

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

Aadizookaan “Winter Storytelling”

Jennifer Cadotte

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Snow is on the ground which means it is storytelling season for the Ojibwe people. Ojibwe people have inhabited the Lake Superior region dating back to prehistoric times.

Today, there are 11 Ojibwe tribes that inhabit the Lake Superior region in

how the world they live in was created. Ojibwe people were migrants who traveled the land and set up camps where resources were available to sustain their people. Migrations stories share instructions from the Creator to find where food grows on the water. This is how the

stetter, “this event to is open to all regardless of background. Our purpose is to foster a sense of belonging.”

Laughing Fox is a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians who is a renowned storyteller, poet, and flute player. He has traveled the world sharing his talents and stories to educate people about the history and culture of the Ojibwe people.

As a self-taught flute player, he has a unique ability to infuse the art of flute music into the stories he shares. Laughing Fox explained, “the medicine of the flute transcends cultural barriers.”

Laughing Fox shared many stories this evening. Stories included how man and wolf first met and a timeline covering the history of the Ojibwe people. He also shared how his grandmother taught him how to be patient, not to look for knowledge before being ready, and how to sit down and listen. He went on to explain how he learned to play the flute by sitting in the woods and listening to the sounds of the animals and nature. His stories carried messages of morals and values important to the Ojibwe people.

Laughing Fox closed his presentation with a travel song performed by Troy and William Howes, descendants of the Fond du Lac tribe. He explained the travelling song is sung in Ojibwe communities to pray for safe travels of those who will be traveling a great distance to reach their homes.

For more information contact the Department of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at (715) 394-8015 or email at edi@uwsuper.edu

Ojibwe came to settle in the Lake Superior area when they found wild rice growing on the lakes of the area. They set up their camps and wild rice became one of their main staples of sustenance. The Ojibwe tribes share many stories in common, but each have unique stories of their own based on the areas they reside.

On Feb. 20, the University of Wisconsin-Superior Indigenous Cultures Resource Center and the Department of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion hosted an Ojibwe Storytelling Night featuring Michael “Laughing Fox” Charette in the Yellowjacket Union Atrium. According to Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Salisa Hoch-



Photo of Laughing Fox performing for Ojibwe Storytelling Night.
Photo by Jennifer Cadotte | The Promethean

Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Each tribe shares traditional stories depicting the migration of Ojibwe people and the creation of the world they inhabit. Aadizookaan in the Ojibwe language translates into winter storytelling. Many Ojibwe elders tell us that when snow covers the ground and certain animals are sleeping is the time for traditional stories to be told.

The Ojibwe people have passed down traditional stories from generation to generation. Elders were often the story tellers and shared stories with the younger generations to instill morals, values, wisdom, connections to nature and animals, and to explain

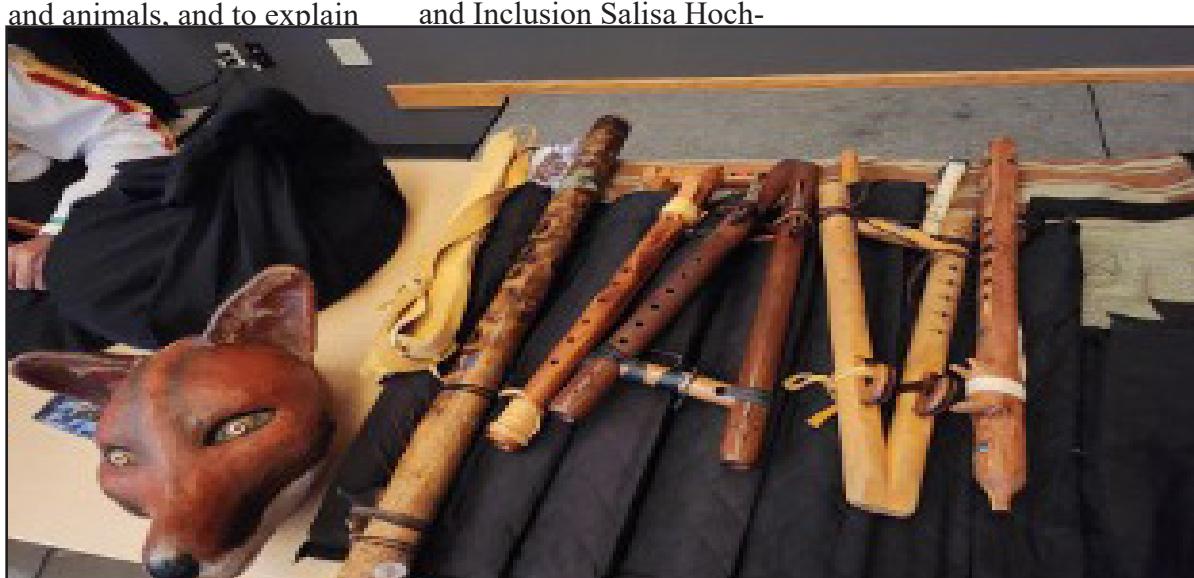


Photo of Laughing Fox's flutes and mask used during the storytelling.
Photo by Jennifer Cadotte | The Promethean

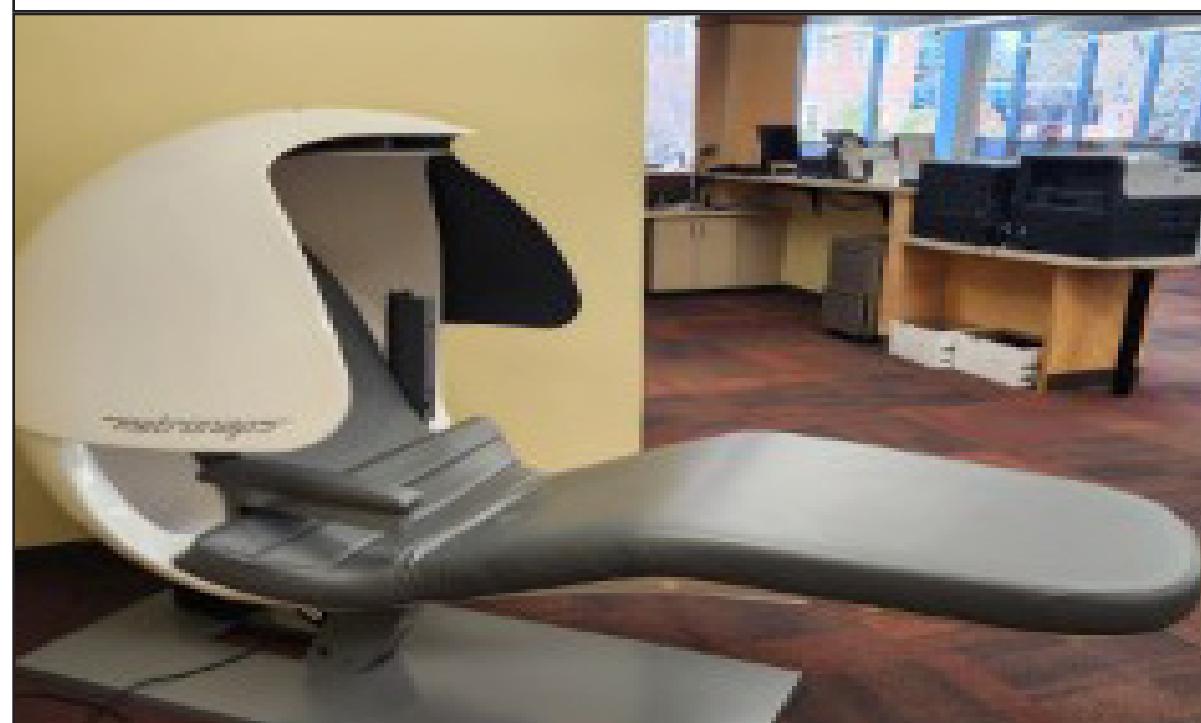


Photo of the Nap Pods located in the Jim Dan Hill Library.
Photo by Jennifer Cadotte | The Promethean



Photo of the VNSC office located in Old Main 118
Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean

Social Synergy: Building Connections at VNSC

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The University of Wisconsin-Superior hosts many social events throughout the year, including the Veterans and Nontraditional Students Center Social. This event was held on Friday, Feb 7, in the Pope Center of Old Main. The social represented an opportunity to meet all of the VNSC staff, who strive to help and better the experience at VNSC, along with meeting other nontraditional students alike.

Everyone was welcome to attend the event, whether a part of the VNSC or not. Jade Jensen, circulation manager and front desk worker in the Jim Dan Hill Library, stopped by the social. Jensen said, “Gabriel is the director over there right now. So, we’ve partnered on a few things, and it’s always great to be able to support your coworker in cross-departments. And then even have the opportunity to recommend library services to people if it comes up.”

Another attendee was Isabel Miller, a student worker for the VNSC. Miller said, “I am a worker there, and we were trying to help out and promote it and get some more representation for the EDI (equality, diversity, and inclusion) out there and have fun with the workers and the people who use the area.”

The event featured different snacks and fun games like Apples to Apples

or Jenga. Not only does a social provide free-bee food and game fun, but it also provides a type of pressure-free environment. Jensen said, “I feel like the importance of a social allows students and staff to meet people in a kind of no pressure like area, like sometimes attending events can be nerve-wracking, especially if you don’t know anyone that’s going to be there. So, even if the idea is like, I’m going to just stop by for five minutes and snake a free sandwich. I think it’s a great way to even if you don’t know someone by name... easy way of getting connections.”

The VNSC social at UW-Superior served as a valuable platform for fostering connections among students and staff. With positive feedback from participants like Jensen and Miller, it is clear that such gatherings not only promote community but also enhance the overall experience for veterans and nontraditional students.

Events like these are essential for building a supportive network and exemplifying the university’s commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion. The VNSC is open every weekday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. One can email them at vnscc@uwsuper.edu or give them a jingle at 715-394-8406.

Therapy Animals at JDHL

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Fury friends on campus. On Thurs. Feb. 20, the Jim Dan Hill Library (JDHL) partnered with Pat Castellanos to bring therapy certified animals to campus for students and staff.

This collaboration began in 2018 with a recommendation from Dr. Alison Wielgus, communicating arts associate professor at University of Wisconsin-Superior who referred the organization Animal Allies, who works with therapy animals. According to Stephanie Waren, library associate director, “the library supports a culture of care. This event is one of the activities offered to support that initiative.”

Over the years, the JDHL has hosted therapy animals such as dogs, hedgehogs, and even recently a polydactyl cat named Polly, who is often found hanging out in the Family Study Room on therapy animal

days. The therapy animals are brought to campus twice each semester and can be found in the Mindfulness and Well-Being section of the JDHL. This event is estimated to host an average of 50-70 participants and is part of the library’s self-care commitment to the UWS campus.

Other activities hosted in the library include yoga, study halls, student organization meetings, book clubs, family activities, and a nap pod. Upcoming spring 2025 events include Get Stuff Done, One Book Northland Book Club, and De-Stress Week.

The JDHL is located at 907 N 19th Street on the UW-Superior campus. For more information call: (715) 394-8343, email: askref@uwsuper.edu, or visit their website at www.library.uwsuper.edu.