

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

The Year of the Fitz in Superior



“The Seamen’s Memorial Statue”
Barker’s Island, Superior, Wis.
Dedicated in 1979. Inspired by the sinking
of the Edmund Fitzgerald. Oct. 1, 2025.
Photo by Elle Evenson | The Promethean

Elle Evenson
eevenson@uwsuper.edu

Commemorating the names of each Mariner lost in the Edmund Fitzgerald shipwreck, Superior will welcome a Barker’s Island marker for the historical 2025 anniversary. On New Year’s Day, Mayor Jim Paine rang in the new year by declaring this year, “The Year of the Fitz.” During this half-century anniversary, the Superior community is taking to honor the freighter and lost crew of 29.

Full of taco-nite and en route to Detroit, the ship departed on Nov. 9 from Superior. The day after the crew departed near Allouez Bay, a storm hit Lake Superior. With winds

from the Northwest and waves over 20 feet, the ship washed through Canadian waters. Suddenly, the SS Edmund Fitzgerald tragically sunk without so much as a distress call.

Superior group “Friends of the Fitz” is at the core of the Year of the Fitz. Anniversaries are no small matter, prompting the group’s dedication to erect a commemorative marker on Barker’s Island. The group of four began with historian and retired Superior librarian, Teddie Meronek, and Richard I. Bong Museum Director of Collections and Exhibits, Briana Fiantd. “Teddie stopped into the museum... historical markers came up. Quite literally, at the same time, we both

said ‘the Edmund Fitzgerald’. It had been in the back of our minds for quite a while, but that lit a fire that we needed to act” said Fiantd.

Teddie Meronek, UWS grad and Friend of the Fitz said, “If you were living in Superior in Nov. of 1975, you certainly remember the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald and the sadness of the entire town when we all finally realized that there was no hope for that ship and its crew”.

The plaque will soon become another marker in addition to the 12 Wisconsin historical markers in Douglas County. Join the community in memorializing this important anniversary; hosted by the Friends of the Fitz, an unveiling ceremony will be held Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.

Yet, the story doesn’t end in the Lake Superior region. Across the world, the memory of the SS

Edmund Fitzgerald is passed on by Gordon Lightfoot’s 1976 song, “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.” The Friends of the Fitz have teamed up with Whispers of the North to present: “The Gordon Lightfoot Tribute” in honor of the Edmund Fitzgerald’s final port call. Tickets are available for the folk concert at Harrington Arts Center in the A World of Accordions Museum.

Career and Civic Readiness Week at UWS

Emily Tews
etews1@uwsuper.edu

Over the week of Sept. 15, Jackets Vote, a part of the University of Wisconsin-Superior’s Link Center, put on its annual fall Career and Civic Readiness Week, hosting a combination of events for students, staff, and community members.

From Monday’s Braver Angels Policy and Race workshop, a civil discourse workshop. Tuesday’s All Things Internships is a stop-in event at the Link Center, focusing on the Career readiness aspect of the week. Wednesday is celebrating National Voter Registration Day and Constitution Day, with a pop-up Constitution event at the Jim Dan Hill Library and a pop-up library in Swenson Hall, to celebrate both civic holidays. Thursday, celebrating and connecting with students tabling at Jacketfest, along with a Bridging the Divide workshop in the evening, part of a series of talks designed to help students build skills to be more civically engaged.

Jackets Vote is there to help students with all kinds of resources for political and civic engagement. Katelyn Bauman, the Outreach Program Manager and Link Center Chair, shares that they provide resources for all things voter related, “how to vote, where to vote, what to bring, how to get registered if you want to vote early, how to do that if you want to vote absentee, what kind of resources to read so you feel prepared, what ID’s you need to go to the polling places, what are the polling places” Bauman reassures that, “we just really want to make sure students vote, however they choose to vote.”

Through the Link Center, Jackets Vote

events are run by two student interns, Isabella Lyste and Tara Khazae, a senior and a freshman student at UW-Superior, respectively, who are always available to connect with students about resources related to Jackets Vote’s main mission. Both were also excited to share about the large amount of student engagement they had during Career and Civic Engagement Week. Lyste shared that they were able to reach out and work with about one hundred and fifty people. From students and faculty to community members, the numbers are showing great growth for the start of the year.

Both interns shared the enjoyment they get from working with fellow students on getting involved civically, Khazae said, “I think just knowing people’s perspective and knowing how they think is interesting,” with Lyste sharing the same sentiment, “we work a lot on helping students with civil discourse, and helping them with tough conversations, and it’s always amazing to see the students after the workshops, practicing those skills.”

While pleased with the results of their student Involvement in September, the Link Center and Jackets Vote are also preparing for upcoming events, including National Voter Registration Week, guest speakers, Bridging the Divide events, and Civic holidays throughout the next month.

Students can find information about the Link Center and Jackets Vote through the Campus Calendar, along with the Link Center’s website, social media pages, and by talking to the Jackets Vote interns at the office’s events.



Bravers Angles Workshop in YellowJacket Union Great Room, Sept. 15th, 2025.

Photo by Melanie Soderlund



Sept. 20 Valleyfair, Schakopee, Minn. Pictured Marin Han and Umi Omoto

Photo by Noa Mikami | The Promethean

YAC’s Valleyfair Trip Kicks off Semester with Fun

Noa Mikami
nmikami@uwsuper.edu

With the fantastic Yellowjacket Activities Crew (YAC), the University of Wisconsin-Superior visit to Valleyfair became a memory worth remembering. They worked so hard in directing them during the day, and it all went smoothly, resulting in a successful trip.

Their trip began at 9 a.m. on Oct. 20 at the Yellowjacket Union. With the YAC teams leading the way, the students boarded a bus and had a three-hour journey to Valleyfair. The ride was full of laughter, naps, and light-hearted discussions among the students. They had predicted rain at Minneapolis, but apparently the wishes of the students of Superior worked--in a moment, the sun slipped through the clouds, and the day became sunny and clear.

Valleyfair, an amusement park located in Shakopee, Minn., offers over 75 rides and attractions, which include roller coasters, kids’ rides, and thrill adventures. During the summertime, you are able to cool off at Soak City Waterpark. The park will celebrate its annual “ValleyScare” between Sept. 20 and Nov. 1, during this Halloween season. The event is said to

be very frightening and not suitable for children below the age of 13. You can also take another seasonal event, which is Tricks and Treats, to make it a more family-friendly choice.

Temuulen Battulga, a sophomore, has been working as a YAC member since this fall semester. When asked why he joined, he said, “They seemed to enjoy their work, and it also looked cool that they were organizing events students could enjoy; that is why I wanted to try.” The Valleyfair event for new students is an annual event at UWS. The YAC hoped to have at least 50 students sign up and they successfully reached their goal; 51 students signed up and 48 of them actually attended. “One of our biggest goals was for students to enjoy the trip. I want them to forget about the stress from studying and exams,” Battulga said, “I could see their faces smiling during the day, and they were tired at the end, which is a good thing because it means they wasted energy in fun.”

Overall, the trip was a success through the hard work of the YAC team and gave the students an experience they would never have around the beginning of the semester.