty-first century): “Medicine is my lawful wife and literature is my mistress. When I get tired of one, I spend the night with the other.” But I also have long worked for newspapers and other publications and discovered early on that I’m not happy if I’m not reading.

continued on pg 6
Interview with Dr. Leigh Rich, cont’d

My current work as a professor of (initially) public health and (now) health administration lends itself to combined medicine–literature opportunities. (Including bringing together philosophy, the history of medicine and bioethics, and television ...) Perhaps like most stops on my journey, I “fell into” the publishing realm as well. WRUU provides great overlapping opportunities, and I find that what I cover on my WRUU programs finds its way into my courses and research and vice versa.

You are very prepared for your guests on air and your interviews. Would you please talk about how you get prepared for your show?

RICH: I always know I can learn more, and I never like coming to a topic or interview without some sense of background or foundation. If I am interviewing an author about his or her book, I read it cover to cover. Of course, when I wrote one book review a month rather than a radio show every week, that was a bit less fraught!

For other programs, I do background research on an organization or a guest, and I pull articles from academic literature (and reputable journalistic publications, etc.) — any appropriate resource that provides me with a sense of a topic. It is from these reading sessions that I build potential questions and organize them into larger topics. I see my radio programs as deep dives and nuanced and balanced conversations. I want my guests to have an idea of how I am thinking about their topics and what they might want to prepare or bring.

Often, once we get a good dialogue going, we might not even look at the questions I prepped, but this allows me to keep ideas, facts, and perspectives in mind while we chat (and I juggle the radio tech).

How did you get involved with WRUU?

RICH: You likely see the common theme coming ... I fell into radio accidentally, too! A former professor colleague of mine and member of a book group, which I fell into as well ;-) just happens to be WRUU’s studio manager. In 2017 Dr. Lake kept mentioning (with a great smile on his face) this community radio station. I could tell how much passion he had for it and the joy it brought him.

I inadvertently asked, “Does your radio station ever interview authors?”

He responded, “Do you want a radio program where you interview authors?”

And, thus, Listening to Literature (L2L) began.

Since then, I now have three programs ... though I don’t do any alone. I have two wonderful co-hosts for L2L, P.T. Bridgeport and Dr. Carol Andrews. P.T. Bridgeport and I inherited Brian Renner’s music show Beyond the Liner Notes early in the pandemic, and The Common Good (TCG) emerged from an earlier program, Healthcare Ethics, (even before I was a part or knew of WRUU). The pandemic hit when [host Dr. Katie Pincura] was trying to finish her dissertation, and I offered to sit “second seat” to help lighten the load. She has since gone on to a tenure-track position in North Carolina (and we still miss her!), and I took over and tweaked her program into The Common Good.

What do you love about radio?

RICH: Being a part of WRUU has allowed me not only to keep one foot in the journalistic realm but also to expand into a different medium. I still get to be a (slightly modified) newspaperman, while continuing to work in health care (or the academic side of it, at least).

As mentioned earlier, what I do for WRUU and in the other realms of my life constantly speak to and influence each other. My WRUU programs enable me to read books and other work I might not otherwise think I have time for and to engage with guests in our local community and beyond with whom I might never interact.

WRUU makes me a more knowledgeable and well-rounded scholar, teacher, and person. And while it also is a way to serve our community and give back, I know I truly get more than I give.

Being a part of WRUU also is an honor. The other hosts and our leaders and support teams are interesting and fun folks, and WRUU’s mission and values are ones I believe in. They highlight many of the reason why I went into anthropology in the first place.

And being a part of WRUU is addictive. I will admit I still get nervous each week ... but it can sometimes be hard not to ask for another show!