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Editor

Paul Koscak '73

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- Cruising with the rockers
- Star Wars "Death Star" desk
- Chiropractic DJ
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Homecoming 2024: reunions, alumni shows

Two days

CCSU's Homecoming is set for Friday, Nov. 1, and Saturday, Nov. 2, and Radio Club alumni are once again playing a big part in it. Here's what's planned.



Friday evening: Radio Club alumni will meet up at the Stanley Golf Club starting at 7 p.m. This traditional mix-and-mingle fun event is less than five minutes from campus.

Saturday morning: Radio Club alumni and current WFCS staff are welcomed to the station starting at 8:30 a.m. Stop by, grab a cup of coffee and connect or

reconnect with the WFCS community. **Be sure to be at the station at 11 a.m. for a group photo.**

Our **alumni shows** continue, thanks to the generous support of WFCS's management. You're invited to schedule any half hour between 8:30 a.m. and 12 noon by contacting Paul Koscak at (571) 278-0984 or at raydiopk@aim.com No need to worry about working the equipment. Just have fun. There's technical assistance available.

Don't forget the ever popular alumni brunch at the Stanley Golf Club from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Visit <https://e.givesmart.com/events/Epr/?isOrderFormActive=true> for more homecoming details and tickets.

After the football game Radio Club alumni plan to meet up at the Stanley Golf Club at 3:30 p.m.

World War II paratrooper credited for Central's radio station



Editor's note: Nick Klym pioneered Central's radio station that continues today as WFCS. Through his diligence in acquiring equipment and skill in wiring it all together, the Radio Club finally obtained its own radio station. He could well be called the Radio Club's George Washington. During the spring of 1949, Nick along with student Orin Fox planned the construction of the station that finally aired in November at Teachers College of Connecticut as WTCC, 640 AM. Nick became the first station manager assisted by business and sales manager Joseph Russell and production manager Ronald Wyke. Nick was a pathfinder paratrooper in World War II. Pathfinders are skilled in using electronic homing devices and communications

equipment, a skill he drew from when he literally put the station together.

Prior to WTCC, the club was called the Radio and Television Workshop which began in 1947 where members performed skits and drama on Hartford area stations.

Radio Club trailblazer looks back

By Nick Klym '51

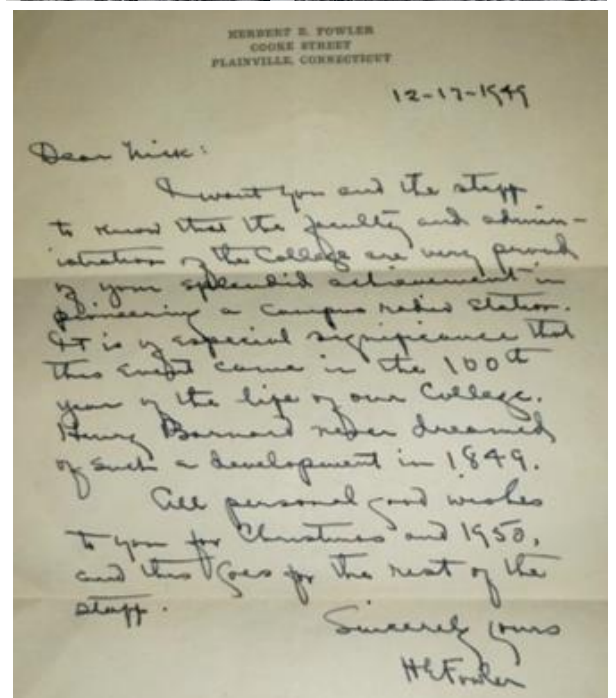
Our radio station took about two years to complete and was located in an Army surplus building that was donated to the school. The building was in front of Memorial Hall. It had a foyer just inside the main entrance and another room for a studio with a glass window. These buildings were mostly Army trailers given to the school to house those students who were veterans.

We obtained much equipment from WTHT, a Hartford Times radio station, and from Hatry Electronics, where we obtained our turn tables and mixing board. The Radio Club collected member dues, but they were mainly token fees. A record shop in New Britain donated records. I don't think it [the station] would have been on the air at all if not for my wiring.

I graduated from TCC in 1951 and later that year got married on October 13. Two members of the Radio Club, Henry Reluga and Ray Nealon, were in the wedding party. My nephew, John Ostrowski, was a sports announcer on the radio station. After graduation he was head of the alumni association.

I taught industrial arts in East Hartford, Simsbury and New Britain for 38 years. We have one son, Kendall, who got his Ph.D in creative writing and literature.

I was on our governor's instructional television council for educational TV, determining programming on Channel 24. I originated and appeared on "The Teacher Speaks" and "Ask the Teacher" on Channel 8 in New Haven for public service programming. I initiated a documentary on the firing of a teacher.



Top: Inside the newly launched radio station, Nick Klym (standing) delivers an announcement over the WTCC airwaves assisted by Orin Fox in this 1949 photo. Above: This 1949 letter from Herbert E. Fowler, chairman of the TCC English Department, congratulates Nick Klym for making WTCC a reality.

Meeting the rockers played on WFCS

By Keith Hall '78

In the fall of 2013, I received an email about a rock 'n' roll Caribbean cruise featuring the iconic Moody Blues with a ton of guest artists. I thought it would be some kind of tribute band show so I decided not to look into it UNTILL I found out from friends that it was the real deal and guests included Gregg Lake, Roger Daltrey and Todd Rundgren among others. These were artists whose songs were being played during my time at WFCS and now I could meet them. Pretty cool.

So when the next cruise announcement was made the following year, I jumped on it and had the most magical five days of my life repeated twice more in 2015 and 2016.

Several of us cruisers brought instruments on board and many of us, including myself, were fortunate to not only hear concerts by these great artists but to talk with them and even to casually jam with them.

One of my most memorable experiences was up on a sparsely populated sun deck where I came across keyboardist and singer Rod Argent. If you don't know him by name, you know his music as he's a founding member of the Zombies and wrote iconic songs like "Time of the Season" and "She's Not There." I asked him a few questions and he graciously told me to "have a seat" and we talked, and talked and talked. Being a keyboard player myself, we discussed techniques and different kinds of equipment we both use.

One night, a few of us cruisers took our guitars and decided to commandeer a quiet bar and as we played a few songs, other members of the Zombies joined us...and I'm left wondering if I was dreaming!

Then there was the time I met Carl Palmer during a meet-and-greet event. For those who don't know him, does Emerson, Lake and Palmer sound familiar?

Another story I would like to share is when I and a female friend of mine took a night time walk on deck and who was walking in our direction? None other than John Lodge, bassist, singer and song writer for the Moody Blues. He could not have been more gracious.

I could go on and on about my memories from three of these cruises, but for brevity's sake, I'll just say they were nothing short of magical. From running into Dave Mason in the hallway to having Jim Peterik (from Ides of March and writer of "Eye of the Tiger" and "Vehicle") in the audience giving me an ovation as I took over a grand piano in the bar. Then there was the time I shared an elevator with Todd Rundgren.



Top: Keith Hall (right) shares a moment with Carl Palmer of Emerson, Lake and Palmer fame during a Caribbean rock 'n' roll cruise where both musicians traded musical notes and memories. Above: Enjoying a jam session in Barrows Hall basement in 1975, Keith (right) strums his Guild guitar along with Jim Michuk '77. Keith reports he still has that Guild guitar.

I cannot end this article without mentioning being up on deck, quietly playing my guitar when the head roadie for the Alan Parsons Project asked me if Alan could use my guitar for the evening show as his acoustic electric wasn't working. Of course I agreed and was treated to meeting Alan and watching the show from the wings and joining the band in the after show party.

Sadly though, as time has gone by, we lost more and more of our musical heroes. Gregg Lake, Ray Thomas and Graeme Edge come to mind. Thomas of the Moody Blues played that unforgettable flute solo in "Nights in White Satin" and Edge played drums for the Moody Blues. Lake was part of the Emerson, Lake and Palmer group. Sadly too, Denny Laine, one of the original Moody Blues members, died in 2023. John Lodge and Rod Argent recently suffered health issues from strokes.

Although there are still music cruises taking place, none compare with these classic artists of the 60s and 70s. As Carly Simon sang "It's the stuff that dreams are made of."

Keith Hall was WFCS news director who did a daily 6 p.m. news roundup. Keith retired from Connecticut's Department of Transportation and lives in Tampa Bay, Florida, where he currently plays in a local band and pilots a Cessna 172 during his spare time.

Bringing WFCS to the campus and community

By Devon Wilson, '20

I had a music and sports talk show during my time at WFCS and I later became public relations director where my job was to promote the Radio Club. A big part of that task was disc jockeying events on and off campus.



Entertaining in the Devils Den at the 2019 summer freshman orientation are WFCS DJs Devon Wilson (left) and Jack Allotey. Devon participated in three summer freshman orientations. "Always an amazing time, and a great recruitment opportunity," he said.

and we would be there with the Death Star to both entertain and promote the Radio Club. Over the summer I was an orientation leader for incoming freshmen where we held a block party. As with other campus events, we DJ ed the party and got many newcomers interested in WFCS. It was a really fun time.

Now there's live DJ ing with upgraded turntables and podcasts and the Radio Club hosts an event in the Student Center featuring a wide range of artists who display their products or musical talent. The people who are there now are doing an amazing job. In fact, the Radio Club is now the largest campus organization.

Devon Wilson is a substitute teacher for Waterbury schools with ambitions of teaching multi-media skills. He has a podcast on YouTube.

In 2016, I started using a portable audio desk with turntables and other sound equipment that could be easily set up to supply music and entertainment at any event. When the "Death Star"-- as we named the desk after that object in the Star Wars movie -- was in place and flanked by our highly visible WFCS banners, the display and production definitely made the Radio Club a well known throughout the campus and the surrounding area. I did the majority of the Radio Club's remote DJ ing and training. Many times we added a table with "give aways" such as WFCS T-shirts, hats, pens and other assorted swag.

Two events in particular really stand out. During homecoming, the school's clubs and organizations set up tables in the Devil's Den

Recalling first days on WFCS

By Frank Vesci '86

Like many of the Radio Club's alumni DJs, my "younger years" were spent listening to all the different stations in and around Hartford and even New York City: WPOP, WNBC, WABC and others. Naturally, once I set foot on the CCSC campus, one of the first things I sought out was WFCS, having listened to the station from my home in Newington.

So I joined the club. After going through an introductory training class and practicing in the production studio, I turned in my demo tape to the WFCS General Manager Randy Borovsky (aka The Cosmic Muffin) and Program Director Tony Evans. Listening to the tape, Randy looked at Tony and said, "Why isn't he on the

Radio is a funny thing: When the bug bites you, you're hooked.

air?" Just like that my WFCS career began, filling the Friday 2 – 5 p.m. shift.

My Friday afternoon shift turned into a Saturday morning jazz show which eventually

became a 60s and 70s program I dubbed "The Magic Carpet Ride." That's where I stayed until mid 1987 when I left Connecticut for Oregon and chiropractic school.

I was the station's chief engineer when we made the jump from 90.1 FM to 97.9 FM and was there when Randy and Bob Mastronardi "threw the switch," launching WFCS right into the middle of the FM band.

Radio is a funny thing: When the bug bites you, you're hooked. So, I was thrilled in 2023 when I heard about the WFCS alumni reunions during homecoming and a chance to light the "On Air" sign once again.

Returning to my favorite haunt on homecoming weekend, I was blown away by how the studios morphed into a bright modern space. Steve Strinie, who was there back in 1981 when I started, gave me a crash course in the workings of the studio and before I knew it, the clock had turned back to 1981. The turntables were cued up with Ram Jam's "Black Betty" and I was back on the air! That hour-long shift was an incredible amount of fun that just flew by.

I'm set to do it all again this year. I've got my playlist and a stack of vinyl ready. See you at Homecoming 2024.

After graduating Central, Frank attended chiropractic school in Portland, Oregon, and has been a chiropractic physician since 1994 with a practice in New Britain. He resides in Southington with his wife, Toni, and their son, Francesco.



After 37 years, Frank Vesci once again lights up the "On Air" sign outside the studio during Homecoming 2023.

WFCS offered far more than a show

By Kyle Miller '15

Music has always been an escape for me and something I can always turn to, no matter the situation. I believe that every genre of music tells its own story. Looking through my playlist, I have everything from rock to rap to classical to country. For as long as I can remember, I would always listen to the radio and tune in closer whenever a radio host would come on and talk about current events, personal stories and their passions. I would always say, "I think this would be a really cool business to get into one day." Little did I know, I would get to live in that world.

I was eager to make the most of my college years...

When I first attended CCSU, I was eager to make the most of my college years and get involved in any way I could as I learned about everything the university had to offer. Finally, I came across the radio station. I remember

walking by the window and listening to the DJ talking about Motown music and then spinning a hit by the Temptations. Later, I learned that this was a show called "Jazz and More" hosted by Peter Varhol. Not too long after that, I signed up to join the radio station, trained, and took the test to become a DJ. From that, my show "Mixology" on Tuesdays from 2 - 4 p.m. was born.



After several years away, Kyle Miller again enjoys the WFCS airwaves during the 2023 homecoming Radio Club alumni broadcasts.

During my early shows, I was nervous but it was something I wanted to do for a long time. Still, I was able to overcome those initial jitters fairly quickly because everyone was always willing to help or offer advice. I would listen and sit in on other shows to learn how to become a better DJ and it definitely paid off. As I continued to do what I loved, I didn't know what was next. That was until I learned about the (executive) E-Board.

I began moving through the ranks as a Radio 200 director, director of development, and interim general manager. My goal as a director was to bring in new people and show them how much fun having your own radio show is. It was never about being in charge, but to make friends and teach the next generation of radio DJs. I have met a lot of people throughout my time at the station and have made friends for life. The radio station became more than where I did my weekly show. It was a place to hang out with friends, a getaway from reality or a safe place if anyone needed it.

As I look back on my time at WFCS, I was able to make my dream come true. I always look forward to coming back during homecoming every year and getting to do a small piece of my show again and catching up with all the alumni. I'm very honored and grateful to have been a part of the Radio Club.

Kyle Miller serves on the board of directors of the East Haven Chamber of Commerce and is vice president of the East Haven Fall Festival.

Generous record companies, eclectic DJs, cheap concerts

By Lance Winer '78

I was music director and my air name was The Space Cowboy because I really liked The Steve Miller Band. My show featured what is today called classic rock, rock from the late 60s to about 1975. That was when all WFCS DJs had to pass a test to get an FCC third class radio telephone license to broadcast over the air. We had one person who held a first class license which enabled him to be a broadcast engineer. We also swapped equipment with UConn's radio station to save the expense of buying new.

There's so much that comes to mind from my time at WFCS.

We had many record company reps, including from Capitol Records who gave us promotional copies of new releases. The Capitol Records rep was Merv Amels, a real character. The station could also buy records at a discount from RSI. That stood for Record Service International.

The record companies treated us well. Through the station from the RCA rep we got free tickets to see Pure Prairie League at the Shaboo Inn in Willimantic along with free drinks during the show! A & M records threw a meet- and-greet at the Hartford Hilton. All the music directors from the region's college radio stations were invited. Food and drink everywhere! Incidentally, A & M stood for Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss, the company founders.



"...station members were given press cards, not that the cards did any good."

Central had some great concerts and performers in those years. I recall the Cincinnati Ballet, National Lampoon, Doc Hult, John Hartford, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Ramsey Lewis, Aztec Two Step, Harry Chapin and Dick Gregory. Concerts were also affordable. Tickets for Rod Stewart were \$5. In 1975 I saw Fleetwood Mac and Jethro Tull at the New Haven Coliseum, again \$5 each.

Among the shows that stand out: We had a woman Radio Club member who would read children's books on Sunday mornings; a DJ called Master Blaster and a Sunday afternoon classical show hosted by Julianna Simiak. Another DJ, John Milnick, did a Saturday night show. He would bring his girlfriend to keep him company. What an understanding young woman. A funny dig at the time if someone had a bad show was "You have the looks for radio." We also broadcasted Central basketball games through phone lines, we called them remotes.

Records in the station's record library are still filed under a system that I and Robb Warner organized during the 1975 – 1976 winter break. Stickers on the upper left corner of each album organized the LPs alphabetically, Jethro Tull under T and Bonnie Raitt under R, for example. The system featured a computer printout in a large binder containing every record.

In another bit of history, Central launched a communication's major. It was brand new, but members of WFCS could get academic credit for Radio Club experience. Also, station members were given press cards, not that the cards did any good.

There was a small business nearby called RMS, Remote Mobile Sound, run by Bob Zotter. Bob could have been an honorary Radio Club member because he visited the station frequently, although he wasn't a student. Bob would hire our DJs to use his sound equipment to spin records at various discos around Hartford. I did this one night and made a quick \$50. Not bad for a Saturday night's work in 1976!

Lance Winer, a Navy veteran, retired from Hamilton Standard as an industrial engineer. Originally from Windsor, he and his wife, Shell, moved to North Port, Florida, in 2017 and enjoy travelling and the warm weather.

WFCS is growing beyond radio

By Aidan Dyer '25



WFCS is expanding the radio medium by installing studio cameras to record shows and interviews so DJs can promote local artists. To further that goal, the station recently formed a partnership with a Meriden-based artist showcase to help identify local talent. Video of the shows and interviews can be found on the WFCS YouTube channel. In addition, we are working to make podcasts an important part of the station.

WFCS is sponsoring Central's annual artist showcase Nov. 22 – 23. The event allows local musicians and other artists to display their talent. On Nov. 22, the showcase is open to both students and alumni. To participate, contact the station office at (860) 832-1883.

Overall, there's going to be an emphasis on in-person staff meetings to foster a sense of community and cohesiveness that was lost mostly when Covid measures forced everyone online. We want Radio Club members to get to know each other. We don't want people coming in just to do their show and then immediately leaving. Being personable is easier when people are in the same room. You have to be personable to be in radio.

Aidan Dyer is the new WFCS general manager.

Fashback to 2019



Having dinner one evening at the International Broadcasting Conference in New York City. Clockwise from left: McKensi Gudrian, Samantha Duncan, Devon Wilson, Patrick Jezierny, Megan Colleran and Brazos Ebner.



Homecoming at the Devils Den during a WFCS promotion. Back row from left: Trevor Toppin, Victoria Minervino and Devon Wilson. Front row from left: Samantha Duncan, Megan Colleran and McKensi Gudrian.

Final Note...



THE BIG 10! Who says 13 isn't a lucky number? This issue, Vol. 13, marks ten years of "Radio Days" newsletters. The first issue, summer 2014, spotlighted alumni who were still doing WFCS shows that year. Like many publications the format adjusted over time, morphing into today's more graphically appealing layout. Still, Radio Days wouldn't be possible without the support of its alumni contributors who share the stories that made the Radio Club one of life's memorable experiences. So at this ten-year milestone, a huge thank you is in order to the following writers.

Nick Klym '51; Anthony Pilla '55; Ray Colton '63; Deborah (Intravia) Wilson '70; Eileen Keefer '71; Art Passaro '72; John Sarra '73; Carol Inzinga Puckett '74; Mike Hodis '75; Tom Larson '75; Robb Warner '78; Keith Hall, '78; Lance Winer '78; Randy Shamber '84; Elaine Miner '84; Evan Kramer '85; Steve Strinie '86; Frank Vesce '86; Lamont Young '93; Ann Marie Vorisek White '94; Paul Bourque '96; Larry Mucci '01; Alyssa Rankin '15; Kyle Miller '15; Anna Battye '17; Vicki Minervino '19; Devon Wilson '20; Megan Colleran '21; Garrett Copeland '22; J.P. Bonilla '23; Agatha Hueller '24; A.J. Zulkeski '24; Aidan Dyer '25; Peter Varhol, community volunteer; and community volunteer "Bungalow" Bill Walsh, a record holding broadcaster – 40 years on WFCS!