This new weekly TV program featuring exclusive live music performances began airing on Western Reserve PBS on Friday, April 3, at 9 PM. The program is a public broadcasting collaboration with The Summit (91.3 FM Akron/Canton and 90.7 FM Youngstown/Warren/Western Pennsylvania) and features live performances that capture artists and audiences connecting in the closest of confines.

Studio C’s intimate music moments are recorded at The Summit. Bands performing hail from across the United States and play a variety of genres on the small stage as they pass through Akron. Their youthful sounds are a great complement to our Austin City Limits and other similar programming.

To attend the sessions, one must be a member of The Summit, a nonprofit public radio station. In addition, a small number of Western Reserve PBS members can request an invitation to attend by emailing members@WesternReservePublicMedia.org.

Studio C Sessions repeats on Western Reserve PBS on Saturdays at 3 AM. The program also airs on Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2) on Sundays at 8 PM.

**Featured artists**
- April 3: Eric Hutchinson and Scars on 45
- April 10: OK Go and Kate Tucker
- April 17: Wild Cub and Patrick Sweeney
- April 24: Walk the Moon and Oldboy
- May 1: The Clarks and Joseph Arthur
- May 8: Max Frost and Mike Doughty
- July 10: The Speedbumps and Carbon Leaf
- July 17: Eric Hutchinson and Guster
- July 24: Current Swell and The RUA
- July 31: The Speedbumps and The Hold Steady
Remembering the Vietnam War

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, Western Reserve Public Media presented a slate of primetime specials related to the Vietnam War.

In addition, we worked in cooperation with Kent State University and WKSU-FM radio on locally relevant stories about those affected by the Vietnam War.

Surrounding the Vietnam War specials, we aired 90-second stories created by Kent State University School of Journalism student Daniel Henderson and our Production Department.

WKSU reporters issued a series of seven reports that aired from April 17 to May 4. Both stations cross-promoted the collective works under a “Remembering Vietnam” banner. All of the local segments can be found via a link on the home page of westernreservepublicmedia.org.

The national PBS Vietnam War project will culminate with the premiere in 2017 of a documentary by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, tentatively titled The Vietnam War.

New American drama coming to PBS

PBS has announced that an award-winning cast and crew will join its new Civil War-based drama, officially named Mercy Street, set to air in early 2016.

Filmed on location in Virginia, the six-part series is the first American drama to air on PBS in more than a decade. It will join a robust Sunday night drama lineup on PBS in winter 2016, including the final season of “Downton Abbey.”

Cast in leading roles for Mercy Street are the following:

- Mary Elizabeth Winstead as Nurse Mary Phinney, a feisty New Englander and widow
- Josh Radnor as Jedediah Foster, the civilian contract surgeon who grew up in a privileged Southern slave-owning household
- Gary Cole as James Green Sr., patriarch of the Green family, struggling to maintain his family business while living in an occupied city
- Peter Gerety as Dr. Alfred Summers, chief surgeon at Mansion House, who has risen to the rank of major by virtue of his age, not skill
- The series, which commenced production in late April, is shot in the Richmond and Petersburg, Va., areas.

Live television event showcasing marine life slated for August

For the first time in its history, PBS will air a live natural history production. Big Blue Live, a co-production of BBC and PBS, airs over three nights, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2015, at 8-9 PM, with another live feed to the West Coast at 8-9 PM. In both feeds, as well as streaming online and in social media, viewers can watch one of nature’s great “reality” shows delivered through state-of-the-art filming technologies and live reports from air and sea and below the waves.

The multi-platform event will be anchored by four on-air correspondents from a reporting hub at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and from aboard research vessels. Leading scientists and other experts will provide additional insights. The week prior to the PBS broadcast, BBC will air its live broadcast in the United Kingdom, and will be streaming online and through social media for UK viewers.
The Signature of All Things optioned by Masterpiece on PBS

“The Signature of All Things,” the best-selling novel by “Eat Pray Love” author Elizabeth Gilbert, has been optioned for television by Masterpiece on PBS.

“The Signature of All Things” is Elizabeth Gilbert’s most ambitious and exploratory book yet, and it was also one of the best-reviewed novels of 2013. Inspired by the true-life adventures of real 19th century female botanical explorers, Gilbert created an unforgettable character in Alma Whittaker — a brilliant, determined and thoroughly scientific woman, struggling to express her intellectual curiosity in a society where women’s lives are confined to the domestic sphere.

Equal parts Elizabeth Bennet and Charles Darwin, Alma spends her days seeking nothing less than the answers to the origins of life itself. Readers all over the world fell in love with this unique character — the rare heroine of literature whose fortunes are neither rescued nor ruined by a man.

Educational Services

Local educator is selected for national PBS initiative

Kristofer Doran from Trumbull Career and Technical Center was recently named one of the 100 educators selected for the 2015 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators program. The program, which is in its third year, recognizes tech-savvy K-12 educators who are serving as leaders in the education technology space and incorporating digital media in classrooms.

The 2015 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators will receive yearlong professional development opportunities that include virtual trainings, access to premium and exclusive resources from PBS LearningMedia Custom service, invitations to special events and access to a free PBS TeacherLine professional development course.

PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators will also receive ongoing support in their community from their local PBS member stations.

Coincidentally, as a high school student, Doran became interested in telecommunications as a career during a class visit to Western Reserve Public Media in Kent (then PBS 45 & 49).

Professional development sessions offered

Our Educational Services Department held more than 30 professional development sessions for area educators during Spring 2015. Subjects covered included interactive white boards, iPads and Google applications. One new online professional development opportunity, Minecraft and Gaming in Today’s Classroom, is now being facilitated by Jeff Kuhn, a graduate student from Ohio University.

Ohio Ready to Learn program continues

The Ohio Ready to Learn program, which offers free care to home child-care providers, has been funded for the coming year. Pam Oviatt serves as the project coordinator and conducted more than 30 workshops this past year.

Phase 2 of Teacher Showcase Project completed

Twenty school district teams consisting of two teachers, a technology coordinator and a curriculum director, attended professional development training in June, then created lesson plans and videos highlighting the teams’ use of technology in their classroom. The project is led by Barb Moore, 21st century learning consultant, and Jeff Good, director of education.

Educational Services participates in ITIP Ohio Summit

Our Educational Services staff will participate in the fifth annual ITIP Ohio Summit featuring Google for Education, to be held May 14 at Kalahari Convention Center in Sandusky.

Attendees will learn how to save thousands of dollars by using Google’s free Apps for Education, how to simplify the operation of the school, how to transform classrooms into 21st century learning environments and how to provide the technology-rich education that students and parents want.

Jeff Good will present a hands-on session titled “Google Hangouts and Hangouts on Air.”
Developing student skills for online testing

As Ohio schools move toward online assessments that include interactive items, students will need to be able to perform many technology tasks to successfully navigate and pass the test. Students taking the new assessments will need to be proficient in online skills such as click/tap, scroll, type with text editor and many more digital skills that we assume all students know and use.

Western Reserve Public Media Educational Services has developed and is delivering a professional development session that meets the needs of teachers and students. The course is titled “Developing Teacher and Student Skills for Online Assessment.”

Second phase of technology project begins

Connected Educators Join the Digital Learning Revolution, a project funded through the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, is beginning Phase 2 by providing support for innovation ambassadors – one building lead administrator and/or one lead teacher.

The program’s purpose is to help school district ambassadors to organize their digital lives and connect with resources for communicating, collaborating, creating and critically thinking, with a vision of changing their schools’ culture of teaching and learning. The program will start with face-to-face meetings in June and August and an online support program in October coinciding with Connected Educator Month.

Supporting our military

On Feb. 26, we were proud to support the U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers’ Chorus concert at the Akron Civic Theatre in partnership with WKSU, the Akron Beacon Journal and Vorys Law. Over 2,000 people attended this free community event.
Outreach & Special Events (cont’d.)

Western Reserve Public Media brought the lead characters of Peg + Cat to Plant the Seed to Read book festival on April 18 at Mill Creek MetroParks in Youngstown. Lots of young readers stopped by to say hello!

Phase One of Message of the Myth complete

Western Reserve PBS was approached to partner with Kwame Scruggs, Ph.D., of Alchemy Inc., to write a curriculum guide using Indian, Nordic and other myths as teaching tools to help guide disenfranchised young men to find purpose and successfully function in society. Phase One, for use by teachers in classrooms, has been completed. Phase Two, designed for use by guidance counselors, is currently in production.

Western Reserve PBS strikes deal with aroundKent Magazine

We are pleased to announce a new reciprocal partnership with aroundKent, a glossy, quarterly magazine that showcases businesses and happenings in Kent and the surrounding areas. Our agreement includes a full-page ad and a story in all four issues over the next year. In the short term, look for us in the June and August issues.

Membership Department update

As of the end of April, Membership revenue is $7,946 ahead of goal going into the last two months of the fiscal year. Renewal gift direct mail, lapsed and additional gift telemarketing, on-air pledge, all web contributions, planned giving and sustaining membership are all over goal. The fiscal year-end goal is $369,000.

PBS, E. J. Thomas Hall and Arlo Guthrie

Western Reserve PBS collaborated with PBS and E. J. Thomas Hall to fill the seats for the Arlo Guthrie concert held May 2. We used the 100 tickets as an impromptu thank-you to members. Within five hours, they were all claimed. A good time was had by all!

Legacy Society

Leave a Legacy... and preserve the heritage of Western Reserve PBS

Planned gifts provide resources that create special opportunities and preserve our future.

Invest in the future of Western Reserve PBS and your community by making a planned gift to the station:

- Bequest
- Gift of Life Insurance
- Retirement and 401K Plans
- Stocks and Bonds
- Gift of Real Property

For more information or to join the Legacy Society, contact Paula Mastroianni at 1-800-554-4549.

Visit http://www.WesternReservePBS.org/LegacySociety
**Staff News, Training & Conferences**

**Trina Cutter’s recent activities**
President and CEO Trina Cutter has been busy with community and industry events, including the following:

- Attending the Canton Repository’s 200th Anniversary Gala on March 20.
- On March 24, attending a community screening event of “Finding the Gold Within,” a feature-length documentary about the Akron-based Alchemy program, which uses the ancient technique of drumming and mythological storytelling to increase the social and emotional learning of young African American men. Western Reserve Public Media is collaborating with Alchemy on educational materials.
- Speaking to an Ohio University Scripps College of Communication public media class on April 2. The topic was opportunities and challenges of providing leadership for a community licensee in the public television industry.
- On April 29, participating in a Corporation for Public Broadcasting webinar titled “Key Considerations for UHF to VHF Swaps and Channel Sharing.” It addressed the business, service, technical and legal considerations involved in the decision to move from a UHF to VHF frequency or share a channel in the pending spectrum auction.

**Staff members attend spectrum auction meeting**
On April 1, Trina Cutter Tony Dennis attended a northeast Ohio broadcasters meeting with the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Incentive Auction Task Force in Cleveland. There, they learned more about the pending spectrum auction and had a private meeting with the FCC to ask questions specific to WNEO and WEAO.

**PBS Annual Meeting held in Austin, Texas**
President and CEO Trina Cutter and Chief Development and Marketing Director Paula Mastroianni attended the PBS Annual Meeting held in Austin, Texas, on May 12-13. Prior to the meeting, Mastroianni attended a two-day workshop on station branding.

**New technician Ryan Donchess joins staff**
We’re pleased to announce that Ryan Donchess has joined our staff in the position of master control/traffic technician. Donchess will be working with engineer Rick Patterson in our station’s Master Control to ensure the accurate airing of all of our programs and on-air elements. He will also be assisting traffic coordinator Nick Freeman in certain aspects of the traffic duties.

Donchess is a cum laude graduate of Youngstown State University with a bachelor’s degree in telecommunications studies. He has over 20 years of commercial broadcast experience, including positions at WKBN in Youngstown and WEWS in Cleveland. Please join us in welcoming Ryan to our staff.

**Jeff Good attends conferences**
In May, Jeff Good, director of education, attended a four-day Microsoft training event in Columbus that is intended to deepen the knowledge of Microsoft education products and offerings. Once completed, attendees receive a Microsoft Innovative Educator certificate enabling them to train others in Microsoft education technologies.

Good also recently attended the Learn21 Conference in Columbus. Learn21 is a nonprofit agency providing cost-effective technology support to member districts across the state. The conference focused on “best practice” stories of school districts using learning management systems, video applications and other technologies to improve student learning in their schools.

Finally, Good participated in the NEOtech Conference held recently at Kent State University. He represented both Western Reserve Public Media and ITIP Ohio, a statewide organization supporting the effective uses of instructional technology and digital media content.

**Good accepts volunteer appointments**
Jeff Good was recently appointed to the board of Grow Youngstown, based in Youngstown. This organization’s focus is on urban agriculture, waste reduction and resource reuse with programs that include Farm to You, Edible Corridors and Prep and Preservation.

More information about the organization is available at www.growyoungstown.org.

Good also has been asked to participate in Youngstown State University’s “Pete’s Pride” program. This volunteer initiative helps Youngstown State University to recruit new students, mentor current students and engage recent graduates. Good is a 1987 graduate of YSU.

**Anthony Dennis attends conferences in April**
Operations Manager Anthony Dennis attended several technology conferences recently. From April 8-10, he attended PBS TechCon in Las Vegas, Nev., to keep informed about new technologies at PBS, including a new interconnect system that is coming in 2016.

From April 13-14, he attended the National Association of Broadcasters show in Las Vegas to learn about new video technologies and broadcast TV standards.

Finally, he went to the PBS regional meeting in Detroit from April 28-30 to learn about new PBS station services including the Member Video on Demand service that will be introduced later this year.

**Barb Moore presents at development conference**
Barb Moore, 21st century learning consultant, gave a presentation about Google applications and how to use Chromebooks in the classroom at a professional development conference hosted by Old Trail Schools in Bath.
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Available to 5.13 million people in 22 counties, Western Reserve Public Media serves the largest population of Ohio’s eight PBS member stations. (The second largest station reaches 1.2 million fewer people.) Our over-the-air broadcast service area is extended by carriage on almost all cable systems and satellite services in Northeast Ohio and parts of Western Pennsylvania.

Sources: 1 2010 A.C. Nielsen audience data; 2 2011-2012 Media Audit, Cleveland-Akron