

UW-Superior Cheer and Dance Club: What's in it for you?

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After a disappointing cut as a team in spring 2017 from the athletic program at UW-Superior, the UWS Cheer and Dance Club was reinstated with the help of faculty and initiative from Melissa Biszak, current coach for the 2017-2018 season. Biszak has been a member of the team for the previous four years, celebrating and looking back on her senior year.

She started out as a member of the team her freshman and sophomore year and became the captain of the team in 2016 for her junior year. After the cut, Biszak had to recreate the program from the ground up, creating policies and procedures, handling day to day operations, and become certified to run practices, games, and campus events.

She's been an avid dancer and cheerleader since she was 7 years old and looks back on her years as being "exciting, beneficial, and ecstatic," mostly ecstatic to graduate! With a strong passion for the club, Biszak would love to put on a school wide pep rally to celebrate the school and its athletics together and to promote the opportunities students are given.

"The school could help by trying to create a more engaging and exciting student life and culture around campus to get students more excited about school events," she said after being asked about how the community and school could support their club a little more.

They put in a lot of work as a team with practices 3 times a week and attending both women's and men's basketball and hockey games. Biszak's final season event took place this last Saturday as women's basketball got their third straight UMAC Championship. The team will continue to do conditioning for the following season but

campus events have been put on hold until the fall 2018 season. Biszak loves the sport and hopes to see her fellow team-members achieve success in their following years. One of her members, Jordan Stish, a freshman, will take on the lead as captain for the 2018-2019 season.

Stish was a cheerleader throughout high school and was intrigued and interested in the club that Biszak created after visiting her table at a club recruitment fair on campus in early September.

She's very community oriented, wanting to put on a cheer camp at the local elementary schools "for students interested in cheer or dance." Stish took on the challenge of learning the UWS dance routines with little to no dance background to begin with.

The most rewarding thing she has accomplished was learning dance techniques and seeing her improvement over the course of the season, "I am extremely proud that the team was so involved at games and it was really rewarding to have the public happy to see us at different sporting events," said Stish.

As the new captain, Stish would like to earn the opportunity to travel to away games during the playoff seasons and to perfect their stunting techniques in order to attend and compete in cheerleading competitions.

Finally, she would like to grow the program and give it depth by recruiting new members and building a strong team for the seasons to come. Both Biszak and Stish are passionate members of the club and have nothing but good, rewarding things to say. Join their team today for a better campus, student experience at UW-Superior.

African Students Association

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Each academic year, a small number of new student organizations are formed to help foster in the diversity of the University of Wisconsin-Superior campus. One of these newly formed student orgs for the 2017-18 academic year is the African Students Association or ASA. ASA was formed as a platform to bring not only students from African nations together on campus, but all students to help break the stereotype that all countries in Africa are the same.

"We started ASA this fall to create a welcoming environment for students from African born nations to come together," said Adar Buxton, President of ASA. "Since this is our first year, only a few students on campus are aware that we exist. We did not have any campus events, but did perform at Cultural night last month. Next year we plan on doing more campus events, including a collaboration with the Black Student Union to help the campus become more informed about the countries that make up Africa."

"During our meetings, we share information about the different countries we are from to help build better relationships with our fellow students," said Akua Asiedu. ASA is open for anyone to join, as we would like to help educate students who are not from Africa that each country is different from one another. A way in which we do that is sharing 101 facts on an African nation at the end of each meeting, and we are sometimes surprised by the facts from each country shared."

Along with the sharing of information of the different countries that make up Africa, the

members of ASA open up each meeting with their names, majors, and anything they'd like to share about themselves, which usually is featured as a unique talent. For those who are first time attendees to ASA meetings, they are required to do a dance for the other members in the center of the room. The song choice is picked by the members of ASA, and is a clever way to spotlight the newer members attending ASA meetings.

After having a quiet first year on campus, the members of the African Student Association are looking forward to what they have in store for next year. They have already contacted a similar organization at University of Minnesota Duluth for scheduling joint events.

They are hoping to have at least one open campus cooking session to educate students about the Battle of Jollof between Ghana and Nigeria. Jollof is a rice dish that is commonly made in both nations, cooked different ways, and people from both countries often argue about who is the more superior at cooking jollof.

The African Student Association is one of the many student organizations at UWS that help establish to the community how diverse the campus is. ASA is also a good place for students to come together, have good conversation, and learn about the awesome cultural differences that make each African nation unique. ASA meets every other Friday at 4 pm in YU room 201. For more information, contact Adar Buxton, or any other member of ASA to learn more about becoming a member of ASA.

UW-Superior professor awarded Wi-Sys grant

UWS Marketing and Communications

University of Wisconsin-Superior professor Dr. Serguei Bezroukov has been awarded a grant from the WiSys 2018-19 Applied Research-WiSys Technology Advancement Grant program in the amount of \$10,217, for a project that he is working on to address an identified need by teachers within a local school district.

"In every school there are 'problematic' situations that can challenge the staff," said Bezroukov. "These can include behavior problems, health issues, and security concerns that threaten both students and teachers. At times, teachers may need external help to address these situations."

The goal of Bezroukov's project is to help schools adopt new technology that is easy to operate, lightweight and more affordable than the existing commercial products available.

"Even if schools employ security officers that carry portable radios, it can be highly inconvenient to use the radios, which are bulky and heavy to carry, and require frequent battery charges," said Bezroukov. "Additionally, teachers are not likely to have access to them, and they can be 'overkill' in cases where a simple call for help to a particular place is needed."

The wireless school security devices Bezroukov is working on will be convenient to carry, lightweight, and able to generate various alarm signals depending on location of the incident. The strength of the signal will also be kept at a minimum to stay within the building.

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Pinnow named Midwestern Psychological Association Fellow

UWS Marketing and Communications

Dr. Eleni Pinnow, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, was recently elected to be a Fellow in the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA).

"This is a hugely validating and affirming honor," said Pinnow. "Often, when you work in academia, you rarely get feedback from peers outside your home institution, so to be honored like this in a public and formal way feels like a great accomplishment."

Pinnow is the Behavioral Neuroscience Program Coordinator at UW-Superior, as well as Senior Year Experience Coordinator. Her achievements include five publications, three book chapters, and more than 40 scholarly presentations to MPA and other professional associations.

"I am most proud of being a faculty mentor for student researchers," she said. "My role as mentor and researcher at UW-Superior is central to my ability to earn this honor. Through the opportunities to mentor student research, conduct my own research, collaborate with colleagues, and advise student organizations, I was able to meet the criteria for Fellow."