Favorite Radio Format:
NPR

Favorite Artist:
Jamie Cullum

Favorite Song:
Blizzard of Lies – Dave Frishberg

Favorite Movie:
The Blues Brothers

Favorite TV Show:
The Daily Show

Favorite Book:
Lincoln on Leadership

Hobbies:
Bowling, movies, performing magic, playing piano, and keeping up with politics.

Alumni Profile
John Sturk

Where has life taken you since you left WSDP?

After graduating, I attended Michigan State University, where I earned degrees in Political Theory & Constitutional Democracy and Journalism. During my time, I was involved briefly at WDBM-FM, the MSU student station, but I spent most of my time interning in the State House of Representatives, State Senate, and later, U.S. House of Representatives. As much as I thought I was headed for a career in public service, while at MSU I had a chance encounter with the local chapter of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, and took up magic as a hobby. Little did I know that it would lead to a small business as a performer, then to a summer gig performing six shows per day in Mackinaw City in 2006. After that summer, I returned to Lansing, where I worked on Gov. Granholm's re-election campaign. Even though I worked full-time with the campaign, I still kept up performing magic on the side. In November 2007, I moved to Chicago to start a position at FUN Incorporated, America's largest magic manufacturer. We produce the finest fake vomit on the market today, along with hundreds of other magic apparatus. I wear many hats at the company, including sales and marketing, website maintenance, and especially illusion design and engineering. I also pen the company blog on www.funinc.com.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I'm often studying and practicing magic, and am involved with several magic organizations around Chicago. I still perform, but it takes about a year in a new market before I'm as busy as I'd like to be. I like to get out to the movies, and I take a few classes at The Second City.

What is your favorite memory of your time at the station?

The most amazing memory I had was when I received a last minute call to join the press corps when Dick Cheney had a campaign rally in Plymouth in late October 2000. I had to talk my mom into getting up at 6 am to drive me to Ypsilanti, to meet the press corps, then ride the press corps' bus with them to Plymouth. The campaign rally featured Cheney, Senator John McCain, Governor John Engler, and State Senator Joe Schwartz. I remember specifically it was the day of the MSU-UM game, so there were Michigan and Michigan State flags on the front of the campaign bus. I came very close to riding the candidate's bus to the next stop at Michigan Stadium, but the Secret Service wouldn't let me on!

Why was being involved at WSDP important for you?

WSDP taught me a great deal about performing and public speaking, lessons I know have contributed to my success as a professional magician. I also learned valuable leadership skills that have applied in my professional life. Most of all, it taught me to be involved and have pride in my community.

What advice would you give to our current students?

- Never shy away from a tough job.
- Don't give up too soon. Hard work does pay off, sooner or later.

Time management is an essential skill. Learning how to manage your time early in life will help in your college career and beyond.

John Sturk with Rob Miller and Congressman Thaddeus McCotter

WSDP Auction

The 21st 88.1FM Radio Auction is Saturday May 16, 2009 from 9am to 10pm.

This annual tradition helped the station raise nearly $9,000 last year. Don't miss your chance to bid on items donated by businesses from throughout the community. New items are auctioned off every half-hour. We are also setting aside a special Dream Board of the most unique items that will be available for bidding all day long. We are also stockpiling a collection of autographed CD's from artists like James Taylor, Brian Wilson, Amos Lee and Dar Williams. These CD's along with CD's from other artists will be part of the auction.

All of the proceeds benefit 88.1FM, the student radio station at Canton, Plymouth and Salem High Schools.

People from all over the world can listen to the auction through our website, www.881TheEscape. If you can help us with an item for the auction, or would like to make a donation call Bill Keith at 734-416-7732.

WSDP Points of Pride

Congratulations to Greg Angel (Salem 2003). Greg is a reporter for WPBN TV 7 and 4 in Traverse City. Greg anchored his first newscast on Christmas Day. Bill Keith, WSDP Station Manager, was in Petoskey for the holidays and he was able to see Greg anchor the cast. "Greg did a great job. His hard work is evident and he is a source of pride for Salem High School."

WSDP Assistant Manager, John Bommarito, is also the evening on-air host for Ann Arbor's 107one. You can hear John Monday through Friday as well as Sunday mornings during the Acoustic Brunch.

Congratulations to WSDP Engineer Rick Grzebik and his fiancée Dottie on their Christmas 08 engagement.