

Greg Polkowski Named Men's Basketball Coach

Yellowjacket Athletics

SUPERIOR, Wis. (April 6, 2018) - The University of Wisconsin-Superior and Yellowjacket Athletics have announced they've completed a national search and Greg Polkowski has been named head men's basketball coach.

Polkowski took over the head coaching reins of the Yellowjackets when Paul Eberhardt resigned in October. In his first year leading the program Polkowski and the Yellowjackets finished the season just outside a U.M.A.C. playoff spot.

"Greg brings passion to everything he does, and it was clear from our first conversation that he was very passionate about the men's basketball program at UW-Superior," said UW-Superior Athletics Director Nick Bursik. "His team definitely took on his personality and as the year went on they improved

every game. I look forward to seeing the team continue to develop under Greg's leadership."

Polkowski came to the Yellowjackets following a two-year stint as an assistant coach at UW-Eau Claire. Prior to that he was the head boy's basketball coach and a physical education instructor at Waukesha North (Wis.) High School. Polkowski, who played collegiately for the Yellowjackets from 2004 until 2008 began his coaching career as an assistant at UW-Superior during the 2008-09 season. He followed Head Coach Dave Buchanan to Carroll University where he served as an assistant coach for two years.

"I want to thank the search committee, Chancellor Renee Wachter, Athletics Director Nick Bursik, Director of Enrollment Management Brenda Harms and everyone

who had a hand in making this a reality. It's a dream of mine to have the chance to lead the Yellowjacket men's basketball program," Polkowski said. "I'm excited to continue the work and build on the progress that has been made since I started here. The future is bright for the program. The players and coaches are excited to get back to work to achieve the goals we have already set.

"UW-Superior holds a very special place in my heart and my family and I are excited to be back here permanently where we can become a bigger part of the community."

A native of Goodman, Wisconsin, Polkowski graduated from UW-Superior with a bachelor of science degree in physical education and added a master's degree in education from Carroll University.

Dr. Cheong Soon Gan

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Dr. Cheong Soon Gan, a history professor at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, has had a colorful and wonderful experience for his education and career.

Originally from Malaysia, Dr. Gan speaks Cantonese, Minnanese (Min Chinese), Malay, and English, which is all beneficial for his life in the United States.

He has moved from several places until he settled in Superior, including Malaysia, Singapore, San Francisco Bay Area, Schenectady (in New York), and Madison.

Before he came to U.S., he was working as a journalist for a newspaper in Singapore; then, he quit his job since his fiancée (now his wife) who was also his colleague at that time got accepted by a company in the United States, and they went to San Francisco together.

From that point, he realized that his life would be changed, and his career would go into education or academic field rather than reporter. After being in California, he started to study at the University of California – Berkeley.

Different from some of international students, Dr. Gan's experience of studying at the University of California – Berkeley was quite good. In such a big city and big state, there are a lot of people and there is cultural diversity in Berkeley, California.

Therefore, it looks very international and it welcomes all people in the world. Not only for Dr. Gan but also for almost everyone who likes to make friends, it is definitely a good and welcoming environment.

"Actually there is no such a big difficulty for me to study in U.S." Dr. Gan said. In his opinion, the biggest problem for almost every international student is language – the better language skills they have, the more able they are to adapt to new environment.

Fortunately, living in Malaysia which was colonized by Britain before, Malay people widely speak English and they have to learn it from the first day of school not only for a subject but also for their lives. Consequently, as a person who grew up in Malaysia, Dr. Gan already got enough English skills before he came to U.S. The only one difficulty he needed to overcome was different cultures in a different country.

In California, Dr. Gan got his Ph. D. for history degree. He usually studied with his friendly and supportive classmates and he got a happy study environment.

Dr. Gan has been a professor for about 6 years, and he has been in UWS for 4 years. He said, "The job here is interesting, but the more appealing reason for me to come here is its meaning."

As most people know, UW-Superior is a small university which is more likely to

serve people around it, and most students here are not from rich family, which is different from those of the universities in big cities. Thus, good education is more able to make big differences in their lives, and he would love to participate this process.

He has been always interested in history since he was young. He wanted to know about how people lived and what happened in the past. However, for his history class, he wants his students to understand the history but not to remember everything.

For him, memorizing everything of history is useless. For his history class, there is no exam but essays. Students could just choose what they interest in and do more research for it.

He just hopes that students can figure out the historical attractive events for themselves, and they can compare the recent life with the life in the past which was created or changed by ancestors.

Once they find one thing which is interesting and meaningful for them, they will remember it automatically.

For the future, he does not plan to adventure new places and just stay in Superior for his family. His children like here, and their schools are good. As long as his kids are happy, he is happy as a parent.

The Science of Success

UWS Marketing and Communications

Two UW-Superior students find success as co-presidents of Science Fest and beyond Science Fest has grown to be the largest student-organized event at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, attracting between 1,000-2,000 people each year. While many people are involved in making the event happen, two students have been at the helm for the past three years.

Senior biology majors Jessica Buelow and Samantha Wells got involved with Science Fest when they joined the Students of Science Club as freshmen. One year later, they found themselves 'in charge' as co-presidents of the event.

Science Fest 2018

This year, Mother Nature threatened to damper attendance, but 1,200 people braved the snow to attend the must-see event featur-

ing 35 student-run science exhibits and 18 community-sponsored displays.

"It's so satisfying to see how much fun the kids and families have," said Buelow.

This year's featured presenter was "Mad Science," transforming laboratory science into an interactive and entertaining show for kids. Other highlights included an interactive display by the Superior Police and Fire Departments, shark dissection, chemistry shows, baby goats and zoo animals, bee-keeping exhibits, insects and aquatic invertebrates, 'breathing cockroaches,' anatomy and physiology displays, robotics demonstrations, and much more.

"One of my favorite memories from the event was when one of the kids coming out of the Mad Science show threw his arms up in the air, did a little skip, and exclaimed,

"That was awesome," said Buelow. "That's exactly our goal for this event — to excite and inspire kids about science."

With all the media attention of the event, Buelow and Wells have gotten somewhat used to being in the limelight. This year, the two did an experiment involving sound waves live on Good Morning Northland to promote the event and were interviewed by a number of media outlets.

Academic stand outs

Science Fest isn't the only place Buelow and Wells have excelled. Their academic achievements at UW-Superior have garnered attention, as well. Both received a Swenson Family Scholarship, a prestigious award made possible by the generosity of Jim and Sue Swenson, which covers the cost of tuition and books.

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