

KUWS: A Campus and Community Foundation at UW-Superior

Jessica Irvine

jirvine@uwsuper.edu

The University of Wisconsin-Superior is celebrating their 125th Anniversary this year. When taking a look back on the memories, not only has the buildings, students, and programs changed drastically over the years, but so has the student radio station on campus, 91.3 FM KUWS.

The campus radio station has played a big role on the campus and has been broadcasting news, sports and music to the public since 1966, according to the college newspaper *The Peptomist* of May 1966. The University of Wisconsin-Superior was called Superior State University at that time and the Wisconsin State University system had five radio stations broadcasting from different universities across Wisconsin. SSU started broadcasting in January of 1966 with the call name WSSU, which stood for Wisconsin Superior State University.

In January of 1966, the radio station was licensed through the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System. The campus radio station was located in the Old Main building in room number 337. During the first year of WSSU, they broadcasted with only a two mile radius, but was expecting to increase to 15 miles by the fall of 1966. SSU's station would air from 3:40 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 1:45 to 10:15 p.m. also on Saturday's during the summer sessions.

In the *Promethean* of May 1994, a retired professor from UW-Superior, Paul Kending said, "We started out with totally student volunteer workers, broadcasting a mere six hours per day, with 10 watts of power. On a clear day, you could pick up the signal maybe in the dorm."

Kending was a professor of communicating arts at SSU and had moved to the university in 1966 when the radio station was first licensed. Since Kending had broadcasting experience, he was a part of the broadcasting

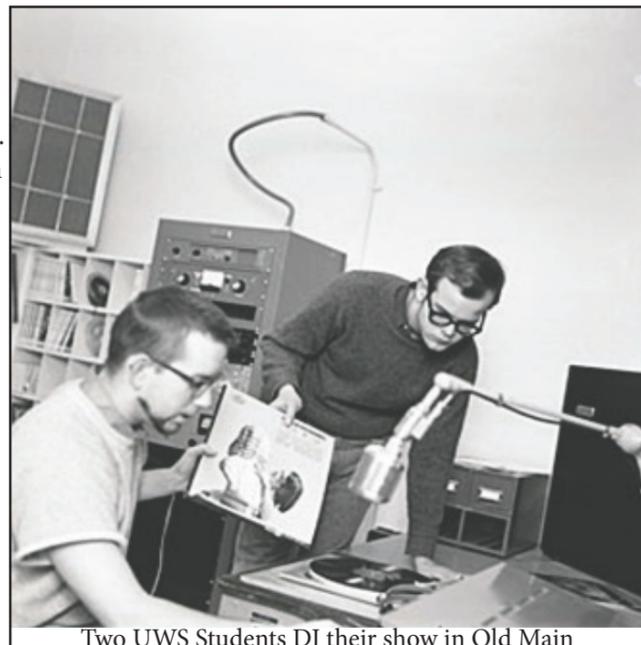
team at WSSU until he retired in 1994. One of Kending former students, John Munson, eventually took over the position as station manager in 1990.

During the first few years of WSSU, many managers had rotated through the station. Some of the managers were Dr. Donald Cain, Dr. Bruce Elving, and Richard DeFore, just to name a few. But then after Richard DeFore left, the position was not yet filled. Then, former students from the Department of Communicating Arts served as managers at WSSU.

Dr. Peter Nordgren an alumni from UWS and a professor of emeritus at UWS shared his memories at WSSU. Nordgren said he "had several positions in the station from 1971 to 1974 during DeFore's appointment." Nordgren also recalled one of the former students, Doug McCoy, of being responsible for the radio station to move from Old Main to the Holden Fine Arts Center.

After 22 years, the original call letters WSSU were assigned to KUWS on Aug. 1, 1988. The radio station was now licensed through the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System as part of the station's affiliation with Wisconsin Public Radio. The reason for the letter "K" was because of the location. Since Superior is east of the Mississippi as a "mixed" market and has several K-prefix stations already licensed in Superior. John Munson also played a huge role in the radio station. Munson was part of student staff during the 1980s and decided to join the Communicating Arts faculty.

With nearly 30 years of working at KUWS, Munson retired in December 2016. Before Munson's retirement, he worked hard to push the renovations. Much of the renovations was completed in the year of 2017. Some areas where the renovation took place was in the recording studios and offices with



Two UWS Students DJ their show in Old Main

new furniture and top of the line technology.

Now taking Munson's place is Paul Damberg, the Regional Manager at 91.3 FM KUWS. Damberg said, "Being able to not only have the space to record, but teach students how to record, how to edit, how to produce, how to organize it together into a podcast is a skill that's much greater value than just learning how to spin music."

Currently, KUWS is a public radio station located on the third floor of the Holden Fine Arts Center on the UW-Superior campus. The radio station has gone through many changes over the years. But now KUWS is an affiliate of the Wisconsin Public Radio. Also, KUWS airs university and student-produced programming on 91.3 FM at 83,000 watts.

Even though the campus radio station has rotated through students, directors/managers, and call letters, one thing that will always stay the same is the hard-working students and staff to keep the radio station the best it can be with reporting the facts and having a neutral view point on topics to present for the local community.

A New Generation of Female Leaders

Justin Thompson

jthomp53@uwsuper.edu

Female students and athletes learned of career paths and leadership opportunities that are open to them by attending UW-Superior's Women In Leadership Symposium this Sunday at the Yellowjacket Union. Female speakers representing leadership on campus and the general community offered their secrets to success to students through panels, speeches, and general discussions.

All speakers and guests, however, had the same goal of showing female students that they can find success in whichever field they choose once they develop leadership skills. "This event allows female students to see where their major and education will lead them in the future," says Allison Degroot, the head women's soccer coach at UWS and one of the main organizers of the symposium.

Degroot also described how the symposium allows female students to meet women who are established in their careers and teach them lessons and skills on how to become a better leader.

The symposium began with a speech by outreach program manager and interdisciplinary studies professor Lisa Mattsson, who gave a long speech and slideshow on her own leadership experience and advice to the female students present. She also interacted with her audience through short writing exercises where students were asked to answer questions, such as "define leadership?" in a two-minute interval.

Just like the diverse group of students who were attending the symposium, the answers they gave to questions were also different and unique from each other.

Mattsson concluded her presentation with advice on things women should avoid in leadership positions after their undergraduate careers and questions they must ask themselves, such as "What do you want?" "What will you do with it?" "How does it affect my identity?" and "Whose needs are getting met?"

Small panel discussions also took place between female leaders specializing in careers, such as civic engagement, education, arts, and research science, and female students on the same career paths. Each leader in all the discussion panels had their own tips and advice to provide students regarding career leadership and opportunity.

Jenny Van Sickle, a city councilor for the second district of Superior, and member of the civic engagement panel states "Civil engagement involves moving people upwards." As an important advice tip for the civic engagement students listening, she also added "Just say 'yes,' (referring to opportunity) and figure it out later."

Another discussion panel that took place was for female students going into career fields relating to science, a job market in which women are still heavily underrepresented.

According to Rachel Portinga, one of the panel speakers who is also the senior lecturer of biology in UWS's natural sciences department, "science does need more female leaders in fields like physics and chemistry which are still male dominant," and "more female leaders in science allows younger women entering the field to be more safe and secure." When asked what advice she would give to female students, Portinga added "You can do it. Keep working."

Some of the students themselves also had their own ideas and advice on leadership that they would give to the next group of female college students who will come after them.

When asked about what advice they'd give, one student stated, "Get more of the voice in the male majority." Another student in the same group described how an individual can find an opportunity anywhere they are working. This same student also commented "you can grow in the specific aspect of what you're doing."

These students shared the same attitudes of the female leaders and guest speakers at the symposium- Women can become leaders and successful through continued hard work and persistence. By attending the Women In Leadership Symposium every year at UWS, current and future female students can see that more doors are opening for them every day.