

## **John B Ellery**

1978

John B. Ellery, who enjoyed a varied and colorful career, became acting chancellor of UWSP in 1978. He replaced Lee Sherman Dreyfus who launched a successful campaign to become governor of Wisconsin.

Ellery came to UWSP in 1968 and was appointed vice chancellor in 1974. He also served as a member of the communication faculty and the first dean of the College of Natural Resources when it was organized in 1970.

A recognized expert and author on the life and work of British philosopher John Stewart Mill, Ellery served on the state board and as president of the Central Wisconsin-Managua Committee of the Partners of the Americas. Before coming to UWSP, he served as head of the English department and acting dean at Njala University College in Sierra Leone and as a language specialist for the West African Examinations Council. He also held positions at East Tennessee State University, Wayne State University, University of Montevallo and University of Iowa.

Ellery held a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College, master's degree from the University of Colorado and a Ph.D. from UW-Madison. In 1973 he was elected to membership in the Royal African Society and he held awards for achievements in English, Latin, Greek, as a competitor in boxing, baseball, marksmanship, and as a rodeo competitor and motorcyclist. He was highly decorated for heroism during World War II.

Ellery retired from UWSP in 1980 when he delivered a controversial commencement address criticizing UW-System. Following his retirement, he also served as head of the Wisconsin Veterans Administration. He died in 2001.