Homecoming 2023: reunions, alumni shows
Two days of fun

CCSU’s Homecoming is set for Friday, Oct. 6, and Saturday, Oct. 7, and Radio Club alumni are once again playing a big part in the event.

**Friday evening** starting at 7 p.m., Radio Club alumni can mix and mingle at the traditional CCSU reunion event. This year the reunions have moved back to campus and take place in the Student Center at what was once known as Semester’s pub. Look for the WFCS table or, weather permitting, gathering outside by the fire pits.

**Saturday morning** Radio Club alumni and current WFCS staff are welcomed to the station even before the eggs are scrambled at the alumni brunch, starting at 8:30 a.m. Stop by, grab a cup of coffee and connect or reconnect with the WFCS community. The tradition of alumni shows continues thanks to the generous support of WFCS’s management. You’re invited to schedule a half hour show between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. by contacting Paul Koscak at (571) 278-0984 or at raydiopk@aim.com No need to worry about working the equipment. There’s technical assistance available.

Don’t forget the ever popular alumni brunch, which also returns to campus. This year it’s at the new C.J. Huang Recreation Center next to the Kaiser gym. Just like back in the day, stop by the station first if you’d like since there’s always someone ready to walk to the brunch, but be sure to return as other alumni keep arriving.

Visit [https://www.ccsu.edu/homecoming](https://www.ccsu.edu/homecoming) for more homecoming details and tickets.

After the football game Radio Club alumni will meet up at Elmer’s at 3:30 p.m. Look for the table with the WFCS logo.
Reflections from WCCS’s first female DJ

By Eileen Keefer ’71

Joining the college radio station was the highlight of my college days. Everyone there was welcoming, fun loving, helpful and friendly. It was like one big happy social club. I started by helping to type up PSAs (public service announcements) and campus events on index cards during mornings and between classes. Also, I helped reshelving and locating albums in the music library.

Dave Landry was the program director and I vividly remember having an informal meeting to fill and schedule staff for on-air times. Early morning times were still available so I asked for one and was thrilled to be the first female DJ on WCCS! My radio name was Eileen Karen and I loved to play what was then called progressive rock. The freedom to play music you liked was very exciting.

Some of my favorite songs were “Smoke on the Water” by Deep Purple; “Fresh Air” by Quicksilver Messenger Service; and “I’m Eighteen” by Alice Cooper – not exactly soft wake-up music for those in the dorms, for that’s as far as the broadcast signal went.

WCCS 670 AM broadcasted through small transmitters placed in some of the campus buildings, connected to the studio by telephone lines. The system, called carrier current, radiated the WCCS signal hundreds of yards from each transmitter, covering the campus and a little bit beyond. The station also was played throughout the Student Center.

Another memory involved the song “All Right Now” by Free. It became an anthem when the campus parking lots suddenly had coin operated gates at each entrance. There were student protests in quick response. Eventually this caused the college to reconsider and the gates were removed. Student victory was celebrated by that memorable song.

Because my time at the radio station was such an enjoyable experience, I even obtained my FCC Third Class Radio Telephone license to broadcast on commercial radio stations. However, I accepted an elementary school teaching position after I graduated and this absorbed all my time, not even enough time to pet my husband and our dog as I would say to friends.
I still love going to concerts. One of my favorite sayings is I may be older, but I got to see all the cool bands – Jimi Hendrix, The Doors, Cream, Pink Floyd and so many more.

Eileen Keefer is a retired elementary school teacher who indulges in photography, travel, playing many musical instruments, enjoying Renaissance fairs and teaching adult Bible studies.

WCCS listeners in the dorms or arriving on campus in 1971 started their day with Eileen Karen’s early morning progressive rock show.

WFCS launched path to local radio career

By Paul Bourque ‘96

I have always loved radio as a young boy and spent countless hours listening to my favorite programs. What I listened to in those early days was mostly Top-40 music on AM stations, and I had visions of becoming a disk jockey. My sisters and I set up a “radio station” in the rec room in our basement, and would record our “shows” onto cassette tapes.

I soon started expanding my musical listening beyond Top-40 stations. When I discovered “album rock” and non-commercial radio in the early 1980’s, it opened up a whole new world of many different genres for me to discover. My passion for musical exploration has never ceased. Hearing all that great music led me into becoming an active record collector, and I have built a personal collection of music spanning many genres.

My first experience with WFCS was in the late 1980s, where my friend Tom had co-hosted a psychedelic and progressive rock show called the “Anderson Council Freakout.” I would visit the station from time to time and the
show turned me on to many artists that I never heard before. That really inspired me to eventually produce my own radio show.

I became a student at CCSU several years later and in 1991 joined the staff at WFCS. Before I had earned my stripes to get an air shift I was on the committee that listened to new music and decided what would be placed into rotation. Finally, in late 1991, I did my first air shift. I was nervous, but really excited at being given the opportunity to present to the public my own radio show.

My experiences at WFCS and, more importantly, the people who I met during that time really had a tremendous impact on the course of my life. While on the station’s executive committee (ECOM), I was one of the folks charged with hiring a new chief engineer. During that process I was introduced to John Ramsey, who was not only a contract engineer for many of the commercial stations in the greater Hartford area, but also the general manager of University of Hartford’s WWUH.

Through my relationship with John, I became interested in the engineering side of broadcasting, and unofficially became his assistant at WFCS. John took me under his wing and taught me quite a bit about that side of the broadcast industry. I eventually, under his encouragement, joined the staff at WWUH, where I produced shows for many years after leaving WFCS.

John had also recommended me for several employment opportunities after my tenure at WFCS. That led to me having a brief stint in commercial radio, where I had the opportunity to be running the board during a Hartford station’s format change to modern rock, and also an engineering job for many years at Trinity College’s WRTC. John also encouraged me to become an amateur (ham) radio operator, which eventually led to my current career at the American Radio Relay League in Newington.

Not only have the experiences at WFCS set a course for much of my life, many of the folks who I was on staff with at WFCS have become lifelong friends, and I continue to keep in touch with several of them to this day.

Editor’s note: Why hams? When the wireless telegraph evolved in the late 19th century, operators many times blocked out other stations because their signals were so powerful. Government stations, ships, coastal stations and the increasingly numerous amateur operators all competed to get their signals transmitted. Two amateurs communicating across town could effectively jam all the other operators in the area. Frustrated commercial operators called them “hams.” Other amateurs, unfamiliar with the slight embraced it and over the years its original pejorative meaning disappeared.
Making room for podcasts

Hey there, radio family! Exciting news to share: Our podcast room has undergone a major upgrade. Recognizing the growing passion and dedication of our podcast creators, we've relocated the podcast room to a larger space within our facility. This new room is equipped to accommodate bigger production teams and offers enhanced acoustics for even better sound quality. We're thrilled about this expansion and can't wait to hear the fresh and innovative content that will emerge from this updated space. As always, keep those creative juices flowing, and let's continue to make waves together!

-- A.J. Zulkeski, '24, WFCS general manager

Of Note…

WFCS alumni Keith Hall, '78, takes the requisite walk across the now legendary Abbey Road made famous by the Beatles just outside the Abbey Road recording studios in London. The stop was part of a bicycle tour of Scotland and England that Keith took in August.
Recalling Homecoming 1966

Central traditionally featured bands with national recognition during major campus events including homecoming: The Animals in 1968; The Buckinghams in 1968; The First Edition with Kenny Rogers in 1970; Mountain in 1971; and Chicago in 1974 to name just a few. Homecoming 1966 with the Four Seasons was truly one for the records. This Hartford Times article tells the story and captures the campus as it once was (In View, 225 % makes for easy reading). Article courtesy of Deborah (Intravia) Wilson CCSC/WCCS ’70