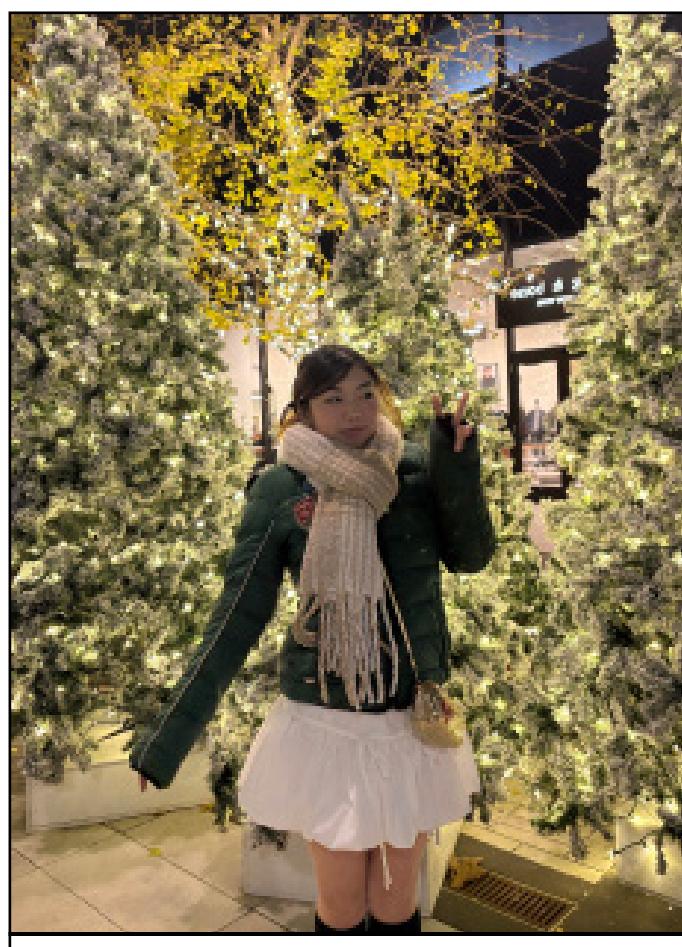


CAMPUS & COMMUNITY



SENIOR COMMENTARIES



Noa Mikami in Boston, Mass. on Nov. 23.
Photo contributed Miru Nonaka

Noa Mikami nmikami@uwsuper.edu

Hello, my name is Noa Mikami. I am in the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UWS) as an international student from Hyogo, Japan. My field of study is Communication with Multimedia Journalism as the minor. I have spent two and a half years in the U.S. in the major of Mass Communication in Campbellsville University (CU) in Kentucky since August 2021. I was on a temporary leave and I joined UWS as a

transfer student in fall 2024 and will graduate at the end of this fall semester.

As an international student, I could not understand different cultures of people in the world and English in classes, discussions, and books since I was coming to the U.S. on the daily basis. I would always seek a word that I was not familiar with the meaning and there was some form of misunderstanding or miscommunication between the culture of mine and the culture of my friend. I am still struggling, but I believe

Noa Mikami

that I have developed my ability since that time when I could only say "Where is the bathroom?"

I studied broadcasting, news writing and social media, including the media technology, which I desired to learn in the U.S., the most developed place in the world as the entertainment society. I am well grateful to my family who gave me such a marvelous opportunity and experience. In a Japanese college, I would not be able to learn these classes.

During college

life, I have traveled so many places in the U.S. with my friends who I met in college, which is unforgettable memory. I will ever have another time such this experience in my life where I can spend every moment with my friends and go on trips like this. I really hope students enjoy this college moment to the fullest. Thank you so much to my family, friends, and university.

Jon Pearson

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And just like that my time as a University of Wisconsin-Superior student comes to an end. From an early age I remembered despising the idea of school whether it was because of how early I had to wake up, the lack of freedom on assignments, or having to sit at a desk for seven hours a day with undiagnosed ADHD, safe to say I struggled with the uniformity of general education.

My grapple with secondary education drove me to the conclusion that I would never be able to cut it in the collegiate setting. After high school I sat and pondered on what my future was going to be, lucky for me I had what felt like all the time in the world because the entire world was at a stand still and locked inside. During this time I watched a lot of film and became the movie guy to my friends and family. After almost a year rotting in my room, I decided as much as I hated school to attend Hibbing Community College, because it gave me a schedule and some much needed social interac-

tion. I was terrified about school until I realised that college and high school are not the same. All of my gripes that I had previously didn't exist anymore except for having to wake early. I had freedom and I could work at my own pace on projects I truly cared about. My time at HCC was pivotal, it made me a more organized and understood person that pushed me to continue my education at UWS. My first week at UWS and I'm not being hyperbolic when I say this was life changing.

I auditioned for a show and got a role, I went to my first Promethean meeting because I thought Drew Kerner (former Promethean Editor in Chief) was the coolest person on campus, and I made instant connections with people I hold so deeply in my heart. That being said, I was petrified and did all of those things with as much fake gusto as I could conjure up at the time. Slowly over time I didn't have to use that fake gusto because I became more confident with my abilities and comfortable with my peers and professors. Their want for me to succeed gave me so much inspiration and much needed

pressure to deliver excellence. Over my time at UWS I wrote a handful of food reviews, stories about local critters, I even covered the Tim Walz visit to campus and even won an award. I played a multitude of D&D monsters, a hopeless romantic, and a disgraced servant who was caught bear baiting. I built a split reality, a carnival purgatory, a place in Maine, a liminal space, and a minimalist take on Shakespeare. I created many experimental films about obsession, family, and depression. I helped my friends bring their projects to life and became closer to them after each project which is why it's hard for me to

write this thinking I might never get the chance to work with again. It's hard to think that this is all coming to an end here at UWS but I need to remember once a Yellowjacket always a Yellowjacket.



Jon Pearson during Twelfth Night dress rehearsal, Mar. 2025.

Photo Contributed by Holden Law