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Amplify Media

 <https://amplifymediaiwu.com>





“Being a storyteller is all about getting to meet people and getting to share their stories and give them a voice and share with the world what they’re passionate about and what they care about and the things that are important to them.”

***Sydney Leyerle,
News Director***

“You become the person that other people are looking up to,” Bontrager said. “I don’t get my name on the article when I edit or help someone, but I can see their progression. Being able to help students in that way is really special.”

***Emily Bontrager,
GrantCO Editor-In-Chief***



Amplify Media is a co-curricular experience for students to utilize their multimedia skills in real-world projects outside of the classroom.

The organization oversees various student media entities, including **94.3 The Fortress**, **The Sojourn** and **GrantCOnnected.net**.

Additional projects include the campus sports podcast, “[Wildcat Week](#),” and The Sojourn’s investigative series, “[The Vault](#).”

94.3 *the* Fortress

*Creating
Community*



Off Mic

with Addison Young



What is the most unexpected part about being a radio announcer?

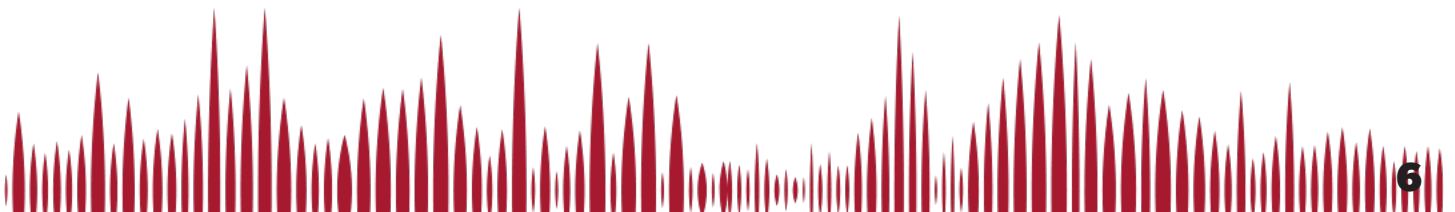
“The most unexpected part was honestly the software and trying to handle that. For me, it was learning to flip to manual well before I needed to.”

How do you decide what to talk about on-air?

“I’m a person who loves routine. So my first segment is always the verse of the day. My last segment is a history fact, and then in between is usually me. Usually it’s a story of something I do with my friends.”

Any advice to someone facing nerves about being on-air?

“It’s not as bad as what they think ... Just be confident with it and practice makes perfect,” Young said. “If you make a mistake, act like you didn’t. Just keep going and that will cover up a lot of things.”



Local Lions Club votes to disband

Sept. 22, 2024

By Kenzie Ogden, GrantConnected.net

Club president Chuck Briede leads the Sweetser Lions Club alongside his wife Jamie.

As the couple prepares to move out of state, the club members seek a new leader to step up in Briede's absence.

Despite efforts to find a new president, all club members in attendance at the Thursday meeting voted to disband the club at the end of the year.

"Our club has been struggling the last few years... we got a great group of people, but we've been shrinking." Briede said. "It's sad to see that the Lions Club is potentially not continuing."

Next year, the Sweetser Lions Club would have celebrated 80 years as an active club Briede said.

In its existence, the club has helped fund the fire department as it was established, added tennis courts at Sweetser Elementary, made donations to Sweetser Switch Trail, funded flag displays for national holidays, as well as sourcing scholarships at Oak Hill High School.

Rocky Simpson serves as the district governor that oversees many of the Grant County Lions Clubs. Simpson has also been a lion for 19 years.

Since 2020, Simpson said he has observed many clubs disband due to the struggle of regrouping after the pandemic.

"It's been a trend since Covid and it's got the eye of Lions International. We need to get people back in our clubs," Simpson said.

Sweetser is not the first or only Lions Club with lowering attendance in Grant County. Converse previously disbanded their club as well.

Scott Overman has been a member of the Sweetser Lions Club for about three years.

As he reflects on his time as a lion, Overman said he finds significance in the club's mission, which is helping others in the community.



“You can’t fix all the world’s problems, but you can fix parts of your little corner and that’s what the Lions Club does.”

- Scott Overman

The club members will continue to search for a potential leader in the months to come.

In the case that no leader is found, the group began discussing plans to disperse its remaining funds and property within the Sweetser community.

“If you’d like to step up and be a lion to save our Lions Club, let it be known,” Briede said. “Contact a lion and we’ll see what we can do.”



Sweetser Lions Club gets new leadership

Feb. 10, 2025

By Kenzie Ogden, GrantConnected.net

On Jan. 16, the Sweetser Lions Club swore in a new president and discussed the club's 2025 ambitions months after the group voted to disband due to struggling to find new leadership.

Brad Needler was born and raised in Sweetser. He lives there with his wife and two children.

Needler said he has attended many Lions Club events with his family and saw the importance of the group continuing.

"When I read the article that the Lions Club was disbanding but there were still many members interested in continuing, I just took it as they needed somebody to come in, provide leadership and energy to continue the group," Needler said.

"As a citizen of Sweetser this was important to me to see this group continue on. It just felt like it was my civic duty to jump in and help out where I can."

- Brad Needler

Needler's transition into presidency began in fall 2024 when he connected with former president Chuck Briede and began attending monthly meetings.

After actively participating in the Sweetser Lions club for nearly 25 years and serving as president for 10 of those years, Briede announced last year that he and his wife Jamie would be moving out of state.

Briede sought a leader to fill his absence but as of mid-September there was no one willing to step up.

On Sept. 19, Briede oversaw a meeting where the club members discussed the issue and voted to disband the chapter if there was no leader found by the end of 2024.

A few days after the meeting, Needler heard the news and stepped up.

"We're very proud of what our club has been able to accomplish around the community and I have high hopes that it will continue into the future with Brad stepping up and some of the great ideas that he has," Briede said.

Needler said he plans to keep many of the Sweetser Lions Club traditions including a breakfast fundraiser at the Sweetser Volunteer Fire Station, distributing Thanksgiving meals to local families in need and breakfast with Santa at the Sweetser United Methodist Church.

The group also plans to serve the community through other service projects as needs arise.

A new opportunity that Needler has pursued is bringing the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus to Sweetser on June 15.

The circus will include live animals, magicians and other forms of entertainment under a big top circus tent.

Continuing A Legacy

Needler said he sees a need for young leaders to step up to continue to build the legacy of local organizations such as the Lions Club.

“A lot of times, these types of organizations, like the Lions, are built on the backs of folks that have been at it for 20, 30 years,” Needler said. “As the generations move on and retire, move out, it’s just critical that a younger generation comes in to continue to carry that torch and that sense of community.”

The Sweetser Lions Club will celebrate 80 years as a chapter this fall.

Chuck and Jamie Briede plan to join their local Lions Club chapter in their new community in Tennessee.

Briede said he thinks the heart of being a Lion is to serve others and make their lives better.

“When you do things, you do it with the kindness of your heart, not for recognition. You just do it because there’s a need and you’re able to help and that’s satisfaction enough for me,” Briede said. “Sometimes awards come along but I don’t do it for that. I’m able to do it and get the satisfaction that I hopefully helped somebody to improve their life a little bit.”



Caesura Magazine

On April 10, Indiana Wesleyan University's literary and art magazine launched its 2025 issue, *Echoes*.

The 2025 issue features art, poetry and short written pieces from current students.

The 2024-2025 Caesura editorial staff discussed what the theme *Echoes* means to them.



Clay Herring

"Echoes evokes repeating **patterns** in stories. Throughout time, all people have continuously told stories... this vast collection of human experience echoes through time as people continue to grapple with important questions. Poetry is an excellent venue for continuing this great tradition and offering insights into the nature of human life while drawing on the voices that have come before."

Maya Hawkins

Hawkins said *Echoes* holds personal value in the sense that there are **ripple effects** in her life of the people she admires most. Those who have meant something to her in the past, still impact her future and the way she sees the world.





echoes



Ella McDivitt

“*Echoes* means **memory**. Once something has happened in your life, it leaves traces of itself for years to come. In the same way that echoes repeat your voice back to you, your memories repeat the story of your life back to you.”

Annie Lingren

“Oftentimes, literature comes about as a result of humans attempting to repeat to the world the things they have seen, heard, known, and felt. Though an echo may never give the same impression as an **experience**, echoes still have a unique ability to remind a person, however faintly, of the original thing.”



Matthew Lacy

“*Echoes* speaks to the effect that happens when you put something out into the world, which is what our magazine hoped to do with poetry and with writing and with art in general. When an artist creates something, the piece goes out into the world and **leaves a mark**, creating subsequent effects on the people who interact with it. These “echoes” allow artists and creators to shape the world for the better.”



PRSSA returns to IWU

Feb. 27, 2025

By **Eva Schmitz,**
The Sojourn

The Public Relations Student Society of America has started back up again at IWU.

Anna Ohashi, IWU's interim PRSSA treasurer, says that PRSSA provides students with many opportunities.

"This is just honestly a really good opportunity for our (strategic communication) students and marketing and all business students to really just hone in on their public relation skills and be able to get exposure into the professional networking," Ohashi said. "There are really good internship opportunities and opportunities to connect with professionals and just develop those skills that are gonna be needed in the professional workplace."

Ohashi said she is excited about the program.

"I'm just really excited for, like, me and, like, other students to be able to have this opportunity because it is a really great opportunity," Ohashi said.

Ohashi said that the dues are doable for college students.

"So, there are yearly dues that you have to pay in order to be like a committed member and it's \$55 for a year," Ohashi said.

"But when you do the math, it's actually like under five dollars a month and which is a really great cause. So, I think it's really doable for college students."

Dr. Mark Vermilion is a professor and program director of strategic communication.

"I would say that the unique thing that PRSSA does for (students) is it offers them a better connection to the professional world, so they'll get to know PR professionals," Vermilion said. "We'll have speakers come in. We'll do trips to Indianapolis, Chicago, and other places where they can see PR in operation in different industries."

Ellie Cornwell is a freshman who attended the PRSSA open house.

"There's a lot of writing aspects and also a lot of skills that I've heard you learn with PRSSA that would be really useful for what I want to do in the future," Cornwell said.

PRSSA is open to all students.

"It's not just for (strategic communication) students. Like, anybody interested in reputation management and just learning to develop communication skills can benefit from being a part of PRSSA," Ohashi said.

PRSSA

INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

“PRSSA is a student organization that works at building skills for students to apply now but also in the future.

It’s a really great opportunity for students to get involved and to have opportunities for later in life and professional development.

Even if they’re not looking to be a PR professional, that’s okay. You can still learn a lot and it can still benefit your life and your career.”

Anna Ohashi
Interim Treasurer



Faculty Feature

Dr. Mark Perry



For the last seventeen years, Dr. Perry has shared his knowledge and experience with students at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Perry was hired at IWU in 2008 as a professor and faculty advisor of the campus radio station, “**94.3 The Fortress**,” and has held both roles for the entirety of his time spent at IWU.

From 2019 to 2022 he served as the division chair for the Division of Communication & Theatre.

In 2021, Perry became co-faculty advisor to the newly formed student-led media organization, **Amplify Media**.

He has also served on the curriculum committee for the undergraduate school as well as being chair of the committee. In addition, he was also assistant chair of faculty for the undergraduate school.

Perry began his teaching career at Moody Bible Institute at the age of 23.

As a young professor, he said he experienced some doubt early on in his teaching endeavors.

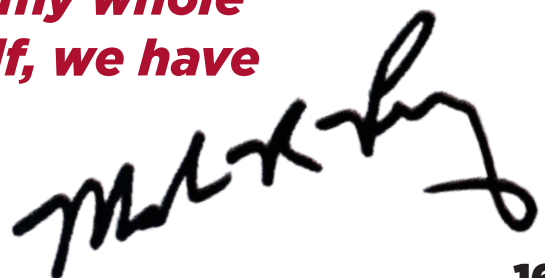
“I think what I would tell my younger self is don’t act like you know it all, but be confident in what you know and don’t feel intimidated,” Perry said.

Along with his experience at Waynesburg, he taught at Moody Bible Institute and held a variety of positions in radio including his time at WMBI-FM in Chicago.

After seventeen years at IWU, Perry is stepping away from teaching and stepping into retirement.

He said he looks back on his time as a professor with hopes that his students learn that they can be serious about their faith and still have fun.

“You can be serious about your faith and be passionate about your faith and at the same time have a lot of fun ... my whole career the students and myself, we have fun and we get work done.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Perry', written in a cursive style.

*Stay
Connected.*



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@943thefortress

@prssaiwu

@iwuwildcatweek

@iwu.mlhc

@indwes_inkwell

@caesuramagazine

@iwusojourn



Words Unspoken

Throughout their time in the division, MLLC students have the opportunity to experience writing for the campus newspaper, **The Sojourn**.

Student reporters cover a range of topics ranging from campus events to student life and the latest on IWU athletics.

A range of majors write campus news.

While some students have journalistic insight, others begin newswriting to establish a new skill.

Junior Kaelyn Johnson is a strategic communication major.

Johnson said she has grown to appreciate newswriting and predicts that she will utilize her skills in her future endeavors as a public relations professional.

After a semester of newswriting experience, Johnson reflects on the impact that the newsgathering process has had on her.

What has surprised you the most about the newswriting process?

“Gathering the interviews is stressful, always stressful. Somehow it always gets done.”

• • • •

Why do you think it's beneficial to have newswriting experience?

“As somebody who is going into PR ... it's really important to know how to do all these things that we're doing in news,” Johnson said. “Going out and learning how to do different things will inform how you produce content and make it better.”

• • • •

What has been your favorite part about newswriting?

“There was an organization that I talked to ... I could hear the stories, see why they're passionate and help people know what the organization is about and what they're really doing.”

“Meeting with people and learning their stories is just really impactful for me.”

Kaelyn Johnson



Editor's Note

For the Record is the legacy of the Division of Modern Language, Literature and Communication.

In the division, we collectively call ourselves **storytellers**. This magazine is a glimpse of the storytellers of MLLC. It encapsulates the people behind the stories that we share.

My goal for the magazine is to highlight the students and faculty who make up the division by recognizing their passion for storytelling and desire to truly be a *Voice for the Voiceless*.

MLLC empowers people to create stories that influence culture and mirror society.

But a story can't be told without someone to tell it.

This magazine is full of those "someones." For the record.

Kenzie Ogden



