

**EXPANDING
OUR
JOURNALISM.
RETOOLING
OUR
FUNDRAISING.
ENVISIONING
OUR
FUTURE.**

**A PROGRESS REPORT
2016 - 2018**

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WFAE RANKED FIRST among large-market stations in
the categories of **BREAKING NEWS** and **HAND-TO-HAND**
Keith Lamont Scott shooting

market stations in the Southeast **FOR**
RD NEWS coverage for its reports on the
ng and unrest in Charlotte.

Journalism
that
informs,
enriches,
and
inspires.

A more
knowledgeable
and engaged
community
grounded in our
shared humanity.

OUR JOURNEY

During the last two and a half years, WFAE (90.7) has embarked on an exciting journey to **REBOOT** our operations, **EXPAND** our journalism, and **CHART A FUTURE** as a cornerstone of journalism and community conversation around critical issues **IN THE CHARLOTTE REGION.**

At a time when many other local news organizations were retrenching, we opted to expand. We thought we could accomplish a lot. And, **WITH YOUR HELP, WE DID.**

OUR JOURNEY

Now it's time to update you on our progress and give you a snapshot of what's in the pipeline. The milestones have been significant and they have set the stage for serving you even better as we re-imagine the future.

Overall, we are seeking to expand our reach, our output, and our engagement with the community so that, together, we can build the civic capacity to grapple with complicated community needs.

Many of these issues surfaced in research by Harvard and other scholars that ranked Charlotte dead last of the 50 largest U.S. cities in giving a child born in poverty the ability to move up the economic ladder. The Leading on Opportunity Council is now working on making our region, a leader in economic development in the South, also a leader in upward mobility. This will continue to be an over-arching narrative for WFAE and our community.

The arc of the transformation we've undergone the last two and a half years is an exciting story. So, instead of a standard annual report, this is a chronicle of the steps we've taken to build a stronger WFAE to serve you better.



WFAE reporter David Boraks covers a Hillary Clinton rally at Johnson C. Smith University during the 2016 elections.
Photo credit: Jeff Cravotta/WFAE

JOURNALISTICALLY, we've increased the amount of our local news content and stayed in the vanguard of breaking news as nearly every national controversy embedded itself in Charlotte. **DIGITALLY,** we have enhanced our website, launched podcasts, and added more interactive outreach to begin bringing in new voices and new stakeholders. **FINANCIALLY,** we have greatly expanded our revenues and the ranks of our members, major donors and sponsors. In FY 2017, we even converted a planned deficit into a significant surplus. **ASPIRATIONALLY,** we have a dream to open a new uptown headquarters to position WFAE as an anchor in Charlotte and make it easier to hear from all parts of our community as it wrestles with key challenges.

LETTER FROM 2016 BOARD CHAIR JON BUCHAN

Fiscal 2016 was a year of fast-breaking local, state and national news, and WFAE's award-winning news team – led by News Director Greg Collard – brought it to WFAE's listeners with the immediacy and depth this community expects and deserves, including:

- *Analytical coverage of the intense, extended fights over Charlotte's 2016 LGBT ordinance, the legislature's HB2 legislation to overturn it, and the litigation that followed;*
- *Authoritative analysis of the North Carolina Voter ID and voter registration legislation and the legal battles that played out in federal and state courts;*
- *The heated political debate over the proposals for the I-77 toll road;*
- *A "long-form" journalistic look at the Emanuel AME Church killings in Charleston and their aftermath in the South Carolina community, one-year later;*
- *Coverage of the 2016 Democratic and Republican primaries in North and South Carolina, exploring Donald Trump's appeal to Carolinas' voters and the Hillary Clinton - Bernie Sanders campaigns.*

Charlotte Talks, WFAE's daily talk show hosted by Mike Collins and produced by Wendy Herkey, increased its "on the news" focus, including:

- *Special evening programs on the South Carolina Republican Primary from Winthrop University and a March 2015 North Carolina Primary Special;*
- *Interviews with Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts about her "First 100 Days" as mayor, then-Governor Pat McCrory, and U.S. Senate Candidate Deborah Ross;*
- *An evening "Public Conversation" at Spirit Square's McGlohon Theater on Student Assignment in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools, the "first" of Charlotte Talks' now regular "Public Conversations."*
- *The commencement of Weekly News Roundup, a gathering of local news reporters and editors to discuss the week's biggest stories. (It's now one of Charlotte Talks' most popular programs.)*
- *Events with NPR's political reporter Cokie Roberts and talk show host Diane Rehm.*

This stellar journalism resulted in two regional Edward R. Murrow awards to WFAE in 2016. The first was for Overall Excellence for the news team's outstanding coverage of a range of important news stories. The second was the first place award among large market public radio stations for Breaking News, awarded for WFAE's extensive team coverage of the mistrial result in the Randall Kerrick police-involved shooting case, the evening-long coverage of the uptown protests,

and the interviews of legal analysts about the evidence and arguments presented at trial and their apparent impact on the result.

With support of the board of directors, Joe O' Connor, who became General Manager in February 2015, built during Fiscal 2016 a strong administrative team, bringing on Jeff Bundy as Executive Director of Advancement, contracting with Market Enginuity to manage the station's underwriting efforts (bringing on Lisa Gergely to manage its sales force), hiring Jean Zoutwelle as the station's Chief Financial Officer and, in FY 2017, hiring Ju-Don Marshall as Chief Content Officer. The board continued its investment in the station's future, approving aggressive, aspirational budgets to permit the hiring of these stellar senior staff members and to support the ongoing newsroom expansions. The board also focused its exploration of station relocation possibilities, with the encouragement of many business and civic leaders to consider uptown Charlotte venues.

In short, WFAE has "built it" - over the past half-decade, a significantly enhanced news reporting and *Charlotte Talks* staff to help provide this community the Public Radio presence it deserves, supported by an outstanding administrative team.

And the additional listeners are, in fact, coming, as WFAE's rapidly growing membership rolls, revenues, and market share demonstrate.

Thanks to our loyal and generous members, sustaining members, major donors, and underwriters, WFAE will continue to grow its role as a critical part of this community's shared conversation and as a primary source of balanced, analytical, and trustworthy news and information.

Keep listening - there's so much more to come!



Jon Buchan
Board Chair - 2016



LETTER FROM 2017 BOARD CHAIR ED WILLIAMS

As WFAE's new fiscal year began in July 2017, the station was booming, and all the indicators suggest that even stronger performance lies ahead. Consider these facts:

- *WFAE's audience has grown to more than 240,000 – more than double its size two years ago.*
- *WFAE's audience ranks among the top ten in this highly competitive 26-station market.*
- *Membership – that is, listeners who give us money – has increased to more than 20,000, up from just over 15,000 two years ago.*
- *Major donors, who give \$1,000 a year or more, have increased 33 percent.*
- *Underwriting by Charlotte-area businesses has broken record after record, so that nearly 300 underwriters produced \$2 million in revenue.*

A year of excellent coverage of compelling news certainly contributed to this growth. The 2016 presidential election, the turmoil over House Bill 2, the struggle over a new pupil assignment plan for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and the unrest in our city after the shooting of Keith Lamont Scott – all these stories involved conflict over important issues, and listeners flocked to a news source they could rely on for in-depth, unbiased reporting. Such work earned recognition for excellence from WFAE's professional peers – two regional Edward R. Murrow awards – and loyalty from listeners who value honest reporting to counter the proliferation of propaganda and fake news.

But it wasn't just good journalism that fueled this growth. WFAE emerged from the economic downturn on solid ground, thanks to prudent leadership by former CEO Roger Sarow and previous boards. Under CEO Joe O'Connor, the board voted to invest a portion of WFAE's reserve funds to bolster the station's revenue-generating capacity. The budget anticipated a \$334,000 deficit, to be covered from the station's \$3.5 million reserve fund. But the investment paid off immediately, producing not a deficit but a \$208,000 budget surplus.

The board has approved investing our FY17 surplus in newsroom positions in FY18. This investment will contribute to growing the WFAE newsroom by 50 percent, from 14 journalists, producers and editors to 21. That will greatly enhance our ability to provide news and information through not only our FM signal but also through expanded digital sources, additional public events and more. Stay tuned for the details - and for another year of important service to our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edwin M. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ed Williams
Board Chair - 2017



LETTER FROM JOE O'CONNOR

A more knowledgeable and engaged community, grounded in our shared humanity. WFAE's Mission.

Keith Lamont Scott died not far from here, a couple of miles from our University City studios. Our reporters were on the air from the scene as spontaneous protests broke out that night and spilled onto Interstate 85. Protests continued Uptown in the following week that shook Charlotte into the national spotlight, coverage of which our newsroom, as Chair Ed Williams mentions in his letter, deservedly won national recognition.

The unrest woke us. And it underscored the 2016 findings of a team of researchers out of Harvard, Stanford and UC Berkeley that revealed what many of our neighbors from less affluent zip codes have known for generations; namely that it is near impossible for the poorest among us to escape poverty; or as the study concluded, Charlotte is dead last for such upward mobility when measured against the 50 largest cities in the nation.

We Charlotteans don't like to be last... in anything. Beloved writer Tommy Tomlinson, whose podcast "SouthBound" we launched in November 2017, wrote in *Charlotte Magazine* in 2014 about our character, "We got a bug in our butt when George Washington called us 'a trifling place' 200-some years ago, and we're ticked off that people think of Atlanta first, and we've always pushed and strived to get people to pay attention to us." The summer of 2016 brought us precisely the wrong kind of attention.

Tommy also wrote, "We're a 6-foot city, but we keep scrapping like we're 5-foot-3... we're never satisfied."

That spirit that defines us now has a new assignment: upward mobility.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force's "Leading on Opportunity" report provides a detailed and fresh framing for tackling the foundation of the despair, anger and inequality that not only fueled the unrest but has plagued our nation from its inception... namely segregation and all of its destructive consequences.

As you read the report, you may be reminded of the many stories and *Charlotte Talks* episodes we have devoted to these challenges as well as the proposed strategies to resolve them. And we will continue to do so. One of the major messages we are honored to receive from our increasing audience is that we are and must remain a catalyst for positive change for our neighborhoods, our city and our entire region.

Indeed our vision is reflected on page 21 of the "Opportunity" report, "We are all living in an uncertain world, trying to hold onto our sense of place and belonging. Collectively, we can hold on – together – with compassion, caring and respect for our differences and our shared humanity."

Onward!



Joe O'Connor
President and CEO



2,
727,
557

ONLINE SESSIONS

316

CORPORATE UNDERWRITERS

 | 13,862

FANS AS OF 12/31/17

 | 15,600

FOLLOWERS AS OF 12/31/17

 | 514

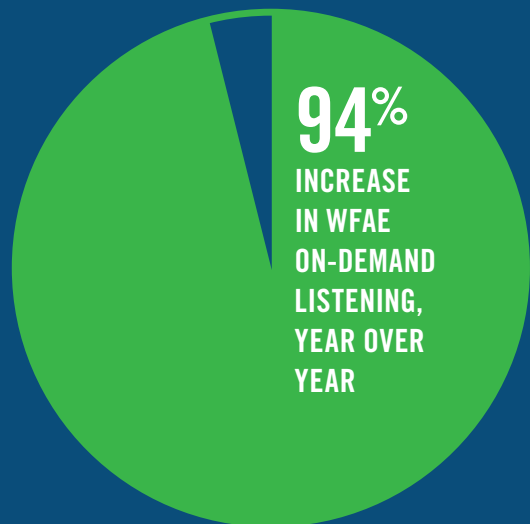
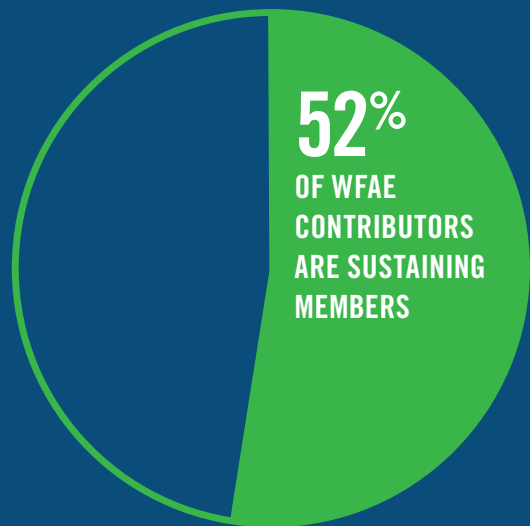
HOURS OF LOCAL PROGRAMMING

 | 15.25

HOURS OF PODCASTS PRODUCED

384,
973

LISTENERS EXPERIENCING WFAE RADIO/DIGITAL
CONTENT EACH MONTH



“

WE
GROWING
COVER
OTHER
ARE RE
THE

ARE
NG OUR
AGE AS
MEDIA
DUCING
IRS.

JOE O'CONNOR

WFAE President and CEO

”

OUR MILESTONES





\$
723,
000

TOTAL REVENUE
FROM MAJOR DONORS -
A 14% INCREASE

MILESTONE - JOURNALISM

From race relations to social justice issues, from voter rights to gender rights, from education to immigration, nearly every issue rooted in the culture wars consuming the country commanded top headlines in Charlotte. WFAE journalists have stepped up to the challenge of providing coverage and context – not only for Charlotte, but also for the nation and the world, filing stories for NPR and BBC News.

We are now growing our newsroom staff by 50%, from 14 to 21 journalists. Four of those staffers have been hired recently, giving us heightened capacity to produce even deeper, more engaging journalism.

To better inform the Charlotte community, we:

- ***Added a Weekly News Roundup to the Charlotte Talks lineup, featuring top journalists from other news organizations alongside our own newsroom experts.***
- ***Increased our focus on breaking news.***
- ***Launched new initiatives, including the SouthBound and Candidate ME podcasts.***

- ***Disclosed excessive executive compensation at one of the state's largest behavioral health care service providers.***
- ***Marshaled complicated coverage of the Charlotte School of Law scandal, the HB2 bathroom bill, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' reassignment plan, and the repercussions of the Keith Lamont Scott shooting, the Dylann Roof murders and the immigration turmoil.***
- ***Tackled difficult community issues around trust, immigration, and upward mobility in our Public Conversations.***
- ***Petitioned for access to police body-cam and dash-cam videos, establishing the protocol for other media requests.***
- ***Won two prestigious regional Edward R. Murrow Awards among numerous other honors.***

Please see more details in our Programming Highlights insert.

WFAE JOURNALISTS HAVE STEPPED UP TO THE CHALLENGE OF PROVIDING COVERAGE AND CONTEXT – NOT ONLY FOR CHARLOTTE, BUT ALSO FOR THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

46 % INCREASE IN
MEMBERSHIP
REVENUES

40 %
INCREASE IN TOTAL NUMBER
OF MEMBERS TO 20,471

100 % GREW OUR LISTENING
AUDIENCE BY 100 PERCENT

50%

WE ARE NOW GROWING OUR
NEWSROOM STAFF BY 50 PERCENT,
FROM 14 TO 21 JOURNALISTS

14%

INCREASED THE AMOUNT
OF LOCAL NEWS STORIES
BY 14 PERCENT TO NEARLY
43.5 HOURS A YEAR – NOT
COUNTING OUR POPULAR
WEEKDAY MORNING
CHARLOTTE TALKS PROGRAM.

MILESTONE - DIGITAL REACH

We are significantly growing our digital capability to add new content, embrace new voices, and to identify blind spots in our coverage of issues.

With upward mobility, affordable housing, and race relations identified as key concerns, we are adding new ways for our listeners to engage with us, share their views and find solutions to the challenges that surfaced in the 2017 “Leading on Opportunity” task force report.

We also are creating avenues to attract new listeners, including millennials who are increasingly flocking to Charlotte.

To accomplish this, we are:

- **Adding digital staffers.**
- **Increasing interactivity, including soliciting community questions in our newly launched FAQ City podcast.**
- **Creating a Mobile Listening App with the Reese News Lab at UNC-Chapel Hill.**
- **Planning a Community Podcast Accelerator to solicit ideas from the community and provide training.**
- **Working to support the addition of Listening Post stations around the community to invite people to respond to general or specific questions.**

Our expanded staff allows us to increase our coverage hours; grow our newsletter and podcast output; update more frequently our website, apps and social media, and expand our coverage of major events.

MILESTONE - ADMINISTRATION

In 2016, we decided to substantially retool our business and embrace current best practices. We strengthened our development staff and sponsorship team and upgraded our fund-raising practices so we could more efficiently generate the financial resources necessary to enhance our award-winning journalism.

As a result, over the last two-and-a-half years:

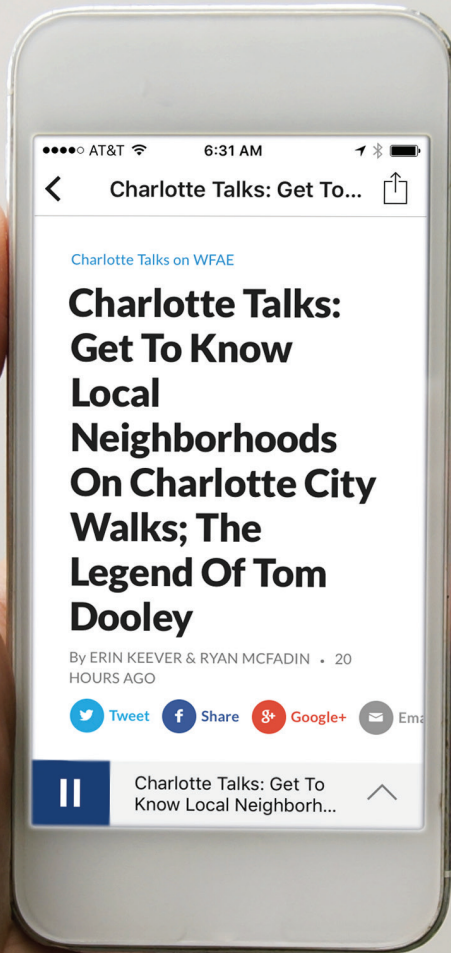
- **The number of members has increased nearly 40% to 20,471.**
- **The ranks of major donors (giving \$1,000 or more) rose nearly 33% to 351.**
- **More than 50% of contributors now give to WFAE as sustaining members (donating to the station on an ongoing basis).**

As a result, WFAE has posted record revenue increases from all these contributors and is projecting new records for FY 2018.

- **Membership revenues are expected to increase 46% to \$3 million.**
- **Revenues from underwriting are projected to increase by 33% to more than \$2.2 million through June 30, the end of FY 2018.**
- **A 14% increase is projected in revenue over two years from major donors to \$723,000.**

In addition, although we budgeted a \$334,000 deficit for FY 2017, planning to cover it with our reserves, we instead produced a surplus of \$208,000, beating expectations by \$500,000.

This has left us well-positioned for our future plans and we have already embarked on investing this surplus in expanding our newsroom.



**WE ARE CREATING AVENUES
TO ATTRACT NEW LISTENERS,
INCLUDING MILLENNIALS
WHO ARE INCREASINGLY
FLOCKING TO CHARLOTTE.**



100

WE DREAM OF SOMEDAY HOSTING
ONE-HUNDRED COMMUNITY EVENTS EACH YEAR
FROM AN UPTOWN CHARLOTTE STUDIO.

MILESTONE - BEING THE BRIDGE

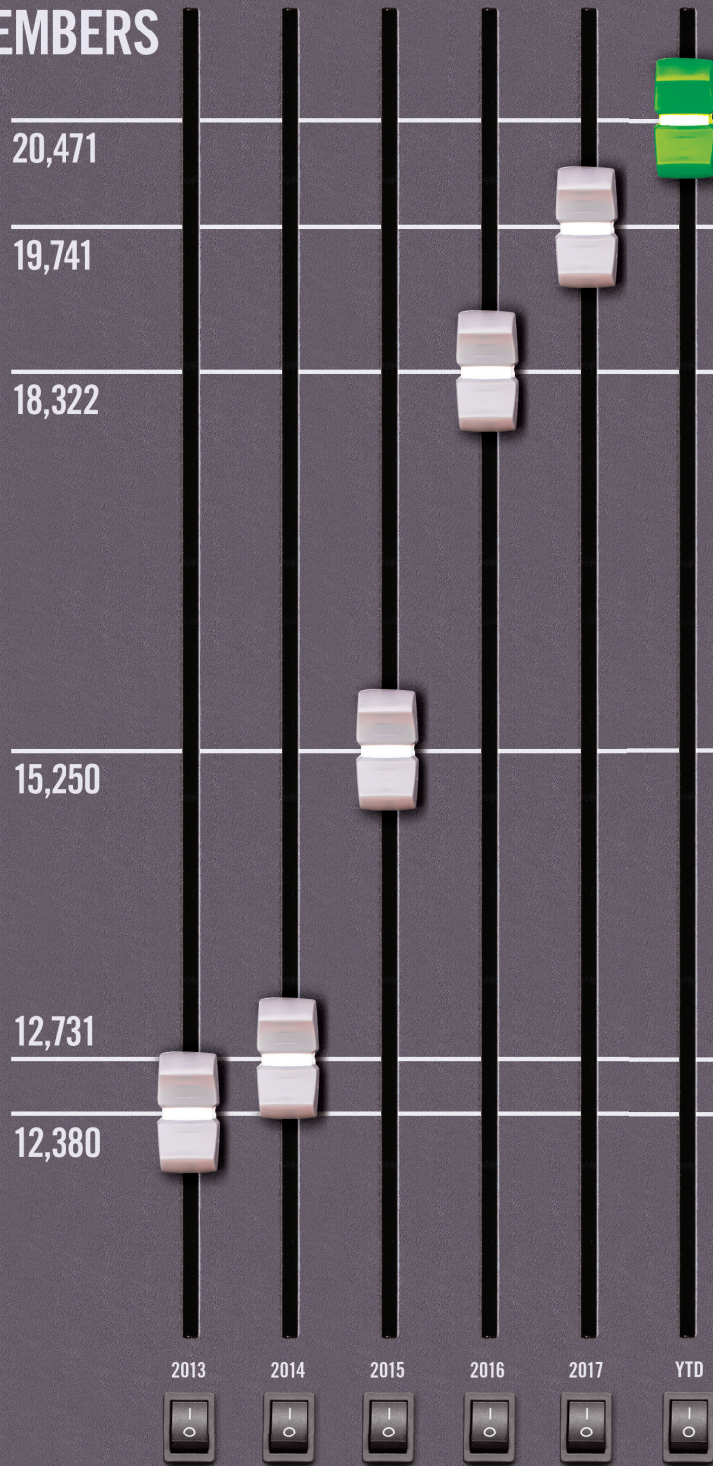
Working from offices near UNC Charlotte, WFAE has been handicapped in meeting sources, attracting on-air guests, and convening events/public conversations.

Relocating to a new headquarters in uptown Charlotte is a dream that we continue to pursue. WFAE has narrowed possible locations. Next steps are to develop plans and cost estimates.

A new headquarters site would pave the way for the community to experience WFAE at more in-person gatherings. While the station now does more than two dozen events a year, WFAE hopes to hold as many as 100 events a year in the future.

The new offices would also be a cornerstone of WFAE's digital expansion, enabling us to host community podcast training, engage in outreach to Charlotte-area schools, and put journalists closer to sources, on air guests, in-town conversations, and community members.

MEMBERS



REVENUE

\$6,993,531

\$6,546,014

\$5,109,985

\$4,868,859

\$4,819,824

\$4,358,647

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018 EST.



**“WE ARE SEEING A
TRANSFORMATION OF CHARLOTTE.
TO ME, IT’S A BIG STORY. THE POLICE
SHOOTING OF KEITH LAMONT SCOTT WAS KIND
OF A WATERSHED MOMENT. IT’S
LED TO A MORE ROBUST EMPHASIS
ON SOCIAL ISSUES —
AFFORDABLE HOUSING,
CRIME, AND UPWARD MOBILITY —
NOT JUST FROM US.
PUBLIC OFFICIALS ARE PAYING
MORE ATTENTION TO IT.”**

Greg Collard, WFAE News Director



Charlotte, like metro regions around the country, is increasingly seeing social issues erupting into breaking news stories that reveal the fault lines rippling through our community. **WFAE JOURNALISTS** continued to **PROBE DEVELOPMENTS** **AND UNRAVEL** the **NARRATIVES** around the police killing of Keith Lamont Scott, the cold-blooded murders of nine African-Americans at Bible study in their church, and efforts to constrain gender and immigration rights in the city and state, among other stories.





Defense attorney Toussaint Romahn shouts during protests September 21, 2016, in Charlotte, N.C.
Photo credit: Sean Rayford/Getty Images





Demonstrators lead chants in opposition to HB2 during a protest in the lobby of the State Legislative Building in Raleigh, N.C.
Photo credit: Robert Willett/Raleigh News & Observer/TNS via Getty Images





A mourner brings a rose to place in front of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where Dylann Roof murdered nine African-Americans in Charleston, S.C.
Photo credit: Samuel Corum/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

RACE RELATIONS

Perhaps no other story of this period illustrated the challenges Charlotte is facing than the September 2016 shooting of Keith Lamont Scott, a black man who was killed by a black police officer. Once again, the community was confronted with concerns about police conduct. This time, however, the city erupted in protests.

WFAE's newsroom worked around the clock to chronicle the tumult and stay abreast of developments as police and community leaders responded.

One week after the shooting, *Charlotte Talks* hosted one of its signature Public Conversations, bringing members of the community together to discuss ways to restore trust in the community. We aired the two-hour broadcast live in prime time, exploring the city's history of race relations and citizen efforts underway to address long-simmering grievances.

The Radio Television Digital News Association recognized WFAE's in-depth coverage with two respected regional Edward R. Murrow Awards. WFAE placed first among major-market stations in the Breaking News and Hard News categories.

See an archive of these stories at www.WFAE.org.



Protesters march through various neighborhoods in Charlotte, North Carolina, on November 30, 2016, at midnight during a demonstration following the District Attorney exoneration of the police officer involved in the Keith Lamont Scott killing.
Photo credit: Peter Zay/Andolu Agency/Getty Images

CHARLESTON SHOOTINGS – A WFAE DOCUMENTARY

When Dylann Roof murdered nine African-American parishioners in cold blood at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C., it reverberated 225 miles away in Charlotte. Facebook photos of Roof with a Confederate flag quickly surfaced. The tragic June 2015 shooting sparked a firestorm of demands to remove the flag from the grounds of the South Carolina statehouse. Less than a month later, then-Governor Nikki Haley signed a bill to move the flag to a nearby museum.

During his trial in December 2016, Roof was found guilty of multiple murders and sentenced to death. He later pleaded guilty to all charges.

As the nation worked to move forward after the tragedy, WFAE fielded a team to delve into the aftermath. With Gwendolyn Glenn hosting and Tom Bullock writing and producing, WFAE's *Eyes Closed in Prayer* documentary explored race in the Carolinas, the power of symbols such as the flag, and the power of love and hate. As part of the documentary, WFAE's Mark Rumsey spoke with one victim's family about race, the Confederate flag, forgiveness and the death penalty.



President Barack Obama gives the eulogy at the memorial service for Reverend Clementa Pinckney in Charleston, SC.
Photo credit: Samuel Corum/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

GENDER ISSUES

In March 2016, the North Carolina legislature put the city of Charlotte in the national spotlight when it passed House Bill 2 (HB2). Dubbed the “bathroom bill,” the measure overturned a Charlotte City Council ordinance that had expanded protections for LGBT people. With the passage of HB2, transgender individuals were no longer allowed to use the bathroom that matched their gender identity.

Reaction was heated. Companies and businesses canceled plans to expand or relocate in Charlotte; many refused to hold entertainment or sporting events in the city and state. A number of states and cities banned government-funded travel to North Carolina.

The NBA moved the All-Star game that was to be played in Charlotte the following year. The Atlantic Coast Conference and NCAA also pulled championship and tournament games from around the state.

As the NBA announced its decision, *Charlotte Talks* hosted a Public

Conversation about how the law impacted the state’s image, economy, education and tourism.

Ongoing negotiations between state and city officials and business leaders led to the city council dropping its ordinance as part of a deal with the North Carolina General Assembly to revoke the controversial HB2 law. For now, cities and counties are barred from adopting local non-discrimination ordinances, setting minimum wages or creating other measures regulating private employment practices until 2020.

From enactment to repeal of the bill, the WFAE news team worked tirelessly to cover HB2’s impact locally, regionally, and nationally.

See an archive of these stories at www.WFAE.org/HB2.



N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory announcing he has filed a lawsuit asking a federal court to determine that the controversial House Bill 2 is not illegally discriminatory.
Photo credit: Chuck Liddy/Raleigh News & Observer/TNS via Getty Images

IMMIGRATION

Soon after his inauguration, President Trump banned the admission of all refugees for 120 days. He also temporarily froze immigration from certain Muslim countries. Protests quickly erupted at airports around the country, including Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Charlotte's immigrant population feared leaving their homes, going to work or taking their children to school.

In February 2017, almost 8,000 people protested in uptown Charlotte and more than 250 area businesses closed their doors as part of a nationwide "Day without Immigrants."

WFAE journalists David Boraks, Nick de la Canal and Gwendolyn Glenn led explorations of the impact of immigration policies and enforcement through their reports and a Public Conversation produced by the *Charlotte Talks* team.

See more of our coverage at www.WFAE.org.

Families wait for food to be served at an annual Thanksgiving in the Park gathering where residents of the farm worker community of Innokalee are provided with a free Thanksgiving meal.
Photo credit: Spencer Platt/Getty Images



CORE COVER AREAS

Healthcare

Criminal Justice

Politics

Voting

Politics has always been a hallmark of WFAE's journalism, and 2016/2017 were especially tumultuous years. Almost every story we produced had some political context, regionally or nationally. WFAE journalists not only covered the campaigns in depth, they worked hard to educate voters on the choices they would have to make.

Coverage details on page 2 of insert.

POLITICS



Democratic presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton walks off of her campaign plane at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.
Photo credit: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

WFAE reporters enlightened listeners on both national and local education stories. On the national level, they kept tabs on major changes in education policy affecting transgender students; sexual assault on campuses; and the future of school choice, special education resources, and student loans. In Charlotte, WFAE tracked the controversial student assignment plans for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. On the higher-education front, WFAE's exposure of critical lapses at the Charlotte School of Law played a key role in the dramatic closing of the for-profit, scandal-plagued school.

Coverage details on page 10 of insert.



Photo credit: NeONBRAND on Unsplash

For several years, North Carolina has been involved in three court cases involving voting laws and redistricting at the congressional and state legislature levels. WFAE's reporters covered these multi-year cases as they wound their way from the federal courts in Greensboro to the Supreme Court, and back to the lower courts sometimes more than once.

Coverage details on page 6 of insert.



Residents of Mecklenburg County enter Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church to vote in uptown Charlotte, North Carolina.
Photo credit: LOGAN CYRUS/AFP/Getty Images

Ongoing news about coal ash cleanups around the state dominated WFAE's environmental coverage, led by David Boraks. Duke Energy has been fined but also has asked utility ratepayers to help foot the bill for cleaning up coal ash dumps, many of which are polluting nearby groundwater. Meanwhile, citizens came forward to challenge plans for new tolls lanes to help pay for widening I-77.

Coverage details on page 8 of insert.

ENVIRONMENT



Donna Lisenby holds a sample of contaminated soil from the French Broad River as she speaks in front of Duke Energy's headquarters.
Photo credit: Davis Turner/Getty Images



From theater and museums to music and movies, Charlotte's arts scene is always changing. Whether it was talking with Grammy Award-winning singer and Charlotte native Anthony Hamilton about his latest album or a theatre creating sensory-friendly performances for children with autism, WFAE's arts reporting introduced listeners to the people and organizations whose creativity brings vibrancy to our community.

See an archive for more stories about the arts at www.wfae.org.

Coverage details on page 20 of insert.



The New Face of Queen Charlotte by artist Bree Stallings.
Photo credit: Sarah Delia/WFAE

Acting as a watchdog on behalf of vulnerable residents, WFAE journalists have spotlighted an array of healthcare issues affecting our community on local, state and national levels. In Mecklenburg County, the health department failed to notify low-income women about abnormal test results. The North Carolina legislature declined to offer a state marketplace exchange as part of the Affordable Care Act. The Veterans Health Administration opened a new outpatient facility to meet growing demand for medical services in Charlotte.

See an archive of our health stories at www.wfae.org.

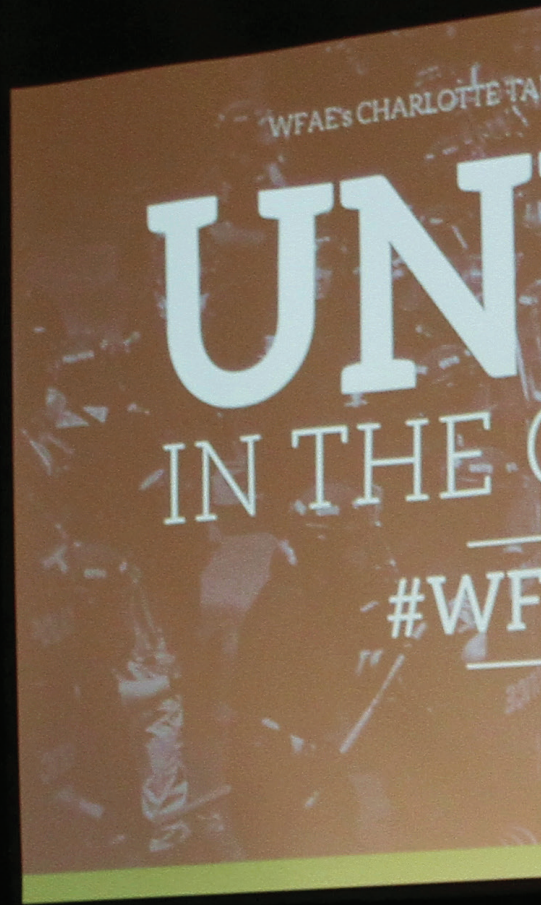
Coverage details on page 16 of insert.



Photo credit: Monty Rakusen

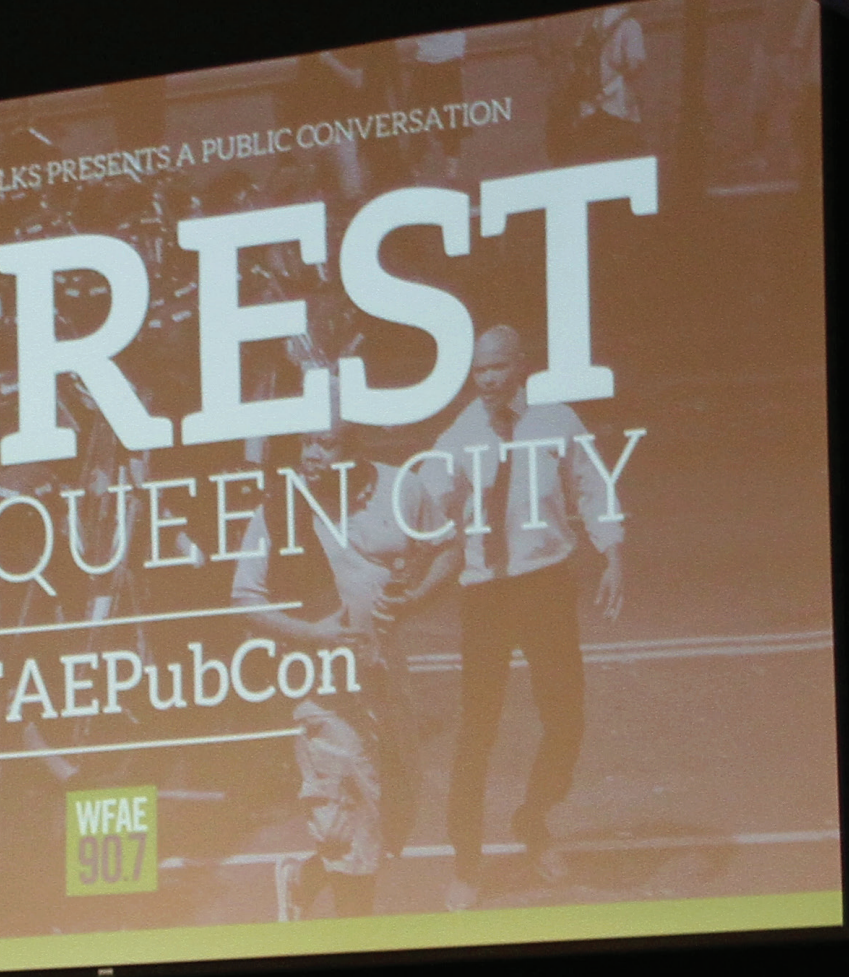
Charlotte experienced a big spike in homicides in 2017. WFAE served the community through substantive news coverage that looked at problems in Charlotte, the support services available to crime victims, and police-community relations. We also had a Public Conversations forum featuring Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Chief Kerr Putney.

In September 2017, WFAE marked the one-year anniversary of the police shooting of Keith Lamont Scott with a two-hour Public Conversation. We told the stories of people and a city forever changed by what happened, as well as the conversation and action that came after the protests.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE





One year after the shooting of Keith Lamont Scott and subsequent protests that erupted in Uptown Charlotte, WFAE's Charlotte Talks hosted a special 2-hour Public Conversation titled UNREST in the Queen City. Photo Credit: Jenifer Roser

“PEOPLE
CAN'T
USE FORCE
IN AN
FAKE

PEOPLE
JOURN TO
TRUTH
ERA OF
NEWS. ”

JEFF BUNDY

WFAE Executive Director of Advancement

AS A PROFESSIONAL POLITICAL SCIENTIST AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES SCHOLAR, I TURN TO WFAE FOR GOOD, RELIABLE INFORMATION. I KNOW I CAN TRUST THE NEWS SOURCE AND I UNDERSTAND IT WILL PRESENT MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. MOREOVER, AS AN OCCASIONAL WFAE CONTRIBUTOR, I ENJOY DOING MY PART TO HELP LISTENERS BETTER UNDERSTAND GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, AND POLICY. UNLIKE OTHER PLATFORMS THAT ONLY SCRATCH THE SURFACE OF COMPLEX CONCERNS, WE GET TO DIG DEEP INTO VARIOUS SUBJECTS. I LIKE THAT.

DR. ADOLPHUS G. BELK, JR.

Professor of Political Science and African
American Studies at Winthrop University
and guest on *Charlotte Talks*



CHARLOTTE TALKS

WITH MIKE COLLINS

Whether it's a conversation about race relations in the South, domestic violence and homicides, or how emojis are changing the way we communicate, *Charlotte Talks*, under the stewardship of host Mike Collins, is WFAE's venue to explore complex subjects. The program, which airs live at 9 a.m. weekdays, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

In addition to holding six major Public Conversations over the last two-and-a-half years, *Charlotte Talks* has launched the Weekly News Roundup on Fridays, featuring roundtable conversations with local journalists on the news of the week. As the Charlotte region grows, so do the news and issues, and it can be hard to keep up. The News Roundup fills that gap. It's quickly become the most popular and listened-to show of the week.

Coverage details on page 24 of insert.



SOUTHBOUND

The South... What is it? Movies, books, songs, myths and legends have tried to explain this part of the United States. The podcast “SouthBound” features conversations with notable Southerners from all walks of life – from artists and athletes to preachers and politicians. Former NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr., entrepreneur and fashion maven Laura Vinroot Poole, and former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt are just a few of the guests who’ve talked with Georgia native and host Tommy Tomlinson about how the South shaped who they are and what they do.



FAQ CITY

Why is downtown Charlotte called uptown? Where can you find breakfast tacos in Charlotte? Why don’t some major roads in Charlotte have streetlights? WFAE’s “FAQ City” podcast digs into the local culture and quirks that make Charlotte home. Host Nick de la Canal takes a closer look at these questions and more with the help of WFAE listeners who submit and vote on questions through the “FAQ City” website.



THE PARTY LINE BLOG

From Columbia to Raleigh and Charlotte to Washington, D.C., “The Party Line” was WFAE’s blog dedicated to examining regional issues and policies through the people who shape them. During the campaign season, posts explored how Donald Trump’s early appeal in the primaries affected the GOP over the long-term; how millennials were forcing politicians to change their approach; and whether Charlotte’s mayoral race was actually competitive. After Election Day, “The Party Line” analyzed voting data that showed a widening gap between North Carolina’s urban and rural voters.



WFAEATS BLOG

The “WFAEats” blog is a tasty adventure into Charlotte’s food scene. It’s a place where professional chefs, food writers and food enthusiasts share stories, recipes and culinary experiences. Some posts introduce Carolina newcomers to long-time favorites such as livermush and fish camps. Others tackle homemade ice cream and non-profit grocery stores. The blog also explores traditions that are becoming more familiar, such as international potluck dinners and breaking the fast during Ramadan.



MARSHALL TERRY

As listeners reach for their first cup of coffee, the voice they hear on WFAE is Marshall Terry, who has been the local *Morning Edition* host for three years. During his four hours in the studio, Terry writes newscasts, does interviews, produces local segments and keeps an eye on the clock. When he isn't on the air, he works on news features.



NICK DE LA CANAL

Midday newscaster and host of "FAQ City", Nick de la Canal brings listeners top-of-the-hour local and regional news updates. His reports helped WFAE earn a regional Edward R. Murrow award for breaking news coverage following the Keith Lamont Scott shooting and protests in September 2016. During the Democratic and Republican conventions, de la Canal spoke with the youngest member of North Carolina's delegations about the parties' relationship and outreach to young voters.



MARK RUMSEY

For nearly 20 years, Mark Rumsey has been a companion to Charlotte-area listeners during their evening commutes. As WFAE's *All Things Considered* host, Rumsey easily moves in and out of local and national stories about the day's news. During the show, Rumsey interviews people from different walks of life, including former North Carolina governor Jim Martin about science and religion; Rose Hamid, a Muslim woman from Charlotte who was kicked out of a Donald Trump rally in South Carolina; and Michael Deason from Greensboro, better known to Charlotte Hornets fans as the "purple shirt guy."

SOON AFTER I ARRIVED AT WFAE,
MY COLLEAGUES ASSIGNED ME A
FEATURE STORY. I'D NEVER BEEN
TO THE AMERICAN SOUTH BEFORE.
I'D NEVER USED A TASCAM
RECORDER. NEVER WRITTEN A
FEATURE-LENGTH RADIO STORY.
YET THE NEWSROOM TREATED ME
LIKE ONE OF THEIR OWN, PUSHING
ME TO LEARN WHAT STOOD AT THE
CORE OF VARIOUS SOUTHERN
IDENTITIES AND TO LEARN THE
TRICKS OF RADIO REPORTING,
ALL IN MY FIRST MONTH. THAT
EXPERIENCE WAS INVALUABLE.
I GAINED RESPECT FOR A REGION
AND BEGAN FINDING MY OWN VOICE,
WHICH I'VE CONTINUED TO DEVELOP
AT NPR'S *ALL THINGS CONSIDERED*.

ANA LUCIA MURILLO

2016 Roger & Marilyn Sarow Fellow

Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards Public Radio News Directors, Inc., Award

Liberty Bell
Award

Sunshine Award

Newcomer

of the Year

Award

2016 REGIONAL EDWARD R. MURROW AWARDS

In 2016, the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) awarded WFAE two regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, including, for the second year, the prestigious award for Overall Excellence.

The Overall Excellence award reflects the depth and scope of a news organization. WFAE's winning entry represented a sampling of the station's diverse news coverage throughout 2015: Non-discrimination expansion rejected by Charlotte City Council; the backlash the Ritz-Carlton received for its 'black tax' during the CIAA tournament; South Carolina lawmakers vote to take down the Confederate flag; the virtual monitoring of ICU patients; protesters' and police plans for activism after the Randall Kerrick mistrial; a state ethics commission ruling that says sex with a lobbyist is not a 'thing of value'; HBCUs' efforts to compete for students; and a remembrance of Dean Smith.

WFAE's "Randall Kerrick Hung Jury" won in the Breaking News category. The entry included live special coverage as soon as the mistrial was declared, and stories that were produced that evening. The broadcast featured interviews with legal experts and community leaders, along with reports from inside and outside the courthouse. The follow-up stories focused on the mistrial ruling and reaction from the Fraternal Order of Police; churches that opened the evening of the mistrial; and the activism that took place that night.

2017 REGIONAL EDWARD R. MURROW AWARDS

In 2017, the RTDNA recognized WFAE again with two awards. The station ranked first among large market stations for reporting in the categories of Breaking News and Hard News for its coverage of the Keith Lamont Scott shooting and unrest in Charlotte.

The night after Keith Lamont Scott was shot and killed, protests started peacefully in uptown Charlotte. That quickly changed when word spread of a protester being shot. Protesters blamed the police. Some protesters threw objects and smashed windows. Police in riot gear lobbed concussion grenades and tear gas canisters.

WFAE's "Charlotte Protests Over Police Shooting" ranked first in the Breaking News category. After the fatal shooting of Keith Lamont Scott, protests and riots erupted in Charlotte. WFAE reporters were reporting from uptown Charlotte. This winning entry included first night coverage, stories and programming throughout the week.

Reporter Tom Bullock's "Confrontations In Wake Of Police Shooting" placed first in the Hard News category.



The Radio Television Digital News Association recognized WFAE's in-depth coverage with two respected regional Edward R. Murrow Awards. WFAE placed first among major-market stations in the Breaking News and Hard News categories.



Michael Whittaker shows his support for the Confederate flag as lawmakers vote on removing the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds at the South Carolina Statehouse.
Photo credit: Sean Rayford/Getty Images



LIBERTY BELL AWARD

The Mecklenburg County Bar awarded Mike Collins, host of *Charlotte Talks*, the 2016 Liberty Bell Award. The award is given to a citizen “who has performed community service that has strengthened the American system of freedom under the law.”

In her nomination letter, attorney Nancy Norelli wrote, “Mike Collins has an ability to stimulate thoughtful dialogue and his selection of topics cut through a variety of interest groups. He encourages individual responsibility so that citizens can better recognize their duties as well as their rights. Mike Collins clearly has an understanding and appreciation for the rule of law and enhances the knowledge of our community by presenting both sides of issues.”

MIKE COLLINS HAS AN ABILITY TO STIMULATE THOUGHTFUL DIALOGUE AND HIS SELECTION OF TOPICS CUT THROUGH A VARIETY OF INTEREST GROUPS.



SUNSHINE AWARD

Lisa Worf, assistant news director, received the 2017 Sunshine Award for journalism by the North Carolina Open Government Coalition at its annual Sunshine Day event. The Sunshine Awards “recognize government officials, journalists and citizens who work to make North Carolina governments transparent.”

Worf was nominated for her reporting on a new North Carolina law that requires court approval for obtaining video footage from police departments. She was one of the first people in North Carolina to follow the new process that included filing a petition with the court, paying court fees, and presenting a case for the video’s release in front of a judge and the attorneys representing the police department and district attorney’s office. Although the original petition was denied, Worf filed a second petition. This time a judge decided to release the footage of a fatal police shooting in June 2016.



NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR AWARD

CEO Joe O’Connor was the recipient of the 2017 Newcomer of the Year Award by Leadership Charlotte. This award is given to an individual “who has lived in Charlotte less than five years, has actively sought opportunities to improve the quality of life in our community, and has made significant contributions, both personally and professionally, to the betterment of Charlotte.”

From the left to right,
Mike Collins, Lisa Worf,
and Joe O’Connor
Photo credits: Jeff Cravotta

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PEOPLE SAY:
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I AM A LIFE-LONG NPR LISTENER
AND SUPPORTER. FOR ME TO
UNDERWRITE ON WFAE MAKES
SENSE IN EVERY WAY. OUR
CLIENTS ARE EDUCATED,
THINKING, REFLECTIVE PEOPLE
WHO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX.
I THINK THAT DESCRIBES NPR
LISTENERS. SO WFAE
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CLIENTELE ARE OUR PEOPLE!
WHAT A GREAT MATCH!
BEAUTIFUL! I WANT TO AND
DO SUPPORT THAT!

DR. KIM HOMBS

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**As of June 30, 2017*

WE AT WFAE MISS MARTHA DEEPLY –

her incisive analysis of financial matters, her clear presentations of often complex issues, her personal warmth and optimism, and

ESPECIALLY HER RADIANT SMILE

THAT LIT UP ANY ROOM SHE ENTERED.



**IN MEMORY OF MARTHA SCHWEPPE
BY JON BUCHAN,
FORMER WFAE BOARD CHAIR**

In May 2016, Martha Schweppe, one of WFAE's most talented and devoted board members, died suddenly of a brain tumor. Martha served WFAE for several years in the critical role of Finance Committee Chair, overseeing the station's financial matters and its investment strategy. Martha was a bright star in this community and was engaged in a broad range of civic activities. She formed the financial planning company The Schweppe Group of Wells Fargo Advisors – where she partnered with Bill, her husband and best friend since their Duke University undergraduate years. Martha was recognized in 2014 with Wells Fargo's highest honor, the Spirit Award, for her outstanding lifetime achievements.

Martha was an enthusiastic seeker of outdoor adventure – hiking in North Carolina, exploring on foot the backroads trails of the United States and Europe, trout fishing with Bill, and backpacking with her family in Yosemite National Park. We thank Bill and their children Sarah and Mac for sharing Martha with us. Martha, and her spirited commitment to public radio, will always be a part of WFAE.

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THAT
DEMAND
TO
BE
HEARD.**

POLITICS

CHARLOTTE 2015 MAYORAL ELECTION

In our series, *The 15th Floor*, WFAE's Tom Bullock, Sarah Delia and Ben Bradford invited Charlotte's eight mayoral candidates to one-on-one interviews to talk about their motivations in running for office and their goals, if elected. Then, before a Democratic runoff election, *Charlotte Talks'* Mike Collins teamed up with *The Charlotte Observer's* Mark Washburn to host a live debate between candidates Dan Clodfelter and Jennifer Roberts.

CHARLOTTE 2017 MAYORAL ELECTION

Just two years later, WFAE journalists covered the surprise upset of Mayor Jennifer Roberts in the Democratic primary and the landslide victory of Vi Lyles, Charlotte's former mayor pro tem and the first African-American woman to serve as Charlotte's mayor. WFAE's David Boraks Tom Bullock, Sarah Delia and Gwendolyn Glenn tracked Lyles' campaign promises to work for jobs, affordable housing, safe neighborhoods and economic development in the city's underserved areas. Lyles' victory was also accompanied by wins for several new and younger members of City Council, reflecting an emerging demographic in the city and history at Catawba College. They recapped the week's

POLITICAL REPORTING COLLABORATION

WFAE's Tom Bullock participated in a partnership between NPR and 17 other news stations to strengthen local and national political coverage and illuminate choices voters would make. Bullock focused on the so-called ground game, tracking financial contributions to candidates and outside groups. He looked at how the money was used to craft and send messages to get voters to the polls. His participation laid the groundwork for his *Candidate ME* podcast, which launched in 2017 and took voters behind the scenes with a hypothetical campaign to be Charlotte's mayor.

Learn more about WFAE's political coverage at wfae.org/politics.

POLITICS

2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

In presidential primary years, South Carolina becomes the center of the country's attention because its "First in the South" primary almost always has selected the eventual nominee. In February 2016, *Charlotte Talks* aired live from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C., with a focus on Donald Trump's emerging groundswell of support.

As the general election got underway, both Hillary Clinton and Trump campaigned again and again throughout North Carolina, a battleground state. WFAE produced more than 20 stories on the candidates' visits with reporting by Tom Bullock, Nick de la Canal, David Boraks, Mark Rumsey and Marshall Terry.

To spotlight what really mattered to voters, WFAE's Nick de la Canal met with citizens in all parts of Charlotte as part of our *Politics in the Park* series.

To keep a finger on the pulse of the North Carolina electorate, WFAE *Morning Edition* host Marshall Terry checked in weekly with WFAE political analyst Dr. Michael Blitzer, provost and professor of politics and history at Catawba College. They

recapped the week's political news, polling data and other research.

On Election Night 2016, as polls closed in North Carolina and across the country, more than 300 WFAE fans packed Free Range Brewing to listen to WFAE's local and national coverage.

Learn more about WFAE's political coverage at wfae.org/politics.



From top to bottom:

WFAE Politics Reporter Tom Bullock.

Photo credit: Jeff Cravotta

More than 300 WFAE listeners packed into Free Range Brewing to watch election results come in on November 8, 2016.

Photo credit: Jenifer Roser



VOTING ISSUES

NORTH CAROLINA REDISTRICTING

After the 2010 census, Republican lawmakers redrew North Carolina's congressional districts. Civil rights advocates sued, claiming the new districts – particularly Durham's 1st Congressional District and Charlotte's 12th Congressional District – were illegally based on race. In May 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed. WFAE's Tom Bullock, Michael Tomsic and Mark Rumsey tracked the court challenges in multiple reports and several *Charlotte Talks* episodes.

NORTH CAROLINA VOTING LAWS

After four years of legal wrangling, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal to reinstate North Carolina voting laws. At issue was a controversial overhaul, which included requiring a photo ID, eliminating out-of-precinct voting and reducing the number of days for early voting. The U.S. Justice Department and several other groups sued, asserting the law targeted African-Americans. Lawmakers countered that it would cut costs and prevent voter fraud. WFAE's Nick de la Canal and Michael Tomsic reported multiple stories and WFAE twice sent reporters to Winston-Salem for court hearings. We also aired several *Charlotte Talks* shows that addressed voting laws.

Learn more at wfae.org/voting.

AFTER FOUR YEARS OF LEGAL WRANGLING, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT DECLINED TO HEAR AN APPEAL TO REINSTATE NORTH CAROLINA VOTING LAWS. NICK DE LA CANAL AND MICHAEL TOMSIC REPORTED MULTIPLE STORIES. WFAE ALSO AIRED SEVERAL *CHARLOTTE TALKS* SHOWS THAT ADDRESSED VOTING LAWS.

ENVIRONMENT

COAL ASH

Cleanup and legal proceedings continue for Duke Energy after a 2014 coal ash spill in the Dan River near the North Carolina and Virginia border. The spill prompted new rules for coal ash cleanup and storage. Other cleanup projects are happening at retired plants in North and South Carolina.

In 2016, Duke Energy agreed to pay North Carolina \$6 million for violating the federal Clean Water Act for the Dan River spill. The utility company has spent about \$770 million on coal ash cleanups in the Carolinas. WFAE's David Boraks has closely monitored disputes over cleanups and costs, which could reach \$5 billion. Duke Energy has asked North Carolina regulators for rate increases starting in 2018 to help pay for cleanup costs. Duke is also suing almost 30 insurance companies to force them to cover part of the costs.

I-77 TOLL CONTROVERSY

In late 2015, construction began to widen a 26-mile section of I-77 with toll lanes from north of Charlotte to Mooresville. I-77 Mobility Partners, a subsidiary of a company called Cintra, is paying for most of the construction costs. In return, it will have the right to operate the toll roads for 50 years



WFAE's David Boraks has closely followed the controversy around toll roads.

Photo courtesy of I-77 Mobility Partners

WFAE's David Boraks has covered plans for the toll roads and the ensuing controversy. State officials said this public-private partnership was the best way to ease congestion from Lake Norman to Charlotte. Opponents sued to halt the project. In Huntersville, the anti-toll sentiment helped unseat the mayor and two town board members.

Learn more at wfae.org/environment.

EDUCATION

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT

In 2015, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) embarked on a two-year process to create a student assignment plan drawing new attendance zones for the schools. Two major goals involved continuing guaranteed access to “home schools” and reducing concentrations of poverty in schools. WFAE’s Gwendolyn Glenn and Lisa Worf covered key moments in the passage of the plan as well as examined how the district’s history around desegregation shaped some of these conversations.

A year into the CMS planning, *Charlotte Talks* hosted a Public Conversation inviting school board representatives, parents and audience members to talk about the questions, concerns and emotions surrounding student assignment.

The new plan was announced in April 2017. It impacted almost half of the district’s schools. Key changes involved pairing three sets of elementary schools to break up high concentrations of poverty at one school; turning three K-8 schools back into elementary schools; and establishing partial magnet programs



WFAE Assistant News
Director Lisa Worf
Photo credit: Jeff Cravotta

at neighborhood schools. After weeks of public input, the school board approved the plan. Worf and Glenn did a special report examining these changes through the eyes of parents at two of the elementary schools.

Learn more at wfae.org/education

EDUCATION

CHARLOTTE SCHOOL OF LAW

At the end of 2016, the American Bar Association placed the for-profit Charlotte School of Law on probation for admitting students who were incapable of completing the program or passing the bar exam. The U.S. Department of Education in 2017 also barred the school from receiving federal loan money because of the school's lack of compliance. Without federal loans, enrollment dwindled to 220 students as many withdrew or transferred. As early as 2013, WFAE journalists produced reports foreseeing some of these problems. Lisa Worf led critical coverage that exposed the issues. Stories included recordings that revealed how school administrators paid students not to take the bar to boost passage rates for the school. WFAE also tracked the impact of the school's problems on former and current students. After a rocky final semester, 110 students graduated in May 2017. In August 2017, the school announced it was closing.

Learn more at wfae.org/education.



WFAE Reporter Gwendolyn Glenn.
Photo credit: Jeff Cravotta



A YEAR INTO THE CMS PLANNING, *CHARLOTTE TALKS* HOSTED A PUBLIC CONVERSATION INVITING SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES, PARENTS AND AUDIENCE MEMBERS TO TALK ABOUT THE QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND EMOTIONS SURROUNDING STUDENT ASSIGNMENT.



Photo credit: Jenifer Roser

HEALTHCARE

CARDINAL INNOVATIONS HEALTHCARE

WFAE's Alex Olgin and Tom Bullock took a lead role in reporting on excessive compensation at Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, which coordinates mental health, substance abuse and developmental disability services for people in Charlotte and 19 counties in the state. WFAE's journalism led to a state takeover of the organization until control returned to a new board of directors in early 2018.

MECKLENBURG HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The county health department was rocked by two disclosures in 2017 that affected public health and prompted changes in the agency's leadership. In the first instance, the department failed to notify 185 low-income women about their abnormal Pap smear results for eight months. Then, it was revealed that nearly 350 public swimming pools had not been inspected before opening for the summer. In June 2017, the department's director resigned. WFAE's Alex Olgin, Nick de la Canal, Marshall Terry and David Boraks kept the department's issues in the public eye.

NORTH CAROLINA AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

When enrollment for the Affordable Care Act opened in 2013, North and South Carolina residents used the federal marketplace to enroll because both states opted out of offering a state marketplace. WFAE's Michael Tomsic also reported on the aftermath of both states declining to expand their Medicaid and Medicare programs. As the 2017 enrollment deadline loomed, WFAE covered how federal funding cuts could hurt signups in rural areas and how the state took on a bigger advertising role during open enrollment.

Learn more at wfae.org/healthcare.

HEALTHCARE

NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAID PROGRAM

After years of legislative squabbling over Medicaid cost overruns, the North Carolina legislature in 2015 settled on an overhaul. The new program delegated to hospital systems and insurance companies responsibility for managing care and for keeping costs within budget. After months of public hearings, a final plan was submitted to the federal government in June 2016. Review of the new plan was projected to take up to a year and a half. WFAE's Alex Olgin and Nick de la Canal tracked how Medicaid changes would affect opioid addiction, hepatitis C treatment and the health of rural residents, among other stories.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

After the extreme wait-time scandal at the Veterans Health Administration, the VA offered private-care alternatives to veterans in North Carolina. However, that solution wasn't working. The Charlotte area is one of the fastest-growing parts of the country for veterans. That surge in demand led to the opening of a six-story



WFAE Healthcare
Reporter Alex Olgin.
Photo credit: Jeff Cravotta

outpatient facility to offer primary care, mental health, pharmacy and some specialty care. WFAE journalist Michael Tomsic followed the VA's efforts to modernize its services and reduce wait times.

Learn more at wfae.org/healthcare.

THE ARTS

SERVING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Plays can be tough for any child. Theaters are dark and you're supposed to sit still and be quiet. For children on the autism spectrum, the dark lighting and loud noises can make it especially hard to have a positive theater-going experience. WFAE's Sarah Delia and Michael Tomsic covered how Children's Theatre of Charlotte is trying to change that by offering sensory-friendly performances.

ART FOR INMATES

Six times a year, the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art offers a week-long art class to male teenagers at the Mecklenburg County Jail. Sarah Delia spent a day in a class to report on how the museum teaches these young men accountability and gives them a therapeutic outlet.

INSIGHTS FROM GRAMMY-WINNING SINGER ANTHONY HAMILTON

Charlotte native and R&B singer Anthony Hamilton has opened for Prince and made a guest appearance on the hit show *Empire*. In 2009, he won a Grammy for Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance alongside Al Green for the song “You’ve Got The Love I Need”. Sarah Delia invited him to talk about his latest album, “What I’m Feelin”.

CHARLOTTE HEIST TURNED COMEDY

The 2016 movie comedy *Masterminds* is based on one of the biggest heists in America’s history. It happened in Charlotte. In 1997, David Ghannt, a Loomis Fargo employee, stole \$17 million from the armored car company. Sarah Delia spoke with Ghannt to hear what life is like almost 20 years later.

Learn more at wfae.org/arts.

SARAH DELIA REPORTED ON HOW PLYWOOD-COVERED BROKEN WINDOWS BECAME THE CANVASSES FOR LOCAL ARTISTS WHO PAINTED THE OUTLINES OF CHARLOTTE'S SKY-LINE, PEACE SIGNS AND MESSAGES SUCH AS "NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE" AND "WE SEE YOU."

ART AS SOCIAL HEALING

Days after the Keith Lamont Scott shooting, artists tried to help salve raw emotions through their work. Sarah Delia reported on how plywood-covered broken windows became the canvasses for local artists who painted the outlines of Charlotte's skyline, peace signs and messages such as "no justice, no peace" and "we see you." One work, a column in Knight Theater, depicted a colorful Queen Charlotte bedecked in such symbols as the LGBT flag, the American flag and a section labeled Black Lives Matter, reflecting the social issues that have consumed Charlotte.

Learn more at wfae.org/arts.



WFAE Arts Reporter
Sarah Delia.
Photo credit: Jeff Cravotta

CHARLOTTE TALKS HIGHLIGHTS

'SULLY' AND THE TRUE STORY BEHIND THE 'MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON'

Broadcast live from the Carolinas Aviation Museum.

With the aircraft as the backdrop, local passengers who were aboard US Airways Flight 1549 spoke about the plane's 2009 emergency landing on the Hudson River.

AUTHOR SARAH VOWELL

Recorded at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, N.C.

Sarah Vowell is a *New York Times* best-selling author of six books on American history and culture. She was a contributing editor for the public radio show *This American Life* from 1996 to 2008.

NPR'S SUSAN STAMBERG

Recorded at the Foundation For The Carolinas.

NPR Founding Mother Susan Stamberg helped to celebrate WFAE's 35th anniversary as a special guest for *Charlotte Talks*. She shared memories about the early years in public radio and her thoughts about navigating digital and social media as a radio host.



NPR “founding mother” Susan Stamberg was the guest of honor as WFAE celebrated its 35th anniversary at the Foundation for the Carolinas on June 29, 2017.

Photo credit: Jeff Cravotta

A full archive of *Charlotte Talks* programming can be found at wfae.org/charlottetalks.

CHARLOTTE TALKS HIGHLIGHTS

NASCAR CHAMPION JEFF GORDON

Recorded at the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Racing since he was 5 years old, Jeff Gordon's professional career has been full of wins, championships and sponsorship deals. Off the racetrack, his work with the Jeff Gordon Children's Foundation has raised public awareness around the world for pediatric cancer and raised millions of dollars for research.

ON BEING'S KRISTA TIPPETT ON CIVILITY AND BETTER CONVERSATIONS

Broadcast live in the Duke Energy Theater at Spirit Square.

Recognizing that America can feel like a divided nation, *On Being* has launched the Civil Conversations Project to help people have better conversations and talk across their differences. *On Being's* Krista Tippett spoke about civility in public life as well as the role of religion and faith in our increasingly secular society.

COKIE ROBERTS

Recorded at the Wells Fargo Auditorium.

An audience watched Cokie Roberts and WFAE's Mike Collins talk about the political climate in a presidential election year.



WFAE's Mike Collins interviews renowned NPR commentator Cokie Roberts on May 4, 2016.
Photo credit: Stephanie Prather

A full archive of *Charlotte Talks* programming can be found at wfae.org/charlottetalks.

IN THE COMMUNITY

DIANE REHM

WFAE welcomed Diane Rehm to a sold-out audience at Spirit Square's McGlohon Theater. At the event, which was held prior to her retirement, Rehm spoke with WFAE's Tom Bullock about her career, plans for retirement, her books and her belief in the right to die.

CHOCOLATE TASTING EVENT

WFAE celebrated the season of love with our inaugural CHOCOLATE Tasting event in 2017. More than 250 guests enjoyed handcrafted chocolates, chocolate desserts and other chocolate-inspired items from 16 vendors.

PUBLIC RADIO NERD QUIZ NIGHT

At WFAE Public Radio Nerd Quiz Night, 22 teams compete for prizes and bragging rights. *Charlotte Talks* producer Chris Miller hosts three rounds of questions that focus on news and current events. Listening to WFAE gave participants a competitive edge.



WFAE's Tom Bullock (far right) welcomes Diane Rehm to the stage of the McGlohon Theater on May 26, 2016.
Photo credit: Jeff Cravotta



ROGER & MARILYN

Named in honor of Roger Sarow, President and General Manager of WFAE for 27 years, and his wife Marilyn, the Roger and Marilyn Sarow Fellowship offers a 10-week fellowship to a college student or recent college graduate who wants to explore a career in public media journalism.

In 2016, WFAE welcomed Ana Lucia Murillo and Wanjiku Theuri as the first class of fellows. Murillo worked as a WFAE reporter and Theuri worked with the producers of *Charlotte Talks*. The fellowship fund was established to encourage aspiring journalists to be involved in public media as they begin their careers.



Roger & Marilyn Sarow Fellow Ana Lucia Murillo
Photo credit: Ana Lucia Murillo



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