

GLT Annual Report 2006

by GLT General Manager Bruce Bergethon

There are many ways to acknowledge middle age — reflection, resignation, resolve, and that old favorite, denial. At GLT, as we turned 40 years old in 2006, we had a little of all of the above. But mostly, we experienced a great deal of forward momentum even while looking back — and for that we have you, our fabulous listeners and supporters to thank.

To be sure, there were many off-air GLT events in our 40th year, including our threefold (news, blues and jazz) parties in November. There were celebrations of our heritage and alumni on the air and in print. But it was also a year of new programming initiatives, financial growth, and recognition from our peers.

Awards and honors

The GLT newsroom is running out of wall space to display the many plaques Willis Kern, Charlie Schlenker, and Jim Browne have amassed from those who judge journalism. After winning three first place awards early in 2006 from the Associated Press — for best use of sound, best hard news feature, and best investigative series, the real deluge of trophies came in the summer.

Charlie Schlenker was honored with a second consecutive national Edward R. Murrow award — necessitating a return trip to New York to receive his honor. The newsroom as a whole was also recognized, by the Radio and Television News Directors Association, with three regional Murrow awards, for best newscast, best news writing, and best hard news feature. The news guys also won a national first place award for best newscast from the Public Radio News Directors Incorporated. We're not sure if it's possible to top this year's award-winning performance of the GLT news team, but we can certainly tell you that when you hear a GLT newscast, it's top notch.



Willis Kern, Jim Browne, and Charlie Schlenker with a tongue-in-cheek homage to Edward R. Murrow

Photo Credit: Todd Phillips

GLT's jazz programming also received national kudos this year. The Public Radio Program Directors gave GLT a first place Award for Creative Excellence for the jazz you can enjoy each weekday. The PRPD noted the "natural" and "compelling" personality of GLT jazz diva Laura Kennedy, and lauded the flow of GLT's jazz selections and promotion. Credit goes to Program Director Mike McCurdy and Music Director Jon Norton, as well as the estimable Ms. K.



New programming

Jazz programming in 2006 featured a fall spotlight on the gentle side of John Coltrane, on the occasion of his 80th anniversary. Next year, we'll be doing a similar 80th year nod to two of the most prominent historic purveyors of jazz bossa nova, Antonio Carlos Jobim and Stan Getz. Also featured in what we're calling the "Year of the Bossa" will be live performances by Eliane Elias at our February GLT Jazz Masters concert (see pg 12 for an interview with Ms Elias), and a to-be-announced Brazilian band at the GLT Summer Concert in June.



Jay Ansher of ISU's Physics Department and Janet Moore of the Challenger Learning Center host GLT's Uncommon Knowledge.

In January 2006, GLT debuted a new science program called **Uncommon Knowledge**. Co-hosted by ISU physics professor Jay Ansher and Janet Moore of the Challenger Learning Center, the show is aired twice weekly, during **Weekend Edition® Sunday** and Monday's **Morning Edition®**. **Uncommon Knowledge** joins long-running GLT co-productions with ISU academic departments, including **The Dean of Green™** (Biological Sciences) and **Poetry Radio™** (English). The latter program will commemorate its fifteenth anniversary in October 2007.

Uncommon Knowledge, **The Dean of Green™**, **Poetry Radio™** and Delta Frank's **Mouth of the South** can all be downloaded for your convenient enjoyment, along with a "best of the week" news story from the GLT news department. GLT podcasts of these features began in November.

Podcasting was just one of two major online initiatives that GLT launched in 2006. Our 24 hour blues stream, essentially a second GLT station, debuted in March, and has received positive comments from all over the world. Global blues-mongering, however, didn't keep us from strengthening our local blues service, including the series of local blues musicians who served as guest DJs during the month of August.

GLT
blues
RADIO 24/7

Heritage

When I began working at GLT back in 1988, one of the things that attracted me was the personality of the station — professional and focused on quality, but informal and accessible in its relationship to the community. I hope that we have extended that tradition in the intervening years, but a lot of the credit goes to founding General Manager Ben Paxton. Ben, who still lives and is active in the Bloomington/Normal community, was one of the many GLT alumni we profiled in the pages of the *GLT Guide* during 2006.

Other GLT personalities you read about included former News Director Carol Carey-Odekirk (currently working at State Farm); Don and Lorna White, who met at GLT before beginning a distinguished joint career at NPR and Chicago Public Radio; Lynette White (no relation to Don and Lorna, other than the GLT connection), who works at XM Satellite Radio; former Program Director Chuck Miller, who has managed stations in Philadelphia, Atlanta and New Orleans after GLT; and Brendan Banaszak, a recent GLT graduate who nowadays directs the national broadcast of *All Things Considered*®.

We're proud of the way these GLT 'grads' have reflected credit on the station and Illinois State University in their careers. We're also proud of the legacy of ISU, which the entire institution will applaud in 2007, when the University celebrates its sesquicentennial. In February, we'll introduce *First Person Normal*, a year long series of short programs focusing on the diverse experiences of those associated with Illinois State.

Finances and facilities

Local and national programming is supported by GLT listeners and businesses, as you know. As the accompanying charts on page 7 show, the importance of that private support has changed dramatically over the past four decades, growing from nothing in 1966 to above 50% of our current cash budget. The numbers also show that we could not exist without the ongoing strong institutional support of Illinois State University.

Given our growing dependence on local giving, the financial results of calendar 2006 were a matter of some concern. After a stellar year for business underwriting in FY 2005 and our best fund drive ever in spring 2006, we found ourselves below goal by about \$7,000 in the fall drive, and with about a 10% decrease in local business support for FY 2006. GLT is not alone in experiencing a "softening" of our "soft money" — many not-for-profits reported similar results over the last year. What this means for the immediate future is that we'll be working hard to find new and creative ways to raise money, and we'll be looking hard at expenditures to make sure that we're being responsible with your dollars.



Director of Music at New Orleans Lusher School Marta Jerjevich and one of her students hold two of the many instruments donated to the school through GLT's year-long collection for the New Orleans Musicians Relief Fund.

We did make a commitment in 2006 to assist the New Orleans Musicians Relief Fund (a non-profit organization run by Jeff and Karen Beninato) in helping New Orleans musicians whose resources were decimated by Hurricane Katrina. Through donations to NOMRF collected at GLT events, we purchased a bass drum for jazz trumpeter Leroy Jones. The community opened their hearts and their attics and dug out over three dozen instruments to donate to the cause.

Thanks to Kidder Music, all were reconditioned and sent to several school programs and professional musicians in New Orleans. In November at our 40th anniversary blues party, we presented guitarist (and evening's performer) Bryan Lee with a custom built, reproduction vintage amplifier he lost in the flood — and he played the *heck* out of it in the second set.



Jeff Beninato delivering to Leroy Jones a marching drum purchased with donations at GLT 2006 events.

Celebrate!

Bryan Lee's show was the climax of a year long series of events, many of them specially fashioned for our 40th birthday.



The Tierney Sutton Band headlined the 2006 Jazz Masters concert

In February, we presented sublime jazz vocalist Tierney Sutton in the fourth annual Jazz Masters concert, made possible by Dunbar, Breitweiser and Company, LLP. Then it was another successful Top of the Class Antiques show, benefiting GLT and our academic home, the ISU School of Communication.

In March, Roomful of Blues rocked the house at the Lafayette Club, thanks to Ameren.

In June, our annual Summer Concert, sponsored by Fox and Hounds Day Spa, Ronda Glenn Law Offices, Commerce Trust Company, Specs Around Town, and Heritage Manor Nursing Homes,

presented the swinging piano stylings of Beegie Adair, the blues inferno of Mississippi Heat, and the sultry sounds of Southside Cindy & The Slip Tones to an enthusiastic audience that braved winds and rain for a great day of free music.

July through September, as usual, saw GLT on the festival front, with appearances in Normal at Sugar Creek Arts Festival, and the Sweet Corn Blues Festival, whose blues stage was sponsored by CEFCU. In Bloomington, it was Nothin' But the Blues, and in Peoria it was the Miller Lite Illinois Blues Festival.

With our now well-established GLT Night at the Shakespeare Festival, underwritten by Busey Bank, and the Recycled Music Sale, with a space made possible by Crossroads Center, these events made for a busy and "fund-filled" summer.



Mississippi Heat takes the stage at the 2006 GLT Summer Concert



Pierre Lacocque of Mississippi Heat joined the crowd on street level to play harmonica

Photo Credit: Mike McCurdy

And then there were the three birthday parties in November. The latest iteration of Radio Faces, with **Weekend Edition® Sunday** host Liane Hansen, was our most successful yet, thanks to the ongoing financial commitment of Country Insurance & Financial Services. We created a new, sophisticated tradition with the GLT Jazz Cabaret, featuring Spider Saloff, sponsored by Westminster Village, Inc. As mentioned, Bryan Lee's show at the Lafayette Club climaxed the year, courtesy of the Cortese Foot and Ankle Clinic. See pgs 14-15 for photo highlights of all three anniversary events.

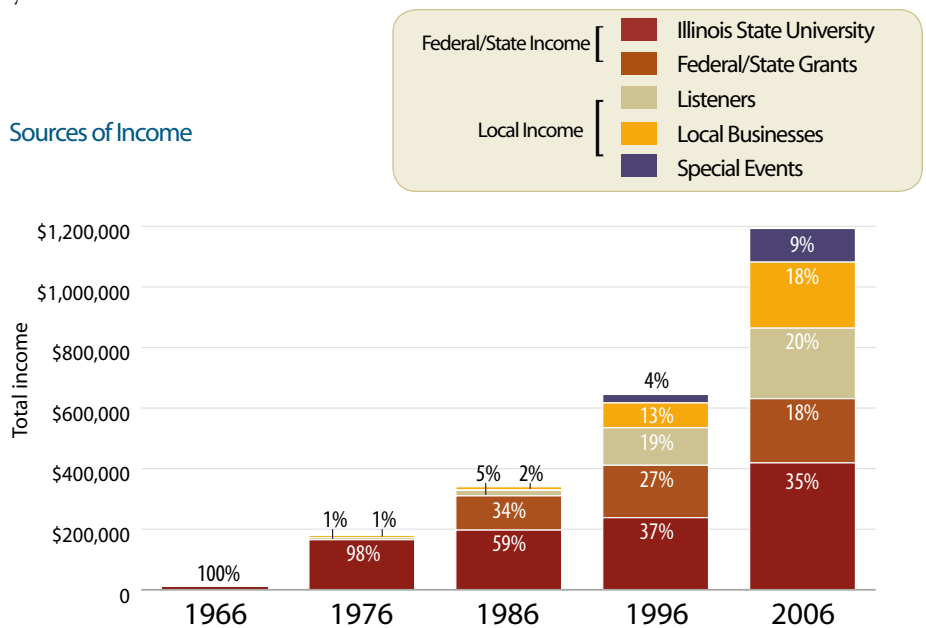
As evident from the above lists, we couldn't maintain this active schedule of events and celebrations without the generosity of our corporate sponsors. Please thank them when you get the chance. We enjoyed all the parties this year, although we probably will have to back off a little during 2007 (do you remember your 41st birthday party?)

What's next?

In addition to sesquicentennial programming, we'll commemorate the 15th anniversaries of **Poetry Radio™** and **Acousticity™**. There's the "Year of the Bossa." We'll try to rack up some more awards, and improve the daily programming on which they're based. We're also working behind the scenes on some major enhancement projects for our technological and geographical future, but that's all I can hint at right now.

What I can say, loud and clear, is that GLT simply couldn't accomplish a bit of what we do without your support. Thank you for making 2006 memorable, and we wish you a great year ahead!

Sources of Income



In Gratitude

a thank you from GLT Membership Director Pat Peterson

On behalf of listeners around central Illinois and all of us here at GLT, I would like to thank our 2006 major donors for their investment in this public radio station. Their ongoing support of our efforts to bring substantive, intelligent radio programming to the communities we serve is deeply appreciated.

GLT Leaders Circle

Leaders Circle members contribute \$500 or more a year, making a significant investment in the future of the station.

Directors (\$1500 plus):

Anonymous (1)
Kathryn and Bill Carter
James and Ruth Knecht
Sue McDonald

Broadcasters (\$1000 plus):

Bruce Bergethon and Jo Porter
Bruce and Jeannie Breitweiser
David and Dana Efav
Dennis Fox
Mona Gardner
John Hebden
Robert and Victoria King
Dixie Mills
James Pinder
Chris and Susan Prendergast
Nancy Ridenour and Ed Mason

Leaders (\$500 plus)

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Ben and Anne Paxton
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Jim and Sharon Walker
Marge and Barry Weaver
Linda Kimber Weber and Greg Weber
Deb Wozniack
Dorothy Witte

GLT Day Sponsors

GLT Day Sponsors contribute \$365 or more each year and are invited to sponsor a day of programming with announcements that mark a personal milestone.

Anonymous (1)	The Hile-Broad Family	Barbara Sue
Jerry Antonini	Kenneth and Jan Holder	and Kerry Ray Ramey
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John Blank	Eric Hutchison	Lisa Rosenthal
Andrew and Becky Braun	John and Diane Jordan	Lenard Sachs
Tom and Nancy Brokaw	Marshall and	Bill Sherman
Benjamin Brucker	Marianne Kaisner	and Becky Fox
Gregg Chadwick	Scott and Jennie King	Curtis Skrzynski
and Robyn Walter	Scott Koets	Walt and Sharon Smoski
Kelly Cochran	Karen and Qazi Khusro	Mary Louise Steadman
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Ben Downen	Ron Nelson	Dan and Karen Wettstein
Rebecca Eder	Nancy Niebur	Brian and Jane Wilkinson
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COUNTRY Insurance and Financial Services

GLT Blues BBQ

Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic

Roomful of Blues

Ameren

Sweet Corn Blues Festival Stage

CEFCU

GLT Night at Shakespeare

Busey Bank

Recycled Music Sale

Crossroads Center

GLT Jazz Cabaret

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