

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

Drag is back on campus!

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A drag show took place in the Yellowjacket Atrium here at the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UWS). Alliance, The Gender Equity Recourse Center (GERC), and support from staff brought the queens to campus Nov. 8. According to T Wainman, gender & sexuality programs coordinator, this drag show was around the tenth to happen at UWS. However, for

really cool to be there in a setting I’m not familiar with.” said Gilbert after being asked about their experience at the drag show. Plutchak had a similar take on her experience helping and attending the drag show. “So, this was my first year attending the UW-Superior drag show. I thought it was a great turn out; we had all kinds of people there. It was so much fun. The performers were awesome, and I can’t wait to do it again next

She graduated in 2016, coming as a freshman transfer in 2011. When asked if coming back to perform at UWS was special, Octavia Forte wrote that she’d rapped at open mics, had her own set rapping for March Music Madness and won a few Jacket Racket events while a student “but this meant so much to bring it [to a] full circle, and be so much more polished.” Wainman has helped bring quite a few drag shows to campus and for them, “it’s really just the opportunity to introduce folks to something like drag or to this type of cultural experience that is beyond what people might expect, or that is in more of a comfortable environment,” Wainman said. “Bringing folks and bringing this experience to people in a way and in a setting that is comfortable for them, that is inclusive of peoples, experiences, and needs, and then making sure people are taken care of as they do that.”

When asked if they would like to add anything Gilbert said, “Thinking towards next years it would be awesome to see students and more students participate.” “Our show is always open for students, and staff and faculty too if they want to participate, to perform and they don’t have to be people who have done drag all the time, it can be somebody who has never done drag before and just wants to try it.” Wainman said.

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Spectrum performing on stage in the YU on Nov. 8.
Photo by Alicia Zoltowski | Promethean

helpers Sam Gilbert and Sandra Plutchak this was their first time helping. “This was actually kind of my first real experience with even a drag show. I think I’ve been to like one before. It was awesome, it was super fun... from the work programming side of things, it was cool to see so many community members, so many students of all kinds that showed up... and the from my own personal, it was really fun, it was

year!” The queens who came were The Original Eve, Dixie Diamond, Octavia Forte, Spectrum, and Jazzlyn! They each performed two songs except The Original Eve who performed three. The show was split into two halves, allowing for outfit changes. Many tips were given, and the crowd was full of cheers! Octavia Forte was especially excited to be back at UWS, as she is an alumni!



Maddie Shaffer
Photo by Civic Media News Director, Cali Pittman

Where are they now? Maddie Shaffer

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When former Promethean Editor-in-Chief Maddie Shaffer graduated from UW-Superior last spring, she did something she hadn’t done in years; she took a breath. “I took the summer to myself. I just needed that pause before deciding what came next,” Shaffer said.

By fall, Shaffer had applied for a reporting position at Civic Media, a statewide radio network based in Madison, Wis. The hiring process took some time. Civic Media was still deciding whether they wanted to expand their coverage. After two rounds of interviews, she got the call!

Shaffer accepted the offer and is now a full-time reporter for WBZH 96.9 and WHSM 101.1. She produces daily audio newscasts, and her stories are published online through Civic Media’s shared WordPress system; similar to the tools used by the Promethean. Her reporting is shared on the radio, digital platforms, and social media owned by Civic Media.

Shaffer graduated with a degree in multimedia journalism and a minor in psychology. A mix she felt helped her understand people, communicate clearly, and build trust within the

community. “I bounced around between journalism, psychology, and music my first two years, but psychology actually goes hand-in-hand with journalism. It’s about understanding people,” she explained.

Her time at the Promethean played a crucial role in preparing her for the fast-paced world of radio. “The writing is really different. Radio is shorter, conversational, but still formal,” she said.

Her coverage area is extensive, stretching from Spooner to Rice Lake and north toward Solon Springs. “It’s a big circle,” she joked.

When asked where she drew inspiration for her journalism career, Shaffer credits podcasts for sparking her interest and adds, “Tom Hansen has been a key mentor. He is such a good teacher. He has so much experience and such a passion for professional journalism. Not everyone has that, so it’s special to learn from someone who really cares.”

Shaffer’s advice for students closing in on graduation is, “Take your time. The right thing will come to you. Some people had internships before they graduated, and that’s great, but if you don’t, it doesn’t mean you’re behind. Timing is everything.”

VNSC sponsors giving tree

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The Veteran and Non-traditional Student Center (VNSC) is ready for the holidays as it puts ornaments on its 2025 giving tree. The VNSC serves roughly 1,400 students at the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UWS). The giving tree has supported dozens of students with families in the last decade since it started in 2013.

Lynn Lowney is the veteran’s services coordinator at the VNSC and is the go-to person for anyone with questions regarding operations there. “The ornaments are filled out by student parents. Anybody that’s enrolled in UWS can fill one out for their children,” Lowney said.

Over ten families will benefit this year from the generosity of the donors. “The giving tree is a really cool program because a lot of the time it is hard for college students to afford Christmas presents. From

the kid’s perspective, we have nothing to do with this. We don’t want any credit for that,” said Lowney.

Emen Essien is a part time non-traditional student at UWS. He uses the VNSC as a resource while navigating life in college. Essien emphasized how much they have helped him, and he enjoys stopping into the office as he has gotten to know the employees.

He has participated in the giving tree festivities both as a giver and receiver. “Last Christmas they helped with gifts for Zion [his kid], and those were things I couldn’t afford at the time,” said Essien. This year he plans to donate to one of the families in need. “They have been a big help in the past so anything I can do for their program.”

Essien encouraged all students to never take the holiday season with family for granted. “We have to sit back and take it all in because it is beautiful,” he said.

How AI is shaping the future of learning at UW–Superior

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As artificial intelligence continues to advance and integrate into the world, the question is raised on how the University of Wisconsin–Superior will integrate AI into the Yellowjacket community. Faculty members around campus are responding quickly to this opportunity, as artificial intelligence continues to grow on a global scale.

Beginning this February, The Center of Continuing Education is giving students the opportunity to enroll in a series of workshops via Zoom called AI Essentials: Strategies for Efficiency & Productivity microcredential. The 10-session Zoom series will allow students to get a better understanding of AI, and how to maximize the tools that come along with this type of technology.

Heather Rickerl, who played a major role in the creation of this course, said the workshops were created in response to employer feedback. “We had solid confirmation that AI was becoming unavoidable,” Rickerl explained. She mentioned how AI skills are essential to employers. “The skills and knowledge for



Old Main on Dec. 2
Photo by Alicia Zoltowski | Promethean

responsible use of AI are becoming increasingly critical in nearly all sectors.”

In addition to the workshops taking place over spring semester, UW–Superior is working on a multi-step approach to the integration of AI on campus. According to Josh Stangle, the academic program manager, the university has been intentional and productive towards AI integration. “We haven’t called it an AI integration plan officially,” Stangle said, “but the plan has eight steps, and one portion of it focuses specifically on professional development for instructors and faculty.”

Stangle stated that the university is recognizing artificial intelligence as an opportunity rather than restriction. “There isn’t a policy dictating how much training instructors need,” Stangle explained. “We’re incentivizing faculty to learn

about and use AI through program enhancement and development grants.”

As AI continues to evolve on campus and on a global scale, UW–Superior has proved yet again that the university excels in staying ahead of the curve when it comes to academic and professional success for Yellowjacket students.

Find out more information here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/8d3a33aa-dde0-4f62-a04f-f48fd78d062a/summary>



VNSC Giving Tree Nov. 18
Photo by Georgia Youngblood | Promethean