

# CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

## MCS Competition Returns

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After a two-year break, the UW-Superior Math and Computer Science Club (MCS) brought back their annual Programming Competition. The competition had been an annual event since 2009.

The competition took place on April 20, 2024 from 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Swenson Hall 3011.

Students had the chance to show off their programming knowledge and problem-solving skills by tackling challenging algorithmic, mathematical, or coding problems.

Participants could compete alone or on a two-person team. Dr. Steven Rosenberg, faculty advisor for the MCS explained, “There will be a short list of problems to solve within a 3-hour time window. There is only one round.”

Problems were worth 1, 2, or 3 points. Participants will earned points based on how accurate their solution to a coding problem is. Submitted problems that fail the test case will incur a 20-minute time penalty.

When sharing how scoring works, Dr. Rosenberg said, “Participants can submit any number of attempts for a given problem. Each submitted problem is automatically graded against a pre-



Jinah Yoo and Edomiyas Ameron hold up their awards for winning Division 1 in their Programming Competition. Photo courtesy of UW-Superior

pared set of test cases. To score on a problem, all test cases must pass; that is, the program output must match the expected output exactly.”

The problems require creative thinking to solve, with little outside help. Dr. Rosenberg shared that those competing are only allowed to use the official Java documentation that is provided in the lab. There will be no internet access or other resources allowed.

The competition is a great opportunity to gain valuable experience, and provided a social atmosphere with a chance to network after. The contest was followed by pizza and social time to share solutions.

Mikaela Matias, president of the MCS, acknowledges that the computer science courses at UWS are more theoretical than hands on, but shared that the competition give students opportunities to show off their skill.

“Through the programming competition, students are able to apply what they learned in class and get tested on it in a fun competitive way,” said Matias.

Any UWS student was allowed to compete, as long as they have experience with Java or have taken CSCI 201 (Introduction to Programming).

To keep things fair there were two divisions based on skill level. Matias stated, “Those who took CSCI 201 will have foundational knowledge on Java which can help with problems. Those who have taken CSCI 303 will be in a different division since they have a higher advantage.”

A total of 16 students competed across 11 teams. The Division 1 competition was won by Jinah Yoo and Edomiyas Asmerom. The Division 2 competition was won by Junior Smith and Ricky Matlock.

## COMMENTARY | Jen Shuster-Dahlin

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With my graduation fast approaching, I have taken time to think about the past two years and my experience at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

I have spent my entire undergraduate career as a distance learner and only recently visited the UWS campus for the first time, although I only live about two hours away. I was very impressed by the campus: it is attractive, welcoming, clean, charming, and feels very similar to the small and cozy community college campuses that I am used to.

While I have enjoyed the convenience of distance learning and studying on my own time, I miss the campus experience and wish I could have attended classes in person. I often felt like I was miss-

ing out when I learned about events hosted by the Yellowjacket Events Crew, plays presented by the Theatre Department, and the various student organizations available to join.

Additionally, I have found distance learning to be a more challenging endeavor compared to earning my Associate’s degree in person on a small campus. In particular, classes like Spanish and Experiential Learning in Multimedia Journalism, or COMM 403, were challenging as an online student.

Learning a foreign language is ambitious enough as an adult but learning it online while taking multiple courses at once makes it exponentially more difficult. COMM 403 requires students to find leads, interview people, and write articles for The

Promethean, and Multimedia Journalism majors and minors need 135 credit hours to graduate.

Completing 135 credit hours as an online student when you can’t be physically there to take photos at events or help with the newspaper layout has been trying. Online learners don’t have the same opportunities to see posters about upcoming events or hear talk of campus news that in-person students do.

However, my work with The Promethean has been rewarding and provided me with practical experience in journalism. I was able to practice my interviewing, copyediting, and social media management skills, and I am grateful I could take this class.

Learning in a 100% online format was not for me. I have realized

# GOLD RUSH

WE'RE CELEBRATING GRADS WITH A FREE PARTY!

THURSDAY, MAY 16  
6-8 PM  
SUPERIOR TAVERN

*Food • Drinks • Fun*

Photo provided by Alumni Association

## Celebrate Graduating Students With Jacket GOLD

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Are you a senior or recent graduate at University of Wisconsin-Superior? Did you know that there is an organization at UWS that puts on events for seniors and alumni that graduated in the last ten years?

Jacket GOLD is a part of the Alumni Association that focuses on connecting and supporting recent graduates.

According to the Jacket GOLD webpage, GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) members can, “attend events, volunteer and expand their career and personal network.” They plan events to engage with other alumni and offer support for graduates seeking personal and professional development.

Director of Alumni Relations Heather Thompson said that Jacket GOLD started in 2019, a few years after a Young Alumni Chapter had been created and wanted to increase alumni involvement.

Most events are held locally in Superior, but Thompson said that they are actively looking for more ways to include distance learners. If you have any ideas for remote or hybrid events/activities, reach out to the Alumni Association. Jacket GOLD hosts two larger events each year, the GOLD Rush party and the Jacket Jingle.

Both events are focused around celebrating the graduating class. The GOLD Rush party is held in May, and the Jacket Jingle is in December. Thompson said the first GOLD Rush party was held in 2019. After a break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, events started again in December 2021.

This spring’s GOLD Rush is being held on May 16 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Superior Tavern. Seniors and recent alumni are encouraged to come for food, drinks, games, and giveaways. Attendees are permitted to bring a plus one.

that I absorb information best through demonstration and repetition, not through reading material on my own. While some students groan at the thought of long lectures, I actually prefer them, as I can hear the professor’s take on the course material and take lots of notes.

To help mitigate the difficulties I have faced with distance learning have been many helpful professors and other staff members at UWS, which has been my favorite experience at this college. Many of my professors and advisors have been there to answer my sometimes excessive emails and meet me for a Zoom call when I was struggling.



Jen Shuster-Dahlin  
Photo provided by Jen Shuster-Dahlin

UWS is staffed with friendly and helpful professionals who genuinely want to see their students succeed. In particular, I have been impressed by and want to thank Tom Hansen, Meg Muthupandiyan, Brent Notbohm, Emily Moran, Toni Kramer, Jayson Iwen, Julie Gard, and Tom Notton. I appreciate everyone who has helped me along my educational journey, and congratulations to my fellow class of 2024 graduates.