



WTCC, WCCS and now WFCS at 107.7-- and anywhere at wfcsradio.com

**Vol. 9, Fall 2022**

**Editor**

Paul Koscak '73

**Contributors**

Ann Marie Vorisek White '94; Mike Hodis '75; Garrett Copeland '22; Tom Larson '75; Carol Inzinga Puckett '74; Robb Warner '78; Paul Koscak '73; Agatha Hueller '24

**Features**

*Taking on Tasks ■ Teletype & Friendship ■ WFCS at a Half Century ■ Mike's Time Machine ■ Heavy Morning Format ■ Organizing a Young Station ■ Top Club ■ WFCS Rebounds ■ Radio Club Alumni Homecoming & Shows*

## WFCS Turns 50

It would take a book to chronicle 50 years of broadcasting history, much less a newsletter. However, the two Recorder clips that follow, written a half century ago, detail the chronology and effort it took to establish an FM station at Central and reveal the new station's wide range of initial programming. Added are recollections and anecdotes from radio club members who were part of the AM to FM transition and a spotlight on today's WFCS.

Here's some early year highlights. When the WCCS call letters were requested for FM, Hartford station WCCC allegedly cited confusion, so it became WFCS, 90.1. In 1980, the frequency changed to 97.9 because Connecticut Public Radio increased its power. Many DJs were thrilled by the move since WFCS was in the middle of the dial and more easily found. WFCS changed its frequency in 1987 to 107.7 to make room for WACC, Asnuntuck Community College radio in Enfield. The FCC application for 107.7 was done by CCSU alumni Carmine Iannace, '88. Later, a proposal to place WFCS's antenna on the WTIC-TV tower in Farmington to boost its range was rejected by the FCC.

While WFCS dealt with moves on the air, the station moved on the ground as well. The studio relocated to the Vance Academic Center, the second floor of the Student Center and Seth North Hall between 2002 and 2012 because of Student Center renovations.

WFCS welcomed radio club alumni and community volunteers. Among them, Melissa Evans, '85, and Steve Strinie, '86, hosted shows for more than 30 years. Volunteer "Bungalow Bill" Walsh hosted his "Sunday Spectrum" show for 40 years.

In 1986, a growing group of WCCS/WFCS alumni began a homecoming tradition of gathering at the station along with doing alumni radio shows. In 1993, "Frank, Gil, and Friends," a Frank Sinatra show hosted by CCSU Professor Gil Gigliotti, began and in 1998, WFCS earned the College Hard Rock Station of the Year award and national recognition for its Metal programming and sponsoring "Metalfests" concerts. In 1999, "Radio Emka," a program featuring music and news from Poland, first aired.

## Countdown to FM

So what was the moment like when WFCS went live for the first time? Compared to WCCS's low power 670 AM signal that pretty much just covered the campus, WFCS's 10-watt 90.1 FM signal seemed like a powerhouse. It was excitement on steroids. Central's radio range was now poised to catapult from yards to miles, roughly a 25-mile radius.

It was September 1972. Like a crowd awaiting a rocket launch, the studio was packed shoulder-to-shoulder with energized radio club members. The countdown to a broadcasting milestone was underway. At the board was Program Director Bob Kerzner. Bob worked diligently with the administration to make WFCS a reality, so it was fitting that he should be the first voice on the new frequency.

Finally, with a live transmitter, Bob turned up the dial that controlled his mic and announced "This is radio history," and proceeded with his show. When he switched off his mic, cheers claps and spontaneous OKs! Yeahs! All rights! erupted.

Everyone had the look of a thrilled rider who just got off a roller coaster. A proper simile for all the ups and downs experienced over the years to advance the radio station from a club to an industry-standard operation. WFCS now operates on 107.7 at 36 watts.

--- Paul Koscak '73

*Paul Koscak, a former WMAS DJ, lives in southeast North Carolina and is retired from the Air Force Reserve and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He now plays lead guitar in a classic rock band that the Rolling Stones need not worry about. WFCS engineer John Ramsey contributed to this story.*

## WCCS Plans to Go FM

by Ed Beckley

WCCS, Central's campus radio about WCCS—A.M. is interference. (This is not due to the closeness of WPOP, (by the way) but to the construction of the new dorms.) F.M. will not be a victim of interference. Transmission will hopefully be twenty-four hours a day but this depends on the FCC and whether the Student Center will permit it.

Central must now wait for the Federal Communications Commission to approve the license, in order to make things official. FCC approval takes from thirty days to one year, but average waiting time is three months. This means that Central could possibly be transmitting by next semester, but more likely we'll have to wait until next spring.

Mr. Kerzner has proposed a ten watt educational transmitter with a range of about ten miles. His hope is that with the installation, the students will finally be receiving clear transmission with an extended range to reach off-campus students. He explained that one of the biggest complaints

most of WCCS' listening population has been women, and they have requested more of these songs than other styles. The inclusion of jazz and classical music will also be an experimental extension of the radio station.

Due to a lack of space, WCCS-A.M. may not be continued. Mr. Kerzner feels that if A.M. is to survive it will probably have to be simulcast with F.M. This means that the same programs would be transmitted for both frequencies.

The question of money came up but Kerzner assured me that this program will be no more expensive to operate than the present, and the student senate has already allocated funds for F.M. development.

"The number one function of WCCS is to serve the students," said Kerzner. And all suggestions as to how the station may be improved are encouraged.

# Radio Station Goes FM

By Bruce Lewis

Central Connecticut State College has a new radio station. The familiar WCCS AM has yielded its air waves to WFCS (from Central State) FM. One might think that this is merely a superficial change of letters and radio frequencies, but nothing could be more untrue. WFCS FM has increased Central Connecticut State's effect on the community by increasing its radio range from merely campus buildings, to the greater Hartford - New Britain area. WFCS has created a new weekly program schedule which is so diversified that it can, at one time or another, serve the interests of nearly any student at CCSC. Serving those interests is the primary objective of the new station.

With a staff of fifty trained people and twenty-five trainees, WFCS has set itself to the task of serving its benefactors (the campus) by offering programs ranging from soul music to classical music, and from jazz to popular music. Another addition to the programming is live folk music from the BITTER DEN. The new programming also includes college services like job reports (for those of us seeking employment), ride reports (for those of us who want to go home), and community classified (for those of us who have something to sell or a program to advertise). All of these services are free of charge.

"Focus" will be bringing people with opinions to the air waves around CCSC. Issues such as taxes, abortion control, the war, and ecology will be presented by experts, political figures, writers, and students every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

"Perspective" will be an in-

depth look behind the scenes of the music world, and will be presented on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. This show is geared to the interests of those who like to follow the new releases and critical analysis of the work of the popular entertainers.

On Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. a politically geared program "Forum" will be aired. This program will present a review of the week's political scene and will at times have guests who influence that scene. A listener question and answer session via telephone with the guests will also be included in the show.

The new radio station will also give special coverage to Student Senate proceedings. It will have a special "gripe" show called Speak Out, it will devote time every week to Oldies and Jazz, and will give a wrap up of the week's news events on their Sunday News Block.

All of this programming is in addition to the news, weather, and sports coverage which WCCS AM has covered in the past.

The new WFCS FM radio station is a product of two years of hard work and planning by members of the radio staff including Robert Kerzner, program director; John Eberhard, asst. program director; Zareski, chief engineer; and Steve Pisk, public affairs director.

Program director, Robert Kerzner, said that "Dr. James was extremely helpful throughout the entire project. With the approval of the college, we obtained a construction permit from the Federal Communications Commission, installed broadcast equipment (utilizing much of the apparatus from the former college radio station), and received the call letters WFCS from the FCC."

The broadcast tower for

Central's new radio station can be seen atop Vance Hall. The 10-watt power output (the lowest level authorized by the F.C.C.) will carry WFCS broadcasts from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m. Monday through Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m. on Sundays. For now WFCS is on an AM/FM simulcast, that is the AM station will carry the exact same program as the FM, but it is hoped that a separate on campus AM station will broadcast its own separate programming in the near future.

The radio station has program guides available to students who want to know when certain shows will be aired. The guide includes a schedule of weekly broadcasts and descriptions of the type shows to be aired. The time and effort put into the conversion from AM to FM will only bear fruit if we, the CCSC student body, give them a chance and tune in to their programming to find out what's going on.

Although the staff of the radio station is large enough to handle the broadcast responsibilities, they are always looking for new personnel as the turnover is inevitable. Mr. Kerzner stated, "Although we still have a large staff, we are still seeking additional broadcast personnel although broadcast spots on FM are not immediately available. Those applying should be genuinely interested in all aspects of the radio station."

The purpose of WFCS FM radio is simply to provide for the campus an information and entertainment center which will have its own value for any Central students. In the words of Bob Kerzner "we more than likely have something you will enjoy at one time or another."

Form BC 126  
June 1954

#576

NON COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL

## BROADCASTING STATION LICENSE RECORD

Date first licensed 11-6-72

Call letters WFCS

Station location New Britain, Conn.

Name of licensee CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE

Transmitter location Vance Hall, Central Connecticut State College, North of Wells Street, New Britain, Connecticut (PED-5-11-72)

Main studio location Student Center, Central Connecticut State College, Wells Street, New Britain, Connecticut (PED-5-11-72)

Original WFCS FCC license record with dates and transmitter location.



Have a seat. There wasn't any fancy placement for WFCS's original 10-watt transmitter located inside the utility building atop Vance Hall in this 1973 photo. A chair does just fine!



The original WFCS tower and antenna atop Vance Hall was pretty basic compared to the current tower that accommodates multiple antennas for various cell and wireless operators. The photo was taken in 1973.

# Looking back -- in case you forgot

By Mike Hodis '75

Today's staff probably cannot imagine what it was like "back in the day," so...enter my time machine – it is 1970.

Walk in through the back doors of the Student Center, past the bookstore, head down the main hall, past the television rooms (two rooms, each with antenna TV and chairs, like two small theaters.) and turn left down a short hallway.



The studio during the days of vinyl sported a Gates board, cart machines -- atop the board and right top of counter -- and turntables. The 45 rpm record on the peg under the counter is the ending row of several pegs providing the sequence of records to play. The DJ looked through a window into the production room.

To the left is the Recorder student newspaper. To the right, the WCCS "newsroom," containing the Associated Press machine, a two-foot, black cube that hammered away, night and day, spewing out paper copy of news and events. The clattering machine in the background added atmosphere (sometimes a little too much) to the newscasts.

The "newsroom," located off this small hallway outside of the station, was a closet-sized bathroom once used by the service staff of the Student Center. The sink and toilet remained so the news desk had to be raised up on concrete blocks to clear them.

A few more steps away was the water fountain that

cured many a dry throat from WCCS on-air staff. Just to the right, after the fountain, was the door for the Photography Club. That club was popular among photo enthusiasts because they could buy film at bulk rates.

## Entering the station

Finally, at the end of this little hall, the front door of WCCS. On the outside wall, a little box which lit up ON AIR in red letters when the studio mics were on. To the left, a large, swing-top white trash container, affectionately known as "the doorman," used to prop open the front door to vent the heat kicked up by the amalgamation of tubes and transistors in the studios which, unlike the Recorder and Photo Club, had no outside window.



Today's studio has come a long way. While broadcasting skills remain the same, the equipment has not. Most prominent is the board where siding switches have replaced the dials to control the various audio sources.

The station is really a short cramped hallway. Let's enter. To the left, are file cabinets containing the station's business records kept by business managers Jim McManus and Ralph Derasadourian. Turn right and step into the music library, a room about 10-feet square.

On the back wall were mail slots for the various departments and staff members; to the left was

a counter with a turntable and headphones, so DJs could sample new arrivals. Under the counter was the locked treasure trove of the music department (For instance, copies of "Abbey Road" received prior to its general release. We introduced the album to CCSC one new cut each day.) Now, face right. You'll see an entire wall of compartments, sized to fit hundreds of 45-rpm records alphabetically in plain green paper jackets.

Walk out of the music library and turn right, continuing a few steps down that short, cramped hall and directly ahead was the production studio. This was the domain of station engineer Joe "The Big Z" Zareski. Cables hung down like vines in the Amazon and in its place of honor was a big, reel-to-reel tape recorder on which so many promos and programs ("Artie and the Fly," anyone?) were recorded.



Mike Hodis takes to the airwaves as part of the morning line up of alumni shows at homecoming.

visitors to sit in the main studio. But as album rock began to take over, racks were moved into the main studio to hold hundreds of albums, as 45s assumed their quaint place in history.

### Tight studio

Leaving the production studio and turning right, we come to the main studio. Walking in, to the left, was the broadcast position for the DJ who sat facing the production studio window. To the disc jockey's left was a pair of pro-quality turntables. These squat, gray monsters had a little gear shift lever to select speed (78, 45 and 33 1/3 rpm). Each turntable had a thick, felt pad for the record to rest on, minimizing any scratching and allowing "slip cueing," a lost art (You hold the record with your finger while the turntable spins, then let go, achieving instant playing speed.).

At first, there was room for friends and

## More 50-year memories worth recalling

By Mike Hodis '75

### Late nights at WFCS

With the coming of album rock, WFCS sought all-night programming but the problem was that the Student Center closed at 11 p.m.

The first attempt at circumventing this involved "the rack," a tall stack of shelves in one corner of the main studio. It held, among other things, a master set of cable connections, a professional-grade reel-to-reel tape player and a carousel for eight 8-track tapes. Disc jockeys then recorded one-hour programs (No mention of date, time or current events, please!) to be put onto the 8-tracks. The carousel would be switched on by the departing disc jockey at 11 p.m. and would cycle through the tapes until the first shift at 8 a.m. the next morning.

Ultimately, it was negotiated that WFCS could

have one person in the building after closing and that DJ could stay on until 3 a.m.

The problem was how they would get into the building after 11pm. Since the wall of the main studio on the DJ's right was also part of the outside wall of the Student Center, the incoming

*...the incoming midnight man  
had to pound on the outside  
wall to signal the DJ working  
the 8pm to midnight shift....*

midnight man had to pound on the outside wall to signal the DJ working the 8 p.m. to midnight shift to come and let them in through the back door of the Student Center. We did get one exception to the “one person after midnight” rule for the 1972 election. Envisioning a close presidential race, as in 1964 and 1968, I agreed to work with Scott Czerkas through his shift to bring, what we hoped would be, informative updates on a suspenseful election. Nixon quickly waxed McGovern and it was all over by 11 p.m. Still, unwilling to abandon the hard-fought exception, I stayed on with Scott until 3 a.m., though the last few updates involved my impersonations of past presidents.

A couple of years after I graduated, I had occasion to be back on campus. To satisfy my, what shall I call it, morbid curiosity, I walked to the “pounding wall” outside of the Student Center and, sure enough, some of the texture of the bricks had been worn away where the incoming midnight shift had signaled their arrival.

### Watch Those Words

The Student Center ran a sort of coffee house in the Devil’s Den Thursday night during the height of the folk-music craze. It offered a new and local live act every week and the WFCS engineering staff set up and presented “Live from the Devil’s Den.” It being the 1970s, a seven-second delay was used, and the poor soul engineering the broadcast had to wear one half of two sets of headphones on each ear, one carrying the live broadcast and one with a few seconds delay that went out on broadcast, after anything objectionable was bleeped.

### Powering up for Blue Devil Sports

Central Connecticut’s 1972 baseball team achieved an 18-2 regular-season record and was selected to play in the NCAA Division II Baseball regional at Yale’s baseball field. Unfortunately, the regional would take place after the school year ended. But, determined to bring this event to Blue Devil sports fans, WFCS’s business and engineering departments and the Student Center arranged to broadcast the games.

Because the station, by FCC regulations, needed to have a scheduled broadcast day, John Eberhard volunteered to “start” the broadcast day each day of the tournament at noon. Doug Mihalik, Scott Czerkas and I would drive down to New Haven and cover whatever afternoon game involved the Blue Devils and then John would complete the rest of the shortened broadcast day until 6 p.m.

One day, Doug and Scott had work commitments, so I had to drive down, set up and broadcast Central’s game against arch-rival University of New Haven on my own. It was quite an education in multi-tasking, but everything went off fine.

Ultimately, Central went into the last day of the tournament needing only a win in the final two games to go to the Division II College World Series, but dropped both games to unheralded Ithaca College.

*Mike Hodis, 70, is currently retired, lives in West Hartford, Connecticut, and is an unpublished author and undiscovered painter.*



Front door balancing act. Soon to be WFCS's first general manager, Doug Mihalik, greets an upside down WCCS program director, Pete Ostapchuk, in this 1971 photo.

# Organizing an early WFCS

By Robb Warner '77

My first encounter with WFCS was in the spring of my freshman year in 1974. I was in the Student Center walking down the corridor when I met Phil Mayhew, '78, a member of WFCS's music department. He was standing in the hallway, handing out 45 rpm records to promote the radio station, and for me it worked! He showed me around the station and I was hooked. I joined right away.

The music department had only two members at the time. Then the music director graduated, leaving Phil and me, and I was elected the new music director. Happened that fast. During the next year, I built up the department, until we had about twenty members, roughly half of the total WFCS membership!

***Those who passed the FCC test proudly hung their license on the studio wall.***



Robb Warner at the board doing his alumni radio show during homecoming. Looking on is radio club alumni Tony Augeri, '73.

rewrite the WFCS constitution, to bring it into line with updated federal guidelines. After all, WFCS was now more than just a club, but a legal radio station that required federal as well as the college administration's oversight.

I was a broadcasting instructor using the AM studio, which was still WCCS. It radiated on telephone lines that connected to small transmitters in certain campus buildings, carrier current as it was called. For those who looked to broadcast on WFCS, I gave instruction for the required FCC third class radio telephone license. Those who passed the FCC test proudly hung their license on the studio wall.

In 1976, I volunteered to rewrite the WFCS constitution, to bring it into line with updated federal guidelines. After all, WFCS was now more than just a club, but a legal radio station that required federal as well as the college administration's oversight.

## A Library Legacy

I remember working to organize the LP library in 1975. For instance, at the time, Diana Ross & the Supremes could be found under R or S in either the pop or the rhythm & blues sections. With the aid of Phil and several other new members, we keypunched over 6,000 cards over the Christmas break, to create a printed record locator. The cards had fields for artist, album title, and a musical category code. I took the cards to the computer building (Yes, the college needed a whole building for that at the time), asking them to alphabetize the cards by artist, numbering them with a gap of 10 spaces. This allowed us to add new LPs when they arrived, assigning a number that would fit right in.

***...we keypunched over 6,000 cards over the Christmas break, to create a printed record...***

Even today, many of the station's LP collection in the back room have the little number assigned in the upper left corner. I remember one time when I was on the air a listener

requested a song. While still talking to him on the telephone, I used our printout code, found the LP and put it on the turntable. He was incredulous! "How did you do that?" he queried, as his request was being played over the airwaves. It was a system that worked, but fell into disrepair after I graduated, as it required much upkeep.

In the mid '70s, the radio station and its next door neighbor, the Central Recorder newspaper, were at odds. The friction was due to the paper receiving all the funding they needed from the administration's budgeted media division, while WFCS suffered. So, taking the bull by the horns, I actually joined the Recorder and became its art editor, a move that created some diplomacy and cooperation between the two clubs.

As a post script, Phil visited me at my parents' house and met my niece, Cheryl. They eventually married, and today have four children and eight grandchildren. So now Phil calls me "uncle."

*Robb Warner is a former Hebron first selectman and continues to serve the community as justice of the peace, having officiated in over 350 weddings. An Air Force veteran, Robb became commander of three local veterans' organizations. While still in high school, he graduated from the Connecticut School of Broadcasting. He launched a quarterly magazine, The Hebronian, where he interviewed Rick Derringer (of the McCoys and Edgar Winter fame), who at the time was a Colchester resident. Robb is a record collector and merchant selling tens of thousands of 45 rpm records on eBay.*

## Recalling heavy rock mornings, Tree Frog Day

By Tom Larson '75

I come from the time before MTV, in the age of Iron Butterfly's "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida" and the winding down of surf music. It was the time of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and psychedelic music. It was a wonderful time filled with new, cutting edge and meaningful music and I got to play it on my morning show three days a week.

Many of the station's old guard from the early 70s keep in touch, and recently in a chat with radio club alumni Paul Koscak, we recalled some vintage radio vernacular: play'n what your say'n; tower of power; stack of shellac. I then began to recall those golden days. So let me tell you about them.



Tom Larson, still remembered by his air name, Monkey Wrench, took his early morning show from WCCS to WFCS in 1972. Here, he takes to the air again during homecoming.

I worked at the Central Recorder newspaper under George Ferris Khouri in 1969, my first year at Central. They were the days of protest, anti-war sentiment, and the first Giant Tree Frog Day on campus.

The GTFD was Central's version of a Woodstock-like event that ran outdoors in the old Arute Field (now occupied by the

library and adjacent parking garage) from morning to late at night with various local bands and “jam sessions” of improvised music. And yes, there may have been a few drugs consumed in the course of it. Does anyone remember the band called Fancy?

As I reached my second year there was a friendly rivalry between the paper and WCCS, the college radio station at the time, located one door over. And in the course of it, Monkey Wrench (my on-air handle) joined the WCCS news department and then became a DJ.

**There are three things I find most memorable...**

Of course, all the popular, and dare I say heavily listened to evening and late night slots were filled by the “dorm kids.” I was a commuter, so it was the 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., slot for me. Somehow, some of the music I played did not seem to fit the rise-and-shine, get-moving-to-class kind of sound and I bravely signed on playing the Hendrix version of the Star Spangled Banner, a requirement to start the broadcast day. I then sallied forth with Crosby, Stills and Nash, Led Zeppelin, and the Jefferson Airplane doing my best imitation of an FM jock.

There are three things I find most memorable about the experience.

First, the solace of being alone in the studio and first on the air, working the mic and turntables along with trying to remember what switches and dials to operate and when and what PSAs (public service announcements) I had to play or read to make the show work.

The second was when the station switched from WCCS AM to WFCS FM in 1972 and broadcasted outside the college dorm nexus. Suddenly, we reached the community at large and even today when I’m back in the Connecticut area, I will change the dial to 107.7 and listen to WFCS, The Edge. While the music has mostly changed, some moments that flashback to my Golden Age of radio have not.

And the third has been the memories and friendships forged in that Golden Age -- Paul Grange, Crazy Bob Rapice, Paul Peters, Diane Z, Johnathon, Don Ross, Bill Pearce, and many others. You are with me always. Rock on!

*Monkey Wrench, aka Tom Larson, never made it to commercial radio but did a lot of broadcasting in his career with the Manchester Police Department. Now retired, he enjoys writing (a four book set – *The Event Series* and *Life Through Time*; available on Amazon) and sharing on social media and on his blog (*The Logical Coyote*), tales of his adventures as he drives around the country in an RV.*

## Taking on tasks that left her mark on WFCS

By Ann Marie Vorisek White '94

I was the general manager (GM) of WFCS from 1992 to 1994. I started volunteering at WFCS as a DJ in 1990 spinning Prince and dance (house) shows but had been listening to WFCS for years. I still remember the staff meeting where we picked the slogan, “WFCS:

**WFCS changed my life in many ways, but none more than the fact that I met my future husband, Harry, at the station.**

Where the Music Still Matters.” It was quite contentious but we obviously picked right since it is still being used today!

At the time that I took the helm, the station needed improving. It was only on the air for part of each day, the Student Center administrators refused to play us in the building, the studios were rundown, and the equipment was worn out. I found radio

to be both exciting and empowering and I wanted to give back to the station and provide new and inspiring opportunities for the CCSU community.

Being a GM was challenging. For me, it encompassed music, facilities, engineering, budgeting, shift assignments, public relations, recruiting, conflict resolution, dealing with the college, and sometimes entrenched administrators, all while maintaining engagement and grades in your classes. I do not exaggerate when I write that my experience as GM helped prepare me for the highest levels of my profession.

One of the greatest gifts WFCS gave me was learning how to work with an extremely diverse group of people. Can urban, alternative, classical, metal, gospel, house, jazz, and polka DJs be any more different? I learned that differences melt away when people are united around a common goal – which in our case was great music – and around a common value: Music is life.

I worked hard to create a sense of family among the staff. I remember encouraging

everyone to recognize and acknowledge their fellow DJs across campus. I shared unifying themes such as shared community, kindness, and social justice. I believed then as I do now that community is built by individual actions. A hello can literally change someone's day. I know that being a part of the WFCS family changed lives and the evidence is in the many thank you notes written to me by fellow DJs when graduation was upon me and my time at WFCS was coming to a close.

There's nothing like college radio. It's an expression of freedom. It's art. We were spinning music at a time when commercial broadcasting was becoming corporate formula radio. The idea of DJs doing their own programming was fading fast and this inspired me to expand WFCS programming to 24/7 and strengthen the leadership of each music department.

**A hello can literally change someone's day.**

I forged a relationship with the Recorder staff (a remarkable crew of brilliant journalists) and we traded public relations services. I contracted with Pacifica Radio to get a daily 30-minute news show on the schedule. I petitioned the Student Government Senate for funding to bring the station's facilities up to professional standards. I had a great engineer in John Ramsey and a couple of DJs were radio systems savvy. And I confronted Student Affairs, Student Activities, and Student Center administrators to get WFCS played in the Student Center. Because...you know, it matters.



WFCS changed my life in many ways, but none more than the fact that I met my future husband, Harry, at the station. I spun a Thursday night show called Emanation (named for Emma Goldman) and Harry's house show, Radio Free New Britain, followed mine. Shift-change chit-chat became hanging out for his show and then shared shows that evolved into lunches on the quad and shared courses, and the rest is history. Thirty years later we are more in love than ever. Thank you, WFCS!

There is a beauty and magic to being in the studio, especially at night, when the building is empty and the world is bathed in starlight. In the booth, the DJ is at once alone and not alone. Through the magic of radio, DJs connect with strangers across the ether; bringing joy and energy to people they'll never meet. My role in the history and culture of WFCS remains one of the most important and memorable experiences in my life.

*Ann Marie Vorisek White, '94, lives in northwest Connecticut with her husband, Harry, and their two German Shepherd dogs. She holds a B.A. degree in history from CCSU and a Master of Library Science degree from Syracuse University. Music and librarianship have been constants in her life since her early teen years. For the last two decades, she has served as the library director at Oliver Wolcott Library in Litchfield, where books and music still matter.*

## WFCS named Central's top club

By Garrett Copeland '22

On May 6, WFCS was recognized as the Outstanding Student Organization of the 2021-22 academic year. The honor is awarded annually to one student organization by the CCSU Student Union Board of Governors. I had the wonderful experience of being the WFCS general manager during this past academic year and I'm incredibly proud of this achievement, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our radio station staff.

WFCS, like most organizations, faced the weight of the COVID-19 pandemic. When the campus closed during the spring 2020 semester, the station lost the ability to perform live programming. In addition, with CCSU moving to full online learning, the station lost much of its ability to reach new members and listeners on campus. By the beginning of the 2021-22 school year CCSU reopened its campus and WFCS found itself with only a handful of DJs and no ability to add community volunteers to the schedule.

Our small but dedicated staff decided that this was our chance to completely rebuild our program and we started significant recruitment. We ran remote broadcasts and promoted the station at campus events, introducing the station to both new and current students. We handed out stickers and shirts to garner interest and encouraged students to sign up for training. All staff members took on the task of training prospective DJs, growing our ranks from five to nearly 40 by the spring.



WFCS's Outstanding Student Organization of the Year award.

WFCS also began collaborating with local music venues and concert promoters to host ticket giveaways and conducted artist interviews to share with the CCSU student body. This also gave our staff first-hand experience working in the music industry and with international-level artists. The staff relaunched WFCS podcasting, using those interviews as content for some of the first podcasts with much more to come.

Continuing the trend of campus involvement, WFCS helped create and facilitate a new campus event with CCSU's pride organization. This event was the Lip Sync Ball, a fun excursion allowing students and faculty alike to compete in a lip sync competition while also offering a space for self expression and creativity.

The teamwork and dedication of the WFCS staff, as well as the support from our advisers, Sue Sweeney and Gil Gigliotti, is what rebuilt and saved this station and led to the award. I would like to thank Agatha Hueller, Carolyn Martin, James Robinson, Amanda Schmidt, Levin Cusatis, Justin Hall, JP Bonilla, Derrick Rawson, and Lucas Amoroso as well as all of our DJs for their service to the station this past year. Thanks to these committed staff, I am happy to report that WFCS is strong as ever with big plans for the upcoming academic year.

*Garrett Copeland, the Radio Club's former general manager, graduated this year. A dual business major in management and marketing, he now works as a production assistant/runner for Live Nation. During his time off he continues to work in music, promoting local shows, interviewing musicians, and playing in various bands.*



**Standing:** Gil Gigliotti, professor, Department of English and WFCS faculty adviser; Sue Sweeney, Student Center associate director. **From left:** Carolyn Martin, former program director; Garrett Copeland, past general manager; Agatha Hueller, general manager; Lucas Amoroso, social media director.

## Radio Club rebounds after Covid

By Agatha Hueller, WFCS general manager

A year ago when I joined the radio station, the club was at a low point. Many of our DJs had graduated or left because the studio was closed during the height of COVID-19.

In addition to the COVID-19 damper, we lost the on-air support of many of our wonderful community volunteers. Now we exist in the Student Center, the studio and other areas on campus without masks.

With Covid now in the past, I'm happy to report our volunteers are returning and I've added 28 new club members. We are proud to bring back those volunteers. You can find them on our virtual programming schedule attached to our social media via [linktr.ee/wfcstradio](http://linktr.ee/wfcstradio).

If you're interested in volunteering at WFCS, please contact our Program Director, AJ Zulkeski at [pd@wfcsradio.com](mailto:pd@wfcsradio.com)



WFCS current staff from left: Justin Hall, development director; Agatha Hueller, general manager; AJ Zulkeski, program director; JP Bonilla, training director.

assistant to help the media clubs manage their budget and purchases. For now, Scott Hazan is assuming Sue's duties and advocating for WFCS.

This fall, we're excited to recruit more radio club members through the club drive, on-campus events, and advertisements. We even placed a QR code on our sign-up sheet considering kids these days are always on their phones. We plan to update the WFCS website with the help of Darren Palumbo, our technical director.

We look forward this fall to invite all our former and current DJs to visit the station Saturday morning, Oct. 8, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of WFCS. Your ongoing support of 107.7 and capturing the continuing story of the radio club as told in the Radio Days alumni newsletter is greatly appreciated.

*Agatha Hueller, '24, is an art education major and substitute teacher. She credits her passion for music for her drive to lead the station and spread that passion to others. Agatha joined WFCS in September 2021 and was the rock director and training director before becoming the GM. She re-established back-to-back show times and increased the station's visibility through TikTok and Linktr.ee. Agatha has interviewed artists such as SPACED and Knocked Loose and created many of the live music images seen on WFCS social media.*

## 'Here's the WCCS news,' AP and friendship

By Carol Inzinga Puckett '74

As freshmen in the fall of 1971, Carol Falman (now Watson) and I met the first week of our college life in Seth North dormitory. We hit it off immediately due to our shared sense of humor, majoring in secretarial studies and earning our associate of science degrees.

Last fall we operated under a Covid schedule with a one-hour buffer in between two-hour shows. Now we're able to use those one-hour buffers to give DJs a choice to do either a one- or two- hour show and we have decided to keep this schedule for now, as seen on [linktr.ee/wfcsradio](https://linktr.ee/wfcsradio).

Unfortunately, the all-knowing Student Center assistant director Sue Sweeney, who oversaw the station, retired in May. CCSU is searching for a replacement along with a part-time undergraduate

Walking down the Student Center hall one evening, we noticed the lighted WCCS sign outside the studio and heard the radio station broadcast. Curious, we went in and were immediately greeted by the DJ and fascinated to see the racks of colorful albums vertically stacked in wooden cubbies on the right wall, turntables, tape deck, control board, and microphone. We were invited to come back as news broadcasters and we accepted.



My weekly news time was Wednesday at 3 p.m., arriving fifteen minutes before the hour to prepare the news that came magically chugging out over the clunky black metal AP (Associated Press) teletype machine. It spewed out the latest news and weather on long rolls of paper. I tore off the paper and read the latest to myself. I'd use a pencil making slash marks and pause signs while I practiced delivery.

***All the DJs were young men.  
One of them tried to sneak in  
a “news item” on a piece of  
paper asking me for a date.***

news.” After reading the news there was a commercial break and then I returned with the current weather and forecast.

All the DJs were young men. One of them tried to sneak in a “news item” on a piece of paper asking me for a date. I knew what he was doing and didn’t read that out loud. We just smiled at each other through the window.

Carol and I took a speech and diction class to polish our delivery. We were required to prepare short speeches on various topics and deliver them in class using correct diction, volume and pronunciation. Following our associates degrees, we both earned bachelor’s degrees at UConn. I was in Carol’s wedding party and she was maid of honor in mine.



**Carol Inzinga Puckett (left) and Carol Falman (Watson)  
enjoy a lighter moment at Barrows Hall in 1973.**

During my career, I worked recording voiceovers for corporate videos, writing screen dialogue, and using a microphone to deliver live training to new hires. One of my coworkers said, “You really come alive behind that microphone.” I smiled, thinking, yes, I do enjoy it, thanks to WCCS.

Carol and I are still friends sharing mutual interest in art, reading and nature. She recently sent college days photos of the two of us to cheer me while recovering from a broken ankle. Friends for over fifty years, that’s a news worthy golden friendship!

*Carol Puckett is a retired educator. She and her husband, Tom, own and operate their farm, Olivia’s Garden, in Columbia and are delighting as “Marmee and Pops” to their three grandchildren.*

# Mark your calendar

Homecoming 2022, Oct. 7 – 8 and WFCS alumni shows and gathering



## Friday evening,

The reunions at the Stanley Golf Course lounge. Stop by the WFCS table or, weather permitting, a place on the outdoor deck.

## Saturday morning,

Alumni broadcasts are homecoming's first event that day. Be part of the start!

Airtime from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. is being set aside for alumni radio shows thanks to the generous support of WFCS's staff. Reply to [raydiopk@aim.com](mailto:raydiopk@aim.com) or call (571) 278-0984 to schedule a half-hour show, otherwise just stop to enjoy the company and some refreshments. There's also the alumni brunch.

For homecoming details visit <http://www.ccsu.edu/alumni/homecoming.html>

## Of note...



WFCS radio alumni Elaine Miner, '84, an Alice Cooper fan, spent some time with the rocker at Waterbury's Palace Theater. She reports being in row two and in row three at a 2021 concert.



Be sure to pick up your "Est. 1972 WFCS 107.7" commemorative T-shirt Saturday morning, marking 50 years of WFCS broadcasting history.

## Final note...

It's quite exciting to report that Radio Days now has a permanent home on the CCSU website at [www.ccsu.edu/alumni/index.html](http://www.ccsu.edu/alumni/index.html). Many thanks to the CCSU Alumni Association.