

ALUMNI PROFILE

Where has life taken you since you left WSDP and PCEP?

I graduated from Plymouth-Canton High School in 1992. After high school I went to Henry Ford Community College. I received an Associated Degree in Mass Communication and volunteered at the college radio station WHFR. At WHFR I was an on-air host of a sampler program, an indie rock show and from time to time I would do a pre-record bluegrass/folk or world/folk show. My final year at HFCC and at WHFR as a student I became program director.

Then on Paczki Day (Fat Tuesday) 1995 I moved to Florida to attend the University of Central Florida in Orlando. While at UCF I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Radio-Television and I worked at WUCF. When I started at WUCF it was a university radio station with NPR affiliation. In the evening they played jazz and at night the student volunteers played indie rock. Then WUCF became a Public Radio station and changed the format to all jazz. I was then offered a 4-nights a week late-night slot playing jazz, acid jazz, trip-hop and ambient music. The best part of doing the late-night slot at WUCF was that it was my first paid radio job.



LARA HRYCAJ

“Besides making me want to do radio for the rest of my life, WSDP was a place where I spent time with some of my closest friends.”

When I graduated from UCF I was offered an afternoon shift at WUCF and offered a management position at WHFR back in Michigan. Well, I took the job at WHFR. I became Operations Manager at WHFR in 1998 and I am still currently holding this position.

In the Fall 2001 I went back to school to get my Masters Degree at Wayne State University. I graduated May 2003 with a MA in Media Arts. Along with my Operations Manager job at WHFR I teach telecommunication classes and audio production classes at Henry Ford Community College and at Wayne State University.

1989-1992 Staff Member

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I spend too much time and money on buying records and CDs. I used to work at a record store and it was very hard to resist the temptation of new music.

When I'm not spending too much on music, I am traveling with my boyfriend. March 2004 I am going to Tokyo, Japan for the first time. I am trying to learn a little Japanese (nihon-go skoshi) and figure out train schedules.

In the warmer months, I enjoy playing disc golf (Frisbee golf). There are a lot of disc golf courses in Michigan and every year a group of us get together to play in a disc golf tournament. The first year I played I came in last place and last year I came in second to last place. Hopefully this year my disc golf playing will improve and I will get further and further away from last place.

What is your favorite memory of WSDP?

I don't think I can have just one favorite WSDP memory.

And recently being a part of WSDP Retro Day (Feb 14, 2004) really brought back tons of memories that I had forgotten. I think one of my fondest memories was the "Merrill and Lara Morning Show." For the seniors, Bill let us have a special weekend and it was one of the first times we were on the air overnight (I think I had the 2am to 4am and Merrill had the 4am to 6am or something like that). But the "Legendary" Jim Morrison was late for his shift so Merrill and I decided to do a morning show. We did cheesy news reports and weather reports and we finished the show with Prince's Kiss and we both sang along over the air.

"If you love radio, then keep doing it... Do as much as you can at WSDP now; these moments will be with you for the rest of your life."

Some other get memories: Brian Quinn's trying to entertain me during basketball game, Teresa Kim putting Alan West and myself on the air while we were singing "A Little Respect" by Erasure, and winning a MAB award for my "suggestive" WSDP sports promo. Also up there: The WSDP Dance, doing a live show out of Studio C and taking requests from the Western Wayne Correctional Facility.

Why was being involved with WSDP important for you?

I had wanted to be a MTV VJ and I thought that WSDP was a good start. Once I was on the air I was hooked on radio. I wanted to do as much as I could at WSDP so I did as many on-air shows as I could do (I did a Top 40 show in the afternoon and Indie Rock show in the evening) and I started up a music news program called Backstage Pass.

Besides making me want to do radio for the rest of my life, WSDP was a place where I spent time with some of my closest friends. Most of my WSDP memories involve Teresa Kim (who got my to join WSDP) and Merrill Hodnefield. WSDP was a great social outlet, it was fun, and you were able to do something really cool, being a dj on a radio station.

What advice would you give to current staff members?

Listen to Bill; he knows what he's talking about. If you love radio, then keep doing it when you are finished with high school; there are plenty of radio station you can volunteer for and not necessarily commercial radio stations. Do as much as you can at WSDP now; these moments will be with you for the rest of your life.

Ja, mata (see you later)! Sayonara (Goodbye)!



Lara Hrycaj and Asif Chowdhury

THE TOP 25

March 17th, 2004

- 1 **Autopilot Off** Autopilot Off (EP)
- 2 **Apartment 26** Music for the Massive
- 3 **Robbers on High Street** Fine Lines
- 4 **Zebrahead** MFZB
- 5 **Jett Rink** Jett Rink
- 6 **Heavenly States** Heavenly States
- 7 **MXPX** Before Everything And After
- 8 **Get Set Go** So You've Ruined Your Life
- 9 **Chomsky** Let's Get to Second [Sampler]
- 10 **Sounds** Living In America
- 11 **Jurassic 5** Power in Numbers
- 12 **Everlast** White Trash Beautiful [CD5]
- 13 **Coldplay** Live 2003
- 14 **Stills** Logic Will Break Your Heart
- 15 **Berlin Project** The Things We Say
- 16 **British Sea Power**
The Decline Of British Sea Power
- 17 **Cursive** The Ugly Organ
- 18 **Flaming Lips**
Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots
- 19 **Dressy Bessy** Dressy Bessy
- 20 **Spitalfield** Remember Right Now
- 21 **Gainer** You Say It Like It's A Bad Thing...
- 22 **RS3** ...Always About a Girl
- 23 **Eleven** Howling Book
- 24 **Death Cab For Cutie** Transatlanticism
- 25 **Lucky Boys Confusion** Commitment