

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



From left to right : Sara Vindel, Ava Bersie, Xavier Walt, and Seth Gudmunsen
Photo by Sky (Sama) Abdulayeva | The Promethean

Give the Arts a Chance : Opera and Theater Commentary

Xavier Walt
xwalt@uwsuper.edu

Over the last few weeks, I have found myself wrapping up my acting/singing career at UW-Superior, as graduation grows closer each day. When I came to this school in the fall of 2023 as a transfer student, with associates degree already in hand, I was completely committed to a streamlined education, ready to focus entirely on my career in journalism. On a whim, and at the recommendation of a dear friend in Scott Minor Smith, I made the mistake of auditioning for the school's production of *She Kills Monsters*.

I will make lots of mistakes in my life, that I'm content with. That will go

down as potentially the best mistake I have ever made.

Through these whirlwind two years, I have become so enveloped by the arts in ways I could never have imagined. From playing a loincloth-wearing barbarian as Miles the Barbarian, to the most musical and charismatic dork in the galaxy in Ricky Potts, to this final role, a rather questionable judge, I have found myself immersed in theater and music so wholly that I fear I may never shake it from my bones.

The preparation for these shows, especially for these most recent operas, were long and frustrating at times to be sure, but

it is my promise to you that, if you were to ever consider the arts, you will find that your world has become bigger than you can ever imagine.

I will never forget my grandfather, a railroader from Illinois who moved to the Twin Ports in the 90s, coming up to me after a performance of *Ride The Cyclone* on campus and saying, "Thank you for introducing us to all of this."

So go to that audition. Go to that free student concert. Find something new, and I promise you that you'll find our little slice of Superior is so much bigger than you ever expected.

UW-Superior's Master of Jazz Retires

Xavier Walt
xwalt@uwsuper.edu

In the coming weeks, UW-Superior is destined to become a lot less groovy.

Greg Kehl Moore, the longest tenured professor of music at the college, will be retiring at the end of this semester, leaving behind him an indelible legacy of education and jazz at the school. At the school, Moore has made it his mission to coach up students at all levels of music, from those with years of experience to the ones just starting their musical journeys.

"The music education programs in the region have been weakened over the years through lack of funding and other factors," said Moore. "And so a lot of music students come into this department with less background and training than would normally be the case in other parts of the country."

A department of educators which Moore will continue to praise at any given opportunity. "We have a truly outstanding music faculty here," said Moore. "I think that the quality of the faculty here is super important and I think that also the type of student that we get here is important too."

This a typical response from Moore, who has been a champion for his students' success both at the college and out in the world post-graduation.

"If you can build a musician, you've given them something that nobody can ever take away, that's there for life," Moore insisted. He would also admit that his favorite aspect of being an instructor is watching those students committed to learning flourish under the tutelage of himself and his peers.

When asked for a piece of parting advice that he wished all future music students could hear, Moore offered up one final piece of wisdom for those joining the department in coming semesters.

"Don't give up. Don't get hung up on comparing yourself to somebody else. Don't give up," said Moore.



Photo of Greg Kehl Moore conducting the Jazz Band at the Valentine Swing Dance.

Photo by Sky (Sama) Abdulayeva | The Promethean

Here : New Work from Evaline Britton

Maddie Schaffer
mschaff2@uwsuper.edu

On April 1 to May 16, the University of Wisconsin Superior Experimental Gallery will be showcasing the work of Evaline Britton, a 2024 UWS visual Arts alumna currently enrolled in post-secondary program at Dartmouth.

The exhibit will showcase Britton's dedication to ceramics. While at UWS, she majored in Visual Arts and specialized in working with ceramics. Britton discussed in a KUWS podcast with Annie Dugan, Curator II in the Visual Arts Department, that she had taken ceramics classes in high school and loved working with clay.

"I liked working on the wheel and loved the feeling of clay, it was something really magical." Britton took multiple studio classes at UWS and eventually started taking ceramics classes and later was offered a position to work as a studio assistant for Michael Maguire, professor and department chair of the visual arts department.

"I've been drawn to ceramics for the idea that you can build it, or you can sculpt it, but it's also this thing that we use every single day of our lives, like we're eating out of cereal bowls, we're drinking out of cups, so we're touching it and we're interacting with it," said Britton.

"I've always been enamored by that, and so ceramics has always felt like this happy medium of like, yeah you can interact with it and have this connection with it beyond it just sitting on the pedestal." Britton shares that she is continuing to exploring different firing processes and the surface designs of her pieces by integrating images on them that reaches a wide audience.

The celebration for the exhibition will be hosted on May 1 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Experimental Gallery in the Holdren Fine and Applied Arts Building. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Ceramic pieces and other clay materials created by Evaline Britton in the display window in the Experimental Gallery

Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean



Photo of ceramics made by Evaline Britton located in the Experimental Gallery in the Holden Fine Arts building.

Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean



More ceramic work created by Evaline Britton located in the Experimental Gallery

Photo by Maddie Schaffer | The Promethean