

ALUMNI PROFILE

Salem Class
of 1988

Favorite Radio Format: Adult Alternative/Triple A

Favorite Artist: Oh, that's tough to narrow down. But, I guess I'd have to say Elvis Costello is probably my favorite. I have to throw in Tom Petty, Lucinda Williams, Nick Lowe, Jill Sobule, Wilco, Ben Folds, Bon Iver and Ella Fitzgerald, too.

Favorite Song: Now, that's just a mean question. Of all-time? Hmm. I'll go with "Crediting Men's Hayride" by Frank Allison & the Odd Sox, a great band from Ann Arbor. It's on their Monkey Business album from 1988

Favorite Movie: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Fight Club, When Harry Met Sally, or Lost in Translation would probably top my list of favorite films. But again, as a film criticism professor, it's tough to choose.

Favorite TV Show: At the moment, I'd probably say Dexter, Mad Men and Top Chef. If I can include shows that are no longer on the air, I'd throw in West Wing and Lost

Favorite Book: To Kill a Mockingbird

Hobbies: Traveling, watching movies, hanging out with friends, rooting for the Detroit Tigers



Patty Williamson

Where has life taken you since you left WSDP?

After graduating from Plymouth-Salem in '88, I attended CMU, and earned my B.A.A. in broadcasting in '92. Just like in high school, working at our student-run campus station was the hub around which my days revolved, and the place I made some of the most important friendships of my life. Upon graduating, I bounced around the state of Michigan working at radio stations in Ann Arbor, Howell, Lansing, and Traverse City. Although I thought I'd work in radio for life, at some point the crazy hours and low pay started to get to me. In 1997, I decided to leave my job as Music Director at WLDR in Traverse City and return to CMU to get my Master's degree. It was there I realized I really enjoyed teaching. After finishing up my degree, I was lucky enough to be offered a teaching gig as a faculty member in the School of Broadcast and Cinematic Arts. I've been teaching there ever since. And in 2007 I finished up my doctoral degree at Michigan State University. Now I'm living in Mt. Pleasant and I teach film and media criticism at CMU.

What is your favorite memory of your time at the station?

I have a million memories from my time at WSDP, and all of them are good. It was great to have former Tigers announcer Paul Carey come and visit us, and winning an award for best

aircheck at the Great Lakes Radio Conference was a high point for me personally (all thanks go to former Station Manager Dave Snyder for that). But, really my best memories are just of hanging out at the station, goofing around with friends, and doing the day to day work we needed to keep the station running. I still remember my very first solo airshift. I was alone in the studio during the summer. Andy Melin was Station Manager at the time, and he had helped me get ready for the shift. When I got to my first break, I got through the talk set like a pro, played my donor announcements and PSA, and then as I opened the mic to talk up the ramp of the next song....I realized I hadn't cued up any music. Panic! Of course, this was back in the days of vinyl, so I couldn't just quickly hit a song on the digital touchscreen or thrown in a CD. It took some time to find the record, cue it up and get it playing. I think I froze and mumbled something about "technical difficulties" and Mr. Melin came running down the hall at top speed to help me out. I still have dreams of that situation (as I think most former radio people do). Okay, so maybe that wasn't my "favorite" memory, but it's certainly one that sticks out in my mind.

Why was being involved at WSDP important for you?

WSDP was my favorite part of high school. I was an extremely shy kid, and getting involved with the radio station really

brought me out of my shell. The skills I learned at the station gave me a huge advantage in terms of working in the radio industry, but it also fortified the abilities I use today as a professor. WSDP taught me how to communicate effectively, how to develop critical thinking skills, and really helped strengthen my writing skills. But, not only did it allow me to grow from an educational standpoint, it also allowed me to grow socially. What I will always remember most about WSDP is the camaraderie of our staff. We all worked our butts off to make the station the best it could be, and that brought us all closer together. It was truly like a second family.

What advice would you give to our current students?

Make the most of your time at the station. Get involved in every aspect of the station you possibly can. Don't just do an airshift, get involved in news, sports, production, writing, promotions, and anything else you can get your hands on. You may go into radio, you may not. But those skills will stay with you regardless of the path you take in life.

CD Reviews

Never Shout Never — Harmony

Never Shout Never is more or less a one-man band that has been taking over little girl's hearts one tour at a time. Their newest release "Harmony" is influencing more than just teenage girls but trying to start a revolution. The opening track is preaching more than just the average heartbreak; it paints pictures of peace and love with smooth melodic acoustic melodies that make you think you're living with the hippies. With lyrics like "I am praying for the day were you and I and he and she are we, humanity will sing harmony" you cant help but to feel a little like holding hands in a circle with all of the people around you.

Keeping on the same track of preaching to the people, the last track on this 11-song album sets on the topic of present day society. This whiny song expresses the problems with how people act and what the "Scene" is like with lyrics like "I'm sick of imagery instead of artistry".



Of Course the album wouldn't be complete without numerous songs about love, past loves, and future loves. One of the most popular songs would be "I'll Love You More Than You Will Ever Know" or "The Lousy Truth" blasting through the stereos with

gentle strumming, three part harmonizing, and simple but insightful lyrics that could make any girls heart melt faster than and ice cream cone out in the sun. These songs are 100% about being in love, but they bring up relatable sections of love that most people experience everyday. Lyrics such as "We move just like the moon and sun" or "Cause all that I've ever do is break your heart and dear it breaks my heart to see you here" Remind us that that we're all unhappy sometimes but somehow listening to the musical composition of these songs makes it seem like a happy thing.

And don't fret; there is the same high-pitched singing that we all know so well. Though new instruments like the banjo and harmonica have been spread through out the songs as well, finishing off the CD with a folk-y vibe that makes you wonder if the next instrument added will be the washboard or base cello. Over all, if you're in the mood for old timey music or just come calm tunes, this is definitely the album to listen to. — Hannah Glodich

Emarosa — Emarosa

For about one year there has been a band that has always made it onto any mixed CD or playlist I create. That band is Emarosa. They have recently released their self titled album, and are sure to be making waves in the endless sea that is today's music.



I praise this album for a variety of reasons. One is the fact that Emarosa seem to have grown in terms of sound, but not the typical "growing up" that all bands go through. Emarosa maintain their original sound, but have become more polished and organized. This shows in the opener "A Toast To The Future Kids!", and "I Still Feel Her PT 4". This band has always brought on heavy hitters. The new album closes with one titled "We Are Life". The song starts off very soothing, then breaks into a heavy and heartfelt chorus that will be sure to have Emarosa fans screaming at shows.

Although I hate to give one band member more attention than another, Jonny Craig is a fantastic singer. In my opinion, he is the best singer in today's alternative genre. Emarosa consists of very talented musicians, but Craig shines on every track of this album. It is hard to complain at all about Emarosa's new effort. With the self titled album, any fan will be pleased, and many more will be made. — Christopher Atkinson Jr.